

HOLY
BIBLE

N R S V

WITH
DEUTEROCANONICAL
BOOKS

NEW REVISED
STANDARD VERSION



HOLY
BIBLE

N R S V

WITH
DEUTEROCANONICAL
BOOKS

NEW REVISED
STANDARD VERSION



Contents

	page		page
Old Testament			
Genesis	3	Proverbs	464
Exodus	36	Ecclesiastes	484
Leviticus	64	Song of Solomon	490
Numbers	84	The Wisdom of Solomon	494
Deuteronomy	112	Sirach (Ecclesiasticus)	509
Joshua	137	Isaiah	550
Judges	153	Jeremiah	596
Ruth	170	Lamentations	640
1 Samuel	173	Baruch	646
2 Samuel	195	Ezekiel	652
1 Kings	214	Daniel	687
2 Kings	235	Hosea	702
1 Chronicles	255	Joel	709
2 Chronicles	274	Amos	712
Ezra	297	Obadiah	718
Nehemiah	304	Jonah	720
Tobit	314	Micah	722
Judith	324	Nahum	727
Esther	334	Habakkuk	729
1 Maccabees	342	Zephaniah	732
2 Maccabees	363	Haggai	735
Job	379	Zechariah	737
Psalms	403	Malachi	743
New Testament			
Matthew	747	1 Timothy	894
Mark	770	2 Timothy	897
Luke	785	Titus	899
John	810	Philemon	901
Acts	828	Hebrews	902
Romans	851	James	910
1 Corinthians	861	1 Peter	913
2 Corinthians	870	2 Peter	916
Galatians	876	1 John	918
Ephesians	880	2 John	921
Philippians	884	3 John	922
Colossians	887	Jude	923
1 Thessalonians	890	Revelation	924
2 Thessalonians	892		

Abbreviations

The following abbreviations are used for the books of the Bible:

Old Testament

Gen	Genesis	Tob	Tobit	Bar	Baruch
Ex	Exodus	Jdt	Judith	Ezek	Ezekiel
Lev	Leviticus	Esth	Esther	Dan	Daniel
Num	Numbers	1Mac	1 Maccabees	Hos	Hosea
Deut	Deuteronomy	2Mac	2 Maccabees	Joel	Joel
Josh	Joshua	Job	Job	Am	Amos
Judg	Judges	Ps	Psalms	Ob	Obadiah
Ruth	Ruth	Prov	Proverbs	Jon	Jonah
1Sam	1 Samuel	Eccl	Ecclesiastes	Mic	Micah
2Sam	2 Samuel	Song	Song of Solomon	Nah	Nahum
1Kgs	1 Kings	Wis	The Wisdom of Solomon	Hab	Habakkuk
2Kgs	2 Kings	Sir	Sirach (Ecclesiasticus)	Zeph	Zephaniah
1Chr	1 Chronicles	Isa	Isaiah	Hag	Haggai
2Chr	2 Chronicles	Jer	Jeremiah	Zech	Zechariah
Ezra	Ezra	Lam	Lamentations	Mal	Malachi
Neh	Nehemiah				

New Testament

Mt	Matthew	Eph	Ephesians	Heb	Hebrews
Mk	Mark	Phil	Philippians	Jas	James
Lk	Luke	Col	Colossians	1Pet	1 Peter
Jn	John	1Ths	1 Thessalonians	2Pet	2 Peter
Acts	Acts	2Ths	2 Thessalonians	1Jn	1 John
Rom	Romans	1Tim	1 Timothy	2Jn	2 John
1Cor	1 Corinthians	2Tim	2 Timothy	3Jn	3 John
2Cor	2 Corinthians	Tit	Titus	Jude	Jude
Gal	Galatians	Phlm	Philemon	Rev	Revelation

In the notes to the books of the Old Testament the following abbreviations are used:

<i>Ant.</i>	Josephus, <i>Antiquities of the Jews</i>	Josephus	Flavius Josephus (Jewish Historian, ca. 37-95 CE)
Aram	Aramaic	Mac	The book(s) of the Maccabees
Ch(s)	Chapter(s)	Ms(s)	Manuscript(s)
Cn	Correction; made where the text has suffered in transmission and the versions provide no satisfactory restoration, but where the Standard Bible Committee agrees with the judgment of competent scholars as to the most probable reconstruction of the original text.	MT	The Hebrew of the pointed Masoretic Text of the OT
		OL	Old Latin
		Q Ms(s)	Manuscript(s) found at Qumran by the Dead Sea
		Sam	Samaritan Hebrew text of the OT
		Syr	Syriac Version of the OT
		Syr H	Syriac Version of Origen's Hexapla
Gk	Septuagint, Greek version of the OT	Tg	Targum
Heb	Hebrew of the consonantal Masoretic Text of the OT	Vg	Vulgate, Latin Version of the OT

come upon us, for you have dealt faithfully and we have acted wickedly; ³⁴our kings, our officials, our priests, and our ancestors have not kept your law or heeded the commandments and the warnings that you gave them. ³⁵Even in their own kingdom, and in the great goodness you bestowed on them, and in the large and rich land that you set before them, they did not serve you and did not turn from their wicked works. ³⁶Here we are, slaves to this day—slaves in the land that you gave to our ancestors to enjoy its fruit and its good gifts. ³⁷Its rich yield goes to the kings whom you have set over us because of our sins; they have power also over our bodies and over our livestock at their pleasure, and we are in great distress.⁷

Those Who Signed the Covenant

³⁸ ^b Because of all this we make a firm agreement in writing, and on that sealed document are inscribed the names of our officials, our Levites, and our priests.

10 ^c Upon the sealed document are the names of Nehemiah the governor, son of Hacaliah, and Zedekiah; ²Seraiah, Azariah, Jeremiah, ³Pashhur, Amariah, Malchijah, ⁴Hattush, Shebaniah, Malluch, ⁵Harim, Meremoth, Obadiah, ⁶Daniel, Ginnethon, Baruch, ⁷Meshullam, Abijah, Mijamin, ⁸Maaziah, Bilgai, Shemaiah; these are the priests. ⁹And the Levites: Jeshua son of Azaniah, Binnui of the sons of Henadad, Kadmiel; ¹⁰and their associates, Shebaniah, Hodiah, Kelita, Pelaiah, Hanan, ¹¹Mica, Rehob, Hashabiah, ¹²Zaccur, Sherebiah, Shebaniah, ¹³Hodiah, Bani, Beninu. ¹⁴The leaders of the people: Parosh, Pahath-moab, Elam, Zattu, Bani, ¹⁵Bunni, Azgad, Bebai, ¹⁶Adonijah, Bigvai, Adin, ¹⁷Ater, Hezekiah, Azzur, ¹⁸Hodiah, Hashum, Bezai, ¹⁹Hariph, Anathoth, Nebai, ²⁰Magpiash, Meshullam, Hezir, ²¹Meshezabel, Zadok, Jaddua, ²²Pelathiah, Hanan, Anaiah, ²³Hoshea, Hananiah, Hasshub, ²⁴Hallohesh, Pilha, Shobek, ²⁵Rehum, Hashabnah, Maaseiah, ²⁶Ahiah, Hanan, Anan, ²⁷Malluch, Harim, and Baanah.

Summary of the Covenant

²⁸ The rest of the people, the priests, the Levites, the gatekeepers, the singers, the temple servants, and all who have separated themselves from the peoples of the lands to adhere to the law of God, their wives, their sons, their daughters, all who have knowledge and understanding, ²⁹join with their kin, their nobles, and enter into a curse and an oath to walk in God's law, which was given by Moses the servant of God, and to observe and do all the commandments of the LORD our Lord and his ordinances and his statutes. ³⁰We will not give our daughters to the peoples of the land or take their daughters for our sons; ³¹and if the peoples of the land bring in merchandise or any grain on the sabbath day to sell, we will not buy it from them on the sabbath or on a holy day; and we will forego the crops of the seventh year and the exaction of every debt.

³² We also lay on ourselves the obligation to charge ourselves yearly one-third of a shekel for the service of the house of our God: ³³for the rows of bread, the regular grain-offering, the regular burnt-offering, the sabbaths, the new moons, the

appointed festivals, the sacred donations, and the sin-offerings to make atonement for Israel, and for all the work of the house of our God. ³⁴We have also cast lots among the priests, the Levites, and the people, for the wood-offering, to bring it into the house of our God, by ancestral houses, at appointed times, year by year, to burn on the altar of the LORD our God, as it is written in the law. ³⁵We obligate ourselves to bring the first fruits of our soil and the first fruits of all fruit of every tree, year by year, to the house of the LORD; ³⁶also to bring to the house of our God, to the priests who minister in the house of our God, the firstborn of our sons and of our livestock, as it is written in the law, and the firstlings of our herds and of our flocks; ³⁷and to bring the first of our dough, and our contributions, the fruit of every tree, the wine and the oil, to the priests, to the chambers of the house of our God; and to bring to the Levites the tithes from our soil, for it is the Levites who collect the tithes in all our rural towns. ³⁸And the priest, the descendant of Aaron, shall be with the Levites when the Levites receive the tithes; and the Levites shall bring up a tithe of the tithes to the house of our God, to the chambers of the storehouse. ³⁹For the people of Israel and the sons of Levi shall bring the contribution of grain, wine, and oil to the storerooms where the vessels of the sanctuary are, and where the priests that minister, and the gatekeepers and the singers are. We will not neglect the house of our God.

Population of the City Increased

11 Now the leaders of the people lived in Jerusalem; and the rest of the people cast lots to bring one out of ten to live in the holy city Jerusalem, while nine-tenths remained in the other towns. ²And the people blessed all those who willingly offered to live in Jerusalem.

³ These are the leaders of the province who lived in Jerusalem; but in the towns of Judah all lived on their property in their towns: Israel, the priests, the Levites, the temple servants, and the descendants of Solomon's servants. ⁴And in Jerusalem lived some of the Judahites and of the Benjaminites. Of the Judahites: Athaiah son of Uzziiah son of Zechariah son of Amariah son of Shephatiah son of Mahalalel, of the descendants of Perez; ⁵and Maaseiah son of Baruch son of Col-hozeh son of Hazaiah son of Adaiah son of Joiarib son of Zechariah son of the Shilonite. ⁶All the descendants of Perez who lived in Jerusalem were four hundred and sixty-eight valiant warriors.

⁷ And these are the Benjaminites: Sallu son of Meshullam son of Joed son of Pedaiah son of Kolaiah son of Maaseiah son of Ithiel son of Jeshaiiah. ⁸And his brothers^d Gabbai, Sallai: nine hundred and twenty-eight. ⁹Joel son of Zichri was their overseer; and Judah son of Hassenuah was second in charge of the city.

¹⁰ Of the priests: Jedaiah son of Joiarib, Jachin, ¹¹Seraiah son of Hilkiyah son of Meshullam son of Zadok son of Meraioth son of Ahitub, officer of the house of God, ¹²and their associates who did the work of the house, eight hundred and twenty-two; and Adaiah son of Jeroham son of Pelaliah son

of Amzi son of Zechariah son of Pashhur son of Malchijah, ¹⁵and his associates, heads of ancestral houses, two hundred and forty-two; and Amashai son of Azarel son of Ahzai son of Meshillemoth son of Immer, ¹⁴and their associates, valiant warriors, one hundred and twenty-eight; their overseer was Zabdai son of Haggadolim.

¹⁵And of the Levites: Shemaiah son of Hasshub son of Azrikam son of Hashabiah son of Bunni; ¹⁶and Shabbethai and Jozabad, of the leaders of the Levites, who were over the outside work of the house of God; ¹⁷and Mattaniah son of Mica son of Zabdi son of Asaph, who was the leader to begin the thanksgiving in prayer, and Bakbukiah, the second among his associates; and Abda son of Shammua son of Galal son of Jeduthun. ¹⁸All the Levites in the holy city were two hundred and eighty-four.

¹⁹The gatekeepers, Akkub, Talmon and their associates, who kept watch at the gates, were one hundred and seventy-two. ²⁰And the rest of Israel, and of the priests and the Levites, were in all the towns of Judah, all of them in their inheritance. ²¹But the temple servants lived on Ophel; and Ziha and Gishpa were over the temple servants.

²²The overseer of the Levites in Jerusalem was Uzzi son of Bani son of Hashabiah son of Mattaniah son of Mica, of the descendants of Asaph, the singers, in charge of the work of the house of God. ²³For there was a command from the king concerning them, and a settled provision for the singers, as was required every day. ²⁴And Pethahiah son of Meshezabel, of the descendants of Zerah son of Judah, was at the king's hand in all matters concerning the people.

Villages outside Jerusalem

²⁵And as for the villages, with their fields, some of the people of Judah lived in Kiriath-arba and its villages, and in Dibon and its villages, and in Jekabzeel and its villages, ²⁶and in Jeshua and in Moladah and Beth-pelet, ²⁷in Hazar-shual, in Beer-sheba and its villages, ²⁸in Ziklag, in Meconah and its villages, ²⁹in En-rimmon, in Zorah, in Jarmuth, ³⁰Zanoah, Adullam, and their villages, Lachish and its fields, and Azekah and its villages. So they camped from Beer-sheba to the valley of Hinnom. ³¹The people of Benjamin also lived from Geba onwards, at Michmash, Aija, Bethel and its villages, ³²Anathoth, Nob, Ananiah, ³³Hazor, Ramah, Gittaim, ³⁴Hadid, Zeboim, Neballat, ³⁵Lod, and Ono, the valley of artisans. ³⁶And certain divisions of the Levites in Judah were joined to Benjamin.

A List of Priests and Levites

12 These are the priests and the Levites who came up with Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, and Jeshua: Seraiah, Jeremiah, Ezra, ²Amariah, Malluch, Hattush, ³Shecaniah, Rehum, Meremoth, ⁴Iddo, Ginnethoi, Abijah, ⁵Mijamin, Maadiah, Bilgah, ⁶Shemaiah, Joiarib, Jedaiah, ⁷Sallu, Amok, Hilkiyah, Jedaiah. These were the leaders of the priests and of their associates in the days of Jeshua.

⁸And the Levites: Jeshua, Binnui, Kadmiel, Sherebiah, Judah, and Mattaniah, who with his associates were in charge of the songs of thanksgiving. ⁹And Bakbukiah and Unno their associates stood opposite them in the service. ¹⁰Jeshua was the father of Joiakim, Joiakim the father of Eliashib, Eliashib the

father of Joiada, ¹¹Joiada the father of Jonathan, and Jonathan the father of Jaddua.

¹²In the days of Joiakim the priests, heads of ancestral houses, were: of Seraiah, Meraiah; of Jeremiah, Hananiah; ¹³of Ezra, Meshullam; of Amariah, Jehohanan; ¹⁴of Malluchi, Jonathan; of Shebaniah, Joseph; ¹⁵of Harim, Adna; of Meraioth, Helkai; ¹⁶of Iddo, Zechariah; of Ginnethon, Meshullam; ¹⁷of Abijah, Zichri; of Miniamin, of Moadiah, Piltai; ¹⁸of Bilgah, Shammua; of Shemaiah, Jehonathan; ¹⁹of Joiarib, Mattenai; of Jedaiah, Uzzi; ²⁰of Sallai, Kallai; of Amok, Eber; ²¹of Hilkiyah, Hashabiah; of Jedaiah, Nethanel.

²²As for the Levites, in the days of Eliashib, Joiada, Johanan, and Jaddua, there were recorded the heads of ancestral houses; also the priests until the reign of Darius the Persian. ²³The Levites, heads of ancestral houses, were recorded in the Book of the Annals until the days of Johanan son of Eliashib. ²⁴And the leaders of the Levites: Hashabiah, Sherebiah, and Jeshua son of Kadmiel, with their associates over against them, to praise and to give thanks, according to the commandment of David the man of God, section opposite to section. ²⁵Mattaniah, Bakbukiah, Obadiah, Meshullam, Talmon, and Akkub were gatekeepers standing guard at the storehouses of the gates. ²⁶These were in the days of Joiakim son of Jeshua son of Jozadak, and in the days of the governor Nehemiah and of the priest Ezra, the scribe.

Dedication of the City Wall

²⁷Now at the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem they sought out the Levites in all their places, to bring them to Jerusalem to celebrate the dedication with rejoicing, with thanksgivings and with singing, with cymbals, harps, and lyres. ²⁸The companies of the singers gathered together from the circuit around Jerusalem and from the villages of the Netophathites; ²⁹also from Beth-gilgal and from the region of Geba and Azmaveth; for the singers had built for themselves villages around Jerusalem. ³⁰And the priests and the Levites purified themselves; and they purified the people and the gates and the wall.

³¹Then I brought the leaders of Judah up on to the wall, and appointed two great companies that gave thanks and went in procession. One went to the right on the wall to the Dung Gate; ³²and after them went Hoshaiah and half the officials of Judah, ³³and Azariah, Ezra, Meshullam, ³⁴Judah, Benjamin, Shemaiah, and Jeremiah, ³⁵and some of the young priests with trumpets: Zechariah son of Jonathan son of Shemaiah son of Mattaniah son of Micaiah son of Zaccur son of Asaph; ³⁶and his kindred, Shemaiah, Azarel, Milalai, Gilalai, Maai, Nethanel, Judah, and Hanani, with the musical instruments of David the man of God; and the scribe Ezra went in front of them. ³⁷At the Fountain Gate, in front of them, they went straight up by the stairs of the city of David, at the ascent of the wall, above the house of David, to the Water Gate on the east.

³⁸The other company of those who gave thanks went to the left, ³⁹and I followed them with half of the people on the wall, above the Tower of the Ovens, to the Broad Wall, ³⁹and above the Gate of Ephraim, and by the Old Gate, and by the Fish Gate and the Tower of Hananel and the Tower of the Hundred,

to the Sheep Gate; and they came to a halt at the Gate of the Guard. ⁴⁰So both companies of those who gave thanks stood in the house of God, and I and half of the officials with me; ⁴¹and the priests Eliakim, Maaseiah, Miniamin, Micaiah, Elieoenai, Zechariah, and Hananiah, with trumpets; ⁴²and Maaseiah, Shemaiah, Eleazar, Uzzi, Jehohanan, Malchijah, Elam, and Ezer. And the singers sang with Jezrahiah as their leader. ⁴³They offered great sacrifices that day and rejoiced, for God had made them rejoice with great joy; the women and children also rejoiced. The joy of Jerusalem was heard far away.

Temple Responsibilities

⁴⁴On that day men were appointed over the chambers for the stores, the contributions, the first fruits, and the tithes, to gather into them the portions required by the law for the priests and for the Levites from the fields belonging to the towns; for Judah rejoiced over the priests and the Levites who ministered. ⁴⁵They performed the service of their God and the service of purification, as did the singers and the gatekeepers, according to the command of David and his son Solomon. ⁴⁶For in the days of David and Asaph long ago there was a leader of the singers, and there were songs of praise and thanksgiving to God. ⁴⁷In the days of Zerubbabel and in the days of Nehemiah all Israel gave the daily portions for the singers and the gatekeepers. They set apart that which was for the Levites; and the Levites set apart that which was for the descendants of Aaron.

Foreigners Separated from Israel

13 On that day they read from the book of Moses in the hearing of the people; and in it was found written that no Ammonite or Moabite should ever enter the assembly of God, ²because they did not meet the Israelites with bread and water, but hired Balaam against them to curse them—yet our God turned the curse into a blessing. ³When the people heard the law, they separated from Israel all those of foreign descent.

The Reforms of Nehemiah

⁴Now before this, the priest Eliashib, who was appointed over the chambers of the house of our God, and who was related to Tobiah, ⁵prepared for Tobiah a large room where they had previously put the grain-offering, the frankincense, the vessels, and the tithes of grain, wine, and oil, which were given by commandment to the Levites, singers, and gatekeepers, and the contributions for the priests. ⁶While this was taking place I was not in Jerusalem, for in the thirty-second year of King Artaxerxes of Babylon I went to the king. After some time I asked leave of the king ⁷and returned to Jerusalem. I then discovered the wrong that Eliashib had done on behalf of Tobiah, preparing a room for him in the courts of the house of God. ⁸And I was very angry, and I threw all the household furniture of Tobiah out of the room. ⁹Then I gave orders and they cleansed the chambers, and I brought back the vessels of the house of God, with the grain-offering and the frankincense.

¹⁰I also found out that the portions of the Levites had not been given to them; so that the Levites and the singers, who had conducted the service,

had gone back to their fields. ¹¹So I remonstrated with the officials and said, 'Why is the house of God forsaken?' And I gathered them together and set them in their stations. ¹²Then all Judah brought the tithe of the grain, wine, and oil into the storehouses. ¹³And I appointed as treasurers over the storehouses the priest Shelemiah, the scribe Zadok, and Pedaiah of the Levites, and as their assistant Hanan son of Zaccur son of Mattaniah, for they were considered faithful; and their duty was to distribute to their associates. ¹⁴Remember me, O my God, concerning this, and do not wipe out my good deeds that I have done for the house of my God and for his service.

Sabbath Reforms Begun

¹⁵In those days I saw in Judah people treading wine presses on the sabbath, and bringing in heaps of grain and loading them on donkeys; and also wine, grapes, figs, and all kinds of burdens, which they brought into Jerusalem on the sabbath day; and I warned them at that time against selling food. ¹⁶Tyrians also, who lived in the city, brought in fish and all kinds of merchandise and sold them on the sabbath to the people of Judah, and in Jerusalem. ¹⁷Then I remonstrated with the nobles of Judah and said to them, 'What is this evil thing that you are doing, profaning the sabbath day?' ¹⁸Did not your ancestors act in this way, and did not our God bring all this disaster on us and on this city? Yet you bring more wrath on Israel by profaning the sabbath.'

¹⁹When it began to be dark at the gates of Jerusalem before the sabbath, I commanded that the doors should be shut and gave orders that they should not be opened until after the sabbath. And I set some of my servants over the gates, to prevent any burden from being brought in on the sabbath day. ²⁰Then the merchants and sellers of all kinds of merchandise spent the night outside Jerusalem once or twice. ²¹But I warned them and said to them, 'Why do you spend the night in front of the wall? If you do so again, I will lay hands on you.' From that time on they did not come on the sabbath. ²²And I commanded the Levites that they should purify themselves and come and guard the gates, to keep the sabbath day holy. Remember this also in my favour, O my God, and spare me according to the greatness of your steadfast love.

Mixed Marriages Condemned

²³In those days also I saw Jews who had married women of Ashdod, Ammon, and Moab; ²⁴and half of their children spoke the language of Ashdod, and they could not speak the language of Judah, but spoke the language of various peoples. ²⁵And I contended with them and cursed them and beat some of them and pulled out their hair; and I made them take an oath in the name of God, saying, 'You shall not give your daughters to their sons, or take their daughters for your sons or for yourselves.' ²⁶Did not King Solomon of Israel sin on account of such women? Among the many nations there was no king like him, and he was beloved by his God, and God made him king over all Israel; nevertheless, foreign women made even him to sin. ²⁷Shall we then listen to you and do all this great evil and act treacherously against our God by marrying foreign women?'

28 And one of the sons of Jehoiada, son of the high priest Eliashib, was the son-in-law of Sanballat the Horonite; I chased him away from me. 29 Remember them, O my God, because they have defiled the priesthood, the covenant of the priests and the Levites.

30 Thus I cleansed them from everything foreign, and I established the duties of the priests and Levites, each in his work; 31 and I provided for the wood-offering, at appointed times, and for the first fruits. Remember me, O my God, for good.

Tobit

This book tells the story of Tobit son of Tobiel son of Hananiel son of Aduel son of Gabael son of Raphael of the descendants^a of Asiel, of the tribe of Naphtali,² who in the days of King Shalmaneser^b of the Assyrians was taken into captivity from Thisbe, which is to the south of Kedesh Naphtali in Upper Galilee, above Asher towards the west, and north of Phogor.

Tobit's Youth and Virtuous Life

3 I, Tobit, walked in the ways of truth and righteousness all the days of my life. I performed many acts of charity for my kindred and my people who had gone with me in exile to Nineveh in the land of the Assyrians. ⁴When I was in my own country, in the land of Israel, while I was still a young man, the whole tribe of my ancestor Naphtali deserted the house of David and Jerusalem. This city had been chosen from among all the tribes of Israel, where all the tribes of Israel should offer sacrifice and where the temple, the dwelling of God, had been consecrated and established for all generations for ever.

5 All my kindred and our ancestral house of Naphtali sacrificed to the calf^c that King Jeroboam of Israel had erected in Dan and on all the mountains of Galilee. ⁶But I alone went often to Jerusalem for the festivals, as it is prescribed for all Israel by an everlasting decree. I would hurry off to Jerusalem with the first fruits of the crops and the firstlings of the flock, the tithes of the cattle, and the first shearings of the sheep. ⁷I would give these to the priests, the sons of Aaron, at the altar; likewise the tenth of the grain, wine, olive oil, pomegranates, figs, and the rest of the fruits to the sons of Levi who ministered at Jerusalem. Also, for six years I would save up a second tenth in money and go and distribute it in Jerusalem. ⁸A third tenth^d I would give to the orphans and widows and to the converts who had attached themselves to Israel. I would bring it and give it to them in the third year, and we would eat it according to the ordinance decreed concerning it in the law of Moses and according to the instructions of Deborah, the mother of my father Tobiel,^e for my father had died and left me an orphan. ⁹When I became a man I married a woman,^f a member of our own family, and by her I became the father of a son whom I named Tobias.

Taken Captive to Nineveh

10 After I was carried away captive to Assyria and came as a captive to Nineveh, everyone of my kindred and my people ate the food of the Gentiles, ¹¹but I kept myself from eating the food of the Gentiles. ¹²Because I was mindful of God with all my heart, ¹³the Most High gave me favour and good standing with Shalmaneser,^g and I used to buy everything he needed. ¹⁴Until his death I used to go into Media, and buy for him there. While in the country of Media I left bags of silver worth ten talents in trust with Gabael, the brother of Gabri. ¹⁵But when Shalmaneser^g died, and his son Sennacherib reigned in his place, the highways into Media became unsafe and I could no longer go there.

Courage in Burying the Dead

16 In the days of Shalmaneser^g I performed many acts of charity to my kindred, those of my tribe. ¹⁷I would give my food to the hungry and my clothing to the naked; and if I saw the dead body of any of my people thrown out behind the wall of Nineveh, I would bury it. ¹⁸I also buried any whom King Sennacherib put to death when he came fleeing from Judea in those days of judgement that the king of heaven executed upon him because of his blasphemies. For in his anger he put to death many Israelites; but I would secretly remove the bodies and bury them. So when Sennacherib looked for them he could not find them. ¹⁹Then one of the Ninevites went and informed the king about me, that I was burying them; so I hid myself. But when I realized that the king knew about me and that I was being searched for to be put to death, I was afraid and ran away. ²⁰Then all my property was confiscated; nothing was left to me that was not taken into the royal treasury, except my wife Anna and my son Tobias.

21 But not forty^h days passed before two of Sennacherib'sⁱ sons killed him, and they fled to the mountains of Ararat, and his son Esar-haddon¹ reigned after him. He appointed Ahikar, the son of my brother Hanael^k over all the accounts of his kingdom, and he had authority over the entire administration. ²²Ahikar interceded for me, and I returned to Nineveh. Now Ahikar was chief cupbearer, keeper of the signet, and in charge of administration of the accounts under King Sennacherib of Assyria; so Esar-haddon¹ reappointed him. He was my nephew and so a close relative.

a 1.1 Other ancient authorities lack of Raphael son of Raguel of the descendants b 1.2 Gk Enemessaros c 1.5 Other ancient authorities read heifer d 1.8 A third tenth added from other ancient authorities e 1.8 Lat: Gk Hananiel f 1.9 Other ancient authorities add Anna g 1.13 Gk Enemessaros h 1.21 Other ancient authorities read either forty-five or fifty i 1.21 Gk his j 1.21 Gk Sacherdonos k 1.21 Other authorities read Hananael l 1.22 Gk Sacherdonos

2 Then during the reign of Esar-haddon^m I returned home, and my wife Anna and my son Tobias were restored to me. At our festival of Pentecost, which is the sacred festival of weeks, a good dinner was prepared for me and I reclined to eat. ²When the table was set for me and an abundance of food placed before me, I said to my son Tobias, 'Go, my child, and bring whatever poor person you may find of our people among the exiles in Nineveh, who is wholeheartedly mindful of God,ⁿ and he shall eat together with me. I will wait for you, until you come back.' ³So Tobias went to look for some poor person of our people. When he had returned he said, 'Father!' And I replied, 'Here I am, my child.' Then he went on to say, 'Look, father, one of our own people has been murdered and thrown into the market-place, and now he lies there strangled.' ⁴Then I sprang up, left the dinner before even tasting it, and removed the body^o from the square^p and laid it^q in one of the rooms until sunset when I might bury it.^q ⁵When I returned, I washed myself and ate my food in sorrow. ⁶Then I remembered the prophecy of Amos, how he said against Bethel,^r

'Your festivals shall be turned into mourning,
and all your songs into lamentation.'

And I wept.

Tobit Becomes Blind

⁷ When the sun had set, I went and dug a grave and buried him. ⁸And my neighbours laughed and said, 'Is he still not afraid? He has already been hunted down to be put to death for doing this, and he ran away; yet here he is again burying the dead!' ⁹That same night I washed myself and went into my courtyard and slept by the wall of the courtyard; and my face was uncovered because of the heat. ¹⁰I did not know that there were sparrows on the wall; their fresh droppings fell into my eyes and produced white films. I went to physicians to be healed, but the more they treated me with ointments the more my vision was obscured by the white films, until I became completely blind. For four years I remained unable to see. All my kindred were sorry for me, and Ahikar took care of me for two years before he went to Elymais.

Tobit's Wife Earns Their Livelihood

¹¹ At that time, also, my wife Anna earned money at women's work. ¹²She used to send what she made to the owners and they would pay wages to her. One day, the seventh of Dystrus, when she cut off a piece she had woven and sent it to the owners, they paid her full wages and also gave her a kid for a meal. ¹³When she returned to me, the kid began to bleat. So I called her and said, 'Where did you get this kid? It is surely not stolen, is it? Return it to the owners; for we have no right to eat anything stolen.' ¹⁴But she said to me, 'It was given to me as a gift in addition to my wages.' But I did not believe her, and told her to return it to the owners. I became flushed with anger against her

over this. Then she replied to me, 'Where are your acts of charity? Where are your righteous deeds? These things are known about you!'^s

Tobit's Prayer

3 Then with much grief and anguish of heart I wept, and with groaning began to pray:

² 'You are righteous, O Lord,
and all your deeds are just;
all your ways are mercy and truth;
you judge the world.'^t

³ And now, O Lord, remember me
and look favourably upon me.
Do not punish me for my sins
and for my unwitting offences
and those that my ancestors committed
before you.

They sinned against you,
⁴ and disobeyed your commandments.
So you gave us over to plunder, exile, and death,
to become the talk, the byword, and an
object of reproach,
among all the nations among whom you
have dispersed us.

⁵ And now your many judgements are true
in exacting penalty from me for my sins.
For we have not kept your commandments
and have not walked in accordance with
truth before you.

⁶ So now deal with me as you will;
command my spirit to be taken from me,
so that I may be released from the face of
the earth and become dust.
For it is better for me to die than to live,
because I have had to listen to undeserved
insults,
and great is the sorrow within me.
Command, O Lord, that I be released from
this distress;
release me to go to the eternal home,
and do not, O Lord, turn your face away
from me.
For it is better for me to die
than to see so much distress in my life
and to listen to insults.'

Sarah Falsely Accused

⁷ On the same day, at Ecbatana in Media, it also happened that Sarah, the daughter of Raguel, was reproached by one of her father's maids. ⁸For she had been married to seven husbands, and the wicked demon Asmodeus had killed each of them before they had been with her as is customary for wives. So the maid said to her, 'You are the one who kills^u your husbands! See, you have already been married to seven husbands and have not borne the name of^v a single one of them. ⁹Why do you beat us? Because your husbands are dead? Go with them! May we never see a son or daughter of yours!'

Sarah's Prayer for Death

¹⁰ On that day she was grieved in spirit and wept. When she had gone up to her father's upper room,

m 2.1 Gk *Sacherdonos* **n** 2.2 Lat: Gk *wholeheartedly mindful* **o** 2.4 Gk *him* **p** 2.4 Other ancient authorities lack *from the square* **q** 2.4 Gk *him* **r** 2.6 Other ancient authorities read *against Bethlehem* **s** 2.14 Or *to you*; Gk *with you* **t** 3.2 Other ancient authorities read *you render true and righteous judgement for ever* **u** 3.8 Other ancient authorities read *strangles* **v** 3.8 Other ancient authorities read *have had no benefit from*

BOOK II
(Psalms 42–72)

Longing for God and His Help in Distress

To the leader. A Maskil of the Korahites.

- 42** As a deer longs for flowing streams,
so my soul longs for you, O God.
- ² My soul thirsts for God,
for the living God.
When shall I come and behold
the face of God?
- ³ My tears have been my food
day and night,
while people say to me continually,
'Where is your God?'
- ⁴ These things I remember,
as I pour out my soul:
how I went with the throng,^z
and led them in procession to the house
of God,
with glad shouts and songs of thanksgiving,
a multitude keeping festival.
- ⁵ Why are you cast down, O my soul,
and why are you disquieted within me?
Hope in God; for I shall again praise him,
my help⁶ and my God.
- My soul is cast down within me;
therefore I remember you
from the land of Jordan and of Hermon,
from Mount Mizar.
- ⁷ Deep calls to deep
at the thunder of your cataracts;
all your waves and your billows
have gone over me.
- ⁸ By day the LORD commands his steadfast
love,
and at night his song is with me,
a prayer to the God of my life.
- ⁹ I say to God, my rock,
'Why have you forgotten me?
Why must I walk about mournfully
because the enemy oppresses me?'
- ¹⁰ As with a deadly wound in my body,
my adversaries taunt me,
while they say to me continually,
'Where is your God?'
- ¹¹ Why are you cast down, O my soul,
and why are you disquieted within me?
Hope in God; for I shall again praise him,
my help and my God.

Prayer to God in Time of Trouble

- 43** Vindicate me, O God, and defend my cause
against an ungodly people;
from those who are deceitful and unjust
deliver me!
- ² For you are the God in whom I take refuge;
why have you cast me off?
Why must I walk about mournfully
because of the oppression of the enemy?

- ³ O send out your light and your truth;
let them lead me;
let them bring me to your holy hill
and to your dwelling.
- ⁴ Then I will go to the altar of God,
to God my exceeding joy;
and I will praise you with the harp,
O God, my God.
- ⁵ Why are you cast down, O my soul,
and why are you disquieted within me?
Hope in God; for I shall again praise him,
my help and my God.

**National Lament and Prayer for Help
To the leader. Of the Korahites. A Maskil.**

- 44** We have heard with our ears, O God,
our ancestors have told us,
what deeds you performed in their days,
in the days of old:
- ² you with your own hand drove out the
nations,
but them you planted;
you afflicted the peoples,
but them you set free;
- ³ for not by their own sword did they win
the land,
nor did their own arm give them victory;
but your right hand, and your arm,
and the light of your countenance,
for you delighted in them.
- ⁴ You are my King and my God;
you command^a victories for Jacob.
- ⁵ Through you we push down our foes;
through your name we tread down our
assailants.
- ⁶ For not in my bow do I trust,
nor can my sword save me.
- ⁷ But you have saved us from our foes,
and have put to confusion those who
hate us.
- ⁸ In God we have boasted continually,
and we will give thanks to your name for
ever. *Selah*
- ⁹ Yet you have rejected us and abased us,
and have not gone out with our armies.
- ¹⁰ You made us turn back from the foe,
and our enemies have taken spoil for
themselves.
- ¹¹ You have made us like sheep for slaughter,
and have scattered us among the nations.
- ¹² You have sold your people for a trifle,
demanding no high price for them.
- ¹³ You have made us the taunt of our neighbours,
the derision and scorn of those around us.
- ¹⁴ You have made us a byword among the
nations,
a laughing-stock^b among the peoples.
- ¹⁵ All day long my disgrace is before me,
and shame has covered my face
- ¹⁶ at the words of the taunters and revilers,
at the sight of the enemy and the avenger.

- 17 All this has come upon us,
yet we have not forgotten you,
or been false to your covenant.
- 18 Our heart has not turned back,
nor have our steps departed from your way,
- 19 yet you have broken us in the haunt of
jackals,
and covered us with deep darkness.
- 20 If we had forgotten the name of our God,
or spread out our hands to a strange god,
21 would not God discover this?
For he knows the secrets of the heart.
- 22 Because of you we are being killed all day
long,
and accounted as sheep for the slaughter.
- 23 Rouse yourself! Why do you sleep, O LORD?
Awake, do not cast us off for ever!
- 24 Why do you hide your face?
Why do you forget our affliction and
oppression?
- 25 For we sink down to the dust;
our bodies cling to the ground.
- 26 Rise up, come to our help.
Redeem us for the sake of your steadfast
love.

Ode for a Royal Wedding

To the leader: according to Lilies. Of the
Korahites. A Maskil. A love song.

45 My heart overflows with a goodly theme;
I address my verses to the king;
my tongue is like the pen of a ready scribe.

- 2 You are the most handsome of men;
grace is poured upon your lips;
therefore God has blessed you for ever.
- 3 Gird your sword on your thigh, O mighty one,
in your glory and majesty.
- 4 In your majesty ride on victoriously
for the cause of truth and to defend^c the
right;
let your right hand teach you dread deeds.
- 5 Your arrows are sharp
in the heart of the king's enemies;
the peoples fall under you.
- 6 Your throne, O God,^d endures for ever and ever.
Your royal sceptre is a sceptre of equity;
- 7 you love righteousness and hate
wickedness.
Therefore God, your God, has anointed you
with the oil of gladness beyond your
companions;
- 8 your robes are all fragrant with myrrh and
aloes and cassia.
From ivory palaces stringed instruments
make you glad;
- 9 daughters of kings are among your ladies
of honour;
at your right hand stands the queen in
gold of Ophir.

- 10 Hear, O daughter, consider and incline your
ear;
forget your people and your father's house,
11 and the king will desire your beauty.
Since he is your lord, bow to him;
- 12 the people^e of Tyre will seek your favour
with gifts,
the richest of the people¹⁵ with all kinds
of wealth.
- The princess is decked in her chamber with
gold-woven robes;^f
- 14 in many-coloured robes she is led to the
king;
behind her the virgins, her companions,
follow.
- 15 With joy and gladness they are led along
as they enter the palace of the king.
- 16 In the place of ancestors you, O king,^g shall
have sons;
you will make them princes in all the
earth.
- 17 I will cause your name to be celebrated in all
generations;
therefore the peoples will praise you for
ever and ever.

God's Defence of His City and People

To the leader. Of the Korahites.
According to Alamothe. A Song.

- 46** God is our refuge and strength,
a very present^h help in trouble.
- 2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth
should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart
of the sea;
- 3 though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its
tumult. *Selah*
- 4 There is a river whose streams make glad
the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.
- 5 God is in the midst of the city;ⁱ it shall not be
moved;
God will help it when the morning dawns.
- 6 The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms
totter;
he utters his voice, the earth melts.
- 7 The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.^j *Selah*
- 8 Come, behold the works of the LORD;
see what desolations he has brought on
the earth.
- 9 He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields with fire.
- 10 'Be still, and know that I am God!
I am exalted among the nations,
I am exalted in the earth.'
- 11 The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.^j *Selah*

c 45.4 Cn: Heb and the meekness of **d** 45.6 Or Your throne is a throne of God, it **e** 45.12 Heb daughter **f** 45.13 Or people. ¹³ All glorious is the princess within, gold embroidery is her clothing **g** 45.16 Heb lacks O king **h** 46.1 Or well proved **i** 46.5 Heb of it **j** 46.7 Or fortress

God's Rule over the Nations

To the leader. Of the Korahites. A Psalm.

- 47** Clap your hands, all you peoples;
shout to God with loud songs of joy.
 2 For the LORD, the Most High, is awesome,
a great king over all the earth.
 3 He subdued peoples under us,
and nations under our feet.
 4 He chose our heritage for us,
the pride of Jacob whom he loves. *Selah*
 5 God has gone up with a shout,
the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.
 6 Sing praises to God, sing praises;
sing praises to our King, sing praises.
 7 For God is the king of all the earth;
sing praises with a psalm.^k
 8 God is king over the nations;
God sits on his holy throne.
 9 The princes of the peoples gather
as the people of the God of Abraham.
For the shields of the earth belong to God;
he is highly exalted.

The Glory and Strength of Zion

A Song. A Psalm of the Korahites.

- 48** Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised
in the city of our God.
His holy mountain, ²beautiful in elevation,
is the joy of all the earth,
Mount Zion, in the far north,
the city of the great King.
 3 Within its citadels God
has shown himself a sure defence.
 4 Then the kings assembled,
they came on together.
 5 As soon as they saw it, they were
astounded;
they were in panic, they took to flight;
 6 trembling took hold of them there,
pains as of a woman in labour,
 7 as when an east wind shatters
the ships of Tarshish.
 8 As we have heard, so have we seen
in the city of the LORD of hosts,
in the city of our God,
which God establishes for ever. *Selah*
 9 We ponder your steadfast love, O God,
in the midst of your temple.
 10 Your name, O God, like your praise,
reaches to the ends of the earth.
Your right hand is filled with victory.
 11 Let Mount Zion be glad,
let the towns^l of Judah rejoice
because of your judgements.
 12 Walk about Zion, go all around it,
count its towers,
 13 consider well its ramparts;
go through its citadels,

- that you may tell the next generation
 14 that this is God,
our God for ever and ever.
He will be our guide for ever.

The Folly of Trust in Riches

To the leader. Of the Korahites. A Psalm.

- 49** Hear this, all you peoples;
give ear, all inhabitants of the world,
 2 both low and high,
rich and poor together.
 3 My mouth shall speak wisdom;
the meditation of my heart shall be
understanding.
 4 I will incline my ear to a proverb;
I will solve my riddle to the music of the
harp.
 5 Why should I fear in times of trouble,
when the iniquity of my persecutors
surrounds me,
 6 those who trust in their wealth
and boast of the abundance of their
riches?
 7 Truly, no ransom avails for one's life,^m
there is no price one can give to God for it.
 8 For the ransom of life is costly,
and can never suffice,
 9 that one should live on for ever
and never see the grave.ⁿ
 10 When we look at the wise, they die;
fool and dolt perish together
and leave their wealth to others.
 11 Their graves^o are their homes for ever,
their dwelling-places to all generations,
though they named lands their own.
 12 Mortals cannot abide in their pomp;
they are like the animals that perish.
 13 Such is the fate of the foolhardy,
the end of those^p who are pleased with
their lot. *Selah*
 14 Like sheep they are appointed for Sheol;
Death shall be their shepherd;
straight to the grave they descend,^q
and their form shall waste away;
Sheol shall be their home.^r
 15 But God will ransom my soul from the power
of Sheol,
for he will receive me. *Selah*
 16 Do not be afraid when some become rich,
when the wealth of their houses
increases.
 17 For when they die they will carry nothing
away;
their wealth will not go down after them.
 18 Though in their lifetime they count
themselves happy—
for you are praised when you do well for
yourself—
 19 they^s will go to the company of their
ancestors,

^k 47.7 Heb *Maskil* ^l 48.11 Heb *daughters* ^m 49.7 Another reading is *no one can ransom a brother* ⁿ 49.9 Heb *the pit* ^o 49.11 Gk Syr Compare Tg: Heb *their inward* (thought) ^p 49.13 Tg: Heb *after them* ^q 49.14 Cn: Heb *the upright shall have dominion over them in the morning* ^r 49.14 Meaning of Heb uncertain ^s 49.19 Cn: Heb *you*

Contents

	page		page
Old Testament			
Genesis	3	Proverbs	464
Exodus	36	Ecclesiastes	484
Leviticus	64	Song of Solomon	490
Numbers	84	The Wisdom of Solomon	494
Deuteronomy	112	Sirach (Ecclesiasticus)	509
Joshua	137	Isaiah	550
Judges	153	Jeremiah	596
Ruth	170	Lamentations	640
1 Samuel	173	Baruch	646
2 Samuel	195	Ezekiel	652
1 Kings	214	Daniel	687
2 Kings	235	Hosea	702
1 Chronicles	255	Joel	709
2 Chronicles	274	Amos	712
Ezra	297	Obadiah	718
Nehemiah	304	Jonah	720
Tobit	314	Micah	722
Judith	324	Nahum	727
Esther	334	Habakkuk	729
1 Maccabees	342	Zephaniah	732
2 Maccabees	363	Haggai	735
Job	379	Zechariah	737
Psalms	403	Malachi	743
New Testament			
Matthew	747	1 Timothy	894
Mark	770	2 Timothy	897
Luke	785	Titus	899
John	810	Philemon	901
Acts	828	Hebrews	902
Romans	851	James	910
1 Corinthians	861	1 Peter	913
2 Corinthians	870	2 Peter	916
Galatians	876	1 John	918
Ephesians	880	2 John	921
Philippians	884	3 John	922
Colossians	887	Jude	923
1 Thessalonians	890	Revelation	924
2 Thessalonians	892		

Abbreviations

The following abbreviations are used for the books of the Bible:

Old Testament

Gen	Genesis	Tob	Tobit	Bar	Baruch
Ex	Exodus	Jdt	Judith	Ezek	Ezekiel
Lev	Leviticus	Esth	Esther	Dan	Daniel
Num	Numbers	1Mac	1 Maccabees	Hos	Hosea
Deut	Deuteronomy	2Mac	2 Maccabees	Joel	Joel
Josh	Joshua	Job	Job	Am	Amos
Judg	Judges	Ps	Psalms	Ob	Obadiah
Ruth	Ruth	Prov	Proverbs	Jon	Jonah
1Sam	1 Samuel	Eccl	Ecclesiastes	Mic	Micah
2Sam	2 Samuel	Song	Song of Solomon	Nah	Nahum
1Kgs	1 Kings	Wis	The Wisdom of Solomon	Hab	Habakkuk
2Kgs	2 Kings	Sir	Sirach (Ecclesiasticus)	Zeph	Zephaniah
1Chr	1 Chronicles	Isa	Isaiah	Hag	Haggai
2Chr	2 Chronicles	Jer	Jeremiah	Zech	Zechariah
Ezra	Ezra	Lam	Lamentations	Mal	Malachi
Neh	Nehemiah				

New Testament

Mt	Matthew	Eph	Ephesians	Heb	Hebrews
Mk	Mark	Phil	Philippians	Jas	James
Lk	Luke	Col	Colossians	1Pet	1 Peter
Jn	John	1Ths	1 Thessalonians	2Pet	2 Peter
Acts	Acts	2Ths	2 Thessalonians	1Jn	1 John
Rom	Romans	1Tim	1 Timothy	2Jn	2 John
1Cor	1 Corinthians	2Tim	2 Timothy	3Jn	3 John
2Cor	2 Corinthians	Tit	Titus	Jude	Jude
Gal	Galatians	Phlm	Philemon	Rev	Revelation

In the notes to the books of the Old Testament the following abbreviations are used:

<i>Ant.</i>	Josephus, <i>Antiquities of the Jews</i>	Josephus	Flavius Josephus (Jewish Historian, ca. 37-95 CE)
Aram	Aramaic	Mac	The book(s) of the Maccabees
Ch(s)	Chapter(s)	Ms(s)	Manuscript(s)
Cn	Correction; made where the text has suffered in transmission and the versions provide no satisfactory restoration, but where the Standard Bible Committee agrees with the judgment of competent scholars as to the most probable reconstruction of the original text.	MT	The Hebrew of the pointed Masoretic Text of the OT
		OL	Old Latin
		Q Ms(s)	Manuscript(s) found at Qumran by the Dead Sea
		Sam	Samaritan Hebrew text of the OT
		Syr	Syriac Version of the OT
		Syr H	Syriac Version of Origen's Hexapla
Gk	Septuagint, Greek version of the OT	Tg	Targum
Heb	Hebrew of the consonantal Masoretic Text of the OT	Vg	Vulgate, Latin Version of the OT

come upon us, for you have dealt faithfully and we have acted wickedly; ³⁴our kings, our officials, our priests, and our ancestors have not kept your law or heeded the commandments and the warnings that you gave them. ³⁵Even in their own kingdom, and in the great goodness you bestowed on them, and in the large and rich land that you set before them, they did not serve you and did not turn from their wicked works. ³⁶Here we are, slaves to this day—slaves in the land that you gave to our ancestors to enjoy its fruit and its good gifts. ³⁷Its rich yield goes to the kings whom you have set over us because of our sins; they have power also over our bodies and over our livestock at their pleasure, and we are in great distress.⁷

Those Who Signed the Covenant

³⁸ ^b Because of all this we make a firm agreement in writing, and on that sealed document are inscribed the names of our officials, our Levites, and our priests.

10 ^c Upon the sealed document are the names of Nehemiah the governor, son of Hacaliah, and Zedekiah; ²Seraiah, Azariah, Jeremiah, ³Pashhur, Amariah, Malchijah, ⁴Hattush, Shebaniah, Malluch, ⁵Harim, Meremoth, Obadiah, ⁶Daniel, Ginnethon, Baruch, ⁷Meshullam, Abijah, Mijamin, ⁸Maaziah, Bilgai, Shemaiah; these are the priests. ⁹And the Levites: Jeshua son of Azaniah, Binnui of the sons of Henadad, Kadmiel; ¹⁰and their associates, Shebaniah, Hodiah, Kelita, Pelaiah, Hanan, ¹¹Mica, Rehob, Hashabiah, ¹²Zaccur, Sherebiah, Shebaniah, ¹³Hodiah, Bani, Beninu. ¹⁴The leaders of the people: Parosh, Pahath-moab, Elam, Zattu, Bani, ¹⁵Bunni, Azgad, Bebai, ¹⁶Adonijah, Bigvai, Adin, ¹⁷Ater, Hezekiah, Azzur, ¹⁸Hodiah, Hashum, Bezai, ¹⁹Hariph, Anathoth, Nebai, ²⁰Magpiash, Meshullam, Hezir, ²¹Meshezabel, Zadok, Jaddua, ²²Pelathiah, Hanan, Anaiah, ²³Hoshea, Hananiah, Hasshub, ²⁴Hallohesh, Pilha, Shobek, ²⁵Rehum, Hashabnah, Maaseiah, ²⁶Ahiash, Hanan, Anan, ²⁷Malluch, Harim, and Baanah.

Summary of the Covenant

²⁸ The rest of the people, the priests, the Levites, the gatekeepers, the singers, the temple servants, and all who have separated themselves from the peoples of the lands to adhere to the law of God, their wives, their sons, their daughters, all who have knowledge and understanding, ²⁹join with their kin, their nobles, and enter into a curse and an oath to walk in God's law, which was given by Moses the servant of God, and to observe and do all the commandments of the LORD our Lord and his ordinances and his statutes. ³⁰We will not give our daughters to the peoples of the land or take their daughters for our sons; ³¹and if the peoples of the land bring in merchandise or any grain on the sabbath day to sell, we will not buy it from them on the sabbath or on a holy day; and we will forego the crops of the seventh year and the exaction of every debt.

³² We also lay on ourselves the obligation to charge ourselves yearly one-third of a shekel for the service of the house of our God: ³³for the rows of bread, the regular grain-offering, the regular burnt-offering, the sabbaths, the new moons, the

appointed festivals, the sacred donations, and the sin-offerings to make atonement for Israel, and for all the work of the house of our God. ³⁴We have also cast lots among the priests, the Levites, and the people, for the wood-offering, to bring it into the house of our God, by ancestral houses, at appointed times, year by year, to burn on the altar of the LORD our God, as it is written in the law. ³⁵We obligate ourselves to bring the first fruits of our soil and the first fruits of all fruit of every tree, year by year, to the house of the LORD; ³⁶also to bring to the house of our God, to the priests who minister in the house of our God, the firstborn of our sons and of our livestock, as it is written in the law, and the firstlings of our herds and of our flocks; ³⁷and to bring the first of our dough, and our contributions, the fruit of every tree, the wine and the oil, to the priests, to the chambers of the house of our God; and to bring to the Levites the tithes from our soil, for it is the Levites who collect the tithes in all our rural towns. ³⁸And the priest, the descendant of Aaron, shall be with the Levites when the Levites receive the tithes; and the Levites shall bring up a tithe of the tithes to the house of our God, to the chambers of the storehouse. ³⁹For the people of Israel and the sons of Levi shall bring the contribution of grain, wine, and oil to the storerooms where the vessels of the sanctuary are, and where the priests that minister, and the gatekeepers and the singers are. We will not neglect the house of our God.

Population of the City Increased

11 Now the leaders of the people lived in Jerusalem; and the rest of the people cast lots to bring one out of ten to live in the holy city Jerusalem, while nine-tenths remained in the other towns. ²And the people blessed all those who willingly offered to live in Jerusalem.

³ These are the leaders of the province who lived in Jerusalem; but in the towns of Judah all lived on their property in their towns: Israel, the priests, the Levites, the temple servants, and the descendants of Solomon's servants. ⁴And in Jerusalem lived some of the Judahites and of the Benjaminites. Of the Judahites: Athaiah son of Uzziash son of Zechariah son of Amariah son of Shephatiah son of Mahalalel, of the descendants of Perez; ⁵and Maaseiah son of Baruch son of Col-hozeh son of Hazaiah son of Adaiah son of Joiarib son of Zechariah son of the Shilonite. ⁶All the descendants of Perez who lived in Jerusalem were four hundred and sixty-eight valiant warriors.

⁷ And these are the Benjaminites: Sallu son of Meshullam son of Joed son of Pedaiah son of Kolaiah son of Maaseiah son of Ithiel son of Jeshaiiah. ⁸And his brothers^d Gabbai, Sallai: nine hundred and twenty-eight. ⁹Joel son of Zichri was their overseer; and Judah son of Hassenuah was second in charge of the city.

¹⁰ Of the priests: Jedaiah son of Joiarib, Jachin, ¹¹Seraiah son of Hilkiash son of Meshullam son of Zadok son of Meraioth son of Ahitub, officer of the house of God, ¹²and their associates who did the work of the house, eight hundred and twenty-two; and Adaiah son of Jeroham son of Pelaliah son

of Amzi son of Zechariah son of Pashhur son of Malchijah, ¹⁵and his associates, heads of ancestral houses, two hundred and forty-two; and Amashsai son of Azarel son of Ahzai son of Meshillemoth son of Immer, ¹⁴and their associates, valiant warriors, one hundred and twenty-eight; their overseer was Zabdai son of Haggadolim.

¹⁵And of the Levites: Shemaiah son of Hasshub son of Azrikam son of Hashabiah son of Bunni; ¹⁶and Shabbethai and Jozabad, of the leaders of the Levites, who were over the outside work of the house of God; ¹⁷and Mattaniah son of Mica son of Zabdi son of Asaph, who was the leader to begin the thanksgiving in prayer, and Bakbukiah, the second among his associates; and Abda son of Shammua son of Galal son of Jeduthun. ¹⁸All the Levites in the holy city were two hundred and eighty-four.

¹⁹The gatekeepers, Akkub, Talmon and their associates, who kept watch at the gates, were one hundred and seventy-two. ²⁰And the rest of Israel, and of the priests and the Levites, were in all the towns of Judah, all of them in their inheritance. ²¹But the temple servants lived on Ophel; and Ziha and Gishpa were over the temple servants.

²²The overseer of the Levites in Jerusalem was Uzzi son of Bani son of Hashabiah son of Mattaniah son of Mica, of the descendants of Asaph, the singers, in charge of the work of the house of God. ²³For there was a command from the king concerning them, and a settled provision for the singers, as was required every day. ²⁴And Pethahiah son of Meshezabel, of the descendants of Zerach son of Judah, was at the king's hand in all matters concerning the people.

Villages outside Jerusalem

²⁵And as for the villages, with their fields, some of the people of Judah lived in Kiriath-arba and its villages, and in Dibon and its villages, and in Jekabzeel and its villages, ²⁶and in Jeshua and in Moladah and Beth-pelet, ²⁷in Hazar-shual, in Beer-sheba and its villages, ²⁸in Ziklag, in Meconah and its villages, ²⁹in En-rimmon, in Zorah, in Jarmuth, ³⁰Zanoah, Adullam, and their villages, Lachish and its fields, and Azekah and its villages. So they camped from Beer-sheba to the valley of Hinnom. ³¹The people of Benjamin also lived from Geba onwards, at Michmash, Aija, Bethel and its villages, ³²Anathoth, Nob, Ananiah, ³³Hazor, Ramah, Gittaim, ³⁴Hadid, Zeboim, Neballat, ³⁵Lod, and Ono, the valley of artisans. ³⁶And certain divisions of the Levites in Judah were joined to Benjamin.

A List of Priests and Levites

12 These are the priests and the Levites who came up with Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, and Jeshua: Seraiah, Jeremiah, Ezra, ²Amariah, Malluch, Hattush, ³Shecaniah, Rehum, Meremoth, ⁴Iddo, Ginnethoi, Abijah, ⁵Mijamin, Maadiah, Bilgah, ⁶Shemaiah, Joiarib, Jedaiah, ⁷Sallu, Amok, Hilkiyah, Jedaiah. These were the leaders of the priests and of their associates in the days of Jeshua.

⁸And the Levites: Jeshua, Binnui, Kadmiel, Sherebiah, Judah, and Mattaniah, who with his associates were in charge of the songs of thanksgiving. ⁹And Bakbukiah and Unno their associates stood opposite them in the service. ¹⁰Jeshua was the father of Joiakim, Joiakim the father of Eliashib, Eliashib the

father of Joiada, ¹¹Joiada the father of Jonathan, and Jonathan the father of Jaddua.

¹²In the days of Joiakim the priests, heads of ancestral houses, were: of Seraiah, Meraiah; of Jeremiah, Hananiah; ¹³of Ezra, Meshullam; of Amariah, Jehohanan; ¹⁴of Malluchi, Jonathan; of Shebaniah, Joseph; ¹⁵of Harim, Adna; of Meraioth, Helkai; ¹⁶of Iddo, Zechariah; of Ginnethon, Meshullam; ¹⁷of Abijah, Zichri; of Miniamin, of Moadiah, Piltai; ¹⁸of Bilgah, Shammua, of Shemaiah, Jehonathan; ¹⁹of Joiarib, Mattenai; of Jedaiah, Uzzi; ²⁰of Sallai, Kallai; of Amok, Eber; ²¹of Hilkiyah, Hashabiah; of Jedaiah, Nethanel.

²²As for the Levites, in the days of Eliashib, Joiada, Johanan, and Jaddua, there were recorded the heads of ancestral houses; also the priests until the reign of Darius the Persian. ²³The Levites, heads of ancestral houses, were recorded in the Book of the Annals until the days of Johanan son of Eliashib. ²⁴And the leaders of the Levites: Hashabiah, Sherebiah, and Jeshua son of Kadmiel, with their associates over against them, to praise and to give thanks, according to the commandment of David the man of God, section opposite to section. ²⁵Mattaniah, Bakbukiah, Obadiah, Meshullam, Talmon, and Akkub were gatekeepers standing guard at the storehouses of the gates. ²⁶These were in the days of Joiakim son of Jeshua son of Jozadak, and in the days of the governor Nehemiah and of the priest Ezra, the scribe.

Dedication of the City Wall

²⁷Now at the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem they sought out the Levites in all their places, to bring them to Jerusalem to celebrate the dedication with rejoicing, with thanksgivings and with singing, with cymbals, harps, and lyres. ²⁸The companies of the singers gathered together from the circuit around Jerusalem and from the villages of the Netophathites; ²⁹also from Beth-gilgal and from the region of Geba and Azmaveth; for the singers had built for themselves villages around Jerusalem. ³⁰And the priests and the Levites purified themselves; and they purified the people and the gates and the wall.

³¹Then I brought the leaders of Judah up on to the wall, and appointed two great companies that gave thanks and went in procession. One went to the right on the wall to the Dung Gate; ³²and after them went Hoshaiah and half the officials of Judah, ³³and Azariah, Ezra, Meshullam, ³⁴Judah, Benjamin, Shemaiah, and Jeremiah, ³⁵and some of the young priests with trumpets: Zechariah son of Jonathan son of Shemaiah son of Mattaniah son of Micaiah son of Zaccur son of Asaph; ³⁶and his kindred, Shemaiah, Azarel, Milalai, Gilalai, Maai, Nethanel, Judah, and Hanani, with the musical instruments of David the man of God; and the scribe Ezra went in front of them. ³⁷At the Fountain Gate, in front of them, they went straight up by the stairs of the city of David, at the ascent of the wall, above the house of David, to the Water Gate on the east.

³⁸The other company of those who gave thanks went to the left, and I followed them with half of the people on the wall, above the Tower of the Ovens, to the Broad Wall, ³⁹and above the Gate of Ephraim, and by the Old Gate, and by the Fish Gate and the Tower of Hananel and the Tower of the Hundred,

to the Sheep Gate; and they came to a halt at the Gate of the Guard. ⁴⁰So both companies of those who gave thanks stood in the house of God, and I and half of the officials with me; ⁴¹and the priests Eliakim, Maaseiah, Miniamin, Micaiah, Elieoenai, Zechariah, and Hananiah, with trumpets; ⁴²and Maaseiah, Shemaiah, Eleazar, Uzzi, Jehohanan, Malchijah, Elam, and Ezer. And the singers sang with Jezrahiah as their leader. ⁴³They offered great sacrifices that day and rejoiced, for God had made them rejoice with great joy; the women and children also rejoiced. The joy of Jerusalem was heard far away.

Temple Responsibilities

⁴⁴On that day men were appointed over the chambers for the stores, the contributions, the first fruits, and the tithes, to gather into them the portions required by the law for the priests and for the Levites from the fields belonging to the towns; for Judah rejoiced over the priests and the Levites who ministered. ⁴⁵They performed the service of their God and the service of purification, as did the singers and the gatekeepers, according to the command of David and his son Solomon. ⁴⁶For in the days of David and Asaph long ago there was a leader of the singers, and there were songs of praise and thanksgiving to God. ⁴⁷In the days of Zerubbabel and in the days of Nehemiah all Israel gave the daily portions for the singers and the gatekeepers. They set apart that which was for the Levites; and the Levites set apart that which was for the descendants of Aaron.

Foreigners Separated from Israel

13 On that day they read from the book of Moses in the hearing of the people; and in it was found written that no Ammonite or Moabite should ever enter the assembly of God, ²because they did not meet the Israelites with bread and water, but hired Balaam against them to curse them—yet our God turned the curse into a blessing. ³When the people heard the law, they separated from Israel all those of foreign descent.

The Reforms of Nehemiah

⁴Now before this, the priest Eliashib, who was appointed over the chambers of the house of our God, and who was related to Tobiah, ⁵prepared for Tobiah a large room where they had previously put the grain-offering, the frankincense, the vessels, and the tithes of grain, wine, and oil, which were given by commandment to the Levites, singers, and gatekeepers, and the contributions for the priests. ⁶While this was taking place I was not in Jerusalem, for in the thirty-second year of King Artaxerxes of Babylon I went to the king. After some time I asked leave of the king ⁷and returned to Jerusalem. I then discovered the wrong that Eliashib had done on behalf of Tobiah, preparing a room for him in the courts of the house of God. ⁸And I was very angry, and I threw all the household furniture of Tobiah out of the room. ⁹Then I gave orders and they cleansed the chambers, and I brought back the vessels of the house of God, with the grain-offering and the frankincense.

¹⁰I also found out that the portions of the Levites had not been given to them; so that the Levites and the singers, who had conducted the service,

had gone back to their fields. ¹¹So I remonstrated with the officials and said, 'Why is the house of God forsaken?' And I gathered them together and set them in their stations. ¹²Then all Judah brought the tithe of the grain, wine, and oil into the storehouses. ¹³And I appointed as treasurers over the storehouses the priest Shelemiah, the scribe Zadok, and Pedaiah of the Levites, and as their assistant Hanan son of Zaccur son of Mattaniah, for they were considered faithful; and their duty was to distribute to their associates. ¹⁴Remember me, O my God, concerning this, and do not wipe out my good deeds that I have done for the house of my God and for his service.

Sabbath Reforms Begun

¹⁵In those days I saw in Judah people treading wine presses on the sabbath, and bringing in heaps of grain and loading them on donkeys; and also wine, grapes, figs, and all kinds of burdens, which they brought into Jerusalem on the sabbath day; and I warned them at that time against selling food. ¹⁶Tyrians also, who lived in the city, brought in fish and all kinds of merchandise and sold them on the sabbath to the people of Judah, and in Jerusalem. ¹⁷Then I remonstrated with the nobles of Judah and said to them, 'What is this evil thing that you are doing, profaning the sabbath day?' ¹⁸Did not your ancestors act in this way, and did not our God bring all this disaster on us and on this city? Yet you bring more wrath on Israel by profaning the sabbath.'

¹⁹When it began to be dark at the gates of Jerusalem before the sabbath, I commanded that the doors should be shut and gave orders that they should not be opened until after the sabbath. And I set some of my servants over the gates, to prevent any burden from being brought in on the sabbath day. ²⁰Then the merchants and sellers of all kinds of merchandise spent the night outside Jerusalem once or twice. ²¹But I warned them and said to them, 'Why do you spend the night in front of the wall? If you do so again, I will lay hands on you.' From that time on they did not come on the sabbath. ²²And I commanded the Levites that they should purify themselves and come and guard the gates, to keep the sabbath day holy. Remember this also in my favour, O my God, and spare me according to the greatness of your steadfast love.

Mixed Marriages Condemned

²³In those days also I saw Jews who had married women of Ashdod, Ammon, and Moab; ²⁴and half of their children spoke the language of Ashdod, and they could not speak the language of Judah, but spoke the language of various peoples. ²⁵And I contended with them and cursed them and beat some of them and pulled out their hair; and I made them take an oath in the name of God, saying, 'You shall not give your daughters to their sons, or take their daughters for your sons or for yourselves.' ²⁶Did not King Solomon of Israel sin on account of such women? Among the many nations there was no king like him, and he was beloved by his God, and God made him king over all Israel; nevertheless, foreign women made even him to sin. ²⁷Shall we then listen to you and do all this great evil and act treacherously against our God by marrying foreign women?'

28 And one of the sons of Jehoiada, son of the high priest Eliashib, was the son-in-law of Sanballat the Horonite; I chased him away from me. 29 Remember them, O my God, because they have defiled the priesthood, the covenant of the priests and the Levites.

30 Thus I cleansed them from everything foreign, and I established the duties of the priests and Levites, each in his work; 31 and I provided for the wood-offering, at appointed times, and for the first fruits. Remember me, O my God, for good.

Tobit

This book tells the story of Tobit son of Tobiel son of Hananiel son of Aduel son of Gabael son of Raphael of the descendants^a of Asiel, of the tribe of Naphtali,² who in the days of King Shalmaneser^b of the Assyrians was taken into captivity from Thisbe, which is to the south of Kedesh Naphtali in Upper Galilee, above Asher towards the west, and north of Phogor.

Tobit's Youth and Virtuous Life

3 I, Tobit, walked in the ways of truth and righteousness all the days of my life. I performed many acts of charity for my kindred and my people who had gone with me in exile to Nineveh in the land of the Assyrians. ⁴When I was in my own country, in the land of Israel, while I was still a young man, the whole tribe of my ancestor Naphtali deserted the house of David and Jerusalem. This city had been chosen from among all the tribes of Israel, where all the tribes of Israel should offer sacrifice and where the temple, the dwelling of God, had been consecrated and established for all generations for ever.

5 All my kindred and our ancestral house of Naphtali sacrificed to the calf^c that King Jeroboam of Israel had erected in Dan and on all the mountains of Galilee. ⁶But I alone went often to Jerusalem for the festivals, as it is prescribed for all Israel by an everlasting decree. I would hurry off to Jerusalem with the first fruits of the crops and the firstlings of the flock, the tithes of the cattle, and the first shearings of the sheep. ⁷I would give these to the priests, the sons of Aaron, at the altar; likewise the tenth of the grain, wine, olive oil, pomegranates, figs, and the rest of the fruits to the sons of Levi who ministered at Jerusalem. Also, for six years I would save up a second tenth in money and go and distribute it in Jerusalem. ⁸A third tenth^d I would give to the orphans and widows and to the converts who had attached themselves to Israel. I would bring it and give it to them in the third year, and we would eat it according to the ordinance decreed concerning it in the law of Moses and according to the instructions of Deborah, the mother of my father Tobiel,^e for my father had died and left me an orphan. ⁹When I became a man I married a woman,^f a member of our own family, and by her I became the father of a son whom I named Tobias.

Taken Captive to Nineveh

10 After I was carried away captive to Assyria and came as a captive to Nineveh, everyone of my kindred and my people ate the food of the Gentiles, ¹¹but I kept myself from eating the food of the Gentiles. ¹²Because I was mindful of God with all my heart, ¹³the Most High gave me favour and good standing with Shalmaneser,^g and I used to buy everything he needed. ¹⁴Until his death I used to go into Media, and buy for him there. While in the country of Media I left bags of silver worth ten talents in trust with Gabael, the brother of Gabri. ¹⁵But when Shalmaneser^g died, and his son Sennacherib reigned in his place, the highways into Media became unsafe and I could no longer go there.

Courage in Burying the Dead

16 In the days of Shalmaneser^g I performed many acts of charity to my kindred, those of my tribe. ¹⁷I would give my food to the hungry and my clothing to the naked; and if I saw the dead body of any of my people thrown out behind the wall of Nineveh, I would bury it. ¹⁸I also buried any whom King Sennacherib put to death when he came fleeing from Judea in those days of judgement that the king of heaven executed upon him because of his blasphemies. For in his anger he put to death many Israelites; but I would secretly remove the bodies and bury them. So when Sennacherib looked for them he could not find them. ¹⁹Then one of the Ninevites went and informed the king about me, that I was burying them; so I hid myself. But when I realized that the king knew about me and that I was being searched for to be put to death, I was afraid and ran away. ²⁰Then all my property was confiscated; nothing was left to me that was not taken into the royal treasury, except my wife Anna and my son Tobias.

21 But not forty^h days passed before two of Sennacherib'sⁱ sons killed him, and they fled to the mountains of Ararat, and his son Esar-haddon¹ reigned after him. He appointed Ahikar, the son of my brother Hanael^k over all the accounts of his kingdom, and he had authority over the entire administration. ²²Ahikar interceded for me, and I returned to Nineveh. Now Ahikar was chief cupbearer, keeper of the signet, and in charge of administration of the accounts under King Sennacherib of Assyria; so Esar-haddon¹ reappointed him. He was my nephew and so a close relative.

a 1.1 Other ancient authorities lack of Raphael son of Raguel of the descendants b 1.2 Gk Enemessaros c 1.5 Other ancient authorities read heifer d 1.8 A third tenth added from other ancient authorities e 1.8 Lat: Gk Hananiel f 1.9 Other ancient authorities add Anna g 1.13 Gk Enemessaros h 1.21 Other ancient authorities read either forty-five or fifty i 1.21 Gk his j 1.21 Gk Sacherdonos k 1.21 Other authorities read Hananael l 1.22 Gk Sacherdonos

2 Then during the reign of Esar-haddon^m I returned home, and my wife Anna and my son Tobias were restored to me. At our festival of Pentecost, which is the sacred festival of weeks, a good dinner was prepared for me and I reclined to eat. ²When the table was set for me and an abundance of food placed before me, I said to my son Tobias, 'Go, my child, and bring whatever poor person you may find of our people among the exiles in Nineveh, who is wholeheartedly mindful of God,ⁿ and he shall eat together with me. I will wait for you, until you come back.' ³So Tobias went to look for some poor person of our people. When he had returned he said, 'Father!' And I replied, 'Here I am, my child.' Then he went on to say, 'Look, father, one of our own people has been murdered and thrown into the market-place, and now he lies there strangled.' ⁴Then I sprang up, left the dinner before even tasting it, and removed the body^o from the square^p and laid it^q in one of the rooms until sunset when I might bury it.^q ⁵When I returned, I washed myself and ate my food in sorrow. ⁶Then I remembered the prophecy of Amos, how he said against Bethel,^r

'Your festivals shall be turned into mourning,
and all your songs into lamentation.'

And I wept.

Tobit Becomes Blind

⁷ When the sun had set, I went and dug a grave and buried him. ⁸And my neighbours laughed and said, 'Is he still not afraid? He has already been hunted down to be put to death for doing this, and he ran away; yet here he is again burying the dead!' ⁹That same night I washed myself and went into my courtyard and slept by the wall of the courtyard; and my face was uncovered because of the heat. ¹⁰I did not know that there were sparrows on the wall; their fresh droppings fell into my eyes and produced white films. I went to physicians to be healed, but the more they treated me with ointments the more my vision was obscured by the white films, until I became completely blind. For four years I remained unable to see. All my kindred were sorry for me, and Ahikar took care of me for two years before he went to Elymais.

Tobit's Wife Earns Their Livelihood

¹¹ At that time, also, my wife Anna earned money at women's work. ¹²She used to send what she made to the owners and they would pay wages to her. One day, the seventh of Dystrus, when she cut off a piece she had woven and sent it to the owners, they paid her full wages and also gave her a kid for a meal. ¹³When she returned to me, the kid began to bleat. So I called her and said, 'Where did you get this kid? It is surely not stolen, is it? Return it to the owners; for we have no right to eat anything stolen.' ¹⁴But she said to me, 'It was given to me as a gift in addition to my wages.' But I did not believe her, and told her to return it to the owners. I became flushed with anger against her

over this. Then she replied to me, 'Where are your acts of charity? Where are your righteous deeds? These things are known about you!'^s

Tobit's Prayer

3 Then with much grief and anguish of heart I wept, and with groaning began to pray:

² 'You are righteous, O Lord,
and all your deeds are just;
all your ways are mercy and truth;
you judge the world.'^t

³ And now, O Lord, remember me
and look favourably upon me.
Do not punish me for my sins
and for my unwitting offences
and those that my ancestors committed
before you.

They sinned against you,
⁴ and disobeyed your commandments.
So you gave us over to plunder, exile, and death,
to become the talk, the byword, and an
object of reproach,
among all the nations among whom you
have dispersed us.

⁵ And now your many judgements are true
in exacting penalty from me for my sins.
For we have not kept your commandments
and have not walked in accordance with
truth before you.

⁶ So now deal with me as you will;
command my spirit to be taken from me,
so that I may be released from the face of
the earth and become dust.
For it is better for me to die than to live,
because I have had to listen to undeserved
insults,
and great is the sorrow within me.
Command, O Lord, that I be released from
this distress;
release me to go to the eternal home,
and do not, O Lord, turn your face away
from me.

For it is better for me to die
than to see so much distress in my life
and to listen to insults.'

Sarah Falsely Accused

⁷ On the same day, at Ecbatana in Media, it also happened that Sarah, the daughter of Raguel, was reproached by one of her father's maids. ⁸For she had been married to seven husbands, and the wicked demon Asmodeus had killed each of them before they had been with her as is customary for wives. So the maid said to her, 'You are the one who kills^u your husbands! See, you have already been married to seven husbands and have not borne the name of^v a single one of them. ⁹Why do you beat us? Because your husbands are dead? Go with them! May we never see a son or daughter of yours!'

Sarah's Prayer for Death

¹⁰ On that day she was grieved in spirit and wept. When she had gone up to her father's upper room,

m 2.1 Gk Sacherdonos **n** 2.2 Lat: Gk wholeheartedly mindful **o** 2.4 Gk him **p** 2.4 Other ancient authorities lack from the square **q** 2.4 Gk him **r** 2.6 Other ancient authorities read against Bethlehem **s** 2.14 Or to you; Gk with you **t** 3.2 Other ancient authorities read you render true and righteous judgement for ever **u** 3.8 Other ancient authorities read strangles **v** 3.8 Other ancient authorities read have had no benefit from

BOOK II
(Psalms 42–72)

Longing for God and His Help in Distress

To the leader. A Maskil of the Korahites.

42 As a deer longs for flowing streams,
so my soul longs for you, O God.

² My soul thirsts for God,
for the living God.
When shall I come and behold
the face of God?

³ My tears have been my food
day and night,
while people say to me continually,
'Where is your God?'

⁴ These things I remember,
as I pour out my soul:
how I went with the throng,^z
and led them in procession to the house
of God,
with glad shouts and songs of thanksgiving,
a multitude keeping festival.

⁵ Why are you cast down, O my soul,
and why are you disquieted within me?
Hope in God; for I shall again praise him,
my help⁶ and my God.

My soul is cast down within me;
therefore I remember you
from the land of Jordan and of Hermon,
from Mount Mizar.

⁷ Deep calls to deep
at the thunder of your cataracts;
all your waves and your billows
have gone over me.

⁸ By day the LORD commands his steadfast
love,
and at night his song is with me,
a prayer to the God of my life.

⁹ I say to God, my rock,
'Why have you forgotten me?
Why must I walk about mournfully
because the enemy oppresses me?'

¹⁰ As with a deadly wound in my body,
my adversaries taunt me,
while they say to me continually,
'Where is your God?'

¹¹ Why are you cast down, O my soul,
and why are you disquieted within me?
Hope in God; for I shall again praise him,
my help and my God.

Prayer to God in Time of Trouble

43 Vindicate me, O God, and defend my cause
against an ungodly people;
from those who are deceitful and unjust
deliver me!

² For you are the God in whom I take refuge;
why have you cast me off?
Why must I walk about mournfully
because of the oppression of the enemy?

³ O send out your light and your truth;
let them lead me;

let them bring me to your holy hill
and to your dwelling.

⁴ Then I will go to the altar of God,
to God my exceeding joy;
and I will praise you with the harp,
O God, my God.

⁵ Why are you cast down, O my soul,
and why are you disquieted within me?
Hope in God; for I shall again praise him,
my help and my God.

**National Lament and Prayer for Help
To the leader. Of the Korahites. A Maskil.**

44 We have heard with our ears, O God,
our ancestors have told us,
what deeds you performed in their days,
in the days of old:

² you with your own hand drove out the
nations,
but them you planted;
you afflicted the peoples,
but them you set free;

³ for not by their own sword did they win
the land,
nor did their own arm give them victory;
but your right hand, and your arm,
and the light of your countenance,
for you delighted in them.

⁴ You are my King and my God;
you command^a victories for Jacob.

⁵ Through you we push down our foes;
through your name we tread down our
assailants.

⁶ For not in my bow do I trust,
nor can my sword save me.

⁷ But you have saved us from our foes,
and have put to confusion those who
hate us.

⁸ In God we have boasted continually,
and we will give thanks to your name for
ever. *Selah*

⁹ Yet you have rejected us and abased us,
and have not gone out with our armies.

¹⁰ You made us turn back from the foe,
and our enemies have taken spoil for
themselves.

¹¹ You have made us like sheep for slaughter,
and have scattered us among the nations.

¹² You have sold your people for a trifle,
demanding no high price for them.

¹³ You have made us the taunt of our neighbours,
the derision and scorn of those around us.

¹⁴ You have made us a byword among the
nations,
a laughing-stock^b among the peoples.

¹⁵ All day long my disgrace is before me,
and shame has covered my face

¹⁶ at the words of the taunters and revilers,
at the sight of the enemy and the avenger.

- 17 All this has come upon us,
yet we have not forgotten you,
or been false to your covenant.
- 18 Our heart has not turned back,
nor have our steps departed from your way,
- 19 yet you have broken us in the haunt of
jackals,
and covered us with deep darkness.
- 20 If we had forgotten the name of our God,
or spread out our hands to a strange god,
21 would not God discover this?
For he knows the secrets of the heart.
- 22 Because of you we are being killed all day
long,
and accounted as sheep for the slaughter.
- 23 Rouse yourself! Why do you sleep, O LORD?
Awake, do not cast us off for ever!
- 24 Why do you hide your face?
Why do you forget our affliction and
oppression?
- 25 For we sink down to the dust;
our bodies cling to the ground.
- 26 Rise up, come to our help.
Redeem us for the sake of your steadfast
love.

Ode for a Royal Wedding

To the leader: according to Lilies. Of the
Korahites. A Maskil. A love song.

45 My heart overflows with a goodly theme;
I address my verses to the king;
my tongue is like the pen of a ready scribe.

- 2 You are the most handsome of men;
grace is poured upon your lips;
therefore God has blessed you for ever.
- 3 Gird your sword on your thigh, O mighty one,
in your glory and majesty.
- 4 In your majesty ride on victoriously
for the cause of truth and to defend^c the
right;
let your right hand teach you dread deeds.
- 5 Your arrows are sharp
in the heart of the king's enemies;
the peoples fall under you.
- 6 Your throne, O God,^d endures for ever and ever.
Your royal sceptre is a sceptre of equity;
- 7 you love righteousness and hate
wickedness.
Therefore God, your God, has anointed you
with the oil of gladness beyond your
companions;
- 8 your robes are all fragrant with myrrh and
aloes and cassia.
From ivory palaces stringed instruments
make you glad;
- 9 daughters of kings are among your ladies
of honour;
at your right hand stands the queen in
gold of Ophir.

- 10 Hear, O daughter, consider and incline your
ear;
forget your people and your father's house,
11 and the king will desire your beauty.
Since he is your lord, bow to him;
- 12 the people^e of Tyre will seek your favour
with gifts,
the richest of the people¹⁵ with all kinds
of wealth.
- The princess is decked in her chamber with
gold-woven robes;^f
- 14 in many-coloured robes she is led to the
king;
behind her the virgins, her companions,
follow.
- 15 With joy and gladness they are led along
as they enter the palace of the king.
- 16 In the place of ancestors you, O king,^g shall
have sons;
you will make them princes in all the
earth.
- 17 I will cause your name to be celebrated in all
generations;
therefore the peoples will praise you for
ever and ever.

God's Defence of His City and People

To the leader. Of the Korahites.
According to Alamothe. A Song.

- 46** God is our refuge and strength,
a very present^h help in trouble.
- 2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth
should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart
of the sea;
- 3 though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its
tumult. *Selah*
- 4 There is a river whose streams make glad
the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.
- 5 God is in the midst of the city;ⁱ it shall not be
moved;
God will help it when the morning dawns.
- 6 The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms
totter;
he utters his voice, the earth melts.
- 7 The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.^j *Selah*
- 8 Come, behold the works of the LORD;
see what desolations he has brought on
the earth.
- 9 He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields with fire.
- 10 'Be still, and know that I am God!
I am exalted among the nations,
I am exalted in the earth.'
- 11 The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.^j *Selah*

c 45.4 Cn: Heb and the meekness of **d** 45.6 Or Your throne is a throne of God, it **e** 45.12 Heb daughter **f** 45.13 Or people. ¹³ All glorious is the princess within, gold embroidery is her clothing **g** 45.16 Heb lacks O king **h** 46.1 Or well proved **i** 46.5 Heb of it **j** 46.7 Or fortress

God's Rule over the Nations

To the leader. Of the Korahites. A Psalm.

- 47** Clap your hands, all you peoples;
shout to God with loud songs of joy.
 2 For the LORD, the Most High, is awesome,
a great king over all the earth.
 3 He subdued peoples under us,
and nations under our feet.
 4 He chose our heritage for us,
the pride of Jacob whom he loves. *Selah*
 5 God has gone up with a shout,
the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.
 6 Sing praises to God, sing praises;
sing praises to our King, sing praises.
 7 For God is the king of all the earth;
sing praises with a psalm.^k
 8 God is king over the nations;
God sits on his holy throne.
 9 The princes of the peoples gather
as the people of the God of Abraham.
For the shields of the earth belong to God;
he is highly exalted.

The Glory and Strength of Zion

A Song. A Psalm of the Korahites.

- 48** Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised
in the city of our God.
His holy mountain, ²beautiful in elevation,
is the joy of all the earth,
Mount Zion, in the far north,
the city of the great King.
 3 Within its citadels God
has shown himself a sure defence.
 4 Then the kings assembled,
they came on together.
 5 As soon as they saw it, they were
astounded;
they were in panic, they took to flight;
 6 trembling took hold of them there,
pains as of a woman in labour,
 7 as when an east wind shatters
the ships of Tarshish.
 8 As we have heard, so have we seen
in the city of the LORD of hosts,
in the city of our God,
which God establishes for ever. *Selah*
 9 We ponder your steadfast love, O God,
in the midst of your temple.
 10 Your name, O God, like your praise,
reaches to the ends of the earth.
Your right hand is filled with victory.
 11 Let Mount Zion be glad,
let the towns^l of Judah rejoice
because of your judgements.
 12 Walk about Zion, go all around it,
count its towers,
 13 consider well its ramparts;
go through its citadels,

- that you may tell the next generation
 14 that this is God,
our God for ever and ever.
He will be our guide for ever.

The Folly of Trust in Riches

To the leader. Of the Korahites. A Psalm.

- 49** Hear this, all you peoples;
give ear, all inhabitants of the world,
 2 both low and high,
rich and poor together.
 3 My mouth shall speak wisdom;
the meditation of my heart shall be
understanding.
 4 I will incline my ear to a proverb;
I will solve my riddle to the music of the
harp.
 5 Why should I fear in times of trouble,
when the iniquity of my persecutors
surrounds me,
 6 those who trust in their wealth
and boast of the abundance of their
riches?
 7 Truly, no ransom avails for one's life,^m
there is no price one can give to God for it.
 8 For the ransom of life is costly,
and can never suffice,
 9 that one should live on for ever
and never see the grave.ⁿ
 10 When we look at the wise, they die;
fool and dolt perish together
and leave their wealth to others.
 11 Their graves^o are their homes for ever,
their dwelling-places to all generations,
though they named lands their own.
 12 Mortals cannot abide in their pomp;
they are like the animals that perish.
 13 Such is the fate of the foolhardy,
the end of those^p who are pleased with
their lot. *Selah*
 14 Like sheep they are appointed for Sheol;
Death shall be their shepherd;
straight to the grave they descend,^q
and their form shall waste away;
Sheol shall be their home.^r
 15 But God will ransom my soul from the power
of Sheol,
for he will receive me. *Selah*
 16 Do not be afraid when some become rich,
when the wealth of their houses
increases.
 17 For when they die they will carry nothing
away;
their wealth will not go down after them.
 18 Though in their lifetime they count
themselves happy—
for you are praised when you do well for
yourself—
 19 they^s will go to the company of their
ancestors,

^k 47.7 Heb *Maskil* ^l 48.11 Heb *daughters* ^m 49.7 Another reading is *no one can ransom a brother* ⁿ 49.9 Heb *the pit* ^o 49.11 Gk Syr Compare Tg: Heb *their inward* (thought) ^p 49.13 Tg: Heb *after them* ^q 49.14 Cn: Heb *the upright shall have dominion over them in the morning* ^r 49.14 Meaning of Heb uncertain ^s 49.19 Cn: Heb *you*