

Ezekiel



The prophet and priest Ezekiel lived in Babylonia before and after the fall of Jerusalem in 586 B.C. He received many of his insights from visions and had a gift for dramatically and symbolically communicating them both to the Jewish exiles in Babylonia and to the people still living in Jerusalem. The book concludes with an elaborate vision of the future temple in Jerusalem.

Ezekiel Sees the LORD's Glory

1 ¹⁻³I am Ezekiel—a priest and the son of Buzi.▷ Five years after King Jehoiachin of Judah had been led away as a prisoner to Babylonia, I was living near the Chebar River among those who had been taken there with him. Then on the fifth day of the fourth month of the thirtieth year, the heavens suddenly opened. The LORD placed his hand upon me and showed me some visions.

⁴I saw a windstorm blowing in from the north. Lightning flashed from a huge cloud and lit up the whole sky with a dazzling brightness. The fiery center of the cloud was as shiny as polished metal, ⁵and in that center I saw what looked like four living creatures. They were somewhat like humans, ⁶except that each one had four faces and four wings. ⁷Their legs were straight, but their feet looked like the hoofs of calves and sparkled like bronze. ⁸Under each of their wings, these creatures had a human hand. ⁹The four creatures were standing back to back with the tips of their wings touching. They moved together in every direction, without turning their bodies.

¹⁰Each creature had the face of a human in front, the face of a lion on the right side, the face of a bull on the left, and the face of an eagle in back. ¹¹'Two wings' of each creature were spread out and touched the wings of the creatures on either side.

The other two wings of each creature were folded against its body.

¹²Wherever the four living creatures went, they moved together without turning their bodies, because each creature faced straight ahead. ¹³The creatures were glowing like hot coals, and I saw something like a flaming torch moving back and forth among them. Lightning flashed from the torch every time its flame blazed up. ¹⁴The creatures themselves moved as quickly as sparks jumping from a fire.▷

¹⁵I then noticed that on the ground beside each of the four living creatures was a wheel, ¹⁶shining like chrysolite. Each wheel was exactly the same and had a second wheel that cut through the middle of it,▷ ¹⁷so that they could move in any direction without turning. ¹⁸'The rims of the wheels were large and had eyes all the way around them.' ¹⁹⁻²¹The creatures controlled when and where the wheels moved—the wheels went wherever the four creatures went and stopped whenever they stopped. Even when the creatures flew in the air, the wheels were beside them.

²²⁻²³Above the living creatures, I saw something that was sparkling like ice, and it reminded me of a dome. Each creature had two of its wings stretched out toward the creatures on either side, with the other two wings folded against its body. ²⁴Whenever the creatures flew, their wings roared like an

ocean or a large army or even the voice of God All-Powerful. And whenever the creatures stopped, they folded their wings against their bodies.

²⁵When the creatures stopped flapping their wings, I heard a sound coming from above the dome. ²⁶I then saw what looked like a throne made of sapphire, and sitting on the throne was a figure in the shape of a human. ²⁷From the waist up, it was glowing like metal in a hot furnace, and from the waist down it looked like the flames of a fire. The figure was surrounded by a bright light, ²⁸as colorful as a rainbow that appears after a storm.

I realized I was seeing the brightness of the LORD's glory! So I bowed with my face to the ground, and just then I heard a voice speaking to me.

The LORD Chooses Ezekiel

2 The LORD[>] said, 'Ezekiel, son of man,[>] I want you to stand up and listen.'² After he said this, his Spirit took control of me and lifted me to my feet. Then the LORD said:

³Ezekiel, I am sending you to the people of Israel. They are just like their ancestors who rebelled against me and refused to stop. ⁴They are stubborn and hardheaded. But I, the LORD God, have chosen you to tell them what I say. ⁵Those rebels may not even listen, but at least they will know that a prophet has come to them.

⁶Don't be afraid of them or of anything they say. You may think you're in the middle of a thorn patch or a bunch of scorpions. But be brave ⁷and preach my message to them, whether they choose to listen or not. ⁸Ezekiel, don't rebel against me, as they have done. Instead, listen to everything I tell you.

And now, Ezekiel, open your mouth and eat what I am going to give you.

⁹Just then, I saw a hand stretched out toward me. And in it was a scroll. ¹⁰The hand opened the scroll, and both sides of it were filled with words of sadness, mourning, and grief.

3 The LORD said, 'Ezekiel, son of man, after you eat this scroll, go speak to the people of Israel.'²⁻³ He handed me the scroll and said, 'Eat this and fill up on it.' So I ate the scroll, and it tasted sweet as honey.

⁴The LORD said:

Ezekiel, I am sending you to your own people. ⁵⁻⁶They are Israelites, not some strangers who speak a foreign language you can't understand. If I were to send you to foreign nations, they would

listen to you. ⁷But the people of Israel will refuse to listen, because they have refused to listen to me. All of them are stubborn and hardheaded, ⁸so I will make you as stubborn as they are. ⁹You will be so determined to speak my message that nothing will stop you. I will make you hard like a diamond, and you'll have no reason to be afraid of those arrogant rebels.

¹⁰Listen carefully to everything I say and then think about it. ¹¹Then go to the people who were brought here to Babylonia with you and tell them you have a message from me, the LORD God. Do this, whether they listen to you or not.

¹²The Spirit[>] lifted me up, and 'as the glory of the LORD started to leave,' I heard a loud, thundering noise behind me. ¹³It was the sound made by the creatures' wings as they brushed against each other, and by the rumble of the wheels beside them. ¹⁴Then the Spirit carried me away.

The LORD's power had taken complete control of me, and I was both annoyed and angry.

¹⁵When I was back with the others living at Abib Hill near the Chebar River, I sat among them for seven days, shocked at what had happened to me.

The LORD Appoints Ezekiel To Stand Watch

¹⁶Seven days after I had seen the brightness of the LORD's glory, the LORD said:

¹⁷Ezekiel, son of man, I have appointed you to stand watch for the people of Israel. So listen to what I say, then warn them for me. ¹⁸When I tell wicked people they will die because of their sins, you must warn them to turn from their sinful ways so they won't be punished. If you refuse, you are responsible for their death. ¹⁹However, if you do warn them, and they keep on sinning, they will die because of their sins, and you will be innocent.

²⁰Now suppose faithful people start sinning, and I decide to put stumbling blocks in their paths to make them fall. They deserve to die because of their sins. So if you refuse to warn them, I will forget about the times they were faithful, and I will hold you responsible for their death. ²¹But if you do warn them, and they listen to you and stop sinning, I will let them live. And you will be innocent.

Ezekiel Cannot Talk

²²The LORD took control of me and said, 'Stand up! Go into the valley, and I will talk with you there.'

23 I immediately went to the valley, where I saw the brightness of the LORD's glory, just as I had seen near the Chebar River, and I bowed with my face to the ground. 24 His Spirit took control of me and lifted me to my feet. Then the LORD said:

Go back and lock yourself in your house!

25 You will be tied up to keep you inside, 26 and I will make you unable to talk or to warn those who have rebelled against me. 27 But the time will come, when I will tell you what to say, and you will again be able to speak my message. Some of them will listen; others will be stubborn and refuse to listen.

Ezekiel Acts Out an Attack on Jerusalem

The LORD said:

4 Ezekiel, son of man, find a brick and sketch a picture of Jerusalem on it. 2 Then prepare to attack the brick as if it were a real city. Build a dirt mound and a ramp up to the top and surround the brick with enemy camps. On every side put large wooden poles as though you were going to break down the gate to the city. 3 Set up an iron pan like a wall between you and the brick. All this will be a warning for the people of Israel.

4-5 After that, lie down on your left side and stay there for 390 days as a sign of Israel's punishment—one day for each year of its suffering. 6 Then turn over and lie on your right side 40 more days. That will be a sign of Judah's punishment—one day for each year of its suffering.

7 The brick stands for Jerusalem, so attack it! Stare at it and shout angry warnings. 8 I will tie you up, so you can't leave until your attack has ended.

9 Get a large bowl. Then mix together wheat, barley, beans, lentils, and millet, and make some bread. This is what you will eat for the 390 days you are lying down. 10 Eat only a small loaf of bread each day 11 and drink only two large cups of water. 12 Use dried human waste to start a fire, then bake the bread on the coals where everyone can watch you. 13 When I scatter the people of Israel among the nations, they will also have to eat food that is unclean, just as you must do.

14 I said, "LORD God, please don't make me do that! Never in my life have I eaten food that would make me unacceptable to you. I've never eaten anything that died a natural death or was killed by a wild animal or that you said was unclean."

15 The LORD replied, "Instead of human waste, I will let you bake your bread on a fire made from cow manure. 16 Ezekiel, the people of Jerusalem will starve. They will have so little food and water that they will be afraid and hopeless. 17 Everyone will be shocked at what is happening, and, because of their sins, they will die a slow death."

Jerusalem's Coming Destruction

The LORD said:

5 Ezekiel, son of man, get a sharp sword and use it to cut off your hair and beard. Weigh the hair and divide it into three equal piles. 2 After you attack the brick that stands for Jerusalem, burn one pile of your hair on the brick. Chop up the second pile and let the small pieces of hair fall around the brick. Throw the third pile into the wind, and I will strike it with my own sword.

3 Keep a few of the hairs and wrap them in the hem of your clothes. 4 Then pull out a few of those hairs and throw them in the fire, so they will also burn. This fire will spread, destroying everyone in Israel.

5 I am the LORD God, and I have made Jerusalem the most important place in the world, and all other nations admire it. 6 But the people of Jerusalem rebelled and refuse to obey me. They ignored my laws and have become even more sinful than the nations around them.

7 So tell the people of Jerusalem:

I am the LORD God! You have refused to obey my laws and teachings, and instead you have obeyed the laws of the surrounding nations. You have become more rebellious than any of them! 8 Now all those nations will watch as I turn against you and punish you 9 for your sins. Your punishment will be more horrible than anything I've ever done or will ever do again. 10 Parents will be so desperate for food that they will eat their own children, and children will eat their parents. Those who survive this horror will be scattered in every direction.

11 Your disgusting sins have made my temple unfit as a place to worship me. So I swear by my own life that I will turn my back on you and show you no pity. 12 A third of you will die here in Jerusalem from disease or starvation. Another third will be killed in war. And I will scatter the last third of you in every direction, then track you down and kill you.

13 You will feel my fierce anger until I have finished taking revenge. Then you will know

that I, the LORD, was furious because of your disobedience. ¹⁴ Every passerby will laugh at your destruction. Foreign nations ¹⁵ will insult you and make fun of you, but they will also be shocked and terrified at what I did in my anger. ¹⁶ I will destroy your crops until you starve to death, and disasters will strike you like arrows. ¹⁷ Starvation and wild animals will kill your children. I'll punish you with horrible diseases, and your enemies will strike you down with their swords. I, the LORD, have spoken.

Israel Is Doomed

6 The LORD God said:
² Ezekiel, son of man, face the hills of Israel and tell them:

³ Listen, you mountains and hills, and every valley and gorge! I, the LORD, am about to turn against you and crush all the places where foreign gods are worshiped. ⁴ Every altar will be smashed, and in front of the idols I will put to death the people who worship them. ⁵ Dead bodies and bones will be lying around the idols and the altars. ⁶ Every town in Israel will be destroyed to make sure that each shrine, idol, and altar is smashed—everything the Israelites made will be a pile of ruins. ⁷ All over the country, your people will die. And those who survive will know that I, the LORD, did these things. ⁸ I will let some of the people live through this punishment, but I will scatter them among the nations, ⁹ where they will be prisoners. And when they think of me, they will realize that they disgraced me by rebelling and by worshiping idols. They will hate themselves for the evil things they did, ¹⁰ and they will know that I am the LORD and that my warnings must be taken seriously.

¹¹ The LORD God then said:

Ezekiel, beat your fists together and stomp your feet in despair! Moan in sorrow, because the people of Israel have done disgusting things and now will be killed by enemy troops, or they will die from starvation and disease. ¹² Those who live far away will be struck with deadly diseases. Those who live nearby will be killed in war. And the ones who are left will starve to death. I will let loose my anger on them! ¹³ These people used to offer incense to idols at altars built on hills and mountaintops and in the shade of large oak trees. But when they see dead bodies lying around those altars, they will know that I am the LORD. ¹⁴ I will make their

country a barren wasteland, from the Southern Desert to the town of Diblah in the north. Then they will know that I, the LORD, have done these things.

Disaster Is Near

7 The LORD God said:
² Ezekiel, son of man, tell the people of Israel that I am saying:

Israel will soon come to an end! Your whole country is about to be destroyed ³ as punishment for your disgusting sins. I, the LORD, am so angry ⁴ that I will show no pity. I will punish you for the evil you've done, and you will know that I am the LORD.

⁵ There's never been anything like the coming disaster. ⁶ And when it comes, your life will be over. ⁷ You people of Israel are doomed! Soon there will be panic on the mountaintops instead of celebration. ⁸ I will let loose my anger and punish you for the evil things you've done. You'll get what you deserve. ⁹ Your sins are so terrible, that you'll get no mercy from me. Then you will know that I, the LORD, have punished you.

¹⁰ Disaster is near! Injustice and arrogance are everywhere, ¹¹ and violent criminals run free. None of you will survive the disaster, and everything you own and value will be shattered. ¹² The time is coming when everyone will be ruined. Buying and selling will stop, ¹³ and people who sell property will never get it back, because all of you must be punished for your sins. And I won't change my mind!

¹⁴ A signal has been blown on the trumpet, and weapons are prepared for battle. But no one goes to war, because in my anger I will strike down everyone in Israel.

Israel Is Surrounded

The LORD said to the people of Israel:

¹⁵ War, disease, and starvation are everywhere! People who live in the countryside will be killed in battle, and those who live in towns will die from starvation or deadly diseases. ¹⁶ Anyone who survives will escape into the hills, like doves who leave the valleys to find safety.

All of you will moan[>] because of your sins. ¹⁷ Your hands will tremble, and your knees will go limp. ¹⁸ You will put on sackcloth to show your sorrow, but terror will overpower you. Shame will be

written all over your faces, and you will shave your heads in despair. ¹⁹Your silver and gold will be thrown into the streets like garbage, because those are the two things that led you into sin, and now they cannot save you from my anger. They are not even worth enough to buy food. ²⁰You took great pride in using your beautiful jewelry to make disgusting idols of foreign gods. So I will make your jewelry worthless.

²¹Wicked foreigners will rob and disgrace you. ²²You will break into my temple[>] and leave it unfit as a place to worship me, but I will look away and let it happen.

²³Your whole country is in confusion![>] Murder and violence are everywhere in Israel, ²⁴so I will tell the most wicked nations to come and take over your homes. They will put an end to the pride you have in your strong army, and they will make your places of worship unfit to use. ²⁵You will be terrified and will desperately look for peace—but there will be no peace. ²⁶One tragedy will follow another, and you'll hear only bad news. People will beg prophets to give them a message from me. Priests will stop teaching my Law, and wise leaders won't be able to give advice. ²⁷Even your king and his officials will lose hope and cry in despair. Your hands will tremble with fear.

I will punish you for your sins and treat you the same way you have treated others. Then you will know that I am the LORD.

Ezekiel Sees the Terrible Sins of Jerusalem

8 Six years after King Jehoiachin and the rest of us had been led away as prisoners to Babylonia, the leaders of Judah were meeting with me in my house. On the fifth day of the sixth month, the LORD God suddenly took control of me, ²and I saw something in the shape of a human.[>] This figure was like fire from the waist down, and it was bright as polished metal from the waist up. ³It reached out what seemed to be a hand and grabbed my hair. Then in my vision the LORD's Spirit lifted me into the sky and carried me to Jerusalem.

The Spirit took me to the north gate of the temple's inner courtyard, where there was an idol that disgusted the LORD and made him furious. ⁴Then I saw the brightness of the glory of the God of Israel, just as I had seen it near the Chebar River.

⁵God said to me, "Ezekiel, son of man, look north." And when I did, I saw that disgusting idol by the altar near the gate.

⁶God then said, "Do you see the terrible sins of the people of Israel? Their sins are making my holy temple unfit as a place to worship me. Yet you will see even worse things than this."

⁷Next, I was taken to the entrance of the courtyard, where I saw a hole in the wall.

⁸God said, "Make this hole bigger." And when I did, I realized it was a doorway. ⁹"Go in," God said, "and see what horrible and evil things the people are doing."

¹⁰Inside, I saw that the walls were covered with pictures of reptiles and disgusting, unclean animals, as well as with idols that the Israelites were worshipping. ¹¹Seventy Israelite leaders were standing there, including Jaazaniah son of Shaphan. Each of these leaders was holding an incense burner, and the smell of incense filled the room.

¹²God said, "Ezekiel, do you see what horrible things Israel's leaders are doing in secret? They have filled their rooms with idols. And they say I can't see them, because they think I have already deserted Israel. ¹³But I will show you something even worse than this."

¹⁴He took me to the north gate of the temple, where I saw women mourning for the god Tammuz. ¹⁵God asked me, "Can you believe what these women are doing? But now I want to show you something worse."

¹⁶I was then led into the temple's inner courtyard, where I saw about 25 men standing near the entrance, between the porch and the altar. Their bows were to the LORD's temple, and they were bowing down to the rising sun.

¹⁷God said, "Ezekiel, it's bad enough that the people of Judah are doing these disgusting things. But they have also spread violence and injustice everywhere in Israel and have made me very angry. They have 'disgraced and insulted me in the worst possible way.'¹⁸ So in my fierce anger, I will punish them without mercy and refuse to help them when they cry out to me."

The LORD Gives the Command To Punish Jerusalem

9 After that, I heard the LORD shout, "Come to Jerusalem, you men chosen to destroy the city. And bring your weapons!"

²I saw six men come through the north gate of the temple, each one holding a deadly weapon. A seventh man dressed in a linen robe was with them, and he was carrying things to write with. The men went into the temple and stood by the bronze altar.

3 The brightness of God's glory then left its place above the statues of the winged creatures inside the temple and moved to the entrance. The LORD said to the man in the linen robe, 4 "Walk through the city of Jerusalem and mark the forehead of anyone who is truly upset and sad about the disgusting things that are being done here."

5-6 He turned to the other six men and said, "Follow him and put to death everyone who doesn't have a mark on their forehead. Show no mercy or pity! Kill men and women, parents and children. Begin here at my temple and be sure not to harm those who are marked."

The men immediately killed the leaders who were standing there.

7 Then the LORD said, "Pollute the temple by piling the dead bodies in the courtyards. Now get busy!" They left and started killing the people of Jerusalem.

8 I was then alone, so I bowed down and cried out to the LORD, "Why are you doing this? Are you so angry at the people of Jerusalem that everyone must die?"

9 The LORD answered, "The people of Israel and Judah have done horrible things. Their country is filled with murderers, and Jerusalem itself is filled with violence. They think that I have deserted them, and that I can't see what they are doing. 10 And so I will not have pity on them or forgive them. They will be punished for what they have done."

11 Just then, the man in the linen robe returned and said, "I have done what you commanded."

The LORD's Glory Leaves the Temple

10 I saw the dome that was above the four winged creatures, and on it was the sapphire throne. 2 The LORD said to the man in the linen robe, "Walk among the four wheels beside the creatures and pick up as many hot coals as you can carry. Then scatter them over the city of Jerusalem." I watched him as he followed the LORD's instructions.

3 The winged creatures were standing south of the temple when the man walked among them. A cloud filled the inner courtyard, 4 and the brightness of the LORD's glory moved from above the creatures and stopped at the entrance of the temple. The entire temple was filled with his glory, and the courtyard was dazzling bright. 5 The sound of the creatures' wings was as loud as the voice of God All-Powerful and could even be heard in the outer courtyard.

6 The man in the robe was now standing beside a wheel. 7 One of the four creatures reached its hand into the fire among them and gave him some of the hot coals. The man took the coals and left.

8 I noticed again that each of the four winged creatures had what looked like human hands under their wings, 9 and I saw the four wheels near the creatures. These wheels were shining like chrysolite. 10 Each wheel was exactly the same and had a second wheel that cut through the middle of it, 11 so that they could move in any direction without turning. The wheels moved together whenever the creatures moved. 12 I also noticed that the wheels and the creatures' bodies, including their backs, their hands, and their wings, were covered with eyes. 13 And I heard a voice calling these "the wheels that spin."

14 Each of the winged creatures had four faces: the face of a bull, the face of a human, the face of a lion, and the face of an eagle. 15-17 These were the same creatures I had seen near the Chebar River. They controlled when and where the wheels moved—the wheels went wherever the creatures went and stopped whenever they stopped. Even when the creatures flew in the air, the wheels stayed beside them.

18 Then I watched the brightness of the LORD's glory move from the entrance of the temple and stop above the winged creatures. 19 They spread their wings and flew into the air with the wheels at their side. They stopped at the east gate of the temple, and the LORD's glory was above them.

20 I knew for sure that these were the same creatures I had seen beneath the LORD's glory near the Chebar River. 21-22 They had four wings with hands beneath them, and they had the same four faces as those near the River. Each creature moved straight ahead without turning.

Ezekiel Condemns Jerusalem's Wicked Leaders

11 The LORD's Spirit lifted me up and took me to the east gate of the temple, where I saw 25 men, including the two leaders, Jaazaniah son of Azzur and Pelatiah son of Benaiah. 2 The LORD said, "Ezekiel, son of man, these men are making evil plans and giving dangerous advice to the people of Jerusalem. 3 They say things like, 'Let's build more houses.' This city is like a cooking pot over a fire, and we are the meat, but at least the pot keeps us from being burned in the fire.' 4 So, Ezekiel, condemn them!"

⁵ The LORD's Spirit took control of me and told me to tell these leaders:

I, the LORD God, know what you leaders are saying. ⁶ You have murdered so many people that the city is filled with dead bodies! ⁷ This city is indeed a cooking pot, but the bodies of those you killed are the meat. And so I will force you to leave Jerusalem, ⁸ and I'll send armies to attack you, just as you fear. ⁹ Then you will be captured and punished by foreign enemies. ¹⁰ You will be killed in your own country, but not before you realize that I, the LORD, have done these things.

¹¹ You leaders claim to be meat in a cooking pot, but you won't be protected by this city. No, you will die at the border of Israel. ¹² You will realize that while you were following the laws of nearby nations, you were disobeying my laws and teachings. And I am the LORD!

¹³ Before I finished speaking, Pelatiah dropped dead. I bowed down and cried out, "Please, LORD God, don't kill everyone left in Israel."

A Promise of Hope

¹⁴ The LORD replied:

¹⁵ Ezekiel, son of man, the people living in Jerusalem claim that you and the other Israelites who were taken to Babylonia are too far away to worship me. They also claim that the land of Israel now belongs only to them. ¹⁶ But here is what I want you to tell the Israelites in Babylonia:

It's true that I, the LORD God, have forced you out of your own country and made you live among foreign nations. But for now, I will be with you wherever you are, so that you can worship me. ¹⁷ And someday, I will gather you from the nations where you are scattered and let you live in Israel again. ¹⁸ When that happens, I want you to clear the land of all disgusting idols. ¹⁹ Then I will take away your stubbornness and make you eager to be completely faithful to me. You will want to obey me ²⁰ and all my laws and teachings. You will be my people, and I will be your God. ²¹ But those who worship idols will be punished and get what they deserve. I, the LORD God, have spoken.

The LORD's Glory Leaves Jerusalem

²² After the LORD had finished speaking, the winged creatures spread their wings and flew into the air, and the wheels were beside them. The brightness of the LORD's glory above them ²³ left Jerusalem and stopped at a hill east of the city.

²⁴ Then in my vision, the LORD's Spirit[>] lifted me up and carried me back to the other exiles in Babylonia. The vision faded away, ²⁵ and I told them everything the LORD had shown me.

Ezekiel Acts Out Israel's Captivity

12 The LORD said:

² Ezekiel, son of man, you are living among rebellious people. They have eyes, but refuse to see; they have ears, but refuse to listen.

³ So before it gets dark, here is what I want you to do. Pack a few things as though you were going to be taken away as a prisoner. Then go outside where everyone can see you and walk around from place to place. Maybe as they watch, they will realize what rebels they are.

⁴ After you have done this, return to your house.

Later that evening leave your house as if you were going into exile. ⁵ Dig through the wall of your house and crawl out, carrying the bag with you. Make sure everyone is watching. ⁶ Lift the bag to your shoulders, and with your face covered, take it into the darkness, so that you cannot see the land you are leaving. All of this will be a warning for the people of Israel.

⁷ I did everything the LORD had said. I packed a few things. Then as the sun was going down, and while everyone was watching, I dug a hole through one of the walls of my house. I pulled out my bag, then lifted it to my shoulders and left in the darkness.

⁸ The next morning, the LORD ⁹ reminded me that those rebellious people didn't even ask what I was doing. ¹⁰ So he sent me back to tell them:

The LORD God has a message for the leader of Jerusalem and everyone living there!

¹¹ I have done these things to show them what will happen when they are taken away as prisoners.

¹² The leader of Jerusalem will lift his own bag to his shoulders at sunset and leave through a hole that the others have dug in the wall of his house. He will cover his face, so he can't see the land he is leaving. ¹³ The LORD will spread out a net and trap him as he leaves Jerusalem. He will then be led away to the city of Babylon, but will never see that place, even though he will die there. ¹⁴ His own officials and troops will scatter in every direction, and the LORD will track them down and put them to death.

¹⁵ The LORD will force the rest of the people in Jerusalem to live in foreign nations, where

they will realize that he has done all these things. ¹⁶Some of them will survive the war, the starvation, and the deadly diseases. That way, they will be able to tell foreigners how disgusting their sins were, and that it was the LORD who punished them in this way.

A Sign of Fear

¹⁷The LORD said:

¹⁸Ezekiel, son of man, shake with fear when you eat, and tremble when you drink. ¹⁹Tell the people of Israel that I, the LORD, say that someday everyone in Jerusalem will shake when they eat and tremble when they drink. Their country will be destroyed and left empty, because they have been cruel and violent. ²⁰Every town will lie in ruins, and the land will be a barren desert. Then they will know that I am the LORD.

The Words of the LORD Will Come True

²¹The LORD said:

²²Ezekiel, son of man, you've heard people in Israel use the saying, "Time passes, and prophets are proved wrong."²³ Now tell the people that I, the LORD, am going to prove that saying wrong. No one will ever be able to use it again in Israel, because very soon everything I have said will come true! ²⁴The people will hear no more useless warnings and false messages. ²⁵I will give them my message, and what I say will certainly happen. Warn those rebels that the time has come for them to be punished. I, the LORD, make this promise.

²⁶⁻²⁷Ezekiel, the people of Israel are also saying that your visions and messages are only about things in the future. ²⁸So tell them that my words will soon come true, just as I have warned. I, the LORD, have spoken.

Lying Prophets

¹³The LORD said:

²Ezekiel, son of man, condemn the prophets of Israel who say they speak in my name, but who preach messages that come from their own imagination. Tell them it's time to hear my message.

³I, the LORD God, say those lying prophets are doomed! They don't see visions—they make up their own messages! ⁴Israel's prophets are no better than jackals that hunt for food among the ruins of a city. ⁵They don't warn the people about coming trouble or tell them how dangerous it is to sin against me. ⁶Those prophets lie by claiming

they speak for me, but I have not even chosen them to be my prophets. And they still think their words will come true. ⁷They say they're preaching my messages, but they are full of lies—I did not speak to them!

⁸So I am going to punish those lying prophets for deceiving the people of Israel with false messages. ⁹I will turn against them and no longer let them belong to my people. They will not be allowed to call themselves Israelites or even to set foot in Israel. Then they will realize that I am the LORD God.

¹⁰Those prophets refuse to be honest. They tell my people there will be peace, even though there's no peace to be found. They are like workers who think they can fix a shaky wall by covering it with paint. ¹¹But when I send rainstorms, hailstones, and strong winds, the wall will surely collapse. ¹²People will then ask the workers why the paint didn't hold it up.

¹³That wall is the city of Jerusalem. And I, the LORD God, am so angry that I will send strong winds, rainstorms, and hailstones to destroy it. ¹⁴The lying prophets have tried to cover up the evil in Jerusalem, but I will tear down the city, all the way to its foundations. And when it collapses, those prophets will be killed, and everyone will know that I have done these things.

¹⁵The city of Jerusalem and its lying prophets will feel my fierce anger. Then I will announce that the city has fallen and that the lying prophets are dead, ¹⁶because they promised my people peace, when there was no peace. I, the LORD God, have spoken.

Women Who Wear Magic Charms

The LORD said:

¹⁷Ezekiel, son of man, now condemn the women of Israel who preach messages that come from their own imagination. ¹⁸Tell them they're doomed! "They wear magic charms on their wrists and scarves on their heads, then trick others into believing they can predict the future." They won't get away with telling those lies. ¹⁹They charge my people a few handfuls of barley and a couple pieces of bread, and then give messages that are insulting to me. They use lies to sentence the innocent to death and to help the guilty go free. And my people believe them!

²⁰I hate the magic charms they use to trick people into believing their lies. I will rip those charms from their wrists and set free the people they have

trapped 'like birds.' ²¹ I will tear the scarves from their heads and rescue my people from their power once and for all. Then they will know that I am the LORD God.

²² They do things I would never do. They lie to good people and encourage them to do wrong, and they convince the wicked to keep sinning and ruin their lives. ²³ I will no longer let these women give false messages and use magic, and I will free my people from their control. Then they will know that I, the LORD, have done these things.

Ezekiel Encourages the People To Turn Back to the LORD

14 One day, some of Israel's leaders came to me and asked for a message from the LORD.

² While they were there, the LORD said:

³ Ezekiel, son of man, these men have started worshipping idols, though they know it will cause them to sin even more. So I refuse to give them a message!

⁴ Tell the people of Israel that if they sin by worshipping idols and then go to a prophet to find out what I say, I will give them the answer their sins deserve. ⁵ When they hear my message, maybe they will see that they need to turn back to me and stop worshipping those idols.

⁶ Now, Ezekiel, tell everyone in Israel:

I am the LORD God. Stop worshipping your disgusting idols and come back to me.

⁷ Suppose one of you Israelites or a foreigner living in Israel rejects me and starts worshipping idols. If you then go to a prophet to find out what I say, I will answer ⁸ by turning against you. I will make you a warning to anyone who might think of doing the same thing, and you will no longer belong to my people. Then you will know that I am the LORD and that you have sinned against me.

⁹ If a prophet gives a false message, I am the one who caused that prophet to lie. But I will still reject him and cut him off from my people, ¹⁰ and anyone who goes to that prophet for a message will be punished in the same way. ¹¹ I will do this, so that you will come back to me and stop destroying yourselves with these disgusting sins. So turn back to me! Then I will be your God, and you will be my people. I, the LORD God, make this promise.

Judgment on a Sinful Nation

¹² The LORD God said:

¹³ Ezekiel, son of man, suppose an entire nation sins against me, and I punish it by destroying the crops and letting its people and livestock starve to death. ¹⁴ Even if Noah, Daniel,[>] and Job were living in that nation, their faithfulness would not save anyone but themselves.

¹⁵ Or suppose I punish a nation by sending wild animals to eat people and scare away every passerby, so that the land becomes a barren desert. ¹⁶ As surely as I live, I promise that even if these three men lived in that nation, their own children would not be spared. The three men would live, but the land would be an empty desert.

¹⁷ Or suppose I send an enemy to attack a sinful nation and kill its people and livestock. ¹⁸ If these three men were in that nation when I punished it, not even their children would be spared. Only the three men would live.

¹⁹ And suppose I am so angry that I send a deadly disease to wipe out the people and livestock of a sinful nation. ²⁰ Again, even if Noah, Daniel, and Job were living there, I, the LORD, promise that the children of these faithful men would also die. Only the three of them would be spared.

²¹ I am the LORD God, and I promise to punish Jerusalem severely. I will send war, starvation, wild animals, and deadly disease to slaughter its people and livestock. ²² And those who survive will be taken from their country and led here to Babylonia. Ezekiel, when you see how sinful they are, you will know why I did all these things to Jerusalem. ²³ You will be convinced that I, the LORD God, was right in doing what I did.

Jerusalem Is a Useless Vine

15 Some time later, the LORD said:

² Ezekiel, son of man, what happens to the wood of a grapevine after the grapes have been picked? It isn't like other trees in the forest, ³ because the wood of a grapevine can't be used to make anything, not even a small peg to hang things on. ⁴ It can only be used as firewood. But after its ends are burnt and its middle is charred, it can't be used for anything. ⁵ The wood is useless before it is burned, and afterwards, it is completely worthless.

⁶ I, the LORD God, promise that just as the wood of a grapevine is burned as firewood, ⁷ I will punish the people of Jerusalem with fire. Some of them have escaped one destruction, but soon they will be completely burned. And when that happens, you, Ezekiel, will know that I am the LORD. ⁸ I will make their country an empty wasteland, because

they have not been loyal to me. I, the LORD God, have spoken.

Jerusalem Is Unfaithful

16 The LORD said:
2 Ezekiel, son of man, remind the people of Jerusalem of their disgusting sins ³ and tell them that I, the LORD God, am saying:

Jerusalem, you were born in the country where Canaanites lived. Your father was an Amorite, and your mother was a Hittite. ⁴ When you were born, no one cut you loose from your mother or washed your body. No one rubbed your skin with salt and olive oil, and wrapped you in warm blankets. ⁵ Not one person loved you enough to do any of these things, and no one even felt sorry for you. You were despised, thrown into a field, and forgotten.

⁶ I saw you lying there, rolling around in your own blood, and I couldn't let you die. ⁷ I took care of you, like someone caring for a tender, young plant. You grew up to be a beautiful young woman with perfect breasts and long hair, but you were still naked.

⁸ When I saw you again, you were old enough to have sex. So I covered your naked body with my own robe. Then I solemnly promised that you would belong to me and that I, the LORD God, would take care of you.

⁹ I washed the blood off you and rubbed your skin with olive oil. ¹⁰ I gave you the finest clothes and the 'most expensive robes,' as well as sandals made from the best leather. ¹¹ I gave you bracelets, a necklace, ¹² a ring for your nose, some earrings, and a beautiful crown. ¹³ Your jewelry was gold and silver, and your clothes were made of only the finest material and embroidered linen. Your bread was baked from fine flour, and you ate honey and olive oil. You were as beautiful as a queen, ¹⁴ and everyone on earth knew it. I, the LORD God, had helped you become a lovely young woman.

¹⁵ You learned that you were attractive enough to have any man you wanted, 'so you offered yourself to every passerby.' ¹⁶ You made shrines for yourself and decorated them with some of your clothes. That's where you took your visitors to have sex with them. 'These things should never have happened!' ¹⁷ You made idols out of the gold and silver jewelry I gave you, then you sinned by worshiping those idols. ¹⁸ You dressed them in the clothes you got from me, and you offered them the olive oil and incense I gave you. ¹⁹ I supplied you with fine flour, olive oil, and honey, but you

sacrificed it all as offerings to please those idols. I, the LORD God, watched this happen.

²⁰ But you did something even worse than that—you sacrificed your own children to those idols! ²¹ You slaughtered my children, so you could offer them as sacrifices. ²² You were so busy sinning and being a prostitute that you refused to think about the days when you were young and were rolling around naked in your own blood.

²³ Now I, the LORD God, say you are doomed! Not only did you do these evil things, ²⁴ but you also built places on every street corner ²⁵ where you disgraced yourself by having sex with anyone who walked by. And you did that more and more every day! ²⁶ To make me angry, you even offered yourself to Egyptians, who were always ready to sleep with you.

²⁷ So I punished you by letting those greedy Philistine enemies take over some of your territory. But even they were offended by your disgusting behavior.

²⁸ You couldn't get enough sex, so you chased after Assyrians and slept with them. You still weren't satisfied, ²⁹ so you went after Babylonians. But those merchants could not satisfy you either.

³⁰ I, the LORD God, say that you were so disgusting that you would have done anything to get what you wanted. ³¹ You had sex on every street corner, and when you finished, you refused to accept money. That's worse than being a prostitute! ³² You are nothing but an unfaithful wife who would rather have sex with strangers than with your own husband. ³³ Prostitutes accept money for having sex, but you bribe men from everywhere to have sex with you. ³⁴ You're not like other prostitutes. Men don't ask you for sex—you offer to pay them!

Jerusalem Must Be Punished

The LORD said:

³⁵ Jerusalem, you prostitute, listen to me. ³⁶ You chased after lovers, then took off your clothes and had sex. You even worshiped disgusting idols and sacrificed your own children as offerings to them.

³⁷ So I, the LORD God, will gather every one of your lovers, those you liked and those you hated. They will stand around you, and I will rip off your clothes and let all of those lovers stare at your nakedness.

³⁸ I will find you guilty of being an unfaithful wife and a murderer, and in my fierce anger I will sentence you to death! ³⁹ Then I will hand you over to your lovers, who will tear down the places where

you had sex. They will take your clothes and jewelry, leaving you naked and empty-handed.

⁴⁰Your lovers and an angry mob will stone you to death; they will cut your dead body into pieces ⁴¹and burn down your houses. Other women will watch these terrible things happen to you. I promise to stop you from being a prostitute and paying your lovers for sex.

⁴²Only then will I calm down and stop being angry and jealous. ⁴³You made me furious by doing all these disgusting things and by forgetting how I took care of you when you were young. Then you made things worse by acting like a prostitute. You must be punished! I, the LORD God, have spoken.

Jerusalem's Two Sisters

The LORD said:

⁴⁴People will use this saying about you, Jerusalem: "If the mother is bad, so is her daughter." ⁴⁵You are just like your mother, who hated her husband and her own children. You are also like your sisters, who hated their husbands and children. Your father was an Amorite, and your mother was a Hittite. ⁴⁶Your older sister was Samaria, that city to your north with her nearby villages. Your younger sister was Sodom, that city to your south with her nearby villages. ⁴⁷You followed their way of life and their wicked customs, and soon you were more disgusting than they were.

⁴⁸As surely as I am the living LORD God, the people of Sodom and its nearby villages were never as sinful as you. ⁴⁹They were arrogant and spoiled; they had everything they needed and still refused to help the poor and needy. ⁵⁰They thought they were better than everyone else, and they did things I hate. And so I destroyed them.

⁵¹You people of Jerusalem have sinned twice as much as the people of Samaria. In fact, your evil ways have made both Sodom and Samaria look innocent. ⁵²So their punishment will seem light compared to yours. You will be disgraced and put to shame because of your disgusting sins.

Jerusalem Will Be Ashamed

The LORD said to Jerusalem:

⁵³Someday I will bless Sodom and Samaria and their nearby villages. I will also bless you, Jerusalem. ⁵⁴Then you will be ashamed of how you've acted, and Sodom and Samaria will be relieved that they weren't as sinful as you. ⁵⁵When that day comes, you and Sodom and Samaria will once again be well-off, and all nearby villages will be restored.

⁵⁶Jerusalem, you were so arrogant that you sneered at Sodom. ⁵⁷But now everyone has learned how wicked you really are. The countries of Syria and Philistia, as well as your other neighbors, hate you and make insulting remarks. ⁵⁸You must pay for all the vulgar and disgusting things you have done. I, the LORD, have spoken.

The LORD Makes a Promise to Jerusalem

The LORD said:

⁵⁹Jerusalem, you deserve to be punished, because you broke your promises and ignored our agreement. ⁶⁰But I remember the agreement I made with you when you were young, and so I will make you a promise that will last forever. ⁶¹When you think about how you acted, you will be ashamed, especially when I return your sisters to you as daughters, 'even though this was not part of our agreement.' ⁶²I will keep this solemn promise, and you will know that I am the LORD. ⁶³I will forgive you, but you will think about your sins and be too ashamed to say a word. I, the LORD God, have spoken.

A Story about Two Eagles and a Vine

The LORD said:

17 ¹Ezekiel, son of man, tell the people of Israel the following story, ²so they will understand what I am saying to them:

A large eagle with strong wings and beautiful feathers once flew to Lebanon. It broke the top branch off a cedar tree, ⁴then carried it to a nation of merchants and left it in one of their cities. ⁵The eagle also took seed from Israel and planted it in a fertile field with plenty of water, 'like a willow tree beside a stream.' ⁶The seed sprouted and grew into a grapevine that spread over the ground. It had lots of leaves and strong, deep roots, and its branches grew upward toward the eagle.

⁷There was another eagle with strong wings and thick feathers. The roots and branches of the grapevine soon turned toward this eagle, hoping it would bring water for the soil. ⁸But the vine was already growing in fertile soil, where there was plenty of water to produce healthy leaves and large grapes.

⁹Now tell me, Ezekiel, do you think this grapevine will live? Or will the first eagle pull it up by its roots and pluck off the grapes and let its new leaves die? The eagle could easily kill it without the help of a large and powerful army. ¹⁰The grapevine is

strong and healthy, but as soon as the scorching desert wind blows, it will quickly wither.

The LORD Explains the Story

¹¹ The LORD said:

¹² Ezekiel, ask the rebellious people of Israel if they know what this story means.

Tell them that the king of Babylonia came to Jerusalem, then he captured the king of Judah and his officials, and took them back to Babylon as prisoners. ¹³ He chose someone from the family of Judah's king and signed a treaty with him, then made him swear to be loyal. He also led away other important citizens, ¹⁴ so that the rest of the people of Judah would obey only him and never gain control of their own country again.

¹⁵ But this new king of Judah later rebelled against Babylonia and sent officials to Egypt to get horses and troops. Will this king be successful in breaking the treaty with Babylonia? Or will he be punished for what he's done?

¹⁶ As surely as I am the living LORD God, I swear that the king of Judah will die in Babylon, because he broke the treaty with the king of Babylonia, who appointed him king. ¹⁷ Even the king of Egypt and his powerful army will be useless to Judah when the Babylonians attack and build dirt ramps to invade the cities of Judah and kill its people. ¹⁸ The king of Judah broke his own promises and ignored the treaty with Babylonia. And so he will be punished!

¹⁹ He made a promise in my name and swore to honor the treaty. And now that he has broken that promise, my name is disgraced. He must pay for what he's done. ²⁰ I will spread out a net to trap him. Then I will drag him to Babylon and see that he is punished for his unfaithfulness to me. ²¹ His best troops will be killed in battle, and the survivors will be scattered in every direction. I, the LORD, have spoken.

*²² Someday, I, the LORD,
will cut a tender twig
from the top of a cedar tree,
then plant it on the peak
of Israel's tallest mountain,
where it will grow
strong branches
and produce large fruit.

²³ All kinds of birds will find
shelter under the tree,
and they will rest in the shade
of its branches.

²⁴ Every tree in the forest
will know that I, the LORD,
can bring down tall trees
and help short ones grow.
I dry up green trees
and make dry ones green.
I, the LORD, have spoken,
and I will keep my word.

Those Who Sin Will Die

18 The LORD said:
² Ezekiel, I hear the people of Israel using
the old saying,

"Sour grapes eaten by parents
leave a sour taste in the mouths
of their children."

³ Now tell them that I am the LORD God, and as surely as I live, that saying will no longer be used in Israel. ⁴ The lives of all people belong to me—parents as well as children. Only those who sin will be put to death.

⁵ Suppose there is a truly good man who always does what is fair and right. ⁶ He refuses to eat meat sacrificed to foreign gods at local shrines or to worship Israel's idols. He doesn't have sex with someone else's wife or with a woman having her monthly period. ⁷ He never cheats or robs anyone and always returns anything taken as security for a loan; he gives food and clothes to the poor ⁸ and doesn't charge interest when lending money. He refuses to do anything evil; he is fair to everyone ⁹ and faithfully obeys my laws and teachings. This man is good, and I promise he will live.

¹⁰ But suppose this good man has an evil son who is violent and commits sins ¹¹ his father never did. He eats meat at local shrines, has sex with someone else's wife, ¹² cheats the poor, and robs people. He keeps what is given to him as security for a loan. He worships idols, does disgusting things, ¹³ and charges high interest when lending money. An evil man like that will certainly not live. He is the one who has done these horrible sins, so it's his own fault that he will be put to death.

¹⁴ But suppose this evil man has a son who sees his father do these things and refuses to act like him. ¹⁵ He doesn't eat meat at local shrines or worship Israel's idols, and he doesn't have sex with someone else's wife. ¹⁶ He never cheats or robs anyone and doesn't even demand security for a loan. He gives food and clothes to the poor ¹⁷ and

refuses to do anything evil¹⁷ or to charge interest. And he obeys all my laws and teachings. Such a man will live. His own father sinned, but this good man will not be put to death for the sins of his father. ¹⁸It is his father who will die for cheating and robbing and doing evil.

¹⁹You may wonder why a son isn't punished for the sins of his father. It is because the son does what is right and obeys my laws. ²⁰Only those who sin will be put to death. Children won't suffer for the sins of their parents, and parents won't suffer for the sins of their children. Good people will be rewarded for what they do, and evil people will be punished for what they do.

²¹Suppose wicked people stop sinning and start obeying my laws and doing right. They won't be put to death. ²²All their sins will be forgiven, and they will live because they did right. ²³I, the LORD God, don't like to see wicked people die. I enjoy seeing them turn from their sins and live.

²⁴But when good people start sinning and doing disgusting things, will they live? No! All their good deeds will be forgotten, and they will be put to death because of their sins.

²⁵You people of Israel accuse me of being unfair! But listen—I'm not unfair; you are! ²⁶If good people start doing evil, they must be put to death, because they have sinned. ²⁷And if wicked people start doing right, they will save themselves from punishment. ²⁸They will think about what they've done and stop sinning, and so they won't be put to death. ²⁹But you still say that I am unfair. You are the ones who have done wrong and are unfair!

³⁰I will judge each of you for what you've done. So stop sinning, or else you will certainly be punished. ³¹Give up your evil ways and start thinking pure thoughts. And be faithful to me! Do you really want to be put to death for your sins? ³²I, the LORD God, don't want to see that happen to anyone. So stop sinning and live!

A Funeral Song for Israel's Leaders

The LORD said:

19 Ezekiel, sing a funeral song for two of Israel's leaders:

²Your mother was a brave lioness who raised her cubs among lions.

³She taught one of them to hunt, and he learned to eat people.

⁴When the nations heard of him, they trapped him in a pit, then they used hooks to drag him to Egypt.

⁵His mother waited for him to return. But soon she lost all hope and raised another cub, who also became fierce.

⁶He hunted with other lions and learned to eat people.

⁷'He destroyed fortresses' and ruined towns; his mighty roar terrified everyone.

⁸Nations plotted to kill him, and people came from all over to spread out a net and catch him in a trap.

⁹They put him in a cage and took him to Babylonia. The lion was locked away, so that his mighty roar would never again be heard on Israel's hills.

¹⁰'Your mother was a vine' growing near a stream. There was plenty of water, so she was filled with branches and with lots of fruit.

¹¹Her strong branches became symbols of authority, and she was taller than all other trees—everyone could see how strong and healthy she was.

¹²But in anger, I pulled her up by the roots and threw her to the ground, where the scorching desert wind dried out her fruit.

Her strong branches wilted and burned up.

¹³Then she was planted in a hot, dry desert,

¹⁴where her stem caught fire, and flames burned her branches and fruit.

Not one strong branch is left; she is stripped bare.

This funeral song must be sung with sorrow.

Israel Keeps On Rebelling

20 Seven years after King Jehoiachin and the rest of us had been led away as prisoners to Babylonia, some of Israel's leaders came to me on the tenth day of the fifth month. They sat down and asked for a message from the LORD. ²Just then, the LORD God said:

³Ezekiel, son of man, these leaders have come to find out what I want them to do. As surely as I live, I will not give them an answer of any kind.

⁴Are you willing to warn them, Ezekiel? Then remind them of the disgusting sins of their ancestors.

⁵Tell them that long ago I, the LORD God, chose Israel to be my own. I appeared to their ancestors in Egypt and made a solemn promise that I would be their God and the God of their descendants. ⁶I swore that I would rescue them from Egypt and lead them to a land I had already chosen. This land was rich with milk and honey and was the most splendid land of all. ⁷I told them to get rid of their disgusting idols and not to sin by worshiping the gods of Egypt. I reminded them that I was the LORD their God, ⁸but they still rebelled against me. They refused to listen and kept on worshiping their idols and foreign gods.

In my anger, I decided to punish the Israelites in Egypt. ⁹But that would have made me look like a liar, because I had already promised in front of everyone that I would lead them out of Egypt. ¹⁰So I brought them out and led them into the desert. ¹¹I gave them my laws and teachings, so they would know how to live right. ¹²And I commanded them to respect the Sabbath as a way of showing that they were holy and belonged to me. ¹³But the Israelites rebelled against me in the desert. They refused to obey my laws and teachings, and they treated the Sabbath like any other day.

Then in my anger, I decided to destroy the Israelites in the desert once and for all. ¹⁴But that would have disgraced me, because many other nations had seen me bring the Israelites out of Egypt. ¹⁵Instead, I told them in the desert that I would not lead them into the beautiful, fertile land I had promised. ¹⁶I said this because they had not only ignored my laws and teachings, but had disgraced my Sabbath and worshiped idols.

¹⁷Yet, I felt sorry for them and could not let them die in the desert. ¹⁸So I warned the children not to act like their parents or follow their evil ways or worship their idols. ¹⁹I reminded them that I was the LORD their God and that they should obey my laws and teachings. ²⁰I told them to respect my

Sabbath to show that they were my people and that I was the LORD their God. ²¹But the children also rebelled against me. They refused to obey my laws and teachings, and they treated the Sabbath as any other day.

I became angry and decided to punish them in the desert. ²²But I did not. That would have disgraced me in front of the nations that had seen me bring the Israelites out of Egypt. ²³So I solemnly swore that I would scatter the people of Israel across the nations, ²⁴because they had disobeyed my laws and ignored my teachings; they had disgraced my Sabbath and worshiped the idols their ancestors had made. ²⁵I gave them laws that bring punishment instead of life, ²⁶and I let them offer me unacceptable sacrifices, including their first-born sons. I did this to horrify them and to let them know that I, the LORD, was punishing them.

²⁷Ezekiel, tell the people of Israel that their ancestors also rejected and insulted me ²⁸by offering sacrifices, incense, and wine to gods on every hill and under every large tree. I was very angry, because they did these things in the land I had given them! ²⁹I asked them where they went to worship those gods, and they answered, "At the local shrines." And those places of worship are still called shrines.

³⁰Then ask the Israelites why they are following the example of their wicked ancestors ³¹by worshiping idols and by sacrificing their own children as offerings. They commit these sins and still think they can ask me for a message. As surely as I am the living LORD God, I will give them no answer. ³²They may think they can be like other nations and get away with worshiping idols made of wood and stone. But that will never happen!

The LORD Promises To Restore Israel

The LORD said to the people of Israel:

³³As surely as I am the living LORD God, I will rule over you with my powerful arm. You will feel my fierce anger ³⁴and my power, when I gather you from the places where you are scattered ³⁵and lead you into a desert surrounded by nations. I will meet you there face to face. Then I will pass judgment on you ³⁶and punish you, just as I punished your ancestors in the desert near Egypt. ³⁷I will force each of you to obey the regulations of our solemn agreement. ³⁸I will separate the sinful rebels from the rest of you, and even though I will bring them from the nations where they live in exile, they

won't be allowed to return to Israel. Then you will know that I am the LORD.

³⁹ Go ahead and worship your idols for now, you Israelites, because soon I will no longer let you dishonor me by offering gifts to them. You will have no choice but to obey me!⁴⁰ When that day comes, everyone in Israel will worship me on Mount Zion, my holy mountain in Jerusalem. I will once again call you my own, and I will accept your sacred offerings and sacrifices.⁴¹ When I bring you home from the places where you are now scattered, I will be pleased with you, just as I am pleased with the smell of the smoke from your sacrifices. Every nation on earth will see that I am holy,⁴² and you will know that I, the LORD, am the one who brought you back to Israel, the land I promised your ancestors.⁴³ Then you will remember your wicked sins, and you will hate yourselves for doing such horrible things. They have made you unacceptable to me,⁴⁴ so you deserve to be punished. But I will treat you in a way that will bring honor to my name, and you will know that I am the LORD God.

Fire from the South

⁴⁵ The LORD said, ⁴⁶ Ezekiel, son of man, turn toward the south and warn the forests ⁴⁷ that I, the LORD God, will start a fire that will burn up every tree, whether green or dry. Nothing will be able to put out the blaze of that fire as it spreads to the north and burns everything in its path. ⁴⁸ Everyone will know that I started it, and that it cannot be stopped."

⁴⁹ But I complained, "LORD God, I don't want to do that! People already say I confuse them with my messages."

The LORD Will Punish Jerusalem

21 The LORD said:
² Ezekiel, son of man, condemn the places in Jerusalem where people worship. Warn everyone in Israel ³ that I am about to punish them. I will pull out my sword and have it ready to kill everyone, whether good or evil. ⁴ From south to north, people will die, ⁵ knowing that my sword will never be put away.

⁶ Ezekiel, groan in sorrow and despair so that everyone can hear you. ⁷ When they ask why you are groaning, tell them you have terrifying news that will make them faint and tremble in fear and lose all courage. These things will happen soon. I, the LORD God, make this promise!

A Sword Is Ready To Attack Israel

⁸ The LORD said:

⁹⁻¹⁰ Ezekiel, son of man, tell the people of Jerusalem:

I have sharpened my sword
to slaughter you;
it is shiny and will flash
like lightning!
'Don't celebrate—
punishment is coming,
because everyone has ignored
my warnings.'

¹¹ My sword has been polished;
it's sharp and ready to kill.

¹² Groan in sorrow, Ezekiel;
the sword is drawn against
my people and their leaders.
They will die!

So give up all hope.

¹³ 'I am testing my people,
and they can do nothing
to stop me.'
I, the LORD, have spoken.

¹⁴ Ezekiel, warn my people,
then celebrate my victory
by clapping your hands.
My vicious sword will attack
again and again,
killing my people
with every stroke.

¹⁵ They will lose all courage
and stumble with fear.

'My slaughtering sword
is waiting at every gate,
flashing and ready to kill.'

¹⁶ It will slash right and left,
wherever the blade is pointed.

¹⁷ Then I will stop being angry,
and I will clap my hands
in victory.
I, the LORD, have spoken.

The King of Babylonia and His Sword

¹⁸ The LORD said:

¹⁹ Ezekiel, son of man, mark two roads for the king of Babylonia to follow when he comes with his sword. The roads will begin at the same place, but be sure to put up a signpost where the two roads separate and go in different directions.
²⁰ Clearly mark where the two roads lead. One

goes to Rabbah, the capital of Ammon, and the other goes to Jerusalem, the fortified capital of Judah. ²¹When the Babylonian king stands at that signpost, he will decide which way to go by shaking his arrows, by asking his idols, and by carefully looking at the liver of a sacrificed animal. ²²His right hand will pull out the arrow marked "Jerusalem." Then he will immediately give the signal to shout the battle cry, to build dirt ramps to the top of the city walls, to break down its walls and gates with large wooden poles, and to kill the people. ²³Everyone in Jerusalem had promised to be loyal to Babylonia, and so none of them will believe that this could happen to them. But Babylonia's king will remind them of their sinful ways and warn them of their coming captivity.

²⁴Ezekiel, tell the people of Jerusalem and their ruler that I, the LORD God, am saying:

Everything you do is wicked and shows how sinful you are. You are guilty and will be taken away as prisoners.

²⁵And now, you evil and wicked ruler of Israel, your day of final punishment is almost here. ²⁶I, the LORD God, command you to take off your royal turban and your crown, because everything will be different. Those who had no power will be put in charge, and those who now rule will become nobodies. ²⁷I will leave Jerusalem in ruins when my chosen one comes to punish this city.

Judgment against Ammon

²⁸The LORD God said:

Ezekiel, son of man, the Ammonites have insulted Israel, so condemn them and tell them I am saying:

A sword is drawn,
ready to slaughter;
it is polished and prepared
to kill as fast as lightning.

²⁹You wicked Ammonites see false visions and believe untrue messages. But your day of punishment is coming soon, and my sword will slaughter you!

³⁰Your days to punish others are over, so put your swords away. ¹You will be punished in the land of your birth. ³¹My furious anger will scorch you like fire, and I will hand you over to cruel men who are experts in killing. ³²You will be burned and will die in your own land. Then you will be forgotten forever. I, the LORD, have spoken.

Jerusalem Is Condemned

²² Some time later, the LORD said:

²Ezekiel, son of man, are you ready to condemn Jerusalem? That city is filled with murderers, so remind the people of their sins ³and tell them I am saying:

Jerusalem, you have murdered many of your own people and have worshiped idols. You will soon be punished! ⁴Those crimes have made you guilty, and the idols have made you unacceptable to me. So your final punishment is near. Other nations will laugh at you and make insulting remarks, ⁵and people far and near will make fun of your misery.

⁶Your own leaders use their power to murder. ⁷None of you honor your parents, and you cheat foreigners, orphans, and widows. ⁸You show no respect for my sacred places and treat the Sabbath just like any other day. ⁹Some of your own people tell lies, so that others will be put to death. Some of you eat meat sacrificed to idols at local shrines, and others never stop doing vulgar things. ¹⁰Men have sex with their father's wife or with women who are having their monthly period ¹¹or with someone else's wife. Some men even sleep with their own daughter-in-law or half sister. ¹²Others of you accept money to murder someone. Your own people charge high interest when making a loan to other Israelites, and they get rich by cheating. Worst of all, you have forgotten me, the LORD God.

¹³I will shake my fist in anger at your violent crimes. ¹⁴When I'm finished with you, your courage will disappear, and you will be so weak that you won't be able to lift your hands. I, the LORD, have spoken and will not change my mind. ¹⁵I will scatter you throughout every nation on earth and put a stop to your sinful ways. ¹⁶You will be humiliated in the eyes of other nations. Then you will know that I, the LORD God, have done these things.

Jerusalem Must Be Purified

¹⁷The LORD said:

¹⁸Ezekiel, son of man, I consider the people of Israel as worthless as the leftover metal in a furnace after silver has been purified. ¹⁹So I am going to bring them together in Jerusalem. ²⁰⁻²¹I will be like a metalworker who collects that metal from the furnace and melts it down. I will collect the Israelites and blow on them with my fiery anger. They will melt inside the city of Jerusalem ²²like silver in a furnace. Then they will know that I, the LORD, have punished them in my anger.

Everyone in Jerusalem Is Guilty

²³ The LORD said:

²⁴ Ezekiel, son of man, tell the people of Israel that their country is full of sin, and that I, the LORD, am furious! ²⁵ Their leaders are like roaring lions, tearing apart their victims. They put people to death, then steal everything of value. Husbands are killed, and many women are left as widows.

²⁶ The priests of Israel ignore my Law! Not only do they refuse to respect any of my sacred things, but they don't even teach the difference between what is sacred and what is ordinary, or between what is clean and what is unclean. They treat my Sabbath like any other day, and so my own people no longer honor me.

²⁷ Israel's officials are like ferocious wolves, ripping their victims apart. They make a dishonest living by injuring and killing people.

²⁸ And then the prophets in Israel cover up these sins by giving false visions. I have never spoken to them, but they lie and say they have a message from me. ²⁹ The people themselves cheat and rob; they abuse the poor and take advantage of foreigners.

³⁰ I looked for someone to defend the city and to protect it from my anger, as well as to stop me from destroying it. But I found no one. ³¹ So in my fierce anger, I will punish the Israelites for what they have done, and they will know that I am furious. I, the LORD, have spoken.

Two Sinful Sisters

23 The LORD said:

² Ezekiel, son of man, listen to this story about two sisters. ³ While they were young and living in Egypt, they became prostitutes. ⁴ The older one was named Oholah, which stands for Samaria; the younger one was Oholibah, which stands for Jerusalem. They became my wives and gave birth to my children.

⁵ Even though Oholah was my wife, she continued to be a prostitute and chased after Assyrian lovers. ⁶ She offered herself to soldiers in purple uniforms, to every handsome, high-ranking officer, and to cavalry troops. ⁷ She had sex with all the important Assyrian officials and even worshiped their disgusting idols. ⁸ Once she started doing these things in Egypt, she never stopped. Men slept with her, and she was always ready for sex.

⁹ So I gave Oholah to the Assyrian lovers she wanted so badly. ¹⁰ They ripped off her clothes, then captured her children and killed her. Women

everywhere talked about what had happened to Oholah.

¹¹ Oholibah saw all this, but she was more sinful and wanted sex more than her sister Oholah ever did. ¹² Oholibah also chased after good-looking Assyrian officers, uniformed soldiers, and cavalry troops. ¹³ Just like her sister, she did vulgar things.

¹⁴ But Oholibah behaved worse than her sister. Oholibah saw images of Babylonian men carved into walls and painted red. ¹⁵ They had belts around their waists and large turbans on their heads, and they reminded her of Babylonian cavalry officers. ¹⁶ As soon as she looked at them, she wanted to have sex with them. And so, she sent messengers to bring them to her. ¹⁷ Men from Babylonia came and had sex with her so many times that she got disgusted with them. ¹⁸ She let everyone see her naked body and didn't care if they knew she was a prostitute. That's why I turned my back on her, just as I had done with her older sister.

¹⁹ Oholibah didn't stop there, but became even more immoral and acted as she had back in Egypt. ²⁰ She eagerly wanted to go to bed with Egyptian men, who were famous for their sexual powers. ²¹ And she longed for the days when she was a young prostitute, when men enjoyed having sex with her.

The LORD Will Punish Oholibah

²² The LORD God said:

Oholibah, though you no longer want to be around your lovers, they will surround you like enemies, when I turn them against you. ²³ I will gather all the handsome young officials and the high-ranking cavalry officers from Babylonia and Assyria, as well as from the Chaldean tribes of Pekod, Shoa, and Koa. ²⁴ Their large armies will come from the north with chariots and wagons carrying weapons. They will wear shields and helmets and will surround you, and I will let them judge and sentence you according to their own laws. ²⁵ I am angry with you, so I will let them be very cruel. They will cut off your nose and ears; they will kill your children and put to death anyone in your family who is still alive. ²⁶ Your clothes and jewelry will be torn off. ²⁷ I will stop your wickedness and the prostitution you started back in Egypt. You will never want to think about those days again.

²⁸ I, the LORD God, am ready to hand you over to those hateful enemies that you find so disgusting. ²⁹ They will cruelly take away everything you

have worked for and strip you naked. Then everyone will see you for the prostitute you really are. Your own vulgar sins ³⁰ have led to this. You were the one determined to have sex with men from other nations and to worship their idols. ³¹ You have turned out no better than your older sister, and now you must drink from the cup filled with my anger.

³² I, the LORD God, gave your sister a large, deep cup filled with my anger. And when you drink from that cup, you will be mocked and insulted. ³³ You will end up drunk and devastated, because that cup is filled with horror and ruin. ³⁴ But you must drink every drop! Then smash the cup to pieces and use them to cut your breasts in sorrow. I, the LORD God, have spoken.

³⁵ You have completely rejected me, and so I promise that you will be punished for the disgusting things you did as a prostitute.

The Two Sisters Are Condemned

³⁶ The LORD said:

Ezekiel, son of man, it's time for you to tell Oholah and Oholibah that they are guilty. Remind them of their evil ways! ³⁷ They have been unfaithful by worshiping idols, and they have committed murder by sacrificing my own children as offerings to idols. ³⁸⁻³⁹ They came into my temple that same day, and that made it unfit as a place to worship me. They have even stopped respecting the Sabbath.

⁴⁰ They sent messengers to attract men from far away. When those men arrived, the two sisters took baths and put on eye shadow and jewelry. ⁴¹ They sat on a fancy couch, and in front of them was a table for the olive oil and incense that had belonged to me. ⁴² Their room was always filled with a noisy crowd of drunkards brought in from the desert. These men gave the women bracelets and beautiful crowns, ⁴³ and I noticed that the men were eager to have sex with these women, though they were exhausted from being prostitutes. ⁴⁴ In fact, the men had sex over and over with Oholah and Oholibah, the two sinful sisters. ⁴⁵ But good men will someday accuse those two of murder and of being unfaithful, because they are certainly guilty.

⁴⁶ So I, the LORD God, now say to these sisters:

I will call together an angry mob that will abuse and rob you. ⁴⁷ They will stone you to death and cut you to pieces; they will kill your children and burn down your houses. ⁴⁸ I will get rid of sinful prostitution in this country, so

that women everywhere will be warned not to act as you have. ⁴⁹ You will be punished for becoming prostitutes and for worshiping idols, and you will know that I am the LORD God.

A Cooking Pot

24 Nine years after King Jehoiachin and the rest of us had been led away as prisoners to Babylonia, the LORD spoke to me on the tenth day of the tenth month. He said:

² Ezekiel, son of man, write down today's date, because the king of Babylonia has just begun attacking the city of Jerusalem. ³ Then tell my rebellious people:

'Pour water in a cooking pot and set it over a fire.

*⁴ Throw in the legs and shoulders of your finest sheep and put in the juicy bones.

⁵ Pile wood [>] underneath the pot, and let the meat and bones boil until they are done."

⁶ These words mean that Jerusalem is doomed! The city is filled with murderers and is like an old, rusty pot. The meat is taken out piece by piece, 'and no one cares what happens to it.' ⁷ The people of Jerusalem murdered innocent people in the city and didn't even try to cover up the blood that flowed out on the hard ground. ⁸ But I have seen that blood, and it cries out for me to take revenge.

⁹ I, the LORD God, will punish that city of violence! I will make a huge pile of firewood, ¹⁰ so bring more wood and light it. Cook the meat and boil away the broth [>] to let the bones scorch. ¹¹ Then set the empty pot over the hot coals until it is red-hot. That will clean the pot and burn off the rust. ¹² 'I've tried everything else. Now the rust must be burned away.'

¹³ Jerusalem is so full of sin and evil that I can't get it clean, even though I have tried. It will stay filthy until I let loose my fierce anger against it. ¹⁴ That time will certainly come! And when it does, I won't show the people of Jerusalem any pity or change my mind. They must be punished for the evil they have done. I, the LORD God, have spoken.

Ezekiel's Wife Dies

¹⁵ The LORD said, ¹⁶ 'Ezekiel, son of man, I will suddenly take the life of the person you love most. But I don't want you to complain or cry. ¹⁷ Mourn in silence and don't show that you are grieving. Don't

remove your turban or take off your sandals; don't cover your face to show your sorrow, or eat the food that mourners eat."

¹⁸ One morning, I was talking with the people as usual, and by sunset my wife was dead. The next day I did what the LORD told me, ¹⁹ and when people saw me, they asked, "Why aren't you mourning for your wife?"

²⁰ I answered:

The LORD God says ²¹ he is ready to destroy the temple in which you take such pride and which makes you feel so safe. Your children who now live in Jerusalem will be killed. ²² Then you will do the same things I have done. You will leave your face uncovered and refuse to eat the food that mourners usually eat. ²³ You won't take off your turbans and your sandals. You won't cry or mourn, but all day long you will go around groaning because of your sins.

²⁴ I am a warning sign—everything I have done, you will also do. And then you will know the LORD God has made these things happen.

²⁵ The LORD said, "Ezekiel, I will soon destroy the temple that makes everyone feel proud and safe, and I will take away their children as well. ²⁶ On that same day, someone will escape from the city and come to tell you what has happened. ²⁷ Then you will be able to speak again, and the two of you will talk. You will be a warning sign to the people, and they will know that I am the LORD."

Judgment on Ammon

25 The LORD God said:

² Ezekiel, son of man, condemn the people of Ammon ³ and tell them:

You celebrated when my temple was destroyed, when Israel was defeated, and when my people were taken away as prisoners. ⁴ Now I am going to let you be conquered by tribes from the eastern desert. They will set up their camps in your land and eat your fruit and drink your milk. ⁵ Your capital city of Rabbah will be nothing but pastureland for camels, and the rest of the country will be pastures for sheep. Then you will know that I am the LORD God.

⁶ You hated Israel so much that you clapped and shouted and celebrated. ⁷ And so I will hand you over to enemies who will rob you. I will completely destroy you. There won't be enough of your people left to be a nation ever again, and you will know that I, the LORD, have done these things.

Judgment on Moab

⁸ The LORD God said, "The people of Moab[>] thought Judah was no different from any other nation. ⁹ So I will let Moab's fortress towns along its border be attacked, including Beth-Jeshimoth, Baal-Meon, and Kiriathaim. ¹⁰ The same eastern desert tribes that invade Ammon will invade Moab, and just as Ammon will be forgotten forever, ¹¹ Moab will be punished. Then the people there will know that I am the LORD."

Judgment on Edom

¹² The LORD God then said, "The people of Edom are guilty of taking revenge on Judah. ¹³ So I will punish Edom by killing all its people and livestock. It will be an empty wasteland all the way from Teman to Dedan. ¹⁴ I will send my own people to take revenge on the Edomites by making them feel my fierce anger. And when I punish them, they will know that I am the LORD God."

Judgment on Philistia

¹⁵ The LORD God said, "The cruel Philistines have taken revenge on their enemies over and over and have tried to destroy them. ¹⁶ Now it's my turn to treat the Philistines as my enemies and to kill everyone[>] living in their towns along the seacoast. ¹⁷ In my fierce anger, I will take revenge on them. And when I punish them, they will know that I am the LORD."

Judgment on the City of Tyre

26 Eleven years after King Jehoiachin and the rest of us had been led away as prisoners to Babylonia, the LORD spoke to me on the first day of the month. He said:

² Ezekiel, son of man, the people of the city of Tyre have celebrated Jerusalem's defeat by singing,

"Jerusalem has fallen!

It used to be powerful,

a center of trade.

Now the city is shattered,

and we will take its place."

³ Because the people of Tyre have sung that song, I have the following warning for them: I am the LORD God, and I am now your enemy! I will send nations to attack you, like waves crashing against the shore. ⁴ They will tear down your city walls and defense towers. I will sweep away the ruins until all that's left of you is a bare rock, ⁵ where fishermen can dry their nets along the coast. I

promise that you will be robbed ⁶ and that the people who live in your towns along the coast will be killed. Then you will know that I am the LORD.

⁷ King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylonia is the world's most powerful king, and I will send him to attack you. He will march from the north with a powerful army, including horses and chariots and cavalry troops. ⁸ First, he will attack your towns along the coast and kill the people who live there. Then he will build dirt ramps up to the top of your city walls and set up rows of shields around you. ⁹ He will command some of his troops to use large wooden poles to beat down your walls, while others use iron rods to knock down your watchtowers. ¹⁰ He will have so many horses that the dust they stir up will seem like a thick fog. And as his chariots and cavalry approach, even the walls will shake, especially when he proudly enters your ruined city. ¹¹ His troops will ride through your streets, killing people left and right, and your strong columns will crumble to the ground. ¹² The troops will steal your valuable possessions; they will break down your walls, and crush your expensive houses. Then the stones and wood and all the remains will be dumped into the sea. ¹³ You will have no reason to sing or play music on harps, ¹⁴ because I will turn you into a bare rock where fishermen can dry their nets. And you will never rebuild your city. I, the LORD God, make this promise.

¹⁵ The people of the nations up and down the coast will shudder when they hear your screams and moans of death. ¹⁶ The kings will step down from their thrones, then take off their royal robes and fancy clothes, and sit on the ground, trembling. They will be so shocked at the news of your defeat that they will shake in fear ¹⁷ and sing this funeral song:

"The great city beside the sea
is destroyed!
Its people once ruled the coast
and terrified everyone there.

¹⁸ But now Tyre is in ruins,
and the people on the coast
stare at it in horror
and tremble in fear."

¹⁹ I, the LORD God, will turn you into a ghost-town. The ocean depths will rise over you ²⁰ and carry you down to the world of the dead, where you will join people of ancient times and towns ruined long ago. ²¹ You will stay there and never again be a city filled with people. ²¹ You will die a horrible

death! People will come looking for your city, but it will never be found. I, the LORD, have spoken.

A Funeral Song for Tyre

27 The LORD said:
² Ezekiel, son of man, sing a funeral song for Tyre, ³ the city that is built along the sea and that trades with nations along the coast. Tell the people of Tyre that the following message is from me:

Tyre, you brag about
your perfect beauty,
⁴ 'and your control of the sea.'

You are a ship
built to perfection.
⁵ Builders used cypress trees
from Mount Hermon
to make your planks
and a cedar tree from Lebanon
for your tall mast.

⁶ Oak trees from Bashan
were shaped into oars;
'pine trees from Cyprus'
were cut for your deck,
which was then decorated
with strips of ivory.

⁷ The builders used fancy linen
from Egypt for your sails,
so everyone could see you.
Blue and purple cloth
from Cyprus was used
to shade your deck.

⁸ Men from Sidon and Arvad
did the rowing,
and your own skilled workers
were the captains.

⁹ Experienced men from Byblos
repaired any damages.
Sailors from all over
shopped at the stores
in your port.

¹⁰ Brave soldiers from Persia,
Lydia, and Libya
served in your navy,
protecting you with shields
and helmets,
and making you famous.

¹¹ Your guards came from
Arvad and Cilicia,
and men from Gamad
stood watch in your towers.

With their weapons
hung on your walls,
your beauty was complete.

¹² Merchants from southern Spain[>] traded silver, iron, tin, and lead for your products. ¹³ The people of Greece, Tubal, and Meshech traded slaves and things made of bronze, ¹⁴ and those from Beth-Togarmah traded work horses, war horses, and mules. ¹⁵ You also did business with people from Rhodes,[>] and people from nations along the coast gave you ivory and ebony in exchange for your goods. ¹⁶ Edom[>] traded emeralds, purple cloth, embroidery, fine linen, coral, and rubies. ¹⁷ Judah and Israel gave you 'their finest wheat, fancy figs,' honey, olive oil, and spices in exchange for your merchandise. ¹⁸ The people of Damascus saw what you had to offer and brought you wine from Helbon and wool from Zahar. ¹⁹ 'Vedan and Javan near Uzal' traded you iron and spices. ²⁰ The people of Dedan supplied you with saddle blankets, ²¹ while people from Arabia and the rulers of Kedar traded lambs, sheep, and goats. ²² Merchants from Sheba and Raamah gave you excellent spices, precious stones, and gold in exchange for your products. ²³ You also did business with merchants from the cities of Haran, Canneh, Eden, Sheba, Asshur, and Chilmad, ²⁴ and they gave you expensive clothing, purple and embroidered cloth, brightly colored rugs, and strong rope. ²⁵ Large, seagoing ships[>] carried your goods wherever they needed to go.

You were like a ship
loaded with heavy cargo

²⁶ and sailing across the sea,
but you were wrecked
by strong eastern winds.

²⁷ Everything on board was lost—
your valuable cargo,
your sailors and carpenters,
merchants and soldiers.

²⁸ The shouts of your drowning crew
were heard on the shore.

²⁹ Every ship is deserted;
rowers and sailors and captains
all stand on shore,
mourning for you.

³⁰ They show their sorrow
by putting dust on their heads
and rolling in ashes;

³¹ they shave their heads

and dress in sackcloth
as they cry in despair.

³² In their grief they sing
a funeral song for you:
"Tyre, you were greater
than all other cities.
But now you lie in silence
at the bottom of the sea."

³³ 'Nations that received
your merchandise
were always pleased;
kings everywhere got rich
from your costly goods.

³⁴ But now you are wrecked
in the deep sea,
with your cargo and crew
scattered everywhere.

³⁵ People living along the coast
are shocked at the news.
Their rulers are horrified,
and terror is written
across their faces.

³⁶ The merchants of the world
can't believe what happened.
Your death was gruesome,
and you are gone forever."

Judgment on the King of Tyre

28 The LORD God said:
² Ezekiel, son of man, tell the king of Tyre
that I am saying:

You are so arrogant that you think you're a god and that the city of Tyre is your throne. You may claim to be a god, though you're nothing but a mere human. ³ You think you're wiser than Daniel[>] 'and know everything.'

⁴ Your wisdom has certainly made you rich, because you have storehouses filled with gold and silver. ⁵ You're a clever businessman and are extremely wealthy, but your wealth has led to arrogance!

⁶ You compared yourself to a god, so now I, the LORD God, ⁷ will make you the victim of cruel enemies. They will destroy all the possessions you've worked so hard to get. ⁸ Your enemies will brutally kill you, and the sea will be your only grave.

⁹ When you face your enemies, will you still claim to be a god? They will attack, and you will suffer like any other human. ¹⁰ Foreigners will kill you, and you will die the death of those who don't worship me. I, the LORD, have spoken.

A Funeral Song for the King of Tyre

¹¹ The LORD said:

¹² Ezekiel, son of man, sing a funeral song for the king of Tyre and tell him I am saying:

At one time, 'you were perfect,' intelligent, and good-looking. ¹³ You lived in the garden of Eden and wore jewelry made of brightly colored gems and precious stones. 'They were all set in gold' and were ready for you on the day you were born. ¹⁴ I appointed a winged creature to guard your home¹ on my holy mountain, where you walked among gems that dazzled like fire.

¹⁵ You were truly good from the time of your birth, but later you started doing wicked things. ¹⁶ You traded with other nations and became more and more cruel and evil. So I forced you to leave my mountain, and the creature that had been your protector now chased you away from the gems.

¹⁷ It was your good looks that made you arrogant, and you were so famous that you started acting like a fool. That's why I threw you to the ground and let other kings sneer at you. ¹⁸ You have cheated so many other merchants that your places of worship are corrupt. So I set your city on fire and burned it down. Now everyone sees only ashes where your city once stood, ¹⁹ and the people of other nations are shocked. Your punishment was horrible, and you are gone forever.

Judgment on Sidon and Peace for Israel

²⁰ The LORD said:

²¹ Ezekiel, son of man, condemn the city of Sidon ²² and tell its people:

I, the LORD God, am your enemy! People will praise me when I punish you, and they will see that I am holy. ²³ I will send deadly diseases to wipe you out, and I will send enemies to invade and surround you. Your people will be killed, and you will know that I am the LORD.

²⁴ When that happens, the people of Israel will no longer have cruel neighbors that abuse them and make them feel as though they are in a field of thorns and briars. And the Israelites will know that I, the LORD God, have done these things.

A Blessing for Israel

²⁵ The LORD God said:

Someday I will gather the people of Israel from the nations where they are now scattered,

and every nation will see that I am holy. The Israelites will once again live in the land I gave to my servant Jacob. ²⁶ They will be safe and will build houses and plant vineyards. They will no longer be in danger, because I will punish their hateful neighbors. Israel will know that I am the LORD their God.

Judgment on the King of Egypt

29 Ten years after King Jehoiachin and the rest of us had been led away as prisoners to Babylonia, the LORD spoke to me on the twelfth day of the tenth month. He said:

² Ezekiel, son of man, condemn the king of Egypt. Tell him and his people ³ that I am saying:

King of Egypt, you were like a giant crocodile lying in a river. You acted as though you owned the Nile and made it for yourself. But now I, the LORD God, am your enemy! ⁴ I will put a hook in your jaw and pull you out of the water, and all the fish in your river will stick to your scaly body. ⁵ I'll throw you and the fish into the desert, and your body will fall on the hard ground. You will be left unburied, and wild animals and birds will eat your flesh. ⁶ Then everyone in Egypt will know that I am the LORD.

You and your nation refused to help the people of Israel and were nothing more than a broken stick. ⁷ When they reached out to you for support, you broke in half, cutting their arms and 'making them fall.'

⁸ So I, the LORD God, will send troops to attack you, king of Egypt. They will kill your people and livestock, ⁹ until your land is a barren desert. Then you will know that I have done these things.

You claimed that you made the Nile River and control it. ¹⁰ Now I am turning against you and your river. Your nation will be nothing but an empty wasteland all the way from the town of Migdol in the north to Aswan in the south, and as far as the border of Ethiopia.¹¹ ¹¹ No human or animal will ever dare travel through Egypt, because no sign of life will be found there for forty years. ¹² It will be the most barren place on earth. Every city in Egypt will lie in ruins during those forty years, and I will scatter your people throughout the nations of the world.

¹³ Then after those 40 years have passed, I will bring your people back from the places where I scattered them. ¹⁴ They will once again live in their homeland in southern Egypt. But

they will be a weak kingdom ¹⁵ and won't ever be strong enough to rule nations, as they did in the past. ¹⁶ My own people Israel will never again depend on your nation. In fact, when the Israelites remember what happened to you Egyptians, they will realize how wrong they were to turn to you for help. Then the Israelites will know that I, the LORD God, did these things.

King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylonia Will Conquer Egypt

¹⁷ Twenty-seven years after King Jehoiachin and the rest of us had been led away as prisoners to Babylonia, the LORD spoke to me on the first day of the first month. He said:

¹⁸ King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylonia has attacked the city of Tyre. He forced his soldiers to carry so many heavy loads that their heads were rubbed bald, and their shoulders were red and sore. Nebuchadnezzar and his army still could not capture the city. ¹⁹ So now I will hand over the nation of Egypt to him. He will take Egypt's valuable treasures and give them to his own troops. ²⁰ Egypt will be his reward, because he and his army have been following my orders. I, the LORD God, have spoken.

²¹ Ezekiel, when Egypt is defeated, I will make the people of Israel strong, and I will give you the power to speak to them. Then they will know that I, the LORD, have done these things.

Egypt Will Be a Barren Desert

30 The LORD said:
² Ezekiel, son of man, tell the people of Egypt that I am saying:

Cry out in despair,

³ because you will soon
 be punished!

That will be a time
 of darkness and doom
 for all nations.

⁴ Your own nation of Egypt
 will be attacked,
 and Ethiopia[>] will suffer.
 You will be killed in battle,
 and your land will be robbed
 and left in ruins.

⁵ Soldiers hired from Ethiopia, Libya, Lydia, Arabia, Kub, 'as well as from Israel,' will die in that battle. ⁶ All of your allies will be killed, and your proud strength will crumble. People will die from Migdol

in the north to Aswan in the south. I, the LORD, have spoken.

⁷ Your nation of Egypt will be the most deserted place on earth, and its cities will lie in complete ruin. ⁸ I will set fire to your land, and anyone who defended your nation will die. Then you will know that I am the LORD.

⁹ On the same day I destroy Egypt, I will send messengers to the Ethiopians to announce their coming destruction. They think they are safe, but they will be terrified.

¹⁰ Your Egyptian army is very strong, but I will send King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylonia to completely defeat that army. ¹¹ He and his cruel troops will invade and destroy your land and leave your dead bodies piled everywhere.

¹² I will dry up the Nile River, then sell the land to evil buyers. I will send foreigners to turn your entire nation into a barren desert. I, the LORD, have spoken.

Egypt's Proud Cities Will Lie in Ruins

The LORD said to the people of Egypt:

¹³ All the idols and images you Egyptians worship in the city of Memphis[>] will be smashed. No one will be left to rule your nation, and terror will fill the land. ¹⁴ The city of Pathros will be left in ruins, and Zoan will be burned to the ground. Thebes,[>] your capital city, will also be destroyed! ¹⁵ The fortress city of Pelusium will feel my fierce anger, and all the troops stationed at Thebes will be slaughtered.

¹⁶ I will set fire to your nation of Egypt! The city of Pelusium will be in anguish. Thebes will fall, and 'the people of Memphis will live in constant fear.' ¹⁷ The young soldiers in the cities of Heliopolis and Bubastis[>] will die in battle, and the rest of the people will be taken prisoner. ¹⁸ You were so proud of your nation's power, but when I crush that power and kill that pride, darkness will fall over the city of Tahpanhes. A dark, gloomy cloud will cover the land as you are being led away into captivity. ¹⁹ When I'm through punishing Egypt, you will know that I am the LORD.

Egypt's King Is Powerless

²⁰ Eleven years after King Jehoiachin and the rest of us had been led away as prisoners to Babylonia, the LORD spoke to me on the seventh day of the first month. He said:

²¹ Ezekiel, son of man, I, the LORD, have defeated the king of Egypt! I broke his arm, and no

one has wrapped it or put it in a sling, so that it could heal and get strong enough to hold a sword. ²² So tell him that I am now his worst enemy. I will break both his arms—the good one and the broken one! His sword will drop from his hand forever, ²³ and I will scatter the Egyptians all over the world.

²⁴⁻²⁵ I will strengthen the power of Babylonia's king and give him my sword to use against Egypt. I will also make the wounded king of Egypt powerless, and he will moan in pain and die in front of the Babylonian king. Then everyone on earth will know that I am the LORD. ²⁶ I will force the Egyptians to live as prisoners in foreign nations, and they will know that I, the LORD, have punished them.

Egypt's King Will Be Chopped Down like a Cedar Tree

31 Eleven years after King Jehoiachin and the rest of us had been led away as prisoners to Babylonia, the LORD spoke to me on the first day of the third month. He said:

² Ezekiel, son of man, tell the king of Egypt and his people that I am saying:

You are more powerful than anyone on earth.

Now listen to this.

³ There was once a cedar tree in Lebanon with large, strong branches reaching to the sky.¹

⁴ This tree had plenty of water to help it grow tall, and nearby streams watered the other trees in the forest.

⁵ But this tree towered over those other trees, and its branches grew long and thick.

⁶ Birds built nests in its branches, and animals were born beneath it. People from all nations lived in the shade of this strong tree.

⁷ It had beautiful, long branches, and its roots found water deep in the soil.

⁸ None of the cedar trees in my garden of Eden were as beautiful as this tree; no tree of any kind had such long branches.

⁹ I, the LORD, gave this tree its beauty, and I helped the branches grow strong.

All other trees in Eden wanted to be just like it.

¹⁰ King of Egypt, now listen to what I, the LORD God, am saying about that tree:

The tree grew so tall that it reached the sky² and became very proud and arrogant. ¹¹ So I, the LORD God, will reject the tree and hand it over to a foreign ruler, who will punish it for its wickedness. ¹² Cruel foreigners will chop it down and leave it wherever it falls. Branches and broken limbs will be scattered over the mountains and in the valleys. The people living in the shade of those branches will go somewhere else. ¹³ Birds will then nest on the stump of the fallen tree, and wild animals will trample its branches.

¹⁴ Never again will any tree dare to grow as tall as this tree, no matter how much water it has. Every tree must die, just as humans die and go down to the world of the dead.

¹⁵ On the day this tree dies and goes to the world below, I, the LORD God, will command rivers and streams to mourn its death. Every underground spring of water and every river will stop flowing.¹ The mountains in Lebanon will be covered with darkness as a sign of their sorrow, and all the trees in the forest will wither. ¹⁶ This tree will crash to the ground, and I will send it to the world below. Then the nations of the earth will tremble.

The trees from Eden and the choice trees from Lebanon are now in the world of the dead, and they will be comforted when this tree falls.

¹⁷ Those people who found protection in its shade will also be sent to the world below, where they will join the dead.¹

¹⁸ King of Egypt, all these things will happen to you and your people! You were like this tree at one time—taller and stronger than anyone on earth. But now you will be chopped down, just as every tree in the garden of Eden must die. You will

be sent down to the world of the dead, where you will join the goddess and the other victims of violent death. I, the LORD God, have spoken.

A Funeral Song for the King of Egypt

32 Twelve years after King Jehoiachin and the rest of us had been led away as prisoners to Babylonia, the LORD spoke to me on the first day of the twelfth month. He said:

² Ezekiel, son of man, condemn the king of Egypt and tell him I am saying:

You act like a lion
roaming the earth;
but you are nothing more than
a crocodile in a river,
churning up muddy water
with your feet.

³ King of Egypt, listen to me. I, the LORD God, will catch you in my net and let a crowd of foreigners drag you to shore. ⁴ I will throw you into an open field, where birds and animals will come to feed on your body. ⁵ I will spread your 'rotting flesh' over the mountains and in the valleys, ⁶ and your blood will flow throughout the land and fill up the streams. ⁷ I will cover the whole sky and every star with thick clouds, so that the sun and moon will stop shining. ⁸ The heavens will become black, leaving your country in total darkness. I, the LORD, have spoken.

⁹ Foreign nations you have never heard of will be shocked when I tell them how I destroyed you. ¹⁰ They will be horrified, and when I flash my sword in victory on the day of your death, their kings will tremble in the fear of what could happen to them.

¹¹ The king of Babylonia is coming to attack you, king of Egypt! ¹² Your soldiers will be killed by the cruelest army in the world, and everything you take pride in will be crushed. ¹³ I will slaughter your cattle that graze by the river, and no people or livestock will be left to muddy its water. ¹⁴ The water will be clear, and streams will be calm. I, the LORD God, have spoken.

¹⁵ Egypt will become a barren wasteland, and no living thing will ever survive there. Then you and your people will know that I am the LORD.

¹⁶ This is your warning, and it will be used as a funeral song by foreign women to mourn the death of your people. I, the LORD God, have spoken.

A Sad Ending for Egypt

¹⁷ On the fifteenth day of that same month, the LORD said:

¹⁸ Ezekiel, son of man, mourn for the Egyptians and condemn them to the world of the dead, 'where they will be buried alongside the people of other powerful nations.' ¹⁹ Say to them:

You may be more beautiful
than the people
of other nations,
but you will also die
and join the goddess
in the world below.

²⁰ You cannot escape! 'The enemy's sword is ready to slaughter every one of you.' ²¹ Brave military leaders killed in battle will gladly welcome you and your allies into the world of the dead.

²²⁻²³ The graves of soldiers from Assyria are there. They once terrified people, but they were killed in battle and now lie deep in the world of the dead.

²⁴⁻²⁵ The graves of soldiers from Elam are there. The very sight of those goddess soldiers once terrified their enemies and made them panic. But now they are disgraced and ashamed as they lie in the world of the dead, alongside others who were killed in battle.

²⁶ The graves of soldiers from Meshech and Tubal are there. These goddess soldiers who terrified people were all killed in battle. ²⁷ They were not given a proper burial like the heroes of long ago, who were buried with their swords under their heads and with their 'shields' over their bodies. These were the heroes who made their enemies panic.

²⁸ You Egyptians will be cruelly defeated, and you will be buried alongside these other goddess soldiers who died in battle.

²⁹ The graves of kings and leaders from Edom are there. They were powerful at one time. Now they are buried in the world of the dead with other goddess soldiers killed in battle.

³⁰ The graves of the rulers of the north are there, as well as those of the Sidonians. Their powerful armies once terrified enemies. Now they lie buried in the world of the dead, where they are disgraced like other soldiers killed in battle.

³¹ The LORD God says:

When your king of Egypt sees all of these graves, he and his soldiers will be glad they are not the only ones suffering. ³² I sent him to terrify people all over the earth. But he and his army will be killed and buried alongside other goddess soldiers in the world of the dead. I, the LORD God, have spoken.

The LORD Appoints Ezekiel To Stand Watch

33 The LORD said:
 2 Ezekiel, son of man, warn your people by saying:

Someday, I, the LORD, may send an enemy to invade a country. And suppose its people choose someone to stand watch³ and to sound a warning signal when the enemy is seen coming. 4-5 If any of these people hear the signal and ignore it, they will be killed in battle. But it will be their own fault, because they could have escaped if they had paid attention.

6 But suppose the person watching fails to sound the warning signal. The enemy will attack and kill some of the sinful people in that country, and I, the LORD, will hold that person responsible for their death.

7 Ezekiel, I have appointed you to stand watch for the people of Israel. So listen to what I say, then warn them for me. 8 When I tell wicked people they will die because of their sins, you must warn them to turn from their sinful ways. But if you refuse to warn them, you are responsible for their death. 9 If you do warn them, and they keep sinning, they will die because of their sins, and you will be innocent.

The LORD Is Always Fair

10 The LORD said:

Ezekiel, son of man, the people of Israel are complaining that the punishment for their sins is more than they can stand. They have lost all hope for survival, and they blame me. 11 Tell them that as surely as I am the living LORD God, I don't like to see wicked people die. I enjoy seeing them turn from their sins and live. So if the Israelites want to live, they must stop sinning and turn back to me.

12 Tell them that when good people start sinning, all the good they did in the past cannot save them from being punished. And remind them that when wicked people stop sinning, their past sins will be completely forgiven, and they won't be punished.

13 Suppose I promise good people that they will live, then later they start sinning and believe they will be saved by the good they did in the past. These people will certainly be put to death because of their sins. Their good deeds will be forgotten.

14 Suppose I warn wicked people that they will die because of their sins, and they stop sinning and start doing right. 15 For example, they need to return

anything they have taken as security for a loan and anything they have stolen. Then if they stop doing evil and start obeying my Law, they will live. 16 Their past sins will be forgiven, and they will live because they have done right.

17 Ezekiel, your people accuse me of being unfair. But they are the ones who are unfair. 18 If good people start doing evil, they will be put to death, because they have sinned. 19 And if wicked people stop sinning and start doing right, they will save themselves from punishment. 20 But the Israelites still think I am unfair. So warn them that they will be punished for what they have done.

The News of Jerusalem's Fall

21 Twelve years after King Jehoiachin and the rest of us had been led away as prisoners to Babylonia, a refugee who had escaped from Jerusalem came to me on the fifth day of the tenth month. He told me that the city had fallen.

22 The evening before this man arrived at my house, the LORD had taken control of me. So when the man came to me the next morning, I could once again speak.

What Will Happen to Those Left in Israel?

23 Then the LORD said:

24 Ezekiel, son of man, the people living in the ruined cities of Israel are saying, 'Abraham was just one man, and the LORD gave him this whole land of Israel. There are many of us, and so this land must be ours.'

25 So, Ezekiel, tell them I am saying:

How can you think the land is still yours? You eat meat with blood in it and worship idols. You commit murder²⁶ and spread violence throughout the land. Everything you do is wicked; you are even unfaithful in marriage. And you claim the land is yours!

27 As surely as I am the living LORD God, you people in the ruined cities will be killed in battle. Those of you living in the countryside will be eaten by wild animals, and those hiding in caves and on rocky cliffs will die from deadly diseases. 28 I will make the whole country an empty wasteland and crush the power in which you take such pride. Even the mountains will be bare, and no one will try to cross them. 29 I will punish you because of your sins, and I will turn your nation into a barren desert. Then you will know that I am the LORD.

The People Listen, but Don't Change

The LORD said:

³⁰ Ezekiel, son of man, the people with you in Babylonia talk about you when they meet by the city walls or in the doorways of their houses. They say, "Let's ask Ezekiel what the LORD has said today."

³¹ So they all come and listen to you, but they refuse to do what you tell them. They claim to be faithful, but they are forever trying to cheat others out of their money. ³² They treat you as though you were merely singing love songs or playing music. They listen, but don't do anything you say.

³³ Soon they will be punished, just as you warned, and they will know that a prophet has been among them.

Israel's Leaders Are Worthless Shepherds

34 The LORD God said:

² Ezekiel, son of man, Israel's leaders are like shepherds taking care of my sheep, the people of Israel. But I want you to condemn these leaders and tell them:

I, the LORD God, say you shepherds of Israel are doomed! You take care of yourselves while ignoring my sheep. ³ You drink their milk and use their wool to make your clothes. Then you butcher the best ones for food. But you don't take care of the flock! ⁴ You have never protected the weak ones or healed the sick ones or bandaged those that get hurt. You let them wander off and never look for those that get lost. You are cruel and mean to my sheep.

⁵ They strayed in every direction, and because there was no shepherd to watch them, they were attacked and eaten by wild animals. ⁶ So my sheep were scattered across the earth. They roamed on hills and mountains, without anyone even bothering to look for them.

⁷⁻⁸ Now listen to what I, the living LORD God, am saying to you shepherds. My sheep have been attacked and eaten by wild animals, because you refused to watch them. You never went looking for the lost ones, and you fed yourselves without feeding my sheep. ⁹⁻¹⁰ So I, the LORD, will punish you! I will rescue my sheep from you and never let you be their shepherd again or butcher them for food. I, the LORD, have spoken.

The LORD Is the Good Shepherd

¹¹ The LORD God then said:

I will look for my sheep and take care of them myself, ¹² just as a shepherd looks for lost sheep. My sheep have been lost since that dark and miserable day when they were scattered throughout the nations. But I will rescue them ¹³ and bring them back from the foreign nations where they now live. I will be their shepherd and will let them graze on Israel's mountains and in the valleys and fertile fields. ¹⁴ They will be safe as they feed on grassy meadows and green hills. ¹⁵ I promise to take care of them and keep them safe, ¹⁶ to look for those that are lost and bring back the ones that wander off, to bandage those that are hurt and protect the ones that are weak. I will also slaughter ¹⁷ those that are fat and strong, because I always do right.

Judgment on the Strong Sheep

¹⁷ The LORD God said to his sheep, the people of Israel:

I will carefully watch each one of you to decide which ones are the strong sheep and which ones are weak. ¹⁸ Some of you eat the greenest grass, then trample down what's left when you finish. Others drink clean water, then step in the water to make the rest of it muddy. ¹⁹ That means my other sheep have nothing fit to eat or drink.

²⁰ So I, the LORD God, will separate you strong sheep from the weak. ²¹ You strong ones have used your powerful horns to chase off those that are weak, ²² but I will rescue them and no longer let them be mistreated. I will separate the good from the bad.

²³ After that, I will give you a shepherd from the family of my servant King David. All of you, both strong and weak, will have the same shepherd, and he will take good care of you. ²⁴ He will be your leader, and I will be your God. I, the LORD, have spoken.

A Bright Future for the LORD's Sheep

The LORD said:

²⁵ The people of Israel are my sheep, and I solemnly promise that they will live in peace. I will chase away every wild animal from the desert and the forest, so my sheep will not be afraid. ²⁶ They will live around my holy mountain, and I will bless them by sending more than enough rain ²⁷ to make their trees produce fruit and their crops to grow. I will set them free from slavery and let them live safely in their own land. Then they will know that I am the LORD. ²⁸ Foreign nations will never

again rob them, and wild animals will no longer kill and eat them. They will have nothing to fear. ²⁹I will make their fields produce large amounts of crops, so they will never again go hungry or be laughed at by foreigners. ³⁰Then everyone will know that I protect my people Israel. I, the LORD, make this promise. ³¹They are my sheep; I am their God, and I take care of them.

Edom Will Be a Wasteland

35

The LORD said:

² Ezekiel, son of man, condemn the people of Edom³ and say to them:

I, the LORD God,
am now your enemy!
And I will turn your nation
into an empty wasteland,
⁴ leaving your towns in ruins.
Your land will be a desert,
and then you will know
that I am the LORD.

⁵ People of Edom, not only have you been Israel's longtime enemy, you simply watched when disaster wiped out its people as punishment for their sins. ⁶ And so, as surely as I am the living LORD God, you are guilty of murder and must be put to death. ⁷ I will destroy your nation and kill anyone who travels through it. ⁸ Dead bodies will cover your mountains and fill up your valleys, ⁹ and your land will lie in ruins forever. No one will live in your towns ever again. You will know that I am the LORD.

¹⁰ You thought the nations of Judah and Israel belonged to you, and that you could take over their territory. But I am their God, ¹¹ and as surely as I live, I will punish you for treating my people with anger and hatred. Then they will know that I, the LORD, am punishing you! ¹² And you will finally realize that I heard you laugh at their destruction and say their land was yours to take. ¹³ You even insulted me, but I heard it all.

¹⁴ Everyone on earth will celebrate when I destroy you, ¹⁵ just as you celebrated when Israel was destroyed. Your nation of Edom will be nothing but a wasteland. Then everyone will know that I am the LORD.

A Message for Israel's Mountains

36

The LORD said:

Ezekiel, son of man, tell the mountains of Israel ² that I, the LORD God, am saying:

Your enemies sneered and said that you mountains belonged to them. ³ They ruined and crushed you from every side, and foreign nations captured and made fun of you. ⁴ So all you mountains and hills, streams and valleys, listen to what I will do. Your towns may now lie in ruins, and nations may laugh and insult you. ⁵ But in my fierce anger, I will turn against those nations, and especially the Edomites, because they laughed at you the loudest and took over your pasturelands. ⁶ You have suffered long enough, and I, the LORD God, am very angry! Nations have insulted you, ⁷ so I will now insult and disgrace them. That is my solemn promise.

⁸ Trees will grow on you mountains of Israel and produce fruit for my people, because they will soon come home. ⁹ I will take care of you by plowing your soil and planting crops on your fertile slopes. ¹⁰ The people of Israel will return and rebuild your ruined towns and live in them. ¹¹ Children will be born, and animals will give birth to their young. You will no longer be deserted as you are now, but you will be covered with people and treated better than ever. Then you will know that I am the LORD.

¹² I will bring my people Israel home, and they will live on you mountains, because you belong to them, and your fertile slopes will never again let them starve. ¹³ It's true that you have been accused of not producing enough food and of letting your people starve. ¹⁴⁻¹⁵ But I, the LORD, promise that you won't hear other nations laugh and sneer at you ever again. From now on, you will always produce plenty of food for your people. I, the LORD God, have spoken.

The LORD Will Be Honored

¹⁶ The LORD said:

¹⁷ Ezekiel, son of man, when the people of Israel were living in their own country, they made the land unclean by the way they behaved, just as a woman's monthly period makes her unclean. ¹⁸ They committed murders and worshiped idols, which made the land even worse. So in my anger, I punished my people ¹⁹ and scattered them throughout the nations, just as they deserved. ²⁰ Wherever they went, my name was disgraced, because foreigners insulted my people by saying I had forced them out of their own land.

²¹ I care what those foreigners think of me, ²² so tell the Israelites that I am saying:

You have disgraced my holy name among the nations where you now live. So you don't deserve what I'm going to do for you. I will lead you home

to bring honor to my name ²³ and to show foreign nations that I am holy. Then they will know that I am the LORD God. I have spoken.

²⁴ I will gather you from the foreign nations and bring you home. ²⁵ I will sprinkle you with clean water, and you will be clean and acceptable to me. I will wash away everything that makes you unclean, and I will remove your disgusting idols. ²⁶ I will take away your stubborn heart and give you a new heart and a desire to be faithful. You will have only pure thoughts, ²⁷ because I will put my Spirit in you and make you eager to obey my laws and teachings. ²⁸ You will once again live in the land I gave your ancestors; you will be my people, and I will be your God.

²⁹ I will protect you from anything that makes you unclean. Your fields will overflow with grain, and no one will starve. ³⁰ Your trees will be filled with fruit, and crops will grow in your fields, so that you will never again feel ashamed for not having enough food. ³¹ You will remember your evil ways and hate yourselves for what you've done. ³² People of Israel, I'm not doing these things for your sake. You sinned against me, and you must suffer shame and disgrace for what you have done. I, the LORD God, have spoken.

³³ After I have made you clean, I will let you rebuild your ruined towns and let you live in them. ³⁴ Your land will be plowed again, and nobody will be able to see that it was once barren. ³⁵ Instead, they will say that it looks as beautiful as the garden of Eden. They won't see towns lying in ruins, but they will see your strong cities filled with people. ³⁶ Then the nearby nations that survive will know that I am the one who rebuilt the ruined places and replanted the barren fields. I, the LORD, make this promise.

³⁷ I will once again answer your prayers, and I will let your nation grow until you are like a large flock of sheep. ³⁸ The towns that now lie in ruins will be filled with people, just as Jerusalem was once filled with sheep to be offered as sacrifices during a festival. Then you will know that I am the LORD.

Dry Bones Live Again

37 Some time later, I felt the LORD's power take control of me, and his Spirit carried me to a valley full of bones. ² The LORD

showed me all around, and everywhere I looked I saw bones that were dried out. ³ He said, "Ezekiel, son of man, can these bones come back to life?"

I replied, "LORD God, only you can answer that."

⁴ He then told me to say:

Dry bones, listen to what the LORD is saying to you, ⁵ "I, the LORD God, will put breath in you, and once again you will live. ⁶ I will wrap you with muscles and skin and breathe life into you. Then you will know that I am the LORD."

⁷ I did what the LORD said, but before I finished speaking, I heard a rattling noise. The bones were coming together! ⁸ I saw muscles and skin cover the bones, but they had no life in them.

⁹ The LORD said:

Ezekiel, now say to the wind, [>] "The LORD God commands you to blow from every direction and to breathe life into these dead bodies, so they can live again."

¹⁰ As soon as I said this, the wind blew among the bodies, and they came back to life! They all stood up, and there were enough to make a large army.

¹¹ The LORD said:

Ezekiel, the people of Israel are like dead bones. They complain that they are dried up and that they have no hope for the future. ¹² So tell them, "I, the LORD God, promise to open your graves and set you free. I will bring you back to Israel, ¹³ and when that happens, you will realize that I am the LORD. ¹⁴ My Spirit will give you breath, and you will live again. I will bring you home, and you will know that I have kept my promise. I, the LORD, have spoken."

Judah and Israel Together Again

¹⁵ The LORD said:

¹⁶ Ezekiel, son of man, get a stick and write on it, "The kingdom of Judah." Then get another stick and write on it, "The kingdom of Israel." [>] ¹⁷ Hold these two sticks end to end, so they look like one stick. ¹⁸ And when your people ask you what this means, ¹⁹ tell them that I, the LORD, will join together the stick of Israel and the stick of Judah. I will hold them in my hand, and they will become one.

²⁰ Hold these two sticks where they can be seen by everyone ²¹ and then say:

I, the LORD God, will gather the people of Israel and bring them home from the foreign nations where they now live. ²² I will make them into one nation and let them once again live in the land of Israel. Only one king will rule them,

and they will never again be divided into two nations. ²³They will no longer worship idols and do things that make them unacceptable to me. I will wash away their sin and make them clean, and I will protect them from everything that makes them unclean. They will be my people, and I will be their God.

²⁴⁻²⁵Their king will always come from the family of my servant King David and will care for them like a shepherd. The people of Israel will faithfully obey my laws. They and their descendants will live in the land I gave my servant Jacob, just as their ancestors did. ²⁶I solemnly promise to bless the people of Israel with unending peace. I will protect them and let them become a powerful nation. My temple will stand in Israel for all time, ²⁷and I will live among my people and be their God. ²⁸Every nation on earth will know that my temple is in Israel and that I have chosen the Israelites to be my people.

Gog Invades Israel

38 The LORD said:
²Ezekiel, son of man, condemn Gog, that wicked ruler of the kingdoms of Meshech and Tubal in the land of Magog. Tell him:

³I, the LORD God, am your enemy, ⁴and I will make you powerless! I will put a hook in your jaw and drag away both you and your large army. You command cavalry troops that wear heavy armor and carry shields and swords. ⁵Your army includes soldiers from Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya, ⁶as well as from Gomer and Beth-Togarmah in the north. Your army is enormous!

⁷So keep your troops prepared to fight, ⁸because in a few years, I will command you to invade Israel, a country that was ruined by war. It was deserted for a long time, but its people have returned from the foreign nations where they once lived. The Israelites now live in peace in the mountains of their own land. ⁹But you and your army will attack them like a fierce thunderstorm and surround them like a cloud.

¹⁰When that day comes, I know that you will have an evil plan ¹¹to take advantage of Israel, that weak and peaceful country where people live safely inside towns that have no walls or gates or locks. ¹²You will rob the people in towns that were once a pile of rubble. These people lived as prisoners in foreign nations, but

they have returned to Israel, the most important place in the world, and they own livestock and property. ¹³The people of Sheba and Dedan, along with merchants from villages in southern Spain, will be your allies. They will want some of the silver and gold, as well as the livestock and property that your army takes from Israel.

¹⁴I, the LORD God, know that 'when you see' my people Israel living in peace, ¹⁵you will lead your powerful cavalry from your kingdom in the north. ¹⁶You will attack my people like a storm-cloud that covers their land. I will let you invade my country Israel, so that every nation on earth will know that I, the LORD, am holy.

Judgment on Gog

¹⁷The LORD said to Gog:

Long ago, I ordered my prophets to warn the people of Israel that someday I would send an enemy to attack them. You, Gog, are that enemy, and that day is coming. ¹⁸When you invade Israel, I will become furious, ¹⁹and in my anger I will send a terrible earthquake to shake Israel. ²⁰Every living thing on earth will tremble in fear of me—every fish and bird, every wild animal and reptile, and every human. Mountains will crumble, cliffs will fall, and cities will collapse. ²¹I, the LORD, will make the mountains of Israel turn against you. ¹Your troops will be so terrified that they will attack each other. ²²I will strike you with diseases and punish you with death. You and your army will be pounded with rainstorms, hailstones, and burning sulfur. ²³I will do these things to show the world that I, the LORD, am holy.

Gog Is Defeated

The LORD said:

39 Ezekiel, son of man, condemn Gog and tell him:

You are the ruler of Meshech and Tubal, but I, the LORD, am your enemy! ²I will turn you around and drag you from the north until you reach the mountains of Israel. ³I will knock the bow out of your left hand and the arrows out of your right hand, ⁴and you and your army will die on those mountains. Then birds and wild animals will eat the flesh ⁵of your dead bodies left lying in open fields. I, the LORD, have spoken.

⁶I will set fire to the land of Magog and to those nations along the seacoast that think they are so secure, and they will know that I am the LORD.

7 My people Israel will know me, and they will no longer disgrace my holy name. Everyone on earth will know that I am the holy LORD God of Israel. 8 The day is coming when these things will happen, just as I have promised.

9 When that day comes, the people in the towns of Israel will collect the weapons of their dead enemies. They will use these shields, bows and arrows, spears, and clubs as firewood, and there will be enough to last for seven years. 10 They will burn these weapons instead of gathering sticks or chopping down trees. That's how the Israelites will take revenge on those who robbed and abused them. I, the LORD, have spoken.

The Burial of Gog

The LORD said:

11 After Gog has been destroyed, I will bury him and his army in Israel, in Travelers' Valley, east of the Dead Sea. That graveyard will be so large that it will block the way of anyone who tries to walk through the valley,¹ which will then be known as "The Valley of Gog's Army."² 12 The Israelites will spend seven months burying dead bodies and cleaning up their land. 13 Everyone will help with the burial, and they will be honored for this on the day the brightness of my glory is seen. 14 After those seven months, the people will appoint a group of men to look for any dead bodies left unburied. This must be done for seven months to make sure that the land is no longer unclean. 15 Whenever they find a human bone, they will set up a marker next to it. Then the gravediggers will bury it in "The Valley of Gog's Army" 16 near the town of "Gog's Army." After that, the land will be pure again.

17 Ezekiel, son of man, I am going to hold a feast on Israel's mountains and offer sacrifices there. So invite all the birds and wild animals to come from every direction and eat the meat of sacrifices and drink the blood. The birds and animals 18 will feast on the bodies of warriors and foreign rulers that I will sacrifice like sheep, goats, and bulls. 19 I want the birds and animals to eat until they are full and drink until they are drunk. 20 They will come to my table and stuff themselves with the flesh of horses and warriors of every kind. I, the LORD God, have spoken.

Israel Will Be Restored

The LORD said:

21 When I punish the nations of the earth, they will see the brightness of my glory. 22 The people of

Israel will know from then on that I am the LORD their God. 23 Foreign nations will realize that the Israelites were forced to leave their own land because they sinned against me. I turned my back on my people and let enemies attack and kill them. 24 Their lives were wicked and corrupt, and they deserved to be punished.

25 Now I will show mercy to the people of Israel and bring them back from the nations where they are living. They are Jacob's descendants, so I will bless them and show that I am holy. 26 They will live safely in their own land, but will be ashamed when they remember their evil ways and how they disgraced me.¹ 27 Foreign nations will watch as I take the Israelites from enemy lands and bring them back home, and those nations will see that I am holy.

28 My people will realize that I, the LORD their God, sent them away as prisoners and now will bring them back to their own land. 29 Never again will I turn my back on the people of Israel, and my Spirit will live in them. I, the LORD, have spoken.

Ezekiel Sees the Future Temple in Jerusalem

40 1-2 Twenty-five years after King Jehoiachin and the rest of us had been led away as prisoners to Babylonia, and 14 years after the Babylonians had captured Jerusalem, the LORD's power took control of me on the tenth day of the first month. The LORD showed me some visions in which I was carried to the top of a high mountain in Jerusalem. I looked to the south and saw what looked like a city full of buildings. 3 In my vision the LORD took me closer, and I saw a man who was sparkling like polished bronze. He was standing near one of the gates and was holding a tape measure in one hand and a measuring stick in the other. 4 The man said, "Ezekiel, son of man, pay close attention to everything I'm going to show you—that's why you've been brought here. Listen carefully, because you must tell the people of Israel what you see."

The East Gate

5 The first thing I saw was an outer wall that completely surrounded the temple area. The man took his measuring stick, which was three meters long, and measured the wall; it was three meters high and three meters thick. 6-7 Then he went to the east gate, where he walked up steps that led to a long passageway. On each side of this passageway were three guardrooms, which were three meters

square, and they were separated by walls over two and a half meters thick. The man measured the distance between the opening of the gate and the first guardroom, and it was three meters, the thickness of the outer wall.

At the far end of this passageway, I saw an entrance room that faced the courtyard of the temple itself. There was also a distance of three meters between the last guardroom and the entrance room⁸⁻⁹ at the end of the passageway. The man measured this room: It was four meters from the doorway to the opposite wall, and the distance from the doorway to the wall on either side was one meter.¹⁰ The three guardrooms on each side of the passageway were the same size, and the walls that separated them were the same thickness.

¹¹ Next, the man measured the width of the passageway, and it was six and a half meters, but the two doors of the gate were only five meters wide.¹² In front of the guardrooms, which were three meters square, was a railing about 50 centimeters high and 50 centimeters thick.¹³ The man measured the distance from the back wall[▷] of one of these rooms to the same spot in the room directly across the passageway, and it was twelve and a half meters.¹⁴ He measured the entrance room at the far end of the passageway, and it was ten meters wide.¹⁵ Finally, he measured the total length of the passageway, from the outer wall to the entrance room, and it was 25 meters.¹⁶ The three walls in the guardrooms had small windows in them, 'just like the ones in the entrance room.'¹⁷ The walls along the passageway were decorated with carvings of palm trees.

The Outer Courtyard

¹⁷ The man then led me through the passageway and into the outer courtyard of the temple, where I saw 30 rooms built around the outside of the courtyard. These side rooms were built against the outer wall, and in front of them was a sidewalk that circled the courtyard.¹⁸ This was known as the lower sidewalk, and it was 25 meters wide.

¹⁹ I saw the gates that led to the inner courtyard of the temple and noticed that they were higher than those leading to the outer courtyard. The man measured the distance between the outer and inner gates, and it was 50 meters.[▷]

The North Gate

²⁰ Next, the man measured the north gate that led to the outer courtyard.²¹ This gate also had

three guardrooms on each side of a passageway. The measurements of these rooms, the walls between them, and the entrance room at the far end of the passageway were exactly the same as those of the east gate. The north gate was also 25 meters long and 12.5 meters wide,²² and the windows, the entrance room, and the carvings of palm trees were just like those in the east gate. The entrance room also faced the courtyard of the temple and had seven steps leading up to it.²³ Directly across the outer courtyard was a gate that led to the inner courtyard, just as there was for the east gate. The man measured the distance between the outer and inner gate, and it was 50 meters.

The South Gate

²⁴ The man then took me to the south gate. He measured the walls and the entrance room of this gate, and the measurements were exactly the same as those of the other two gates.²⁵ There were windows in the guardrooms of this gate and in the entrance room, just like the others, and this gate was also 25 meters long and 12.5 meters wide.²⁶ Seven steps led up to the gate; the entrance room was at the far end of the passageway and faced the courtyard of the temple. Carvings of palm trees decorated the walls along the passageway.²⁷ And directly across the outer courtyard was a gate on the south side of the inner courtyard. The man measured the distance between the outer and inner gate, and it was also 50 meters.

The Gates Leading to the Inner Courtyard

²⁸ We then went into the inner courtyard, through the gate on the south side of the temple. The man measured the gate, and it was the same size as the gates in the outer wall.²⁹⁻³⁰ In fact, everything along the passageway was also the same size, including the guardrooms, the walls separating them, the entrance room at the far end, and the windows. This gate, like the others, was 25 meters long and 12.5 meters wide.³¹ The entrance room of this gate faced the outer courtyard, and carvings of palm trees decorated the walls of the passageway. Eight steps led up to this gate.

³² Next, we went through the east gate to the inner courtyard. The man measured this gate, and it was the same size as the others.³³ The guardrooms, the walls separating them, and its entrance room had the same measurements as the other gates. The guardrooms and the entrance room had windows, and the gate was 25 meters long and

12.5 meters wide.³⁴ The entrance room faced the outer courtyard, and the walls in the passageway were decorated with carvings of palm trees. Eight steps also led up to this gate.

³⁵ Then the man took me to the north gate. He measured it, and it was the same size as the others,³⁶ including the guardrooms, the walls separating them, and the entrance room. There were also windows in this gate. It was 25 meters long and 12.5 meters wide,³⁷ and like the other inner gates, its entrance room faced the outer courtyard, and its walls were decorated with carvings of palm trees. Eight steps also led up to this gate.

The Rooms for Sacrificing Animals

³⁸⁻³⁹ Inside the entrance room of the north gate, I saw four tables, two on each side of the room, where the animals to be sacrificed were killed. Just outside[>] this room was a small building used for washing the animals before they were offered as sacrifices to please the LORD or sacrifices for sin or sacrifices to make things right.⁴⁰ Four more tables were in the outer courtyard, two on each side of the steps leading into the entrance room.⁴¹ So there was a total of eight tables, four inside and four outside, where the animals were killed,⁴²⁻⁴³ and 'where the meat was placed until it was sacrificed on the altar.'

Next to the tables in the entrance room were four stone tables 50 centimeters high and 75 centimeters square; the equipment used for killing the animals was kept on top of these tables. All around the walls of this room was a 75-millimeter shelf.[>]

The Rooms Belonging to the Priests

⁴⁴ The man then took me to the inner courtyard, where I saw two buildings, one beside the inner gate on the north and the other beside the inner gate on the south.⁴⁵ He said, "The building beside the north gate belongs to the priests who serve in the temple,⁴⁶ and the building beside the south gate belongs to those who serve at the altar. All of them are descendants of Zadok and are the only Levites allowed to serve as the LORD's priests."

The Inner Courtyard and the Temple

⁴⁷ Now the man measured the inner courtyard; it was 50 meters square. I also saw an altar in front of the temple.

⁴⁸ We walked to the porch of the temple, and the man measured the doorway of the porch: It was seven meters long,[>] two and a half meters

wide, and the distance from the doorway to the wall on either side was one and a half meters.

⁴⁹ The porch itself was ten meters by six[>] meters, with steps[>] leading up to it. There was a column on each side of these steps.

41 Next we went into the main room of the temple. The man measured the doorway of this room: 'It was three meters wide,'² five meters long, and the distance from the doorway to the wall on either side was two and a half meters. The main room itself was 20 meters by 10 meters.

³⁻⁴ Then the man walked to the far end of the temple's main room and said, 'Beyond this doorway is the most holy place.' He first measured the doorway: It was one meter wide, three meters long, and the distance from the doorway to the wall on either side was 3.5 meters. Then he measured the most holy place, and it was ten meters square.

The Storage Rooms of the Temple

⁵ The man measured the wall of the temple, and it was three meters thick. Storage rooms two meters wide were built against the outside of the wall.⁶ There were three levels of rooms, with 30 rooms on each level, and they rested on ledges that were attached to the temple walls, so that nothing was built into the walls.⁷ The walls of the temple were thicker at the bottom than at the top, 'which meant that the storage rooms on the top level were wider than those on the bottom level.' Steps led from the bottom level, through the middle level, and into the top level.

⁸ The temple rested on a stone base three meters high, which also served as the foundation for the storage rooms.⁹ The outside walls of the storage rooms were two and a half meters thick; there was nothing between these walls¹⁰ and the nearest buildings ten meters away.¹¹ One door led into the storage rooms on the north side of the temple, and another door led to those on the south side. The stone base extended two and a half meters beyond the outside wall of the storage rooms.

The West Building and the Measurements of the Temple

¹² I noticed another building: It faced the west end of the temple and was 35 meters wide, 45 meters long, and had walls over 2.5 meters thick.

¹³ The man measured the length of the temple, and it was 50 meters. He then measured from the back wall of the temple, across the open space

behind the temple, to the back wall of the west building; it was 50 meters. ¹⁴The distance across the front of the temple, including the open space on either side, was also 50 meters.

¹⁵Finally, the man measured the length of the west building, including the side rooms on each end, and it was also 50 meters.

The Inside of the Temple

The inside walls of the temple's porch and main room ¹⁶were paneled with wood all the way from the floor to the windows, while the doorways, the small windows, and the three side rooms ¹⁷were trimmed in wood. ¹⁷The paneling stopped just above the doorway. These walls were decorated ¹⁸⁻²⁰with carvings of winged creatures and had a carving of a palm tree between the creatures. Each winged creature had two faces: A human face looking at the palm tree on one side, and a lion's face looking at the palm tree on the other side. These designs were carved into the paneling all the way around the two rooms.

²¹The doorframe to the temple's main room was in the shape of a rectangle.

The Wooden Altar

In front of the doorway to the most holy place was something that looked like ²²a wooden altar. It was one and a half meters high and one meter square, ²³and its corners, its base, ²⁴and its sides were made of wood. The man said, "This is a reminder that the LORD is constantly watching over his temple."

The Doors in the Temple

²⁵Both the doorway to the main room of the temple and the doorway to the most holy place had two doors, ²⁴and each door had two sections that could fold open. ²⁵The doors to the main room were decorated with carvings of winged creatures and palm trees just like those on the walls, and there was a wooden covering over the porch just outside these doors. ²⁶The walls on each side of this porch had small windows and were also decorated with carvings of palm trees.

The Sacred Rooms for the Priests

42 ¹⁻²After the man and I left the temple and walked back to the outer courtyard, ¹he showed me a set of rooms on the north side of the west building. ²This set of rooms was 50 meters long and 25 meters wide. ³On one side of them was the 10 meters of open space that ran alongside

the temple, and on the other side was the sidewalk that circled the outer courtyard. The rooms were arranged in three levels ⁴with doors that opened toward the north, and in front of them was a walkway 5 meters wide and 50 meters long. ⁵The rooms on the top level were narrower than those on the middle level, and the rooms on the middle level were narrower than those on the bottom level. ⁶The rooms on the bottom level supported those on the two upper levels, and so these rooms did not have columns like other buildings in the courtyard. ⁷⁻⁸To the north was a privacy wall 25 meters long, ⁹⁻¹⁰and at the east end of this wall was the door leading from the courtyard to these rooms.

There was also a set of rooms on the south ¹¹side of the west building. ¹¹These rooms were exactly like those on the north side, and they also had a walkway in front of them. ¹²The door to these rooms was at the east end of the wall that stood in front of them.

¹³The man then said to me:

These rooms on the north and south sides of the temple are the sacred rooms where the LORD's priests will eat the most holy offerings. These offerings include the grain sacrifices, the sacrifices for sin, and the sacrifices to make things right. ¹⁴When the priests are ready to leave the temple, they must go through these rooms before they return to the outer courtyard. They must leave their sacred clothes in these rooms and put on regular clothes before going anywhere near other people.

The Size of the Temple Area

¹⁵After the man had finished measuring the buildings inside the temple area, he took me back through the east gate and measured the wall around this area. ¹⁶He used his measuring stick to measure the east side of this wall; it was 250 meters long. ¹⁷⁻¹⁹Then he measured the north side, the south side, and the west side of the wall, and they were each 250 meters long. ²⁰and so the temple area was a perfect square. The wall around this area separated what was sacred from what was ordinary.

The LORD's Glory Returns to the Temple

43 The man took me back to the east gate of the temple, ²where I saw the brightness of the glory of Israel's God coming from the east. The sound I heard was as loud as ocean waves, and everything around was shining with the dazzling brightness of his glory. ³This vision was

like the one I had seen when God came to destroy Jerusalem and like the one I had seen near the Chebar River.

I immediately bowed with my face to the ground, ⁴ and the LORD's glory came through the east gate and into the temple. ⁵ The LORD's Spirit lifted me to my feet and carried me to the inner courtyard, where I saw that the LORD's glory had filled the temple.

⁶ The man was standing beside me, and I heard the LORD[>] say from inside the temple:

⁷ Ezekiel, son of man, this temple is my throne on earth. I will live here among the people of Israel forever. They and their kings will never again disgrace me by worshiping idols at local shrines or ⁸ by setting up memorials to their dead kings. ⁸ Israel's kings built their palaces so close to my holy temple that only a wall separated them from me. Then these kings disgraced me with their evil ways, and in my fierce anger I destroyed them. ⁹ But if the people and their kings stop worshiping other gods and tear down those memorials, I will live among them forever.

¹⁰ The people of Israel must suffer shame for sinning against me, so tell them about my holy temple. Let them think about it, ¹¹ then if they are truly sorry, describe for them the design and shape of the temple, the gates, the measurements, and how the buildings are arranged. Explain the regulations about worshiping there, then write down these things, so they can study and obey them.

¹² The temple area on my holy mountain must be kept sacred! This is the most important law about the temple.

The Altar

¹³ According to the official standards, the altar in the temple had the following measurements: Around the bottom of the altar was a gutter 50 centimeters wide and 50 centimeters deep, with a 25-centimeter ledge on the outer rim. ¹⁴⁻¹⁷ The altar rested on a base and had three sections, each one of them square. The bottom section was 8 meters on each side and one meter high. The middle section was 7 meters on each side and 2 meters high, and it had a 25-centimeter rim around its outer edge. The top section, which was 6 meters on each side and 2 meters high, was the place where sacrifices were burned, and the four corners of the top section looked like the horns of a bull. The steps leading up to the altar were on the east side.

The Dedication of the Altar

¹⁸ The LORD God said:

Ezekiel, son of man, after the altar is built, it must be dedicated by offering sacrifices on it and by splattering it with blood. Here is what you must do: ¹⁹ The priests of the Levi tribe from the family of Zadok the priest are the only ones who may serve in my temple—this is my law. So give them a young bull to slaughter as a sacrifice for sin. ²⁰ Take some of the animal's blood and smear it on the four corners of the altar, some on the corners of the middle section, and some more on the rim around its edge. That will purify the altar and make it fit for offering sacrifices to me. ²¹ Then take the body of the bull outside the temple area and burn it at the special place.

²² The next day, a goat[>] that has nothing wrong with it must be offered as a sacrifice for sin. Purify the altar with its blood, just as you did with the blood of the bull. ²³ Then choose a young bull and a young ram that have nothing wrong with them, ²⁴ and bring them to my temple. The priests will sprinkle salt on them and offer them as sacrifices to please me.

²⁵ Each day for the next seven days, you must offer a goat and a bull and a ram as sacrifices for sin. These animals must have nothing wrong with them. ²⁶ The priests will purify the altar during those days, so that it will be acceptable to me and ready to use. ²⁷ From then on, the priests will use this altar to offer sacrifices to please me and sacrifices to ask my blessing. Then I will be pleased with the people of Israel. I, the LORD God, have spoken.

The East Gate Must Remain Closed

44 The man took me back to the outer courtyard, near the east gate of the temple area. I saw that the doors to this gate were closed. ² The LORD said:

I, the LORD God of Israel, came through this gate, so it must remain closed forever! No one must ever use it. ³ The ruler of Israel may come here to eat a sacrificial meal that has been offered to me, but he must use only the entrance room of this gate.

People Who Are Not Allowed in the Temple

⁴ Then the man took me through the north gate to the front of the temple. I saw that the brightness of the LORD's glory had filled the temple, and I immediately bowed with my face to the ground.

5 The LORD said:

Ezekiel, son of man, I am going to give you the laws for my temple. So pay attention and listen carefully to what kind of people are allowed to come in the temple, and what kind are not. 6 Tell those rebellious people of Israel:

I, the LORD God, command you to stop your evil ways! 7 My temple has been disgraced, because you have let godless, stubborn foreigners come here when sacrifices are being offered to me. You have sinned and have broken our solemn agreement. 8 Instead of following the proper ways to worship me, you have put foreigners in charge of worship at my temple.

9 And so I, the LORD God, say that no godless foreigner who disobeys me will be allowed in my temple. This includes any foreigner living in Israel.

The Levites Are Punished

The LORD said:

10 Some of the Levites turned their backs on me and joined the other people of Israel in worshiping idols. So these Levites must be punished! 11 They will still be allowed to serve me as temple workers by guarding the gates and by killing the animals to be sacrificed and by helping the worshipers. 12 But because these Levites served the people of Israel when they worshiped idols, I, the LORD God, promise that the Levites will be punished. They did not stop the Israelites from sinning, 13 and now I will no longer let the Levites serve as my priests or come near anything sacred to me. They must suffer shame and disgrace for their disgusting sins. 14 They will be responsible for all the hard work that must be done in the temple.

Rules for Priests

The LORD said:

15 The priests of the Levi tribe who are descendants of Zadok the priest were faithful to me, even when the rest of the Israelites turned away. And so, these priests will continue to serve as my priests and to offer the fat and the blood of sacrifices. 16 They will come into my temple, where they will offer sacrifices at my altar and lead others in worship.

17 When they come to the inner courtyard, they must wear their linen priestly clothes. My priests must never wear anything made of wool when they are on duty in this courtyard or in the temple. 18 Even

their turbans and underwear must be made of linen to keep my priests from sweating when they work. 19 And before they leave to join the other people in the outer courtyard, they must take off their priestly clothes, then place them in the sacred rooms and put on their regular clothes. That way, no one will touch their sacred clothes and be harmed.

20 Priests must never shave their heads when they are mourning. But they must keep their hair properly trimmed and not let it grow too long. 21 They must not drink wine before going to the inner courtyard.

22 A priest must not marry a divorced woman; he can marry only a virgin from Israel or the widow of another priest.

23 Priests must teach my people the difference between what is sacred and what is ordinary, and between what is clean and what is unclean. 24 They will make decisions in difficult legal cases, according to my own laws. They must also observe the religious festivals my Law requires and must always respect the Sabbath.

25 Touching a dead body will make a person unclean. So a priest must not go near a dead body, unless it is one of his parents or children, or his brother or unmarried sister. 26 If a priest touches a dead body, he is unclean and must go through a ceremony to make himself clean. Then seven days later, 27 he must go to the inner courtyard of the temple and offer a sacrifice for sin. After that, he may once again serve as my priest. I, the LORD God, have spoken.

28 I myself will provide for my priests, and so they won't receive any land of their own. 29 Instead, they will receive part of the grain sacrifices, as well as part of the sacrifices for sin and sacrifices to make things right. They will also be given everything in Israel that has been completely dedicated to me. 30 The first part of every harvest will belong to the priests. They will also receive part of all special gifts and offerings the Israelites bring to me. And whenever any of my people bake bread, they will give their first loaf as an offering to the priests, and I will bless the homes of the people when they do this.

31 Priests must not eat any bird or animal that dies a natural death or that has been killed by a wild animal.

The LORD's Sacred Land

The LORD said:

45 When the land of Israel is divided among the twelve tribes, you must set aside an area that will belong to me. This sacred

area will be twelve and a half kilometers long and 10¹⁰ kilometers wide. ²The temple will be on a piece of land 255 meters square, and the temple will be completely surrounded by an open space 25 meters wide.

³⁻⁴I will give half of my sacred land, a section twelve and a half kilometers long and 5 kilometers wide, to the priests who serve in the temple. Their houses will be in this half, as well as my temple, which is the most sacred place of all.

⁵I will give the other half of my land to the Levites who work in my temple, and the towns⁵ where they will live will be there.

⁶Next to my sacred land will be an area twelve and a half kilometers long and 3 kilometers wide. This will belong to the people of Israel and will include the city of Jerusalem.

Land for Israel's Ruler

The LORD said:

⁷⁻⁸The regions west and east of my sacred land and the city of Jerusalem will belong to the ruler of Israel. He will be given the region between the western edge of my land and the Mediterranean Sea, and between the eastern edge of my land and the Jordan River. This will mean that the length of his property will be the same as the sections of land given to the tribes.

This property will belong to every ruler of Israel, so they will always be fair to my people and will let them live peacefully in the land given to their tribes.

Israel's Rulers Must Be Honest

⁹The LORD God said:

You leaders of Israel have robbed and cheated my people long enough! I want you to stop sinning and start doing what is right and fair. You must never again force my people off their own land. I, the LORD, have spoken.

¹⁰So from now on, you must use honest weights and measures. ¹¹The *ephah* will be the standard dry measure, and the *bath* will be the standard liquid measure. Their size will be based on the *homer*, which will equal ten *ephahs* or ten *baths*.

¹²The standard unit of weight will be the *shekel*. One *shekel* will equal 20 *gerahs*, and 60 *shekels* will equal one *mina*.

¹³Leaders of Israel, the people must bring you one sixtieth of their grain harvests as offerings to

me. ¹⁴They will also bring one percent of their olive oil. These things will be measured according to the *bath*, and ten *baths* is the same as one *homer* or one *cor*. ¹⁵Finally, they must bring one sheep out of every 200 from their flocks.

These offerings will be used as grain sacrifices, as well as sacrifices to please me and those to ask my blessing. I, the LORD, will be pleased with these sacrifices and will forgive the sins of my people.

¹⁶The people of Israel will bring you these offerings. ¹⁷But during New Moon Festivals, Sabbath celebrations, and other religious feasts, you leaders will be responsible for providing animals for the sacrifices, as well as the grain and wine. All these will be used for the sacrifices for sin, the grain sacrifices, the sacrifices to please me, and those to ask my blessing. I will be pleased and will forgive the sins of my people.

The Festivals

¹⁸The LORD God said:

On the first day of the first month, a young bull that has nothing wrong with it must be offered as a sacrifice to purify the temple. ¹⁹The priest will take some blood from this sacrifice and smear it on the doorposts of the temple, as well as on the four corners of the altar and on the doorposts of the gates that lead into the inner courtyard.

²⁰The same ceremony must also be done on the seventh day of the month, so that anyone who sins accidentally or without knowing it will be forgiven, and so that my temple will remain holy.

²¹Beginning on the fourteenth day of the first month, and continuing for seven days, everyone will celebrate Passover and eat bread made without yeast. ²²On the first day, the ruler will bring a bull to offer as a sacrifice for his sins and for the sins of the people. ²³Each day of the festival he is to bring seven bulls and seven rams as sacrifices to please me, and he must bring a goat²³ as a sacrifice for sin. These animals must have nothing wrong with them. ²⁴He will also provide nine kilograms of grain and three liters of olive oil to be offered with each bull and each ram.

²⁵The Festival of Shelters will begin on the fifteenth day of the seventh month and will continue for seven days. On each day of this festival, the ruler will provide the same number of animals that he did each day during Passover, as well as the same amount of grain and olive oil for the sacrifices.

Various Laws for the Ruler and the People

46 The LORD said: The east gate of the inner courtyard must remain closed during the six working days of each week. But on the Sabbath and on the first day of the month, this gate will be opened. ² Israel's ruler will go from the outer courtyard into the entrance room of this gate and stand in the doorway while the priest offers sacrifices to ask my blessing and sacrifices to please me. The ruler will bow with his face to the ground to show that he has worshiped me. Then he will leave, and the gate will remain open until evening.

³ Each Sabbath and on the first day of each month, the people of Israel must also come to the east gate and worship me. ⁴ On the Sabbath, the ruler will bring six lambs and one ram to be offered as sacrifices to please me. There must be nothing wrong with any of these animals. ⁵ With the ram, he is to offer nine kilograms of grain, and with each of the lambs, he can offer as much as he wants. He must also offer three liters of olive oil with every nine kilograms of grain.

⁶ The ruler is to bring six lambs, a bull, and a ram to be offered as sacrifices at the New Moon Festival. There must be nothing wrong with any of these animals. ⁷ With the bull and the ram, he is to offer nine kilograms of grain, and with each of the lambs, he can offer as much as he wants. He must also offer three liters of olive oil with every nine kilograms of grain. ⁸ The ruler must come through the entrance room of the east gate and leave the same way.

⁹ When my people come to worship me during any festival, they must always leave by the opposite gate from which they came: Those who come in the north gate must leave by the south gate, and those who come in the south gate must leave by the north gate. ¹⁰ Their ruler will come in at the same time they do and leave at the same time they leave.

¹¹ At all other festivals and celebrations, nine kilograms of grain will be offered with a bull, and nine kilograms will be offered with a ram. The worshipers can offer as much grain as they want with each lamb. Three liters of olive oil must be offered with every nine kilograms of grain.

¹² If the ruler voluntarily offers a sacrifice to please me or to ask my blessing, the east gate of the inner courtyard will be opened for him. He will offer his sacrifices just as he does on each Sabbath; then he will leave, and the gate will be closed.

¹³ Each morning a year-old lamb that has nothing wrong with it must be offered as a sacrifice to

please me. ¹⁴ Along with it, two kilograms of fine flour mixed with a liter of olive oil must be offered as a grain sacrifice. This law will never change—¹⁵ the lamb, the flour, and the olive oil will be offered to me every morning for all time.

Laws about the Ruler's Land

¹⁶ The LORD God said:

If the ruler of Israel gives some of his land to one of his children, it will belong to the ruler's child as part of the family property. ¹⁷ But if the ruler gives some of his land to one of his servants, the land will belong to the servant until the Year of Celebration, when it will be returned to the ruler. Only the ruler's children can keep what is given to them.

¹⁸ The ruler must never abuse my people by taking land from them. Any land he gives his children must already belong to him.

The Sacred Kitchens

¹⁹ The man who was showing me the temple then took me back to the inner courtyard. We walked to the south side of the courtyard and stopped at the door to the sacred rooms that belonged to the priests. He showed me more rooms at the western edge of the courtyard ²⁰ and said, "These are the kitchens where the priests must boil the meat to be offered as sacrifices to make things right and as sacrifices for sin. They will also bake the grain for sacrifices in these kitchens. That way, these sacred offerings won't have to be carried through the outer courtyard, where someone could accidentally touch them and be harmed."

²¹ We went back to the outer courtyard and walked past the four corners. ²² At each corner I saw a smaller courtyard, 20 meters long and 15 meters wide. ²³ Around the inside of these smaller courtyards was a low wall of stones, and against the wall were places to build fires. ²⁴ The man said, "These are the kitchens where the temple workers will boil the meat that worshipers offer as sacrifices."

The Stream Flowing from the Temple

47 The man took me back to the temple, where I saw a stream flowing from under the entrance. It began in the south part of the temple, where it ran past the altar and continued east through the courtyard.

² We walked out of the temple area through the north gate and went around to the east gate. I saw

the small stream of water flowing east from the south side of the gate.

³The man walked east, then took out his measuring stick and measured 500 meters downstream. He told me to wade through the stream there, and the water came up to my ankles. ⁴Then he measured another 500 meters downstream, and told me to wade through it there. The water came up to my knees. Another 500 meters downstream the water came up to my waist. ⁵Another 500 meters downstream, the stream had become a river that could be crossed only by swimming. ⁶The man said, "Ezekiel, son of man, pay attention to what you've seen."

We walked to the riverbank, ⁷where I saw dozens of trees on each side. ⁸The man said:

This water flows eastward to the Jordan River valley and empties into the Dead Sea, where it turns the salt water into fresh water. ⁹Wherever this water flows, there will be all kinds of animals and fish, because it will bring life and fresh water to the Dead Sea. ¹⁰From En-Gedi to Eneglaim, people will fish in the sea and dry their nets along the coast. There will be as many kinds of fish in the Dead Sea as there are in the Mediterranean Sea. ¹¹But the marshes along the shore will remain salty, so that people can use the salt from them.

¹²Fruit trees will grow all along this river and produce fresh fruit every month. The leaves will never dry out, because they will always have water from the stream that flows from the temple, and they will be used for healing people.

The Borders of the Land

¹³⁻¹⁴The LORD God said to the people of Israel:

When the land is divided among the twelve tribes of Israel, the Joseph tribe will receive two shares. Divide the land equally, because I promised your ancestors that this land would someday belong to their descendants. These are the borders of the land:

¹⁵The northern border will begin at the Mediterranean Sea, then continue eastward to Hethlon, to Lebo-Hamath, then across to Zedad, ¹⁶Berothah, and Sibraim, which is on the border between the two kingdoms of Damascus and Hamath. The border will end at Hazer-Hatticon, which is on the border of Hauran. ¹⁷So the northern border will run between the Mediterranean Sea and Hazer-Enon, 'which is on the border between Damascus and Hamath.'

¹⁸The eastern border will begin on the border between the two kingdoms of Hauran and Damascus. It will run south along the Jordan River, which separates the territories of Gilead and Israel, and it will end at the Dead Sea 'near the town of Tamar.'

¹⁹The southern border will begin at Tamar, then run southwest to the springs near Meribath-Kadesh. It will continue along the Egyptian Gorge and will end at the Mediterranean Sea.

²⁰The western border will run north along the Mediterranean Sea to a point just west of Lebo-Hamath.

²¹That is the land to be divided among the tribes of Israel. ²²It will belong to the Israelites and to any foreigners living among them whose children were born in Israel. These foreigners must be treated like any other Israelite citizen, and they will receive ²³a share of the land given to the tribe where they live. I, the LORD God, have spoken.

The Division of Land among Tribes in the North

The LORD said:

48 ¹⁻⁷Each tribe will receive a section of land that runs from the eastern border of Israel west to the Mediterranean Sea. The northern border of Israel will run along the towns of Hethlon and Lebo-Hamath, and will end at Hazer-Enon, which is on the border between the kingdoms of Damascus and Hamath. The tribes will receive their share of land in the following order, from north to south: Dan, Asher, Naphtali, Manasseh, Ephraim, Reuben, and Judah.

The Special Section of Land

The LORD said:

⁸South of Judah's territory will be a special section of land. Its length will be twelve and a half kilometers, and its width will run from the eastern border of Israel west to the Mediterranean Sea. My temple will be located in this section of land.

⁹An area in the center of this land will belong to me. It will be twelve and a half kilometers long and ten kilometers wide.

¹⁰I, the LORD, will give half of my sacred land to the priests. Their share will be twelve and a half kilometers long and five kilometers wide, and my temple will be right in the middle. ¹¹Only priests who are descendants of Zadok will receive a share of this sacred land, because they remained faithful to me when the Levites and the rest of the Israelites started sinning. ¹²The land belonging to the priests

will be the most sacred area and will lie south of the area that belongs to the Levites.

¹³I will give the other half of my sacred land to the Levites. Their share will also be twelve and a half kilometers long and five kilometers wide, ¹⁴and they must never sell or trade any of this land—it is the best land and belongs to me.

¹⁵South of my sacred land will be a section twelve and a half kilometers long and three kilometers wide. It will not be sacred, but will belong to the people of Israel and will include the city of Jerusalem, together with its houses and pastureland. ¹⁶The city will be a square: Each side will be two kilometers long, ¹⁷and an open area 125 meters wide will surround the city. ¹⁸The land on the east and west sides of the city limits will be farmland for the people of Jerusalem; both sections will be five kilometers long and three kilometers wide. ¹⁹People from the city will farm the land, no matter which tribe they belong to.

²⁰And so the center of this special section of land will be for my sacred land, as well as for the city and its property. The land will be a square, twelve and a half kilometers on each side.

²¹The regions east and west of this square of land will belong to the ruler of Israel. His property will run east to the Jordan River and west to the Mediterranean Sea. In the very center of his property will be my sacred land, as well as the temple, ²²together with the share belonging to the Levites and the city of Jerusalem. The northern border of the ruler's property will be the land that belongs to Judah, and the southern border will be the land that belongs to Benjamin.

Notes

*An asterisk preceding a verse number in a poetic passage of this book indicates that the contents of two or more verses have been joined together and rearranged beginning with the verse so marked.

Phrases enclosed in half square superscript brackets ([^]) are those that are difficult to translate from the original Hebrew with great certainty. Consequently, the English rendering given should be understood as only one possible way of translating such texts.

- ▷ **1.1-3** *a priest and the son of Buzi*: Or "the son of Buzi the priest."
- ▷ **1.14** *as sparks jumping from a fire*: Or "as flashes of lightning."
- ▷ **1.16** *a second wheel that cut through the middle of it*: Or "a smaller wheel inside it."
- ▷ **2.1** *The LORD*: Hebrew "The voice."
- ▷ **2.1** *Ezekiel, son of man*: The Hebrew text has "Son of man," which is often used in this book when the LORD speaks directly to Ezekiel. It means that Ezekiel is a mere human, yet he is

The Division of Land among Tribes in the South

The LORD God said:

²³⁻²⁷South of this special section will be the land that belongs to the rest of Israel's tribes. Each tribe will receive a section of land that runs from the eastern border of Israel west to the Mediterranean Sea. The tribes will receive their share of land in the following order, from north to south: Benjamin, Simeon, Issachar, Zebulun, and Gad.

²⁸Gad's southern border is also the southern border of Israel. It will begin at the town of Tamar, then run southwest to the springs near Meribath-Kadesh. It will continue along the Egyptian Gorge and end at the Mediterranean Sea.

²⁹That's how the land of Israel will be divided among the twelve tribes. I, the LORD God, have spoken.

The Gates of Jerusalem

The LORD said:

³⁰⁻³⁴The city of Jerusalem will have twelve gates, three on each of the four sides of the city wall. These gates will be named after the twelve tribes of Israel. The gates of Reuben, Judah, and Levi will be in the north; Joseph, Benjamin, and Dan will be in the east; Simeon, Issachar, and Zebulun will be in the south; Gad, Asher, and Naphtali will be in the west. Each side of the city wall will be two kilometers long, ³⁵and so the total length of the wall will be ten kilometers. The new name of the city will be "The-LORD-Is-Here!"

- ▷ the one the LORD has chosen to be his prophet who speaks for him to the people of Israel.
- ▷ **3.12** *The Spirit*: Or "A wind."
- ▷ **7.16** *will moan*: Hebrew; two ancient translations "will die."
- ▷ **7.22** *my temple*: The Hebrew text has "my treasure."
- ▷ **7.23** *Your whole country is in confusion*: One ancient translation; Hebrew "Get chains ready to drag away the dead bodies of your people."
- ▷ **8.2** *a human*: One ancient translation; Hebrew "a fiery figure."

- ▷ **10.10** *a second wheel that cut through the middle of it:* Or "a smaller wheel inside it."
- ▷ **10.14** *a bull:* The Hebrew text has "a winged creature."
- ▷ **11.1,24** *The LORD's Spirit:* Or "A wind."
- ▷ **14.14** *Daniel:* Or "Danel."
- ▷ **17.21** *best troops:* Two ancient translations; Hebrew "troops that ran away."
- ▷ **18.17** *evil:* One ancient translation; Hebrew "for the poor."
- ▷ **22.25** *Their leaders are like:* One ancient translation; Hebrew "Their prophets are like herds of."
- ▷ **23.24** *from the north:* One ancient translation; Hebrew "with weapons."
- ▷ **24.5** *Pile wood:* Or "Stack the bones."
- ▷ **24.10** *boil away the broth:* One ancient translation; Hebrew "mix the spices."
- ▷ **25.8** *Moab:* One ancient translation; Hebrew "Moab and Edom."
- ▷ **25.16** *kill everyone:* The Hebrew text also has the name "Cherethites."
- ▷ **27.12** *southern Spain:* The Hebrew text has "Tarshish."
- ▷ **27.15** *Rhodes:* One ancient translation; Hebrew "Dedan."
- ▷ **27.16** *Edom:* Some Hebrew manuscripts and one ancient translation; most Hebrew manuscripts "Syria."
- ▷ **27.25** *Large, seagoing ships:* The Hebrew text has "Ships of Tarshish."
- ▷ **28.3** *Daniel:* Or "Danel."
- ▷ **29.10; 30.4** *Ethiopia:* The Hebrew text has "Cush."
- ▷ **30.13** *Memphis:* Hebrew "Noph."
- ▷ **30.14** *Thebes:* Hebrew "No."
- ▷ **30.17** *Heliopolis and Bubastis:* Hebrew "On and Pi-Beseth."
- ▷ **31.10** *the sky:* One ancient translation; Hebrew "over the thick branches."
- ▷ **32.9** *when I tell them how I destroyed you:* Hebrew; one ancient translation "when I scatter you like prisoners among them."
- ▷ **32.27** *heroes of long ago:* One ancient translation; Hebrew "godless heroes."
- ▷ **34.16** *slaughter:* Hebrew; three ancient translations "take care of."
- ▷ **35.2** *Edom:* The Hebrew text has "Mount Seir."
- ▷ **37.9** *wind:* Or "breath."
- ▷ **37.16** *Israel:* The Hebrew text has "Joseph, that is, Ephraim."
- ▷ **38.5** *Ethiopia:* The Hebrew text has "Cush."
- ▷ **38.13** *from villages in:* One ancient translation; Hebrew "and soldiers from."
- ▷ **38.13** *southern Spain:* The Hebrew text has "Tarshish."
- ▷ **39.11** *Travelers:* Hebrew "Abarim."
- ▷ **39.11** *Gog's Army:* Hebrew "Hamon-Gog."
- ▷ **40.13** *back wall:* One ancient translation; Hebrew "roof."
- ▷ **40.19** *meters:* The Hebrew text adds "the east and the north."
- ▷ **40.38,39** *Just outside:* Or "inside."
- ▷ **40.42,43** *was a 75-millimeter shelf:* Or "were 75-millimeter pegs."
- ▷ **40.48** *seven meters long:* One ancient translation; these words are not in the Hebrew text of this verse.
- ▷ **40.49** *six:* One ancient translation; Hebrew "five and a half."
- ▷ **40.49** *steps:* Hebrew; one ancient translation "ten steps."
- ▷ **41.22** *one meter square:* One ancient translation; Hebrew "one meter wide."
- ▷ **41.22** *base:* One ancient translation; Hebrew "length."
- ▷ **42.4** *50 meters long:* Two ancient translations; Hebrew "50 centimeters long."
- ▷ **42.9,10** *south:* One ancient translation; Hebrew "east."
- ▷ **43.6** *the LORD:* Hebrew "a voice."
- ▷ **43.22** *goat:* Hebrew "male goat."
- ▷ **45.1 and 10:** One ancient translation; Hebrew "and 5."
- ▷ **45.5** *the towns:* One ancient translation; Hebrew "the 20 rooms."
- ▷ **45.23** *goat:* Hebrew "male goat."
- ▷ **47.15,16** *to Lebo-Hamath, then across to Zedad, Berothah:* One ancient translation; Hebrew "to Lebo-Zedad, ¹⁶ then across to Hamath, Berothah."
- ▷ **48.9** *ten:* The Hebrew text has "five."