THE 27 BOOKS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

PSALMS & PROVERBS

JESUS CHRIST, THE AUTHOR OF ETERNAL SALVATION

The New Testament was originally written in Greek, on paper made from the papyrus plant and parchment from animal skins. Sheets of papyrus or parchment were joined to make rolls that could be written on and used for preaching. There are over four hundred Greek copies of the various portions of the original manuscripts, including one called the Vaticanus, held in the library in Rome. Another manuscript called the Sinaiticus was found in the late 1800's on Mount Sinai and is in the British Museum. In 1948, an ancient manuscript of the Old Testament Book of Isaiah was found in a cave near the Dead Sea.

In the late 1300's, John Wycliffe translated the Old and the New Testaments of the Bible into English. Since then, other translations of the Bible have been completed.

This version of the New Testament is written with gratitude to 'The Gideons International in Australia', by the command of Jesus Christ. My copy was gifted 21st June 1979 at school. To this day, I'm eternally grateful.

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MATTHEW The first Gospel book of Biography, comprising many teachings of Jesus, the Author of Eternal Salvation. (Pg 4)

MARK The second Gospel book of Biography, confirms the mighty character of Jesus, the Son of God. (Pg 43)

LUKE The third Gospel book of Biography, highlights the Ministry, Sacrifice and Resurrection from the dead of Jesus, the King of kings. (Pg 68)

JOHN The fourth Gospel book of Biography, echoes the words of creation, the Ministry, Sacrifice and Resurrection of Jesus, The Messiah and Our Saviour. (Pg 110)

THE ACTS The historical book written by Luke - a missionary, after the ascension of Jesus to heaven. Describes the Acts of Apostles. (Pg 143)

ROMANS The Epistle to the Romans, written by the Apostle Paul…Living by Gods' Law, Baptism and the Holy Spirit giving new life through Faith and the Resurrection of Jesus. Especially important for teachings by the 144,000 disciples, the Sons of God. (Pg 186)

1 CORINTHIANS The first Epistle written by the Apostle Paul, responding to letters from believers in the city of Corinth. Includes; Living the Way of Jesus in Faith, the Return of Jesus, the Resurrection of the living and dead in the Millenium. (Pg 205)

2 CORINTHIANS The second Epistle written by the Apostle Paul, to believers in the city of Corinth. A call to rejoice in God's grace and love…In troubles and challenges seek comfort, fellowship and Faith, in the love of God and Jesus. (Pg 222)

GALATIANS The Epistle written by the Apostle Paul, to believers in the Roman province of Galatia, Asia Minor. Reaffirms freedom through Faith in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, rather than the Bondage of Jewish law. (Pg 233)

EPHESIANS The Epistle written by the Apostle Paul…with the city of Ephesus in the province of Asia in mind, known for the temple of Diana and its beast. This letter is for the 144,000 disciples, the Sons of God. Especially important for the teachings in their dispersion when Jesus executes decree on the whole world. (Pg 239)

PHILIPPIANS The Epistle written by the Apostle Paul…with thanks to the church in the city of Philippi, a colony of retired Roman soldiers who supported Paul whilst imprisoned. Paul boldly states the Royal announcement that Jesus is Lord and be confident to declare the Gospel, without fear. (Pg 245)

COLOSSIANS The Epistle written by the Apostle Paul…to believers in the city of Colossae, in Asia Minor. Warns of false teachings to the faith and they are reconciled to God through the death and Resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ. (Pg 249)

1 THESSALONIANS The first Epistle written by the Apostle Paul…to believers in the city of Thessalonica; Remain steadfast in Faith despite trials and challenges, avoid immoral behaviour and idols, love one another sincerely…Live in readiness for the raising of the living and dead upon the return of Jesus, the Messiah. (Pg 253)

2 THESSALONIANS The second Epistle written by the Apostle Paul…to believers in the city of Thessalonica; To reassure the believers that the day of the Lord Jesus is still to come, continue to work hard despite of suffering persecution as God will end troublemakers. (Pg 257)

1 TIMOTHY The first Epistle written by the Apostle Paul…to Timothy, his fellow Minister. This letter was for Timothy to share with the church of Ephesus. Misleading Jewish doctrine, philosophical practices and tolerance of immoral behaviour, distorted the genuine message of Christ Jesus…to remind the church that Jesus is their Authentic Leader and Messiah. (Pg 259)

2 TIMOTHY The second Epistle written by the Apostle Paul…to Timothy, his fellow Minister. This letter urges Timothy to remain faithful to the true Gospel message of Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descendant of King David Fides, even under persecution. False teachings mislead the church in the city of Ephesus. (Pg 264)

TITUS The Epistle written by the Apostle Paul…to Titus, his fellow Minister in Crete. Instructs Titus to appoint godly leaders within the church, to avoid false teachings such as mandatory

circumcision and abstentions, still evident in the church of Ephesus. God's grace has appeared through the Life of Jesus, offering true Salvation for a new way of Life. (Pg 268)

PHILEMON The Epistle written by the Apostle Paul…to Philemon; A wealthy Colossian and believer, whose slave named Onesimus, had run away. Onesimus delivered Paul's letters to the Colossians and Ephesians. This letter of appeal to Philemon to reconcile without slavery, encouraging forgiveness, brotherly love and kindness. (Pg 270)

HEBREWS Written for the Jewish Christians who suffered persecution…To recommit to the New Covenant of Superiority, the Great High Priest of Salvation being JESUS "The Christ: The Holy One Sent from God." Faithfully live in the light of Jesus – through Jesus we receive God's heavenly reality, the Kingdom of Eternal Life. (Pg 271)

JAMES A brother of Jesus, leader of the Chrisitan Church in Jerusalem; Wrote this Epistle to the Twelve Tribes of Israel scattered among the nations, the 144,000 disciples and followers of Christ. Godly wisdom and Holy living prevail knowing that 'Faith without works is dead.' Live in unity, use wealth responsibly with concern for the poor. Show patience and endurance in times of trial, to establish unwavering Faith. (Pg 284)

1 & 2 PETER an Apostle of Jesus Christ, wrote these Epistles to the exiles of the Dispersion, the 144,000 disciples chosen in accordance with the foreknowledge of God the Father. Called to a 'New Way of Life' of impressive conduct and purity, vigorously teaching the Word of God and the Way of Jesus. (Ph 289)

1 & 2 & 3 JOHN Three Epistles, apparently written by the Apostle John who also wrote the fourth Gospel book of Jesus' Biography. Testimony to the reality of Jesus, the Messiah, living in the flesh to teach 'The Truth' about Godly life and conduct, warning people to avoid false teachers. The third Epistle was written to Gaius with thanks for supporting preachers of the Word of God and the Way of Jesus; Demonstrates how fellow believers should provide a home base for such people. (Pg 296)

JUDE A brother of Jesus Christ and church leader, wrote this Epistle to warn Christian believers of false teachers, ungodly men, imposters who have entered the church, rejecting God's Authority and misleading believers. (Pg 303)

REVELATION from Jesus Christ, is the prophetic book written by the prophet John while exiled on the island of Patmos. An angel of God was sent to deliver insight revealing a future, leading to eternal life. (Pg 304)

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PSALMS are five song books predominantly written by King David Fides. Some songs predict the life of Jesus Christ, our Saviour. (Pg 325)

PROVERBS are 'wise sayings,' written mostly by King Solomon, the son of King David. (Pg 441)

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THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO

MATTHEW

CHAPTER 1

A BOOK of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, son of David, son of Abraham: 2 Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac of Jacob of Judah and his brothers, 3 Judah of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez of Hezron, Hezron of Ram, 4 Ram of Amminadab, Amminadab of Nahshon and Nahshon of Salmon. 5 Salmon was the father of Boaz by Rahab, Boaz the father of Obed of Jesse, 6 and Jesse of David the king. David was the father of Solomon by Uriah's wife. 7 Solomon of Rehoboam, Rehoboam Abijah, Abijah of Asa, 8 Asa of Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat of Joram, Joram of Uzziah, 9 Uzziah of Jotham, Jotham of Ahaz, Ahaz of Hezekiah, 10 Hezekiah of Manasseh. Manasseh of Amon, Amon of Josiah, 11 Josiah of Jeconiah and his brothers about the time of the Babylonian exile.

12 After the Babylonian exile: Jeconiah was the father of Shealtiel, Shealtiel of Zerubbabel, 13 Zerubbabel of Abiud, Abiud of Eliakim, Eliakim of Azor, 14 Azor of Sadok, Sadok of Achim, Achim of Eliud, 15 Eliud of Eleazar, Eleazar of Matthan, Matthan of Jacob, 16 and Jacob of Joseph, the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who was surnamed Christ.

17 There are then altogether fourteen generations from Abraham to David; also fourteen generations from David to the Babylonian exile, and fourteen generations from the Babylonian exile until the Christ.

18 The birth of Jesus Christ came about this way; When His mother Mary was engaged to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. 19 But as Joseph, her fiancé, was fair-minded and did not want to disgrace her publicly, he planned to break with her secretly. 20 But while he was considering this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, be not afraid to take Mary as your wife, for what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will give birth to a son and you are to call Him Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." 22 All this took place in fulfillment of what the Lord had said through the prophet, 23 Behold! The virgin will be with child and shall bear a son, and they will name him Immanuel," which means, God with us.

24 When Joseph awoke from his sleep he carried out what the angel commanded of the Lord. He took to him his wife. 25 but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to her firstborn son, whom he called Jesus.

MATTHEW CHAPTER 2

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judea during the reign of King Herod, there arrived wise men at Jerusalem from the east, 2 inquiring, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? For we saw his star in the east and we have come to worship him." 3 On hearing this,

King Herod felt disturbed, and with him all Jerusalem, 4 so he called together all the chief priests and scribes of the people and inquired of them where the Christ should be born. 5 They told him. “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet, 6 And you, Bethlehem in the land of Judah; are by no means insignificant among Judah’s ruler, for out of you a leader shall arise who will govern My people Israel.’”

7 Herod then summoned the wise men for a private interview and ascertained from them just when the star appeared. 8 As he sent them to Bethlehem he said, “Go and search carefully for the young child, and when you have found Him, report to me so that I too may go and worship Him.”

9 After listening to the king they travelled on and, lo the star they had seen in the east preceded then until it came and rested above the place where the young Child was. 10 And on observing the star their joy was boundless.

11 Entering the house they saw the little Child with His mother, Mary and prostrating themselves they worshipped Him. And opening their treasure chests they offered Him present; gold, frankincense and myrrh. 12 Then, because of divine warning in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country by a different route.

13 After they had left an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise! Take the Child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the Child in order to murder Him.” 14 So he got up at night, took the Child and His mother and departed into Egypt 15 where he remained until Herod’s death, so that the Lord’s word through the prophet became fulfilled.” Out of Egypt I called My Son.”

16 When Herod perceived that he had been outwitted by the wise men he was furious and sent a detachment to murder all the male children in Bethlehem and its environs, those of two years and under, according to the time he had ascertained from the wise men. 17 Then the saying of Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled. 18 “A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning; Rachel bewailing her children and refusing consolation because they are gone.”

19 But upon Herod’s death an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, 20 saying, “Rise! Take the Child and His mother and go into the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the Child’s life are dead.” 21 So he arose, took the Child and His mother and came into the land of Israel. 22 But when he heard that Archelaus had succeeded his father. Herod, as ruler of Judea he was afraid to go there. However, by divine warning in a dream he withdrew to the Galilean region. 23 where he arrived and settled in a town called Nazareth, so that the prophetic utterance, “He shall be called a Nazarene,” might find fulfilment.

MATTHEW CHAPTER 3

In those days John the Baptist appeared, proclaiming in the Judean desert, 2 Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near!" 3 He is the one spoken of by the Prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one calling out in the desert. Make ready the way of the Lord; straighten His paths."

4 John himself had clothing made of camel's hair. He wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. 5 Then Jerusalem, all Judea and the entire Jordan region went out to him 6 and, on confession of their sins, were baptised by him in the Jordan River. 7 But when he noticed many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, "You viper brood, who warned you to flee from the approaching judgement? 8 Produce fruit in agreement with your repentance, 9 and do not fancy you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham for our father.' For I assure you that from these stones God can raise up children to Abraham."

10 "The axe is already laid at the root of the trees; so every tree that fails to yield good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. 11 Whereas I baptise you with water for repentance, the One who comes after me is so far superior to me that I am not fit to carry His sandals. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. 12 The winnowing fan is in His hand and He will thoroughly clean His threshing floor. His wheat He will store in the granary, but with fire that cannot be put out."

13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptised by him. 14 but John tried to hinder him, saying, "I need to be baptised by You, and why are You coming to me?" 15 Jesus replied to him. "Permit it to be so now, for so it is needful for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed Him to come.

16 At once after His baptism Jesus came up from the water and, behold the heavens were opened and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting upon Him. 17 And a voice from heaven said. "This is My Son, the Beloved in whom I delight."

MATTHEW CHAPTER 4

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil, 2 and after fasting forty days and forty nights He was hungry. 3 The tempter approached Him and said to Him. "If You are the Son of God, command these stones to turn into loaves of bread." 4 But He replied, "It is written, 'Man shall not live on bread alone but on every command that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"

5 The devil then conducted Him to the holy city and had Him stand on the loftiest point of the temple, 6 saying to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down; for it is written, 'He will charge His angels concerning You on their hands so You may at no time stub Your foot against a stone.'" 7 Jesus replied to him, "Further more it is written, 'You shall not test the Lord your God,'"

8 Next the devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour, 9 saying to Him, “All these I will give You if You will kneel and worship me.” 10 Then Jesus said to him, “Begone, Satan; for it is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God and serve Him alone.’” 11 Then the devil left Him and lo, angels came and waited on Him.

12 When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, He withdrew into Galilee. 13 Leaving Nazareth He went and lived in Capernaum by the sea in the country of Zebulon and Naphtali, 14 so that Isaiah’s prophecy might be fulfilled, 15 “Land of Zebulon and land of Naphtali, toward the sea beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations; 16 the people who sat in darkness saw a great light and on those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.”

17 From then on Jesus began to preach: Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has drawn near,” 18 And as He was walking by the Sea of Galilee, Jesus noticed two brothers, Simon called Peter, and his brother Andrew, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. 19 He said to them, “Come! Follow Me and I will make you fishers of men.” 20 And at once they abandoned their nets and followed Him.

21 Going a little further He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and He called them.
22 So, immediately they left the boat and their father and followed Him.

23 Jesus traversed all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, announcing the good news of the kingdom and healing all kinds of disease and illness among the people. 24 Report about Him, spread to all Syria and they brought to Him all who suffered from various ailments and pains – demoniacs, epileptics and paralytics. And He healed them. 25 Great throngs followed Him out of Galilee, Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea and beyond the Jordan.

MATTHEW CHAPTER 5

So, when He saw the crowds, He went up on the hills; and when He was seated, His disciples came to Him. 2 Opening His lips, He taught them; 3 Blessed are they who know their spiritual poverty, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 4 Blessed are they who mourn, for they shall be comforted. 5 Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth. 6 Blessed are those who are hungry and thirsty for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. 7 Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. 8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. 9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called God’s sons. 10 Blessed are those persecuted on account of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
11 Blessed are you when they slander and persecute you and falsely accuse you of every wrong because of Me. 12 Be glad and supremely joyful because in heaven your reward is rich; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

13 “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt has lost its taste, with what shall it be salted?” It is thereafter good for nothing but to be thrown out and walked on by the people.

14 “You are the light of the world”. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Neither do they light a lamp and place it under a grain measure, but on a stand; then it shines for every one in the house. 16 Similarly let your light shine among the people, so that they may observe your good works and give glory to your heavenly Father.

17 “Do not suppose that I came to annul the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to abolish but to complete them; 18 for I assure you, while heaven and earth endure not one iota or one projection of a letter will be dropped from the Law until all is accomplished. 19 Whoever, therefore, abolishes the least significant of these commands and so teaches the people, he shall be of least significance in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever shall observe and teach them shall be prominent in the kingdom of heaven. 20 For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees, you shall not at all enter into the kingdom of heaven.”

21 “You have heard how men of ancient times were told, ‘Do not murder’, and, ‘Whoever murders is liable before the court.’ 22 But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother *without cause* is liable before the court, and whoever speaks abusively of his brother is liable before the Sanhedrin. And whoever says ‘You fool!’ is liable to the fires of hell. 23 So, when you are offering your gift at the altar and remember that your brother holds something against you, 24 leave your gift there at the altar and go and become reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift.

25 “Come to terms with your opponent quickly while you are on the way to court with him, else the opponent may hand you over to the judge and the judge to the attendant, and you will be thrown into prison. 26 I assure you that you will not get out until you have paid the last penny.”

27 “You have heard that it was said, ‘Do not commit adultery.’ 28 But I tell you that anyone who looks lustfully at a woman has in his heart already committed adultery with her. 29 If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and throw it away from you. You had better lose one of your members than have your whole body cast into hell. 30 And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut if off and throw it away from you. It is better to lose one of your members than have your whole body cast into hell.”

31 “It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife should give her a divorce certificate.’ 32 But I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for unfaithfulness, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.”

33 “You have further heard how the ancients were told. ‘Do not swear falsely but perform your oaths to the Lord.’ 34 But I tell you: Do not swear at all; not by heaven, because it is God’s throne; 35 nor by the earth, because it is His footstool; nor by the earth, because it is

the city of the great King. 36 Neither swear by your head, because you cannot make one hair white or black. 37 But let your word Yes be Yes and your No, No. Anything beyond this is from the evil one."

38 "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' 39 But I say to you, Do not resist injuries, but whoever strikes you on the right cheek turn to him the other as well. 40 And if anyone wants to sue you for your tunic, let him have your robe as well. 41 And whoever forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. 42 Give to the one who begs from you and do not refuse the borrower. 43 "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbour and hate your enemy.' 44 But I say to you, Love your enemy and pray for your persecutors, 45 so that you may be sons of your heavenly Father; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and the good and He pours rain upon the just and the unjust. 46 For if you love those who love you, what is your merit? Do not the tax collectors as much? 47 And if you greet only your kin, how does your conduct excel!? Do not even the pagans do the same? 48 You then, are to be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect."

MATTHEW CHAPTER 6

Be careful not to perform your good works publicly to be noticed by the people; else you forfeit reward from your Father who is in heaven. 2 Thus, when you give charity, do not blow a trumpet ahead of you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets to gain glory from men. I assure you, they have reward. 3 But when you practice charity, your left hand must not know what your right hand is doing, 4 so that your charity will be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. 5 "And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and at the street corners to be seen by the people. I assure you, they have been paid in full. 6 But you, when you pray, enter your inner room and with your door closed, pray to your Father who is there in the secret place, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

7 "When you pray do not repeat and repeat as the pagans do; for they imagine that for their much talking they will secure a hearing. 8 Do not be like them, for your Father knows your need before you ask Him, 9 This, then, is thee way you should pray: 'Our Father who is in heaven, Your name be kept holy. 10 Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

11 Give us today our daily bread. 12 And forgive us our debts as we have forgiven our debtors. 13 And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one. *For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory for ever. Amen.*'"

14 "For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will forgive you too;
15 but if you do not forgive people, neither will your heavenly Father forgive your trespasses. 16 When you fast, do not be sad-faced like the hypocrites for they disfigure their faces to show others their fasting. I assure you, they have received their full reward. 17 But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face. 18 so that no one except your heavenly

Father who is there in the secret place may notice your fasting. And your Father who sees you in secret will reward you. 19 Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves dig through and steal. 20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where no moth or rust destroys and where thieves do not dig through and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

22 "The eye is the lamp of the body. If, then, your eye is sound, your whole body is illumined; 23 but if your eye is defective, your whole body is in the dark. If, then, the light within you grows dark, - how dense a darkness?"

24 "No one can serve two masters, for he will either hate the one and love the other or support the one and treat the other with contempt. You cannot serve God and mammon."

25 "I tell you therefore, do not worry about your living, - what you are to eat or drink, or about your body, what you are to wear. Is not the life more important than its nourishment and the body than its clothing?"

26 "Look at the birds of the air, how they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, but your heavenly Father feeds them. Are not you more valuable than they?"

27 "Furthermore, who of you is able through worrying to add one moment to his life's course? 28 And why worry about clothes? Observe carefully how the field lilies grow. They neither toil nor spin. 29 but I tell you that even Solomon in all his splendour was never was never dressed like one of these. 30 But if God so clothes the grass of the field that exists today and is thrown into the furnace tomorrow, will He not more surely clothe you of little faith?"

31 "Do not then, be anxious, saying. 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What are we to wear?' 32 For on all these things pagans centre their interest while your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. 33 But you, seek first His kingdom and His righteousness and all these things will be added to you. 34 Do not worry therefore, in view of tomorrow, for tomorrow will have its own anxieties. Each day's peculiar troubles are sufficient for it."

MATTHEW CHAPTER 7

"Do not pass judgment. That you may not be judged; 2 for the way you judge you will be judged and with what yardstick you measure you will be measured. 3 But why notice the splinter in your brother's eye without taking notice of the beam in your own eye? 4 Or how can you say to your brother. 'Let me extract that splinter from your eye,' when there is a beam in your own eye? 5 You hypocrite! First get rid of that beam in your eye; then you will see clearly to extract the splinter from your brother's eye."

6 "Do not give what is sacred to the dogs, so that they may not turn around and attack you; neither throw your pearls before the hogs, so that they may not trample them under their feet."

7 “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and it will be opened to you.”

8 “For every one who asks receives, and the seeker finds, and to him who knocks it is opened.”

9 “Who of you men whose son asks for a loaf of bread, will give him a stone: 10 or if he asks for fish, will give him a snake?” 11. If you then, evil as you are, know enough to give your children what is good, how much more surely will your heavenly Father give what is good to those who ask Him. 12 Accordingly, whatever you would have people do for you, do the same for them; for this covers the Law and the Prophets.”

13 “Enter through the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and spacious the road that leads on to destruction, and many are those entering by it.”

14 Because narrow is the gate and contracted the road that leads on to life, and few are they who discover it.”

15 “Be wary of the false prophets who come to you in the guise of sheep while at heart they are voracious wolves. 16 You will know them by the deeds that they do. Do people gather grapes from thorns or figs from thistles? 17 So every healthy tree bears good fruit, but a rotten tree bears defective fruit. 18 A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. 19 Every tree that fails to bear good fruit is felled and thrown into the fire. 20 Similarly you will know people by the deeds they do.”

21 “Not every one who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord!’ will enter into the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.”

22 “Many will say to Me on that Day, ‘Lord, Lord did we not prophesy in Your name and in Your name cast out demons and, in Your name, do many wonderful works?’ 23 Then I will frankly say to them, ‘I never knew you. Get away from Me, you evil workers.’”

24 “Every one, then, who listens to these sayings of Mine and puts them into practice will be like a thoughtful man who built his house on the rock. 25 The rains came down, the floods rose, the winds blew and beat upon that house, but it never collapsed for it was based on the rock. 26 And every one who hears these sayings of Mine and fails to practice them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. 27 The rains came down, the floods rose, the winds blew and beat upon that house and it collapsed. And the wreck of it was complete.”

28 It came about that when Jesus had finished these sayings, the crowds were amazed at His teaching, 29 for He taught them as an authority and not like their scribes.

MATTHEW CHAPTER 8

WHEN He had come down from the hill, great crowds followed Him. 2 And a leper came up and knelt before Him saying; “Lord, if You are willing, You are able to cleanse me.”
3 Reaching out His hand He touched him saying, “I am willing. Be cleansed.” And instantly his

leprosy was cleansed. 4 Jesus told him, “See that you tell no one, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer the gift which Moses prescribed as a witness to others.”

5 When he entered Capernaum a centurion came to Him entreating Him. 6 “Lord, my servant boy lies paralysed at home, in great agony.” 7 He replied, “I will come and heal him.” 8 The centurion answered, “Lord, I am not fit to have You come under my roof; only speak the word and my boy will be healed. 9 For I am personally under authority and have soldiers under me. To one I say, ‘Go!’ and he goes; to another. ‘Come!’ and he comes, and to my slave, ‘Do this!’ and he does it.” 10 As Jesus listened, He marvelled and said to those who were following Him, “I assure you, I have not found anyone in Israel with so much faith. 11 And I tell you that many will come from east and west and will sit at the table with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, 12 while the sons of the kingdom will be expelled into outer darkness. There will be weeping and grinding of teeth there.”

13 Then Jesus said to the centurion. “Go home. As you have believed, so let it be for you.” And at that exact moment the servant boy was cured.

14 When Jesus entered Peter’s house, He observed that his mother-in-law was bedridden with fever. 15 So He touched her hand and the fever left her. She got up and waited on Him.

16 In the evening they brought to Him many demoniacs and with a word He cast out the spirits and healed all who had diseases, 17 so that the word spoken through the Prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled, “He himself took our weaknesses and carried away our diseases.

18 Seeing a great crowd around Him, Jesus gave orders to cross to the other side. 19 When a certain scribe approached and said to Him, “Teacher, I will follow you wherever you may go.”

20 Jesus told him “The foxes have holes and the birds have nests but the Son of Man has no place to lay His head.”

21 Another of the disciples said to Him, “Lord, permit me first to go and bury my father.” 22 But Jesus said to him. “Follow Me, and leave the dead bury their own dead.”

23 As He embarked, His disciples came along with Him. 24 And a severe storm came up on the lake, so that the boat was being swamped by the waves; but He lay sleeping. 25 So they went to Him and roused Him, saying, “Lord. Save us; we are perishing.” 26 He said to them, “You of little faith! Why are you afraid?” Then standing up He rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. 27 Amazed. The men exclaimed, “What kind of man is this that even the winds and the sea obey Him?”

28 “When He reached the other side, in the Gadarene country, two demoniacs coming out of the tombs met Him. So ferocious were they that no one could travel on that road. 29 They shouted: “Son of God, what business is it of Yours to bother us? Have You come here to torture us ahead of time?”

30 Now at some distance from them a large herd of swine was feeding; 31 so the demons begged of Him, “If You expel us, end us into the herd of swine.” 32 He said to them, “Go!” And they, coming out, entered into the herd rushed down the precipice into the sea and perished in the waters. 33 The herdsmen fled, went off to town, and reported everything, including the affair of the demoniacs. 34 Then the whole town came out to meet Jesus and when they saw Him, they begged of Him to move out of their district.

MATTHEW CHAPTER 9

So, He embarked, crossed over and reached His own city. 2 There they carried to Him a paralytic on a couch. And seeing their faith Jesus said to the paralytic, “Cheer up, son, your sins are forgiven.” 3 Some of the scribes then said to themselves, “This man blasphemes.” 4 Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, “Why do you think evil in your hearts? 5 For which is easier to say, Your sins are forgiven or to say, Rise and walk? 6 But to let you know that the Son of Man has authority to forgive sins on the earth,” He then said to the paralytic, “Rise, pick up your couch and go home!” 7 Arising, he went home. 8 And when the crowds saw it, they were awed, and they praised God who had granted such power to men.

9 As Jesus passed on from there, He saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax office and said to him, “Follow Me.” So, he arose and followed Him. 10 And as Jesus was sitting at the table in the house, numerous tax collectors and sinners came and sat at the table with Jesus and His disciples. 11 When the Pharisees noticed it, they said to His disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” 12 But when He heard it, He said, “The healthy have no need of a physician, but the sick. 13 But go and learn what this means, ‘I want mercy and not sacrifice. For I did not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.’”

14 Then John’s disciples came up the Him and said, “Why do we and the Pharisees fast, and Your disciples do not fast?” 15 Jesus answered them, “Can wedding guests mourn while the bridegroom is with them? But the days are coming when the bridegroom will be taken from them, and then they will fast. 16 But no one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old coat, for the patch would tear away from the coat and the tear become worse. 17 Neither do they pour new wine into old wineskins, else the wineskins burst, the wine is spilled and the skins are ruined. Instead, they put new wine into new skins and both are preserved.”

18 While He was still speaking to them about this, a ruler came and knelt before Him, saying,” My daughter has just died; but come, place your hand on her and she will live.” 19 Jesus rose and with His disciples, followed him. 20 And a woman, who had for twelve years suffered from hemorrhages, came up behind Him and touched the fringe of His robe; 21 for she said to herself, “If I can only touch His robe I will recover.” 22 Jesus turning and seeing her said, “Cheer up, daughter, your faith has healed you.” And the woman was well from that hour.

23 On reaching the ruler's house and seeing the flute players and the noisy crowd, 24 Jesus said, "Go out; for the girl is not dead but asleep." They laughed derisively at Him. 25 But after the crowd had been expelled, He went in and took her hand, and the girl rose up. 26 The fame of it spread over all that country.

27 While Jesus was walking away, two blind men followed Him, crying out, "Son of David, pity us!" 28 Then when He had entered the house, the blind men came up to Him and Jesus said to them. "Do you believe I can do this?" They answered Him, "Yes, Lord." 29 He then touched their eyes and said, "According to the measure of your faith it shall be to you." 30 And their eyes were opened. Jesus charged them strictly, "See that no one learns of this." 31 But they went out and spread His fame over that whole region.

32 As they were leaving, a dumb man who was demon-possessed, was brought to Him. 33 And when the demon had been expelled, the dumb man spoke. "Then the crowds marvelled, saying, 'The like was never seen in Israel.' 34 But the Pharisees said, 'Through the ruler of the demons, He casts out the demons.'"

35 Jesus went along all the towns and the villages teaching in their synagogues, announcing the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and every illness. 36 But as He looked at the multitudes, He was filled with pity over them because they were like shepherdless sheep that are wearied and helpless. 37 Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest is indeed abundant but the workers are few. 38 Therefore pray the LORD of the harvest that He may send out workers into His harvest."

MATTHEW CHAPTER 10

Calling His twelve disciples to Him, He gave them power over depraved spirits to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every malady. 2 Now these are the names of the twelve apostles; first, Simon called Peter, and his brother Andrew; James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John; 3 Philip and Bartholmew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; 4 Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed Him.

5 These twelve, Jesus sent out with the charge: "Do not go to the Gentiles nor enter a Samaritan city, 6 but rather go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. 7 And as you go, preach that the kingdom of heaven is at hand. 8 Heal the sick; raise the dead; cleanse leppers; expel demons. Freely you have received; freely give. 9 Provide neither gold, nor silver, nor copper to put in your belts, 10 nor a bag for the journey; neither two coats, nor sandals, nor staff; For the worker deserves his support."

11 "Whatever town or village you enter, inquire who in it is deserving and stay there until you leave the community. 12 And as you enter the home, give your greetings, 13 and if the home is deserving, let your peace come upon it; but if it is undeserving, your peace will return to you. 14 And where no one welcomes you or listens to your messages, leave that

house or town and shake the dust off your feet. 15 I assure you; the land of Sodom and Gomorrah will fare better in the judgement day than that town".

16 "Mind you, I am sending you out as sheep among wolves; therefore, be as subtle as serpents and as guileless as doves. 17 And beware of men; for they will deliver you to councils, and in their synagogues they will flog you; 18 and you will be haled before governors and kings on My account, to testify to them and to the Gentiles. 19 But when they hand you over, have no anxiety how or what to say; 20 for it is not you that speak but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

21 "Brother shall betray brother to death, and the father his child. Children shall turn against parents and cause their death, 22 and you shall be hated by every one on account of My name, but he who perseveres to the end, shall be saved."

23 "When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next; for I assure you that you will not have gone through the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes."

24 "A pupil is not above his teacher, nor a slave above his master. 25 It suffices for the pupil to be like his teacher and for the slave to be like his master. If they have called the head of the house Beelzebul, how much more its members.

26 Do not therefore fear them; for nothing is covered, and hidden that shall not be made known. 27 What I tell you in the dark you must say in the light, and what you hear close to your ear you must herald from the housetops. 28 Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. 29 Do not two sparrows sell for a penny? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from the will of your Father. 30 As for you, the hairs of your head are all numbered. 31 Have no fear, then; you are of more consequence than may sparrows."

32 "Everyone, therefore, who shall acknowledge Me before men, I will acknowledge before My Father who is in heaven; 33 but whoever disowns Me before men will I also disown before My Father who is in heaven. 34 "Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace on the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. 35 For I have come to bring division, a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; 36 and a man's enemies will be those who belong to his own household.
37 He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me, and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. 38 And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. 39 Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever on My account loses his life will find it.

40 "Whoever receives you receives Me, and whoever receives Me receives Him who sent me. 41 Whoever receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive the reward of a prophet, whoever receives an upright man because he is upright, will receive an upright

man's reward. 42 And whoever gives one of these little ones but a cup of cold water to drink because he is a disciple, I assure you he will not lose his reward."

MATTHEW CHAPTER 11

When Jesus had finished instructing His twelve disciples He left there to teach and preach in their towns. 2 Now when John heard in prison of Christ's activities, he sent and asked Him through his disciples, 3 "Are you the Coming One or should we look for someone else?"
4 Jesus replied to them. "Go and report to John what you hear and see; 5 the blind see, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised and the poor are evangelised. 6 And happy is anyone who does not lose his faith in Me."

7 As they were leaving, Jesus began to say to the crowds about John, "What did you go out into the desert to gaze at? A reed swayed by the wind? 8 What did you really go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothes? Wearers of soft clothes live in palaces. 9 What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and far more than a prophet. 10 This is the one about whom it is written, 'Behold I send My messenger before Your face who shall prepare the road ahead of You.' 11 I assure you, none has arisen among those born of women greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.
12 But from the time of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has endured violence, and the violence seize it by force. 13 For until John, all the Prophets and the Law prophesied. 14 If you will accept it, he himself is Elijah who was to come. 15 Whoever has ears, let him listen."

16 "But to what shall I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the market places and calling out to their playmates. 17 'We have played the flute for you and you have not danced; we have sung dirges to you and you did not beat the breast.' 18 For John came neither eating nor drinking and they say, 'He has a demon.' 19 The Son of Man came eating and drinking and they say, 'Look! A glutton and wine drinker! A friend of tax collectors and sinners!' And still, wisdom is vindicated by her effects."

20 Then He began to reproach the towns in which most of His wonders had been wrought, because they did not repent; 21 "Alas for you, Chorazin! Alas for you, Bethsaida! Because if in Tyre and Sidon the wonders had been done that were done in you, they would long ago have repented in sackcloth and ashes. 22 I tell you further, it will be more endurable in the Judgement Day for Tyre and Sidon than for you."

23 "And you, Capernaum, were you not exalted to heaven? Brought down to hades you will be. For if in Sodom the wonders had been done that were done in you, it would have remained to this day. 24 I tell you further, for the land of Sodom it will be more endurable in the Judgement Day than for you."

25 At that time Jesus responded by saying; "I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for hiding all this from the learned and intelligent and revealing it to babes. 26 Yes, Father for

thus it was pleasing in Your sight. 27 Everything has been handed over to Me from My Father, and no one really knows the Son except the Father, nor does anyone understand the Father except the Son and he to whom the Son wishes to reveal Him."

28 "Come to Me all you who labour and are heavily burdened, and I will give you rest.
29 Take My yoke upon you and learn of Me, for I am gentle and humble of heart, and you will find rest for your souls; 30 for My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

MATTHEW CHAPTER 12

At that time, Jesus walked one Sabbath through the grain fields. His disciples were hungry and began to pluck heads of grain and to eat. 2 As the Pharisees observed it, they said to Him, "Look! Your disciples are doing what is not lawful to be done on the Sabbath." 3 But He replied. "Have you not read what David did when he and his men were hungry, 4 how he entered the house of God and ate the loaves of presentation which neither he nor his men, but only the priests, were allowed to eat? 5 Or have you never read in the Law how on the Sabbath days the priests in the temple break the Sabbath and are blameless? 6 But I tell you that something greater than the temple is here. 7 And had you not known what this means, 'I want mercy and not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the innocent, 8 For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath."

9 Leaving there He went into their synagogue. 10 And a man with a paralysed hand was there; so, to incriminate Him, they asked Him, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?" 11 But He said to them, "Is there one of you with a single sheep who will not, if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, take hold of it and lift it out? 12 How much more valuable then, is a man than a sheep! Therefore, it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath." 13 Then He said to the man, "Hold out your hand!" He held it out and it was restored as healthy as the other. 14 But the Pharisees went away and devised a plot against Him so that they might destroy Him.

15 Jesus, knowing this, withdrew from that place. Many followed Him and He healed them all 16 and charged them not to make Him known, 17 that what was said through Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled. 18 "Behold My Servant whom I have chosen, My Beloved in whom My soul delights; I will invest Him with My Spirit and He will announce justice to the nations. 19 He will not quarrel or shout, nor will anyone hear His voice in the streets. 20 He will not break a bruised reed; He will not extinguish a smouldering wick until He carries justice to victory. 21 And the nations will hope in His name."

22 Then there was led to Him a blind and dumb demoniac, and He healed him, so that the dumb man both spoke and saw. 23 And all the crowds were amazed and said, "Is not this the Son of David?" 24 But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, "This fellow does not expel demons except through Beelzebul, the ruler of demons."

25 Reading their thoughts, he said to them, "Any kingdom that is divided against itself goes to ruin and any city or house that is divided against itself cannot stand. 26 If Satan expels

Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand? 27 Besides, if I cast out demons through Beelzebul, through whom do your sons cast them out? On this score they will be your judges. 28 But if I expel demons through the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has overtaken you."

29 "How indeed can a person enter into a strong man's house and rob his belongings unless he first binds the strong man? After that he may rob his house. 30 Whoever is not with Me is against Me, and whoever is not gathering with Me, scatters. 31 I tell you therefore: All sins and slanders are forgivable for men, but slander about the Spirit will not be forgiven. 32 If one should speak a word against the Son of Man he may be forgiven, but if he speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him either in this age or in the age to come."

32 "You either make both tree and fruit to be good or you hold both tree and fruit to be rotten; for the tree is known by its fruit. 34 You brood of vipers, how can you speak good, evil as you are? For from the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks. 35 A good man brings out good things from good treasure in his heart, and a wicked man brings out bad things from bad treasure in his heart. 36 But I tell you that for every careless word spoken, men shall be answerable in the judgment day. 37 For by your words you will be acquitted and by your words, you will be condemned."

38 Then some of the scribes and Pharisees replied to Him, "Teacher, we should like to see your token of proof." 39 And He answered them, "A wicked and disloyal generation craves a sign and no sign will be given it except the sign of the Prophet Jonah. 40 For as Jonah was for three days and three nights in the belly of the sea-monster, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. 41 The men of Ninevah will arise at the judgement along with this generation and will condemn it; for they repented at Jonah's preaching and indeed something greater than Jonah is here. 42 The Queen of the South will rise at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for she came from the ends of the earth to listen to Solomon's wisdom, and indeed something greater than Solomon is here."

43 "When the unclean spirit goes out of a person he roams through dry places looking for rest and does not find it. 44 Then he says, 'I will go back to the house I left,' and comes and finds it vacant cleaned and orderly. 45 He then goes out to bring along with him seven other spirits worse than himself, and they enter and live there. And the final condition of that person is worse than the first, So it will be with this wicked generation."

46 While He was still speaking to the crowds His mother and brothers stood outside wanting to talk with Him. 47 *Then someone told him. "Your mother and your brothers stand outside wanting to speak to you."* 48 But He replied to the one who told Him, "Who is My mother and who are My brothers?" 49 And stretching out His hand to His disciples, He said, "Here are My brothers; 50 for whoever does the will of My heavenly Father is My brother and sister and mother."

MATTHEW CHAPTER 13

That same day Jesus, leaving the house, sat by the seaside, 2 and such great crowds gathered around Him that He stepped into a boat and sat down while the whole multitude stood on the beach. 3 And He told them many things in parables, saying; “A sower went out to sow 4 and in his sowing, some seeds fell along the road and the birds came and ate them. 5 Some fell on rocky soil, where they had little earth and sprang up quickly because the soil was shallow; 6 but with the rising sun they were scorched and having no root, withered. 7 Some fell among the thorns and the thorns grew up and choked them. 8 But the rest fell on the good soil and bore a crop – some a hundredfold, some sixty and some thirty. 9 Who ever has ears, let him listen,”

10 The disciples came up and said to Him, “Why do You speak to them in parables?” 11 He answered, “It is granted you to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but it is not granted them. 12 For whoever has, will receive superabundantly, but whoever has not will be deprived of whatever he has. 13 For this reason, I speak to them in parables, because they look and see nothing; they listen and neither hear not understand. 14 On their part, Isaiah’s prophecy is fulfilled, You will listen and listen but not understand; you will look and look but never see at all. 15 For this, people’s heart has grown dull and with their ears they hear poorly; they have shut their eyes shut, so that they may not see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their hearts, and return and I would heal them.” 16 But blessed are your eyes, for they see and your ears, for they hear. 17 For I assure you that many prophets and upright men have longed to see what you see and did not, and to hear what you are hearing and did not.”

18 “Listen, then, to the parable of the sower. 19 When anyone hears the message of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in his heart. This represents the sowing along the road. 20 But what was sown on rocky soil refers to the one who hears the word and at once accepts it gladly; 21 but it takes no root in him; it does not last. Trouble or persecution arises on account of the message and at once he turns away from it. 22 And what was sown among thorns means one who listens to the message, but worldly cares and the enjoyment of wealth choke the word and it becomes unproductive. 23 But what was sown in good ground means one who listens and understands the message; he bears fruit and yields, one a hundredfold, one sixty and one thirty.”

24 He put before them another parable; “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field, 25 but while men were asleep his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. 26 When the blade shot up and the wheat headed, the weeds appeared too. 27 The owner’s slaves went to him and said, “Was not that good seed, sir, that you sowed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?” 28 He said to them, ‘An enemy has done this.’ They asked him, ‘Would you like then to have us go and weed them out?” 29 But he said, ‘No, for in gathering up the weeds you might uproot the

wheat along with them. 30 Let them grow side by side until harvest time, and at harvest time I shall direct the reapers to collect the weeds first, bundle them up and burn them but bring the grain into my barn."

31 Another parable He presented to them; The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field. 32 It is the smallest of all seeds but when grown up it is bigger than any plant and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and roost in its branches."

33 He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast which a woman took and buried in a bushel of flour until it was all raised."

34 Jesus said all this to the crowds in parables and never spoke to them except in parables, 35 so that the saying of the prophet was fulfilled: "I will open my mouth in parables; I will express what has been hidden since the creation of the world."

36 Then leaving the multitudes, He went indoors and His disciples came to Him saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field." 37 "He replied: "The sower of the good seed is the Son of Man. 38 The field is the world. The good seed are the children of the kingdom, but the weeds are the children of the evil one. 39 The enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age. The reapers are the angels. 40 Just as the weeds are collected and burned up, so will it be at the end of the age. 41 The Son of Man will send forth His angels and they will gather up out of His kingdom all those who offend and those who are guilty of lawlessness 42 and will cast them into the fiery furnace. There will be weeping and grinding of teeth there, 43 Then will the righteous radiate like sun in their Father's kingdom. Whoever has ears, let him listen."

44 "The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man conceals after finding it. Then out of sheer gladness he goes and sells everything he has and buys that field. 45 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for beautiful pearls. 46 Having found one pearl of exceptional value he went out and sold all he possessed and bought it."

47 "Once more, the kingdom of heaven is like a net cast into the sea which collects every kind of fish. 48 When it was full they drew it to shore and sitting down, they put the good ones into baskets and threw out the bad ones. 49 So will it be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the wicked from the righteous 50 and will cast them into the fiery furnace; there will be wailing and grinding of teeth there.

51 "Have you understood all this? "They answered Him. "Yes." 52 So He said to them, "Every teacher, therefore, who is versed in the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new things and old."

53 When Jesus had finished these parables, He went away from there 54 and, after arriving in His home town, taught them in their synagogues in such a way that they were amazed, and said, "From where did this wisdom and these miracles of His come? 55 Is not this the

carpenter's Son? Is not His mother called Mary, and His brothers James, Joses, Simon, and Judas? 56 And His sisters are they not all with us? Where did He get all this?" 57 "And they were offended at Him. But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honour except in his own town and house." 58 And because of their unbelief He did not perform many miracles there."

MATTHEW CHAPTER 14

At that time the tetrarch Herod, heard of Jesus' fame 2 and said to his attendants, "This is John the Baptist. He is risen from the dead; therefore, these powers are at work in him."
3 For Herod had arrested bound and imprisoned John on account of Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip, 4 because John had told him, "You have no right to have her." 5 He wished to kill him but was afraid of the people, for they considered him a prophet.

6 At the occasion of Herod's birthday the daughter of Herodias danced before them and pleased Herod, 7 so he promised her on oath that he would give her whatever she might ask. 8 And, prompted by her mother, she said, "Give me here on a platter the head of John the Baptist." 9 The king was distressed; yet because of the oath and the guests he ordered it given, 10 and sent and beheaded John in prison. 11 His head was brought in on a platter and given to the girl, and she took it to her mother. 12 Then his disciples came, took up the body, buried it and went and told Jesus.

13 When Jesus heard it, He withdrew by boat privately for a solitary place. When the throngs found that out, they followed Him afoot from the cities. 14 On landing, He saw a great mass of people and felt deep sympathy for them and healed their sick.

15 With the approach of evening the disciples came to Him, saying, "The place is solitary and the time is now advanced. Dismiss the crowds, so that they can go away to the villages and buy food for themselves." 16 But Jesus said to them, "They do not need to go away; you give them to eat." 17 They answered, "We have nothing here except five loaves and two fish."
18 He, however, said, "Bring those here to Me." 19 and ordered the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and two fish, and looking up toward heaven, He gave thanks and broke the loaves and handed them to His disciples, and the disciples to the people.
20 They all ate and were satisfied, and they picked up the fragments which were left over – twelve full baskets. 21 Not including the women and children there were five thousand men who ate. 22 He immediately urged the disciples to embark and to sail ahead of Him to the other side while He dismissed the crowds. 23 And after He had dismissed the people, He climbed the hill to pray. Evening had fallen and He was there alone. 24 But the boat was by that time a good distance from shore and was tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary. 25 In the fourth watch of the night, He approached them, walking on the sea.
26 And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they exclaimed in terror, "It is a ghost!" and cried out from fear. 27 But He at once addressed them, "Cheer up!" It is I; have no fear." 28 Peter answered Him, "Lord if it is You, order me to come to You on the water!"

29 He said, “Come.” Peter got out of the boat, and he walked on the water and came toward Jesus; 30 but looking at the wind he was afraid and, beginning to sink, he cried, “Lord, save me!” 31 Instantly Jesus reached out His hand and took hold of him, saying, “You of little faith! Why did you doubt?” 32 After they had gotten into the boat, the wind quieted.
33 Then those in the boat knelt before Him, saying, “Truly, You are the Son of God!”

34 Having sailed across, they landed at Gennesaret, 35 and when the men of that place recognised Him, they sent into all that surrounding country and brought to Him all who suffered ailments. 36 They begged of Him that they might simply touch the fringe of His robe, and all who touched Him were completely healed.

MATTHEW CHAPTER 15

Then Pharisees and scribes from Jerusalem approached Jesus with the remark, 2 “Why do Your disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands before eating.” 3 He replied to them, “Why do you transgress the command of God through your tradition? 4 For God has commanded, “Honour your father and mother,” and “He who curses father or mother must suffer death.” 5 But you say, “Whoever says to his father or mother, “What you might get from me I make an offering,” 6 he need not honour his father and his mother.” So, you have nullified the Word of God through your tradition. 7 You hypocrites, Isaiah rightly prophesied about you. 8 This people honour me with their lips, but their heart is far away from Me. 9 Uselessly they worship Me with their teaching of human commands?”

10 Summoning the people, He told them: “Listen and understand. 11 What enters the mouth does not pollute the person, but what comes out of the mouth pollutes a person.”

12 Then the disciples came and said to Him. “Are You aware that the Pharisees were shocked at hearing You say this?” 13 He replied, “Every plant that My heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. 14 Leave them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. But if one blind person leads to another, they will both fall into a pit.”

15 Peter replied, “Explain the parable to us.” 16 He said. “Even you do not understand?
17 Do you not know that whatever enters the mouth passes into the stomach and is purged?
18 But what comes out of the mouth comes from the heart; that pollutes a man. 19 For out of the heart come evil designs, murders, adulteries, sexual vices, thefts, lyings and slanders.
20 These pollute a person; but to eat with unwashed hand does not pollute a person.”

21 Leaving there, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. 22 Here a Canaanitish woman from those parts came out and cried, “Pity me, LORD, Son of David! My daughter is badly demon-possessed.” 23 But He answered her never a word. Then His disciples came and urged Him, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting behind us.” 24 But He replied, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” 25 Then she approached and knelt before Him. Saying, “Lord help me!” 26 He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s bread and

to throw it to the house dogs.” 27 But she said, “True, Lord, yet even the house dogs eat of the crumbs that fall from their master’s table.” 28 Then, Jesus answered her. “O woman, your faith is great! Be it as you desire.” And from that very moment her daughter was healed.

29 Moving away from there, Jesus went along the Sea of Galilee, climbed the hill and sat there. 30 Great throngs came to Him. They brought along lame, blind, dumb, maimed and many others whom they laid at His feet, and He healed them; 31 so that the crowd wondered when they saw the dumb speaking, the maimed sound in body, the lame walking and the blind seeing. And they glorified the God of Israel.

32 But Jesus called His disciples and said, “I feel deeply moved for the multitude because they have now stayed with Me three days and they have nothing to eat. I am not willing to send them away hungry, for they may faint on the road.” 33 The disciples said to Him, “Where are we to get loaves enough in the desert to satisfy such a crowd?” 34 Jesus asked them, “How many loaves do you have?” They said, “Seven and a few small fish.” 35 He ordered the masses to sit on the ground, 36 took the seven loaves and the fish, gave thanks, broke them and handed them to the disciples, and the disciples to the crowds. 37 They all ate and were satisfied; and the leftovers filled seven hampers. 38 Four thousand men shared the eating, aside from women and children. 39 Then, dismissing the crowds, He embarked and sailed to the Magadan region.

MATTHEW CHAPTER 16

The Pharisees and Sadducees approached and, to test Him, asked Him to show them a sign from heaven; 2 but He replied, “*At eventide you say, ‘Fair weather, for the sky is red.’ 3 and in the morning, “A stormy day, for the sky is red and overcast.’ You hypocrites, you can distinguish the face of the sky, but not the signs of the times.”* 4 A wicked and immoral generation seeks a sign and no sign shall be given it except the sign of Jonah.” Then He left them and went away.

5 When the disciples had reached the other side, they had forgotten to bring along bread; 6 and Jesus said to them, “Take heed and keep away from the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees.” 7 They discussed it among themselves. “We brought no bread.” 8 But Jesus, aware of it, said, “Why these discussions among yourselves, you of little faith? Because you brought no bread? 9 Do you not understand even yet, neither remember the five loaves of the five thousand and how many baskets you took up, 10 nor the seven loaves of the four thousand and how many hampers you took up? 11 How is it you do not see that I was not talking to you about bread, but that you should be careful about the ferment of the Pharisees and Sadducees?” 12 Then they realised that He did not tell them to beware of yeast in bread, but of the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

13 When Jesus entered the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?” 14 They said, “Some say, John the Baptist; others Elijah;

others Jeremiah, or one of the prophets.” 15 He asked them, “But you who do you say I am?” 16 Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God .” 17 Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of John, because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but My heavenly Father. 18 I also tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock, I will build My church and the gates of hades shall not prevail against her. 19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you allow on earth will be allowed in heaven.” 20 Then He forbade the disciples to say to anyone, “He is the Christ.”

21 From then on Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem and suffer much from the elders, priests and scribes, and be killed, and raised on the third day. 22 Then Peter, leading Him aside, began to remonstrate with Him: “Mercy on You, Lord; this must never happen to You!” 23 But, turning around, He said to Peter, “Get behind Me, Satan, you are a snare to Me; for you are not taking the divine view but man’s.” 24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone wants to walk after Me, he must deny himself, take up his cross and follow Me; 25 for whoever wants to save his life shall lose it, but whoever loses his life for Me shall find it.”

26 “For what advantage will a man have it he acquires the whole world and forfeits his own life, or what will a man offer in exchange for his life? 27 For the Son of Man is going to come in the gory of the Father with His angels, and then He shall reward each according to his deeds. 28 I assure you, there are some of those standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in His Kingdom.”

MATTHEW CHAPTER 17

Six days later Jesus took along Peter, James and his brother John, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. 2 In view of them He was transfigured: His face shone like the sun and His clothes became white as the light. 3 Moses and Elijah also appeared to them as they conversed with Him. 4 Then Peter addressed Jesus, “Lord, it is good that we are here. If You approve, I shall make here three booths, one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.”

5 While he was still talking, a bright cloud overshadowed them and a voice from the cloud said, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am delighted; listen to Him.” 6 As the disciples heard it, they fell on their faces in great fear; 7 but Jesus coming forward, touched them and said, “Stand up and have no fear.” 8 And, raising their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus alone.

9 As they were coming down from the mountain, Jesus commanded them, “Do not mention the vision to anyone until the Son of Man is raised from the dead.” 10 The disciples asked Him, “Why, then, do the scribes say that Elijah must first come?” 11 He replied, “Elijah will come indeed and will restore all things. 12 But I tell you that Elijah has already come and they did not recognise him, but have done to him, as they pleased. In a similar way the Son

of Man is about to suffer at their hands." 13 Then the disciples realised that He was speaking to them of John the Baptist.

14 When they approached the crowd, a man came forward and knelt to Him saying,
15 "Lord, take pity on my son, for he is an epileptic and suffers badly; he often falls into the fire and often into the water. 16 I brought him to Your disciples, but they had no power to cure him." 17 Jesus replied, "O unbelieving and rebellious generation, how long shall I remain with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring him here to Me." 18 So Jesus rebuked the demon and it came out of him, and from that moment the boy was cured.

19 Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why did not we have power to expel it?" 20 He said to them, "Because of your little faith. For I assure you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. And nothing shall be impossible for you. 21 *But this kind does not go out except through prayer and fasting."*

22 While they were gathering in Galilee, Jesus said to them. "The Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men. 23 and they will kill Him, and on the third day He will be raised." And they felt deeply distressed.

24 When they arrived at Capernaum, the tax collectors came to Peter and said, "Does not your teacher pay the tax?" 25 He said, "Yes." And as he entered the house, Jesus forestalled him by saying, "What is your idea, Simon? From whom do the kings of the earth collect customs or taxes, from their sons or from foreigners?" 26 When he said, "From foreigners." Jesus declared to him, "Then the sons are exempt. 27 However, not to offend them, go to the sea, cast a hook and take the first fish you bring up, open its mouth and you will find a coin. Take it and pay them for Me and for yourself."

MATTHEW CHAPTER 18

At that time the disciples came and asked Jesus, "Who really excels in the kingdom of heaven?" 2 Calling a little child, He stood it in the midst of them 3 and said, "I assure you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven. 4 Whoever, then, humbles himself like this little child, he excels in the kingdom of heaven; 5 and whoever receives one such child in My name, receives Me. 6 But whoever is an occasion for stumbling to one of these little ones that believe in Me, it were better for him to have a millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea."

7 "Alas for the world because of the occasions of stumbling. The occasions have to come, but woe to the person on whose account they occur. 8 If your hand or your foot hinders you, cut it off and throw it from you; it is better for you to enter life maimed or crippled than to keep both hands or feet and to be thrown into eternal fire.

9 If your eye hinders you, pluck it out and throw it from you; it is better for you to enter life with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into the fires of hell. 10 See to it that you do not despise one of these little ones; for I tell you that their angels in heaven are for ever looking at the face of My heavenly Father."

11 "*The Son of Man has come to save the lost".* 12 How does this seem to you? If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them strays, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains to go out in search of the stray one? 13 And if he manages to find it, I assure you that he is happier over that one than over the ninety-nine that did not stray. 14 So it is not the will of your heavenly Father that one of these little ones should be lost."

15 "If your brother should do wrong against you, go and show him his fault privately; in case he listens, you have won your brother. 16 In case he does not listen, take one or two along, so that from the testimony of two or three witnesses the whole dispute may be settled. 17 If he refuses to listen to them, tell the church; and if he will not listen to the church, treat him like a pagan and a tax gatherer. 18 I assure you, whatever you will bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you allow on earth will be allowed in heaven. 19 Once more I assure you that if two of you are agreed on earth about anything for which you pray, it will be done for you by My heavenly Father. 20 For where two or three have gathered in My name, I am there with them."

21 Then Peter approached and said to Him, "Lord, how often shall my brother act amiss toward me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" 22 Jesus said to him, "I do not say, up to seven, but up to seventy times seven."

23 "For this reason, the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who planned to settle accounts with his slaves. 24 As he began the settlement, one was brought in who owed him ten thousand talents; 25 but as he had nothing to pay, his master ordered him to be sold, as well as his wife and children and everything he had, and to pay. 26 Then the slave fell down and implored him. 'Have patience with me and I will pay you everything.' 27 So, in pity for that slave his master released him and cancelled his debt. 28 "But as that slave was leaving, he met one of his fellow slaves, who owed him a hundred denarii. Grabbing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay me what you owe!" 29 Then his fellow slave fell down and implored him, 'Have patience with me and I will pay you." 30 But he refused, and went and threw him into prison until he should pay the debt. 31 "When his fellow slaves saw what was done, they were greatly distressed, and they went and told their master everything that had occurred. 32 Then his master summoned him and said to him; "You contemptible slave! I cancelled all that debt for you because you begged me. 33 Should not you have had pity on your fellow slave as I had pity on you?" 34 And angrily his master handed him over to the scourgers, until he should pay everything, he owed him. 36 And so will My heavenly Father do to you, if each of you does not heartily forgive his brother."

MATTHEW CHAPTER 19

When Jesus had completed these sayings, He left Galilee and entered the Judean territory across the Jordan. 2 Large crowds followed Him and He healed them there.

3 Then the Pharisees approached Him to test Him. They asked, “Is it right to divorce one’s wife for every given reason?” 4 He replied, “Have you not read that from the beginning the Creator made them male and female, 5 and said, ‘On this account a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two but one flesh?” 6 So, they are no longer two but one flesh. What God then has joined, man must not separate.” 7 They said to Him, “Why then did Moses command to give a divorce certificate and to dismiss her?” 8 He answered them, “Due to your hardheartedness Moses permitted you to divorce your wives, but it was not that way from the beginning. 9 I tell you that whoever divorces his wife, except for unfaithfulness, and marries another commits adultery.”

10 The disciples said to Him, “If such is the case of a man with his wife, it is preferable not to marry.” 11 But He replied, “Not all people accept this saying, but only those to whom it is given; 12 for some eunuchs are such from birth, some were made eunuchs by men, and some have made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. Whoever is able to accept it, let him accept it.”

13 Then little children were brought to Him so that He might lay His hands on them. 14 But Jesus said, “Allow the little ones and do not stop them from coming to Me, for of this kind the kingdom of heaven is composed.” 15 And after laying His hands on them He went away from there.

16 Someone approached Him and said, “Teacher, what good deed shall I do to secure eternal life?” 17 He said to him, “Why do you ask Me about goodness? Only One is good. But if you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments.” 18 He inquired of Him, “Which?” Then Jesus said, “This: Do not commit murder; do not commit adultery; do not steal; do not witness falsely; 19 honour your father and mother, and love your neighbour as yourself.”

20 The young man said to Him, “All these things I have observed, How do I still fall behind?” 21 Jesus replied, “If you want to be complete, go and sell what you have and donate it to the needy, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come and follow Me.” 22 But the young man, on hearing that, went sadly away, for he had much property.

23 Jesus remarked to His disciples, “I assure you, it will be difficult for a rich person to enter the kingdom of heaven. 24 I say to you again, it is easier for a camel to pass through a needle’s eye than for a wealthy person to enter the kingdom of God.” 25 When the disciples heard this, they were utterly, dumb-founded and said, “Who then can be saved?” 26 But Jesus looked at them and said, “With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

27 Then Peter replied to Him, “We have left everything and have followed You. What then is there for us?” 28 Jesus answered, “I assure you that you are followers of Mine, in the new age, when the Son of Man will sit upon the throne of His glory, you too will sit on twelve thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel. 29 Also every one who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields on account of My name, will receive a hundred times over and will inherit eternal life. 30 But many now first will be last, and the last will be first.”

MATTHEW CHAPTER 20

For the kingdom of heaven resembles an estate owner, who went out early in the morning to hire workmen for his vineyard, 2 and after agreeing with the workmen on a penny a day, he sent them into his vineyard. 3 At about nine o’clock he went out and saw other workmen standing in the market place unemployed, 4 and said to them, ‘You go into the vineyard, too, and I will pay you whatever is fair.’ So, they went. 5 Going out again at twelve and at three, he did the same thing. 6 When he went out at five o’clock, he found others standing there and said to them, ‘Why do you stand here idle all day?” 7 They answered, ‘Because nobody has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You go out into the vineyard too.’ 8 As evening fell, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the workmen and pay their wages, starting with the last and on to the first.’ 9 When those who began around five o’clock came, they got a penny each; 10 and when the first workmen came they thought that they would get more, but they, too, got a penny each. 11 On receiving it, they grumbled against the owner 12 and said, “These last have worked one hour and you have ranked them equal with us who endured the arduous toil and the scorching heat of the day.’ 13 But he answered on of them, ‘Friend, I am not wronging you. Did you not agree with me on a penny? 14 Take what is yours and go. I choose to pay this last one the same as you. 15 Have I no right to do with my belongings as I please? Or do you look resentful because I am generous?’ 16 So the last will be first, and the first last.”

17 As Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, He took the Twelve aside and, on the road, said to them, 18 “Take notice. We are going up to Jerusalem and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and scribes. They will sentence Him to death, 19 and hand Him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and scourged and crucified and on the third day He will be raised.”

20 Then the mother of Zebedee’s sons approached Him with her sons, kneeling and requesting something of Him. 21 He said to her, “What do you wish?” She replied, “Command that these my two sons will sit one at your right and one at your left in your kingdom.” 22 Jesus answered, “You do not know what you are asking. Can you drink the cup I am about to drink?” They said to Him, “We can.” 23 He told them, “You will indeed drink My cup, but to sit at My right and My left is not Mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by My Father.”

24 When the ten heard it, they were indignant at the two brothers, 25 but Jesus called them and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their superiors oppress them, 26 but with you it is different; Whoever among you wants to be great must be your servant, 27 and whoever would be first will be your slave 28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

29 As they were leaving Jericho, a great throng followed Him. 30 And when two blind men who were sitting by the road heard that Jesus was passing, they shouted, “Lord, Son of David, take pity on us!” 31 The crowd rebuked them, demanding silence, but they shouted the louder, “Lord take pity on us!” 32 Then Jesus stopped, called them and said, “What do you want Me to do for you?” 33 They said, “Lord, we would have our eyes opened.” 34 So Jesus took pity on them and touched their eyes and at once they received their sight and followed Him.

MATTHEW CHAPTER 21

When Jesus came near Jerusalem and reached Bethphage at the Mount of Olives, He sent out two disciples 2 saying to them, “Go to the village opposite you will find a donkey hitched and a colt with her. Unhitch them and bring them to Me. 3 Should anyone say anything to you, you reply, “The Lord needs them,” and without delay he will let them go.” 4 This happened so that the saying of the prophet might be fulfilled. 5 Tell Zion’s daughter, Behold, your king is coming to you, gentle and mounted on a donkey even on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.”

6 The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. 7 They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their coats on them, and He seated Himself on them. 8 Many of the multitude, too, spread their clothes on the road while others cut branches from the trees and strewed them on the road. 9 And the crowds, some marching ahead and some in the rear, shouted, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest.”

10 When He entered Jerusalem, the whole city was agitated. “Who is this?” 11 they asked. The crowd replied, “This is the Prophet Jesus, from Nazareth in Galilee.”

12 Jesus entered the temple and expelled all who were buying and selling in its courts. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves, 13 and told them, “It is written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer,’ but you are making it a robber’s den.”

14 The blind and the lame came to Him in the temple and He healed them. 15 But when the chief priests and the scribes noticed the wonderful things He did, and the children shouting in the temple, “Hosanna to the Son of David!” they were indignant 16 and said to Him, “Do You hear what they are saying?” Jesus answered, “Yes, Did you never read, From the mouth

of babes and nurselings, Thou hast perfected praise?" 17 And leaving them He went outside the city to Bethany, and there He spent the night.

18 In the early morning, as He returned to the city, He felt hungry 19 and, noticing a single fig tree by the roadside, He walked to it and found on it nothing but leaves. He said to it, "Let there be no more fruit from you anymore for ever," And instantly the fig tree withered. 20 As the disciples observed it, they marvelled and said, "How did the fig tree wither so quickly?" 21 Jesus answered them, "I assure you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but if you say to this mountain, "Be lifted and thrown into the sea," it will happen. 22 And everything you ask in prayer you will obtain, if you believe."

23 Upon His entering the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people stepped up to Him during His teaching and said, "By what authority are you doing these things and who gave You this authority?" 24 Jesus answered them, "Let Me ask you one question, too, and if you answer Me, then I will tell you by what authority I do these things: 25 Where did John's baptism come from, from heaven or from men?" But they argued among themselves, If we say "From heaven," He will say to us, Then why did you not believe him? 26 But if we say, "From men, we are afraid of the people, for they all consider John a prophet." 27 So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." He said to them, "Neither do I tell you by what authority I do these things. 28 "But how does this seem to you; A man had two sons and, "Son go out and work today in the vineyard," 29 He replied. 'I won't.' Afterward he felt sorry and went out. 30 Going to the second, he said the same to him, He answered, 'I will sir.' But he did not go. 31 "Which of the two did the father's will?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you; the tax gatherers and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of heaven ahead of you. 32 For John came to you on a mission of righteousness and you did not believe him; but the tax gatherers and the prostitutes believed him, and although you saw that, yet you did not afterward repent and believe him."

33 "Hear another parable; There was an estate owner who planted a vineyard, hedged it in, dug out a wine press in it, built a watch tower and leased it to tenant farmer, then went abroad. 34 When vintage time approached, he sent his slaves to the tenant farmers to collect his share: 35 but the tenant farmers took the slave and beat one, killed another, and stoned a third. 36 Subsequently he sent other slaves more numerous than the first, whom they treated in the same way.

37 Finally he sent him his son saying, "They will respect my son." 38 But when the tenant farmers saw his son, they said among themselves, "This is the heir. Come on let's kill him and get hold of his inheritance." 39 So they seized him, put him out of the vineyard, and killed him. 40 When therefore the owner of the vineyard arrives, what will he do to those tenant farmers?"

41 They answered," He will put the wretches to a miserable death and will lease the vineyard to other tenant farmers, who will pay him his share each season." 42 "Jesus said to

them, “Did you never read in the Scriptures, ‘The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone; this is the Lord’s doing and it fills our eyes with wonder?’ 43 “I tell you, therefore, that the kingdom of God will be taken from you and will be given to a people that produces its fruits. 44 *Whoever falls on that stone will be smashed, and on whom it falls, he shall be pulverised.”*

45 When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard His parables, they knew he was talking about them, 46 and they wanted to arrest Him; but they were afraid of the crowds, since they considered Him to be a prophet.

MATTHEW CHAPTER 22

JESUS again talked to them in parables, saying, 2 “The kingdom of heaven is similar to a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son, 3 and sent out his slaves to notify those invited to the wedding, but they would not come. 4 Once more he sent other slaves, saying, “Tell those invited, ‘Look here! I have gotten my dinner ready, my steers and fatted beasts are killed, and everything is prepared. Come to the wedding.” 5 But disregarding it, they went off – this one to his farm, that one to his trade, 6 and the rest, taking hold of his slaves, ill-treated and killed them.”

7 “The king was infuriated. He dispatched his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. 8 He then told his slaves, “True the banquet is ready, but the invited guests proved undeserving; 9 so go to the thoroughfares and invite to the wedding everyone you find.” 10 “Those slaves, as they went out on the roads, got together, all whom they came across both bad and good, and the wedding was fully supplied with guests.”

11 “But when the king came in to look the guests over, he noticed there a man not dressed in a wedding robe, 12 to whom he said, “Friend, how did you enter here without a wedding robe?” But he was speechless. 13 Then the king said to his domestic servants, “Bind him hand and foot and throw him out into the outside darkness; there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.” 14 “For many are called, but few are chosen.”

15 The Pharisees then went and plotted how they might entangle Him in his speech. 16 So they dispatched their disciples to Him, with the Herodians, who said, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere and teach the way of God honestly. You are afraid of none and You court no one’s favour. 17 Give us therefore Your opinion: Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not?” 18 But Jesus saw through their malice and said, “Why do you test Me, you hypocrites? 19 Show Me a coin.” And they brought Him a coin. 20 “Whose is this likeness and signature?” He asked them. 21 They said, “Caesar’s.” He told them, “Then pay Caesar what is due to Caesar, and God what is due to God.” 22 As they listened, they marvelled and went off and left Him.

23 That same day Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, approached Him, and asked Him, 24 “Teacher, Moses said, if someone dies childless, his brother shall marry his widow

and raise descendants for his brother. 25 Now there were seven brothers in our community, the first of whom married and died, and, having no children, left his widow to his brother. 26 So the second, and the third, down to the seventh; 27 and, following them all, the woman died. 28 At the resurrection, then, whose wife will she be of the seven? For they all had her."

29 Jesus answered them, "You are mistaken. You understand neither the Scriptures nor the power of God, 30 for in the resurrected state they neither marry or are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. 31 And about the rising of the dead, have you never read what God said to you, 32 "I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob?" He is God, not of the dead but of living beings."

33 As the crowds listened, they were amazed at His teaching; 34 but when the Pharisees heard that He had silenced the Sadducees, they put their heads together 35 and one of them, a teacher of the Law, by way of testing Him, asked, 36 "Teacher! What is the great commandment in the Law?" 37 He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God, with your whole heart, with your whole soul, and with your whole mind. 38 This is the great and chief commandment.

39 The second is like it, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself."

40 "On these two commandments the whole Law and the Prophets depend."

41 While the Pharisees were still together, Jesus questioned them, 42 "What is your idea about the Christ? Whose Son is He?" They said to Him, "David's." 43 He asked them, "How then does David in the Spirit call Him Lord, saying, 44 "The Lord said to my Lord, 'Sit at my right hand until I put Thy enemies under Thy feet?" 45 No one was able to answer Him a word; neither from that day did anyone presume to question Him anymore.

MATTHEW CHAPTER 23

THEN Jesus said to the crowds and to His disciples: 2 "The scribes and the Pharisees are occupying Moses's seat; 3 therefore do an observe whatever they tell you, but do not behave as they do; for they talk and do not practice. 4 They tie up heavy loads and place them on the people's shoulders, but they themselves do not care to move them with their finger. 5 They conduct all their activities to be noticed by men. For they enlarge their phylacteries and lengthen their fringes; 6 they cherish the chief place at dinners and the best seats in the synagogues, 7 the greetings in the market places and to be called Rabbi by men. 8 But you must not be called Rabbi, for one is your teacher and you are all brothers. 9 And call no one on earth your father, for one is your heavenly Father; 10 neither be called teachers, for You have one teacher – the Christ. 11 But he who is greatest among you will be your servant; 12 for whoever elevates himself shall be humbled, and whoever humbles himself shall be elevated."

13 “Alas for you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you shut the kingdom of heaven in people’s faces; for neither do you enter, nor do you allow those entering to go in. 14 *Alas for you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, for as a pretext for your piety you pray long prayers, and you cheat widows out of their houses. For this you will receive greater judgement.* 15 Alas for you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, for you traverse sea and land to make one proselyte and, when he becomes one, you make him a son of perdition twice worse than yourselves.”

16 “Alas for you, blind leaders, who say, “If anyone swears by the temple, it means nothing; but if anyone swears by the temple’s gold, he is bound by the oath.” 17 “Blind fools! For which is greater, the gold, or the temple that renders the gold sacred?” 18 “Furthermore you say, “If anyone swears by the altar, it means nothing; but if he swears by the offering upon it, he is bound by his oath.” 19 “Blind ones, which is greater, the offering, or the altar that renders the offering sacred? 20 So one who swears by the altar, swears by it and everything on it, 21 and one who swears by the temple, swears by it, and by Him who occupies it, 22 and one who swears by heaven, swears by the throne of God and by Him who sits upon it.

23 “Alas for you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you tithe mint, dill and cumin, and you omit the weightier aspects of the Law – justice, mercy and faith. These you ought to do without omitting the others. 24 Blind leaders, who strain out the gnat but swallow the camel!”

25 “Alas for you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites; for you clean the outside of a cup and a plate, but inside they are full of extortion and self-indulgence. 26 Blind Pharisees! First clean the inside of the cup and the plate so that’s its outside may be clean as well. 27 Alas for you scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, for you resemble whitewashed tombs which appear beautiful on the outside, but inside they are full of dead men’s bones and full of impurity. 28 So you seem to men to be outwardly upright, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.”

29 “Alas, for you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, for you build the tombs of the prophets and you decorate the monuments of the righteous. 30 and you say, ‘Had we lived in the days of our father’s we would not have had a part in shedding the blood of the prophets.’ 31 Thus you testify against yourselves; for you are the sons of the prophets’ murderers. 32 Fill up the measure of your fathers. 33 Snakes! You viper brood! How will you escape the sentence to hell?”

34 “Therefore, take notice; I will send you prophets and sages and scribes, some of whom you will kill and crucify, and some of whom you will flog in your synagogues and persecute from town to town. 35 so that there may come up, on you all the righteous blood that has been shed on the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah, the son of Barachaiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar. 36 I assure you that all this will come upon this generation.”

37 “O Jerusalem! Jerusalem! Murdering the prophets and stoning those sent to you! How often have I wanted to gather your children as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were unwilling. 38 See; your house is left forsaken; 39 for I tell you that you may no longer see Me at all until you say, ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.”

MATTHEW CHAPTER 24

LEAVING the temple, Jesus went on His way; and His disciples came forward to point out to Him the temple buildings. 2 And He said to them, “Do you not see all things? I assure you, not one stone will be left here upon another, that will not be thrown down.”

3 When He was seated on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately and said, “Tell us, when will these things happen and what will be the sign at Your coming at the end of the age?” 4 Jesus replied to them, “See that no one misleads you; 5 for many will come in My name saying, “I am the Christ, and will mislead many. 6 “You will be hearing of wars and rumours of wars; see that you be not troubled; for they have to come, but that is not yet the end. 7 For nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom, and their will be famines and earthquakes in various places; 8 all these are but the early pains of childbirth. 9 “Then they will hand you over to be persecuted and they will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations on account of My name. 10 Many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another; 11 and many false prophets will arise and deceive many 12 and, due to excessive lawlessness the love of many will grow cold. 13 But he who endures to the end will be saved, 14 And this good news of the kingdom will be preached all over the world to testify to all the nations, and then the end will come.”

15 “When you, therefore, see the desolating abomination mentioned by the Prophet Daniel, set up in the holy place – let the reader take note of this – 16 then those in Judea should flee to the mountains; 17 one on the roof must not go down to fetch the things out of his house, 18 and one in the field should not turn back to pick up his coat. 19 But alas for those who are pregnant and those who are nursing children in those days!”

20 “Pray that your flight may not be in winter or on a Sabbath; 21 for then there will be such great tribulation as has never been experienced from the world’s beginning until now, nor ever will be. 22 If those days were not shortened, not a mortal could survive. However, for the sake of the elect, those days will be shortened.”

23 “If someone then tells you, ‘Look! Here is the Christ!’ or ‘There He is!’ do not believe him; 24 for false Messiah’s and false prophets will arise and show great signs and wonders to mislead, if possible, even the elect.

25 Remember that I have forewarned you. 26 So, if they say to you, ‘He is there in the desert!’ do not go out; ‘In these rooms here!’ do not believe it. 27 For like the lightning that flashes from the east and shines to the west, so will the coming of the Son of Man be.
28 Wherever there is a corpse the vultures will flock there.”

29 “Right after the tribulation of those days, the sun will be darkened and the moon will not shed her light; the stars will fall from the sky and the forces of heaven will be shaken.
30 Then will the sign of the Son of Man be shown in the sky, and all the tribes of earth will mourn. And they will see the Son of Man coming of the clouds of heaven with great power and glory. 31 And he will send out His angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather His chosen from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.”

32 “Learn a lesson from the fig tree. As soon as her branch becomes tender and puts out leaves, you know that summer is near. 33 When you observe all these things, you know that He is so near, that He is at the door. 34 I assure you; all these things will take place before this generation passes on. 35 Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will never pass away. 36 But no one knows about that day and hour; neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son but only the Father.”

37 “As were the days of Noah, so will the coming of the Son of Man be: 38 for as in those days, people ate and drank, married and were given in marriage until the day when Noah entered the ark. 39 and did not understand until the deluge came and swept them all away, so will the coming of the Son of Man be. **40 Then there will be two men in the field – one will be taken and one left; 41 two woman will be grinding at the mill – one will be taken and one left. 42 “Keep watch, therefore, because you do not know on what day your lord is coming.”** 43 But of this to be sure, if the owner of the house had known in which hour of the night the thief was coming, he would have kept awake and would not have allowed his house to be broken into. 44 Therefore you also be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not expect Him.

45 “Who, then, is the faithful and prudent slave, whom the master has appointed in charge of his household to provide their sustenance at the proper time? 46 Happy is that slave whom his master finds doing so when he arrives. 47 I assure you; he will put him in charge of all his property.”

48 “But if that slave is wicked and says to himself, ‘My master is delaying his coming,’ 49 and he starts to strike his fellow workers, and eats and drinks with the drunkards, 50 that slave’s master will arrive on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know 51 and will scourge him till his flesh is cut and will put him with the hypocrites; there will be wailing and grinding of teeth there.”

MATTHEW CHAPTER 25

THEN the kingdom of heaven will be comparable to ten bridesmaids, who, taking their lamps, went out to meet the bridegroom. 2 Five of them were foolish and five were prudent. 3 The foolish ones took lamps but took no oil along with them, 4 but the prudent ones took along oil in the flasks with their lamps. 5 And as the bridegroom delayed his coming, they all grew drowsy and fell asleep.

6 “But at midnight there came a shout. ‘Here is the bridegroom; go out to meet him!”
7 Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. 8 And the foolish said to the prudent, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ 9 But the prudent answered, ‘No indeed; there would not be enough for you and us; go to the dealers and buy for yourselves.’

10 “Now while they went off to buy the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast. And the door was shut. 11 Afterward the rest of the bridesmaids came and said, ‘Master, master, open up for us!’ 12 But he replied, ‘I tell you truly, I do not know you.’ 13 So keep watch; for you know neither the day nor the hour *when the Son of Man will come.* 14 “For it will be like that of a man going away, who summoned his slaves and committed to them his belongings: 15 To one he gave five talents; to another, two, and to a third, one – to each according to his own ability; then he went away. 16 At once the one with the five talents went and did business with them and gained another five; 17 so did the one with two talents gain another two. 18 But the one with one talent went and dug in the earth and hid his master’s money.”

19 “After a long time, the master of those slaves came back and settled accounts with them. 20 The one who had five talents came forward and brought five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you entrusted to me five talents; look, I have gained these other five.” 21 His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful slave, you were trustworthy in a little, I will appoint you over much. Share the happiness of your master.’ 22 Then the one with two talents came and said, ‘Master, you handed me two talents; see, I have gained two talents more.’ 23 The master said to him, ‘Well done good and faithful slave, you were trustworthy in a little, I will appoint you over much. Share the happiness of your master.’

24 “But the one who had received one talent also, came forward and said, ‘Master, knowing you, that you are a harsh man, reaping where you never sowed and gathering where you did not winnow, 25 I was in fear; so I went and buried the talent in the ground; here you have what is yours.’ 26 His Master replied to him, ‘Despicable and lazy slave! You knew that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not winnow? 27 Then you should have invested my money with the bankers and on my return, I would have gotten my capital with interest. 28 So, take the talent away from him and give it to the one with the ten talents. 29 For to everyone who has will be given, and he will have more than plenty; but from him who is wanting will be taken even what he has. 30 Throw the useless slave into the outside darkness; there will be mourning and grinding of teeth there.’”

31 “When the Son of Man comes in His glory and all the angels with Him, then He will be seated on the throne of His glory, 32 and all nations will be gathered before Him. And He will separate them from one another as a shepherd parts the sheep from the goats; 33 and He will place the sheep at His right and the goats at His left.”

34 “The King will then say to those at His right. ‘Come My Father’s blessed ones, inherit the kingdom that has been prepared for you from the foundation of the world; 35 for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you entertained Me; 36 naked, and you clothed Me; sick, and you looked after Me; in prison, and you visited Me.’

37 “Then the righteous will answer Him, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry and nourished You, or thirsty and provided You drink? 38 When did we see You a stranger and entertained You, or naked and provided You with clothing? 39 When did we see You ill or in prison and visited You?” 40 And the King will answer, ‘I assure you, insofar as you did it to one of the least of these brothers of Mine, you did it to Me.’ 41 “Then will He say to those at His left, ‘Begone from Me, accursed ones, to the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels; 42 for I was hungry and you did not feed Me; thirsty and you gave Me no drink; 43 I was a stranger and you did not entertain Me; naked and you failed to clothe Me; ill and in prison and you did not come to see Me.’ 44 Then will they too answer, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or ill or in prison and did not serve You?’ 45 Then He will answer them, “I assure you, insofar as you failed to do it to one of the least of these, you failed to do it to Me.’ 46 And they will go away into eternal life.”

MATTHEW CHAPTER 26

WHEN Jesus had finished all these words He said to His disciples, 2 “You know that after two days the Passover will be celebrated and the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified.” 3 Then the chief priests and the elders of the palace of the high priest, Caiaphas by name, 4 and plotted to arrest Jesus underhandedly and to kill Him. 5 But they said, “Not during the Feast, else there might be a riot among the people.”

6 While Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon, the leper, 7 a woman approached Him with an alabaster flask of very precious perfume and poured it on His head as He was seated at the table. 8 Observing it, the disciples said indignantly, “Why this waste? 9 This could have been sold at a good price and given to the poor.” 10 When Jesus heard it, He said to them, “Why do you embarrass the woman? She has done something lovely for Me; 11 for you will always have the poor with you, but Me you do not have always. 12 By pouring this perfume on My body she has prepared for My burial. 13 I assure you that wherever this gospel is preached throughout the world, this that she has done will be mentioned to her memory.”

14 Then one of the Twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests 15 and said, “What are you willing to give me and I will hand Him over to you?” And they offered him thirty pieces of silver. 16 From then on, he watched for an opportunity to betray Him. 17 On the first day of unleavened bread the disciples approached Jesus and said, “Where do You want us to prepare for You to eat the Passover?” 18 He said, “Go into the city to so-and-so and tell him. “The Teacher says, My time is near; I shall observe the Passover with My disciples at your house.” 19 So the disciples did as Jesus directed them and prepared the Passover.”

20 As the evening was falling, He sat at the table with the twelve disciples 21 and, while they were eating, He said, “I tell you truly that one of you will betray Me.” 22 Greatly distressed, they began to say to Him on after the other. “Surely it is not I, Lord?” 23 But He replied, “He who has dipped his hand with Me in the dish, he will betray Me. 24 The Son of Man will indeed go away as has been written of Him, but alas for that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed. Better for that man had he never been born.” 25 Judas, who betrayed Him, said, “Surely it is not I, Rabbi?” He said to him, “You have said it.”

26 As they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it and gave it to the disciples, saying, “Take, eat, this is My body,” 27 He also took the cup and, after giving thanks, gave it to them, saying, “All of you drink of it; 28 for this is My blood of the new covenant poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. 29 I tell you, from now on I shall not drink of the product of the vine at all until that day when I shall drink it new with you in My Father’s kingdom.”

30 When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. 31 Then Jesus said to them, “Tonight you will all dessert Me; for it is written, ‘I shall strike the shepherd and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’ 32 But after I am raised up, I will precede you to Galilee.”

33 Peter answered Him, “Though all the rest desert You, I will never desert You.” 34 Jesus said to him, “I assure you, this night before a rooster crows, you will deny Me three times.”

35 Peter said to Him, “Even if I must die with You, I will never deny You.” And all the disciples spoke the same way.

36 Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and told the disciples, “Sit down here, while I go yonder and pray.” 37 Taking along Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, He began to feel grieved and deeply distressed. 38 Then He said to them, ‘My soul is mortally grieved; stay here and keep watch with Me.” 39 And moving forward a little, He fell on His face, praying, “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; however, not as I will but as You will.”

40 When He came to the disciples, He found them fast asleep and said to Peter, “So you were not able to watch with Me for a single hour? 41 Watch and pray, so that you may not fall into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

42 For a second time He went away and prayed, “My Father, if it cannot pass from Me without Me drinking it, Your will be done.” 43 When he came back, again He found them asleep, for their eyes were heavy. So, 44 He left them once more for a third time speaking the same words. 45 Then He came to the disciples and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? The hour has come, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. 46 Arise, let us be going. Look, My betrayer is at hand.”

47 He was still speaking when Judas, one of the Twelve, came and with him a large mob from the chief priests and elders of the people, carrying swords and clubs. 48 Now His betrayer had given them a signal, “Whom I kiss, He is the man. Seize Him.” 49 At once he went up to Jesus and said, “Greeting, Rabbi,” and kissed Him. 50 But Jesus said to him, “Friend, for what are you here?” Then they came forward, put their hands on Jesus, and arrested Him.

51 One of Jesus’s companions put out his hand, drew his sword and, striking the high priest’s slave, cut off his ear. 52 Jesus then spoke to him, “Return your sword to its place, for all who draw the sword will be destroyed by the sword. 53 Or do you suppose I cannot appeal to My Father and at once He would provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels?” 54 How then, will the Scripture be fulfilled that it must happen this way?”

55 At the same time Jesus said to the crowds, “Have you come as against a robber, with swords and clubs to arrest Me? Daily I sat in the temple teaching, and you never seized Me. 56 But all this has occurred, so that the writings of the prophets must be fulfilled.” Then all the disciples deserted Him and fled.

57 Those who had arrested Jesus, led Him away to Caiaphas, the high priest, where the scribes and the elders had gathered together. 58 But Peter followed Him from a distance as far as the high priest’s courtyard and, stepping inside, sat down with the attendants to see the end. 59 Now the chief priests and the entire Sanhedrin looked for false testimony against Jesus, in order that they might execute Him; 60 but although many false witnesses came forward, they found nothing. Finally, two came forward, 61 who said, “This fellow said, “I have the power to destroy God’s temple and to build it again in three days.”

62 So the high priest stood up and said to Him, “Have You nothing to say? What about their evidence against You?” 63 But Jesus was silent. The high priest said to Him, “I charge You on oath by the living God that You tell us whether You are the Christ, the Son of God,” 64 Jesus said to him, “As you say. Besides. I tell you that shortly you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Almighty and coming upon the clouds of heaven.”

65 Then, the high priest tore his clothes, saying, “He has blasphemed! What further need do we have of witnesses? You have now heard His blasphemy. 66 What do you think?” They answered, “He deserves death!” 67 Then they spat in His face and struck Him with the fist. Others slapped Him, 68 saying, “Prophesy to us Christ!” Who struck You?”

69 Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard and one slave girl came up to him saying. “And you were with Jesus the Galilean.” 70 But before them all he made denial. “I do not know what you mean?” 71 As he was going out into the entrance of the courtyard another girl noticed him and said to those who were there, “This fellow was with Jesus the Nazarene.” 72 Again he denied it with an oath, “I do not know the man!” 73 A little later the bystanders came up and said to Peter, “You certainly are one of them too, for your accent reveals it.” 74 Then he started to curse and to swear, “I do not know the man!” Then a

rooster crowed. 75 And Peter recollected the word that Jesus had spoken, “Before a rooster crows you will deny Me three times.” And going outside he cried bitterly.

MATTHEW CHAPTER 27

At dawn all the chief priests and the elders of the people held consultation against Jesus in order to execute Him. 2 Having bound Him, they led Him away and handed Him over to Pilate, the governor.

3 When Judas, His betrayer saw that He was condemned, he felt remorse and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, 4 saying, “I sinned in betraying innocent blood.” But they said, “What is that to us? You see to that yourself.” 5 He then flung down the silver pieces in the temple, withdrew and, going off, hanged himself. 6 The chief priests picked up the money and said, “It is not right to put this in the treasury, since it is blood money.” 7 So, after conferring, they bought with it the Potter’s Field as a cemetery for strangers; 8 therefore that field is called to this day, “The Field of Blood.” 9 Then the saying of Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled, “And I took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of the man on whom a price was set, whom Israel’s sons had evaluated, 10 and gave them for the potter’s field as the Lord directed me.”

11 But Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor questioned Him. “Are You the King of the Jews?” Jesus replied, “As you say.”

12 And to the accusations of the chief priests and the elders against Him He made no reply. 13 Then Pilate said to Him, “Do You not hear how much they testify against You?” 14 But to the governor’s great surprise He answered him never a word.

15 Now it was customary for the governor to release at the feast one prisoner selected by the populace. 16 And at that time they held a notorious convict called Barabbas. 17 So when they had assembled, Pilate said to them, “Whom do you want released to you, Barabbas or Jesus, who is called Christ?” 18 For he knew that they had delivered Him out of envy.
19 While he was seated on the tribunal, his wife sent him a message that said, “Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for I suffered a great deal today in a dream because of Him.” 20 But the chief priests and elders persuaded the masses to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus destroyed. 21 The governor answered them, “Which of the two shall I release to you?” They said, “Barabbas!” 22 Pilate asked them, “Then what shall I do with Jesus, who is called Christ?” They all said, “Let him be crucified!” 23 Pilate said, “Why what wrong has He done?” But they shouted all the more loudly, “Let Him be crucified!”

24 When Pilate saw that he was accomplishing nothing, but that instead a riot was brewing, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, “I am innocent of the blood of this man; you yourselves see to it.” 25 And all the people answered, “His blood be on us and our children.” 26 He then released Barabbas to them; but Jesus he flogged and handed over to be crucified.

27 Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus along into the palace and gathered the whole cohort around Him. 28 They stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him; 29 they plaited a crown of thorns and place it on His head, also a reed in His hand and kneeling before Him, they ridiculed Him, "Long live the King of the Jews!" 30 They spat on Him; they took the reed and struck Him on the head; 31 and after they mocked Him, they took off the robe and put on His own clothes. Then they led Him away to be crucified.

32 On the way out they found a Cyrenian called Simon, whom they forced to carry His cross. 33 Arriving at a place called Golgotha, which means "Place of a Skull", 34 they gave Him wine to drink mixed with gall; but after tasting it He would not drink it.

35 And when they had crucified Him, they distributed His clothes among them by casting lots *so that the prophet's saying was fulfilled, "They parted My garments among them, and over My vesture they cast lots."* 36 And, sitting down, they watched Him there. 37 Over His head they placed the written charge against Him, THIS IS JESUS, THE KING OF THE JEWS.

38 Then two robbers were crucified along with Him, one to the right and one to the left. 39 And those walking by insulted Him, wagging their heads and saying, 40 "You destroyer and reconstructor of the temple in three days, save Yourself if You are the Son of God, and come down from the cross!" 41 Similarly the chief priests with the scribes and the elders scoffed at Him. 42 "He saved others but He cannot save Himself. Is He King of Israel? Let Him now come down from the cross and we will believe in Him. 43 He trusts in God? Let Him rescue Him now, if He wants Him; for he said, 'I am the Son of God.' 44 The robbers, too, who were crucified with Him, levelled the same reproach at Him.

45 From twelve o'clock until three darkness lay on all the land; 46 and at about three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"

47 Some of the bystanders who heard it, said, "He is calling for Elijah." 48 And at once one of them ran, took a sponge, dipped it in vinegar and putting it on a reed, offered it to Him to drink. 49 But the others said, "Hold on! Let us see if Elijah comes to save Him."

50 Jesus, once more crying with a loud voice, dismissed His spirit, 51 And the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; the earth shook; the rocks were split; 52 the tombs were opened and many bodies of the buried saints were raised 53 and after His resurrection they left their tombs, entered the holy city and appeared to many.

54 When the centurion and his men, who were watching Jesus, observed the earthquake and everything that happened, they were dreadfully frightened and said, "Truly, this was God's Son!" 55 There were also numerous women observing from a distance, those who had followed Jesus from Galilee rendering Him service. 56 including Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joses and the mother of Zebedee's sons.

57 With the coming of evening there came a rich man from Arimathea, called Joseph, who himself was a disciple of Jesus. 58 He went to Pilate and requested the body of Jesus. Then Pilate gave orders to have it relinquished. 59 When Joseph had obtained the body, he wrapped it in clean linen 60 and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock. Then, rolling a large stone in front of the opening of the tomb, he went away. 61 But Mary Magdalene was there and the other Mary sitting opposite the tomb.

62 The next day, that is the day after the Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate 63 and said, “We remember, Sir, that this imposter said, while He was still alive, ‘After three days I will rise.’ 64 Give orders, therefore, to have the tomb safeguarded until the third day, so that His disciples, may not come and steal Him and then tell the people. ‘He is risen from the dead,’ and the final fraud will be worse than the first.”

65 Pilate said to them, “The guard is yours; go on and make it as secure as you can.” 66 So they went and safeguarded the tomb, sealing the stone and setting a guard.

MATTHEW CHAPTER 28

AFTER the close of the Sabbath, with the dawning of the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to look at the tomb. 2 And a severe earthquake occurred; for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, approaching the stone, rolled it aside and sat on it. 3 His appearance was like lightning and his clothing white as snow, 4 The sentries shook for fear of him and became like corpses. 5 But the angel said to the women, “Have no fear! I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. 6 He is not here; for He is risen just as He said. Come, see the place where He lay. 7 And go, hasten to tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead and is proceeding you into Galilee; there you will see Him, See, I have told you.”

8 Hastily they left the tomb, in fear and with great joy, and ran to tell the news to His disciples. 9 And behold; Jesus met them, saying, “Rejoice!” Going up to Him they clasped His feet and knelt before Him. 10 Jesus then said to them. “Have no fear. Go, tell My brothers to go to Galilee; and they shall see Me there.”

11 While they were on their way some of the guard entered the city and reported to the chief priests everything that had occurred. 12 They, deliberating in session with the elders, gave the soldiers considerable money, 13 telling them, “Say: ‘His disciples came by night and stole Him while we were asleep.’ 14 And if this reaches the governor’s ears, we will win him over and keep you out of trouble.” 15 So the guards accepted the money and did as they were instructed, and this story has been current among the Jews until the present day.

16 But the eleven disciples went away to Galilee, to the mountain to which, Jesus had directed them, 17 And when they saw Him, they worshipped Him, but some were in doubt. 18 Jesus came to them and He said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. 19 Go therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the

Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe everything that I have commanded you. And, remember, I am with you all the days until the end of the age."

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO

MARK

CHAPTER 1

THE beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son if God; 2 as it is written in the Prophet Isaiah. "Behold, I send My messenger ahead of You, who shall prepare Your way; 3 a voice of one shouting in the desert. 'Make the Lord's way ready; make straight His paths!'" 4 John the Baptist appeared in the desert, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, 5 and all Judea and all the people of Jerusalem came out to him and were baptised by him in the Jordan River upon confessing their sins.

6 John was dressed in clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. 7 He proclaimed, "After me comes One greater than I, the strings of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. 8 I have baptised you with water, but He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit."

9 In those days Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptised by John in the Jordan. 10 And the moment He came up from the water He saw the heavens parted and the Spirit, like a dove, coming down upon Him. There also came a voice from heaven, "You are My Son, My Beloved; in You I am delighted." 12 Without delay the Spirit drove Him into the desert 13 where He remained forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts and the angels waited on Him.

14 After John had been arrested Jesus went to Galilee, preaching the good news from God, 15 saying, "The time is completed and the kingdom of God is near; repent and believe in the good news."

16 As he was passing along the Sea of Galilee, He noticed Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. 17 Jesus said to them, "Come after Me and I will make you fishers of men." 18 At once they left their nets and followed Him. 19 Going on a little, He saw James, the Son of Zebedee, and his brother John, who were in their boat, mending the nets. At once He called them and leaving their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired hands, they went off after Him.

21 They entered Capernaum and the next Sabbath day He went to the synagogue and taught. 22 They marvelled at His teaching, for He taught them as one who had authority and not as the scribes.

23 There was in their synagogue just then a man with an unclean spirit, who cried out, 24 "What business is it of Yours to bother us, Jesus You Nazarene? Have You come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." 25 Jesus rebuked him: "Silence! Get out of

him! 26 The unclean spirit, throwing him into a spasm, cried out with a loud voice and came out of him. 27 They were all amazed, so that they inquired among themselves, “What does this mean? A new teaching? With authority He orders even the unclean spirits and they obey Him!” 28 And rapidly His fame spread in every direction through that whole Galilean region. 29 from the synagogue they went with James and John to the house of Simon and Andrew; 30 but Simon’s mother-in-law was in bed with fever and at once they told Him about her. 31 He went to help her, took her by the hand and helped her rise. The fever left her and she began to wait on them.

32 In the evening at sunset they brought to Him all the sick and the demon-possessed
33 until the whole city was gathering at the door. 34 He cured many who were ill with various diseases and cast out many demons; but since the demons knew Him, He did not permit them to speak. 35 Rising early in the morning long before daylight, He left and went out to a lonely spot and prayed there. 36 Simon and his companions searched for Him,
37 found Him and told Him. “They are all looking for You.” 38 He said to them, “Let us go elsewhere into the adjoining towns so that I may preach there too, because for this purpose I came.” 39 And He went preaching in their synagogues and casting out demons through all Galilee.

40 A leper came to Him, begging of Him on his knees, “If You are willing, You can cleanse me.
41 Deeply sympathetic, He reached out His hand and touched him, and said to him, “I am willing. Be cleansed.” 42 Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cleansed. 43 Then and there He sent him off with the stern injunction, 44 “Be careful to tell no one, but go and show yourself to the priest and offer what Moses has prescribed for your purification, as a testimony to the people.” 45 But he went off and began to publish it so much and to spread the report so widely that Jesus could no longer enter a town openly, but stayed outside in lonely places. And from everywhere people came to Him.

MARK CHAPTER 2

SOME days later He returned to Capernaum, and it was learned that He was at home. 2 So many congregated that shortly there was no longer any room even at the door. He was preaching the word to them 3 when they came and brought a paralytic to Him, carried by four men. 4 And being unable to get near Him on account of the crowd, they removed the roof above Him and through the opening lowered the couch on which the paralytic was lying. 5 Observing their faith, Jesus said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven you.”
6 But some of the scribes were sitting there with questions in their hearts, 7 “Why does He talk this way? It is blasphemy. Who but God alone can forgive sins?” 8 Perceiving at once in His spirit that they were reasoning that way to themselves, Jesus said to them, “Why do you question this way in your hearts?” 9 Which is easier, to tell the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Rise, pick up your couch and walk off’? 10 But to let you know that the Son of Man has authority to forgive sins on the earth”. He said to the paralytic, 11 “I tell you; rise pick up your couch and go home.” 12 At once he arose, picked up his couch and went

out in the presence of everyone, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, “We have never seen anything like it before!” 13 Then He went out again by the seaside, where the whole crowd came to Him, and He taught them.

14 As He walked along, He noticed Levi, the son of Alpheus, sitting at the tax office, and said to him, “Follow Me.” He arose and followed Him. 15 And so it was, as He sat at the table at his house, that along with Jesus and His disciples many tax collectors and sinners were seated there also; for many such were His followers. 16 The scribes, who were of the Pharisees, who observed that He dined with sinners and tax collectors remarked to His disciples. “Why does He eat with tax collectors and sinners?” 17 On hearing it Jesus told them, “Not the well but the sick have need of a physician. I did not come to call the righteous but sinners.”

18. John’s disciples and the Pharisees were observing a fast; so, they came and said to Him, “Why do John’s disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but Your disciples do not fast?” 19 Jesus replied to them, “Can the wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is in their company? So long as the bridegroom is with them, they cannot fast, 20 but a time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them, and then will be their day to fast.
21 No one sews a patch of unshrunken cloth on an old coat, for the new piece would tear away from the old and the tear become worse, 22 Neither does one pour new wine into old wineskins, for the wine would burst the skins, with both wine and skins ruined. But new wine goes into new skins.”

23 He happened on the Sabbath to pass through a wheat field and His disciples started to pick the heads of wheat. 24 The Pharisees said to Him, “See how they are doing what is not allowed on the Sabbath!” 25 He replied, “Have you never read what David and his men did when they were hungry? 26 How in the days of Abiathar, the high priest, he went into the house of God and ate the presentation loaves, which none but the priests are allowed to eat, and shared with his companions?” 27 He said further to them, “The Sabbath was made for man’s sake, not man for the Sabbath, 29 so that the Son of Man is Lord also of the Sabbath.”

MARK CHAPTER 3

AGAIN, He entered the synagogue, and a man with a withered hand was there. 2 They watched Him, whether He would heal him on the Sabbath, so that they might accuse Him. 3 He told the man with the withered hand, “Stand there in the centre.” 4 Then He asked them, “Is it right to help or hurt on the Sabbath; to save a life or to kill?” But they kept still. 5 Looking around at them angrily because He was vexed at their callousness of heart. He said to the man, “Hold out your hand.” He held it out and his hand was restored. 6 And at once the Pharisees went out and plotted against Him with the Herodians for the purpose of destroying Him.

7 With His disciples, Jesus retired to the seaside and a great many followed Him from Galilee and Judea. 8 from Jerusalem, from Idumea, from beyond the Jordan, and from around Tyre

and Sidon – a large number came to Him when they heard what he had done. 9 He told His disciples to have a little boat ready for Him, so that the throng might not press upon Him; 10 for He healed many, so that all who had ailments closed in on Him to touch Him. 11 And whenever the unclean spirits saw Him, they fell down before Him screaming. “You are the Son of God!” 12 But He charged them strictly not to make Him known.

13 Then He went up the hill, summoned those whom He wanted, and they came to Him. 14 He appointed twelve to be with Him, that He might send them out to preach 15 with power to *heal the sick and to* expel demons, He appointed these twelve; 16 Simon, who He called Peter; 17 James, the son of Zebedee and John, the brother of James, whom he called Boanerges – that is Sons of Thunder; 18 Andrew and Philip; Bartholomew and Matthew; Thomas and James, the son of Alpheus; Thaddeus and Simon of Cana; 19 and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed Him.

20 They entered a house, and again the crowd collected, so could not even have a meal. 21 When His relatives learned of it, they came out to seize Him, for they for they said, “He is deranged.” 22 But the scribes who had come down from Jerusalem said, “He has Beelzebul and through the ruler of demons He expels demons.” 23 So He called them to Him and said to them in parables, “How can Satan expel Satan? 24 If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot last, 25 and if a household is divided against itself, that household cannot last. 26 and if Satan rebels against himself, he cannot stand but is about to come to and end. 27 But no one can enter a strong man’s house and plunder his property unless he first binds the strong man and then will loot his place.”

28 “I assure you that all the sins that the sons of men commit and all the blasphemies that they utter are pardonable, 29 but whoever blasphemies against the Holy Spirit will have no forgiveness for ever but is guilty of an eternal sin.” – 30 because they said, “He has an unclean spirit.” 31 His mother and His brothers came and, standing outside, sent messengers to call Him. 32 A crowd was sitting around Him and they told Him, “Your mother and Your brothers are outside asking for You.”

33 He answered them, “Who are My mother and My brothers?” 34 Looking at those sitting around Him in a circle He said, “See, My mother and My brothers! 35 Whoever does the will of God, that one is My brother and sister and mother.”

MARK CHAPTER 4

AGAIN, He began to teach by the seaside, and so a huge crowd collected around Him, that He got into a boat on the lake and sat in it, while all the people stayed on shore near the water. 2 He taught them many lessons in parables, and told them in His teaching. 3 “Listen! A sower went out to sow 4 and, as he sowed, some seed fell along the road, and the birds came and ate it up. 5 Other seed fell on rocky soil where it had little earth, and because it had no depth of soil, it sprang up at once; 6 but when the sun rose it got scorched, and because it had no root it withered. 7 Other seed fell among the thorns, and the thorns grew

up and choked it, so it yielded no crop. 8 And other seed fell on the good soil and it sprang up and grew and yielded a crop – thirty, sixty, even a hundred-fold." 9 He added, "Whoever has ears which can hear, let him listen."

10 When He was by Himself, those near Him. With the twelve, inquired about the parables 11 and He told them, "The secret of God's kingdom is committed to you; but to outsiders these matters all come in parables. 12 so that, 'for all their seeing, they may not perceive and for all their hearing, they may not understand, so they may not turn about and be forgiven.'"

13 He told them further, "If you do not understand this parable, how will you grasp all the parables? 14 The sower sows the word. 15 Those along the road are where the word is sown and, as soon as it is heard, Satan comes and snatches away the word that was sown in them. 16 Similarly, those seeds on rocky soil – they readily and gladly receive the word, 17 but it takes no root in them; they last briefly. When trouble or persecution comes on account of the word, at once, they stumble and fall. 18 Others are sown among thorns – they hear the word, 19 but the world's cares and the delight of wealth and the passions for other interests enter in to choke the word and it becomes fruitless. 20 And those sown on good soil – they are the ones who hear and accept the word and they yield thirty, sixty, even a hundredfold."

21 He said to them, "Is a lamp brought in so that it may stand under the peck measure or under the bed? Is it not put on the stand? 22 For nothing is hidden except to be shown and nothing kept secret except to be revealed. 23 Whoever has ears which can hear, let him listen."

24 He further said to them; "Be careful what you hear. The measure you deal out to others will be dealt to you, with more added; 25 for to one who has shall be given, and one who has shall not be deprived of what he has."

26 And He said, "The kingdom of God is as when a man scatters seed in the soil, 27 then sleeps at night and rises by day, while the seed sprouts and springs up, he does not know how. 28 The soil produces of itself first the blade, then the head, then the mature wheat in the head; 29 and whenever the crop is ready, he puts in the sickle because harvest has come."

30 He also said, "To what may we compare the kingdom of God or by what parable may we picture it? 31 It is like a mustard seed – smaller than any seed on earth, 32 yet, when planted it springs up and grows to be larger than any plant, producing such large branches, that the birds of the air can nest under its shelter."

33 With many such parables, He told them the word insofar as they could grasp it; 34 He spoke in parables only and explained everything to His disciples by themselves.

35 At evening that same day, He said to them, "Let us cross to the other side." 36 So, leaving the crowd, they took him along in the boat, just as He was, and other boats accompanied

Him. 37 A heavy squall of wind came up and the waves dashed into the boat so that the boat was filling, 38 while he was in a stern asleep on a pillow. They awoke Him and said to Him, “Teacher, do You not care that we are sinking?” 39 He rose up, rebuked the wind and said to the sea, “Silence! Be still!” Then the wind fell and there was great calm. 40 He said to them, “Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?” 41 They were terribly frightened and said to one another, “Who is this anyway? For even the wind and the sea obey Him!”

MARK CHAPTER 5

THEY arrived at the opposite shore in the country of the Gerasenes. 2 And no sooner had He disembarked, than there met Him a man from the tombs, with an unclean spirit. 3 He made his home among the tombs and no one could ever bind him, even with chains; 4 for several times he had been bound in fetters and chains, but the chains were shattered and the fetters smashed by him. Nobody was strong enough to control him. 5 All the time, night and day, he remained among the tombs and in the mountains, shrieking and cutting himself with stones.

6 When from a distance he noticed Jesus, he ran and knelt before Him, 7 crying with a loud voice, “What business is it of Yours to bother me, Jesus, Son of God, Most High! I adjure You to God, do not torment me.” 8 For He was saying to him,” Unclean spirit, come out of the man!” 9 And was questioning him, “What is your name?” To which He answered, “My name is Legion, for we are many.” 10 Then he urgently begged Him, not to send him out of the country.

Now a large herd of swine was feeding there on the hillside; 12 and the demons besought Him. “Send us to the swine so that we may enter them!” 13 He permitted them, and the unclean spirits went out and entered the swine. Then the herd of about two thousand rushed headlong down the precipice into the lake and drowned in the lake. 14 Those tending them fled and told the news in town and in countryside, and the people came to see what had happened. 15 They came to Jesus and saw the demoniac, who had been possessed of the legion, sitting down, dressed and sane, and they were filled with awe.
16 Those who had seen it told them what had happened to the demoniac; also, about the swine. 17 Then they began to implore Him to leave their shores.

18 As He was embarking, the former demoniac requested that he might be with Jesus, but He did not let him. 19 Instead, He said to him, “Go back to your family and friends and tell them everything the Lord has done for you and the mercy He has shown you.” 20 And he went off and began to announce throughout the Decapolis, everything that Jesus had done for him, and all were astonished.

21 When Jesus had crossed again by boat to the other side, a great multitude massed around Him. He was on the shore 22 when one of the synagogue directors, named Jairus came and at sight of Him, fell at His feet 23 and strongly pleaded with Him. “My daughter is at the point of death. Come, place You hands on her, that she may recover and live.” 24 And He went with him. A vast host followed Him and pressed upon Him.

25 A woman too, who for twelve years 26 had suffered hemorrhages and had been treated much by many physicians, spending all she had without improving but rather growing worse, 27 when she heard about Jesus, came in the crowd behind and touched His robe, 28 for she said, “If only I touch His robe, I shall be healed.” 29 At once her hemorrhage stopped, and she felt in her body that she was healed of her affliction.

30 Then and there, Jesus, conscious that power had gone from Him, turned around in the crowd and asked, “Who touched My clothes?” 31 His disciples remarked to Him, “You see the crowds pressing You on all sides and You say, ‘Who touched Me?’” 32 But He looked around to see her, who had done it. 33 Then the woman, afraid and trembling because she knew what had happened to her, came and fell at His feet and told Him the whole truth. 34 And He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has saved you; go in peace and be healed of your affliction.”

35 While He was still speaking, there arrived those from the ruler’s house who told him, “Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher further?” 36 But Jesus, overhearing the spoken message, said to the ruler of the synagogue. “Have no fear; only believe.”

37 He permitted no one to accompany Him except Peter and James and James’s brother John. 38 Arriving at the ruler’s house, He observed the bedlam – loud weeping and wailing – 39 and as He entered, He said to them, “Why this turmoil and weeping? The child is not dead but asleep.” 40 They ridiculed Him; but He personally put them all out, took along the child’s father and mother and those with Him, and entered the room where the child was. 41 Then, taking the child’s hand, He said to her, “Talitha koum,” which means “Little girl, I tell you, rise.” 42 And instantly the little girl got up and walked around. She was twelve. They were astonished beyond all expression, 43 but He strictly charged them that no one should know it, and told them to give her something to eat.

MARK CHAPTER 6

LEAVING there, He came to His home town, accompanied by His disciples; 2 and on the Sabbath, He began to teach in the synagogue. Many, when they heard Him, were utterly amazed, saying, “Where did He get all this? What wisdom has been given Him and what miracles are these that happen by His hands? 3 Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and the brother James and Joses and Jude and Simon? And do not His sisters live here with us?” And they took offense on His account.

4 Jesus told them, “No prophet is without honour, except in his own country and among his relatives and in his home.” 5 And He could do no mighty work there, except that He laid hands on a few sick and healed them. 6 And he wondered at their unbelief. So, He went around the nearby villages teaching. 7 and called the Twelve, whom He began to send out, two by two, giving them authority over the unclean spirits 8 and directing them to take nothing for the trip, except only a staff – no bread, no bag, not a penny in the belt – 9 to wear sandals and not to put on two coats.

10 He further told them, “Wherever you enter a house, remain there until you leave the place. 11 And whatever community will neither receive you nor listen to you, when you leave there shake off the dust from under your feet, for a witness against them. *Truly I tell you, it will be more endurable for Sodom and Gomorrah in the Judgement Day, than for that city.”* 12 So they went out and preached that men should repent; 13 They expelled many demons; and many sick they anointed with oil and healed.

14 King Herod heard of it, for Jesus’ name had become well known, and he said, “John the Baptist is risen from the dead and therefore these miracles are being done by him.” 15 Others said, “He is Elijah”; others again, He is a prophet like one of the prophets of old.” 16 But on hearing of Him, Herod asserted, “John, whom I beheaded, has risen from the dead.” 17 For Herod himself had sent to arrest John and had confined him in prison, because of Herodias, his brother Philip’s wife; for he had married her. 18 For John had told Herod. “You have no right to have your brother’s wife.” 19 So Herodias held a grudge against him and wanted to execute him but was unable to do so; 20 for Herod stood in awe of John because he knew that he was an upright and holy man. He protected him and, on hearing him, was perplexed; yet he enjoyed listening to him.

21 An opportune time came when, on Herod’s birthday, he gave a banquet to his nobles and commanders and prominent Galileans, 22 at which Herodias’ daughter came in and danced. She pleased Herod and his guests. So, the king said to the girl, “Ask whatever you want and I will give it to you.” 23 Then he swore to her, “Whatever you want and I will give it to you, up to half my kingdom.” 24 She went out and asked her mother, “What shall I request?” “The head of John the Baptist,” she replied. 25 She entered the hall and at once hastened to the king and made the request, “I want you to give me this moment on a platter, the head of John the Baptist.”

26 Although the king was extremely sorry, yet for the sake of his oaths and his guests he did not want to refuse her. 27 And at once the king dispatched a guardsman with orders to bring John’s head. He went, beheaded him in prison, 28 brought his head on a platter and gave it to the girl; and the girl presented it to her mother. 29 And when his disciples heard of it, they came and took up his body and laid it in a tomb.

30 The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to Him everything they had done and taught. 31 The He told them, “Come away to a solitary place and rest awhile.” For so many were coming and going, that they did not have time to eat. 32 So they left in a boat for a lonely spot by themselves. 33 But the people saw them leaving and many recognised them, and from all the towns they ran there on foot and arrived ahead of them. 34 When Jesus landed, He saw a large crowd and was moved with pity over them; because they were like sheep without a shepherd. And He began to teach them many things.

35 As the hour grew late, His disciples came to Him and said, “This is a solitary place and now the hour is late; 36 dismiss them, so that may go to surrounding farms and villages and

buy themselves something to eat." 37 But He answered them, "You give them to eat." They said, "Shall we go and buy two hundred pennyworth of food and fed them?" 38 He asked them, "How many loaves do you have? Go and find out." When they had found out they reported, "Five, and two fish."

39 He then gave them all orders to sit on the green grass by groups, 40 and they sat in groups of hundreds and fifties. 41 Taking the five loaves of bread and the two fish, and looking up toward heaven, He gave thanks and broke the bread and gave it to the disciples to set before the people. He also divided the two fish for them all. 42 They all ate and were fully satisfied. 43 They picked up twelve full baskets of the broken pieces of bread and fish. 44 And there were five thousand men, who partook of the food. 45 Then without delay, He urged His disciples to board the boat and cross over to Bethsaida, 46 while He dismissed the crowd and after He had taken leave of them, went away to the mountain to pray. 47 At nightfall, the boat was in the middle of the sea and He alone on land. 48 Seeing them toiling hard at rowing because the wind was against them, He approached them around the fourth watch of the night, walking on the sea as if He meant to pass them. 49 But observing Him walking on the sea, they supposed it was a ghost and they cried out; 50 for they all saw him and were terrified. But, speaking to them at once, He told them. "Take courage! It is I; have no fear." 51 He them climbed into the boat with them, and the wind fell. They were beside themselves with amazement; 52 for they failed to understand the meaning of the loaves – their hearts were dull.

53 After crossing the lake, they landed at Gennesaret and docked. 54 But as soon as they disembarked, the people recognised Him, 55 and ran around that entire district and began to carry to Him on their couches, wherever they heard he was, all who had ailments. 56 And wherever He went, into village or town or country, they placed their sick in the market place and begged Him to let them touch, if only the hem of His robe. And as many as touched Him were healed.

MARK CHAPTER 7

THEN the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem, called on Him jointly, 2 having noticed some of His eating their food with unclean, that is unwashed hands. 3 For the Pharisees and all the Jews, who observe the traditions of the elders, do not eat without washing their hands up to the elbow, 4 and when they come from market, they do not eat without washing. And there are numerous other rules, which they follow traditionally, such as washing cups and pots and bronze utensils and beds.

5 So the Pharisees and the scribes, questioned Him. "Why do Your disciples behave contrary to the elders' tradition, but eat the food with unclean hands?" 6 He told them, "Suitably did Isaiah prophesy about you hypocrites, as it is written. This people honour Me with their lips; but their hearts are estranged from Me. 7 Vainly they worship Me, when teaching human

regulations and doctrines. 8 You let go of God's commandments, to cling to human tradition."

9 He added, "How well you frustrate the law of God to observe your own tradition. 10 For Moses said, 'Honour your father and your mother' and 'Whoever curses father and mother, let him be executed.' 11 But you say, 'If a man says to his father or mother, "What you would have received from me is Corban," that is to say consecrated to God, he is exempt,' 12 you no longer permit him to do anything for his father and mother. 13 Thus you annul God's word through your tradition, which you have handed down. And you do many things of that kind."

14 Calling the people to Him again, Jesus told them, "All of you listen to Me and understand. 15 Nothing entering a man from the outside can defile him, but the things that come out of the man render the person unclean. 16 *If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear."*

17 When He had gone indoors, away from the crowd, His disciples questioned Him about this parable 18 and He said to them, "Are you, too so lacking in comprehension? Do you not perceive that whatever enters from the outside cannot defile a person, 19 because it does not enter his heart but his stomach, and is evacuated?" In saying this He declared all foods to be clean. 20 He said further, "What comes out of the man defiles him; 21 for from within, out of a man's heart, wicked thoughts emerge – unchastity, 22 theft, murder, adultery, greed, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, vicious envy, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. 23 All these wicked things come from the inside and defile a man."

24 Then He arose and left there for the district of Tyre, where He entered a house, not wanting anyone to know it; but He could not remain hidden. 25 Instead, a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit came as soon as she heard of Him and threw herself at His feet. 26 She was a Gentile, a native Syro-Phoenician, and she begged Him to expel the demon from her daughter. 27 He said to her, "First, let the children be satisfied; for it is not fair to take the children's bread and to throw it to the house dogs." 28 But she answered Him, "Yes, Lord, yet the house dogs under the table eat from the children's scraps." 29 He said to her, "For this thought go your way; the demon has gone out of your daughter." 30 And when she reached home, she found the child lying on the bed and the demon expelled.

31 Returning from the district of Tyre, He passed through Sidon on to the Sea of Galilee and up the centre of the Decapolis region. 32 And, they brought Him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech, and begged Him to lay hands on him. 33 Taking him by himself away from the crowd, He put His fingers into his ears and touched his tongue with saliva.

34 Then, looking up toward heaven, He sighed and said to him, "Ephatha," that is, "Be opened." 35 And his ears were opened, and at once the obstruction of his tongue was loosed and he spoke clearly.

36 He charged them to tell no one; but the more He charged them, the more widely they made it known. 37 They were immeasurable astonished and exclaimed, “How well He has done everything! He even makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.”

MARK CHAPTER 8

IN those days once again, an immense crowd gathered and had nothing to eat. So, summoning the disciples, He told them, 2 “I feel very sorry for these people because they have stayed with Me now for three days and have nothing to eat. 3 If I should send them home hungry, they would faint on the way, and some of them are from a considerable distance.”

4 His disciples answered Him, “Where in this desert can we secure bread to satisfy such a number?” 5 He asked them, “How many loaves do you have?” They said, “Seven.” 6 So He instructed the crowd to sit down on the ground and, taking the seven loaves of bread, He gave thanks, broke them, gave them to His disciples to set before the people, and they set them before the crowd. 7 They also had a few small fish, and when he had given thanks for them, He told the disciples to set them before the crowd also. 8 So they ate and were satisfied; and they picked up the left overs, seven hampers full. 9 About four thousand had eaten. He then dismissed them, 10 and immediately embarking with His disciples, reached the region of Dalmanutha.

11 The Pharisees came out and began to dispute with Him. To test Him, they asked Him for a sign from heaven. 12 Sighing deeply in His very soul, He said, “Why does this generation seek a sign? I assure you; no sign will be given to this generation.” 13 So He left them, embarked again and crossed to the other side.

14 The disciples had forgotten to bring along bread, nor did they have more than a single loaf with them in the boat. 15 Thus He cautioned them, “Look out. Beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and of Herod’s yeast.” 16 They remarked to another, “It is because we have no bread.” 17 Aware of it, He said to them, “Why are you talking about having no bread? Do you still neither grasp or understand? Is your heart calloused? 18 Having eyes can you not see and having ears can you not hear? And do you not remember 19 when I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many baskets you picked up full of leftovers?” They said to Him, “Twelve.” 20 “When there were seven loaves for the four thousand, how many hampers of leftovers did you pick up?” They said to Him, “Seven.” 21 And He said to them, “Do you still not understand?”

22 They reached Bethsaida, where they brought a blind man to Him and appealed to Him to touch him. 23 So, taking hold of the blind man’s hand, He led him out of the village; then after putting saliva on his eyes, He put His hands on him and asked him, “Do you see anything?” 24 He looked up and said, “I see people, but they look like trees – walking around.” 25 Then again Jesus placed His hands on his eyes; and he looked steadily and He

was restored and saw everything distinctly. 26 So Jesus sent him home saying “Do not even enter the village.”

27 Jesus and His disciples, went to the villages around Caesarea Philippi, and on the way, He asked His disciples, “Who do the people say that I am?” 28 They said to Him, “John the Baptist; but others say, Elijah, and others, one of the prophets.” 29 He asked them, “But you, who do you say I am?” Peter answered Him, “You are the Christ.” 30 And He charged them to tell no one, this about Him.

31 He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer much and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the scribes, and be executed, and after three days rise again, 32 He told them this without reservation. Then Peter, taking Him aside, began to remonstrate with Him; 33 but turning round and looking at His disciples, He rebuked Peter saying, “Get away from Me, Satan, for you are not taking God’s viewpoint, but men’s.”
34 Then, summoning the crowd as well as His disciples, He said to them, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him say ‘No’ to himself and take up his cross and follow Me. 35 For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life on behalf of Me and the gospel will save it. 36 For what does it benefit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his own life? 37 For what will a man give in exchange for his life?”

38 “Should anyone in this immoral and sinful generation be ashamed of Me and of My teaching, of him the Son of Man will be ashamed, too, when He comes in His Father’s glory with the holy angels.”

MARK CHAPTER 9

HE also said to them, “I assure you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they have seen the kingdom of God come in power.”

2 Six days later, Jesus took with Him Peter, James, and John and led them up a high mountain alone by themselves, and in their presence, He was changed in appearance. 3 His clothes became a brilliant white, whiter than any bleacher on earth could bleach them. 4 And there appeared to them Elijah and Moses, and they conversed with Jesus.

5 Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good that we are here. Let us build three booths – one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” 6 For did not know what to say, because they were awed.

7 Then there came a cloud overshadowing them, and a voice came out of the cloud, “This is My Son, the Beloved; listen to Him.” 8 Suddenly, as they looked around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus only. 9 And as they were descending from the mountain, He forbade them to divulge to anyone, what they had seen until the Son of Man should rise from the dead. 10 So they kept the matter secret among themselves, while discussing together what rising from the dead might mean.

11 They asked Him, “Why do the scribes maintain that Elijah must first come? 12 He answered them. “Elijah is indeed to come first, to put everything in order; but how is it written of the Son of Man that He shall endure much suffering and be treated with contempt? 13 I tell you, however, that Elijah has come and they have treated him as they pleased, just as it has been written of him.”

14 When they reached the disciples, they noticed a large crowd around them and scribes disputing with them. 15 On seeing Him, the whole multitude was awed and running toward Him, they greeted Him. 16 He asked them, “What are you discussing with them?” 17 One of the crowd answered Him, “Teacher, I have brought You my son, who has a dumb spirit;
18 whenever it gets hold of him, it throws him down, he foams at the mouth, he grinds his teeth, and becomes rigid. I spoke to Your disciples to cast it out, but they could not.”

19 “O unbelieving generation!” He replied, “How long shall I be with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring him to Me.” 20 So they brought him to Jesus, the spirit, on seeing Him, instantly threw the boy into convulsions, so that he fell on the ground and rolled over, foaming at the mouth. 21 Then, He asked his father, “How long has this gone on?” He said, “From early childhood. 22 Often it has thrown him into fire and into water to destroy him; but if You can do anything, help us; take pity on us!”

23 Jesus said to him, “If You can do anything?’ Everything is possible for the person who believes!” 24 At once the father of the boy exclaimed, “I believe. Help me because of my unbelief.” 25 Jesus, noticing that a mob was collecting, rebuked the unclean spirit, to whom He said, “Dumb and deaf spirit, I order you: Come out of him and never again enter into him.” 26 And, shrieking and throwing fit after fit, he came out. The boy looked like a corpse, so that many declared that he was dead; 27 but Jesus, taking him by the hand, raised him and he stood up.

28 After he had gone indoors, His disciples asked Him privately “Why were we unable to cast it out?” 29 He told them, “This kind cannot be expelled except through prayer.”

30 Leaving there, they passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it 31 because He was teaching His disciples, “The Son of Man will be delivered into human hands and they will execute Him and, when He is killed, He will rise again in three days.” 32 But they did not understand the saying and were afraid to question Him.

33 They reached Capernaum and, when He arrived home, He asked them, “What were you arguing on the road?” 34 But they kept still; for on the road, they had argued with one another who was the greatest. 35 Seating Himself, He summoned the Twelve and told them, “If anyone wants to be first, let him be last of all and servant of all.” 36 The taking a little child, He set him in the centre of their circle, and taking him in His arms, said to them, 37 “Whoever receives one of such children in My name receives Me, and whoever receives Me does not so much receive Me, as Him who sent Me.” 38 John said to Him, “Teacher, we saw someone, not in our company expelling demons in Your name and we forbade him, because

he was not one of us." 39 Jesus told him, "Do not forbid him; for there is no one who performs a miracle in My name, who can soon speak evil of Me. 40 He who is not against us is for us; 41 for whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ, I assure you that he will not miss his reward.

42 "Whoever occasions the stumbling of one of these little ones who believe in Me, it would be better for him if, with a millstone hung around his neck, he had been cast into the sea. 43 Should your hand occasion you to do wrong, cut it off; it is better for you to enter into life maimed than with both hands to be thrown into hell. Into the fire that cannot be put out, 44 *where their worm never ceases and the fire is not put out.* 45 In case your foot occasions you to go wrong. Cut it off; it is better for you to enter into life crippled than with two feet to be thrown into hell, 46 where their worm never ceases and their fire is not put out. 47 If your eye occasions you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye, than with two eyes to be thrown into hell, 48 where their worm never ceases and the fire is not put out.

49 "For every one will be salted with fire. 50 Salt is beneficial; but if the salt loses its saltiness, with what will it be seasoned? Have salt in yourselves and live together in peace."

MARK CHAPTER 10

HE left there and went to the Judean region on the farther side of the Jordan. Again, crowds flocked to Him and, as usual, He taught them. 2 And there came Pharisees questioning Him, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" – testing Him. 3 He answered them, "What ruling did Moses give you?" 4 They said, "Moses permitted the writing of a divorce certificate and to divorce her." 5 Jesus told them, "In view of your hardheartedness, he wrote you this ruling, 6 but from the beginning, from the time of creation, 'male and female He made them; 7 therefore shall a man leave his father and mother and shall cling to his wife 8 and the two shall be one flesh; so that they are no longer two, but one flesh. 9 What God therefore has joined, let no man divide."

10 When they were indoors, the disciples questioned Him again on that subject, 11 and He told them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another, commits adultery against her, 12 and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery."

13 They brought children for Him to touch, but the disciples reprimanded them. 14 When Jesus noticed that, He was indignant and told them, 'Permit the children to come to Me. Do not hinder them, for to their kind belongs the kingdom of God. 15 I assure you, whoever fails to receive the kingdom of God like a little child, will not enter it at all." 16 Then taking them in His arms He blessed them, while He laid His hands on them.

17 As He was setting out on His journey, a man came running to Him, who knelt before Him and asked, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to become heir to eternal life?"

18 Jesus said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one is good except One, even God. 19 You know the commands: ‘Do not murder; Do not commit adultery; Do not steal; Do not witness falsely; Do not cheat; Honour your father and your mother.’”

20 He replied, “Teacher, I have observed all these things from my boyhood.” 21 Jesus looking at him, prized him dearly and told him, “One thing you lack. Go and sell all you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come and follow Me.”

22 At this saying, he was appalled and went away saddened, for he possessed great wealth.

23 Looking around, Jesus said to His disciples, “How difficult it is for those possessing wealth to enter the kingdom of God!” 24 The disciples wondered at His remark; but Jesus spoke to them once more, “Children, how difficult it is *for those who trust in wealth* to enter the kingdom of God. 25 It is easier for a camel to pass through a needle’s eye, than for a wealthy person to enter the kingdom of God.”

26 Astonished beyond words, they said to themselves, “Who then can be saved?” 27 With His eyes upon them, Jesus replied, “With men it is impossible but not with God; for everything is possible with God.”

28 Peter began to say to Him, “Look, we have given up everything and have followed You.” 29 Jesus said, “I assure you, there is no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields on account of Me and the gospel, 30 but will receive a hundred times over now in this life, homes and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and fields, along with persecutions, and in the future age eternal life. 31 But many that are now first will be last, and the last first.”

32 They were on the road going up to Jerusalem with Jesus leading them, and as they followed, they were in a daze and were apprehensive. Then summoning the Twelve, He began once more to tell them what was about to happen to Him, 33 “See, we are going up to Jerusalem and the Son of Man will be delivered to the chief priests and the scribes. They will condemn Him to death and will hand Him over to the Gentiles; 34 and they will mock Him, spit on Him, flog Him, and execute Him, and after three days, He will rise again.”

35 Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, approached and said to Him, “Teacher, we want You to do for us, what we ask.” 36 And He said to them, “What do you want Me to do for you?”

37 They answered Him, “Grant us to be seated, one at Your right and one at your left in Your glory.” 38 But Jesus told them, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to undergo the baptism I am baptised with?” 39 They replied, “We are able.” Then Jesus told them. “The cup that I drink you will drink, and with My baptism you will be baptised; 40 but to sit at My right or left is not Mine to grant, but is for those for whom it is reserved.”

41 When the other ten heard it, they began to be indignant at James and John, 42 but Jesus summoned them and said to them, “You know how those supposed to govern the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exert authority over them; 43 but this is not your way. Instead, who ever wants to be great among you will be your servant, 44 and whoever wants to be first among you will be every one’s slave. 45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give His life a ransom for many.”

46 They came to Jericho and, as He was leaving Jericho with His disciples and a great throng, Bartimaeus, son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. 47 Hearing that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out, “Jesus, son of David, take pity on me!” 48 Many ordered Him to keep still; but he shouted the louder, “Son of David, take pity on me!”
49 Jesus stopped and said, “Call him.” So, they called to the blind man, “Have courage! Get up. He is calling you.” 50 Throwing off his coat and springing to his feet, he went to Jesus.
51 In response, Jesus said to him, “What do you want Me to do for you?” The blind man replied, “Rabboni, let me see again.” 52 Jesus said to him, “Go! Your faith has restored you.” And instantly he recovered his sight and followed Him on the way.

MARK CHAPTER 11

WHEN they came near Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany by the Mount of Olives, He dispatched two of His disciples, 2 to whom He said, “Go to the village opposite you and as soon as you enter it, you will find a tethered colt, which no one has ever ridden; untie and fetch it. 3 If anyone says to you, ‘What are you doing there?’ you say, ‘The Lord needs it,’ and He will send it back here without delay.”

4 They went away, found the colt tethered outside the door in the street and untied it.
5 Some of the bystanders there remarked to them, “What are you up to, untying the colt?”
6 So they answered just as Jesus had told them and they let them take it. 7 Then they brought the colt to Jesus, spread their clothes on it, and Jesus sat upon it. 8 Many also spread their garments on the road, and others leafy branches, which they had cut from the fields. 9 Both those walking ahead and those behind shouted, “Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! 10 Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!”

11 He entered Jerusalem and went to the temple, where He observed everything and, as night was approaching. He went out to Bethany with the Twelve.

12 The next morning, as they were leaving Bethany, He felt hungry 13 and, noticing a leafy fig tree at a distance, went to see whether He might find anything on it. But on reaching it, He found nothing but leaves; in fact, it was not the time for ripe figs. 14 And He addressed it, “May none eat fruit from you for evermore.” And His disciples were listening.

15 They reached Jerusalem and, on entering the temple, He began to expel the sellers and the buyers that were in the temple. He upset the tables of the money-changers and the

stalls of those who sold doves, 16 and did not allow anyone to carry any goods through the temple. 17 He taught them, “Is it not written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer among all nations’? But you have made it a den of robbers.”

18 The scribes and chief priests heard it and looked for ways to destroy Him; for they were afraid of Him, as all the people were amazed at His teaching. 19 With the fall of evening, He left the city.

20 And when they came along the next morning, they noticed the fig tree withered to the roots. 21 Then Peter remembered and said to Him, “Rabbi, look! The fig tree You cursed is withered!” 22 Jesus answered them, “Have faith in God. 23 For I assure you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be taken up and thrown into the sea,’ and entertains no inner doubt but believes that what he says will happen, it shall be so for him.”

24 “I tell you, therefore, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it and it will be yours. 25 And whenever you stand praying and you have a grievance against anyone, forgive him so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. 26 *But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses.”*

27 Once more they entered Jerusalem and, while He was walking around in the temple, the chief priests and the scribes and the elders came to Him 28 and asked Him, “By what authority are You doing these things or who gave You this authority to do them?” 29 Jesus said to them, “I will ask you one question; you answer Me and I will tell you by what authority I do these things. 30 Was the baptism of John from heaven or from men? Answer Me.”

31 They argued among themselves, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ He will say, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ 32 But if we say, ‘From men – ‘” They were afraid of the people, for every one considered John to be a prophet; 33 so they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” Jesus replied to them, “Neither do I tell you by what authority I do these things.”

MARK CHAPTER 12

HE began to address them in parables; “A man planted a vineyard, encircled it with a hedge, excavated a winepress, built a tower and leased it to tenant farmers, then went away. 2 At the proper season, he sent a slave to the workers to collect from them, a share of the vineyard’s yield, 3 but they took and flogged him and sent him off empty-handed. 4 Again he sent them another slave, whom they wounded in the head and shamefully maltreated. 5 Once more he sent another, whom they killed, and many others – some they flogged and some they killed.”

6 Having still one, a son he dearly loved, he finally sent him to them, saying, “They will respect my son.” 7 But those tenant farmers said among themselves, “This is the heir. Come on, let us kill him and the inheritance will be ours.” 8 So they took and killed him and threw

outside the vineyard. 9 Now what will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and put the tenants to death and lease the vineyard to others.

10 “Have you never read this Scripture, ‘The stone which the builders rejected, has become the head of the corner; 11 this was the Lord’s doing and it is wonderful to our eyes?’” 12 Then they looked for ways to arrest Him, but they were afraid of the people. For they knew He spoke the parable against them. So, they left Him and went away.

13 And they sent to Him some of the Pharisees and of the Herodians to trap Him with a question. 14 Coming to Him they said, “Teacher, we know that You are sincere and not partial to anyone; for You court no human favour but teach truly the way of God. It is lawful to pay tax to Caesar or not? 15 Shall we pay or not pay?” But knowing their hypocrisy, He said to them, “Why do you test Me? Bring Me a coin, so I may see it.” 16 They brought one and He asked them, “Whose image and inscription is this?” They said “Caesar’s.” 17 Jesus told them, “Pay Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and God, what belongs to God.” And they greatly wondered at Him.

18 Then the Sadducees, who maintain that there is no resurrection, came to Him and asked, 19 “Teacher, Moses wrote to us, that if a man’s brother dies, leaving behind a wife but no child, his brother should take the widow and raise off-spring for his brother. 20 Now there were seven brothers, the first of whom took a wife and died without offspring. 21 Then the second married her and died without leaving offspring. 22 So the third and all seven, without leaving offspring. Last of all, the woman, too, died. 23 In the resurrection then, when they rise, whose wife shall she be? For the seven were married to her.”

24 Jesus said to them, “Are you not mistaken in this, since you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God? 25 For when they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage but are like the angels in heaven. 26 But in regard of the raising of the dead, have you not read in the book of Moses, how at the bush God said to him, ‘I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob?’ 27 He is not the God of the dead but the living. You are much mistaken.”

28 Then one of the scribes, having listened to the discussions and aware that He had answered them well, came forward to question Him. “Which is the chief commandment of all?” 29 Jesus answered him, “The chief one is, ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord, 30 and you shall love the Lord your God with your whole heart, with your whole soul, with your whole mind, and with your whole strength.’”

31 “The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

32 The scribe said to Him, “Right, Teacher, You have said in truth, that He is One and there is none beside Him, 33 and to love Him with all one’s heart, with all one’s mind, with all one’s soul, and with all one’s strength; also, to love one’s neighbour as oneself, is more than all

burnt offerings and sacrifices." 34 Then Jesus, observing his intelligent response, said to him. "You are not far from the kingdom of God." After that, no one ventured anymore to question Him.

35 As Jesus was teaching in the temple, He said, "How can the scribes say that the Christ is David's son? 36 For David himself said through the Holy Spirit, 'The Lord said to My Lord; Sit at My right hand until I place your enemies for a footstool of your feet.'

37 David himself calls Him Lord; in what way then is He, his son?" And the great throng listened to Him with delight.

38 In the course of His teaching, He said to them: "Beware of the scribes, who enjoy walking around in long robes to be greeted in the market places, 39 to have the front seats in the synagogues and the choice places at the banquets; 40 who prey upon the properties of widows, and pray long prayers for show. They shall receive severe sentence."

41 Taking a seat opposite the treasury, He watched how the people put money into the treasure chest. Many of the rich put in much; 42 but one poor widow came and put in two mites, that is one quarter of a cent. 43 Summoning His disciples, He told them, "I assure you that this poor widow has put in more than all those contributing to the treasury; 44 for they all contributed from their surplus but she out of her poverty, gave all she had – her whole living."

MARK CHAPTER 13

AS He was leaving the temple, one of His disciples said to Him, "Teacher, see what wonderful stones and buildings these are." 2 Jesus replied to him, "You see these great buildings? Not a stone shall be left on another, that shall not be torn down."

3 As he sat on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John and Andrew asked Him privately, 4 "Tell us when this is to happen and what is the sign when all these things are to be accomplished?" 5 So Jesus began to tell them: "Look out that no one deceives you: 6 for many will come in My name saying, 'I am He,' and will mislead many. 7 But when you hear about wars and rumours of wars, be not alarmed; for it must be so, but the end is not yet. 8 For nation will revolt against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes at various places, also famines – these are the first pains of childbirth.

9 "Look out for yourselves; for they will deliver you to councils and you will be flogged in synagogues; you will stand before governors and kings for My sake and in order to testify to them. 10 And the gospel must first be preached to all the nations."

11 "And when they arrest you and take you to court, do not worry beforehand what you will say. Say whatever is given you in that hour; for it is not you who are speaking, but it is the Holy Spirit."

12 “Brother will hand over brother for death, and father will hand over son; children will rise against their parents and have them put to death, 13 and you will be hated by everyone, because of My name. But whoever preserves to the end will be saved.”

14 “But when you see the desolating abomination set up where it should not be – let the reader take notice – then let those in Judea flee to the mountains. 15 A person on the housetop should not go down or go inside to fetch anything out of his house, 16 and one in the field should not turn back to pick up his coat.”

17 “Alas for the pregnant and the nursing women in those days. 18 Pray that your flight may not be in winter; 19 for the misery of those days will be such as never was, since the beginning of God’s creations until now, neither ever will be.

20 And unless the Lord had shortened those days, not a human being would survive; but because of the elect whom he has chosen, He has shortened the days.”

21 “If anyone then tells you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or, ‘Look, there!’ put no faith in it; 22 for false Christs and false prophets will arise and perform signs and wonders to lead astray, if possible, even the elect. 23 Be on your guard! I am forewarning you of it all.”

24 “But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened and the moon will not shed her light, 25 the stars will be falling from heaven and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. 26 The they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory. 27 And then shall He send out the angels and gather His chosen from the four winds, from the end of the earth to the end of heaven.”

28 “Learn this parable from the fig tree: ‘Whenever its branch grows tender and it puts out leaves, you know that summer is near. 29 Similarly, when you see these things happen, you will know that the end is near, at the door. 30 I assure you; the present generation will not pass on until all this takes place. 31 Heaven and earth will pass away, but My sayings will not pass away, 32 But about the exact date and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. 33 Be on guard; keep wide awake *and pray*; for you do not know the time. 34 It is like a man leaving his home to go abroad, who authorised his slaves and assigned to each his work, with the sentinel appointed to watch. 35 You, therefore, watch; for you have no idea when the Lord of the house will come – in the evening or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing or in the morning, 36 lest coming unexpectedly, He may find you sleeping. 37 And what I Say to you, I say to everyone, Watch!”

MARK CHAPTER 14

THE Passover and the feast of Unleavened Bread were due two days later. The chief priests and the scribes were seeking a way to arrest Him through treachery and to execute Him, 2 for they said, “Not during the feast, lest there will be a mob disturbance.”

3 While He was at Bethany in the home of Simon the leper, as He was sitting at the table, a woman came with an alabaster jar of pure nard perfume, very valuable and, breaking the jar, she poured the ointment on His head. 4 But there were some who indignantly remarked to one another, “What use is this waste of ointment? 5 This could have been sold for over three hundred denarii and given to the poor.” And they censured her. 6 But Jesus said, “Leave her alone. Why do you embarrass her? She has treated me nobly. 7 For you always have the poor with you, and whenever you wish, you can benefit them; but you will not always have Me. 8 She has done what she could; she has prepared My body with perfume for burial.
9 I assure you, wherever this gospel will be preached over the whole wide world, what she has done will be told as a memorial of her.”

10 Then Judas Iscariot, one of the Twelve, went off to the chief priests to betray Him to them; 11 and when they learned of it, they were delighted and promised to pay him money. So, he looked about how he might conveniently betray Him.

12 On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb was annually sacrificed, His disciples asked Him, “Where do You want us to go and prepare, so that You may eat the Passover?” 13 Then He sent out two of His disciples and told them, “Go into the city and a man will meet you, carrying a water pitcher; follow him. 14 And whenever he enters, say to the proprietor, ‘The Teacher says, Where is My guest room where I am to eat the Passover with My disciples?’ 15 He will show you a large upper room – furnishings and everything ready – there prepare for us.”

16 His disciples went out, came to the city and found it as He had told them.

They prepared the Passover, 17 and as evening fell, He arrived with the Twelve. 18 As they were sitting and eating. Jesus said, “I tell you with certainty that one of you who is eating with Me, shall betray Me.” 19 They began to be greatly disturbed, and they said to Him, one after another, “It is not I, is it?” 20 He answered them, “It is one of the Twelve, who is dipping with Me in the dish. 21 The Son of Man is going the way that has been written of Him, but alas for that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed. It were better for that man never to have been born.”

22 As the meal proceeded, He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, gave it to them and said, “Take it. This is My body.” 23 Also taking the cup and giving thanks, He gave it to them and they all drank of it. 24 He said to them. “This is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. 25 I assure you, I shall no more drink of the vintage until that day when I shall drink it new in the kingdom of God.”

26 With the singing of a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. 27 And Jesus said to them. “You will all turn away from Me, for it is written, ‘I shall strike the shepherd and the sheep will be widely scattered.’ 28 But after My resurrection, I will precede you into Galilee.”

29 Peter said to Him, “Even if all turn away from You, I will never!” 30 Jesus told him. “Truly I tell you, during this very night, before the rooster crows twice, you will disown Me three times.” 31 But he asserted more insistently. “Even if I must die with you, never will I disown you.” And so they all said.

32 They came to a place called Gethsemane, and He told His disciples, “Be seated here while I pray.” 33 But He took along with Him Peter, James and John, and as He began to feel deeply alarmed and distressed, 34 He said to them, “My soul is mortally grieved: stay here and watch.” 35 Going a little farther, He fell on the ground and prayed that, if possible, the impending hour might pass from Him. 36 He said, “Abba Father, all things are possible with You. Remove this cup from Me. Not, however, what I will, but what You will.”

37 He came and found them asleep, and said to Peter, “Simon are you sleeping? Were you not able to watch for one hour? 38 All of you watch and pray, so that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit is willing enough, but the flesh is weak.”

39 He left again and prayed, uttering the same words. 40 Then He returned to find them asleep once more; for their eyes were heavy. And they did not know what excuse to give Him. 41 He then came for the third time and said to them, “Sleeping and resting still? It is enough; the hour has come. The Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. 42 At once, while He was still talking, Judas, one of the Twelve, approached and with him a great mob with swords and clubs, sent by the chief priests, scribes, and elders. 44 Now His betrayer had given them a signal: “The one whom I kiss is the one. Seize Him and lead Him safely away.” 45 So, as soon as he came, he stepped up to Him, said, “Rabbi,” and kissed Him. 46 Then they pit their hands on Him and arrested Him.

47 One of those standing beside Him drew his sword, struck the high priest’s slave and cut off his ear. 48 And Jesus’ response to them was: “Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to arrest Me? 49 Daily I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not seize Me, However, this is happening so that the Scriptures may be fulfilled.”

50 And they all forsook Him and fled. 51 But a certain youth followed Him, wearing a linen cloth on his bare body; and when they seized him, 52 he left the linen cloth behind and fled from them, naked.

53 They brought Jesus before the high priest, and all the chief priests and elders and scribes assembled. 54 And Peter followed Him from a distance until he was inside the high priest’s courtyard, where he sat down with the attendants and warmed himself by the fire.

55 The chief priests and the entire Sanhedrin searched for sufficient evidence against Jesus to execute Him, but failed to find it; 56 for while many bore false witness against Him, their testimony did not agree. 57 Some rose up to testify falsely against Him, 58 “We heard Him say, ‘I will break down this temple made by hands and in three days will build another made without hands.’” 59 But even so their evidence did not agree. 60 Then the high priest stood

up in the centre and asked Jesus, “Are not You answering at all what these are testifying against You?” 61 But He kept still and never answered at all. Again, the high priest questioned Him, he said, “Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?” 62 Jesus said, “I am. And you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Almighty, and coming on the clouds of heaven.” 63 Then the high priest, tearing his clothes, said, “What further need do we have of witnesses? 64 You have heard the blasphemy; how does it seem to you?” And they all condemned Him as deserving death. 65 Some also started to spit at Him and to blindfold Him and to hit Him with the fist and to say to Him, “Prophesy!” And the attendants took Him and slapped His face.

66 As Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the high priest’s maids came and saw Peter warming himself. 67 She looked at him and accosted him, “You were with the Nazarene, Jesus, too.” 68 But he denied it: “I do not know or understand at all what you are talking about. “Then he went outside to the entrance, and the rooster crowed. 69 Then the servant girl saw him and started again to tell the bystanders, “This fellow belongs to them.” 70 Again he denied it. In a little while, the bystanders once more told Peter, “Surely, you are one of them; for you are a Galilean.”

71 Then he commenced invoking a curse on himself as he swore, “I do not know the man you mention.” 72 And instantly for the second time, the rooster crowed. Then Peter remembered how Jesus had told him. “Before the cock crows twice, you will disown Me three times.” As he considered that, he wept audibly.

MARK CHAPTER 15

As soon as morning dawned, the chief priests formed a conference with the elders and scribes, including the entire Sanhedrin and binding Jesus, they led Him off and handed Him over to Pilate. 2 Pilate asked Him, “Are you the king of the Jews?” He answered him, “So you say.” 3 Then the chief priests accused him of many things, 4 but Pilate questioned Him again. “Have You no answer? See what they are charging against You.” 5 Still Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate wondered.

6 But at the feast he used to release to them, one prisoner for whom they asked, 7 and there was one named Barabbas, confined with the insurrectionists, who had committed murder in the uprising. 8 The shouting mob proceeded to request the usual privilege for them. 9 Pilate replied to them, “Do you want me to release to you the king of the Jews?” 10 For he knew that out of envy the chief priests had delivered Him. 11 However, the chief priests stirred up the crowd to prefer that Barabbas be released for them. 12 The Pilate came back at them again. “Then what shall I do with the one you call king of the Jews?” 13 But again they shouted, “Crucify Him!” 14 Pilate asked them, “Why, what wrong did He commit?” But they cried out the more loudly, “Crucify Him!”

15 So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them and, after flogging Jesus, gave Him over to be crucified. 16 The soldiers led Him inside the hall, that is the

Praetorium, where they mustered the entire cohort. 17 They dressed Him in purple, and crowned Him with a crown of thorns, which they had twisted; 18 then they began to salute Him. “Long live the king of the Jews.” 19 They further hit Him on the head with a reed, and spat at Him and with bended knees, did Him homage. 20 After the mockery, they took the purple robe off Him and put on His own clothes; then they led Him out to crucify Him.

21 They forced a certain passerby, Simon a Cyrenian, the father of Alexander and Rufus, who was coming from the country, to carry His cross.

22 They led Him to the place called Golgotha, which means ‘Place of a Skull’. 23 and offered Him a drink of wine, flavoured with myrrh; but He refused it. 24 And they crucified Him, and divided His clothes, over which they cast lots to determine each one’s share. 25 It was nine in the morning when they crucified Him. 26 The inscription of His accusation was written on top, ‘THE KING OF THE JEWS’.

27 With Him, they crucified two robbers, one at His right and one at His left. 28 “*So the Scripture was fulfilled. He was counted with the lawless.”*

29 The passers-by-reviled Him, shaking their heads and saying, “Aha, You who were going to destroy the temple and build it in three days! 30 Save Yourself! Come down from the cross!” 31 Similarly, the chief priests, as they mocked between themselves and the scribes said, “He saved others; Himself He cannot save. 32 Let the Christ, the king of Israel, now come down from the cross, so that we may see and believe.” And those crucified with Him reproached Him too.

33 From twelve until three o’clock, darkness settled over the whole country; 34 and at three o’clock, Jesus cried with a great voice, “Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani!?” which means, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”

35 Some of the bystanders, as they heard it, said, “Notice, He is calling for Elijah.” 36 But one ran and soaked a sponge in vinegar, then fixed it to a reed and gave Him a drink with the remark, “Hold on, let us see if Elijah comes to take Him down.”

37 But having uttered a strong cry, Jesus died. 38 The temple veil was torn in two from top to bottom, 39 and the centurion, who stood facing Him, seeing how He died in that way, exclaimed, “Truly, this man was God’s Son!” 40 There were women also looking on from a distance, among them Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, the younger, and of Joses, and Salome – 41 the women who had been following Him and helping Him when He was in Galilee, and many others who came up with Him to Jerusalem.

42 When evening had come, since it was the day of preparation, that is the day before the Sabbath. 43 Joseph of Arimathea, an honourable member of the Sanhedrin, who was personally awaiting the kingdom of God, came and boldly approached Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. 44 But Pilate wondered whether He was already dead; so he summoned

the centurion and asked him if He had been dead for some time. 45 When he had received this information from the centurion, he granted Joseph the body.

46 He bought a linen sheet in which he wrapped the body after taking it down; then he laid Him in a tomb that was carved out of a rock and rolled a stone against the opening of the tomb; 47 and Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses observed where he was laid.

MARK CHAPTER 16

AFTER the Sabbath, Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint Him. 2 And very early in the morning at sunset on the first day of the week they came to the tomb. 3 They said among themselves, “Who will roll the stone from the mouth of the tomb for us?” 4 But as they looked up, they saw that the stone – a very heavy one – had been rolled away.

5 They entered the tomb and saw a young man sitting to the right, dressed in a white robe, and they were struck with terror. 6 But he said to them. “Do not be terrified. You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He is risen; He is not here; see the place where they laid Him. 7 But go, tell His disciples and Peter that He precedes you into Galilee; there you will see Him, just as He told you.” 8 Hurriedly, they fled from the tomb, trembling and alarmed, and they spoke to no one, for they were afraid.

9 *After Jesus had risen early the first day of the week, He appeared first to Mary of Magdala, from whom He had expelled seven demons. 10 She went and told those who had accompanied Him, grieving and weeping as they were. 11 When they heard that He was alive and had been seen by her, they did not believe it. 12 But later on, He appeared in a different form to two of them, while they were walking into the country. 13 They went and told the others; but neither did they believe them. 14 Afterward, He appeared to the Eleven as they sat at the table, and chided their unbelief and hardheartedness, because they did not believe those who had seen Him after He had risen.*

15 He also told them, “Go into the whole world and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He who believes and is baptised will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. 17 And these signs will follow those who believe: in My name they will speak with new tongues; 18 they will pick up snakes, and if they drink anything fatal it will not injure them in the least. They will lay hands on the sick and they will become well.”

19 So after the Lord had talked with them, He was received up into heaven and sat at the right hand of God. 20 But they went out and preached everywhere, for the Lord was working with them and was confirming the message by the signs that followed.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO

LUKE

CHAPTER 1

NOW that many have put their hands to the composition of a narrative regarding the events that have certainly taken place among us, 2 transmitted as they were to us by those who were from the first eye-witnesses and ministers of the Word, 3 it seemed fitting for me as well, since I investigated accurately, everything from its beginning, to write you in orderly fashion, most excellent Theophilus, 4 so that you may know the certainty of the instructions you have received.

5 In the days of Herod, the king of Judea, there was a certain priest named Zechariah, of the week of the priestly service named after Abijah and his wife Elizabeth, of Aaron's daughter's. 6 Both lived uprightly before God, blamelessly walking in accordance with all the commandments and injunctions of the Lord. 7 They had no child because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting up in years. 8 Administering his priestly service before the Lord in the sequence of his series, as customary among the priests, 9 it fell to him by lot to enter the Lord's temple for the burning of incense. 10 And at the hour of incense, the whole concourse of people were praying outside.

11 But an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing to the right of the altar of incense, 12 and when Zechariah saw him, he was troubled and fear got hold of him. 13 But the angel said to him, "Have no fear, Zechariah, because your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, whom you will call John. 14 He will afford you joy and happiness and many will be glad at his birth; 15 for he will be great before the Lord. He will drink no wine or liquor at all, and from his birth, he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. 16 Many of the sons of Israel will he turn to the Lord their God, 17 before whom he shall go forth in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children and the obstinate to the wisdom of the righteous, to prepare a people who are ready for the Lord."

18 Then Zechariah said to the angel, "In what way can I be assured of this, for I am an old man and my wife is advanced in years?" 19 The angel answered him, "I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to announce these glad tidings to you. 20 Behold! You will be silent and unable to speak until the day when these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at the proper time."

21 The people were waiting for Zechariah and wondering why he lingered in the temple; 22 but when he came out, he could not speak to them, and they recognised that he had seen a vision in the temple, for he made signs to them and remained speechless. 23 And as soon as his time of service was over, he went home.

24 After those days, his wife Elizabeth conceived and his herself five months saying, 25 “In this way has the Lord treated me when He favoured me to remove my humiliation among men.”

26 In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, the Angel Gabriel was sent by God to Nazareth, a town of Galilee. 27 to a virgin named Mary, who was engaged to Joseph, a descendant of David.

28 The angel as he approached her said, “Greetings favoured one. The Lord is with you.”

29 But she was troubled at this message and reflected what sort of greeting this might be. 30 The angel said to her. “Have no fear, Mary, for you have found favour with God. 31 And lo, you will conceive in your womb and give birth to a son and you will call Him Jesus. 32 He shall be great and will be called Son of the Highest, and the Lord God will give Him the throne of his father David. 33 He will be King over the house of Jacob for ever; there will be no end to His kingdom.”

34 Mary asked the angel, “How will this be, since I have no husband?” 35 The angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, that holy Offspring will be called the Son of God. 36 Also, your cousin Elizabeth is to be a mother of a son in her old age, and this is now the sixth month with her who was called barren. 37 For nothing is ever impossible with God.” 38 And Mary said, “Here I am, the Lord’s bondslave. Let it be with me as you say.” And the angel left her.

39 After these days, Mary got ready and hurried to the hill country to a town of Judah, 40 arrived at the home of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. 41 And as Elizabeth listened to Mary’s greeting, the babe leaped within her. Then, filled with the Holy Spirit, 42 Elizabeth spoke with a loud voice, “Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb. 43 And how did this happen to me, that my Lord’s mother should visit me? 44 Just think, when the voice of your greeting reached my ears, the babe leaped within me for joy! 45 And blessed is she who believed, because the things told her by the Lord will be accomplished.”

46 And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord 47 and my spirit is glad in God my Saviour, 48 for He took notice of the lowliness of His bondslave. Consider, from now on all generation will call me blessed, 49 for the Almighty has done great things for me. His name is holy 50 and His mercy is to those who reverence Him through all generations. 51 He exercised strength with His arm; He scattered the proud in their heart’s imaginations; 52 He dethroned princes and lifted up the lowly; 53 the needy He supplied to the full with good things and the rich He sent away empty-handed. 54 He sustained Israel. His servant, in remembrance of His mercy, 55 as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and his descendants for ever.”

56 And Mary stayed with her for about three months, and returned to her home. 57 Now Elizabeth’s time to give birth had come and she bore a son; 58 and her neighbours and

relations heard what great mercy the Lord had granted her, and they shared her happiness.
59 On the eighth day they came to circumcise the baby and were going to name him
Zechariah, after his father. 60 But his mother demurred, “No, he must instead be called
John!” 61 They argued with her, “None of your relations bears that name.” 62 Then they
motioned to his father, what he wanted him to be called 63 and he, requesting a writing
tablet, wrote “His name is John.” This surprised them all. 64 And instantly his mouth was
opened and his tongue was loosed, and he spoke in praise of God.

65 A deep sense of awe came upon all the neighbours, and these happenings became
matters of conversation in the entire hill country of Judea. 66 All who learned of it kept it in
mind. They said, “What kind of child will this be?” For the Lord’s hand was with him.

67 His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied. 68 “Blessed be the
Lord God of Israel, for He has looked with favour upon His people and has accomplished
redemption for them. 69 He has raised up a powerful Saviour for us in the house of David,
His servant, 70 as He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from ancient times –

71 salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us. 72 To show the mercy
that was promised our ancestors, and to remember His holy covenant, 73 He swore an oath
to our father Abraham; 74 to grant us, being saved from our enemies, fearlessly to worship
Him 75 in holiness and righteousness all our days. 76 And you, little one, will be called a
prophet of the Highest; for you will go in advance of the Lord to prepare His way 77 to bring
to His people a knowledge of salvation by remission of their sins 78 through the tender
mercies of our god, by which the light of dawn will beam on us from on high, 79 to shine on
those sitting in darkness and in the shadow of death, to direct our feet into the path of
peace.”

80 And the child grew and was spiritually strengthened, and was in solitary places until the
time of his appearing to Israel.

LUKE CHAPTER 2

IN those days, an order went out from Caesar Augustus that a census should be taken of the
whole world. 2 This registration first occurred while Quirinius was governor of Syria.

3 They all went to be registered, each to his own city, 4 and Joseph, too, went up from
Galilee out of the city of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because
he was of the house and family of David, 5 to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife,
whose pregnancy was advanced.

6 While they were there her days were completed to give birth, 7 and she bore her first-born
Son, whom she wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger, because there was not
room for them in the inn.

8 There were in the same country shepherds, staying in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And an angel of the Lord stood by them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they feared greatly.

10 And the angel said to them, “Have no fear, for behold I announce to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people; 11 for today there was born for you in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord. 12 And this is a token for you: you will find the baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.”

13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 14 “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men in His favour!”

15 As the angels went from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go straight to Bethlehem, and let us see what has happened that the Lord has made known to us.” 16 And hastily they went, found both Mary and Joseph, and saw the baby lying in the manger. 17 When they had seen the child they made known to others what had been told to them regarding it, 18 and everyone who heard it marvelled at the things that were reported to them by the shepherds. 19 But Mary treasured those reports and thought them over in her heart. 20 And the shepherds went back, glorifying and praising God for everything they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

21 When eight days were completed, at His circumcision, the name Jesus was given Him, as named by the angel before His conception in the womb.

22 When the days for their purification according to the Law of Moses were completed, they brought Him to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord, 23 as prescribed in the Law of the Lord, “Every first-born male shall be called holy to the Lord, 24 and to offer a sacrifice as mentioned in the Law of the Lord. A pair of turtle doves or two young pigeons.”

25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem, Simeon by name, an upright and devout man, who was looking for the consolation of Israel. The Holy Spirit was on him 26 and it was divinely communicated to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. 27 Moved by the Holy Spirit he came into the temple and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the legal ritual for Him, 28 he took Him up in his arms and thanked God. 29 “Now let Your bondslave depart in peace, Lord, in agreement with Your word, 30 for my eyes have seen Your salvation, 31 which You have prepared before all the nations, 32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles and a glory to Your people Israel.”

33 As His father and mother were wondering about the things spoken regarding Him,
34 Simeon blessed them and said to His mother Mary, “See, this child is appointed for the falling and rising up of many in Israel and for a sign that will be opposed – 35 And a sword shall pass through your own soul – so that the reasonings of many hearts may be revealed.”

36 There also was Anna, a daughter of Phanuel of the tribe of Asher, a prophetess advanced in years who had, after her girlhood, lived seven years with her husband, 37 and was a

widow of about eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped night and day in fastings and intercession. 38 She, too came up that same hour and gave similar thanks to the Lord and talked about Him to all those looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

39 When they had finished everything according to the Law of the Lord, they went back to Galilee to their own city, Nazareth. 40 And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom, and the grace of God rested upon Him.

41 Annually at the Passover Feast, His parents travelled to Jerusalem. 42 And when He was twelve, they went up to Jerusalem according to the custom of the feast. 43 When the days were ended and they returned, the boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem without His parents being aware of it. 44 Supposing that He was in the caravan, they travelled a day, then looked for Him among relations and acquaintances 45 and not finding Him, went back to Jerusalem in search of Him. 46 The third day they found Him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. 47 And all who heard Him were astonished at His understanding and His answers.

48 When His parents saw Him, they were amazed, and His mother said to Him, “Child, why have You treated us this way? Your father and I have anxiously been looking for You.” 49 He said to them, “Why were you seeking Me? Did you not know that I ought to be in my Father’s house?” 50 But they did not understand the saying which He spoke to them. 51 He went down with them to Nazareth and submitted Himself to them, and His mother treasured all these matters in her heart. 52 And Jesus advanced in wisdom and in stature and in favour with God and men.

LUKE CHAPTER 3

IN the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar’s reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea; Herod, tetrarch of Galilee; his brother Philip, tetrarch of Ituraea and of the Trachonitis region; and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, 2 Annas and Caiaphas being high priests, the word of God came to John, the son of Zechariah, in the desert.

3 Then he went into all the area on either side of the Jordan River, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, 4 as has been written in the book of messages of Isaiah the prophet, “A voice of one shouting in the desert, Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight. 5 Every ravine will be filled up and every mountain and hill will be levelled; the crooked paths will become straight and the rough ways smooth, 6 and all people will see the salvation of God.”

7 So he said to the crowds that came to be baptised by him, “Viper brood, who forewarned you to flee from the coming wrath? 8 Therefore produce fruits in keeping with your repentance, and do not begin to say within yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father;’ for I tell you that God can raise offspring to Abraham from these stones. 9 The axe is lying ready

at the root of the trees, so that every tree that fails to produce good fruit will be felled and thrown into the fire."

10 The crowds asked him, "Then what should we do?" 11 He answered them, "He who has two tunics should share with him who has none, and he who has food should behave similarly."

12 The tax collectors also came to be baptised and said to him, "Teacher, what shall we do?" 13 To them he said, "Do not collect more than your appointed rate." 14 And when the soldiers asked him, "What shall we do?" he told them, "Do not extort money by intimidating or informing, but be content with your pay."

15 As the people were in suspense and were all wondering in their hearts about John, whether he might perhaps be the Christ, 16 John answered them all, "I, it is true, baptise you with water, but One mightier than I is coming after me, whose sandal-strings I am not fit to unfasten. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. 17 His winnowing fan is in His hand and He will thoroughly clean up His threshing floor, storing the wheat in His granary and burning the chaff in fire that cannot be put out."

18 With many another appeal, also, he preached to the people; 19 but when Herod the tetrarch was taken to task by him regarding Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, as well as about all the evils he had practiced, 20 he crowned all this by confining John in prison.

21 When all the people were being baptised, Jesus too was baptised and, while he was praying heaven was opened 22 and the Holy Spirit came down on Him, in bodily shape like a dove, and a voice came from heaven, "You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased!"

23 And Jesus Himself, when He began His ministry, was about thirty years of age, being the son as was supposed, of Joseph, the son of Heli, 24 whose father and forefathers were Matthat, Levi, Melchi, Jannai, Joseph, 25 Mattathias, Amos, Nahum, Esli. Naggai, 26 Maath, Mattathias, Semein, Joseph, Joda, 27 Joanan, Rhesa, Zerubbabel, Shealtiel, Neri, 28 Melchi, Addi, Cosam, Elmadam, Er, 29 Joshua, Eliezer, Jorim, Matthat, Levi, 30 Simeon, Judas, Josephe, Jonam, Eliakim, 31 Melea, Menna, Mattaha, Nathan, David, 32 Jesse, Obed, Boaz, Salmon, Nahshon, 33 Aminadab, Arni, Hezron, Perez, Judah, 34 Jacob, Isaac, Abraham, Terah, Nahor, 35 Serug, Reu, Peleg, Eber, Shelah, 36 Cainan, Arpachshad, Shem, Noah, Lamech, 37 Methuselah, Enoch, Jared, Mahalaleel, Cainan, 38 Enos, Seth, Adam who was of God.

LUKE CHAPTER 4

FILLED with the Holy Spirit, Jesus returned from the Jordan River and for forty days was guided in the desert by the Spirit, 2 while being tested by the devil. He did not eat at all during those days and on their completion, He was hungry. 3 So the devil said to Him, "If You are the son of God, tell this stone to become bread." 4 Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Man shall not live on bread alone; *but by every expression of God.'"* 5 Then leading Him up

to a high mountain, the devil showed Him in an instant all the world's kingdoms and told Him. 6 "All this authority and the splendor of them will I give You, for it has been handed over to me and I bestow it on whomever I please; 7 so if You will worship me, it shall all be Yours." 8 Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God and serve Him alone.'"

9 Then he brought Him to Jerusalem and, placing Him on the summit of the temple, told Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here, 10 for it is written, 'He will give orders to His angels on your behalf to protect you, 11 and They will carry you on their hands so that you may not stub your foot against a stone.'" 12 Jesus answered him, "It is also written, 'You shall not test the Lord your God.'"

13 So the devil, after bringing to completion every kind of temptation, left Him until a favourable time.

14 Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and His fame spread over all the surrounding country. 15 He taught in their synagogues and was lauded by everyone.
16 He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up, and in agreement with His custom, He went to the synagogue on the Sabbath and stood up to read. 17 The book of the Prophet Isaih was handed to Him and on opening the scroll, He found the place where it was written. 18 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, for He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to announce release to the captives and restoration of sight to the blind, to set free the downtrodden and 19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour."

20 Rolling up the scroll, He handed it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of every one in the synagogue were fixed on Him, 21 and He began by telling them, "Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing." 22 They all remarked about Him and wondered at the gracious words that flowed from His lips. They said, "Is not this Joseph's son?" 23 He said to them, "You will doubtless, quote Me this proverb, 'Physician, heal yourself.' Do in your own home town what we her You did in Capernaum." 24 But he continued, "I assure you that no prophet is acceptable in his home town. 25 I tell you truly in the days of Elijah, there were many widows in Israel, when for three years and six months the heaven was closed up and a severe famine visited all the land; 26 but to none of them was Elijah sent except to a widow at Sarepta of Sidon. 27 There were also many lepers in Israel, in the time of Elisha the prophet, and none of them was cured but Naaman the Syrian."

28 When the people in the synagogue heard this, they all felt deeply resentful. 29 They got up and expelled Him from the city and led Him to the brow of the hill on which the city was built, to hurl Him down; 30 but He made His way straight through their midst and went away.

31 He came down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee, and taught them on the Sabbath. 32 They were overwhelmed with His teaching, for His message had authority. 33 And in the synagogue, there was a man with as unclean demon's spirit, who cried out loudly, 34 "Ah,

what business is it of Yours to bother us? I know who You are – The Holy One of God." 35 But Jesus rebuked him. "Be still and get out of him!" Then throwing him to the floor in their midst, the demon came out of him without hurting him.

36 A sense of awe came over all of them and they remarked to one another, "What teaching this is! For with authority and power He gives orders to unclean spirits and they come out." 37 And a report about Him went out into every place in the surrounding country.

38 He then went from the synagogue to Simon's home; but Simon's mother-in-law was suffering from a high fever and they consulted Him about her. 39 Standing over her, He rebuked the fever and it left her. And at once she arose and began to wait on them.

40 At sunset all who had any who were ill with various diseases, brought them to Him and He laid hands on all of them and cured them. 41 Even demons came out of many people, shouting, "You are the Son of God." But He rebuked them and did not allow them to speak, because they knew that He was the Christ.

42 At break of day, He went out to a lonely spot, but the crowds were looking for Him and came to where He was, and tried to keep Him from leaving them; 43 but He told them, "I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to other towns as well, because for this purpose I was sent." 44 And He continued preaching in the synagogues of Judea.

LUKE CHAPTER 5

AND as the people were crowding Him to hear God's message, He noticed, while standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, 2 two boats moored near the shore, but the fishermen had disembarked and were washing their nets. 3 He stepped into one of the boats which belonged to Simon, and asked him to push out a little from the shore; then when he had sat down, He began to teach the crowd from the boat.

4 When He had finished speaking, He told Simon, "Push out into the deep and lower your nets for a haul." 5 Simon replied, "Master, all night we were working hard without catching a thing; however, at Your word I will cast out the nets." 6 And when they did so, they enclosed such a shoal of fish that their nets started tearing. 7 They signalled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, which they did, and they filled both boats until they almost sank. 8 At the sight of it, Simon Peter fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Leave me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" 9 For amazement had gripped him and all his partners at the catch of fish they had made – 10 so also with James and John, the sons of Zebedee, partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Have no fear; from now on you will be catching men." 11 Then bringing the boats to shore, they left everything and followed Him.

12 While He was in one of the towns, a man covered with leprosy saw Jesus and, falling on his face, begged of Him, "Lord, if You will, You can cleanse me." 13 Reaching out His hand, Jesus touched him saying, "I will: be cleansed." And immediately the leprosy left him. 14 Jesus warned him to tell no one; but, "Show yourself to the priest." He said, "and make

offerings for your purification as Moses prescribed, as evidence to the people." 15 But word about Him spread even more, and large crowds gathered to listen and to be healed of their diseases. 16 Jesus, however, habitually withdrew into the desert for prayer.

17 One of those days He was teaching, and Pharisees and teachers of the law, who had come from every village of Galilee and from Judea and Jerusalem, were sitting there, and the power of the Lord was present so that He healed people. 18 Then some men came carrying a paralytic on a couch and tried to bring him in and lay him before Jesus; 19 but as they found no way to carry him in because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and let him down through the tiles, couch and all, right in front of Jesus.

20 Seeing their faith, He said, "Man your sins are forgiven you." 21 The scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, "Who is this, speaking blasphemies? Who is able to forgive sins but God alone?" 22 Jesus aware of their reasonings, said to them, "What are you deliberating in your minds? 23 Which is easier, to say: 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Arise and walk?' 24 However, so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins," He said to the paralytic, "I tell you, rise, pick up your couch and walk home." 25 At once he got up in their presence, picked up what he had been lying on and, praising God, went home. 26 Amazement gripped them all; they, too, praised God and, full of awe, said, "We have seen astounding things today." 27 Going outdoors after this, He noticed a tax collector named Levi sitting at the revenue office, and said to him, "Follow Me." 28 Rising up, he left everything and followed Him. 29 Then Levi gave Him a great banquet at his home, at which a large group of tax collectors and others, sat at the table together. 30 But the scribes and the Pharisees grumbled to His disciples, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?" 31 Jesus answered them, "Healthy people do not need a physician, but those who are ill. 32 I have come, not to call the upright but sinners to repentance."

33 And they said to Him, "John's disciples fast and pray frequently, as do those of the Pharisees as well; but Yours both eat and drink." 34 And Jesus said to them, "Can the wedding guests be made to fast while the bridegroom is with them? 35 But the time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them, and in those days they will fast."

36 And He spoke this parable to them: "No one patches an old garment with a patch taken from a new one or else he will tear the new, and also the patch from the new will not match the old. 37 And no one pours new wine into old wineskins; otherwise, the new wine will burst the skins and run out and the skins will be ruined. 38 But new wine should be put into fresh wineskins. 39 And no one, used to drinking old wine, wants new wine right away, for he says, 'The old is preferable.'"

LUKE CHAPTER 6

ON a Sabbath, while He was passing through grainfields, His disciples picked the heads of grain, rubbed them in their hands and ate them. 2 But some of the Pharisees said, "Why do You practice what is not allowed on the Sabbath?" 3 Jesus answered them, "Have you never

read what David did when he and his companions were hungry, 4 how he entered the house of God and took and ate the loaves of presentation, which none but the priests are allowed to eat; and he shared them with his companions?" 5 He said further, "The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath."

6 On another Sabbath, as He went into the synagogue and taught, a man was present whose right hand was withered, 7 and the scribes and the Pharisees were watching Him, whether he would cure him on the Sabbath, so that they might find something to accuse Him of.
8 But He knew their thoughts and said to the man with the withered hand, "Arise and stand here in the centre." And he got up and stood there.

9 Then Jesus said to them, "I ask you, is it allowed to do good or to do evil on the Sabbath; to save a life or to destroy it?" 10 Then, looking around at all of them, He said to the man, "Hold out your hand." This he did, and his hand was fully restored. 11 But maddened with anger, they discussed together what they might do to Jesus.

12 In those days He went up into the hills to pray and was spending the entire night in prayer to God. 13 At daybreak, He summoned His disciples and chose twelve of them whom He named apostles; 14 Simon whom He also called Peter, and his brother Andrew; James and John; Philip and Bartholomew; 15 Mathew and Thomas; James the son of Alphaeus and Simon called the Zealot; 16 Judas the son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who turned traitor against him.

17 With them, He came down and stood on a level spot with a large throng of His disciples and a vast crowd of people from all over Judea and from Jerusalem and from the borders of Tyre and Sidon, who came to hear Him and to be cured of their diseases. 18 Those troubled with unclean spirits were healed also. 19 And the whole crowd tried to touch Him because power issued from Him and healed everyone.

20 Fixing His eyes on His disciples, He proceeded to say, "Blessed are you poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. 21 Blessed are you that are hungry now, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you that weep now, for you will laugh. 22 Blessed are you when people hate you and exclude you and denounce and defame your name as wicked on account of the Son of Man. 23 Be glad at such a time and leap for joy, for in heaven your reward is rich. Their fathers treated the prophets just that way."

24 "Alas, however, for you who are wealthy for you have enjoyed your comfort. 25 Alas for you who are filled up now, for you will suffer hunger. Alas for you who laugh now, for you will mourn and weep. 26 Alas when everyone praises you, for their fathers treated the false prophets just that way."

27 "But to you who are listening to Me I say, Love your enemies; treat well those who hate you; 28 bless those who curse you; pray for those who abuse you. 29 To him who hits you on

the cheek, offer the other, and do not prevent the one who takes your coat from taking your tunic as well.

30 Give to everyone who asks you, and do not request your belongings back from him who took them. 31 Treat others exactly as you would like to have them treat you.

32 “If you love only those who love you, what credit is that to you? For sinners, too, love those who love them. 33 And if you treat well those who treat you well, what credit is that to you? Sinners do that much. 34 And if you lend to those from whom you expect a return, what credit is that to you? Sinners lend to sinners as well, to get back an equal amount.”

35 “But love your enemies; do good and lend without prospect of return. Then your return will be rich; you will be sons of the Most High, for He is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. 36 Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. 37 Do not judge and you will not be judged; do not condemn and you will not be condemned; pardon and you will be pardoned; 38 give and it will be given to you – good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over will they pour into your lap. For with the yardstick you use for measuring, it in turn will be measured to you.”

39 And He told them a parable: “Can one blind person guide another? Will they not both stumble into a pit? 40 A disciple is not above his teacher; but every well-trained student will be like his teacher.”

41 “And why do you notice the splinter in your brother’s eye without being at all aware of the beam in your own eye? 42 How can you say to your brother, ‘Brother, let me extract the splinter from your eye,’ without noticing the beam in your own eye? Hypocrites, first extract the beam from your eye and then you can clearly see to extract the splinter from your brother’s eye.”

43 “For no good tree bears worthless fruit; neither does a worthless tree bear good fruit; 44 for each tree is known by its own fruit; Accordingly, no figs are picked from thorns, nor are grapes gathered from a bramble bush. 45 The good person expresses good from the good that is stored in his heart, and the evil person expresses evil from the evil that is stored in his heart. For from the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.”

46 “Why do you call Me, ‘Lord, Lord!’ and do not do what I say? 47 Whoever comes to Me and listens to My words and does them, I will show you whom he resembles. 48 He resembles a man who built a house; he dug and went down deep and set the foundation on a rock. When the flood rose, the river rushed against that house but had no power to shake it, because it was securely built. 49 But one who listens and does not do what I say resembles a man who built his house on the ground without a foundation, against which the river rushed and at once it fell, and the wreck of that house was terrible.”

LUKE CHAPTER 7

WHEN He had finished all His utterances in the hearing of the people, He entered Capernaum. 2 There a centurion's slave, who meant much to him, was ill to the point of death; 3 but hearing about Jesus, he sent Jewish elders to Him who begged Him to come and heal his slave. 4 On reaching Jesus, they urged Him strongly, "He deserves to have this done for him. 5 for he loves our nation and has built us a synagogue." 6 So Jesus went with them.

However, they were not far from the house when the centurion sent friends to tell Him, "Lord, take no further trouble; for I am not fit to have You under my roof, and for this reason 7 I did not consider myself worthy of approaching You. Simply say the word and have my serving boy cured. 8 For I am also a man under orders and I have soldiers under me and say to this one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to that one, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this, and he does it.'

9 Jesus marvelled when He heard that and, turning to the crowd that followed Him, said to them, "I tell you, I have found no such faith, even in Israel." 10 The messengers then went back to the house and found the slave healed.

11 Shortly afterward, He visited a town called Nain, accompanied by His disciples and a large crowd. 12 As he neared the city gate there was being carried out a dead man – an only son whose mother was a widow – and a large crowd from that city was with her. 13 When the Lord saw her, He felt sympathy for her and said to her. "Do not weep." 14 Then going forward, He touched the bier. The pallbearers stopped and he said, "Young man, I tell you arise." 15 The lifeless one sat up and began to speak, and He presented him to his mother. 16 Awe took hold of everyone; they gave God the glory and said, "A great prophet has arisen among us." and "God has cared for His people." 17 This report about Jesus spread throughout Judea and all the surrounding country.

18 John's disciples reported all this to him. 19 And John, summoning two of them sent to ask the Lord, "Are You the coming One, or should we look for someone else?"

20 When the men reached Him, they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to You with the question, 'Are You the coming One or should we look for someone else?'"

21 Just then he was curing many diseases and ailments and evil spirits; He also gave sight to many who were blind. 22 And he answered them, "Go and tell John what you see and hear. The blind see; the lame walk; lepers are cleansed; the deaf hear; the dead are raised; the poor are evangelised, 23 and blessed is he who does not turn away from Me."

24 When John's messengers were gone, He began to address the throngs regarding John; "What did you go out to see in the desert? A reed swayed by the wind? 25 Really, what did you go out to see? A man elegantly dressed? Of course, those who are stylishly dressed and living in luxury dwell in palaces. 26 Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell

you, and far more than a prophet. 27 It is he of whom it is written, ‘Behold, I send My messenger ahead of You, who will prepare the road before You.’ 28 I tell you, no person born of a woman is greater than John, and yet the least important in the kingdom of God is greater than he.” 29 All the people, when they heard Him, even the tax collectors, acknowledged God as just, because they accepted John’s baptism, 30 but the Pharisees and the teachers of the Law, rejected God’s purpose for them by refusing baptism at his hand.

31 “To what then shall I compare the men of this generation? What do they resemble?
32 They are like children sitting in a market place and calling out to one another. ‘We have played the flute for you and you would not dance; we have sung you dirges and you would not weep.’ 33 For John the Baptist came neither dining or wining and you say, ‘He has a demon.’ 34 The Son of Man came eating and drinking and you say, ‘look at a man, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.’ 35 So is wisdom vindicated by all her children.”

36 One of the Pharisees invited Him to dinner; so, He went to the Pharisee’s home and sat at the table. 37 When a woman of the town, a sinner learned that He was dining in the Pharisee’s home, she brought an alabaster flask of perfume 38 and, standing behind Him at His feet, weeping, began to wet His feet with her tears, then wiped them with her hair of her head, tenderly kissed His feet and anointed them with the perfume. 39 When His host, the Pharisee, saw it, he said to himself. “If this person were a prophet, He would know what kind of woman is touching Him; for she is devoted to sin.” 40 Jesus answered, “Simon, I have something to tell you.” He said, “Teacher, go ahead and speak.” 41 “Two men were in debt to a moneylender; one owed him five hundred pence and the other fifty. 42 As neither had anything to pay him, he generously cancelled the debt of both. So, which of them will love him more?” 43 Simon replied, “I suppose the one for whom he cancelled more.” He said to him, “You have judged correctly.” 44 Then turning to the woman, He said to Simon, “You see this woman? As I entered your home, you supplied no water for My feet, but she has washed My feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. 45 You did not give Me a kiss, but she from the moment I came in has not stopped tenderly kissing My feet. 46 You did not anoint My head with oil, but she has anointed My feet with perfume. 47 So I tell you, her sins, many as they are, are forgiven, for she has greatly loved. Bur the person who is forgiven little, loves little.” 48 And He said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.” 49 Those at the table began to say to themselves, “Who is this who even forgives sins?” 50 But He said to the woman. “Your faith has saved you. Go in peace.”

LUKE CHAPTER 8

SUBSEQUENTLY, He travelled from one town and village to another, preaching and telling the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with Him, and also certain women who had been healed of evil spirits and diseases – Mary called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had been expelled, 3 and Joanna the wife of Chuna, Herod’s steward, and Susanna, and many others who helped support them out of their means.

4 When a great throng was gathering and people resorted to Him from every town, He told them in a parable: 5 “A sower went out to sow his seed and, as he sowed, some fell along the road and was walked on, and the birds of the air ate it. 6 Other seed fell on the bedrock and sprouted, but then withered because it lacked moisture. 7 Other seed fell among the thorns, and the thorns grew with it and choked it. 8 Other seed fell on the good soil and grew up and yielded a hundredfold.” Upon telling this, He called out, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

9 And His disciples asked Him the meaning of this parable, 10 and He said, “It is granted you to know the secrets of the kingdom of God, but I speak to the rest in parables that seeing they may not see and hearing they may not hear. 11 The parable’s meaning is this; the seed is the word of God. 12 Those along the road are people who hear; then the devil comes and carries away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved.
13 Those on the bedrock are people who hear the word and welcome it gladly, but they have no root; they believe for a while and in time of trial they fall away. 14 What falls among the thorns are people who listen but, as they go on, the word is choked by worries and wealth and pleasures of life, so that they never mature. 15 But the seed in the good soil are those who listen to the word and retain it in a good and well-disposed heart, and steadily bear fruit.”

16 “No one lights a lamp and hides it under a vessel or puts it under a couch; instead, he sets it on a stand so that people who enter the room may see the light. 17 For nothing is hidden that will not be disclosed; nothing concealed that will not be known and brought to light. 18 Look out, therefore, how you listen; for whoever has, will receive more, and from one who has nothing, what he fancies he possesses will be taken away.”

19 His mother and His brothers came to Him but could not get near Him because of the crowd. 20 So it was told Him, “Your mother and Your brothers are standing at the edge of the crowd, wanting to see You.” 21 But He replied to them, “My mother and My brothers are those who hear and practice the word of God.”

22 One day He and His disciples got into a boat and He said to them, “let us cross to the other side of the lake;” and they set sail. 23 But as they were sailing, He fell asleep. And a squall of wind came down on the lake, they were shipping water and were in jeopardy. 24 So they went and awakened Him, exclaiming, “Master, Master, we are perishing!” And He awoke and rebuked the wind and the surging of the water, and they ceased and there was a calm. 25 Then He said to them. “Where is your faith?” But they, awed and amazed, said to one another, “Who is He, anyway, to give orders to winds and water and they obey Him?”

26 They landed at the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee, 27 and as He stepped out on the land, a demon-possessed man who came from the town, met Him. He had worn no clothes for a long time, nor did he live in a house, but in the tombs. 28 Seeing Jesus, he cried out, threw himself in front of Him and shouted loudly, “What business is it of

Yours to bother me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg of You, do not torture me.”
29 For He had ordered the unclean spirit to leave the man. Often, it had seized him, and although he was securely fastened in chains and fetters, and guarded, he would snap the bonds and be driven by the demon into the desert.

30 Jesus asked him, “What is your name?” He said, “Legion,” because many demons had entered him. 31 And they begged Him not to order them to go away into the abyss. 32 But there was a huge herd of swine grazing on the hillside, and they asked Him to give them permission to enter them; which He allowed. 33 Then the demons left the man and entered the swine and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and were drowned.

34 When the herdsmen saw what had occurred, they ran away and reported it in town and country. 35 The people came out to see what had happened and, reaching Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone, sitting at Jesus’ feet, dressed and sane – and they were frightened. 36 Those who had seen how the demoniac had been healed, then reported it to them; 37 and all the Gerasenes and the people living around them requested Him to leave them; for they were thoroughly frightened. So, He got into the boat and went back.

38 The man whom the demons had left, begged to accompany Him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, 39 “Go back to your home and tell all that God has done for you.” So, he went and published all over the town what Jesus had done for him.

40 At His return, the crowd welcomed Jesus, for they were all looking for Him. 41 And a man named Jairus, a ruler of the synagogue, came and fell at Jesus’ feet and requested Him to come to his home 42 because his only daughter, about twelve, was dying. But as he was going, the throngs pressed Him closely, 43 and a woman who had suffered from hemorrhages for twelve years and had spent on doctors all she had, whom no one had been able to cure, 44 came up behind Him and touched the hem of His robe. Immediately, her hemorrhage stopped. 45 Jesus said, “Who touched Me?” When every one denied it, Peter remarked, “Master, the crowds are all around and pressing You.” 46 But Jesus said, “Someone has touched Me, for I am conscious of power having gone out of Me.” 47 When the woman saw that she had not escaped notice, she came trembling, fell before Him and confessed in the presence of all the people why she had touched Him and how she had been instantly cured. 48 He said to her, “Daughter, cheer up. Your faith has healed you; go in peace.”

49 While He was still speaking, someone came from the home of the ruler of the synagogue and said, “Your daughter is dead. Do not trouble the Teacher any further.” 50 But when Jesus heard it, He replied, ‘Have no fear; simply believe and she will be healed.”

51 On reaching the house, He allowed no one to enter with Him, except Peter, John, and James, and the child’s father and mother. 52 All the people were wailing and beating their breasts for her; but He said, “Stop wailing. She is not dead but asleep.” 53 But knowing that

she was dead, they laughed at Him. 54 Grasping her hand, He called out, “Little girl, arise.” 55 Her spirit returned and at once she arose, and He ordered that she be given something to eat. 56 Her parents were amazed; but He instructed them to tell no one what had happened.

LUKE CHAPTER 9

CALLING the Twelve together, He gave them power and authority over all the demons and to heal diseases. 2 He sent them out to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick. 3 He said to them, “Take nothing for the journey, neither staff, nor bag, nor money, nor an extra tunic. 4 Whatever home you enter, stay there. 5 Where they do not welcome you, when you leave that town, shake off the dust from your feet for a testimony against them.” 6 So they went out from village to village, preaching the gospel and healing everywhere.

7 Now when Herod the tetrarch heard of all the events that were occurring, he was at a loss, because it was told by some that John had risen from the dead. 8 by others that Elijah had appeared, and by still others that one of the old prophets had come back to life. 9 But Herod said, “, “John I have beheaded; now who is this about whom I hear such things?” And he endeavoured to see Him.

10 The apostles came back and reported to Jesus everything they had done, The He took them and withdrew into privacy near a town called Bethsaida, 11 but the crowds learned of it and followed Him. And, bidding them welcome, He spoke to them about the kingdom of God and healed those who needed healing.

12 As the day began to decline, the Twelve came to Him and said, “Dismiss the multitude, so they may go into the surrounding villages and hamlets, to lodge and to find food, for here we are in an isolated place.” 13 But He told them, “You give them to eat.” They replied, “We have only five loaves and two fish – unless we go and buy food for all these people.” 14 For there were about five thousand men. But He told His disciples, “Have them sit in rows of about fifty” – 15 which they did. They had them all sit down. 16 Then taking the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up toward heaven, He gave thanks and broke them and gave them to the disciples to set before the crowd. 17 They all ate and were completely satisfied, and the leftovers were picked up – twelve baskets full.

18 When He was praying by Himself, the disciples joined Him. He asked them, “Who do the crowds say I am?” 19 They answered, “John the Baptist; but some say, Elijah, and others that one of the ancient prophets has risen.” 20 Then He asked them, “But who do you say I am?” Peter answered, “The Christ of God.” 21 The He strictly forbade them to tell this to anyone, 22 and said, “The Son of Man has to suffer many things and will be rejected by the elders, chief priests and scribes and be executed, and will rise from the dead on the third day.”

23 He told them all, “If anyone wants to come after Me, he must deny himself, take up his cross day by day and follow Me; 24 for whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but

whoever loses his life on My account will save it. 25 For what will it benefit a person to gain the whole world and lose or forfeit himself? 26 For whoever is ashamed of Me and My teachings, of him the Son of Man will be ashamed when he comes in His own glory and His Father's and of the holy angels. 27 However, I tell you truly, some of those standing here will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God."

28 About eight days after these teachings, He took along Peter, John and James, and went up the mountain to pray. 29 And while He was praying, the appearance of His face underwent a change and His garments turned a dazzling white. 30 And behold, two men, Moses and Elijah, 31 appeared in glory and conversed with Him about His departure which He was to accomplish at Jerusalem.

32 Peter and his companions had been overcome by sleep, but when they awoke, they saw His glory and the two men standing by Him. 33 At their parting form Him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us that we are here. Let us construct three booths, one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah," not knowing what he was saying. 34 Even while he said it, a cloud came and overshadowed them, and they were awe-struck as they entered the cloud. 35 Then a voice came out of the cloud, that said, "This is My Son, My Chosen One, listen to Him." 36 And when the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. At that time, they kept still and told no one what they had seen.

37 The next day, when they came down from the mountain, a great crowd met them. 38 and a man shouted from the crowd, "Teacher. I beg of You to take a look at my son, for he my only child." 39 A spirit seizes him and suddenly he shrieks; it convulses him until he foams at the mouth. It bruises him and hardly leaves him. 40 I entreated Your disciples to expel him, but they were not able." 41 Jesus replied, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long must I still be with you and endure you? Bring your son here." 42 And even while he was coming, the demon threw him down and convulsed him; but Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, and cured the lad and presented him to his father.

43 And all where overwhelmed at the majesty of God. While every one was wondering at everything He was doing. He said to His disciples, 44 "Let these teachings sink into your ear, for the Son of Man is to be delivered into human hands." 45 However, they did not understand this saying; it was kept hidden from them so that they might not grasp it, and they were afraid to question Him about the saying.

46 Then there came up a discussion among them, who of them was greatest; 47 and Jesus, aware of what occupied their minds, took a child, placed it by His side, 48 and said to them, "Whoever receives this child in My name, receives Me, and whoever receives Me, receives Him who sent Me. For the lowliest among you all, he is truly great."

49 John made the remark, "Master, we saw someone expelling demons in Your name and we forbade him, because he does not follow along with us." 50 Jesus told him, "Do not forbid him; for whoever is not against you is for you."

51 When the time of His ascension was nearing completion, He set His face to go to Jerusalem. 52 And He sent messengers ahead of Him. And they went and entered a Samaritan village to prepare for His arrival. 53 But they would not receive Him because He was travelling with His face toward Jerusalem. 54 The disciples, James and John, on observing this, said, “Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and destroy them?”55 But He turned and rebuked them; *“You do not know your attitude. 56 The Son of Man did not come to destroy human lives, but to save.”* And they journeyed on to another village.

57 As they were travelling along the road, someone said to Him, “I will follow You wherever You may go.” 58 Jesus told him, “The foxes have holes and the birds have nests, but the Son of Man does not have a place to lay his head.” 59 He said to another, “Follow Me.” But he replied, “Allow me first to go and bury my father.” 60 But He said to him. “Let the dead bury their own dead; you go and preach the kingdom of God.” 61 Another also said, “I will follow You, Sir, but first allow me to say good-bye to those at my home.” 62 Jesus told him, “No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”

LUKE CHAPTER 10

AFTER that the Lord commissioned seventy others, whom He sent ahead of Him two by two into every town and community that He planned to visit, 2 and told them, “The harvest is rich but the workmen are few; therefore, pray the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into His harvest. 3 Go forth. Notice that I am sending you as lambs into the midst of wolves. 4 Carry no purse, or wallet or sandals, neither stop to greet anyone formally along the road. 5 Whatever home you enter, first say, ‘Peace be to this house.’ 6 If a person who is worthy of this greeting lives there, your peace will settle down on him; but if not, it will return to you. 7 Stay at the same house, eating and drinking what they provide; for the workman deserves his wages. Do not move from house to house.”

8 “Whatever town you enter, if they welcome you, eat what is placed before you. 9 Heal those who are ill there, and tell them, ‘The kingdom of God has approached you.’ 10 But whatever town you enter and they fail to welcome you, go out into its streets and say, 11 ’Even the dust of your town that sticks to our feet, we wipe off in protest against you. Know this, however that the kingdom of God has approached you.’ 12 I tell you, it will be more endurable on that Day for Sodom than for that town.”

13 “Alas for you, Chorazin! Alas for you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles had occurred in Tyre and Sidon that were done in you, they would long since have been sitting repentant in sackcloth and ashes. 14 But it will be more endurable for Tyre and Sidon at the judgement than for you. 15 And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted up to heaven? No! You will sink to Hades.”

16 “Whoever listens to you, listens to Me, and whoever rejects you, rejects Me. But whoever reject Me, rejects Him who sent Me.”

17 With joy, the seventy returned and said, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name.” 18 He said to them, “I saw Satan fall from heaven like lightening. 19 See, I have given you the authority to step on snakes and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing will at all hurt you. 20 However, do not rejoice because the spirits submit to you, but rejoice because your names are registered in heaven.”

21 At that time, Jesus exulted in the Holy Spirit and said, “I praise You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because You have concealed this from the learned and intelligent and have revealed it to babes. Yes, Father, for thus it was pleasing in Your presence. 22 Everything has been handed over to Me by My Father and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, nor who the Father is, except the Son and he to whom the Son chooses to reveal Him.”

23 Turning to them privately He said, “Blessed are the eyes that see what you see. 24 For I tell you that many prophets and kings have longed to see what you see but they did not see it, and to hear what you hear, but they did not hear it.”

25 Now a certain teacher of the law, got up to put Him to a thorough test. He asked, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” 26 Jesus asked him, “What is written in the law? How do you read it?” 27 The teacher of the law answered, “You must love the Lord your God with your whole heart, your whole soul, your whole strength and your whole mind, and your neighbour as yourself.” 28 Jesus told him, “You have answered correctly. Do this and you will live.”

29 But he, wishing to absolve himself, asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbour?” 30 Jesus replied, “A certain man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell among robbers, who stripped and pummelled him and ran off, leaving him half dead. 31 Coincidentally, a certain priest was coming down that road and, seeing him, passed on the other side. 32 In the same way, a Levite, arrived at the spot, saw him and passed on the other side. 33 Then a certain Samaritan came there as he travelled, saw him, and took pity on him. 34 Going to him, he bandaged his wounds, poured oil and wine into them, set him on his own donkey, took him to an inn and looked after him. 35 The next morning, he took out and handed the innkeeper two pence, and said, ‘Take care of him and whatever further expense you incur, I will refund you when I come back.’ 36 Which of these three, do you think, was really neighbour to the one who fell among the robbers?”

37 He said, “The one who was merciful to him.” Then Jesus told him, “You go and do the same.”

38 During their travels He entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed Him to her home. 39 She had a sister named Mary, who took a seat at the Lord’s feet and listened to His teaching. 40 But Martha got worried about much housework; so, approaching Him, she said, “Lord, do You not care that my sister left me to do the work alone? Then tell her to help me.” 41 But the Lord answered her. “Martha, Martha, you are

anxious and bothered about many matters, 42 when there is need of but one thing. Mary has selected the good portion which will not be taken away from her."

LUKE CHAPTER 11

HE was praying in a certain place and when He ceased, one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray as John, too taught his disciples." 2 He said to them, "When you pray, say: 'Father, Your name be held holy, Your kingdom come. 3 Daily grant us food for the coming day. 4 And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one indebted to us. And bring us not into temptation.'"

5 He further said to them, "Let us say that one of you has a friend to whom he goes at midnight and says, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread 6 since a friend of mine has arrived at my house from a trip and I have nothing to set before him.' 7 and the one inside should answer him. 'Do not bother me. The door is already locked and my children are in bed with me. I cannot get up and give to you.'"

8 "I tell you, if he does not get up to give to him because he is his friend, he will rise on account of his brazen insistence, and give him as much as he needs. 9 And I tell you, Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you; 10 for every one who asks, receives, every one who seeks, finds, and to every one who knocks the door will be opened. 11 What father among you whose son asks bread will give him a stone, or if he requests a fish, will instead hand him a snake, 12 or of he requests an egg, will hand him a scorpion? 13 If you then, evil as you are, know enough to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him."

14 He was expelling a demon that caused dumbness, and after the expulsion, the dumb man spoke so that the crowds wondered; 15 but some of them said, "He expels demons through Beelzebul, the prince of the demons." 16 Others by the way of testing Him, asked Him for a sign from heaven. 17 Well aware what they were thinking, He told them, "Every kingdom divided against itself comes to ruin; so, does the quarrelling home go down. 18 And if Satan is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? For you say that I expel demons through Beelzebul. 19 But if I expel demons through Beelzebul, through whom do your sons cast them out? They therefore shall be your judges. 20 But if I expel demons by means of the finger of God, then, the kingdom of God has already reached you."

21 "When a strong man fully armed guards his residence, his belongings are undisturbed; 22 but when one stronger than he attacks and over comes him, he robs him of his armour on which he depended and distributes his plunder. 23 He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters.

24 "When an unclean spirit leaves a person, it crosses dry places in search of a resting place and, not finding it, says, 'I will go back to the house I left.' 25 But on his arrival, he finds it

swept and orderly. 26 He then goes and fetches seven other spirits, meaner than himself; they enter and dwell there, and that person's final condition is worse than it was at first."

27 In the course of His telling this, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to Him, "Blessed is the womb that bore You and the breasts on which You nursed." 28 But He said, "More blessed still are those who hear and keep the word of God."

29 As many people were crowding Him, He began to say, "This generation is an evil generation; it desires a sign, but none shall be granted it except the sign of Jonah; 30 for as Jonah was a sign to the Ninevites, so will the Son of Man be to this generation. 31 The queen of the South will rise up in the judgement with the men of this age and will condemn them; for she came from the ends of the earth to listen to Solomon's wisdom, and remember, something greater than Solomon is here. 32 The men of Ninevah will rise in the judgement with this generation and will condemn it, because they repented at Jonah's preaching, and remember, something greater than Jonah is here.

33 "No one lights a lamp and puts it in a cellar or under the grain measure, but on top of a stand, so that those who come in may see the light. 34 Your eye is the body's lamp. When your eye is sound, your whole body is illumined; but in case it is defective, your body is darkened. 35 See to it, therefore, that the light in you is not darkness. 36 If, however, your whole body is illumined, with no portion dark, then it is as perfectly lit, as when a lamp illumines you with its beam."

37 During His discourse, a Pharisee invited Him home to dine with him, so He went in and sat at the table. 38 But the Pharisee noticed and wondered that He had not washed before the meal. 39 The Lord said to him, "Now you Pharisees cleanse the outside of the cup and of the plate, but inside you are full of robbery and wickedness. 40 Fools! Did not He who made the outside make the inside too? 41 You had better bestow in kindness what is inside and everything will be clean for you. 42 But alas for you Pharisees, because you tithe mint and rue and every vegetable, while disregarding justice and love for God. These things you should practice without omitting the other things."

43 "Alas for you Pharisees, for you cherish the prominent pews in the synagogues, and the salutations in the markets. 44 Alas for you, because you are like unseen tombs over which people walk without being aware of them."

45 One of the teachers of the Law replied to Him, "Teacher, when You say this, You insult us too." 46 But He said, "Alas for you teachers of the Law as well, because you pack the people with loads that are hard to carry, while you yourselves do not touch those burdens with one of your fingers. 47 Alas for you, because you build monuments for the prophets whom your fathers killed. 48 In that way you are consenting to your fathers' works; for they indeed killed them and you build their monuments."

49 “The wisdom of God therefore says, ‘I will send them prophets and apostles, some of whom they will kill and persecute,’ 50 so that the blood of all the prophets that has been shed from the foundation of the world, may be charged against this generation, 51 from Abels’ blood to that of Zechariah, who was murdered between the altar and the temple. Yes, I tell you, it will be charged against this generation.”

52 “Alas for you, teachers of the Law, for you have taken away the key to knowledge; you yourselves have not entered, and you have prevented those who were entering.”

53 Upon Him leaving, there the scribes and Pharisees began to heckle Him fiercely and to draw Him out by cross-questioning on many points, secretly 54 watching Him for the purpose of trapping Him with something from His lips.

LUKE CHAPTER 12

MEANWHILE, when countless people were massed, so that they stepped on one another, He began to say, primarily to His disciples, “Guard yourselves against the yeast of the Pharisees, that is against hypocrisy. 2 Nothing is hidden that will not be shown, or secret that will not be brought to light. 3 So, whatever you say in the dark will be heard in the light and what you whisper in the ear within a private room, will be proclaimed on the roofs.”

4 “My friends, I tell you, have no fear of those who kill the body and afterward can do nothing more; 5 but I will show you whom to fear; fear Him who, after taking the life, has power to cast into hell. Yes, I say to you, fear Him.”

6 “Are not five sparrows sold for two small coins? Yet none of them is forgotten in God’s presence. 7 And the very hairs of your head are all counted. Have no fear; you are worth more than flocks of sparrows.”

8 “I tell you further; whoever acknowledges Me in the presence of people, the Son of Man will acknowledge him in the presence of God’s angels. 9 But whoever denies Me before men, he will be denied before the angels of God. 10 Whoever will make a statement against the Son of Man, for him there is forgiveness; but for him who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit, there will be no forgiveness.”

11 “When they bring you to synagogues and rulers and authorities, do not worry how to defend yourself or what to say, 12 for the Holy Spirit will teach you at the very moment what you ought to say.”

13 One of the crowd said to Him, “Teacher, tell my brother to share the inheritance with me.” 14 But He said to him, “Man, who appointed Me judge or distributor of your goods?” 15 He then said to the the people, “Look out and be on your guard against all greed, for one’s life is not made up of abundance of his possessions.”

16 The he told them a parable: “The field of a certain rich man yielded abundantly, 17 so he considered within himself, ‘What shall I do; for I have no room to store my crops?’ 18 He

said, ‘I will do this; I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my produce and my goods, 19 and I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have much wealth laid up for many a year. Take it easy; eat, drink. Enjoy yourself.”

20 “But God said to him, ‘Fool, this night your soul will be demanded of you, and what you have gotten ready, whose is it to be?’ 21 Thus does the person fare who stores up treasure for himself and is not rich in relation to God.”

22 But to His disciples He said, “For this reason I tell you, do not worry about what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear; 23 for life is more than nourishment and the body more than clothes. 24 Look at the ravens, how they neither sow or harvest, have neither barn nor granary, and God feeds them. How far more valuable are you than the birds!”

25 “Who of you can add one moment to his life’s course by worrying? 26 So, if you cannot bring about that little, why be anxious about the rest? 27 Consider the lilies, how they grow; they do not spin, but I tell you that not even Solomon in all his glory was clothed like one of them. 28 And if God so clothes the grass that is in the field today and is thrown into the oven tomorrow, how much more will He clothe you, you of little faith!”

29 “Do not be seeking what to eat and what to drink, neither be anxious; 30 for the people of the world desire all these things, but your Father knows that you need them. 31 But seek His kingdom, and these things will be supplied you besides. 32 Do not fear, little flock, for your Father is pleased to give you the kingdom.”

33 “Sell what you have and give to charity; make purse for yourselves that never age – unfailing treasure in heaven where no thief approaches or moth ruins. 34 For where your treasure is, there too your heart will be.”

35 “Keep your loins girded and your lamps burning; 36 be like persons who await their own master when he comes back from the wedding, so that when he arrives and knocks, they may instantly open the door for him. 37 Happy are those slaves whom the master finds on alert when he comes. I assure you that he will gird himself, will have them sit at the table and will come and wait on them. 38 Whether he arrives in the second watch or in the third, if he finds them alert, they are fortunate. 39 But understand this; if the owner of the house had known at what time the thief would come, he would have watched and would not have permitted his house to be burglarised. 40 So you be ready, for the Son of Man comes at an hour you are not anticipating.”

41 Peter asked him, “Lord, are You telling this parable just to us, or to every one?” 42 The Lord replied, “Who is indeed the faithful and thoughtful custodian whom the master appoints over his household to supply their food allowance at the proper time? 43 Happy is that slave whom the master finds doing so when he arrives. 44 I tell you truly, he will put him in charge of everything he has.”

45 “But if that slave says to himself, ‘My master is putting off his arrival,’ and starts to beat the menservants and the maids, and also to eat and to drink and to get drunk, 46 that slave’s master will come on an unexpected day and at an hour of which he has no idea, and will discharge him and will make him share the fate of the unfaithful.”

47 “The slave who knew what his master wanted and neither got ready nor did it, will be severely lashed; 48 but he who was ignorant of it, who does what deserves flogging, will be punished lightly. For of every one to whom much is given, much will be required, and of him to whom much has been entrusted, people will demand the more.”

49 “I have come to cast fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! 50 I have a baptism to undergo and how great is my distress until it is finished! 51 Do you suppose that I am here to bring peace on earth? Not at all, I tell you, but rather discord; 52 for from now on, five will be at odds in one home, three against two and two against three – 53 father against son and son against father; mother against daughter and daughter against mother; mother-in-law against daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”

54 And to the crowds He said, “When you see a cloud coming up in the west, at once you remark, ‘A shower coming,’ and so it is. 55 And when the south winds blows, you say, “It will be hot,’ and it happens. 56 You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky; why then, can you not evaluate this time?”

57 “Why do not you yourselves decide what is right? 58 When you go with your opponent to the magistrate, take pains to come to a settlement with him on the way, so as to be freed from him, for fear he drags you before the judge, the judge hands you over to the jailor, and the jailor throws you in prison. 59 I tell you; you will not get out of there until you have paid the last penny.”

LUKE CHAPTER 13

JUST then some were present who told Him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices, 2 and He said to them in reply, “Do you suppose, because they suffered this, that those Galileans were worse sinners than all their fellow Galileans? 3 Not at all, I tell you, but unless you repent, you will all similarly perish. 4 Or those eighteen on whom the Siloam tower fell that it killed them, do you suppose that they committed greater sin than all other dwellers in Jerusalem? 5 Not at all, I tell you, but unless you repent you will all similarly perish.”

6 He spoke this parable; “Someone had a fig tree that was planted in his orchard and came to look for fruit on it, but did not find any; 7 so he said to the gardener, ‘Look here! For three years now, I have come to look for fruit on this fig tree and have not found any. Cut it down. Why should it use up the soil?” 8 But he replied, ‘Master, leave it yet for this year, till I dig around it and put in fertiliser; 9 perhaps it will bear fruit next season – but if not – cut it down.’”

10 While he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath, 11 a woman attended who for eighteen years had suffered from a weakening spirit; she was bent double and could not straighten herself up fully. 12 When Jesus saw her, He called her to Him and said to her, “Woman, you are set free from your ailment.” 13 And He laid hands on her, and instantly she was made erect, and she praised God.

14 But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus healed on the Sabbath, said to the crowd, “There are six workdays when work should be done; so, come to be healed on those days and not on the Sabbath day.” 15 But the Lord answered him. “You hypocrites! Does not every one of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the feeding trough and lead him away to drink? 16 Ought not then this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan has held bound, these eighteen years, to be loosed from her bond on the Sabbath day?”

17 At these words, all His opponents were ashamed, while all the people were glad about all the wonderful things that were done by Him.

18 Then He said, “What does the kingdom of God resemble and to what shall I compare it? 19 It resembles a mustard seed which a man took and planted in his garden. It grew up into a tree and the birds of the air made their nests in its branches.” 20 He further said, “To what shall I compare the kingdom of God? 21 It resembles yeast which a woman took and mixed in three batches of flour until it was all raised.”

22 Making His way to Jerusalem, He went through towns and villages, teaching. 23 Some one asked Him, “Lord, are only a few saved?” He told them, 24 “Strain every nerve to enter through the narrow door; for many, I tell you, will try to enter and will be unable to. 25 After the owner of the house has gotten up and has shut the door, you will begin to stand outside and knock at the door, calling, ‘Lord, open for us.’ But He will reply to you: ‘I neither know you, nor where you come from.’ 26 Then you will begin to say, ‘We ate and drank with you, and you taught in our streets.’ 27 But He will tell you, ‘I do not know from where you are. Get away from Me. All you evildoers.’ 28 There will be wailing and grinding of teeth when you see Abraham. Isaac, Jacob, and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but you yourselves thrown outside. 29 And from east and west, north and south, they will come and will be sitting at the table of the kingdom of God. 30 But, mind you, there are last who will be first, and there are first who will be last.”

31 At that time, certain Pharisees approached him saying, “Get out of this place, for Herod intends to kill You.” 32 He replied. “You go and tell that fox that I shall expel demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day, I shall complete My work.
33 However, I must travel on today and tomorrow and the next day; for it would not do for a prophet to perish outside Jerusalem.

34 “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, that kills the prophets and stones those sent to you! How often have I wanted to gather your children as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you

were not willing. 35 Behold, your home is left you destitute. I tell you that you will not see Me at all until you say, ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

LUKE CHAPTER 14

WHEN He entered the house of one of the rulers of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they watched Him closely. 2 For a man with dropsy was in front of him. 3 So Jesus spoke to the teachers of the Law, and Pharisees, asking, “Is it right to heal on the Sabbath or not?” 4 But they kept still. He then took hold of him, healed him, and let him go. 5 He said to them, “Who of you has an ox or donkey that falls into a pit and you do not immediately pull him out on the Sabbath day?” 6 And they could make no reply to this.

7 To the guests, whom He noticed selecting the choicest places, He spoke this parable:
8 “When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit in the most preferable place; for one more highly esteemed by your host than yourself may have been invited by him 9 and, as your mutual host arrives, he may say to you, ‘Make room for him,’ and then feeling deeply embarrassed, you proceed to take the lowest place. 10 Rather, when you are invited, go and sit in the lowest place so that, when your host arrives, he may say to you, “Friend, move up higher.’ You will then enjoy honour before all your fellow guests.
11 For whoever makes himself prominent, will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be set high.”

12 He further told his host, “Whenever you give a dinner or supper, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or your well to do neighbours; for they may invite you in their return and repay you. 13 Instead, when you give dinner, invite the poor, the maimed, the lame and the blind; 14 then blessing will be yours, for they have nothing to repay you, but you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just.”

15 One of the fellow guests who hear this, said to Him, “Blessed is he who will eat bread in the kingdom of God.” 16 But He told him, “A man gave a great supper and invited many.
17 At the supper hour he sent his slave to tell those who were invited. ‘Come, for everything is now ready.’ 18 But one by one they began making excuse. The first told him, ‘I have bought a field and I simply must go to see it; I beg of you, have me excused.’ 19 Another said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen and I am going to test them; I beg of you, have me excused.’ 20 Another said, ‘I have married a wife and on that account I cannot come.’”

21 “The slave came and reported this to his master. Then his anger aroused, the master of the house told his slave, ‘Hurry out into the streets and alleys and bring in here the poor, the maimed, the blind, and the lame.’ 22 Then the slave said, ‘Master, what you ordered has been done and still there is room.’ 23 The master instructed the slave, ‘Go out to the roads and hedges and force them to come in, so that my house may be filled; 24 for I tell you, none of those that were invited shall taste of my supper.’”

25 Great crowds accompanied Him; so, He turned and told them, 26 “Whoever comes to Me without hating his father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, even his own life, cannot be My disciple. 27 Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.”

28 “For who of you, wanting to build a tower, does not first sit down to figure out the expense, whether he has enough to complete it? 29 Or else, when the foundation has been laid and he cannot finish it, every one who sees it begins to say in ridicule, 30 ‘This man started to build and could not finish it.’ 31 Or what king marches against another king for war, without first sitting down to consider whether with ten thousand men, he will be able to cope with the enemy, who is marching against him with twenty thousand? 32 For if not, he will send a delegation requesting terms for peace, while the other is still at a good distance. “

33 “So, with every one of you, who will not part with all he has; he cannot be My disciple. 34 Salt is good; but when salt is tasteless, with what can it be seasoned? 35 It is fit neither for the soil, nor for the manure pile; they throw it away. Whoever has ears to hear, let him hear.”

LUKE CHAPTER 15

ALL the tax collectors and sinners were crowding close to Him to hear Him, 2 and the Pharisees and scribes complained. “This person welcomes sinners and eats with them.” 3 So He told them this parable; 4 “Who of you with a hundred sheep and losing one of them, would not leave the ninety-nine alone in the wilderness, to go after the lost one until he finds it? 5 And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders 6 and, when he gets home, summons his friends and neighbours, to whom he says, ‘Be glad with me, for I have found my lost sheep.’ 7 I tell you that in such fashion, there will joy in heaven over one repentant sinner, more than over ninety-nine righteous persons, who stand in no need of repentance.”

8 “Or what woman with ten silver coins does not, at losing one of them, light a lamp and sweep the house and search carefully till she finds it? 9 And when she has found it, she summons her friends and neighbours saying, “Be glad with me, for I have found the lost coin.’ 10 I tell you that in like fashion, there is joy before God’s angels, over one repentant sinner.”

11 He further said, “A certain man had two sons, 12 the younger of whom said to his father. ‘Father, give me the share of the property that is coming to me.’ So, he appointed to them his property. 13 After a few days the younger son, collected all he had and travelled to a distant country, and there he squandered what he had in reckless living. 14 When he had run through everything, a terrible famine visited the whole land and he began to lack; 15 so he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him into his fields to tend hogs. 16 He longed to have his stomach filled with bean pods which the hogs were eating, but no one gave him any. 17 But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my

father's hired hands have more than they can eat, and here I am starving. 18 I will rise and go to my father and say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, 19 and I no longer deserve to be called your son; take me on as one of your hired hands."'

20 "So, he got up and went to his father; but when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and felt deeply moved and, running, fell on his neck and kissed him. 21 The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I no longer deserve to be called your son.' 22 But the father told his slaves, 'Hurry! Fetch the choicest robe and put it on him; put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet; 23 bring the fatted calf too, and butcher it. Let us feast and be merry; 24 for this my son, was dead and he has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.' So, they began to be merry."

25 "Now his older son was in the field and, as he came to the house, he heard music and dancing. 26 Then calling one of the servants, he asked what it was all about. 27 He told him, 'Your brother has come out and, because he has received him back safe and well, your father has butchered the fatted calf.' 28 And he was stirred with anger, and would not go in. His father came out and pleaded with him, 29 but he replied to his father, "See here! I have worked for you all these years, without ever neglecting an order of yours, but never have you given me so much as a kid, so that I might make merry with my friends. 30 But when this son of yours has come, after squandering your livelihood with prostitutes, you have killed for him the fatted calf.' 31 But he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me and all I have is yours. 32 We just had to make merry and be happy, for this your brother was dead and he has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

LUKE CHAPTER 16

HE also told the disciples: "There was a rich man who had a manager, and this manager was reported to him as wasting his belongings. 2 So he called him and asked him, 'What is this I hear about you? Hand in an account of your management; for you can no longer be manager.'"

3 "The manager said to himself, 'What shall I do, now that my employer is about to deprive me of my managership? I have not strength to dig; I an ashamed to beg. 4 I know what I shall do so that, when I am discharged from my management, they may welcome me in their homes.' 5 So, calling in each one of his master's debtors, he said to the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' 6 He replied, 'A hundred barrels of oil.' The manager then said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly and write, fifty.' 7 He then asked another, 'How much do you owe?' And he replied, 'A hundred sacks of wheat.' To him he said, 'Take your bill and write eighty.'"

8 "The master commended his dishonest manager for acting shrewdly; for the sons of this world are more astute, than the sons of light in their own generation. 9 And I tell you to use unrighteous wealth, so that you win friends who, when it fails, may welcome you into eternal dwellings."

10 “He who is faithful in the least, is faithful also in much, while he who is unreliable in the least is unreliable in much also. 11 Therefore, if you have not been faithful in matters of unrighteous riches, who will entrust to you the true riches? 12 And if you are not reliable with what belongs to another, who will give you anything for your personal possession?”

13 “No domestic servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will support the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.”

14 The Pharisees were listening to all this and were sneering at Him, for they were lovers of money. 15 So He told them, “You claim righteousness before human eyes, but God knows your hearts. What seems outstanding to men is abhorrent in the sight of God. 16 Until John, there were the Law and the Prophets; since then, the kingdom of God has been preached and every one forces his way into it. 17 But it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for the smallest part of a letter of the Law to become invalid.”

18 “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another, commits adultery; and he who marries the divorcee commits adultery.”

19 “There was a rich man dressed in purple and fine linen, who enjoyed luxurious living every day. 20 In front of his gate, a beggar named Lazarus was placed, covered with sores, 21 and hungering to be fed crumbs that fell from the rich man’s table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores.”

22 “The beggar died and was carried by the angels to Abraham’s bosom. The rich man also died and was buried, 23 and while suffering tortures in hades, he looked up and from a distance saw Abraham with Lazarus in his bosom. 24 So he called out, ‘Father Abraham, take pity on me and send Lazarus to dip his finger tip in water and cool my tongue, for I am tormented in this fire.’ 25 But Abraham said, ‘Son, remember that you enjoyed the good things in your lifetime, while Lazarus had the bad things; now he is being comforted here but you are suffering anguish. 26 Besides, there is a great chasm fixed between you and us, so that those who want to cross from here to you are unable; neither can they cross from you side to us.’”

27 “He said, ‘Then I plead with you, father, to send him to my father’s house. 28 for I have five brothers; let him warn them so that they may not come to this place of torment.’ 29 But Abraham said, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; they may listen to them.’ 30 He replied, ‘No, father Abraham; but should one risen from the dead go to them, they will repent.’ 31 Abraham said to him, ‘If they will not listen to Moses and the prophets, they will not be convinced, even if someone rises from the dead.’”

LUKE CHAPTER 17

TO His disciples, He said, “Obstacles must inevitably come, but alas for the person who causes them! 2 It would be to his advantage to have a millstone hung around his neck and to be thrown into the sea, rather than to be an obstacle to one of these little ones.”

3 “Be on your guard. If your brother sins, call him to task, and if he repents, forgive him. 4 Even if he sins against you seven times a day and comes back to you seven times with the words, ‘I am sorry,’ forgive him.”

5 The apostles said to the Lord. “Give us more faith.” 6 The Lord said, “If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you would say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you.”

7 “Who of you with a slave plowing or herding sheep will say to him as he comes in from the field. ‘Come at once and sit at the table?’ Will he not rather say to him, 8 ‘Get something ready for my supper; put on your belt and wait on me while I eat and drink, and afterward you may eat and drink?’ 9 Is he thankful to the slave for doing what he was assigned? 10 It should be the same with you; when you have done everything that was assigned you, you should say, ‘We are undeserving slaves; we have simply done our duty.’”

11 On His way to Jerusalem, He crossed between Samaria and Galilee, 12 and as He entered a certain village, ten lepers met Him. Standing at a distance, 13 they raised their voices, crying, “Jesus, Master, take pity on us!” 14 When He saw them, He told them, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were cleansed.

15 But one of them, when he observed that he was healed, came back, loudly praising God. 16 He fell on his face at His feet, thanking Him. And he was a Samaritan. 17 Jesus said, “Were there not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? 18 Was no one found to return and give thanks to God, except this foreigner?” 19 And to him He said, “Stand up and go. Your faith has saved you.”

20 Asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them, “The kingdom of God does not come by looking for it, 21 neither will they say, ‘Look! Here it is,’ or ‘There it is!’ for the kingdom of God is in your midst.”

22 To His disciple He said, “The time is coming when you will long to see one of the days of the Son of Man, but in vain. 23 They will say to you, ‘Look, here He is!’ or ‘Look, there He is!’ Do not go out or follow them; 24 for as the lightening flashes from one end of the sky to the other, so will the Son if Man be in His day. 25 But first, He must undergo much suffering and be rejected by this generation.”

26 “In the days of the Son of Man, it will be just as it was in the days of Noah – 27 they ate, they drank, they married, and they were being married until the day when Noah entered the ark; and then came the deluge and destroyed them all. 28 It was similar, too, in Lot’s days –

they ate and drank, they bought and sold, they planted and built; 29 but on the day when Lot went out of Sodom, it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all."

30 "It will be the same on the day when the Son of Man will be revealed. 31 A person on the roof that day, with his belongings inside the house, must not go down to fetch them, and similarly a person in the field must not turn back. 32 Remember Lot's wife."

33 "Whoever seeks to preserve his life for himself will lose it, and whoever loses it will preserve it alive. 34 I tell you, in that night, two persons will be on one bed, the one will be taken and the other left; 35 two women will be grinding together, the one will be taken and the other left. 36 *Two will be in the field; the one will be taken and the other left.*"

37 In response they asked Him, "Where, Lord?" And He told them, "Where there is a corpse, there the vultures will flock."

LUKE CHAPTER 18

HE told them a parable to show that they must always pray and not lose courage: 2 "There was a judge in a certain city, with no reverence for God and no regard for man; 3 and in that city, there was a widow, who kept coming to him with the appeal, 'See to it that I get justice against my opponent.' 4 For a while he would not; but later on he said to himself, 'Even though I have neither reverence for God, nor regard for man, 5 still, because this widow bothers me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she may not finally wear me down by her continual comings.'"

6 And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unfair judge says; 7 and will not God procure justice for His chosen, who cry to Him day and night? Will He delay long over them? 8 I tell you; He will procure justice for them in short order. However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?"

9 To those trusting in their own righteousness and looking down on the rest, He told this parable; 10 "Two men went up to the temple to pray, the one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee stood up and said this prayer to himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like the rest of men – robbers, cheats, adulterers; or even like this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week; I pay tithes on everything I get.' 13 But the tax collector, standing at a distance would not even raise his eyes toward heaven, but struck his chest and said, 'God be merciful to me, the sinner.' 14 I tell you, it was he who went home forgiven, rather than to other; for whoever exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."

15 They brought Him infants to touch; but when the disciples noticed it, they reproved them. 16 So Jesus called them to Him and said, "Allow the little ones to come to Me, and do not forbid them; for the kingdom of God belongs to their kind. 17 I assure you, unless one receives the kingdom of God like a child, he shall not enter it at all."

18 One of the rulers inquired of Him. “Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?”
19 Jesus said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one is good except One – God. 20 You know the commandments. ‘Do not commit adultery; Do not commit murders; Do not steal; Do not witness falsely; Honour your father and mother.’” 21 He replied, “All these I have observed from childhood up.” 22 Hearing this, Jesus told him, “You still lack one thing. Sell everything you have and donate it to the poor and you will have riches in heaven, and come follow Me.” 23 Hearing this, he became very sad, for he was extremely rich.

24 When Jesus saw that he became sad, He said, “With what difficulty do those who have wealth enter the kingdom of God! 25 For it is easier for a camel to pass through a needle’s eye than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God.”

26 His listeners said, “Then who can be saved?” 27 But He said, “Those things that are impossible on man’s part are possible with God.” 28 Peter said, “Lo, we have left our homes and have followed You.” 29 He told them, “I assure you, is no one who has given up home or wife or brothers or parents or children on behalf of the kingdom of God, 30 who will not receive many times more in this age, and in the coming age eternal life.”

31 Taking the Twelve aside, He told them, “Look, we are going up to Jerusalem and all the writings of the prophets about the Son of Man, will be fulfilled; 32 for He will be handed over to the Gentiles and ridiculed and insulted and spit on, 33 and they will flog and execute Him, and on the third day, He will rise again.” 34 But they did not understand a word of it; the saying was hidden from them; they did not know what He was telling them.”

35 As He was nearing Jericho, a blind man was seated by the road, begging. 36 Hearing the crowd passing by, he inquired what it was all about, 37 so they informed him. “Jesus of Nazareth is coming by.” 38 Then he shouted, “Jesus, Son of David, take pity on me!”
39 Those up front warned him to keep quiet; but he shouted the louder, “Son of David, take pity on me!” 40 So Jesus stopped and gave orders to bring him to Him. As he approached, 41 Jesus asked him, “What do you want Me to do for you?” He said, “Lord, let me get back my sight!” 42 Jesus said to him, “Receive your sight. Your faith has saved you.” 43 Instantly, he regained his sight and followed Him, praising God. All the people saw it and gave God praise.

LUKE CHAPTER 19

HE entered Jericho and as He was passing through it, 2 there was a man named Zacchaeus, a chief tax collector and wealthy, 3 who tried to see who Jesus was. But he could not on account of the crowd, because he was short. 4 So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see Him; for He was about to pass that way.

5 When Jesus reached the spot, He looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, come down quickly, for I must stay at your home today.” 6 He hurried down and heartily welcomed Him. 7 And all who looked on, complained. “He has gone to be the guest of a sinner.” 8 But

Zacchaeus paused and said to the Lord, “See Lord, I will give half of my belongings to the poor, and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay it back fourfold.” 9 Jesus said, pointing to him. “Today salvation has come to this house, since this man, too, is a son of Abraham; 10 for the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

11 While they were listening to those things, He went on to tell a parable, because they were near Jerusalem and supposed that the kingdom of God was to appear at once. 12 He said; “A certain nobleman went to a distant land, to acquire a kingdom for himself and to return. 13 Summoning ten of his slaves, he gave them ten pounds and told them, ‘Trade with this till I come back.’ 14 But his townsmen hated him and sent a delegation, after him to say, ‘We do not want him to be king over us.’”

15 “On his return, having acquired the kingdom, he ordered those slaves to whom he had given the money to be summoned, so that he might ascertain what business they had transacted. 16 Now the first one presented himself and said, ‘Master, your pound has made ten pounds.’ 17 He said to him. “Well done, good slave; because you were trustworthy in a very little, you will have authority over ten cities.”

18 “The second also came and said, ‘Master, your pound has made five pounds.’ 19 He told this one, ‘Have charge of five cities.’”

20 “The other one came and said, ‘Here is your pound, Sir, which I have kept in a napkin; 21 for I was afraid because you are a harsh man. You take up what you did not lay down and you reap what you did not sow.’ 22 He told him, ‘You good-for-nothing slave, I will convict you from your own mouth. You knew that I was a harsh man, taking up what I did not lay down and reaping what I did not sow? 23 Then why did you not put my money in the bank, so that when I came, I might have gotten it with interest?’ 24 Then he said to the bystanders, ‘Take the pound from him and give it the one with ten pounds.’ They said to him, 25 ‘Master, he has ten pounds.’ 26 I tell you, to the one who has shall be given, but from one who has not, shall be taken what he has.

27 ‘Now for these enemies of mine, who did not want me for their king, fetch them here and execute them in my presence.’”

28 After this message, He went on ahead of them, going up to Jerusalem. 29 And as they neared Bethpage and Bethany, at what is called the Mount of Olives, He dispatched two of his disciples 30 saying to them, “Go to the village opposite you and, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied up, on which no one has ever ridden; untie it and bring it here. 31 And if someone asks you, ‘Why do you untie it?’ you say, ‘The Lord needs it.’”

32 The messengers went off and found it exactly as He had told them. 33 As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, “Why are you untying the colt?” 34 And they said, “The Lord needs it.” 35 Then they brought it to Jesus and, throwing the coats on the colt, they place Jesus on it.

36 As He rode along, they spread their garments on the road. 37 And when He approached the place of the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole throng of disciples began to be joyful, and sang praise to God with loud acclaim for all the miracles they had seen. 38 saying, “Blessed be the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”

39 Some of the Pharisees in the crowd spoke to Him, “Teacher, rebuke Your disciples.”
40 And He answered them, “I tell you, if these keep silence, the stones will cry out.”

41 When He came close to the city and viewed it, He wept over it 42 and said, “If you only knew even today, how you might enjoy peace! But that is now hidden from your eyes. 43 For the time is coming to you, when your enemies will throw up ramparts around you and will encircle you and besiege you from every direction, 44 and will level you and your children within you to the ground, and will not leave you one stone on another, because you did not understand when you were divinely visited.”

45 Entering the temple, He began to expel the traders, to whom 46 He said, “It is written, ‘My house shall be a house of prayer,’ but you have made it a den of robbers.”

47 And every day, He was teaching in the temple, while the chief priests the scribes and the leaders of the people were seeking a way to destroy Him; 48 but they discovered no way to do it, for all the people hung on His words.

LUKE CHAPTER 20

ONE day as He was instructing the people in the temple and preaching the gospel, the chief priests and the scribes came up with the elders 2 and said to Him, “Tell us by what authority, You are doing these things, or who gave You this authority?” 3 He replied to them, “I shall ask you a question too, and you tell Me: 4 Was John’s baptism derived from heaven or from men?”

5 They argued among themselves, “If we say, ‘From Heaven,’ He will say, ‘Why then did you not believe in him?’ 6 But if we say, ‘From men’ – all the people will stone us, for they are convinced that John was a prophet.”

7 So they answered that they did not know from where it came. 8 Jesus said to them, “Neither do I tell you by what authority I do these things.”

9 He began to tell the people this parable: “A man planted a vineyard and leased it to tenant farmers; then went away for a considerable period. 10 At the harvest season, he sent the workers a slave, whom they should give a share of the vineyard crop; but the tenants beat him and sent him off empty handed. 11 He then dispatched another slave, whom they beat and abused and sent off empty-handed. 12 Again he sent yet a third, whom also they wounded and expelled. 13 Then the owner of the vineyard said, ‘What shall I do? I shall send my beloved son; surely, they will respect him.’”

14 “But when the tenant farmers saw him, they discussed it among themselves, ‘This is the heir; let us kill him, so that the inheritance may become ours.’ 15 Accordingly, they threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. What then will the owner of the vineyard do to them? 16 He will come and destroy those tenants and will give the vineyard to others.

When they heard it, they said, “May it never be!”

17 But he looked at them and said, “What does this scripture mean, ‘The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief stone of the corner?’ 18 Whoever falls on that stone will be crushed and he on whom it falls, will be pulverised.”

19 The scribes and chief priests tried to get their hands on Him right then, but they were afraid of the people; for they realised He had told this parable with them in mind. 20 So they watched Him and sent spies who pretended to be honest in the hope of catching Him, in some saying, that they might hand Him over to the governor’s control and jurisdiction.

21 They asked Him, “Teacher, we know that You are right in what You say and teach; You are partial to no one but teach the way of God, sincerely. 22 It is lawful for us to pay tribute to Caeser or not?” 23 Well aware of their trickery, He said to them, 24 “Show me a coin. Whose likeness and inscription does it bear?” They said, “Caesar’s.” 25 He said to them, “Then pay to Caesar, what belongs to Caesar and to God, what belongs to God.” 26 So they could not lay hold on what He said before the people and, marvelling at His answer, kept quiet.

27 The some of the Sadducees, who deny the resurrection, came up and asked Him,
28 “Teacher, Moses wrote for us, ‘When a man’s married brother dies childless, the brother shall take the woman and raise children for his brother.’ 29 Now there were seven brothers, the first of whom took a wife and died childless. 30 The second also took her, 31 and the third, and so did all seven of them, and they died childless. 32 At last the woman died too.
33 Whose wife then will she be in the resurrection? For all seven were married to her.”

34 Jesus said to them, “The sons of this world marry and are given in marriage, 35 but those who are considered worthy of attaining yonder world and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry nor are given in marriage; 36 for they cannot die again but are like the angels and as sons of the resurrection, they are God’s sons. 37 But that the dead are raised, Moses too, made known in the passage about the burning bush, where he calls the Lord, ‘The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.’ 38 He is not the God of the dead but the living; for to Him they are alive.”

39 Some of the scribes remarked, “Teacher, You have spoken well.” 40 For they did not dare to ask Him any more questions. 41 But he said to them, “How can people say that Christ is David’s son, 42 when David himself says in the Book of Psalms, ‘The Lord said to my Lord, Be seated at My right 43 until I make Thine enemies a footstool for Thy feet.’ 44 So David calls Him Lord; then how is He, his son?”

45 And in the hearing of all the people, He said to the disciples, 46 ‘Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes and love salutations in public places and front seats in the synagogues and choice places at banquets, 47 who make away with widow’s houses and pray long for appearance’ sake. They will receive a severer sentence.”

LUKE CHAPTER 21

LOOKING UP, He saw the wealthy dropping their donations into the treasury. 2 He saw a poor widow put in two copper coins and remarked, 3 “I tell you truly, that this poor widow has put in more than all the rest; 4 for they all gave from their plenty, but she from her poverty has thrown in her entire livelihood.”

5 And as some were talking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and votive gifts, He said, 6 “As for these things that you see, the time is coming when not one stone will be left on another without being torn down.” 7 They asked Him, “Teacher, when will this happen, and what sign is there to indicate when it is about to happen?” 8 And He said, “Be careful not to be misled; for many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am He,’ and ‘The time is near.’ Do not go out after them. 9 And when you hear of wars and disturbances, do not be alarmed; for these things must first occur, but the end will not come at once.”

10 Then He told them: “Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom;
11 there will be severe earthquakes and plagues and famines in various places; horrors, too and great signs from heaven. 12 Previous to all that, they will arrest and persecute you, delivering you to synagogues and prisons and having you brought before kings and governors on account of My name. 13 These occasions will give you opportunities for testifying. 14 So make up your mind not to prepare your defense; 15 for I will grant you eloquence and wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to resist or refute.”

16 “You will also be betrayed by parents and brothers, by relations and friends, and some of you will be executed. 17 You will be hated by every one for confessing Me, 18 but not a hair of your head shall be lost. 19 In your steadfastness, you will gain possession of your souls.

20 But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then be assured that her ruin is pending. 21 The those in Judea should flee to the mountains, and those inside the city should escape, while those in the country should not enter her; 22 for those are the days of vengeance in fulfillment of all that has been written.”

23 “Alas for those who are pregnant and for those who are nursing children in those days, for terrible misery will be on earth and anger will visit this people. 24 They will fall on the edge of the sword and will be carried off as prisoners to all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled down by the Gentiles until the period of the Gentiles is completed.”

25 “There will also be signs in sun, moon and stars, with distress on earth among the nations, bewilderment at the roaring of sea and waves, 26 men swooning from dread and apprehension about events that are about to take place in the world; for the powers of the

heavens will be shaken. 27 Then will they see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with great power and glory. 28 But when these things begin to occur, straighten up and lift your head, because your deliverance is near."

29 He told them a parable: "Observe the fig tree and all the trees. 30 When they are fully budding, you know by looking at them that summer is in the offing. 31 Similarly, when you notice these things taking place, be assured that the kingdom of God is near. 32 I assure you that all this will happen before this generation passes away. 33 Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away."

34 "Be on your guard, so that your hearts are not overloaded with dissipation, drunkenness and worldly cares, and that day takes you by surprise like a trap; 35 for it will come upon all the inhabitants of the globe. 36 But you be vigilant and pray unceasingly, so that you may have strength to escape all those impending events and to stand in the presence of the Son of Man."

37 During the day, He taught in the temple, but at night He went out and stayed in the open at what is called the Mount of Olives. 38 Early in the morning, all the people resorted to Him in the temple to listen to Him.

LUKE CHAPTER 22

THE feast of Unleavened Bread, called the Passover, was drawing near, 2 and the chief priests and the scribes were seeking a way to kill Him; for they were afraid of the people.
3 Then Satan entered Judas, called Iscariot, who was counted among the Twelve, 4 and he went off to confer with the chief priests and officers how he might deliver Him to them.
5 They were delighted, and agreed to give him money. 6 He consented and looked for a chance to betray Him to them away from the crowd.

7 Then came the Day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover must be sacrificed; 8 so He sent Peter and John with instructions, "Go and get the Passover ready for us to eat." 9 They asked Him, "Where do You want us to prepare it?" 10 He replied, "As you enter the city, a man will meet you, carrying a pitcher of water. Follow him into the house he enters, 11 and say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher sends you word, "Where is the guest hall in which I may eat the Passover with My disciples?"' 12 He will show you a large upper room all furnished; there make ready." 13 So they went and found everything just as He had told them, and they prepared the Passover Supper.

14 When the hour came, He and His disciples sat together at the table 15 and He said to them, "I have longingly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; 16 for I tell you, I shall never eat it again until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God."

17 Taking the cup in His hands, He gave thanks and said, "Take this and divide it among yourselves; 18 for I tell you, I shall from now on never again drink the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."

19 And taking the bread, He gave thanks, broke and gave it to them saying, “This is My body *given up for your sakes; do this in My memory.” 20 Similarly, He gave the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new Covenant in My blood, poured out on your behalf.* 21 However, the hand of My betrayer is with Me at the table; 22 for the Son of Man goes indeed, as was determined, but alas for that man by whom He is betrayed.” 23 And they started to inquire among themselves, who of them might possibly be going to do this.

24 There also was a controversy among them, who of them should be considered most important. 25 But He told them, “The kings of the nations lord it over them and their authorities are called benefactors. 26 But you are not to be that way. Instead, the most prominent among you must be as the youngest, and the leader as one who serves. 27 For who is more important, the one who sits at the table? But I am among you as one who serves. “

28 “You have been standing by Me through My trials 29 and, just as My Father has assigned to Me a kingdom, so I assign to you 30 that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and you will be seated on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

31 Simon, Simon, Satan has asked permission to sift all of you like wheat, 32 but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail; and when you return to Me, strengthen your brothers.” 33 Peter told Him, Lord, I am ready to go to prison and to death for You.” 34 But He said, “I tell you Peter, the rooster will not crow today before you have denied three times that you know Me.” 35 And He said to them, “When I sent you out without a purse or bag or sandals, did you lack anything?” They answered, “Nothing.” 36 Then he told them, “But now he who has a purse, take it, and a bag too, and he who has no sword, sell your coat and buy one. 37 For I tell you that what is written has to be accomplished in Me. ‘He was classed among the criminals’; for what is written about Me, is reaching a conclusion.” 38 They said, “Lord, look, here are two swords.” He said to them, “It is enough.”

39 He went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed Him. 40 When he reached the place, He told them, “Pray that you may not enter into temptation:” 41 then he withdrew from them about a stone’s throw, knelt down and prayed, 42 ‘Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from Me; nevertheless, not My will but Yours be done.” 43 *And an angel from heaven appeared to Him to strengthen Him, 44 and in agony He prayed yet more intensely, and His sweat fell to the ground like great drops of blood.* 45 Arising from prayer and going to the disciples, He found them asleep from sorrow, 46 and said to them, “Why are you sleeping? Rise up and pray that you may not enter temptation.”

47 While He was still speaking, there was a mob headed by one of the Twelve named Judas, who approached Jesus to kiss Him. 48 Jesus said to him, “Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?” 49 When those with Him saw what was coming, they said, “Lord, shall we strike with the sword?” 50 And one of them struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his right ear.

51 But Jesus said, “Enough of this!” And touching the ear, He healed Him.

52 Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the temple officers and the elders who came to arrest Him, “Have you come out with swords and clubs as against a robber? 53 When I was daily in the temple with you, you never put out a hand against Me. But this is your hour and the power of darkness.”

54 They arrested Him, led Him away and took Him inside the house of the high priest, while Peter followed from a distance. 55 When they kindled a fire in the centre of the courtyard and sat around it, Peter sat in their circle. 56 Then a maid noticed him seated by the fire, took a good look at him and said, “This fellow was with Him too.” 57 But he denied saying, “Woman, I do not know Him!”

58 A little later, another looked at him and said, “Yes, you are one of them.” But Peter said, “Man, I am not!” 59 About an hour had gone by when another insisted, “Unquestionably, this fellow was with Him, for he is a Galilean also.” 60 But Peter said, “Man, I cannot make out what you are talking about!” And instantly, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. 61 Then the Lord, turning round, looked at Peter and Peter remembered the Lord’s warning, how He had said to him, “Before the rooster crows, tonight you will disown Me three times.”

62 And going clear outside, he wept bitterly.

63 The men who were holding Jesus in custody, ridiculed Him while flogging Him; 64 they blind folded Him, inquiring “Prophesy! Who struck You?” 65 And they made many more insulting remarks to Him.

66 With break of day, the elders of the people, both chief priests and scribes, got together and had Him brought into their Sanhedrin. 67 They said, “If You are the Christ, tell us.” But He said to them, “You will not believe if I tell you; 68 neither will you answer if I question you. 69 But from now on, the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of God Almighty.” 70 They all said, “Are You then the Son of God?” He said to them, “You say that I am.” 71 They said, “What need do we still have of testimony? We have personally heard it from his own lips.”

LUKE CHAPTER 23

THEN they rose up in a body and conducted Him to Pilate. 2 And they started to accuse Him. “We found this fellow perverting our nation and forbidding them to pay taxes to Caesar, claiming that He Himself is Messiah, a king.”

3 And Pilate asked Him, “Are You the King of the Jews?” He answered him, “You say so,” 4 Then Pilate told the chief priests and the crowd, “I find nothing criminal in this man.” 5 But they strongly insisted, “He stirs up the people by teaching all over Judea, beginning from Galilee and coming to this place.”

6 Hearing that, Pilate asked if the man were a Galilean and, 7 having learned that He came under Herod's jurisdiction, he sent Him back to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem during those days. 8 Herod was very pleased to see Jesus, for he had wanted for a long time to see Him, for he had been hearing about Him, and he hoped to see Him perform some miracle; 9 but though he questioned Him at length, Jesus never answered him. 10 Meanwhile, the chief priests and scribes, stood there accusing Him with all their might. 11 The Herod with his soldiers, made light of Him and mockingly put resplendent attire on Him, then sent Him back to Pilate. 12 On that day, Herod and Pilate, became friends, for they had previously been enemies.

13 Pilate them summoned the chief priests and the rulers and the people, 14 to whom he spoke: "You brought me this man as inciting the people to rebellion. I have examined Him in your presence and have found the man not guilty of any of your accusations against Him; 15 neither, in fact, has Herod, for he sent Him back to us. Observe that He has done nothing deserving death; 16 so, after a scourging, I will let Him go." 17 *For he had to release them one convict at the feast.* 18 But they all shouted as one voice, "Away with Him! Release Barabbas for us!" 19 He had been thrown in prison on account of a riot that had occurred in the city, and for murder. 20 Again, Pilate, because he wanted to release Jesus, called out to them; 21 but they roared, "Crucify, crucify Him!" 22 For the third time he said to them, "What wrong then has he done? I find nothing in Him that deserves death; so, after a scourging, I will let Him go."

23 But with loud voices they urged their demand that He be crucified, and their shoutings won the day. 24 Pilate pronounced sentence, that what they asked should be done. 25 He released the one they wanted, who had been thrown in prison for riot and murder, and handed Jesus over to their wishes. 26 And as they led Him away, they took hold of Simon, a Cyrenian, who was coming from the country, and laid the cross on him to carry it behind Jesus.

27 A vast host of people followed Him and women too, who beat their breasts and bewailed Him. 28 Turning to them Jesus said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for Me; instead, weep for yourselves and for your children; 29 for be sure the time is coming when they say, 'Happy are the childless, the wombs that never gave birth and the breasts that never nursed babies.' 30 Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us!' and to the hills, 'Hide us!' 31 For if they do this to the green wood, what will happen to the dry?"

32 Two others, criminals, were also led away with Him to be crucified. 33 And when they reached the place called The Skull, there they crucified Him and the criminals, one at His right and the other at His left. 34 And Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing.' And they divided His clothes among themselves by casting lots.

35 And the people stood staring, while the leaders sneered, "Others He saved; let Him save Himself if He is the Christ if God, His Chosen!" 36 The soldiers, too, ridiculed Him, coming up

and handing Him vinegar, 37 saying, “If You are the King of the Jews, save Youself!”38 For there was an inscription above Him, THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

39 One of the criminals that were hanged reviled Him, “Are You not the Christ? Save Yourself and us!” 40 But the other reproved him and told him, “Do not fear God, when you are suffering the same punishment? 41 We, however are suffering justly; we are getting what we deserve for our misdeeds, but He has done nothing amiss.” 42 Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.” 43 Jesus said to him, “I assure you, today you will be with Me in paradise.”

44 It was then about twelve o’clock, and darkness came over the whole land, which lasted until three in the afternoon, 45 due to the sun’s eclipse. And the veil of the temple was torn in two. 46 With a loud voice Jesus cried, “Father, into You hands I entrust My spirit!” And with these words He died.

47 When the centurion saw what had happened, he praised God, saying, “Truly this man was innocent.” 48 And when all the crowds that had gathered for this spectacle saw what had occurred, they went back, beating their breasts. 49 All His acquaintances too, and the woman who had come along with Him from Galilee, observed it all, standing at a distance.

50 Now there was a man named Joseph, a member of the council, a good and upright man, 51 who had not voted for the council’s plan and action; a native of Arimathea, one of the Judean towns, he lived in expectation of the kingdom of God. 52 He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; 53 which he took down and wrapped in linen, then laid in a rock-hewn tomb where nobody had yet been laid.

54 It was preparation day with the Sabbath drawing near. 55 And the women, who had accompanied Him from Galilee followed and saw the tomb and how His body was laid.
56 Then they went back to prepare spices and perfumes, and rested on the Sabbath in obedience to the commandment.

LUKE CHAPTER 24

ON the first day of the week at early dawn, they went to the tomb taking the spices they had prepared. 2 They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, 3 and going inside, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. 4 They were greatly perplexed about this when, lo, two men stood by them in dazzling clothing. 5 Frightened, the women bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? 6 He is not here, but He has risen! Remember how He told you while He was still in Galilee, 7 that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and rise again on the third day,”

8 Then they recalled His sayings 9 and returning from the tomb, they told everything to the Eleven and to all the rest. 10 They were Mary Magdalene and Joanna, and Mary, the mother of James; they and the rest of the woman told these things to the apostles. 11 But these

reports seemed nonsense to them; they did not believe the women. 12 *Peter got up though, and ran to the tomb and stooping down, saw the linen clothes lying by themselves; then he went away wondering at what had happened.*

13 That same day, two of them were walking to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, 14 and they were talking to each other about all these occurrences.
15 During their conversation and discussion, Jesus Himself caught up with them and walked along with them, 16 but their eyes were kept from recognising Him. 17 He said to them, “What are these things you are discussing as you walk?” Looking downcast, they stopped 18 and one of them, named Cleopas, answered Him, “Are You the lone visitor in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there during the past few days?” 19 He asked, “What things?” They said to Him, “About Jesus of Nazareth, who was a mighty prophet in deed and word before God and all the people, 20 and how the chief priests and our leaders, gave him over to be sentenced to death and had Him crucified. 21 But we had hopes that He was the one who would deliver Israel. Moreover, three days have already passed since all those events occurred.”

22 “Some of our women, though, astonished us. Early this morning they went to the tomb 23 and, not finding the body, came back to tell us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said that He is alive. 24 Some of our group then went to the tomb and found it just as the woman had said; but Him they did not see.”

25 Jesus said to them, “O fools, with hearts so slow to believe everything the prophets have spoken! 26 Did not Christ have to suffer all this and enter into His glory?” 27 Then, beginning at Moses and through all the prophets, He explained to them in all the Scriptures what referred to Himself.

28 They drew near to the village to which they were going, and He behaved as if He were going on, 29 but they urged him, “Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is already declining.” So, He went in to stay with them. 30 And as He sat at the table with them, He took bread, gave thanks, and broke it and handed it to them. 31 Then their eyes were opened and they recognised Him. And He vanished from their sight.

32 They said to one another, “Did not our hearts burn within us, while He was talking to us on the road and opening the Scriptures to us?” 33 Rising up at once, they went back to Jerusalem and found the Eleven and their friends all congregated, 34 saying, “The Lord is risen indeed and appeared to Simon!”

35 Then they related their own experience on the road and how they had recognised Him in the breaking of bread.

36 While they were talking of those things, He Himself stood in their midst and said to them, “Peace to you.” 37 They were startled and terrified, imagining that they saw a ghost; 38 but He asked them, “Why are you disturbed and why are such doubts arising in your hearts?

39 Look at My hands and My feet. It is I Myself. Touch Me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see Me have.” 40 *And when He said this, He showed them His hands and feet.*

41 Since they still were unable to believe for sheer joy, and marvelled, He asked them, “Do you have any food on hand?” 42 And they gave Him a piece of broiled fish, 43 and He took and ate it.

44 Then He said to them, “These are My teachings which I spoke to you, while I was still with you, that everything written in the Law of Moses and in the Prophets and Psalms about Me must take place.” 45 Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. 46 He said to them, “So it is written, that the Christ should suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, 47 and that repentance, leading to forgiveness of sins, should be preached in his name to all nations beginning at Jerusalem.”

48 “You are witnesses of these things, 49 and I will send out upon you what was promised by My Father. But you wait here in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

50 Then He conducted them out as far as Bethany and, raising His hands, He blessed them. 51 While He blessed them, He was parted from them and taken up into heaven.

52 They worshipped Him and went back to Jerusalem with great joy. 53 And they were constantly in the temple praising God.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO

JOHN

CHAPTER 1

IN the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 This is the One who was in the beginning with God. 3 Through Him everything came into being and without Him, nothing that exists came into being. 4 In Him was Life, and the Life was the Light of men. 5 The Light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it.

6 There was a man named John, sent from God. 7 He came to be a witness to testify regarding the Light, so that every one might believe through Him. 8 He was not himself the Light, but he came in order to testify regarding the Light.

9 The true Light that illumines every person was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world and the world came into being through Him, yet the world did know Him. 11 He came to His own home and His own people did not receive Him. 12 But to those who did receive Him, He granted authority to become God’s children, that is, to those who believe in His name, 13 who owe their birth neither to human blood, nor to physical urge, nor to human design, but to God. 14 And the Word became man and lived for a time among us, and we

viewed his glory – such glory as the only-begotten Son receives from His Father-abounding in grace and truth.

15 John testified about Him and cried out, “This was the one of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me, ranks ahead of me because He was before me.’” 16 For from His abundance all of us have received more and more grace; 17 for while the Law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has ever seen God; the only-begotten Son who abides at the Father’s side has made Him known.

19 And this is John’s testimony when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to inquire of him, “Who are you?” 20 He admitted without denial and frankly confessed, “I am not the Christ.” 21 They asked him, “Then who are you? Elijah?” He said, “No I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” He answered, “No.” 22 Then they said to him, “Who are you, so that we may have an answer for those who sent us? What have you to say about yourself?”

23 He said, “I am the voice of one shouting in the desert, ‘Prepare the way of the Lord,’ just as Isaiah the Prophet said.” 24 Now the messengers were from the Pharisees 25 and they asked him, “Then why do you baptise, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” 26 John answered them, “I baptise with water, 27 but there is One who stand among you, whom you do not recognise, the One who will come after me and whose sandal strings I am not fit to untie.”

28 These things occurred at Bethany beyond the Jordan, where John was baptising.

29 The next day he saw Jesus approaching him and said, “There is the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! 30 He is the One of whom I said, ‘After me comes a Man who ranks ahead of me, for He was before me.’ 31 I did not recognise Him; but I have come to baptise with water, so that He may be made known to Israel.”

32 John testified further, “I saw the Spirit come down from heaven like a dove and remain on Him, 33 and although I did not know Him, He who sent me to baptise with water, told me Himself, ‘On whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, He is the One who baptises with the Holy Spirit.’ 34 And I did see it and testify that He is the Son of God.”

35 Again, the following day, John was standing with two of his disciples, 36 when he looked at Jesus as He was walking along, and he said, “There is the Lamb of God.” 37 Hearing him say this, the two disciples followed Jesus. 38 Then Jesus turned and noticing that they were following Him, said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to Him, “Rabbi (which means Teacher) where are you staying?” 39 He told them, Come and see.” They went and saw where He was staying and remained with Him that day – it was then about four in the afternoon.

40 Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, was one of the two who listened to John and who followed Him. 41 He first found his own brother, Simon and told him, “We have found the

Messiah," (which means the Christ), 42 and brought him to Jesus. Looking at him Jesus said, "You are Simon, the son of John; you will be called Cephas," (which means Peter).

43 The next day, Jesus decided to go to Galilee, and found Philip, to whom He said, "Follow Me." 44 Philip came from Bethsaida, the town of Andrew and Peter. 45 Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the One of whom Moses wrote in the Law as did the Prophets also, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." 46 Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip replied, "Come and see."

47 Jesus saw Nathanael approaching Him and said of him, "There truly is an Israelite without deceit in him." 48 Nathanael asked Him, "How do you know me?" Jesus replied, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip ever called you." 49 Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; You are the King of Israel." 50 Jesus further replied to him, "Do you believe because I told you I had seen you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than that." 51 He then said to him, "Truly I assure you all, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."

JOHN CHAPTER 2

ON the third day, there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, at which Jesus' mother was present, 2 and Jesus, with His disciples, was invited to the wedding. 3 When the wine gave out, Jesus' mother said to Him, "They are out of wine." 4 Jesus said to her, "Woman, what right do you have to tell Me? My hour is not yet here." 5 His mother told the servants, "Do whatever He tells you."

6 Now there were six stone water jars standing there for the Jewish rites of purifying; each would hold from twenty to thirty gallons. 7 Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." So, they filled them to the brim. 8 Again He told them, "Now take some out and carry it to the table steward." They carried it 9 and when the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the waiters who had drawn the water knew) 10 he called the bridegroom and told him. "Every one serves the good wine first and the poorer when men have drunk freely; but you have retained the good wine until now."

11 Jesus performed this earliest of His signs in Cana of Galilee, thereby displaying His greatness. And His disciples believed in Him.

12 Following this, He and His mother and brothers and His disciples went down to Capernaum and stayed there for a few days.

13 The Jewish Passover was near, so Jesus went up to Jerusalem. 14 There He found seated in the temple, dealers in cattle, sheep and pigeons; also money-changers; 15 so, making a whip out of cords, He drove them all out of the temple, as well as the sheep and cattle, poured out the money-changers' coins and overturned the tables. 16 And to the pigeon dealers He said, "Take these outside; do not make my father's house a house of business."

17 His disciple recollected that it was written, “Passion for Thy house will consume me.”
18 The Jews then said to Him, “What sign will You show us for Your doing these things?”
19 Jesus replied, “Destroy this temple and in three days I will rebuild it.” 20 Then the Jews remarked, “This temple has been in process of building for forty-six years, and You will rebuild it in three days?” 21 But He was speaking about His bodily temple; 22 so, when He had risen from the dead, His disciples recollected that He said this; they believed the Scripture and the message which Jesus spoke.

23 While He was at Jerusalem, during the Passover Feast, many who observed the signs which He did, believed in His name. 24 But Jesus would not entrust Himself to them, because He understood them all 25 and did not need any one’s evidence about people, for He knew what was in the human heart.

JOHN CHAPTER 3

AMONG the Pharisees there was a man named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews, 2 who visited Jesus by night and said to Him, “Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can work the signs You work, unless God is with him.” 3 Jesus answered him, “Truly I assure, unless a person is born from above he cannot see the kingdom of God.”
4 Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter his mother’s womb a second time and be born?” 5 Jesus replied, “Truly I assure you, unless one’s birth is through water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 What is born of the flesh is flesh and what is born of the Spirit is spirit.

7 “Do not be surprised because I told you. ‘All you need, to be born from above.’ 8 The wind blows where it pleases and, though you hear the sound of it, you neither know whence it comes nor where it goes. It is the same with every one who is born of the Spirit.” In response, 9 Nicodemus asked Him, “How is that possible?” 10 Jesus replied, “You are a teacher of Israel and ignorant of this? 11 I truly assure you, that we speak of what we know and we testify to what we have seen; but you do not accept our evidence. 12 If I told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things?”

13 “No one has gone up to heaven except He who came down from heaven, the Son of Man *whose home is heaven.* 14 And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, 15 so that whoever believes in Him, may not perish but have life eternal.”

16 “For God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son, so that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through Him.”

18 “He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is already condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the only-begotten Son of God.
19 And this is the verdict, that the light has come into the world, and people have loved

darkness more than light because their deeds were wicked. 20 For every one who practices evil, hates the light and keeps away from the light, in order that his activities might not be exposed. 21 But one who practices the truth wants light on it, so that it will be perfectly clear that he is working in union with God."

22 After this, Jesus and His disciples came into the Judean district, where He remained with them and baptised. 23 John also was baptising at Aenon near Salim, for there was plenty of water there and a continual stream of people came and were baptised. 24 For as yet, John had not been put into prison.

25 A dispute then arose between some of John's disciples and a Jew about purification;
26 so they came to John and told him, "Rabbi, the one who was with you on the other side of the Jordan, to whom you gave testimony – He is baptising and every one is flocking to Him. 27 John replied, "No man is able to lay claim to anything unless it has been given him from heaven. 28 You bear me out that I said, 'I am not the Christ,' but that I am sent ahead of Him.' 29 The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. But the bridegroom's friend, who stands near and listens to him, is very happy over the bridegroom's voice; so, this joy of mine is complete. 30 He must increase and I must diminish."

31 "He who comes from above is above every one, while one who originates from the earth belongs to the earth and speaks from an earthly standpoint. He who comes from heaven is higher than they all. 32 He testifies to what He has seen and heard, yet nobody accepts His testimony. 33 Whoever does accept His testimony, attests that God is true; 34 for He whom God has sent, speaks the words of God, for God grants the Spirit in unlimited measure.
35 The Father loves the Son and has committed everything into His hands. 36 He who believes in the Son has eternal life, but he disobeys the Son will not see life but God's wrath remains upon Him."

JOHN CHAPTER 4

WHEN the Lord knew that the Pharisees had heard, "Jesus is making and baptising more disciples than John," (2 although Jesus Himself did not baptise but His disciples did). 3 He left Judea and went away again into Galilee. 4 He found it necessary to pass through Samaria
5 and arrived at a Samaritan town called Sychar, near the tract of land that Jacob had presented to his son Joseph. 6 And Jacob's well was there. So, Jesus wearied by His travel, sat down just as He was by the well. It was about noon.

7 A Samaritan woman came to draw water to whom Jesus said, "Let Me have a drink." 8 For His disciples had gone off into the town to buy food. 9 The Samaritan woman said to Him, "How is this that You, a Jew, should ask me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink? For Jews do not associate with Samaritans."

10 Jesus answered he. "If you knew God's gift and who really asked you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have questioned Him and He would have given you living water." 11 The woman

said to Him, “Sir, You have no rope and bucket; and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? 12 You surely are not superior to our father Jacob, who gave us the well; and he and his sons and his cattle drank from it?” 13 Jesus answered her, “Whoever drinks from this water will be thirsty again; 14 but whoever drinks the water I shall give him, will never be thirsty again, but the water I shall give him will become a well of water within him that bubbles up for eternal life.”

15 The woman said to Him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I will not get thirsty nor have to come all the way here to draw water.” 16 He said to her, “Go, call your husband and come back here.” 17 The woman replied, “I do not have a husband.” Jesus said to her, “You say correctly, ‘I have no husband,’ 18 for you have had five husbands and the one you are now living with is not your husband; in saying this you told the truth.” 19 The woman said to Him, “I perceive Sir, that You are a prophet. 20 Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, and You say that Jerusalem is the proper place to worship.”

21 Jesus said to her, “Believe Me, woman, the time has come when you will worship the Father, neither in this mountain nor in Jerusalem. 22 You worship what you do not know, for salvation comes from the Jews. 23 But the hour is coming – and is now – when genuine worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is looking for such as his worshippers. 24 God is a Spirit and His worshippers must worship Him in spirit and truth.”

25 The woman said to Him, “I know that the Messiah, the One who is called Christ, is coming, and when He comes, He will make everything plain to us.” 26 Jesus told her, “I, who am talking to you am He.”

27 Upon this, His disciples came and were astonished that He was talking with a woman; however, no one asked, “What are you seeking?” or, “Why are you talking with her?”
28 Then the woman left her pitcher and going off to town, told the people, 29 “Come, see a man who told me everything I have done! Is not He the Christ?”

30 They went out from town and were going to Him. 31 Meanwhile the disciples urged Him, “Rabbi, eat.” 32 But He said to them, I have nourishment of which you have no idea.” 33 So the disciples said to one another, “Surely no one has brought Him anything to eat?” 34 Jesus said to them, “My nourishment is that I do the will of Him who sent Me and completely do His work. 35 Do you not say, ‘Four months more and the harvest will be here?’ Look, I tell you; raise your eyes and look at the fields, how they are white for harvest. 36 Already the reaper receives his wage and gathers the crop for life eternal, so that the sower and the reaper may rejoice together. 37 For the saying, ‘One sows and another reaps,’ is verified here; 38 I sent you to reap a crop on which you have not worked; others toiled and you step in to benefit from their work.”

39 Numerous Samaritans from that town believed in Him on account of the woman’s testimony. “He told me everything I did.” 40 So when the Samaritans met Him, they invited

Him to stay with them, and He remained there two days. 41 A good many more believed on account of His message, 42 and said to the woman, “We no longer believe, just because of your story; for we have heard Him ourselves and we know that He truly is the Saviour of the world.”

43 At the end of the two days, he left there and went to Galilee; 44 for Jesus Himself affirmed. “A prophet has no honour in his native town.” 45 So, on His arrival in Galilee the Galileans, because they had seen everything He had done at the feast in Jerusalem, welcomed Him, for they also attended the feast.

46 Jesus went once more to Cana in Galilee, where He had changed the water into wine, and there a courtier, whose son lay ill in Capernaum, 47 and when He learned that Jesus had come to Galilee from Judea, came to Him and begged Him to come down and heal his son, who was at the point of death. 48 Jesus then said to him, “Unless you see signs and wonders, you will not believe at all.” 49 The courtier replied, “Sir, do come down before my boy dies.” 50 Jesus said to him, “Go your way; your son lives.” The man believed what Jesus told him and went his way. 51 But while he was going down to Capernaum, his slaves met him and announced that his boy had recovered; 52 so he asked them at what time he began to improve. They told him, “Yesterday at one o’clock the fever left him.” 53 Then the father knew that it was the very hour when Jesus had said to him, “Your son lives.” And he and his entire household became believers.

54 This, then, was the second sign, Jesus performed when He came from Judea into Galilee.

JOHN CHAPTER 5

LATER on, there was a feast of the Jews and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. 2 Now there is in Jerusalem, by the sheep-gate a bathing pool called in Hebrew, Bethzath, with five entrances 3 in which a crowd of invalids lay – blind, lame and paralysed patients lay *waiting for the stirring of water. 4 For at intervals an angel descended into the pool and stirred up the water. Whoever got in first after the agitation of the pool, enjoyed healing, no matter what ailment he suffered.*

5 One man there, had suffered from an infirmity for thirty-eight years. 6 When Jesus noticed him lying there, He asked him, knowing he had been there for a long time. “Do you want to get well?” 7 The invalid replied, “I have no one, Sir, to put me into the bathing pool right after it has been disturbed; while I am going, another gets in ahead of me.” 8 Jesus told him, “Get up, pick up your mat and walk.” 9 Instantly, the man was well; he picked up his mat and walked. Now that was on the Sabbath day.

10 So the Jews said to the healed man, “This is the Sabbath and you have no right to carry your mat.” 11 He told them, “The One who healed me, He Himself said to me, ‘Pick up your mat and walk.’” 12 They questioned him. “Who is the person who told you to pick it up and walk?” 13 But the healed man did not know who it was; for Jesus had withdrawn for there

was a crowd in the place. 14 Afterward, Jesus came across him in the temple and said to him, “You are now enjoying health; stop sinning or something worse will happen to you.” 15 The man went off and told the Jews, it was Jesus who had healed him.

16 For this reason, the Jews persecuted Jesus because He did these things on the Sabbath. 17 But He answered them, “My Father works till now and so I work.” 18 For this the Jews were more eager than ever to kill Him, since He not only broke the Sabbath but also called God His own Father and thus made Himself equal to God. 19 Then Jesus replied to them, “I truly assure you that the Son is not able to do anything by Himself, but only what He sees the Father doing; whatever He does, the Son does in the same way. 20 For the Father loves the Son and shows Him everything that He Himself does, and He will show Him still greater deeds than these, so that you will marvel; 21 for just as the Father raises the dead and makes them live, so the Son makes alive whom He wills. 22 The Father does not even sentence anyone but has given all judgement to the Son, 23 so that all may honour the Son, just as they honour the Father. Whoever does not honour the Son, does not honour the Father who sent Him.”

24 “Truly I assure you, that he who listens to my message and believes Him who sent Me has eternal life; he comes under no sentence but has passed over from death into life. 25 Truly I assure you the hour is coming – and it is here – when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. 26 For as the Father has life in Himself, 27 so he has granted the Son to have life in Himself and has given Him authority to act as judge because He is the Son of Man. 28 Do not be astonished about this, for the time is coming, when all who are in the graves will hear His voice. 29 and will come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have practiced evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.”

30 “I can do nothing independently: I judge as I am informed and My judgement is fair; for I am not looking out for My will, but for the will of Him who sent Me. 31 If I testify about Myself, My testimony is not accepted as true; 32 but another is testifying about Me and I know that His testimony concerning Me is true. 33 You sent messengers to John and he bore witness to the truth. 34 However, I do not rest My claim on human testimony; I only say this in order that you may be saved. 35 He was a lamp, shining and burning, and for a while you were willing to be happy in his light; 36 but I have a greater witness than John, for the works My Father has given Me to accomplish – the activities in which I am engaged – these are My evidence that the Father has sent Me. 37 And the Father who sent Me has Himself, testified on My behalf; only His voice you never yet heard, neither have you seen His form, 38 nor do you even have His message living within you, because you do not believe the One whom He sent.”

39 “You investigate the Scriptures, because you suppose that you have eternal life in them, and yet they bear witness to Me; 40 yet, you do not want to come to Me in order to have life. 41 I reach for no human fame; 42 but I know you, that you do not have love for God in

you. 43 I have come in My Father's name and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, you will accept him. 44 How can you believe when you welcome praise from one another and do not seek praise from the only God?"

45 "Do not imagine that I shall accuse you before the Father; your accuser is Moses, in whom you are hoping. 46 For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me, since he wrote about Me. 47 But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My teachings?"

JOHN CHAPTER 6

LATER on, Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee or Sea of Tiberias. 2 A great multitude followed Him, because they saw the signs He performed for the sick. 3 But Jesus went up the mountain and there, sat down with His disciples. 4 The Passover, the Jewish feast, was near.

5 Looking up and observing that a vast host was coming to Him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where shall we buy food, so that they may eat?" 6 But He said this to test him, for He knew what He was going to do. 7 Philip replied, "Two hundred pennyworth of bread would not suffice for each to receive even a little." 8 Andrew, Simon, Peter's brother, one of His disciples, told Him, 9 "There is a lad here with five barley cakes and two fish; but what are these for so many?" 10 Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." Now there was plenty of grass in the place, so the men, numbering about five thousand, sat down.

11 Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks, and had them served to those who sere seated, and the same with the fish, as much as they wanted. 12 When they were satisfied, He told His disciples. "Gather up the fragments that are left over, in order that nothing may be wasted." 13 So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with pieces from the five barley cakes left over by those who had eaten.

14 When the people saw the sing He performed, they said, "This surely is the Prophet who is to come into the world." 15 Then Jesus, aware that they intended to come and seize Him in order to make Him King, withdrew again into a mountain by Himself alone.

16 As evening fell, His disciples went down to the sea, 17 boarded a boat and crossed the sea toward Capernaum. Darkness had overtaken them and Jesus had not yet come to them, 18 while the sea was mounting under a strong wind. 19 They had sailed about three or four miles, when they saw Jesus, walking on the sea and getting close to the vessel, and they were afraid. 20 But He said to them, "It is I; have no fear." 21 Then they were quite ready to take Him into the boat and at once, the boat was at the shore to which they were sailing.

22 The next day the crowd that was standing on the other side of the sea, realised that there was only the vessel, which the disciples had used and that Jesus had not gone along with them into the boat, but the disciples had left by themselves. 23 However, craft from Tiberias did land near the place at which they had eaten after the Lord's thanksgiving. 24 So when the crowd noticed that neither Jesus not His disciples were there, they themselves

embarked in little boats and sailed for Capernaum in search of Jesus. 25 When they found Him across the sea, they asked Him, “Rabbi, when did You get here?” 26 Jesus answered them “Truly I assure you, you are not looking for Me because you saw signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled up. 27 Do not work for the food that spoils, but for the food that lasts to life eternal, such as the Son of Man will furnish you; for God the Father has placed his seal of approval on Him.”

28 Then they said to Him, “What should we do to accomplish the works of God?” 29 Jesus replied, “This is God’s work, that you believe in Him whom He sent.” 30 They then said to Him, “What sign then will you work, so that we may see and believe You; what work will You do? 31 Our ancestors ate manna in the desert as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’ 32 Then Jesus said to them, “Truly I assure you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the real heavenly food; 33 for what comes down from heaven and furnishes life to the world, that is the bread of God.”

34 The they said to Him “Lord, give us this bread all the time.” 35 Jesus replied, “I am the bread of life, He who comes to Me will never hunger and he who believes in Me will never thirst. 36 But as I told you, you have seen Me and yet you will not believe. 37 Every one whom the Father has given Me will come to Me, and I will certainly not cast out anyone who comes to Me; 38 for I came down from heaven not to do My will, but the will of Him who sent Me. 39 And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He gave Me, I shall lose nothing but shall raise it up at the last day.” 40 For this is My Father’s will, that every one who sees the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I shall raise him up at the last day.”.

41 The Jews were grumbling about Him for saying, “I am the bread that came down from heaven.” 42 They remarked, “Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? Now how can He say, ‘I have come down from heaven?’” 43 Jesus replied to them, “Stop grumbling one to another. 44 No one is able to come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him, and I will raise him up on the last day.”

45 “It is written in the prophets, ‘And they will all be taught by God.’ Every one who has listened to and has learned from My Father comes to Me. 46 This does not mean that anyone has seen the Father except Him who is from God; He has seen the Father. 47 Truly I assure you, he who believes *on Me* has eternal life. 48 I am the bread of life. 49 Your ancestors ate the manna in the desert and they died. 50 This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that anyone who eats of it may not die. 51 I am the living Bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats this bread, he will live forever. And the bread which I will give for life of the world is My flesh.”

52 Then the Jews argued with each other, “How can this person give us His flesh to eat?” 53 So Jesus said to them, “Truly I assure you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. 54 He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has

eternal life and I shall raise him up on the last day; 55 for my flesh is genuine food and My blood is genuine drink. 56 He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood, remains in Me and I in him. 57 Just as the life-giving Father sent Me and I live because of the Father, so he who feasts on Me. 58 This is the Bread that came down from heaven, not such as your fathers ate and then died; he who eats this bread will live forever."

59 These saying He uttered as He was teaching in a Capernaum synagogue. 60 Therefore, many of His disciples who were listening said, "This is a difficult message. Who can bear to listen to it?" 61 Aware within Himself that His disciples were grumbling about it, Jesus said to them; "This gives offense to you? 62 Suppose you should see the Son of Man ascending where He was previously? 63 The Spirit is the life-giver; the flesh does not benefit at all. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and life, 64 but there are some of you who fail to believe." For Jesus knew from the beginning who were the unbelievers and who would be His betrayer. 65 He further said, "For this reason, I have told you that no one is able to come to Me, unless it is granted Him by My Father." 66 From then on, many of His disciples turned back and no longer walked with Him. 67 Then Jesus said to the Twelve. "You do not want to leave too?" 68 Simon, Peter answered Him, 'Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, 69 and we have believed and have grown certain that You are the Holy One of God.' 70 Jesus answered them, "Have I not chosen you Twelve? Yet one of you is a devil." 71 He meant Judas, son of Simon Iscariot, for he, although one of the Twelve, was going to betray Him.

JOHN CHAPTER 7

FOLLOWING this, Jesus went about Galilee; for He did not want to go around in Judea because the Jews were seeking to kill Him. 2 However, the Jewish Feast of Booths was near, 3 so His brothers told Him, "Get away from here and go off to Judea, so that Your disciples will see the works You do; 4 for no-one who seeks to be in the limelight, does things where they are not observed. Since You do these things, show Yourself to the world." 5 For his brothers had no faith in Him either.

6 Jesus said to them. "My time has not yet arrived, but your time is always opportune. 7 The world cannot hate you; but it hates Me because I testify about it, that its works are wicked. 8 You go up to the feast; I am not going up to this feast yet, for My time is not yet completed."

9 With these remarks to them, He remained in Galilee. 10 But after His brothers had gone up to the feast, then He went also, not publicly but privately.

11 At the feast, the Jews were looking for Him and inquired: "Where is He?" 12 There was considerable dispute about Him also among the crowd, some saying, "He is good," and others, "No, but He misleads the people." 13 No one, however, expressed himself openly about Him because of fear of the Jews.

14 By the time the feast was half over, Jesus went up to the temple and began to teach.
15 Then the Jews were astonished; they said, “How does this person know the Scriptures without an education?” 16 Jesus replied to them, “My teaching is not mine but His who sent Me. 17 If anyone wills to do His will, he will understand the teaching, whether it is from God or whether I speak from Myself. 18 He who speaks from himself seeks his own honour; but he who seeks the honour of Him who sent Him, is sincere and in Him there is no unrighteousness. 19 Has not Moses given you the Law? Yet none of you practices the Law. Why are you seeking to kill Me?”

20 The crowd replied, “You have a demon! Who is seeking to kill You? 21 Jesus answered them, “I have done a single deed and you all marvel about it. 22 Because Moses established circumcision among you – though it did not come from Moses but from previous ancestors – you circumcise a person even on the Sabbath. 23 If a person receives circumcision on the Sabbath so as to prevent Moses’ Law from being broken, are you enraged at Me for making a man entirely well on the Sabbath? 24 Do not judge superficially, but judge fairly.”

25 Then some of the people of Jerusalem said, “Is not He the one they seek to kill? 26 Here He stands talking in public and nothing is said to Him. The rulers surely have not discovered that He is the Christ! 27 But we know where this person is from. When the Messiah comes, no one will know where He is from.”

28 So Jesus called out as He taught in the temple. “Do you know Me and do you know where I am from? I have not come self- appointed; but He who sent Me is true. You do not know Him. 29 I know Him because I am from His presence and He is the One who sent Me.”

30 So they were seeking to arrest Him, but no one laid hands on Him, for His hour had not yet come. 31 Besides, many of the people believed in Him and said, “When the Christ comes, will he perform more signs than this one did?”

32 The Pharisees heard the crowd whispering these things about Him, so the chief priests and the Pharisees dispatched officers to arrest Him. 33 Then Jesus said, “I will be with you a little while longer and then I go to Him who sent Me. 34 You will look for Me without finding Me and where I am you will not be able to come.”

35 The Jews talked among themselves. “Where is He intending to go, so we cannot find Him? He surely does not plan to visit the Dispersion among the Greeks and to teach the Greeks? 36 What does He mean by saying, ‘You will seek Me and will not find Me,’ and ‘Where I am you cannot come.’

37 On the final and most important day of the feast, Jesus stood and called out, “Whoever is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. 38 He who believes in Me, just as the Scripture says, streams of water will flow from his innermost being.” 39 He said this concerning the Spirit whom those who believe in Him were about to receive. For as yet the Spirit was not given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

40 When they listened to these teachings, there were those in the crowd who said, “This really is the Prophet.” 41 Others said, “This is the Christ.” Others questioned, “But the Christ does not come from Galilee, does He?” 42 Does not the Scripture say that the Christ comes from the offspring of David and from Bethlehem, the town where David lived?” 43 So, on account of Him, there was disagreement among the people 44 and some of them wanted to seize Him, but no one laid hands on Him.

45 When the officers of the chief priests and Pharisees returned, they were asked, “Why did you fail to bring Him?” 46 The officers replied, “No man ever spoke as this man speaks.” 47 The Pharisees replied, “Surely you are not misled too?” 48 Have any of the authorities believed in Him? Or of the Pharisees? 49 But this crowd that does not know the Law - they are accursed.”

50 Nicodemus, one of their number who had previously called on Him, said to them, 51 “Our Law does not condemn a person without giving him a hearing and finding out what he is doing, does it?” 52 They replied to him, “Are you also from Galilee? Investigate and see that no prophet is to arise from Galilee.”

53 *Each went to his own home, but Jesus went to the Mount of Olives.*

JOHN CHAPTER 8

Early in the morning, He went 2 back to the temple and when all the people came to Him, He sat down and taught them.

3 The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman caught in the act of adultery and placing her in the centre, 4 they said to Him (they were talking to test Him so they might trump up a charge against Him), “Teacher this woman was caught in the very act of adultery. 5 Now Moses ordered in the Law to stone such as she, so what do you say?”

6 But Jesus stooped down and wrote with his finger on the ground 7 and when they kept on questioning Him, He raised Himself and told them, “Let the sinless one among you throw the first stone at her.” 8 Stooping down again, He wrote with His finger on the ground. 9 But they, on hearing it, went away conscious stricken, one after the other, beginning from the oldest to the last, until Jesus was left alone with the woman as she stood there.

10 Jesus raised Himself and asked her, “Woman, where are your accuser’s? Has no one condemned you?” She said, 11 “No one Lord.” So, Jesus told her, “Then I do not condemn you either. Go and from now on do not sin anymore.”

12 Then Jesus spoke to them again, “I am the Light of the world; the one who follows Me will not walk in the darkness but will have the light of life.” 13 So the Pharisees said to Him, “You are witnessing concerning Yourself; Your testimony is not valid.” 14 Jesus answered them. “Even if I do testify concerning Myself, My testimony is valid, for I know from where I come and where I go; but you neither know where I am from nor where I am going. 15 You judge by human standards; I judge no one. 16 And in case I do judge, My judgment is true,

for I am not alone, but the One who sent Me is with Me. 17 It is written in your Law that the evidence of two persons is valid; 18 I am a witness concerning Myself, and My Father who sent Me, witnesses concerning Me."

19 Then they said to Him, "Where is Your Father?" Jesus replied, "You know neither Me nor My Father; if you know Me, you would know My Father as well."

20 These words He uttered in the treasury, as He taught in the temple but no one got hold of Him, for His hour had not yet come.

21 Once more He told them, "I go away and you will look for Me; but you will die in your sin. Where I am going you cannot come." 22 Therefore the Jews said, "He is not going to kill Himself, is He, because He says, 'Where I am going you cannot come?'" 23 He further said to them, "You are from below and I am from above. You are from this world; I am not from this world, 24 so I told you that you would die in your sins. For if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins."

25 They said to Him, "Who are You?" Jesus replied, "I am exactly what I tell you. 26 I have much to say and to judge about you, but He who sent Me is reliable and what I have learned from Him I tell the world."

27 They did not perceive that He was speaking to them about the Father, 28 so Jesus said, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will realise that I am He and that I do nothing of My own accord, but tell things just as the Father has taught Me. 29 He who sent Me is with Me; He has not left Me alone, for I always do what pleases Him."

30 As He said these things, many believed in Him. 31 Therefore Jesus said to the Jews who had come to believe in Him, "If you adhere to my teaching, you will truly be My disciples;
32 you will know the truth and the truth will set you free."

33 They replied to Him, "We are Abraham's progeny, and we have never been slaves to anyone. What do You mean by, 'You will become free men?' 34 Jesus answered them, "Truly I assure you, every one who commits sin is a slave to sin. 35 But the slave does not for ever stay in the home; the son remains for ever. 36 So if the Son liberates you, then you are really free. 37 I know that you are Abrahams' offspring; but you look for means to kill Me, for you have no use for My teaching. 38 I tell of what I have seen at the Father's side, and you behave as you have learned from you father."

39 They retorted, "Abraham is our father"; to which Jesus replied, "If you were Abraham's children, you would do what Abraham did; 40 but here you are seeking to kill Me, a Man who has told you the truth which He learned from God. Abraham did not act that way.
41 You are doing your father's works." They said to Him, "We are not born illegitimately; God is our One Father." 42 "If God were your Father," Jesus rejoined, "you would love Me, for I came and am here from God; neither did I come of my own accord, but He sent Me.
43 Why do you not understand My language? Because you cannot bear to listen to My

message. 44 You have the devil for your father and you wish to practice the desires of your father; he was a murderer from the beginning and he could not stay in the truth because there is no truth in him. When he tells you a lie he talks naturally; for he is liar and its father; 45 but because I speak the truth, you do not believe Me. 46 Who of you convicts Me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe Me? 47 He who is from God, listens to the words of God. Because you are not from God, you do not listen."

48 "Do we not say rightly," the Jews replied to Him, "that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?" 49 Jesus answered, I have no demon, but I honour My Father, and you dishonour Me. 50 I do not desire My own glory; there is One who investigates that and who judges. 51 With assurance I tell you, anyone who observes My teaching will never see death."

52 The Jews retorted, "Now we know that You have a demon. Both Abraham and the prophets died and You say, 'If anyone observes My teaching, he will never see death.' 53 You are not superior to our father Abraham, who died, are You? And the prophets died. Whom do you make yourself?" 54 Jesus replied, "If I should ascribe glory to Myself, My glory would be worthless. My Father, whom you call 'our God' ascribes glory to Me. 55 You do not know Him, but I know Him and if I said, 'I do not know Him,' I would be a prevaricator like yourselves. But I know Him and observe His word."

56 "Your father Abraham was extremely happy in the prospect of seeing My day, and he did not see it and rejoiced." 57 Then the Jews said to Him, "You are not yet fifty years old and have you seen Abraham?" 58 Jesus said to them, "Truly I assure you, before Abraham's birth I am."

59 Then they picked up stones to hurl at Him; but Jesus concealed Himself and passed out of the temple.

JOHN CHAPTER 9

AS He went on His way, He noticed a man who had been blind from his birth, 2 and his disciples asked Him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this fellow or his parents, that he was born blind?" 3 Jesus answered, "This has not happened because he has sinned or his parents, but that in him God's works should be displayed. 4 As long as daytime lasts, we must do the works of the One who sent Me; night approaches when no one can work. 5 While I am in the world, I am the Light of the world."

6 When He said this, He spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva, daubed the mud on the blind man's eyes 7 and told him, "Go out and wash them in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So, he went and washed and returned enjoying sight.

8 Then the neighbours and those who had seem him before as he begged remarked, "Is not the one who sat and begged?" 9 Some said, "Yes, he is the one." Others said, "No, but he looks like him." He himself said, "I am the one." 10 they asked him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" 11 He replied, "A man by the name of Jesus made some mud and daubed my

eyes and told me to go to Siloam and wash; so, I went and washed and I was able to see.”
12 They asked him, “Where is He?” “I do not know,” he said.

13 They brought the man who previously had been blind to the Pharisees. 14 The day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened his eyes was the Sabbath. 15 Then the Pharisees asked once more how he came to see; but he told them, “He applied mud to my eyes, and I washed them and I see.” 16 Some of the Pharisees then remarked, “This man is not from God; for He does not observe the Sabbath.” Others said, “How can a sinful man perform such signs?” So, there was disagreement among them.

17 Then they asked the blind man again, “What do you say about Him, since He has opened your eyes?” He said, “He is a prophet.” 18 The Jews, however did not believe that he had been blind and had gained his sight until they summoned his parents 19 and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How is it that he now sees?” 20 His parents replied, “We know that this is our son and that he was born blind; 21 but we do not know how he now sees, neither do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age; he will speak for himself.” 22 His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that every confessor of Christ should be debarred from the synagogue.
23 For that reason, his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

24 So for the second time they summoned the man who previously was blind and told him, “Give God the praise; we know that this man is a sinner.” 25 He then replied, “Whether He is a sinner, I do not know. One thing I do know, that I was blind and now I see.” 26 They asked him, “What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?” 27 He answered them, “I have already told you and you do not listen; why do you want to hear it again? You too, do not want to become His disciples, do you?” 28 They abused him and said, “You are His disciple; but we are Moses’ disciples. 29 We know that God spoke through Moses; but this fellow – we do not know where He hails from.”

30 The man replied to them, “This is the marvel of it; you do not know where He hails from, yet, He opened my eyes. 31 We know that God does not respond to sinners, but He does hear one who reveres Him and does His will. 32 Through the ages, this has never been heard of, that someone opened the eyes of one born blind. 33 If He were not from God, He could do nothing.”

34 They retorted, “You altogether born in sins – would you teach us?” And they expelled him.

35 Jesus learned that they had expelled him and having found him, said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” 36 He answered, “Who is He, Sir, so that I may believe in Him?” 37 Jesus told him, “You have looked at Him; in fact, He is talking with you now.” 38 He said, “Lord, I believe!” and worshipped Him.

39 Jesus said further, “For judgment I have come into this world, so that the sightless may see, and those who see may become blind.” 40 Certain of the Pharisees near Him, asked Him when they heard that, “We too are not blind, are we?” 41 Jesus said, to them, “If you were blind you would be blameless; but since you claim to have sight, your sin remains.”

JOHN CHAPTER 10

“TRULY I assure you, he who does not enter the sheepfold through the door but climbs up from elsewhere, he is a thief and a robber. 2 but he who enters through the door is the shepherd of the sheep. 3 To him the doorkeeper opens and the sheep listen to his voice; he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 When he has led out all that belong to him, he walks ahead of them and the sheep follow him; for they know his voice. 5 They will not follow a stranger but will run away from him, because they do not recognise the voice of strangers.”

6 Jesus used this figure of speech for them, but they did not catch the meaning of what He said to them. 7 So Jesus spoke again, “Truly I assure you; I am the door for the sheep. 8 All who came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. 9 I am the Door. Whoever comes in through Me will be saved; he will go in and out and find pasture. 10 The thief’s only purpose in coming is to steal, to slaughter and destroy. I have come so they may have life and have it abundantly.”

11 “I am the Good Shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 12 The hired man, who is not the shepherd, who does not own the sheep, deserts the sheep and runs when he sees the wolf coming; then the wolf tears and scatters them. 13 The hired man runs away because he is a hired man and does not care about the sheep.”

14 “I am the Good Shepherd and I know My own. My own in turn know Me, 15 just as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life on behalf of the sheep.
16 I have other sheep also that are not in this fold; those I must lead as well, and they will listen to My call, so that there will be one flock, one Shepherd.”

17 “For this reason, My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life in order that I may take it up again. 18 No one snatches it from Me, but I voluntarily lay it down. I have authority to lay it down and I have authority to take it up again. I received this command from My Father.”

19 Once more a disagreement arose among the Jews due to these teachings. 20 Many of them said, “He has a demon; He is out of His mind. Why do you listen to Him?” 21 Others said, “These are not the remarks of a demoniac. A demon cannot even open the eyes of the blind, can he?”

22 The Feast of Dedication came in Jerusalem. 23 It was winter and Jesus walked inside the temple in Solomon’s cloister. 24 So the Jews encircled Him and asked Him, “How long will You keep our minds in suspense? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly!” 25 Jesus replied to

them, “I have told you and you do not believe. The works that I do in My Father’s name, bear Me witness. 26 but you do not believe because you do not belong to My sheep. 27 My sheep listen to My call; I know them and they follow Me. 28 I give them eternal life and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of My hand. 29 My Father who gave them to Me, is mightier than all and no one can wrest them out of My Father’s hand. 30 I and the Father are One.”

31 Again the Jews picked up stones to stone Him. 32 Jesus answered them, “I have shown you many good deeds from the Father; for which of them would you stone Me?” 33 The Jews replied, “We would not stone You for a good act but for blasphemy, because You, a human being, make Yourself God.” 34 Jesus answered them, “Is it not written in your Law. ‘I said, you are gods?’ 35 If it calls them gods, to whom the word of God came (and the Scripture cannot be broken), 36 do you say to the One whom the Father dedicated and sent into the world, “You blaspheme!” because I said, ‘I am God’s Son?’ 37 If I do not accomplish My Father’s work, do not believe Me; 38 but if I do, then, though you do not believe Me, believe the things done, so that you may know and understand that the Father is in Me and I am in the Father.”

39 Then they tried again to get hold of Him, but 40 He escaped from their hands and went once more to the place beyond the Jordan, where John first had baptised, and there He stayed. 41 Many came to Him and said, “While John did no sign, yet everything John said about this man was true.” 42 And many there believed Him.

JOHN CHAPTER 11

A MAN by the name of Lazarus, of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha, was ill. (2 The Mary, whose brother Lazarus was ill, was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped His feet with her hair.) 3 So the sisters sent Him a message; “Lord, the one You love is ill.” 4 Hearing it, Jesus said, “This illness is not to end in death, but is for the glory of God, so that through it, the Son of God may be glorified.” 5 Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. 6 Therefore, when He heard that He was ill, He stayed at the place where He was for two more days 7 and after that He said to the disciples, “Let us go back into Judea.” 8 The disciples told Him, “Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone You, and You are going back there?” 9 Jesus replied, “Are there not twelve hours in the day? If one walks during the day, he does not stumble, for he sees the world’s light; 10 but if he walks during the night, he stumbles because in him there is no light.”

11 He said this to them and then added, “Our friend Lazarus is asleep, but I am setting out to wake him up.” 12 The disciples remarked to Him, “Lord, if he is sleeping, he will recover.” 13 Jesus had spoken of his death; but they supposed that He had spoken about the repose of sleep. 14 Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead; 15 and for your sakes I am glad I was not present, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.”

16 Thomas called the twin, then said to his fellow disciples, “Let us go too, so that we may die with Him.”

17 When Jesus arrived, He found that Lazarus had already been buried for four days. 18 Now Bethany is near Jerusalem, about two miles distant, 19 and many of the Jews had gone out to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. 20 As soon then, as Martha learned that Jesus had come, she went to meet Him; but Mary was sitting in the house.

21 Then Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died. 22 and I know that even now, whatever You ask of God, He will grant You.” 23 Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” 24 Martha replied, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” 25 Jesus said to her, “ I am the Resurrection and the Life; he who believes in Me will live even when he dies, 26 and no one who lives and believes in Me will ever die. Do you believe this?” 27 She responded, “Yes, Lord. I have faith that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world.”

28 When she had said this, she went off and called her sister Mary privately, saying, “The Teacher is here and He is calling you.” 29 Hurriedly, Mary arose when she heard it and went to Him. 30 Jesus had not yet entered the village; He was still at the place where Martha had met Him.

31 When the Jews who were with her in the house to comfort her, noticed that Mary got up quickly and left, they followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there. 32 Mary, however, when she arrived at the place where Jesus was and saw Him, fell at His feet with the words, “Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.” 33 Then Jesus, when He saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her weeping also, was deeply moved in spirit and disquieted.

34 He asked, “Where have you laid him?” They told Him, “Lord, come and see.” 35 Jesus wept. 36 The Jews then remarked, “Notice how He loved him.” 37 But some of them said, “Could not He, who opened the blind man’s eyes have prevented this man’s death?”

38 Again deeply moved inwardly, Jesus approached the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid against it. 39 Jesus said, “Remove the stone.” Martha, the sister of the deceased, said to Him, “Lord, by now there is an odour, for it is four days since his death.” 40 Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you will believe, you will see the glory of God?” 41 So they removed the stone.

The Jesus raised His eyes upward and said, “Father, I thank You for having heard Me, 42 and I know that you do always hear Me; but on account of the people around here, I said this, so that they may believe that You have sent Me.”

43 When He had said this, He called out in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” 44 Out came the one who had died, feet and hands tied with grave clothes and his face wrapped in a towel. Jesus told them, “Unbind him and let him go.”

45 Then many of the Jews, who had come to Mary and had seen what He had done, believed in Him; 46 but some of them went off to the Pharisees and informed them of Jesus' activities. 47 So the chief priests and the Pharisees summoned the Sanhedrin and said, "What shall we do? For this man performs numerous signs. 48 If we let Him go on this way, every one will believe in Him, and the Romans will come to take away from us, our holy place and our nation." 49 But one of them, Caiaphas, the high priest that year, said to them, "You do not know anything; 50 you do not reason out, that it is better for you to have one person die on behalf of the people, rather than to have the whole nation ruined."

51 He said this not of his own initiative but, being the high priest that year, he foretold how Jesus was to die for the nation, 52 and not alone for the nation, but to gather into one, all the scattered children of God.

53 From that day on, therefore, they laid plans to kill Him. 54 So Jesus no longer went around openly among the Jews but withdrew to the country near the wilderness, to a town called Ephraim, and there he stayed with the disciples.

55 The Jew's Passover was approaching, and many went up from the country to Jerusalem to consecrate themselves for the Passover, 56 and they looked for Jesus and remarked, as they were standing together in the temple, "What do you think? Is He not coming to the feast?" 57 The chief priests and the Pharisees had given orders that, if anyone knew where He was, he should report it so that they might arrest Him.

JOHN CHAPTER 12

SIX days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. 2 There they prepared a supper for Him and Martha served the meal, while Lazarus was among those sitting at the table with Him.

3 Then Mary, taking a pound of costly perfume made of purest nard, anointed the feet of Jesus and dried His feet with her hair. So, the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

4 But Judas Iscariot, one of His disciples (who was to betray Him) said, 5 "Why was not this perfume sold for 300 denarii and the money donated to the poor?" 6 He did not say this because he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief; he had charge of the money-bag and pilfered the collections. 7 Then Jesus said, "Let her alone. Let her keep it for the day of My burial. 8 For you always will have the poor with you, but you will not always have Me."

9 When a great crowd of Jews learned that He was there, they came not merely on account of Jesus but also to see Lazarus, whom He had raised from the dead. 10 But the chief priests made plans to kill Lazarus, also; 11 for many of the Jews went away on his account, believing in Jesus.

12 The next day, a large crowd of people who had come to the feast, heard that Jesus was on the way to Jerusalem; 13 so they took palm branches and went out to meet Him, and began

to shout, “Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, the King of Israel.”
14 And finding a young donkey, Jesus rode it, as it is written, 15 “Have no fear, daughter of
Zion! Behold, your King is coming, seated on an ass’s colt.” 16 At first His disciples did not
understand this, but when Jesus had been glorified, they remembered that this had been
written of Him and that they had done this to Him.

17 The people who were with Him when He called Lazarus from the tomb and raised him
from the dead, bore witness about it, 18 and for that reason, the crowd went out to meet
Him; for they heard that He had performed this sign. 19 Then the Pharisees said among
themselves. “You see how you are getting nowhere. Look, the world has gone after Him.”

20 Among those going up to worship at the feast, were certain Greeks 21 who came to Philip
of Bethsaida of Galilee and said to him, “Sir, we want to see Jesus.” 22 Philip came and told
Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. 23 Jesus answered them, “The hour
has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. 24 Truly I assure you, unless a grain of wheat
drops into the earth and dies, it remains single, but if it dies, it produces a rich yield. 25 The
one who loves his life will lose it, but the one who hates his life in this world, will preserve it
to eternal life. 26 If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; then where I am, there will My
servant be also. If anyone serves Me, the Father will honour him.”

27 “Now My soul is disturbed, and what shall I say? Father, save Me from this hour? But for
this reason, I came to this hour. 28 Father, glorify Your name.” Then a voice came from
heaven, “I have glorified it and will glorify it again.” 29 The people that stood and listened
said, “It thundered.” Others said, “An angel spoke to Him.” 30 Jesus replied, “This voice did
not come for My sake but for yours. 31 Now is this world’s sentence; now the ruler of this
world will be expelled; 32 and I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw every one to
Myself.” 33 This He said signifying what kind of death He was to die.

34 The crowd answered Him, “We have learned from the Law that the Christ remains for
ever, and how can You say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?”
35 So Jesus said to them, “For a little while the Light still shines among you; walk while you
have the Light, so that darkness may not overtake you. One who walks in darkness does not
know where he is going. 36 While you have the Light, put faith in the Light, so you may
become Sons of the Light.”

After saying this, Jesus went away and hid Himself from them. 37 In spite of all the signs that
He had done in their presence, they put no faith in Him, 38 in order that the saying of Isaiah
the prophet might be fulfilled. “Lord, who has believed our message and to whom has the
arm of the Lord been revealed?”

39 For this reason they could not believe, for again Isaiah said, 40 “He has blinded their eyes
and has hardened their hearts, so that they may neither see with their eyes nor understand
with their hearts and repent and I should heal them.” 41 Isaiah said this, for he saw His glory
and spoke of Him.

42 Nevertheless, even many of the leaders believed in Him but because of the Pharisees, failed to confess it so that they might not be put out of the synagogue; 43 for they preferred men's esteem to divine approval.

44 But Jesus called out in a loud voice, "He who believes in Me does not believe in Me, but in Him who sent Me, 45 and he who sees Me, sees Him who sent Me. 46 I am a light which has come into the world, so that no one who believes in Me, may remain in the dark. 47 And if anyone hears My teachings and fails to observe them, I pass no sentence on him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. 48 He who rejects me and does not accept My teachings, has his judge; My spoken word will judge him on the last day. 49 For I have not spoke of My own accord, but the Father who sent Me. He has given Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak. 50 I know too, that His command is eternal life; so, what I say is just what the Father has told Me to say."

JOHN CHAPTER 13

BEFORE the Passover feast, Jesus, aware that the time had come for Him to leave this world to go to the Father, showed His own, who were in the world that He loved them to the end. 2 At supper time, when the devil had already put the purpose into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray Him, 3 Jesus, conscious that the Father had placed everything into His hands and that He came from God and was going to God, 4 rose from the table, laid aside His robe and, taking a towel, girded Himself. 5 Then He poured water into the basin and began to wash the feet of the disciples and to dry them with the towel, with which He was girded.

6 So, He came to Simon Peter, who said to Him, "Lord, You are going to wash my feet?"
7 Jesus answered him, "Just now you do not understand what I do, but you will know later on." 8 Peter said to Him, "You shall never wash my feet!" Jesus replied, "If I do not wash you, you are not sharing with Me." 9 Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, not only my feet, but also my hands and my head!" 10 Jesus said to him, "A bathed person does not need to be washed, except his feet, but is completely cleansed; and you are cleansed, but not all of you." 11 For He knew who his betrayer would be; so He said, "Not all of you are cleansed."

12 After washing their feet and taking His garment, He sat at the table again and said to them. "Do you understand what I have done to you? 13 You call Me Teacher and 'Lord', and rightly so, because I am. 14 Then if I, your Lord and Teacher have washed your feet, you surely ought to wash one another's feet. 15 For I have set you an example, so that you might do just as I did to you. 16 I assure you with all truth, a slave is not superior to his master, nor one who is sent, to the one who sent him. 17 If you know these teachings, blessed are you if you practice them."

18 "I am not speaking of you all; I know those I have chosen; but the Scripture is to be fulfilled. 'The one eating My bread has raised his heel against Me.' 19 Right now, I tell you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe that I am He. 20 With

assurance I tell you, that he who welcomes whom I send, welcomes Me, and he who welcomes Me, welcomes the One who sent Me."

21 When Jesus said this, He was inwardly disturbed, and testified, "Most assuredly I tell you, that one of you will betray Me." 22 The disciples looked at each other, undecided as to whom He referred. 23 One of His disciples, whom Jesus loved, was sitting next to Jesus; 24 so Simon Peter nodded to him, "Ask whom He means." 25 Then he, leaning closer to Jesus' side, asked Him, "Lord, who is it?" 26 Jesus replied, "The one to whom I give the bit of bread, after I have dipped it." So, He took and dipped the mouthful and gave it to Judas Iscariot, Simon's son. 27 And after the mouthful, Satan entered into him. Then Jesus said to him, "Do quickly what you are going to do." 28 But none of those at the table knew why He told him that. 29 Some had an idea, since Judas had charge of the moneybag, that Jesus said to him, "Buy what we need for the feast," or, "Give something to the poor." 30 Then at once, after taking the bit of bread, he went out. It was then night.

31 When he had left, Jesus said, "Now the Son of man is glorified, and in Him, God is glorified. 32 If God is glorified in Him, then God will in Himself, glorify Him and will glorify Him at once. 33 Little children, I am with you but a little longer. You will be looking for Me and, as told the Jews so I tell you now, where I go you cannot come. 34 I give you a new command, 'Love one another.' Just as I have loved you, so you should love one another. 35 By this, everyone will recognise that you are My disciples, if you love one another."

36 Simon Peter asked Him, "Lord, where are You going?" Jesus replied, "Where I am going you cannot follow Me now, but later on you will follow Me." 37 Peter said to Him, "Lord, why can I not follow You now? I will lay down my life for You." 38 Jesus replied, "Will you lay down your life for Me? Truly I assure you, the rooster will not crow until you have denied Me three times."

JOHN CHAPTER 14

"LET not your hearts be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. 2 In My Father's house are many dwelling places. If this were not so, I would have told you. For I am going away to prepare a place for you. 3 And when I have gone and have prepared a place for you, I will come again and take you to Myself, so that where I am, you also will be. 4 And where I am going, you know the way."

5 Thomas remarked to Him, "Lord we do not know where you are going. How do we know the way?" 6 Jesus said to him, "I am the Way and the Truth and the Life; no one comes to the Father except through Me. 7 Had you recognised Me, you would have known My Father as well. From now on, you do know Him; yes, you have seen Him."

8 Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father and it is enough for us." 9 Jesus replied, "How long have I been with you without your knowing Me, Philip? He who has looked on Me has seen the Father. What do you mean by saying, 'Show us the Father?' 10 Do you not believe

that I am in the Father and the Father in Me? The words that I give to you all, I do not speak just from Myself; the Father who dwells in Me carries on His works. 11 Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, and if not, then believe on account of the works themselves. 12 Truly I assure you, the one who believes in Me will himself do the works I do, and will do greater things than these, for I go the Father. 13 And I will bring about whatever you ask in My name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 I will do whatever you ask in My name."

15 "If you love Me, keep My commands, 16 and I shall ask the Father and He will give you another Helper to stay with you for ever, 17 the Spirit of Truth whom the world cannot receive, because it neither perceives nor understands Him. You know Him, for He remains with you and will be within you."

18 "I shall not leave you as orphans; I shall come to you. 19 In a little while, the world will no longer see Me; but you will see Me, for I live and you, too, will live. 20 In that day, you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me and I in you. 21 He who has My orders and observes them, loves Me and he who loves Me, will be loved by My Father. I too, shall love him and show Myself to him."

22 Judas, not Iscariot, asked Him, "Lord, how does it happen that You are going to show Yourself to us and not to the world?" 23 Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word and My Father will love him and We shall visit him and make Our dwelling in him. 24 The one who does not love Me, does not keep My word – though the word you hear is not Mine but the Father's who sent Me."

25 "I have been telling you this, while I am still with you; 26 but the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you everything and will remind you of all that I have told you."

27 "Peace, I bequeath to you; My peace I give to you. I do not give you gifts, such as the world gives. Do not allow your hearts to be disturbed or intimidated. 28 You heard how I told you; 'I am going away' and 'I am coming to you.' If you loved Me, you would be glad that I go to the Father, for the Father is greater than I."

29 "I have now told you this before it takes place so that, when it does happen, you may have faith. 30 I shall not talk over many things with you anymore; for the world's ruler comes. He has no claim on Me; 31 but I act as I do in order that the world may learn that I love the Father and act in full agreement with His orders. Rise. Let us go from here."

JOHN CHAPTER 15

"I AM the true Vine and My Father is the Vinedresser. 2 Every branch in Me that bears no fruit, He prunes away, and whatever bears fruit He prunes, so that it may bear more fruit. 3 You are already clean through the word that I have spoken to you. 4 Remain in Me and I in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself without staying on the vine, so you cannot,

without remaining in Me. 5 I am the Vine, you are the branches. He who remains in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit. For apart from Me you can do nothing."

6 "Whoever does not remain in Me is thrown away as a branch and withers; people gather such branches, throw them into the fire, and they are burned. 7 If you remain in Me and My words remain in you, then you may ask what you wish and it will be done for you."

8 "My Father is honoured in this, that you produce much fruit; then you will be My disciples. 9 Just as the Father has loved Me, so I have loved you; continue in this love of Mine. 10 You will remain in My love, if you keep My commands, just as I keep My Father's commands and remain in His love."

11 "I have talked these matters over with you, so that My joy may be in you and your joy is made complete. 12 This is My command, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13 No one has greater love than this; to lay down his life for his friends. 14 You are My friends, if you do what I command you. 15 I no longer call you slaves, for a slave does not know what his master is doing, but I have called you friends because I have acquainted you with everything I heard from My Father. 16 You have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you and appointed you to go out and produce fruit and that your fruit should be permanent, so that whatever you ask the Father in My name, He may grant you. 17 This is My command to you; 'Love one another.'"

18 "If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me first. 19 If you belonged to the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world and I have selected you from the world, therefore the world hates you. 20 Remember what I said to you: a slave is not greater than his master. If they persecuted Me, they will persecute you; if they observe My word, they will observe yours; 21 but they will do all this to you on account of My name, for they do not know the One who sent Me."

22 "Had I not come and spoken to them, they would not be guilty; but now they have no excuse for their sin. 23 He who hates Me, hates My Father as well. 24 Had I not accomplished the works among them, which no other ever accomplished, they would not be guilty; but now they have seen and have hated both Me and My Father. 25 But they have done this, so that the saying in their Law might be fulfilled; 'They hated Me without just cause.'"

26 "When the Helper comes, whom I will send you from the Father, the Spirit of Truth who comes from the Father. He will testify regarding Me; 27 but you too will testify, for you were with Me from the beginning."

JOHN CHAPTER 16

"I HAVE talked these matters over with you, so that you may not be led astray. 2 They will exclude you from the synagogue; in fact, the hour is coming when whoever kills you, will think that he is rendering service to God. 3 And they will do these things because they know

neither the Father nor Me. 4 But I have told you these things in order that, when the time comes, you may remember that I told them to you."

"I did not tell you this from the beginning, for I was with you; 5 but now I am going to Him who sent Me. Yet none of you asks Me, 'Where are you going?' 6 Instead, your hearts are filled with sorrow because I told these things to you. 7 However, I tell you the truth; My going is for your benefit; for if I do not leave, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, then I will send Him to you. 8 When He comes, He will convict the world regarding sin and righteousness and judgement – 9 regarding sin, because they do not believe in Me; 10 regarding righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see Me no more; 11 and regarding judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged."

12 "I have still many things to tell you, but you cannot bear them now. 13 When the Spirit of Truth comes, However, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own account but will say whatever He hears, and He will make known to you what is to take place. 14 He will glorify Me, for He will take from what is Mine and will declare it to you. 15 Everything the Father has is Mine; therefore, I said, He will take from what is Mine and declare it to you."

16 "Just a little while and you will see Me no longer; then again, a little while and you will see Me." 17 Then the disciples said to one another, "What does He mean by saying to us, 'A little while and you will not see Me, and again, a little while and you will see Me,' and 'I am going to the Father?' 18 So they said, "What does He mean by a little while? We have no idea what He is talking about."

19 Jesus knew that they wanted to ask Him, and said to them, "You are questioning among yourselves about My saying, 'A little while and you will not see Me, and again a little while and you will see Me?' 20 Truly I assure you, you will be weeping and moaning while the world feels glad; you will be grieved, but your grief will turn to joy. 21 The mother in childbirth has anguish because her time has come, but when she has borne the child, she no longer remembers her affliction, because a human being has been born into the world. 22 So you have grief at present, but I shall see you again and your hearts will be glad, and no one will be able to deprive you of that joy."

23 "At that time, you will question Me about nothing. Truly I assure you, whatever you ask the Father, He will grant you in My name. 24 Thus far, you have asked nothing in My name. Ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be complete.

25 "I have told you these things in figures of speech; a time approaches when I shall no longer talk to you in figures of speech, but shall plainly inform you about the Father. 26 At that time you will pray in My name, and I do not say that I shall make request of the Father on your behalf, 27 for the Father Himself loves you, since you have loved Me and have believed that I came from the Father. 28 I did come from the Father and have entered the world; again, I am leaving the world and am going to the Father."

29 His disciples said, “Now You are speaking plainly and not in figures of speech; 30 now we know that You know everything and do not need anyone to tell You. From this we believe that You came from God.”

31 Jesus replied, “You believe just now? 32 The hour is coming and it has arrived when you will be scattered each to his place and you will leave Me alone; but I am not alone, for the Father is with Me. 33 I have talked over these things with you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have trouble; but have courage! I have overcome the world.”

JOHN CHAPTER 17

JESUS said this, then raised His eyes toward heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, so that the Son may glorify You, 2 as You have given Him authority over all mankind so that He may give eternal life to all whom You have granted Him. “

3 “And this is eternal life, to know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. 4 I have glorified You on earth; I have completed the task You gave Me to do; 5 now You glorify Me, Father, with Your own glory which I had in Your presence before the world existed.”

6 “I have made Your name known to the persons whom You gave Me from the world; they were Yours and You gave them to Me and they have kept Your word. 7 Now they have realised that all whom You have given Me are from You; 8 for I have given them the words which You gave Me, and they have accepted them and have really understood that I came from You, and they have believed that You did send Me.”

9 “I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have granted Me, for they belong to You. 10 Yes, all who are Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and in them I am glorified. 11 My presence in the world is over, but these are in the world while I am coming to You. Holy Father, preserve in Your name those whom You have given Me, so that they may be one as We are. 12 While I was with them, I preserved and guarded them in Your name which You gave Me, and none of them perished except the son of perdition, so that the Scripture might be fulfilled. 13 But now I am coming to You and say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have My joy made complete in their hearts.”

14 “I have given them Your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 15 I do not pray that You will take them out of the world but that you will preserve them from the evil one. 16 As I am not of the world, so they are not of the world. 17 Sanctify them by the truth. Your word is truth.”

18 “As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world, 19 and on their behalf I consecrate Myself, so that they, too, may be consecrated by truth.”

20 “I am not praying only for them, but also for those who will believe in Me through their message, 21 so that all may be one, as You Father are in Me, and I in You, so they may be in Us, and so that the world may believe that You have sent Me. 22 I have given them the glory

which You have given to Me, so that they may be one, as We are one, 23 I in them and Thou in Me, so that they may be completed into one, that the world may recognise that You have sent Me and have loved them, as You have loved Me."

24 "Father, I would have those whom You have given Me, to be with Me where I am, so they may see My glory which You have given to Me, for You loved Me before the founding of the world."

25 "Righteous Father, the world does not know You but I know You, and those know that You have sent Me. 26 I have made known and will make known to them Your name, so that your love for Me as well as I Myself may be in them."

JOHN CHAPTER 18

HAVING uttered these words, Jesus went out with His disciples across the Kidron Brook to a garden which He and disciples entered. 2 But Judas, His betrayer, knew the spot; for Jesus often met there with His disciples.3 So Judas, getting a detachment of soldiers and some attendants from the chief priests and Pharisees, came there with torches, lamps and weapons.

4 Then Jesus aware of everything that would befall Him, went out and asked them, "For whom are you looking?" 5 They replied, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus told them, "I am He." And Judas, His betrayer, was standing with them.

6 When He said to them, "I am He," they went backward and fell to the ground. 7 Once more He asked them, "Whom do you seek?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth." 8 Jesus replied, "I told you that I am He, so if you are after Me, let these others go." 9 This took place so that the word He had spoken might be fulfilled, "I did not lose any of those whom You have given Me."

10 Then Simon Peter, since he had a sword, drew it and struck the high priests slave severing his right ear – the slaves name was Malchus. 11 But Jesus said to Peter, "Sheathe your sword. The cup which My Father has given Me, shall I not drink it?"

12 Then the detachment of soldiers and the commander, together with the Jewish attendants, took hold of Jesus, bound Him 13 and conducted Him first to Annas, for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year – 14 the Caiaphas who advised the Jews that one man's death would benefit the people.

15 Simon Peter followed Jesus with another disciple; and as that disciple was acquainted with the high priest, he entered along with Jesus, the high priest's courtyard, 16 while Peter stood outside by the door. Then that other disciple, the high priest's acquaintance, came out to speak to the slave-girl who was in charge of the door, and brought in Peter.

17 The girl in charge of the door then said to Peter, "Are you not one of that man's disciples too?" He replied, "I am not." 18 The slaves had made a fire of charcoal and were standing by

it and were warming themselves, for it was cold. And Peter also was standing with them, and warming himself.

19 Meanwhile, the high priest asked Jesus regarding His disciples and about His teaching.
20 Jesus answered him, “I have spoken openly to the world; I have been teaching right along in the synagogue and in the temple, where all the Jews gather, and I said nothing in secret.
21 Why do you ask Me? Ask those who heard what I told them; they know what I said.”

22 When Jesus said this, one of the attendants standing by slapped Him in the face, saying, “Is this the way to answer the high priest?” 23 Jesus answered him, “If I spoke wrongly, give evidence of the wrong; but if properly, why do you hit Me?” 24 Then Annas sent Him bound to the high priest, Caiaphas.

25 Simon Peter was standing and warming himself, so they said to him, “Are you not a disciple of His?” He denied it, saying, “I am not.” 26 One of the high priest’s slaves, a relative of the one whose ear Peter had cut off, said, “Did not I see you in the garden with Him?”
27 Then Peter again denied it, and instantly the rooster crowed.

28 Then they conducted Jesus from Caiaphas to the Praetorium. It was early morning and they themselves did not enter the palace, so that they might eat the Passover. 29 So Pilate went out to them and asked, “What charge do you bring against this man?” 30 They answered him, “If He were not a criminal, we would not have committed Him to you.”
31 Pilate told them, “You take Him and sentence Him according to your Law.” The Jews said to him, “We have no right to execute anyone.” 32 This happened so that the saying of Jesus might be fulfilled that He had spoken, showing what sort of death He was to die.

33 Then Pilate entered the Praetorium again and summoned Jesus, whom he asked. “Are You the King of the Jews?” 34 Jesus replied, “Do you say this of your own accord or have others told you about Me?” 35 Pilate answered Him, “I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed You over to me, “What have You done?”

36 Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My attendants would have struggled to prevent My being delivered to the Jews. But as things now stand, My kingdom is not of this world.” 37 Pilate then said to him, “You are a King then?” Jesus replied, “You say that I am a King. For this purpose was I born and for this, I entered the world, that I might testify to the truth. Every one who loves the truth, listens to My voice.” 38 Pilate remarked to Him, “What is truth?”

When he had said this he went outside again to the Jews and told them, “I do not find Him guilty at all; 39 but it is your custom to have me set one free for you at the Passover. Do you want me, therefore, to liberate for you the King of the Jews?” 40 Then they shouted again, “Not this fellow, but Barabbas.” Yet Barabbas was a robber.

JOHN CHAPTER 19

THEREUPON Pilate took Jesus and had Him flogged. 2 And the soldiers wove together a crown of thorns and set it down on his head. They also dressed Him in a purple robe, 3 came up to Him and said, “Long live the King of the Jews!” And they slapped Him in the face.

4 Once more Pilate came out and addressed them, “See! I am bringing him out to you, so you may know that I do not find Him guilty.” 5 Then Jesus came outside, wearing the thorny crown and the purple robe, Pilate said to them, “Here is the man!”

6 When the chief priests and their attendants saw Him, they shouted, “Crucify Him! Crucify Him!” Pilate said to them, “You take Him and do the crucifying, for I find no guilt in Him!”
7 The Jews replied, “We have a Law and by that Law, He ought to die, for He made Himself God’s Son.”

8 At hearing that word, Pilate was still more alarmed. 9 Again he entered the Praetorium and asked Jesus, “Where are You from?” But Jesus gave him no answer. 10 Pilate said to Him, “You do not talk to me? Do You not know that I haver the power to liberate You and I have the power to crucify You?” 11 Jesus replied, “You have no power whatever of your own, but only what is granted you from above. For this reason, the one who betrayed Me has greater sin than you have.”

12 From then on, Pilate kept seeking to set Him free, but the Jews kept shouting, “If you liberate Him, you are no friend of Caeser’s. Whoever makes himself King, rebels against Caeser.”

13 On hearing their words, Pilate led Jesus out and sat down in the judgment seat at a place called, The Pavement, or in Hebrew, Gabbatha. 14 It was the Day of Preparation for the Passover, about twelve o’clock. He said to the Jews, “This is your King.” 15 Then they cried out, “Away with Him! Crucify Him!” Pilate asked them, “Shall I crucify your King?” The chief priests answered, “We have no king except Caesar.” 16 Then he handed Him over to be crucified. So, they took Jesus.

17 And He went out carrying His cross to the place called Skull, that is in Hebrew, Golgotha, 18 where they crucified Him; and with Him two others, one on each side, with Jesus in the centre. 19 Pilate wrote a title and put it on the cross. It was written, JESUS, THE NAZARENE, THE KING OF THE JEWS. 20 Many of the Jews read the title, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Hebrew, Latin and Greek.

21 Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate: “Do not write, ‘The King of the Jews,’ but that He said, ‘I am the King of the Jews.’” 22 Pilate answered, “What I have written, I have written.”

23 When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took His clothes and divided them in four parts, a part for each soldier; the tunic, too, but as it was seamless, woven all the way from top to bottom, 24 they said to each other, “Let us not tear it but draw lots whose it will be.”

They did this so that the Scripture might be fulfilled, “They divided my clothes among themselves and for my clothing they cast lots.” So, then the soldiers did this.

25 By the cross of Jesus, stood His mother, and His mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. 26 Then Jesus, seeing His mother and the disciple whom He loved standing there, said to His mother, “Woman, there is your son.” 27 Then to the disciple He said, “There is your mother.” And from that moment the disciple took her to his home.

28 After this, since Jesus knew that everything was already completed, in order that the Scripture might be fulfilled, He said, “I am thirsty.” 29 A vessel full of vinegar stood there, so they put a sponge soaked in vinegar on hyssop and held it to His mouth. 30 When Jesus had taken the vinegar, He said, “It is finished!” Then, bowing His head, He yielded up His spirit.

31 Now since it was Preparation Day, the Jews, in order not to have the bodies remain on the cross over the Sabbath, which was a specially important day, requested Pilate to have the legs broken and their bodies removed. 32 So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who was crucified with Him; 33 but when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. 34 However, one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear and instantly blood and water came out. 35 He who saw it has testified and his testimony is true – he knows that he tells the truth – in order that you may believe. 36 For these things happened so that the Scripture might be carried out, “Not a bone of His shall be broken.” 37 And once more, another Scripture says, “They shall look on him whom they have pierced.”

38 After this, Joseph of Arimathea, a disciple of Jesus, but secretly so for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate if he might remove the body of Jesus, and Pilate gave him permission; so, he went and removed His body. 39 Nicodemus, who had earlier called on Him at night, also came and brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds. 40 Then they took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in the linen clothes, as was the Jewish custom for burial.

41 Now there was, near the place where He was crucified, a garden and in the garden a new tomb in which none had ever yet been laid; 42 there they laid Jesus, because it was the Jews Preparation Day and the tomb was close by.

JOHN CHAPTER 20

EARLY on the first day of the week, when it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone was removed from the tomb. 2 Then she ran and went to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb and we do not know where they have laid Him.”

3 Then Peter and the other disciple went and made their way to the tomb. 4 The two came running together; but the other disciple ran ahead, faster than Peter and arrived at the tomb first. 5 When he stooped down, he saw the linen clothes lying; however, he did not go in.

6 Then Simon Peter came behind him, entered the tomb and saw the linen clothes lying, 7 and the handkerchief that had been around His head, not lying with the linen clothes but wrapped by itself in its particular place. 8 Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, entered also and saw and believed; 9 for as yet they did not understand the Scripture that He must rise from the dead. 10 Then the disciples went home again.

11 But Mary stood outside the tomb weeping. While she was weeping. She stooped down to look into the tomb 12 and saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and the other at the feet where the body of Jesus had lain. 13 They said to her, “Woman, why are you crying?” She told them, “Because they have taken away my Lord and I do not know where they have placed Him.”

14 On saying this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not recognise Him. 15 Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you crying? Whom do you seek?” Supposing that He was the gardener, she said to Him, “Sir, if You have carried Him off, tell me where You put Him and I will remove Him.” 16 Jesus said to her, “Mary!” Turning completely round, she said to Him in Hebrew, “Rabboni” (which means Teacher).

17 Jesus told her, “Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to My brothers and tell them that I am going to ascend to My Father and your Father, to My God and your God.” 18 Mary Magdalene came, bringing the disciples news, “I have seen the Lord and He told me this.”

19 When it was evening that same first day of the week and, out of fear of the Jews, the doors were shut where the disciples met. Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace to you.” 20 Upon saying this, He showed them His hands and side. Then the disciples were glad to see the Lord. 21 Then He said to them again, “Peace to you. Just as the Father sent Me forth, so I send you.” 22 When He said this, He breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain those of anyone, they are retained.”

24 But Thomas, called the Twin, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came; 25 so, the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he replied, “Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails and put my finger in the mark of the nails and thrust my hand in His side, I will not believe.”

26 A week later, His disciples were again indoors and Thomas with them. Though the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace to you.” 27 He then spoke to Thomas, “Reach you finger here and see My hands; reach and thrust your hand into My side; do not be faithless, but believe.” 28 Thomas answered Him, “My Lord and My God!” 29 Jesus said to him, “You have believed because you have seen Me. Blessed are those who do not see and yet believe.”

30 Jesus did many other signs also in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that, believing, you may have life through His name.

JOHN CHAPTER 21

AFTER this Jesus showed Himself again to the disciples, by the Sea if Tiberias, and this was the way He appeared. 2 There were together, Simon Peter, and Thomas, called the Twin, and Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee and two more of His disciples. 3 Simon Peter said to them, “I am going fishing.” They said, “We are coming with you.” So, they went off and got into the boat and that night they caught nothing. 4 Day had already dawned when Jesus stood on the shore. The disciples, however, did not know that it was Jesus.
5 Then Jesus said to them, “Boys, have you caught anything?” They answered Him, “No.”
6 He said to them, “Cast the net to the right of the boat and you will find some,” So they cast the net and could not draw it up any more because of the great number of fish.

7 The disciple whom Jesus loved then said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” So, Simon Peter, hearing, “It is the Lord,” wrapped his work jacket around him (for he was stripped) and flung himself into the sea. 8 The rest of the disciples came with the boat – for they were near the shore, only about a hundred yards away – hauling in the net of fish.

9 When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire there with fish on it, and bread.
10 Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish you have caught.” 11 Simon Peter got in the boat and hauled the net to shore; it was filled with a hundred and fifty-three large fish, and though there were so many, the net did not tear.

12 Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” None of the disciples dared ask Him, “Who are You?” for they knew it was the Lord. 13 Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and also the fish. 14 This was the third time Jesus appeared to the disciples after rising from the dead.

15 When they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these do?” He said to Him, “Yes, Lord, You know that I love You as a dear friend.” He told him, “Feed My lambs.” 16 For a second time Jesus asked him, “Simon, son of John, do you love Me?” He replied, “Yes, Lord, You know that I love You as a dear friend.” Jesus told him, “Tend My sheep.” 17 The third time He asked him,” Simon, son of John, do you love Me as a dear friend?” Peter was distressed because He asked him for the third time, “Do you love Me?” and said to Him, “Lord, You know everything. You know that I love You as a dear friend.” Jesus told him, “Feed My sheep. 18 Truly I assure you, when you were young you girded yourself and went about where you wished; but when you grow old, you will hold out your hands and another will gird you and take you where you do not want to go.”

19 He said this to indicate by what kind of death he would glorify God. After saying this to him, He added, “Follow Me.” 20 Peter turned around and saw following him, the disciple whom Jesus loved, who at the supper had leaned close to Jesus’ side and said, “Lord, who is the one who will betray You?” 21 Noticing him, Peter asked Jesus, “Lord, what about him?” 22 Jesus told him, “If I want him to remain until I come, what is it to you? You follow Me.”

23 The word then went out among the brothers that, that disciple would not die; however, Jesus did not say, “He will not die,” but, “If I want him to remain till I come, what is it to you?”

24 This is the disciple who testifies to these facts and has written them and we know that his testimony is true.

25 There are, besides. Many other things that Jesus did, but if they were all described in detail, I suppose the world itself would not have room for the books that would be written.

THE ACTS

OF THE APOSTLES

CHAPTER 1

THE former narrative I composed. O Theophilus, regarding all that Jesus began to do and to teach 2 until the day of His ascension, after giving His orders through the Holy Spirit to the apostles, whom He had chosen 3 and to whom He showed himself alive after His suffering, by many convincing proofs for forty days, appearing to them and discussing the kingdom of God.

4 And as He met with them, He charged them, “Do not leave Jerusalem but await what the Father promised, which you have heard from Me: 5 for whereas John baptised with water, after a few days you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.”

6 So, those who were meeting together asked Him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” 7 He said to them, “It is not your affair to know times or seasons which the Father has placed under His own authority; 8 but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be My witness both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and in Samaria and to the remotest end of the earth.”

9 Upon saying this and why they were looking on, He was taken up and a cloud carried Him up from their view. 10 And as they kept gazing intently toward heaven as He was going away from them, two men in white clothing were standing by them, 11 who also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing into heaven? This very Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come again in the same manner, in which you have seen Him going to heaven.”

12 Then they went back to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's walk. 13 And when they arrived, they went to the upper room where they were staying – Peter and John, James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas the son of James,
14 All these engaged constantly and with one mind in prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

15 In those days, Peter arose among the brothers – there was a gathering of about a hundred and twenty persons – 16 and said, "Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled which the Holy Spirit foretold, through the lips of David concerning Judas, who became guide to those who arrested Jesus; 17 for he was counted with us and got his allotted share in this ministry." 18 (Now this man bought a field from the wages of crime and, falling headlong, he burst asunder and all his intestines gushed out, 19 and it became known to the whole population of Jerusalem, so that they named that field in their own dialect, Akeldama, that is Field of Blood.)

20 "For in the book of Psalms it is written, 'Let his dwelling be desolate and may no one live in it,' and, 'Let another take his office.' 21 So then, of the men who accompanied us, all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out with us, 22 beginning from the baptism of John and on to the day when He was taken up from us – one of these must be our fellow witness of His resurrection."

23 And they put up two names, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias, 24 and they prayed, "You, Lord, knower of all hearts, make clear which one of these two You have selected, 25 to take the position of this ministry and apostolate from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place."

26 And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was added to the eleven apostles.

THE ACTS CHAPTER 2

WHEN the day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all together in one place, 2 when suddenly there came a roaring from heaven like the driving of a mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 There appeared to them tongues like flames that were distributed and that settled on each one of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in foreign languages, as the Spirit granted them expression.

5 Now there were devout Jews staying at Jerusalem from every nation under heaven, 6 and when this sound was heard, the crowd collected and were confused, for each one heard them speak in his native language. 7 Astounded and amazed, they said, "Are not all those who are speaking Galileans? 8 How is it, then, that we each hear them in our native speech in which we were born? 9 Parthians, Medes, Elamites, dwellers of Mesopotamia, of Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya

around Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and Proselytes, 11 Cretans and Arabs – we hear them telling in our own languages, the excellencies of God." 12 They were all amazed and at a loss, remarking to one another, "What does this mean?" 13 But others said sneeringly, "They had too much new wine."

14 Then Peter arose together with the Eleven, and raising his voice, he addressed them: "Men of Judea and all you who dwell in Jerusalem, you should all understand this, so take not of what I say. 15 These men are not drunk as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning; 16 but this is what was spoken through the Prophet Joel: 17 It will be in the last days, says God, that I will pour out My Spirit upon all flesh. Your sons and your daughters will prophesy and your youths will see visions; your elders shall dream dreams, 18 and on My bond servants and My bond maids, I shall in those days pour out My Spirit and they will prophesy. 19 I shall present wonders, too, in heaven above and signs on the earth below – blood and fire, and smoky mist. 20 The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before that great and conspicuous day of the Lord arrives. 21 And it will be that 'whoever will call on the Lord's name will be saved.'"

22 "Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a Man divinely accredited to you through mighty works and wonders and signs, which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves know, 23 this Person you killed by nailing Him to the cross through the hands of lawless men, for He was delivered up in the determined will and foreknowledge of God – 24 Him, God raised up by setting Him free from the pangs of death; for He could not be held in its grip. 25 For David says, having Him in view, 'I saw the Lord constantly before me; for He is at my right hand that I may not be disquieted. 26 For this my heart is gladdened and my tongue is jubilant; my flesh too, will still have rest in hope; 27 because Thou wilt not abandon my soul to the realm of the dead, neither wilt Thou permit Thy Holy One to see corruption. 28 Thou hast acquainted me with the ways of life; Thou wilt fill me with good cheer in Thy presence.'"

29 "Brothers, I may speak plainly to you about the patriarch David, that he died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. 30 Therefore, being a prophet and knowing that God had sworn to him with an oath, to seat one of his descendants on his throne, 31 he was looking ahead and spoke of the resurrection of Christ, that He would not be abandoned to the realm of the dead; neither would His flesh see corruption. 32 This Jesus has God raised up; of this we all are witnesses.

33 "So, lifted high at the right hand of God and receiving from the Father, the promised Holy Spirit. He has poured out what you both see and hear. 34 For David did not ascend to heaven; but he says, 'The Lord, said to my Lord: Sit at My right hand 35 until I place Thy enemies for a footstool of Thy feet.'"

36 "Without a shadow of a doubt, then, let the whole house of Israel know that God made Him both Lord and Christ – this Jesus whom you crucified."

37 As they were listening, they were moved to the depths of their hearts; so, they said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” 38 Peter responded, “Repent and be baptised, each of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit; 39 for the promise is to you and to your children and to all those far away, as many as the Lord our God may call.”

40 With many other words he charged them earnestly and warned them: “Be saved from this crooked generation.” 41 Then those who welcomed his message were baptised, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

42 And they persevered on the apostles’ teaching and in the fellowship, in the breaking of bread and in prayers. 43 But awe fell on every soul, as many wonders and signs took place in Jerusalem, through the apostles.

44 The believers all met together and had everything jointly; 45 they sold their property and their belongings, and distributed them to all, as anyone might have need. 46 Daily they frequented the temple together and ate their meals at home together. So, they received nourishment, 47 praising God with happy and unruffled hearts, and enjoying the good will of all people, while daily the Lord added to the group those who were saved.

THE ACTS CHAPTER 3

NOW Peter and John went up to the temple for the three o’clock hour of prayer 2 and a man, lame from his birth, was being carried, whom every day they placed at the temple gate called Beautiful, to beg alms from those frequenting the temple.

3 When he saw Peter and John at the point of entering the temple, he asked for charity,
4 but Peter fixed his eyes on him, so did John, and said; “Look at us.” 5 So he watched them closely, expecting to get something from them, 6 but Peter said, “I have neither silver or gold, but I will give you what I have. In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, walk.” 7 And gripping him by the right hand, he raised him up.

8 Instantly, his feet and ankles grew firm, he leaped up and stood, and began to walk and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God.

9 When the people all saw him walking around and praising God, 10 and recognised him as the one who used to sit at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, they were completely overcome with awe and amazement at his experience. 11 And as he kept clinging to Peter and John, all the people ran crowding toward them at the place called Solomon’s Portico. 12 And Peter, when he noticed it, addressed the people:

“Men of Israel, why are you surprised at this? And why are you staring at us, as if we had made him walk through our own power or piety? 13 The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified His Servant Jesus, whom you delivered up and disowned before Pilate, when he had decided to set Him free. 14 But you denied the Holy and Righteous One and requested that a murderer be granted you. 15 You killed the Prince of

Life, whom God raised from the dead – of this we are witnesses. 16 By faith in His name, this person, whom you see and recognise, has been strengthened and faith in Him gave this perfect health you all observe."

17 "Now I know, brothers, that you behaved ignorantly just as your leaders did; 18 but God has thus fulfilled what He made known beforehand, through the lips of all the prophets, that His Christ was to suffer. 19 Repent and turn about, so that your sins may be wiped away and that seasons of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, 20 and so that He may send the Christ, who has been appointed for you, Jesus, 21 whom heaven had to receive, until the times of universal restoration of which God spoke through the ages by the lips of His Holy Prophets. 22 In fact, Moses said, "The Lord God will raise up from among your brothers, a prophet like me. Listen to everything he will tell you; 23 and every soul that will not listen to that prophet will be utterly destroyed from among the people."

24 "So, all the prophets that have spoken successively, from Samuel down, have announced these times of ours. 25 You are the heirs of the prophets and of the covenant that God established with our fathers when He said to Abraham, "Through your posterity, all the families on earth will be blessed."

26 "When God raised up His Servant, He sent Him to you to bless you, as each of you turns from his evil ways."

THE ACTS CHAPTER 4

WHILE they were speaking to the people, the priests, the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees approached them, 2 chagrined because they taught the people and preached in the case of Jesus, the resurrection of the dead. 3 They seized them and, as it was already evening, they put them in custody until the next day. 4 But many of those who had heard the message believed, and their number grew to about five thousand.

5 The next day, their rulers, as well as the elders and scribes, gathered at Jerusalem 6 with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas and John and Alexander and as many as belonged to the high priest's family, 7 and placing them in the centre, they inquired. "Through what power or by what name, have you done this?" 8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers and elders of the people, 9 if today we are being called to account for a good deed to a cripple, by what means he had been cured, 10 then you and all the people of Isarael should know that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, through Him this man stands before you in sound health. 11 He is "The stone despised by you, the builders, which became the head of the corner." 12 And there is salvation through no one else; for there is no other name under heaven given among men, by which we must be saved."

13 As they observed the fearlessness of speech on the part of Peter and John and understood that they were men without schooling or skill, they marvelled and recognised

them as having been with Jesus. 14 Besides, looking at the man who had been healed standing with them, they had nothing to say against it. 15 Ordering them to withdraw outside the Sanhedrin, they consulted together. 16 “What shall we do to these men? For that a notable sign has occurred through them, is obvious to all the people of Jerusalem and we cannot deny it. 17 However, so that this will not be spread further among the people, let us strongly warn them to speak no more to any person about this name.”

18 So they summoned them, and gave orders not to refer to or to teach in the name of Jesus. 19 But Peter and John replied to them, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, is for you to judge; 20 as for us, we cannot refrain from telling what we have seen and heard.”

21 They threatened them still further and then freed them, as they saw no way to punish them because of the people; for they were all praising God for what had happened. 22 For the man on whom this miracle of healing had been performed, was over forty years old.

23 After their release, they went to their own companions and related to them everything that the chief priest’s and elders had said. 24 Then those who heard it, unitedly raised their voices to God and said: “Sovereign Lord, who has made the heaven and earth, the sea and everything in them, 25 and who through the Holy Spirit said by the lips of our forefather David, Your servant, ‘Why do the Gentiles rage and the people devise vain things? 26 The kings of the earth got ready and the rulers mustered themselves, against the Lord and against His Anointed’; 27 for they have actually gathered in this city against Your Holy Servant, Jesus, whom You did anoint – Herod and Pontius Pilate with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, 28 all doing what Your hand and Your purpose preordained to take place. 29 And now, Lord, notice their threats and endow Your bond servants with fearlessness to speak Your word 30 as You reach out Your hand to heal and to work signs and wonders, through the name of Your Holy Servant, Jesus.”

31 And when they had prayed, their meeting place shook and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and fearlessly they gave utterance to God’s message. 32 The host of believers were in one heart and soul; no one claimed his belongings just for himself, but everything was theirs in common. 33 And with great power, the apostles bore witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and grace rested liberally on all of them. 34 Not one among them suffered need; for those who owned fields or houses sold them, brought the proceeds of the sale 35 and deposited the money at the feet of the apostles. Then it was distributed to each according to his need.

36 Joseph, a Cyprian Levite who was called Barnabas by the apostles, which translated means, Son of Consolation, to whom a field belonged, 37 sold it and brought the proceeds, which he deposited at the apostles’ feet.

THE ACTS CHAPTER 5

BUT a man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold some real estate, 2 retained with his wife's knowledge, some of the price and brought a portion which he laid at the apostles' feet. 3 Then Peter said to him, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and misappropriate some of the field's price? 4 Could you not have kept the field for you own or, after the sale, have done with your proceeds as you pleased? Why did you devise such a thing? You did not lie to men but to God."

5 Listening to these words, Ananias fell down and died, and great awe came over all who learned of it. 6 The young men then arose, wrapped his body and carried it out for burial.

7 About three hours had passed when his wife came in, ignorant of what had occurred,
8 and Peter asked her, "Tell me, did you sell the land for so much?" She said, "Yes, for so much." 9 Peter then asked her, "How did you agree together, to test the LORD'S Spirit?" The feet of those who buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out also."
10 Instantly, she fell at his feet and died; so, the young men found her dead when they came in, carried her out, and buried her beside her husband. 11 And great awe fell upon the whole church and on all who learned of this.

12 Many signs and wonders continued to be done among the people, by means of the apostles, and they all met unitedly in Solomon's Portico. 13 None of the outsiders dared to join them, but the people held them in high esteem. 14 Moreover, throngs of men and women who believed in the Lord, were increasingly added. 15 They went so far as to bring out their sick into the streets and to lay them on rugs and mats so that, as Peter passed by, at least his shadow might fall on some of them. 16 Even from towns outside Jerusalem, the crowd came streaming in to bring the sick and those troubled with unclean spirits, and they were all cured.

17 But the high priest and all those who were with him, and the Sadducean party arose, full of jealously, 18 and seized the apostles and put them in the public jail. 19 But an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors at night, led them out, and said, 20 "Go, take your stand in the temple and tell the people all about this new life."

21 Obediently, they went into the temple at daybreak and began to teach. Now the high priest and his party, summoned the Sanhedrin, even the whole senate of the Israelites, and sent to the prison to bring the men. 22 But when the attendants arrived, they failed to find them in jail and went back and reported, 23 "We found the prison securely locked and the sentries posted at the doors, but on opening them we found no one inside."

24 When the captain of the temple guard and the chief priests heard this report, they were completely at a loss, what had happened to them. 25 Someone came and announced to them, "The men you put in jail are standing in the temple teaching the people." 26 Then the

captain went out with his officers and brought them, but not by force, for they were afraid the people might stone them.

27 They brought them before the Sanhedrin, and the high priest asked them, 28 “Did we not strictly forbid you to teach in this name? And here you have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine and you want to bring upon us, this man’s blood.”

29 Then Peter and the apostles replied, “We must obey God rather than men. 30 The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you put to death by hanging him on a cross. 31 God exalted Him to His right hand as Leader and Saviour, to grant to Israel repentance and forgiveness of sins. 32 And not only are we witnesses to these facts, but so is the Holy Spirit whom God bestows on those who obey Him.”

33 As they listened, they grew furious and determined to destroy them. 34 Then a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the Law who enjoyed the respect of all the people, arose in the Sanhedrin and ordered the men to be put outside for a few moments. 35 Then he addressed them, “Men of Israel, be careful what you intend to do to those men; 36 for in earlier days, Theudas appeared, claiming to be somebody and about four hundred men adhered to him; but he was killed and all his supporters were dispersed, and they came to nothing. 37 After him, Judas the Galilean led an uprising at the time of the census, and raised a popular following, and he perished too, and all his adherents were scattered. 38 So, I advise you in this case to keep away from these men and leave them alone; for should this plan or movement be merely human, then it will go to pieces; 39 but if its source is God, then you will be unable to crush them. You might even be finding yourselves to be fighting against God.” 40 Persuaded by him, they called in the apostles, had them flogged, warned them not to talk in the name of Jesus, and let them go. 41 The they went out from the presence of the Sanhedrin, happy indeed for being thought worthy to suffer disgrace for His name. 42 They never stopped for a single day to teach and to preach Christ Jesus, in the temple and at home.

THE ACTS CHAPTER 6

IN those days, as the number of disciples kept growing, there rose a complaint on the part of the Greek-speaking Jews against those who spoke Hebrew because their widows were overlooked in the daily charities. 2 So the Twelve summoned the assembly of the disciples and said, “It is not desirable that we should neglect the teaching of God’s word, to wait on tables; 3 therefore, brothers, look around for seven men among you of good reputation and full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we shall appoint for this duty, 4 while we continue to devote ourselves to prayer and the ministry of the word.”

5 The suggestion pleased the entire assembly and they selected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also, Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. 6 These they presented to the apostles who, with prayer, laid hands on them.

7 So, the word of God kept on spreading. The number of disciples in Jerusalem, increased rapidly and even a large group of priests obeyed the faith.

8 And Stephen, full of grace and power, did notable wonders and signs among the people;
9 but some from the so-called Synagogue of the Freedmen, and of the people of Cyrene and Alexandria, and of Cilicia and Asia, undertook debating with Stephen 10 and could not successfully meet the wisdom and the Spirit by whom he spoke.

11 Then they instigated men to say, “We have heard him speaking blasphemous words against Moses and God.” 12 Thus, they stirred up the people, as well as the elders and the scribes; they attacked and grabbed him and brought him to the Sanhedrin. 13 They also produced false witnesses who said, “This man never quits uttering statements against the holy place and the Law; 14 for we have heard him say that this Jesus the Nazarene, will demolish this place and will change the customs that were handed down to us by Moses.”

15 And all those seated in the Sanhedrin gazed and saw that his face shone like the face of an angel.

THE ACTS CHAPTER 7

THE high priest asked, “Are these statements correct?” 2 Then he said, “Brothers and fathers, listen; The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, previous to his settling in Haran. 3 and told him, ‘Get away from your country and your relations and come to the land I will show you.’ 4 Then Abraham went out from the Chaldean country and settled in Haran; and from there, after his father’s death, God transferred him to this land where you now live. 5 He gave him no heritable property in it, no, not a foot of it, but promised to give it for a possession to him and his offspring after him, though at the time he had no child. 6 But God spoke as follows: ‘Your offspring will be aliens in a foreign land and the people of that land, will be subject and ill-treat them four-hundred years. 7 And the nation whom they serve.’ God said, ‘I shall judge, and afterward they will come out and worship Me in this place.’”

8 “He also gave him the covenant of circumcision, and he became the father of Isaac and circumcised him the eighth day: Isaac became the father of Jacob and Jacob became the father of the twelve patriarchs.”

9 “The patriarchs, jealous of Joseph, sold him into Egypt, but God was with him. 10 He rescued him out of all his troubles and granted him favour and wisdom in the presence of Pharoah, king of Egypt, who appointed him governor over Egypt and over his entire household.

11 “Then a famine and great distress came over all Egypt and Canaan, so that our fathers failed to find nourishment; 12 but when Jacob learned that there was wheat in Egypt, he sent our fathers there on the first trip. 13 And on their second trip, Joseph made himself known to his brothers, and Joseph’s family was made known to Pharoah.

14 “Joseph then sent and invited his father Jacob and the whole family, comprising seventy-five souls. 15 So, Jacob came down to Egypt, where he and our fathers died, 16 and they were removed to Shechem and laid in the tomb that Abraham had bought from the sons of Hamor at Shechem for a sum of money.”

17 “But as the promised time approached, which God had announced to Abraham, the people grew and multiplied in Egypt 18 until another king, who knew nothing about Joseph, took the throne of Egypt. 19 He took advantage of our race and ill-treated our fathers, making them expose their infants, so that they might not survive.

20 “In that period Moses was born, beautiful in God’s sight and was nurtured in his parental home, three months. 21 And when he was exposed, the daughter of Pharoah adopted him and brought him up to be her own son. 22 So, Moses was educated in all the science and learning of the Egyptians, and had ability in speech and in deeds. 23 When he was forty years old, he resolved to look after his brothers, the Israelites 24 and, seeing one treated unfairly, he defended him and avenged the wronged person by slaying the Egyptian; 25 for he supposed his brothers would understand that God would grant them deliverance through him; but they failed to understand.”

26 “The next day he appeared to them as they were fighting, and tried to reconcile them, saying, ‘Men, you are brothers; why are you mistreating each other?’ 27 But the one who was mistreating his neighbour pushed him away with the words, ‘Who appointed you ruler and judge over us? 28 You want to kill me, perhaps, in the way you killed the Egyptian yesterday?’ 29 At this remark, Moses fled and became an alien in the land of Midian, where he became the father of two sons.”

30 “And at the completion of forty years there, appeared to him in the Mount Sinai wilderness and angel in the flame of a burning thornbush. 31 When Moses saw it, he marvelled at the sight and as he approached to look at it closely, the Lord’s voice came saying, 32 ‘I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.’ Moses was so frightened that he did not dare to look.

33 “The Lord said to him, ‘Untie the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is Holy ground. 34 I have certainly observed the ill-treatment of My people in Egypt, and I have heard their groaning and have come down to deliver them. So come now, I will send you into Egypt.’”

35 “This Moses whom they disowned by saying, ‘Who has appointed you a ruler and judge?’ him, God sent both to be a ruler and to be a redeemer with the help of the angel who appeared to him in the bush. 36 It was he who led them out, performing wonders and signs in the land of Egypt, at the Red Sea, and in the wilderness, forty years.”

37 “This is the same Moses who told the Israelites, ‘God will raise up from your brothers a prophet like me.’ 38 This is the one who was in the congregation in the wilderness, with the

angel who spoke to him on Mount Sinai, and with our forefathers; he received the living messages to impart to us. 39 To him our fathers did not want to submit; they pushed him aside and in their hearts, turned back to Egypt, 40 saying to Aaron, ‘Make us gods that will go before us; for this Moses who led us out of Egypt, we do not know what has befallen him.’ 41 They made a calf in those days and brought sacrifice to the image, and rejoiced in the works of their hands.”

42 “But God turned and abandoned them to worship the host of heaven, as it is written in the book of the prophets. ‘O house of Israel, did you offer Me victims and sacrifice for forty years in the wilderness? 43 You carried Moloch’s tent and your god Romphan’s star-idol, figures you made to worship them. So, I shall deport you beyond Babylon.’”

44 “In the wilderness, our fathers had the tent of testimony, just as He who spoke to Moses commanded him to make it according to the pattern he had seen. 45 And our fathers received it and brought it in with Joshua into the territory of the nations, whom God drove out before our fathers. This tent remained until the time of David, 46 who found favour before God and prayed that he might provide a house for the God of Jacob. 47 But Solomon built Him a house. 48 However, the Most High does not dwell in a building made with human hands, just as the prophet says, 49 ‘Heaven is My throne but the earth a footstool for My feet. What sort of house will you build Me, says the Lord, or what is My resting place? 50 Has not My hands made all these things?’”

51 “You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ear, you have always resisted the Holy Spirit, the same as your fathers did! 52 Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? Yes, they killed those who announced beforehand, the coming of the Righteous One, whom now you have betrayed and murdered, 53 you who received the Law through the mediation of angels and have not kept it.”

54 As they heard this, they were enraged in their hearts and gnashed their teeth at him; 55 but he, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at God’s right hand, 56 and said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at God’s right hand.” 57 But they, shouting loudly and holding their hands to their ears, rushed upon him in a body 58 and threw him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses placed their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul. 59 So, they stoned Stephen as he called upon the Lord, saying, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” 60 Falling on his knees, he called out loudly, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” And with these words he fell asleep in death.

THE ACTS CHAPTER 8

SAUL was altogether agreed to his murder, and at the time a severe persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem, so that all except the apostles were dispersed throughout the lands of Judea and Samaria. 2 Devout men took charge of Stephen’s funeral and made

grievous lamentation over him. 3 But Saul made havoc of the church and, forcing himself into homes and dragging out men and women, he put them in prison.

4 Those who were dispersed went everywhere preaching the message of good news. 5 So, Philip came down to a city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. 6 The crowds unanimously attended to the teachings of Philip as they listened to him and observed the miracles performed. 7 For from many who were possessed, the unclean spirits went out, screaming with a loud voice, while many paralytics and lame too, were healed, 8 so that there was much rejoicing in that city.

9 However, a man in that city, named Simon, had been astonishing the Samaritan nation by the practice of magic, claiming that he was a remarkable person. 10 Everybody, young and old, paid attention to him and said, “He is what is called, the Great Power of God.” 11 The reason they paid attention to him, was that for a long time, he had astonished them with magic arts.

12 But when they believed Philip as he told the good news of the Kingdom of God and of the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptised, men as well as women. 13 Even Simon himself believed and, upon his baptism, kept close to Philip, amazed at the signs and mighty miracles he saw being performed.

14 When the apostles in Jerusalem learned that Samaria had welcomed the message of God, they sent them Peter and John 15 who, on coming down there, prayed for the believers to receive the Holy Spirit, 16 for thus far they had been baptised only in the name of the Lord Jesus; the Spirit had not yet fallen upon any one of them. 17 Then they placed their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit.

18 Now when Simon observed that through the laying on of the apostles’ hands, the Holy Spirit was conferred, he offered them money 19 and said, “Give me this power, so that the person on whom I lay may hands, may receive the Holy Spirit.” 20 But Peter told him, “May your money go to perdition with you, because you thought you could buy the gift of God for money; 21 you have neither share nor part in this message, for your heart is not right in God’s sight. 22 Repent of this wickedness of yours and plead with the Lord to forgive you for what you had in mind. 23 For I see that you are in bitter gall and in fetters of wickedness.”

24 But Simon answered, “Plead with the Lord for me yourselves, so that none of the things you have mentioned may befall me.”

25 Then after they had testified and spoken the Lord’s message, they went back to Jerusalem, preaching the Gospel to many Samaritan communities.

26 But an angel of the Lord told Philip, “Rise up and about midday, go down the road that runs from Jerusalem to Gaza – a lonely road.” 27 So, he got up and went, and an Ethiopian eunuch, a high official of Candace, Queen of Ethiopia, who was in charge of all her finances, and had come to worship in Jerusalem, 28 was on the way back and was sitting in his chariot

reading the book of the Prophet Isaiah. 29 Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go up and join yourself to that chariot.”

30 And Philip ran up, heard him read the Prophet Isaiah, and said, “Do you understand what you are reading?” 31 He said, “How could I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to climb in and be seated with him.

32 Now the Scripture passage he was reading was this: “As a lamb He was led to slaughter and as a sheep, voiceless before His shearer, so He does not open his mouth. 33 In His humiliation, He was deprived of justice. Who can tell the story of His offspring? For His life was taken from the earth.”

34 The eunuch turned to Philip and said, “I beg of you, about whom does the prophet say this, of himself or of someone else?”

35 Then Philip began to speak and, starting from that same Scripture, told him the good news about Jesus.

36 Proceeding on the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, “See here is water. What is to prevent my being baptised?” 37 *Philip assured him, “If you heartily believe, it is permitted.” And he replied, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”* 38 So, he ordered the chariot to halt, and both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and he baptised him.

39 But when they came up from the water, the Lord’s Spirit took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him anymore; he went joyfully on his way. 40 Philip however, was found at Azotus and, as he passed through all the cities, he brought the good news all the way to Caesarea.

THE ACTS CHAPTER 9

BUT Saul, still breathing out threat and murder against the Lord’s disciples, called on the high priest 2 and requested of him letters to the Damascus synagogues, so that if he should find there any men or women who were of ‘The Way’, he might bring them as prisoners to Jerusalem.

3 But as he travelled and approached Damascus, a light from heaven suddenly shone all around him. 4 He fell to the earth and heard a voice that spoke to him, “Saul, Saul why do you persecute Me?” 5 He said, “Who are You, Lord?” He answered, “I am Jesus, whom you have been persecuting. *It is hard for you to kick against the goads.”* 6 *Trembling and astonished, he asked, “Lord, what would You have me do?” The Lord said to him, “Rise and enter the city and it will be told you what you must do.”*

7 The men who were travelling with him stood speechless; they heard the voice well enough, but saw no one. 8 Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes, he

could see nothing. So, they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. 9 And for three days he remained blind and neither ate nor drank.

10 Now there was in Damascus a disciple by the name of Ananias, to whom the LORD said in a vision, “Ananias!” He said, “Here I am, Lord.” 11 The Lord said to him, “Arise and go into the street called Straight and inquire at the home of Judas for one called Saul of Tarsus; for he is there praying. 12 And he has seen a man named Ananias entering and laying hands on him so that he may see.”

13 Ananias replied, “Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much he has hurt Your saints in Jerusalem, 14 and here he has authority from the chief priests to put into chains, every one who calls upon Your name.” 15 But the Lord told him, “Go. For he is My choice instrument to carry My name before the Gentiles and kings and the people of Israel. 16 For I will show him how much he will have to suffer on behalf of My name.”

17 So, Ananias went and entered the house. Then placing his hands upon him he said. Brother Saul, the Lord sent me – Jesus who appeared to you on the road you travelled – so that you may recover sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” 18 Instantly, it was as if scales fell from his eyes; he saw again, He arose and was baptised; 19 then, after eating something, he regained strength.

For some time, Saul remained with the Damascus disciples 20 and at once, preached Jesus in the synagogues, that He is the Son of God. 21 All who listened were amazed and said, “Is not he the one, who went about ravaging those in Jerusalem, who called on this Name, and who came here to take them as prisoners, shackled to the chief priests?” 22 But Saul continued to gain in strength, and nonplused the Jews, who lived in Damascus by proving that this was the Christ. 23 After considerable time, the Jews conspired to destroy him, 24 but Saul got wind of their plot. Day and night they watched the gates to kill him; 25 but his disciples took him and by night, let him down over the wall in a basket.

26 On reaching Jerusalem, he made efforts to associate with the disciples, but they were all afraid of him; for they did not believe that he was a disciple. 27 But Barnabas took him in, presented him to the apostles, and explained to them how Saul had seen the Lord on the road, how He had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had fearlessly spoken in the name of Jesus.

28 After that, Saul went in and out with them in Jerusalem, spoke boldly in the Lord’s name, 29 and especially talked and argued with the Greek speaking Jews; but they undertook to murder him. 30 So, when the brothers learned of it, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus.

31 Then the church enjoyed peace all over Judea, Galilee and Samaria, strengthened within and progressing in reverence toward the Lord. And through the encouragement of the Holy Spirit, there was increase in numbers.

32 As Peter was travelling about, his visits took him to the saints who lived at Lydda. 33 There he came across a man by the name of Aeneas, a paralytic who had been bedridden for eight years. 34 Peter said to him, “Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you. Get up and make your bed.” Instantly, he got up, 35 and all the inhabitants of Lydda and Sharon, saw him and turned to the Lord.

36 At Joppa, there was a disciple named Tabitha, which means Dorcas, a woman full of good deeds and acts of charity. 37 At about that time she fell ill and died; so, they bathed the body and laid it out in an upper room.

38 Now since Lydda is near Joppa, the disciples, learning that Peter was there, dispatched two men begging him. “Do come over to us without delay.” 39 So, Peter got up and went with them. On their arrival they brought him to the upper room, where all the widows stood around crying and pointing at the garments and coats, which Dorcas had made while she was with them. 40 But Peter put them all out, then kneeled down and prayed; and turning to the body, he said,” “Tabitha, arise!” She opened her eyes and, seeing Peter, she sat up. 41 Giving her a hand, he lifted her up and called in all the saints and the widows, to whom he presented her alive.

42 This became known all over Joppa and many believed in the Lord. 43 It came about that Peter remained at Joppa for some time, the guest of Simon a tanner.

THE ACTS CHAPTER 10

NOW there was a man named Cornelius living in Caesarea, a captain of what was called the Italian Cohort, 2 who, with his whole family, was a devout person, one who feared God, He made many charitable gifts to the people and worshipped God constantly. 3 He clearly saw in a vision at about three in the afternoon, an angel of God entering his house and saying to him, “Cornelius.” 4 Gazing intently at him, he said in fear, “What is it, Lord?” He replied, “Your prayers and your alms have ascended as worthy to be remembered before God. 5 Now then, send men to Joppa and have them call for Simon, who is called Peter. 6 He is lodging with one Simon, a tanner whose home is by the sea.”

7 As soon as the angel who spoke to him had left, he called two of his household servants, and a devout soldier who belonged to his personal attendants, 8 explained everything to them, and dispatched them to Joppa.

9 The next day, while they were on their journey and approaching the town, Peter went up on the roof about noontime to pray. 10 However, he grew hungry and wanted to eat. But while they were preparing a meal, a trance came over him. 11 He saw heaven opened and something coming down like a wide sheet, let down to earth by the four corners. 12 In it were all sorts of four-footed beasts and reptiles and birds. 13 And a voice came to him. “Rise, Peter, kill and eat.” 14 But Peter said, “By no means, Lord for I have never eaten anything undedicated and unclean”. 15 Once more the voice came to him. “What God has

purified, you must not consider unclean.” 16 This happened three times; then immediately, the thing was taken up into heaven.

17 While Peter was inwardly puzzled, what the vision might mean, then and there the messengers of Cornelius, who had inquired for Simon’s house, stood at the gate, 18 calling out to inquire whether Simon, called Peter, was a guest there.

19 And as Peter was still pondering over the vision, the Spirit said to him, “There are three men looking for you. 20 Rise and go downstairs and go with them unhesitatingly, for I have sent them.” 21 So, Peter went down and said to the men, “I am the one you are looking for. Why are you here?” 22 They said, “Captain Cornelius, a just and God-fearing man of good reputation among all the Jewish people, was instructed by a holy angel to have you brought to his house, and to hear what you have to say.”

23 Then he invited them in and entertained them. The next day, he got up and went with them, and some of the brothers from Joppa accompanied him.

24 On the following day they entered Caesarea. Expecting them, Cornelius had invited his relatives and intimate friends, 25 and as Peter entered, Cornelius met him, fell at his feet and paid him reverence. 26 But Peter raised him up with the words, “Get up, I am a human being too.” 27 Conversing with him, he went in and found a large gathering, 28 to whom he said, “You are aware how a Jew in not allowed to associate with or to visit one of another race; but God has shown me not to call any human being unhallowed or unclean. 29 For this reason, I came without hesitation when I was sent for. May I inquire for what reason you sent for me?”

30 Cornelius said, “Four days ago at about this time, I was praying in my home at three o’clock in the afternoon, when a man stood before me in dazzling attire 31 and said, “Cornelius, your prayer has been heard and your charities are remembered before God. 32 Now then, send to Joppa and invite Simon, called Peter; he is a guest at the home of Simon the tanner, by the sea.” 33 So I sent for you at once, and you have been good enough to come. Now then, we are all present here before God to hear everything in which the Lord has instructed you.”

34 Peter then opened his lips and said,” “Now I thoroughly understand the truth that God is not partial, 35 but in every nation, he who reveres Him and practices righteousness is acceptable to Him. 36 He sent this message to the Israelites, when through Jesus Christ He made the good news of peace known to them, He is Lord of all.

37 “You know what occurred up and down Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John preached 38 how God anointed with the Holy Spirit and with power, Jesus of Nazareth, who traversed the land doing good and healing all that were overpowered by the devil; for God was with Him. 39 And we are witnesses of everything He did, both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem – and they murdered Him, nailing Him to a cross.

40 “But God raised Him up on third day and caused him to appear, 41 not to all people but to witnesses who were previously selected by God, to us who ate and drank with Him after His resurrection from the dead. 42 And to us He gave orders to preach to the people and to bear solemn testimony that He is the God-appointed Judge of the living and of the dead. 43 To Him all the prophets bear witness, that all who believe in Him receive forgiveness of sins through His name.”

44 While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who listened to the message. 45 And the circumcised believers who had come with Peter were amazed that the gift if the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the Gentiles also, 46 for they heard them speaking in tongues and declaring the greatness of God.

47 Then Peter answered, “Would anyone refuse the water for their baptism, since they have received the Holy Spirit as we ourselves did?” 48 So, he directed them to be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they begged him to stay a few days.

THE ACTS CHAPTER 11

NOW the apostles and the brothers who lived in Judea, heard that the Gentiles had welcomed God’s message; 2 so when Peter came up to Jerusalem, those who insisted upon circumcision disputed with him 3 with this charge. “You visited and ate with the uncircumcised.” 4 Peter however, began to put the whole matter before them in order.

5 “I was in the town of Joppa praying,” he said, “And in a trance I saw a vision, something coming down like a large sheet, let down from heaven by the four corners till it reached me. 6 Looking into it, I noticed animals of earth and wild beasts and reptiles and birds. 7 I also heard a voice saying to me, ‘Rise Peter, kill and eat.’ 8 But I said, ‘By no means, Lord, for nothing undedicated or unclean has ever entered my mouth,’ 9 But for a second time the voice answered from heaven, “What God has purified, you must not consider unholy.’ 10 This happened three times; then everything was taken up into heaven again.”

11 “At that very moment, three men who had sent to me from Caesarea, stood at the house where we were staying, 12 and the Spirit told me to go with them without any hesitation; so, six of the brothers went with me and we entered the man’s home. 13 Then he declared to us how he had seen the angel in his house, who stood and said, ‘Send to Joppa to bring Simon called Peter; 14 he will give you the message through which you and your family will be saved.’ 15 But at the beginning of my message, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, just as on us at the beginning; 16 so I was mindful of the Lord’s message, how he said, ‘John did indeed baptise with water, but you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.’ 17 Now since God granted them the same gift that He gave us after believing in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?”

18 When they heard this, they quieted down and glorified God, saying, “Then God has granted to the Gentiles also the repentance that leads to life.”

19 Now those who were dispersed on account of the persecution that arose in connection of Stephen, made their way as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, telling the message to none except Jews. 20 However, there were some of the Cyprians and Cyrenians, who arrived at Antioch and spoke to the Greeks as well, preaching the good news about the Lord Jesus. 21 The Lord's hand was with them and a great number who believed turned to the Lord.

22 When word of it came to the attention of the Jerusalem church, they sent Barnabas to Antioch, 23 who, on his arrival, was happy to see the grace of God and who encouraged them all to remain loyal to the Lord with steady hearts – 24 for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith – and a considerable number were added to the Lord.

25 Then he made a trip to Tarsus to look for Saul 26 and, on finding him, brought him to Antioch where for an entire year, they met with the church and taught a large group. At Antioch, furthermore, the disciples were first designated as Christians.

27 At about that time, there came down prophets from Jerusalem to Antioch, 28 one of whom, named Agabus, stood up and revealed through the Spirit that a terrible famine was to come over the whole world – which occurred in the reign of Claudius. 29 So the disciples determined to send a contribution to the brothers who lived in Judea, in which each of them would take part according to his ability. 30 And this they did; they sent it to the elders by Barnabas and Saul.

THE ACTS CHAPTER 12

AT about that time, king Herod laid violent hands on some of those who belonged to the church. 2 He slew James, the brother of John, with the sword 3 and, noticing that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded also to arrest Peter. That was during the days of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. 4 Arresting him, he put him in prison and charged four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending to bring him out to the people after the Passover.

5 So, Peter was being kept in prison, but from the church, prayer on his behalf was unceasingly made to God.

6 On the night before Herod intended to bring him out to the people, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with double chains, while sentries in front of the door guarded the prison. 7 Suddenly, an angel of the Lord stood beside him, and a light shone in the cell; then, touching Peter on the side, he roused him and said, "Get up at once." The chains dropped from his hands 8 and the angel told him, "Put on your belt and your sandals," which he did. He added, "Put on your cloak and follow me." 9 So he followed him out, having no idea that the angel's activity was real, but imagining he was seeing a vision.

10 They passed the first guard and the second, then reached the iron gate leading into the city, and it automatically opened for them. Walking out, they went along one block, when suddenly the angel departed from him. 11 When Peter came to his senses he said, "Now I

know for certain, that the Lord sent His angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting."

12 When he got his bearings, he went to the home of Mary, the mother of John, surnamed Mark, where a large number had gathered and were praying. 13 When he knocked at the door of the gate, a girl named Rhoda came to answer. 14 And, recognising the voice as Peter's, she failed from sheer gladness to open the gate, but ran in to announce that Peter stood at the gate. 15 However, they told her, "You are raving." But she insisted up and down that it was so. Then they said, "It is an angel." 16 Peter meanwhile kept on knocking, and when they opened the door they saw to their astonishment, that it was he. 17 He motioned with his hand to be silent and explained how the Lord had brought him out of the prison; and he said, "Let James and the brothers know all this." Then he left and went to another place.

18 With the break of day there was no little consternation among the soldiers as to what had really become of Peter. 19 When Herod sought for him and did not find him, he had the guards executed, after examining them. He then left Judea for Caesarea where he resided.

20 Now he was very angry with the Tyrians and the Sidonians; so, they came to him in a body, and winning over Blastus, the chief chamberlain, they pleaded for peace; for their country depended on the country of the king for its food.

21 On the appointed day Herod, arrayed in his royal robes, took his seat on the throne and made a public address to them. 22 The mob shouted, "A voice of a god and not a man!" 23 But instantly, an angel of the Lord struck him, because he did not ascribe the glory to God. He was eaten by worms, and died. 24 But the word of God kept on growing and multiplying.

25 And Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem, when they had finished their ministry there, and brought along John, surnamed Mark.

THE ACTS CHAPTER 13

NOW there, were in the church that was at Antioch, prophets and teachers, such as Barnabas and Simon, known as Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene; also, Manaen, a childhood companion of Herod the Tetrarch, and Saul. 2 And as they were worshipping the LORD and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." 3 Then, after fasting and prayer and laying of hands, they sent them away.

4 So they, as they were sent out by the Holy Spirit, went down to Seleucia and from there they sailed to Cyprus. 5 Arriving at Salamis, they preached the word of God in the Jewish synagogues. And they had John as their helper. 6 Traversing the entire island as far as Paphos, they came across a Jewish magician, a false prophet named Bar-jesus, 7 who was attached to the proconsul Sergius Paulus, an intelligent man who summoned Barnabas and

Saul, seeking to hear the word of God. 8 But Elymas, the magician (for such is his name translated), opposed them by trying to turn the proconsul away from the faith.

9 But Saul – also called Paul – filled with the Holy Spirit, looked straight at him 10 and said, "You son of the devil! You enemy of everything that is right, full of every deceit and villainy, will you never stop making crooked the straight ways of the Lord? 11 Now then the Lord's is on you. And you will be blind, not enjoying the sunlight for a time."

Instantly, there fell on him a mist of darkness, so that he groped around in search of someone to lead him by the hand. 12 Then the proconsul, when he saw what had happened, believed, for he was astonished about the teaching of the Lord.

13 From Paphos, Paul and his company sailed away to Perga in Pamphylia, where John separated himself from them and returned to Jerusalem; 14 but they went on from Perga and reached Pisidian, Antioch.

Entering the synagogue on the Sabbath, they took their seats; 15 but after the reading of the Law and the Prophets, the synagogue leaders sent them the message: "Brothers, if you have any word of encouragement for the people, speak up." 16 So, Paul stood up and motioning with his hand for silence, said:

"Men of Israel and all you who reverence God, listen. 17 The God of this people Israel, selected our fathers and made them a great nation, when they lived as foreigners in the land of Egypt; then with an uplifted arm, He led them out from there. 18 For about forty years, He endured their behaviour in the wilderness; 19 then, destroying seven nations in the land of Canaan, He distributed their land by lot – 20 all of which took about four hundred and fifty years."

"After that, He gave them judges until the Prophet Samuel. 21 At that time they asked for a king and God gave them Saul, the son of Kish of the tribe of Benjamin, for forty years.
22 After deposing him, He raised up David for their king, of whom he testified, 'I have found David, the son of Jesse, a man agreeable to My heart, who will fulfill all My desire.'"

23 "From his offspring, God has brought Israel a Saviour, even Jesus, according to the promise, 24 after John had preached to all the people of Israel the baptism of repentance, preparatory to his coming. 25 And as John was finishing, he said, 'Who do you suppose me to be? I am not He; but One is coming after me whose sandal strings I am not fit to untie.'"

26 "Brothers, sons of Abraham's family and all among you who revere God, to us this message of salvation has been sent; 27 for those who live in Jerusalem and their rulers, because they did not know Him, even the words of the prophets are read every Sabbath, fulfilled them when they sentenced Him; 28 and although finding no crime that deserved death, they requested of Pilate that He be executed. 29 And when they had fulfilled everything that is written about Him, they took Him down from the cross and laid Him in a tomb. 30 But God raised Him from the dead, 31 and for many days, He appeared to those

who had come up with Him from Galilee to Jerusalem, the very ones who are now His witnesses to the people.

32 “So, we are bringing you the good news of the promise 33 which God has fulfilled to us their children by raising Jesus from the dead, as it is written in the second Psalm, ‘Thou art My Son; today I have begotten Thee.’ 34 But that He raised Him from the dead, never to return to decay, He has expressed this way, ‘I will give you the sacred blessings assured to David.’”

35 “For this reason, He says in another passage, ‘Thou wilt not allow Thy Holy One to see corruption.’ 36 For David, after serving the purpose of God in his own generation, died and was buried with his fathers, and underwent decay; 37 but He whom God raised did not experience decomposition.”

38 “It should be clear then to you, brothers, that through this One forgiveness of sins is announced to you. 39 In Him every believer is absolved from everything from which you could not be absolved by the Law of Moses. 40 So, be careful that the prophetic utterance does not become your experience. 41 ‘Look, you scoffers, marvel and vanish; for in your time, I will accomplish a deed such as you will never believe, even if someone relates it to you.’”

42 As Paul and Barnabas went out, the people begged to have the same things told them the next Sabbath, 43 and when the synagogue was dismissed, many of the Jews and of devout proselytes, followed Paul and Barnabas, who talked to them and persuaded them to continue in the grace of God.

44 The next Sabbath, nearly the whole city gathered to hear the word of God; 45 but when the Jews noticed the crowds, they became terribly jealous. They contradicted what Paul had said and talked abusively. 46 But Paul and Barnabas declared fearlessly, “God’s message had to be told to you first, but since you reject it and do not consider yourselves worthy of eternal life, we are turning to the Gentiles. 47 For so the Lord has commanded us, ‘I have appointed you to be a light to the Gentiles to bring salvation to the ends of the earth.’”

48 When they heard this, the Gentiles were glad; they acclaimed the Lord’s message and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed. 49 And the word of the Lord was carried all over the country. 50 The Jews, however, stirred up the devout women of high repute and the outstanding men of the city, and instigated persecution against Paul and Barnabas and drove them out of their territory. 51 But they shook the dust from their feet against them and went to Iconium, 52 and the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

THE ACTS CHAPTER 14

THE same thing happened at Iconium. They went into the Jewish synagogue and so spoke that a large group both of Jews and of Greeks believed. 2 But the unbelieving Jews stirred and embittered the minds of the Gentiles against the brothers. 3 So they remained for a

considerable time, speaking freely with reliance on the Lord, who witnessed to the message of His grace by granting signs and wonders to be performed by their hands.

4 The population of the town was divided, some siding with the Jews and some with the apostles; 5 but when both Gentiles and Jews with their rulers, created a movement to mistreat and to stone them, 6 and they grew aware of it, they fled to the Lycaonian towns of Lystra and Derbe and the surrounding area, 7 where they went on preaching the good news.

8 At Lystra, there was a man seated who had no strength in his feet; he was lame from birth and had never walked. 9 He heard Paul speaking, who in turn looked straight at him and, seeing that he had faith to be healed, 10 said in a loud voice, “Stand up straight on your feet.” He sprang up and began to walk.

11 When the crowds saw what Paul had done, they shouted in Lycaonian, “The gods have come down on us in human form!” 12 So they called Barnabas, Zeus, and Paul, Hermes, because he was the principal speaker. 13 In fact, the priest of Zeus, whose temple was in the front of the city, brought oxen and wreaths to the gates of the city to join the people in offering sacrifice.

14 But when the apostles, Barnabas and Paul learned of it, they tore their clothes and dashed forward among the crowds, 15 shouting, “What is this you are doing, men? We are human, with emotions as yourselves. We are bringing you the good news to turn away from these useless things to the living God who made heaven, earth, and sea, and everything they contain. 16 In days gone by, He let all the nations go their own ways, 17 though not leaving Himself without evidence as Benefactor; for He gave you rain from heaven and fruitful seasons and supplied you nourishment and enjoyment to your hearts’ content.”

18 Yet even though they spoke this way, they still had difficulty in stopping the crowds from sacrificing to them. 19 But Jews arrived from Antioch and Iconium, who influenced the crowds so that they stoned Paul, then dragged him out of the city supposing that he was dead. 20 As, however, the disciples were encircling him, he got up and entered the city. And the next day he went with Barnabas to Derbe. 21 They brought the good news to that city and, after gaining a considerable number of disciples, went back to Lystra, to Iconium, and to Antioch, 22 reassuring the disciples spiritually and encouraging them to stand fast in the faith, and saying, “We must enter the kingdom of God by way of many afflictions.”

23 They also appointed elders for them in each church, whom they committed with prayer and fasting to the Lord in whom they had come to believe.

24 After travelling through Pisidia, they reached Pamphylia 25 and, when they had spoken the message at Perga, they went down to Attalia. 26 From there they sailed to Antioch, the place at which they had been entrusted to the grace of God for the work they had accomplished.

27 Upon their arrival, they called a church meeting and reported what God had done with them, and how He had opened a door of faith for the Gentiles. 28 And they spent a long time with the disciples.

THE ACTS CHAPTER 15

SOME who came down from Judea were teaching the brothers, “If you are not circumcised after the Mosaic custom, you cannot be saved.” 2 Since there was a great deal of dissension between Paul and Barnabas and these persons, it was arranged to have Paul and Barnabas and a few others of their number go up to the apostles and elders at Jerusalem about this dispute. 3 So then, sent on their way by the church, they passed through Phoenicia and Samaria, where they narrated in detail the conversation of the Gentiles, and thus made all the brothers very happy.

4 When they arrived in Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they reported what God had done with them. 5 But some of the believers who belonged to the Pharisee party, got up and said, “They must be circumcised and ordered to observe the Law of Moses.”

6 Then the apostles and the elders held a meeting to look into this question 7 and, after much debate, Peter arose and said to them. “Brothers, you will recall that a good while back, God made choice among you, that through my lips the Gentiles should hear the message of the good news and believe, 8 and God, who knows all hearts, gave them evidence by granting them the Holy Spirit, just as He did to us. 9 As He cleansed their hearts by faith, He did not at all discriminate between us and them. 10 Now then, why be a trial to God by placing a yoke on the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we have been able to carry? 11 Instead, we believe that we shall be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus in the same way they are.”

12 The entire assembly kept quiet and heard Barnabas and Paul tell the story of the signs and wonders which God had done among the Gentiles through them. 13 Then after they had finished, James made reply, “Brothers, listen to me, 14 Symeon has been telling how early God visited the Gentiles to take out a people for His name, 15 and the words of the prophets are in agreement with this, as it is written. 16 ‘After this, I will return and reconstruct David’s tent that has fallen down and restore it, 17 so that the rest of the people may search for the Lord, even all the nations over whom My name has been invoked, says the Lord who does these things, 18 which are known from eternity.’”

19 “It is my judgement therefore, that we should not trouble those who turn to God out of the Gentiles, 20 but that we direct them to abstain from what is contaminated by idols and from unchastity, and from the meat of strangled animals, and from blood. 21 For Moses has from earliest times in every city, those proclaiming him, because he is read in the synagogues each Sabbath.”

22 Then it pleased the apostles and the elders, as well as the whole church, to select some of their men to be sent to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas – Judas known as Barsabbas, and Silas, who were leaders among the brothers 23 and they carried this letter:

“The brothers including the apostles and elders, to the brothers from the Gentiles in Antioch, in Syria, and in Cilicia, greeting. 24 Since we have heard that some who came out there from among us but were not authorised by us, have troubled you with messages and have unsettled your minds, 25 we have unanimously thought it well to send you chosen men with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, 26 men who have jeopardised their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. 27 So we are dispatching Judas and Silas, who will themselves announce these things by word of mouth; 28 for it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to load you with no further burden except these essentials: 29 that you abstain from foods offered to idols, and from blood, and from strangle meat, and from unchastity. If you keep yourselves clear from these, you will get along splendidly, Farwell.”

30 So then, those who were dispatched went down to Antioch and, after gathering the entire body together, they delivered the letter; 31 and when they had read it, they rejoiced because of its encouragement. 32 Both Judas and Silas, who were themselves prophets, encouraged and strengthened the brothers with a speech. 33 When they had spent some time there, the brothers sent them away with peace to those who had sent them, 34 *though Silas decided to stay there.*

35 Paul and Barnabas remained at Antioch, teaching and preaching with many others the message of the Lord. 36 But some time later, Paul said to Barnabas, “Let us go back and look in on the brothers in every city in which we have preached the word of the Lord, to see how they are getting along?” 37 But Barnabas wanted to take along John, called Mark, 38 while Paul considered it ill-fitting to take with them the man who had quit them in Pamphylia and had failed to accompany them to the work. 39 The disagreement became so strong that they separated from each other, and Barnabas, taking along Mark, sailed to Cyprus, 40 while Paul, selecting Silas, set out, commended by the brothers to the grace of the Lord, 41 and passed through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

THE ACTS CHAPTER 16

HE came down to Derbe and to Lystra, where a certain disciple named Timothy, the son of a believing Jewess and a Greek father, lived, 2 who was well recommended by the brothers in Lystra and Iconium. 3 Paul wanted him to go with him, so he took and circumcised him because of the local Jews who all knew that his father was a Greek.

4 As they travelled from one city to another, they delivered to them the regulations which the apostles and the elders in Jerusalem had decided they should observe. 5 Thus the churches were strengthened in the faith and daily their number increased.

6 They traversed Phrygia and the Galatian country, since they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. 7 On reaching Mysia they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not permit them; 8 so, by-passing Mysia, they came down to Troas.

9 During the night, a vision appeared to Paul – a Macedonian man who stood and pleaded with him, “Cross over into Macedonia and help us.” 10 At once, when he had seen the vision, we made attempts to enter Macedonia, for we concluded that God had called us to tell the good news to them. 11 So, sailing from Troas, we ran a straight course to Samothrace, and next day to Neapolis, and 12 from there to Philippi, a colony and chief city of the Macedonian district.

We stayed in this city a few days, 13 And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate of the city by the riverside, where we supposed that there was a place of worship and, when we sat down, we talked to the woman who had gathered. 14 One woman, named Lydia. A purple-seller from the city of Thyatira, a worshipper of God, listened, and the Lord opened her heart to give attention to the things that Paul spoke. 15 When she and her family had been baptised, she begged us, “If you consider me faithful to the Lord, come to my home and stay with us.” And, she prevailed on us to come.

16 But it happened, as we were going to the prayer service, that a servant girl me us who was possessed of a clairvoyant spirit, whose fortune telling brought in much money for her owners. 17 She followed Paul and us, shouting loudly, “These men are servants of the Most High God; they are announcing to you the way of salvation.” 18 For many days she kept this up; then Paul was annoyed and, turning to the spirit, said, “I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.” And that moment it left her.

19 When her owners became aware that their hope for gain was gone, they grabbed Paul and Silas and dragged them before the authorities in the market place 20 and, bringing them to the magistrates, said, “These men are Jews and they are creating a disturbance in our city; 21 they are advocating ways of behaviour, which as Romans, we ought neither to welcome nor observe.”

22 The crowd also joined against them, and the officials, after having them stripped, ordered them flogged; 23 then after giving them a severe beating, they threw them into prison, charging the jailor to guard them securely. 24 In view of this order, he threw them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.

35 But about midnight, Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. 36 Then suddenly a tremendous earthquake occurred, which shook the prison to its foundations. At once, all the doors sprang open and every one’s chains fell off. 27 When the jailor awoke and saw the prison doors standing open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped.
28 But Paul called out loudly. “Do not harm yourself, for we are all here!”

29 Asking for a light, he rushed in and fell terror-stricken before Paul and Silas, 30 and when he led them out, he said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” 31 They said, “Believe on the Lord Jesus and you will be saved and your family also.” 32 Then they told him, together with his whole family, the word of the Lord.

33 At that very hour of the night, the jailor took them and washed their wounds; and he was baptised then and there, he and all that were his. 34 Then, taking them up to his house, he set food before them and was extremely happy with all his loved ones because they had believed in God.

35 With the break of day, the magistrates sent their orderlies to say, “Let these men go.” 36 So, the jailor reported the message to Paul. “The magistrates have sent to release you; now then, you may leave in peace.” 37 But Paul told them, “After flogging us publicly without trial, though we are Romans, they threw us in prison, and now will they put us out secretly? Not at all, Instead, let them come themselves and take us out.”

38 The orderlies reported these sayings to the magistrates, who grew alarmed at hearing they were Romans. 39 They came and apologised to them, and when they had brought them out, they begged them to leave the city. 40 So, they left the prison and went to Lydia’s house, and when they had seen the brothers, they encouraged them and then departed.

THE ACTS CHAPTER 17

PASSING through Amphipolis and Apolonia, they arrived at Thessalonica, where there was a Jewish synagogue 2 and, as was his custom, Paul went to meet with them. For three Sabbaths, he argued with them out of the Scriptures, 3 explaining and pointing out that the Christ must suffer and then rise from the dead, saying, “This Jesus, whom I preach to you, is the Christ.”

4 Some of them were persuaded and associated themselves with Paul and Silas – a large group of devout Greeks, as well as a number of prominent women. 5 But the Jews grew jealous; they got hold of some unprincipled loungers of the market place and formed a mob to set the city in an uproar, and then attacked Jason’s house, seeking to bring them out of the mob. 6 And when they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some of the brothers before the city fathers, shouting, “These who have turned the world upside down have come her too; 7 Jason has taken them into his house as guests; they all oppose Caesar’s ordinances, claiming there is another King – Jesus.”

8 The crowd and the magistrates were stirred up when they heard this, 9 and when they had taken security from Jason and from the rest, they let them go.

10 At once the brothers sent Paul and Silas away to Berea, by night. Upon their arrival, they attended the Jewish synagogue. 11 But these were of a nobler attitude than those in Thessalonica; for they heartily welcomed the message and made a daily study of the

Scriptures, whether these things were so. 12 Many of them, therefore, believed, including prominent Greek women and a number of men.

13 But when the Jews of Thessalonica became aware that the word of God was proclaimed by Paul in Berea also, they came there to agitate and stir up the crowds. 14 Then the brothers sent Paul off at once as far as the sea, but both Silas and Timothy remained there.

15 Those who were conducting Paul, took him to Athens and returned with instructions to Silas and Timothy that they should join him as soon as possible.

16 While Paul was awaiting them in Athens, his soul was deeply vexed when he observed the idol-filled city. 17 Accordingly, in the synagogue he discoursed with the Jews and the devout adherents, and daily in the market place with those he chanced to meet. 18 Some of the Epicurean and of the Stoic philosophers also encountered him, and some said, “What would this babbler be trying to say?” But others said, “He seems to be announcing foreign deities,” because he told the good news of Jesus and the resurrection.

19 They took hold of him, brought him to the Areopagus and said, “May we know what this new teaching is, about which you are talking? 20 For you are bringing some strange matters to our ears: we want to know just what they mean.” 21 For all the Athenians and the visiting foreigners, spent their time in nothing else than to tell or to hear something novel.

22 Standing in the centre of the Areopagus, Paul said; “Men of Athens, I notice on every hand how religious you are; 23 for as I went throughout your city and looked carefully at your sacred objects, I found even an altar with the inscription, TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. Now what you revere without knowing it, that I proclaim to you: 24 The God who made the world and all it contains, who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not swell in temples built by human hands, 25 neither is He served by human hands, as if He lacked anything – He, the ‘Giver of Life’ and breath and all things to everyone. 26 He has made from one person every nation of men to settle on the entire surface of the earth, definitely by appointing the pre-established periods and the boundaries of their settlements, 27 so, that they might seek for God, if only they would feel for and find Him, although He is not far from each of us; 28 for in Him, we live and move and have our being. As some of your own poets have expressed themselves, ‘For we are also His offspring.’ 29 Now then, since we have our being from God, we certainly should not have the idea that the Deity resembles gold or silver or stone or anything humanly manufactured or invented.

30 “However, while God overlooked those times of ignorance, He is now summoning all people everywhere to repent, 31 since He has fixed a day when He is to judge the world righteously through a Man whom He destined for the task, having furnished proof to everyone by raising Him from the dead.”

32 Hearing of the resurrection from the dead, some scoffed while others said, “We shall hear you again about this.” 33 So, it was that Paul, went out among them. 34 However, some

men associated themselves with him and believed, of whom may be mentioned Dionysius, a member of the court of the Areopagus; also, a woman called Damaris, and others besides them.

THE ACTS CHAPTER 18

AFTER this, he left Athens and went to Corinth, 2 where he met a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, and Priscilla his wife, who had but recently migrated from Italy, because of Claudius' order that all Jews must leave Rome. He called on them, 3 and as they were of the same occupation, he stayed with them and worked with them; for they were tentmakers by trade. 4 And every Sabbath he discoursed in the synagogue and won over both Jews and Greeks.

5 When Silas and Timothy came down from Macedonia, Paul was completely absorbed in preaching the message, strongly urging upon the Jews that Jesus was the Messiah. 6 But since they kept opposing and defaming him, he shook out his garments against them and said to them. "Your blood be upon your heads! I am innocent. From now on, I am going to the Gentiles."

7 Then he left there and entered the house of a God-fearing man called Titius Justus, whose house adjoined the synagogue. 8 But Crispus, the leader of the synagogue, believed in the Lord with his entire family, and many of the Corinthians who listened, believed and were baptised. 9 Then in a night vision, the Lord said to Paul; "Have no fear, but speak and do not keep still, 10 because I am with you and none will attack you in order to harm you because I have many people in this city." 11 So, he settled down among them for a year and six months, teaching the word of God.

12 When, however, Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews unitedly rose against Paul and led him before the court, 13 declaring, "This fellow advises the people to worship God in an unlawful way." 14 But as Paul was at the point of speaking, Gallio told the Jews, "If, O Jews, it were a matter of crookedness or a serious crime, it would be reasonable to put up with you; 15 but if it is a question of words and names and law among yourselves, then it is your own concern. I do not care to be judge of such matters." 16 And he drove them from the court.

17 Then they got hold of the ruler of the synagogue, Sosthenes, and in front of the court gave him a beating; But Gallio paid no attention to any of these things.

18 After staying several days more, Paul bade the brothers farewell and sailed for Syria, and with him, Priscilla and Aquilla. He had his hair cut short at Cenchrea, for he had made a vow. 19 They arrived in Ephesus, where Paul left them while he himself went to the synagogue to have a discussion with the Jews. 20 They requested him to remain for a longer time, but he did not consent. 21 Instead, he said goodbye to them with the promise, "God willing, I shall come back to you." He then sailed from Ephesus 22 and landed at Caesarea; then, after going up to greet the church, he went down to Antioch.

23 After spending some time there, he took his leave and made his way successively through the Galatian country and through Phrygia, strengthening all the disciples.

24 Now there was a Jew named Apollos, a native Alexandrian, a man of learning and powerful in the Scriptures, who came to Ephesus. 25 This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord, and with a burning spirit he spoke and taught accurately of the things concerning Jesus, although he was acquainted only with the baptism of John. 26 He began to speak freely in the synagogue; but Priscilla and Aquilla, after listening to him, took him aside and explained the way of God more accurately to him.

27 And as he planned to cross over to Achaia, the brothers wrote the disciples, urging them to give him a hearty welcome. On his arrival, he proved of great benefit to those who through grace were believers; 28 for with power he publicly refuted the Jews, proving through the Scriptures that Jesus was the Messiah.

THE ACTS CHAPTER 19

WHILE Apollos was in Corinth, Paul who had travelled overland, came down to Ephesus where he met some disciples, 2 whom he asked, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit on your becoming believers?” But they answered him. “Why, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” 3 He asked, “Into what then, were you baptised?” They said, “Into John’s baptism.” 4 So, Paul added, “John baptised the baptism of repentance, telling the people that they should believe in the One who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus.”

5 On hearing this, they were baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 And as Paul laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them and they talked in tongues and prophesied. 7 Altogether there were about a dozen men.

8 He also went into the synagogue and for three months he spoke with boldness, persuasively discussing the things concerning the kingdom of God. 9 When, however, some became stubborn refusing to believe and denouncing the Way before the people, he turned from them, taking the disciples with him, and went on holding daily discussions in the school of Tyrannus. 10 This kept up for two years, so that the whole population of the province of Asia, Jews as well as Greeks, heard the word of the Lord.

11 God performed uncommon miracles, too, through the hands of Paul 12 to such an extent that people carried off to the sick, handkerchiefs or aprons he had handled, and their illnesses were removed and the evil spirits cast out.

13 But certain travelling Jews who practiced exorcism, undertook to name over those that had evil spirits, the name of the Lord Jesus by saying, “I adjure you by the Jesus whom Paul preaches,” 14 Seven sons if a certain Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, practiced this; 15 but the evil spirit replied to them. “Jesus I know and I am acquainted with Paul, but you, who are you?” 16 Then the man in whom the evil spirit dwelt, leaped on them, over powered all of them and was so violent against them, that they fled from the house stripped and wounded.

17 This became known to all the Jews and Greeks who lived in Ephesus, and awe fell on them all; and they extolled the name of the Lord Jesus.

18 And many who believed came and made full confession and declaration of their magic practices, 19 and quite a number of those who had practiced magic arts, collected the books into a pile and burned them before everybody. Counting up their value, they found them priced at fifty thousand pieces of silver. 20 Thus mightily, did the word of the Lord grow and become stronger.

21 After these events took place, Paul decided under the direction of the Spirit, to travel to Jerusalem by way of Macedonia and Achaia, and said, “After I have been there, I must see Rome also.” 22 So, he sent two of his assistants into Macedonia, Timothy and Erastus, while he remained for some time longer, in Asia.

23 At about that time, considerable disturbance occurred regarding the Way. 24 For a certain Demetrius, a silversmith who made silver shrines of Artemis and provided the artisans with a large income, 25 called them together along with the workmen of the same trade and said, “Men, you know that we are deriving a good living from his trade. 26 Now you observe and hear how, not only at Ephesus but in almost all of Asia, this Paul is alienating many people by persuading them that gods made by human hands are not real gods. 27 So, there is danger not merely that our trade will come into disrepute but also that the temple of the great goddess, Artemis, will be looked upon as nothing and her magnificent glory will come to an end – she whom all Asia and all the world worship.”

28 As they listened, they became full of anger and shouted, “Great is Artemis of Ephesus!” 29 Then the city was filled with confusion and after dragging away Gaius and Aristarchus of Macedonia, fellow travellers of Paul, they rushed together into the theatre. 30 When Paul wanted to enter the assembly, the disciples did not permit him, 31 and even some of the deputies of the assembly who were his friends, sent him warning no to risk himself in the theatre.

32 Some were shouting this and others that; for the assembly was just a tumult and the majority had no idea why they had come together. 33 Some of the crowd advised Alexander to speak, since he was pushed forward by the Jews, and Alexander motioned with the hand, as he wished to make his defense toward the mob; 34 but as soon as they recognised him as a Jew, the whole crowd as with one voice broke into a shouting that lasted two hours. “Great is Artemis of Ephesus!”

35 But the town clerk quieted the mob and said, “Fellow Ephesians, where is there a person who does not know that Ephesus is the temple guardian of the great Artemis and of her image that fell from heaven? 36 Since this is undeniable, you should compose yourselves and not do anything rashly.

37 For you have brought these men here, who are neither temple destroyers, nor insulters of our goddess. 38 Now then, if Demetrius and his fellow craftsmen have a complaint against anyone, courts are in session and proconsuls are available; let them bring charges against each other. 39 But if you have further complaint, then let it be straightened out in the legal assembly. 40 For we are in danger of being accursed of riot on account of today's affair, since there is no reason whatever that we can offer for this disorderly gathering." 41 And with these words he dismissed the gathering.

THE ACTS CHAPTER 20

AFTER the tumult had ceased, Paul sent for the disciples to see him, gave them encouragement, bade them farewell and left for Macedonia. 2 Then, after travelling through those parts and encouraging the brothers in a long speech, he came to Greece, 3 where he spent three months. When he was about to sail for Syria, he decided to return by way of Macedonia, because of a plot against him on the part of the Jews.

4 There accompanied him Sopater, son of Pyrrhus of Berea; Aristarchus and Secundus, both of Thessalonica; Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy; also, Tychicus and Trophimus of Asia; 5 and they went on ahead and awaited us at Troas. Then, after the days of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, 6 we sailed out from Philippi and reached them in five days at Troas, where we tarried for seven days. 7 As we were gathered for breaking of bread on the first day of the week, Paul talked with them and since he intended to leave the next morning, he prolonged his message until midnight. 8 There were numerous lamps in the upper room in which we met; 9 and a young man named Eutychus was sitting in the window and, while Paul kept on talking, heaviness of sleep proved too much for him; so, as he sagged down in his sleep, fell from the third story and was picked up lifeless. 10 However, Paul went down, stooped over him, saying, "Have no anxiety, for his soul is in him." 11 Then going up again, he broke the bread and ate, conversed at length, even until daybreak and left just as he was. 12 They took the young man home and were greatly encouraged.

13 We went on ahead to the ship and sailed to Assos, intending to take Paul on board there; for so he had arranged it, intending himself to travel there on foot. 14 So, when he met us at Assos, we took him aboard and went to Mitylene. 15 The next day we sailed on from there to a point facing Chios; the next, we crossed over to Samos and the day after we arrived at Miletus. 16 For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he might lose no time in Asia, for he was hastening to be in Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost, if at all possible.

17 From Miletus he sent messengers to Ephesus and called the elders if the church to him 18 and, when they arrived, he told them, "You are well acquainted with my behaviour among you, from the day I first set foot in Asia and ever since; 19 how I have served the Lord with all humility in tears and in trials that befell me because of the plottings of the Jews; 20 how I never failed to tell you what was for your benefit and to teach you publicly and in

homes; 21 how I bore you testimony to both Jews and Greeks that they should repent before God and have faith in our Lord Jesus."

22 "And now I am bound by the Spirit to go to Jerusalem and what is going to happen to me, I do not know; 23 except that the Holy Spirit in one city after another, testifies to me that bonds and affliction await me. 24 However, I am not concerned about anything; neither is my life dear to me except to finish my course and the ministry, which I accepted from the Lord Jesus to bear witness to the gospel, of the grace of God."

25 "And now, I know that you all, among whom I have gone in and out preaching the kingdom, will see may face no more. 26 For this reason, I bear you witness today that I am guiltless of the blood of all of you; 27 for I have not fallen short at all of preaching to you the whole purpose of God. 28 Be on guard for yourselves and for the entire flock over which the Holy Spirit has appointed you overseers; shepherd the church of God, which He has bought with His own blood."

29 "For I know that after I have left, savage wolves will make their way to you, that have no mercy on the flock; 30 and from your own number also, persons will arise who will teach distorted things to draw away the disciples after them. 31 Keep on the lookout, therefore, and remember how for three years with many tears, I never stopped night and day giving each of you warning."

32 "And now, I commit you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and grant you the inheritance among all those made holy."

33 "I have set my heart on no one's silver or gold or clothing. 34 You yourselves know that these hands supplied my needs and those of my companions. 35 I have in every way, pointed out to you how, by working hard in this way, the needy must be assisted, and that we should remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how He said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

36 Having so spoken, he bowed his knees and prayed with them all. 37 They all wept freely; they fell on Paul's neck and fervently kissed him. 38 They were grieved, especially over the remark he made, that they would not see his face anymore. Then they escorted him to the ship.

THE ACTS CHAPTER 21

WHEN we had torn ourselves away from their embrace and put out to sea, we ran a straight course to Cos: the next day to Rhodes, and from there to Patara; 2 then, meeting with a ship that was crossing to Phoenicia, we embarked and set sail. 3 Sighting Cyprus and leaving it to our left, we sailed on to Syria and docked at Tyre, for there the ship had to discharge the cargo.

4 We looked up the disciples and stayed there seven days. They advised Paul through the Spirit, not to go onto Jerusalem; 5 but when the time was up, we left and went on our

journey escorted by all the believers, with their wives and children, until we were outside the city. Kneeling on the beach, we prayed, 6 then embraced one another and embarked. And they went back to their homes.

7 When we had completed our voyage from Tyre, we arrived at Ptolemais, and we greeted the brothers and stayed with them for one day. 8 The following day we departed and arrived at Caesarea, where we called at the home of Philip, the evangelist, one of seven, by whom we were entertained. 9 He had four virgin daughters who prophesied.

10 We had stopped there for several days when a prophet named Agabus, came down from Judea and called on us. 11 He took Paul's belt and, tying his own feet and hands, he said, "Thus speaks the Holy Spirit, 'In this way the Jews in Jerusalem, will bind the man who owns this belt and will deliver him to the Gentiles.'"

12 On hearing this, both we and those who lived in that place urged him not to go up to Jerusalem. 13 Then Paul replied, "What are you trying to do by weeping and discouraging me? I am prepared not merely to be bound but also to die at Jerusalem, on behalf of the Lord Jesus." 14 And as he could not be dissuaded, we stopped trying to persuade him and said, "The Lord's will be done."

15 So, when these days were over, we got ready for the trip and went up to Jerusalem. 16 Some of the Caesarean disciples, who went along with us, brought us to the home of Mnason of Cyprus, an early disciple by whom we were to be entertained.

17 When we arrived in Jerusalem, the brothers welcomed us joyfully 18 and the next day, Paul called on James, and we went with him. All the elders were present and, 19 after we greeted them, he recounted to them step by step, what God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry. 20 As they listened to him, they gave glory to God and then said to him, "You see, brother, how many thousands of believers there are among the Jews, and they all remain zealous for the Law. 21 But they have been informed about you, that you are teaching all the Jews who live among the Gentiles, to turn away from Moses, telling them not to circumcise their children, neither to observe the ancestral customs. 22 Now, how about it? For they will learn that you have arrived. 23 So then, do as we tell you. We have here, four men who have taken a vow. 24 Take them along, be purified with them and take care of their expenses, so that they can have their heads shaved. Then every one will realise, that there is no basis for the reports about you, but that you yourself order your life in observance of the Law.

25 "With regard to Gentile believers, we have issued the resolution that they shall abstain from food offered to idols and from blood, and from strangled meat and from unchastity."

26 The following day, Paul took the men along and, after undergoing the purification ritual with them, he entered the temple to announce the completion of the purification period, which would be when an offering had been made for each of them. 27 But when the seven

days were about completed, the Jews from Asia who had noticed him in the temple, stirred up the whole crowd and grabbed hold of him, 28 shouting, “You men of Israel, help! This is the man who teaches every one everywhere against our nation, the Law, and this place, and besides, he has brought Greeks into the temple and so defiled this holy place.” 29 For they had on an earlier date, seen Trophimus of Ephesus with him in the city and supposed that Paul had brought him into the temple.

30 So, the whole city became agitated; there was a rushing together of the people and, seizing Paul, they dragged him outside the temple, and instantly the doors were shut.
31 They were trying to kill him, when the report reached the commander of the cohort that all Jerusalem was in an uproar. 32 At once, he marched soldiers and their officers double-quick, down to the mob which, on seeing the commander and the soldiers, stopped pommelling Paul. 33 The commander then advanced, took charge of him, ordered him bound with two chains and inquired who he was and what he had done.

34 Among the mob, some shouted this and others shouted that; so, unable to get at the facts because of the tumult, he ordered him taken to the barracks. 35 But when Paul got as far as the steps, he had to be carried by the soldiers because of the violence of the mob;
36 for the multitude of people followed him, shouting, “Away with him!”

37 At the point of being brought into the fortress, Paul said to the commander, “Am I permitted to have a word with you?” He said, “Do you know Greek? 38 Are not you the Egyptian, who recently stirred up the rebellion and led out the four thousand cutthroats into the wilderness?” 39 But Paul replied, “I am a Jew from Tarsus of Cilicia, a citizen of no insignificant city. I beg of you, please let me speak to the people.” 40 With his permission, Paul stood on the steps and motioned to the people and, when all of them were quiet, he addressed them in the Hebrew language in these words:

THE ACTS CHAPTER 22

“BROTHERS and fathers, listen to the defense I now make to you.” 2 As soon as they heard him address them in Hebrew, they were still quieter, so he proceeded. 3 “I am a Jew, a native of Tarsus in Cilicia, but brought up in this city. At the feet of Gamaliel, I have been educated with exacting care in our ancestral Law, with a zeal for God such as you all have today.”

4 “As such, I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and delivering to prison both men and women, 5 as the high priest and the whole council of elders can bear me out. For from them, I received letters to the brothers in Damascus, where I was going, to bring the believers there back as prisoners to Jerusalem for punishment.”

6 “But as I was nearing Damascus on my journey, suddenly at noonday an intense light from heaven shone around me, 7 and as I fell to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me, ‘Saul, Saul, why do you persecute Me?’ 8 But I answered, ‘Who are You, Lord?’ And He said to me,

‘I am Jesus the Nazarene, whom you are persecuting.’ 9 Now my companions saw the light, but they did not hear the voice of the One who spoke to me.

10 “I said, ‘Lord, what shall I do?’ Then the Lord said to me, ‘Rise and go on to Damascus. There you will be told about all the work that has been laid out for you to do.’ 11 However, because of the brilliance of that intense light, I was blinded; so, I entered Damascus guided by the hands of my companions.”

12 “Then a man named Ananias, a man devoted to the Law and well spoken of by all the Jews who lived there, 13 called on me, presented himself, and said to me, ‘Brother Saul, recover your sight,’ and instantly I looked up at him. 14 He said further, ‘Our fathers,’ God has prepared you beforehand to know His will, to see the Just One and to hear a message from His own lips; 15 for you will give testimony for Him to every one concerning what you have seen and heard. 16 Now then, why hesitate? Rise; be baptised and, calling on His name, be cleansed of your sins.’”

17 “Then when I returned to Jerusalem and was praying in the temple, I had a vision,
18 and saw Him as He said to me, ‘Hurry, get out of Jerusalem quickly, because they will not welcome your testimony about Me.’ 19 I replied, ‘Lord, they know well enough that I went from synagogue to synagogue, arresting and beating those who believed in You, 20 and, when the blood of Your martyr Stephen was shed, I myself was standing by and approving, and I watched over the clothes of those who killed him.’ 21 And He said to me, ‘Go, for I shall send you far away to the Gentiles.’”

22 They listened to him up to that statement; then they shouted, “Away from the earth with such a fellow; for he is not fit to live!” 23 While they were yelling, waving their clothes and throwing dust into the air, 24 the commander ordered him to be brought into the barracks and to be examined by means of flogging, so they might discover why they shouted at him that way. 25 But when they had tied him up to be flogged, Paul asked the captain in charge, “Is it legal to flog a Roman citizen without a trial?” 26 On hearing that, the captain went to the commander and reported to him, with the remark, “What is to be done, for this man is a Roman?” 27 The commander then went to him and asked him, “Tell me, are you a Roman?” He said, “Yes.” 28 The commander replied, “I have purchased this citizenship for a large sum.” Paul responded, “But I was actually born a citizen.”

29 Then at once, those who were to examine him, kept their hands off, and the commander was afraid on discovering that Paul was a Roman, because he had bound him.

30 On the following day, with the purpose of finding out clearly why the Jews accused Paul, he unfastened him, ordered a session of the chief priests and the entire Sanhedrin, and had Paul brought down to face them.

THE ACTS CHAPTER 23

SO, with a straight look at the council, Paul spoke, “Brothers, I have behaved myself in the presence of God with an altogether clear conscience to this very day.” 2 But the high priest, Ananias, ordered the attendants to strike him on the mouth. 3 Then Paul said to him, “God is about to strike you, you white-washed wall! You are sitting here to judge me according to the Law, and are you ordering me to be struck contrary to the Law?”

4 The bystanders said, “You insult the high priest of God?” 5 Paul replied, “I did not know, brothers, that he was the high priest; for it is written, ‘You must not defame a ruler of the people.’”

6 Paul, however, aware that one party was Sadducee and the other Pharisee, shouted right in the Sanhedrin. “Brothers, I am a Pharisee, a son of a Pharisee; concerning the hope of the resurrection of the dead, I am accused.”

7 At this saying, a dispute arose between the Pharisees and the Sadducees, and there was division in the meeting. 8 For the Sadducees maintain there is neither resurrection, nor angel nor spirit, while the Pharisees confess the one as well as the other. 9 So, the outcry grew deafening. Some of the scribes of the Pharisees’ party got up and argued, “We find nothing bad in this man; but if a spirit or an angel has spoken to him…”

10 And the discord grew so bitter, that the commander, afraid that Paul might be torn to pieces by them, ordered a detachment to march down and snatch him from their midst, and bring him into the barracks. 11 But that night, the Lord stood by him and said, “Take heart! For as you have borne Me witness in Jerusalem, just so it is necessary for you to testify at Rome.”

12 At daybreak there were Jews who formed a plot and pledged themselves with an oath that they would neither eat nor drink until they had killed Paul. 13 More than forty formed this conspiracy, 14 Some of them went to the chief priests and the elders and said, “We have sworn ourselves to the liability of a curse, to taste of nothing until we have killed Paul.
15 Now then, you, in cooperation with the Sanhedrin, send word to the commander to have him conducted to you, as if you wanted to determine more particularly about his case. Then we, before he comes anywhere near, are ready to do away with him.”

16 However, the son of Paul’s sister; got wind of the ambush; so, he came along and entered the barracks and informed Paul about it. 17 Then Paul, after calling in one of the captains, said, “Take this young man to the commander, for he has something to tell him.”
18 Accordingly, he took to the commander and said, “Paul, the prisoner, summoned me to request that I bring this young man to you, since he has something to tell you.” 19 Then the commander, taking him by the hand, stepped to one side with him privately and inquired. “What is it you have to tell me?” 20 He said, “The Jews have agreed to ask you that you bring Paul down tomorrow before the Sanhedrin, as if they were to investigate more

particularly about him; 21 but do not give in to them, for more than forty of them are lying in wait for him and have pledged themselves with an oath, neither to eat, nor to drink until they have killed him, and right now they are in readiness, only waiting for your assent."

22 The commander then dismissed the young man, cautioning him. "Divulge to no one that you informed me of this." 23 He then summoned two of his captains and said, "Have two hundred soldiers ready by nine tonight to march to Caesarea; also, seventy cavalry and two hundred spearmen. 24 Provide animals too, for mounts for Paul to ride and conduct him safely to Governor Felix."

25 He wrote a letter with the following contents: 26 "Claudius Lysias to His Excellency Governor Felix – Greeting. 27 When this man was set upon by the Jews and was within an inch of being murdered by them, I went with my men and rescued him; for I learned that he is a Roman. 28 In the hope of discovering the reason for their accusation, I took him down to their Sanhedrin 29 and found that the complaint relates to questions of their Law, but without accusation of crime that deserves death or prison. 30 But when I was informed that there would be a plot against this man, I sent him to you at once and have directed his accusers to have their say to you."

31 So, the soldiers took Paul, according to their orders, and conducted him by night to Antipatris. 32 The following day, they returned to their barracks, leaving it to the calvary to travel on with him. 33 When those men reached Caesarea, they delivered the letter to the governor and presented Paul to him.

34 After reading it, the governor inquired from what province he was and, from Cilicia,
35 said, "We shall give you a hearing whenever you accusers get here." He then gave orders to have him retained in Herod's palace.

THE ACTS CHAPTER 24

AFTER five days Ananias, the high priest, with some of the elders and Tertullus, an orator, came down to present their evidence against Paul to the governor; 2 and after Paul had been called in, Tertullus began to bring charges as follows:

"Since we enjoy peace through you, most excellent Felix, and since reforms are being made for this nation through your provision, 3 in every way and everywhere we welcome this with deep appreciation. 4 However, not to take more of your precious time, I beg of you by your courtesy to listen briefly to us."

5 "For we have found this man to be a veritable plague, stirring up, as he does, all the Jews on earth, and a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes. 6 He even tried to defile the temple. So, we seized him *and would have sentenced him by our Law; 7 but the commander Lysias, came and took him from us with great force. 8 He ordered his accusers to present themselves to you.* If you will cross-question him yourself, you will be able to discover on what counts we accuse him."

9 And all the Jews agreed and declared that all, that he said, was so. 10 Then, at a motion from the governor, Paul made his answer:

11 “Because I know that you have been judge over these people for many years, I find it easier to defend myself against these charges. It will be possible for you to ascertain that it is not more than twelve days since I went up to Jerusalem to worship, 12 and neither did they find me arguing with anyone in the temple, nor raising a riot among the people, either in the synagogues or in the city. 13 Neither can they produce any evidence to substantiate these present charges.

14 “I confess this to you, however, that according to the Way which they call heresy, even so I worship the God of my fathers, believing in everything written in the Law and the Prophets; 15 for I possess that hope in God, which these men themselves hold as their own, that there is to be a resurrection of the just and the unjust. 16 And so I exert myself always to have a clear conscience in my relations with God and with men.”

17 “After many years, I came to bring to my people, alms and offerings, 18 and while I was doing this, they found me in the temple after I had completed the ceremony of purification – not at all with mobs or riots. 19 But there were some Jews from Asia, who should have been here to complain if they knew anything tangible against me. 20 Or else let these men here say what wrong they found in me as I stood before the Sanhedrin, 21 unless it is that one remark I expressed in their presence, ‘I am being tried by you today concerning the resurrection of the dead.’”

22 Since Felix understood the teachings of the Way quite well, he adjourned the case and said, “When the commander Lysias comes down, I shall decide your case.” 23 He then gave orders to the captain to have Paul guarded, but with relaxed rigour, and that none of his friends should be prevented from rendering aid to him.

24 After a few days, when Felix was present with his wife Drusilla, a Jewess, he sent for Paul and listened to him concerning faith in Christ Jesus. 25 But as he discussed righteousness, the mastery of passions, and the coming judgement, Felix got frightened and responded, “You may go for now. When I can spare the time, I will send for you.” 26 Meanwhile, he was hoping he might obtain money from Paul; so, he summoned him frequently and talked things over with him. 27 But after two years had gone by, Felix was succeeded by Portius Festus and, to curry favour with the Jews, Felix left Paul imprisoned.

THE ACTS CHAPTER 25

THREE days after he had arrived in the province, Festus went up from Caesarea to Jerusalem. 2 The chief priests and the most prominent Jews appeared before him against Paul 3 and requested of him and begged it as a favour to them, that Paul be sent to Jerusalem – they, planning to form an ambush and to murder him on the road.

4 Festus replied that Paul was under guard at Caesarea, and that he himself would shortly go there. 5 “Then” he went on, “those who are prominent among you may come along with me, and if the man has done anything wrong, bring your charges against him.”

6 After spending at the most from eight to ten days among them, he went down to Caesarea, took his seat the next day on the tribunal and ordered Paul to be brought in. 7 At his arrival, the Jews who had come down from Jerusalem stood around him and presented their charges – numerous and weighty, which they were not able to substantiate. 8 Then Paul made his defense: “I have committed nothing wrong, either against the Jewish Law, or against the temple, or against Caesar.” 9 Festus, however, desirous to curry favour with the Jews, answered Paul. “Are you willing to go up to Jerusalem and there be tried before me on these charges?” 10 But Paul said, “I am standing at Caesar’s tribunal, where I ought to be tried. I have in no respect wronged the Jews, as you understand well enough. 11 In case I am guilty and have committed anything deserving death, then I am ready to die; but if there is nothing to their charges against me, then no one can surrender me to them, I make my appeal to Caesar.” 12 So, after conference with the council, Festus answered, “You have appealed to Caesar; to Caesar you shall go.”

13 When a few days had passed, king Agrippa and Bernice arrived at Caesarea to bid Festus welcome; 14 and after they had spent a good many days there, Festus acquainted the king with Paul’s situation: “There is a prisoner left here by Felix, 15 concerning whom, when I came to Jerusalem the chief priests and the elders of the Jews made their appearance requesting sentence against him. 16 I answered them that with Romans, it is not customary to hand a man over until the accused has faced his accusers and has been given an opportunity to defend himself against the charges. 17 So, when they assembled here, I lost no time in occupying the judgement seat on the next day, and I ordered the man brought in. 18 When his accusers stood up, they brought in no criminal charges against him such as I expected; 19 but they had some controversies against him that concerned their own religion and a certain Jesus who had died, whom Paul asserted to be alive. 20 As I felt uncertain about the proper investigation of such issues, I asked if he would be willing to go to Jerusalem and be tried there on those complaints; 21 but since Paul appealed that his case be retained for a decision by Augustus, I ordered him to be held until I send him on to Caesar.”

22 And Agrippa said to Festus, “I should like to hear the man myself.” He replied, “Tomorrow, you will hear him.”

23 Accordingly, on the following day, Agrippa and Bernice arrived with great display and, accompanied by the chief military men and the prominent citizens of the city, entered the audience hall. At Festus’ order, Paul was led in 24 and Festus said: “king Agrippa and all you men here present with us, you are looking at the person on whose account the whole constituency of the Jews have made complaint to me, both in Jerusalem and here, shouting that he ought not to live anymore. 25 But I discovered nothing he has done that deserves

death, and since he appealed to the emperor, I have decided to send him. 26 I have nothing substantial to write His Majesty, and for this reason I have brought him before you, king Agrippa, so that after due examination, I may have something to report. 27 For it seems to me odd, to send on a prisoner without signifying the charges against him."

THE ACTS CHAPTER 26

AGRIPPA said to Paul, "You are permitted to speak on you own behalf." Then Paul extended his hand and made his defense:

2 "Concerning all the charges against me by the Jews, I consider myself fortunate, O king Agrippa, that I am to defend myself before you; 3 for you are thoroughly familiar with all the Jewish customs and problems. So, please listen to me with patience."

4 "All the Jews are acquainted with my behaviour from my youth up, both among my own people and in Jerusalem, 5 They are fully aware, if only they were willing to bear witness, how from the very first, I have lived as a Pharisee in agreement with the strictest sect of our religion. 6 And right now, I am standing trial for the hope of the promise which God made to our fathers 7 and which our twelve tribes expect to realise as they worship night and day. For this very hope, O king, I am accused by the Jews."

8 "What?" Is it considered incredible among you that God raises the dead? 9 The fact is that I was possessed of the idea that I should in every way oppose the name of Jesus the Nazarene, 10 and so I did in Jerusalem. Many a saint have I shut up in prison, furnished as I was with authority from the chief priests; and when they were executed, I cast my vote against them. 11 In all the synagogues, I often forced them by torture to deny their religion. Yes, in my boundless rage against them, I persecuted them as far as foreign cities."

12 "With the authority and approval of the chief priests, I was travelling to Damascus for this purpose, 13 when on the road at noon I saw, O King, a light from heaven, more brilliant than the sun, shining around me and my fellow travellers. 14 And when we all fell to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute Me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.' 15 But I said, 'Who are You, Lord?' And the Lord said, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. 16 But rise and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you a minister and witness, both of the things that you have seen and of those in which I will still show Myself to you.' 17 I will deliver you from your people and from the Gentiles, to whom I am sending you, 18 for the opening of their eyes and their turning from darkness to light and from the authority of Satan to God, to obtain forgiveness of sins and their allotted portion among those made holy through faith in Me.'"

19 "Therefore, O king Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, 20 but first to those in Damascus and in Jerusalem, and then all over Judea and among the Gentiles, I preached that they must repent and turn to God and do works consistent with repentance."

21 “For this reason, the Jews seized me in the temple and tried to kill me. 22 So, as I have enjoyed the help of God until this day, I take my stand witnessing to both small and great without saying anything, however, except what the prophets and Moses said would take place – 23 that the Christ was to suffer and that He, as the first to rise from the dead, would proclaim light to our people and to the Gentiles.”

24 As he was thus making his defense, Festus called out loudly. “You are raving, Paul; your excessive study is driving you mad.” 25 But Paul replied, “Most illustrious Festus, I am not mad but am giving utterance to words of truth and sane thinking. 26 The king knows about these matters, to whom I speak freely, I do not believe any of these things are unknown to him, for they have not occurred in a corner. 27 King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know you believe.”

28 Agrippa turned to Paul. “You, with a few words are tyring to persuade me to be a Christian?” 29 Then Paul said, “I would pray to God that whether with a few words or with many, not you alone but all who are now listening to me today might be in my condition – not including thee shackles.”

30 The king then stood up, and the governor and Bernice and those who had been sitting with them, 31 and, stepping to one side, they talked it over together and concluded, “This man has done nothing that deserves death or prison.” 32 So, Agrippa said to Festus, “This man could have been set free if he had not appealed to Caesar.”

THE ACTS CHAPTER 27

WHEN it was decided that we should sail for Italy, they committed Paul and some other prisoners to a captain of the Augustan Cohort, whose name was Julius. 2 Getting aboard an Adramyttian ship that would make the ports along the coast of Asia, we sailed away, and Aristarchus, a Macedonian of Thessalonica was with us. 3 The next day we docked at Sidon, where Julius treating Paul kindly, allowed him to visit his friends and to be cared for.

4 Putting to sea from there we sailed along the south coast of Cyprus, because the winds were contrary; 5 then crossing the Cilician and Pamphylian waters, we landed at Myra in Lycia, 6 The captain found there an Alexandrian ship bound for Italy, and he transferred us to her. 7 After many days of slow sailing, we arrived with difficulty off Cnidus; then, checked by the wind, we sailed south of Crete off Salmone, 8 and with difficulty, coasted along it, and reached a place called Fair Havens, near which the city of Lasea is located.

9 As much time had been lost and navigation had grown dangerous – for the autumn fast was already over – Paul warned them. 10 “Men, I discern that this voyage will involve damage and considerable loss not merely to the cargo and the ship but to our lives as well.” 11 However, the centurion put confidence in the pilot and in the ship owner, rather than in Paul’s words, 12 and because the harbour was poorly situated for wintering, the majority

favoured the plan of setting out again, so that they might possibly reach Phoenix, a harbour in Crete, facing southwest and northwest, and winter there.

13 With a light south wind coming up, they supposed that they were gaining their purpose, weighed anchor and ran close along the shore of Crete. 14 But shortly after, a hurricane, known as a northeaster, came beating from the island, 15 in which the ship was caught; so, unable to head against the wind, we gave way and were driven. 16 Running under the lee of a small island called Clauda, we made the small boat secure only with the greatest difficulty 17 and, having hoisted it, they undergirded the ship with ropes. Out of fear of being stranded on the Syrtis banks, they lowered the gear and so were driven, 18 The next day, dangerously driven about as we were by the storm, they threw the cargo overboard 19 and on the third day with their own hands they cast away the ship's tackle.

20 For many days, neither sun not stars appeared; the storm kept raging strongly, so that the last vestige of hope of our being saved was snatched away. 21 As they had gone without food for a long time, Paul stood among them and said, "Men, you should have listened to me and so spared yourselves this damage and loss, and not have put to sea from Crete. 22 Even now, I advise you to cheer up; for not a single person among you will perish – only the ship – 23 For this night, there stood an angel of God, whose I am and whom I serve. 24 He said, 'Have no fear, Paul. You have to stand before Caesar, and be assured that God has granted you all that are sailing with you.' 25 Therefore, be of good spirits, men; for I have faith in God that it will happen in accord with what was told me. 26 But we have to be stranded on an island."

27 On the fourteenth night of our drifting up and down the Adriatic, the sailors surmised at about midnight, that they were bearing toward some shore; 28 so, taking soundings, they found twenty fathoms, and at a little distance when they sounded again, they found fifteen fathoms. 29 Then, for fear that we might run aground on submerged rocks, they cast four anchors from the stern and longed for break of day.

30 The sailors however, tried to abandon the ship and, under pretence of going to cast anchor from the prow, they lowered the lifeboat into the sea; 31 so Paul told the officer and the soldiers, "If these do not stay with the ship, you cannot be saved." 32 Then the soldiers cut the boat's ropes and let her fall.

33 With daybreak approaching, Paul urged them all to take some food. He said, "For Fourteen days now, you have been waiting expectantly without taking anything. 34 so I implore you to eat something; it is necessary for your safety. For not a hair of your head will perish."

35 Having said this, he took bread, gave thanks to God in the presence of them all and, breaking it, began to eat. 36 Then they all were encouraged and partook of nourishment, - 37 all told, there were two hundred seventy-six of us on board.

38 When they had eaten to their satisfaction, they lightened the ship by dumping the wheat into the sea. 39 When day arrived, they did not recognise the coast, but they noticed an inlet with a beach into which they decided, if at all possible, to run the ship. 40 After casting off the anchors and dropping them in the sea, and meanwhile loosening the ropes that held the rudders, they hoisted the foresail to the wind and made for the beach.

41 But as they hit a shoal where two seas met, they grounded the ship; and the prow settled and stayed immovable, while the stern broke up under the force of the elements.

42 It was then the soldiers' idea to kill the prisoners, so that they might not swim away and escape; 43 but the officer, wishing to save Paul, prevented their doing it. He ordered those who could swim, to leap overboard first and make for shore, 44 and the rest to follow, some on boards and some on fragments of the ship. And so, they all reached shore safely.

THE ACTS CHAPTER 28

WHEN we had escaped. We learned that the island was called Malta. 2 The natives showed us remarkable friendliness, for they lit a fire and welcomed all of us to it because of the rain that had set in and because of the cold. 3 When Paul had gathered a bundle of twigs and laid them on the fire, a viper crawled out on account of the heat and fastened to his hand.
4 When the natives observed the creature hanging from his hand, they remarked to each other, "Unquestionably, this man is a murderer whom, though saved from the sea, Justice will not allow to live." 5 But he simply shook off the creature into the fire and felt no hurt.
6 They, of course, expected him at any moment, either to swell up or fall suddenly dead; so, after waiting for a long time and seeing nothing out of the way happen to him, they changed their minds and said, "He is a god."

7 Now in that part of the island, there were pieces of land that belonged to the chief of the island, a man named Publius, who took us in and for three days entertained us courteously.
8 It so happened that Publius' father was laid up with fever and dysentery; so, Paul went to visit him and, laying hands on him with prayer, he healed him. 9 When this had occurred, the rest of the islanders who had diseases came and were healed. 10 They also showed us every kind of respect, and when we left, they supplied all our needs.

11 At the end of three months, we put to sea in an Alexandrian ship, that had wintered in the island and had for her figurehead, Castor and Pollux. 12 We docked at Syracuse and tarried three days. 13 Then we tacked around and arrived at Rhegium. After one day, a south wind came up and the following day we landed at Puteoli. 14 There we found some brothers and were invited to stay with them for seven days.

15 Then we went on to Rome, and when the brothers there heard about us, they came as far as the Market of Appius and Three Taverns to meet us. As soon as Paul saw them, he gave thanks to God and took courage.

16 When we arrived in Rome, *the officer delivered the prisoners to the captain of the guard; but* Paul was allowed to live by himself with a soldier to guard him.

17 After three days he invited all the leading Jews to whom when they gathered, he said, “Brothers, although I have committed nothing whatever against our people or against our fathers’ customs, yet I was delivered to the Romans, a prisoner from Jerusalem. 18 Upon examination they wanted to set me free, because I am innocent of any act that deserves death; 19 but when the Jews objected, I was forced to appeal to Caesar – although I had no charge to bring against my nation. 20 For this reason, I begged to see you and to talk to you. It is because of Israel’s hope that I wear this encircling chain.”

21 They replied to him, “Neither have we received letters from Judea about you, nor have any of the brothers arrived with a bad report or any gossip about you. 22 But we desire to hear from you what you have in mind; for so far as this heresy is concerned, we know that it is denounced everywhere.”

23 Arranging a date with him, they came to him at his lodging in large numbers, and he explained the matter to them from morning until evening, bearing witness about the kingdom of God, attempting to persuade them about Jesus, both out of the Law of Moses and from the Prophets. 24 Some indeed, were convinced by the things that he said, but others did not believe. 25 So, since there was no agreement among them, they left when Paul spoke this one utterance, “The Holy Spirit spoke rightly to your fathers through Isaiah the prophet, 26 Go to this people and say, ‘You will hear with your ears but will not catch the meaning. You will look with your eyes but will not see. 27 For this, people’s heart is calloused and their ears are dull of hearing, and they have closed their eyes, so they may not see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with the hearts and turn about and I should heal them.’” 28 Let it be clearly understood, then, that this salvation of God is sent to the Gentiles and they will listen.”

29 *After he had said this, the Jews went away and had considerable discussion among themselves.*

30 Paul remained for two whole years in his rented lodging and welcomed every one who came to see him. 31 He preached the kingdom of God and taught regarding the Lord Jesus Christ altogether openly and without hindrance.

THE EPISTLE OF PAUL TO THE

ROMANS

CHAPTER 1

PAUL, a slave of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the good news from God, 2 which He promised in advance through His prophets in the scared Scriptures 3 regarding His Son who, as to His human nature was descended from David and according to the Spirit

of holiness 4 was openly designated as the Son of God with power when He was raised from the dead, even Jesus Christ, our Lord, 5 through whom we have received the grace and apostleship, to promote among all the Gentiles in behalf of His name, obedience to the message of faith, 6 among whom you also are included as those who have been invited by Jesus Christ; 7 to all God's loved ones in Rome, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

8 To begin with, I certainly thank my God for all of you through Jesus Christ, because your faith is being mentioned all over the world. 9 For God, whom I serve with my spiritual self in the good news concerning His Son, bears witness how constantly I mention you whenever I am at my prayers, 10 pleading that somehow by the will of God, I may some day be sped on my way to visit you. 11 For I am yearning to see you, so that I may bestow on you some spiritual gift for your confirmation – 12 I mean that we may be mutually strengthened by your faith and mine.

13 But I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that often I have planned to visit you, so that I might reap some harvest among you, just as I have among the other Gentiles but thus far, I have been prevented. 14 To both Greeks and barbarians, to both learned and unlearned, I am a debtor; 15 so I am eager to preach the Gospel to you in Rome as well.
16 For I am not ashamed of the good news; for it is God's power for salvation to every believer, to the Jew first and to the Greek also. 17 For God's righteousness is disclosed in it through faith and leading to faith, as it is written. "The one who is righteous through faith will live."

18 On the other hand, God's indignation is revealed from heaven against all impiety and wickedness of men, who through their wicked ways suppress the truth; 19 because whatever can be known regarding God is evident to them, for God has shown it to them.
20 From the creation of the world, His invisible qualities, such as His eternal power and divine nature, have been made visible and have been understood through his handiwork. So, they are without excuse. 21 Because although they had knowledge of God, they failed to render Him the praise and thanks due to God. Instead, they indulged in their speculations, until their stupid minds were all in the dark. 22 Claiming to be wise, they became foolish.
23 They even altered the glory of the immortal God into images, in the form of mortal man and of birds, four-footed beasts and reptiles.

24 Therefore, God gave them up in the desires of their hearts to such impurity as dishonoured their own bodies, 25 since they altered God's truth into falsehood, and revered and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.

26 For this reason God abandoned them to shameful passions. Their women perverted natural functions for unnatural, 27 and similarly the men forsook their natural relationships with women and burned up with their lust for one another, men committing shamelessness with men and so acquiring in their persons, the penalty that was coming to them on account

of their wrong behaviour. 28 Just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God anymore, so God gave them over to depraved thoughts, to practice what is not decent, 29 because they have been filled with every sort of wickedness, immortality, depravity and greed; crammed with envy, murder, quarrelling, deceit and malignity; 30 as gossips, slanderers, God-haters; insolent, proud and boastful; inventors of evil; disobedient to parents; 31 without conscience, fidelity, natural affection or pity. 32 While knowing God's ordinance, that those practicing such things deserve death, they not only practice them, but even give their approval to those who do them.

ROMANS CHAPTER 2

THEREFORE, you can offer no excuse, O man, whoever indulges in judging; for by passing judgment on another, you condemn yourself, since you, who are passing judgment practice the same things. 2 We know that God's judgment, rightly falls on those who practice such wrongs. 3 But do you imagine, O man, who condemn those practicing such evils and do them yourself, that you will escape God's judgment? 4 Or do you underestimate His wealth of kindness and tolerance and enduring patience, unmindful that Gods' kindness is meant to lead you toward repentance?

5 But in line with your obstinacy and impenitence of heart you are treasuring up for yourself, anger for the day of anger and the revealing of the righteous judgment of God, 6 who will reward each person according to his deeds. 7 To those who with insistent good behaviour seek glory, honour, and immortality. He awards eternal life; 8 but to those who are factious and disobedient to the truth but rather are obedient to wickedness, He awards indignation and fury. 9 Affliction and anxiety will be given to every human soul who does evil, to the Jew first and to the Greek as well. 10 But distinction and honour and peace will be given to all who do what is good, to the Jew first and to the Greek as well. 11 For God shows no favouritism.

12 Those who sin without knowing the Law will be lost without reference to the Law; while those who sin under the Law, will be judged by the Law. 13 For not the hearers of the Law are righteous before God, but those who practice the Law will be pronounced righteous. 14 For when Gentiles who lack the Law do naturally practice it, they are for themselves a law, though they have none. 15 They show that what the Law requires is written in their hearts, while the conscience also bears witness and their thoughts accuse or defend one another. 16 They will be judged on that day when God will judge the secrets of men through Jesus Christ in agreement with the good news I preach.

17 But if you are termed a Jew and you rely on the Law and pride yourself in God 18 and know His will, and approve the things that really matter, because you have been instructed from the Law, 19 and you are convinced that you are a guide to the blind, a light to those who are in the darkness, a trainer of the simple, 20 a teacher of the ignorant, since you possess in the Law the embodiment of knowledge and truth; 21 then, you who teach

another, do you not teach yourself? You who preach against stealing, do you steal? 22 You who forbid adultery, do you commit adultery? You who detest idols, do you commit sacrilege? 23 You who boast in the Law, do you dishonour God by its violation? 24 For “God’s name”, as has been written, “is on your account maligned among the Gentiles.”

25 Circumcision, then, benefits only if you obey the Law; but if you are a violator of the Law, then your circumcision becomes uncircumcision. 26 So, if the uncircumcised man observes the requirements of the Law, 27 will not his uncircumcision be accounted to him as circumcision? In fact, the physically uncircumcised, who carries out the Law, will judge you who, although you have the literally correct form of the Law and are circumcised, break the Law.

28 For neither is one a Jew from his looks, nor is circumcision what shows in the body;
29 but a Jew is a Jew deep in his heart and so circumcision is a matter of the heart, a spiritual observance rather than a mere observance of the Law. Such a person’s praise comes not from men but from God.

ROMANS CHAPTER 3

THEN what advantage has the Jew, or what benefit has circumcision? 2 Considerable in every respect. Primarily, because they were entrusted with the utterances of God. 3 What if some failed to believe? Their unbelief surely does not nullify God’s faithfulness, does it?
4 Not at all. Rather shall it be: God must be true though every man is a liar, as it is written, “That Thou mightiest be vindicated in Thy sayings and mightiest triumph when Thou art tried.” 5 But if our wrongdoing brings out so strikingly the righteousness of God, what shall we say? Surely not that God is wrong – I speak humanly – when He inflicts punishment?
6 No indeed! Then how could God judge the world? 7 But if by my falsehood the truth of God abounds the more for His glory, then why am I condemned as a sinner? 8 Why not say then, just as by some we are being slandered and charged with saying, “Let us do evil, so that good may result?” Deservedly are such talkers condemned.

9 Then what? Do we Jews have an advantage over the Gentiles? Not at all. For we have already charged both Jews and Greeks that they are all under sin’s power, 10 as it is written, “There is none righteous; not even one. 11 No one has understanding; no one is a searcher after God. 12 All have strayed; they have together become worthless. There is none doing right, not even one. 13 Their throats are open graves; with their tongues they deceive; venom of asps is behind their lips; 14 their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness. 15 Their feet are swift for shedding blood; 16 ruin and misery are in their ways 17 and they have not known the path of peace. 18 There is no reverence for God before their eyes.”

19 Now we know that whatever the Law says, it says to those who are under its control, so that every mouth may be shut and the whole world may become liable to divine retribution;
20 because not a single human being will be made righteous in God’s sight through observance of the Law. For through the Law comes the knowledge of sin.

21 But now apart from the Law, God's righteousness is revealed, as is witnessed to by the Law and the Prophets, 22 namely, God's righteousness through faith in Jesus Christ for all the believers. For there is no distinction, 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. 24 We are justified freely by His grace through the ransom that Christ Jesus provided; 25 whom God put forward as a reconciling sacrifice through faith in His blood. This was for the vindication of His righteousness in forgiving the sins that previously were committed under God's forbearance, 26 and to vindicate His righteousness at the present time, that He is righteous and that He accepts as righteous, him that has faith in Jesus.

27 Where, then, does boasting come in? It is ruled out. Through what sort of law? Of works? No, indeed, but through the law of faith. 28 For we come to the conclusion that a man is justified by faith without the works of the Law. 29 Or is He God of the Jews only? Is He not also the God of the Gentiles? He is the Gentiles' God as well. 30 Since there is but one God, He will justify the circumcised for their belief and the uncircumcised through their faith. 31 Do we, then, abrogate the Law through faith? Not at all; instead, we uphold the Law.

ROMANS CHAPTER 4

WHAT shall we say, then, that Abraham, our human ancestor, has discovered? 2 For if Abraham was justified on account of works, then he has something to brag about. But not before God; 3 for what does Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." 4 Now, to a workman, wages are not paid as a favour but as an obligation; 5 while to the person who does not work by Law, but whose faith rests on Him, who declares the ungodly righteous, to him his faith is accounted for righteousness.
6 Precisely as David mentions, the blessedness of the man to whom God attributes righteousness apart from his works: 7 "Blessed are they whose iniquities have been forgiven and whose sins have been covered. 8 Blessed is the man of whose sin the Lord will take no account."

9 Now, then, does this ascription of blessedness apply only to the circumcised, or to the uncircumcised as well? For this our statement: Faith was accounted to Abraham for righteousness. 10 Then how was it accounted? When he was circumcised, or when he was still uncircumcised? Not after, but before his circumcision; 11 and he received the mark of circumcision as a seal of the righteousness of the faith, which he had while he was still uncircumcised, so that he might be the father of all uncircumcised believers, that to them righteousness might be accounted, 12 and also the father of those circumcised, who are not merely circumcised but walk in the footsteps of the faith our father Abraham had, when he was still uncircumcised.

13 The promise to Abraham or to his offspring to inherit the earth, did not come through the Law but through righteousness because of faith; 14 for if followers of the Law are the

inheritors, then faith is futile and the promise is abrogated. 15 Because the Law brings about wrath, but where there is no Law there is no transgression.

16 For this reason, it is a matter of faith, so that the promise may be made sure as a matter of grace to all his descendants; not only to the followers of the Law but also to those who share Abrahams' faith, who is thus father to us all, 17 as it is written, "I have appointed you a father of many nations" – all this in the presence of God, in whom he believed, who makes the dead live and calls into existence what has no being. 18 For Abraham kept hoping in faith, when hope was gone, that he would be the father of many nations, just as he had been told. "So shall your offspring be." 19 And there was no weakening of his faith, even when he recognised the impotence of his own body at the age of one hundred, as well as Sarah's inability to bear.

20 He did not in unbelief hesitate about God's promise but, empowered by faith, he rendered praise to God, 21 in the complete conviction that He was able to make good His promise, 22 For this reason, it was accounted to him as righteousness.

23 This, however, was not written for him alone. "It was accounted to him," 24 but for us as well, to whom it will be accounted as believers in Him who raised from the dead, our Lord Jesus, 25 who was put to death on account of our misdeeds and raised on account of our justification.

ROMANS CHAPTER 5

SINCE, then, we have been pronounced righteous through faith, let us have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 by whom we also obtain through faith, entrance to this grace in which we stand firm, and rejoice in the hope of God's glory.

3 Not his alone, but we glory in afflictions as well; for we know that affliction produces patience, 4 and patience develops in a tried character, and character begets hope, 5 such hope as does not disappoint; for God's love is poured out into our hearts by means of the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. 6 For when we were still helpless, Christ at the proper time, died for the ungodly.

7 Ordinarily, one would hardly die for a righteous person; but still for a good person, someone might perhaps bring himself to die. 8 But God proves his own love for us by Christ's dying for us, when we were still sinners.

9 Now then, as we have been declared righteous by His blood, how much surer is it that we shall be saved by Him from God's wrath. 10 For if as enemies we were reconciled to God, through the death of His Son, surely much more shall we who have been reconciled be saved by His life. 11 And not only this, but we also exult in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

12 It is therefore as followers; through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and so death passed on to all persons, in that all sinned. 13 To be sure, sin was in the

world earlier than the Law, but in absence of Law, sin is not accounted. 14 Death, however held rule from Adam to Moses over those who sinned but did not transgress a command in the way Adam, who foreshadowed the Coming One, had done.

15 With the free gift, however, it is by no means as it is with the transgression; for if through the transgression of one person many die, far more richly did the grace of God and His gift that comes through the favour of one-man Jesus Christ, overflow to the many. 16 Nor is the gift similar in effect to that one person's sin; for the judgement of one man brings condemnation, but divine grace led to justification out of many transgressions. 17 For if, through that one person's transgression, death is king through that person, far more surely will those who receive the overflowing of grace and the gift of righteousness, reign as kings in life through the One, Jesus Christ.

18 So then, as through one transgression, condemnation came to all men, so through one righteous act there is for all men justification and life. 19 For as through the disobedience of one man, many were placed in the position of sinners, so through the obedience of the One, many will be placed in the position of righteous ones.

20 But Law slipped in to make transgression more serious; yet where sin increased, grace was in greater abundance 21 so that, as sin reigned in death, so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

ROMANS CHAPTER 6

WHAT then are we to say? Shall we remain in sin to let grace become more plentiful? 2 Not at all! How shall we, who have died to sin, still live in it? 3 Or do you not realise, as many of us as were baptised in union with Christ Jesus were baptised in union with His death? 4 So we are buried with Him in death through baptism in order that, just as Christ rose from the dead through the Father's glorious power, so we too shall conduct ourselves in a new way of living. 5 For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, then the same must be true of our resurrection with Him 6 being aware of this, that our old self was crucified with Him, so that the power of the sin-controlled body might be done away with and we should no longer be slaves of sin. 7 For a corpse is considered guiltless of sin.

8 If, then, we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, 9 well assured that Christ, once risen from the dead, will not die anymore; death holds lordship over Him no longer. 10 The death He died was once for all to sin, but the life He lives, He lives to God. 11 Similarly, let us consider ourselves as actually dead to sin, but in Christ Jesus alive to God.

12 Sin, then, must not be king in your mortal body, to have you yield to its passions,
13 neither must you offer the members of your body to serve sin as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as living persons who rose from the dead,

and present the members of your body to God as instruments of righteousness. 14 Sin shall not be your master, for you are not governed by Law but by grace.

15 Then what? Shall we sin because we are not governed by Law but by grace? Certainly not! 16 Do you not know that you are committed to obey as slaves the one to whom you offer yourselves as obedient slaves, whether that be to sin that leads to death, or to obedience that leads to righteousness? 17 But thanks be to God that, though you were slaves of sin, you have become with all your hearts obedient to the standard of teaching to which you were introduced, 18 so that with deliverance from sin you were made slaves of righteousness.

19 I speak in these human terms because of your human weakness. Just as you offered the members of your body in the service of impurity in one act of lawlessness after another, so now offer your members in the service of righteousness for holy living. 20 For when you were slaves of sin, you were free from righteousness. 21 And what good did you derive from things of which you are now ashamed? Death is their consequence. 22 But now, freed from sin and made slaves of God, the good you derive leads to holiness and the consequence is life eternal. 23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

ROMANS CHAPTER 7

DO you not know, brothers – for I address such as understand the Law – that the Law has authority over a person only during his lifetime? 2 The married woman is by law bound to her husband while he lives; but when her husband dies, she is freed from the marriage law. 3 While her husband lives, she would be an adulteress in case she married another man; but if the husband dies, she is legally free and is no adulteress at all if she marries another man.

4 In a similar way you, my brothers, were put to death to the Law by means of the body of Christ, so that you may belong to Another, to Him who was raised from the dead in order that we bear fruit for God. 5 For when we lived our earthly way, our sinful passions, aroused by the Law were active in our bodily organs to bear fruit for death. 6 Now, however, we are released from the Law; we have been dead to what once held us in its grip, so that now we serve in the old relationship of literalness.

7 What, then, do we conclude? That the Law is sin? Far be it from our thoughts! Nevertheless, were it not for the Law, we should not have known sin. For instance, I should not have known about covetousness had not the Law said, “You shall not covet.” 8 But sin, by grasping the opportunity through the commandment, effected in me all sorts of covetousness. For apart from the Law, sin is dead.

9 I was once living in the absence of the Law, but with the coming of the commandment, sin took on new life – which to me meant death. 10 The commandment that was aimed to give life was found to mean death to me 11 because sin, by grasping the opportunity through the

commandment, deceived me and killed me with it. 12 So then, the Law is holy, and so is the commandment holy, just, and good.

13 Did then, what was good become death to me? Not at all! Instead, it was sin that must be shown up as sin, by working fatally for me through something good, so that through the commandment, sin might become immeasurably sinful.

14 For we know that the Law is spiritual; but I am fleshy, sold under sin's control; 15 for I do not understand what I am doing. I do not do, what I want to do but what I hate to do.
16 Now if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the Law is good. 17 However, I am no longer the one who does the deed, but sin which is at home in me does it. 18 For I know that within me, that is within my flesh, what is good is not at home; the personal willingness is there but not the accomplishing of what is right. 19 For I fail to do the good I want to do and I practice the bad that I do not want to practice.

20 But if I do what I have no desire to do, then I am no longer doing it myself, but rather sin that makes itself at home in me. 21 Consequently, I discover a law that when I want to do right, wrong suggestions crowd in. 22 For in my inmost heart, I agree with God's Law; 23 but in my whole natural make-up, I observe another law, battling against the principles which my reason dictates, and making me a prisoner to the law of sin that controls my members.

24 Miserable man that I am, who will rescue me from this body doomed to death?
25 Thanks be to God because of Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with my mind I serve God's Law, but with my human nature I serve the principle of sin.

ROMANS CHAPTER 8

THERE is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus; 2 for the life-giving principles of the Spirit have freed you in Christ Jesus from the control of the principles of sin and death. 3 For what the Law was unable to do, weakened as it was through the flesh, that God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and on account of sin; He thus condemned sin in human nature 4 so that the Law's requirements might be completely met by us, who behave not in a fleshy but in a spiritual way.

5 For those who are under the control of the flesh are fleshy minded, but those who are under control of the Spirit are spiritually minded, 6 and to be fleshy minded means death, while spiritual-mindedness means life and peace, 7 because fleshy-mindedness is hostile to God; it is not submissive to God's Law, in fact it cannot be. 8 So those who are controlled by the flesh are unable to please God.

9 You, however, are not controlled by the flesh but by the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God is at home in you. If, on the other hand, anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him. 10 But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead on account of sin, but the spirit is alive on account of righteousness. 11 If, then, the Sprit of Him who raised Jesus from

the dead dwells in you, then He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead, will through the Spirit that dwells in you also make your mortal bodies live.

12 It follows then, brothers, that we are obligated, but not to our human nature to live under its control; 13 for if you live in a fleshy way, you will die. But if through the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, then you will live. 14 For as many as are guided for God's Spirit are sons of God. 15 Indeed, you received no spirit that would re-enslave you to fear; instead, you received the Spirit of sonship by which we cry. "Abba! Father!" 16 This Spirit bears witness with our spirits that we are God's children: 17 but if children, then heirs too; in fact, God's heirs together with Christ, presuming that we suffer together, so that we may also enjoy glory together.

18 For I reason that this temporal suffering is not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. 19 For the creation eagerly awaits the revealing of the sons of God; 20 for the creation was subjected to frustration, not from choice but through Him who effected that bondage, and that with hope; 21 because creation itself will be liberated from its enslavement to decay into the glorious freedom of God's children.

22 For we know that to this day the entire creation has been groaning and suffering agony together, as if in childbirth, 23 and not merely so, but we ourselves, who have the Spirit as first fruits, we also groan within ourselves as we await our adoption as sons, that is, our bodily redemption. 24 In this hope are we saved; but hope within sight is not hope, for who hopes for what he sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, then we keep on patiently awaiting it.

26 In a similar way, the Spirit joins in to help us in our weakness; for we do not know what and how we ought to pray, but the Spirit Himself intercedes on our behalf with sighs too deep for words. 27 And the Searcher of hearts knows what the Spirit has in mind. For He pleads with God on behalf of the saints. 28 But we know that for those who love Him, for those called in agreement with His purpose, God makes all things work together for good.

29 Because those whom He knew beforehand, He appointed beforehand to share the likeness of His Son, so that He might be the First-born among many brothers. 30 But whom He predestined those, He also called; and whom He called, those He also made righteous; and whom He made righteous, those He also glorified.

31 Then what conclusion do we draw? If God is for us, then who is against us? 32 He who did not even spare His own Son but gave Him up on behalf of us all, will He not also favour us with everything along with Him? 33 Who will enter a charge against God's chosen? God is the Acquitter; 34 who is the condemner? Christ Jesus is He who died; what is more, who rose again, who is at God's right hand, who also pleads on our behalf.

35 Who will separate us from Christ's love? Affliction? Or distress? Or persecution? Or famine? Or destitution? Or danger? Or sword? 36 Just as it is written. "On your account we

are being killed all day long; we are considered sheep for slaughter.” 37 But in all this, we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor authorities, neither present nor future affairs, 39 neither powers of the heights nor the depths nor anything else created, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

ROMANS CHAPTER 9

IN Christ I tell the truth, I am not falsifying, as my conscience, fortified by the Holy Spirit, bears me witness, 2 when I say that I have in my heart intense grief and unceasing distress; 3 for I could wish myself banished from Christ for the sake of my brothers, my human kinsmen 4 who are Israelites. Theirs are the sonship, the glorious Presence, the covenants, the giving of the Law, the worship, and the promises. 5 Theirs are the fathers, and from them Christ was humanly descended, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen.

6 It is not as if God’s message had failed, for by no means all who descend from Israel belong to Israel; 7 neither are all Abraham’s children because they are his offspring, but “Through Isaac your offspring shall be named after you.” 8 This means that it is not his physical descendants who make up the children of God, but the children of the promise are considered his offspring. 9 For this is the message of the promise. “At about this time next year, I will come, and Sarah will have a son.”

10 But this is not all. When Rebecca had conceived by one man, our forefather Isaac, 11 and before the children were born or had done anything good or bad, even then, in order that the purpose of God’s choice might prevail, which rests not on works but on His calling, 12 it was said to her, “The older will serve the younger.” 13 As it is written, “I loved Jacob, but I hated Esau.”

14 What shall we say then? Is there injustice with God? Perish the thought! 15 For He said to Moses, “I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will take pity on whom I will take pity.” 16 So then, it is not a matter of man’s willing or running, but of God’s mercy. 17 As Scripture says to Pharoah, “For this very purpose, I raised you up high to show in you the evidence of My power, so that My name may be made known over the whole earth.” 18 So then, He shows mercy to whom He wills and He hardens whom He wills.

19 Then you will ask me, “Why does He still complain; for who is resisting His will?”
20 O man! Who are you anyway, to talk back to God? The thing that is being moulded does not say to the one who moulds it, “Why do you make me this way,” does it? 21 Does not the potter have the right with the clay to make from the same lump, one utensil for noble use and another for ignoble use? 22 What if God, wanting to show His anger and to evidence His power, with great patience, endured the agents that deserve wrath and have been prepared for destruction, 23 so that He might make known the wealth of His glory to the recipients of

mercy, whom previously He prepared for glory, 24 even us whom He has called not only from the Jews, but also from among the Gentiles?

25 So, too, He says in Hosea, "I will call those who were not My people, 'My people,' and her who was not loved 26 My beloved,' and in the place where it was said to them, 'You are not My people, there they will be called the sons of the living God."

27 Isaiah, too, exclaims regarding Israel, "Even though the number of Israel's sons were as the sand of the sea, only a remnant will be saved 28 *for He will finish the work and round it out in righteousness:* for thoroughly and with dispatch, the Lord will execute His decree on the earth."

29 As Isaiah further foretold, "Unless the Lord of hosts had left us offspring, we would have become like Sodom and would have been made like Gomorrah."

30 Then what is our inference? That the Gentiles, who did not try to acquire righteousness, got hold of righteousness, that is, of the righteousness that comes through faith, 31 while Israel, pursuing a law for the securing of righteousness, failed to come up to it.

32 And why? Because their principle was not by faith but by works; they stumbled over the stone that occasions stumbling 33 as it is written, "See, I am laying in Zion a stone that causes men to stumble, a rock that trips men up, and the believer in Him will not be ashamed."

ROMANS CHAPTER 10

BROTHERS, the desire of my heart and my prayer to God for them is for their salvation; 2 for I will say for them, that they have enthusiasm for God, but not with correct understanding. 3 Ignorant of the righteousness that comes from God, and trying to set up their own righteousness, they have not submitted to the righteousness of God. 4 For Christ brought the Law to completion so that every one who believes in Him may be justified. 5 Moses does indeed describe the righteousness of the Law, "The man who practices it shall live by it." 6 The righteousness of faith, however, has this to say, "Do not say to yourself, 'Who will ascend to heaven?' (which means to bring Christ down) 7 or 'Who will descend into the depth?' (which means to bring Christ up from the grave)." 8 But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and heart." It is the message of faith, which we preach, 9 that if you confess with your lips the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart, one believes so that he is made righteous and with the mouth, confession is made for salvation. 11 For the Scripture says, "Whoever puts his trust in Him will not be put to shame."

12 There is then no distinction between Jew and Greek, for they all belong to the same Lord, bestowing His riches on all who invoke Him; 13 for "every one who calls on the Lord's name will be saved."

14 Now then, how can they invoke Him in whom they have no faith? And how can they believe in One of whom they have not heard? Again, how can they listen without a preacher? 15 But how can they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, “How lovely are the feet of those who publish the good news!”

16 Not all, however, have heard the good news, as Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed our report?” 17 Faith, then, results from hearing, and hearing is through the message of Christ. 18 But I ask, Have they not heard? Yes, indeed, “Their voice has gone forth over the whole earth and their words to the end of the world.” 19 I ask further. Did not Israel understand? To begin with, Moses says, “I will make you jealous of those who are not a nation, and I will infuriate you against a senseless nation.” 20 Then Isaiah boldly expressed it. “I have been found by those who did not seek Me; I have shown Myself to those who did not ask for Me.” 21 But concerning Israel He says, “All day long I have held out My hands to a disobedient and rebellious people.”

ROMANS CHAPTER 11

I SAY then, has God repudiated His people? No indeed! In fact, I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham and of Benjamin’s tribe. 2 God has not repudiated His people whom before-hand He had in mind. Do you know what the Scripture says concerning Elijah, how he appeared to God against Israel. 3 “Lord, they have killed Your prophets: they have torn down Your altars; I alone am left and they are after my life?”

4 Nevertheless, what divine response is given him? “I have kept for Myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal.” 5 Just so there is at present a remnant in accordance with His gracious choice. 6 But if it is by grace, then it is no longer on account of works; otherwise, grace would no more be grace.

7 Then what follows? Israel has not gained what it was seeking, but those who are chosen have secured it, while the rest have grown callous; 8 as it is written, “God has given them a spirit of stupidity – eyes that do not see and ears that do not hear, to this very day.”

9 David also says, “Let their table become a snare and a trap, a stumbling block and a retribution to them; 10 let their eyes be darkened so that they cannot see, and forever make them bend their backs.”

11 I say then, did they stumble so as to fall? Not at all! Instead, through their transgression, salvation has come to the Gentiles to arouse Israel to jealousy. 12 But if their transgression means the world’s enrichment, and their failure is the Gentiles’ gain, then how much more will their fulfilling of the divine be?

13 But I am speaking to you Gentiles. For the very reason that I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I take pride in my ministry, 14 trying, if possible, to rouse my own race to jealousy and save some of them. 15 For if the rejection on their part means the world’s

reconciliation, what must their acceptance mean but life from the dead? 16 If the first piece of dough is holy, so is the whole lump, and if the root is holy, so are the branches.

17 If some of the branches have been broken off and you, a wild olive shoot, have been grafted in and are sharing the rich root of the olive tree, 18 do not boast against the branches, and if you do boast, remember that you are not supporting the root; instead, the root supports you.

19 You will reply, “The branches have been broken off, so that I may be grafted in.” 20 Well said! Through lack of faith, they were broken off and through faith you remain in place. Be not haughty, but stand in awe. 21 For if God did not spare the natural branches, neither will He spare you. 22 So consider God’s kindness and rigour – on the one hand, His rigour applied to those who failed, and on the other hand, God’s kindness to you, provided you continue in His kindness; else you too will be cut away. 23 Besides they, if they do not persist in their unbelief, will be grafted in: for God is able to graft them in again. 24 And if you have been cut from a naturally wild olive tree and were grafted contrary to nature into a cultivated olive tree, then how much more readily will these natural branches be grafted into their own original tree!

25 So that you might not be self-opiniated, brothers, I want you not to be ignorant of this secret: partial insensibilty has come over Israel until the full number of the Gentiles come in, 26 and thus all Israel will be saved, as it is written, “From Mount Zion a deliverer will come; He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; 27 and this is My covenant with them, when I have taken away their sins.”

28 So far as the good news is concerned, they are enemies for your sakes; but so far as election is concerned, they are beloved because of the fathers. 29 For God’s gifts of grace and His calling are irrevocable. 30 Just as you were once disobedient to God but now have received mercy, thanks to their disobedience, 31 so they have now been disobedient, so that through the mercy you are enjoying, they may now receive mercy. 32 For God has confined all men under the power of disobedience, so that He might have mercy on all men.

33 O the depth of the wealth, the wisdom, and the knowledge of God! How inscrutable are His judgments and how untraceable His footsteps! 34 “For who has understood the Lord’s mind, or who has become His counsellor? 35 Or who has given anything to Him that it might be repaid him?” 36 For from Him, and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be glory forever! Amen.

ROMANS CHAPTER 12

I BEG you, therefore, brothers, in view of God’s mercies, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not conform to the present world system, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, so as to sense for yourselves what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God. 3 For

through the grace that is granted me, I warn each one among you not to value himself more highly than he should, but to think soberly as God has measured out to each his portion of faith.

4 For just as in one body we have many members, but not all the members have the same function, 5 so the many of us form one body in Christ, while each is related to all others as a member. 6 But having gifts that differ according to the grace bestowed on us, if it is prophecy, let it be used in proportion to the measure of faith God has bestowed it; 7 if it is practical service, then employ such service in the same way – the teacher. In his teaching; 8 the one who admonishes, in his admonition; the contributor, in his liberality; the leader, in his deep interest; he who practices charity, in genuine cheerfulness.

9 Let you love be sincere, clinging to the right with abhorrence of evil. 10 Be joined together in a brotherhood of mutual love, trying to outdo one another in showing respect, 11 never slacking in interest, serving the Lord, keeping spirituality aglow, 12 joyfully hoping as you endure affliction, persistent in prayer, 13 contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality.

14 Bless your persecutors; yes, bless and do not curse them. 15 Share the joy of those who are happy and the grief of those who grieve. 16 Live in harmony with others; do not aspire to eminence, but associate yourselves with humble people; do not be conceited.

17 In no case paying back evil for evil, determine on the noblest ways of dealing with all people. 18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, live at peace with every one. 19 Do not avenge yourselves, dear friends, but leave room for divine retribution; for it is written, “It is Mine to punish; I will pay them back, says the Lord.”

20 Instead, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him: in case he is thirsty, give him water to drink,” for in doing so, you will pile burning coals on his head. 21 Be not overpowered by evil but overcome evil with good.

ROMANS CHAPTER 13

LET every person render obedience to the governing authorities; for there is no authority except from God, and those in authority are divinely constituted, 2 so that the rebel against the authority is resisting God’s appointment. Such resisters will incur judgment on themselves.

3 For magistrates are no dread to the person who does right but to the wrongdoer. You do not want to fear the authority, do you? Do right, and you will earn its approval. 4 For it is God’s agency for your welfare. But if you do wrong, then be alarmed, for it does not carry the sword without reason: it is God’s agent to bring deserved punishment on the evildoer. 5 It behooves us, therefore to be submissive, not only because of punishment but also for conscience’ sake.

6 Pay your taxes, therefore, for those who constantly attend to this task are God's agents.
7 Pay all of them their dues: tax to whom tax is due; custom duties to whom custom duties are due; respect to whom respect is due, and honour to whom honour is due. 8 Owe no one anything except that you love one another, for the person who loves his neighbour has fulfilled the Law. 9 Because, "Do not commit adultery; do not kill; do not steal; do not covet," and whatever other commandment there is, may be summarised in one word, and that is, "Love your neighbour as yourself." 10 Love works no harm to one's neighbour, so love meets all the Law's requirements.

11 Observe this in consideration of our times, because the hour has struck for us to wake up, for our salvation is now nearer than when we first believed. 12 The night is well advanced and the day approaches; so, let us put off the works of darkness and let is put on the armour of light. 13 Let us behave ourselves decently as befits the daytime, not in carousing and drinking, not in immorality and debauchery, not in quarrelling and jealousy. 14 Instead, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ; do not make provision for the flesh to gratify its cravings.

ROMANS CHAPTER 14

WELCOME the weak believer, and do not criticise his views. 2 One person has faith that allows him to eat everything, but a weaker one confines himself to vegetables. 3 The one who eats should not feel contempt for him who abstains, nor should the one who abstains censure him who eats; for God has accepted him. 4 Who are you to censure another's servant? He will stand or fall with his own master. But he will stand, for the Lord will enable him to stand.

5 One person gives preference to one day above another day, while another person esteems every day. Each person should be fully convinced in his own mind. 6 He who observes the day, observes it with the Lord in view. So, he who eats everything, eats with the Lord in mind, for he gives thanks to God. He who limits his eating, refrains for the Lord's sake, and gives thanks to God.

7 For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself; 8 for in case we live, we live to the Lord, and in case we die, we die to the Lord; so, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. 9 For this purpose, Christ died and lives again, to be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

10 But you, why do you find fault with your brother? Or you, why do you look down on your brother? For we shall all stand before God's tribunal, 11 as it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, to me every knee shall bow and every tongue shall render acknowledgment to God."
12 Accordingly, every one of us will give account of himself to God.

13 So let us no longer censure one another, but let us rather decide not to place a hindrance or a stumbling block in our brother's way. 14 In union with the Lord Jesus, I know and am

convinced that nothing is unclean in itself; it becomes unclean to the person who considers it unclean. 15 And yet, if your brother is harmed on account of your eating, then your behaviour is no longer controlled by love. You would not by your eating ruin a person for whom Christ died, would you? 16 Do not then allow what is wholesome for you to be spoken of as evil; 17 for the kingdom of God does not consist in eating and drinking, but in righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. 18 Whoever serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and is approved by men.

19 So then, let us definitely aim for everything that contributes to one another's peace and development. 20 Do not on account of food, tear down the work of God. Everything is clean, yet it is wrong for a man to make others stumble by what he eats. 21 It is well to eat no meat and drink no wine, to do nothing that would make your brother stumble.

22 You have faith? Have it personally in the presence of God. Happy is the person who has no qualms of conscience in what he allows himself to do. 23 But the person who entertains doubts, and nevertheless eats, stands condemned, because he is not acting from faith, and every act that does not spring from faith is sin.

ROMANS CHAPTER 15

WE who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of those who are weak. We should not please ourselves. 2 But each of us should please his neighbour for his welfare, to strengthen him. 3 For even Christ did not please Himself but, as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached you, fell on Me."

4 All those writings of long ago, were written for our instruction, so that through the patience and encouragement of the Scriptures, we might have hope. 5 And may the God who gives patience and encouragement, grant you such mutual understanding in agreement with Christ Jesus 6 that together as with one voice, you may praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

7 Accept one another, therefore, just as Christ accepted you, for the glory of God. 8 For I say that Christ became a servant to the circumcised on behalf of God's truth to verify the promises that had been made to our fathers, 9 and also that the Gentiles should praise God for His mercy, as it is written, "For this, I will give Thee praise among the Gentiles and sing psalms to Thy name." 10 And again it says, "Be glad, O you Gentiles, together with His people, " 11 and once more, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and sing His praises, all you peoples." 12 Isaiah further says, "There will be a shoot from Jesse, even He who will stand up to rule the Gentiles; upon Him will the Gentiles rest their hope."

13 So may God, the fountain of hope, fill you with all joy and peace in your believing, so that you may enjoy overflowing hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

14 I myself am convinced about you, my brothers, that you are full of goodness, amply furnished with knowledge, and competent to advise one another. 15 But I have written to

you, very boldly in some matters so as to remind you, on account of the grace that God has granted me, 16 that I should be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles, serving as a priest of the good news from God, whereby the Gentiles may become an acceptable offering, made holy by the Holy Spirit.

17 In union with Christ Jesus, then, I take pride in my service for God; 18 for I will not venture to speak of anything but what Christ has done through me to bring the Gentiles to the place of obedience by word and deed, 19 by the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Holy Spirit, so that from Jerusalem and everywhere as far as Illyricum, I have fully preached the good news concerning Christ. 20 So, I endeavoured earnestly to preach only where the name of Christ was not yet known, in order not to build on the foundation of someone else, 21 but as it is written, “Those who have never been told of Him will see, and those who never heard will understand.”

22 On this account also, I have been frequently prevented from visiting you; 23 but now, since I have no more opportunity to do my work in this area, and with a longing extending over many years to visit you 24 whenever I might travel to Spain, I do hope to see you with my own eyes on passing through, and to have an escort from you on the way, after first having enjoyed your fellowship for a while.

25 Now I am on my way to Jerusalem in a ministry for the saints; 26 for Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to make some contribution for the needy among the Jerusalem saints. 27 They themselves decided to do it, and they certainly owe it to them; for if the Gentiles shared in their spiritual possessions, then they owe them their service in material things. 28 When therefore, I have finished this work and have turned over to them the full amount of the donation, I shall come by you on the way to Spain. 29 And I know that when I come to you, I shall come in the abundant blessing of Christ.

30 But I plead with you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of the Spirit, that you strive together with me in your prayers to God on my behalf, 31 in order that I may be delivered from the unbelievers in Judea; also that my ministry for Jerusalem may be well received by the saints, 32 and that I may subsequently come to you with gladness by the will of God and enjoy a refreshing visit with you. 33 And may the God of peace be with you all. Amen.

ROMANS CHAPTER 16

MAY I present to you our sister Phoebe, a deaconess of the Cenchreae church, 2 so that you may receive her in the Lord’s name as saints deserve, and that you may assist her in whatever matter she may have need of you; for she has been a helper to many, including me.

3 Give my greeting to Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, 4 who risked their own necks to save my life, and to whom not only I but all the churches of the Gentiles are grateful. 5 And include the church that meets in their house.

My greetings to my dear Epaenetus, the first convert to Christ in Asia. 6 Greet Mary, who went through much trouble for you. 7 Greet my relatives and fellow prisoners Andronicus and Junias; they are outstanding among the apostles and were Christians before I was one.

8 Greetings to Amplias, my dear friend in the Lord. 9 Greet Urbanus, our fellow worker in Christ, and my dear Stachys. 10 Remember me to Apelles, one who is tried and true in Christ, and to those of Aristobulus' family. 11 Greet my relative Herodian. Greet those of Narcissus' household that are in the Lord.

12 My greeting to those Christian workers Tryphaena and Tryphosa. Greet that dear Persis, unwearied worker that she is in the LORD. 13 Greetings to Rufus, chosen in the Lord and to his mother, who is mine as well.

14 My greetings to Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas, and the brothers with them. 15 Greet Philologus and Julia, Nereus and his sister, and Olympas and all the saints associated with them. 16 Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ send you their greetings.

17 But I warn you, brothers, to keep an eye on those who cause divisions and temptations, quite out of harmony with the doctrine you have been taught, and to keep away from them. 18 For people of that type do not serve our Lord Christ but their own appetites, and by means of ingratiating talk and flattery, they deceive the minds of the unsuspecting.

19 The report of your obedience to Christ has reached every one and makes me happy about you. But I want you to be wise when it comes to goodness, and innocent when it comes to evil. 20 And the God of peace will shortly crush Satan under your feet.

The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.

21 Timothy, my fellow worker, sends you greetings, and so do my relatives Lucius, Jason, and Sosipater.

22 I, Tertius, the writer of this letter, send you my greeting in the Lord. 23 Gaius, who is host to me and to the whole church, greets you. Erastus, the city treasurer, and brother Quartus send you their greetings. 24 *The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.* 25 Now to Him who is able to strengthen you according to the good news which I preach, the massage concerning Jesus Christ, in accord with the revelation of the secret that was concealed for long ages, 26 but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, to bring about obedience to the faith, 27 to the only wise God, be the glory forever and ever through Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE FIRST EPISTLE OF PAUL TO THE

CORINTHIANS

CHAPTER 1

PAUL, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes,
2 to the church of God at Corinth, those made holy in Christ Jesus and called to be saints,
together with all who in every place invoke the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their Lord as
well as ours: 3 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from our Lord Jesus Christ.

4 Always I thank my God for you, for the divine grace that has through Christ Jesus been
granted you; 5 for in Him you have in every respect been enriched with full power of
expression and full knowledge. 6 In this way our witnessing of Christ has been confirmed in
you, 7 so that you are falling behind in no spiritual gift, while awaiting the appearing of our
Lord Jesus Christ. 8 And He will establish you to the finish, so that no blame may be yours at
the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 God is trustworthy, through whom you were called into
the companionship of His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

10 But in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, I beg of you, brothers, that all of you agree, that
you eliminate factions among you, and that you be united in mind and attitude. 11 For the
Chloe family reports to me about you, my brothers, that there are wranglings among you.
12 I mean that each of you either says, “Paul certainly is my leader,” or “But Apollos is mine,”
or “But Cephas is mine,” or “But Christ is mine.”13 Is Christ dismembered? Paul was not
crucified for you, was he? Or were you baptised in Paul’s name?

14 I am thankful to have baptised none of you except Crispus and Gaius, 15 so that none of
you my claim baptism in my name. 16 Oh, yes, I baptised the Stephanas family also, but I do
not remember baptising anyone else. 17 For Christ sent me, not to baptise but to preach the
good news, and that not with verbal eloquence, so that the cross of Christ will not be made
ineffectual.

18 For the message of the cross of Christ is folly to those on their way to destruction, but to
us who are being saved, it is God’s power, 19 as it is written, “I will render useless the
wisdom of the learned and set aside the understanding of the intelligent.” 20 Where is the
wise man? Where is the scholar in the Law? Where is the debater of this time? Has not God
shown the folly of worldly wisdom? 21 In as much as in God’s providence, the world failed to
know God by means of its wisdom, God was pleased to save those who believe through the
folly of the proclamation. 22 And while Jews request signs and Greeks search for wisdom,
23 we on our part preach the crucified Christ; a snare to the Jews and folly to the Gentiles.
24 but to the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ, God’s power and God’s wisdom.
25 Because God’s folly surpasses human wisdom and God’s weakness surpasses human
strength. 26 Simply consider your own call, brother’s: not many of you were wise, humanly
speaking, not many mighty, not many noble, 27 but God has chosen the world’s foolish

things to put to shame the learned; and God has chosen the weak in the world to shame the strong. 28 God also has chosen the world's insignificant and despised people and nobodies in order to bring to nothing, those who amount to something, 29 so that nobody may boast in the presence of God.

30 But from Him, you have your existence in Christ Jesus, who became for us, divine wisdom and righteousness and holiness and redemption, 31 so that has been written, "Let the boaster boast in the Lord."

1 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 2

SO, when I came to you, brothers, I came with no superiority of eloquence or of wisdom, when I announced to you God's revealed truth; 2 for I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. 3 And I was before you with a sense of weakness, with fear and considerable trepidation.

4 My message and my preaching were not in persuasive, learned oratory, but rather in evidence of the Spirit and power, 5 so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom but on divine strength.

6 We do, indeed, express wisdom among the mature, but neither the wisdom of this world nor the rulers of this world, who are going to pass away. 7 Instead, we give expression to divine wisdom that has been hidden in the form of a mystery, which God before all time designed for our glory. 8 None of this world's rulers has understood it, for had they understood, they would never have crucified the LORD of glory. 9 But as it is written, "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, neither has the human heart thought of what God has prepared for those who love Him."

10 Through the Spirit, however, God has revealed it to us; for the Spirit fathoms everything, even the deep things of God. 11 For among men, who knows a person's thoughts except the man's own inner spirit? Similarly, no one knows the thoughts of God, except the Spirit of God. 12 And we have received, not the spirit of the world but the Spirit that comes from God, in order that we may know the things which God has freely given us.

13 Of these matters we speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in words taught by the Spirit – interpreting spiritual truth to spiritual persons. 14 But the unspiritual person does not accept the things of the divine Spirit; to him they are folly and he cannot understand them, because they are evaluated from a spiritual standpoint. 15 The spiritual person, on the other hand, judges the value of everything, while he is properly valued by none. 16 For who has known the Lord's mind well enough to instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ.

1 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 3

SO I was not in position, brothers, to speak to you as to spiritual persons, but as to worldlings, as to babes in Christ. 2 I gave you milk to drink, not solid food, because you were

not yet strong enough. Neither, in fact, are you strong enough now, 3 for you are still unspiritual. Insofar as you entertain jealousy and contentiousness, are you not unspiritual and do you not behave like the unconverted? 4 When one says, “I hold with Paul,” and another, “I with Apollos,” are you not unchanged men? 5 Who is Apollos, anyway, and who is Paul, but ministers through whom, as the Lord gave each his task, you came to believe?
6 I did the planting, Apollos did the watering, but God caused the growth, 7 so that neither the planter nor the waterer deserves credit, but God who causes the growth.

8 The planter and the waterer, however, work as one, and each will receive his own reward in agreement with his particular labour. 9 For we are God’s fellow workers. You are God’s field; you are the building which God is constructing. 10 Because of the grace of God, which has been granted me, I have, as a wise master builder, laid a foundation on which another builds; and let each one look out how he does the building. 11 For none is able to lay another foundation than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.

12 In case one builds on this foundation, gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble,
13 each one’s work will become evident, for the Day will bring it to light; it will be revealed by fire. Of whatever quality each one’s work may be, the fire will test it. 14 In case one’s construction survives, he will receive his pay. 15 In case one’s work is burned down, he will be the loser; though he himself will be saved, yet only as in passing through fire.

16 Do you not know that you are God’s temple and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? 17 If anyone destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him; for the temple of God is holy, and you are such a temple.

18 Let no one fool himself. If someone among you seems to be wise in this age, let him become foolish in order to grow wise; 19 for the wisdom of this world is folly in God’s estimation; as it is written, “He snares the shrewd in their own cunning.” 20 And again, “The Lord knows the reasonings of the wise, how futile they are.”

21 Let none, therefore, boast in me, for everything is yours, 22 whether Paul or Apollos, or Cephas, or the universe, or life, or death, or present things or future things, they are all yours, 23 while you are Christ’s and Christ is God’s.

1 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 4

PEOPLE should consider us as servants of Christ and stewards of God’s mysteries. 2 The prime requisite of stewards, is fidelity. 3 To me it is of very little importance to be judged by you or by any human court; nor do I even judge myself, 4 for I am not vindicated because I am unconscious of wrong on my part. The One who judges me is the Lord. 5 So do not pass premature judgement before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things hidden by darkness and will reveal the inner motives. Then will each one experience his approval from God.

6 These suggestions, brothers, I have applied in a figure to myself and to Apollos for your sakes, so that from our experience you may learn not to go beyond what is written, in order that you may not support one teacher against the other. 7 For who concedes you any superiority? What have you that you have not received? But if you received it, why do you boast as if it were not received? 8 Are you already satisfied? Are you already rich? Are you without us on the throne? How I wish you did reign, so we might reign with you!

9 For I think that God has appointed us apostles last, as designed for death; for we have become an exhibition to the universe, to angels as well as to men. 10 On Christ's account, we are fools, but in Christ you are intelligent; we are weaklings, but you are powerful. You enjoy honour, but we are despised.

11 Up to this very hour we are hungry and thirsty; we are ill-clothed, roughly treated, and homeless. 12 We toil to exhaustion with our own hands. Being slandered, we bless; being persecuted, we patiently endure; 13 being defamed, we bring comfort. To this moment, we are considered the scum of the earth, the off-scouring of all things.

14 I do not write these things to shame you, but to warn you as my dear children. 15 For although you have a myriad of tutors in Christ, you nevertheless have not many fathers; because in Christ Jesus I became your father by means of the good news concerning Christ. 16 Hence, I urge you that you imitate me. 17 For this reason I am sending you Timothy, my beloved and faithful son in the Lord, who will remind you of my principles of behaviour in Christ Jesus, such as I teach everywhere in every church.

18 Some have grown inflated with pride, as though I were not coming to you. 19 But, the Lord willing, I shall come to you shortly, and then I shall discover, not the words of those conceited persons but their powers; 20 for the kingdom of God is not a matter of words but of power.

21 Which do you want? Shall I come to you to punish, or in love and in a spirit of gentleness?

1 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 5

It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and that of a kind which does not occur among the Gentiles – that a man has his father's wife. 2 And you, rather than grieving about it enough to remove the person who committed such a deed, are you still puffed up? 3 As for me, present in spirit although absent in body, I have already, as if present, passed judgement on the one who thus behaved. 4 In the name of the Lord Jesus, when you are gathered together and my spirit is present with you, together with the power of our Lord Jesus, 5 let such a person be handed over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh in order that the spirit may be saved on the day of the Lord Jesus.

6 Your boasting is not admirable. Are you not aware that a little yeast changes the whole batch? 7 Purge out the old yeast, so that you will be a fresh batch. You are in fact unleavened, for our Passover Lamb has been sacrificed, even Christ. 8 Let us therefore

celebrate the feast, not with use of old yeast, certainly not with yeast of malice and vice, but with unfermented batches of purity and truth.

9 I wrote you in my letter, not to associate with sexually immoral people; 10 not that in a public way you must have nothing whatever to do with the immoral of this world, or the avaricious and grasping, or the idolatrous, for then you must get out of the world altogether. 11 So I write you now, that if a pretended brother is immoral or greedy or idolatrous or abusive or a drinker or a robber, you must not associate with him, nor even eat with one of that type.

12 What business of mine is it to judge outsiders? Do you not have those within the church to judge? 13 But outsiders, God will judge. Expel that wicked person from your own company.

1 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 6

DOES one who has a case against someone else, dare to go to law before a pagan court and not before the saints? 2 Are you not aware that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is to be judged by you, are you not competent to be judges of minor matters? 3 Do you not know that we shall judge angels, not to mention affairs of this life?

4 When, however, you do have an everyday case, do you appoint for judges those in the church who have no standing? 5 I say this to shame you. Is there really not a single wise person among you who is capable of deciding between brothers, 6 instead of one brother going to law against another brother and that, before unbelievers?

7 It means complete defeat for you when you have lawsuits among yourselves. Why do you not rather suffer injustice? Why not rather be defrauded? 8 Instead, you practice injustice and fraud and that, on your brothers.

9 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit God’s kingdom? Be not misled; neither profligates, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor partakers in homosexuality, 10 nor thieves, nor the avaricious, nor drunkards, nor slanderers, nor robbers will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And some of you were just that; but you were washed and you were made holy and you were made righteous by the power of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

12 Everything is permitted me, but not everything is beneficial. Although everything is allowed me, I will not be mastered by anything. 13 Food for the stomach and the stomach for food. But God will destroy both of them. The body is not for lust but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body; 14 and as God raised up the Lord, so will He raise us up through His power.

15 Are you not aware that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ to make them members of a prostitute? No, never! 16 Or do you not

know that the one who unites with a prostitute is one body with her? For “The two,” He says, “will become one flesh.” 17 But he who unites with the Lord is one spirit with Him.

18 Shun sexual immorality. All other sin a person commits outside the body, but the immoral person sins against his own body. 19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God, and that you do not belong to yourselves? 20 For you were bought and paid for; then give God the glory with your body.

1 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 7

CONCERNING the subjects of your correspondence, it is good for a man to let a woman alone; 2 but because of prevailing immoralities, let every man have his own wife and let every woman have her own husband. 3 The husband must render to his wife the obligations that are due to her, and similarly the wife to her husband. 4 The wife does not have authority over her own body, but her husband does, and just so the husband does not have authority over his own body, but his wife does.

5 Do not deprive each other, except by mutual agreement for a time to devote yourselves unhindered to prayer; and come together again, so that Satan may not tempt you on account of your lack of self-control.

6 I say this by way of concession, not as a regulation. 7 I wish all men were as I am, but each person has his own gift from God, the one in this direction, the other in that.

8 To the single and the widows, I say that it is good for them to remain as I am; 9 but if they cannot restrain their passions, let them marry, for it is better to marry than to be consumed by passion.

10 To the married couples I command – not really, I but the Lord – that the wife must not leave her husband; 11 and in case she does separate, she must either stay single or make up with her husband. And a husband must not divorce his wife.

12 To the rest I say – but not as the Lord’s command – if some brother has a wife who is not a believer but enjoys living with him, let him not divorce her. 13 And if the wife has an unbelieving husband who enjoys living with her, let her not divorce her husband. 14 For the unbelieving husband is dedicated through his wife, and the unbelieving wife is dedicated through her believing husband, else your children would be unholy, but now they are dedicated.

15 In case the unbeliever wants to separate, let there be separation; the brother or the sister is under such circumstances, not tied down. But God has called you to enjoy peace. 16 For how do you know, O wife, whether you will save your husband, or how do you know, O husband whether you will save your wife?

17 Certainly, as the Lord has assigned to each, as God has given each his calling, so keep on conducting yourselves; and this is my ruling in all the churches. 18 Was a circumcised person

called? Let him not try to efface it. Was an uncircumcised person called? Let him not be circumcised. 19 Circumcision has no value, neither has uncircumcision, but the observance of God's commandments does count.

20 Let each one stay in the station in life in which he received his call. 21 Were you a slave when called? Do not let that worry you; but if you can gain freedom, you should avail yourself of the chance. 22 It comes to this: the slave who is called by the Lord is the Lord's freedman; similarly, he who is called while he is free, is a slave of Christ. 23 You were bought with a price; do not become slaves of men. 24 Brothers, let each remain with God in the station in life in which he was called.

25 Regarding the unmarried, I have no divine injunction, but as one who has received mercy from the Lord to be trustworthy, 26 I give my opinion, I consider, then, that in view of the impending distress, it is good for a person to remain in his present situation. 27 Are you united to a wife? Do not seek release. Are you unattached to a woman? Do not seek a wife. 28 But in case you marry, you do not sin; nor does the unmarried woman sin if she marries. Such, however, will experience trouble in this life, and I would spare you that.

29 I tell you this brothers, the time is growing short, From now on, let those who have wives behave as if they had none, 30 and the mourners as if they were not mourning, and the joyful as if they did not rejoice; those who purchase as if they were not possessors, 31 and those who make use of the world, as if they had no use for it, because the present world order is passing away.

32 I would not have you worried. The single person is concerned with the Lord's affairs, how to please the Lord, 33 but the married person is concerned with things of the world, how to please his wife; he has divided interests. 34 The unmarried woman or the virgin, is interested in the Lord's affairs, that she may be dedicated to Him in body and spirit; but the married woman is concerned with things of the world, how she may please her husband.

35 I mention this for your own good, not to throw a rope around you but to promote proper behaviour and undistributed devotion to the Lord. 36 If someone thinks he is not acting properly toward his virgin, in case she is passing the bloom of youth and circumstances render it suitable, let him do as he pleases; it is no sin for them to marry. 37 But he whose mind stands firm and who is under no compulsion, who has power over his own will and has determined in his own heart to preserve his virgin as a virgin, is doing right. 38 So then, he who marries his virgin does well, and he who does not marry her does better.

39 A wife is bound *by the law* to her husband as long as he lives; but in case her husband dies, she is free to marry whom she pleases – only he should belong to the Lord. 40 It is my judgement, however, that she will be better off by remaining single. And I think also, that I have God's Spirit.

1 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 8

WITH regard to food that has been offered to idols, we are aware that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. 2 If anyone fancies he knows anything, he does not yet understand as he should; 3 but if anyone loves God, that person is known by Him.

4 Now concerning food that has been dedicated to idols, we know that no idol really exists, that there is no God but one. 5 Even if there are so called gods, either in heaven or on earth, such as indeed there are many gods and many lords, 6 for us there is one God the Father, from whom all things come and who is our goal; and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom all things exist and through whom we are.

7 This knowledge, however, does not rest with every one. There are those so accustomed to this time, to thinking in terms of idols, that they eat food as offered to idols, and their conscience weak as it is, becomes contaminated. 8 Of course food does not recommend us to God; we are none the better for eating nor any the worse for not eating. 9 But make sure that this freedom of choice of yours, does not become a hindrance to those who are weak.

10 For if someone sees you, with your knowledge, sitting at the table in an idol temple, will not his conscience, weak as it is, encourage him to eat food offered to idols? 11 In consequence, this weak brother, on whose behalf Christ died, is ruined by your enlightenment. 12 But as you thus, sin against your brothers and hurt their weak consciences, you sin against Christ. 13 Therefore, if my eating causes my brother to stumble, I shall eat no meat forever, so that my brother will not be made to fall into sin.

1 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 9

AM I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen the Lord Jesus? Are you not my work in the Lord? 2 If to others I am not an apostle, I certainly am to you; for in the Lord, you are the certificate of my apostleship. 3 My reply to those who criticise me is this: 4 Do not we have the right to eat and to drink? 5 Do not we have the right to take along a Christian wife with us on our travels, as the other apostles do, and the Lord's brothers, and Cephas? 6 Or, are only Barnabas and I not entitled to freedom from manual labour?

7 Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat its fruit? Or who herds a flock and does not enjoy its milk? 8 Am I saying this purely from a human stand point, or does not the Law say the same thing? 9 For in the Law of Moses, it is written, "You must not muzzle a threshing ox." Is God thinking in terms of oxen, 10 or does He not certainly speak on or behalf? For our sakes, it is written, because the plowman ought to plow in hope and the thresher thresh in expectation of his share.

11 In as much, as we have sown spiritual seed among you, is it remarkable for us to reap material benefits from you? 12 Since others enjoy the right to share material benefits from

you, do not we all the more? True, we did not avail ourselves of this right; instead, we endure everything so that we may furnish no obstacle to the good news concerning Christ.

13 Are you not aware that those who conduct the temple service make their living from the temple, and that those who tend the altar share in the altar gifts? 14 In a similar way, the Lord directed that those who preach the good news, should live from the good news. 15 But I have not availed myself of any of these rights, nor am I writing this to have them granted to me, I would rather die than have anyone rob me of this reason for boasting.

16 For preaching the good news, I claim no glory, for I am under compulsion to do so. It is woe to me if I do not preach the good news. 17 If I do this willingly, I have my reward; but if I am compelled to do so, it is an office with which I am entrusted. 18 What then is my compensation? This, that in preaching, I may offer the good news without cost; that I do not make full use of my authority as a preacher of the good news.

19 Although I am free from every one, I have enslaved myself to all of them in order to win a large number. 20 To the Jews, I behave as a Jew to win Jews; to those under the Law as one who is under the Law – although, I am not under the Law – to gain those who are under the Law. 21 To those who are without law, I am as without law – although not lawless toward God but committed to Christ's Law – in order to win those who are without law. 22 To the weak I have become weak to win the weak. I have become everything to everybody, so that by all means I may save some. 23 But I do it all to advance the good news, so that I may have a share in it with you.

24 Do you not know that those who race in the stadium, all run to be sure, but one receives the prize? So, run your race that you may win it. 25 And every one who enters the contest, practices self-control in every detail; he, indeed, does it to receive a perishable crown, but we, an imperishable.

26 Accordingly, I run straight ahead, not aimlessly; I thus box, not punching the air. 27 But I discipline my body and make it serve me, so that, while I am preaching to others, I myself may not be disqualified.

1 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 10

I WANT you to know, brothers, that although our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, 2 and all as followers of Moses were baptised in the cloud and the sea, 3 and all ate the same spiritual food 4 and drank the same spiritual drink, for they drank from the spiritual rock which accompanied them, which rock was Christ. 5 Nevertheless God was not pleased with the majority of them, for they were struck down in the wilderness.

6 These things occurred as examples for us, so that we may not lust after evil as they lusted, 7 neither be idol-worshippers as some of them were, as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and to drink and got up to dance." 8 Neither should we do immoral deeds as some of them did, when twenty-three thousand fell in one day. 9 Neither should we become a trial

to the Lord, as some of them tried Him and were destroyed by serpents. 10 Do not grumble, either, as some of them grumbled and they were put out of the way by the destroyer.

11 These experiences came to them as a lesson for us and were written as a warning to us, on whom the end of the age has come. 12 Therefore, let him, who feels sure of standing firm, beware of falling, 13 No temptation, except what all people experience has laid hold of you, and God is faithful, who will not permit you to be tempted beyond your ability but will, at the time of temptation, provide a way out, so that you will be able to stand it. 14 For this reason, my dear friends, keep clear from idolatry.

15 I appeal to your intelligence; judge for yourselves what I say. 16 Is not the blessed cup, which we consecrate, a fellowship in the blood of Christ? Is not the bread we break a fellowship in the body of Christ? 17 The many of us are one bread, one body, since we all participate in the one bread.

18 Look at those of Israelite descent. Are not those who eat the sacrifice, sharers of the altar? 19 What then am I saying? That an offering to idols amounts to anything, or that the idol itself is anything? 20 No, but that which they sacrifice, they are offering to demons and not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons. 21 You cannot drink the Lord's cup and the cup of demons. You cannot participate in the Lord's table and the table of demons. 22 Or shall we provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are we mightier than He?

23 Everything is allowed, but not everything is helpful. Everything is allowed, but not everything is constructive. 24 Let no one seek his own advantage but rather that of his neighbour. 25 Eat whatever is sold in the meat market, without asking questions, for conscientious scruples, 26 for the earth and its fullness are the Lord's.

27 In case of an unbeliever invites you and you wish to go eat whatever is served you, without making conscientious inquiries. 28 But if someone informs you, "This is food that has been offered to idols," then do not eat it, on account of the one who reminded you and for conscience' sake. – 29 I mean not your own but the other person's conscience; for why should my freedom be unfavourably judged before another person's conscience? 30 When I partake with gratitude, why should I be denounced on account of that for, which I give thanks? 31 So, whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all to the glory of God.

32 Behave in such a way that you cause neither the Jews, nor the Greeks, nor the church of God to stumble, 33 just as I myself please every one in every way, not seeking my own advantage but that of the many, in order that they may be saved.

1 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 11

IMITATE me, as I imitate Christ, 2 I commend you for remembering me in everything, and for observing the traditions I transmitted to you. 3 But I want you to understand that Christ is the head of every man, that the man is the woman's head, and that God is the head of Christ. 4 Any man who has his head covered while praying or prophesying, dishonours his

head, 5 but any woman who has her head uncovered while praying or prophesying, dishonours her head, for it is the same as if she were shaved. 6 If a woman does not wear a veil, let her hair be cut; but if it is disgraceful for a woman to have her hair cut off or her head shaved, then let her wear a veil.

7 The man should not have his head covered, since he is the image and the glory of God, but the woman in the man's glory. 8 For man is not from woman but woman from man;
9 neither was man created for the woman's sake, but woman for the man's sake. 10 The woman, therefore, ought to have a token of authority on her head, because of the angels.
11 Nevertheless, in the Lord, woman is not independent of man, and man is not independent of woman, 12 for just as the woman is from the man, so the man is through the woman, and they all have their origin from God.

13 Judge for yourselves. Is it becoming for a woman to worship God without covering her head? 14 Does not nature itself teach you that long hair is disgraceful for a man 15 but glorious for a woman? For her hair is granted her for a covering. 16 In case, however, anyone seems anxious to dispute the matter, we do not observe such a practice, neither do the churches of God.

17 In giving these instructions, however, I do not commend you, because you do not meet together for the better but for the worse. 18 For in the first place, I hear that as you meet as a congregation, there are divisions among you, and to some extent, I believe it. 19 Indeed, there have to be factions among you, so that the genuine among you may be recognised.

20 So, when you meet, you do not come to eat the Lord's Supper; 21 for in your eating, each one goes ahead and takes his own supper, so that this one stays hungry and that one imbibes, too freely. 22 Do you not have homes for your eating and drinking? Or have you no respect for the church of God, and would you humiliate those who have nothing? What shall I tell you? Shall I commend you? In this matter I do not commend you.

23 For I have received from the Lord, what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus, on the night in which He was betrayed, took bread, 24 and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "This is My body, broken on your behalf; this do in remembrance of Me."
25 Similarly also, He took the cup, after they had supped, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." 26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you will proclaim the Lord's death, till He comes.

27 Whoever, therefore, eats the bread, or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, is a violator of the Lord's body and blood. 28 But let a person look carefully at himself and in that spirit, eat of the bread and drink from the cup; 29 for whoever eats and drinks without due appreciation of the body of Christ, eats and drinks to his own condemnation. 30 For this reason, many among you are weak and sick, and a number have died.

31 If, however, we scrutinised ourselves, then we should not be judged. 32 And the judgements from the Lord serve to discipline us, so that we may not be condemned with the world. 33 Accordingly, my brothers, when you come together to eat, wait for one another. 34 If anyone is hungry, let him eat at home, so that your meeting may not lead to judgement. The rest I will arrange when I come.

1 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 12

I DO not want to leave you in the dark, brothers, about spiritual gifts. 2 You know how in your days of paganism you were drawn away after dumb idols, in whatever way you were led. 3 I therefore declare to you that no one who says, “Jesus be cursed!” is speaking by the Spirit of God; neither is anyone able to say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit.

4 There are distinctive gifts of grace, but the same Spirit, 5 and there are distinctive ministries, yet the same Lord. 6 There also are varieties of things accomplished but the same God does all the energising in them all.

7 To each is granted the evidence of the Spirit, for the common welfare. 8 To one person is given by the Spirit a message of wisdom and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit; 9 to a third, faith is granted by the same Spirit; to yet another the gifts of healing by the one Spirit; 10 to another miraculous powers; to this one prophecy, to that one discrimination between spirits, to a third variety of tongues, and to yet another the ability to interpret tongues. 11 All these abilities, one and the same Spirit energises, distributing to each individual exactly as He pleases.

12 For just as the body is one and has many members, while all the numerous parts of the body compose one body, so it is with Christ. 13 For by one Spirit, we have all been baptised into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we have all been imbued with one Spirit.

14 The body consists not of one, but of many members. 15 If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” it would nevertheless remain part of the body. 16 Or if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” it is nevertheless part of the body. 17 If the entire body were an eye, where would the hearing come in? Or if all were hearing, what of the smelling? 18 As it is, however, God has placed the members in the body, each particular one of them just as He saw fit.

19 If they were all one member, where would the body be? 20 As it is, there are many members to form one body. 21 The eye cannot say to the hand, “I do not need you.”

22 What is more, those seemingly delicate members of the body are indispensable, 23 and on those that are considered ignoble, we bestow additional honour. Our unpresentable members are also given more than usual modesty, 24 such as our presentable members do not require. In fact, God has so constituted the body with the inferior members the more richly endowed, 25 that there may be no discord in the body, but instead the members may

have the same concern one for another. 26 When one member suffers, all the members share the suffering. When a member is honoured, they all share the joy.

27 But you are Christ's body and individually members of it. 28 And God has appointed in the church, first apostles, next prophets, third teachers, then miracle workers, then gifts of healing, helping, administering, speaking in tongues. 29 Not all are apostles, are they? Not all are prophets, or teachers, or miracle workers, 30 or possessing the gifts of healing, or speaking in tongues, or being able to interpret, are they? 31 But earnestly desire the more valuable spiritual gifts. And I shall show you a still more excellent way.

1 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 13

EVEN though I speak in human and angelic language and have no love, I am as noisy as brass or a clashing cymbal. 2 And although I have the prophetic gift and see through every secret and through all that may be known, and have sufficient faith for the removal of mountains, but I have no love, I am nothing. 3 And though I give all my belongings to feed the hungry and surrender my body to be burned, but I no love, I am not in the least benefited.

4 Love endures long and is kind; love is not jealous; love is not out for display; 5 it is not conceited or unmannerly; it is neither self-seeking nor irritable, nor does it take account of a wrong that is suffered. 6 It takes no pleasure in injustice but sides happily with the truth. 7 It bears everything in silence, has unquenchable faith, hopes under all circumstances, endures without limit.

8 Love never fails. As for prophesyings, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will lose its meaning. 9 For our knowledge is fragmentary and so is our prophesying. 10 But when the perfect is come then the fragmentary will come to an end.

11 When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like child, I reasoned like a child, but on becoming a man I was through with childish ways. 12 For now we see indistinctly in a mirror, but then face to face. Now we know partly, but then we shall understand as completely as we are understood.

13 There remain then, faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

1 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 14

MAKE love your great quest; then desire spiritual gifts, and especially that you may prophesy. 2 For whoever speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God; no one catches the meaning; he is uttering secret matters in the Spirit. 3 But he who prophesies give people a constructive, encouraging and comforting message.

4 He who speaks in a tongue improves himself, but he who prophesies build up the church. 5 I wish you all might speak in tongues, but I would rather have you all prophesy. He who prophesies is more important than he who speaks in tongues, unless he should interpret so that the church may enjoy edification.

6 If, for instance, I should come to you, brothers, speaking in tongues, what good would I do
unless I presented to you some revelation or information or prophecy or instruction?
7 Unless musical instruments, such as a flute or a harp, produce distinct tones, how will
anyone know what is being played? 8 In case the trumpet emits an indistinct call, who will
get ready for battle?

9 Just so you, unless with your tongue you contribute an intelligent message, how will your
speech be understood? You will be talking into empty space.

10 There are who knows how many languages in the world, and none without meaning.
11 If, then, I do not catch the significance of an expression, I shall seem a foreigner to the
one who addresses me, and so will the one who speaks seem a foreigner to me. 12 And you
are in a similar situation. Since you are eager for spiritual gifts, seek to excel in the
upbuilding of the church.

13 The person, therefore, who speaks in a tongue, should pray for ability to interpret. 14 For
in case I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays but my mind is unproductive. 15 Then what about
it? I shall pray with my spirit, but I shall pray also with my understanding. I shall sing with my
spirit, but I shall sing also with my understanding. 16 Else, when you in the Spirit render
thanks, how will one not gifted with tongues say “Amen” to your thanksgiving, since he does
not know what you say? 17 To be sure, you are giving thanks well enough, but the bystander
is not edified.

18 Thanks be to God, I speak in tongues more than all of you; 19 but in the congregation, I
would rather speak five words intelligibly to instruct others than a myriad of word in a
tongue.

20 Brothers, do not be children in your thinking; be children in wickedness, but in your
thinking be mature. 21 It is written in the Law, “I shall speak to this people through strange
languages and through alien lips, and even so they will not listen to me, says the Lord.”
22 So, then tongues are for a sign, not for believers but for unbelievers, while prophecy is
not for unbelievers but for believers. 23 Suppose at an assembly of the whole church they
should all speak with tongues, and uninstructed or unbelieving persons came in, would they
not say that you are demented? 24 But suppose they all prophesied, and some unbelieving
or uninstructed person came in, he would be convicted by all; he would be called to account
by all. 25 The secrets of his heart would become evident and so, falling face down, he would
worship God, declaring that in very truth God is among you.

26 What then brothers? When you meet together, each on contributes his part – a song, a
lesson, a revelation, a tongue, an interpretation of it; everything should be constructive. 27 If
someone speaks in a tongue, let there be two or at the most three, each in his turn and let
one give an interpretation. 28 But in case there is no interpretation, let them keep still in the
church; let each of them speak to himself and to God. 29 So, two or three prophets may
speak while the rest pay attention. 30 But if a revelation comes to another who is sitting by,

then let the first one be silent; 31 for it is possible for all to prophesy, each in his turn, so that all may learn and all may receive encouragement. 32 And the spirits of the prophets are in subjection to the prophets; 33 for He is not the God of disorder but of peace as in all the churches of the saints. 34 Let the women keep silent in the churches, for they are not allowed to speak. Instead, they must, as the Law says, be in subordination. 35 If they wish to learn something, let them inquire of their own husbands at home; for it is improper for a woman to speak in church. 36 Or did God's message get its start from you? Or did it come to you alone?

37 If anyone considers himself a prophet or inspired, let him understand that what I write to you is the Lord's injunction; 38 but if anyone disregards it, he is to be disregarded. 39 To conclude, my brothers, earnestly desire to prophesy, but do not hinder the speaking with tongues. 40 Let everything be done with propriety and in orderly fashion.

1 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 15

I WOULD further remind you, brothers, of the good news which I preached to you, which you welcomed, in which you stand, 2 and by which you are saved, if you keep hold of my message to you – unless, indeed, you believed in vain.

3 For I transmitted to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, 4 that also He was buried, and that He rose on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures; 5 that also He was seen by Cephas, then by the Twelve. 6 Later He appeared to more than five hundred brothers simultaneously, of whom the majority are still alive; but some have died. 7 Afterward, He appeared to James, then to all the apostles, 8 and last of all He appeared to me also, as to one whose birth was like a miscarriage. 9 For I am the least of the apostles, not deserving the name of apostle because I persecuted the church of God.

10 By divine grace, however, I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not ineffective. In fact, I have worked harder than any of them – that is, not really I, but the grace of God that is with me. 11 So whether I or they, such is our preaching and such is what you believed.

12 But if Christ is preached, that He was raised from the dead, how is it that some of you claim there is no resurrection of the dead? 13 If there is not rising of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; 14 but if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching amounts to nothing and your faith is futile. 15 Then we are discovered to be false witnesses of God because we have testified about God that He raised Christ, whom He did not raise if no dead are actually raised. 16 For if no dead are raised, then neither has Christ been raised. 17 But if Christ has not been raised, then your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. 18 And what is more, those who have died in Christ perished. 19 If we have hope in Christ for this life only, then of all people we are most to be pitied.

20 But the fact is that Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. 21 For in as much as death came through a man, the resurrection from the dead is also through a Man. 22 For just as in Adam all die, so in Christ, shall all be made to live; 23 each to be sure, in his turn: Christ first; then His own at His coming. 24 After that the end will come, when He hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after abolishing every ruler and all government and power. 25 For He must be King until He puts all His enemies under His feet.

26 The last enemy to be subdued is death, 27 for “He has put everything under His feet.” But when it says, “All things are subjected to Him,” it is clear that the One who does the subjecting of all to Him is expected. 26 However, once everything is subjected to Him, then the Son, too, will subject Himself to the One who put all things in subjection under Him, so that God may be all in all.

29 Otherwise, if the dead do not rise at all, what are they to do who are baptised for the dead? And why are they baptised for them? 30 Besides, why do we live dangerously every moment? 31 Every day I face death, as surely as I take pride in you, brothers, through Christ Jesus our Lord, 32 From a human standpoint, what good is my fighting against beasts in Ephesus? If the dead re not raised, “let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.” 33 Do not be misled. Bad associations corrupt good morals. 34 Return to sobermindedness as you should, and quit sinning. For I say to your shame, some have no sense of the presence of God.

35 “But,” someone will ask, “how are the dead raised? And with what body do they come?” 36 You simpleton! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. 37 Nor is what you sow the body that is to be; it is a mere kernel, either of wheat or some other grain. 38 But God gives it a body as He plans, and to each seed its particular body. 39 All flesh is not the same; but one kind is human, another kind is animal, another is fowl, and another fish. 40 There are heavenly bodies and also earthly bodies; but the radiance of the heavenly is one kind and that of the earthly is another kind. 41 The sun is radiant in one way and the moon in another way; the stars in still a different way. So does one star differ in radiance from another.

42 So too is the resurrection from the dead. The body is sown in dissolution; it is raised in immortality. 43 It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. 44 It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a spiritual as well as a physical body. 45 So it is written, “The first man, Adam, became a living soul”; the last Adam became a life-giving Spirit.

46 However, However, the spiritual was not the first, but the physical; then the spiritual.
47 The first man, from the earth, was made of dust; the second Man is from heaven. 48 Those who are of the dust are like the one who was made of the dust, and those who are of heaven are like the One from heaven. 49 And just as we have borne the likeness of the earthly one, so we shall bear the likeness of the Heavenly One.

50 But I make this statement, brothers, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, neither does the perishable inherit the imperishable. 51 Take notice; I am telling you a secret. We shall all be changed, 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet call. For the trumpet will sound and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. 53 For this perishable must put on imperishability and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 And when this perishable has put on imperishability and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall the written word be fulfilled. “Death is swallowed up in victory. 55 Death where is your victory? Death, where is your sting?”

56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the Law. 57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!

58 Consequently, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, at all times abounding in the Lord’s service, aware that your labour in the Lord is not futile.

1 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 16

WITH regard to the collection for the saints, you should do as I commanded the churches of Galatia, 2 When the first day of each week comes, let each of you set aside in proportion to what he has gained, so that there may be no collection when I arrive. 3 Then when I reach there, I will send those whom you approve with credentials to convey your gift to Jerusalem. 4 And if it is fitting for me to go, then they will accompany me. 5 When I have crossed Macedonia, I shall make you a visit, for I shall pass through Macedonia; 6 but I am likely to stay a while with you, or even spend the winter, so that you may send me off, wherever I may go. 7 For this time, I do not want to see you merely in passing, but I hope, the Lord permitting, to stay with you for a while. 8 I shall remain in Ephesus, however, until Pentecost; 9 for a wide door is opening up for service, and there are many opponents.

10 When Timothy arrives, see to it that his presence with you is free from embarrassment, for he does the Lord’s work, just as I do. 11 So let no one slight him, and whenever he returns to me, see him off safely, for I expect him along with the brothers.

12 As for our brother Apollos, I have strongly appealed to him to visit you with the brothers, and find him quite unready to go now; but he will come whenever it is convenient.

13 Be alert; stand firm in the faith; play the man; be strong. 14 Let all that you do be done in love.

15 I appeal to you, brothers (you know the Stephanas family, how it is the first fruits of the Achaia converts, and how they have devoted themselves to the service of the saints), 16 that you obey such people as well as every fellow worker and earnest toiler. 17 I am happy because of the arrival of Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus, for they have made up for your absence; 18 they have refreshed my spirit and yours. It is to such people that you would do well to give recognition.

19 The churches of Asia send you greetings. Aquila and Priscilla, together with the church in their house, greet you most heartily in the Lord. 20 All the brothers send you greetings. Greet one another with a holy kiss.

21 Here is my greeting in my own handwriting, Paul's. 22 Whoever does not love the Lord, he shall be accursed. Our Lord, come!

23 The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you. 24 My love to you all in Christ Jesus.

THE SECOND EPISTLE OF PAUL TO THE

CORINTHIANS

CHAPTER 1

PAUL, by the will of God an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Timothy, to the church of God at Corinth, and to all the saints throughout Achaia; 2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, 4 who consoles is in our every trouble, so that we may be able to encourage those in any kind of distress, with the consolation with which we are divinely sustained.
5 For as we experience richly the sufferings of Christ, so we enjoy through Christ an abundance of consolation.

6 When we are troubled, it is for your comfort and salvation. When we are comforted, it is for the encouragement that you experience in the enduring of the same sufferings, we endure. 7 And our hope for you is unshaken in view of the fact that you are sharing as well in the sufferings as in the consolation.

8 So we want you to know, brothers, about the trouble that came to us in Asia, how we were weighed down beyond all possible endurance, so that we really despaired of life. 9 Indeed, we passed the sentence of death on ourselves, but it was in order that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. 10 He rescued us from so perilous a death and will rescue us again; we hope in Him, for He will yet deliver us, 11 while you also cooperate by your prayer for us, so that thanks may be given by many on our behalf for the blessings that came to us through many.

12 The reason for our pride is the witness of our conscience that we have behaved in the world generally, but specially toward you, with devout motives and godly sincerity; not with worldly wisdom, but by divine grace. 13 For the meaning of what we write you is not different from what you read and understand perfectly, 14 just as you have partly understood us, to the effect that we are your reason for pride, as well as that you are ours in the day of our Lord Jesus.

15 It was with this assurance that I planned to visit you first, so that you might enjoy a double blessing, 16 visiting you on the way to Macedonia and again on the trip from Macedonia to you, and to be sent by you on my way to Judea. 17 Since I intended this, did I act with fickleness; or did I plan in a worldly way what I had in mind, so that on my part yes, yes equals no, no? 18 As God is trustworthy, our word to you is not yes and no, 19 because Jesus Christ, the Son of God whom we preached to you, Silvanus and Timothy and I, was not yes and no, but in Him it is yes. 20 In Him all the promises of God are yes. For this reason, we also say through Him "Amen" to God for His glory through us. 21 But He, who makes us steadfast with you in joint fellowship with Christ and has anointed us, is God, 22 who also stamped His seal on us and deposited in our hearts the first installment of the Spirit.

23 I call upon God as my soul's witness, that to spare you I have delayed my coming to Corinth. 24 Not that we lord it over your faith, but rather that we work with you for your happiness, for by faith you stand firm.

2 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 2

I MADE up my mind not to make you another distressing visit, 2 for if I grieve you, who may make me happy except those whom I grieve? 3 I wrote this so that when I came, I might not be grieved by those who should make me happy; for I was confident that my confidence would be shared by every one of you. 4 For in deep distress and with a heart of anguish, yes, with many tears I wrote you, not in order to grieve you but in order that you might know the love I so richly bear you.

5 If someone has caused grief, he has not simply grieved me but, to some extent at least – not to exaggerate – all of you.

6 For such as one this censure by the majority suffices; 7 so, instead of further rebuke, you should forgive and comfort him, else he may be overwhelmed by despair. 8 I therefore beg you to reinstate him in your affection. 9 For this purpose I wrote, to know your attitude, whether you were altogether obedient. 10 But whom you forgive, him I also forgive, and what I forgive is forgiven for your sakes in the presence of Christ, 11 lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his schemings.

12 When I arrived at Troas for the good news concerning Christ, although there was a door opened for me in the Lord, 13 yet I enjoyed no peace of mind because I did not find my brother Titus; so, I left them to go into Macedonia. 14 But thanks be to God, who invariably leads us on triumphantly in Christ and evidences through us in every place the fragrance that results from knowing Him. 15 For to God we are Christ's fragrance for those who are being saved and for those who are perishing; 16 to the one a fatal aroma that brings death, but to the other a vital aroma that brings life.

17 And who is qualified for these things? Are not we? For we do not, like so many, peddle an adulterated message of God, but from the purest motives before God, we speak in Christ as those sent from God.

2 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 3

ARE we beginning again to recommend ourselves? Or do we, like some people, stand in need of letters of recommendation to you or from you? 2 You are our letter of recommendation, written in our hearts, acknowledged and read by every one, 3 making it obvious that you are Christ's letter delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on human tablets of the heart.

4 In God's presence, I have such confidence through Christ, 5 not because we possess self-sufficiency to regard anything as from ourselves, but because our sufficiency is God-given. 6 And He has qualified us to be ministers of a new covenant, not of written Law but of the Spirit; for the letter kills but the Spirit makes alive. 7 Yet if the ministry of death, engraved in letters of stone, was inaugurated with such splendor that the Israelites were not able to gaze intently at the face of Moses, because of the radiance of his face, which after all faded away, 8 how much more glorious must be the ministry of the Spirit? 9 If there is glory in the administration that announces condemnation, how infinitely more glory must there be in the administration that declares righteousness!

10 In view of the surpassing glory, what was once glorious, retains no glory at all. 11 If what passed away had its splendor, how much more that which is permanent!

12 Possessed of such hope, we speak quite unreservedly, 13 not as Moses did, who put a veil over his face to keep the Israelites from gazing at the end of something that was fading away. 14 In fact, their minds were dulled. To this very day, when the Old Testament is being read, that same veil remains, not lifted because only by Christ is it removed. 15 Yes, until now, whenever Moses is being read, a veil lies over their hearts; 16 but whenever one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. 17 For the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is there is liberty.

18 But we all, as with unveiled face, we see as in a mirror the Lord's glory reflected, are changed into the same likeness from one degree of glory to another, derived as it is from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

2 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 4

THEREFORE, being engaged in this service through divine mercy, we are not despondent, 2 but we have renounced underhanded ways of which one should be ashamed. We do not behave craftily, nor do we falsify the word of God, but by clear announcement of the truth we commend ourselves in the presence of God to every human conscience. 3 If the good news obscured, it has been obscured, it has been obscured in the case of those who are perishing, 4 in whom the god of this world has blinded their unbelieving minds, to prevent

illumination of the good news concerning the glorious Christ, who is the likeness of God, from penetrating their hearts.

5 For we do not proclaim ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake, 6 because God, who commanded that light should shine out of darkness, has made it shine in our hearts, so as to show forth the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

7 This treasure, however we possess within utensils of clay – an evidence that the unparalleled power is from God and not from us. 8 We are hedged in from every side, but we do not live cramped lives; we are perplexed, but we do not despair; 9 we are persecuted but not deserted; struck down but not destroyed, 10 all the while bearing about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that by our bodies, the life of Jesus may also be shown. 11 In the midst of life, we are constantly handed over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may yet be evidenced through our mortal flesh. 12 Accordingly, death is active in us, but life in you.

13 We have, nevertheless, that same spirit of faith as he had of whom it is written, "I have believed; therefore, I have spoken." We, too, believe and therefore we speak, 14 assured that He who raised up the Lord Jesus will raise us up with Jesus and will have us stand with you before Him. 15 For all this is for your sakes in order that grace, which is multiplying with the thanksgiving of the many, may abound for the glory of God.

16 For this reason, we are not discouraged, but even though our outer nature suffers decay, our inner self is renewed day after day. 17 For this slight momentary trouble is producing for us an everlasting weight of glory that exceeds all measures, 18 because we do not fasten our eyes on the visible but on the unseen; for the visible things are transitory, but the unseen things are everlasting.

2 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 5

FOR we know that, if our earthly tent in which we are living should be dismantled, we have a God-given dwelling, a house in heaven not made by hands, that will last forever. 2 So, it is that in this dwelling we sigh with longing to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven, 3 since with such clothing we shall not be found naked. 4 For we sigh deeply while in this tent, not because we want to be stripped of it, but rather to be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be absorbed by life.

5 For this experience God, who granted us the first installment of the Spirit, has prepared us, 6 so that we always keep confident, knowing well enough that being at home in the body means being absent from the Lord; 7 for we walk by faith, not by sight. 8 But we have courage, and we prefer to be absent from the body and at home with the LORD. 9 Therefore, we make it our aim to be pleasing to Him, whether absent or present; 10 for we must all

appear before the tribunal of Christ, so that each may receive as his due what he practiced while in the body, whether good or bad.

11 Knowing, therefore, what it means to revere the Lord, we seek to win people over. Our motives are clear to God and I hope they are made clear as well to your consciences. 12 This is no repeated commendation of ourselves to you, but it is providing you with an incentive to feel proud of us, so that you may reply to those who are proud of a person's position and not his heart. 13 If we are thoughtful, it is for you. 14 For the love of Christ lays hold of us and brings us to this conclusion; one died for all, so that they all died; 15 and He died for all so that all who live, may no longer live for themselves but for Him who died and rose for them.

16 Consequently, from now on we think of no one just in terms of his human nature. Even if we had thought of Christ in that way, we now no longer know Him just in terms of His human nature. 17 Accordingly, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old is gone; lo, the new has come. 18 But all things come from God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, 19 which is that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting up their sins against them, and committing to us the message of reconciliation.

20 On behalf of Christ, then, we are ambassadors, God as it were making the appeal through us. We beg you for Christ's sake, be reconciled to God. 21 God made Him who knew no sin, to be made sin in our behalf, so that in Him we might share the righteousness of God.

2 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 6

AS God's fellow workers, however, we appeal to you not to accept the grace of God without using it; 2 for He says, "At a welcome time I have heard you and on a day of salvation, I have helped you." Observe that now is a specially welcome time, that now is the day of salvation – 3 and we put no obstacle whatever in anyone's way, so that our ministry may not be discredited. 4 Rather, we prove ourselves in every aspect as servants of God, by great endurance, in afflictions, distresses and hardships; 5 in lashes, imprisonments, and disturbances; in toils, sleepless nights, and without food; 6 through purity, knowledge, and endurance of wrongs; through kindness, by the Holy Spirit, in genuine love; 7 with a message of truth, by the power of God; by means of the weapons of righteousness for attack and defense; 8 through honour and shame; through blame and praise; considered imposters when we are honest, 9 and unknown when we are well known; thought of as dying when, you see, we are alive, and as disciplined but not put to death; 10 as deceived and yet always joyful; as poor but making many wealthy; as having nothing and yet in possession of everything.

11 O Corinthians, we address you frankly with wide-open hearts. 12 You are not hedged in by us, but you are cramped in our own affections. 13 In exchange – I am speaking as to children – open wide your hearts in the same way.

14 Be not yoked unequally with unbelievers; for what common ground is there between righteousness and lawlessness, or what association is there between light and darkness? 15 Or what harmony is there between Christ and Belial, or what partnership between a believer and an unbeliever? 16 What agreement has God's temple with idols? For we are the temple of the living God, as God has said, "I will dwell in them and walk among them, and I will be their God and they shall be My people." 17 For that reason, "Come out from their midst and be separate, says the Lord, and do not touch anything unclean. 18 Then I will receive you and I will be a Father to you, and to Me you shall be sons and daughters. The Lord Omnipotent speaks."

2 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 7

IN possession of those promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of flesh and spirit, and complete our dedication in reverence to God.

2 Allow us room in your hearts. We have wronged no one; we have ruined no one; we have exploited no one. 3 I am not censuring you, for, as I previously said, you are in our hearts to die and to live together. 4 My confidence in you is strong; my pride in you is great; I am filled with comfort; in all our trouble I am overjoyed.

5 For as we reached Macedonia, our bodies enjoyed no respite at all, but there was trouble at every turn, quarrels outside and fears within. 6 But God, who encourages the downhearted, encouraged us by the arrival of Titus, 7 and not merely by his arrival but by the encouragement he received from you; for he reported how you are longing for us, your sorrow, your zeal for me, all of which turned out for my greater joy.

8 If I have grieved, you with my letter, I do not regret it, and although I did regret it – for I observe how that particular letter did, though only momentarily, give you grief – 9 I am glad of it now, not because you were grieved but because your grief led to repentance. For your grief was such as God desired, so that you suffered no loss from us. 10 For the sorrow that God approves, works out a repentance that leads to salvation such as is never regretted, while the world's sorrow produces death.

11 For see how earnest this godly grief has made you; how apologetic; how provoked; how alarmed; how longing for me; how zealous; how ready to vindicate. In every way you have proved yourselves cleared in the matter. 12 So, although I wrote you as I did, it was not on account of the offender or of the one offended, but so that your devotion for us might be revealed to you before God. 13 On this account we have been comforted.

Added to our own consolation, there was the enjoyment of Titus' happiness, because his spirit was refreshed by all of you, 14 and I was not ashamed of my boasting to him about you; but just as everything we told you was true, so our boasting to Titus proved true. 15 His feelings go out to you the more as he remembers the obedience of all of you, as with fear and trembling you received him. 16 I am glad I can have full confidence in you.

2 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 8

WE want you to know, brothers, of the divine grace that has been granted the Macedonian churches; 2 how under a terrible ordeal of affliction, their great happiness combined with their deep poverty, has overflowed into a wealth of their generosity; 3 how up to their ability - yes, and I bear them testimony, beyond their ability – they voluntarily have given, 4 most urgently begging of us the favour of taking part in this service to the saints. 5 They did not do simply what we hoped for, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and so, in keeping with the will of God, also to us.

6 So we urged Titus to complete this gracious work among you, since he began it. 7 But just as you are ahead in everything, in faith, in expression, in knowledge, in diligence of every sort, and in your love for us, so be foremost in this gracious work also.

8 I am not issuing an order, but I would test the genuineness of your love by the eagerness of others. 9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, how, although He was rich, yet He became poor for your sakes, so that you by His poverty, might become rich. 10 Let me advise you in this matter. It is to your interest, because a year ago you were not only first to act but also to want to do so. 11 Now then, complete the enterprise, so that your readiness in desiring it may be equalled by the task accomplished to the measure of your means.
12 For if there is present a willing mind, the gift is appreciated in proportion to what one possesses, not to what one does not possess.

13 In order to afford relief to others, you need not put a heavy burden on yourselves;
14 rather share fairly. Let your abundance at this time make up for their shortage, so that their surplus may go toward their lack, and thus conditions may become equalised, 15 as it is written, “The one who got much had nothing over and the one who got little did not lack.”

16 Thanks be to God, who planted in the heart of Titus the same devotion for you, 17 for he welcomed my appeal and is so deeply interested in you that he went off to you of his own violation. 18 But we are sending the brother along with him, whose commendable ways in the things pertaining to the good news are known through all the churches. 19 Besides, as an appointee of the churches, he travels with us in this ministry of grace for the Lord’s own glory and for expediting our work. 20 We take this precaution, so that no one may find fault with us in our handling of this liberal collection; 21 for we intend to do the right thing not only before the Lord but also before men.

22 Along with them, we are sending our brother whose zeal we have frequently put to the test and who is now all the more zealous because he has so much confidence in you. 23 As to Titus, he is my associate and your fellow worker in serving you; as to our brothers, they are messengers of the churches, an honour to Christ. 24 Show them proof, then, of your love and of our boastings about you, such as will be evidenced before the churches.

2 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 9

IT is superfluous for me to write you about this ministering to the saints, 2 for I know of your willingness, and I boast about you to the Macedonians, saying that Achaia has been ready since last year, and your zeal has stirred up a large number of them. 3 I am sending these brothers, so that our pride in you may not in this instance be an empty boast, but that you may be as fully ready as I told them. 4 Or else, if any Macedonians should come with me and find you unprepared, we – not to say you – should be humiliated because of our confidence. 5 I considered it therefore necessary to request these brothers to visit you in advance and to have your promised bountiful gift all made up, so it will be ready to hand, a real thank offering and not something extorted from you. 6 I say this, that he who sows sparingly, will also reap sparingly, and he who sows liberally, will also reap liberally. 7 Let each one give as he has planned in his heart, neither grudgingly nor by compulsion; for God loves a happy giver. 8 And God is able to pour out on you richly, every possible grace, so that you will always under all circumstances have plenty for your own need and an abundance for every good work 9 as it is written. “He has scattered abroad; he has given to the poor; his righteousness never fails.”

10 Now He who provides seed to the sower and food to eat, will also supply and multiply your store of seed and will increase the harvest of your righteousness. 11 You will be enriched in every aspect for all kinds of generosity, and your liberality, as it is worked out through us, will cause thanksgiving to God. 12 For the rendering of this service, not only supplies amply the want of the saints, but it also abounds in its causing many thanksgivings to God; 13 because of the proof of this service, they are praising God for your loyalty to the good news about Christ, which you confess and for the liberality of your contribution for them and for all. 14 And they feel a yearning for you in their prayer because of the unusual measure of divine grace that has come upon you. 15 Thanks be to God for His unspeakable Gift.

2 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 10

I MYSELF, Paul appeal to you on the basis of Christ’s gentleness and considerateness – I who am so meek when face to face with you and so bold toward you from a distance. 2 I beg you not to force such boldness on me when I am with you as I intend to assume toward some who entertain the notion that we behave from merely human motives. 3 For while we spend our life in a body of flesh, we do not war with carnal weapons. 4 For the weapons of our warfare are not physical, but they are powerful with God’s help for the tearing down of fortresses, 5 inasmuch as we tear down reasonings and every thought into subjection to Christ. 6 We are prepared also to punish all disobedience, when your obedience is fully expressed.

7 Take a look at what you are facing. If someone is confident that he belongs to Christ, let him ponder this, that we are Christ’s as well as he. 8 Even if we do boast excessively about

our authority which the Lord granted us for your establishment and not for your destruction, I shall not be put to shame; 9 neither would I appear as wanting to terrify you with my letters. 10 For, “His letters,” they say, “are weighty and forceful, but his physical presence is insignificant and his speech is contemptible.”

11 Let such people consider this, that what we are when absent through the message of our letters, that we are in action when present. 12 For we do not venture to count ourselves among or to compare ourselves with some who commend their own qualities. However, when they make themselves their standard of measurement and judge their own value from comparisons with each other, then they do not behave wisely. 13 On our part, we shall not boast extravagantly but rather stay within the limit of the sphere which God has allotted to us, the boundary of which stretches far enough to include you.

14 We are not overextending ourselves, as if we did not reach as far as you, for we were the first to reach you with the good news about Christ. 15 Neither are we boasting unduly about the fields in which others are serving; but we entertain the hope that your growing faith may enlarge our sphere of influence, so greatly with your help, 16 that we may evangelise those beyond you, rather than brag about labour that has been accomplished in another’s field. 17 The person who boasts should boast in the Lord; 18 for not he who commends himself, but whom the Lord commends, stands approved.

2 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 11

BEAR with me a little in foolishness of mine. Yes, you will have to tolerate me; 2 for I am jealous for you with a divine jealousy, because I gave you in marriage to one Husband to present you as a pure virgin to Christ. 3 Only I am afraid that, just as the serpent beguiled Eve with his craftiness, so your thoughts may be corrupted from a sincere and pure devotion of Christ. 4 In fact, if someone comes along and preaches another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit from what you received, or a gospel different from what you accepted, you put up with it quite easily.

5 Nevertheless, I consider myself not inferior to the most eminent “apostles.” 6 Even if I lack skill in speaking, I certainly do not lack knowledge, which we have in every way made perfectly clear to all of you. 7 Or have I erred by humbling myself so that you might be exalted, when I preached to you the good news of God without compensation? 8 I robbed other churches, taking support from them in order to minister to you; 9 and when I was with you and ran short of funds, I imposed on none of you, for the brothers that came from Macedonia, supplied my needs. Thus, I invariably kept myself from being a burden to you, and so I plan to keep myself.

10 As sure as Christ’s truth is in me, this boast of mine shall not be stopped in the Achaia districts. 11 And why? Because I do not love you? God knows I do. 12 What I do, however, I shall do to remove the occasion from those who want it, in order that in the work of which they boast they may appear as equal with us. 13 For such are false apostles. Deceptive

workers, wearing the masks of apostles of Christ: 14 and no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. 15 So it is nothing extraordinary if his servants disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose destiny will be in agreement with their actions.

16 Once more I tell you, let no one consider me a fool; but if you do, then tolerate me as a fool, so that I too may do a bit of boasting. 17 What I say, I do not speak from the Lord but in a foolish mood in this boastful confidence. 18 Since many boast in a worldly way, I too will boast; 19 for you, being so wise, will gladly tolerate fools. 20 You stand for it when someone enslaves you, or imposes on you, or exploits you, or snubs you, or slaps you in the face. 21 To my shame, I admit that we were too lacking in force along those lines.

22 But in whatever line someone may boast – I talk foolishly – I dare to match him. Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Abraham's offspring? So, am I. 23 Are they ministers of Christ? I more so – I say it as if I were out of my mind – in measureless toils and imprisonments in floggings beyond count and facing death frequently. 24 Five times I received from the Jews, forty lashes minus one. 25 three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, for a night and a day I have been adrift at sea. 26 In my many travels I have been in dangers of rivers and robbers, of Jews and Gentiles, of city, desert, and sea: in dangers among false brothers; 27 in wearying work and hardship through many a sleepless night; in hunger, thirst, and often without food; in cold and lack of clothing.

28 Beside these experiences from the outside, there is the daily responsibility for the churches. 29 Who is weak without my being weak? Who is led into sin without my burning with indignation? 30 If I must boast, I shall boast of matters that show my weakness. 31 The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, who is to be praised forever, knows that I am not lying. 32 In Damascus the governor under king Aretas had the city of Damascus guarded to arrest me, 33 and through a window I was let down in a basket over the wall and escaped from his hands.

2 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 12

THERE has to be boasting, although nothing is gained by it; so, I will go onto visions and revelations from the Lord. 2 I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago – whether in the body or out of the body, I do not know, God knows – was caught up as far as the third heaven. 3 I also know of the same man – whether in the body or out of the body, I do not know, God knows – 4 how he was caught up into Paradise and heard words too sacred to tell, which no human being is allowed to repeat.

5 Of such an instance I will boast, but not about myself – unless it be about my weakness. 6 Should I wish to boast, however, I should not be acting the fool, for I should be telling the truth. But I will refrain, so that no one may ascribe to me, more than he observes in me or hears from me.

7 In order that I might not swell with pride because of the extraordinary great revelations, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a satanic messenger to strike me, that I night not be too elated. 8 Three times I invoked the Lord about this, to have it removed from me, 9 and He told me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength comes to perfection where there is weakness.” Therefore, I am happy to boast in my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may abide upon me. 10 I delight, then, in weaknesses, in insults, in needy circumstances, in persecutions and troubles, all on account of Christ. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

11 I have become a fool. You forced me to it, for I ought to be recognised by you. In fact, though I am nobody, I am not in the least inferior to these super-apostles. 12 The signs of the apostle were demonstrated among you by patience of every sort, in the working of signs and miracles and acts of power. 13 In what respect, then, you were inferior to other churches, except that I myself was not a burden to you? Pardon me this unfairness.

14 Here I am ready for my third visit to you, and I shall be no burden to you, for I am not after your possessions but after you. For the children should not accumulate wealth for their parents, but the parents for their children. 15 So I shall gladly spend and be spent on behalf of your souls. If I love you excessively, am I loved the less?

16 But let that be! I have not burdened you. But being crafty did I take you in my cunning? 17 I have not exploited you through anyone I sent to you, have I? 18 I urged Titus to go and sent along the brother. Did Titus exploit you? Have we not behaved in the same spirit and walked in the same tracks?

19 You have been supposing all the while that we are apologising to You? We are speaking in the presence of God as Christ’s representatives, and it is all done, dear friends, for your upbuilding; 20 for I am afraid that perhaps when I arrive, I may not find you in the condition I should like to find you; neither may you find me as you might desire.

There may be strife, jealousy, ugly temper, sectarianism, slander, gossiping, conceit, disharmony. 21 I am fearful that on my return my God may humble me before you, and I may be saddened over many who have continued in their former sins and have not repented of the impurity, immorality, and sensuality which they have practiced.

2 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 13

THIS is my third visit to you. “In the mouth of two or three witnesses, every statement will be confirmed.” 2 I said previously, when I was there on my second visit, and I say it now in advance while I am still absent, to those who have sinned and to all the rest, that when I come once more I shall not spare them, 3 since you are looking for proof of Christ’s speaking through me, Christ who is not feeble toward you but mighty in you. 4 For whereas He was crucified out of weakness, yet He lives through divine power, and we, too, are weak in Him; but we shall live with Him for your benefit through the power of God.

5 Test yourselves, whether you are in the faith; examine yourselves. Or do you not recognise by yourselves that Christ Jesus is within you, unless you fail to pass the test? 6 But I hope you will acknowledge that we do not fail.

7 But we pray to God that you may do no wrong; and our purpose is not that our integrity may be shown, but that you may do what is right, even though we may appear to have failed. 8 For we have no ability against the truth, but only on behalf of the truth. 9 We are happy to be weak when you are strong. And this is the object of our prayer, that you may reach full spiritual maturity.

10 For this reason, I write this in my absence, so that, when I am present, I need not be severe in the exercise of the authority which the Lord has granted me for constructive and not for destructive purposes.

11 Finally, brothers, farewell. Mind your ways, accept admonition agree in your thinking, preserve peace, and the God of love and peace will be with you.

12 Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you.

13 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

THE EPISTLE OF PAUL TO THE

GALATIANS

CHAPTER 1

PAUL, an apostle (sent neither from men nor through man but through Jesus Christ and God the Father who raised Him from the dead) 2 and all the brothers here with me, to the churches of Galatia: 3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and from the LORD Jesus Christ, 4 who gave Himself for our sins, to rescue us out of this present evil world in agreement with the will of God our Father, 5 to whom be glory for ever and ever, Amen.

6 I am amazed that you are so readily turning away from Him, who called you by the grace of Christ, to another gospel 7 which is really not another; except that some are troubling you and want to distort the good news concerning Christ. 8 But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel that differs from what we have preached to you – a curse on him! 9 As we said before and repeat right now, if anyone evangelises you with a gospel that varies from what you have received – a curse on him!

10 Am I now trying to win men's favour, or God's? Or do I seek to please men? If I were still pleasing men, I would not be a slave of Christ. 11 For I declare to you, brothers, that the good news that is preached by me is no human affair; 12 for neither did I receive it from a human being nor was I taught it, but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ.

13 You have heard of my previous career in Judaism, how violently I persecuted the church of God and devasted it; 14 how in devotion to Judaism, I went further than many of my age among my people, so fanatically zealous was I for the traditions of my ancestors, 15 But when it pleased Him who before my birth had set me apart and had called me through His grace, 16 to reveal His Son in me, so that I might preach Him to the Gentiles, I did not at once confer with any human being, 17 neither did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before I was, but I went away into Arabia and came back to Damascus. 18 Then after three years, I went up to Jerusalem to get acquainted with Cephas and stayed in his company for fifteen days; 19 but I saw no other apostle except James, the brother of the LORD. 20 Now what I am writing to you, I say in the presence of God, that I am not lying.

21 Then I went into the regions of Syria and of Cilicia, 22 but I myself was unknown to the Christian churches of Judea. 23 They only learned it from hearsay, “Our erstwhile persecutor now preaches the faith he once was trying to destroy.” 24 And on my account, they glorified God.

GALATIANS CHAPTER 2

FORUTEEN years later, I went up once more to Jerusalem along with Barnabas, taking Titus with us. 2 And I went up in response to a revelation and laid before them the good news I preach among the Gentiles, but privately before the leaders lest I might be running or had run my course uselessly.

3 But Titus, who was with me, although he was a Greek, was not obliged to be circumcised 4 to gratify the false brothers that had gotten in underhandedly, who stole in to spy on our freedom which we enjoy in Christ Jesus, and who planned to enslave us. 5 Not for a moment did we yield in submission to them, so that the truth of the good news might continue for you.

6 But from those who enjoyed a reputation – whatever they amounted to makes no difference to me; God does not regard human appearance – nothing additional was contributed to me by those if reputation. 7 On the contrary, when they observed that I was entrusted with the good news for the uncircumcised, as Peter was for the circumcised – 8 for He who worked through Peter to make him an apostle to the circumcised, also worked through me to make me an apostle to the Gentiles – 9 so, acknowledging the grace that had been given me, James and Cephas and John, who were considered as pillars, gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship that we should serve the Gentiles and they the circumcised. 10 Only, they wanted us to remember the needy, which I myself was eager to do.

11 But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he was at fault; 12 for until certain people arrived from James, he ate with the Gentile converts, but when they came, he withdrew and separated himself for fear of the circumcision party. 13 So the rest of the Jews acted hypocritically along with him, with the result that even Barnabas was carried

away by their hypocrisy. 14 But when I saw that they were not walking in line with the truth of the good news, I said to Peter in every one's presence. "If you, who are a Jew live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you require Gentiles to live like Jews?" 15 We are Jews by nature and not sinners of the Gentiles; 16 but since we know that a person is not made righteous through the works of the Law but only thought faith in Christ Jesus, we have believed in Christ Jesus in order that we might be made righteous by faith in Christ and not through works of the Law; for by works of the Law no person will be justified. 17 If then, seeking to be justified in Christ, we also are found to be sinners, is Christ a minister of sin? Not at all! 18 Indeed, when I reconstruct the very things, I have torn down, then I demonstrate that I am a wrongdoer. 19 For through the Law I died to the Law in order that I may live to God; 20 I have been crucified with Christ; I no longer live as I myself, but Christ lives within me; the life I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. 21 I do not nullify the grace of God; for if righteousness were through Law, then Christ died to no purpose.

GALATIANS CHAPTER 3

O THOUGHTLESS Galatians, who has bewitched you, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was so graphically presented as crucified? 2 I want to learn from you only this: did you receive the Spirit from works of the Law or from faith in the message? 3 Are you that foolish, that you would now come to perfection with the flesh after beginning with the Spirit? 4 Have you experienced so much for nothing? If indeed for nothing!

5 Is He, then, who endued you with the Spirit and does wonderful works among you, doing so because of the works of the Law or by faith in the message? 6 Just as Abraham "had faith in God and it was credited to him for righteousness." 7 You see therefore, that those who are sons of Abraham are his sons by faith. 8 And in anticipation that God would justify the Gentiles through faith, the Scripture foretold the good news to Abraham in the promise. "In you will all the nations be blessed," 9 so that they are blessed through faith with believing Abraham.

10 Those who depend on the works of the Law live under a curse, for it is written, "Cursed is every one who does not abide by all that is written in the book of the Law, so as to do it." 11 But that no one is made righteous in God's presence through the Law is evident, for "He who is righteous through faith will live." 12 The Law, however does not rest on faith, but "He who does these things will live by them."

13 Christ has ransomed us from the curse of the Law inasmuch as He became a curse for us, for it is written, "Cursed is every one who hangs on a tree," 14 in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might be realised for the nations and that we through faith might receive the promise of the Spirit.

15 Speaking in terms of human relationships, brothers, no one sets aside or adds to a person's last will when it has been ratified. 16 But the promises were spoken to Abraham

and to his offspring. It does not say, “And to the offsprings,” in the plural, but in the singular, “And to your offspring.” Which is Christ. 17 This is the point: the Law, that came four hundred thirty years later, cannot invalidate a covenant that had previously been ratified by God, so as to annul the promise. 18 If the inheritance is by the Law, then it is no longer by promise; but God has given it to Abraham through a promise.

19 Why, then, was the Law given? It was added to show signs in their true light, until the Offspring should come concerning whom the promise was made. It was ordained through angels by means of a mediator. 20 But there is no call for an intermediary in case of one, and God is One.

21 Is, then, the Law contrary to the promises of God? Not at all! If the Law had been given as a power to produce life, then righteousness would in very truth have been by the Law;
22 but the Scripture has all men imprisoned under sin, so that the promise might be given to those who believe, through faith in Jesus Christ.

23 Before faith came, we were confined under the Law, awaiting in custody, faith that was yet to be revealed, 24 so that the Law served as our custodian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. 25 But with the coming of faith, we are no longer under a custodian; 26 for through your faith in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God. 27 As many of you as have been baptised into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor freeman, there is neither male or female, because you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 But if you are Christ’s, then you are the offspring of Abraham; you are heirs in agreement with the promise.

GALATIANS CHAPTER 4

NOW I affirm that so long as the heir is a minor, he differs in no way from a slave, although everything belongs to him; 2 but he is under guardians and trustees until the time that was prearranged by his father. 3 This is our situation. While we were minors, we were subservient to the world’s elementary teachings; 4 but when the time was completed, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law 5 in order to redeem those who were under the Law, and that we might receive the adoptions as sons. 6 And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, calling out, “Abba! Father!”
7 You are therefore a slave no longer, but through God a son, and if a son, then an heir as well.

8 Previously, however, when you did not know God, you were enslaved to gods that essentially are not gods. 9 But now, when you know God, or better yet, are known by God, how is it that you are turning back again to those weak and beggarly rudiments to which you want to be enslaved all over again? 10 You observe days and months, festivals and years.
11 You make me fear that perhaps I wasted my efforts on you.

12 I beg of you, brothers, become like me, for I became as you are. You have in respect wronged me. 13 But you know how that the first time I evangelised you because of physical infirmity, 14 and though my physical condition was for you a trial, you neither scorned nor spurned me, but you welcomed me as an angel of God, as Christ Jesus.

15 What has become of that blessed enjoyment? For I bear you witness that, if possible, you would have plucked out your eyes to give them to me. 16 Did I become your enemy because I am sinners with you? 17 They bust themselves about you to no good purpose; instead, they want to isolate you from us so that you may be infatuated with them.

18 But it is well to be zealously sought after always for a good cause and not merely when I am present with you. 19 My children, over whom I once more suffer birthpains until Christ is formed within you. 20 I wish I might be present with you right now and try a new way of speaking, for I am perplexed about you.

21 Tell me, you who want to be under the Law, do you not listen to the Law? 22 For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the slave girl and one by the freewoman; 23 but while the one by the slave girl was born in a fleshy way, the one by the freewoman came on account of the promise. 24 All of which is allegorical, indicating two covenants, one from Mount Sinai that generates slavery and is Hagar – Mount Sinai in Arabia. 25 It corresponds to present Jerusalem; for she and her children are in servitude.

26 But the Jerusalem that is above is free, which is our mother, for it is written. 27 “Be cheerful, barren woman who does not bear; break out with shouting, you who have no birthpangs, because more numerous are the children of the desolate woman than of the one who has a husband.” 28 And you, brothers are like Isaac, children of the promise. 29 But just as then, the one born in a fleshy way persecuted the one born in accord with the Spirit, so too at present. 30 But does the Scripture say? “Expel the slave girl and her son, for the son of the slave girl will not be heir with the son of the freewoman.” 31 We therefore, brothers, are not children of the slave girl, but of the freewoman.

GALATIANS CHAPTER 5

FOR this freedom, Christ has liberated us. Stand firm, then, and do not be held fast again by a yoke of servitude.

2 Take note of what I, Paul, tell you: if you become circumcised, Christ will not benefit you in the least. 3 Once more I assure every person who gets circumcised, that he is obliged to practice the entire Law. 4 All of you who aim at justification by the Law, are severed from Christ; you have fallen away from grace. 5 But by the Spirit, we earnestly anticipate the righteousness for which by faith we hope, 6 because in Christ Jesus, neither their circumcision nor the want of it has validity, but faith working through love.

7 You were coming along splendidly. Who got in your way, so that you do not follow the truth? 8 That persuasion is not from the One who called you. 9 A bit of yeast raises the

whole lump of dough. 10 I have confidence in you in Christ, that you will not be otherwise minded; but that troubler of yours, whoever he may be, will have to bear his punishment.

11 As for me, brothers, if I still preach circumcision, why am I still persecuted? Then the offensiveness of the cross has been removed. 12 I wish those who are unsettling you would go so far as to make themselves eunuchs.

13 You have been called to enjoy liberty, brothers; only, do not let the liberty be an opportunity for the flesh; instead, serve one another through love. 14 Because the entire Law is summed up in this one statement. “Love your neighbour as yourself.” 15 If, however, you tear at and consume one another, look out or you will be destroyed by each other.

16 But I say, behave in a spiritual way; then you will not carry out your fleshy cravings. 17 For the longings of the flesh are contrary to the Spirit, and those of the Spirit are contrary to the flesh; they are in opposition to each other, so that you do not want to do. 18 But if you are guided by the Spirit, then you are not under the Law.

19 Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, such as immorality, impurity, sensuality,
20 idolatry, magic arts, animosities, strife, jealousy, bad temper, outbreaks of selfishness, dissensions, factions, 21 envy, drunkenness, carousings and everything of the kind, of which I warn you as I did previously, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

22 But the Spirit’s fruition is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, generosity, fidelity,
23 gentleness, self-control. There is no law against thee.

24 Now those who belong to Christ have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.
25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also be directed by the Spirit; 26 let us not become vain glorious so as to compete with each other and to envy one another.

GALATIANS CHAPTER 6

BROTHERS, in case a person is caught in any misconduct, you spiritual persons should set him straight in a humble spirit, looking at yourself, so that you may not be tempted as well.
2 Carry one another’s burden and thus fulfil the Law of Christ; 3 for if anyone thinks he is somebody important and yet is of no account, he is deceiving himself. 4 Let each one put his own work to the test; then he will enjoy his personal satisfaction and not boast to another.
5 For each person has his own load to carry.

6 The person who is being taught should share all good things with him who teaches the word. 7 Make no mistake, God will not be mocked. What a person sows, that he will harvest as well. 8 The one who sows for his own flesh will harvest ruin from his flesh; while the one who sows for the Spirit will harvest eternal life from the Spirit. 9 Let us do what is right without tiring of it, for at its proper time we shall reap if we do not give up. 10 So then, as opportunity offers, let us practice what is beneficial for everyone but particularly toward the members of the family of faith.

11 Notice what large letters I write you in my own hand.

12 Those who want to make a good showing in the flesh, are the very ones who would force circumcision on you, for the simple reason that they may thus escape persecution on account of the cross of Christ. 13 For those who are circumcised do not themselves observe the Law, but they want to have you circumcised, so that they may boast of your physical experience. 14 But for me, perish the thought that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom the world has been crucified to me and I to the world.
15 For neither circumcision not the lack of it is important, but a new creation is what counts,
16 and those who behave by this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, even on the Israel of God.

17 From now on, let no one make trouble for me, for I bear in my body the marks of Jesus.

18 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers. Amen.

THE EPISTLE OF PAUL TO THE

EPHESIANS

CHAPTER 1

PAUL, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, to the saints *in Ephesus* the faithful in Christ Jesus; 2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly spheres through Christ, 4 even as He has chosen us in Him before the world was founded, to be holy and blameless in His presence. 5 In love, He predestined us in Jesus Christ to be His sons, in agreement with the kind intent of His will, 6 for the praise of His glorious grace with which He has freely favoured us, in union with the Beloved. 7 In Him, we enjoy redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses to the measure of the wealth of His grace, 8 which He poured out on us, 9 making known to us in all His wisdom and insight, the secret of His purpose, according to His kind intention which He proposed in Christ, 10 a plan to be brought to completion when the time fully comes, to bring everything together in Christ, things in heaven and things on earth.

11 In Him, we too were made His heritage, as foreordained according to His purpose, who works out everything in agreement with the design of His own will, 12 so that we, the first to put our hope in Christ, might bring praise to His glory. **13 In Him you also, after listening to the message of the truth, the good news of your salvation, have as believers in Him, been sealed with the promised Holy Spirit. 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance for a redemption through which you become God's property, and all to the praise of His glory.**

15 For this reason I too, on hearing about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, 16 Never fail in giving thanks for you as I mention you in my prayers, 17 that the

God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, might grant you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation for an understanding of Himself, 18 granting you eyes of the heart, so that you may know the nature of the hope to which you are called, and what is the wealth of His glorious inheritance in the saints, 19 and how overwhelmingly great is His power for us believers. It is like the working of His mighty strength, 20 which He exerted when He raised Christ from the dead and seated Him in the heavenly spheres at His right hand, 21 high above all government and authority, power and lordship, and every name that is named, not only in this but also in the future world.

22 God has placed everything under His feet and has given Him as head over everything for the church, 23 which is His body, the completeness of Him who fills the universe at all points.

EPHESIANS CHAPTER 2

YOU too were dead in your trespasses and sins, 2 in which you once conducted yourselves in line with the ways of the world system, controlled by the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit of the one now working in disobedient people.

3 Among them, we all once walked, as we indulged our fleshy desires and carried out the inclinations of our lower nature and our thoughts, and by nature we were objects of God's indignation, as were all the rest of mankind.

4 But God is rich in mercy, so that on account of His great love with which He loved us, 5 He made us who were dead in trespasses, alive with Christ – by grace you have been saved. 6 And in Christ Jesus, He caused us to rise, and seated us with Him in the heavenly spheres, 7 so that He might show in the future ages the immeasurable wealth of His grace, by means of His goodness to us through Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is God's gift. 9 It is not by works, so that no one may boast; 10 for we are His handiwork, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God previously prepared for us, so that we should live in them.

11 Keep in mind, therefore, that once you were physically Gentiles and were called uncircumcision by the so-called circumcision that is made with human hands in the flesh; 12 that in those days, you were separated from Christ, aliens without the right of Israel's citizenship, and strangers to the covenants of the promise, living in the world without hope and without God. 13 But now in Christ Jesus you, who were once far away, have been brought near by the blood of Christ. 14 For He is our peace. Breaking down the barrier that separated Jews and Gentiles, He united the two sections. By His own human nature, He brought the hostility to an end, 15 by abolishing the Law of the commandments with its regulations, so that in Himself, He might create the two into one new person and thus make peace, 16 and through the cross, reconcile them both in one body to God, bringing the hostility to an end by the cross.

17 And He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near; 18 because through Him, we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.
19 Therefore, you are no longer strangers and immigrants, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of God's household; 20 you are constructed on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, of which the cornerstone is Christ Jesus. 21 The whole building, framed together in Him, rises into a temple that is holy in the Lord, 22 in whom you also are built up together for a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

EPHESIANS CHAPTER 3

BECAUSE of this, I Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles – 2 you surely heard how the administration of divine grace to you was granted me: 3 how by revelation the secret was made known to me, as I wrote you briefly before. 4 A perusal of it will enable you to understand my insight into the secret of Christ, 5 which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations, as now it is revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets, 6 that the Gentiles are joint inheritors, share the same body and are participants of the promise in Christ Jesus through the good news, 7 of which I was made a minister by the virtue of the gift of divine grace that was granted me in agreement with the working of His power. 8 On me, the least of all saints, was this grace bestowed to preach to the Gentiles, the fathomless wealth of Christ, 9 and to bring to light what arrangement was contained in the secret that had through the ages been hidden with God, the Creator of all.

10 Consequently, the many-sided wisdom of God may now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly spheres. 11 This is in accord with the eternal purpose which He carried out through Christ Jesus, our Lord, 12 in whom by faith in Him, we enjoy the confidence of unreserved approach. 13 I pray, therefore, that you may not lose courage in these afflictions of mine for your sakes, for they serve to your honour.

14 Because of this, I bow my knees before the Father, 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name, 16 that He may grant you, in keeping with the wealth of His glory, to be empowered with strength in the inner self by His Spirit; 17 that through faith, the Christ may dwell in your hearts that you may be rooted and grounded in love, 18 in order that you may have power to understand with all the saints, what is the breadth, the length, the depth, and the height, 19 in fact to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled up to the whole fulness of God.

20 Now to Him, who is able according to the power that works within us, to do everything immeasurably far beyond what we pray or think of, 21 to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations for ever and ever, Amen.

EPHESIANS CHAPTER 4

SO, I exhort you, prisoner as I am in the Lord, to conduct yourselves worthy of the calling you have received, 2 with unalloyed humility and gentleness, to bear patiently with one another

in a loving way, 3 making every effort to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you received your calling, with one hope; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism; 6 one God and Father of all, who governs all and pervades all and is in us all.

7 But to each of us grace is granted and measured by the gift of Christ. 8 Thus it says, “As He ascended on high. He led the captured away into captivity; He gave gifts to men.” 9 But what does “He ascended mean, except that He also went down into the lower parts of the earth? 10 The One who descended is the very One who ascended far above all the heavens to fill the universe.

11 So, He has given some to be apostles and others to be prophets; some to be evangelists and others to be pastors and teachers, 12 to equip the saints for the task of ministering toward the building up of the body of Christ, 13 until we all may arrive at the unity of faith and that understanding of the Son of God that brings completeness of personality, tending toward the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. 14 As a result, we should no longer be babes, swung back and forth and carried here and there with every wind of teaching that springs from human craftiness and ingenuity for devising error; 15 but, telling the truth in love, we should grow up in every way toward Him who is the Head – Christ, 16 from whom the entire body is fitted together and united by every contributing ligament, with proportionate power for each single part to effect the development of the body for its upbuilding in love.

17 So, I tell you this and testify in the Lord; you must no longer behave like the Gentiles, whose lives are spent in the uselessness of their ways of thinking. 18 Their understanding has become darkened. Because of their ignorance and the obstinacy of their hearts, they have grown estranged from the divine life. 19 Troubled by no compunctions, they are the sort that have abandoned themselves to sensuality, so as to practice with greediness, all kinds of impurity.

20 But this is not the way you have come to know Christ, 21 if indeed, you have heard about Him and have been taught in Him, according to the truth as it is in Jesus: 22 that you are to rid yourself of the old nature with your previous habits, corrupted as it is by deceitful lusts; 23 that you be renewed in your mental attitude, 24 and that you put on the new nature that is created in God’s likeness in genuine righteousness and holiness.

25 Therefore, laying all falsehood aside, speak truth each person to his neighbour, for we are one another’s members. 26 When you are angry, commit no sin; do not remain angry until sundown. 27 Do not give the devil an opportunity. 28 The thief must steal no more, but rather toil to earn a living with his own hands, so he may have something to give the person in need.

29 Let no fowl speech come out of your mouth but only such as will build up where it is necessary, so as to aid a blessing to the listeners, 30 And never grieve God’s Holy Spirit, by

whom you have been marked with a seal for the day of redemption. 31 Get rid of all bitterness among you – bad temper, anger, clamour, abusive language and all malice. 32 Be kind toward one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgiven you.

EPHESIANS CHAPTER 5

BE therefore imitators of God as His beloved children, 2 and live in love, as Christ also loved us, and gave Himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God as a fragrant scent.

3 But immorality and every kind of impurity or greed should not so much as be mentioned among you; such is the proper way for the saints. 4 Nor should there be indecency and foolish talking or low jesting; they are not fitting. Instead, let there rather be thanksgiving. 5 For be sure of this, that none guilty of immorality or of impurity or of greed which is idolatry, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God,

6 Let no one lead you astray with empty words, for on account of such things, the indignation of God comes on disobedient people. 7 Do not be sharing with them. 8 For once you were darkness but now in the Lord you are light; live as children of light – 9 for the fruition of the Light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth – 10 demonstrating what is pleasing to the Lord.

11 Do not participate in the fruitless doings of darkness but rather expose them; 12 for while it is a disgrace even to mention the things they do in secret, 13 yet everything that is exposed by the light is made visible, and where everything is made visible, there is light. 14 Thus it says, “Wake up, sleeper, and rise from the dead, and Christ will shine upon you.”

15 See to it, therefore, that you conduct yourselves carefully, not as foolish but as wise people 16 who make he best possible use of their time, because these are evil days. 17 Be not thoughtless, then, but gain insight in the Lord’s will. 18 And do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, 19 speaking one to the other in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing heartily and making your music to the Lord, 20 and at all times giving thanks for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

21 Be submissive to one another out of reverence for Christ. 22 Wives be subject to your husbands as to the Lord. 23 For a husband is head of his wife as Christ also is Head of the church; He is the Saviour of the body. 24 But as the church is submissive to Christ, so wives must in every respect be submissive to their husbands.

25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ loved the church and gave Himself for her, 26 in order that by cleansing her by means of the washing in water, He may sanctify her through His word, 27 so that He may present the church to Himself gloriously, having no spot or wrinkle or any of such thing, but holy and blameless.

28 In a similar way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. One who loves his wife loves himself. 29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but he nourishes and carefully protects it, just as Christ treats the church; 30 for we are members of His body. 31 “On this account, a man shall leave his father and mother and shall be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.”

32 There is a great, hidden meaning in this, but I am speaking about Christ and the church. 33 Nevertheless, let each of you love his wife as much as himself and let the wife revere her husband.

EPHESIANS CHAPTER 6

CHILDREN, be obedient to your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 “Honour your father and mother,” which is the first commandment with a promise, 3 “that it may be well with you and that you may enjoy great length of life on earth.”

4 And fathers, do not arouse your children’s anger, but bring them up in the instruction and admonition of the Lord.

5 Slaves, render obedience to your earthly masters, with reverence and awe, with such unmixed motives as you feel toward Christ. 6 Do not be eye-slaves as men-pleasers, but as slaves of Christ, carry out whole heartedly the will of God, 7 rendering services with goodwill as to the Lord and not to men, 8 aware that whatever good each one may do, he will be recompensed by the Lord, whether he is a slave or a freeman.

9 And masters, treat your slaves in the same way. Dispense with threatening, as you keep in mind that their Master and yours is in heaven, and with Him there is no partiality.

10 In conclusion, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. 11 Put on the complete armour that God supplies, so you will be able to stand against the devil’s intrigues. 12 For our wrestling is not against flesh-and-blood opponents, but against the rulers, the authorities, the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly spheres. 13 Take up, therefore, the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to stand when you have done all the fighting.

14 So, stand your ground, “with the belt of truth tightened around your waist, wearing the breastplate of righteousness on your body, 15 with the readiness of the good news of peace bound on your feet; 16 above all taking up the shield of faith, with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. 17 And take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, 18 praying in the Spirit on every occasion with ceaseless prayer and entreaty, constantly alert to pray with all perseverance and entreaty for all the saints;” 19 also for me, that when I open my lips, the message may be given me that I announce fearlessly, the secret of the good news 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may present the good news freely, as it is my duty to speak.

21 In order that you may know my affairs, how I am doing, Tychicus, **the beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, will give you all the information. 22 I have sent him to you for this very purpose, to let you know all about us, and that he may encourage your hearts.**

23 Peace to you brothers, and love joined with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 24 Grace be with you all who have a never-diminishing love for our Lord Jesus Christ.

THE EPISTLE OF PAUL TO THE

PHILIPPIANS

CHAPTER 1

PAUL and Timothy, slaves of Christ Jesus, to all the saints in Christ Jesus that live at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons; 2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

3 Every time I think of you, I thank my God. 4 Every time I pray, I make my petition for all of you, with joyfulness 5 for your fellowship in furthering the good news, from the first day to this moment. 6 Of this I am convinced, that He who has begun a good work in you will bring it to completion in the day of Christ Jesus. 7 It is right for me to think of all of you in this way, because I have you in my heart, as all of you share with me in divine grace, whether it be in my imprisonment or in the defense and confirmation of the good news. 8 For God is my witness, how I yearn for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

9 And this is my prayer, that your love may grow ever richer and richer in real knowledge and all discernment, 10 that you may test the things that are better, that you may be unsullied and blameless as you face the day of Christ, 11 abounding in the fruits of righteousness which come through Jesus Christ to the glory and praise of God.

12 I want you to understand, brothers, that what has happened to me has turned out for rather than against the advance of the good news, 13 so that throughout the imperial guard and everywhere else, it has become known that my imprisonment is because I belong to Christ. 14 And the majority of the brothers in the Lord, have been encouraged by my imprisonment to be far more daring in telling the divine message fearlessly.

15 Some, to be sure, are preaching Christ out of jealously and rivalry, but others out of good will: 16 some, indeed, are preaching out of love, knowing that I am destined for the defense of the good news, 17 but others preach Christ out of party spirit, and not from pure motives. They intend to add distress to my bonds.

18 Well, what of it? Anyhow, in any event, whether from pretence of from pure motives, Christ is preached and I am glad of that; yes, and I shall be glad, 19 for I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the provision that comes from the

Spirit of Jesus Christ. 20 For I eagerly desire and hope not to be put to shame at all, but that with perfect boldness as always, so now Christ may be honoured in my body, either through living or through dying. 21 For to me to live is Christ and to die is gain.

22 If, however, to continue to live means fruitful service for me, then I cannot tell which to choose. 23 So, I feel the pressure from both sides: I have a yearning to take my leave and to be with Christ, for that would be far better, 24 but on your account, it is more necessary that I remain in the body. 25 And since I am confident of this, I know that I shall stay and continue with all of you, that you may progress and have the joy that comes with faith, 26 so, that through my coming to you again, your pride in Christ Jesus because of me, may become greater.

27 Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the good news concerning Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear that you are standing firm in one spirit and one mind, as you are joined in conflict for the faith of the good news, 28 not for a moment intimidated by your antagonists. For them this augurs destruction, but for you, deliverance, and that from God. 29 For you have been privileged on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him but also to suffer for Him; 30 so you are experiencing the same conflict you have seen me wage and which you now hear that I am having.

PHILIPPIANS CHAPTER 2

IF therefore, in relationship with Christ there is any encouragement, if there is any persuasive appeal of love, if there is any fellowship in the Spirit, if any affections and compassion, 2 then make my joy complete by being in agreement, having the same love, being united in spirit, having the same attitude, 3 doing nothing out of selfishness or conceit, but with humility regarding others superior to yourselves. 4 Neither must each be looking out only for his own interest but also for those of others.

5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus 6 who, though existing in the form of God, did not consider His equality with God something to cling to, 7 but emptied Himself as He took on the form of a slave and became like human beings. 8 So, recognised in appearance as a human being, He humbled Himself and became obedient to death; yes, death by the cross.

9 God, therefore, has lifted Him on high and has given Him the name that surpasses every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, of those on earth, and of those under the earth, 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.

12 Consequently, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not only when I was with you but even more so now that I am absent from you, cultivate your own salvation with reverence and trepidation, 13 for it is God who is at work within you, so as to will and to work for His good pleasure.

14 Do it all without grumbling and objections, 15 so that you may be blameless and innocent, God's faultless children in the midst of a crooked and perverted generation, among whom you shine like stars in the world, 16 thus holding fast to the message of life as to be my pride on the day of Christ, because I shall neither have run nor laboured in vain, 17 In fact, even if my lifeblood must be poured out for a drink offering upon the sacrifice of your faith, I am glad of it and am glad together with all of you. 18 Equally, so you should be glad and share happiness with me.

19 But, trusting in the Lord Jesus, I hope to send you Timothy shortly, so that I too may be cheered by news from you; 20 for I have no one else who shares my own attitude with such genuine interest in your affairs. 21 They are all looking out for their interests, not for those of Christ Jesus. 22 But you know his sterling worth, how as a son with his father he has served with me the good news. 23 So, I hope to send him as soon as I see how things go with me. 24 But I have confidence in the Lord, that soon I too shall come.

25 I have considered it necessary to send you my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, Epaphroditus, whom you sent as your messenger to minister to my wants, 26 inasmuch as he is yearning for all of you and is distressed, because you heard that he was ill. 27 And he was ill indeed, even to the verge of death; but God took pity on him, and not only on him, but on me as well, so that I might not experience one grief after another. 28 I am, therefore, sending him the more eagerly, so that you may be glad to see him again and that I may feel more relieved. 29 Therefore, welcome him with all joyfulness in the Lord, and hold such persons in high esteem, 30 for on account of the work of Christ he came to the brink of death and endangered his life, to make up for the service you could not render me.

PHILIPPIANS CHAPTER 3

FINALLY, my brothers, be glad in the Lord. Repetition in my writing you, is not irksome to me and for you it is safe. 2 Look out for those dogs; lookout for those wicked workers; look out for the mutilation faction. 3 For we who worship God through the Spirit and pride ourselves in Christ Jesus, and do not confide in the flesh, we are the truly circumcised.

4 I have, however, some basis for confidence in the flesh. If anyone else imagines that he has some basis for confidence in the flesh, I am ahead of him; 5 circumcised on the eighth day, a native Israelite of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews, as to the Law a Pharisee, 6 as to zeal a persecutor of the church, as to legal righteousness without blame.

7 But everything that was gain for me, I have considered loss for Christ's sake. 8 And, what is more, I regard everything as loss in comparison with the supreme value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For His sake, I have incurred the loss of all things and consider them rubbish, in order to gain Christ 9 and to be found in Him, not having my own righteousness based on the Law but, through faith in Christ, the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith, 10 that I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and the sharing of His

sufferings, becoming like Him in His death, 11 in order that I might arrive at the resurrection from the dead.

12 Not that I have already made this my own or have already reached perfection, but I am pressing onward in the hope of making it my own because Christ Jesus has made me His own. 13 Brothers, I do not imply that I have made it my own, but one thing I do – forgetting what is behind and reaching out for what lies ahead. 14 I push on to the goal for the prize of God's heavenly call in Christ Jesus.

15 Let those of us, then, who are mature, have this in mind, and if your views differ in any respect, God will make this clear also to you. 16 But we must hold on to what we have attained.

17 Join with me as followers, brothers, and observe those who behave as you have it exemplified in us. 18 For many are living, of whom I have often told you and I say it now with tears, who are enemies of the cross of Christ, 19 whose end is destruction, whose god is their stomach, whose boast is in their shame, whose interests are centered on earthly matters. 20 For our citizenship belongs in heaven, from which also we expect the Lord Jesus Christ as Deliverer, 21 who will change the fashion of our humiliated body, so that it will resemble His glorious body by the power that enables Him to subject everything to Himself.

PHILIPPIANS CHAPTER 4

NOW then, my brothers, beloved and longed for, my joy and my crown, in this way stand firm in the Lord, dear friends. 2 I appeal to Euodia and I appeal to Syntyche to agree in the Lord. 3 Yes, and I beg of you also, my genuine yokefellow, to lend these women a hand; for they struggled side by side with me in proclamation of the good news, along with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the Book of Life.

4 Be joyful in the Lord always; again I say, Rejoice. 5 Be known by all the people for your considerateness; the Lord is near. 6 Entertain no worry, but under all circumstances, let your petitions be made known before God by prayer and pleading, along with thanksgiving. 7 So will the peace of God, that surpasses all understanding, keep guard over your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus.

8 Finally brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is lovely, whatever is kindly spoken, whatever is lofty and whatever is praiseworthy – put your mind on these. 9 And what you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, that put into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

10 I was uncommonly happy in the Lord because of late, your thoughtfulness toward me came to life again, a matter in which you were interested but lacked opportunity. 11 Not that I mention this because of need, for I have learned to make ends meet in whatever situation I am. 12 I know how to live simply and I know how to enjoy prosperity, I am acquainted with

all circumstances; to be filled up and to be hungry, to have abundance and to suffer want.
13 I have strength for every situation through Him who empowers me.

14 At the same time you did well by sharing with me in my trouble. 15 And you Philippians know, too, how in the early preaching of the good news, when we took our departure from Macedonia, not a single church except yourselves went into partnership with me with regard to giving and receiving; 16 for even when I was in Thessalonica, you more than once sent me something to meet my needs. 17 Not that I am after the gift, but I am after the fruition that is multiplying to your credit.

18 Now that I have received from Epaphroditus what you sent, a fragrant perfume, an acceptable offering that pleases God, I have enough and to spare; I am amply supplied,
19 And my God will fully supply all your needs, according to His abundant wealth, so glorious in Christ Jesus. 20 And to God our Father be glory for ever and ever, Amen.

21 Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brothers who are with me send you greetings. 22 All the saints greet you, especially those of Caesar's household.

23 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

THE EPISTLE OF PAUL TO THE

COLOSSIANS

CHAPTER 1

PAUL, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Timothy 2 to the consecrated and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae; Grace to you and peace from God our Father *and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

3 We constantly, give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, as we are praying for you; 4 for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and the love you cherish for all the saints, 5 because, of the hope that is stored up for you in heaven. You first heard of this hope in the message of the truth concerning the good news, that reached you, 6 as it has come also to the whole world, with fruitful results which are spreading abroad, as is the case among you ever since you heard and came to know in truth, the grace of God.

7 So, you learned from Epaphras, our dear fellow bond slave, who is a faithful minister of Christ for you: 8 and he has also pointed out to us the love you cherish through the Spirit,
9 We have, therefore, from the day we heard it, never neglected praying and petitioning for you, that you might be filled with all spiritual wisdom and insight, so as to understand His will clearly, 10 and to live in a way, worthy of the Lord and to His entire satisfaction, by producing results in all sorts of good work, and by growing in the knowledge of God. 11 We pray that you may be invigorated with complete power in accordance with His glorious strength, for the cheerful exercise of unlimited patience and perseverance, 12 with

thanksgiving to the Father, who has qualified you for your share in the inheritance of the saints in the light.

13 He has rescued us from the domain of darkness, and has transferred us into the kingdom of His beloved Son, 14 in whom we have redemption *through His blood,* the forgiveness of sins; 15 who is the likeness of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation. 16 For through Him all things were created in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or lordships or rulers or authorities; they are all created through Him and for Him, 17 and He is Himself before all, and in Him all things hold together.

18 He also is the Head of the church; He is its beginning, the first-born from the dead, so that in every respect He might have first place. 19 For God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Him, 20 and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, those on earth as well as those in heaven, as through Him God made peace by means of the blood of His cross.

21 You, too, who once were estranged and of a hostile attitude with your evil activities, 22 He has now reconciled in His human body through His death, to introduce you into His presence, holy and blameless and irreproachable – 23 if you remain grounded and settled in the faith and not moved away from the hope inspired by the good news to which you listened, which has been preached to every creature under heaven and of which I, Paul became a minister.

24 I am now glad amid my sufferings for you, and am making up in my own life on behalf of His body, which is the church, what I am still lacking of afflictions for Christ. 25 I have become a minister of the church by divine appointment that was given me, to preach fully to you the word of God, 26 the secret that was hidden from ages and generations, but which now has been revealed to His saints, 27 to whom God has chosen to make known what is the wealth of this glorious secret among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

28 Him we proclaim, while warning every person and instructing every individual in all wisdom, so that we may present every person complete in Christ. 29 And for this I toil, wrestling according to His energy which is powerfully at work in me.

COLOSSIANS CHAPTER 2

FOR I want you to know in how great a struggle, I am engaged for you, and for the Laodicean brothers, and for those who have not personally seen my face, 2 so that their hearts may be encouraged, welded together in love, to attain all the riches that the full assurance of insight brings, with a knowledge of Christ, the secret of God, 3 in whom all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge lie hidden.

4 I mention this, so that no one may confuse your thinking by specious argument; 5 for while I am physically absent, I am nevertheless with you in spirit, as I observe with joy, your good order and the firmness of your faith in Christ.

6 So, as you accepted Christ Jesus as Lord, live in union with Him, 7 rooted and built up in Him and confirmed in the faith, just as you have been taught. And be overflowing with the giving of thanks.

8 Beware of anyone carrying you captive through philosophy and empty deceitfulness along the line of human tradition and the world's elementary principles, and not according to Christ. 9 For in Him all the fullness of the God head dwells bodily, 10 and in Him, who is the head of all rule and authority, you are enjoying fullness of life. 11 In Him, too, you were circumcised – not with a physical circumcision – in stripping off your fleshy body in Christ's circumcision, 12 when you were buried with Him in baptism and thereby raised to life with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

13 And you, who were dead in your trespasses and your lack of physical circumcision, He made alive together with Him, as He forgave us all our trespasses, 14 cancelled the record of debt that stood against us, with its requirements, and took it out of the way, when He nailed it to the cross. 15 Disarming the rulers and authorities, He publicly exposed them to disgrace as He triumphed over them by means of the cross.

16 Allow no one, therefore to be your judge in regard to eating and drinking, or the observance of a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. 17 These are shadows of things to follow, but the body is Christ. 18 Let no one defraud you of salvation's prize, no one who indulges in assumed humility and the cult of angel-worship, who brags of visions and is puffed up without cause by his fleshy mind, 19 instead of keeping hold of that Head from which the whole body, supported and held together by ligaments and sinews, grows with divine growth.

20 If with Christ you have become dead to the elementary principles of the world, why allow regulations to be imposed on you as if you were living under the world's control: 21 Don't touch this! Don't taste that! Don't handle the other! 22 All these are destined to wear out; they are governed by human injunctions and instructions, 23 such as have, to be sure, a suggestion of wisdom by self-imposed worship and humiliation and unsparing severity of the body, but are of no value in combating fleshy indulgence.

COLOSSIANS CHAPTER 3

IF, then, you have been raised with Christ, seek the things which are above, where Christ is seated at God's right hand. 2 Apply your mind to things above, not to things on earth; 3 for you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is our life, makes His appearance, then we also will appear in glory with Him.

5 Therefore, put to death whatever in your nature belongs to the earth – immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire and greediness, which is idolatry. 6 On account of them, God's anger will come on *disobedient people*. 7 And at one time you were addicted to them, when your life was spent in such ways. 8 But now you must also put all these things away – anger, bad temper, malice, slander, shameful language. 9 Do not lie to one another, since you have stripped off the old nature with its practices 10 and have put on the new self, who is being renewed in a full knowledge in the likeness of Him, who create Him. 11 You are where there is no difference between Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian slave, and freeborn, but Christ is all in all.

12 Therefore, as God's chosen, set apart and enjoying His love, clothe yourselves with tenderness of heart, kindliness, humility, gentleness, patient endurance. 13 Bear with one another and forgive each other in case one has a grievance against another. Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so do you. 14 But crown it all with love, which is the perfect bond of union. 15 And let the peace of Christ, to which you were called in one body, arbitrate in your hearts. And be thankful.

16 Let the enriching message of Christ have ample room in your lives as you instruct and admonish one another in all wisdom, with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs that are sung in a thankful spirit in your hearts toward God. 17 And whatever you do by word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, through whom you are offering thanks to God the Father.

18 Wives, be submissive to your husbands, as it is becoming in the Lord to do. 19 Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh toward them. 20 Children, be obedient to your parents in every respect, for this is pleasing to the Lord. 21 Fathers, do not irritate your children, that they may not lose heart.

22 Servants, obey your earthly masters in every way, not as men-pleasers when working under their eyes, but with unmixed motives out of reverence for the Lord. 23 Whatever you do, work heartily as for the Lord and not for men, 24 for you know that from the Lord you will receive the reward of inheritance. It is Christ the Lord for whom you are working. 25 For the wrongdoer will get what is coming to him for his wrongdoing; there will be no partiality.

COLOSSIANS CHAPTER 4

MASTERS, treat your servants with justice and fairness, well aware that you also have a Master in heaven.

2 Keep persevering in prayer; attend to it diligently with the offering of thanks, 3 praying for us also that God may open for us a door to tell the message of the secret of Christ, on account of which I am in prison, 4 so that I may make this known, in the way I am obliged to tell it.

5 Conduct yourselves wisely toward outsiders. Using your time to the best possible advantage.
6 Let your speech always be gracious and so well-reasoned that you will know how to reply to each individual.

7 Tychicus, our beloved brother, faithful minister, and fellow servant in the Lord, will tell you all about my affairs. 8 I have sent him to you for this very purpose, to let you know our circumstances, and to encourage your hearts. 9 He is accompanied by Onesimus our faithful and beloved brother, who is one of your own. They will acquaint you with everything that is going on here.

10 Aristarchus, my fellow prisoner, sends you greeting; so does Mark, the cousin of Barnabas, about whom you received instructions – if he comes to you, welcome him. 11 Also Jesus who is called Justus. These are the only ones of the circumcision, who serve as co-workers for the kingdom of God; they have become a comfort to me.

12 Epaphras, one of your own, a slave of Christ Jesus, wants to be remembered to you. He is always wrestling for you in his prayers, that you may stand firm, mature, and thoroughly convinced in all the will of God. 13 For I bear him witness how deeply concerned he is about you and the brothers at Laodicea and Hierapolis.

14 Luke, the beloved physician, sends greetings, and so does Demas. 15 Extend our greetings to the brothers in Laodicea; also, to Nympha and the church that meets at her home.

16 When this letter has been read in your presence, arrange that it may also be read by the Laodicean church, while you read the letter from Laodicea. 17 And to say to Archippus: See to it that you fulfill the ministry which you have received in the Lord.

18 My greeting in my own, Paul's handwriting. Remember my bonds. Grace be with you.

THE FIRST EPISTLE OF PAUL TO THE

THESSALONIANS

CHAPTER 1

PAUL and Silvanus and Timothy, to the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.

2 We offer thanks to God always for all of you as we make mention of you in our prayers,
3 And constantly recall in the presence of God and our Father your active faith, your labour prompted by love, and your enduring hope that rests on our Lord Jesus Christ.

4 Brothers, beloved of God, we know His choice of you; 5 for our good news reached you not only in words but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with sound conviction, even as you well know in what way we conducted ourselves among you, for your sakes. 6 You also became followers of us and of the Lord when with joy derived from the Holy Spirit, you welcomed the message under great affliction, 7 so that you became an example to all who

believe in Macedonia and Achaia. 8 For not only did the Lord's message echo from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but the fact of your faith in God has been made known everywhere, so that we do not need to say anything.

9 For they voluntarily tell about us, what remarkable introduction we had to you and how you turned to God from idols, to serve the living and true God 10 and to await His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead – Jesus who delivers us from the coming wrath.

1 THESSALONIANS CHAPTER 2

FOR you yourselves are aware, brothers, how our entrance among you was not futile, 2 but after the sufferings and ill-treatment we experienced, as you know, at Philippi, we took great courage by the help of our God to tell you amid severe struggle the good news from God.
3 For our appeal springs neither from delusion, nor from deceit, 4 but precisely as we have been divinely approved to be entrusted with the good news, so we tell it, not to ingratiate ourselves with men but to please God, who tests our hearts. 5 For we never indulged in flattery, as you well know, neither did we use a pretext to satisfy our greed – to which God is witness – 6 neither did we seek the plaudits of men, either from you or from others, though as Christ's apostles, we were in position to claim authority. 7 Instead, we were mild-mannered in your circle, like a nurse tenderly fostering her own children. 8 Thus being strongly drawn to you, we were joyfully willing not only to impart to you the good news from God, but our own lives as well, because you had become dear to us.

9 You will recollect, brothers, our toil and hardship as we worked night and day, so that we might be no burden to any of you while we preached to you the good news from God.
10 You are witnesses, and so is God, how pure, fair, and irreproachable was our behaviour toward you believers. 11 You know how we, like a father toward his own children, appealed to each of you and encouraged you and charged you 12 to conduct yourselves in a way worthy of the God who is calling you into his own kingdom and glory.

13 On this account, we also constantly thank God, because when you took hold of the divine message from us, you did not accept it as a human message but, as it truly was, a message from God, which also is effective in you who believe. 14 For you, brothers, have become followers of the churches of God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea; because you also have suffered at the hands of your own countrymen just as they suffered from the Jews, 15 who put to death the Lord Jesus as well as the prophets, and persecuted us. They are displeasing to God and opponents of all people; 16 for they forbid us to tell the message of salvation to the Gentiles, so that they constantly fill up the measure of their sins. But divine indignation has overtaken them.

17 But we, brothers, when we were deprived of you for a little while insofar as presence goes but not in heart, made the more intense efforts with great longing to see you face to face, 18 because we wanted to come to you, I, Paul indeed more than once, but Satan

interfered with us. 19 For who except you is our hope or happiness or crown of pride in the presence of our LORD Jesus at His coming? 20 For you are our glory and joy.

1 THESSALONIANS CHAPTER 3

SO, when we could not stand it any longer, we thought it be best to be left alone in Athens, 2 and we sent Timothy, our brother and God's minister concerning the good news of Christ, to confirm you and encourage you in your faith, 3 that no one may be disturbed by these afflictions. For you know yourselves that for this we were appointed; 4 for when we were with you, we told you in advance that we were going to have trouble, exactly as you know it happened.

5 And for this reason, when I could no longer stand it, I sent to make sure about your faith, whether perhaps the tempter might have tempted you, and our work should be useless.
6 Now, however, since Timothy has returned to us from you and has brought us the good news about your faith and love, and how you retain us constantly in loving remembrance, how you are yearning to see us, just as we are to see you, 7 we have reason, brothers, to be encouraged about you on account of your faith, in spite of all our distress and affliction.
8 Because now we truly live if you stand firm in the Lord.

9 How can we ever repay God with enough thanksgiving, for you in view of all the happiness we are enjoying because of you in the presence of our God? 10 Night and day we keep praying earnestly to see you face to face and to supply what is lacking in your faith.

11 May our God and Father Himself and our LORD Jesus, direct our way to you. 12 May the Lord make your love for one another and for every one abundant and running over, just as ours is for you, 13 so that your hearts may be made so steadfast, that you will be made spotless before God our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints.

1 THESSALONIANS CHAPTER 4

FINALLY then, brothers, we beg of you and exhort you in the name of the Lord Jesus to continue living in the way you learned from us, a way that is pleasing to God (and as you are behaving), and that you keep on, doing still better. 2 For you are aware what instructions we gave you by authority of the Lord Jesus.

3 This is God's will – your sanctification, that you keep yourselves from sexual immorality,
4 that each of you learn how to take his own wife in purity and honour, 5 not in lustful passion like the Gentiles who have no knowledge of God. 6 Let no one overstep the bounds and take advantage of his brother in this matter for the Lord is a punisher in all such cases, as previously we told and solemnly charged you. 7 For God has not called us to an impure but to a holy life; consequently, 8 the one who rejects this does not reject man but God, who has given us His Holy Spirit.

9 It is not necessary to write you about brotherly love, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another, 10 and you are practicing it toward all the brothers throughout Macedonia.

11 But we appeal to you, brothers, to keep advancing on it and to cherish ambition for a peaceful way of living; to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands as we recommend to you, 12 in order that your behaviour toward the outsiders will be honourable and you need not depend on anyone.

13 But we do not want you to be ignorant, brothers, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do, who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, in a similar way through Jesus, God will bring with Him those who have died. 15 We tell you this by the word of the Lord; we the living who remain at the coming of the Lord, will not take precedence over those who have died. 16 For with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and the trumpet of God, the Lord Himself will descend from heaven, and those who died in Christ will rise first. 17 Afterward we, the living who remain, will be caught up along with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so, we shall forever be with the Lord. 18 So, then encourage one another with these words.

1 THESSALONIANS CHAPTER 5

CONCERNING times and seasons, brother, you need no writing from me, 2 for you are yourselves aware that the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night. 3 When they say, “Peace and safety.” Then sudden destruction will come upon them like the birthpangs of a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape.

4 You, however, brothers, are not in the dark, so that the day should surprise you like a thief; 5 for you are all sons of the light and sons of the day. We belong neither to night nor to darkness. 6 So, then, let us not be asleep like the rest, but let us be on our guard and be sober. 7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and the drunkards are drunk at night. 8 But as we belong to the day, let us be self-controlled equipped with faith and love for our breastplate, and the hope of salvation for our helmet.

9 For God has not destined us for His anger, but for the obtaining of salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who experienced death for us so that we, whether awake or asleep, might live together with Him. 11 Encourage on another, therefore, and build up one another, as in fact you are doing.

12 We beg of you, brothers, to recognise the workers among you, those who are your leaders in the Lord and your advisors. 13 Because of their work, hold them lovingly in highest regard. Enjoy peace among yourselves. 14 But we appeal to you, brothers; warn the idle, encourage the fainthearted, give your support to the weak, exercise patience toward every one. 15 See to it that no one pays back evil for evil, instead, always try to be helpful to one another and to all people.

16 Always be cheerful. 17 Pray unceasingly. 18 Under all circumstances, give thanks, for such is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

19 Do not stifle the Spirit. 20 Do not despise prophetic utterance, 21 but test it all and retain what is good. 22 Keep away from evil in every form. 23 And may the God of peace Himself, make you holy through and through. May your whole being – spirit, soul and body – be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 He who calls you is faithful and He will accomplish it.

25 Brothers, pray for us.

26 Greet all the brothers with a sacred kiss.

27 I solemnly charge you in the Lord's name, to have this letter read to all the brothers.

28 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

THE SECOND EPISTLE OF PAUL TO THE

THESSALONIANS

CHAPTER 1

PAUL and Silvanus and Timothy to the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the lord Jesus Christ; 2 Grace to you and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ;
3 We are always bound to give God thanks for you, brother, as is befitting, because your faith is growing so splendidly and the love of each of you for one another is increasing, 4 so that we ourselves mention you with pride among the churches of God for your fortitude and faith amid all the persecution and distresses which you endure. 5 This is evidence of God's righteous judgment, that you may be made worthy of the kingdom of God, on account of which you are suffering, 6 inasmuch a God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you, 7 and to give relief along with us to you who are afflicted, when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in a blaze of fire.

8 He will inflict retribution on those who ignore God and who pay no attention to the good news concerning our Lord Jesus. 9 They will pay the penalty of everlasting ruin, separated from the presence of the Lord and from His glorious power, 10 when on that day, He comes to have His glory shown in His saints and to be admired in all those who believe, because our witnessing among you was believed.

11 For this purpose, we constantly pray for you, that our God may render you worthy of His call, and by His power may fulfill every desire for goodness and every faith inspired effort,
12 so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you and you in Him, to the measure of the grace of our God and of the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 THESSALONIANS CHAPTER 2

NOW we beg of you, brothers, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our meeting together with Him, 2 not to allow your minds to be unreadily unsettled or disturbed, either by spirit, or by message, or by letter allegedly from us, as if the day of the Lord had arrived. 3 Let no one in any way deceive you; for the apostacy is to come first, and the man of sin is to be revealed, the one doomed to hell, 4 the adversary who opposes and rises up against every so-called god and what is worshipped, so that he seats himself in the temple of God, with the claim that he himself is God.

5 Do you not recollect how I told you this when I was still with you? 6 So you know now what impedes his being revealed at this time: 7 for the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only the one who is impeding now, will do so until he is taken out of the way. 8 The will the lawless one be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will remove with the breath of His mouth, and bring to an end by the visible manifestation of His coming.

9 The coming of the lawless one is according to Satan's working, with great power and signs and miracles, all of them false, 10 and with limitless deceit of wickedness for those who, because they did not welcome the love of truth for their salvation, are going to destruction. 11 And for this reason, God visits them with a delusion that operates on them to believe the falsehood, 12 so that all who have not believed the truth but have taken pleasure in wickedness, may be judged.

13 But we are always bound to offer thanks to God for you, brothers, beloved by the Lord as you are, because from the beginning, God chose you for salvation by the Spirit's sanctifying work and by faith in the truth. 14 He called you for this purpose by means of the good news which we preached, that you might share the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. 15 So then, brothers, stand firm and hold on to the traditions you learned of us, whether orally or by letter.

16 And may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who has loved us and has graciously given us eternal comfort and well-founded hope, 17 encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good work and word.

2 THESSALONIANS CHAPTER 3

FINALLY, brothers, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may run its course and be glorified as it was among you, 2 and that we may be rescued from morally evil and malicious people; for all men are not believers. 3 But the Lord is faithful, who will make you strong and guard you from the evil one. 4 So through the Lord, we have confidence in you, that you are practicing and will practice what we command. 5 And may the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the patient expectation of Christ.

6 But we charge you, brothers, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, to avoid every brother who, instead of observing the tradition you received from us, is living in idleness. 7 For you

know yourselves how you should follow us, because we were not idle among you, 8 neither did we eat anyone's food without paying for it; instead, we worked and knew hardship night and day, so as not to impose on any of you. 9 Not that we did not have the right to support, but to furnish you ourselves as an example which you should follow.

10 For while we were with you, we gave you this charge, "If anyone does not want to work, then he should not eat either." 11 For we are hearing, that some of you are living in idleness, not working but busy in other people's affairs. 12 Such persons we direct and charge in the Lord Jesus Christ that, by doing their work quietly, they earn their own living.

13 As for you, brothers, do not get tired of doing good. 14 If someone does not follow our instruction in this letter, note him well; do not associate with him, so that he may grow ashamed, 15 But do not consider him an enemy, but warn him as a brother.

16 And may the Lord of peace Himself, grant you peace at all times under all circumstance. The Lord be with you all.

17 The greeting in my own, Paul's handwriting; which is a sign in every letter. It is the way I write.

18 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with all of you.

THE FIRST EPISTLE OF PAUL TO

TIMOTHY

CHAPTER 1

PAUL, and apostle of Christ Jesus by order of God our Saviour and Christ Jesus our hope, 2 to Timothy, my genuine child in faith: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

3 As I requested of you, when on my way to Macedonia, stay in Ephesus so that you may warn certain people not to teach any other doctrine, 4 neither to pay attention to legends and interminable genealogies, such as cause disputes rather than divine training that is in faith.

5 The purpose of our instruction, however, is love that rises out of a pure heart, a clear conscience and undisguised faith. 6 Swerving from this, some have strayed into empty talk, 7 wanting to be teachers of the Law without understanding what they say or about what they are making their confident assertions.

8 But we know that the Law is admirable if one makes lawful use of it, 9 keeping in mind that a law is not laid down for an honest person but for the lawless and the refractory, for the ungodly and sinful, for the impious and profane, for patricides and matricides, for homicides, 10 for the immoral people, for sexual perverts, kidnapers, liars, perjurers and whatever else

is contrary to wholesome teaching 11 according to the glorious good news of the blessed God, with which I have been entrusted.

12 I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who strengthened me; for He considered me to be faithful and appointed me for service – 13 me, although I was formerly a slanderer, a persecutor and an insulter. But I found mercy, for in unbelief I acted ignorantly; 14 and the grace of our Lord was present in greater abundance with faith and love that rest in Christ Jesus.

15 Trustworthy is the saying and deserving of wholehearted acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am foremost. 16 But I found mercy, so that in me, the foremost of sinners, Jesus Christ, might display His unlimited patience, that I might be an example to all who would put their trust in Him for life eternal.

17 Now to the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

18 I charge you, with these instructions, Timothy my son, in agreement with the prophecies that were made long ago concerning you, that you may with their aid, fight the good fight, 19 holding faith and a clear conscience. By rejecting their conscience, some have shipwrecked their faith; 20 for instance, Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have surrendered to Satan, so that they may learn not to blaspheme.

1 TIMOTHY CHAPTER 2

FIRST of all, then I urge that petitions, prayers, intercessions and thanksgiving, be made for all the people, 2 for kings and all who hold high positions, that with all reverence and dignity, we may lead a quiet and undisturbed life. 3 This is good and acceptable before God our Saviour, 4 who wants all persons to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.
5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,
6 who gave Himself a ransom for all, which was attested in due time. 7 For this I was appointed a preacher and an apostle – I am telling the truth; I am not lying – a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and in truth.

8 So it is my desire that the men everywhere should pray, as without anger and disputing, they lift up dedicated hands. 9 In a similar spirit, the women should dress themselves modestly and prudently in attire that is becoming, not adorned with braided hair and gold or pearls or expensive clothes 10 but with good works, as is appropriate for women who profess reverence for God.

11 Let a woman learn quietly with complete submission. 12 I do not allow a woman to teach, neither to domineer over a man; instead, she is to keep still. 13 For Adam was first formed, then Eve. 14 And Adam was not deceived, but the woman, since she was deceived, experienced the transgression. 15 She will, however, be kept safe through the child-bearing, if with self-control she continues in faith and love and consecration.

1 TIMOTHY CHAPTER 3

TRUSTWORTHY is the saying, “Whoever aspires to the office of bishop, desires to do a splendid work.” 2 The bishop, then, must be above reproach the husband of only one wife, temperate, discreet, well-behaved, hospitable, qualified to teach; 3 neither a drunkard nor a bully, but genial, conciliatory, not after money; 4 presiding well over his own home, keeping his children under control with complete respect, 5 for if a person does not know enough to manage his own home, how will he take care of God’s church? 6 He should not be a new convert, so that he may not become conceited and fall into condemnation of the devil. 7 He must also enjoy a favourable reputation among the outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace and into the trap of the devil.

8 Similarly, deacons should be dignified, not gossips, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for gain, 9 but with a pure conscience, keeping hold of the secret of the faith. 10 They should first be put on probation and then, if they were without blame, they may serve as deacons.

11 Their wives should also be serious-minded, not given to slandering, but temperate and altogether trustworthy. 12 A deacon should be the husband of one wife only, managing his children and his own household well. 13 Because those who have rendered helpful service, gain a good standing for themselves and much confidence in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.

14 I am writing you this in the hope of shortly coming to you so that, 15 in case I was delayed, you may know how we should behave in God’s household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and bulwark of the truth. 16 And, confessedly, the secret of our faith is great:

He was revealed in the flesh, was vindicated by the Spirit, seen by angels, preached among the Gentiles, believed on in the world, taken up in glory.

1 TIMOTHY CHAPTER 4

BUT the Spirit says distinctly, that in latter times, some will fall away from the faith; they will yield to deluding spirits and demonic teachings 2 by hypocritical liars, whose own consciences are seared as with a branding iron. 3 They prohibit marriage and the enjoyment of foods which God has created, to be partaken of with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. 4 For everything which God created is good and nothing to be rejected when it is gratefully received, 5 for it is consecrated through the word of God and prayer.

6 If you will present these matters to the brothers, you will be a good minister of Christ Jesus, being reared on the messages of faith and of the noble teachings, to which you have been conforming your life. 7 But shun unholy legends that are suitable for old women only. Train yourself for Godliness, 8 because while physical training is of little benefit, Godliness is beneficial in every way; it holds promise for this present and for the future life. 9 This is a trustworthy saying, deserving the acceptance of all. 10 For this purpose, we labour and

wrestle, because we have placed our hope in the living God who is the Saviour of all people, particularly of those who believe.

11 Command and teach these things. 12 Let no one think little of you because of your youth; instead, become in speech, in behaviour, in love, in faith, in purity, an example before those who believe. 13 Till I arrive, devote yourself to the public reading, the preaching and the teaching. 14 Do not neglect the gift in you that was given to you through a prophetic utterance, with the laying on of hands by the elders. 15 Practice these matters, devote yourself to them, so that your advance may be evident to every one. 16 Look to yourself and to the teaching; keep right on in that, for in doing so, you will save yourself as well as your hearers.

1 TIMOTHY CHAPTER 5

DO not rebuke an older man but plead with him as a father, and younger men as brothers, 2 older women as mothers, and the younger women as sisters, with absolute purity.

3 Honour widows who really are widows. 4 But if any widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to practice religion at home and so to make recompence to those who nurtured them; for so it is acceptable is God's sight.

5 The real widow who is left alone has put her hope in God and is steadfast in her petitions and prayers night and day; 6 while, one who lives in self-indulgence is dead while she lives.

7 Command these things so that they may live above reproach. 8 Whoever does not provide for his dependants, and especially for his own family, has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

9 Do not enrol a widow unless she is over sixty years of age, who was the wife of one husband, 10 one who has a reputation for good works, and has reared children, has practiced hospitality, has washed the feet of the saints, has relieved the affliction and has been devoted to all kinds of good works.

11 But refuse to enrol younger widows, for when they feel sensuous impulses that alienate them form Christ, they want to marry 12 and become guilty of breaking their first promise to Him. 13 Moreover, they acquire habits of idleness as they go around visiting the homes, and not merely are they idle but they are gossips and busy bodies, saying things they should not.

14 So, I would have younger widows marry again, bear children manage their home, and afford the opponent no opportunity whatever for reviling. 15 For even now, some of them have gone astray after Satan. 16 If any believing woman has widowed relatives, let her take care of them, so that the church may not be burdened and may look after those who are really widows.

17 The elders who govern well are worthy of double honour, particularly those who labour in preaching and teaching; 18 for the Scripture says, “Do not muzzle the ox while he is threshing.” And, “The worker deserves his wage.”

19 Do not recognise a charge against an elder, unless it is supported by two or three witnesses. 20 In the presence of all, correct those who continue in sin, so that the rest may be awed.

21 I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus and the elect angels, that you observe these commands without discrimination, that you act with no favouritism. 22 Lay hands of ordinance on no one hastily; neither make common cause with the sins of others. Keep yourself pure.

23 Do not any longer drink water only, but use a little wine for the good of your stomach and your recurring illness.

24 The sins of some people are soon in evidence; they lead on to judgment. But in the case of others, they dog their steps. 25 Equally so, are good works readily observed; while those which are otherwise, cannot remain hidden.

1 TIMOTHY CHAPTER 6

LET those who are under the yoke of slavery, regard their masters as deserving of all respect, so that the name of God and our teaching may not be reviled. 2 But those who have believing masters, must honour them no less because they are brothers; instead, they should serve them better because those who benefit by their service are believers and are loved.

3 Teach and urge these matters. Whoever teaches differently and does not adhere to the wholesome sayings of our Lord Jesus Christ and to the teaching that is according to our faith, 4 is conceited and without understanding, with a morbid craving for controversy and dispute about words, which result in envy, wrangling, slander, bad suspicions, 5 perpetual contention between people of depraved minds and defrauded of the truth, who think of piety in terms of profit.

6 Piety with contentment is great gain indeed; 7 for we brought nothing into the world and obviously, we can carry nothing out. 8 When we have food and clothing, we shall be content with these. 9 Those who are eager to be rich, fall into temptation and snare, and into numerous thoughtless and hurtful cravings that plunge people into destruction and ruin. 10 For the love of money is the root of all evils. In striving for it, some have wandered away from the faith and have pierced themselves with many sorrows.

11 But you, O man of God, shun these things and go after righteousness, Godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness. 12 Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called as you made a good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

13 In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who witnessed the good confession before Pontius Pilate, 14 I charge you to keep the commandment stainless and irreproachable until the appearance of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 which in due time will make known, the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. 16 who alone possesses immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no human being has ever seen or is able to see. To Him be honour and dominion forever. Amen.

17 Command those who are rich in this present world not to be haughty, neither to put their hope in the uncertainty of wealth, but in God, who so richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. 18 Urge them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous givers, to practice sharing, 19 and to treasure up for themselves a sound foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that is really life.

20 O Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to you. Keep away from irreligious and empty discussions and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge, 21 which some people have claimed to have, and so have missed the mark with regard to the faith.

Grace be with you all.

THE SECOND EPISTLE OF PAUL TO

TIMOTHY

CHAPTER 1

PAUL, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, in accordance with the promise of the life that is in Christ Jesus, 2 to Timothy my beloved child; Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

3 I am grateful to God whom, in line with my ancestors, I worship with a clear conscience as constantly I remember you night and day in my prayers. 4 When I remember the tears you shed, I yearn to see you, so that I might be perfectly happy. 5 I bring back to mind your sincere faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am convinced, in you as well.

6 On account of this, I would remind you to keep alive the flame of God's gracious gift that is in you, through the laying on of my hands. 7 For God has not given us a spirit of cowardice, but of power and love and self-control. 8 Do not be ashamed therefore, about bearing witness to our Lord or about me His prisoner, but share my suffering for the good news by virtue of the power of God, 9 who has saved us and called us with a call for dedication, not because of any doings of ours, but according to his own purpose and the grace that has been granted us in Christ Jesus before time began. 10 But now it has been realised through the appearance of our Saviour Christ Jesus, who rendered and brought life and immortality to light, through the good news, 11 for which I am appointed a preacher and an apostle and a teacher.

12 Therefore I suffer in this way; but I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am convinced that He is able to guard safely my deposit, entrusted to Him against that Day.

13 Hold to the pattern of wholesome teachings which you heard from me, in faith and love in Christ Jesus. 14 Guard, by the help of the indwelling Holy Spirit within us, that precious deposit that was entrusted to you.

15 Of this you are aware, that all those in the province of Asia have deserted me, Phygelus and Hermogenes among them. 16 May the Lord grant favour to the family of Onesiphorus, for he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my being prisoner. 17 Instead, on arriving in Rome, he eagerly searched for and found me. 18 The Lord grant him to find mercy with the Lord on that Day. And what services he rendered in Ephesus you know very well.

2 TIMOTHY CHAPTER 2

SO you, my son, be strong by means of the grace that is in Christ Jesus. 2 And what you have heard from me through many witnesses, this commit to reliable men who will be able to teach others as well.

3 As a good soldier of Christ Jesus, share my hardship. 4 No soldier gets involved in affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him. 5 Again, whoever competes in a game, does not win the award unless he competes according to the rules. 6 The toiling farmer must have first share of the produce.

7 Consider what I say, for the Lord will grant you understanding in everything. 8 Keep in mind Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, descended from David according to the good news that I preach, 9 in which I suffer punishment, like a criminal even to shackles; but the word of God is not shackled. 10 I endure all this for the sake of the elect, so that they also may gain possession of the salvation, which is in Christ Jesus, together with eternal glory.

11 This is a trustworthy saying: If we have died together, with Him, we shall also live together with Him. 12 If we endure, then we shall also reign with Him. If we deny Him, then He Himself will also deny us. 13 If we are unfaithful to Him, He Himself will remain faithful, for He cannot deny Himself.

14 Remind them of these facts and charge then in the presence of God, to indulge in no wars of words; it helps no one and it completely upsets the listeners. 15 Do your utmost to present yourself to God approved, a workman who has no cause to be ashamed, correctly interpreting the message of the truth. 16 But keep away from those godless, empty discussions, for they lead people further on into godlessness, 17 and their teaching spreads like gangrene. Hymenaeus and Philetus are of that group 18 that has gone astray from the truth when they say that the resurrection has already occurred, and are playing havoc with the faith of some.

19 God's foundation, nevertheless, stands firm, bearing this inscription, "The Lord knows those who are His," and "Let every one who names the Lord's name stand aloof from wickedness."

20 But in a large house, there are not only gold and silver utensils, but wooden and earthen too, and some are indeed for noble but others for ignoble use. 21 Therefore, whoever will cleanse himself from these things, will be a utensil for noble use, set apart and useful for the Master, prepared for good service of every sort.

22 But flee from the lusts of youth. Go in pursuit of integrity, faith, love, peace, in fellowship with those who call upon the Lord out of pure hearts. 23 Decline those foolish, stupid speculations, as you know they breed quarrels. 24 And a slave of the Lord must not quarrel; instead, he must be affable toward everyone, skilled in teaching, willing to suffer wrong. 25 In a gentle way, he must correct those who put themselves in opposition to him, in the hope that God may grant repentance that leads to acknowledgement of the truth, 26 and that they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil under whom they had been taken captive, to do his will.

2 TIMOTHY CHAPTER 3

BUT understand this, that in the last days, difficult times will come. 2 For people will be lovers of themselves, avaricious, boasters, haughty, abusive, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, irreverent, 3 without natural affection, relentless, slanderers, uncontrolled, brutal, with no love for the good, 4 treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God.

5 While retaining a form of piety, they are strangers to its power. Turn away from such people. 6 For from such people, are those who worm their way into houses and captivate idle women loaded down with sins and controlled by all sorts of impulses, 7 forever trying to learn and never able to reach a knowledge of the truth.

8 Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so do these men oppose the truth, corrupt thinkers as they are and counterfeits, so far as faith is concerned. 9 However, they will not get very far, for their folly will be obvious to every one, as was the case with those mentioned above.

10 But you have adhered to my teaching, my conduct, my purpose, my faith, my steadfastness, my love, my patience, 11 my persecutions, my sufferings – all that happened to me in Antioch, in Iconioum and in Lystra, such persecutions as I underwent and from all of which the Lord rescued me. 12 In fact, all who want to live devotedly in Christ Jesus, will be persecuted. 13 But wicked men and imposters will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.

14 You, however, must remain faithful in what you have learned and are convinced of, aware from whom you learned, 15 and how from childhood, you have known the sacred Scriptures

that are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is inspired from God and is profitable for teaching, for reproof, for corrections, for training in righteousness, 17 so that the man of God may be well-fitted and adequately equipped for all good work.

2 TIMOTHY CHAPTER 4

I CHARGE you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, by His appearing and His kingdom: 2 Preach the message: be at it when convenient and when not convenient; correct, exhort, rebuke, with complete patience and teaching.

3 For the time is coming when they will not tolerate wholesome instruction; instead, they will, to satisfy their own desires, gather up teachers that will tickle their ears. 4 They will turn from listening to the truth and will wander off to hear myths. 5 But amid it all, keep your head, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge to the full your duties as a minister.

6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering and the time of my death has come. 7 I have fought the good fight; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith. 8 Beyond that there is laid away for me the crown of righteousness which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award me in that Day, and not to me alone, but to all who have loved His appearing.

9 Do your best to visit me soon, 10 for Demas has deserted me for love of the present world and has gone to Thessalonica; Crescens has gone to Galatia; Titus to Dalmatia. 11 Luke alone is with me. Get hold of Mark and bring him along, for he is helpful to me in service. 12 I have sent Tychicus to Ephesus

13 When you come, bring along the travel-cloak I left at Troas with Carpus; also, the books, and especially the parchments.

14 Alexander, the metal worker, has displayed considerable ill will toward me. The Lord will pay him back to the measure of his doings. 15 You, too, beware of him, for he strongly opposed our messages.

16 In my first defense, no one supported me; instead, they all deserted me. May it not be counted against them! 17 But the Lord stood by me and strengthened me, so that through me, the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. And I was rescued from the lion’s jaws; 18 Indeed, the Lord will rescue me from every evil act and will save me for His heavenly kingdom. To Him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

19 My greetings to Prisca and Aquila and to the Onesiphorus family. 20 Erastus stayed at Corinth. I left Trophimus behind in Miletus; he was ill. 21 Do your best to arrive before winter.

Eubulus, Pudens, Lunus, Claudia and all the brothers, send you greetings. 22 The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you all.

THE EPISTLE OF PAUL TO

TITUS

CHAPTER 1

PAUL, a slave of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to foster the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth, which is according to godliness, 2 based on the hope of eternal life which God, who does not lie, promised before time began 3 and has at the proper time, revealed as His message through the preaching entrusted to me by order of God our Saviour, 4 to Titus, my true child in our common faith: Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Saviour.

5 I left you in Crete for this reason, that you might correct the defects and appoint elders in each town, as I gave you directions, 6 if a person is above reproach, the husband of one wife only, has believing children who are not charged with being profligate or unruly. 7 For the bishop must, as God's steward, be irreproachable, not self-willed or hot-tempered, or a drunkard, or pugnacious, or greedy for dishonest gain.

8 Instead, he must be hospitable, in love with what is good, self-controlled. Fair of holy life, disciplined. 9 He must hold to the trustworthy message of the doctrine, so he may be able to encourage by his wholesome teaching, as well as to refute those who raise objections.

10 For many are refractory, senseless talkers and deceivers, particularly among those of the circumcision. 11 These must be silenced because they upset whole families by teaching for dishonest gain, what they should not teach. 12 A prophet from their own people said to them, "Cretans are always liars, wicked brutes, lazy gluttons."

13 This testimony is true. For this reason, correct them sternly, that they may be sound in the faith 14 instead of paying attention to Jewish fables and to commandments of people who turn their backs on the truth. 15 To the pure everything is pure, but to the contaminated and the unbelieving, nothing is pure; but even their mind and their conscience are polluted. 16 They profess to know God but their practices deny Him. They are detestable and disobedient and unfit for any good deed.

TITUS CHAPTER 2

BUT you must speak what is fitting for wholesome doctrine: 2 that the older men be temperate, venerable, sensible, sound in faith, in love, and in patience; 3 similarly, that the older women be reverent in their behaviour, neither slanderers nor slaves to drink. They should be teachers of what is good, 4 that they may wisely train the young women to be loving wives and mothers, 5 sensible, chaste, good housekeepers, good-natured, submissive to their own husbands, so that the word of God may not be slandered.

6 Urge the younger men as well, to behave prudently, 7 and set in your own person, an all-round example of doing what is good, manifesting in your teaching integrity and seriousness,

8 giving a wholesome, unobjectionable message that will shame the opponent because he has nothing evil to say about us.

9 Tell slaves to be submissive to their own masters, to please them in every way, not to talk back, 10 not to pilfer but to give evidence of such complete reliability, that altogether they will beautify the teaching of God our Saviour.

11 For the saving grace of God has appeared for all people, 12 training us to renounce godlessness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in this present world, 13 with expectation of that blessed hope, even the glorious appearance of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ, 14 who gave Himself for us to redeem us from all iniquity, and to purify for Himself a people all His own, who are eager to do good works.

15 Assert these things and exhort and reprove with full authority. Allow no one to think little of you.

TITUS CHAPTER 3

REMIND them to be subject to the ruling authorities, to be obedient, to be prepared for every good work, 2 not to slander anyone, not to be quarrelsome but gentle, showing complete mildness toward all people. 3 For once we ourselves were thoughtless, disobedient, led astray, slaves to passion and pleasures of all sorts, wasting our time in malice and envy, detestable, and hating one another.

4 But when the goodness of our God, our Saviour was shown and His love of men was evidenced, 5 not because of righteous works that we have done but in agreement with His mercy, He saved us through the washing of regeneration and a renewing by the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he has poured out richly on us through Jesus Christ our Saviour, 7 so that, counted as righteous by His grace, we might be made heirs in accordance with our hope of eternal life.

8 This is a trustworthy saying, and I would have you insist on these things with confidence, so that those who have become believers in God, may be careful to apply themselves to good works which are excellent and beneficial for all people.

9 But avoid foolish controversies, genealogies, strife, and wranglings about the Law, for they are futile and purposeless. 10 Have nothing to do with a factious person after a first and second warning, 11 aware that such a person is perverted and goes on sinning, and is self-condemned.

12 When I send Artemas or Tychius, then do your utmost to visit me at Nicopolis, for there I have decided to stay for the winter. 13 Equip Zenus the lawyer and Apollos carefully for their journey, so that they may lack nothing. 14 And have our own people learn to apply themselves to honourable work to meet the urgent needs, that they may not be unproductive.

15 All those with me send you greetings. Greet those who love us in faith.

16 May grace be with you all.

THE EPISTLE OF PAUL TO

PHILEMON

PAUL, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and our brother Timothy, to Philemon, our beloved fellow worker, 2 and to our sister Apphia and to our fellow soldier Archippus, and to the church that meets you at home: 3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

4 I always offer thanks to my God when I mention you in my prayers, 5 for I hear of the love and the faith you practice toward the Lord Jesus and to all the saints. 6 I pray that by an understanding of all the good you enjoy among yourselves, the sharing of your faith may become effectual for Christ. 7 For I have enjoyed much pleasure and comfort over your love, because through you, brother, the hearts of the saints have been refreshed.

8 Therefore, although in Christ, I feel very free to give you directions as to your duty,
9 I prefer to make my appeal on the basis of love. Here I am, then, as Paul the old man, yet now a prisoner of Christ Jesus, 10 appealing to you on behalf of my son, of whom I became father while in my imprisonment – Onesimus. 11 Once he was useless to you, but now he is helpful both to you and to me.

12 I am sending him back to you and my heart with him. 13 I should like to retain him for myself, so that he might serve me instead of you during my imprisonment for the sake of the good news; 14 but I do not wish to do anything without your consent, so that your kind action may not be compulsory but voluntary. 15 For he was parted from you for a while, perhaps for this very reason, that you might have him back for ever, 16 no longer as a slave, but better than a slave, a beloved brother, unquestionably to me but how much more so to you, both personally and in the Lord.

17 So, if I am your partner, then receive him as you would me. 18 And if he wronged you in any way, or is in debt to you, put it down to my account. 19 I, Paul, am writing with my own hand, I will refund it – not to mention that, over and above, you owe me your very self.
20 Yes, brother, I should like to make some profit out of you in the Lord; buoy up my deepest feelings in Christ.

21 I am writing you, confident that you will listen to me, and knowing you will do more than I request. 22 Meanwhile, you may prepare a guest room for me, for I hope through your prayers to be restored to you.

23 Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, send you greetings. 24 So do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my fellow workers.

25 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

THE EPISTLE OF PAUL TO THE

HEBREWS

CHAPTER 1

GOD spoke of old to our fathers at various times and in many ways by means of the prophets. 2 But He has at the end of these days, spoken to us in His Son, whom He has appointed Heir of all things and through whom He made the world. 3 As the reflection of God's glory and the true expression of His being, He sustains the universe by His almighty word. And when He had effected our cleansing from sin, He took His seat at the right hand of the Majesty on high.

4 He became as much greater than the angels as the name He inherited was superior to theirs. 5 For to which of the angels did God ever say, "Thou art My Son; today I have begotten Thee?" And again, "I will be a Father to Him and He will be a Son to Me?" 6 Once more, when He introduces the First-born into the world, He says, "And let all God's angels worship Him." 7 Referring to the angels He says, "Who makes His angels winds and His ministers flames of fire;" 8 but as to the Son, "Thy throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the sceptre of Thy kingdom is a sceptre of righteousness. 9 Thou hast loved righteousness and hast hated injustice; therefore God, Thy God, has anointed Thee with the oil of gladness rather than Thy companions."

10 Further, "Thou, Lord, didst found the earth at the beginning and the heavens are the works of Thy hands. 11 They will perish, but Thou remainest. They will all wear out like a garment, 12 and like a mantel, Thou wilt fold them up and they will be changed; but Thou art the same and Thy years will not come to an end."

13 Besides, to which of the angels did He ever say, "Be seated at My right hand until I put down your enemies as a footstool for your feet?" 14 Are they not all ministering spirits, sent for the assistance of those who are to inherit salvation?

HEBREWS CHAPTER 2

WE must therefore pay the more careful attention to what we have heard, so that we may not let ourselves drift from it. 2 For if the message that was spoken through the angles has held true, and every transgression and disobedience received its just retribution, 3 how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? It was first spoken by the Lord; it was confirmed to us by those who heard Him; 4 then it was corroborated by God with signs and wonders and a great variety of miraculous powers and gifts of the Holy Spirit, distributed according to His will.

5 For He did not subject the future world of which we are taking under the control of angels,
6 but someone has somewhere testified, “What is man that Thou art mindful of him, or a
son of man that Thou lookest after him? 7 For a little while, Thou hast ranked him lower than
the angels; with glory and honour hast Thou crowned him; 8 all things hast Thou subjected
underneath his feet.”

In thus subjecting all things to him, nothing is left out that is not subjected; but at present
we do not yet see all things subjected to him. 9 But we see Jesus, ranked lower than the
angels for a little while, crowned with glory and honour because of the sufferings of death,
in order that by divine grace, He might taste death for every one. 10 for it befitted Him, for
whom and through whom the universe exists, in bringing many sons to glory, to perfect the
Leader of their salvation by means of sufferings.

11 For the One who make holy and those who are being made holy all have one Father, for
which reason He is not ashamed to call them brothers, 12 when He says, “I shall proclaim
Thy name to My brothers; in the midst of the congregation, I shall sing Thy praise.” 13 and
again, “I shall put My trust in Him,” and once more, “Here am I and the children God has
given me.”

14 Since, then, the children share flesh and blood, He Himself shared these things with
them, so that by means of His death, He might destroy the one who wields the power of
death, namely the devil, 15 and set free those who throughout life were held in slavery by
fear of death.

16 For it is surely not to the angels that He reaches out to help, but to the offspring of
Abraham; 17 so He had to be made like His brothers in every respect in order to become a
merciful and faithful High Priest in things related to God, for the atonement of the people’s
sins. 18 For because He Himself suffered in being tempted, He is able to bring aid to those
who are tempted.

HEBREWS CHAPTER 3

SO then, holy brothers and sharers in the heavenly invitation, set your thoughts on Jesus,
the Apostle and High Priest of our confession. 2 He was faithful to Him who appointed Him,
just as Moses was in the whole household of God. 3 For He is entitled to greater honour
than Moses, to the degree in which the builder of a house enjoys more honour than the
house itself. 4 Of course every house is built by someone, but the Builder of all things is God.
5 And while Moses was faithful in His whole household as a servant, to bear witness to
things that would be spoken of later. 6 Christ was faithful as a Son in charge of God’s
household. And we are that household, if we firmly maintain the confidence and pride in
what we hope for.

7 Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says, “Today if you will hear his voice, 8 do not harden your
heart as in the rebellion at the time when you put God to the test in the wilderness, 9 where

your fathers for forty years, tried Me by putting Me to the test and saw what I did. 10 So, I became sorely displeased with that generation and said, “They are always going astray in their hearts; they did not learn My ways. 11 As I swore in My anger. They shall not enter into My rest.”

12 Look out, brothers, so that there may not be a wicked, unbelieving heart in any of you that would lead you to fall away from the living God.

13 Instead, give daily warning to one another, so long as we may speak of today, so that no one of you may be hardened through the delusion of sin.

14 For only if we maintain firmly to the very end the original assurance, then are we sharers of Christ, 15 with this in mind, “Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.”

16 For who heard and yet were rebellious? Was it not all who went out of Egypt under Moses? 17 And with whom was He provoked for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose corpses fell in the desert?

18 And to whom but the disobedient did He swear, “They shall not enter into My rest?”
19 So we see that on account of unbelief, they were not able to enter.

HEBREWS CHAPTER 4

LET us then be on our guard so that, while the promise of entering His rest still holds. None of you may be found to be delinquent, 2 for we have had the good news preached to us, just as they did. But the message they heard did not benefit them, because it was not united by faith to those who heard it. 3 For we who have believed enter into His rest, as He has said, “As I swore with My anger, they shall not enter into My rest;” although his works had been accomplished from the foundation of the world. 4 For somewhere He says this about the seventh day, “And God rested on the seventh day from all His works,” 5 and again in this passage, “They shall not enter into My rest.”

6 Since then, it is reserved for some to enter it, and those who previously received the good news did not enter because of disobedience. 7 He fixes a new “today,” as He says in David so much later, and as we have mentioned before. “Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts.”

8 For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken of another day later on. 9 Consequently, there is a sabbath rest reserved for the people of God; 10 for one who enters into his rest, also rests from his works, just as God did from His.

11 Let us then exert ourselves to enter into that rest, so that none may fall on account of such disobedience as they exemplified; 12 for the word of God is living and effective, and sharper than any two-edged sword. It penetrates even to the dividing line of soul and spirit, of joints and marrow, and judges the desires and thoughts of the heart. 13 Not a creature

exists that is hidden from Him, but all things lie bare and exposed before the eyes of Him with whom we have to reckon.

14 Inasmuch then as we have a great High Priest, Jesus, the Son of God, who has passed through the heavens, let us hold firmly to our confession. 15 For ours is not a High Priest who cannot sympathise with our weaknesses, but One who was in every respect tested as we are, yet without committing any sin.16 Let us then approach the throne of grace with assurance, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in time of need.

HEBREWS CHAPTER 5

FOR every high priest, chosen as he is from among men, is appointed to represent the people in matters that pertain to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. 2 And he can deal gently with the ignorant and the wayward, since he is himself, liable to weakness. 3 For this reason he is obliged to present offerings for his own sins as well as for the people. 4 No one appropriates the honour for himself, but he is called by God, just as Aaron was.

5 So, too, Christ did not glorify Himself to become a high priest, but He who said to Him, “Thou art My Son; today I have begotten Thee,” 6 as also He says elsewhere, “Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.” 7 In the days of His flesh, He offered prayers and petitions with strong crying and with tears to Him who could save Him from death, and He was heard because of His humble devotion to God. 8 Although He was a Son, He learned obedience by what He suffered 9 and when He was perfected, He became the Author of eternal salvation for all who obey Him; 10 so He was called by God a High Priest after Melchizedek’s order.

11 There is much to say about this, and it is difficult to explain, since you have grown hard of hearing; 12 for whereas by this time, you ought to be teachers, you stand again in need of someone to teach you the elementary principles of God’s lessons; you have come to need milk and not solid food. 13 Of course, anyone who feeds on milk is inexperienced in the matter of righteousness, for he is an infant. 14 But solid food is for the mature person, for those whose faculties have been trained by practice to distinguish between good and evil.

HEBREWS CHAPTER 6

THEREFORE, let us leave behind the elementary teachings of Christ and advance toward maturity. Let us not again be laying the foundation of repentance from dead works and faith in God, 2 of teaching on washings and the laying on of hands, of resurrection from the dead and eternal punishment. 3 God permitting we do make this. 4 For it is impossible to bring anew to repentance those who have once for all been illumined, have tasted the heavenly gift, have become participants of the Holy Spirit, 5 have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the world to come, 6 and have fallen away; for they repeat so far as they are concerned the crucifying of the Son of God and are exposing Him to public disgrace. 7 For the land that drinks the rain that often falls on it, and that grows vegetation useful to

those for whom it is tilled, receives a blessing from God, 8 but if it produces thorns and thistles, it is worthless; it is facing a curse and ends up by being burned.

9 Even though we speak this way, dear friends, we feel confident of better things about you, things that belong to salvation. 10 For God is not unjust so as to forget what you did and the love you showed for His name as you have ministered to the saints, and are still ministering. 11 It is our desire, however, for each of you to evidence the same earnestness all the way through, to enjoy the full assurance of your hope to the end, 12 so you may not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

13 For when God made His promise to Abraham, He swore by Himself, since He could swear by none greater, 14 and said, “I certainly shall bless you with blessings and multiply you abundantly.” 15 So it was that after patient waiting, he realised what had been promised.

16 Men do indeed swear by one greater than themselves, and an oath serves for settlement beyond all dispute. 17 In this way God, in His desire to show the heirs of the promise, the unchangeableness of His purpose, guaranteed it with an oath, 18 so that by two unalterable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have taken refuge in Him may have strong encouragement to seize the hope that is placed before us. 19 To this hope, we anchor the soul safely and securely, and it reaches on beyond the veil into the Holy of Holies, where 20 Jesus entered in for us in advance, for He has become a High Priest forever after, the order of Melchizedek.

HEBREWS CHAPTER 7

FOR this, Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, who met Abraham as he returned from the defeat of the kings and who blessed him, 2 to whom Abraham also apportioned a tithe of all the spoil, was first of all, as the name means, king of righteousness and then king of Salem, which means king of peace.

3 Without father or mother or ancestral line, with no beginning of days nor ending of life, made to resemble the Son of God, he remains a priest forever.

4 Observe his greatness, to whom the patriarch, Abraham gave a tithe of the first spoils. 5 Those who were descendants of Levi, who receive the priestly office, are commanded by the Law to take tithes from the people, which means their own brothers, although they have sprung from Abraham’s loins. 6 But a person without the ancestral line, took tithes from Abraham and blessed the possessor of the promises. 7 Yet the lesser is unquestionably blessed by the greater.

8 Furthermore, in this instance, mortal men receive tithes, but in that case, it was one of whom it is witnessed that he lives. 9 And one might say that through Abraham, even Levi, who received tithes, paid tithes, 10 for he was still in his forefather’s loins when Melchizedek met Abraham.

11 Now, if perfection had been possible by means of the Levitical priesthood – for on its basis the people received the Law – why was it required to have another priest appointed after the order of Melchizedek, instead of choosing one of the Aaronic order? 12 For when the priesthood is changed, there comes necessarily, a change of the Law. 13 He of whom this was said, belonged to a different tribe, no member of which has officiated at the altar: 14 for obviously our Lord sprang from Judah, regarding which tribe Moses never mentioned priests. 15 This is still even plainer, when another priest arises who resembles Melchizedek, 16 who has become such, not according to the norm of the law dependent on the physical life but by the power of an indestructible life. 17 For it is witnessed concerning Him, “Thou art a priest forever of the Melchizedek order.”

18 On the one hand, a previous regulation is set aside because of its ineffectiveness and its uselessness (19 for the Law brought nothing to perfection) and on the other hand, a better hope is introduced through which we draw near to God. 20 And it was not without an oath. 21 For the Levites became priests without an oath, but He with an oath by the One who said to Him, “The Lord has sworn and will not change His mind, Thou art a priest forever.” 22 And because of this difference, Jesus became surety of a better covenant.

23 And those priests were numerous because they were prevented by death from continuing; 24 but He, because He remains forever, holds a priesthood that is never transferred. 25 Hence, too, He is able to save to the uttermost, those who come to God through Him, because He always lives to intercede for them.

26 For such a High Priest also suited our need – holy, innocent, spotless, different from sinners and exalted above the heavens. 27 He does not, like those high priests, have daily need to offer sacrifice, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, because this He did once for all when He offered Himself as a sacrifice. 28 For the Law appoints weak human beings to the priesthood, but the word of the oath, that came later than the Law, appoints the forever-perfect Son, who has been made perfect forever.

HEBREWS CHAPTER 8

NOW the main point of what we have been saying is this: we have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, 2 as minister in the sanctuary; yes, of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, not man.

3 For every high priest is appointed to offer gifts and sacrifices; so, this One also must have something to offer. 4 If, then, He were still on earth, He would not be a priest at all; for here they offer the gifts as prescribed by the Law, 5 that serve as a copy and shadow of the heavenly sanctuary, just as Moses was instructed when he was about to build the tabernacle. “See to it.” He said, “that you make everything according to the pattern that was shown you on the mountain.”

6 But now, He has acquired a ministry, as far superior as the covenant He mediates, is better enacted, as it is upon more excellent promises. 7 For if that first covenant had been flawless, no place would have been sought for a second. 8 But, finding fault with it, He says, “The days are coming says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, 9 not like the covenant I made with their fathers the day I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they did not remain faithful to My covenant. So, I let them alone, says the Lord.

10 “For this is the covenant on which I will make with the house of Israel after those days, the Lord says, I will fix My Laws into their minds and will write them on their hearts, and I will be their God and they shall be My people. 11 No longer shall each citizen be teaching his neighbour and each person his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord.’ because they shall all know Me from the least of them to the greatest of them. 12 For I will be merciful toward their wrongdoings, and their sins I will no longer remember.”

13 By saying, “new,” He has made the first out of date. But what is antiquated and obsolete, approaches the vanishing point.

HEBREWS CHAPTER 9

TO be sure, the first covenant had its worship regulations and its earthly sanctuary; 2 for the first tabernacle was furnished in this way; in what is called the Holy Place, were the lampstand and the table and the presentation loaves. 3 Behind the second curtain was the tabernacle called the Holy of holies, 4 containing the golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant completely covered with gold; inside it the golden jar of manna, Aaron’s rod that sprouted, and the tablets of the covenant. 5 Above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat, - about which we cannot now go into detail.

6 With these things so arranged, the priests always enter the first tabernacle to perform their priestly duties, 7 but into the second, the high priest alone enters once a year – not without blood, which he offers for himself and for the thoughtless sins of the people.

8 Through this the Holy Spirit evidences that the way into the Holiest was not yet opened, with the first tabernacle still standing. 9 This is a symbol for the present time. It means that the gifts and offerings which are presented, cannot make the worshipper’s conscience perfect, 10 as they consist only of food and drink and various ablutions – physical regulations that are in effect until the time of the new order.

11 But when Christ appeared as High Priest of the good things that have come, He passed through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands – no part, that is, of material creation. 12 And not with blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood, He entered once for all into the Holy Place, procuring eternal redemption. 13 For if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer, as it sprinkles those who were defiled, renders them holy, so far as physical purity is concerned, 14 how much more will the blood of Christ,

who through the eternal Spirit, offered Himself a flawless sacrifice to God, cleanse your conscience from lifeless works for the service of the living God!

15 For this reason, He is the Mediator of a new covenant so that, with a death occurring for atonement of the transgressions under the first covenant, those who have been called may receive the eternal inheritance that was promised. 16 For where there is a testament, the death of the testator needs to be established. 17 A will is effective at death; it is not valid so long as the testator lives.

18 Therefore, the first covenant was not ratified without blood. 19 When Moses had spoken every commandment according to the Law to all the people, he took the blood of calves and goats along with water, scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled it on the Book and on all the people, 20 saying, “This is the blood of the covenant which God has commanded upon you.” 21 Similarly, he sprinkled the tabernacle and all the service utensils with the blood.

22 According to the Law, almost everything is purified by blood, and without bloodshedding there is no forgiveness. 23 So, it was necessary that the copies of the heavenly things be purified by these sacrifices; but the heavenly things themselves require better sacrifices than these. 24 For Christ has not entered into a sanctuary made by hands, a copy of the true one, but into heaven itself, now to appear on our behalf in the presence of God – 25 not to present Himself repeatedly as an offering, as the high priest enters annually into the sanctuary with blood not his own; 26 for if so, He must have suffered repeatedly since the world began. But as it is, He has appeared once for all at the close of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.

27 And as it is reserved for men to die once for all, with judgement following, 28 so will Christ, sacrificed once for all to bear the sins of many, appear the second time, with no reference to sin, to those who are eagerly looking for Him, and that for their salvation.

HEBREWS CHAPTER 10

FOR while the Law foreshadowed the promised blessings with out expressing them in reality, it can never make perfect those who continually approach with the same sacrifices year after year. 2 Else, would they not have ceased bringing their offerings, since the worshippers, cleansed once for all, would no longer have any consciousness of sin?

3 But in those sacrifices, there is a reminder of sins year after year; 4 for the blood of bulls and of goats is powerless to take away sins.

5 When Christ comes into the world, He therefore says, “Sacrifice and offering Thou hast not desired, but a body Thou hast prepared for Me. 6 In burnt and sin offerings, Thou hast taken no pleasure. 7 Then I said, ‘Here I come – it is written of Me in the roll of the Book – to do Thy will, O God.’”

8 Saying as He does above. “Thou hast not desired not taken pleasure in sacrifices, and offerings, and burnt sin offerings,” all of which are offered according to the Law, 9 then He

says, “Here I come to do Thy will.” He takes away the first in order to establish the second,
10 by which divine will we have been made holy by means of the offering up once for all of the body of Jesus Christ.

11 Furthermore, every priest stands daily for services to offer the same sacrifices repeatedly, which have no power whatever to take away sins; 12 but this One, after offering for our sins once sacrifice forever, sat down at the right hand of God, 13 from then on anticipating until His enemies are placed as a footstool for His feet.

14 For with a single offering, He has forever perfected those who are being made holy.

15 The Holy Spirit also affirms it to us, for after He says, 16 “This is the covenant I will make with them after those days, the Lord says, I will place My Laws upon heir hearts and inscribe them on their minds.” 17 He adds, “Their sins and their lawless deeds I will no longer remember.” 18 Now, where sins have been forgiven, there are no longer any offerings for them.

19 Since, therefore, we have confidence, brothers, to enter the Holiest through Jesus’ blood
20 by a new and living way, so recently made for us through the veil that is, His flesh, 21 and since we have a great priest in charge of God’s house, 22 let us draw near with honest hearts and full assurance of faith, our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience, and our bodies bathed with pure water. 23 Let us hold unwavering, our grip on the hope we confess, for he who promised is faithful.

24 Let us also be mindful to stimulate one another toward love and helpful activities, 25 not neglecting to meet together, as is habitual with some, but giving mutual encouragement, and all the more so, since you see the Day approaching. 26 For if we go on sinning willingly after acquiring the knowledge of the truth, there is no longer left any sacrifice for sins, 27 but some dreadful anticipation of judgment and of a fierce fire that is to devour those who oppose God.

28 The person who disobeys the Law of Moses is put to death without mercy, on the evidence of two or three witnesses. 29 How much worse, do you suppose will be the punishment he is judged to deserve, who tramples on the Son of God and considers the blood of the covenant, by which he was made holy, something unholy, and who outrages the Spirit of grace? 30 For we know Him who said, “Retribution rests with Me; I will pay back,” and also, “The Lord will judge His people.” 31 It is dreadful to fall into the hands of the living God.

32 Call to mind those previous days when, after enjoying the light, you endured sufferings that involved great struggle. 33 On the one hand, you were publicly exposed to insults and affliction, and on the other you made common cause with those who were thus treated.
34 For you sympathised with the prisoners and accepted cheerfully the plundering of your property, knowing well that you yourselves had a better and lasting possession.

35 Therefore, do not throw away your confidence; it carries a rich reward, 36 For you need endurance to gain the promised blessing upon accomplishing what God wills. 37 “For it will be just a little while before the coming One will come and will not delay; 38 but he whom I find righteous through faith will live, and if he shrinks back, My soul will not be pleased with him.” 39 However, we are not of those who shrink back so as to perish, but of those who have faith and save their souls.

HEBREWS CHAPTER 11

BUT faith has an assurance of what is hoped for, a conviction of unseen realities, 2 The men of old gained approval by it.

3 By faith we understand that the universe was created at God’s command, so that what we now see was made out of what cannot be seen.

4 By faith Abel brought God a sacrifice superior to that of Cain, and through faith he was witnessed to as being righteous; for God acknowledged his gifts, and though he died, through his faith he is still speaking.

5 By faith Enoch was taken up, so that he did not see death, and was not found because God took him up; for before God took him up, so it is recorded, he was pleasing to God. 6 But without faith, it is impossible to please Him; for he who comes to God, must believe that He exists and that he is a rewarder of those who search for Him.

7 By faith Noah, when he was divinely instructed about things that were not yet in sight, devoutly constructed the ark for he saving of his family. Through which he condemned the world, while he fell heir to the righteousness that springs from faith.

8 By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance, and he migrated without any idea where he was going.

9 By faith he lived in the land of promise as in a foreign country, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob who were joint heirs of the same promise. 10 For he was looking for the city with foundations, whose Architect and Builder is God.

11 Also by faith Sarah herself received power to conceive and that when she was past the normal age, because she regarded the One who promised to be trustworthy. 12 And so from one person, and he already impotent, there were born descendants as the stars of heaven in numbers and countless as the sand on the sea shore.

13 These all died in faith without having received what was promised them, but they saw it from a distance and welcomed it, confessing that they were foreigners and exiles on the earth.

14 For those who say such things, make it plain that they are looking for a homeland, 15 and if they had in mind that country from which they went out, they would have had a chance to

return. 16 But now they are longing for a better, that is, a heavenly country; accordingly, God is not ashamed of being called their God. In fact, He prepared a city for them.

17 By faith Abraham when he was tested, brought Isaac as an offering. Yes, the recipient of the promises offered his only son, 18 of whom it had been said, “Through Isaac you are to have your descendants.” 19 For he reasoned that God was able to raise him from the dead, from which, in a figure, he did receive him back.

20 By faith Isaac gave Jacob and Esau his blessing for their future. 21 By faith Jacob, at the point of death, blessed each of Joseph’s sons and bowed in worship on the top of his staff. 22 By faith Joseph, when he was dying, mentioned the exodus of the Israelites, and gave instructions regarding his bones.

23 By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden by his parents for three months because they saw he was a beautiful child and they were not afraid of the king’s order.

24 By faith Moses, when he reached maturity, refused to be called a son of Pharoah’s daughter, 25 and preferred sharing ill-treatment with the people of God rather than enjoying the short-lived pleasures of sin. 26 He considered the reproach such as came to Christ, greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt. For he fixed his eye on the final recompense.

27 By faith he left Egypt, unafraid of the king’s anger; for he persevered as if he saw Him who is invisible.

28 By faith he instituted the Passover and the sprinkling of the blood, so that the destroyer might not touch their first-born.

29 By faith the Israelites crossed the Red Sea as on dry land, and when the Egyptians tried it, they were drowned.

30 By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after the Israelites marched around them for seven days.

31 By faith Rahab, the harlot, did not perish with those who were disobedient; for she had received the spies in peace.

32 And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to go on telling about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David and Samuel and the prophets, 33 who through faith overcame kingdoms, administered justice, procured promised blessings, shut the mouths of lions, 34 quenched to power of fire, escaped being killed by the sword, were made powerful when they had been weak, became mighty in war, turned to flight foreign armies.

35 Women received back their dead by resurrection. Others, who refused release so that they might procure a better resurrection, were tortured. 36 Still others suffered, mocking and flogging and chains and imprisonment. 37 They were stoned; they were tempted to sin; they were sawed in two; they were killed by the sword. In sheepskins and in goatskins they

roamed about destitute, afflicted, ill-treated – 38 the world was not worthy of them, those wanderers in deserts and mountains and caverns and fissures of the earth.

39 And all these, while winning divine approval through their faith, did not receive the promised blessing; 40 for God had in view something better for us, so that without us they would not be made perfect.

HEBREWS CHAPTER 12

SO then, encircled as we are with such a great cloud of witnesses all about us, let us get rid of every impediment and the sin that ensnares us so easily, and let us run steadily the course mapped out for us, 2 with our eyes on Jesus, the cause and completer of our faith who, in view of the joy that lay ahead for Him, submitted to the cross, thought nothing of the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 Compare your experiences with His, who was willing to stand so much hostility from sinners against Himself, so that you may not become weary and despondent. 4 In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted so that it has cost you blood, 5 and you have been forgetful of the appeal that speaks to you as sons: “My son, do not think lightly of the Lord’s discipline, neither become discouraged under His reproof; 6 for the Lord disciplines the person He loves and punishes every son whom He receives.” 7 You must endure for the sake of correction; God is treating you as sons. For what son is there, whom the father does not discipline? 8 If you receive no correction, such as all sons share, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.

9 Now, if we were corrected by our human fathers and respected them, shall we not far rather submit to our spiritual Father and live? 10 For while they for a few days disciplined us as they saw fit, He does it for our benefit, so that we may share in His holiness. 11 Of course, no discipline seems at the time enjoyable, but it seems painful; later on, however, it affords those schooled in it the peaceful fruitage of an upright life.

12 So, lift up your drooping hands and strengthen your shaky knees; 13 step out straight ahead with your feet, so that which is lame may not be dislocated but rather be healed.

14 Seek eagerly for peace with every one and for holiness without which no one shall see the Lord. 15 See to it that no one falls short of divine grace; that no one cultivates a root of bitterness to cause a disturbance by which many will be defiled; 16 that no one be immoral or profane like Esau who for a single meal, sold his own birthright. 17 For you know how afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he found no opportunity to repent, although with tears, he sought for the blessing.

18 For you have not come up to a mountain that was not to be touched, a blazing fire and gloom, darkness and storm, 19 to trumpet sound and audible words, the hearers of which implored that no further message be brought them, 20 for they could not bear the command, “Even if an animal touches the mountain, it must be stoned.” 21 And the phenomenon was so dreadful, that Moses said, “I am terrified and trembling.”

22 Instead, we have come to Mount Zion, the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to ten thousand of angels in festival gathering, 23 and to the assembly of the first-born, whose names are enrolled in heaven and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous who have been made perfect, 24 and to Jesus, the Mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that tells of better things than that of Abel.

25 Be careful no to refuse to hear the One who is speaking; for if those people did not escape who refused to hear the person who spoke of God's message on earth, how much less shall we, if we turn away from the One who speaks from heaven, 26 His voice then shook the earth, but now He has promised. "Once more I will shake, not only the earth, but heaven as well." 27 This phrase, "Once more," indicates the final removal of everything shaken – created things, so that the unshaken things may remain.

28 Let us, therefore, be grateful that the kingdom we have received cannot be shaken, and so let us serve God acceptably with reverence and awe. 29 For our God is a consuming fire.

HEBREWS CHAPTER 13

LET brotherly love continue. 2 Do not be negligent in showing hospitality, for in doing so, some entertained angels without knowing it. 3 Keep in mind those who are in prison as if you are in prison with them, and the ill-treated as though you are suffering physically yourselves.

4 Let marriage be held in honour by all and the marriage bed unpolluted; for God will judge the immoral and adulterous.

5 Let your conduct be free from the love of money. Be satisfied with what you have, for He has said, "I will not give you up nor desert you," 6 so that we may say boldly, "The Lord is my Helper, I will not fear. What can man do to me?"

7 Bear in mind your leaders, who spoke to you God's message; observe how they closed a well-spent life, and copy their faith: 8 Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today and forever.

9 Be not led astray by all sorts of strange teachings; for it well to have the heart strengthened by grace, rather than by ritualistic foods from which devotees derived no benefit. 10 We have an altar of which those that serve in the tabernacle have no right to eat; 11 for the bodies of those animals, whose blood was brought by the high priest into the Holiest for sin, were burned outside the camp.

12 So Jesus, too, suffered outside the gate, that He might sanctify the people by His own blood. 13 Accordingly, let us go out to Him, outside the camp, bearing His reproach, 14 for we have here, no permanent city; instead, we are seeking the future one. 15 Through Him, then, let us at all times present a praise offering to God, which is the fruit of lips that confess His name.

16 Do not forget to do good and be generous, for with such sacrifices, God is well pleased.

17 Obey your leaders and yield to them, for they keep watch over your souls as persons who must give account. Have them do so joyfully and not with regrets, for that would be hurtful to you.

18 Pray for us, for we are confident of having a clear conscience. In every respect we want to behave honourably. 19 I especially beg of you to do this, so that I may be restored to you the sooner.

20 Now may the God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, 21 furnish you with everything good to do His will, working within us through Jesus Christ, what is well-pleasing in His sight. To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen.

22 I call on you, brothers, to listen patiently to this message for your encouragement, for I have written you briefly. 23 You should know that our brother, Timothy, has been freed. Along with him, if he comes here shortly, I will see you.

24 Extend our greeting to all your leaders and to all the saints. The Italian believers send you greetings.

25 Grace be with you all.

THE GENERAL EPISTLE OF

JAMES

CHAPTER 1

JAMES, a slave of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, **to the twelve tribes in the Dispersion. Greeting.**

2 Consider it complete joy, my brothers when you become involved in all sorts of trials, 3 well aware that the testing of your faith, brings our steadfastness. 4 But let steadfastness have full play, so that you may be completed and rounded out with no defects whatever.

5 If anyone of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives to every one without reserve and without reproach, and it will be granted him. 6 But he should ask in faith with never a doubt; for one who doubts resembles a wave of the sea, that is driven and tossed by the wind. 7 Let not that man imagine he will receive anything from the Lord; 8 he is a double minded man, unsteady in all his ways.

9 Let the lowly brother, however, be proud of his high position, 10 and the wealthy of his humble place, because he shall fade out like a wild flower. 11 The sun rises with its searing heat and withers the grass; its flower drops off and its beauty disappears. So will the rich man fade away in his undertakings.

12 Blessed is the man who stands up under trial; for when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love Him. 13 Let no one who is tempted say, “I am tempted by God,” for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He tempts no one. 14 But each person is tempted, when he is drawn away and enticed by his own desire.

15 Then when the desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin, and sin, when it reaches maturity, produces death.

16 Do not be misled, my dear brothers. 17 Every beneficent gift and every perfect present is from above; it descends from the Father of lights, with whom no variation occurs nor shadow cast by turning. 18 Voluntarily, He gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we might be a kind of first fruits of His creatures.

19 Understand this, my dear brothers; let everyone be quick to listen slow to talk, slow to get angry; 20 for man’s anger does not promote God’s righteousness. 21 Therefore, get rid of everything vile and the outgrowth of evil, and in humility receive the implanted word that is able to save your souls. 22 But be doers of the word, and not deluders of yourselves by merely listening; 23 for whoever hears the message without acting upon it, is similar to the man who observes his own face in the mirror; 24 he takes a look at himself and goes off, then promptly forgets how he looks. 25 But whoever gazes into the perfect Law of liberty and continues in it, who is not a forgetful listener but an active worker, that person will be blessed in his work.

26 Whoever suppose he is religious without brindling his own tongue but, instead, deceives his own heart, that person’s religion is worthless. 27 Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of God the Father is this: to look after orphans and widows in their trouble and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

JAMES CHAPTER 2

MY brothers, do not combine faith in Jesus Christ our glorious Lord with partiality. 2 For should there enter into your gathering a man wearing a gold ring and splendid clothes, and there enter also a poor man shabbily clad, 3 and you pay attention to the one who is well-dressed and say, “Have a good seat here,” and say to the poor one, “You stand there,” or “Sit down on the floor by my feet,”

4 have you not discriminated among you own and become judges with evil thoughts?

5 Listen, my dear brothers. Has not God chosen the poor in the world, to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom He promised to those who love Him? 6 But you have dishonoured the poor. Do not the rich domineer you and drag you into the courts? 7 Do they not slander the good name by which you are known? 8 If you observe the royal Law according to the Scripture, “Love your neighbour as yourself,” you behave well. 9 But if you show partiality, then you are practicing sin: you stand convicted by the Law as culprits.

10 For whoever observes the whole Law but slips in one point, becomes guilty in every respect.

11 For He who said, “Do not commit adultery,” also said, “Do not kill.” So, if you do not commit adultery but you kill, you have become a breaker of the Law. 12 Speak and act in such a way as befits people who are to be judged by the Law of liberty. 13 For the judgement is merciless to those who have practiced no mercy, but mercy triumphs over judgement.

14 What is the use, my brothers, for anyone to say he has faith, if he fails to act on it? His faith cannot save him, can it? 15 If a brother or sister is poorly clad and lacks the day’s nourishment, 16 but one of you says to them, “Go away in peace: get warmed and get fed,” without supplying them with their bodily needs, what is the use? 17 Exactly, so faith that does not issue in works is in itself dead.

18 Someone, however, will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith without its works and I will show you my faith through what I do. 19 Do you believe there is one God? Very well; the demons believe, too, and they shudder. 20 But do you want to know, O senseless man, how faith without works is useless? 21 Was not our father Abraham made righteous by his works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? 22 You see how his faith cooperated with his works and how faith was completed through his works. 23 So the Scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed in God and it was accounted to him as righteousness,” and he was called the friend of God.

24 You see that a person is pronounced righteous by his works and not on account of faith alone. 25 Similarly, too, was not Rahab the harlot accounted righteous by her works, when she entertained the messengers and sent them away by a different road? 26 For as the body is dead without the spirit, so faith also is dead without works.

JAMES CHAPTER 3

NOT many of you should become teachers. My brothers, for you know we are assuming the more accountability; 2 because we all make many a mistake. Whoever makes no mistake with the tongue is certainly a perfect man, able as well to control his entire body. 3 When we put bits into horses’ mouths to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. 4 Notice the ships, too, big as they are and driven by violent winds, how they are steered by a small rudder wherever the pilot wishes.

5 So the tongue is a small organ and can speak big things. Think how great a forest, ever so small a spark, sets on fire. 6 The tongue also is a fire, a world of wickedness. Among the members of our body the tongue is situated where it taints the whole body and sets on fire the whole round of existence, while it is kindled by hell.

7 Every kind of animal, of bird, of reptile and sea creature is tamed and has been tamed by mankind, 8 but no human being is able to tame the tongue, this restless evil so full of deadly poison. 9 We praise the Lord and Father with it; with it we also curse men who have been

made in the likeness of God. 10 From the same mouth, blessing and cursing proceed. This is not right, my brothers: it must not be this way.

11 The spring does not well up sweet and bitter water from the same cleft, does it? 12 Nor is it possible, is it, my brothers, for a fig tree to bear olives, or for a grapevine to bear figs? Neither can salt water produce fresh water.

13 Who should among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behaviour that his actions are carried on with unobtrusive wisdom. 14 But if you cherish bitter jealously and rivalry in your hearts, do not pride yourselves in this and play false to the truth. 15 Such wisdom does not come down from above; instead, it is earthly, unspiritual, demonic,
16 where jealousy and rivalry exist, there will be confusion and everything base.

17 But the wisdom from above is first of all pure, then peaceable, courteous, congenial, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.

18 And the harvest, which righteousness yields to the peacemakers, comes from a sowing in peace.

JAMES CHAPTER 4

WHERE do conflicts and fightings among you originate? Do they not spring from your passions that are at war in your members? 2 You covet and do not have; you murder and strive and cannot attain; you fight and battle, and do not possess, because you do not pray.
3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly; you want to spend it on your dissolute pleasures.

4 Do you not realise, you adulteresses, that friendship with the world is enmity toward God? Therefore, whoever determines to be a friend of the world becomes God's enemy. 5 Or do you suppose the Scripture speaks to no purpose? The Spirit, who took up His abode in us, yearns jealousy over us. 6 But He affords the more grace. For He says, "God opposes the haughty, but He grants grace to the humble-minded."

7 So then submit yourselves to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. 8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Clean your hands, you sinners and purify your hearts, you of divided interests. 9 Be miserable and grieve and cry. Let your laughing be turned to sorrow and your enjoyment to dejection. 10 Take a low position before the Lord and He will exalt you.

11 Do not malign one another, brothers. One who maligns or criticises his brother, maligns the Law and criticises the Law, but if you criticise the Law, you are not a doer of it but its judge. 12 There is one Lawgiver and Judge – He who has power to save and to destroy. But who are you to be judging your neighbour?

13 Come on, you who say, "Today or tomorrow, we shall go into this or that city and spend a year there to transact business and make money," 14 when you have no idea about

tomorrow. What is your life? You are vapour that appears for a little while and disappears. 15 Instead, you ought to say, “If the Lord wills and we live, we shall do this or that.” 16 But as it is, you boast in your arrogance, all of which boasting is wicked. 17 So, then, to the person who knows what is right to do and fails to do it, to him it is sin.

JAMES CHAPTER 5

COME on you wealthy. Weep with loud wailings about the miseries that are coming upon you. 2 Your hoarded wealth has decayed and your clothes have become moth-eaten; 3 your gold and silver are covered with rust, and their rust will be evidence against you. As fire that you have stored up for the last days, it will consume your flesh.

4 See, the pay of the workmen that mowed your fields, which you have withheld from them, is crying out, and the cries of the reapers have entered the ears of the Lord of Hosts. 5 You have been living an easy life on the earth; you have given yourselves up to pleasures; you have fattened your hearts in the day of slaughter. 6 You have condemned; you have murdered the upright without his resisting you.

7 Therefore, endure patiently, brothers. until the coming of the Lord. Take notice how the farmer awaits the precious produce of the soil, continuing to be patient until it gets the early and the late rains. 8 So you keep waiting patiently. Fortify your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near.

9 Do not complain against one another, brothers, so you may not come under judgement. See, the Judge is standing at the door. 10 For an example of ill-treatment that was patiently endured, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the Lord’s name. 11 We called blessed those who have endured. You have heard of the perseverance of Job, and you have seen the outcome which the Lord brought about, because the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

12 Above all, my brothers, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath; but let your yes be yes, and your no, no, so that you may incur no judgement.

13 Is any of you suffering trouble? Let him pray. Is anyone feeling cheerful? Let him sing psalms. 14 Is anyone of you ill? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray for him and in the name of the Lord anoint him with olive oil. 15 The prayer of faith will restore the sick one, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sin, it will be forgiven him.

16 Therefore, confess your sins to each other and pray for one another, that you may be cured. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great effect. 17 Elijah was a man of similar weaknesses with us, and he prayed an earnest prayer that it should not rain, and no rain fell on the earth for three years and six months. 18 Again he prayed earnestly, and heaven gave rain and the soil yielded its produce. 19 My brothers, if one of you strays from the truth and someone brings him back, 20 let him be assured that he who turns a sinner

back from the wandering of his way, will save his soul from death and will cover great number of sins.

THE FIRST GENERAL EPISTLE OF

PETER

CHAPTER 1

PETER, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia, 2 chosen in accordance with the foreknowledge of God the Father, and consecrated by the Spirit to be obedient to Jesus Christ, and to be sprinkled with His blood: Grace to you and peace in increasing measure.

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who according to His ample mercy has given us new birth into a life of hope, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance imperishable, unsullied, and unfading that is kept safely in heaven for you 5 who by the power of God are protected through faith for a salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

6 You rejoice in this, although now for a little while, if it must be, you are distressed by various trials, 7 so that the testing of your faith, far more precious than perishable gold that is tested by fire, may prove to be for praise and glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed, 8 whom having not seen, you love. In Him you have faith, though now you do not see Him, and you rejoice with inexpressible and heavenly joy, 9 while you obtain the salvation of your souls as the goal of your faith.

10 About this salvation the prophets, who prophesied of the grace intended for you, 11 made inquiry and research to find out to whom or to what time, the Spirit of Christ within them pointed, in predicting the sufferings that would happen to Christ, and the glory that would follow them. 12 It was disclosed to the prophets, that they were rendering their ministries not for themselves, but for you, concerning the things which have now been declared to you by those who have preached the good news to you by means of the Holy Spirit, sent from heaven, things into which the angels long to stoop and look.

13 Brace up your minds for action, therefore, and be alert, and fix your hope fully on the grace that will be coming to you when Jesus Christ is revealed. 14 As obedient children, do not shape your lives by the passions that controlled you in your previous ignorance; 15 instead, as the One who called you is Holy, so you yourselves should be holy in all your conduct; 16 for it is written, “You shall be holy, because I am Holy.”

17 Besides, if you address Him as Father, who impartially judges according to each one’s work, you need to behave reverently during the time of your exile, 18 well aware that you have been ransomed from your futile ways, such as traditionally came down from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, 19 but with the precious blood

of Christ, as that of a flawless and spotless lamb, 20 foreknown, to be sure, before the foundation of the world, but disclosed at the end of the times for your sakes, 21 who through Him are believers in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory. So, your faith and hope rest in God.

22 With your souls purified by obeying the truth that issues in sincere love for the brothers, you should love one another fervently from the heart. 23 For you have been born again, not from a perishable but an imperishable seed through the living and lasting message of God; for, 24 “All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of the grass; the grass withers and the bloom drops off, 25 but the word of the Lord endures forever.” And this is the message of good news that has been preached to you.

1 PETER CHAPTER 2

THEREFORE, lay aside all malice and all deceit, all pretence, envy and slander; 2 like newborn babes, be thirsty for the unadulterated, spiritual milk, so that by its use, you may grow up to salvation, 3 presuming you have tasted how the good Lord is.

4 Come to Him, a living Stone rejected by men, it is true, but chosen by God and precious, 5 and be yourselves built up as living stones into a spiritual house, a dedicated priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices that through Jesus Christ are acceptable to God.

6 It is therefore, contained in Scripture, “See, I place in Zion a chosen, precious cornerstone, and he who believes in Him will never be out to shame.” 7 To you, then, who believe, He is precious, but to the unbelieving, “the stone which the builders rejected, this has become the main cornerstone.” 8 and “a stone to trip over and a rock to make them fall.” They stub their toes because they disbelieve the message; they were destined for this. 9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of His acquisition, so that you may proclaim the perfections of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvellous light, 10 you who once were no people but are now the people of God, who once experienced no mercy but have now received mercy.

11 I implore you, dear friends, as aliens and exiles, to keep from gratifying fleshy desires such as war against the soul. 12 Conduct yourselves well among the Gentiles so that, although they may defame you as criminals, they may see your good works and glorify God in the day of visitation.

13 Be submissive to every human institution for the Lord’s sake, whether to the emperor as supreme, 14 or to governors as commissioned by him to bring criminals to justice and to encourage the well-behaved. 15 For this is God’s will, that by behaving well, you should silence the ignorance of thoughtless people. 16 Enjoy liberty not by employing freedom to cover up wickedness but as slaves of God. 17 Treat every one honourably; have love for the brothers; revere God; respect the emperor.

18 You domestic slaves should with unqualified respect, be submissive to your masters, not only to the kind and considerate but also to those who are harsh; 19 for this is meritorious, if with consciousness of God, one endures the pain of unjust sufferings. 20 For what merit is there in standing a beating for doing wrong? But if you bear patiently with suffering when you are doing right, this is pleasing to God.

21 To such experience you have been called; for Christ also suffered for you and left behind an example, that you might follow in His footsteps. 22 He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in His mouth. 23 who did not return the insult when He was insulted; who did not threaten when abused, but committed Himself to the Righteous Judge. 24 He Himself carried our sins in His own body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live to righteousness. By His wounds you are healed.

25 For then you were straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls.

1 PETER CHAPTER 3

IN a similar way, you wives should be submissive to your own husbands, so that if any of them will not be persuaded by the message, they may without message be won over by the conduct of their wives, 2 as they observe your chaste and respectful behaviour. 3 Your adornment should not be outward – braided hair, putting on gold trinkets, or putting on robes; 4 instead, it should be inner personality of the heart with the imperishable qualities of a gentle quiet spirit, something of surpassing value in God's sight.

5 For in this way, the holy women of the past, who fixed their hope on God, adorned themselves, submissive as they were to their own husbands. 6 Sarah, for instance, obeyed Abraham whom she called "Master." You have become her daughters if you do right and are not terrorised by any fear.

7 By the same token, you husbands need to live understandingly with your wives as with a weaker vessel, rendering them honour as joint heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your praying may not be hindered.

8 Finally, let all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, loving as brothers, humble-minded,
9 returning no evil for evil or vituperation. Quite to the contrary, you will bless in return, because you are called for this, so as to inherit a blessing. 10 For "he who wants to enjoy life and to see happy days, must keep his tongue from speaking evil and his lips from uttering deceit. 11 He must turn away from wrong and do right; he must search for peace and keep after it. 12 For the Lord's eyes are on the righteous and His ears are attentive to their prayer, but the Lord's face is set against those who practice evil."

13 And who will hurt you if you become eager for the right? 14 But even if you suffer on account of righteousness, you will be blessed. Be neither terrified nor troubled by their threat, 15 but revere Christ in your hearts as LORD and be always ready to make a defence to

every one who asks you for a reason of the hope that is within you; but do it gently and reverently. 16 Maintain a clear conscience so that, in case you are slandered, those who falsely accuse you good Christian conduct may be ashamed; 17 for it is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing right than for doing wrong.

18 For Christ also once died for sins on your behalf, the just on behalf of the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, being put to death physically but made alive in the Spirit, 19 in whom He went and preached to the spirits in prison, 20 who were disobedient at the time when God's patience was waiting, while Noah was constructing an ark in which a few, in fact eight souls, were brought safely through the water. 21 Its counterpart, baptism, saves you now, not by removal of physical filth but the earnest seeking of a conscience that is clear in God's presence, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, 22 who is at God's right hand; for He went to heaven, and angels, authorities, and powers are subject to Him.

1 PETER CHAPTER 4

SINCE Christ, then, has suffered physically, you also must arm yourselves with the same attitude; for he, who has suffered physically has gained relief from sin, 2 so that he no longer lives by human passions but for the rest of his natural life he lives by what God wills. 3 For to have been practicing the ways of the Gentiles, heretofore is quite enough, indulging in unbridled lusts, in passions, in drinking parties, in carousings, in dissipations and forbidden idolatries.

4 They are surprised that you are not sharing the same life of unbridled dissipation with them, and they are reviling you for it. 5 but they must render an account to Him who stands ready to judge the living and the dead. 6 For this reason, the good news was preached to the dead, so that, whereas they are judged as men, they might live with God spiritually.

7 The end of all things is near; therefore, be self-controlled, so that you can pray. 8 Above all else, cherish intense love for one another, for love covers up many sins. 9 Practice hospitality toward one another without grumbling. 10 Let each one serve one another to the measure of his endowment, as good stewards of God's richly varied grace. 11 If you are speaking, let it be as speaking God's messages; if you are serving, let it be with the strength that God supplies, so that in it all, God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

12 Do not be surprised, dear friends, at the fiery test that is coming upon you, as if you were experiencing something unheard of. 13 Instead, be joyful that you are sharing to some degree the sufferings of Christ, in order that at the revealing of His glory, you may be full of joy. 14 If you are defamed for the name of Christ, you are blessed because the Spirit of Glory, yes, the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

15 Of course none of you should suffer as a murderer or a thief or a criminal or a meddler in other's affairs; 16 but if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God

because your bear that name. 17 For the time has come for judgement to begin with God's household; and if it starts with us, what will be the destiny of those who disobey the good news from God? 18 And if the righteous person is saved with difficulty, what chance have the impious and sinful?

19 For this reason, let those who are suffering according to the will of God, entrust their souls to God, the faithful Creator, while they do what is right.

1 PETER CHAPTER 5

THEREFORE, as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ's suffering, a sharer, too, in the glory that is to be revealed, I appeal to the elders among you: 2 shepherd God's flock that has been entrusted to you, not because you have to but willingly because God wants you to; not out of greed for gain but eagerly; 3 not lording it over those who are under your charge but being examples to your flock. 4 And with the appearing of the Chief Shepherd, you will be awarded the never-fading crown of glory.

5 So, also the younger men should defer to those who are older, while you all put on the apron of humility toward each other, because "God sets Himself against the arrogant, but He grants grace to the humble." 6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so that He may in due time raise you up. 7 Throw all your anxiety upon Him, for His concern is about you.

8 Exercise self-control. Be on your guard. Your opponent, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion in search of someone to devour. 9 Firm in your faith, resist him, aware that throughout the world, sufferings of this kind are imposed upon your brothers.

10 But the God of all grace, who has called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will, after you have suffered awhile, Himself equip, stabilise, strengthen, and firmly establish you. 11 To Him be dominion forever and ever. Amen.

12 I have written you this brief letter with aid of Silvanus, your faithful brother, as I esteem him, to encourage you and to testify that this is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it.

13 She who is at Babylon, who is chosen together with you, sends you greetings, and so does my son Mark. 14 Greet one another with a kiss of love. Peace to all of you who are in Christ Jesus.

THE SECOND GENERAL EPISTLE OF

PETER

CHAPTER 1

SIMON Peter, a slave and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who through the righteousness of our God and Saviour. Jesus Christ have been allotted a faith as precious as ours: 2 Grace and peace be yours in abundance through knowledge of God and Jesus our Lord. 3 For His

divine power has bestowed on us every requisite for life and godliness, through knowing Him who called us to His own glory and excellence. 4 Through these there have been granted us, great and precious promised blessings, so that by means of them, you might become sharers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption in the world that arises from passion. 5 For this very reason, do your utmost to supplement your faith with virtue, your virtue with knowledge, 6 your knowledge with self-control, yourself self-control with patience, your patience with piety, 7 your piety with brotherly affection with love. 8 For if you posses these qualities, increasingly, they will render their knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ, neither inactive nor unproductive, 9 while he who does not have these is blind, short-visioned, oblivious of the cleansing from his former sins.

10 Exert yourselves the more then, brothers, to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these things, you will never stumble, 11 for so an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, will be liberally provided for you.

12 I will, therefore, always remind you of these matters, even though you are aware of them and are established in the truth, now available. 13 Still, I think if my duty, so long as I remain in this human body, to arouse you by reminding you; 14 for I know that shortly, my body will be put off, as our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me. 15 Besides, I will make every effort to enable each one of you to keep these things in mind after I am gone; 16 for when we made known to you, the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, we were not following cleverly devised fables. On the contrary, we were eye witnesses of His Majesty; 17 for when He received honour and glory from God the Father, a voice was borne to Him from the Supreme Glory, “This is My Son, My Beloved, in whom I am delighted.” 18 And we heard this voice borne to us from heaven, when we were with Him on the sacred mountain.

19 So, we have the prophetic message reaffirmed, to which you do well to pay attention as you would to a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the Daystar arises in your hearts, 20 with this most clearly understood, that no prophetic Scripture can be explained by one’s unaided mental powers. 21 Because no prophecy ever came by the will of man; instead, men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

2 PETER CHAPTER 2

BUT there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you – the kind that will shrewdly introduce ruinous heresies, even denying the Master who bought them so bringing on themselves swift destruction. 2 Many will follow along in their shameless ways, on whose account, the way of truth will be maligned. 3 Motivated by greed, they will exploit you with their counterfeit arguments.

From of old, their sentence has been hanging over them and their destruction has not been dormant. 4 For if God did not spare the angels who sinned but committed them to the black dungeons of hell, to be kept for judgement, 5 and did not spare the ancient world but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven with him, when He brought a flood

upon a godless world; 6 and if condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah by turning them to ashes, an example to show the godless what is to happen to them; 7 and if He rescued upright Lot, distressed as he was by the immoral behaviour of the lawless 8 (for day after day as that righteous man lived among them, his upright soul was tortured at seeing and hearing their lawless doings), 9 then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation and to keep the wicked under punishment, for the day of judgement.

10 This is especially true of those who yield to fleshly desires, indulge in polluting passions, and despise authority. Bold, headstrong as they are, they have no qualms at libeling glorious beings, 11 whereas angels, far superior to them in strength and might, do not pronounce a defaming judgement against them before the Lord. 12 These, however, like irrational brutes that are naturally born to be caught and killed, while maligning what they do not know, will also be destroyed in the same destruction; 13 they will be punished with suffering they caused.

Revelry during the day is their idea of enjoyment; they are foul blots and blemishes that revel in their lusts, as they stuff themselves at your table. 14 They have their eyes full of adultery and their appetite for sin is never satisfied. They lure unsteady souls. Their hearts are practiced in greed - accursed children! 15 Leaving the straight path, they have strayed as they have followed in the tracks of Balaam, the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of wickedness. 16 But he was rebuked for his own misdeed; a dumb beast of burden, speaking with human voice, restrained the prophet’s madness.

17 These are the waterless wells, hurricane-driven winds for which the gloom of darkness is reserved. 18 For as they utter arrogant nonsense, they entice, through appeal to immoral passions of the flesh, those who have barely escaped from those who live in error. 19 While they promise liberty, they are themselves slaves of corruption; for a person is a slave to whatever over-powers him.

20 For if those who have escaped the contaminations of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, are again entangled and overcome by them, then their last condition becomes worse than the first. 21 For it would be better for them never to have known the way of righteousness than, after knowing it, to turn back from the holy commandment that was imparted to them. 22 In their case, the true proverb is realised. “A dog returns to his own vomit, and the scrubbed sow to wallowing in the mire.”

2 PETER CHAPTER 3

THIS, dear friends, is now the second letter I am writing to you, to arouse your pure minds by the way of remembrance, 2 so that you may be mindful of the sayings that were spoken beforehand by the holy prophets and the commands of the Lord and Saviour spoken by your apostles.

3 First of all, you should understand that in the last days, scoffers will come on the scene with their scoffing, behaving in accord with their own lusts, 4 and saying, “What about His promised coming? For ever since the forefathers fell asleep, everything has remained as it was from the beginning of creation.”

5 They wilfully ignore the fact that long ago there were heavens by the word of God, and an earth standing partly above and partly amidst water, 6 by means of which the then existing world was destroyed, deluged as it was by water. 7 At present, however, the heavens and the earth are by the same word stored up for burning, and reserved for the day of judgement and the destruction of godless people.

8 But do not overlook this one fact, dear friends, that with the Lord, one day is as a thousand years and a thousand years as one day. 9 The Lord is not lackadaisical about His promise as some think of lackadaisy; instead, He is exercising patience with you, unwilling that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. Then with a tremendous roar, the heavens will pass away, the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and the works in it will be burned up.

11 Since all these things are to be dissolved in this manner, how consecrated and reverent your behaviour should be, 12 as you are expecting and hastening on the coming of the day of God, because of the heavens will be on fire and be dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire. 13 But in accord with His promise, we are looking for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness is at home.

14 Therefore, dear friends, since you have these expectations, do your utmost to be found at peace with Him – spotless and blameless. 15 And regard the continued patience of our Lord as salvation, as our dear brother, Paul also has written you, according to the wisdom that has been granted him, 16 speaking of those things, as he does in all his letters. There are some statements in them which are hard to understand. The untaught and unsteady, twist those writings, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own ruin. 17 You therefore dear friends, forewarned as you are, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of the lawless, and lose your own stability; 18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, to whom be glory now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

THE FIRST GENERAL EPISTLE OF

JOHN

CHAPTER 1

WE are writing to you about the Word of Life; He was from the beginning; we have heard Him. We have seen Him with our eyes, we have looked at Him, and our hands have touched Him. 2 Yes, the life has been revealed and we have seen and are witnessing and are

announcing to you the eternal Life, who existed with the Father and has been revealed to us. 3 We saw Him and we have heard Him and are telling you, so that you too may enjoy fellowship along with us. And this fellowship of ours is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. 4 This we are writing you, so that our joy may be complete.

5 The message we heard from Him and announce to you is this: God is Light and in Him, there is no darkness whatever. 6 If we say that we enjoy fellowship with Him, while we are walking in the dark, we are lying and not practicing the truth. 7 If, however, we walk in the light, as Himself is in the light, then we enjoy fellowship with one another, and the blood of His Son Jesus, cleanses us from all sin.

8 If we say, “We have no sin,” we are deluding ourselves and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just, to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say, “We have not sinned,” we make Him out to be a liar and His word is not in us.

1 JOHN CHAPTER 2

MY dear children, I write you these things so you may not sin, and if anyone does sin, we have a counsel for our defense in the Father’s presence, Jesus Christ the Righteous One. 2 He Himself an atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

3 By this token, we are sure that we know Him, if we observe His commands. 4 He who says, “I know Him,” and does not keep His commands, is a liar and the truth is not in Him. 5 But whoever observes His word, in him the love of God has truly reached maturity. In this way, we are sure that we are in Him; 6 one who claims to remain in Him, ought himself to live the way He lived.

7 Dear friends, I am writing to you, no new command, but only the old command, which you have had from the beginning. The old command is the message you have heard. 8 On the other hand, I am writing you a new command, realised in Him and in you, because the darkness is passing and the true light is already shining. 9 He who claims to be in the light and hates his brother, is in the darkness to this very hour. 10 He who loves his brother, remains in the light and there is nothing within him to occasion stumbling. 11 But he who hates his brother is in the dark and walks in the dark; he does not even know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

12 I am writing you, dear children, because of His name’s sake, your sins have been forgiven you. 13 I am writing you, fathers, because you know Him, who is from the beginning. I am writing you, young men, because you have conquered the evil one. I have written you, children, because you have come to know the Father. 14 I have written you fathers, because you have learned to know Him, who is from the beginning. I have written you, young men,

because you are vigorous; God's message stays in your hearts and you have conquered the evil one.

15 Neither love the world nor the things in the world. Whoever loves the world, has not the Father's love in his heart, 16 because everything in the world, the passions of the flesh, the desires of the eyes, and the proud display of life, have their origin not from the Father but from the world. 17 And the world with its lusts passes away, but he who does the will of God remains forever.

18 Children, the final hour is here and, as you have heard that antichrist is coming, even now. Many antichrists have risen, from which we gather certainly that it is the last hour. 19 They went out from us but they never belonged to us; for had they been ours, they would have remained with us. But it had to become clear that not all belong to us. 20 Besides, you have an anointing from the Holy One and you know all things. 21 The reason I am writing, is not because you do not know the truth, but because you know it and that nothing false originates from the truth.

22 Who is the liar, if it is not the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is the antichrist who denies the Father and the Son. 23 No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever acknowledges the Son, has the Father as well.

24 What you heard from the beginning, let that stay with you. If what you heard from the beginning stays with you, then you will remain in union with the Son and with the Father. 25 And this is what He Himself has promised us, eternal life.

26 I am writing you these things about those who are trying to mislead you.

27 As for you, the anointing you have received from Him remains within you, and you stand in no need of teaching from anyone; but as His anointing instructs you about everything and is true and is no lie, so keep in union with Him just as it was taught you.

28 And now, dear children, remain in Him so that when He appears we may have confidence and may not shrink in shame from Him at His coming. 29 If you know that He is righteous, you also are sure that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of Him.

1 JOHN CHAPTER 3

SEE what a wealth of love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called the children of God. And we are. For this reason, the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

2 Beloved ones, we are God's children now, and what we shall be has not yet been shown; but we know that when He appears, we shall see Him as He is. 3 And everyone who has this hope resting on Him, purifies himself as He is pure.

4 Every one who commits sin, is guilty of lawbreaking; sin is lawbreaking. 5 You know, too, that he appeared to take away sins, and in Him there is no sin. 6 No one who remains in Him practices sin. Whoever practices sinning, has neither seen Him nor known Him.

7 Dear children, no one should deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He Himself is righteous. 8 He who practices sin belongs to the devil, for from the beginning the devil has sinned. For this purpose the Son of God appeared, to destroy the works of the devil.

9 No one who has been born of God commits sin, for the nature of God remains within him; because he has been born of God, he cannot practice sinning. 10 By this the children of God and the children of the devil are differentiated; anyone who does not practice righteousness, or who does not love his brother, is not from God. 11 For this is the message you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another, 12 and not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And for what reason did he murder him? Because his own deeds were wicked and those of his brother were righteous.

13 Do not be surprised brother, if the world hates you. 14 We know that we have moved out of death into life, because we love the brothers. One who does not love his brother remains in death. 15 Every one who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life within him.

16 We understand the meaning of love from this, that He laid down His life on our behalf, and we ought to lay down our lives on behalf of the brothers. 17 Whoever possess the world's resources and notices that his brother is in need and then locks his heart against him, how is the love of God in him?

18 Dear children, let us not love in word and tongue, but in deed and truth. 19 In this way we shall become aware that we belong to the truth, and in His presence, we shall set our hearts at rest. 20 For if our hearts condemn us, God is greater than our hearts, and He knows everything.

21 Beloved ones, if our hearts do not condemn us, then we have confidence before God, 22 and whatever we ask we receive from Him, for we observe His commands and practice what is pleasing in His sight. 23 And this is His command, that we put our faith in the name of His Son Jesus Christ and that we love one another as He commanded us. 24 He who obeys His commands remains in Him and He in him. By this, we know that He remains in us, through the Spirit whom He has given us.

1 JOHN CHAPTER 4

BELOVED ones, do not believe every spirit, but put the spirits to the test, whether they are from God; for many false prophets have gone out into the world. 2 By this we know the Spirit of God; 3 every spirit that acknowledges Jesus Christ as having come incarnate is from

God, whereas every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus, is not from God; it is the spirit of antichrist, of whose coming you have heard. Right now, he is in the world.

4 You are from God, dear children, and have defeated them, because the One in you is greater than the one in the world. 5 They are from the world, so they talk from a worldly point of view and the world listens to them. 6 We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us. Whoever is not from God, does not listen to us. In this way, we distinguish the spirit of truth from the spirit of error.

7 Beloved, let us love one another, because love springs from God and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 He who does not love does not know God; for God is love. 9 As for us, the love of God was revealed by the fact that God sent His only begotten Son into the world, so that through Him we might live. 10 Love is manifested in this, not that we loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

11 Beloved ones, if God loved us so much, we ought to love one another also. 12 No one has ever seen God. If we love one another, God remains in us and His love has been perfected in us. 13 From this we know that we remain in Him and He in us, because He has imparted His Spirit to us. 14 And we ourselves have seen and are bearing witness that the Father has sent the Son as the Saviour of the world. 15 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God remains in him and he in God, 16 We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and he who remains in love remains in God, and God remains in him.

17 On our part, love comes to completion in this, that we face the judgement day confidently because we are as He is in this world. 18 Love has no fear in it; instead, perfect love expels fear, for fear involves punishment. Therefore, he who fears has not reached love's perfection. 19 We love because He first loved us.

20 If someone says, "I love God," while he hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, is not able to love God, whom he has not seen. 21 And this command we have from Him, that he who loves God should love his brother also.

1 JOHN CHAPTER 5

EVERY ONE who believes that Jesus the Christ has been born of God, and every one who loves the Father will love the one born of Him. 2 This is how we know that we love God's children: when we love God and obey his commands. 3 For true love of God means this, that we observe His commands, and His commands, are not irksome. 4 Because every one who has been born of God, conquers the world, and this is the victory that triumphs over the world, the faith that we have. 5 Who is the world's victor, if not he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? 6 That One is Jesus Christ, who came by water and blood; not by the water only but by the water and by the blood. The Spirit bears witness as well, because the Spirit is

the truth. 7 So, there are three witnesses, 8 the Spirit, the water and the blood, and the three are one.

9 If we accept human testimony, God's testimony is stronger, and Gods' witness is this which He testified regarding his Son. 10 The believer in the Son of God possesses the witness within himself. He who disbelieves God, makes Him out to be a liar, because he has not believed in the evidence God has given regarding His Son. 11 And this is the evidence: God has granted us eternal life and this life is in his Son. 12 He who has the Son has that life; he who does not have the Son of God, does not have that life.

13 I am writing this to you who believe in the name of God's Son in order that you may know that you have eternal life. 14 And this is the confidence we have toward Him, that if we petition anything in agreement with His will, He hears us; 15 and if we know that, He listens to us whatever we may petition, then the requests we ask of Him are assured us.

16 If anyone sees his brother commit a sin, not fatal, he will petition and will obtain life for him, presuming it is no mortal sinning. 17 There is a sin that means death; I advise no prayer for that. Every wrong is sin, and there is sin which does not involve death.

18 We know that no one who has been born of God practices sin: instead, He who was born of God keeps him, and the wicked one does not get a grip on him. 19 We know that, whereas the whole world lies under the dominance of the wicked one, we belong to God. 20 And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us insight to know the true One. And we are in union with the true One, with His Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and life eternal. 21 Dear children, keep yourselves from the idols.

THE SECOND EPISTLE OF

JOHN

THE Elder to the elect Lady with her children, whom I truly love, and not I alone but all those who know the truth, 2 for the sake of the truth that remains in us and will be with us for ever: 3 Grace, mercy and peace will be with us from God the Father and from Jesus Christ, the Father's Son, in truth and in love.

4 I feel extremely happy to have found among your children, those who live in a true way, just as we received instruction from the Father. 5 And now I beg of you lady, not by way of writing you a new command but instead, the that we have had from the beginning, that we love one another. 6 And this love consists in our behaving in agreement with His commands; this is the command, that you walk in love, as you heard from the first.

7 For many imposters have gone out into the world, who do not confess Christ as having come incarnated. Such a person is the deceiver and the antichrist. 8 Look out for yourselves, so that you may not lose the results of what you have worked for, but may obtain a full reward.

9 Whoever assumes leadership and does not remain in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. He who remains in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. 10 If anyone comes to you who does not bring this teaching, do not receive him in your home nor extend him your greeting; 11 for he who bids him welcome makes himself a sharer of those wicked works of his.

12 Although I have many things to write you, I would rather not use paper and ink, but I hope to have a visit with you and to talk with you by word of mouth so that our happiness may be complete.

13 The children of your elect Sister send you greetings.

THE THIRD EPISTLE OF

JOHN

THE Elder to the esteemed Gaius, whom I truly love.

2 Beloved friend, I pray that you may get along well in every way and may enjoy health, just as your soul is prospering.

3 For I was extremely happy when the brothers arrived and gave testimony about your fidelity to the truth, as indeed you are living the true life. 4 Nothing affords me more joy than to hear that my children are leading the true life.

5 Beloved friend, you are acting faithfully when you do anything for the brothers, and specially for strangers. 6 They have testified before the church about your friendship. You will do well to send them forward on their journey in a way befitting God's service,
7 because on behalf of that Name, they have gone out without accepting anything from the Gentiles. 8 So we ourselves ought to support such people in order to be fellow workers with them in the truth.

9 I have written something to the church, but Diotrephes, who loves to be prominent among them, does not accept our authority. 10 For that reason I shall, on my arrival, call attention to his activities, casting reflections on us as he does with insinuating language. And not satisfied with that, he does not himself welcome the brothers, and he hinders those who are willing to do so, and expels them from the church.

11 Dear friend, do not imitate evil, but good. The well-doer is from God; the evil-doer has enjoyed no vision of God.

12 Demetrius enjoys a good reputation from every one and from truth itself. We add our testimony, and you know that our testimony is true.

13 I had many things to write you, but I do not wish to write you with pen and ink. 14 But I hope to see you shortly, and we shall talk face to face. Peace to you. The friends send you greetings. Remember me to the friends personally.

THE GENERAL EPISTLE OF

JUDE

JUDE, a slave of Jesus Christ and a brother of James, to those who have been called, loved by God the Father and kept by Jesus Christ: 2 Mercy, peace, and love be increasingly granted you.

3 Dear friends, while I was making every effort to write you about the salvation we have in common, I found it necessary to write you an appeal, that you vigorously defend the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints. 4 For certain people have sneaked in, who for a long time have been marked out for this judgement, impious ones, who pervert the grace of our God into unbridled lust and deny Jesus Christ, our only Master and Lord.

5 So, I desire to remind you, although once you were quite familiar with all the facts, how the Lord, after rescuing the people from the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe. 6 Then, too, the angels who did not maintain their own office but abandoned their proper dwelling. He has reserved in everlasting chains under densest darkness for the judgement of the great day. 7 Similarly, Sodom and Gomorrah with their neighbouring towns, who in like fashion abandoned themselves to sexual immorality and were bent on perverted sensuality, are placed before us as a warning by suffering the punishment of eternal fire. Nevertheless, 8 in that same way these deluded dreamers defile their bodies; they reject authority and libel glorious beings.

9 Yet, the archangel Michael, when in his encounter with the devil, he argued about the body of Moses. Did not venture to pronounce a reviling judgement against him, but said, “The Lord rebuke you!” 10 These people. However, revile what they do not understand, while whatever they do know sensually, as reasonless brutes, by those things they are destroyed.

11 Woe to them, because they are travelling the path of Cain, and have given themselves up to Balaam’s error for the sake of gain: they have perished in Korah’s revolt.

12 These are stains in your love feasts, as in your company they shamelessly gorge themselves; rainless clouds they are, carried along by winds; fruitless autumn trees, twice dead and uprooted; 13 wildly raging waves of the sea that foam up their own disgrace; straying stars for whom the gloom of darkness is forever reserved.

14 Enoch, in the seventh generation from Adam, prophesied about them too when he said. “Behold, the Lord has come with His myriads of holy ones 15 to execute judgement against all, and to convict all the ungodly for all their impious activities which in their godlessness they have practiced, and for all the harsh words, those godless sinners have spoken against Him.”

16 These are grumblers complaining of their lot, who go along in accord with their passions, and whose mouths give vent to arrogant remarks, while they flatter to one's face in hope of gain.

17 But you, dear friends, remember the predictions that were made by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ; 18 for they told you, "In the last time, there will be scoffers, whose lives are guided by their own impious passions." 19 These are the agitators, the worldly, who lack the Spirit.

20 You, however, beloved as you build yourselves upon your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit, 21 keep yourselves in the love of God, all the while awaiting the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ for eternal life.

22 Convince some who doubt, but save others by snatching them from the fire; 23 on still others have pity mingled with great caution, loathing even the clothing that has been polluted by their sensuality.

24 Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you faultless in the presence of His glory with abounding joy, 25 to the only God our Saviour, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be Glory, Majesty, Power and Dominion before all time, and now, and forever. Amen.

THE REVELATION

OF JESUS CHRIST

CHAPTER 1

THE revelation of Jesus Christ, which God granted Him to show His bond servants what must shortly take place. So, through His angel, He sent the communication to His slave John.
2 who bears witness to everything he saw, as the message of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ.

3 Blessed is the reader and blessed are those who hear the words of the prophecy, who observe what is recorded in it, for the time is near.

4 John to the seven churches in Asia: Grace and peace to you from Him who is and who was and who is coming, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne, 5 and from Jesus Christ, the trustworthy Witness, the First-born from the dead and the Commander of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by His own blood,
6 and has made us a kingdom, priests to God, even his Father, to Him be the glory and the dominion for ever and ever, Amen.

7 Behold, He is coming on the clouds and every eye, even of those who pierced Him, will see Him, and all the tribes of the earth will beat their breasts over Him. Truly so, Amen.

8 “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is coming, the All-Sovereign.”

9 O, John, your brother and partner in the distress and the kingdom and the endurance of Jesus, was on the island called Patmos on account of the message from God and the testimony of Jesus. 10 On the Lord’s Day, I was in the Spirit and heard behind me a voice as loud as a trumpet, 11 that said, “Write what you see in a book and dispatch it to the seven churches – to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamum, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea.”

12 I turned to see whose voice was addressing me, and on turning, I saw seven golden lampstands, 13 and in the centre of the lampstands, One like the Son of Man, dressed in a robe that reached to the feet and girded around the chest with a golden girdle. 14 His head and hair were white as wool, white as snow; His eyes were like a flame of fire; 15 His feet were like precious ore as it glows in the furnace, and His voice was like the sound of many waters. 16 In his right hand, He held seven stars; from His mouth there issued a sharp, two- edged sword and His face shone as when the sun shines in its full strength.

17 When I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. Then He laid His right hand on me and said, “Do not fear. I am the First and the Last 18 and the Living One. I experienced death and behold, I am alive forever and ever, and I possess the keys of death and of its realm. 19 Therefore write what you have seen, both what is now and what will occur here after. 20 As to the mystery of the seven stars that you saw in My right hand, and of the seven golden lampstands, the seven stars are angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

REVELATION CHAPTER 2

TO the angel of the church in Ephesus write: ‘He, who holds the seven stars in His right hand and who walks among the seven golden lampstands, says this: 2 “I know your activities, your toil, and your endurance, and how you cannot tolerate wicked men; how you have put to the test those who call themselves apostles though they are not, and you have found them to be imposters. 3 You have been patient and have been bearing up because of My Name, and you have not become exhausted. 4 But I hold against you, that you have given up your first love. 5 Therefore, call to mind from what you have fallen, and repent and practice what you did previously; l or else, if you do not repent, I shall come to you and remove the lampstand from its place. 6 You have this, however, that you hate the doings of the Nicolaitans, which I hate too. 7 Whoever has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches, I shall grant the victor to eat from the tree of life that stands in the paradise of God.”’

8 “To the angel of the church in Smyrna write: ‘This says the First and the Last, who died and became alive.’

9 ‘I know your affliction and your poverty (but you are rich) and the slander of those who call themselves Jews but are instead, a synagogue of Satan. 10 Do not dread what you are to suffer. True, the devil is going to throw some of you into prison, so that you will be tested, and for ten days you will have trouble. Be loyal, though it means your death, and I shall give you the crown of life. 11 Whoever has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The victor will suffer no hurt from the second death.”’

12 “To the angel of the church in Pergamum write: ‘He, who has the sharp, double-edged sword says this:

13 I know where you live; Satan’s throne is there. And you are holding onto My Name; you have not renounced faith in Me even in the days when My faithful Antipas, who witnessed for Me, was put to death among you, where Satan dwells. 14 I hold a few things against you, though; for you have those there who hold to the doctrine of Balaam, who instructed Balak to throw a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, so that they might eat idol offerings and practice immorality. 15 Besides, you have as well those who adhere to the doctrine of the Nicolaitans. 16 Therefore, repent. Otherwise, I shall shortly come to you, and make war on them with the sword of My mouth. 17 Whoever has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the victor, I shall give some of the hidden manna and I shall give him a white stone, and engraved on the stone, a new name, which no one knows except the recipient.’”

18 “To the angel of the church in Thyatira write: ‘This says the Son of God, whose eyes are like a flame of fire, and His feet are like white-hot metal:

19 I know your doings, your love and faith and service and endurance, and that of late you are accomplishing more than at first. 20 But I hold against you that you tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess and teaches my servants deceitfully to practice immorality and to eat offerings made to idols. 21 I have given her time to repent. But she refuses to repent of her immorality. 22 Take note: I shall throw her on a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great distress unless they repent of her practices, 23 and her children I shall put to death. Then all the churches will know that I am the Searcher of minds and hearts, who rewards each of you according to your works. 24 But I say to the rest of you in Thyatira, who neither adhere to this doctrine nor have explored the hidden things of Satan, as they put it, I shall place no further burden on you, 25 except that you hold on to what you have until I come. 26 To the victor and the one who takes my deeds to heart until the end, I shall grant authority over the nations. 27 He will rule them with an iron rod as when clay jars are shivered to pieces, just as I received authority from My Father. 28 I shall also give him the morning star. 29 Whoever has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’”

REVELATION CHAPTER 3

TO the angel of the church in Sardis write: This says ‘He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars says this:

“I know your doings, that you are said to live but you are dead. 2 Be awake and invigorate the things that remain that are at the point of dying; for I have not found your works perfect before My God. 3 Call to mind, then, what you have received and heard; observe it and repent. If you do not keep wide awake, I shall come like a thief and you will have no idea at what hour I shall come upon you. 4 You have a few persons in Sardis, however, who have not soiled their clothes. They will walk with Me in white, because they are deserving. 5 Similarly the victor will be dressed in white robes and I shall not erase his name from the Book of Life; I shall confess his name before My Father and before His angels. 6 Whoever has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”’

7 “To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: ‘The Holy, the True, the One who holds David’s key, who opens and no one shuts; who shuts and no one opens, says this:

8 I know your doings. See, I have provided an opened door in front of you, one which no one is able to close; because, while possessing little strength, you have observed My Word and have not renounced My Name. 9 Take note; I shall make those of the synagogue of Satan, who claim to be Jews but are instead imposters – indeed I shall make them come and bow at your feet and acknowledge that I have loved you. 10 Because you have observed the message of My endurance, I also shall preserve you from the hour of trial that is coming upon the whole inhabited world, to put to the test those who live on the earth. 11 I am coming soon. Hold fast to what you have, so that no one will rob you of your crown. 12 As for the victor, I shall make him a pillar in the temple of My God; he will leave it nevermore. And I shall inscribe on him, the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the new Jerusalem that is coming down out of heaven from My God, as well as My new name. 13 Whoever has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”’

14 “To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: ‘This says the Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God:

15 I know your doings, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either cold or hot. 16 So, because you are lukewarm and neither hot nor cold, I am going to spew you out of My mouth. 17 For you say, ‘I am rich; I have grown wealthy; I need nothing,’ and you do not know that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. 18 I advise you to buy from Me, gold that has been tested in the fire, in order that you may be wealthy; and white clothes to put on, so that the shame of your nudity may not be shown; and salve to put on your eyes, so that you may see. 19 The ones I love I correct and discipline; so, burn with zeal and repent. 20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone listens to My voice and opens the door, I shall come to him and dine with him and he with Me. 21 As for the victor, I shall grant him to sit beside Me on My throne, as I also conquered and sat down beside My

Father on His throne. 22 Whoever has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'"

REVELATION CHAPTER 4

AFTER this, I looked and saw a door standing open in heaven, and the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, "Come up here, and I shall show you what must take place hereafter."

2 Immediately, I came under the Spirit's power and saw a throne standing in heaven, and One seated on the throne. 3 The One who was seated there resembled in appearance, a jasper stone and a sardius. And a rainbow that looked like an emerald encircled the throne.

4 Surrounding the throne, there were twenty-four thrones with twenty-four elders sitting on them, clad in white robes and with golden crowns on their heads.

5 Out from the throne, issued lightnings and rumblings and thunderpeals. And seven torches of fire were burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God. 6 Also in front of the throne, it was like a glassy sea, as transparent as crystal.

Around the throne, on each side, there were four living beings full of eyes in front and behind; 7 the first living being was like a lion; the second, like an ox; the third, with a man-like face; and the fourth, like a flying eagle. 8 Each if the four living beings had six wings, and each living being was full of eyes all around and within. Neither by day nor by night, do they cease saying, "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty who was, and who is, and who is coming."

9 And whenever the living beings render praise and honour and thanksgiving to the Occupant of the throne, who lives forever and ever, 10 the twenty-four elders fall down before the One seated upon the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and they cast their crowns before the throne, saying, 11 "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and dominion, because You have created all things, and by Your will they were and have been created."

REVELATION CHAPTER 5

I ALSO saw in the right hand of Him, who was seated on the throne, a scroll with writing inside and outside, sealed with seven seals. 2 I further saw a mighty angel, who was exclaiming in a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and to break its seals?" 3 And no one, either in heaven or in earth or under the earth, was able to open the scroll or to look inside it.

4 So, I cried bitterly because none was found worthy to open the scroll or to look inside it. 5 And one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. You see, the Lion out of the tribe of Judah, the Offspring of David, has conquered, so as to open the scroll and its seven seals."

6 And I saw, standing midway between the throne and the four living beings and among the elders, a Lamb as if it had been sacrificed. It had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the

seven Spirits of God, dispatched over the whole earth. 7 He came and took the scroll from the right hand of Him who was seated on the throne; 8 and when He took the scroll, the four living beings and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each of them having a harp, and holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

9 And they sing a new song, saying, “You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because You were sacrificed and have bought them for God with Your blood, out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, 10 and have made them a kingdom, and priests to our God, and they shall reign over the earth.”

11 Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and the living beings and the elders, and they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands and thousands, 12 saying with a loud voice, “Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honour and glory and blessing.”

13 Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and everything in them, exclaiming, “To Him who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb be blessing and honour and glory and dominion forever and ever.”

14 The four living beings said, “Amen,” and the elders fell down and worshipped.

REVELATION CHAPTER 6

AND I saw when the Lamb opened the first of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living beings say with a voice like thunder, “Come!” 2 Then I looked and saw a white horse, and its rider holding a bow. To him a crown was given, and he went out conquering and to conquer.

3 And when He opened the second seal, I heard the second living being say, “Come!” 4 Then another horse, fiery red, went out, and its rider was empowered to take peace from the earth, so that people would kill one another, and a huge sword was given him.

5 When He opened the third seal, I heard the third living being say, “Come!” Then I looked and saw a black horse, and its rider had a pair of scales in his hand. 6 I also heard a voice in the centre of the four living beings, that said, “A quart of wheat for a day’s wage and three quarts of barley of a day’s wage, and do not damage the oil and the wine.”

7 When He opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living being say. “Come!” 8 Then I looked and saw and ash-coloured horse. The name of its rider was DEATH, and Hades followed him closely. Authority was granted them over a quarter of the earth to kill with the sword, with famine, with plague, and by means if the wild beats of the earth.

9 When He opened the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been slaughtered of the sake of the word of God and the witness they bore. 10 With a loud voice they cried out, “How long, O holy and true Sovereign, before You will judge and avenge our blood on the inhabitants of the earth?”

11 And to each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to rest for a little while longer, until the number of their fellow servants and of their brothers, who were killed as they had been, should be complete.

12 When He opened the sixth seal, I saw a tremendous earthquake occur. The sun turned as black as sackcloth and the full moon became like blood. 13 The stars of heaven fell to the earth as when a fig tree shaken by a violent wind, drops its unripe fruit, 14 The sky retreated like a scroll that is being rolled up, and every mountain and island was dislodged.

15 Then the kings of the earth and the nobles, the generals, the wealthy, the powerful, yes, every one, slave and free, hid themselves in the caves and in the mountain rocks, 16 and called to the mountains and to the rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the presence of the One who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb; 17 for the great day of Their wrath has come, and who is able to stand?”

REVELATION CHAPTER 7

FOLLOWING this I saw four angels stationed at the four corners of the earth, restraining the four winds of the earth, so that no wind might blow on land or sea or on any tree. 2 I also observed another angel ascending from the sunrise, holding a seal from the living God. He shouted with a loud voice to the four angels, who had been empowered to injure the earth and the sea: 3 “Injure neither the earth nor the sea nor the trees until we have sealed the servants of our God upon their foreheads.”

4 And I heard the number of those sealed out of every tribe of Israel’s sons, one hundred forty-four thousand. 5 Of the tribe of Judah, twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Rueben twelve thousand; of the tribe of Gad twelve thousand; 6 of the tribe of Asher twelve thousand; of the tribe of Naphtali twelve thousand; of the tribe of Manasseh twelve thousand; 7 of the tribe of Simeon twelve thousand; of the tribe of Levi twelve thousand; of the tribe of Issachar twelve thousand; 8 of the tribe of Zebulon twelve thousand; of the tribe of Joseph twelve thousand; of the tribe of Benjamin twelve thousand were sealed.

9 After this I looked and there was a vast host that no one could count of all nations and tribes and people and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes and with palm branches in their hands. 10 And they shouted with a loud voice: “Salvation is due to our God, who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb.”

11 The all the angels stood surrounding the throne, the elders and the four living beings, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, 12 saying, “Amen! Blessing and glory, wisdom and thanksgiving, honour, dominion, and power be to our God forever and ever. Amen.”

13 Addressing me, one of the elders then asked, “These who are wearing white robes, who are they and from where have they come?” 14 I said to him. “Sir, you know.” Then he told

me, “These are the ones who have come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and have made them white in the blood of the Lamb, 15 For this reason, they are before God’s throne, and day and night they serve Him in His temple, while He who sits on the throne spreads His tent over them. 16 They will never more either hunger or thirst, nor will the sun or any scorching heat, whatever beat upon them; 17 for the Lamb, who is in the centre of the throne, will shepherd them and will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away all tears from their eyes.”

REVELATION CHAPTER 8

WHEN the Lamb opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.

2 Then, I saw the seven angels who were standing before God, and they were given seven trumpets. 3 Also another angel with a golden censer came and stood at the altar. A vast quantity of incense was given Him, so that he might place it on the golden altar before the throne, with the prayers of all the saints. 4 And the smoke of the incense arose before God from the angel’s hand, with the prayers of the saints. 5 Then the angel took the censer and filled it with fire from the altar and poured it on the earth, and there followed thunderpeals, rumblings, lighting flashes, and an earthquake.

6 And the seven angels with trumpets got themselves ready to blow them. 7 The first angel blew his trumpet, and there came hail and fire mixed with blood, that was poured on the earth, so that one-third of the earth and the trees was burned up, and all the green grass.

8 Then the second angel blew his trumpet, and something like an immense mountain, ablaze with fire was hurled into the sea, so that one-third of the sea turned to blood, 9 and a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.

10 The third angel blew his trumpet, and a huge star, blazing like a torch, fell from the sky and came down on one-third of the rivers and on the water springs. 11 The star’s name is Wormwood, and one-third of the waters turned to wormwood. Many people died from the water, because it had turned bitter.

12 The fourth angel blew his trumpet, and a blight fell on one-third of the sun, of the moon, and of the stars, so that a third part of them was darkened; no light shone for a third part of the day, nor for a third part of the night.

13 Then I looked, and I heard an eagle flying in mid-heaven, that cried with a loud voice, “Woe, woe, woe, for the inhabitants of the earth, because of the remaining trumpet blasts of the three angels who are about to sound.”

REVELATION CHAPTER 9

THE fifth angel blew his trumpet, and I saw a star that had fallen on the earth from heaven, to whom was given the key to the pit of the abyss.

2 He opened the pit of the abyss, and smoke whirled upward from the pit like the smoke of a gigantic furnace, so that the sun and the air were darkened by the smoke from the pit.

3 Out of the smoke, locusts went forth on the earth, and such power was granted them as the earth's scorpions possess. 4 They were told not to damage the earth's grass, neither any vegetation, nor any tree, but only the persons who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads. 5 Power was granted them, not to kill them but for five months to torture them, and their torture was like that of a scorpion that stings a person. 6 During those days people will seek death without finding it; they will be anxious to die, but death evades them.

7 The locusts looked like horses equipped for battle. On their heads were something like golden crowns, their faces were like human faces, 8 their hair was like that of women, and their teeth were like lion's teeth, 9 their scales were like breastplates that seemed made of steel, and the drone of their wings was like the roar of many horse-drawn chariots charging into battle.

10 They have tails with stings like a scorpions, and power in their tails to hurt mankind for five months. 11 They have as king over them the angel of the abyss, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon and in Greek, Apollyon. 12 The first woe is past; two woes are still to follow.

13 The sixth angel blew his trumpet, and I heard a solitary voice from the four horns of the golden altar before God, 14 saying to the sixth angel with the trumpet, "Release the four angels that are bound at the great river Euphrates." 15 So the four angels, who were in readiness for that hour and day and month and year, were set free to kill one-third of mankind. 16 The number of their divisions of calvary was two hundred millions. I heard their number.

17 In my vision the horses and their riders looked like this: the riders wore breastplates as red as fire, as blue as sapphire, and as yellow as sulphur. The horse's heads resembled lion's heads, and out of their mouths poured fire and smoke and sulphur.

18 By these three plagues, one-third of mankind was killed, by the fire, by the smoke, and by the sulphur that streamed out of their mouths. 19 For the horses' power lies in their mouths and in their tails; their tails are like serpents; they have heads, and with them they do harm.

20 But the rest of humanity, who were not killed by those plagues, did not repent from the works of their hands, so as to cease worshipping demons and idols of gold and silver, bronze, stone, and wood, that can neither see nor hear nor walk. 21 Nor did they repent of their murders, or of their magic arts, or of their immorality, or of their thefts.

REVELATION CHAPTER 10

THEN I saw another mighty angel descend from heaven, robed in a cloud, with a rainbow over his head. His face was like the sun; his legs resembled fiery pillars, 2 and he held an opened little scroll in his hand. His right foot he placed on the sea, and his left foot on the

land, 3 while with a loud voice like the roar of a lion he gave a shout. And as he shouted the seven thunders raised their voices.

4 When the seven thunders had spoken, I was going to write; but I heard a voice from heaven that said, “Seal up what the seven thunders have spoken and do not write it.”

5 Then the angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land, lifted his hand heavenward, 6 and swore by Him who lives forever and ever, who created the heaven and what it contains, also the earth and what is in it, and the sea with everything in it. “There shall be no further delay; 7 but in the days of the seventh angel’s trumpet blast, when he is at the point of blowing it, the mystery of God will reach completion in agreement with the good news, He gave His servants the prophets.”

8 Then the voice from heaven which I heard addressed me again and said, “Go and take the little, opened scroll that is in the hand of the angel who is standing on the sea and on the land.” 9 So, I went to the angel, asking him to give me the little scroll.

He told me, “Take and eat it! It will be bitter in your stomach, but in your mouth it will be sweet as honey.” 10 So, I took the little scroll from the angel’s hand and ate it, and in my mouth it was as sweet as honey, but when I had eaten it, my stomach was made bitter.
11 Then he told me, “You must prophesy again about many peoples and nations and tongues and kings.”

REVELATION CHAPTER 11

AND there was given me a measuring reed like a rod, and I was told: “Rise and measure the temple of God and the altar, and count those worshipping in it, 2 but omit the outer court of the temple; do not measure it, because it has been given to the Gentiles. They will trample the holy city under foot for forty-two months. 3 And I shall allow My two witnesses to prophesy for twelve hundred sixty days, clad in sackcloth.”

4 “These witnesses are the two olive trees and the two lamps that are standing before the Lord on the earth. 5 If anyone wants to hurt them, fire issues from their mouths and consumes their enemies. Should anyone wish to injure them, he must be killed in that way.”

6 “These two have the power to shut up the sky, so that no rain may fall during the days of their prophecy; they also have power over the waters, to turn them into blood, and to scourge the earth with every kind of plague as often as they desire.”

7 “When they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up from the abyss will make war against them, and will conquer them and kill them. 8 Their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city that is spiritually called Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified. 9 And they of the peoples and tribes and tongues and nations will gaze at their dead bodies for three and a half days; they will not allow the bodies to be entombed.
10 Those dwelling on the earth will rejoice over them and will celebrate; they will send one another gifts, because the two prophets had been vexing the dwellers on the earth.”

11 And after the three and a half days the breath of life from God, entered them, so that they rose to their feet; and great fear fell on those who saw them. 12 The two heard a loud voice calling to them from heaven, “Come up here.” And they ascended in a cloud into heaven while their enemies saw them.

13 At that very hour, there was a tremendous earth quake; one-tenth of the city collapsed and seven thousand persons were killed in the earthquake. Then the survivors were terrified and ascribed glory to the God of heaven.

14 The second woe is past. The third woe is speedily approaching.

15 The seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven: “The kingdom of the world has become that of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever.”

16 Then the twenty-four elders who were seated on their thrones before God, fell on their faces and worshipped God, 17 exclaiming, “We give You thanks, Lord God Almighty, who is and who was, because You have assumed Your great power and have begun to reign. 18 The nations raged and Your wrath has been realised; also, the time for the judging of the dead and for the rewarding of Your bond servants the prophets and all the saints – in fact, all those who revere Your name both small and great; also, for the destruction of those who are destroying the earth.”

19 Then the temple of God in heaven was opened, and the ark of His covenant was seen in His sanctuary and there were lighting flashes, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake, and a terrific hailstorm.

REVELATION CHAPTER 12

A GREAT portent then appeared in heaven: a woman, robed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head, 2 was pregnant, and as she agonised in the pangs of her delivery, she cried out.

3 Then another portent appeared in heaven. There was a gigantic, fiery-red dragon with seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads seven diadems. 4 His tail swept away a third of the stars of heaven and hurled them to the ground.

The dragon then stationed himself in front of the woman, who was about to give birth, so he might devour her child as soon as it was born. 5 She gave birth to a son, a male child, destined to rule all nations with an iron rod. Her child was then snatched away up to God and to His throne, 6 while the woman fled into the wilderness, where God had a retreat prepared for her to be cared for there during twelve hundred sixty days.

7 Then war developed in heaven, Michael and his angels battling against the dragon, and the dragon on with his angels waging war; 8 but they were defeated; there was no longer any place for them in heaven. 9 And the great dragon, the serpent of old, called the devil and

Satan, the deceiver of all humanity, was force out and hurled to the earth, and his angels were flung out along with him.

10 Then I heard a string voice proclaiming in heaven, “Now have come the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ, for the accuser of our brothers, who kept accusing them day and night in the presence of our God, has been thrown out. 11 And they have conquered him by means of the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they have not loved their lives, even to the point of death. 12 Be joyful therefore, you heavens and those who dwell in them. Woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has come down to you with raging anger, well aware that he has but a short season.”

13 When the dragon saw that he had been hurled to the earth. He went in pursuit of the woman who had given birth to the male child; 14 but to the woman, were granted two wings of a giant eagle, so that she might fly to her retreat in the wilderness where, away from the presence of the serpent, she will be cared for during a time, times, and half a time.

15 The serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, that she might be swept away by the stream, but the earth came to the woman’s aid; 16 the earth opened its mouth and swallowed the river which the dragon had poured from his mouth. 17 And the dragon, enraged at the woman, went off to wage war against the rest of her offspring, who observe the commands of God and adhere to the testimony of Jesus. And he stood on the sandy seashore.

REVELATION CHAPTER 13

AND I saw a beast coming up out of the sea with ten horns and seven heads with ten diadems on his horns, and a blasphemous name upon his heads. 2 The beast I saw resembled a leopard, and his feet were like those of a bear, and his mouth like that of a lion. The dragon invested him with his power and his throne and great authority. 3 One of his heads seemed fatally wounded. His mortal wound was healed, however, and the whole earth followed the beast in wonder. 4 They worshipped the dragon because he had bestowed authority on the beast; they also worshipped the beast, saying, “Who matches the beast, and who is able to war against Him?”

5 He was also given a mouth to speak proud words, to utter blasphemies, and he was granted the power to exercise authority for forty-two months. 6 So, he opened his mouth to utter blasphemies against God, to blaspheme His name and His abode and those who dwell in heaven. 7 And he was allowed to make war against the saints and to conquer them, and authority was given him over every tribe and people and language and nation.

8 All those who live on earth, whose names are not recorded in the Book of Life of the Lamb that was slain from the foundation of the world, will worship Him. 9 Whoever has an ear, let him hear. 10 Whoever is to be led into captivity, will be led into captivity; whoever kills with

the sword must be killed by the sword. In this way, the saints exercise their endurance and their faith.

11 Then I saw another beast who came up from the land. He had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon. 12 He exercises the full authority of the first beast in his presence, and he makes the earth and those living in it worship the first beast, whose mortal wound has been healed. 13 He also performs impressive miracles; for instance, he causes fire to descend from heaven to the earth in the presence of the people. 14 By means of the wonders he is allowed to perform in the presence of the beast, he leads those living on the earth astray, telling the earth's inhabitants to erect a statue to the beast that had the wound by the sword and came back to life.

15 He was further permitted to infuse breath into the beast's statue, so that the beast's image might speak and to bring it about that those who did not worship the beast's statue should be killed. 16 He also compelled all, the small and the great, the rich and the poor, the freeman and the slaves, to have a mark put on their right hands or on their foreheads, 17 so that no one might be able to buy and sell unless he bore the mark of the beast's name or the number corresponding to his name. 18 Here intelligence comes in. Let him who has the mind for it calculate the number of the beast, for it is a man's number, and his number is six hundred sixty-six.

REVELATION CHAPTER 14

THEN I looked and saw the Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him, one hundred and forty-four thousand, who had His name and His Father's name inscribed on their foreheads. 2 And I heard a voice from heaven like the sound of many waters and like the peals of loud thunder. I then heard the music as of harpists playing on their harps.

3 They were singing a new song before the throne and in the presence of the four living beings, and of the elders, and none was able to sing the song except the one hundred and forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the earth. 4 They are those who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are celibates. They are those who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These were redeemed from mankind, as first fruits for God and for the Lamb. 5 No lie was ever found on their lips; they are faultless.

6 Then I saw another angel, flying in mid-air with everlasting good news to proclaim to those living on the earth – to every nation and tribe and tongue and people. 7 With a mighty voice he said, "Revere God and ascribe to Him glory, for the hour of His judgement has arrived; so, worship the Maker of heaven and earth and sea and water-springs."

8 Another, a second angel, succeeded him, who said, "She is fallen, fallen, Babylon the great, who mad all the nations drink of the wine of her passionate immorality."

9 Then another angel, a third, followed them, who said with a loud voice, "Whoever worships the beast and his statue and receives the mark on his forehead or on his hand,

10 shall drink of the wine of God's wrath that has been mixed undiluted in the cup of His anger, and he shall be tortured with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb." 11 The smoke of their torture ascends forever and ever, and the worshippers of the beast and of his statue, as well as anyone with the mark of his name, will enjoy no rest day or night. 12 Here comes the endurance of the saints who observe the commands of God and keep their faith in Jesus.

13 I further heard a voice from heaven that said, "Write: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Yes," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labours; for the results of their labours follow them."

14 Then I looked and saw a white cloud, and One seated on the cloud, One like the Son of Man. On His head He wore a golden crown, and in His hand was a sharp scythe. 15 Another angel came out of the temple, who shouted with a loud voice to the One seated on the cloud: "Thrust in your scythe and reap, for the harvest time has come, because the earth's harvest is overripe." 16 So, the One seated on the cloud, swung his scythe on the earth was harvested.

17 Again, another angel came out from the heavenly temple, who also had a sharp scythe. 18 Yet another angel came forth from the altar, who had authority over fire, and he called with a loud voice to the one with the sharp scythe, "Thrust in your sharp scythe, and harvest the clusters of earth's grapevine for its grapes are overripe."

19 So, the angel swung out his scythe on the earth and gathered the fruit of the earth's grapevine and threw it into the great winepress of God's wrath. 20 Outside the city the wine press was trodden and blood flowed out of the wine press, so that for two hundred miles it came up to the horses' bridles.

REVELATION CHAPTER 15

THEN I saw another portent in heaven, great and marvellous – seven angels with seven plagues; the last seven, because with them God's wrath is completed.

2 And I saw something like a glassy sea mixed with fire, and those coming off victorious over the beast and over his statue and over the number corresponding to its name; I saw them standing on the sea of glass, holding the harps of God. 3 They sang the song of Moses, the bond servant of God, and the song of the Lamb: "Great and marvellous are Your works, Lord God the Omnipotent; just and true are Your ways, O King of the nations. 4 Who will not revere and glorify Your name, O Lord? For You alone are Holy. For all the nations shall come and worship before You, because Your sentences of judgement have been made known."

5 After this I looked, and the sanctuary of the tent of witness in heaven was opened, 6 and out of the sanctuary came the seven angels holding the seven plagues. They were clad in pure, resplendent linen, and wore golden girdles around their chests.

7 Then one of the four living creatures handed the seven angels, seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God, who lives forever and ever, 8 and the tabernacle became filled with smoke from the glory and the power of God. And no one was able to enter the temple until the seven plagues of the seven angles were finished.

REVELATION CHAPTER 16

AND I heard a loud voice from the temple say to the seven angels, "Go your way and pour out on the earth the seven bowls of God's wrath." 2 So, the first angel departed and emptied his bowl upon the earth. And a loathsome and malignant ulcer attacked the men who bore the mark of the beast and worshipped its statue.

3 The second angel poured out his bowl upon the sea, so that it turned to blood as of a corpse, and every living creature that was in the sea died.

4 The third angel poured out his bowl upon the rivers and the springs of waters, so that they turned to blood. 5 And I heard the angel of the waters say, "You who are and who was, the Holy One, are just in Your judgements. 6 Because they have poured out the blood of the saints and prophets. You also have given them blood to drink. They deserve it." 7 And from the altar, I heard a response, "Yes, Lord God Almighty, Your judgements are true and just."

8 The fourth angel poured out his bowl upon the sun, and it was permitted to scorch humanity with heat. 9 People were scorched with terrible heat and they blasphemed the name of God, who has control over these plagues. Yet they did not repent so as to give Him glory.

10 The fifth angel emptied his bowl upon the throne of the beast; his kingdom was plunged in darkness, and people gnawed their tongues from pain. 11 They blasphemed the God of heaven for their sufferings and their sores, yet they did not repent of their practices.

12 The sixth angel poured out his bowl upon the great river, the Euphrates, and its waters dried up, so that the highway of the kings from the east might be made ready.

13 Then I saw coming out of the mouth of the dragon and from the mouth of the beast and from the mouth of the false prophet, three unclean spirits like frogs. 14 For they are spirits of demons that work miracles. They go out to the kings of the whole world to muster them for war of the Sovereign, God's great Day. 15 "See, I come like a thief. Blessed is the alert one who takes care of his clothes so that he will not go around naked and people see his shame." 16 So they mustered them at the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon.

17 The seventh angel emptied his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the sanctuary from the throne, saying, "It is finished!" 18 Then there followed lightning flashes, rumblings and thunder-peals, and such a tremendous earthquake as had never occurred since man existed on the earth, so extensive and severe was it. 19 The great city split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell, God remembered great Babylon, and made her drink the cup of His furious wrath.

20 Then every island fled, and the mountains could not be found. 21 Hailstones, as big as hundred weights, fell down from the sky upon the people. And the people blasphemed God for the plague of the hail because it was so fearful.

REVELATION CHAPTER 17

THEN one of the seven angels with the seven bowls came and talked with me saying, “Come this way. I shall show you the doom of the great harlot who is seated on many waters. 2 The kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the inhabitants of the earth have become intoxicated with the wine of her immorality.”

3 So, he carried me away in the Spirit, into a wilderness, And I saw a woman seated upon a scarlet beast, covered with blasphemous titles. It had seven heads and ten horns. 4 The woman was robed in purple and scarlet, and gilded with gold, a precious stone, and pearls. In her hand she held a cup, full of the abominations and impurities of her immorality. 5 On her forehead, a symbolic title was inscribed, “Babylon, the great, the mother of the harlots and of the abominations of the earth.” 6 I saw the woman drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of those who witnessed for Jesus, and on seeing her I was utterly amazed. 7 But the angel said to me, “Why are you amazed? I will tell you the mystic meaning of the woman, and of the beast with the seven heads and the ten horns, that carries her. 8 The beast that you saw was and is not, and it is to ascend from the abyss and to go on to destruction. The dwellers of the earth, whose names are not inscribed in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world, will be amazed when they look at the beast because he was and is not and is coming.”

9 “Here is something for a mind having wisdom to ponder. The seven heads are seven hills on which the woman is seated. 10 They also are seven kings: five have fallen, one is reigning, the other has not yet come; and when he does come; he must stay for a little while. 11 The beast that was and is not, is himself an eight king; he springs from the seven and goes on to destruction.”

12 “The ten horns you saw are ten kings, who have not as yet received a kingdom; but for one hour they will receive royal authority along with the beast. 13 These have one purpose; they give over power and authority to the beast. 14 They will war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; while those with Him are called, chosen, and loyal.”

15 Then he said to me, “The waters you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples and crowds and nations and languages. 16 The ten horns you saw and the beast, these will hate the harlot and will make her desolate and naked; they will consume her flesh and will burn her up in fire. 17 For God has put into their hearts to work His purpose, and to act harmoniously in handling their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God should be fulfilled. 18 And the woman you saw is the great city that has dominion over the kings of the earth.”

REVELATION CHAPTER 18

AFTER these things I saw another angel descending from heaven, possessed of great authority, and the earth was illuminated by his splendor. 2 With a mighty voice he shouted out; “She is fallen, fallen, Babylon the great! She has become a resort for demons; a haunt for every unclean spirit; a refuge for every filthy and detested bird. 3 For all the nations have drunk of the wine of her passionate immorality, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth, have grown rich on her abundance of wantonness.”

4 Then I heard another voice from heaven say, “Come away from her, My people, that you may not participate in her sins, neither be visited by her plagues; 5 for her sins have piled up to reach heaven, and God has remembered her crimes. 6 Repay her as she has paid; give her even double for what she has done; in the cup she mixed, mix her a double potion. 7 As she has glorified herself and has lived in sensuality, to that measure, impose on her torture and grief. Because in her heart she says, ‘I sit as queen; I am no widow, and I shall never see tomorrow,’ 8 therefore, on a single her plagues will be upon her, pestilence, mourning, and famine, and with fire she shall be burned up. For the Lord God, who judges her, is mighty.”

9 “The kings of the earth, who committed fornication and were wanton with her, shall weep and beat their breasts over her, when they look at the smoke of her conflagration.
10 Standing at considerable distance, because dreading her torture, they shall exclaim, ‘Woe, woe, for the great city, for Babylon the mighty city; for her judgement is come in a single hour.’ 11 And the earth’s merchants will weep and mourn over her, because no one will any longer buy their cargo, 12 their cargo of gold, silver, precious stones, pearls, fine linen, purple, silk, and scarlet, besides all kinds of citron wood, all sorts of ivory articles and objects made of costly wood, of bronze, iron, and marble; 13 also cinnamon, spice, incense, perfume, frankincense, wine and olive oil, fine flour and wheat, cattle, sheep, horse and chariots, bodies and souls of men.”

14 “The fruit for which your soul longed, is out of you reach; all the elegance and the glitter you enjoyed are lost to you and never again will they be found.”

15 “The merchants of these products, who grew rich from her trade, will stand a long way off in terror of her torture, weeping and mourning, 16 and exclaiming, ‘Woe, woe, for the great city that was dressed in fine linen, purple and scarlet and gilded with gold and precious stones and pearls, 17 for in a single hour, all this wealth has been laid waste.’”

“Every pilot, too, and all who sail the seas, mariners and all who work the sea for their living, stood at a distance 18 and cried out as they looked at the smoke of her conflagration, ‘What city was as great as this?’ 19 They threw dust on their heads and shouted as they wept and mourned, ‘Woe, woe, for the great city where all who had ships at sea grew wealthy from her great wealth! For in a single hour, she has been laid waste.’”

20 “Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you saints and apostles and prophets, for on your behalf, God has passed judgement against her.”

21 Then a powerful angel, picked up a stone like a big millstone and hurled it into the sea with the words, “With such violence shall Babylon, the great city, be hurled down and shall never again be found, 22 The music of harpists and musicians and flute players and trumpeters shall not be heard in you anymore; neither shall a skilled artisan be found in you anymore; nor shall the grinding of the millstone be heard in you any longer. 23 And no light of a lamp shall shine in you anymore, nor shall the voices of bridegroom and bride be heard in you anymore.”

“For your merchants were the earth’s prominent men; by your magic charms, all the nations were led astray. 24 In her, too, was found the blood of prophets and of saints and of all who have been slaughtered on the earth.”

REVELATION CHAPTER 19

AFTER this, I heard what sounded like the voice of a great throng in heaven that said, “Hallelujah! Salvation, glory, and power belong to God, 2 because His judgements are true and just. For He has judged the great harlot, who corrupted the earth with her fornication, and He has required from her hand retribution for the blood of His servants.” 3 And a second time they shouted, “Hallelujah! And her smoke will ascend forever and ever.”

4 Then the twenty-four elders and the four living beings fell down to worship God, who is seated upon the throne, exclaiming, “Amen! Hallelujah!” 5 And a voice came forth from the throne that said, “Render praise to our God, all His servants who revere Him, both small and great!” 6 And I heard what was like the voice of a mighty throng, like the sound of many waters, like the roar of terrible thunders, saying, “Hallelujah, for the Lord our God, the Omnipotent has begun to reign. 7 Let us be joyful and let us celebrate, and let us ascribe glory to Him because the wedding banquet of the Lamb has come and His bride has gotten herself ready. 8 It has been granted to her to be dressed in pure, resplendent linen.” For the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

9 Then the angel said to me, “Write: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding banquet of the Lamb.” He also told me, “These are the true words of God.”

10 So, I fell at his feet to worship him, but he said to me. “You must not do that! I am a fellow servant of yours and of your brothers, who hold to that which Jesus has borne witness. Worship God.” For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

11 Then I saw heaven open and a white horse appeared. Its rider is called Faithful and True; justly He judges and wages war. 12 His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems with a name inscribed which no one knows except Himself. 13 The robe He is wearing has been dipped in blood, and the name by which He is called is The Word of God.

14 On white horses and clothed in fine linen, white and pure, the heavenly armies follow Him.

15 Out of His mouth issues a sharp sword with which to smite the nations. He will rule them with an iron rod, and He treads and the winepress of the furious wrath of God the Almighty. 16 On His robe and on His thigh, He has His name inscribed: King of kings and Lord of lords.

17 And I saw an angel standing in the sun, who shouted with a loud voice to all the birds that fly in mid-heaven, “Come, gather for God’s great banquet, 18 to feast on the flesh of kings, of commanders, of mighty men, of horses and of their riders, on the flesh of every one, free and slave, small and great.”

19 Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies, mustered to wage war against the One mounted on the horse and against His army. 20 And the beast was seized, and with Him the false prophet, who performed miracles in his presence, by means of which he led astray those who received the mark of the beast and who worshipped his statue. Both of them were flung alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulphur. 21 The rest were put to death with the sword that issued from the mouth of the One mounted on the horse. And all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh.

REVELATION CHAPTER 20

THEN I saw an angel descending from heaven, holding in his hand the key of the abyss and an enormous chain. 2 He seized the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. 3 He hurled him into the abyss, which he shut and sealed, above him, that he might lead astray the nations no more until the thousand years are completed. After that, he must be released for a little while.

4 Then I saw thrones that were occupied by such, as received power to judge. I also saw the souls of those who had been slain for their testimony to Jesus and for God’s message, and of those who had not worshipped either the beast or his statue, nor had received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

5 The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection. 6 Blessed and holy is he who shares in the first resurrection. Over them the second death exerts no power; instead, they will be priests of God and of Christ, and will reign with Him a thousand years.

7 When the thousand years have ended, Satan will be released from his prison 8 and will go out to lead astray the nations in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to muster them for battle. Their number is as the sand on the seashore.

9 They marched up over the breadth of the earth and surrounded the encampment of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from heaven and consumed them. 10 The

devil, who had deceived them, was flung into the lake of fire and sulphur, where also the beast and the false prophet were and they will be tortured day and night forever and ever.

11 Then I saw a great white throne and One seated upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled, and no room was found for them. 12 I also saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and scrolls were opened. Another scroll was opened, the book of Life, and the dead were judged according to their conduct from the entries in the scrolls.

13 The sea also gave up the dead persons it contained, and death and Hades gave up the dead in them, and each person was judged according to his works. 14 Then were death and Hades hurled into the lake of fire. This is the second death – the lake of fire. 15 And whoever was not found recorded in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

REVELATION CHAPTER 21

THEN I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and no longer was there any sea. 2 I also saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne say, “Behold, God’s dwelling place is among men, and he will dwell with them; they shall be His people. And God Himself will be with them 4 and shall wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death shall be no longer, nor mourning, nor crying, nor any further pain, because the former things have passed away.”

5 Then He who was seated upon the throne said, “Behold, I make all things new.” He also said, “Write; for these words are trustworthy and true.” 6 And He told me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty, I will give him without charge from the fountain of the water of life. 7 The victor shall inherit all this: I shall be his God and he shall be My son. 8 As for the cowardly, however, and the unbelieving, and the depraved, the murderers, the immoral, those practicing magic arts, and idolaters, and all liars – their lot is in the lake that burns with fire and sulphur. This is the second death.”

9 One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven final plagues, came to talk with me and said, “Come this way, I will show you the bride, the Lamb’s wife.” 10 He then conveyed me in the Spirit to a great and lofty mountain and showed me Jerusalem, the holy city, coming down out of heaven from God, 11 with the glory of God.

Her luster resembled a most precious jewel, a jasper stone as clear as crystal. 12 It had a large, high wall with twelve gates and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates the names inscribed of the twelve tribes of Israel’s sons: 13 three gates on the east side, three gates on the north side, three gates on the south side, and three gates on the west side. 14 And the city wall had twelve foundation stones, and engraved on them were the twelve names of the Lamb’s twelve apostles.

15 The one talking with me had a golden measuring rod to measure the city with its gates and its wall. 16 The city is laid out as a quadrangle, with its length equal to its width. With

the rod he measured the city, about fifteen hundred miles – the length, the width and the height, exactly equal. 17 He measured its wall too, two hundred sixteen feet by human measure, that is, by the angel's.

18 Its wall was made of jasper, and the city was made of pure gold, as transparent as glass. 19 The foundation stones of the city wall were ornamented with every kind of precious stone; the first foundation stone was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, agate; the fourth, emerald; 20 the fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth. Beryl; the ninth, topaz; the tenth chrysoprase; the eleventh; jacinth; and the twelfth, amethyst.

21 The twelve gate were twelve pearls, each separate gate made of one pearl, and the street of the city was made of pure gold, as transparent as glass. 22 I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Omnipotent is its temple, and so is the Lamb. 23 The city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine on it, because God's glory illumines it and the Lamb is its light. 24 By its light, the nations will walk and to it the kings of the earth will bring their splendor. 25 Its gate shall not all be closed during the day, for there will be no night there. 26 Into it, they will carry the glory and the honour of the nations. 27 But nothing unclean nor anyone practicing immorality and falsehood shall ever enter it, but only those whose names have been recorded in the Lamb's Book of Life.

REVELATION CHAPTER 22

HE then, showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing forth from the throne of God and of the Lamb, 2 and running through the middle of the street, and on this side and that side of the river, the tree of life, bearing twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the trees are for the healing of the nations.

3 There shall no longer be anything accursed there, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall worship Him. 4 They shall look at His face and His name shall be on their foreheads. 5 And night shall be no more; they will need neither lamplight not sunlight, for the Lord God will be their light, and they shall reign forever and ever.

6 Then he said to me, "These words are trustworthy and true. The Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, has sent His angel to show His servants what must shortly take place. 7 Behold, I come quickly." Blessed is he who observes the words of this book.

8 I, John, am the one who saw and heard these things, and when I had heard and seen, I bowed down to worship at the feet of the angel who was showing me all this. 9 But he said to me, "You must not do that! I am a fellow servant of yours, and of your brothers the prophets, and of those who obey the messages of this book. Worship."

10 Then he said to me, "Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near. 11 Let him who does wrong, do wrong still, and let the filthy still be filthy; let the righteous still do right, and let the saint, still be holy.

12 “Behold, I am coming soon and My reward is with Me, to render to each according to his doings. 13 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. 14 Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and to enter through the gates into the city. 15 Outside are dogs, sorcerers, immoral persons, idolators, and every one who loves and practices falsehood.

16 “I, Jesus, have sent My angel to you to witness these things for the churches. I am the Root and the offspring of David, the brilliant Morning Star.”

17 The Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let him who hears say, “Come!” And let the thirsty come; he who desires it, let him take freely the water of life.

18 I warn every one who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues that are described in this book, 19 and if anyone takes away from the words of this prophetic book, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city as described in this book.

20 He who affirms this says, “Yes, I am coming very soon.”

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

21 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with all.

THE BOOK OF

PSALMS

PSALM 1

OH, the joys of the man who walks not after the advice of the wicked, nor stands in the paths of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers!

2 but his delight is in the laws of the LORD and His law he ponders day and night.

3 He is like a tree planted by steams of water, that yields its fruit in its season, whose leaf does not wither; and everything he does shall prosper.

4 The ungodly are not so but are like chaff which the wind blows away.

5 Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgement, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous,

6 for the LORD knows the way of the righteous; but the way of the ungodly shall end in ruin.

PSALM 2

WHY do the nations make a tumult and the peoples devise an empty scheme?

2 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers consult together against the LORD and His anointed, saying.

3 “Let us tear their restraining bands apart, and let us cast their shackles from us.”

4 He who dwells in heaven laughs: the LORD derides them.

5 Then He speaks to them in His indignation and terrifies them by His fury;

6 I have indeed set My King upon Zion, My Holy Mountain.

7 I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to Me, Thou art My Son; this day I have begotten Thee.

8 Ask it of Me, and I will make the nations Thy inheritance, and the ends of the earth Thy possession.

9 Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; Thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potters’ jar.

10 Now, therefore, O kings, act wisely; be warned, O rulers of the earth.

11 Serve the LORD reverently and rejoice with trembling.

12 Kiss the Son, lest He be angry and you perish in the way; for soon shall His wrath be kindled. But, oh, the joy of all who take refuge in Him!

PSALM 3

O LORD, how many are my foes! How many have risen up against me!

2 Many say of me, “There is no help for him in God.” *Selah.*

3 But Thou, O LORD, art a shield about me; my glory and the One who lifts my head.

4 With my voice I cry to the LORD, and He answers me from His Holy Mountain. *Selah.*

5 I laid me down and slept; I woke again, for the LORD sustains me.

6 I do not fear the myriads of people who have set themselves against me all around.

7 Arise, O LORD; save me, O my God; for Thou hast struck all my enemies on the cheek; Thou hast broken the teeth of the wicked.

8 Salvation belongs to the LORD; Thy blessings be upon Thy people. *Selah.*

PSALM 4

ANSWER me when I call, O God of my righteousness! Thou hast given relief when I was in distress; be gracious to me and hear my cry.

2 Sons of men, how long will you turn my honour into shame? How long will you love futility and pursue falsehood? *Selah.*

3 But know that the LORD has set apart the redeemed for Himself; the LORD will hear when I call to Him.

4 Be agitated, but do not sin; commune in your heart upon your bed and be still. *Selah.*

5 Offer sacrifices of righteousness, and put your trust in the LORD.

6 Many say, “Who will show us any good?” Lift the light of Thy countenance upon us, O LORD.

7 Thou has put gladness in my heart – more than is present when their grain and wine abound.

8 In peace I will both lie down and sleep; for Thou, O LORD, alone makest me dwell in safety.

PSALM 5

HEAR my words, O LORD, give heed to my mediation.

2 Listen to the voice of my cry for help, my King and my God, for to Thee I pray.

3 O LORD, in the morning Thou shalt hear my voice; in the morning I will set in order before Thee my prayer, and will look up.

4 For Thou art not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness; evil does not dwell with Thee.

5 The boastful have no standing in Thy presence: Thou hatest all who practice the wrong.

6 Thou wilt destroy those that tell lies: the LORD abhors the murderer and the deceiver.

7 But as for me, by the greatness of Thy unfailing love I will enter Thy house; at Thy holy temple I will worship in reverence of Thee.

8 O LORD, lead me in Thy righteousness because of those who watch me; make Thy way straight before me.

9 For there is nothing in their speech upon which one can rely: their heart is a destructive chasm; their throat is an open grave; they deceive with their tongue.

10 Hold them guilty, O God; let them fall by their own designs; for the mass of their transgressions thrust them away, because they have rebelled against Thee.

11 But let all who take refuge in Thee rejoice. Let them ever shout for joy since Thou dost make a covering over them. Let all who love Thy name be glad in Thee;

12 for Thou, O LORD, dost bless the righteous; as with a shield Thou dost surround him with favour.

PSALM 6

O LORD, do not rebuke me in Thy anger; do not discipline me in Thy hot displeasure.

2 Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am faint: heal me, O LORD, for my bones are troubled,

3 and my soul is exceedingly disturbed. But Thou, O LORD – how long?

4 Return, O LORD, deliver my soul; save me for the sake of Thy covenant love.

5 For in death there are no memorials made to Thee; render praise to Thee?

6 I am weary in my groaning; every night I moisten my bed with tears; I drench my couch.

7 My eye has grown dim from grief; it is aging because of all my enemies.

8 Depart from me, all you who practice the wrong; for the LORD has heard the voice of my weeping.

9 All my enemies shall be ashamed and greatly dismayed; they shall turn back; they shall be put to shame in a moment.

PSALM 7

O LORD, my God, in Thee have I put my trust: save me from all who pursue me, and deliver me.

2 lest like a lion he tear my soul, dragging me away while there is none to deliver.

3 O LORD, my God, if I have done this, if there is injustice on my hands,

4 if I have rendered evil to him who was at peace with me, or, without cause, have plundered him who was my enemy,

5 let the enemy pursue and overtake my soul; let him trample my life to the ground and lay my honour in the dust. *Selah.*

6 Arise, O LORD, in Thy anger, raise Thyself against the rage of my enemies; awake for me, Thou who hast ordained judgement.

7 Let the assembly of the people be gathered to Thee,

8 and over them return on high. May the LORD judge the people. Vindicate me, O LORD, according to my righteousness and according to the integrity that is upon me.

9 Let the evil of the wicked cease, I beseech Thee, and establish Thou the righteous; for Thou who triest hearts and emotions, art a righteous God.

10 My shield depends upon God, who saves the upright in heart.

11 God is a righteous judge, a God who is indignant every day.

12 If a man will not repent, He will sharpen His sword: He has strung His bow and made it ready.

13 He has prepared for him weapons of death, making His arrows fiery shafts.

14 Behold, he who writhes with iniquity has conceived wrongdoings and brings forth falsehood.

15 He has dug a pit, having hollowed it out, and has fallen into the hole even while making it.

16 His wrongdoing returns upon his own head, and his violence comes down on the top of his head.

17 I will give thanks to the LORD according to His righteousness, and I will sing praise to the name of the LORD most high.

PSALM 8

O JEHOVAH, our LORD, how glorious is Thy name in all the earth! Thou hast displayed Thy majesty above the heavens.

2 From the mouth of children, even the unweaned, Thou hast ordained strength on account of Thy foes, that the enemy and revengeful might be silenced.

3 When I observe Thy heavens, the work of Thy fingers, the moon and the stars which Thou has established:

4 what is man that Thou art mindful of him, or the son of man that Thou carest for him?

5 Yet Thou has made him little less than heavenly beings, and Thou dost crown him with glory and honour.

6 Thou givest him dominion over the works of Thy hands; Thou hast placed all things under his feet,

7 all sheep and oxen, the beasts of the field also,

8 the birds of the air and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

9 O Jehovah, out LORD, how glorious is Thy name in all the earth!

PSALM 9

I will praise the LORD with my whole heart; I will tell of all Thy marvellous works.

2 I will be glad and rejoice in Thee, I will sing praise to Thy name, O Most High.

3 When my enemies are turned back, they stumble and perish before Thee.

4 For Thou hast maintained my right and my cause; Thou dost occupy the throne, a righteous judge.

5 Thou hast rebuked the heathen; Thou hast destroyed the wicked; Thou hast blotted out their name forever and ever.

6 The enemy has been cut off, a never-ending ruin. Thou hast overthrown the cities; even the memory of them has vanished.

7 But the LORD abides forever. He has established His throne for judging.

8 And He will judge the world in righteousness; He will minister justice to peoples in uprightness.

9 So shall the LORD be a stronghold for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble.

10 Thus shall those who know Thy name trust in Thee, for Thou, O LORD, hast not forsaken those who seek Thee.

11 Sing praise to the LORD who dwells in Zion, declare among peoples His works.

12 For He who avenges blood remembers them. He does not forget the cry of the afflicted.

13 Be gracious to me, O LORD, see what I suffer from those who hate me, O Thou who dost lift me up from the gate of death,

14 that I may recount all Thy praises, that in the gates of the daughter of Zion I may rejoice in Thy deliverance.

15 The nations have sunk into the pit which they made; in the net which they hid have their own feet been caught.

16 The LORD has made Himself known, He has executed judgement; in the work of His own hands have the wicked been snared. *Higgaion. Selah.*

17 The wicked shall be turned into Sheol, all the heathen that forget God.

18 For the needy shall not always be forgotten, nor the hope of the poor be lost forever.

19 Arise, O LORD! Let not man prevail; let the nations be judged before Thee!

20 Put them in fear, O LORD! Let the nations know that they are but human. *Selah.*

PSALM 10

WHY dost Thou stand at a distance, O LORD? Why dost Thou hide Thyself in times of trouble?

2 In arrogance the wicked hotly pursue the afflicted; let them be taken in the schemes which they have devised.

3 For the wicked boasts of his heart’s desire; the greedy one curses and spurns the LORD.

4 According to the pride of his countenance, the wicked will not inquire: all his thoughts are that there is no God.

5 His ways persist at all times; Thy judgements are on high, beyond his sight; as for all his foes, he sniffs at them.

6 He says to himself, “I shall not be moved; I shall never come to adversity.”

7 His mouth is full of cursing, deceit, and oppression; under his tongue are trouble and sin.

8 He sits in ambush in the villages; in hiding places he murders the innocent; his eyes watch stealthily for the unfortunate.

9 He lies in wait in the hiding place like a lion in his thicket; he lies in wait to catch the afflicted; by drawing him into his net, he catches the afflicted.

10 who is crushed and sinks down; thus do the unfortunate fall by his powers.

11 He says to himself that God has forgotten, that He has hidden His face and will never see.

12 Arise, O LORD; lift up Thy hand, O God; forget not the afflicted.

13 Why does the wicked spurn God and say to himself that Thou wilt not call to account?

14 Thou hast seen, for Thou dost take note of trouble and grief, that Thou mayest repay it with Thine own hand. The unfortunate commits himself to Thee; for the orphan Thou hast been a helper.

15 Break the arm of the wicked; seek out the wickedness of the sinner till Thou findest no more.

16 The LORD is King forever and ever; the heathen will have perished out of His land.

17 O LORD, Thou hast heard the longing of the afflicted; Thou dost establish their heart; Thou dost incline Thine ear

18 to render justice to the orphan and the oppressed, so that no earthly mortal may terrify them anymore.

PSALM 11

IN the LORD I take refuge; how can you say to my soul, “Flee as a bird to your mountain?”

2 For see, the wicked are bending the bow, they have fitted their arrow to the string to shoot in the dark at the upright heart.

3 When the foundations are torn down, what can the righteous do?

4 The LORD is in His holy temple, the LORD’s throne is in heaven. His eyes observe, His eyelids test the children of men.

5 The LORD puts the righteous to the proof, but His soul abhors the wicked and anyone who loves violence.

6 Upon the wicked He will rain snares; fire burning sulphur; and a scorching wind will be the portion of their cup.

7 For the LORD is righteous; He loves acts of righteousness; His countenance beholds the upright.

PSALM 13

HOW long, O LORD? Wilt Thou forget me forever? How long wilt Thou hide Thy face from me?

2 How long shall I keep planning in my soul and experience a daily sorrow of heart? How long shall my enemy be higher than I?

3 Consider and answer me, O LORD, my God; enlighten my eyes, lest I sleep in death;

4 lest my enemy say, “I have overpowered him;” lest my foes rejoice that I am overthrown.

5 But I have trusted in Thine unfailing love: my heart rejoices in Thy deliverance.

6 Let me sing to the LORD because He has dealt generously with me.

PSALM 14

THE fool has said in his heart, “There is no God.” They have corrupted their behaviour and made it abominable. There is none who does right.

2 The LORD looked down from heaven upon the descendants of man to see if any were acting wisely, seeking after God.

3 All have turned aside; together they have become corrupt. There is none who does good, not even one.

4 Do not any evildoers understand, who eat up my people as if they ate bread, and who do not call on the LORD?

5 There they experience great fear, for God is with the generation of the righteous.

6 You would put to shame the planning of the afflicted; but the LORD is his refuge.

7 Oh, that the salvation of Israel were come out of Zion! When the LORD shall turn back the captivity of His people, may Jacob rejoice; may Israel be glad!

PSALM 15

O LORD, who shall stay in Thy tabernacle: Who shall dwell in Thy Holy hill?

2 He who walks in integrity, who does what is right, and who speaks the truth is his heart;

3 who does not slander with his tongue, who works no evil against his friend, and who does not carry scandal concerning his neighbour;

4 in whose eyes a reprobate person is disdained, but who esteems those who revere the LORD; who, though swearing to his own detriment, does not change;

5 who does not give his money for interest, and who will not take a bribe against the innocent.

He who does these things shall never be moved.

PSALM 16

PRESERVE me, O God, for I have looked to Thee for refuge.

2 I said to Jehovah, “Thou art my LORD; I have no good beside Thee.”

3 As for the godly that are in the land, they are the glorious in whom is all my delight.

4 The sorrows of those who choose otherwise shall be multiplied; I will not pour out their drink offerings of blood, nor take their names upon my lips.

5 The LORD is my assigned portion and my cup: Thou dost maintain my lot.

6 The lines have fallen to me in pleasant *places*; indeed, a good inheritance is mine.

7 I will bless the LORD who has counselled me: even in the night my emotions admonish me.

8 I have placed the LORD before me continually; because He is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

9 Therefore, my heart was glad and my glory rejoiced; my body too shall dwell securely.

10 For Thou wilt not leave My soul in the realm of the dead nor allow Thy Holy One to see corruption.

11 Thou dost make me know the path of life; in Thy presence is fullness of joy; in Thy right hand are pleasure for ever more.

PSALM 17

DO hear what is right, O LORD; listen to my cry! Give ear to my prayer, from lips free of deceit.

2 Let my judgement of vindication come forth from Thy presence. May Thine eyes see what is equitable.

3 Thou has tested my heart; Thou hast visited me in the night; Thou hast tried me and hast found no evil intention in me; neither does my mouth transgress.

4 In respect to the acts of men, by the words of Thy lips have I guarded myself against the course of the violent.

5 My steps have held closely to Thy paths; my feet have not slipped.

6 I have called on Thee, O God, for Thou wilt answer me; hear my words.

7 In a marvellous way show Thine unfailing love, O Thou, who savest those who look for refuge from their adversaries at Thy right hand.

8 Keep me as the pupil of Thine eye; hide me in the shadow of Thy wings

9 from wicked men who have maltreated me, my deadly enemies who surround me.

10 They are enclosed in their own fat; they speak proudly with their mouth.

11 Wherever we go, they have surrounded us; they fix their eyes to cast us to the ground.

12 He is like a lion craving to tear, as a young lion waiting in ambush.

13 Arise, O LORD! Confront him, put him down! Deliver my soul from the wicked by Thy sword,

14 from men by Thy hand. O LORD, from men of the world, whose portion is in this life; whose stomach Thou dost fill with what Thou hast stored for them, so that their children are filled, who leave the remainder to their young ones.

15 As for me, with righteousness shall I behold Thy face; I shall be satisfied when I awake with Thy likeness.

PSALM 18

FERVENTLY do I love Thee, O LORD, my strength.

2 The LORD is my stronghold, my fortress, and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my high tower.

3 I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised, and so I am delivered from my enemies.

4 Cords of death encompassed me and the floods of ungodliness assailed me;

5 Cord of Sheol surrounded me, snares of death confronted me.

6 In my distress I called on the LORD; to my God I cried for help; He heard my voice from His temple; my cry before Him reached His ears.

7 The did the earth quiver and shake and the foundations of the mountains trembled and rocked, because He was indignant.

8 Smoke issued from His nostrils, and fire from His mouth devoured; coals were kindled by it.

9 He bowed the heavens and came down; thick darkness was under His feet.

10 He rode upon a cherub and flew. He soared on the wings of the wind.

11 He made darkness His covering about Him; His shelter, clouds of the sky dark with water.

12 At the brightness before Him, His clouds issued forth hailstones and coals of fire.

13 The LORD thundered in the heavens; The Most High uttered His voice; there were hailstones and coals of fire.

14 He sent forth His arrows and scattered them; He shot forth His lightnings and confounded them.

15 Then the channels of the water became visible and the foundations of the world were laid bare at Thy rebuke, O LORD, at the blast of the breath of Thy nostrils.

16 He reached from on high; He took me; He drew me out of great waters.

17 He delivered me from my strong enemy, and from them that hated me; for they were too strong for me.

18 They came upon me in the day of my calamity, but the LORD was my support.

19 He brought me out into a roomy place; He was delivering me because He delighted in me.

20 The LORD rewarded me according to my righteousness, according to the cleanness of my hands He recompensed me.

21 For I have kept the ways of the LORD, and have not wickedly departed from my God.

22 For all His ordinances were before me, and His statutes I did not put away from me;

23 so I was faultless toward Him, having guarded myself against my sinfulness.

24 Therefore the LORD recompensed me according to my righteousness, according to the cleanness of my hands in His sight.

25 With the merciful Thou showest Thyself merciful; with the perfect man Thou showest Thyself perfect;

26 with the pure Thou showest Thyself pure; and with the perverse Thou showest Thyself opposed.

27 For Thou deliverest an afflicted people, but haughty eyes Thou bringest down.

28 For Thou causest my lamp to shine; the LORD my God, illumines my darkness.

29 For by Thee I can attack a troop, and by my God I can leap a wall.

30 God! - perfect is His way! The word of the LORD is proven; a shield is He to all who trust in Him.

31 For who is God but the LORD and who is a rock besides our God?

32 The God who girds me with strength, and makes my way perfect;

33 who makes my feet like those of a doe, and causes me to stand on the heights;

34 who trains my hands for war, so that my arm can bend a bow of brass.

35 Thou hast given me the shield of Thy salvation; Thy right hand sustains me, Thy gentleness has made me great.

36 Thou hast enlarged my steps under me, my feet have not slipped.

37 I pursued my enemies and overtook them, I did not turn back until they were consumed.

38 I smote them so that they could not rise, they fell under my feet.

39 For Thou hast girded me with strength for the battle. Thou didst subdue my assailants under me;

40 Thou didst cause my enemies to turn their backs to me, so that I destroyed those who hated me.

41 They cried for help, but there was none to deliver; even to the LORD, but He answered them not.

42 I crushed them as dust before the wind; like dirt of the streets, I emptied them out.

43 Thou hast delivered me from strivings of the people; Thou hast made me the head of nations; people I knew not serve me.

44 At the hearing of the ear, they obey me; outsiders submit themselves to me;

45 foreigners fear and come trembling from their strongholds.

46 The LORD lives; blessed be my rock, and exalted be the God of my salvation;

47 the God who executes retribution for me, and subdues peoples under me;

48 My deliverer from my enemies. Indeed. Thou dost exalt me higher than my assailants; Thou savest me from men of violence.

49 Therefore, I will extol Thee among the nations, O LORD, and will sing praises to Thy name.
50 who gives great deliverances to His king, and shows loving kindness to His anointed, to David and his posterity forever.

PSALM 19

THE heavens are telling the glory of God, and the firmament is showing His handiwork.

2 Day after day pours forth speech, and night after night declares knowledge.

3 There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard.

4 Yet their line goes out through all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world. In them He has placed a tent for the sun,

5 which is like a bridegroom going forth from his chamber, and like a mighty man rejoicing to run a race.

6 From the end of the heavens is its rising, and its circuit to its other end; nothing is hid from its heat.

7 The law of the LORD is perfect, restoring the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple;

8 the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes;

9 the reverence of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the judgments of the LORD are true and altogether righteous.

10 More to be desired they are than gold, than much fine gold; sweeter too than honey, and the drippings of the comb.

11 Moreover by them is Thy servant reminded; in keeping them there is great reward.

12 Who is aware of his sins? From those that are secret pardon me;

13 from those presumptuous sins too, keep Thy servant away: let them not rule over me; then I shall be upright and innocent from the gross transgression.

14 Let the words of my mouth and the thoughts of my heart be pleasing in Thy sight, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

PSALM 20

MAY the LORD answer you in the day of trouble; may the name of the God of Jacob set you up on high;

2 may He send you help from the sanctuary, and sustain you from Zion.

3 May He remember all your offerings, and accept your burnt sacrifices. *Selah.*

4 May He grant you what your heart desires, and fulfill all your plans.

5 May we shout for joy over your triumph, and in the name of our God wave our banners; may the LORD fulfill all your petitions.

6 Now I know that the LORD saves His anointed; He answers him from His holy heaven with the saving might of His right hand.

7 Some boast of chariots and some of horses, but we boast of the name of Jehovah, our God.

8 They have bowed down and fallen; but we have risen and stand erect.

9 Save, LORD! May the king answer us when we call.

PSALM 21

IN Thy strength, O LORD, the king is made glad, in Thy saving grace how greatly he rejoices!

2 Thou hast given him the desire of his heart, and hast not refused the request of his lips.

3 For Thou dost meet him with blessings of goodness; Thou dost place a crown of pure gold on his head.

4 He asked life of Thee; Thou gavest it to him; even length of days forever and ever.

5 His glory is great because of Thy deliverance; honour and majesty Thou dost bestow upon him.

6 Yes, forever Thou dost make him most blessed; Thou dost delight him with joy by Thy presence.

7 For the king trusts in the LORD; and because of the covenant love of the Most High, he shall not be moved.

8 Your hand will contact all your enemies; your right hand will contact those who hate you.

9 You will make them like a blazing furnace when you appear; the LORD will swallow them up in His anger, and fire will devour them.

10 You will destroy their offspring from the earth and their children from the sons of men.

11 For they have intended evil against you; they have devised a plot; they will be unable to put it into practice.

12 For you will make them turn their back; you will aim at their faces with your bows.

13 Be Thou exalted, O LORD, in Thy strength; we will sing and praise Thy power.

PSALM 22

MY God, my God why hast Thou forsaken me, so far from helping me and from the words of my groaning?

2 O My God, I call by day, but Thou dost not answer, and by night, but I find no rest.

3 Yet Thou art holy, enthroned upon the praises of Israel.

4 In Thee our fathers trusted; they trusted and Thou didst deliver them.

5 To Thee they cried and were delivered; in Thee they trusted and were not disappointed.

6 But I am a worm and not a man, a reproach of men and despised by the people.

7 All who see Me, mock Me; they open the mouth; they wag the head:

8 He trusted in the LORD, let Him deliver him; let Him save him, since he has delighted in Him.

9 Yet Thou art He who took Me out of the womb, who made Me trust when upon my mother's breast.

10 Upon Thee have I been cast from My birth; since My mother bore me, Thou hast been My God.

11 Be not far from Me for trouble is near, and there is none to help.

12 Many bulls have surrounded Me, strong bulls of Bashan have encompassed me.

13 They open their mouths at Me like a ravening and roaring lion.

14 I am poured out like water, and all My bones are out of joint. My heart is like wax melted within me;

15 My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and My tongue cleaves to My jaws; Thou dost lay Me in the dust of death.

16 For dogs have surrounded Me; a crowd of wicked men have encircled Me; they have pierced My hands and My feet;

17 I can count all My bones, They look, they stare at Me;

18 they divide My garments among them, and for My clothing do they cast lots.

19 But, O LORD, be not Thou afar off; O my Strength, hasten to help me.

20 Deliver my soul from the sword, my lonely self from the power of the dog.

21 Save me from the mouth of the lion; even from the horns of the wild oxen, Thou hast answered me.

22 I will make known Thy name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation, I will praise Thee.

23 You who revere the LORD, praise Him; all you sons of Jacob, glorify Him; and stand in awe of Him; all you sons of Israel.

24 For He has neither despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted, nor has He hid His face from him, but when he cried to Him, He heard.

25 From Thee comes my praise in the large congregation; I will pay my vows before those who revere Him.

26 The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek the LORD shall praise Him. May your heart live forever!

27 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; all the families of the nations shall bow down before Thee.

28 For kingship belongs to the LORD; He rules over the nations.

29 All the prosperous of the earth shall eat and bow down; indeed, all who go down to the dust shall bow before Him, even he who is unable to keep his soul alive.

30 Prosperity shall serve Him; it shall be told of the LORD to the coming generation:

31 they will come and they will tell of His righteousness to a people yet to be born, for He has performed it.

PSALM 23

THE LORD is my Shepherd; I shall not lack;

2 He makes me to lie down in green pastures;

3 He leads me beside restful water; He revives my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

4 Yes, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no harm; for Thou art with me: Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me.

5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of my adversaries; Thou hast anointed my head with oil; my cup runs over.

6 Surely, goodness and unfailing love shall follow me all the days of my life and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

PSALM 24

THE earth and all its fullness are the LORD's, the world and all who live in it;

2 for He Has founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods.

3 Who shall go up into the mountain of the LORD; who shall stand in His Holy place?

4 He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted up his soul to falsehood, who has not sworn deceptively;

5 he shall receive a blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

6 Such is the generation of those who inquire for Him; who seek Thy face like Jacob, *Selah.*

7 Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be raised, ye ancient doors, so that the King of Glory may enter!

8 Who is the King of Glory? The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle.

9 Lift up your heads, ye gates, and be raised, ye ancient doors, so that the King of Glory may enter!

10 Who is He then, the King of Glory? The LORD of hosts. He is the King of Glory. *Selah.*

PSALM 25

TO Thee, O LORD, I lift up my soul:

2 my God, in Thee I trust. Let me not be ashamed, let not my enemies triumph over me.

3 Yes, none who wait for Thee shall be ashamed; those shall be ashamed who are vainly disloyal.

4 Show me Thy ways O LORD; teach me Thy paths.

5 Guide me in Thy truth and instruct me; for Thou art the God of my salvation; for Thee I wait all day.

6 Remember, O LORD, Thy tender mercies and The lovingkindnesses, for they are from everlasting.

7 Remember not the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions; remember me according to Thy loving kindness, for Thy goodness' sake, O LORD.

8 Good and upright is the LORD; therefore, He will instruct sinners in the way.

9 He guides the humble in what is right and teaches the humble His way.

10 All the paths of the LORD are lovingkindness and truth to such as keep His covenant and His testimonies.

11 For Thy name's sake, O LORD, pardon my sin for it is great.

12 Who is the man who reveres the LORD? Him He shall instruct in the way that he shall choose.

13 His soul shall dwell in prosperity, and his offspring shall inherit the land.

14 The companionship of the LORD is with them that revere Him; and He will show them His covenant.

15 My eyes are ever toward the LORD, for He will release my feet from the net.

16 Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am desolate and afflicted.

17 The troubles of my heart are enlarged. Oh, bring me out of my distresses!

18 Consider my affliction and my trouble, and forgive all my sins.

19 Consider my enemies for they are many and they hate me with cruel hatred.

20 Keep my soul and deliver me, let me not be ashamed, for I trust in Thee.

21 Let integrity and uprightness preserve me, for I wait on Thee.

22 Redeem Israel, O God, out of all his troubles!

PSALM 26

VINDICATE me, O LORD, for I have walked in my integrity, and in the LORD I have trusted without wavering.

2 Examine me, O LORD, and test me; test my soul and my attitude.

3 For Thy lovingkindness is before my eyes, and I have walked in Thy truth.

4 I have not associated with deceptive men, nor do I fellowship with pretenders.

5 I hate the gathering of evildoers and will not fellowship with the wicked.

6 I will wash my hands in innocence and would go about Thy altar, O LORD,

7 that I may publish with a voice of thanksgiving and tell of all Thy wonderous works.

8 O LORD, I love the habitation of Thy house and the place where Thy glory dwells.

9 Gather not my soul with sinners, nor my life with bloodthirsty men,

10 in whose hands is wickedness, and their right hand is full of bribes.

11 As for me, I will walk in my integrity; redeem me and be merciful to me!

12 My foot stands on even ground; in the congregations I will praise the LORD.

PSALM 27

THE LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

2 When the wicked came at me to eat my flesh, my adversaries and my foes, they stumbled and fell.

3 Though an army should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, I would still be confident.

4 One thing I have asked of the LORD; that will I look for, that I may live in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to observe the LORD’s loveliness, and to meditate in His temple.

5 For in the day of trouble He conceals me in His tabernacle; He hides me in the shelter of His tent. He lifts me up on a rock.

6 Thus shall my head be exalted above my enemies around me; in His tent I will offer sacrifices of triumph; I will sing, yes, I will sing praises to the LORD.

7 Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud; be gracious to me and answer me.

8 In Thy behalf my heart proclaims, “Seek ye My face;” Thy face, LORD, I will seek.

9 Hide not Thy face from me, put not Thy servant away in anger. Thou art my help; reject me not, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation.

10 For though my father and my mother forsake me, the LORD will take care of me.

11 Teach me, O LORD, Thy way; and lead me in an even path because of those who lie in wait for me.

2 Hand me not over to the will of my opponents, for false witnesses are risen against me, and such as breathe cruelty.

13 What if I had not believed to see the LORD’s goodness in the land of the living!

14 Wait for the LORD: take courage, and He will give strength to your heart; yes, wait for the LORD.

PSALM 28

TO Thee, O LORD, do I call; my rock, be not deaf to me. If Thou be silent to me, I become like those who go down into the pit.

2 Hear the voice of my supplication, when I cry to Thee, when I lift up my hands toward Thy inner sanctuary.

3 Carry me not away with the ungodly, and with those engaged in wrong, who speak peace with their neighbours, while malice is in their hearts.

4 Repay them according to their work, according to the wickedness of their actions. According to the work of their hands repay them, give them what they deserve.

5 Because they do not observe the LORD’s doings, nor the work of His hands, He shall demolish them and not rebuild them.

6 Blessed be the LORD, because He has heard the voice of my supplication.

7 The LORD is my defense and my shield; my heart trusted in Him, and I am helped. Therefore, my heart rejoices, and with my song I will praise Him.

8 The LORD is their protection; He is the saving defense of His anointed,

9 Save Thy people, and bless Thy heritage; Nourish them and carry them forever.

PSALM 29

GIVE to the LORD, O you sons of the mighty, give to the LORD glory and strength.

2 Ascribe to the LORD the glory of His name; worship the LORD in sacred adornment.

3 The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of Glory thunders; the LORD is upon great waters.

4 The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.

5 The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars; yes, the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.

6 He makes them to skip like a calf, Lebanon and Sirion like an antelope.

7 The voice of the LORD splits flames of fire;

8 The voice of the LORD makes the wilderness to tremble; the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

9 The voice of the LORD make the hinds to labour and strips the forests, while in His temple all chant, Glory!

10 The LORD sat enthroned over the flood; the LORD sits enthroned King forever.

11 The LORD will give strength to His people; the LORD will bless His people with peace.

PSALM 30

I WILL extol Thee, O LORD, because Thou hast lifted me, and hast not let my enemies rejoice over me.

2 O LORD, my God, I cried to Thee, and Thou has healed me.

3 LORD, Thou hast brought my soul up from Sheol; Thou hast revived me from among those who do down to the grave.

4 Sing praise to the LORD, says His saints, and praise His sacred memory.

5 For His anger stays but a moment; in His favour is life. At eventide weeping may come in to lodge for the night, but in the morning – shouts of joy.

6 As for me, I said in my prosperity, “I shall never be moved.”

7 LORD, by Thy favour Thou hast made my mountain to stand strong; Thou didst hide Thy face; I felt disaster.

8 I cried to Thee, O LORD; to the LORD I made supplication;

9 “What profit is there in my blood when I go down to the grave? Shall the dust praise Thee? Shall it declare Thy truth?

10 Hear, O LORD, and be gracious to me; O LORD, be Thou my helper.”

11 Thou hast turned my lamenting for me into a processional; Thou hast discarded my sackcloth, and hast girded me with gladness,

12 so that my soul may sing praise to Thee and not be silent. O LORD, my God, I will praise Thee forever.

PSALM 31

IN Thee, O LORD, I take refuge; let me not be put to shame forever; in Thy righteousness deliver me.

2 Incline Thy ear to me, speedily deliver me; be Thou to me a strong rock a fortified house to save me.

3 For Thou art my rock and my fortress; for Thy name's sake lead me and guide me.

4 Draw me out of the net, which they have hid for me, for Thou art my stronghold.

5 Into Thy hand I commit my spirit; Thou hast redeemed me, LORD God of truth.

6 I have abhorred the worshippers of vain idols; but I trust in the LORD.

7 I will exult and rejoice in Thy lovingkindness, because Thou hast seen my distress; Thou hast known the afflictions of my soul

8 and Thou hast not handed me over into the hand of the enemy; Thou hast established my feet in a large place.

9 Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am in anguish; my eye, my soul and my body are consumed with grief.

10 For my life wastes away with sorrow and my years with sighing. My strength has failed because of my sin, even my bones have languished.

11 To all my enemies I am become a reproach, most of all to my neighbours; even a dread to my acquaintances. Those who see me on the street run away from me.

12 I am lost to memory like one dead; I am discarded like a worn-out utensil.

13 For I have heard the slander of many; there was terror on every side. When they plotted together against me, they schemed to take my life.

14 But I trust in Thee, O LORD; I said, "Thou art my God;

15 my times are in Thy hand; free me from my foes, and from my pursuers.

16 Cause Thy face to shine upon Thy servant; in Thy lovingkindness save me.

17 Let me not be put to shame, O LORD, for on Thee do I call." The wicked shall be ashamed; they shall be silenced in the realm of the dead.

18 Lying lips shall be silenced, that speak insolently against the righteous with pride and contempt.

19 How great is Thy goodness, which Thou hast reserved for those who revere Thee; which Thou hast prepared for those who take refuge in Thee in the presence of the sons of men!

20 In the shelter of Thy presence Thou shalt protect them from the conspiracies of men; Thou shalt hide them in a pavilion from the strife of tongues.

21 Blessed be the LORD, for He has shown me His lovingkindness as in an entrenched city.

22 As for me, I had said in my alarm, “I am cut off from before Thy eyes.” Yet Thou didst hear the voice of my supplication when I cried to Thee.

23 Love the LORD, all ye godly; the LORD preserves the faithful and fully repays the proud doer.

24 Be strong and let your heart take courage, all ye who wait for the LORD.

PSALM 32

BLESSED is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

2 Blessed is the man to whom the LORD does not charge iniquity, and nothing in his spirit is deceit.

3 When I kept silent, my bones wasted away in my groaning all the day.

4 For day and night Thy hand was heavy upon me; my marrow dried up as in a summer drought. *Selah.*

5 I acknowledged my sin to Thee and my iniquity I did not hide, I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,” and Thou didst forgive the iniquity of my sin. *Selah.*

6 For this let all the godly pray to Thee betimes, when Thou mayest be met. Surely, the flood of great waters shall not touch him.

7 Thou art my hiding place; Thou wilt preserve me from trouble, Thou wilt surround me with songs of deliverance. *Selah.*

8 I will instruct you and train you in the way you shall go; I will counsel you with My eye on you.

9 Be not as the horse, as the mule, without judgement, whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle, else they come not near you.

10 Many sorrows are to the ungodly, but he who trusts in the LORD shall be encircled with lovingkindness.

11 Be glad in the LORD and exult, ye righteous; shout joyfully, ye upright in heart.

PSALM 33

REJOICE, ye righteous in the LORD; praise becomes the upright!

2 Give thanks to the LORD with a harp; with ten-stringed harp sing Him praises.

3 Sing Him a new song; play skilfully with a joyful sound.

4 For right is the word of the LORD, and all His work is in faithfulness.

5 He love righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the LORD's lovingkindness.

6 By the word of the LORD the heavens were made; by the breath of His mouth all their host.

7 Gathering as a heap the waters of the sea, He places the deeps in storehouses.

8 Let them be in awe before the LORD, all the earth; let all the inhabitants of the world be reverent before Him.

9 For He spoke and it became, He commanded and it appeared.

10 The LORD brought to nought the counsel of the Gentiles, He frustrated the purposes of the peoples.

11 The counsel of the LORD stands forever, the purposes of His heart from generation to generation.

12 Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people He has chosen for His personal inheritance.

13 The LORD looked from heaven; He saw all the sons of men.

14 He looked from the place of His dwelling at all the inhabitants of the earth,

15 He who fashions their hearts to be human; He who takes note of all their works.

16 There is no king delivered by a great army; no mighty man is preserved by great strength.

17 The horse is a vain means of safety, and its great strength affords no escape.

18 Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who revere Him, on those trusting His mercy,

19 to save their soul from death, to keep them alive in famine.

20 Our soul waits for the LORD; He is our help and our shield.

21 Yes, in Him our heart shall rejoice; for we have trusted in His holy name.

22 Let Thy loving kindness, O LORD, be upon us, according as we hope in Thee.

PSALM 34

I WILL bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.

2 My soul shall make her boast in the LORD; let the humble hear it and be glad.

3 Magnify the LORD with me and let us exalt His name together.

4 I sought the LORD and He answered me, and freed me from all my fears.

5 They looked to Him and were radiant; their faces not put to shame.

6 This poor man called and the LORD heard, and saved him out of all his troubles.

7 The Angel of the LORD encamps around those who revere Him and rescues them.

8 O taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the man who trusts in Him.

9 Revere the LORD, ye His saints, for there is no lack to those whose revere Him.

10 The young lions do need and suffer hunger; but those who seek the LORD shall lack in nothing good.

11 Come, sons and daughters, listen to me, I will teach you reverence for the LORD.

12 Who is the man desiring life, loving days to see good -:

13 Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit;

14 turn away from evil and practice good; seek peace and keep after it.

15 The eyes of the LORD are toward the righteous, and His ears open to their cry.

16 The face of the LORD is against the evildoers: to root up their memory from off the earth.

17 The righteous cried and the LORD heard and saved then out of all their troubles.

18 The LORD is close to the brokenhearted, and rescues those whose spirit is crushed.

19 Many are the afflictions of the righteous; but out of them all the LORD delivers him.

20 He protects his every bone; not one of them is broken.

21 Calamity shall slay the wicked and the haters of the righteous shall be penalised.

22 The LORD redeems the soul of His servants; all those taking refuge in Him shall go free.

PSALM 35

CONTEND, O LORD, with my contenders; war against those who war against me.

2 Lay hold of shield and covering and stand up for my help.

3 Draw out the spear and step in to encounter my pursuers; say to my soul: I am your salvation.

4 Let them be confounded and ashamed, who seek after my soul; let them be turned back and abashed who intend my hurt.

5 Let them be as chaff before the wind, the Angel of the LORD driving them.

6 Let their path be pitch dark and most slippery, the Angel of the LORD pursuing them.

7 For without provocation they hid their net for me; without cause they have digged (a pit) for my soul.

8 Let ruin come upon him unawares, and may his net, which he hid, catch himself; with destruction let him fall into it.

9 But my soul shall rejoice in the LORD, shall exult in His salvation.

10 All my bones shall say: “LORD, who is equal to THEE, delivering the afflicted from one stronger than he and the poor and needy from him who robs him.”

11 False witnesses rise up; they ask of me what I do not know.

12 They reward me harm in return for help; bereavement has come to my soul.

13 But I – when they were ill, my clothing was sackcloth – I humbled my soul with fasting; but my prayer rebounded to my own bosom.

14 As though it were my friend or a brother, I went about; I bowed down mourning as in sorrow for a mother.

15 But in my stumbling they rejoiced; slanderers gathered themselves against me and I did not know it. Unceasingly they reviled.

16 Among the profanest of the mockers of a feast, they gnashed their teeth against me.

17 LORD, how long wilt Thou look on? Rescue my soul from their destructions; my only one from the young lions.

18 I will thank Thee in a great congregation; among a mighty people I will praise Thee.

19 Let not those who are wrongfully my opponents rejoice over me; let not those wink the eye, who hare me without provocation.

20 For they do not talk peace; but against the quiet ones of the land, they plot treacheries.

21 They open their mouth wide against me, they say, “Aha! Aha! Our eye has seen it!”

22 Thou hast observed, O LORD, be not silent; O LORD, be not far from me!

23 Arouse Thyself and awake to my judgement; to my cause, my God and my LORD.

24 Judge me according to Thy righteousness, O LORD my God, and let them not rejoice over me.

25 Let them not say in their heart, “Aha! There is our desire;” let them not say, “We have swallowed him up.”

26 Let them be ashamed and confounded together who rejoice at my misfortune; let them be clothed with shame and dishonour who puff themselves up against me.

27 Let those shout with joy and be glad who favour my righteous cause, and say continually, “Let the LORD be magnified, who has pleasure in the peace of His servant!”

28 And my tongue shall speak of Thy righteousness, Thy praise all the day.

PSALM 36

SIN appeals to the wicked deep in his heart; no dread of God is present before his eyes;

2 for he flatters himself in his own eyes until his sin is found out and hated.

3 The words of his mouth are falsehood and deceit; he has ceased to act wisely, to do good.

4 He concocts mischief upon his couch; he takes his stand upon a path that is not good; he does not loathe evil.
5 O LORD, high as the heavens is Thy lovingkindness; up to the clouds Thy faithfulness!

6 Thy righteousness is like the mountains of God; Thy judgements are a great deep; LORD, Thou dost preserve man and beast.

7 How precious is Thy lovingkindness, O God, so the children of men take refuge in the shadow of Thy wings!

8 They are perfectly satisfied with the abundance of Thy house; Thou shalt give them to drink of the stream of Thy delights;

9 for with Thee is he fountain of life; in Thy light we see light.

10 Prolong Thy lovingkindness to those who know Thee and Thy righteousness to the upright of heart.

11 Let not the proud foot approach me, or the hand of the wicked drive me out.

12 There are the evildoers fallen; they are cast down and shall not be able to rise.

PSALM 37

DO not get fretful on account of evildoers; be not envious of the workers of wickedness,

2 for like the grass they shall be quickly cut down; and as the green sprout they shall wilt.

3 Trust in the LORD and do good; inhabit the land and practice faithfulness.

4 Have your delight in the LORD and He will give you the desires of your heart.

5 Commit your way to the LORD; trust in Him, too, and He will bring it about.

6 He will bring forth your righteousness like the light, and your right as the noonday brightness.

7 Be still before the LORD and resign yourself to Him; be not envious of him who prospers in his way; of the man who carries out wicked plans.

8 Quit being angry, and dismiss fury; do not get heated; it leads only to evil.

9 For evildoers shall be eliminated, but those who preserve in the LORD, they shall inherit the earth.

10 For yet a little while and the evildoers shall be no more; you will look for his location and it shall be gone.

11 But the gentle shall inherit the land and shall delight themselves in plenty of peace.

12 The evildoer plots against the just and gnashes at him with his teeth.

13 The LORD laughs at him; for He sees that his day is coming.

14 Evildoers have drawn the sword and have bent their bow to cast down the poor and needy, to slay those upright in conduct.

15 Their sword shall enter into their own heart and their bows shall be broken.

16 Better is the little that the righteous have, than the riches of many evildoers.

17 For the arms of the wicked shall be broken; but the LORD upholds the righteous.

18 The LORD knows the days of the upright and their inheritance shall be forever.

19 They shall not be put to shame in time of trouble; even in days of famine they shall be satisfied.

20 Surely, evildoers shall perish, and the enemies of the LORD are like the glory of the pastures, - they pass away like smoke; they disappear.

21 The wicked borrows and does not pay back; but the righteous is generous and donates.

22 For those who are blessed of Him shall inherit the earth; but those who are cursed of Him shall be eliminated.

23 A person’s steps are confirmed by the LORD; He establishes him and delights in his way.

24 When he falls, he shall not be down and out; for the LORD upholds his hand.

25 I have been young; now I am old; but I have not seen the righteous forsaken or his offspring begging bread.

26 All day long he deals graciously and lends; and his offspring are for a blessing.

27 Depart from evil and do good, and abide for evermore;

28 for the LORD love fairness and will not forsake His saints; they are preserved for ever; but the offspring of the evildoers is eliminated.

29 The righteous shall inherit the earth and shall dwell on it forever.

30 The mouth of the righteous utters wisdom, and his tongue speaks what is right.

31 The law of his God is in his heart; his steps shall not waver.

32 The wicked lies in wait for the righteous and seeks to put him to death.

33 The LORD will not leave him in his hand, nor condemn him when he is judged.

34 Wait on the LORD and keep His way, and he will exalt you to inherit the earth; you shall look upon the destruction of the wicked.

35 I have seen a lawless evildoer spreading himself like a native green tree;

36 yet, he passed away and, look, he was no more; I sought him and he was not to be found.

37 Watch the upright and observe the righteous, for there is a future to the man of peace;

38 but transgressors shall be destroyed together; the offspring of the evildoers shall be cut off.

39 But the salvation of the righteous is from the LORD, their fortress in a time of trouble.

40 The LORD helps them and delivers them; He rescues them from evildoers; He will save them because they trust in Him.

PSALM 38

O LORD, in Thy indignation, do not rebuke me, neither in Thy hot displeasure chasten me;

2 for Thy arrows have sunk into me and Thy hand comes down upon me.

3 There is no soundness in my body in the presence of Thy anger; there is no peace in my bones in the presence of my sin;

4 for my iniquities have gone over my head; as a heavy load they are too weighty for me.

5 My wounds are repulsive; they are festering because of my folly.

6 I am bent, I am bowed down greatly; all the day I go mourning;

7 for my loins are charged with inflammation and in my body, there is no soundness.

8 I am benumbed and sorely bruised; I groan because of my heart murmurings.

9 LORD, all my longing is known to Thee and my sighing is not hidden from Thee.

10 My heart beats fast; my strength fails me, even the light of my eyes; - I have to do without it.

11 My loved ones and my friends stand aloof from my illness; even my kinsmen stand at a distance,

12 and they who seek after my soul lay snares; yes, they who seek my hurt talk mischief; they think up treacheries all day.

13 But I am like a deaf man, who does not listen; like the dumb man, who does not open his mouth.

14 Yes, I am like a man who does not hear and in whose mouth, there are no arguments.

15 For in Thee, LORD, I hope; Thou wilt answer, O LORD, my God.

16 For I say: “Let them not rejoice over me, who, when my foot wavers, would puff themselves up against me.”

17 For I am ready to fall and my sorrow is continually before me.

18 Surely, I will confess my iniquity; I am anxious because of my sin.

19 But my enemies are vigorous and strong, and many hate me wrongly.

20 They repay me evil for good; they are hostile toward me because I aim at what is best.

21 Forsake me not, O LORD; O my God, be not far from me.

22 Make haste to help me, O LORD, my salvation.

PSALM 39

I SAID: “Let me guard my ways from sinning with my tongue; let me keep my mouth as with a muzzle, while the evildoer is around.”

2 I was bound with silence, I remained quiet, with enjoyment gone while my distress grew worse.

3 My heart was hot within me; in my musing the fire burned; I pled with my tongue:

4 Make me to know, O LORD, my end, and the length of my days, what it is. Let me know how transient I am.

5 Behold, as handbreadths Thou hast measured my days, my lifetime is as nothing in Thy presence; Surely, all mankind, so self-confident, is as a breath. *Selah.*

6 Only as a shadow each man walks about; truly, in vanity they are greatly disquieted; each stores up riches, not knowing who shall gather them.

7 Now, LORD, what shall I expect? My hope is in Thee!

8 From all my sins deliver me; do not make me the taunt of the simpleton.

9 I am speechless; I will not open my mouth, for Thou hast done it.

10 Remove from me Thy blow; by the power of Thy hand, I am spent.

11 When with rebukes because if iniquity, Thou dost correct a person then Thou dost consume his winsomeness like a moth; truly, all mankind is as a vapour. *Selah.*

12 O LORD, hear my cry; reply to my tears; to my tears be not speechless; for I am a passing guest with Thee, a transient, as were all my fathers.

13 Oh, spare me and let me rally, before I depart and vanish.

PSALM 40

I WANTED and waited for the LORD; then He bent over to me and heard my cry.

2 He brought me up from a destructive pit, from the miry clay. And set my feet on a rock, steadying my steps.

3 He put a new song in my mouth, a praise to our God – many shall see it and revere and trust the LORD.

4 Blessings, the man enjoys who makes the LORD his trust, and does not turn to those defiant, lying apostates.

5 Thou hast made numerous, O LORD my God Thy wonders and Thy thoughts toward us; there is none to compare with Thee; were I to declare and tell them, they are too many to be numbered.

6 Sacrifice and offering Thou hast not desired; a responsive ear Thou hast prepared for me; burnt offering and sin offering Thou hast not required.

7 Then I said, “Behold, I come; in the volume of the Book it is written of me.”

8 I delight to do Thy will, my God – Thy law is deep within my heart.

9 I have proclaimed glad tidings of righteousness in the great congregation; see my lips I will not close; O LORD, Thou knowest.

10 Thy righteousness I have not hid away in my heart; Thy faithfulness and Thy salvation I have proclaimed; I have not concealed Thy lovingkindness and Thy truth from the great assembly.

11 Thou, O LORD, wilt not withhold Thy mercies from me; Thy lovingkindness and Thy truth shall continually preserve me.

12 For evils without number have surrounded me; my iniquities have overtaken me, even beyond my discerning; they are more than the hairs of my head, and my heart has failed me.

13 Be pleased, O LORD, to deliver me; O LORD, make haste to help me!

14 Let them be ashamed and confounded together, who seek my soul to destroy it. Let those be turned back and put to shame who desire my hurt.

15 Let them be confounded as a reward for their shame; “Aha, aha!”

16 Let all those seeking Thee rejoice and be glad in Thee; let those who love Thy salvation say continually, “The LORD be magnified!”

17 Though I am poor and needy, the LORD thinks of me; Thou art my help and my deliverer. O my God, delay not.

PSALM 41

BLESSINGS are his, who considers the weak; in the day of misfortune the LORD will deliver him.

2 The LORD will preserve him and keep him alive; he shall be counted blessed in the land; Thou shalt not hand him over to the desires of his enemies.

3 The LORD will uphold him on his bed of sickness; to all his illness on his bed Thou wilt bring a change.

4 As for me, I said, “O LORD, be gracious to me; heal my soul, for I have sinned against Thee.”

5 My enemies speak evil of me: “When will he die and his name vanish?”

6 And if one comes to visit, he speaks falsehood; his heart gathers up to itself malice; going out, he tells his tale.

7 Together they whisper against me; they plan harm against me:

8 “A fatal plague is poured out upon him, so that, when he lies down.”

9 Even a friend of mine on whom I relied who ate my bread, lifted up the heel against me.

10 But Thou, O LORD, be gracious to me; raise me up and let me repay them.

11 By this I know that Thou delightest in me, because my enemy does not exult over me.

12 As for me, in my integrity, Thou hast upheld me, and dost set me before Thy face forever.

13 Blessed be the LORD God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting! Amen and Amen!

PSALM 42

AS a deer pants for water brooks so my soul longs for Thee, O God.

2 My soul thirst for God, for the living God; when shall I come and appear before God?

3 My tears have been my food day and night, while they keep on saying to me, “Where is your God?

4 Thee things I would remember and pour out my inner soul, for I used to walk on with the throng in their van to the house of God, with the voice of joy and praise, a multitude that kept festival.

5 Why are you bowed down, O my soul; why so restless within me? Hope in God, for I shall yet thank Him for the help of His countenance.

6 O my God, my soul is cast down within me, therefore, I remember Thee from Jordan-land and the Hermon ranges; from the Mizar hills.

7 Deep calls out to deep at the sound of Thy cataracts; all Thy waves and Thy billows have passed over me.

8 By day the LORD will confirm His lovingkindness and in the night His song shall be with me, a prayer to the God of my life.

9 I will say to God, my refuge: “Why hast Thou forgotten me? Why do I go mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?”

10 As a crushing in my bones my adversaries reproach me, while they keep on saying to me, “Where is your God?”

11 Why are you bowed down, O my soul and why do you groan within me? Hope in God, for I shall yet praise Him, my face-healer and my God.

PSALM 43

TREAT me justly, O God, and plead my cause against a merciless people; from the man of deceit and wickedness deliver me.

2 For Thou art the God of my stronghold; why hast Thou cast me off? Why must I go about mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?

3 Send out Thy light and Thy truth; let them lead me; let them bring me to Thy holy hill and to Thy dwellings.

4 Then I will go to the altar of God, to God, the joy of my exultation, and praise Thee with the harp, O God, my God.

5 Why are you bowed down, O my soul, and why do you groan within me? Hope in God, for I shall yet praise Him, my face-saver and my God.

PSALM 44

O GOD, with our ears we have heard; our fathers have told us what work Thou didst perform in their days, in the days of old.

2 Thou with Thy hand didst drive out nations and didst scatter nations and Thou didst spread them out.

3 For not by their own sword did they possess the land, neither did their own arm gain deliverance for them; but it was Thy right hand and Thy arm and the light of Thy face, because Thou didst favour them.

4 Thou art He, my King, O God, who didst command the setting free of Jacob.

5 Through Thee we shall push down our foes; through Thy name we shall tread down those who rise up against us.

6 For I will not trust in my bow; nor shall my sword deliver me;

7 but Thou hast freed us from our enemies, and those who hate us, Thou hast put to shame.

8 In God we have made our boast all day, and Thy name we shall for ever praise. *Selah.*

9 But now Thou hast cast us off and out us to shame; nor dost Thou go forth with our armies.

10 Thou didst make us turn back from the enemy, and they who hated us take plunder for themselves.

11 Thou hast surrendered us as slaughter-sheep, and didst scatter us among the nations.

12 Thou didst sell Thy people dirt-cheap and hast made no profit by their price.

13 Thou didst make us a taunt to our neighbours, a scorn and a derision to those around us.

14 Thou didst make us a byword among the Gentiles, a shaking of the head among the peoples.

15 All day long my reproach face me, and the shame of my face covers me,

16 because of the voice of the scoffer and the scourner, at the sight of the enemy and the avenger.

17 All this is come upon us, but we have not forgotten Thee; no, we have not been false to Thy covenant.

18 Our heart is not turned back, neither has our step declined from Thy way.

19 Yet Thou hast crushed us in the wild-dogs region; yes, Thou hast covered us with the shadow of death.

20 If we have forgotten the name of our God, and spread out our hands to a strange god,

21 will not God search this out? For He knows the secrets of the heart.

22 Truly for Thy sake we are slain all day long; we are accounted as sheep for slaughter.

23 Awake! Why sleepest Thou, O LORD? Arise, cast us not off forever!

24 Why dost Thou hide Thy face? Why dost Thou forget our affliction and oppression?

25 For our soul is bowed down to the dust, our body cleaves to the earth.

26 Rise up as a help to us and deliver us because of Thy lovingkindness.

PSALM 45

MY heart overflows with a goodly theme; I speak my poem before a king; my tongue is (like) the pen of a skilled writer.

2 Thou art fairer than the children of men; graciousness is poured upon Thy lips, therefore God has blessed Thee forever.

3 Gird Thy sword upon Thy thigh, O mighty One with Thy glory and Thy majesty,

4 and in Thy majesty ride forth triumphantly for the cause of truth, humility and righteousness; Thy right hand shall guide Thee to awe inspiring deeds.

5 Peoples shall fall under Thee; Thy arrows are sharp in the heart of the King's enemies.

6 Thy throne, O God, is forever and ever, a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of Thy kingdom.

7 Thou hast loved righteousness and hated injustice, therefore God, Thy God has anointed Thee with the oil of gladness above Thy companions.

8 Myrrh, aloes and cassia are on all Thy robes; stringed instruments out of ivory palaces delight Thee.

9 Daughters of kings are among Thy honourable women; the queen has set herself at Thy right hand wearing gold of Ophir.

10 Listen, O daughter, see and incline you ear; forget your people and your father's house,

11 and the king will delight in your beauty, - for He is your LORD; yes, revere Him.

12 Then the daughter of Tyre, the rich of the people shall seek your favour with gifts.

13 All glorious is the king's daughter within (the palace), inwrought with gold is her clothing.

14 In embroidered work she shall be led to the king; virgins, her companions, accompanying her, are brought to Thee.

15 They shall be led with joy and exultation; they shall enter into the palace of the king.

16 Instead of your fathers shall be your sons, whom you shall make princes in all the earth.

17 I will cause Thy name to be remembered in every generation; therefore, the peoples shall praise Thee forever and ever.

PSALM 46

GOD is for us a refuge and a fortress; found to be a mighty help in troubles.

2 Therefore we do not fear though the earth is displaced, though the mountains reel into the midst of the sea;

3 though its waters roar and foam; though the mountains shake at its swelling, *Selah.*

4 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy dwelling of the Most High.

5 God is in her midst; she shall not totter; at morning's dawn God shall help her.

6 Nations rage, kingdoms fall; He raises His voice, the earth dissolves. *Selah.*

7 The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

8 Come, see the works of the Lord! Who brings desolations in the earth;

9 Who makes wars to cease to the ends of the earth; He breaks the bow into pieces and snaps the spear in two. He burns the chariots in the fire.

10 Be still and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted on the earth.

11 The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. *Selah.*

PSALM 47

ALL you peoples, clap your hands; raise a shout to God with a triumphant note.

2 For the LORD, Most High is awe-inspiring, a great King over the whole earth.

3 He subdues peoples to us and puts nations under our feet;

4 He selects for us our inheritance, the pride of Jacob, whom He loves. *Selah.*

5 God has ascended with a shout, the LORD with trumpet-peals.

6 Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing psalms to our King, sing psalms;

7 for God is the King of all the earth; sing praises with a thoughtful psalm.

8 God rules over all the nations; God sits upon His Holy throne.

9 The nobles of the Gentiles are gathered, a united people for the God of Abraham; for the shields of the earth belong to God; He is highly exalted.

PSALM 48

GREAT is the LORD and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, His Holy Mountain.

2 Beautiful for elevation, the joy of all the earth is Mount Zion, the side of the north, the city of the great King.

3 In her palaces God made Himself known as a defence.

4 For, behold, the kings came together; they marched up together;

5 as they looked, they were amazed and, terrified, they fled.

6 Panic seized them there, throes like those of childbirth.

7 With an east wind. Thou didst wreck the Tarshish ships.

8 As we have heard, so we have seen in the city of the LORD of Hosts, in the city of our God; God will establish it forever. *Selah.*

9 We are thinking, O God, of Thy lovingkindness within Thy temple.

10 In agreement with Thy name. O God, so is Thy praise to the ends of the earth; Thy right hand is full of Thy righteousness.

11 Let Mount Zion rejoice, let the daughters of Judah leap for joy, because of Thy just decisions.

12 Walk about Zion; make a circuit around her; count her towers.

13 Notice well her defence-walls; walk through her palaces, so you may tell the next generation.

14 For this God is our God, forever and ever; He will guide us until death.

PSALM 49

HEAR this, all you peoples; give ear, all inhabitants of the world,

2 both low and high, rich and poor together.

3 My mouth shall speak wisdom; and the thoughts of my heart shall be of insight.

4 I will incline my ear to a parable, I will disclose my riddle upon the harp:

5 Why should I fear in the evil days, when the iniquity of those who would supplant me surrounds me completely?

6 They who trust in their wealth and boast of their abundance of their riches,

7 none can by any means redeem his brother, or give God a ransom for him.

8 For such redemption of their life is costly and can never suffice,

9 so that he should live forever, so that he should not see the pit.

10 For he shall notice that wise men die, that the fool and the brutish similarly perish, leaving their wealth to others.

11 They inwardly think that their houses are forever, their dwelling places, to all generations; they call their lands after their own names.

12 But man with all his honour does not remain; he is like the animals that perish.

13 This the fate of the self-confident; yet after them men approve their sayings. *Selah.*

14 They are appointed as a flock for Sheol; death shall be their shepherd; the upright shall have dominion over them in the morning; their form shall be for Sheol to consume, so that there is no habitation for it.

15 But God will redeem my soul from the hand of Sheol; for He will receive me. *Selah.*

16 Be not afraid when some one grows rich, when the splendor of his house increases;

17 for when he dies, he shall carry nothing away, his glory shall not descend after him.

18 Though while he lived he blessed his soul, and people praise you, when you do well for yourself,

19 yet he shall go to the generations of his fathers, who shall see the light no more forever.

20 Man with all his pomp but without insight is like the animals that perish.

PSALM 50

THE Mighty One, God the LORD, speaks and calls the earth from where the sun rises to where the sun goes down.

2 Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God appears in glory-light.

3 Our God comes and shall not keep silent; before Him a fire consumes and around Him a fierce tempest rages.

4 He calls to the heavens above and to the earth, to judge His people:

5 Gather to Me My holy ones, who made a covenant with Me by sacrifice.

6 The heavens declare His righteousness; for God Himself is Judge. *Selah.*

7 Hear, O My people, and I will speak, O Israel, and I will testify against you: I am God, your God.

8 Not for your sacrifices will I reprove you, and your burnt offerings are always before Me.

9 I will not take a bullock out of your house, nor he-goats from your folds;

10 for every animal of the forest is Mine, and cattle by the thousands on the hills.

11 I know all the birds of the mountains, and the animals of the field are before Me.

12 If I were hungry, I would not tell you, for the world and its fullness are Mine.

13 Shall I eat the flesh of bullocks, or drink the blood of goats?

14 Offer the sacrifice of praise to God, and pay your vows to the Most High.

15 Call on Me in the day of trouble, I will deliver you, and you shall honour Me.

16 But to the wicked God says: Why are you reciting My statutes with praise, and taking My covenant upon your lips,

17 though you hate correction and cast My words behind you?

18 When you see a thief, you delight to associate with him, and you take part with adulterers.

19 Your mouth you use for evil and your tongue frames deceit.

20 You sit and talk about your brother; on the son of your mother you bring ruin.

21 These things you have done and I kept silent; you thought I was altogether like you. I will censure you and put the case in order before your eyes.

22 Now consider this, you who forget God, lest I tear you up and there be none to deliver.

23 He who offers a sacrifice of praise honours Me: to him who prepares his way I will show the salvation of God.

PSALM 51

HAVE mercy upon me, O God, according to Thy lovingkindness; according to the greatness of Thy compassion blot out my transgressions.

2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

3 for I am conscious of my transgressions, and my sin is ever in mind.

4 Against Thee, Thee only, have I sinned, and done what is evil in Thy sight; so that Thou art justified in Thy sentence and pure in Thy judging.

5 Behold, in sinful state I was born and in sin did my mother conceive me.

6 Surely, Thou desirest truth in the inner self, and Thou makest me to understand hidden wisdom.

7 Purify me with hyssop and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

8 Cause me to hear joy and gladness, so that the bones which Thou hast broken may rejoice.

9 Hide Thy face from my sins and blot out all my iniquities.

10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

11 Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.

12 Restore to me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit;

13 then I will teach transgressors Thy ways, and sinners shall be converted to Thee.

14 Deliver me from blood-guilt, O God. Thou God of my salvation; and my tongue shall sing aloud of Thy righteousness.

15 O LORD, open Thou my lips and my mouth shall declare Thy praise.

16 For Thou delightest not in sacrifice, else would I give it burnt-offering Thou dost not desire.

17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and penitent heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise.

18 Do good in Thy good pleasure to Zion; build Thou walls of Jerusalem.

19 Then shalt Thou delight in sacrifices of righteousness in burnt-offering and whole burnt offering; then shall bullocks be offered upon Thy altar.

PSALM 52

WHY do you boast of mischief, you tyrant? The lovingkindness of God is exercised continually.

2 Your tongue devises wickedness like a sharpened razor, working deceit.

3 You love evil more than good, lying more than speaking the truth. *Selah.*

4 You love all destroying words, O deceitful tongue.

5 God will likewise strike you down forever; He will lay hold of you, pluck you out of the tent and uproot you from the land of the living. *Selah.*

6 The righteous shall see and be in awe; but about him they shall laugh, (saying),

7 “Look, this is the man who did not make God his stronghold, but trusted in the abundance of his wealth and sought security through his misdemeanour.”

8 But I am like a green olive tree in the house of God; I trust in God’s lovingkindness forever and ever.

9 I will give Thee thanks forever, because Thou hast done it: and I will hope in Thy name, for it is good, in the presence of Thy followers.

PSALM 53

THE fool says to himself: “There is no God.” They are corrupt and do abominable evil; there is none who does good.

2 God looked out from the heavens at the children of men, to see if there were any who understood, who looked for God.

3 They have all backslidden; they are all corrupt; there is none well-behaved; no, not one.

4 Have the workers of iniquity no understanding, who devour my people as if they ate bread? They do not call on God.

5 They were in dread where there was nothing to fear; for God scatters the bones of your besiegers; you will put them to shame, because God has rejected them.

6 Oh, that from Zion Israel’s deliverance might come! When God returns the captivity of His people, Jacob shall rejoice; Israel shall be glad.

PSALM 54

O GOD, in Thy name deliver me and in Thy power vindicate me.

2 O God, hear my pleading; give ear to the words of my mouth.

3 For strangers are risen against me; and violent men seek my life; they do not keep God in sight. *Selah.*

4 Behold, God is my ally; the LORD is with those who sustain my soul.

5 He will return the damage upon my enemies. Cut them off in Thy faithfulness!

6 With a freewill offering I will sacrifice to Thee’ I will praise Thy name. O LORD, for it is good.

7 For He has delivered me from every distress, and my eyes have looked with satisfaction at my enemies.

PSALM 55

HEAR, O God, my prayer; hide not Thyself from my petition.

2 Observe me and answer me. In restlessness I groan and am distracted.

3 because of the enemy’s noisiness; because of the threatenings of the wicked. For they engulf me with their mischief and in anger they assault me.

4 My heart is distressed within me, and terrors of death come down on me.

5 Fear and trembling get hold of me and horror overpowers me.

6 So I said, “Oh, had I the wings of a dove, then I would fly away and be at rest.

7 Yes, then I would wander far away, and lodge in the desert. *Selah.*

8 I would hasten to my place of refuge, from this raging wind and storm."

9 Destroy, O LORD, confuse their speeches, for I have seen violence and strife in the city.

10 Day and night they go about on the walls; damage and trouble are in its centre;

11 violence is within her, and from her market place oppression and deceit are never absent.

12 For it is not an enemy who reproaches me; that I could hear; it is not a hater, who vaunts himself against me; the I could hide myself from him;

13 but you, a man regarded as an equal with me, my companion and my familiar friend,

14 we who together held sweet fellowship; to the house of God we walked in the festive throng.

15 Let destruction seize them; let them go down alive to Sheol; for wickedness is in their dwelling, in their heart.

16 As for me, I will call on God and the LORD will save me.

17 Evening, morning and noon I will lament and sigh, and he will hear my voice.

18 He will rescue my soul to have peace from those who war against me; for they who oppose me number many.

19 God will hear and humble them, He, who sits enthroned from of old. *Selah.* Because in them there has been no change and they do not revere God.

20 He put forth his hand against those at peace with him; he violated his covenant.

21 His mouth is sleeker than butter, but in his heart there is war; his words are softer than oil, yet they are drawn swords.

22 Cast your burden on the LORD, and He will sustain you: He will never allow the righteous to be pushed over.

23 But Thou, O God, wilt bring them down into the pit of destruction; bloody and deceitful men shall not live out half their days. But I will trust in Thee.

PSALM 56

HAVE mercy upon me, O God; for man would walk over me; all day long the enemy oppresses me.

2 Daily would my enemies devour me; for many are they who proudly fight against me.

3 In the day when I am afraid, I will have confidence in Thee.

4 In God, I will praise His word; in God I trust, I will not fear; what can flesh do to me?

5 All day long they twist my words; all their thoughts are against me to hurt.

6 They join together, they lie in wait; they watch my steps as they have waited for my soul.

7 Shall they escape by such evildoing? In Thy indignation cast down the people, O God.

8 Thou takest note of my roaming; put my tears into Thy bottle; are they not in Thy book?

9 The shall my enemies fall back in the day of my crying out; this I know because God is for me.

10 In God I will praise the word, in the LORD I will praise the word.

11 In God I trust. I will not fear; what can man do to me?

12 On me, O God, are Thy vows; I will give Thee thank offerings,

13 for Thou hast delivered my soul from death, yes, my feet from stumbling too, so that I might walk before God in the light of life.

PSALM 57

BE merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me, for in Thee my soul takes refuge, and in the shadow of Thy wings I will shelter until these calamities have passed.

2 I will cry to God Most High, to God who completes (all things) for me.

3 He will send from heaven and save me from the slanders of him who would swallow me. *Selah.* God will send forth His mercy and His truth.

4 My soul is among lions; I lie among those sons of men who breathe fire, whose teeth are spears and arrows, and their tongues a sharp sword.

5 Be exalted, O God, above the heavens, Thy glory over all the earth.

6 They have prepared a net for my steps; my soul is bowed down. They dug a pit before me, but they themselves have fallen into the centre of it. *Selah.*

7 My heart is confident, O God; my heart is confident, I will sing, yes, I will sing praises.

8 Awake, my glory, awake psaltery and harp; I will awaken the dawn.

9 I will give thanks to Thee, O LORD, among the peoples; I will praise Thee among the Gentiles.

10 For Thy lovingkindness reaches to the heavens, Thy faithfulness to the clouds.

11 Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; Thy glory over all the earth.

PSALM 58

DO you indeed speak righteousness, O you judges, do you judge the children of men fairly?

2 No, at heart you work iniquity; you deal out the violence of your hands in the land.

3 The godless are perverse from the womb; they go astray from birth, they are falsifiers.

4 Their poison is like a serpent's venom, like a deaf adder that stops its ear,

5 that will not listen to the voice of charmers casting spells skilfully.

6 O God, break the fangs in their mouths; shatter Thou the eyeteeth of young lions, O LORD!

7 Let them melt away like outrunning water; as he aims his arrows, let those be as split apart,

8 as a snail that dissolves as it moves on: as an untimely birth that never sees the sun.

9 Before your pots get the touch of the thorns, whether green or ablaze, He will sweep them away with a whirlwind.

10 The righteous will rejoice when he sees the fair punishment; he will wash his feet in the blood of the wicked.

11 And men will say, "Surely there is a reward for the righteous; surely there is a God judging in the earth."

PSALM 59

DELIVER me from my enemies, O my God; keep me away from those who rise against me.

2 Deliver me from the workers of iniquity and save me from blood-thirsty men.

3 For behold they lie in wait for my life; strong men are banding together to attack me, not for my transgression, nor for my sin, O LORD.

4 Without any wrong of mine, they run and prepare themselves. Arise to my aid and take a look!

5 Thou, O LORD God of hosts, God of Israel, arise to visit all the nations; spare none of those who treacherously plot evil. *Selah.*

6 They return at evening; they at snarl like dogs and go about the city.

7 See, they foam at their mouth; swords are in their lips; for who, they think; will hear us?

8 But Thou, O LORD, wilt laugh at them; Thou shalt mock at all the nations.

9 O my Strength, I will wait on Thee, for God is my stronghold.

10 My God in His covenant love will meet me; God will let me look at my enemies with satisfaction.

11 Slay them not, lest my people forget; scatter them by Thy power and bring them down, O LORD, our shield.

12 The sin of their mouth is the word of their lips; they shall be taken in their pride for the curses and lies which they utter.

13 Destroy in indignation, destroy, that they may be no more, and let them know that God rules in Jacob to the ends of the earth. *Selah.*

14 They return at evening; they snarl like dogs and go about the city.

15 They wander around for food; they stay out all night, if they are not filled.

16 But I will sing of Thy strength, and will sing aloud of Thy righteousness in the morning; for Thou hast been a stronghold for me, a refuge in the day of my distress.

17 I will sing to Thee, O my strength, for God is my stronghold, my merciful God.

PSALM 60

O GOD; Thou hast cast us off, Thou hast scattered us: Thou hast been angry; O restore us again.

2 Thou hast made the land to quake; Thou hast rent it; heal its fissures, for it is shaken.

3 Thou hast made Thy people to endure hardness; Thou hast made us drink wine that makes us reel.

4 Thou hast given a banner to those who revere Thee, so it may display itself, because of Thy truth. *Selah.*

5 So that Thy loved ones may be delivered, save with Thy right hand and answer us.

6 God has spoken in His holiness; I will exult; I will divide Shechem and measure out the valley of Succoth.

7 Gilead is mine, Manasseh is mine; Ephraim is the defense of My head; Judah is My lawgiver;

8 Moabis is My washbasin; over Edom I will throw My shoe; over Philistia I shout in triumph.

9 Who will bring me into the fortified city, who will lead me into Edom?

10 Hast Thou not cast us off, O God, but wilt Thou not go forth, O God, with our armies?

11 Grant us help because of trouble, for vain is the help of man.

12 With God we shall do valiantly; it is He who will tread down our enemies.

PSALM 61

HEAR, O God, my pleading; attend to my prayer.

2 From the end of the earth I will call to Thee, when my heart is overwhelmed; lead me to the rock that is higher than I.

3 For Thou art a refuge to me, a strong tower from the presence of the enemy.

4 Let me dwell in Thy tent forever; let me take refuge under the covering of Thy wings. *Selah.*

5 For Thou, O God, hast heard my vows, Thou hast given a heritage to those who revere Thy name.

6 Thou wilt add days to the days of the king, so his years shall equal many generations.

7 He shall remain forever before God; ordain lovingkindness and truth to keep him.

8 Then I will ever sing praise to Thy name, so I may daily pay my vows.

PSALM 62

TRULY my soul looks in stillness to God; from Him is my salvation.

2 He alone is my rock and my health, my fortress; I shall not be greatly shaken.

3 How long will you assail a person to break him down, all of you, like a leaning wall, a tottering fence?

4 They consult only to cast him down from his height; they cherish falsehood; with their mouth they bless, but at heart they curse. *Selah.*

5 Truly, my soul, look in stillness to God, for my expectation is from Him.

6 He alone is my rock and my health, my sure defence; I shall not be shaken.

7 My salvation and my glory depend on God; the rock of my defence, my refuge is in God

8 Trust in Him at all times, ye people; pour out your heart before Him; God is to us a refuge. *Selah.*

9 Lowly man is but a breath; the sons of nobles are only lies; in the scales they go up, altogether lighter than emptiness.

10 Put no trust in oppressing; do not vainly hope in robbery. If riches increase, do not set your heart on them.

11 Once God has spoken, twice have I heard this, that strength belongs to God.

12 And to Thee, O LORD, belongs covenant love, for Thou rewardest every man according to his work.

PSALM 63

O GOD, Thou art my God, I seek Thee earnestly; my soul thirsts for Thee; my flesh longs for Thee in a dry and worn-out land, where there is no water.

2 So, have I beheld Thee in the sanctuary, to see Thy Power and Thy Glory.

3 Because Thy lovingkindness is better than life. My lips shall praise Thee.

4 So will I bless Thee as long as I live; I will lift up my hands in Thy name.

5 My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness, and my mouth shall praise Thee with joyful lips.

6 When I remember Thee on my bed in the night watches, I meditate on Thee.

7 For Thou hast been my help, and in the shadow of Thy wings I will sing joyfully.

8 My soul follows close behind Thee; Thy right hand upholds me.

9 But those who seek to ruin my soul shall go into the lower parts of the earth.

10 They shall be handed over to the power of the sword; they shall be a prey for foxes.

11 But the King shall rejoice before God; all who swear by Him shall jubilate; for the mouths of those who speak lies shall be stopped.

PSALM 64

HEAR my voice, O God, in my complaint; guard my life against the terror of the enemy.

2 Hide me from the conspiracy of wicked men, from the noisy gangs of the evildoers,

3 who sharpen their tongue like a sword, who aim poisoned words like arrows.

4 To shoot from ambush at the innocent: they shoot unexpectedly and without self-reproach.

5 They confirm for themselves an evil agreement; they talk of laying snares secretly; they say, “Who shall detect them?”

6 They work out wicked schemes; they are ready with a well-conceived plan; for the inner man and the heart are fathomless.

7 But God will shoot an unlooked-for arrow at them; they will be wounded.

8 They will be made to stumble, their own tongue being against them; all who see them shall wag the head.

9 Then shall all men be is awe, proclaim the act of God and learn to know His work.

10 The righteous shall be glad in the LORD, and trust in Him; and all the upright in heart shall offer praise.

PSALM 65

SILENCE is praise to Thee, O God, in Zion; and to Thee the vow shall be fulfilled.

2 O Thou who hearest prayer, to Thee shall all flesh come.

3 Iniquities got the better of me; our transgressions Thou forgivest.

4 Blessed is the man whom Thou choosest and bringest near to dwell in Thy courts. We shall be satisfied with the goodness of Thy house, Thy sacred temple.

5 With awesome deeds Thou dost respond to us in righteousness, O God of our salvation, who art the confidence of all the ends of the earth and of the remotest seas.

6 Who by Thy might hast founded the mountains, being clothed with power.

7 Who dost still the roaring of the seas, the moaning of their waves, and the clamour of the nations.

8 Those who live farthest away, stand in awe at Thy signs. Thou makest the morning dawn and the evening sunset to shout for joy.

9 Thou visited the land and waterest it, Thou greatly enrichest it; God's River is brimful of water. Thou providest them grain, for so Thou hast ordained it;

10 watering the furrows, softening its ridges, Thou makest it soft with showers; Thou dost bless its vegetation.

11 Thou crownest the year with Thy goodness, and Thy footsteps drop abundance.

12 The pasture of the wilderness drip and the hills are girded with rejoicing.

13 The meadows are clothed with flocks and the valleys are covered with grain; they shout for joy; they also sing.

PSALM 66

SHOUT joyfully to God, all the earth;

2 Sing out to glorify His name; render Him glorious praise.

3 Say to God, "How awe-inspiring are Thy works; for Thy great power Thy enemies submit to Thee.

4 All the earth shall do Thee homage and shall sing to Thee; they shall sing to Thy name." *Selah.*

5 Come and see what God has done; in His work He is awesome toward the children of men.

6 He turned the sea into dry land; they passed through the river on foot; there we rejoiced in Him.

7 He rules by His power forever; His eyes observe the nations; let not the rebellious exalt themselves. *Selah.*

8 Bless our God, O ye peoples, and sound His praise abroad,

9 who keeps our soul in life, and does not allow our foot to slip.

10 For thou hast tested us, as silver is purified.

11 Thou hast brought us into the net; Thou hast laid a heavy burden on our hips.

12 Thou hast made men to ride over our head; we went through fire and through water, and Thou hast brought us to an overflowing abundance.

13 I will enter Thy house with burnt-offerings, I will pay Thee my vows,

14 which my lips have uttered and my mouth has spoken when I was in distress.

15 Burnt offerings of fat sheep I will offer with the incense of rams; I will offer bullocks with he-goats. *Selah.*

16 Come and hear, all who revere God, and I will declare what He has done for my soul:

17 I called out to Him with my mouth, and praise was in my tongue.

18 If I regard iniquity in my heart the LORD will not hear;

19 But God certainly has heard; He has attended to the voice of my prayer.

20 Blessed be God, who has turned away neither my prayer nor His covenant love from me.

PSALM 67

GOD be merciful to us and bless us, and cause His face to shine upon us, *Selah*

2 so that Thy way may be known upon earth, Thy saving health among all nations.

May the peoples praise Thee, O God; may all the peoples give thanks to Thee.

4 May the nations be glad and sing for joy; for Thou shalt judge the people fairly and guide the nations upon the earth.

5 May the peoples thank Thee, O God; may the peoples praise Thee, all of them.

6 The earth has yielded her harvest; God, our God, will bless us.

7 God will bless us and all the ends of the earth will revere Him.

PSALM 68

GOD shall arise; His enemies shall be scattered; those who hate Him shall flee before His face.

2 As smoke is driven away, so Thou shalt drive them away; as wax melts before the fire, so the wicked shall perish before God.

3 But the righteous shall exult; they shall rejoice before God; yes, they shall rejoice with mirth-making.

4 Sing to God, sing to His name; raise a highway for Him who rides through the wilderness; the LORD is His name; be jubilant before Him.

5 A father to the fatherless and a champion of the widows is God in His Holy habitation,

6 God who makes the lonely to live in a home; who brings out prisoners into prosperity; but the rebellious dwell in a parched land.

7 O God, when Thou didst go forth before Thy people, when Thou didst move through the wilderness, *Selah*

8 the earth trembled; even the heavens dropped before God; Sinai (quaked) before God, the God of Israel.

9 O God, Thou didst shed a plentiful rain upon Thy heritage, Thou didst restore Thy heritage when exhausted.

10 Thy congregation settled in it; Thou didst in Thy goodness provide for the destitute, O God.

11 The LORD sent forth the command; those who proclaimed the good news were a great host.

12 The kings of armies fled; they fled and the woman at home divided the booty.

13 Did you camp among the sheepfolds? The dove’s wings are covered with silver, and her feathers with glistening gold.

14 When the Almighty scattered kings there, it was like snow-fall on Zalmon.

15 A mountain of God is the mountain of Bashan; a mountain studded with peaks is the Bashan range.

16 Why do you gaze with envious hostility O many-peaked mountains, at the mountains which God has chosen for His abode? Yes, the LORD will dwell there forever.

17 The chariots of God are twice ten thousand, thousands upon thousands; the LORD came from Sinai into the Holy place.

18 Thou hast ascended on high, Thou hast led captive a band of captives; Thou hast received gifts among men, even rebellious men, for a dwelling of the LORD God.

19 Blessed be the LORD; day by day he carries us, God of our salvation. *Selah.*

20 Our God is a God of rescuings; from the LORD God are escapes from death.

21 Yes, God will strike the head of His enemies. The hairy scalp of him who goes on in his guilty doings.

22 The LORD said, “I will bring back from Bashan; I will restore from the depths of the sea,

23 so that your foot may bathe in blood and the tongue of your dogs may have a portion of your enemies.”

24 They have seen Thy procession, O God, the procession of my God my King, into the sanctuary.

25 Singers in the van; musicians in the rear, in the centre maidens playing on timbrels.

26 Praise ye God in the congregations, the LORD, you who are from Israel’s fountain.

27 There is Benjamin, the smallest, their ruler; the princes of Judah in their crowd; the princes of Zebulon, the princes of Naphtali.

28 Your God has commanded your strength. O God, display Thy strength, Thou who hast achieved for us.

29 Because of Thy temple in Jerusalem, kings shall bring gifts to Thee.

30 Rebuke the beasts of the reeds, the herd of bulls, with the calves of the peoples, prostrating themselves with pieces of silver. He has scattered the peoples that delight in war.

31 Princes shall come out of Egypt; Ethiopia shall stretch forth her hands to God.

32 Sing to God, ye kingdoms of the earth; sing praises to the LORD; *Selah*

33 to Him who rides upon the heavens, the ancient heavens; Behold, He sends forth His voice, His mighty voice.

34 Ascribe power to God; His majesty is over Israel: His might is in the clouds.

35 Awe-inspiring art Thou, O God, from Thy sanctuary; the God of Israel, who bestows strength and fullness of might to His people. Blessed be God!

PSALM 69

O GOD, save me; for the waters come up to my lips;

2 I am sinking in deep mire and there is no place for me to stand; I have come to deep waters and a flood overwhelms me.

3 I have cried until I am exhausted; my eyes grow dim while I wait for my God.

4 They that hate me without reason are more numerous than the hairs on my head. Those who wish to destroy me are powerful; they are my enemies wrongfully; I have to replace what I did not steal.

5 Thou knowest my blundering; my guilt is evident to Thee.

6 May those who have their hope in Thee not be put to shame because of me. May it never happen that those who seek Thee be brought to dishonour on my account, O God of Israel!

7 Because I have been humiliated for Thy sake, confusion has covered my face.

8 I have become a stranger to my brothers, an alien to my mother's children.

9 Because the zeal for Thy house has consumed me, and reproach falls on me from those who affront Thee.

10 When I myself mourned with fasting, I was humiliated;

11 when I put on sackcloth for my clothing, I became a laughingstock to them.

12 Those who sit by the gate talk about me: I have become the song of the drinkers.

13 But as for me, my prayer is to Thee, LORD; at an opportune moment, O God, in Thy plenteous grace, answer me with the truth of Thy salvation.

14 Do not allow me to sink, but save me from the mire; rescue me from my enemies and from the deep waters.

15 Keep the flood waters from overwhelming me; do not let the deep swallow me up, or the pit close it mouth over me.

16 Answer me, O LORD, for Thy grace is good; turn to me according to Thy plenteous mercy.

17 Do not turn Thy face from Thy servant, for I am in trouble; answer me speedily.

18 Come near to me, redeem me, free me from my foes.

19 Thou knowest my reproach, my shame and my dishonour; all my adversaries stand before Thee.

20 Reproach has broken my heart and I feel depressed; I looked for sympathy, but there was none; and for comforters, but I found no one.

21 They gave me gall for my food; and in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.

22 Let their table before them become a snare and to those at ease a trap.

23 Let their eyes be darkened, that they cannot see, and make their loins continually to tremble.

24 Pour out Thy indignation upon them, and let the heat of Thine anger overtake them.

25 Let their dwelling be a ruin, let none live in their tents.

26 For him who is smitten of Thee, they persecute, they gossip of the pain of Thy pierced ones.

27 Add iniquity to their iniquity and let them not enter into Thy justification.

28 Let them be blotted out of the Book of Life, and not be recorded with the righteous.

29 But I am inflicted and in pain, let Thy salvation, O God set me on high.

30 I will praise the name of God with a song and will magnify Him with thanksgiving.

31 It will please the LORD better than any ox, or bullock with horns and hoofs.

32 The humble shall see it, and be glad; you who seek God, let your heart revive!

33 For the LORD hears the needy, and does not despise His prisoners.

34 Let heaven and earth praise Him, the seas and everything that moves in them;

35 For God will save Zion and build the cities of Judah; that people may dwell there and possess it.

36 The offspring of His servants shall inherit it, and they who love His name shall abide in it.

PSALM 70

O GOD. To my rescue, O LORD, to my help make haste.

2 Let those be ashamed and confounded who seek my soul; let those be turned back and put to shame who desire my hurt.

3 Let those turn back as a reward of their shame, who say: “Aha, aha!”

4 Let all those who seek Thee rejoice and be glad in Thee; and let those who love Thy salvation say continually, “Let God be magnified.”

5 But I am poor and needy, O God hasten to me: Thou art my help and my deliverer; O LORD, do not tarry.

PSALM 71

IN Thee, O LORD, I take refuge; ley me never be put to shame.

2 Through Thy righteousness, deliver me and set me free; incline Thy ear to me and save me.

3 Be Thou to me a rock for a dwelling to which I may always resort; Thou hast ordered to save me, for Thou art my rock and my stronghold.

4 Deliver me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked from the hand of the unjust and ruthless;

5 for Thou art my hope, O LORD God; Thou art my trust from my youth.

6 Upon Thee I have leaned from birth; it was Thou who took me from the maternal womb. My praise is continually of Thee.

7 I have been a marvel to many, but Thou art my strong refuge.

8 My mouth is filled with Thy praise and with Thy glory all day.

9 Cast me not off in my old age; forsake me not now that my strength is spent.

10 For my enemies talk of me; those who watch my life consult together,

11 saying, “God has forsaken him; chase and seize him, for there is none to deliver.”

12 O God, be not far from me; O my God, make haste for my help.

13 Let them be ashamed and consumed, who waylay my life; with reproach and dishonour may they be covered, who seek my hurt.

14 But I will hope continually and praise Thee more and more.

15 My mouth shall tell of Thy righteousness and Thy salvation all the day; for they are beyond my numbering.

16 I will go in strength of the LORD God; I will make mention of Thy righteousness, Thine alone.

17 O God, Thou hast taught me from my youth and I still declare Thy wonders.

18 So even to old age and grey hairs, O God, do not forsake me, till I proclaim Thy might to this generation and Thy power to all descendants.

19 Thy righteousness, O God, is most high, and Thou hast done great things, O God; who is Thy equal?

20 Thou, who hast made me experience troubles great and sore, wilt revive me again and wilt bring me up again from the depths of the earth.

21 Thou wilt add to my stature, and comfort me again.

22 I will also praise Thee with the harp for Thy faithfulness, O my God; I will sing praise to Thee with the lyre, O Holy One of Israel.

23 My lips will shout for joy when I sing praise to Thee; and my soul, which Thou hast redeemed.

24 My tongue also shall mention Thy righteousness all day long; for those who sought my hurt have been shamed and disgraced.

PSALM 72

O GOD, grant the king Thy justice and Thy righteousness to the king's son.

2 May he judge Thy people with righteousness and Thy poor with justice.

3 May the mountains bring peace to the people, and the hills, through righteousness.

4 May he judge the poor among the people, save the children of the needy and crush the oppressor.

5 May they revere Thee while the sun endures, as long as the moon, to all generations.

6 May He come down like rain upon the mown grass, as showers that refresh the earth.

7 In His days shall the righteous flourish, and abundance of peace till the moon be no more.

8 May He have dominion from sea to sea and from the river to the bounds of the earth.

9 Before Him shall the dwellers of the wilderness bow, and His enemies shall grovel in the dust.

10 The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall render tribute; the kings of Sheba and Seba shall offer gifts.

11 Yes, all kings shall fall down before Him; all nations shall serve Him.

12 For He will deliver the needy, when he calls, and the poor, who has no helper.

13 He will have pity on the weak and needy and will save souls of the needy;

14 from oppression and violence He shall redeem their soul; and precious is their blood in His sight.

15 He shall live and to Him shall live and to Him shall be given of the gold of Sheba, and they shall pray for Him continually; they shall bless Him all the day.

16 May there be abundance of grain in the land on top of the mountains; may its fruit wave like Lebanon, and may they of the city flourish like grass of the earth.

17 May His name endure forever; may His reputation flourish before the sun. May men be prospered in Him; may all nations call Him blessed.

18 Blessed be the LORD God, the God of Israel, who alone does wonderous things.

19 And blessed be His glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with His glory! Amen. Amen.

20 The prayers of David, the son of Jesse are ended.

PSALM 73

SURELY God is good to Israel, to those whose hearts are pure;

2 but as for me, my feet had almost stumbled, my steps had nearly slipped.

3 For I was envious of the arrogant, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

4 They suffer no violent pain; their body is well nourished.

5 They do not share the troubles of mortals, nor are they plagued like others.

6 Pride therefore encircles their neck; violence covers them like a garment.

7 Their eyes swell out from fatness, their hearts overflow with illusions.

8 They scoff and wickedly they mention depression; they talk disdainfully.

9 They set their mouth against the heavens and their tongue ranges the earth.

10 Therefore His people turn this way and that, and like profuse waters are gulped down by them.

11 And they say, “Does God know? Is there knowledge in the Most High?”

12 Truly such are the wicked; they are secure and their riches increase.

13 Uselessly then I have cleansed my heart and have washed my hands in innocence,

14 for all day long I have been and chastened every morning.

15 Had I said, “So I will speak,” I would indeed have played false to Thy children.

16 Yet, when I pondered to understand this, it was too overwhelming for me,

17 until I went into God’s sanctuary and perceived their ending.

18 Truly, Thou dost set them in slippery places; Thou dost make them tumble to ruin.

19 How they are brought to desolation in a moment, wiped out, annihilated through terrors!

20 Like a dream after one wakes up, so LORD, Thou wilt despise their imaginings when Thou awakes.

21 When my heart was bitter and I was pierced deep within.

22 I was stupid and ignorant, a reasonless creature in Thy sight.

23 Nevertheless I am continually with Thee; Thou dost hold my right hand;

24 Thou wilt guide me with Thy counsel, and afterward Thou wilt receive me to glory.

25 Whom have I in heaven *but Thee?* And besides Thee there is none on earth whom I desire.

26 Though my flesh and my heart fail, God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

27 For see, those who are far from Thee shall perish; Thou wilt destroy all who play Thee false.

28 But as for me, drawing near to God is good for me; I have made the LORD my refuge, so that I may announce all Thy works.

PSALM 74

O GOD, why hast Thou cast us off forever? Why does Thy anger burn against the sheep of Thy pasture?

2 Remember Thy congregation, which Thou hast acquired of old, which Thou hast redeemed as the tribe of Thy heritage, this Mount Zion, where Thou art dwelling.

3 Direct Thy steps to this perpetual ruin; the enemy has destroyed everything in the sanctuary.

4 In the midst of Thy appointed place the adversaries roared and erected their emblems for signs.

5 It looks as if one had brought down the axe on brushwood;

6 all its carved work, too, they have broken down with axe and hammer.

7 They harvest Thy sanctuary on fire; they have profaned to the ground the dwelling to Thy name.

8 They said to themselves, “Let us subdue them completely;” they burned all God’s meeting places in the land.

9 We do not see our symbols; there is no longer a prophet, and none among us knows for how long.

10 How long, O God, shall the adversary reproach? Shall the enemy disdain Thy name forever?

11 Why dost Thou hold back Thy hand, even Thy right hand? *Draw it* out of Thy bosom; make an end.

12 Still, God is my King from of old, who has worked salvation in the midst of the earth.

13 It was Thou who didst divide the sea by Thy power; It was Thou who didst crush the heads of the dragons on the waters.

14 It was Thou who didst smash the heads of the Leviathan, giving him as food to the animals of the desert.

15 It was Thou who didst break open fountain and brook; It as Thou who didst dry up everflowing rivers.

16 Thine is the day as well as the night; Thou hast established the starlight and the sun.

17 It was Thou who didst fix all the boundaries of the earth; summer and winter are the work of Thy hand.

18 Remember, LORD, that the enemy scoffs; a foolish people reviles Thy name.

19 Do not deliver to the wild beasts the life of Thy turtledove; do not forget the life of Thy afflicted ones forever.

20 Remember the covenant, because the dark places of the land are full of caves of violence.

21 Let not the down trodden return in shame; let the oppressed and needy praise Thy name.

22 Arise, O God, plead Thy cause; remember the insults which the fools have hurled at Thee all day long.

23 Do not forget the clamour of Thy enemies, the noise of Thy adversaries that keeps on increasing.

PSALM 75

WE praise Thee, O God, we praise Thee; for that Thy name is near Thy wonderous works declare.

2 At the time which I have appointed I will render fair judgements.

3 The earth is quaking with all its inhabitants; I have set firm its pillars. *Selah.*

4 I said to the boastful, “Do not boast;” and to the wicked, “Do not lift you your horn.

5 Do not lift your horn up high, and do not talk with an insolent throat.”

6 For neither from the east nor from the west nor from the desert does promotion come;

7 but God is the Judge. He puts down one and promotes another.

8 For there is a cup in the LORD’s hand; the wine is foaming, thoroughly missed. He pours out from it yes, the wicked of the earth must swallow it and drink its dregs.

9 As for me, I will declare forever; I will sing psalms to the God of Jacob.

10 All the horns of the ungodly I will strike down; but the horns of the righteous shall be highly exalted.

PSALM 76

IN Judah God has renown; His name is great in Israel.

2 His tabernacle is in Salem, His dwelling is in Salem, his dwelling place in Zion.

3 There He broke the fiery arrows of the bow, the shield, the sword, and the battle. *Selah.*

4 Glorious Thou art, more glorious and more excellent than the mountains of prey.

5 The stouthearted have their loot taken; they have slept their sleep. None of the men of might could use their hands.

6 At the rebuke, O God of Jacob, both charioteer and horse lie sunk in sleep.

7 Thou, even Thou, art to be revered, and who can stand before Thee when Thou art indignant?

8 From the heaven Thou didst cause judgement to be heard; the earth feared and was still,

9 when God arose for judgment to save all the meek of the earth, *Selah.*

10 Surely the wrath of man shall praise Thee; further wrath wilt Thou restrain.

11 Make vows to the LORD your God, and perform them; let all around Him bring gifts to Him, who is to be revered,

12 who cuts off the breath of princes, who is dreadful to the kings of the earth.

PSALM 77

MY voice is to God; I call; my voice is to God, that He may listen to me.

2 I sought the LORD in the day of my distress; in the night my hand was stretched out and did not weary; my soul refused to be comforted.

3 When I was moaning, I thought of God; when my spirit was faint, I pondered, *Selah.*

4 Thou holdest my eyelids waking; I am so disturbed I am speechless.

5 I think about the days of old, the years of ancient times.

6 In the night I remember my song; with my heart I meditated and my spirit made diligent search.

7 Has the LORD rejected me forever? Will He never again be favourable?

8 Has His love ended eternally? Has His promise failed to all generations?

9 Has God forgotten to be merciful? Has He in indignation locked away His compassion? *Selah.*

10 I said, “This grieves me; the right hand of the Most High changes.”

11 I brought to mind the works of the LORD, for I remembered Thy miracles of old.

12 I will think of all Thy works and consider well all Thy wonders.

13 Thy way, O God, is holy. Who is so great a god as God!

14 Thou art the God who workest wonders; Thou hast revealed Thy power.

15 With a mighty arm Thou hast redeemed Thy people, the sons of Jacob and Joseph. *Selah.*

16 The water saw Thee, O God; the waters saw Thee, they shuddered; the deep shuddered, too.

17 The clouds poured down water; the skies rumbled with thunder; Thy lightning arrows zig-zagged.

18 The voice of Thy thunder was in the whirlwind; the lightnings illumined the world; the earth trembled and shook.

19 Thy ways are in the sea, Thy paths in the great waters; Thy footprints are untraceable.

20 Thou hast led Thy people as a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron.

PSALM 78

MY people, give ear to my instruction; listen to the words of my mouth.

2 as I open my lips in a parable, as I utter lessons from ancient times.

3 which we have heard and known, for our fathers related them to us.

4 We do not conceal them from their children, recounting to the following generation the praises of the LORD and His might, yes, the wondrous works he has performed.

5 For He established a testimony with Jacob; He appointed a law in Israel, which He commanded our fathers to disclose to their sons,

6 in order that the succeeding generation might know, that the children still to be born might arise and recount it to their sons.

7 so as to put their confidence in God and not to forget God's works, but to keep His commandments.

8 That they might not be like their fathers, a generation of obstinacy and rebellion, a generation which did not prepare it heart; and its spirit was not faithful to God.

9 The sons of Ephraim, equipped with the bow retreated in the day of battle.

10 They did not keep Gods' covenant and refused to walk in his Law.

11 They forgot His deeds and His wonders which He had shown them.

12 He performed miracles before the eyes of their fathers in the land of Egypt in the field of Zoan.

13 He divided the sea and had them pass through; yes, He made the waters stand up like a heap.

14 By day He guided them with a cloud and all night with a burning light.

15 He split the rocks in the wilderness and gave them a drink as from the great deep.

16 He made streams gush from the rock and caused water to run down like rivers.

17 But they sinned still more against Him by showing disobedience to the Most High in the wilderness.

18 Indeed, they tested God in their hearts by asking for flesh as they craved it.

19 They even spoke against God. They said, “Does God have power to set a table for us in the wilderness?

20 Behold, He struck a rock, so that the waters gushed out and streams overflowed. Is He also able to give bread? Will He prepare meat for His people?”

21 Therefore, when the LORD heard, He was provoked, a fire was kindled against Jacob and anger arose against Israel,

22 because they put no faith in God; neither did they trust in His salvation,

23 although He had ordered the clouds from above and opened the doors of heaven;

24 although He had rained manna upon them to eat and had given them heavenly grain.

25 Man ate the bread of the Mighty; He furnished them food in abundance.

26 He set loose an east wind in the heavens, and in His might He brought in a south wind.

27 He rained flesh upon them as dust, yes, winged fowl as the sand of the sea.

28 He let them fall in the midst of their camp all around their tents.

29 So they ate and were fully satisfied, for He sent them what they had craved.

30 But scarce had they stilled their craving, their food still being in their mouths,

31 when God’s indignation came upon them and He slaughtered their sturdiest and felled the choicest of Israel.

32 In spite of all this, they sinned still more and had no confidence in His wonderous works.

33 So He made their days disappear like a fog, made their years end in sudden disaster.

34 When He ruined them, they inquired for Him; they returned and sought God diligently.

35 They remembered that God was their Rock, the Most High God, their Redeemer.

36 They flattered Him with their mouth, they lied to Him with their tongue;

37 for their heart was not sincere with Him, they were not faithful in His covenant.

38 But He, the merciful One, forgave their sin and did not destroy them. Many a time He restrained His anger and did not give vent to His indignation.

39 He remembered that they were flesh, a wind that leaves and does not return.

40 How often they disobeyed Him in the wilderness and grieved Him in the desert!

41 Repeatedly they tested God and provoked the Holy One of Israel.

42 They did not remember His hand, the day when He delivered them from the enemy;

43 how He worked His signs in Egypt and His wonders in the field of Zoan.

44 He turned their rivers into blood, and their streams so that they could not drink.

45 He sent among them swarms of flies that ate them; frogs, too, that devasted them.

46 He gave their crops to locusts and their produce to grasshoppers.

47 With hail He broke down their vines and with sleet their sycamores.

48 He gave up their cattle to hail and their herds to thunderbolts.

49 Sending forth evil spirits, He cast upon them bursting anger, His overflowing wrath, indignation and distress.

50 He levelled a path for His anger; He did not spare their soul from death, but He caused their lives to be delivered to the plague.

51 Yes, he smote all the first-born of Egypt, the prime of their strength in the tents of Ham.

52 But He moved out His people like sheep and guided them like a flock in the desert.

53 He led them in safety, so they were not afraid; but their enemies He covered with the sea.

54 He brought them to His Holy domain, to the mountain which His right hand had gained.

55 He drive out peoples before them and allotted them a measured inheritance; He settle the tribes of Israel in their tents.

56 But they tested and embittered the Most High God and did not observe His testimonies.

57 They turned away and acted unfaithfully like their fathers; they twisted like a warped bow.

58 They made Him angry with their high places, and with their idols they provoked His jealousy.

59 God heard it and His anger burned; He deeply abhorred Israel.

60 He forsook the dwelling at Shiloh, the tabernacle which he had pitched among men;

61 yes, He delivered His ark into captivity and its glory into the hand of the foe.

62 He abandoned his people to the sword and poured His anger on His inheritance.

63 The fire consumed their young men and their maidens were not serenaded.

64 Their priests fell by the sword, and their widows made no mourning.

65 Then the LORD was aroused as one from sleep, like a strong man heated from wine.

66 He beat His enemies back; He caused them unending disgrace.

67 He rejected the tabernacle of Joseph and did not choose the tribe of Ephraim;

68 but He chose the tribe of Judah, Mount Zion which He loved.

69 He built His sanctuary of *heavenly* height and enduring like the earth which He has established.

70 He chose David, his servant, whom He took from the sheepfold,

71 whom He brought from the following ewes with their young, to rule Jacob His people, and Israel His heritage.

72 And he shepherded them according to the integrity of his heart; he guided them by the skilled workings of his hands.

PSALM 79

O GOD, the Gentiles have invaded Thy heritage; they have profaned Thy holy temple; they have turned Jerusalem into ruins.

2 They have given the corpses of Thy servants to the birds of the heavens for food, the flesh of Thy worshippers to the beasts of the earth.

3 They have poured out their blood like water all around like water all around Jerusalem, and no one buried them.

4 We have become a reproach to our neighbours, a derision and a mockery to those around us.

5 How long, O LORD? Wilt Thou be angry ever? Shall Thy jealousy burn like a fire?

6 Pour out Thy fury on the Gentiles who do not acknowledge Thee, and on the kingdoms that do not call upon Thy name,

7 for they have devoured Jacob and laid waste his dwelling.

8 Remember not against us the guilt of our fathers; let Thy compassion speedily meet us, for we are greatly weakened.

9 Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of Thy name. Deliver us and forgive our sins for Thy name's sake.

10 Why should the Gentiles say, "Where is their God?" Let there be manifested among the nations before our eyes, the avenging of the blood of Thy servants which is shed.

11 Let the groaning of the prisoner come before Thee; according to the greatness of Thy arm spare the children of death.

12 Return sevenfold into the bosom of our neighbours their reproach, with which they have scorned Thee, O LORD.

13 And we Thy people, the flock of Thy pasture, shall give Thee thanks forever; we shall publish Thy praise to successive generations.

PSALM 80

O SHEPHERD of Israel, give ear, Thou who leadest Joseph like a flock! Thou who art enthroned above the cherubim, shine forth!

2 Before Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, arouse Thy strength and come to our rescue.

3 O God, restore us, cause Thy face to shine, and we shall be saved.

4 O LORD God of hosts, how long wilt Thou be angry in the face of Thy people's prayers?

5 Thou hast fed them with the bread of tears, and Thou hast furnished them tears to drink in triple measure.

6 Thou makest us a contention to our neighbours; our enemies mock us among themselves.

7 O God of hosts, restore us; cause Thy face to shine, and we shall be saved.

8 Thou hast brought a vine out if Egypt; Thou hast driven out nations and planted it.

9 Thou didst clear *the land* before it, so it took root and filled the land.

10 The mountains were clothed with its shadows, the cedars of God with its boughs.

11 It spread its branches to the sea and its shoots to the River.

12 Why hast Thou broken down its fences, so that all who pass by pluck from it?

13 The boar from the forest devours it, and the beasts of the field feed on it.

14 O God of hosts, do return; look from heaven and observe and visit the vine.

15 Protect what Thy right hand has planted, the son whom Thou hast raised for Thyself.

16 Burned with fire, cut down, they perish at the rebuke of Thy appearance.

17 May Thy hand be on the man of Thy right hand, upon the son if man whom Thou hast chosen for Thyself.

18 Then we shall not depart from Thee; revive us and we shall call upon Thy name!

19 O LORD God of hosts, restore us, cause Thy face to shine, and we shall be saved!

PSALM 81

SING joyfully to God our strength; shout for joy to Jacob's God!

2 Start a psalm, sound the timbrel, the lovely lyre with the harp.

3 Blow the trumpet at the new moon, at the full moon on our feast day.

4 For this is a statute for Israel, an ordinance of the God of Jacob.

5 He assigned it in Joseph for a testimony when He went forth against the land of Egypt. The speech of those I knew not, I heard.

6 I freed his shoulder of the burden; his hands were freed from the freight basket.

7 You called in distress, and I delivered you; I answered you in the hiding place of thunder, I tested you at the waters of Meribah. *Selah.*

8 Hear, O My people and I will testify to you, O Isreal, if you will listen to Me!

9 There shall be no strange god among you; neither shall you worship any alien god.

10 I the LORD, am your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it.

11 But My people did not listen to My voice; Israel would not obey Me.

12 So I left them to the hardness of their hearts; they walked in their own deliberations.

13 Oh, that My people would listen to Me, that Israel would walk in my ways!

14 Readily I would subdue their enemies and turn My hand against their oppressors.

15 Those who hate the LORD would cringe before Him; and their time *of retribution* would last forever.

16 But he would feed you with the choicest of the wheat, and with honey out of the rock I would satisfy you.

PSALM 82

GOD stands in the congregation of God; in the midst of the judges He gives judgment:

2 How long will you judge unjustly and favour the wicked? *Selah.*

3 Dispense justice to the weak and the orphan; vindicate the wretched and needy!

4 Deliver the lowly and the oppressed, rescue them from the hand of the wicked!

5 They neither know nor understand; in the darkness they go; all the foundations of the earth are shaking.

6 I said, “You are gods, indeed, you are all sons of the Most High.

7 “Yet you shall die as men and fall as one of the princes!”

8 Arise O God! Judge the earth, for Thou dost possess all the nation!

PSALM 83

O GOD do not stand idly by mute and inactive, O God!

2 For Thy enemies are ranting, and they who hate Thee carry their heads high.

3 They shrewdly forge a plot against Thy people; they consult together against Thy precious ones.

4 They say, “Come, let us wipe them out as a nation, so that the name of Israel may no longer be remembered.”

5 For they have conspired with a united heart; against Thee they make an alliance –

6 the tents of Edom, the Ishmaelites, Moab and the Hagrites,

7 Gebal, Ammon, and Amalek, Philistia jointly with those who live in Tyre.

8 Even Assyria has joined them; they have meant a strong support for the children of Lot. *Selah.*

9 Do to them as Thou didst to Midian, as to Sisera and Jabin at the brook Kishon,

10 who were destroyed at Endor, who became fertiliser for the ground.

11 Make thou their nobles like Oreb and Zeeb, all their princes like Zebah and Zalmunna,

12 who say, “Let us take possession for ourselves of the pastures of God.”

13 O my God, make them like the whirling dust, like stubble before the wind.

14 As fire consuming a forest, as flames setting the mountains ablaze,

15 so do Thou pursue them with Thy wind, and terrify them with Thy tornado.

16 Fill their faces with shame. And let them seek Thy name, O LORD.

17 Let them be ashamed and terrified forever; yes, let them be disgraced and perish.

18 And let them acknowledge that Thou alone whose name is LORD, art the Most High over all the earth.

PSALM 84

HOW lovely are Thy dwellings, O LORD of hosts!

2 My soul longs, yes, is homesick for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh shout hopefully to the living God.

3 Even the sparrow has found a home and the swallow a nest for herself where she may lay her young, at Thy altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.

4 Blessed are they who live in Thy house; they shall ever sing Thy praise. *Selah.*

5 Blessed is every one who is strong in Thee, in whose heart are Thy ways.

6 Passing through the valley of weeping, they regard it a place of springs; also with blessings it is covered, as with early rain.

7 They go on from strength to strength; each appears before God in Zion.

8 LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob, *Selah.*

9 O God, our shield, observe and see the face of Thine anointed.

10 For better is a day in Thy courts than a thousand *elsewhere;* I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than to live in the tents of wickedness.

11 For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows mercy and honour. He holds back nothing good from those who walk uprightly.

12 O LORD of hosts, blessed is the man who trusts in Thee.

PSALM 85

THOU didst show favour to Thy land, O LORD; Thou didst turn Jacob's captivity.

2 Thou didst forgive the iniquities of Thy people; Thou didst cover all their sin. *Selah.*

3 Thou didst take back all Thine indignation; Thou didst turn away from Thy blazing anger.

4 Turn to us, O God of our salvation, and out an end to Thy vexation toward us.

5 Wilt Thou be angry with us forever? Wilt Thou prolong Thy anger to distant generations?

6 Wilt Thou not revive us again, so that Thy people may rejoice in Thee?

7 Show us Thy lovingkindness, O LORD, and grant us Thy salvation.

8 I will hear what God the LORD will say, for He will speak peace to His people and to His worshippers; but let them not turn again to folly.

9 Surely His salvation is near to those who revere Him, so that glory may dwell in our land.

10 Lovingkindness and truth have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

11 Truth sprouts forth from the earth, and righteousness looks down from heaven.

12 Yes, the LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its produce.

13 Righteousness will go before Him and make His footsteps into a way.

PSALM 86

INCLINE Thy ear, O LORD, reply to me, for I am distressed and needy.

2 Oh, keep my life, for I am dedicated; save Thy servant, O Thou my God, as he trusts in Thee.

3 Be merciful to me, O LORD, for to thee I cry all day long.

4 Gladden the soul of Thy servant, for I lift my soul to Thee, O LORD.

5 Truly, Thou, O LORD, art good and ready to forgive, rich in lovingkindness to all who call on Thee.

6 Give ear, O LORD, to my prayer; take note of my cry of entreaty.

7 In the day of my anxiety I call on Thee, for Thou wilt answer me.

8 There is none like Thee, among the gods. O LORD, nor are there any works like Thine.

9 All the nations which Thou hast made shall come and bow down before Thee, O LORD, and they shall glorify Thy name;

10 for Thou art great and workest wonders; Thou alone art God.

11 Teach me Thy way, O LORD; I will walk in Thy truth; unite my heart to revere Thy name.

12 I will praise Thee, O LORD my God, with all my heart, and I will glorify Thy name forever!

13 for Thy lovingkindness was great toward me; indeed, Thou didst rescue my soul from the lower world beyond.

14 O God! arrogant men have risen up against me; a gang of brutal men seek my life. And they do not place Thee before them.

15 Yet Thou, O LORD, art a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger and rich in lovingkindness and truth.

16 Turn to me and be gracious to me; grant strength to Thy servant.

17 Give a sign of favour to me, so that those who hate me may see and be ashamed because Thou, LORD, didst help me and comfort.

PSALM 87

WHAT He founded stands on the Holy Mountains;

2 the LORD loves the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob.

3 Glorious things are told of you. O City of God. *Selah.*

4 I mention Egypt and Babylon as those who know Me, Behold, Philistia and Tyre, together with Ethiopia – *they say,* "This one was born there."

5 Yes, of Zion it will be said, "This one and that one were born in her;" and the Most High Himself establishes her.

6 The LORD will count as He registers the peoples: This one was born there. *Selah.*

7 And in processionals they are singing, "All my fountains are in you."

PSALM 88

LORD, God of my salvation, by day I cry for help; at night I am in Thy presence.

2 Let my prayer come before Thee, incline Thy ear to my appeal.

3 For my soul is filled with troubles and my life is nearing death's portals.

4 I am reckoned among those who go down to the pit, I am as a man without manly strength,

5 left to himself among the dead, like the slain who like in the grave, whom Thou no longer dost remember; they are removed from Thy help.

6 Thou hast put me in the pit of the lowest, in dark places, in deep regions.

7 Thy indignation rests heavy on me, and with all Thy waves Thou art keeping me down. *Selah.*

8 Thou hast put my acquaintances far from me; Thou hast made me an object of loathing to them I am shut in and I cannot escape.

9 My eye grows dim because of sorrow; to Thee I cry daily, O LORD, I stretch out my hands to Thee.

10 Wilt Thou do wonders for the dead? Will the dead rise and praise Thee? *Selah.*

11 Is Thy lovingkindness declared in the grave, Thy faithfulness in the place of destruction?

12 Can Thy wonders be known in the darkness, or Thy righteousness in the land of no remembrance?

13 Therefore, O LORD, I cry to Thee for help; in the morning my prayer comes before Thee.

14 Why, LORD, dost Thou reject my soul and hide Thy face from me?

15 I am wretched and close to death from my youth up; I bear Thy terrors, I am helpless.

16 Thy blazing anger passes over me; Thy terrors destroy me;

17 they surround me like water all day long; together they encircle me.

18 Thou hast put friend and companion far from me, my familiar friends into darkness.

PSALM 89

I WILL sing of the mercies of the LORD forever; I will make known Thy faithfulness with my mouth from generation to generation.

2 For I said, “Forever shall Thy lovingkindness be built up; in the heavens Thou wilt establish Thy faithfulness.”

3 Thou didst say: “have made a covenant with My chosen one; I have sworn to David, My servant:

4 ‘Your offspring I will, make secure forever, and I will build your throne to all generations.’” *Selah.*

5 The heavens shall celebrate Thy wonders, O LORD, Thy faithfulness shall be praised in the assembly of the holy ones.

6 For who in the heavens is comparable to the LORD? Who is like the LORD among the sons of the mighty?

7 God is greatly revered in the council of the holy ones, revered above all who are around Him.

8 LORD God of hosts, who is like Thee, Thou mighty LORD? And Thy faithfulness surrounds Thee.

9 Thou rulest over the proud swelling of the sea; when its billows surge, Thou stillest them.

10 Thou hast crushed Rahab as someone slain; with Thy mighty arm Thou hast scattered Thy enemies.

11 Thine are the heavens; Thine is the earth, too; the world and its fullness. Thou hast founded them.

12 The north and the south, Thou hast created them; Tabor and Hermon rejoice in Thy name.

13 Thine is an arm with might; strong is Thy hand and high Thy right hand.

14 Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Thy throne; lovingkindness and faithfulness are at Thy service.

15 Blessed are the people who recognise the festal call, they walk, O LORD, in the light of Thy countenance;

16 in Thy name they rejoice all day long, and through Thy righteousness they are exalted.

17 For the glory of their strength art Thou, and through Thy favour shall our horn be raised high.

18 For our shield is the LORD, and our King of the Holy One of Israel.

19 Once Thou didst speak to Thy devoted one in a vision, saying I bestowed help on a hero; I have elevated a chosen one of the people.

20 I have found David My servant; with My holy oil I have anointed him

21 with whom My hand shall be steadfast, and My arm shall strengthen him.

22 The enemy shall not exact from him, and no villain shall oppress him.

23 Rather, I will crush his adversaries before him, and I will smite those who hate him.

24 My faithfulness and my lovingkindness are with him and in My name shall his horn be exalted.

25 I will also place his hand on the sea and his right hand on the rivers.

26 He will call to me, “Thou art my Father, my God, and the rock of my salvation.”

27 Yes, I will appoint him first-born, the highest of the kings of the earth.

28 Forever shall I maintain My lovingkindness toward him; My covenant shall be unshakeable with him.

29 His offspring I will establish forever, and his throne as the days of heaven.

30 If his children forsake My law, if they deviate from My judgements,

31 if they profane My statutes and do not keep My commandments.

32 then I shall punish their transgression with the rod and their iniquity with stripes.

33 But My lovingkindness I will not retract from him, nor will I be false to My faithfulness.

34 I will not desecrate My covenant, nor will I change what went forth from My lips.

35 Once I have sworn by My holiness; I will not lie to David.

36 His offspring shall endure forever, and his throne shall be like the sun before Me.

37 As the moon it shall always remain reliable, and the witness in the sky is faithful. *Selah.*

38 But now Thou hast rejected and abhorred; Thou hast become indignant with Thy anointed one.

39 Thou hast spurned the covenant of Thy servant; Thou hast defiled his crown to the dust.

40 Thou hast broken down all his walls; Thou hast laid his forts in ruins.

41 All who pass on the road plunder him; he has become the scorn of his neighbours.

42 Thou hast exalted his right hand of his antagonists; Thou hast made all his enemies to rejoice.

43 Besides, Thou hast turned the edge of his sword, and Thou hast not made him stand in battle.

44 Thou hast caused all his splendour to vanish and hast hurled his throne to the ground.

45 Thou hast shortened the days of his prime; Thou hast covered him with disgrace. *Selah.*

46 How long, O LORD? Wilt Thou hide Thyself forever? Shall Thy wrath burn like fire?

47 Remember how brief my time is, for what emptiness Thou hast created all the sons of men.

48 What man is there so strong that he shall live and not see death, so as to deliver his soul from the grip of the grave? *Selah.*

49 Where are Thy lovingkindness of old, O LORD, which Thou didst pledge to David in Thy faithfulness?

50 Remember, LORD, the reproach of Thy servants, how I carry it in my bosom among all great nations,

51 with which Thy enemies have taunted, O LORD, with which they have taunted the footsteps of Thy anointed.

52 Praised be the LORD forever! Amen and Amen.

PSALM 90

LORD, Thou hast been our home in successive generations.

2 Before the mountains were given birth, or Thou didst bring forth the earth and the world, yes, from age to age, Thou art God.

3 Thou turnest mortal man back to dust and sayest; Return, ye children of men.

4 For in Thy sight a thousand years are as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night.

5 Thou carriest them away as with a flood; they are like a sleep. In the morning, they are as the grass that springs up;

6 in the morning it flourishes and springs up; by evening it is mown and it withers.

7 For we are consumed by Thy anger, yes, terrified by Thy indignation.

8 Thou hast set our iniquities before Thee, our secret sins in the light of Thy countenance.

9 For all our days pass away in Thy indignation; we spend our years as a sighing.

10 The days of our years – there are seventy of them, and if there is great strength, eighty years – yet their best involves toil and grief, for it is soon gone and we vanish.

11 Who knows the force of Thy anger, and Thy awesomeness according to Thy indignation?

12 Teach us so to number our days, that we may acquire discerning minds.

13 Return O LORD, how long? Have compassion on Thy servants.

14 Satisfy us in the morning with Thy lovingkindness, so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

15 Make us glad to the measure of the days Thou hast afflicted us, of the year in which we have seen calamity.

16 Reveal Thy work to Thy servants and Thy glory to their children.

17 May the grace of the LORD our God rest upon us and confirm the work of our hands upon us; yes, the work of our hands, confirm Thou it.

PSALM 91

HE who lives in the secret shelter of the Most High lodges in the shadow of the Almighty.

2 I will testify of the LORD, “He is my refuge and my fortress, my God in whom I am trusting.”

3 Certainly it is He who rescues you from the hunter’s trap and from the fatal pestilence.

4 He will cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you will find protection; His faithfulness is a shield and armour.

5 You will not fear night’s hidden terrors, nor the arrow that flies in the daytime.

6 nor the plague that lurks in the darkness, nor the calamity that spreads havoc at noontime.

7 A thousand may fall right beside you and ten thousand at your right hand, but it shall not come near you.

8 You will merely see it with your eyes and witness the sinners’ reward.

9 For Thou, O LORD, art my refuge. Since you, too, have established the Most High as your shelter,

10 no harm shall befall you, nor shall any plague come near your tent.

11 For He gives his angels orders regarding you, to protect you wherever you go.

12 They will support you with their hands lest you strike your foot against a stone.

13 You will trample on the lion and the adder; you shall tread upon the lion cub and on the snake.

14 Because he has anchored his love in Me, I will deliver him, I will place him securely on high, for he has faith in My name.

15 When he calls upon Me, I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honour him.

16 I will satisfy him with a long life and show him My salvation.

PSALM 92

IT is good to give thanks to the LORD, to sing praises to Thy name, O Most High,

2 to proclaim Thy lovingkindness in the morning and Thy faithfulness into the night

3 on a ten-stringed instrument and a lute, along with music on a harp.

4 For Thou hast made me glad by Thy doings, O LORD! I shall rejoice in what Thy hands have accomplished.

5 How great are Thy doings, O LORD! How deep are Thy thoughts!

6 An unthinking person does not understand; a fool cannot grasp this.

7 Though sinners spring up like grass and those who practice evil flourish, it is that they shall be eternally destroyed;

8 but Thou, O LORD, art exalted forever.

9 For, see, Thy enemies, LORD, for, See, Thy enemies shall perish; all those who habitually sin shall bring about their own separation.

10 But Thou hast magnified my horn like that of the wild ox; I am anointed with invigorating oil.

11 My eye has spotted those who insidiously watch me, my ears shall detect those who rise up against me with evil intentions.

12 The righteous shall thrive like the palm tree; he shall become mighty like the cedar of Lebanon.

13 Those who have been transplanted into the LORD's household, they shall flourish in the courtyards of our God.

14 In old age they shall still be bearing fruit. They shall be full of life and vitality,

15 thus testifying that the LORD is upright, my Rock, in whom there is no unrighteousness.

PSALM 93

THE LORD reigns; He has robed Himself with majesty; the LORD is clothed with strength; thus has He girded Himself. The world also is firmly established; it cannot be moved.

2 Thy throne is established from of old; Thou art from everlasting.

3 The rivers have risen O LORD; the stream have swirled up with their roar; the floods are surging high.

4 Above the sound of expansive waters, of mighty ocean breakers, the LORD on high stands supreme.

5 Thy testimonies are trustworthy; holiness is the mark of Thy house, O LORD, for evermore.

PSALM 94

O LORD, Thou God of retribution, Thou God of retribution, shine forth!

2 Rise up, O Judge of the earth; give to the proud their due reward.

3 O LORD, how long shall sinners, how long shall the wicked be jubilant?

4 They boast freely; they speak arrogantly; all the wrongdoers brag about themselves.

5 They trample on Thy people, O LORD; they oppress Thy heritage.

6 They kill the widow and the immigrant; they murder orphans.

7 For they say, "The LORD is not looking; the God of Jacob pays no attention."

8 You pay attention, you stupid among the people! You fools, when will you become wise?

9 He who makes the ear, is He deaf? He who forms the eye, is He blind?

10 He who disciplines the nations shall He not correct? Is He not the One who teaches man all He knows?

11 The LORD discerns the thoughts of man that they are futile.

12 Blessed is the man whom Thou dost discipline, whom Thou dost instruct from Thy Law, O LORD,

13 that he may enjoy security during the days of distress, till a pit be dug for the wicked.

14 For the LORD will not forsake His people nor ever abandon His heritage.

15 But justice will be applied to the righteous, and all whose hearts are right will subscribe to it.

16 Who will arise for me against the workers of iniquity?

17 Unless the LORD had been my help, my soul would soon have dwelt in silence.

18 When I said, “My foot is slipping,” Thy loving kindness, LORD, supported me.

19 Whenever perplexing cares crowd my inmost self, Thy consolations cheer my soul.

20 Can a corrupt government be allied with Thee, one that organises oppression under the pretence of law?

21 They join forces against the life of the righteous; they convict innocent people.

22 But the LORD has been my high retreat, my God, my impregnable rock of safety.

23 He has made them pay for their crime, and He will destroy them in their sin; the LORD our God will make an end of them.

PSALM 95

COME, let us sing to the LORD; let us cheer in honour of the Rock of our salvation.

2 Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving; let us joyfully sing to Him with psalms.

3 For the LORD is a great God, a mighty King above all gods.

4 The depths of the earth are at His finger tips; the tallest summits belong to Him.

5 The sea is His, for He made it; His hands formed the dry land.

6 Come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

7 For He is our God, and we are his people of His pasture, the flock which He tends. Oh, if you would only listen to His voice today!

8 Do not stiffen your heart as at Meribah, at the time of testing in the wilderness,

9 when your fathers tried My patience and tested Me though they had witnessed what I had done.

10 For forty years I was disgusted with that generation and said, they are a people whose heart strays, who do not acknowledge My ways.

11 Therefore I vowed in My indignation, they shall never enter My rest.

PSALM 96

SING a new song to the LORD; sing to the LORD, all the earth!

2 Sing to the LORD, bless His name; proclaim His salvation from day to day.

3 Publish His glory among the nations, His marvellous works among all peoples.

4 For the LORD is great and greatly to be praised; He is to be revered above all gods.

5 For all the gods of the nations are idols, but the LORD made the heavens.

6 Honour and Majesty are before Him; strength and beauty are in His sanctuary.

7 Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the nations, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength!

8 Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name; procure an offering, and come into His courts!

9 Oh, worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness! Stand in His presence with awe, all the earth.

10 Proclaim among the nations that the LORD is reigning; the world is established, it cannot be overthrown, and He judges peoples with uprightness.

11 Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice; let the sea in its vastness continually roar;

12 let the fields and all they contain give glory; all the trees of the forest rustle with praise

13 before the LORD, for He is coming, for He is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with justice, the nations with His faithfulness.

PSALM 97

THE LORD reigns; let the earth rejoice; let the many islands be glad!

2 Clouds and darkness surround Him; righteousness and justice are the foundation of His throne.

3 A fire issues from His presence and consumes His enemies on every side.

4 His lightnings illumine the world; the earth looks on and trembles.

5 The mountains melt like wax before the LORD, before Him who is LORD of all the earth.

6 The heavens proclaim His righteousness; all nations see His glory.

7 All who serve images shall be ashamed, who brag about worthless idols; bow before Him in worship, all ye gods!

8 Zion heard and was glad; the cities of Judah rejoiced because of Thy justice, O LORD.

9 For Thou, O LORD, art Most High above all the earth; Thou transendest far above all gods.

10 You who love the LORD, hate evil; He faithfully preserves the lives of His devoted ones; He rescues them from the grasp of sinners.

11 Light is sown for the righteous and joy for those whose hearts are right.

12 You who are righteous, rejoice in the LORD; be thankful for the consciousness of His holiness.

PSALM 98

O SING to the LORD a new song because He has performed wonderous things! His right hand and His Holy arm have gained Him victory.

2 The LORD has made known His salvation; He has unveiled His righteousness in the sight of the nations.

3 He has remembered His lovingkindness and His faithfulness to Israel's descendants. All the ends of the earth have witnessed the salvation of our God.

4 Make a joyful sound to the LORD, all ye lands; break forth in joyful song; yes, sing praises!

5 Make music on a harp for the LORD, with the harp and melodious song.

6 With trumpets and sound of the horn shout ye before the King, even the LORD!

7 Let the sea in its vastness roar in praise, the world and its inhabitants!

8 Let the rivers clap their hands and the mountains sing praises together

9 before the LORD, for He is coming to judge the earth, He will judge the world with justice, the peoples with unfaltering fairness.

PSALM 99

THE LORD is King; let the nations tremble! He is enthroned between the cherubim; let the earth quiver!

2 The LORD is Majestic in Zion; He is supreme above all the nations.

3 Let them revere Thy wonderful and awe-inspiring name; it is Holy!

4 The King's energy is keenly set on justice; Thou dost establish equity; Thou dost guarantee justice and truth in Jacob.

5 Exalt the LORD, our God; bow in worship of His footstool; He is Holy!

6 Moses and Aaron were among His priests, Samuel, too, among those who called on His name. They petitioned the LORD and He granted their request.

7 He instructed them from the pillar of cloud; they observed His injunctions and the statutes He gave them.

8 O LORD, our God, Thou didst answer them; Thou wast a forgiving God to them although Thou didst make them pay for their evil practices.

9 Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at His Holy Mountain, for the LORD our God is Holy!

PSALM 100

MAKE a joyful sound to the LORD, all ye lands!

2 Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into His presence with singing.

3 Acknowledge, that the LORD, He is God! It is He who made us, and we belong to Him; we are His people and the sheep of His pasture.

4 Enter into His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him; bless His name!

5 For the LORD is good; His loving kindness shall continue forever, His faithfulness throughout all generations.

PSALM 101

I WILL sing of lovingkindness and justice; I will make melody to Thee, O LORD.

2 I will carefully observe the path of the perfect. When wilt Thou come to me? I will behave in my home with heartfelt integrity.

3 I will not allow a base thought to attract my attention. I despise crooked practices; they shall not gain hold on me.

4 A perverse nature shall be absent from me; I will not entertain evil.

5 I will silence him who secretly slanders his neighbour; I will not tolerate one who is conceited and arrogant.

6 I look to the trustworthy in the land to be my associates. He who walks the path of integrity, he shall work for me.

7 He who practices deceit shall not stay in my home; he who habitually tells lies shall not be secure in my sight.

8 Morning after morning I will do away with all criminals within the country that I may eliminate from the city of the LORD all those who practice sin.

PSALM 102

LISTEN to my prayer, O LORD let my plea for help reach Thee.

2 Do not hide Thy face from me when I have a distressful day, Turn Thy ear toward me; on the day when I call, answer me readily,

3 for my days go up in smoke; my bones are inflamed as a bonfire.

4 Like grass my heart is crushed and withered so that I have neglected my regular food.

5 I am nothing but skin and bones because of the sound of my sighing.

6 I am like a pelican in the wilderness, like an owl among the ruins.

7 I lie awake and feel like a sparrow alone on the roof.

8 All day long my enemies insult me; those who are angry with me curse me.

9 For I have eaten ashes like bread and have mixed tears with my drink,

10 because of Thy indignation, and wrath, for Thou hast taken me up and thrown me down.

11 My days are like the evening shadow that fades away; I wither away like the grass.

12 But Thou, O LORD, art enthroned forever; Thy fame shall last throughout all generations.

13 Thou shalt arise and have mercy on Zion, for it is time to pity her. Yes, the set time has come,

14 for Thy servants hold dear her stones; they show sympathy for her dust.

15 The nations, too, shall revere the name of the LORD and all the kings of the earth Thy glory.

16 For the LORD has rebuilt Zion; He has appeared in His glory.

17 He regarded the prayer of the destitute; He did not slight their petition.

18 This shall be recorded for a generation to come; a people yet to be born shall praise the LORD.

19 For He has kept watch from the height of His sanctuary; from heaven the LORD kept vigil over the earth,

20 to detect the groaning of the prisoners, to release those who are destined to die;

21 that the name of the LORD may be proclaimed in Zion, His praise throughout Jerusalem,

22 when the nations, even the kingdoms, are brought together for the purpose of serving the LORD.

23 He has lessened my strength on the way; He has shortened my days.

24 I plead, “O my God, take me not away in middle age; O Thou whose years endure through all generations!”

25 Thou didst found the earth of old, and the heavens are the work of Thy hands.

26 They shall perish, but Thou remainest. They all shall wear out like a garment; like a coat Thou shalt change them, and they shall be changed.

27 But Thou art the same; Thy years shall never end.

28 The children of Thy servants shall dwell safely, their offspring is established in Thy presence.

PSALM 103

BLESS the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His Holy name!

2 Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget none of His benefits,

3 who forgives all your iniquities, who heals all your diseases,

4 who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with lovingkindness and mercy,

5 who satisfies you throughout life with good things, so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

6 The LORD administers justice and fairness to all who are oppressed.

7 He revealed His ways to Moses, His dealings to the people of Israel.

8 The LORD is merciful and gracious, patiently considerate and abounding in mercy.

9 He will not always show hostility nor maintain it forever.

10 He has not dealt with us to the measure of our sins, nor rewarded us as our iniquities deserve.

11 For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His mercy toward those who revere Him.

12 As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

13 As a father has compassion for his children, so the LORD tenderly sympathises with those who revere Him.

14 For He knows what we are made of; He keeps in mind that we are dust.

15 A man's days resemble grass. He blossoms like a flower in the field;

16 the wind blows over it, and it is gone, with not a sign that it has ever been there.

17 But the LORD's faithful love rests eternally upon those who revere Him and His righteousness on the children's children,

18 on those who are faithful to His covenant, who remember to carry out His instructions.

19 The LORD has established His throne in heaven, and His kingdom rules over all.

20 Bless the LORD, you His angels who abound with strength, who carry out His orders, listening to the sound of His Word!

21 Bless the LORD, all you His armies, you His servants who continually do what pleases Him!

22 Bless the LORD, all His works in all places of His dominion! Bless the LORD, O my soul!

PSALM 104

BLESS the LORD, O my soul! O LORD my God, Thou art very great! Thou art clothed with honour and majesty,

2 covering Thyself with light as with as robe, and stretching out the skies like a tent.

3 He lays the beams of His upper chambers in the waters, he uses the clouds for His chariot, he marches on the wings of the wind,

4 making the spirits His messengers, flames of fire His servants.

5 He established the earth on its foundation, so that it should never be overthrown.

6 Thou didst cover it with the ocean depth for a garment. Above the mountains stood the waters,

7 which surged in retreat at Thy rebuke, at Thy thunderous command swirled away,

8 while the mountains sprang up and the valleys descend to the place which Thou didst reserve for them.

9 Thou hast set a boundary which they cannot pass; they shall never return to cover the earth.

10 He causes springs to gush forth into valleys; they wind their way down through the hills.

11 They provide drink for every animal of the field; the wild donkeys quench their thirst.

12 The birds of the air nest beside them; they sing among the branches.

13 He waters the mountains from His lofty chambers; the earth abounds with the fruit of Thy works.

14 He causes the grass to spring up for the cattle, fruits and vegetables for man to cultivate, that he may drive sustenance from the land,

15 wine to elate the spirit of man, oil to brighten his facial appearance, and bread to improve a man's health.

16 The LORD's trees are full of sap, the cedars of Lebanon which He planted.

17 In them the birds build their nests; the stork's home is the fir tree.

18 He made the mountain heights for the wild goats, the rocky crags for the rock-badger's refuge.

19 He formed the moon to mark out the seasons; the sun knows the time of its setting.

20 Thou makest darkness settle down, so that during the night all forest animals may roam about.

21 The young lions roar for their prey and look to God for their feed.

22 When the sun rises, they slink back and lie down in their dens.

23 But man then starts out to his work and remains at his task until evening.

24 O LORD, how innumerable are Thy works; in wisdom Thou hast made them all! The earth is full of Thy well-made creations.

25 Yonder is the sea, vast and broad; in it are swarms too many to number, creatures tiny and large.

26 There sail the ships; in it the sea mammal Thou madest to play.

27 All those look to Thee to furnish their timely feed.

28 When Thou providest for them, they gather it. Thou openest Thy hand and they are satisfied with good things.

29 When Thou hidest Thy face, they are struck with despair. When Thou cuttest off their breath, in death they return to their dust.

30 Thou sendest Thy Spirit and more are created, and Thou dost replenish the surface of the earth.

31 May the glory of the LORD remain forever; may the LORD be pleased with His works.

32 As He looks at the earth, it trembles; when He touches the mountains, they smoke.

33 I will sing to the LORD through all my life; I will praise my God as long as I have being.

34 May my meditation please Him; I will be glad in the LORD.

35 The sinners shall perish from the earth and the ungodly be no more. Bless the LORD, O my soul! Hallelujah!

PSALM 105

GIVE thanks to the LORD; invoke His name; proclaim His doings among the nations.

2 Sing to Him; yes, sing praises to Him; tell of all His wonderous works!

3 Glory ye in His Holy name; may the heart of the LORD’s worshippers be joyful.

4 Seek the LORD and His strength; seek His presence perpetually.

5 Remember His marvellous deeds which He has performed, His miracles and the judgement which He has pronounced.

6 O you who are the offspring of Abraham, His servant, you children of Jacob, His chosen ones!

7 He, the LORD is our God; His judgements reach over the whole world.

8 He has remembered His covenant forever, the promise which He authorised to a thousand generations,

9 the covenant He made with Abraham and His oath to Isaac.

10 He also confirmed it to Jacob by decree, to Israel as an eternal covenant,

11 stating, “To you will I give the land of Canaan as your inherited portion.”

12 When there were just a few of them – in fact, very few, and there as strangers –

13 they wandered about from nation to nation, from one kingdom to another people.

14 Yet He allowed no person to harm them; He rebuked kings on their behalf:

15 Do not touch My anointed ones; see that no harm comes to My prophets.

16 He called for a famine upon the land, depriving them of their bread, the staff of life.

17 Therefore He sent a man to precede them, Joseph who was sold as a slave.

18 They bound his feet tightly with chains; his person was laid in the irons,

19 till the time his word came true, when the LORD’s word showed him right.

20 The king sent and had him released; the ruler of many people set him free.

21 He appointed him manager of his estate and ruler over all his possessions,

22 with authority to imprison his princes as he pleased and to instruct his elders in the ways of wisdom.

23 When Israel had come to Egypt and Jacob was a migrant in the land of Ham,

24 there He greatly increased His people and made them stronger than their oppressors.

25 He then changed their heart to hate His people, to deal deceitfully with His servants.

26 He sent Moses His servant and Aaron whom He had chosen.

27 They carried out His orders for signs against them, His miracles against the land of Egypt.

28 He ordered darkness and it grew black; and they did not disobey His command.

29 He turned their waters into blood. He killed their fish.

30 He made their country swarm with frogs, even in their king’s private rooms.

31 He commanded; the flies came in swarms and lice throughout their land.

32 He showered them with hail instead of their rain, coupled with lightning that flamed on their land.

33 He ruined their vines and their fig trees. He destroyed their outlying forests.

34 He spoke and along came the locusts and grasshoppers in countless numbers;

35 they consumed all their country's vegetation and devoured the produce of their land.

36 He killed all the first-born in the land, the first fruits of all their strength.

37 He then led them out with sliver and gold, there were no invalids among His tribes.

38 Egypt was pleased at their leaving for dread of them had seized them.

39 He spread a cloud for shade and a fire to give light in the darkness.

40 They requested, and He brought in quails and refreshed them with the bread from heaven.

41 He opened the rock and water gushed forth; in the desert areas it flowed like a stream.

42 For He remembered His sacred promise to Abraham His servant.

43 He brought forth His people with joy, His chosen ones with singing.

44 He gave them the lands of the heathen; they reaped the fruit of their labours

45 that they might be faithful to his statutes and diligently keep His laws. Hallelujah!

PSALM 106

HALLELUJAH! O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for His lovingkindness lasts forever.

2 Who can put into words the mighty deeds of the LORD? Who can make known all His praise?

3 Blessed are they who faithfully observe justice. Who practice righteousness at all times!

4 Remember me, LORD, with the favour Thou showest Thy people. Visit me with Thy salvation.

5 that I may share in the welfare of Thy chosen, enjoy the happiness of Thy nation, and glory with Thy heritage.

6 We and our fathers have sinned; we have wilfully done wrong; we have behaved wickedly.

7 Our fathers did not appreciate Thy miracles in Egypt; they did not consider the endless tokens of Thy lovingkindness. Instead, they rebelled near the sea, by the Red Sea.

8 Yet He delivered them for His own sake that He might exhibit His power.

9 He rebuked the Red Sea, and it dried up; He led them through the depths as through a desert.

10 He rescued them from hostile hands; He redeemed them from the enemies' grasp;

11 For the waters engulfed their enemies; not one of them survived.

12 Then they believed His promises; they sang of His glory.

13 But they speedily forgot His doings; they would not wait for His counsel.

14 For they lusted excessively in the desert and tempted God in the wilderness,

15 so he let them have what they wanted, but sent leanness within their soul.

16 They were jealous of Moses in the camp, of Aaron, the holy one of the LORD.

17 The earth opened and swallowed Dathan; it covered up Abiram's company.

18 A fire broke out among their assemblage and the flame consumed the wicked.

19 They fashioned a calf at Horeb, then worshipped the molten image.

20 They exchanged their glory for the image of an ox that munches grass.

21 They forgot God, their Deliverer, who had done such marvellous things in Egypt,

22 such miracles in the land of Ham, such awe-inspiring deeds at the Red Sea.

23 Then He said He would destroy them – had not Moses, His chosen, stepped into the breach before Him, to turn Him from wiping them out in His anger.

24 They then spurned the desirable land; they would not rely on his promise.

25 They complained while in their tents and would not listen to the voice of the LORD.

26 Accordingly, He solemnly swore to them that He would let them fall in the wilderness,

27 would scatter their offspring among the nations, and disperse them throughout the world.

28 They joined themselves to Baal of Peor and ate the sacrifices to lifeless idols.

29 They thus made the LORD angry by their practices so that a plague broke out among them.

30 But when Phinehas got up and intervened, the plague was checked.

31 This action was counted to him for righteousness to successive generations forever.

32 They angered Him at the waters of Meribah, which made it hard for Moses on their account;

33 for when they aroused his temper, he spoke indiscreetly with his lips.

34 They did not exterminate the nations as the LORD had commanded them;

35 but they associated with those pagans and acquired their habits.

36 And they offered sacrifice to their idols, which became a seductive bait to them.

37 Yes, they even sacrificed their sons and their daughters to the demons.

38 They shed innocent blood, the blood of their sons and daughters, whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan till the land was polluted with blood.

39 They were defiled by what they did; they were immoral in their practices;

40 Therefore, the LORD's anger burned against His people; He regarded His heritage with disgust.

41 He turned them over to the control of the nations. Those who hated them ruled over them.

42 Their enemies severely oppressed them; they were put to submission under their power.

43 Many a time He delivered them, but they repeatedly reverted to their rebellious ways, so they went down in their sinfulness.

44 As He observed their anguish and heard their lamenting.

45 He remembered His covenant in their behalf and felt grieved according to his lovingkindness.

46 He caused them to find sympathy from those who had made them prisoners.

47 Deliver us, O LORD our God; bring us together from among the nations, so we may render thanks to Thy Holy name and exult in praising Thee.

48 Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting! And let all the people say. "Amen!" Hallelujah!

PSALM 107

GIVE thanks to the LORD for He is good; for His lovingkindness is everlasting!

2 Let the LORD's redeemed say so, those He has delivered from trouble

3 and gathered in from all lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

4 Some wandered in the desert wastes, finding no road to a residence city.

5 Hungry and thirsty, their souls became faint within them.

6 When they cried out to the LORD in their distress He delivered them from their plight,

7 guiding them by a straight course to the residence city.

8 Let them give thanks to the LORD for His mercy and for His wonderful deeds to the children of men!

9 For He satisfies the thirsty soul and provides the hungry with good.

10 Some sat in darkness and deep gloom, prisoners in irons and in misery

11 for they had rebelled against God's commands and scorned the counsel of the Most High.

12 He, therefore, brought them low in trouble and sorrow and they stumbled from weakness with none to help.

13 They, too, in their straits called out to the LORD, and He delivered then, from all their trials,

14 bringing them out of their darkness and dire despair, snapping their bands apart.

15 Let them give thanks to the LORD for His lovingkindness and His wonderful works to the children of men!

16 For he has shattered gates of bronze and has broken iron bars.

17 Some developed illness because of their wicked ways and were afflicted on account of sin;

18 to them their food became abhorrent, and they were close to the gates of death.

19 But they cried out to the LORD in their sore distress and He delivered them from their troubles.

20 He sent out His word to heal them and to save their lives from the grave.

21 Let them give thanks to the LORD for His lovingkindness and His wonderful works to the children of men!

22 Let them bring their thank offerings and gladly tell of His doings.

23 Some went out to sea in ships, there to engage in trade on the great waters.

24 These witnessed the works of the LORD, His wonders in the deep.

25 At His command storm winds arose and waves rolled high because of them;

26 they mounted to heaven, then sank back to the depths, their courage melting in aguish.

27 They went reeling and staggering like a drunken man, all completely at their wits' end.

28 Then they cried out to the LORD in their distress and He saved them from their sorry plight.

29 For He stilled the storm to a zephyr, the waves if the sea became quiet.

30 And the men were glad at the hushing of the waves, and the LORD brought them to their longed-for-haven.

31 Let them give thanks to the LORD for His lovingkindness and for His wonderful works to the children of men!

32 Let them exalt Him in the congregation of the people and praise Him in the assembly of the elders.

33 He turns rivers into a desert and fountains of water into thirsty ground;

34 a fruitful land He makes a salty marsh on account of the wickedness of those who live there.

35 He changes desert places into pools of water and dry ground into springs.

36 There He causes the hungry to settle that they may build a city to live in,

37 sow fields and plant vineyards and gather fruitful harvests.

38 He also blesses them and causes their number to increase many fold, while their cattle He does not allow to diminish.

39 Again they become few and are brought low by oppression, misfortune, and sorrow.

40 He pours contempt on princes and makes them wander over pathless wastes.

41 The poor, however, He lifts out of their afflictions and miseries and makes their families like a fruitful flock.

42 Upright men will see this and rejoice, while all wrongdoers will be silent.

43 Let the wise man think this over and mark well the LORD’s benevolent doings.

PSALM 108

MY heart, O God is steadfast, I will sing, yes, I will make melody with my soul.

2 Awake, harp; awake, lyre; for I will arouse the dawn!

3 I will praise Thee, O LORD, among the peoples, I will chant praises to Thee among the nations.

4 For Thy lovingkindness is higher than the heavens, and Thy faithfulness soars to the skies.

5 Be Thou exalted, O God, beyond the heavens, and may Thy glory tower over all the earth!

6 To the end that Thy beloved be delivered, save by Thy right hand, O God, and respond to me.

7 God spoke in his holiness; With rejoicing I will apportion Shechem and measure the valley of Succoth.

8 Gilead is Mine, Manasseh, too, is Mine; Ephraim is the defense of My head, while Judah is My sceptre.

9 Moab is My washbasin; upon Edom I cast My shoe; over Philistia I will shout in victory.

10 Who will lead me to the fenced city? Who will bring me into Edom?

11 Hast Thou not cast us off, O God? Thou dost not go out, O God, with our armies,

12 Oh, grant us help against the enemy for vain is the help of man.

13 With God we shall do valiantly, for He will tread down our foes.

PSALM 109

DO not remain silent, O God of my praise;

2 for evil men have opened wicked mouths against me and charge me with a lying tongue.

3 besetting me around with words of hatred, attacking me without cause.

4 For my love they return enmity even while I am at prayer.

5 In such manner they repay me evil for good, hatred for my affection.

6 Set a wicked judge over him, I pray, and let a perverse accuser stand at his right hand!

7 And when his case is tried, let him come off guilty, and let his prayer pass for sin!

8 May his days be few, and may another take his office!

9 May his children be fatherless and his wife become a widow;

10 his children wandering off begging bread and driven out from home.

11 May creditors seize all he has and strangers plunder the fruits of his toil!

12 Let no one show him kindness or even pity his fatherless little ones!

13 Instead, let his sons be cut off and his name be blotted out in the following generation!

14 May the evil deeds of his father be remembered before the LORD and the sins of his mother never once be forgotten!

15 May all these things come before the LORD continually, and the recollection of him be rooted out from the earth;

16 Let it be recalled that it never occurred to him to show kindness; instead, he persecuted the poor, the needy, and the brokenhearted even unto death.

17 He loved cursing; so, may cursing overtake him! He had no concern for blessing; so, may blessing be far from him!

18 He dressed himself with cursing as with his coat; so, may it sink into his flesh like water and to his bones like oil!

19 May it then be as the robe and like the girdle he buckles on daily!

20 May this be the recompense from the LORD to my accusers and to those who threaten my life with evil!

21 But Thou, O God, my LORD, for Thy name's sake, deal Thou with me; rescue me for the sake of the goodness of Thy love.

22 For I am needy and afflicted, and my heart is pierced within me.

23 Like a lengthening shadow, I go hence; like a locust, I am shaken off.

24 My knees give way, due to fasting, my flesh is lean and spare.

25 I have become a laughingstock to others; they look at me and shake their heads.

26 Help me, O LORD, my God! Save me in Thy lovingkindness,

27 so they may acknowledge that this is Thy hand. Thou, the LORD, hast done it.

28 They may curse, but do Thou bless! Let them that stand against me be confounded, and let Thy servant rejoice!

29 Let my accusers be clothed in disgrace, and let them wrap themselves in their shame as in a mantle!

30 I will give thanks to the LORD in a loud voice; in a great congregation I will praise Him.

31 For He stands at the right hand of the needy to save him from those who would judge his soul.

PSALM 110

THE LORD has said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand until I make Thy enemies a footstool for Thy feet."

2 The sceptre of Thy strength the LORD sends forth from Zion, Rule, then, in the midst of Thy foes.

3 Thy people will offer themselves freely in the day of Thy power. In consecrated array at early dawn. Thine is the flower of Thy young men.

4 The LORD has sworn and will not change, “Thou art priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.”

5 The LORD is at Thy right hand and will shatter kings in the day of His indignation.

6 He will execute judgement among the nations; He will fill them with corpses, and their chieftains He will shatter over a broad land.

7 He will drink from the brook on the way; therefore, He lifts up the head.

PSALM 111

HALLELUJAH! With all my heart I give thanks to the LORD in the gathering of the upright and in the congregation.

2 Great are the doings of the LORD, sought out by all who delight in them.

3 Majestic and glorious are His acts, and His righteousness stands forever.

4 He has made His wonderous deeds to be remembered, for the LORD is gracious and merciful.

5 He provides for those who revere Him and will remember His covenant forever.

6 His mighty deeds He made known to His people when He gave them the nations for their heritage.

7 The works of His hands are faithful and right and all His decrees are trustworthy,

8 standing firm forever and ever, done in faithfulness and uprightness.

9 He sent His people redemption and commanded His covenant to be forever. Holy and awe-inspiring is His name.

10 For reverence of the LORD is the beginning wisdom. There is insight in all who observe it. His praise is everlasting.

PSALM 112

HALLELUJAH! Oh, the bliss of the man who reveres the LORD, who greatly in His ordinances!

2 His offspring shall be the mighty in the land; a blessing shall attend the race of the upright.

3 Wealth and riches are in his house, and his righteousness shall stand firm forever.

4 Light rises for the upright in times of darkness; gracious and merciful is the good man.

5 It is well with him who is generous and ready to lend, the man who conducts his business with fairness.

6 Such a man will never be laid low, for the just shall be held in remembrance forever.

7 He need never fear any evil report; his heart will remain firm, fully trusting in the LORD.

8 He will be joyful and unafraid while he looks upon his adversaries.

9 He distributes freely to the poor and his righteousness will stand firm forever; his horn mounts high in honour.

10 The wicked will see this with vexation; he will gnash his teeth, but be will disappear, and the hope of the wicked shall come to naught.

PSALM 113

HALLELUJAH! Praise the LORD, you servants of His, praise the LORD's name!

2 Blessed be the name of the LORD from now to all eternity and for evermore!

3 From where the sun rises to where it sets, the name of the LORD shall receive praise!

4 High above all nations is the LORD and His glory is exalted above the heavens.

5 Who is like the LORD our God, who is enthroned on high,

6 who looks down upon the heavens and the earth?

7 He raises up the poor from the dust and lifts the needy out of the ash heap,

8 to have him sit by the side of princes, with the noblest of His people.

9 He gives the barren wife a home to live in, now the joyous mother of children. Hallelujah!

PSALM 114

WHEN Israel came forth from Egypt, the house of Jacob from a people of alien speech,

2 Judah became His holy place, Israel His dominion.

3 The sea saw it and fled, the Jordan flowed backwards.

4 The mountains skipped like rams and the hills like lambs.

5 What ailed you, sea that made you flee? And you, Jordan, that made you turn back in your course?

6 You too, mountains, that you skipped like rams? Or you, hills, like lambs?

7 Go on earth, tremble at the presence of the LORD, at the presence of the God of Jacob,

8 who turned the rock into a water pool, the flint into a fountain of water!

PSALM 115

NOT to us, O LORD, not to us, but to Thy name give glory because of Thy lovingkindness and Thy truth.

2 Why should the pagan peoples say, “Where now is their God?”

3 But our God is in the heavens; whatsoever pleased Him, He has done.

4 Their idols are silver and gold; they are the work of human hands.

5 Mouths have they, but they cannot speak; eyes too, but they do not see.

6 Ears they have, but they cannot hear; and noses, but they cannot smell.

7 They have hands, as well but they cannot feel; and feet, but they cannot walk; neither do they produce any sound in their throats.

8 Those who make them and all putting their trust in them shall become like them.

9 O house of Israel, trust in the LORD! Their help and shield is He.

10 O house of Aaron, trust in the LORD! Their help and shield is He.

11 All you who revere the LORD, put your trust in the LORD! Their help and shield is He.

12 The LORD has been mindful of us; He will bless us. He will bless the house of Israel; He will bless the house of Aaron;

13 the LORD will bless those who revere Him, both small and great.

14 May the LORD give you increase, both you and your children!

15 You are blessed of the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

16 The heavens are the LORD’s heavens, but the earth He has given to the children of men.

17 The dead do not praise the LORD, nor do any who go down into the silence.

18 But we, we will bless the LORD, from now and forever. Hallelujah!

PSALM 116

I LOVE the LORD for He hears my voice, my supplications.

2 Because He has inclined His ear to me, therefore I will call on Him as long as I live.

3 The cords of death were around me; the terrors of the grave had laid hold of me; I suffered anguish and grief.

4 Then I called on the name of the LORD: “I beseech Thee, O LORD, save my life!”

5 Gracious is the LORD and righteous; indeed, our God is merciful.

6 The LORD takes care of the helpless; I was brought low, and He saved me.

7 Return to your rest, O my soul, for the LORD has dealt bountifully with you.

8 For Thou hast saved my soul from death, my eyes from tears and my feet from stumbling.

9 I will walk before the LORD in the land of the living.

10 I clung to my faith, even when I said, “I am sorely afflicted.”

11 I said in my alarm, “Men are all deceitful.”

12 What return shall I make to the LORD for all His bounties to me?

13 I will take the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD.

14 I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all His people.

15 Precious in the eyes of the LORD is the death of His saints.

16 O LORD, I am Thy servant; I am Thy servant, the son of Thy handmaid. Thou hast loosed my bonds.

17 I will offer to Thee the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call on the name of the LORD.

18 I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all His people,

19 in the courts of the house of the LORD in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. Hallelujah!

PSALM 117

PRAISE the LORD, all you nations! Laud Him, all you peoples!

2 For His mercy toward us is great and the truth of the LORD is everlasting. Praise the LORD!

PSALM 118

GIVE thanks to the LORD, for He is good; for His lovingkindness is everlasting!

2 Let the house of Israel say, “For His lovingkindness is everlasting.”

3 Let the house of Aaron say, “For His lovingkindness is everlasting.”

4 Let those who worship the LORD say, “For His lovingkindness is everlasting.”

5 In my distress, I cried out to my LORD, and He answered me with release.

6 The LORD is for me; I shall not fear. What can man do to me?

7 The LORD is for me; He is my help, and I look in triumph on them that hate me.

8 It is better to rely on the LORD than to put confidence in man.

9 It is better to rely on the LORD than to put confidence in princes.

10 All nations encircled me, and in the name of the LORD I beat them down.

11 They encircled me, yes, they were all about me, but in the name of the LORD I beat them down.

12They swarmed around me as bees; they are burned out as a fire of thorns; in the name of the LORD I beat them down.

13 Hard pressed, about to fall was I, but the LORD came to my help.

14 The LORD is my strength and my song; He has become my salvation.

15 The shout of joy and victory is in the tents of the righteous; the right hand of the LORD is doing valiantly.

16 The right hand of the LORD is lifted up; the right hand of the LORD does valiantly.

17 I shall not die, but live, and tell of the LORD's deeds.

18 The LORD has chastened me sorely. But He has not given me over unto death.

19 Open to me the gates of righteousness; through them I will enter in and give thanks to the LORD.

20 This is the gate of the LORD, and through it the righteous shall enter in,

21 I will give thanks to Thee for Thou hast answered me and hast become my deliverer.

22 The stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner;

23 This is the LORD's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes.

24 This is the day which the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

25 O LORD, do grant salvation; O LORD, do grant prosperity!

26 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD! We bless you from the LORD's house.

27 The LORD is God; He has supplied us with light. Bind the festal offering with woven strands to the horns of the altar.

28 Thou art my God, and I will give Thee thanks; my God, and I will extol Thee.

29 Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good, for His lovingkindness is everlasting.

PSALM 119

ALEPH

BLESSED are those whose way is upright, who walk in the Law of the LORD!

2 Blessed are those who keep His testimonies, who seek Him wholeheartedly,

3 who also commit no unrighteousness; they walk in His ways.

4 Thou hast prescribed Thy precepts to be observed diligently.

5 Oh, that my ways my be established in keeping Thy statutes!

6 Then I shall not be brought to confusion when I respect all Thy commandments.

7 I will give thanks to Thee with integrity of heart when I learn Thy righteous judgements.

8 I will keep Thy statutes; oh, do not forsake me completely!

BETH

9 How can a young man cleanse his way? By living in agreement with Thy word.

10 Wholeheartedly I will seek Thee; oh, do not let me stray from Thy commandments!

11 Thy word have I stored up in my heart, that I might not sin against Thee.

12 Blessed art Thou, O LORD; teach me Thy statutes!

13 With my lips I have declared all the ordinances of Thy mouth.

14 I have rejoiced in the way of Thy testimonies, as much as in all riches.

15 I will meditate on Thy precepts and have respect for Thy ways.

16 I take great delight in Thy statutes; I will not forget Thy word.

GIMEL

17 Deal generously with Thy servant that I may live and observe Thy word.

18 Open my eyes, that I may contemplate the wonders of Thy Law.

19 I am a stranger on earth; do not hide Thy commandments from me.

20 My soul is breaking with longing for Thy ordinances at all times.

21 Thou dost rebuke the arrogant, the accursed, who err from Thy commandments.

22 Remove from me reproach and contempt, for I have observed Thy testimonies.

23 Princes also sat and slandered me, but Thy servant meditated on Thy statutes.

24 Yes, Thy testimonies are my delight and are my counsellors.

DALETH

25 My soul cleaves to the dust; revive me according to Thy word.

26 I confessed my ways and Thou hast answered me; teach me Thy statutes.

27 Help me to understand the way of Thy precepts; so, shall I meditate on Thy wonderous works.

28 My soul weeps out of grief; strengthen Thou me according to Thy word.

29 Remove from me the way of falsehood, and graciously grant me Thy Law.

30 I have chosen the way of faithfulness; Thy ordinances I have found worthy.

31 I cling to Thy testimony; O LORD, put me not to shame!

32 I will run in the way of Thy commandments when Thou dost open up my heart.

HE

33 Teach me, O LORD, the way of Thy statutes, and I shall keep them to the end.

34 Give me understanding, and I shall observe Thy Law, and keep it wholeheartedly.

35 Make me walk in the path of Thy commandments, for I delight in them.

36 Incline my heart to Thy testimonies and not to covetousness.

37 Turn away my eyes from looking at futilities, and revive me in Thy ways.

38 Confirm to Thy servant what Thou hast said, which is for those who revere Thee.

39 Turn away my reproach, from which I shrink; for Thy ordinances are good.

40 Truly, I yearn for Thy precepts; give me life according to Thy righteousness.

VAV

41 May Thy lovingkindness come to me, O LORD, even my salvation, according to Thy word;

42 then I shall have a word to answer the one reproaching me, for I trust in Thy word.

43 Do not take the word of truth completely out of my mouth for I am awaiting Thy ordinances.

44 Then I will keep Thy Law continually forever and ever.

46 I will also speak of Thy testimonies before kings, and I shall not be put to shame.

47 I take delight in Thy commandments, which I love.

48 I will lift up my hands also to Thy commandments, which I love, and I will meditate on Thy statutes.

ZAYEN

49 Remember the word to Thy servant, because Thou hast made me hope.

50 This is my comfort in my affliction; what Thou hast said has brought life to me.

51 The arrogant have had me in complete derision, yet I have not deviated from Thy Law.

52 As I remember Thy ordinances of old, O LORD, I am comforted.

53 Burning indignation has seized me because of the wicked who forsake Thy word.

54 Thy statutes have been my songs in the house of my pilgrimage.

55 I remember Thy name, O LORD, in the night, and I observe Thy Law.

56 Thus it has happened to me, for I have observed Thy precepts.

KHETH

57 The LORD is my inheritance; I promised that I would keep Thy words.

58 Wholeheartedly I sought Thy favour; be merciful to me according to Thy word.

59 I pondered my ways and turned my feet to Thy testimonies.

60 I made haste and did not tarry to observe Thy commandments.

61 The snares of the wicked have coiled around me, but I have not forgotten Thy Law.

62 At midnight I will rise and offer thanks to Thee, because of Thy righteous ordinances.

63 I am a companion of all who revere Thee and of those who keep Thy precepts.

64 The earth, O LORD, is full of Thy lovingkindness; teach me Thy statutes.

TETH

65 Thou hast dealt well with Thy servant, O LORD, according to Thy word.

66 Teach me good taste and knowledge, for I have confidence in Thy commandments.

67 Before I was afflicted, I went astray; but now I keep Thy saying.

68 Thou art good and doest good; teach me Thy statutes.

69 The arrogant have put together a lie against me; with all my heart I will observe Thy precepts.

70 Their heart is unfeeling as grease; but I delight in Thy Law.

71 It is good for me that I was afflicted, so that I may learn Thy statutes.

72 The Law from Thy mouth is better to me than thousands of gold and silver pieces.

YODH

73 Thy hands have made and prepared me; give me understanding, that I may learn Thy commandments.

74 Those who revere Thee shall see me and be glad, because I have hoped in Thy word.

75 I know, O LORD, that Thy judgements are righteous and that in faithfulness Thou hast afflicted me.

76 Let, I beseech Thee. Thy lovingkindness be for my comfort, according to what Thou didst say to Thy servant.

77 Let Thy compassion come upon me, that I may live; for Thy Law is my delight.

78 Let the arrogant be put to shame; they have distorted my cause deceitfully; but I will meditate on Thy precepts.

79 Let those who revere Thee turn to me, and they shall know Thy testimonies.

80 Let my heart be healthy in Thy statutes, that I may not be ashamed.

KAPH

81 My soul longs for Thy salvation, but I hope in Thy word.

82 My eyes peer longingly for Thy promise, while I say, “When wilt Thou comfort me?”

83 For I have become like a wineskin in the smoke, yet I do not forget Thy statutes.

84 How many days must Thy servant wait? When wilt Thou judge those who persecute me?

85 The proud have digged pitfalls for me, men who do not mind Thy Law.

86 All Thy commandments are faithful; they persecute me undeservedly; help Thou me!

87 They almost finished me in the land, bit I did not forsake Thy precepts.

88 Revive me according to Thy lovingkindness; then I shall keep the testimony of Thy mouth.

LAMEDH

89 Forever, O LORD, Thy word standeth firm in the heavens.

90 Thy faithfulness is from generation to generation; Thou hast established the earth, and it stands.

91 They stand today in accordance with Thy ordinances; all things are Thy servants.

92 Unless Thy Law had been my delight, I would have perished in my affliction.

93 I will never forget Thy precepts; with them Thou hast granted me life.

94 I am Thine, save me, for I have sought Thy precepts.

95 When the wicked waited to destroy me, I considered Thy testimonies.

96 I have seen limits to all things, however perfect; but Thy commandment is exceedingly broad.

MEM

97 Oh, how I love Thy Law! It is my meditation all the day.

98 Thy commandments make me wiser than my enemies, for they are ever with me.

99 I have deeper insight than all my instructors because Thy testimonies are my meditation.

100 I have a better grasp on truth than have the elders, because I have kept Thy precepts.

101 I have refrained my feet from every evil way, that I might observe Thy word.

102 I have not turned aside from Thy ordinances, for Thou hast taught me.

103 How pleasant to my taste is what Thou hast said! Sweeter than honey in my mouth!

104 Through Thy precepts I gain discernment; therefore I hate every false way.

NUN

105 Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

106 I have sworn and have confirmed it, that I will observe Thy righteous ordinances.

107 I am afflicted exceedingly; revive me, O LORD, according to Thy word!

108 Accept, I beseech Thee, the freewill offerings of my mouth, O LORD, and teach me Thy ordinances.

109 My life is continually in danger, yet I do not forget Thy Law.

110 The wicked have laid a snare for me, yet I have not strayed from Thy precepts.

111 Thy testimonies are my heritage forever; they are the joy of my heart.

112 I have set my heart on practicing Thy statutes forever, even to the end.

SAMEKH

113 I hate waverers, but Thy Law I love.

114 Thou art my hiding-place and my shield; I hope in Thy word.

115 Depart from me, you evildoers, that I may keep the commandments of my God.

116 Uphold me according to Thy word, that I may live; let me not be put to shame with my expectation!

117 Hold me up, and I shall be safe and shall have respect for Thy statutes continually.

118 Thou dost reject all those who stray from Thy statutes, for their own lying deceives them.

119 Thou hast destroyed all the wicked of the earth like dross; therefore I love Thy testimonies.

120 My flesh shudders in awe of Thee; I fear in the presence of Thy judgements.

AYIN

121 I have practiced justice and righteousness; leave me not to those who would oppress me.

122 Be surety for Thy servant for good; let not the arrogant oppress me.

123 My eyes grow dim, watching for Thy salvation and for Thy righteous utterance.

124 Deal with Thy servant according to Thy loving kindness, and teach me Thy statutes.

125 I am Thy servant. Give me understanding, that I may know Thy testimonies.

126 Time is ripe for the LORD to take action; they have violated Thy Law.

127 Therefore I love Thy commandments above gold, yes, above fine gold.

128 Therefore I esteem fair all Thy precepts regarding everything; I hate every false way.

PE

129 Thy testimonies are marvellous; therefore my soul keeps them.

130 The opening up of Thy words give light; it supplies understanding to the simple.

131 I opened my mouth wide and sighed, because I yearned for Thy commandments.

132 Turn Thou to me and have mercy on me, as is Thy way with those who love Thy name.

133 Order my footsteps in Thy word; and do not let any iniquity have dominion over me.

134 Redeem me from the oppression of man, and I will keep Thy precepts.

135 Make Thy face shine upon Thy servant, and teach me Thy statutes.

136 Tears run from my eyes like water brooks, because men do not keep Thy Law.

TSADHE

137 Thou art righteous, O LORD, and Thy judgements are fair.

138 Thou hast appointed Thy testimonies in righteousness and in great faithfulness.

139 My zeal has consumed me because my adversaries have forgotten what Thou hast spoken.

140 Thy word is well tested; therefore Thy servant loves it.

141 I am insignificant and despised, yet I do not forget Thy precepts.

142 Thy righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and Thy Law is truth.

143 Distress and anguish have found me, yet Thy commandments are my enjoyments.

144 Thy testimonies are righteous forever; grant me understanding and I shall live.

QOPH

145 I cried out with all my heart; answer me, O LORD! I will keep Thy statutes.

146 I cried out to Thee, “Save me, for I keep Thy statutes.”

147 I was up before dawn and cried, “I am trusting in Thy promise.”

148 My eyes waited for the night watches, that I might meditate on Thy word.

149 Hear my voice according to Thy lovingkindness; O LORD, revive me according to Thy ordinances.

150 Those draw near who follow wickedness; they are far from Thy Law.

151 Thou art near, O LORD; all Thy commandments are truth.

152 From of old I have known from Thy testimonies that Thou hast established them forever.

RESH

153 Look at my affliction and deliver me; for I do not forget Thy word.

154 Plead my cause and redeem me; revive me according to Thy word.

155 Salvation is far from the wicked; for they do not seek Thy statutes.

156 Great is Thy compassion, O LORD; revive me according to Thy ordinances.

157 My persecutors and adversaries are many; yet I have not deviated from Thy testimonies.

158 When I observed the treacherous, I was grieved, because they do not respect Thy word.

159 See how I love Thy precepts; revive me, O LORD, according to Thy lovingkindness.

160 Thy word all together is truth; everyone of Thy righteous ordinances has everlasting vitality.

SHIN

161 Princes are persecuting me without reason, but my heart stands in awe before Thy word.

162 I rejoice at Thy word as one who finds great beauty.

163 I hate, I despise falsehood; but I love the Law.

164 I give Thee praise seven times a day because of Thy righteous judgements.

165 Great peace have they who love Thy Law; no stumbling block is in their path.

166 I am looking for Thy salvation, O LORD, and I have practiced Thy commandments.

167 My soul has kept Thy testimonies; I dearly love them.

168 I have observed Thy precepts and testimonies, for all my ways are plain before Thee.

TAV

169 May my cry come before Thee, O LORD; grant me understanding according to Thy word.

170 May my petition come before Thee; deliver me according to Thy promise.

171 My lips shall run over with praise, for Thou shalt teach me Thy statutes.

172 My tongue shall sing of Thy word, for all Thy commandments are fair.

173 Let Thy hand be ready to help me, for I have chosen Thy precepts.

174 I long for Thy salvation, O LORD; Thy Law is my delight.

175 Let my soul live and praise Thee; let Thy judgements help me.

176 I have strayed like a lost sheep; seek Thy servant, for I have not forgotten Thy commandments.

PSALM 120

IN my distress I cried to the LORD, and He answered me.

2 Deliver me, O LORD, from lying lips, from a deceitful tongue.

3 What shall He give you? What in addition shall He do to you, O you deceitful tongue?

4 Sharp arrows of the mighty with coals of broom tree!

5 Woe is me, for I lodge near Meshech; I dwell beside the tents of Kedar!

6 My soul has lived long enough with those who hate peace.

7 I am for peace; but when I speak, they are for war.

PSALM 121

I RAISE my eyes toward the hills. Whence shall my help come?

2 My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

3 He will not allow your foot to slip; your Keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

4 Behold, the Keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

5 The LORD is your Keeper; the LORD is your shade at your right hand.

6 The sun shall not smite you by day, nor the moon by night.

7 The LORD will keep you from all harm; He will preserve your soul.

8 The LORD will shield your going out and your coming in from now on for evermore.

PSALM 122

I WAS glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the LORD!”

2 Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem!

3 Jerusalem is built as a city which is bound together;

4 whither the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, as enjoined upon Israel, to give thanks to the name of the LORD.

5 For there seats are placed for judging, the seats of the house of David.

6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem! May those who love you prosper!

7 May peace be within your walls, and prosperity in your palaces!

8 For the sake of my brothers and companions, I will now say, “Peace be within you!”

9 For the sake of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek your good.

PSALM 123

TOWARD Thee I raise my eyes. O Thou, enthroned in the heavens!

2 Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the LORD our God until He has mercy upon us.

3 Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy upon us, for we have had more than enough of contempt.

4 Our souls have had more than enough of the scoffing by those who are at ease, and of the disdain of the arrogant.

PSALM 124

IF it had not been for the LORD who was on our side, let Israel now say –

2 if it had not been the LORD who was on our side, when men rose up against us,

3 then they would have swallowed us up alive, when their anger burned against us.

4 Then the waters would have overwhelmed us, the stream passing over our soul;

5 then the proud waters would have passed over our soul.

6 Blessed be the LORD, who gave us not as a prey to their teeth.

7 Our soul has escaped as a bird out of the snare of the fowlers; the snare is broken and we have escaped.

8 Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

PSALM 125

THOSE who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion, which cannot be shaken but abides for ages.

2 As there are mountains around Jerusalem, so the LORD is around His people from this time forth and for evermore.

3 For the sceptre of wickedness shall never rest upon the lot of the righteous, lest the righteous stretch forth their hands to iniquity.

4 Do good, O LORD, to those who are good, and to those who are upright in their hearts.

5 But as for those who turn aside to their crooked ways, the LORD will lead them forth with the workers of iniquity. Peace be upon Israel!

PSALM 126

WHEN the LORD brought back the captives of Zion, we were like those who dream.

2 Then our mouth was filled with laughter and our tongue with singing.

3 The LORD has done great things for us, for which we are glad.

4 Restore our fortunes, LORD, as the streams in the Southland.

5 They who sow in tears shall reap with joy.

6 He who goes forth weeping, carrying seed for sowing, shall doubtless come again with joy, carrying his sheaves.

PSALM 127

UNLESS the LORD builds the house, their labour is futile who build it. Unless the LORD preserves the city, the sentry watches in vain.

2 It is useless for you to be early in rising while being late in sitting up, eating the bread of toil; for He gives to His loved ones sleep.

3 Behold, children are a legacy from the LORD; the fruit of the womb is His reward.

4 As arrows in the hand of a mighty man, so are we the children of one’s youth.

5 Blessed is the man who has his quiver full of them. They shall not be put to shame when they speak with their enemies in the gate.

PSALM 128

BLESSED is everyone who reveres the LORD, who walks in His ways.

2 Because you shall eat the product of your hands, happy shall you be and it shall be well with you.

3 Your wife will be as a fruitful vine inside your house; your children like olive plants surrounding your table.

4 Truly, thus shall the man be rewarded who reveres the LORD.

5 The LORD bless you from Zion, so you may see the good of Jerusalem all the days of your life;

6 so you may see your children's children, Peace be upon Israel!

PSALM 129

MANY a time they have oppressed me from my youth, let Israel now say;

2 "Many a time they have oppressed me from my youth, but they have not prevailed against me.

3 The plowmen plowed upon my back; they made long their furrows."

4 The LORD is righteous; He has completely served the cords of the wicked.

5 May all who hate Zion be put to shame and turned backward.

6 Let them be as the grass upon the housetops, which withers before it grows up,

7 with which the reaper does not fill has hand nor the binder of sheaves his bosom.

8 Neither do the passersby say; "The blessing of the LORD be upon you; we bless you in the name of the LORD."

PSALM 130

OUT of the depths I cry to Thee, O LORD;

2 LORD, hear my voice; let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

3 If Thou, LORD, shouldst keep in mind our iniquities, who could stand?

4 But there is forgiveness with Thee, in order that Thou mayest be revered.

5 I am waiting for the LORD; my soul is in expectation, and in His word do I hope.

6 My soul is looking for the LORD more than watchmen for the morning; yes, more than watchmen for the morning.

7 O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is lovingkindness, and with Him is abundant redemption.

8 He Himself will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

PSALM 131

O LORD, my heart is not haughty, nor are my eyes disdainful; neither do I concern myself in great matters, not in things too wonderful for me.

2 Surely I have calmed and quieted my soul, like a weaned child with his mother; like a weaned child is my soul within me.

3 O Israel, hope in the LORD, from this time forth and for evermore.

PSALM 132

O LORD, remember David for all his difficulties;

2 how he swore to the LORD and vowed to the Mighty One of Jacob:

3 “Surely I will not enter the tent of my house, nor lie down on my bed;

4 I will not give sleep to my eyes or slumber to my eyelids,

5 until I find a place for the LORD, a tabernacle for the Mighty One of Jacob.”

6 We heard of it in Ephrathah and found it in the field of the forest.

7 Let us go to His dwelling; let us worship at His footstool!

8 Arise, O LORD, go into Thy resting place, Thou, and the ark of Thy strength.

9 Let Thy priests be clothed with righteousness, and let Thy saints shout for joy.

10 For Thy servant David’s sake turn not away the face of Thy anointed.

11 The LORD swore to David in truth – He will never retract it; “Of the fruit of your body will I set upon your throne.

12 If your children will keep My covenant and My testimony which I shall teach them, their children shall sit upon your throne forever.”

13 For the LORD chose Zion and cherished it for His dwelling place.

14 This is My resting place forever; here will I dwell, for I have desired it.

15 I will abundantly bless her provision; I will satisfy her poor with bread.

16 Her priests also I will clothe with salvation; her saints shall shout aloud for joy.

17 There will I make the horn of David to bud; I have ordained a lamp for My anointed.

18 His enemies I will clothe with shame, but upon himself shall his crown shine.

PSALM 133

SEE, how good and how pleasant it is for brothers to live harmoniously together!

2 It is like the precious oil upon the head, flowing down upon the beard, Aaron's beard, flowing down upon the edge of his garments;

3 like the dew of Hermon, that falls upon the mountains of Zion! For there the LORD commanded the blessing, even life for evermore.

PSALM 134

COME! Bless the LORD, all you servants of the LORD, who stand nightly in the house of the LORD.

2 Lift up your hands to the sanctuary; bless the LORD!

3 Bless the LORD out of Zion, the Maker of heaven and earth!

PSALM 135

PRAISE the LORD! Praise the name of the LORD; praise Him, O you servants of the LORD,

2 you, who are standing in the house of the LORD, in the courts of the house of our God!

3 Praise the LORD, for the LORD is good; make melody to His name, for it is sweet!

4 For the LORD has chosen Jacob for Himself, and Israel for His own possession.

5 As for me, I know that the LORD, is great, and that our LORD is above all gods.

6 Whatever the LORD desired, that has He done in heaven and in earth in the seas and in all deeps.

7 *He it is* who causes the vapours to rise from the ends of the earth; who makes lightnings for the rain; who brings forth the wind out of His treasuries;

8 who smote the first-born of Egypt, both man and beast;

9 who sent signs and wonders in the midst of you. O Egypt, upon Pharoah and all his servants;

10 who smote many nations and slew mighty kings,

11 Sihon king of the Amorites, Oh king of Bashan, and all the kingdoms of Canaan;

12 who gave their land for a heritage, a heritage to Israel His people.

13 Thy name, O LORD, is forever; Thy renown, LORD, from generation to generation.

14 For the LORD will vindicate the cause of His people, and will have compassion on His servants.

15 The idols of the nations are gold and silver the work of human hands.

16 Though they have a mouth, they do not speak; though they have eyes, they do not see;

17 though they have ears, they do not hear; there certainly is no breath in their mouth.

18 Those who make them become like them, as does every one who trust in them.

19 O house of Israel, bless the LORD! O house of Aaron,

20 bless the LORD! O house of Levi, bless the LORD! You who revere the LORD, bless the LORD!

21 The LORD be blessed from Zion, He who dwells at Jerusalem! Hallelujah!

PSALM 136

GIVE thanks to the LORD, for He is good, for His covenant love is everlasting.

2 Give thanks to the God of gods, for His covenant love is everlasting.

3 Give thanks to the LORD of lords, for His covenant love is everlasting;

4 to Him who alone works great wonders, for His covenant love is everlasting;

5 who with wisdom made the heavens, for His covenant love is everlasting;

6 who spread out the earth above the waters, for His covenant love is everlasting;

7 who made the great luminaries, for His covenant love is everlasting;

8 the sun to rule by day, for His covenant love is everlasting;

9 the moon and the stars to rule by night, for His covenant love is everlasting;

10 to Him who smote Egypt in their first-born, for His covenant love is everlasting;

11 and brought Israel out of their midst; for His covenant love is everlasting;

12 with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, for His covenant love is everlasting.

13 to Him who divided the Red Sea in two, for His covenant love is everlasting;

14 and led Israel through the midst of it, for His covenant love is everlasting;

15 tossed Pharoah and his army into the Red Sea, for His covenant love is everlasting;

16 and led His people in the wilderness, for His covenant love is everlasting;

17 to Him who smote great kings, for His covenant love is everlasting;

18 and slew famous kings, for His covenant love is everlasting;

19 Sihon, king of the Amorites, for His covenant love is everlasting;

20 and Oh, king of Bashan, for His covenant love is everlasting.

21 He granted their land as a possession, for His covenant love is everlasting;

22 as a possession to Israel, His servant, for His covenant love is everlasting.

23 In our humiliation He remembered us, for His covenant love is everlasting;

24 and freed us from our adversaries, for His covenant love is everlasting;

25 bestowing food on all mankind, for His covenant love is everlasting.

26 Give thanks to the God of heaven, for His covenant love is everlasting.

PSALM 137

BY the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down and wept as we remembered Zion.

2 On the willows in the midst of her we hung up our harps.

3 Our captors asked us there for the words of a song; our tormentors *asked for* a song of mirth, “Sing us one of Zion’s songs.”

4 How can we sing a song of the LORD in the land of strangers?

5 If I forget you, O Jerusalem, may my right hand forget her skill;

6 let my tongue cleave to my palate, if I fail to remember you, if I fail to exalt Jerusalem above my chief joy!

7 Remember, O LORD, the Edomites who said in the day of Jerusalem. “Lay her bare, lay her bare down to her foundations!”

8 O daughter of Babylon you devastator, blessed be he who will pay back to you the recompense for what you did to us!

9 Blessed *be* he who will seize your evil children and dash them against the rock!

PSALM 138

I WILL praise Thee, O LORD, with all my heart; in the presence of the gods I will sing praise to Thee.

2 I will bow down toward Thy Holy temple and praise Thy name because of Thy covenant love and faithfulness, for Thou hast magnified Thy word above all Thy name.

3 In the day when I called Thou didst encourage me with strength in my soul.

4 All the kings of the earth shall praise Thee, O LORD, when they have heard the words of Thy mouth;

5 they shall sing of the LORD’s dealings, for great shall be the glory of the LORD.

6 Though the LORD is exalted, He looks upon the lowly; but the haughty man He notes from a distance.

7 When I walk through the midst of trouble, Thou bringest me through alive; against the wrath of my foes. Thou dost stretch forth Thy hand, and Thy right hand saves me.

8 The LORD will fulfill His purpose on my behalf; O LORD, Thy covenant love is everlasting. Do not forsake the works of Thy hands!

PSALM 139

THOU hast searched me, LORD, and Thou knowest me.

2 Thou hast me in mind when I sit down and when I rise up; Thou discernest my thoughts from afar.

3 Thou hast traced my walking and my resting and art familiar with all my ways.

4 For there is not a word on my tongue, but Thou, LORD, knowest it perfectly.

5 Thou hast closed me in behind and in front, and hast placed Thy hand upon me.

6 *This is* a knowledge too wonderful for me, too inaccessible for me to reach.

7 Where can I escape Thy Spirit, or where can I flee from Thy presence?

8 If I ascend to heaven, Thou art there; if I made the underworld my couch, then Thou art there!

9 If I were to take the wings of the dawn and dwell in the remotest part of the sea,

10 even there Thy hand would lead me and Thy right hand would take hold of me.

11 If I should say, “Surely the darkness will cover me,” then the night *would become* light around me;

12 *for* even darkness does not hide from Thee, but night is as bright as day; darkness is the same as light *to Thee.*

13 Thou didst possess my inward parts and didst weave me in my mother’s womb.

14 I praise Thee because I have been fearfully and wonderfully made; marvellous is Thy workmanship, as my soul is well aware.

15 My bones were not hidden from Thee when I was made in secrecy and intricately fashioned in utter seclusion.

16 Thine eyes beheld my unformed substance, and in Thy book all was recorded and prepared day by day, when as yet none of them had being.

17 How precious to me are Thy thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!

18 If I tried to count them, they would be more numerous than the sand; when I awake, I am still with Thee.

19 If Thou, O God, would slay the ungodly, then would bloodguilty men depart from me!

20 Those who speak of Thee with crafty malice exalt themselves as Thy foes to no avail.

21 Shall I not hate those O LORD, who hate Thee? And am I not grieved with those that rise up against Thee?

22 I hate them with a complete hatred; they have become my own enemies.

23 Search me, O God and know my heart! Test me and know my thoughts!

24 See whether there is any baneful motive within me, and lead me on the everlasting way!

PSALM 140

DELIVER me, O LORD, from wicked men; protect me from men of violence, who

2 in their hearts devise evil plots, and constantly stir up warfare.

3 They have sharpened their tongue like a serpent's; adder's venom is under their lips. *Selah.*

4 Keep me, O LORD, from the hands of the wicked; protect me from violent men who have plotted to trip my feet.

5 Conceited men have hidden a snare for me, and have stretched out the cords of a hunting net at the wayside, planting traps for me. *Selah.*

6 I said to the LORD, "Thou art my God! Give ear, O LORD, to my voice of supplication!"

7 Jehovah LORD, the strength of my salvation, Thou hast shielded my head in the day of battle.

8 O LORD, do not grant the desires of the ungodly, nor promote their schemes lest they exalt themselves. *Selah.*

9 Upon the heads of those who encircle me, may the mischief of their own lips come down!

10 May coals of fire be dropped upon their heads, or let them be cast into trenches, unable to rise!

11 Let not the slanderer be established in the land; let punishment speedily overthrow the violent man!

12 I know that the LORD will maintain the cause of the afflicted and the rights of the poor.

13 Surely the righteous will praise Thy name; the upright shall dwell in Thy presence.

PSALM 141

I CALL upon Thee, O LORD; hasten to me! Hear my voice as I cry out to Thee!

2 Let my prayer be prepared as an incense offering before Thee, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

3 Set a guard at my mouth, O LORD; keep watch over the door of my lips.

4 Let not my heart incline to evil so as wickedly to busy myself with evil deeds, with men who practice iniquity; I will not eat of their dainties.

5 Let a righteous man smite me; it is kindness. Let him reprove me; it is oil for my head, which my head shall not refuse; for I will still pray in the face of their wickedness.

6 When their judges are hurled down, along the sides of a rock, then they will listen to my words, for they are pleasant.

7 As when a man plows and breaks open the earth, so our bones have been strewn about at the grave's opening.

8 For my eyes are towards Thee, O Jehovah LORD; in Thee I have taken refuge; do not pour out my life.

9 Keep me from the trap they have set for me, and from the snares of those who practice iniquity.

10 Let all the ungodly together fall into their own nets. While I myself pass safely by.

PSALM 142

TO the LORD I cry out with my voice; to the LORD I lift up my voice imploring mercy.

2 I will pour out my grief before Him; I will set forth my trouble before Him.

3 When my spirit within me weakens, Thou art aware of my path, how men have concealed a trap for me in the way by which I walk.

4 I look to the right and I watch. There is no one cares about me, My every refuge has disappeared; no one seeks my welfare.

5 I cry out to Thee, O LORD, *and* declare, "Thou art my refuge, my portion on the land of the living.

6 Listen to my cry of entreaty, for I have been brought very low! Deliver me from my persecutors for they are too strong for me.

7 Lead out my soul from its prison, that I may praise Thy name, May the righteous throng around me, because Thou dealest kindly with me."

PSALM 143

O LORD, hear my prayer' listen to my supplications; in Thy faithfulness and in Thy righteousness answer me.

2 Do not enter into judgement with Thy servant, for no man living is righteous in Thy sight.

3 For the enemy has hunted after my soul, and has trampled my life to the ground; he has made me dwell in dark hiding places, like those who have long been dead.

4 My spirit is losing hope; my heart within me is numbered with dismay.

5 I recall the former days and think about all Thy dealings; I meditate upon Thy works of Thy hands.

6 I stretch out my hands toward Thee; my soul thirsts for Thee like parched land. *Selah.*

7 Answer me quickly, LORD, *for* my spirit is pinning away! Do not hide Thy face from me, lest I become like those who descend to the pit.

8 In the morning proclaim to me Thy covenant love, for I have put my trust in Thee. Make me understand the way I should go. For I lift up my soul to Thee.

9 Deliver me from my foes, O LORD, for to Thee have I fled for hiding.

10 Teach me to carry out Thy good pleasure, for Thou art my God; may Thy good Spirit lead me on level ground.

11 For the glory of Thy name, O LORD, preserve my life; in Thy righteousness remove my soul from distress.

12 In Thy covenant love mayest Thou silence my foes and destroy all those who oppress my soul, for I am Thy servant.

PSALM 144

BLESSED be the LORD, my Rock, who teaches my hands to wage war, and my fingers to do battle;

2 my Covenant love, my Fortress, my lofty Stronghold, my Deliverer, my Shield in whom I have taken refuge, and the One who subdues my people under me.

3 LORD, what is man, that Thou takest notice of him, or the son of man, that Thou considerest him?

4 Man is like a breath; his days are like a passing shadow.

5 O LORD, bow down Thy heavens and descend; touch the mountains so that they smoke!

6 Flash forth the lightning and scatter them; shoot forth Thine arrows and confound them.

7 Extend Thy hand from on high; rescue and deliver me from the many waters, from the power of the aliens' children.

8 For they have each one spoken falsehood, and have extended their right hand for fraudulent oaths.

9 O God, I sing to Thee a new song; on a ten-stringed harp I sing psalms to Thee

10 who grantest victory to kings, and who savest Thy servant David from the sword of evil.

11 Save me and rescue me from the hand of aliens, who have with their mouth spoken falsehood, and with their right hand have sworn deceitfully.

12 Our sons then are like plants, raised to full size in their youthful vigour; our daughters like sculptured corner pillars after a palatial pattern;

13 our granaries filled with provisions of every kind; our sheep multiplying by the thousands and tens of thousands in our pastures;

14 our oxen well burdened, and no disaster or loss *of fruit* or cry of distress in our city squares.

15 Blessed is the people which is in such a state! Blessed is the people whose God is the LORD!

PSALM 145

I WILL exalt Thee, my God and King; I will bless Thy name forever and ever.

2 Every day will I bless Thee, and praise Thy name for ever and ever.

3 Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; His greatness is unsearchable.

4 One generation shall extol Thy works to the following one, and set forth Thy mighty acts.

5 I will dwell on the glorious splendor of Thy Majesty, and on the records of Thy wonders.

6 Men shall speak of the might of Thy awe-inspiring deeds, and as for Thy greatness, I will recount it.

7 They will pour forth a recital of Thy great goodness, and sing aloud of Thy righteousness.

8 The LORD is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in covenant love.

9 The Lord is good to all, and His tender mercies are over all His works.

10 All Thy works shall praise Thee, LORD, and Thy saints shall bless Thee.

11 They shall speak of the glory of Thy Kingdom and tell of Thy might,

12 that they may make known to the children of men His feats of power, and the Majestic Glory of His Kingdom.

13 Thy Kingdom is an everlasting Kingdom and Thy dominion endures through all generations.

14 The LORD supports all those who fall, and lifts up all those bowed down.

15 The eyes of all look expectantly to Thee, for Thou art ever giving them their food at the proper time.

16 Thou art ever opening Thy hand to satisfy the desire of every living creature.

17 The LORD is just in all His ways, and gracious in all His works.

18 The LORD is near to all who call upon Him, to those who call upon Him sincerely.

19 He fulfills the desire of those who revere Him; He hears their call for help and saves them.

20 The LORD protects all those who love Him, but He will destroy all the ungodly.

21 My mouth shall utter the LORD's praise, and all mankind shall bless His Holy name forever and ever.

PSALM 146

HALLELUJAH! Praise the LORD, O my soul!

2 I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God as long as I have being.

3 Put not your trust in nobles, in a child of Adam, in whom is no salvation.

4 When his breath departs he reverts to his earth, and in that day his plans go to ruin.

5 Blessed is he who has the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the LORD his God,

6 the Maker of heaven and earth, the sea and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever;

7 who administers justice on behalf of the oppressed; who gives bread to the hungry – the LORD, who loosens the chains of those who are bound.

8 The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.

9 The LORD protects the immigrants; He relieves orphans and widows and He reverses the path of the ungodly toward ruin.

10 The LORD shall reign forever, your God, O Zion, from generation to generation. Hallelujah!

PSALM 147

PRAISE the LORD! For it is good to sing praise to our God, for it is a delight; the song of praise is so befitting.

2 The LORD is building Jerusalem, *and* is gathering the exiles of Israel.

3 It is He who heals the brokenhearted, and binds up their wounds.

4 He determines the number of the stars, and assign their names to them all.

5 Our LORD is great and mighty in strength; His understanding is unlimited.

6 The LORD brings relief to the humble, *and* brings down the ungodly to the ground.

7 Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; sing praise to our God on the harp.

8 *It is He* who covers heaven with clouds, who prepares rain for the earth, and causes grass to sprout on the hills.

9 He gives the cattle their feed, and the young ravens that for which they cry.

10 His delight is not in the strength of the horse, neither does He take satisfaction in the legs of a man;

11 *but* the LORD takes satisfaction in those who revere Him, those who place their hope in His covenant-love.

12 Extol the LORD, O Jerusalem! Praise you God, O Zion,

13 for He has strengthened the bars of your gates, and has blessed your sons in your midst.

14 He appoints peace in your boundaries, and satisfies you with the choicest of the wheat.

15 He issues His orders to the earth; His word speeds swiftly on its way.

16 He bestows snow like wool. And scatters hoar-frost like ashes,

17 He hurls down His ice in fragments; who can withstand His cold?

18 He issues His order and makes them melt He causes His wind to blow; then flow the waters.

19 He announces His word to Jacob, His statues and ordinances to Israel.

20 He has not dealt so with any nations, nor do they know His ordinances. Praise ye the LORD!

PSALM 148

HALLELUJAH! Praise the LORD from the heavens, praise Him in the heights!

2 Praise Him, all His angels! Praise Him, all His hosts!

3 Praise Him, sun and moon! Praise Him, all you radiant stars!

4 Praise Him, heavens of heavens, and you waters above the heavens!

5 Let them praise the name of the LORD, for it was he who commanded and they were created.

6 He established them forever and ever, and gave a decree that shall never pass away.

7 Praise the LORD on earth, you sea monsters and all you ocean depths,

8 fire and hail, snow and fog, you windstorm carrying out His orders.

9 you mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars,

10 you wild beasts and all cattle, creeping creatures and the winged birds,

11 you kings of the earth and all peoples, you princes and all judges of the earth.

12 you young men and maidens, you old and young together,

13 let them praise the name of the LORD; for His name alone is supreme! His Majesty is above earth and heaven.

14 He has raised up a horn for His people, a song of praise for all His godly ones, for the children of Israel, the people who are close to Him. Hallelujah!

PSALM 149

HALLELUJAH! Sing to the LORD a new song, His praise in the congregation of the godly!

2 Let Israel rejoice in his Maker, let the children of Zion exult in their King.

3 Let them praise His name with processionals; let them sings praise to Him with timbrel and harp.

4 For the LORD takes pleasure in His people, and adorns the humble with salvation.

5 Let the godly rejoice in this honour; let them shout for joy on their beds.

6 Let their throats *voice* hymns of adoration to God, with the two-edged sword in their hands,

7 to bring retribution upon the nations and to rebuke the peoples.

8 to bind their kings with fetters and their nobles with iron handcuffs,

9 thus inflicting upon them the judgement decreed, to the glory of all His godly ones. Hallelujah!

PSALM 150

PRAISE ye the LORD! Praise God in His sanctuary; praise Him in His mighty firmament!

2 Praise Him for His mighty deeds; praise Him according to His excelling greatness!

3 Praise Him with the trumpet blast; praise Him with lyre and harp!

4 Praise Him with timbrel and processional; praise Him on stringed instruments and flutes!

5 Praise him with clashing cymbals; praise Him with loud clanging cymbals!

6 Let everything that has breath praise the LORD! Praise ye the LORD!

THE BOOK OF

PROVERBS

CHAPTER 1

THE Proverbs of Solomon son of David, king of Israel; 2 To gain wisdom and instruction, to understand discerning words.

3 to receive the instruction of prudence, right, justice, and uprightness;

4 to give insight to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion.

5 A wise man will hear and increase his learning. A man of understanding will attain to leadership,

6 to understand a proverb and a figure, the words of the wise and their enigmas.

7 Reverence of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; but foolish men despise wisdom and instruction.

8 My son, heed the instruction of your father and reject not your mother’s teaching;

9 for they are a fair garland upon your head and adornments for your neck.

10 My son, if sinners entice you, do not consent.

11 If they say, “Come with us; we will lie in wait for blood; we will ambush the innocent without cause;

12 we will swallow them like the dead-realm, and whole like those going down into the pit;

13 we shall find all sorts of valuable things and we shall fill our houses with spoil;

14 throw in your lot with us; all of us shall have one purse”-

15 my son, do not walk in the way with them; keep your feet from their path;

16 for their feet run to evil and they hurry to shed blood.

17 For in vain the net is spread in the sight of any bird;

18 but these lie in wait for their own blood; they ambush their own lives.

19 So is the way of each one destroying for plunder; it takes away the life of its followers.

20 Wisdom cries aloud in the street; in the market places she lifts her voice;

21 at the noisy intersection she calls; in the entrances of the city gates she speaks her words:

22 “How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple? How long will scoffers delight in their mocking and fools despise knowledge?”

23 Turn to my reproof! Look, I will pour out my spirit for you; I will disclose my words to you.

24 Because I besought and you refused. I stretched out my hand and no one responded,

25 and you have treated all my counsel lightly, would have none of my reproof.

26 I also will laugh at your calamity: I will deride when terror comes to you,

27 when terror strikes you like a storm, and your calamity hits like a whirlwind, when distress and despair come upon you.

28 Then they will beseech me, but I will not answer; they will seek me diligently, but will not find me.

29 Because they despised knowledge, and did not choose reverence for the LORD,

30 would have none of my counsel, scorned all my reproof,

31 therefore they will eat of the fruit of their way, will be sated with their own counsel.

32 For the waywardness of the simple brings their death and the self-assurance of fools their destruction.

33 But the one listening to me will dwell secure, will be quiet without dread of calamity.”

PROVERBS CHAPTER 2

MY son, if you will accept my words, and store up my commandments within you,

2 so that you, make you ear attend to wisdom, and your heart reach out for discernment:

3 yes, if you beseech understanding, and lift your voice for discernment;

4 if you seek her as silver, and search for her as for hidden treasures;

5 then you will understand reverence of the LORD and find the knowledge of God.

6 For the LORD gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and discernment.

7 He has stored up sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to those walking in integrity,

8 that He may guard the paths of justice; for He protects the way of His saints.

9 Then you will understand right, justice and uprightness, every good road;

10 For wisdom will enter into your heart; knowledge will be pleasant to your soul;

11 discretion will protect you; discernment will guard you,

12 to deliver you from the way of evil, from men speaking perverted things,

13 who leave the paths of uprightness to walk in the ways of darkness;

14 who delight in doing evil, and exult in evil's perversity;

15 whose ways are crooked and their roads meandering.

16 To deliver you from the loose woman, from the wanton woman with her flattering words,

17 who forsakes the husband of her youth and forgets the covenant of her God;

18 for her house sinks down to death; her roads to the shades;

19 none going to her return, nor reach the ways of life.

20 So you may walk in the way of good men and keep the paths of the righteous.

21 For the upright will inhabit the land and men of integrity remain in it;

22 but the wicked will be cut off from the land, and the treacherous plucked up from it.

PROVERBS CHAPTER 3

MY son, do not forget my teaching; let your heart keep my commandments;

2 for length of days and years of life full of peace will they add to you.

3 Let not lovingkindness and faithfulness leave you; bind them about your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart,

4 thus finding favour and ideal understanding in the sight of God and of man.

5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;

6 in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your paths.

7 Be not wise in your own eyes; revere the LORD and depart from evil;

8 it will be healing to your body and nourishment to your bones.

9 Honour the LORD with your substance and with the first fruits of all your income.

10 So shall your barns be filled with plenty and your vats overflow with new wine.

11 Despise not, my son, the discipline of the LORD nor loathe His reproof;

12 for whom the LORD loves He corrects, as a father the son in whom he delights.

13 Blessed is the man who has found wisdom, the man who obtains understanding;

14 for her profit is better than that of silver; her increase superior to fine gold.

15 She is more valuable than jewels; all desirable things are not comparable to her:

16 Length of days is in her right hand, riches and honour in her left;

17 her ways are pleasant ones, peaceful all her paths.

18 She is a tree of life to those laying hold of her, making happy each one holding her fast.

19 The LORD by wisdom founded the earth; by understanding He established the heavens;

20 by His knowledge the deeps pour forth and the skies distil the dew.

21 My son, let them not leave your sight: keep sound wisdom and discretion,

22 for they shall be life to your soul and an ornament to your neck.

23 Then you will walk your way confidently and will not stumble;

24 when you lie down it will not be in dread; for when you lie down your sleep will be sweet.

25 Fear not sudden terror, the stormy blast of the wicked when it comes;

26 for the LORD will be in your inward parts keeping your foot from being caught.

27 Hold back no benefit from those entitled to it, when it is in the power of your hand to perform.

28 Say not to your neighbour, “Go and come back and tomorrow I will give;” when you already have it.

29 Do not devise harm against your neighbour, for trustingly he lives beside you.

30 Strive not with a man without cause, when he has done you no wrong.

31 Do not envy a violent man, nor choose any of his ways;

32 for an abomination to the LORD is the perverse, but His intimate counsel is with the upright.

33 The curse of the LORD is on the house of the wicked, but the dwelling of the righteous He blesses.

34 As for scorners, He scorns them, but to the humble He gives grace.

35 The wise will inherit honour, but fools carry away shame.

PROVERBS CHAPTER 4

HEAR, O sons, the instruction of a father; listen carefully to gain insight.

2 Since I give you good doctrine do not forsake my teaching.

3 For I was once a son with my father, tender and the only one in the sight of my mother,

4 and he taught me, saying to me: “Let your heart hold fast my words; keep my commandments and live.

5 Get wisdom, get understanding; forget not, neither turn away from the words of my mouth.

6 Do not forsake her and she will protect you; love her, and she will guard you.

7 The beginning of wisdom is Get wis-dom! And in every gain get understanding.

8 Exalt her and she will lift you up; she will bring you honour when you embrace her.

9 A fair garland she will place on your head, bestow upon you a glorious crown.”

10 Hear, my son, accept what I say, and the years of your life will be many.

11 In the wise way I have directed you; I have led you on straight roads.

12 When you walk, your step will not be hindered; and if you run, you will not stumble.

13 Hold fast to instruction, do not let go; guard her, for she is your life.

14 Enter not the path of the wicked, not continue in the way of evil men.

15 Avoid it; do not go on it; turn from it, and pass on;

16 for they sleep not unless they do evil; their sleep is taken away unless they cause stumbling.

17 For they eat the bread of wickedness and drink the wine of violence.

18 But the path of the righteous is like the dawning light shining brighter, brighter until the full-orbed day.

19 The way of the wicked is like deep darkness; they know not at what they stumble.

20 My son, listen to my words; incline you ear to my sayings;

21 let them not depart from your eyes; keep them in the midst of your heart;

22 for they are life to those finding them and healing to all their flesh.

23 Above all that you guard, watch over your heart, for out of it are the sources of life.

24 Put away from you a crooked mouth, and put far from you perverse lips;

25 Let your eyes look forward and your gaze straight ahead of you.

26 Consider well the path for your feet and all your ways will be sure.

27 Turn not to the right or to the left; keep your foot away from evil.

PROVERBS CHAPTER 5

MY son, listen to my wisdom; incline your ear to my discernment;

2 that you may protect discretion; that your lips may guard knowledge.

3 For the lips of a loose woman drop honeyed words and her palate is smoother than oil;

4 but in the end she is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a devouring sword.

5 Her feet go down to death; her steps take hold of hell.

6 The path of life she does not consider; her paths meander, but she knows it not.

7 Now, my sons, listen to me, and depart not from the words of my mouth.

8 Keep your feet far from her; do not go near the door of her house;

9 lest you give your honour to others, and your years to the merciless;

10 lest aliens take their fill of your wealth, your labours go to a foreign house

11 and you moan when your end comes, when your flesh and body are consumed.

12 and you exclaim, “Alas, I have hated discipline, and my heart despised reproof;

13 I have not listened to the voice of my teachers, nor inclined my ear to my instructors;

14 I was almost in utter ruin in the midst of the congregation and assembly.”

15 Drink waters from your own cistern, running water out of your own well.

16 Should your springs be dispersed abroad, your courses of water in the streets?

17 But let them be only your own, and not those of aliens, too.

18 Let your own fountain be blessed; derive delight from the wife of your youth;

19 a lovely hind, a graceful doe, let her breasts satisfy you at all times; be always infatuated with her love;

20 for why, my son should you be infatuated with a loose woman, and embrace the bosom of an outsider?

21 For directly before the eyes of the LORD are a man’s ways, and all his paths are well considered.

22 His own iniquities seize the wicked, and he is held fast by the ropes of his own sin.

23 He dies for lack of discipline; but with the magnitude of his folly he is infatuated.

PROVERBS CHAPTER 6

MY son, if you have become surety for your neighbour, if you have struck hands for another,

2 you have been snared by the words of your mouth you have been caught –

3 do this at once, my son, and deliver yourself, for you have come into the hand of your neighbour: Go, humble yourself; beg of your neighbour desperately,

4 permit no sleep to your eyes nor slumber to your eyelids;

5 deliver yourself as a captured gazelle, as a bird from the hand of the fowler.

6 Go to the ant, you sluggard, consider her ways, and be wise;

7 who, having no chief, official, or ruler,

8 provides her bread in the summer, gathers her food in the harvest.

9 How long will you lie down. O sluggard? When will you get up from your sleep?

10 “Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest” –

11 and your poverty will come upon you as a bandit, your want like an unyielding warrior.

12 A worthless man, a wicked man, is he who walks with a crooked mouth,

13 winking his eyes, shuffling his foot, signalling with his fingers.

14 With perversity in his heart, devising evil continually, he sows discord.

15 Therefore suddenly will his calamity come; in a moment will he be broken and there will be no healing.

16 There are six things which the LORD hates, yes, seven that are an abomination to Him:

17 haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands shedding innocent blood.

18 a heart devising wicked schemes, feet quick to run to evil,

19 a false witness breathing our lies, and he who is sowing discord among brothers.

20 Keep, my son, the commandment of your father, and do not neglect the teaching of your mother;

21 bind them upon your heart always fasten them around your neck.

22 When you are walking about, it will lead you; when you are lying down, it will watch over you; and when you awake, it will speak to you.

23 For to you the commandment is a lamp, the teaching a light, and the reproofs of discipline a way of life

24 to keep you from the evil woman, from the smooth tongue of an unfamiliar woman.

25 Do not lust for her beauty in your heart; neither let her eyelashes captivate you;

26 for a harlot seeks only for a loaf of bread, but another man's wife stalks a priceless soul.

27 Can a man carry fire in his bosom and his clothes not be burned?

28 Or can a man walk on hot coals and his feet not be scorched?

29 So is he who visits his neighbour's wife; whoever touches her will not go unpunished.

30 A thief is not despised if he steals to satisfy his vital need when he is hungry;

31 nevertheless, when caught, he must restore sevenfold; he must give all the substance of his house.

32 He who commits adultery is lacking in sense; he who does it is destroying himself;

33 wounds and dishonour he will find and his disgrace will not be wiped away.

34 For jealousy rouses a strong man's anger; in the day of vengeance he will not spare.

35 He will not regard any ransom – not accept, when you multiply bribes.

PROVERBS CHAPTER 7

MY son, keep my words and store up my precepts within you.

2 Keep my precepts and live and my teaching as the pupil of your eyes.

3 Bind them upon your fingers; write them on the tablet of your heart.

4 Say to wisdom, "You are my sister," and call understanding your close friend;

5 to keep you from the unknown woman, from the female stranger with flattering words.

6 For at the window of my house I looked out through my lattice

7 and I saw among the simple, I perceived among the youths a senseless young man.

8 Passing along the street near her corner, he takes the way to her house,

9 I the twilight, in the evening, in the middle of the night, in the darkness.

10 And look, a woman comes to meet him, with the attire of a harlot, and a crafty mind.

11 She is loud and lewd; her feet do not stay in her own house;

12 now in the street, now in the market places, near every corner she sets her ambush.

13 So she catches him and kisses him; with a hardened face she says to him:

14 "Sacrifices of peace offerings I owed; today I paid my vows; 15 therefore I come out to meet you, to seek your face; and I have found you.

16 I have decked my couch with coverings, coloured sheets of Egyptian linen.

17 I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon.

18 Come, let us take our fill of love until the morning; let us delight ourselves with love,

19 for my husband is not at home; he has gone on a distant journey;

20 a bag of money he has taken with him; at full moon he will come home."

21 By her sophistries she draws him away; with the flattery of her lips she entices him.

22 Suddenly he goes after her, as an ox goes to the slaughter, as in fetters a fool to his punishment.

23 till an arrow strikes his liver; as a bird hastening to the snare, for he does not know that it will cost his life.

24 Now therefore, my sons, listen to me; listen to the words of my mouth:

25 Let not your heart incline toward her ways; do not stray upon her paths,

For many victims she has brought down; a great multitude are her slain.

27 Her house is the way of Sheol, descending to the chambers of death.

PROVERBS CHAPTER 8

DOES not wisdom call and discernment utter her voice?

2 On the top of the heights along the way at the crossroads she takes her stand;

3 beside the gates, on front of the town, from the portals' entrance she cries out;

4 "To you, O men, I call;" my voice is directed to the sons of men.

5 On simple ones, learn to get insight, O fools, make your mind understand.

6 Hear, for I will declare noble things, from my lips things that are right.

7 For my mouth shall utter truth; wickedness is an abomination to my lips.

8 All the words of my mouth are in righteousness; there is nothing twisted or crooked in them;

9 they are all clear to him who is discerning and right to those finding knowledge.

10 Take my instruction, and not silver, and knowledge rather than choice gold.

11 For wisdom is better than jewels, all desirable things are not comparable to her.

12 I, wisdom, dwell with insight, I find out knowledge through deliberating.

13 Reverence of the LORD is hatred of evil. Pride, arrogance, an evil way and a perverse mouth I hate.

14 I have counsel and sound wisdom, I am understanding, power is mine;

15 by me kings reign and rulers decree righteously;

16 by me princes rule and all noble judges of the earth.

17 I love those loving me; those diligently seeking me will find me.

18 Riches and honour are with me, enduring wealth and righteousness;

19 my fruit is better than gold, even fine gold, and my increase than choice silver.

20 In the way of righteousness I walk firmly in the midst of the paths of justice,

21 in order to bestow real substance upon those loving me, and I will fill their treasuries.

22 The LORD made me in the beginning of His way, before His works of old;

23 I was poured out from ages past, from the beginning, before the earth was. 24 When there was no depths, I was born; when there were no springs abundantly flowing; 25 before the mountains settled down, I was brought forth before the hills; 26 when the earth and the field were yet unmade as well as the first dust particles of the world. 27 When He established the heavens, there was I; when He inscribed a circle on the face of the deep, 28 when He made firm the skies from above, when the fountains of the deep were given their force, 29 when He gave to the sea its bounds, that the waters should not transgress His spoken word, 30 then I was beside Him, a master builder; I was daily full of delight, 31 rejoicing before Him all the time, rejoicing in the habitable, part of the earth, for my delight was with the sons of men.

32 Therefore now, O sons, listen to me; for happy are those who keep my ways. 33 Hear instruction, be wise and do not refuse it. 34 Happy is the man listening to me, watching daily at my gates, keeping watch at my doorposts. 35 For the one finding me finds life, and wins approval from the LORD. 36 But the one missing me does violence to his own soul; all those hating me love death."

PROVERBS CHAPTER 9

WISDOM has built her house, she has hewn out her seven pillars, 2 she has slaughtered her meat, she has mixed her wine, she has also prepared her table; 3 she has sent forth her maidens; she calls upon the top of the high places of the city: 4 "Whoever is simple, let him turn in here!" As for the one lacking understanding, she says to him: 5 "Come, eat of my bread, and drink of the wine that I have mixed. 6 Quit the company of the simple and live; walk in the way of understanding. 7 He who corrects a scorner heaps abuse upon himself, and he who reproves a wicked man gets bruises in return. 8 Do not reprove a scorner, lest he hate you; reprove a wise man and he will love you. 9 Inform a wise man and he will become

yet wiser; teach a righteous man and he will add to his grasp of things. 10 Reverence for the LORD is the beginning of wisdom and knowledge of the Most Holy is understanding. 11 For by me, your days will be multiplied, the years of your life increased. 12 If you are wise, you benefit yourself, and if you scorn, you alone will bear it."

13 A foolish woman is noisy; being simple she knows nothing. 14 She sits at the door of her house, on the seat in the high places of the city, 15 to call to those passing by her way, to those going straight on their paths: 16 "Whoever is simple let him turn in here!" As for the one lacking in understanding, she says to him:

17 "Stolen waters are sweet; secret bread is pleasant."

18 But he does not know that ghosts are there; her guests are in the depths of Sheol.

PROVERBS CHAPTER 10

A WISE son makes his father glad, but a foolish son is the grief of his mother.

2 Treasures of wickedness bring no profit, but righteousness saves from death.

3 The LORD does not let the soul of the righteous go hungry, but He frustrates the desire of the wicked.

4 Always poor is he who works with an indolent hand, but the hand of the diligent brings wealth.

5 He who gathers during the summer is a prudent son, but a son who sleeps during harvest acts shamefully.

6 Blessings are upon the head of the righteous, but the mouth of the wicked conceals violence.

7 The memory of the righteous continues a blessing, but the name of the wicked shall rot.

8 The wise of heart accepts commandments, but the prating fool will fall headlong.

9 He who walks in integrity walks securely, but he who takes a crooked course will be found out.

10 He who winks with his eye causes heartache, and a prating fool will fall headlong.

11 The mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life, but the mouth of the wicked conceals violence.

12 Hatred stirs up contentions, but love covers all transgressions.

13 On the lips of the discerning one wisdom is found, but a rod is for the back of one devoid of understanding.

14 Wise men store up knowledge, but the mouth of the foolish hastens ruin.

15 The wealth of the rich man is his fortress; the ruin of the poor is their poverty.

16 The labour of the righteous is for life; the increase of the wicked is for sin.

17 He who heeds instruction is on the way of life, but he who neglects reproof goes astray.

18 He who hides hatred has lying lips and he who spouts forth slander is a fool.

19 Among a multitude of words transgression is not missing, but he who restrains his lips is prudent.

20 The tongue of the righteous is as choice silver, but the heart of the wicked is of little value.

21 The lips of the righteous nourish many, but the foolish perish from lack of understanding.

22 It is the blessing of the LORD that brings riches and toiling will add nothing to it.

23 To a fool doing wickedness is sport, just as wisdom is to man of understanding.

24 What the wicked fears will come upon him, but the desire of the righteous will be granted.

25 When the whirlwind passes over, the wicked is no more but the righteous has an enduring foundation.

26 As vinegar to the teeth and as smoke to the eyes, so is the lazy one to those who send him.

27 Reverence for the LORD adds days, but the years of the wicked will be shortened.

28 The hope of the righteous is gladness, but the expectation of the wicked comes to nothing.

29 The way of the LORD is a stronghold to the upright, but ruin to workers of iniquity.

30 The righteous will never be moved, but the wicked shall not stay in the land.

31 The mouth of the righteous blossoms forth with wisdom, but the perverse tongue will be eliminated.

32 The lips of the righteous know what delights others, but the mouth of the wicked is perverse.

PROVERBS CHAPTER 11

DECEITFUL scales are an abomination to the LORD, but an accurate weight is His delight.

2 Pride comes, and then shame, but wisdom is with the humble.

3 The integrity of the upright guides them, but the glibness of the treacherous destroys them.

4 Riches do not profit in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death.

5 The righteousness of the blameless makes straight his way, but by his own wickedness the wicked falls.

6 The righteousness of the upright delivers them, but the treacherous are trapped by their own greediness.

7 When a wicked man dies, so does expectation perish; yes, the hope of his strength dies out.

8 The righteous is delivered from trouble, and the wicked takes his place.

9 With his mouth the profane man destroys his neighbour, but the righteous are delivered by their knowledge.

10 In the prosperity of the righteous the city rejoices, and there is joy when the wicked perish.

11 By the blessing of the upright, a city is advanced, but by the mouth of the wicked it is over thrown.

12 He who despises his neighbour lacks good sense and a man of understanding will hold his peace.

13 He who is a habitual talebearer betrays confidence, but he who is trustworthy keeps a matter hidden.

14 Where there is no leadership the people fall, but in an abundance of counsellors there is safety.

15 Certain calamity comes to him who is surety for a stranger, but he who hates suretyship is secure.

16 A gracious woman gets honour, while violent men gain wealth.

17 A kindly man does himself good, but a trouble maker hurts himself.

18 The wicked gets deceptive wages, but he who sows righteousness gets a sure reward.

19 Surely righteousness brings life, but he who pursues evil brings about his own death.

20 Those who are evil minded are an abomination to the LORD but those who are wholehearted in their ways are His delight.

21 Be assured, the evil man will not go unpunished, but the offspring of the righteous will escape.

22 Like a gold ring in a swine’s snout, so is a beautiful woman who neglects good taste.

23 The righteous desire only good, while the wicked can expect only wrath.

24 There is one who gives liberally, yet he grows richer, and one who withholds what he should give, and suffers want.

25 The charitable soul will be enriched, and he who waters, will himself be watered.

26 The people will curse the man who holds back the grain, but a blessing will be on the head of the one selling it.

27 He who diligently seeks good finds favour, bur evil comes to him who searches for it.

28 He who trusts in riches will fall, but the righteous will flourish like a fresh leaf.

29 He who troubles his own house will inherit wind, and the foolish be a servant of the wise hearted.

30 The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and a wise man wins friends.

31 Behold the righteous will be repaid on the earth, how much more the wicked and the sinner!

PROVERBS CHAPTER 12

WHOEVER loves discipline love knowledge, but he who hates reproof is like a cow.

2 A good man obtains favour from the LORD, but He condemns the man who devises evil.

3 A man will not be established in wickedness, but the root of the righteous will never be moved.

4 A wife with strength of character is a crown to her husband, but she who acts disgracefully is rottenness in his bones.

5 The thoughts of the righteous are reliable, but the suggestions of the wicked are deceptive.

6 The words of the wicked lie in wait for blood, but the mouth of the upright delivers them.

7 The wicked are overthrown and are no more, but the house of the righteous shall stand.

8 For his common sense a man with twisted thoughts shall be despised.

9 Better is he who is lightly esteemed, but has a servant, than he who boasts of himself, and lacks bread.

10 A righteous man understand the needs if his livestock, but even the mercy of the wicked is cruel.

11 He who tills his ground will have his fill of bread, but he who follows vain pursuits is lacking sense.

12 The wicked man desires the booty of evil men, but the root of the righteous bears fruit.

13 An evil man is ensnared by the transgression of his lips, but the righteous comes forth from trouble.

14 From the fruit of his words a man is well satisfied, and the work of a man's hands will come back to him.

15 The way of the foolish is right in his own eyes, but the wise listens to advice.

16 As for the foolish, his displeasure is known at once, but the discerning man ignores an insult.

17 He who speaks truth gives correct evidence, but a false witness practices deception.

18 Some speak rashly like the piecing of a sword, but the tongue of the wise heals.

19 Truthful lips endure forever, but a lying tongue only for the wink of an eye.

20 Deceit is in the heart of those who plan evil, but those who plan good have joy.

21 No harm befalls the righteous, but the wicked are filled up with trouble.

22 Lying lips are an abomination to the LORD, but those who deal faithfully are his delight.

23 A man of insight conceals his knowledge, but the heart of fools proclaims foolishness.

24 The hand of the diligent will rule, but the slack hand will be forced to serve.

25 Anxiety in a man's heart weighs it down, but a kind word makes it glad.

26 The righteous seeks guidance from his friend, but the way of the wicked leads them astray.

27 A slothful man will not roast his prey, but the possessions of the diligent man are precious.

28 Life is in the way of the righteous, a pathway where there is no death.

PROVERBS CHAPTER 13

A WISE son accepts his father's correction but a scorner does not listen to rebuke.

2 From the fruit of his mouth a man will eat bountifully, but the desire of the treacherous is for violence.

3 He who guards his mouth controls himself, but he who opens wide his lips comes to ruin.

4 The soul of the lazy one craves and gets nothing, but the soul of the diligent is well supplied.

5 A righteous man hates a lying word, but a wicked man acts odiously and shamefully.

6 Righteousness guards him who is blameless in the way, but wickedness overthrows the sinner.

7 There is one who considers himself rich, yet has nothing; and one who considers himself poor, yet possess great wealth.

8 His riches are a ransom for a man's life, but the poor do not even hear a rebuke.

9 The light of the righteous dances, but the lamp of the wicked is put out.

10 Only through pride comes contention, for wisdom is with those who take advice.

11 Wealth acquired rashly dwindles away, but he who gathers by labour increases.

12 Hope drawn out makes the heart sick, but a longing come true is a tree of life.

13 He who despises the Word is in debt to it and he who reveres the commandment will be rewarded.

14 The teaching of the wise is a fountain of life to deliver from the snares of death.

15 Ideal understanding lends attractiveness, but the way of the treacherous is rugged.

16 Every person of insight acts with forethought, but a fool displays his folly.

17 An unreliable messenger precipitates trouble, but a faithful envoy brings healing.

18 Poverty and shame will be for him who refuses instruction, but the one listening to reproof will be honoured.

19 Longing fulfilled is sweet to the soul, thus it is an abomination to fools to give up evil.

20 He who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.

21 Calamity pursues sinners, but prosperity rewards the righteous.

22 A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children, but the wealth of the sinner is stored up for the righteous.

23 Much food is in the fallow ground of the poor, but it is swept away for the lack of justice.

24 He who spares his rod hates his son, but he who loves him is diligent to chasten him.

25 The righteous eats to satisfy his need, but the wicked's stomach never has enough.

PROVERBS CHAPTER 14

A WISE woman builds her own house, but a foolish one with her own hands tears it down.

2 He who walks in his uprightness reveres the LORD, but he who is perverse in his ways despises him.

3 In the mouth of the foolish man lies a rod for his pride, but the lips of the wise preserve them.

4 Where there are no oxen, the stable is clean, but much increase comes by the strength of the ox.

5 A faithful witness will not lie, but a false witness breathes out falsehoods.

6 Should a scorner seek wisdom, it is not for him; but for the discerning knowledge is readily acquired.

7 Leave the presence of a man who is a fool, for you will not discern words of knowledge there.

8 The wisdom of the man of insight is in his anticipating his way, but the folly of fools is deceiving.

9 The bond between foolish men is guilt, but between the upright it is good-will.

10 The heart knows its own bitterness, and no stranger can intermingle with its joy.

11 The house of the wicked shall be over thrown, but the tent of the upright shall prosper.

12 There is a way that seems right to a person, but its end is the way of death.

13 Even in laughter the heart may be sad and joy may eventuate in grief.

14 The perverse man will get filled up on his own ways, and the good man gets satisfaction from his.

15 The simple believes every word, but the man of insight makes sure where his is going.

16 A wise man is cautious and avoids misfortune, but a fool parades himself and feels confident.

17 He who is quick tempered acts foolishly, and a man who plans wickedness is hated.

18 The simple have folly for their portion, but people of insight have knowledge for a crown.

19 Evil men shall bow before the good, and the wicked at the gates of the righteous.

20 Even by his neighbour the poor is spurned, but the friends of the rich man are many.

21 He sins who despises his neighbour, but happy is he who is gracious to the humble.

22 Do they not go astray who plot mischief? Loyal love and stability are for those who plan good.

23 In all toil there is profit, but mere talk leads only to want.

24 The crown of the wise is their wealth (of wisdom), but the folly of fools is still folly.

25 A faithful witness delivers souls, but he who breathes out lies is a betrayer,

26 In reverence in the LORD one has strong confidence and for his children there shall be a refuge.

27 Reverence for the LORD is a fountain of life to deliver from the snares of death.

28 In the multitude of people is a king's glory, and in the lack of people lies the ruin of a prince.

29 He who is slow to anger is of great understanding, but whoever is hasty of spirit exalts folly.

30 A relaxed mind makes for physical health; but passion is rottenness to the bones.

31 He who oppresses the poor insults his Maker, and he who is kind to the needy honours Him.

32 The wicked is overthrown by his mischief-making, but the righteous, while dying, has confidence.

33 In the heart of a man of understanding, wisdom quietly rests, but she must make herself known to the inner self of fools.

34 Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people.

In 35 The king's favour is toward the servant who deals wisely, but his wrath is evidenced toward him who acts shamefully.

PROVERBS CHAPTER 15

A PLEASANT answer turns away wrath, but harsh word arouses anger.

2 The tongue of the wise makes knowledge attractive, but the moth of the fools gushes forth with folly.

3 The eyes of the LORD are in every place, observing the evil and the good.

4 A soothing tongue is a tree of life, while perversity in it breaks down the spirit.

5 The foolish rejects his father's correction, but he who remembers reproof is prudent.

6 In the house of the righteous is great treasure, but the income of the wicked is freighted with trouble.

7 The lips of the wise spread knowledge, but not so the mind of fools.

8 The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD, but the prayer of the upright is His delight.

9 The way of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD, but He loves him who seeks after righteousness.

There is severe discipline for him who forsakes the way, and he who hates reproof will die.

11 Sheol and Abaddon lie open before the LORD, how much more the hearts of the sons of men!

12 A scorner does not like to be rebuked, so he will not go to the wise.

13 A happy heart makes the face look sunny; but in grief of heart the spirit is broken.

14 The heart of a discerning person seeks knowledge, but the mouth of the foolish feeds on folly.

15 All the days of the poor are unfortunate, but the glad-hearted has a continual feast.

16 Better a little with reverence for the LORD than great treasure and lamentation with it.

17 Better a vegetable meal where love is, than a fattened ox and hate with it.

18 A hot-tempered man stirs up strife, but one slow to anger quiets contention.

19 The sluggard's path is like a growth of thorns, but the way of the upright is levelled.

20 A wise son makes his father glad, but a foolish man despises his mother.

21 Folly is joy to one who lacks sense, but a discerning man takes a straight course.

22 For lack of advice plans go wrong, but with many counsellors they are accomplished.

23 What joy to a man is the answer of his mouth; for how good is a word at the right time!

24 The path of life leads upward for the wise, that he may avoid Sheol below.

25 The LORD tears down the house of the proud, but He protects the boundaries of the widow.

26 Wicked thoughts are an abomination to the LORD, but kindly words are pure.

27 He who plunders for profit troubles his own house, but the one who hates bribes will live.

28 The mind of the righteous ponders before answering, but the mouth of the wicked pours forth evil things.

29 The LORD is far from the wicked, but He hears the prayer of the righteous.

30 The light of the eyes rejoices the heart, and a good report nourishes the bones.

31 The ear that listens to the reproof of life will stay among the wise men.

32 He who ignores correction despises himself, and he who listens to reproof acquires intelligence.

33 Reverence of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom, for before honour must be humility.

PROVERBS CHAPTER 16

ORDERLY thinking belongs to man, but the answer of the tongue is from the LORD.

2 All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes, but the LORD weighs the spirits.

3 Roll your work onto the LORD and your plans will be achieved.

4 The LORD has made everything for His purpose, even the wicked for the day of calamity.

5 Every one proud of heart is an abomination to the LORD; be assured he will not go unpunished.

6 By loyal love and faithfulness iniquity is atoned for, but turning from evil is through reverence for the LORD.

7 When the ways of a man please the LORD, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.

8 Better is a little with righteousness by fair means that a large income without justice.

9 A man's mind plans his road, but the LORD directs his steps.

10 A godly decision is on the lips of the king; in judgement his mouth does not sin.

11 The balance and scales of justice are the LORD's, and all the weights in the bag are His work.

12 To do wickedness is an abomination to kings, for the throne is established by righteousness.

13 Righteous lips are a delight to a king and he loves him who speaks what is right.

14 The wrath of a king is a messenger of death, but a wise man will appease it.

15 In the light of a king's face is life, and his favour is as showers of spring.

16 How much better to get wisdom than gold, as understanding is rather to be chosen than silver.

17 The highway of the upright turns away from evil, and he who guards his life takes heed to his way.

18 Before destruction comes pride, and before a fall a proud spirit.

19 It is better to be humble in spirit among the poor, than to divide the plunder with the proud.

20 He who acts wisely concerning the Word will find good, and happy is he who trusts in the LORD.

21 The wise in heart will be called a discerning man, and pleasant speech will increase learning.

22 Prudence is a fountain of life to its possessor, but folly is the chastisement of fools.

23 The mind of the wise teaches his mouth and adds learning to his lips.

24 Pleasant words are as a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.

25 There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.

26 A worker's appetite works for him, for his mouth urges him on.

27 A worthless man plots harm, and his speech is like a searing flame.

28 A perverse man sows strife, and a whisperer separates familiar friends.

29 A man of violence entices his neighbour, and leads him in a way that is not good.

30 He who winks his eyes to plan perverse things, pinching his lips, brings harm to pass.

31 A hoary head is a crown of glory; it is found in the way of righteousness.

32 Better is he who is slow to anger than the mighty hero, and he who rules his spirit than he who captures a city.

33 The lot is cast into the lap, but from the LORD is its every decision.

PROVERBS CHAPTER 17

BETTER is a dry morsel with quiet than a house full of feasting with strife.

2 A slave who acts wisely will rule over the son who acts shamefully, and he will share the inheritance with the sons.

3 The crucible is for silver and the furnace for gold, but the LORD tests hearts.

4 An evildoer listens to wicked lips, and a liar pays attention to a vicious tongue.

5 He who insults the poor insults his Maker, and he who rejoices at another's calamity will not go unpunished.

6 Grandchildren are the crown of old age, and the glory of children is in their fathers.

7 Excellent speech is not suitable in a fool, much less deceitful speech in a prince.

8 A bribe is a precious stone in the eyes of the one receiving it; whatever he turns to, he causes to succeed.

9 He who covers an offense seeks love, but he who brings up a matter again, alienates a close friend.

10 A rebuke goes deeper into a man of understanding than a hundred blows into a fool.

11 A wicked man seeks only rebellion; but a stern messenger will be sent against him.

12 Rather a man should encounter a bear robbed of her cubs, than a fool in his folly.

13 Whoever returns evil for good, calamity will not leave his house.

14 The beginning of strife is like letting out water; so, quit before the quarrel breaks forth.

15 He who judges the wicked to be righteous and he who judges the righteous to be wicked, even both are an abomination to the LORD.

16 Why is this – a price in the hand of a fool to buy wisdom, when he has no capacity?

17 A friend is perpetually friendly, and a brother is born for adversity.

18 A man without good judgement is he who makes an agreement, becoming surety in the presence of his neighbour.

19 He who loves transgression loves strife, and he who opens wide his mouth seeks destruction.

20 The man of a crooked mind does not find prosperity, and he who has a perverted tongue tumbles into trouble.

21 He who fathers a fool, it is grief to him; yes, the father of a fool is joyless.

22 A cheerful heart makes a good cure, but a broken spirit makes the bones dry up.

23 A wicked man accepts a personal bribe to pervert the ways of justice.

24 Wisdom is before the face of the discerning man, but the eyes of the fool are upon the ends of the earth.

25 A foolish son is grief to his father and bitterness to her who bore him.

26 To impose a fine on the righteous is not good, nor to flog noble men for their uprightness.

27 He who restrains his words has knowledge, and he who is calm of spirit is a man of understanding.

28 Even a fool when he is silent is thought to be wise, and he who keeps his lips closed is considered intelligent.

PROVERBS CHAPTER 18

HE who wilfully separates himself, seeks his own desire and breaks out against all sound wisdom.

2 A fool does not delight in understanding, but only in revealing his own opinion.

3 The wicked brings contempt with him and with disdain brings reproach.

4 The words of a man's mouth are deep waters; the fountain of wisdom is a flowing stream.

5 It is not good to show partiality to the wicked, to deprive a righteous man of justice.

6 The lips of a fool lead to strife, and his mouth calls for a beating.

7 A fool's mouth is his ruin, and his lips are a snare to his soul.

8 The words of a gossip are tempting morsels, and they go down into the inner parts of the body.

9 Also, he who is slack in his work is a brother to him who destroys.

10 The name of the LORD is a strong tower; into it runs the righteous and cannot be touched.

11 The rich man's wealth is his strong city and as a high wall – so he thinks.

12 Before destruction a man's heart is haughty, but before honour goes humility.

13 He who answers before he hears, it is folly to him and reproach.

14 A man's spirit will endure sickness, but a broken spirit who can carry?

15 A discerning mind gets knowledge and the ear of the wise seeks information.

16 A man's gift makes room for him and brings him before great men.

17 He who states his case first seems right until another comes to examine him.

18 The lot puts an end to disputes and separates powerful men.

19 A brother offended is harder to be won than a strong city, and quarrels are as bars of a castle.

20 With the fruit of his mouth a man's stomach is filled; with the increase of his lips he will be satisfied.

21 Death and life are in the power of the tongues, and those who love it will eat its fruit.

22 He who has found a wife has gained a goodly portion; and obtains favour from the LORD.

23 The poor use entreaties, but the rich answer roughly.

24 A man has many friends for companionship, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

PROVERBS CHAPTER 19

BETTER is the poor man who walks in integrity than a fool who is perverse of lips.

2 Even as it is not good to be ignorant, so he who hurries his feet misses the mark.

3 The foolishness of man ruins his affairs, but his heart is resentful toward the LORD.

4 Wealth adds many friends, but as for the poor, his only friend leaves him.

5 A false witness will not go unpunished, and he who breathes out lies will not escape.

6 Many will entreat the favour of a generous man, and every one is the friend of the man who gives gifts.

7 All the brothers of the poor despise him, how much more do his friends go far from him! He pursues them with words, but they are gone.

8 He who gains wisdom loves his own life; he who maintains insight finds success.

9 A false witness will not go unpunished, and he who breathes out lies will perish.

10 Luxury is not fitting for a fool, much less for a slave to rule over princes.

11 It is prudent for a man to restrain his anger; it is his glory to overlook as offense.

12 A king's anger is like the roaring of a lion, but his favour is as dew upon the grass.

13 A foolish son is a calamity to his father, and the quarrelling of a wife is as a constant dripping of water.

14 House and wealth are inherited from fathers, but a prudent wife is from the LORD.

15 Laziness makes one sleep heavily; an idle person will suffer hunger.

16 He who keeps the commandments keeps his own soul, but he who despises his way shall die.

17 He who is gracious to the poor is lending to the LORD; He will repay him for his benevolent action.

18 Discipline your son, for there is hope, and do not set your heart on his destruction.

19 A man of great wrath must bear his penalty, for if you deliver him, you must do it again.

20 Hear advice and accept instruction, that you may be wise the rest of your days.

21 Many schemes are in a man's mind, but the counsel of the LORD will stand.

22 What is desired in a man is steadfast love, for better is a poor man than a liar.

23 Reverence for the LORD leads to life; he who remains satisfied with that will not be visited by harm.

24 The sluggard buries his hand in the dish and will not even bring it back to his mouth.

25 Strike a scorner, and the simple will become prudent; and when a discerning man is reproved, he will gain knowledge.

26 A son who slanders his father and drives out his mother acts shamefully and disgracefully.

27 Cease, my son, to hear instruction only to stray from the words of knowledge.

28 A worthless witness scoffs at justice and the mouth of the wicked swallows iniquity.

29 Judgement is ready for scorners and flogging for the back of fools.

PROVERBS CHAPTER 20

WINE is a scorner, strong drink a brawler, and whoever gets drunk is not wise.

2 The fury of a king is like the roaring of a lion; he who makes him angry endangers his own life.

3 It is an honour for a man to keep away from strife, but every foolish man will be quarrelling.

4 In the autumn the sluggard will not plow; he will search at harvest time and have nothing.

5 Planning in a man's mind is deep water, but a man of understanding will draw it out.

6 Many a man proclaims his own steadfast love, but who can find a faithful man?

7 He who walks righteously in his integrity – how happy are his children after him!

8 A king who sits on the throne of judgement winnows all evil with his eyes.

9 Who can say, "I have made my heart clean; I am pure from my sin?"

10 Diverse weights and diverse measures are both alike an abomination to the LORD.

11 Even a child reveals himself by his acts, whether what he does is pure and right.

12 The hearing ear and the seeing eye, the LORD has made them both.

13 Be not overfound of sleep lest you come to poverty; keep your eyes open and have plenty of food.

14 "Bad! Bad!" says the buyer; but when he goes his way, then he boasts.

15 There is gold and a mass of costly stones, but the understanding lips are a precious jewel.

16 Take the man's garment who is surety for a stranger, and hold him in pledge when he is surety for foreigners.

17 Sweet to a man is food gained by deceit, but afterwards he mouth will be filled with gravel.

18 Every plan is confirmed by counsel, and thus by wise guidance you carry on war.

19 He who goes about as a talebearer reveals secrets; therefore, do not associate with his who opens wide his lips.

20 He who curses his father or his mother, his lamp will be put out in utter darkness.

21 An estate may be obtained hastily at the beginning, but its end will not be blessed.

22 Do not say, “I will repay evil;” wait for the LORD and He will save you.

23 Diverse weights are an abomination to the LORD, and false scales are wrong.

24 A man’s steps are ordered by the LORD; how then can a man understand his way?

25 It is a snare for a man to say rashly, “It is holy,” and after vows to consider more thoroughly.

26 A wise king winnows the wicked and drives the wheel over them.

27 The spirit of man is a lamp of the LORD, searching out all the inward parts.

28 Lovingkindness and faithfulness preserve the king, and his throne is upheld by justice.

29 The glory of young men is their strength, and the attractiveness of old men is their grey head.

30 Blows that wound cleanse away evil, and are strokes that reach the innermost parts.

PROVERBS CHAPTER 21

THE heart of the king is as streams of water in the hand of the LORD; wherever He wills, He turns it.

2 Every way of a man is right in his own eyes, but the LORD weighs hearts.

3 To practice righteousness and justice is more acceptable to the LORD than sacrifice.

4 Haughty eyes, a lustful heart and the tiling of the wicked are sin.

5 The plans of the diligent lead only to plenty, but every one who is hasty comes only to want.

6 The getting of riches by a lying tongue is a fleeting vapour, a pursuit of death.

7 The violence of the wicked snares them, for they refuse to act with fairness.

8 The way of some men is perverse and wrong, but as for the pure, his work is right.

9 It is better to live in the corner of a housetop than to share a house with a contentious woman.

10 The soul of the wicked desires evil; his neighbour finds no favour in his eyes.

11 When the scorner is punished, the simple become wise; when one is considerate of the wise man, he acquires knowledge.

12 The righteous man deals considerately with the house of the wicked; the wicked are tumbled into ruin.

13 He who closes his ears to the cry of the poor will himself also cry and not be heard.

14 A gift in secret quiets anger, and a present in the bosom calms fury.

15 The doing of justice is a joy to the righteous, but to the workers if iniquity it is a calamity.

16 A man who strays from the way of prudence will find rest in the assembly of the dead.

17 He who loves pleasure will be a poor man; he who loves wine and oil will not be rich.

18 The wicked is a ransom for the righteous and the treacherous for the upright.

19 It is better to live in a desert land than with a contentious and fretful woman.

20 Desirable treasure and oil are in the dwelling of the wise, but a foolish man devours them.

21 He who follows after righteousness and lovingkindness finds life, righteousness and honour.

22 A wise man scales the city of the mighty and brings down the stronghold in which they trust.

23 He who guards his mouth and his tongue keeps his soul from troubles.

24 Proud, haughty “scorner’ is his name, who acts with arrogant pride.

25 The desire of the sluggard slays him, for his hands refuse to work;

26 all day long he feels greedy; but the righteous gives and does not hold back.

27 The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination; how much more when he brings it with evil intent!

28 A false witness will perish, but a man who listens faithfully will be at liberty to speak.

29 A wicked man has an impudent face, but as for the upright, he ponders his ways.

30 There is no wisdom, there is no understanding, there is no counsel against the LORD;

31 The horse is made ready for the day of battle, but the victory belongs to the LORD.

PROVERBS CHAPTER 22

A GOOD name is to be chosen rather than great riches and loving favour than silver and gold.

2 The rich and the poor meet together – the LORD is Maker of them all.

3 A prudent man sees danger and hides himself, but the simple continue and and suffer for it.

4 The results of humility – reverence for the LORD – are riches, honour and life.

5 Thorns and snares are in the way of the perverse; he who guards his soul will go far from them.

6 Educate a child according to his life requirements; even when he is old, he will not veer from it.

7 The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower is slave to the lender.

8 He who sows injustice will reap noting, and the rod of his fury will fail.

9 He whose eye is generous will be blessed, for he gives food to the poor.

10 Cast out the scorner and strife will go out, and contention and abuse will cease.

11 He who loves purity of heart, and whose speech is pleasant will have the king as his friend.

12 The eyes of the LORD protect knowledge, and He turns aside the words of the treacherous.

13 The sluggard says, “There is a lion outside; I will be slain in the streets!”

14 The mouth of strange women is a deep pit; he who is cursed of the LORD falls into it.

15 Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline will drive it far from him.

16 He who oppresses the poor to make gain for himself, or he who gives to the rich, surely he will suffer want.

17 Incline your ear and listen to the words of the wise; apply your mind to know them;

18 for it will be pleasant if you keep them within you; if all of them are ready upon your lips.

19 That your trust may be in the LORD, I have informed you this day, even you.

20 Have not I written for you previously of counsels and knowledge, 21 so that I might make you know certainty, even the words of truth, that you might return words of truth to those who send you?

22 Do not rob the poor because he is poor, nor oppress the afflicted in the gate; 23 for the LORD will plead their cause and He will take the life of those killing them.

24 Do not associate with one given to anger, and with a wrathful man do not keep company, 25 lest you learn his ways and get yourself in a snare.

26 Be not among those who give pledges who are securities for debts; 27 if you do not have the means to pay, why should your bed be taken from under you?

28 Do not remove the ancient landmark which your fathers have set.

29 Do you see a man skilfully in his work? Before kings he will stand; he shall not stand; he shall not stand before the undistinguished.

PROVERBS CHAPTER 23

WHEN you sit down to eat with a ruler, consider well what is before you 2 and put a knife to your throat if you are a man given to appetite; 3 do not desire his delicacies for they are deceptive food.

4 Do not toil to get wealth; surrender that personal ambition.

5 Do your eyes light on it? But it is gone; for riches surely take wings like an eagle that flies heavenward.

6 Eat not the bread of him whose eye is selfish, neither desire his delicacies; 7 for as one who inwardly figures the cost, so is he; “Eat and drink,” he says to you, but his heart is not with you; 8 you will vomit up the bit you have eaten, and spoil your compliments.

9 Do not speak to the ears of a fool, for he will despise the wisdom of your words.

10 Remove not the ancient landmark, and the fields of the fatherless do not enter, 11 for their Redeemer is mighty; He will defend their cause against you.

12 Apply your heart to instruction and your ears to the words of knowledge.

13 Withhold not correction from a child; if you beat him with a rod, he will not die; 14 beat him with a rod and you will deliver his soul from Sheol. 15 My son, if your heart is wise, my heart will rejoice, mine too; 16 yes, my soul will rejoice when your lips speak what is right. 17 Let not your heart envy sinners, but continue in the reverence of the LORD all the day; 18 for surely there is a future and your hope will not be cut off.

19 Hear, my son, and be wise and direct your heart in the way. 20 Be not among winebibbers, among gluttonous eaters of flesh; 21 for the drunkard and the glutton will be poverty-stricken, and drowsiness will clothe a man with rags. 22 Heed your father who begot you despise not your mother when she is old. 23 Buy the truth and do not sell it, along with wisdom, instruction, and understanding.

24 The father of the righteous will gladly rejoice, and he who begets a wise child will find joy in him; 25 let your father and mother find joy; let her who bore you rejoice. 26 My son, give me your heart and let your eyes delight in my ways. 27 For a harlot is a deep pit; an alien woman is a narrow well; 28 she also lies in wait like a robber and increases the treacherous among men.

29 Who has sorrow? Who has woe? Who has strife? Who has complaints? Who feels hurt without cause? Who has blood shot eyes? 20 They who tarry long over wine, they who go to sample mixed wine. 31 Look not upon wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup, when it goes down smoothly. 32 in the end it bites like a serpent, and stings like an adder.

33 Your eyes will see strange things, and your mind will utter upside-down things; 34 yes, you will be as one who lies down in the heart of the sea, or as one who lies down upon the top of a mast. 35 “They struck me; I did not feel it! They beat me; I did not know it! When shall I awake? I will seek it yet again.”

PROVERBS CHAPTER 24

BE not envious of evil men nor desire to be with them;

2 for their minds devise violence, and their lips speak mischief.

3 By wisdom is a house built and by understanding it is established;

4 for by knowledge the rooms are filled with all precious and pleasant riches.

5 A wise man is strong, and a man of knowledge adds to his strength;

6 for wise guidance you will wage your war, and there is victory in a multitude of counsellors.

7 Wisdom is too high for the foolish; in the gate he opens not his mouth.

8 He who plans evil will be called a mischief-maker.

9 Folly’s schemes are sin, and the scoffer is an abomination to men.

10 If you faint in the day of adversity your strength is small.

11 Deliver those who are being taken to their death; and from those staggering toward slaughter will you withhold yourself?

12 If you say, “See, we did not know this,” does not the One who weighs hearts perceive it? And He who watches over the soul, does He not know and shall He not repay each man for his deeds?

13 My son, eat honey, for it is good and its drippings are sweet to your taste; 14 know that wisdom is thus to one’s soul; if you have found it, then there will be a future and your hope will not be cut off.

15 Lie not in wait, O wicked man, against the dwelling of the righteous; do no violence to his home; 16 for the righteous may fall seven times and yet arise, but the wicked stumbles head-long in adversity.

17 When your enemy falls, do not rejoice, and when he stumbles, let not your heart be glad; 18 lest the LORD see it and it appear wrong in His eyes, and He turn away His wrath from him.

19 Fret not yourself because of evildoers, neither be envious of the wicked; 20 for there will be no future for the evil man; the lamp of the wicked will burn out.

21 My son, revere the LORD and the king; do not mingle with those who are given to change; 22 for their calamity will arise suddenly and who knows the ruin that will come to them both?

23 To have respect of persons in judgement is not good.

24 People will curse and nations abhor him who says to the wicked, “You are righteous.” 25 But those who rebuke the wicked will find delight, and a good blessing will come upon them.

26 To give the right answer is like a kiss on the lips.

27 Prepare your work outside and get it ready for yourself in the field; afterwards, then, build your house.

28 Be not a witness against your neighbour without cause, for would you deceive with your lips? 29 Say not, “As he did to me, so I will do him: I will repay a man according to his deeds.

30 I passed by the field of a lazy man, by the vineyard of a man who lacked understanding; 31 and, see, it was completely overgrown with thorns; the ground was covered with nettles, and its stone wall was broken down. 32 So I looked and took it to heart; I observed and received instruction. 33 “Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest,” 34 and your poverty will come upon you as a bandit, your want like an unyielding warrior.

PROVERBS CHAPTER 25

THESE are also proverbs of Solomon which the men of Hezekiah, king of Judah copied:

2 It is the glory of God to conceal a matter; it is the glory of a king to search one out. 3 The heavens for height and the earth for depth and there is no searching out the mind of a king. 4 Take away the dross from silver and a vessel will result for the smith. 5 Take away the wicked from before the king and his throne will be established in righteousness.

6 Do not put yourself in the presence of the king and do not stand in the place of great men 7 for it is better to be told, “Come up here.” than that you should be out lower in the prince’s presence, as your eyes have seen.

8 Do not go out hastily to strive, else what will you do in the outcome when your neighbour puts you to shame? 9 Argue your cause with your neighbour, but do not reveal the secret of another; 10 lest the one hearing you put you to shame, and your ill repute never cease.

11 Like apples of gold in settings of silver, so is a word spoke at the right moment.

12 Like a gold ring and an ornament of gold, so is a wise reprover for a listening ear.

13 Like the cold of snow in the day of harvest, so is the faithful messenger to the one who send him; for he refreshes the soul of his master.

14 Like clouds and wind when there is no rain, so is a man bosting if a false gift.

15 When one is slow to anger, a ruler is persuaded, and soft speech will break a bone.

16 Have you found honey? Eat only what you need, lest being filled with it, you vomit it up.

17 Let your foot be rarely in your neighbour's house, lest he become weary of you and hate you.

18 As a scattering club, or a sword, or a sharp arrow, so is a man bearing false witness against his neighbour.

19 Like a broken tooth or a foot out of joint, so is trust in a faithless man in a time of adversity.

20 Like one who takes off a garment on a cold day, or like vinegar upon soda, so is a singer of songs to a heavy heart.

21 If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat; if he is thirsty, give him water to drink;
22 for live coals you will heap upon his head, and the LORD will reward you.

23 The north wind brings forth rain, and a concealed tongue an angry face.

24 It is better to live in the corner of a housetop than share a house with a contentious woman.

25 As cold waters to a weary soul, so is good news from a far country.

26 Like a trampled fountain or a polluted spring, so is the righteous man that gives way before the wicked.

27 To eat much honey is not good, nor for men to seek their own glory.

28 Like a city whose wall is broken down, so is a man whose spirit is without restraint.

PROVERBS CHAPTER 26

AS snow in summer and as rain in harvest, so a place of honour is not fitting for a fool.

2 As a sparrow wanders and a swallow flies about, so an unjustified curse does not alight.

3 A whip for the horse, a bridle for the donkey, and a rod for the back of fools.

4 Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest you, too be like him.

5 Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own eyes.

6 He cuts off his own feet and drinks poison who sends a message by the hand of a fool.

7 As the legs of a lame man hang useless, so is a proverb in the mouth of fools.

8 Like one binding a stone in a sling is he who gives honour to a fool.

9 As a thorn that goes up into the hand of a drunkard, so is a proverb in the mouth of fools.

10 A master performs all things, but he who hires a fool, hires a passer-by.

11 As a dog returns to his vomit, so a fool repeats his folly.

12 Do you see a man wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him.

13 The sluggard says, “There’s a lion in the road! There’s a lion in the streets!” 14 As the door turns on its hinges, so does a sluggard on his bed. 15 The sluggard buries his hand in the dish; it tires him to return it to his mouth. 16 The sluggard is wiser in his own eyes than seven men who return answer with intelligence.

17 Like him who catches a dog by the ears, so is he who, passing by, involves himself in a quarrel not his own.

18 Like a madman who hurls firebrands, arrows and death,

19 so is the man who deceives his neighbour and says, “Was I not joking?”

20 For lack of wood the fire goes out, and where there is no whisperer, contention ceases. 21 As charcoal to hot embers, and wood to fire, so is a contentious man for keeping a strife aflame.

22 The words of a whisperer are like delicious morsels; they go down into the inner parts of the body.

23 Fervent lips and a wicked heart are like an earthen vessel overland with silver dross.

24 He who hates, pretends with his lips, but he harbours deceit within; 25 when he speaks pleasantly, do not trust him, for there are seven abominations in his heart; 26 though his hatred is hidden by deceit, his wickedness will be revealed before the congregation.

27 He who digs a pit will fall into it, and he who rolls a stone will have it come back upon him.

28 A lying tongue hates those it crushes, and a flattering mouth works ruin.

PROVERBS CHAPTER 27

DO not boast about tomorrow for you do not know what a day will bring forth.

2 Let another praise you, and not your own mouth; a stranger, and not your own lips.

3 A stone is heavy and sand is weighty, but the offenses of a fool are heavier than both.

4 Wrath is cruel and anger is overwhelming, but who can stand before jealously?

5 Better a rebuke revealed than love concealed.

6 Faithful are the wounds of a friend; profuse are the kisses of an enemy.

7 He whose appetite is satisfied disdains a honeycomb, but to him who is hungry everything bitter is sweet.

8 Like a bird who wanders from her nest, so is a man who wanders from his place.

9 Oil and perfume make the heart rejoice, as does the pleasantness of a friend's suggestions from the heart.

10 Do not forsake your friend and your father's friend, and go not to your brother's house in the day of your trouble. Better a neighbour who is near than a brother who is far away.

11 My son, be wise, and make my heart rejoice, that I may answer him who reproaches me.

12 A prudent man sees evil and hides himself, but the simple go on and are punished.

13 Take the man's garment who is surety for a stranger, and hold him in pledge who is surety for an alien woman.

14 He who blesses his neighbour with a loud voice, rising early in the morning, will have it reckoned to him as a curse.

15 A constant dripping on a rainy day and a contentious woman are alike; 16 to restrain he is like retraining the wind; the oil of his right hand betrays him.

17 Iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens the face of another.

18 He who watches over the fig tree will eat its fruit, and he who protects his master will be honoured.

19 As in water face answers to face, so the heart of one man answers to another.

20 Sheol and Abaddon are never satisfied, even as a man's eyes are never satisfied.

21 The crucible is for silver, and the furnace for gold, and a man is tested by what he praises.

22 Though you crush the fool in a mortar with a pestle among the crushed grain, yet his foolishness will not leave him.

23 Know thoroughly the condition of your flocks; keep your mind on your herds; 24 for riches are not forever - and is a crown from generation to generation? 25 The grass appears, yes, the tender grass is seen, when the herbage if the mountains has been gathered in.
26 The lambs are for your clothing; the goats furnish money for a field. 27 There will be enough goat's milk for your food, for the food of your household, and a living for your maidens.

PROVERBS CHAPTER 28

THE wicked flee there is no one pursuing, but the righteous are as fearless as a young lion.

2 When a land transgresses, it has many rulers; but when there is a man of discernment and knowledge, stability continues on.

3 A poor man who oppresses the weak is like a cloudburst that leaves no nourishment.

4 Those who forsake the law praise the wicked but those who keep the law contend with them.

5 Evil men do not understand justice, but those who seek the LORD understand all about it.

6 Better is a poor man walking in integrity, than a perverse double-dealer though he be rich.

7 He is a discerning son who keeps the law, but a companion of gluttons puts his father to shame.

8 He who augments his wealth by interest and increase, gathers it for him who is considerate of the poor.

9 He who turns away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer is an abomination.

10 The one who causes the righteous to go astray in an evil way shall fall into his own pit, but the blameless man shall gain a good heritage.

11 Wise in his own eyes is a rich man, but a discerning poor man sees through him.

12 When the righteous rejoice, great is the glory; but when the wicked rise, men hide themselves.

13 He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them, will receive mercy.

14 Blessed is the man who is always reverent; but he who hardens his heart will fall into calamity.

15 Like a roaring lion or a prowling bear is a wicked ruler over a poor people.

16 A prince who lacks understanding is cruelly oppressive, but he who hates covetousness will prolong his days.

17 A man who is guilty of the blood of another, let him flee to the pit; let no one help him.

18 Whoever walks wholeheartedly will be saved, but the perverse in his double-dealing will fall in a moment.

19 He who tills the soil will have plenty of food, but he who follows worthless pursuits will have plenty of poverty.

20 A faithful man will have great blessings, but he who chases wealth shall not escape the penalty.

21 To show partiality is not good; yet for a piece of bread a man will do wrong.

22 He whose eye is evil hastens after wealth, but he does not know that want will come upon him.

23 He who rebukes a man will afterward find more favour than he who flatters with the tongue.

24 Whoever robs his father and his mother, and says, “It is not wrong,” is the companion of who destroys.

25 The greedy man stirs up strife, but he who trusts in the LORD will be enriched.

26 He who trusts in his own heart is a fool, but he who walks in wisdom will escape.

27 He who gives to the poor will not lack, and he who hides his eyes will receive many curses.

28 When the wicked rise, men hide themselves; but when they perish, the righteous increase.

PROVERBS CHAPTER 29

THE man who is often reproved but stiffens his neck will suddenly be broken beyond remedy.

2 When the righteous increase, the people rejoice; but when the wicked rule, the people groan.

3 The man who loves wisdom makes his father rejoice, but he who associates with harlots wastes his substance.

4 By justice the king makes his land secure, but one who must be bribed overthrows it.

5 The man who flatters his neighbour spreads a net upon his steps.

6 In the transgression of an evil man there is a snare, but the righteous man sings and rejoices.

7 The righteous man knows the rights of the weak; the wicked man does not understand such knowledge.

8 Scorners set a city aflame, but wise men turn wrath away.

9 If a wise man argues with a foolish man, he only rages and laughs and there is no quiet.

10 Bloodthirsty men hate the man of integrity, but the upright seek his life.

11 A fool gives full vent to his anger, but the wise man, holding it back, quiets it.

12 If a ruler listens to false suggestions all his officials will be wicked.

13 The poor and the oppressor meet; the LORD gives light to the eyes of both.

14 The king who judges the weak faithfully, his throne shall be established forever.

15 The rod and reproof give wisdom, but an undisciplined child causes his mother shame.

16 When the wicked increase transgression multiplies, but the righteous will observe their fall.

17 Correct your son and he will give you rest, yes, he will give joy to your soul.

18 Where there is no vision the people run wild; but happy is he who keeps the law.

19 By mere words a servant will not be corrected; although he understands, there will be no response.

20 Have you seen a man of hasty words? There is more hope for a fool than for him.

21 He who pampers his servant from a child, afterwards shall have him for a son.

22 A quick-tempered man stirs up strife, and a wrathful man abounds in wrong.

23 A man's pride will bring him low, but the lowly in spirit obtains honour.

24 The partner of a thief hates himself; he heard the curse, but says nothing.

25 The fear of man brings a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD will be lifted up.

26 Many seek the ruler's favour but justice due a man comes from the LORD.

27 An evil man is an abomination to the righteous, but a man of upright ways is an abomination to the wicked.

PROVERBS CHAPTER 30

THE man says to Ithiel, to Ithiel and Ucal:

2 Surely I am too stupid to be a man; I am without human understanding. 3 I have not learned wisdom, that I should possess knowledge of the Holy One. 4 Who has ascended up to heaven and descended? Who has gathered the wind in his fists? Who has wrapped up the waters in his garment? Who has established all the ends of the earth? What is his name, or what is the name of his Son? Surely you know! 5 Every word of God has been proven true; He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him; 6 add not to his words. Lest He reprove you, and you be found a liar.

7 Two things I have asked of Thee; deny them not to me before I die; 8 remove falsehood and lying far from me; grant me neither poverty nor riches; feed me my portion of

nourishment, 9 lest I be full and deny Thee and say, “Who is the LORD?” or lest I be poor, and steal, and violate God’s name.

10 Do not slander a servant to his master, lest he curse you, since you are guilty.

11 There are those who curse their father and do not bless their mother. 12 There are those who are pure in their own eyes and yet are not washed from their own filth. 13 There are those – how their eyes are lifted and their eyelids raised! 14 There are those whose teeth are swords, whose teeth are knives, to devour the poor from off the earth and the needy from among men.

15 The leech has two daughters; Give! Give! There are three things that are never satisfied, 16 four that say not, “Enough:” Sheol, a barren womb, the earth over-thirsty for water, and the fire that never says, “Enough.”

17 The eye that mocks a father and scorns to obey a mother will be picked out by ravens of the valley and eaten by the young vultures.

18 There are three things which are too wonderful for me, yes, four which I do not comprehend: 19 the way of an eagle in the sky, the way of a serpent upon a rock, the way of a ship in the midst of the sea, and the way of a man with a maiden.

20 This is an adulterous woman’s way: she eats and wipes her mouth, and says, I have done no wrong.

21 Under three things the earth trembles, under four that it cannot bear; 22 under a servant when he reigns; and a fool when he is filled with food; 23 under an unloved woman when she gets a husband; and a handmaid who succeeds her mistress.

24 There are four things that are small on the earth, but they are exceedingly wise: 25 The ants are a people not strong, yet they provide their food in the summer; 26 the rabbits are but a feeble folk, yet they make their homes in the rocks; 27 the locusts have no king, yet all of them march in rank; 28 the lizard you can take with your hands, yet it is found in king’s palaces.

29 There are three things that are stately in their tread; yes, four that are stately in their stride:

30 the lion, which is mightiest of the beasts, and turns not away from any; 31 the fighting cock; the he-goat; and the king accompanied by his army. 32 If you have played the fool in exalting yourself or if you have devised evil, put your hand to your mouth; 33 for the churning of milk brings forth butter, and the wringing of the nose brings forth blood; so, the churning of anger brings forth strife.

PROVERBS CHAPTER 31

THE words of king Lemuel the lesson which his mother taught him. 2 What, my son? And what, O son of my womb? What, O son of my vows?

3 Do not give your strength to women, nor your ways to what destroys kings. 4 It is not for kings, Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine, nor for rulers to desire strong drink; 5 lest they drink and forget what is decreed and pervert the rights of all the afflicted. 6 Give strong drink to him who is perishing and wine to the bitter soul; 7 let him drink and forget his poverty and remember his misery no more. 8 Speak up for the dumb, for the cause of those who are left desolate; 9 speak up, judge righteously and defend the rights of the poor and needy.

10 Who can find a wife with strength of character? She is far more precious than jewels. 11 The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will never lack profit. 12 She does him good and not harm all the days of her life; 13 she seeks wool and flax, and works with willing hands; 14 she is like the merchant ships; she brings her food from afar. 15 She rises while it is yet night. And gives food to her household, even a portion to her maidens; she considers a field and buys it; with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard. 17 She girds her loins with strength, and makes her arms strong. 18 She sees that her merchandise is profitable; her lamp does not go out at night; 19 she puts her hand to the distaff; she manipulates the spindle; 20 she opens her palm to the poor and reaches out her hands to the needy. 21 She does not fear the snow for her household, for they are clothed with scarlet; 22 she makes herself coverings, her clothing is fine linen and purple.

23 Known in the gates is her husband, when he sits among the elders of the land. 24 She makes linen garments and sells them, and delivers sashes to the merchants. 25 Strength and dignity clothe her and she laughs at the future. 26 She opens her mouth with wisdom and gentle teaching is on her tongue. 27 She looks well to the ways of her household and eats no bread of idleness. 28 Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband, too, and he praises her: 29 “Many daughters have done nobly, but you transcend them all.” 30 Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing, but a woman who reveres the LORD will be praised. 31 Acknowledge the product of her hands; let works praise her in the gates.

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FOR REFERENCE:

Words highlighted in blue relate to the 'Rapture of Saints;' MATTHEW CHAPTER 24 Page 35…. LUKE CHAPTER 17 Page 98…2 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 3 Page 224

Words highlighted in purple relate to the 144,000 disciples, the Sons of God; ROMANS CHAPTER 9 Page 197…EPHESIANS Beginning Page 239…JAMES Beginning Page 284…1 & 2 PETER Beginning Page 289…REVELATION CHAPTER 7 Page 310…REVELATION CHAPTER 14 Page 316…PSALM 147 Page 439.

Words highlighted in green relate to the Mark of the Beast; REVELATION CHAPTER 13 Page 316…REVELATION CHAPTER 14 Page 317…REVELATION CHAPTER 16 Page 318.

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