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World Bible Translation Center
P.O. Box 820648
Fort Worth, Texas 76182, USA
Telephone: 1-817-595-1664
Toll-Free in US: 1-888-54-BIBLE
E-Mail: info@wbtc.com
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Ezekiel

INTRODUCTION

1 ¹⁻³I am the priest, Ezekiel son of Buzzi. I was in exile* by the Kebar Canal in Babylonia when the skies opened up and I saw visions* of God. This was on the fifth day of the fourth month (*July*) of the thirtieth year.*

During King Jehoiachin's fifth year in exile,* on the fifth day of the month, the word of the Lord came to Ezekiel. The Lord's power came on him at that place.

The Chariot of the Lord—God's Throne

⁴I (*Ezekiel*) saw a big storm coming from the north. It was a big cloud with a strong wind, and there was fire flashing from it. Light was shining out all around it. It looked like hot metal* glowing in a fire. ⁵Inside the cloud, there were four animals that looked like people. ⁶But each animal had four faces and four wings. ⁷Their legs were straight. Their feet looked like cow's feet. And they sparkled like polished brass. ⁸Under their wings were human arms. There were four animals. Each animal had four faces and four wings. ⁹The wings touched each other. The animals did not turn when they moved. They went in the direction they were looking.

exile Being forced to live in a foreign country. King Nebuchadnezzar forced many Jewish people to leave Judah and live in foreign countries.

vision(s) Something like a dream that God used to speak to people.

thirtieth year We are not sure what year this is. It might be Ezekiel's age and it is probably the same as the fifth year of exile, that is, the summer of 593 B.C. It might be that Ezekiel is beginning his book with the last vision he saw of God, and it was the same as the first vision he saw.

hot metal We are not sure of the meaning of this Hebrew word. It might mean, "melted copper" or "amber."

¹⁰Each animal had four faces. [In the front, they each had a man's face. On the right side there was a lion's face. On the left side there was a bull's face. And on the back there was an eagle's face. ¹¹The wings of the animals were spread out over them. With two of the wings each animal reached out to touch the animals near it and with the other two wings it covered its body. ¹²Each animal went in the direction it was looking. They went wherever the wind* caused them to go. But they did not turn when they moved. ¹³That is what the animals looked like.

Inside the area between the animals, there was something that looked like burning coals of fire. This fire was like small torches that kept moving around among the animals. The fire glowed brightly and lightning flashed from it! ¹⁴The animals ran back and forth—fast like lightning!*

¹⁵⁻¹⁶I was looking at the animals when I noticed four wheels that touched the ground. There was one wheel at each animal. All of the wheels looked the same. The wheels looked like they were made from a clear, yellow jewel. They looked like there was a wheel inside a wheel. ¹⁷[The wheels] could [turn to] move in any direction. [But the animals] did not turn when they moved.*

¹⁸The rims of the wheels were tall and frightening! There were eyes all over the rims of all four wheels.

wind Or, "Spirit."

The animals ... lightning! Or, "And there was something like lightning shooting back and forth among the animals."

The wheels ... moved. Or, "The wheels could move in any four directions, but they did not turn when they moved."

¹⁹The wheels always moved with the animals. If the animals went up into the air, the wheels went with them. ²⁰They went wherever the wind wanted them to go, and the wheels went with them. Why? Because the wind (*power*) of the animal was in the wheels. ²¹So if the animals moved, the wheels moved. If the animals stopped, the wheels stopped. If the wheels went into the air, the animals went with them. Why? Because the wind* was in the wheels.

²²There was an amazing thing over the heads of animals. It was like a bowl* turned upside down. And the bowl was clear like crystal! ²³Under this bowl, each animal had wings reaching out to the animals next to it. Two wings spread out one way and two wings spread out in the other way, covering its body.

²⁴Then I heard the wings. Every time the animals moved, their wings made a very loud noise. They were loud like a lot of water rushing by. They were loud like [God] All-Powerful. They were loud like an army or a crowd of people. And when the animals stopped moving, they put their wings down [by their side].

²⁵The animals stopped moving and lowered their wings. And there was another loud sound. That sound came from above the bowl over their heads. ²⁶There was something that looked like a throne on top of that bowl. It was blue like sapphire. And there was something that looked like a man sitting on that throne! ²⁷I looked at him from his waist up. He looked like hot metal.* It looked like fire all around him! And I looked at him from his waist down. It looked like fire with a glow that was shining all around him. ²⁸The light shining around him was like a rainbow in a cloud. It was the Glory of the Lord. As soon as I saw that, I fell to the ground. I bowed with my face to the ground. And then I heard a voice speaking to me.

wind Or, “Spirit.”

bowl This Hebrew word is the same word used in Gen. 1:6–7 to describe the dome of the sky.

hot metal We are not sure of the meaning of this Hebrew word. It might mean, “melted copper” or “amber.”

2 The voice said, “Son of man,* stand up and I will speak with you.”

²Then a wind came and lifted me up on my feet. And I listened to the person (*God*) that spoke to me. ³He said to me, “Son of man, I am sending you to speak to the family of Israel. Those people turned against me many times. And their ancestors turned against me. They have sinned against me many times—and they are still sinning against me today. ⁴I am sending you to speak to those people. But they are very stubborn. They are very hard headed. But you must speak to those people. You must say, ‘The Lord our Master says these things.’ ⁵But those people won’t listen to you. They won’t stop sinning against me. Why? Because they are a very rebellious people—they always turn against me! But you must say those things so they will know that there is a prophet* living among them.

⁶“Son of man,* don’t be afraid of those people. Don’t be afraid of the things they say. It is true, they will turn against you and try to hurt you. They will be like thorns. You will think you are living with scorpions.* But don’t be afraid of the things they say. They are a rebellious people. But don’t be afraid of them. ⁷You must tell them the things I say. I know they won’t listen to you. And they won’t stop sinning against me! Why? Because they are a rebellious people.

⁸“Son of man,* you must listen to the things I say to you. Don’t turn against me like those rebellious people. Open your mouth and [accept the words I give you and then speak those words to the people]. Eat these words.”

⁹Then I (*Ezekiel*) saw an arm reach out towards me. It was holding a scroll* with words written on it. ¹⁰I rolled the scroll open and there were words written on the front and on the back. There were all kinds of sad songs, sad stories, and warnings.

Son of man This was usually just a way of saying “a person,” or “a human being.” But here this is a title for the man, Ezekiel.

prophet A person called by God to be a special servant. God used dreams and visions to show them things to teach to the people.

scorpions Insects with stingers in their tails that cause pain.

scroll A long roll of leather or papyrus (*paper*) used for writing books, letters, and legal documents.

3 [God] said to me, “Son of man,* eat what you see. Eat this scroll,* and then go tell these things to the family of Israel.”

²So I opened my mouth and he put the scroll into my mouth. ³Then [God] said, “Son of man, I am giving you this scroll. Swallow it! Let that scroll fill your body.”

So I ate the scroll.* It was as sweet as honey in my mouth.

⁴Then [God] said to me, “Son of man,* go to the family of Israel. Speak my words to them. ⁵I am not sending you to some foreigners you can’t understand. You don’t have to learn another language. I am sending you to the family of Israel! ⁶I am not sending you to many different countries where people speak languages you can’t understand. If you went to those people and spoke to them, they would listen to you. But you won’t have to learn those hard languages. ⁷No! I am sending you to the family of Israel. Only, these people have hard heads—they are very stubborn! And the people of Israel will refuse to listen to you. They don’t want to listen to me! ⁸But I will make you just as stubborn as they are. Your head will be just as hard as theirs! ⁹A diamond is harder than flint rock. In the same way, your head will be harder than theirs. You will be more stubborn, so you won’t be afraid of those people. You won’t be afraid of those people that always turn against me.”

¹⁰Then [God] said to me, “Son of man,* you must listen to every word I say to you. And you must remember those words. ¹¹Then go to all of your people that are in exile.* Go to them and say, ‘The Lord our Master says these things.’ They won’t listen and they won’t stop sinning, [but you must tell them these things].”

¹²Then the wind* lifted me up and I heard a voice behind me. It was very loud, like thunder. [It said,] “Blessed is the Glory of the

Lord!” ¹³Then the wings of the animals began moving. The wings made a very loud noise as they touched each other. And the wheels in front of them began making a loud noise—it was loud like thunder. ¹⁴The wind* lifted me and took me away. I left that place. I was very sad and upset in my spirit.* But I felt Lord’s power in me! ¹⁵I went to the people of Israel that were forced to live in Tel Aviv* by the Kebar Canal. I sat there among them for seven days, shocked and silent.

¹⁶After seven days, the word of the Lord came to me. He said, ¹⁷“Son of man,* I am making you a watchman* for Israel. I will tell you about bad things that will happen to them. And you must warn Israel about those things. ¹⁸If I say, ‘This bad man will die!’ Then you must warn him! You must tell him to change his life and stop doing bad things. If you don’t warn that person, then he will die. He will die because he sinned. But I will also make you responsible for his death! Why? Because you did not go to him and save his life.

¹⁹“Maybe you will warn a person and tell him to change his life and stop doing bad things. If that person refuses to listen to you, then that person will die. He will die because he sinned. But you warned him, so you saved your own life.

²⁰“Or maybe a good man will stop being good. I might put something in front of him that causes him to fall (*sin*). He will start to do bad things, so he will die. He will die because he is sinning and you did not warn him. I will make you responsible for his death. And people won’t remember all the good things he did.

²¹“But if you warn the good person and tell him to stop sinning, and he stops sinning, then he won’t die. Why? Because you warned him and he listened. In this way, you saved your own life.”

Son of man This was usually just a way of saying “a person,” or “a human being.” But here this is a title for the man, Ezekiel.

scrolls A long roll of leather or papyrus (*paper*) used for writing books, letters, and legal documents.

exile Being forced to live in a foreign country. King Nebuchadnezzar forced many Jewish people to leave Judah and live in foreign countries.

wind Or, “Spirit.”

spirit Or, “wind.”

Tel Aviv This was a place outside of Israel. We are not sure where it is exactly. The name means “Spring Hill.”

watchman A guard that stood on the city wall and looked for enemy soldiers. If he saw trouble coming, he would warn the people in the city.

²²The Lord’s power came to me. He said to me, “Get up and go to the valley.* I will speak to you in that place.”

²³So I got up and went out to the valley. The Glory of the Lord* was there—just like I had seen it by the Kebar Canal. So I bowed with my face to the ground. ²⁴But a wind* came and lifted me up on my feet. He said to me, “Go home and lock yourself in your house. ²⁵Son of man,* people will come with ropes and tie you up. They won’t let you go out among the people. ²⁶I will make your tongue stick to the roof of your mouth—you won’t be able to talk. So those people won’t have any person to teach them that they are doing wrong. Why? Because those people are always turning against me. ²⁷But I will talk to you. And then I will allow you to speak. But you must say to them, ‘The Lord our Master says these things.’ If a person wants to listen, then fine. If a person doesn’t want to listen, then fine. But those people always turn against me.

4“Son of man,* take a brick. Scratch a picture on it. Draw a picture of a city—the city Jerusalem. ²And then act like you are an army surrounding the city. Build a dirt wall around the city [to help you attack it]. Build a dirt road leading up to the city wall. Bring battering rams* and set up army camps around the city. ³And then take an iron pan and put it between you and the city. It will be like an iron wall separating you and the city. In this way, you will show that you are against that city. You will surround and attack that city. Why? Because this is an example for the family of Israel. [It will show that I (*God*) will destroy Jerusalem.]

⁴“Then you must lie down on your left side. You [must do the thing that shows that you] are taking the sins of the people of Israel on

yourself. You will carry that guilt for as many days as you lie on your left side. ⁵You must bear the guilt of Israel for 390 days.* In this way, I am telling you how long Israel will be punished, one day equals one year.

⁶“After that time, you will lie on your right side for 40 days. This time you will bear the guilt of Judah for 40 days. One day equals one year. I am telling you [how long Judah must be punished].”

⁷[God again spoke. He said,] “Now, roll up your sleeve and raise your arm over the brick. Act like you are attacking the city Jerusalem. Do this to show that you are speaking as my messenger to the people. ⁸Now look, I am tying ropes on you. You won’t be able to roll over from one side to another until your attack against the city* is finished.”

⁹[God also said,] “You must get some grain to make bread. Get some wheat, barley, beans, lentils, millet, and spelt. Mix all those things together in one bowl and grind them to make flour. You will use this flour to make bread. You will eat only this bread during the 390 days that you lie on your side. ¹⁰You will be allowed to use only 1 cup* of that flour each day to make bread. You will eat that bread from time to time throughout the day. ¹¹And you can drink only 3 cups* of water each day. You can drink it from time to time throughout the day. ¹²You must make your bread each day. You must get dry human dung and burn it. Then you must cook the bread over this burning dung. You must eat this bread in front of the people.” ¹³Then the Lord said, “This will show that the family of Israel will eat unclean bread* in foreign countries. And I forced them to leave Israel and go to those countries!

¹⁴Then I (*Ezekiel*) said, “Oh, but Lord my Master, I have never eaten any unclean food. I

the valley Possibly Jezreel Valley which is often called simply, “The Valley.” This is a fertile area in Israel where many battles were fought.

Glory of the Lord One of the forms God used when he appeared to people. This was like a bright shining light.

wind Or, “Spirit.”

Son of man This was usually just a way of saying “a person,” or “a human being.” But here this is a title for the man, Ezekiel.

battering rams Heavy logs that soldiers used to break holes into the gates or walls around a city.

390 days The ancient Greek translation has, “190 days.”

your attack against the city This is a word play. The Hebrew word can mean, “time of hunger,” “time of trouble,” or “attack against a city.”

1 cup Literally, “20 shekels.”

3 cups Literally, “1/6 hin.”

unclean bread Bread that touched something unclean. If a person ate this bread, then that person could not join in worshiping God. See Lev. 11–15 for rules about clean and unclean things.

have never eaten meat from an animal that died from a disease or from an animal that was killed by a wild animal. I have never eaten unclean meat—not from the time I was a little baby until today. None of that bad meat ever entered my mouth.”

¹⁵Then God said to me, “Ok! I will let you use dry cow dung to cook your bread. You don’t have to use dry human dung.”

¹⁶Then God said to me, “Son of man,* I am destroying Jerusalem’s supply of bread. People will have only a little bread to eat. They will be very worried [about their food supply]. And they will have only a little water to drink. They will be very scared when they drink that water. ¹⁷Why? Because there won’t be enough food and water for the people. People will be terrified of each other—they will see each other wasting away because of their sins.

⁵¹⁻²“Son of man,* after your time of hunger* you must do these things. You must get a sharp sword. Use that sword like a barber’s razor. Shave off your hair and beard. Put the hair on a scale and weigh it. Separate your hair into three equal parts. Put one third of your hair on the brick that has the picture of the city on it. Burn that hair in that ‘city.’ [This shows that some of the people will die inside the city.] Then use a sword and cut one third of your hair into small pieces all around the city (*brick*). [This will show that some of the people will die outside the city.] Then throw one third of your hair into the air—let the wind blow it far away. [This will show that] I will pull out my sword and chase some of the people into faraway countries. ³But then you must get a few of those hairs and wrap them up in your robe. [This will show that I will save a few of my people.] ⁴You must also get some more of those hairs and throw them into the fire. [This will show that] a fire will start there and destroy the whole house of Israel.*

⁵Then the Lord my Master said to me, “That [brick] is a picture of Jerusalem. I put

Jerusalem in the middle of other nations. And there are countries all around her. ⁶The people [of Jerusalem] rebelled against my commands. They were worse than any of the other nations! They broke more of my laws than any of the people in the countries around them. They refused to listen to my commands! They did not obey my laws!”

⁷So, the Lord my Master says, “[I will do terrible things to you! Why?] Because you did not obey my laws. You did not obey my commands. You broke more of my laws than the people that live around you! And you even did things those people say are wrong!” ⁸So the Lord my Master says, “So now, even I am against you! And I will punish you while those other people watch. ⁹I will do things to you that I have never done before. And I will never do those terrible things again! Why? Because you did so many terrible things. ¹⁰People in Jerusalem will be so hungry that parents will eat their own children and children will eat their own parents. I will punish you in many ways. And the people that are left alive, I will scatter them to the winds.

¹¹The Lord my Master says, “[Jerusalem,] I promise by my life [that I will punish you!] I promise that I will punish you! Why? Because you did terrible things to my Holy Place. You did horrible things that made it dirty! I will punish you! I won’t show any mercy. I will not feel sorry for you! ¹²One third of your people will die inside the city from diseases and hunger. One third of your people will die in battle outside the city. And then I will pull out my sword and chase one third of your people into faraway countries. ¹³Only then will I stop being angry at your people. I will know that they have been punished for the bad things they did to me. And they will know that I am the Lord, and that I spoke to them because of my strong love* for them!”

¹⁴[God said,] “[Jerusalem,] I will destroy you—you will be nothing but a pile of rocks. The people around you will make fun of you. Every person that walks by will make fun of you. ¹⁵People around you will make fun of

Son of man This was usually just a way of saying “a person,” or “a human being.” But here this is a title for the man, Ezekiel.

your time of hunger Or, “your attack on the city.” See Ez. 4:8.

house of Israel This probably means the people of the northern ten family groups of Israel.

strong love The Hebrew word means strong feelings like love, hate, anger, zeal, or jealousy.

you, but you will also be a lesson for them. They will see that I was angry and punished you. I was very angry. I warned you. I, the Lord, told you what I would do! ¹⁶I told you I would send you terrible times of hunger. I told you I would send you things that would destroy you. I told you that I would take away your supply of food and that those times of hunger would come again and again. ¹⁷I told you I would send hunger and wild animals against you that would kill your children. I told you there would be disease and death everywhere in the city. I told you I would bring those enemy soldiers to fight against you. I, the Lord, told you all these things would happen—and they will happen!”

6 Then the word of the Lord came to me again. ²He said, “Son of man,* turn towards the mountains of Israel. Speak against them for me. ³Tell those mountains these things:

‘Mountains of Israel, listen to this message from the Lord my Master! The Lord my Master says these things to the hills and mountains, and to the ravines and valleys. Look! I (*God*) am bringing the enemy to fight against you. I will destroy your high places.* ⁴Your altars* will be broken into pieces! Your incense* altars will be smashed! And I will throw down your dead bodies in front of your filthy idols. ⁵I will put the dead bodies of the people of Israel in front of their filthy idols. I will scatter your bones around your altars. ⁶Bad things will happen wherever your people live. Their cities will become piles of rock. Their high places will be destroyed. Why? So that those places of worship will never be used again. Those altars will all be destroyed. People will never worship those filthy idols again. Those incense altars will be smashed. All the things you made will be completely destroyed! ⁷Your people will be killed. And then you will know that I am the Lord!”

Son of man This was usually just a way of saying “a person,” or “a human being.” But here this is a title for the man, Ezekiel.

high places Places for worshiping God or false gods. These places were often on the hills and mountains.

altar(s) A stone table used for burning sacrifices offered as gifts to God.

incense Special dried tree sap. Burned to make a sweet-smelling smoke, it was offered as a gift to God.

⁸God said, “But I will let a few of your people escape. They will live in other countries for a short time. I will scatter them and force them to live in other countries. ⁹Then those survivors* will be taken prisoners. They will be forced to live in other countries. But those survivors will remember me. I broke their spirit.* They will hate themselves for the bad things they did. In the past, they turned away from me and left me. They chased after their filthy idols. They were like a woman leaving her husband and running after some other man. They did many terrible things. ¹⁰But they will know that I am the Lord. And they will know that if I say that I will do something, then I will do it! They will know that I caused all of the bad things that happened to them.”

¹¹Then the Lord my Master said to me, “Clap your hands and stamp your feet. Speak against all the terrible things that the people of Israel have done. Warn them that they will be killed by disease and hunger. Tell them they will be killed in war. ¹²People far away will die from disease. People near this place will be killed with swords. And the people that are left in the city will starve to death. Only then will I stop being angry. ¹³And only then will you know that I am the Lord. You will know this when you see your dead bodies in front of your filthy idols and around their altars. Those bodies will be near every one of your places of worship—on every high hill and mountain, under every green tree and every oak tree with leaves. In all those places you offered your sacrifices. They were a sweet smell for your filthy idols. ¹⁴But I will raise my arm over you people and punish you and your people, wherever they live! I will destroy your country! It will be emptier than Diblah Desert.* Then they will know that I am the Lord!”

7 Then the word of the Lord came to me. ²He said, “Now, Son of man,* here is a message from the Lord my Master. This message is for the land of Israel.

survivors People that escaped some disaster. Here this means the Jewish people that survived the destruction of Judah and Israel by its enemy armies.

spirit Literally, “heart.”

Diblah Desert This is probably “Riblah Desert.”

The end.

The end is coming.

The whole country will be destroyed.

3 Your end is coming now!

I will show how angry I am at you.

I will punish you for the bad things you did.

I will make you pay for all the terrible things you did.

4 I won't show you any mercy.

I won't feel sorry for you.

I am punishing you for the bad things you did.

You have done such terrible things.

Now, you will know that I am the Lord.”

⁵The Lord my Master said these things. “There will be one disaster after another! ⁶The end is coming, and it will come quickly! ⁷You people living in Israel, do you hear the whistle? The enemy is coming. That time of punishment is coming very soon! The noise of the enemy is getting louder and louder on the mountains. ⁸Very soon now, I will show you how angry I am. I will show all of my anger against you. I will punish you for the bad things you did. I will make you pay for all the terrible things you did. ⁹I won't show you any mercy. I won't feel sorry for you. I am punishing you for the bad things you did. You have done such terrible things. Now, you will know that I am the Lord.

¹⁰“That time of punishment has come like a plant sprouting, budding and flowering: [God] has given the signal, the enemy is prepared, the proud [king] (*Nebuchadnezzar*) is ready. ¹¹That violent man is ready to punish those evil people. There are very many people [in Israel]—but he is not one of them. He is not a person in that crowd. He is not some important leader from those people.

¹²“That time of punishment has come. That day is here. People that buy things won't be happy. And people that sell things won't feel bad about selling them. Why? Because that terrible punishment will happen to every person. ¹³The people that sold their property*

sold their property In ancient Israel property did not belong to a person, it belonged to a family. A person might sell his property, but at the time of Jubilees his family would get the land back. Here, Ezekiel says the people will never get their property again.

will never go back to it. Even if a person escapes alive, he will never go back to his property. Why? Because this vision* is for the whole crowd of people. So even if a person escapes alive, it won't make people feel better.

¹⁴“They will blow the trumpet to warn the people. The people will get ready for battle. But they won't go out to fight. Why? Because I will show the whole crowd how angry I am. ¹⁵The enemy with his sword is outside the city. Disease and hunger is inside the city. If a person goes out into the fields, then an enemy soldier will kill him. If he stays in the city, hunger and disease will destroy him.

¹⁶“But some of the people will escape. Those survivors will run to the mountains. But those people won't be happy. They will be sad for all their sins. They will cry and make sad noises like doves. ¹⁷People will be too tired and sad to raise their arms. Their legs will be like water. ¹⁸They will wear clothes of sadness and be covered with fear. You will see the shame on every face. They will shave their heads [to show their sadness]. ¹⁹They will throw their silver [idols] into the streets. They will treat their gold [statues] like dirty rags! Why? Because those things will not be able to save them when the Lord shows his anger. Those things were nothing but a trap that caused the people to fall (*sin*). Those things will not give food to the people and they won't put food in their bellies.

²⁰“Those people used their beautiful jewelry and made an idol. They were proud of that statue. They made their terrible statues. They made those filthy things. So I (*God*) will throw them away like a dirty rag. ²¹I will let strangers take them. Those strangers will make fun of them. Those strangers will kill some of the people and take others away as prisoners. ²²I will turn my head away from them—I won't look at them. Those strangers will ruin my temple—they will go into the secret parts of that holy building and make it not holy.

²³“Make chains [for the prisoners]! Why? Because many people will be punished for

vision Something like a dream that God used to speak to people.

killing other people. There will be violence every place in the city. ²⁴I will bring evil people from other nations. And those evil people will get all the houses of the people of Israel. I will stop all of you powerful people from being so proud. Those people from other nations will get all your places of worship.*

²⁵“You people will shake with fear. You will look for peace, but there will be none. ²⁶You will hear one sad story after another. You will hear nothing but bad news. You will look for a prophet and ask him for a vision.* [But there won’t be one.] The priests will have nothing to teach you. And the elders (*leaders*) won’t have any good advice to give you. ²⁷Your king will be crying for the people that died. The leaders will wear clothes of sadness. The common people will be very scared. Why? Because I will pay them back for the things they did. I will decide their punishment. And I will punish them. Then those people will know that I am the Lord.”

8 One day I (*Ezekiel*) was sitting in my house, and the elders (*leaders*) of Judah were sitting there in front of me. This was on the fifth day of the sixth month (*September*) of the sixth year [of exile].* Suddenly, the power of the Lord my Master came on me. ²I saw something that looked like fire. [It looked like a man’s body.] From the waist down, he was like fire. From the waist up, he was bright and shining like hot metal* in a fire. ³Then I saw something that looked like an arm. The arm reached out and grabbed me by the hair on my head. Then the wind* lifted me into the air. And in God’s vision,* he took me to Jerusalem. He took me to the inner gate—the gate that is on the north side. The statue that makes God jealous is by that gate. ⁴But the Glory of the God of Israel was there. The Glory looked just like the vision I saw in the valley [by the Kebar Canal].

Those people ... places of worship. Or, “Those people will make your places of worship dirty and not holy.”

vision Something like a dream that God used to speak to people.

sixth year of exile This is the fall of 592 B.C.

hot metal We are not sure of the meaning of this Hebrew word.

It might mean, “melted copper” or “amber.”

wind Or, “Spirit.”

⁵[God] spoke to me. He said, “Son of man,* look towards the north!” So I looked towards the north. And there, north of the Altar Gate by the entrance, was that statue that made God jealous.

⁶Then [God] said to me, “Son of man,* do you see what terrible things the people of Israel are doing? They built that thing here, right next to my temple! And if you come with me, you will see even more terrible things!”

⁷So I went to the entrance to the courtyard, and I saw a hole in the wall. ⁸[God] said to me, “Son of man,* make a hole in the wall.” So I made a hole in the wall. And there I saw a door.

⁹Then [God] said to me, “Go in and look at the terrible, evil things that the people are doing here.” ¹⁰So I went in and looked. I saw statues of all kinds of reptiles* and animals that you hate to think about. Those statues were the filthy idols that the people of Israel worshiped. There were pictures of those animals carved all around on every wall!

¹¹Then I noticed that Jaazaniah son of Shapham and the 70 elders (*leaders*) of Israel were there with the people worshiping in that place. There they were, right at the front of the people! And each leader had his own incense* dish in his hand. The smoke from the burning incense was rising into the air. ¹²Then [God] said to me, “Son of man,* do you see what the elders of Israel do in the dark? Each man has a special room for his own false god! Those men say to themselves, ‘The Lord can’t see us. The Lord left this country.’” ¹³Then [God] said to me, “If you come with me, you will see those men doing even more terrible things!”

¹⁴Then [God] led me to the entrance to the Lord’s temple. This gate was on the north side. And there I saw women sitting and crying. They were sad about the false god Tammuz!*

Son of man This was usually just a way of saying “a person,” or “a human being.” But here this is a title for the man, Ezekiel.

reptiles The Hebrew word can mean, “lizards,” “snakes,” and “all kinds of bugs and insects.”

incense Special dried tree sap. Burned to make a sweet-smelling smoke, it was offered as a gift to God.

Tammuz People thought this false god died and his wife Ishtar asked everyone to be sad and cry with her. Ishtar hoped this would bring him back to life. This ceremony was on the 2nd day of the fourth month (*June/July*). This month was named Tammuz because of this holiday.

¹⁵ [God] said to me, “Son of man,* do you see these terrible things? Come with me and you will see things that are even worse than this!” ¹⁶ Then he led me to the inner courtyard of the Lord’s temple. At that place, I saw 25 men bowing down and worshiping. They were between the porch and the altar—but they were facing the wrong way! Their backs were to the Holy Place. They were bowing down to worship the sun!

¹⁷ Then [God] said, “Son of man,* do you see this? The people of Judah think my temple is so unimportant that they will do these terrible things here in my temple! This country is filled with violence. And they constantly do things to make me mad. Look, they are wearing rings in their noses to honor the moon like a false god!* ¹⁸ I will show them my anger! I won’t show them any mercy! I will not feel sorry for them! They will shout to me—but I refuse to listen to them!”

9 Then [God] shouted to the leaders [in charge of punishing] the city. Each leader had his own destructive weapon in his hand.* ² Then I saw six men walking on the road from the upper gate. This gate is on the north side. Each man had his own deadly weapon in his hand. One of the men wore linen clothes.* He wore a scribe’s pen and ink set* at his waist. Those men went to the bronze altar [in the temple] and stood there. ³ Then the Glory of the God of Israel rose from above the Cherub angels* where he had been. Then the Glory went to the door of the temple. He stopped when he was over the threshold. Then the Glory called to the man wearing the linen clothes and the scribe’s pen and ink set.

Son of man This was usually just a way of saying “a person,” or “a human being.” But here this is a title for the man, Ezekiel.

Look ... god Or, “Look at them putting that cut branch in their noses.”

Each ... hand In Hebrew, this is like Ez. 8:11.

linen clothes Priests usually wore these clothes.

scribe’s pen and ink set A scribe was a person that copied official documents and counted supplies and things. He often carried a small board with dry ink in it and a pen. He could put water on the ink and then write with it.

Cherub angels Special angels from God. Statues of these angels were on top of the Box of the Agreement.

⁴ Then the Lord (*Glory*) said to him, “Go through the city of Jerusalem. Put a mark on the forehead of every person that feels sad and upset about all the terrible things people are doing in this city.”

⁵⁻⁶ Then I heard [God] say to the other men, “I want you to follow the first man. You must kill every person that does not have the mark on his forehead. It does not matter if they are elders (*leaders*), young men or young women, children or mothers—you must use your weapon and kill every person that does not have the mark on his forehead. Don’t show any mercy. Don’t feel sorry for any person! Start here at my temple.” So they started with the elders (*leaders*) in front of the temple.

⁷ God said to them, “Make this temple unclean*—fill this courtyard with dead bodies! Now go!” So they went and killed the people in the city.

⁸ I stayed there while those men went to kill the people. I bowed with my face to the ground and said, “Oh Lord my Master, in showing your anger against Jerusalem, are you killing all the survivors in Israel?”

⁹ [God] said, “The family of Israel and Judah have done many, many very bad sins! People are being murdered everywhere in this country. And this city is filled with crime. Why? Because the people say to themselves, ‘The Lord left this country. He can’t see the things we are doing.’ ¹⁰ And I won’t show any mercy. I won’t feel sorry for these people. They brought it on themselves—I am only giving these people the punishment they deserve!”

¹¹ Then the man wearing linen clothes and a scribe’s pen and ink set* spoke up. He said, “I have done what you commanded.”

10 Then I looked up at the bowl* over the heads of the Cherub angels.* The bowl looked clear blue like sapphire. And there was something that looked like a throne over the bowl. ² Then [the person sitting on the throne] said to the man dressed in linen clothes,* “Step

unclean Not pure or not acceptable to God for worship.

bowl This Hebrew word is the same word used in Gen. 1:6-7 to describe the dome over the sky.

into the area between the wheels* under the Cherub angels. Take a handful of the burning coals from between the Cherub angels and go throw them over the city of Jerusalem.”

The man walked past me. ³The Cherub angels* were standing in the area south* of the temple as the man walked to them. The cloud filled the inner courtyard. ⁴Then the Glory of the Lord rose up off of the Cherub angels near the threshold of the door of the temple. Then the cloud filled the temple. And the bright light from the Glory of the Lord filled the whole courtyard. ⁵The noise from the wings of the Cherub angels could be heard all the way out in the outer courtyard. The sound was very loud—like the thundering voice when God All-Powerful speaks.

⁶[God] had given the man dressed in linen clothes a command. [God] had told him to go into the area between the wheels* among the Cherub angels* and get some hot coals. So the man went there and stood by the wheel. ⁷One of the Cherub angels reached out his hand and took some of the hot coals from the area between the Cherub angels. He poured the coals into the man’s hands. And the man left. (⁸The Cherub angels had what looked like human arms under their wings.)

⁹Then I noticed that there were four wheels. There was one wheel by each Cherub angel.* And the wheels looked like a clear yellow jewel. ¹⁰There were four wheels and they all looked the same. They looked like there was a wheel in a wheel. ¹¹They could go in any direction when they moved. But [the Cherub angels] did not turn around when they moved. They went in the direction that the head was looking. They did not turn around when they moved. ¹²There were eyes all over their bodies. There were eyes on their backs, on their arms, on their wings, and on their wheels. [Yes, there were eyes on] all four

wheels! ¹³These wheels were what I heard called, “the area between the wheels.”

^{14–15}Each Cherub angel* had four faces. The first face was a Cherub’s face.* The second face was a man’s face. The third face was a lion’s face. And the fourth face was an eagle’s face. Then [I realized that] the animals I saw in the vision by the Kebar Canal* were Cherub angels!

Then the Cherub angels* rose into the air. ¹⁶And the wheels rose with them. When the Cherub angels raised their wings and flew into the air, not even the wheels turned around. ¹⁷If the Cherub angels flew into the air, the wheels went with them. If the Cherub angels stood still, so did the wheels. Why? Because the wind* (*power*) of the animal was in them.

¹⁸Then the Glory of the Lord rose from the threshold of the temple, moved to the place over the Cherub angels* and stopped there. ¹⁹Then the Cherub angels raised their wings and flew into the air. I saw them leave [the temple]! The wheels went with them. Then they stopped at the East Gate of the Lord’s temple. The Glory of the God of Israel was in the air above them.

²⁰Then I remembered the animals under the Glory of the God of Israel in the vision at the Kebar Canal. And I realized those animals were Cherub angels.* ²¹[I mean,] each animal had four faces, four wings, and something that looked like human arms under their wings. ²²The faces of the Cherub angels were the same as the four faces on the animals in the vision by the Kebar Canal. And they all looked straight ahead in the direction they were going.

11 Then the wind* carried me to the East Gate of the Lord’s temple. This gate faces the east, [where the sun comes up]. I saw 25 men there at the entrance of this gate. Jaazaniah son of Azzur was with those men. And Pelatiah son of Benaiah was there. Pelatiah was the leader of the people.

area between the wheels The Hebrew word can mean, “chariot wheel,” “whirling (spinning) wheel,” or “tumbleweed.” See chapter 1 for Ezekiel’s full description.

Cherub angels Special angels from God. Statues of these angels were on top of the Box of the Agreement.

south Literally, “right.”

Cherub’s face This is the bull’s face mentioned in Ez. 1:10. See Ez. 10:22.

vision by Kebar Canal See Ez. 1.

wind Or, “Spirit.”

²Then [God] spoke to me. He said, “Son of man,* these are the men who make evil plans for this city. These men always tell the people to do bad things. ³These men say, ‘We will be building our houses again very soon. [We are as safe in this city as] meat in a pot!’ ⁴They are telling these lies.] So you must speak to the people for me. Son of man, go prophesy to the people.”

⁵Then the Spirit of the Lord came on me. He said to me, “Tell them that the Lord said these things: House of Israel, you are planning big things. But I know what you are thinking! ⁶You have killed many people in this city. You have filled the streets with dead bodies. ⁷Now, the Lord our Master says these things, ‘Those dead bodies are the meat. And the city is the pot. But he (*Nebuchadnezzar*) will come and take you out of this safe pot! ⁸You are afraid of the sword. But I am bringing the sword against you!’” The Lord our Master said these things. [So they will happen!]

⁹[God also said,] “I will take you people out of this city. And I will give you to strangers. I will punish you! ¹⁰You will die by the sword. I will punish you here in Israel, so you will know that [I am the One punishing you]. I am the Lord. ¹¹Yes, this place will be the cooking pot. And you will be the meat cooking in it! I will punish you here in Israel. ¹²Then you will know that I am the Lord. It was my law that you broke! You did not obey my commands. You decided to live like the nations around you.”

¹³As soon as I finished speaking for God, Pelatiah son of Benaiah died! I fell to the ground. I bowed with my face touching the ground and said, “Oh, Lord my Master, you are going to completely destroy all the survivors of Israel!”

¹⁴But then the word of the Lord came to me. He said, ¹⁵“Son of man,* remember your brothers, the family of Israel. They were forced to leave their country, but I will bring them back!* But now, the people living in

Jerusalem are saying, ‘Stay far away from the Lord. This land was given to us—it is ours!’

¹⁶“So tell those people these things: The Lord our Master says, ‘It is true, I forced my people to go far away to other nations. I did scatter them among many countries. But I will be their temple for a short time while they are in those other countries. ¹⁷But you must tell those people that the Lord their Master will bring them back. I have scattered you among many nations. But I will gather you together and bring you back from those nations. I will give the land of Israel back to you! ¹⁸And when my people come back, they will destroy all the terrible, filthy idols that are here now. ¹⁹I will bring them together and make them like one person. I will put a new spirit* in them. I will take away that heart of stone, and I will put a real heart in its place. ²⁰Then they will obey my laws. They will obey my commands. They will do the things I tell them. They will truly be my people, and I will be their God.’”

²¹[Then God said,] “But now, their hearts belong to those terrible, filthy idols. And I must punish those people for the bad things they did.” The Lord my Master said those things. ²²And then the Cherub angels* raised their wings [and flew into the air]. The wheels went with them. And the Glory of the God of Israel was above them. ²³The Glory of the Lord rose into the air and left Jerusalem. He stopped on the hill east of Jerusalem.* ²⁴Then the wind* lifted me into the air and brought me back to Babylonia. It brought me back to the people that were forced to leave Israel. I saw all of those things in the vision of God. Then [the One I saw] in the vision rose into the air and left me. ²⁵Then I spoke to the people in exile. I told them about all the things the Lord showed me.

12 Then the word of the Lord came to me. He said, ²“Son of man,* you live among rebellious people—they always turn against me. They have eyes to see [the things I have

spirit Or, “Spirit.”

Cherub angels Special angels from God. Statues of these angels were on top of the Box of the Agreement.

hill east of Jerusalem This is the Mount of Olives.

wind Or, “Spirit.”

Son of man This was usually just a way of saying “a person,” or “a human being.” But here this is a title for the man, Ezekiel.

They were ... them back! This is a word play. The word meaning, “redeemed” sounds like the word meaning, “exiled.”

done for them. But they don't see those things. They have ears to hear [the things I told them to do]. But they don't hear my commands. Why? Because they are a rebellious people. ³So, Son of man,* pack your bags. Act like you are going to a faraway country. Do this so the people can see you. Maybe they will see you—but they are a very rebellious people.

⁴During the day, take your bags outside so the people can see you. Then in the evening, act like you are going away like a prisoner to a faraway country. ⁵While the people are watching, make a hole in the wall and go out through that hole in the wall. ⁶At night, put your bag on your shoulder and leave. Cover your face so you can't see where you are going. You must do these things so the people can see you. Why? Because I am using you as an example to the family of Israel.”

⁷So I (*Ezekiel*) did as I was commanded. During the day, I took my bags and acted like I was going to a faraway country. That evening I used my hands and made a hole in the wall. During the night I put my bag on my shoulder and left. I did this so all the people could see me.

⁸The next morning, the word of the Lord came to me. He said, ⁹“Son of man,* did those rebellious people of Israel ask you what you were doing? ¹⁰Tell them that the Lord their Master said these things. This sad message is about the leader of Jerusalem and all the people of Israel living there. ¹¹Tell them, ‘I (*Ezekiel*) am an example for all you people. The things I have done will really happen to you.’ You really will be forced to go to a faraway country as prisoners. ¹²And your leader will make a hole in the wall and sneak out at night. He will cover his face [so people won't recognize him]. His eyes won't be able to see where he is going. ¹³He will try to escape. But I (*God*) will catch him! He will be caught in my trap. And I will bring him to Babylonia—the land of the Chaldean people. But he will not be able to see where he is going. [The enemy will poke out his eyes and

make him blind.] ¹⁴I will force the king's people to live in the foreign countries around Israel. And I will scatter his army to the winds. And the enemy soldiers will chase after them. ¹⁵Then those people will know that I am the Lord. They will know that I scattered them among the nations. They will know that I forced them to go to other countries.

¹⁶“But I will let a few of the people live. They won't die from the disease, hunger, and war. I will let those people live so they can tell other people about the terrible things they did against me. And then they will know that I am the Lord.”

¹⁷Then the word of the Lord came to me. He said, ¹⁸“Son of man,* you must act like you are very scared. You must shake when you eat your food. You must act worried and afraid when you drink your water. ¹⁹You must tell these things to the common people. You must say, ‘The Lord our Master says these things to the people living in Jerusalem and in the other parts of Israel. You people will be very worried while you eat your food. You will be terrified while you drink your water. Why? Because all the things in your country will be destroyed! The enemy will be very cruel to all the people living there. ²⁰Many people live in your cities now—but those cities will be ruined. Your whole country will be destroyed! Then you will know that I am the Lord.”

²¹Then the word of the Lord came to me. He said, ²²“Son of man,* why do people say this poem about the land of Israel:

Trouble won't come soon,
the visions won't happen.

²³“Tell those people that the Lord their Master will stop that poem. They won't say those things about Israel any more. Now they will say this poem:

Trouble will come soon,
the visions will happen.

²⁴“It is true, there won't be any more false visions in Israel. There won't be any more magicians telling things that don't come true. ²⁵Why? Because I am the Lord. And I will say what I want to say, and that thing will happen! And I won't let the time stretch out. Those

Son of man This was usually just a way of saying “a person,” or “a human being.” But here this is a title for the man, Ezekiel.

troubles are coming soon—in your own lifetime. You rebellious people, when I say something, I make it happen.” The Lord my Master said those things.

²⁶Then the word of the Lord came to me. He said, ²⁷“Son of man,* the people of Israel think that the visions I give you are for a time far in the future. They think you are talking about things that will happen many, many years from now. ²⁸So you must tell them these things, ‘The Lord my Master says: I won’t delay any longer. If I say something will happen, then it will happen!’” The Lord my Master said those things.

13 Then the word of the Lord came to me. He said, ²“Son of man,* you must speak to the prophets of Israel for me. [Those prophets are not really speaking for me.] Those prophets are saying things they want to say. So you must speak to them. Tell them these things, ‘Listen to this message from the Lord! ³The Lord my Master says these things. Bad things will happen to you foolish prophets. You are following your own spirits. You are not telling people what you really see [in visions].

⁴“Israel, your prophets will be like foxes running through empty, destroyed buildings. ⁵You have not put soldiers near the broken walls of the city. You have not built walls to protect the family of Israel. So when the day comes for the Lord to punish you, you will lose the war!

⁶“False prophets said they saw visions. They did their magic and said things would happen—but they lied. They said the Lord sent them—but they lied. They are still waiting for their lies to come true.

⁷“False prophets, the visions you saw were not true. You did your magic and said things would happen. But you lied! You said that the Lord said those things. But I did not speak to you!”

⁸So now, the Lord my Master really will speak! He says, “You told lies. You saw visions that were not true. So now I (*God*) am against you!” The Lord my Master said these

things. ⁹The Lord says, “I will punish the prophets that saw false visions and told lies. I will remove them from my people. Their names won’t be in the list of the family of Israel. They will never again come to the land of Israel. Then you will know that I am the Lord and Master!

¹⁰“Again and again those false prophets lied to my people. The prophets said there would be peace. And there is no peace. The people need to fix the walls and prepare for war. But they only slap a thin coat of plaster* over the broken walls. ¹¹Tell those men that I will send hail and a strong rain (*enemy army*). The wind will blow hard and a tornado will come. Then the wall will fall down. ¹²The wall will fall down. And the people will ask the prophets, ‘What happened to the plaster you put on the wall?’” ¹³The Lord my Master says, “I am angry and I will send a storm against you. I am angry and I will send a strong rain. I am angry and I will make hail fall from the sky and completely destroy you! ¹⁴You put plaster* on the wall. But I will destroy the whole wall. I will pull it to the ground. The wall will fall on you. And then you will know that I am the Lord. ¹⁵I will finish showing my anger against the wall and the people that put plaster on it. Then I will say, ‘There is no wall. And there are no workers to put plaster on it.’

¹⁶“All those things will happen to the false prophets of Israel. Those prophets speak to the people of Jerusalem. Those prophets say there will be peace, but there is no peace.” The Lord my Master said those things.

¹⁷[God said,] “Son of man,* look at the women prophets in Israel. Those women prophets [don’t speak for me]. They say the things they want to say. So you must speak against them for me. You must say these things to them. ¹⁸The Lord my Master says these things: Bad things will happen to you women. You sew cloth bracelets for people to wear on their arms. You make special scarves

Son of man This was usually just a way of saying “a person,” or “a human being.” But here this is a title for the man, Ezekiel.

plaster A type of cement people put on stone walls to make them smooth and waterproof. This is also a word play. The Hebrew word is like the word meaning, “It will fall.”

for people to wear on their heads. ¶You say those things have magic powers, to control people's lives. You trap those people only to keep yourselves alive! ¹⁹You make the people think I am not important. You turn them against me for a few handfuls of barley and a few scraps of bread. You tell lies to my people. Those people love to listen to lies. You kill people that should live. And you let people live that should die. ²⁰So the Lord and Master says these things to you: You make those cloth bracelets to trap people—but I will set those people free. I will tear those bracelets off your arms, and the people will be free from you. They will be like birds flying from a trap! ²¹And I will tear up those scarves, and save my people from your power. Those people will escape from your trap. And you will know that I am the Lord.

²²“You prophets tell lies. Your lies hurt good people—I did not want to hurt those good people! You support bad people and encourage them. You don't tell them to change their lives. You don't try to save their lives! ²³So you won't see any more useless visions. You won't do any more magic. I will save my people from your power. And you will know that I am the Lord.”

14 Some of the elders of Israel came to me. They sat down to talk with me. ²The word of the Lord came to me. He said, ³“Son of man,* these men came to talk to you. ¶They wanted you to ask me for advice.¶ But these men still have their filthy idols. They kept the things that made them sin. They still worship those statues. So why do they come to me for advice? Should I answer their questions? No! ⁴But I will give them an answer. ¶I will punish them!¶ You must tell those people these things. ‘The Lord my Master says: If any Israelite comes to a prophet and asks me for advice, then ¶the prophet won't give that person an answer.¶ I myself will answer that person's question. I will answer him even if he still has his filthy idols, even if he kept the things that made him sin, and even if he still worships

those statues. I will speak to him in spite of all his filthy idols. ⁵Why? Because I want to touch their heart. I want to show them I love them, even though they left me for their filthy idols.’

⁶“So tell the family of Israel these things. Tell them, ‘The Lord my Master says: Come back ¶to me,¶ and leave your filthy idols. Turn away from those terrible false gods. ⁷If any Israelite or foreigner living in Israel comes to me for advice, I will give him an answer. I will answer him even if he still has his filthy idols and even if he kept the things that made him sin and even if he worships those statues. And this is the answer I will give him: ⁸I will turn against that person. I will destroy him. He will be an example to other people. People will laugh at him. I will remove him from my people. Then you will know that I am the Lord! ⁹And if a prophet is foolish enough to give his own answer, then I will show him how foolish he is! I will use my power against him. I will destroy him and remove him from among my people, Israel. ¹⁰So, both the person that came for advice and the prophet that gave an answer will get the same punishment. ¹¹Why? So those prophets will stop leading my people away from me. And so my people will stop becoming filthy with their sins. Then they will be my special people. And I will be their God.’” The Lord my Master said those things.

¹²Then the word of the Lord came to me. He said, ¹³“Son of man,* I will punish any nation that leaves me and sins against me. I will stop their food supply. I might cause a time of hunger and remove the people and animals from that country. ¹⁴¶I would punish that country,¶ even if Noah, Danel, and Job* lived there. Those men could save their own lives by their goodness, ¶but they could not save the whole country.¶” The Lord my Master said these things.

¹⁵¶God said,¶ “Or, I might send wild animals through that country. And those

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Noah, Danel, and Job Three men from ancient times. They were famous for being very good and wise men. Stories about Noah and Job are in the Bible. Stories about Danel are in writings from Ras Shamra.

animals might kill all the people. No person would travel through that country because of the wild animals. ¹⁶If Noah, Danel, and Job lived there, [then I would save those three good men]. Those three men could save their own lives. But by my life I promise, they could not save the lives of other people—not even their own sons and daughters! That evil country would be destroyed!” The Lord my Master said these things.

¹⁷[God said,] “Or, I might send an enemy army to fight against that country. Those soldiers would destroy that country—I would remove all the people and animals from that country. ¹⁸If Noah, Danel, and Job lived there, [then I would save those three good men]. Those three men could save their own lives. But by my life I promise, they could not save the lives of other people—not even their own sons and daughters! That evil country would be destroyed!” The Lord my Master said these things.

¹⁹[God said,] “Or, I might send a disease against that country. I will pour my anger down on those people. I will remove all the people and animals from that country. ²⁰If Noah, Danel, and Job lived there, [then I would save those three men] because they are good men. Those three men could save their own lives. But by my life I promise, they could not save the lives of other people—not even their own sons and daughters!” The Lord my Master said these things.

²¹Then the Lord my Master said, “So think how bad it will be for Jerusalem: I will send all four of those punishments against that city! I will send enemy soldiers, hunger, disease, and wild animals against that city. I will remove all the people and animals from that country! ²²Some of the people will escape from that country. They will bring their sons and daughters and come to you for help. Then you will see how bad those people really are. And you will feel better about all the troubles that I will bring to Jerusalem. ²³You will see the way they live and the bad things they do. And then you will know that I had a good reason for punishing those people.” The Lord my Master said these things.

15 Then the word of the Lord came to me. He said, ²“Son of man,* are the pieces of wood from a grapevine* any better than the little branches cut from trees in the forest? No! ³Can you use that wood from a grapevine to make anything? No! Can you use that wood to make pegs to hang dishes on? No! ⁴People only throw that wood into the fire. Some sticks begin to burn on the ends, the middles turn black from the fire, [but the sticks don’t burn completely]. Can you make anything from that burnt stick? ⁵If you can’t make anything from that wood before it is burned, then you surely can’t make anything from that wood after it is burned! ⁶So the pieces of wood from a grapevine are just like pieces of wood from trees in the forest. People throw those pieces of wood into the fire. And the fire burns them. In the same way, I will throw the people living in Jerusalem into the fire!” The Lord my Master said these things. ⁷“I will punish those people. But some of those people will be like the sticks that don’t burn completely—they will be punished, but they won’t be destroyed completely. You will see that I punished these people, and you will know that I am the Lord! ⁸I will destroy that country because the people left me [to worship false gods].” The Lord my Master said those things.

16 Then the word of the Lord came to me. He said, ²“Son of man,* tell the people of Jerusalem about the terrible things they have done. ³You must say, ‘The Lord my Master says these things to Jerusalem: Look at your history. You were born in Canaan. Your father was an Amorite. Your mother was a Hittite. ⁴[Jerusalem,] on the day you were born, there was no one to cut your naval cord. No one put salt on you and washed you to make you clean. No one wrapped you in cloth. ⁵[Jerusalem, you were all alone.] No one felt sorry for you or took care of you. [Jerusalem,] on the day you were born, your parents threw you out in the field. You were still covered with the blood and afterbirth.’”

Son of man This was usually just a way of saying “a person,” or “a human being.” But here this is a title for the man, Ezekiel.

grapevine Many times the prophets said Israel was God’s vineyard or grapevine.

6“Then I (*God*) passed by. I saw you lying there, kicking in the blood. You were covered with blood but I said, “Please live!” Yes, you were covered with blood but I said, “Please live!” 7I helped you grow like a plant in the field. You grew and grew. You became a young woman: your periods began, your breasts grew, your hair began to grow. But you were still bare and naked. 8I looked you over. I saw you were ready for love. So I spread my clothes over you* and covered your nakedness. I promised to marry you. I made the agreement* with you. And you became mine.” The Lord my Master said these things. 9““I washed you in water. I washed away your blood. And I rubbed oil on your skin. 10* I gave you a nice dress and soft leather shoes. I gave you a linen headband and a silk scarf. 11Then I gave you some jewelry. I put bracelets on your arms and a necklace around your neck. 12I gave you a nose ring, some earrings, and a beautiful crown to wear. 13You were beautiful in your silver and gold jewelry, and your linen, silk, and embroidered material. You ate the best foods. You were very, very beautiful. And you became the queen! 14You became famous for your beauty. And all because I made you so lovely!” The Lord my Master said these things.

15[God said,] “But you began to trust in your beauty. You used the good name you had and became unfaithful to me. You acted like a prostitute* with every man that passed by. You gave yourself to them all! 16You took your beautiful clothes and used them to decorate your places of worship. And you acted like a prostitute in those places. You gave yourself to every man that came by! 17Then you took your beautiful jewelry that I gave you. And you used that gold and silver to

make statues of men. And you had sex with them too! 18Then you took the beautiful cloth and made clothes for those statues. You took the perfume and incense I gave you, and you put it in front of those idols. 19I gave you bread, honey, and oil. But you gave that food to your idols. You offered them as a sweet smell to please your false gods. You acted like a prostitute with those false gods!” The Lord my Master said these things.

20[God said,] “You and I had children together. But you took our children. You killed them and gave them to those false gods! But that is only some of the bad things you did when you cheated on me and went to those false gods. 21You slaughtered* my sons and then passed them [through the fire] to those false gods. 22You left me and did all those terrible things. And you never remembered the time when you were young. You did not remember that you were naked and kicking in blood [when I found you].

23“After all those bad things, ... Oh Jerusalem, it will be very bad for you!” The Lord my Master said all these things. 24“After all those things you made that mound [for worshiping that false god]. You built those places for worshiping false gods on every street corner. 25You built your mounds at the head of every road. Then you degraded your beauty. You used it to catch every man that walked by. You raised your skirt so they could see your legs, and then you were like a prostitute* with those men. 26Then you went to Egypt, your neighbor with the big sex organ. You had sex with him many times to make me angry. 27So I punished you! I took away part of your allowance (*land*). I let your enemies, the daughters (*cities*) of the Philistines do what they wanted to you. Even they were shocked at the bad things you did. 28Then you went to have sex with Assyria.* You could not get enough. You were never satisfied. 29So you turned to Canaan, and then to Babylonia. And still you were not satisfied.

spread my clothes over you This showed that he was agreeing to protect her and care for her. See Ruth 3:1-15.

agreement Here this means the marriage agreement. But it also refers to the Agreement God made with the people of Israel.

Verses 10-13 All the materials in this list are the things used in building the Holy Tent. See Ex. 25-40.

prostitute A woman paid by men for sexual sin. Sometimes this also means a person that is not faithful to God and stops following him.

slaughtered Usually, this word means to kill an animal and cut it into pieces for meat. But it often means to kill people like they are animals.

Assyria This was a powerful nation northeast of Israel.

³⁰You are so weak. You let all those men (*countries*) cause you to sin. You acted just like a domineering prostitute.*” The Lord my Master said those things.

³¹[God said,] “But you were not exactly like a prostitute.* You built your mounds at the head of every road and you built your places of worship at every street corner. You had sex with all those men. But you did not ask them to pay you like a prostitute does. ³²You adulterous woman. You prefer having sex with strangers rather than your own husband. ³³Most prostitutes force men to pay them for sex. But you gave money to your many lovers. You paid all the men around to come in to have sex with you. ³⁴You are just the opposite of most prostitutes. Most prostitutes force men to pay them. But you pay the men to have sex with you.”

³⁵Prostitute,* listen to the message from the Lord. ³⁶The Lord my Master says these things: “You have spent your money* and let your lovers and filthy gods see your naked body and have sex with you. You have killed your children and poured out their blood. This was your gift to those false gods. ³⁷So I am bringing all of your lovers together. I will bring all the men you loved and all the men you hated. I will bring them all together and let them see you naked.* They will see you completely naked. ³⁸Then I will punish you. I will punish you as a murderer and a woman that did the sin of adultery. You will be punished as if by an angry and jealous husband. ³⁹I will let those lovers have you. They will destroy your mounds. They will burn your places of worship. They will tear off your clothes and take your beautiful jewelry. They will leave you bare and naked [like you were when I found you]. ⁴⁰They will bring a crowd of people and throw rocks at you to kill

you. Then they will cut you in pieces with their swords. ⁴¹They will burn your house (*temple*). They will punish you so all the other women can see. I will stop you from living like a prostitute. I will stop you from paying money to your lovers. ⁴²Then I will stop being angry and jealous. I will calm down. I won’t be angry any more. ⁴³Why will all these things happen? Because you did not remember what happened when you were young. You did all those bad things and made me angry. So I had to punish you for doing those bad things. But you planned even more terrible things.” The Lord my Master said those things.

⁴⁴“All the people that talk about you will now have one more thing to say. They will say, ‘Like mother, like daughter.’ ⁴⁵You are your mother’s daughter. You don’t care about your husband or your children. You are just like your sister. Both of you hated your husband and your children. [You are just like your parents.] Your mother was a Hittite and your father was an Amorite. ⁴⁶Your older sister was Samaria. She lived to the north of you with her daughters (towns). And your younger sister was Sodom.* She lived to the south of you with her daughters (towns). ⁴⁷You did all the terrible things they did. But you also did things that were even worse! ⁴⁸I am the Lord and Master. I am alive. And by my life I promise, your sister Sodom and her daughters never did as many bad things as you and your daughters.”

⁴⁹[God said,] “Your sister Sodom and her daughters were proud, they had too much to eat, and too much time on their hands. And they did not help poor, helpless people. ⁵⁰Sodom and her daughters became too proud and began to do terrible things in front of me. And when I saw them doing those things, I punished them.”

⁵¹[God said,] “And Samaria did only half as many bad things as you did. You did many more terrible things than Samaria! You have done so many more terrible things than your

prostitute A woman paid by men for sexual sin. Sometimes this also means a person that is not faithful to God and stops following him.

spent your money Literally, “poured out your copper.” This might also mean, “you have done the things that stain you with sin.”

let them see you naked The Hebrew words are like the words meaning, “to be carried away as a prisoner to a foreign country.”

Samaria ... Sodom Ezekiel is saying that the people in Judah are just as evil as the people that lived in Samaria and Sodom—and those people were so evil that God completely destroyed those cities.

sisters. Sodom and Samaria seem good compared to you. ⁵²So you must bear your shame. You have made your sisters look good compared to you. You have done terrible things, so you should be ashamed.”

⁵³[God said,] “I destroyed Sodom and the towns around it. And I destroyed Samaria around it. And [Jerusalem,] I will destroy you. But I will build those cities again. And [Jerusalem,] I will build you again too. ⁵⁴I will comfort you. Then you will remember the terrible things you did, and you will be ashamed. ⁵⁵So you and your sisters will be built again. Sodom and the towns around her, Samaria and the towns around her, and you and the towns around you will all be built again.”

⁵⁶[God said,] “In the past, you were proud and made fun of your sister Sodom. But you won’t do that again. ⁵⁷You did that before you were punished, before your neighbors started making fun of you. The daughters (*towns*) of Edom* and Philistia are making fun of you now. ⁵⁸Now you must suffer for the terrible things you did.” The Lord said these things.

⁵⁹The Lord my Master said these things. “I will treat you like you treated me! You broke your marriage promise. You did not respect our Agreement. ⁶⁰But I will remember the agreement we made when you were young. I made an agreement with you that will continue forever! ⁶¹I will bring your sisters to you, and I will make them your daughters. That was not in our agreement, but I will do that for you. Then you will remember the terrible things you did, and you will be ashamed. ⁶²So I will make my agreement with you. And you will know that I am the Lord. ⁶³[I will be good to you,] so you will remember me, and you will be so ashamed of the bad things you did that you will not be able to say anything. But I will make you pure, and you will never be ashamed again!” The Lord my Master said those things.

17 Then the word of the Lord came to me. He said, ²“Son of man,* tell this story to the family of Israel. Ask them what it means. ³Say to them:

Edom Or, “Aram.”

Son of man This was usually just a way of saying “a person,” or “a human being.” But here this is a title for the man, Ezekiel.

A large eagle (*Nebuchadnezzar*) with big wings came to Lebanon.

The eagle had feathers covered with spots.

⁴ The eagle broke the top out of the big cedar tree (*Lebanon*) and brought it to Canaan. The eagle set down the branch in the town of businessmen.

⁵ Then the eagle took some of the seeds (*people*) from Canaan

He planted them in good soil.

He planted them by a good river.

⁶ The seeds grew and became a grapevine. It was a good vine.

The vine was not tall,

but it spread to cover a large area.

The vine grew stems,

and smaller vines grew very long.

⁷ Then another eagle with big wings saw the grapevine.

The eagle had many feathers.

The grapevine wanted this new eagle to care for it.

So it made its roots grow toward this eagle.

Its branches stretched toward this eagle.

The branches grew away from the field that it was planted in.

The grapevine wanted the new eagle to water it.

⁸ The grapevine was planted in a good field.

It was planted near plenty of water.

It could have grown branches and fruit.

It could have become a very good grapevine.”

⁹ The Lord my Master said these things.

“Do you think that plant will succeed?

No! The new eagle will pull the plant from the ground.

And the bird will break the plant’s roots.

It will eat up all the grapes.

Then the new leaves will wilt.

That plant will be very weak.

It won’t take strong arms

or a powerful nation

to pull that plant up by the roots.

¹⁰ Will the plant grow where it is planted?

No! The hot east wind will blow

and the plant will become dry and die.

It will die there where it was planted.”

¹¹The word of the Lord came to me. He said, ¹²“Explain this story to the people [of Israel]— they always turn against me. Tell them these things: The first eagle is [Nebuchadnezzar], the king of Babylonia. He came to Jerusalem and took away the king and other leaders. He brought them to Babylonia. ¹³Then Nebuchadnezzar made an agreement with a man from the king’s family. Nebuchadnezzar forced that man to make a promise. So this man promised to be loyal to Nebuchadnezzar. Nebuchadnezzar made this man the new king of Judah. Then he took all the powerful men away from Judah. ¹⁴So Judah became a weak kingdom that could not turn against King Nebuchadnezzar. The people were forced to keep the agreement Nebuchadnezzar made with the new king of Judah. ¹⁵But this new king tried to rebel against Nebuchadnezzar anyway! He sent messengers to Egypt to ask for help. The new king asked for many horses and soldiers. Now, do you think the new king of Judah will succeed? Do you think the new king will have enough power to break the agreement and escape punishment?”

¹⁶The Lord my Master says, “By my life, I promise this new king will die in Babylonia! Nebuchadnezzar made this man the new king of Judah. But this man broke his promise with Nebuchadnezzar. This new king ignored that agreement. ¹⁷And the king of Egypt won’t be able to save the king of Judah. He might send many soldiers, but Egypt’s great power won’t save Judah. Nebuchadnezzar’s army will build dirt roads and dirt walls to capture the city. Many people will die. ¹⁸But the king of Judah won’t escape. Why? Because he ignored his agreement. He broke his promise to Nebuchadnezzar. ¹⁹The Lord my Master makes this promise: “By my life, I swear that I will punish the king of Judah. Why? Because he ignored my warnings. He broke our agreement. ²⁰I will set my trap, and he will be caught in it. And I will bring him to Babylon and I will punish him in that place. I will punish him because he turned against me. ²¹And I will destroy his army. I will destroy his best soldiers. And I will scatter the survivors to the

winds. Then you will know that I am the Lord and that I told you these things.”

²²The Lord my Master said these things:

“I will take a branch from
a tall cedar tree.
I will take a small branch from
the top of the tree.
And I myself will plant it
on a very high mountain.

²³ I myself will plant it
on a high mountain in Israel.
That branch will grow into a tree.
It will grow branches and make fruit.
It will become a beautiful cedar tree.
Many birds will sit on its branches.
Many birds will live in the shadows
under its branches.

²⁴ “Then the other trees will know that
I make tall trees fall to the ground,
and I make small trees grow tall.
I make green trees become dry,
and I make dry trees become green.
I am the Lord.
If I say that I will do something,
then I will do it!”

18 The word of the Lord came to me. He said, ²“You people keep repeating this proverb. Why? You say:

The parents ate the sour grapes,
but the children got the sour taste.

[You think you can sin, and some person in the future will be punished for it.] ³But the Lord my Master says, “By my life, I promise that people in Israel won’t think this proverb is true anymore! ⁴I will treat each person just the same. It won’t matter if that person is the parent or the child. The person that sins is the person that will die!

⁵“If a person is good, then he will live! That good person treats people fairly. ⁶That good person does not go to the mountains and share in foods offered to false gods. He does not pray to those filthy idols in Israel. He does not do the sin of adultery with his neighbor’s wife. He does not have sex with his wife during her period. ⁷That good person does not

take advantage of people. If a person borrows money from him, the good man takes the collateral* and gives the other person the money. And when that person pays him back, then the good man gives the collateral back. The good person gives food to hungry people. And he gives clothes to people that need them. ⁸If a person wants to borrow money, the good man lends him the money. And he does not charge interest on that loan. The good man refuses to be crooked. He is always fair with every person. People can trust him. ⁹He obeys my laws. He thinks about my decisions and learns to be fair and dependable. He is a good person, so he will live.

¹⁰“But that good person might have a son that does not do any of those good things. The son might steal things and kill people. ¹¹The son might do any of these bad things. He might go to the mountains and share in foods offered to false gods. That evil son might do the sin of adultery with his neighbor’s wife. ¹²He might mistreat poor, helpless people. He might take advantage of people. He might not give back the collateral* when a person pays his debt. That evil son might pray to those filthy idols and do other terrible things. ¹³A person might need to borrow money from that evil son. The son might lend him the money, but he will force that person to pay interest on that loan. So that evil son won’t live. He did terrible things, so he will be put to death. And he is responsible for his own death.

¹⁴“Now, that evil son might also have a son. But this son might see the bad things his father did, and he might refuse to live like his father. That good son treats people fairly. ¹⁵That good son does not go to the mountains and share in foods offered to false gods. He does not pray to those filthy idols in Israel. He does not do the sin of adultery with his neighbor’s wife. ¹⁶That good son does not take advantage of people. If a person borrows money from him, the good son takes the collateral* and gives the other person the

money. And when that person pays him back, then the good son gives the collateral back. The good son gives food to hungry people. And he gives clothes to people that need them. ¹⁷He helps poor people. If a person wants to borrow money, the good son lends him the money. And he does not charge interest on that loan! The good son obeys my laws and follows my laws. That good son will not be put to death for his father’s sins! That good son will live. ¹⁸The father might hurt people and steal things. He might never do anything good for my people! That father will die because of his own sins. [But the son won’t be punished for his father’s sins.]

¹⁹“You might ask, ‘Why won’t the son be punished for his father’s sins?’ The reason is that the son was fair and did good things! He very carefully obeyed my laws! So he will live. ²⁰The person that sins is the person that will be put to death! A son won’t be punished for his father’s sins. And a father won’t be punished for his son’s sins. A good man’s goodness belongs to him alone. And a bad man’s evil belongs to him alone.

²¹“Now, if a bad person changes his life then he will live and not die. That person might stop doing all the bad things he did. He might begin to carefully obey all my laws. He might become fair and good. ²²God won’t remember all the bad things he did. God will remember only his goodness! So that man will live!”

²³The Lord my Master says, “I don’t want bad people to die. I want them to change their lives so they can live!”

²⁴“Now, maybe a good man might stop being good. He might change his life and begin to do all the terrible things that bad person had done in the past. (That bad person changed, so he can live!) So if that good person changes and becomes bad, then God won’t remember all the good things that person did. God will remember that that man turned against him and began to sin. So that man will die because of his sin.”

²⁵[God said,] “You people might say, ‘[God,] my Master isn’t fair!’ But listen, family of Israel. I am fair. You are the ones who are not fair! ²⁶If a good person changes and becomes evil, then he must die for the bad things he does.

collateral Things that a person uses to borrow money. If that person does not pay his debt, then the person he borrowed from can keep those things. It was against Moses’ law to take a person’s clothes as collateral. See Deut. 24:12–13.

27And if a bad man changes and become good and fair, then he will save his life. He will live!

28That person saw how bad he was and came back to me. He stopped doing the bad things he did in the past. So he will live! He won't die!"

29The people of Israel said, "That's not fair! [The Lord,] my Master isn't fair!"

[God said,] "I am fair! You are the ones who are not fair! 30Why? Because family of Israel, I will judge each person only for the things that person does!" The Lord my Master said these things. "So come back to me! Stop doing bad things! Don't let those terrible things (*idols*) cause you to sin! 31Throw away all the terrible things (*idols*) you made—they only cause you to sin! Change your heart and spirit! Why should you bring death to yourselves, people of Israel? 32I don't want to kill you! Please come back and live!" The Lord my Master said those things.

19 [God said to me,] "You must sing this sad song about the leaders of Israel.

2"Your mother is like a female lion lying there with the male lions. She went to lie down with the young male lions, and had many babies.

3 One of her cubs gets up. He has grown to be a strong young lion. He has learned to catch his food. He killed and ate a man.

4 The people heard him roar. And they caught him in their trap! They put hooks in his mouth, and carried the young lion to Egypt.

5"Your mother had hoped that cub would become the leader.

But now she lost all hope. So she took another of her cubs. She trained him to be a lion.

6 He went on hunts with the adult lions. He became a strong young lion. He learned to catch his food. He killed and ate a man.

7 He attacked the palaces. He destroyed the cities. Every one in that country was too scared to speak when they heard his growl.

8 Then the people living around him set a trap for him.

And they caught him in their trap.

9 They put hooks on him and locked him up. They had him in their trap. So they took him to the king of Babylon. And now, you can't hear his roar on the mountains of Israel.

10"Your mother is like a grapevine planted near the water. She had plenty of water, so she grew many strong vines.

11 Then she grew large branches. They were like a strong walking stick. They were like a king's scepter.* The vine grew taller and taller. It had many branches and reached to the clouds.

12 But the vine was pulled up by the roots, and thrown down to the ground. The hot east wind blew and dried its fruit. The strong branches broke. And they were thrown into the fire.

13 Now that grapevine is planted in the desert. It is a very dry and thirsty land.

14 A fire started in the large branch and spread to destroy all of its vines and fruit. So there was no strong walking stick. There was no king's scepter.*

This was a sad song about death, and it was sung as a sad song about death."

20 One day, some of the elders (*leaders*) of Israel came to me to ask the Lord for advice. This was on the tenth day of the fifth month (*August*), of the seventh year [of exile].* The elders (*leaders*) sat down in front of me.

2Then the word of the Lord came to me. He said, 3"Son of man,* speak to the elders (*leaders*) of Israel. Tell them 'The Lord my Master says these things: Have you men come to ask me advice? If you have, then I won't

scepter A special stick. Kings and leaders carried scepters to show they were rulers.

seventh year of exile This was the summer of 591 B.C.

Son of man This was usually just a way of saying "a person," or "a human being." But here this is a title for the man, Ezekiel.

give it to you. The Lord my Master said these things.’ ⁴Should you judge them? Will you judge them, Son of man? * You must tell them about the terrible things their fathers have done. ⁵You must tell them, ‘The Lord my Master says these things: On the day I chose Israel, I raised my hand to Jacob’s family and made a promise to them in Egypt. I raised my hand and said: “I am the Lord your God. ⁶On that day, I promised to take you out of Egypt and lead you to the land I was giving to you. That was a good land filled with many good things. * It was the most beautiful of all countries!

⁷“I told the family of Israel to throw away their horrible idols. I told them not to become filthy with those filthy statues from Egypt. I am the Lord your God.” ⁸But they turned against me and refused to listen to me. They did not throw away their horrible idols. They did not leave their filthy statues in Egypt. So I (*God*) decided to destroy them in Egypt—to let them feel the full force of my anger. ⁹But I did not destroy them. I had already told the people where they were living that I would bring my people out of Egypt. I did not want to ruin my good name, so I did not destroy Israel in front of those other people. ¹⁰I brought the family of Israel out of Egypt. I led them into the desert. ¹¹Then I gave them my laws. I told them all my rules. If a person obeys those rules, then he will live. ¹²I also told them about all the special days of rest. Those holidays were a special sign between me and them. They showed that I am the Lord and that I was making them special to me.

¹³“But the family of Israel turned against me in the desert. They did not follow my laws. They refused to obey my rules. [And they are good rules,—if a person obeys those rules, then he will live. They treated my special days of rest as if they were not important. They worked on those days many, many times. I decided to destroy them in the desert—to let them feel the full force of my anger. ¹⁴But I did not destroy them. The other nations saw

me bring Israel out of Egypt. I did not want to ruin my good name, so I did not destroy Israel in front of those other people. ¹⁵I made another promise to those people in the desert. I promised that I would not bring them into the land I was giving them. That was a good land filled with many good things. * It was the most beautiful of all countries!

¹⁶“The people of Israel refused to obey my rules. They did not follow my laws. They treated my days of rest as if they were not important. They did all these things because their hearts belonged to their filthy idols. ¹⁷But I felt sorry for them, so I did not destroy them. I did not completely destroy them in the desert. ¹⁸I spoke to their children. I told them, “Don’t be like your parents. Don’t make yourself filthy with their filthy idols. Don’t follow their laws. Don’t obey their commands. ¹⁹I am the Lord. I am your God. Obey my laws. Keep my commands. Do the things I tell you. ²⁰Show that my days of rest are important to you. Remember, they are a special sign between me and you. I am the Lord. And those holidays show you that I am your God.”

²¹“But those children turned against me. They did not obey my laws. They did not keep my commands. They did not do the things I told them. [And those are good laws.] If a person obeys them, then he will live. They treated my special days of rest like they were not important. So I decided to destroy them completely in the desert, to let them feel the full force of my anger. ²²But I stopped myself. The other nations saw me bring Israel out of Egypt. I did not want to ruin my good name, so I did not destroy Israel in front of those other people. ²³So I made another promise to those people in the desert. I promised to scatter them among the nations, to send them to many different countries.

²⁴“The people of Israel did not obey my commands. They refused to obey my laws. They treated my special days of rest like they were not important. And they worshiped the filthy idols of their fathers. ²⁵So I gave them laws that were not good. I gave them commands that would not bring life. ²⁶I let them make themselves filthy with their gifts. They even began to sacrifice their own firstborn

Son of man This was usually just a way of saying “a person,” or “a human being.” But here this is a title for the man, Ezekiel.

a good land ... good things Literally, “a land flowing with milk and honey.”

children. In this way, I would destroy those people. Then they would know that I am the Lord.’²⁷ So now, Son of man,* speak to the family of Israel. Tell them, ‘The Lord my Master says these things: The people of Israel said bad things about me and made evil plans against me.²⁸ But I still brought them to the land I promised to give to them. They saw all the hills and green trees, so they went to all those places to worship. They took their sacrifices and anger offerings* to all those places. They offered their sacrifices that made a sweet smell and they offered their drink offerings at those places.²⁹ I asked the people of Israel why they were going to those high places.* But that high place is still there today.*”

³⁰ [God said,] “The people of Israel did all those bad things.” So speak to the family of Israel. Tell them, ‘The Lord my Master says these things: You people have made yourselves filthy by doing the things your ancestors* did. You have acted like a prostitute.* You have left me to be with the horrible gods your ancestors worshiped.³¹ You are giving the same kind of gifts. You are putting your children in the fire, as a gift to your false gods. You are still making yourself filthy with those filthy idols today! Do you really think that I should let you come to me and ask me for advice? I am the Lord and Master. By my life I promise, I won’t answer your questions and give you advice!³² You keep saying you want to be like the other nations. You live like the people in other nations. You serve pieces of wood and stone (*idols*)!”

³³ The Lord my Master says, “By my life, I promise that I will rule over you as king. But I will raise my powerful arm and punish you.

Son of man This was usually just a way of saying “a person,” or “a human being.” But here this is a title for the man, Ezekiel.

anger offerings The people called these meals “fellowship offerings,” but Ezekiel is making fun and saying that those meals only made God angry.

high places Places for worshiping God or false gods. These places were often on the hills and mountains.

But that ... today Literally, “And its name is still called Bamah (high place) to this day.”

ancestors Literally, “fathers,” meaning a person’s parents, grandparents, and all the people they are descended from.

prostitute A woman paid by men for sexual sin. Sometimes this also means a person that is not faithful to God and stops following him.

I will show my anger against you!³⁴ I will bring you out of these other nations. I scattered you among these nations. But I will gather you together and bring you back from these countries. But I will raise my powerful arm and punish you. I will show my anger against you!³⁵ I will lead you into a desert [like I did before]. But this will be a place where other nations live. We will stand face to face and I will judge you.³⁶ I will judge you just like I judged your ancestors* in the desert near Egypt.” The Lord my Master said these things.

³⁷ “I will judge you guilty and punish you according to the Agreement.*³⁸ I will remove all the people that turned against me and sinned against me. I will remove those people from your homeland. They will never again come to the Land of Israel. Then you will know that I am the Lord.”

³⁹ Now, family of Israel, the Lord my Master says these things, “If any person wants to worship his filthy idols, then let him go and worship them. But later, don’t think you will get any advice from me! You will not ruin my name any more! Not when you continue to give your gifts to your filthy idols.”

⁴⁰ The Lord my Master says, “People must come to my holy mountain—the high mountain in Israel—to serve me! The whole family of Israel will be on their land—they will be there in their country. That is the place you can come to ask me for advice. And you must come to that place to bring me your offerings. You must bring the first part of your crops to me there in that place. You must bring all your holy gifts to me in that place.⁴¹ Then I will be pleased with the sweet smell of your sacrifices. That will happen when I bring you back. I scattered you among many nations. But I will gather you together and make you my special people again. And all those nations will see it.⁴² Then you will know that I am the Lord. You will know this when I bring you back to the Land of Israel. That is the land I promised to give to your ancestors.*⁴³ In that country you will

Agreement Literally, “Proof.” The flat stones with the Ten Commandments written on them were proof of the Agreement between God and Israel.

remember all the bad things you did that made you filthy. And you will be ashamed. ⁴⁴Family of Israel, you did many bad things. And you should be destroyed because of those bad things. But to protect my good name, I won't give you the punishment you really deserve. Then you will know that I am the Lord." The Lord my Master said these things.

⁴⁵Then the word of the Lord came to me. He said, ⁴⁶"Son of man,* look toward the Negev, the southern part of Judah. Speak against the Negev Forest.* ⁴⁷Say to the Negev Forest, 'Listen to the word of the Lord. The Lord my Master said these things: Look, I am ready to start a fire in your forest. The fire will destroy every green tree and every dry tree. The flame that burns won't be put out. All the land from south to north will be burned by the fire. ⁴⁸Then all people will see that I, the Lord, have started the fire. The fire won't be put out!"

⁴⁹Then I (*Ezekiel*) said, "Oh, Lord my Master! _⌋If I say those things_⌋, then the people will say that I am only telling them stories. _⌈They won't think that it will really happen!_⌋"

21 So the word of the Lord came to me again. He said, ²"Son of man,* look toward Jerusalem and speak against their holy places. Speak against the land of Israel for me. ³Say to the land of Israel, 'The Lord said these things: I am against you! I will pull my sword from its sheath!* I will remove all people from you—the good people and the evil people! ⁴I will cut both good people and evil people from you. I will pull my sword from its sheath and use it against all people from south to north. ⁵Then all people will know that I am the Lord. And they will know that I have pulled my sword from its sheath. My sword won't go back into its sheath again _⌈until it is finished_⌋."

⁶_⌈God said to me_⌋, "Son of man,* make sad sounds like a sad person with a broken heart. Make these sad sounds in front of the people. ⁷Then they will ask you, 'Why are you

making these sad sounds?' Then you must say, 'Because of the sad news that is coming. Every heart will melt with fear. All hands will become weak. Every spirit will become weak. All knees will be like water.' Look, that bad news is coming. These things will happen!" The Lord my Master said these things.

The Sword Is Ready

⁸The word of the Lord came to me. He said, ⁹"Son of man,* speak to the people for me. Say these things, 'The Lord my Master says these things:

“Look, a sword, a sharp sword.

And the sword has been polished.

¹⁰ The sword was made sharp for killing.

It was polished to flash like lightning.

“My son, you ran away from the stick I used to punish you.

You refused to be punished with that wooden stick.

¹¹ So the sword has been polished.

Now it can be used.

The sword was sharpened and polished.

Now it can be put in the hand of the killer.

¹²“Shout out and scream, Son of man!* Why? Because the sword will be used against my people and all the rulers of Israel! Those rulers wanted war—so they will be with my people when the sword comes! So slap your thigh _⌈and make loud noises to show your sadness_⌋! ¹³Why? Because it is not just a test! You refused to be punished with the wooden stick, so what _⌈else should I use to punish you_⌋? _⌈Yes, the sword_⌋.” The Lord my Master said those things.

¹⁴_⌈God said_⌋, “Son of man,* clap your hands and speak to the people for me.

“Let the sword come down twice,

Yes, three times!

This sword is for killing the people.

This is the sword for the great killing!

This sword will cut into them.

¹⁵ Their hearts will melt with fear.

And many people will fall.

The sword will kill many people by the city gates.

Son of man This was usually just a way of saying “a person,” or “a human being.” But here this is a title for the man, Ezekiel.

Negev Forest God is probably making fun. The Negev is a desert area, there are no forests in the Negev.

sheath A place for the sword to be kept in when not in use. It was worn around the waist.

Yes, the sword will flash like lightning.
It was polished to kill the people!

- 16 Sword, be sharp!
Cut on the right side.
Cut straight ahead.
Cut on the left side.
Go every place your edge was chosen to go!
- 17 “Then I too will clap my hands.
And I will stop showing my anger.
I, the Lord, have spoken!”

Choosing the Way to Jerusalem

¹⁸The word of the Lord came to me. He said, ¹⁹“Son of man,* draw two roads that the sword of the king of Babylon can use to come [to Israel]. Both roads will come from the same country (*Babylon*). Then draw a sign at the head of the road to the city. ²⁰Use the sign] to show which road the sword will use. One road leads to the Ammonite city of Rabbah. The other road leads to Judah, to the protected city, Jerusalem! ²¹This shows that the king of Babylon [is planning the way he wants to attack that area]. The king of Babylon has come to the place where the two roads separate. The king of Babylon has used [magic] signs to find the future. He shook some arrows. He asked questions from family idols. He looked at the liver* [from an animal he killed].

²²“The signs tell him to take the road on his right, the road leading to Jerusalem! He plans to bring the battering rams.* He will give the command, and his soldiers will begin the killing. They will shout the battle cry. Then they will build a wall of dirt around the city. They will build a dirt road leading up to the walls. They will build wooden towers to attack the city. ²³Those [magic] signs mean nothing to the people of Israel. They have the promises they made. But [the Lord] will remember their sin! Then the Israelites will be captured.”

²⁴The Lord my Master says this, “You have done many bad things. Your sins are very

clear. You forced me to remember that you are guilty. So the enemy will catch you in his hand. ²⁵And you, evil leader of Israel, you will be killed. Your time of punishment has come! The end is here!”

²⁶The Lord my Master says these things, “Take off the turban!* Take off the crown! The time has come to change. The important leaders will be brought low. And people that are not important now will become important leaders. ²⁷I will completely destroy that city! But this won’t happen until the right man becomes the new king. Then I will let him (*the king of Babylon*) have this city.”

Prophecy Against Ammon

²⁸[God said,] “Son of man,* speak to the people for me. Say these things, ‘The Lord my Master says these things to the people of Ammon and their shameful [god]:

“Look, a sword!
The sword is out of its sheath.*
The sword has been polished!
The sword is ready to kill.
It was polished to flash like lightning!

- 29 Your visions* are useless.
Your magic won’t help you.
It is only a bunch of lies.
The sword is now at the throats of evil men.
They will soon be only dead bodies.
Their time has come.
The time has come for their evil to end.

Prophecy Against Babylon

³⁰“Put the sword (*Babylon*) back in its sheath.* [Babylon,] I will judge you in the place where you were created, in the land where you were born. ³¹I will pour out my anger against you. My anger will burn you like a hot wind. I will hand you over to cruel men.* Those men are skilled at killing people. ³²You will be like

turban(s) A head covering made by wrapping a long piece of cloth around the head or around a cap worn on the head.

sheath A place for the sword to be kept in when not in use. It was worn around the waist.

vision(s) Something like a dream that God used to speak to people.

cruel men This is a word play. The Hebrew word is like the word meaning “to burn.”

Son of man This was usually just a way of saying “a person,” or “a human being.” But here this is a title for the man, Ezekiel.

arrows, idols, liver People who believed in false gods used these things to try to learn the future.

battering rams Heavy logs that soldiers used to break holes into the gates or walls around a city.

fuel for the fire. Your blood will flow deep into the earth—people will never remember you again. I, the Lord, have spoken!”

Ezekiel Speaks Against Jerusalem

22 The word of the Lord came to me. He said, ²“Son of man,* will you judge the city of murderers (*Jerusalem*)? Will you tell her about all the terrible things she has done? ³You must say, ‘The Lord my Master says this: The city is full of murderers. So her time of punishment will come! She made filthy idols for herself. And those idols made her filthy!’

⁴“People of Jerusalem, you killed many people. You made filthy idols. You are guilty, and the time has come to punish you. Your end has come. Other nations will make fun of you. Those countries will laugh at you. ⁵People far and near will make fun of you. You have ruined your name. You can hear the loud laughter.

⁶“Look! In Jerusalem, every ruler of Israel made himself strong so he could kill other people. ⁷People in Jerusalem don’t respect their parents. They hurt foreigners in that city. They cheat orphans and widows* in that place. ⁸You people hate my holy things. You treat my special days of rest like they are not important. ⁹People in Jerusalem tell lies about other people. They do this to kill those innocent people. People go to the mountains _{to worship false gods,} and then come to Jerusalem to eat _{their fellowship meals.}

“In Jerusalem, people do many sexual sins. ¹⁰In Jerusalem, people do sexual sins with their father’s wife. In Jerusalem, men rape women—even during their monthly time of bleeding. ¹¹One man does that terrible sin against his own neighbor’s wife. Another man has sex with his own daughter-in-law and makes her unclean.* And another man rapes his father’s daughter—his very own sister.

Son of man This was usually just a way of saying “a person,” or “a human being.” But here this is a title for the man, Ezekiel.

orphans and widows Widows are women whose husbands have died, and orphans are children whose parents have died. Often these people have no one to care for them.

unclean Not pure or not acceptable to God for worship.

¹²“In Jerusalem, you men take money to kill people. You people lend money and charge interest on those loans. You people cheat their neighbors just to make a little money. And you people have forgotten me.’ The Lord my Master said these things.

¹³“[God said,] ‘Now look! I will slam my hand down and stop you! I will punish you for cheating and killing people. ¹⁴Will you be brave then? Will you be strong at the time I come to punish you? No! I am the Lord. I have spoken. And I will do the things I said! ¹⁵I will scatter you among the nations. I will force you to go to many countries. I will completely destroy the filthy things in this city. ¹⁶But Jerusalem, you will become unclean.* And the other nations will see all these things happen. Then you will know that I am the Lord.’”

Israel Is Like Worthless Waste

¹⁷The word of the Lord came to me. He said, ¹⁸“Son of man,* bronze, iron, lead, and tin are worthless compared to silver. _{Workers put silver into fire to make it pure. The silver melts and the workers separate it from the waste.} The nation of Israel has become like that worthless waste. ¹⁹So the Lord and Master says these things, ‘All of you people have become like worthless waste. So I will gather you into Jerusalem. ²⁰Workers put silver, bronze, iron, lead, and tin into a fire. They blow on the fire to make it hotter. Then the metals begin to melt. In the same way, I will put you in my fire and melt you. That fire is my hot anger. ²¹I will put you in that fire. I will blow on the fire of my anger. And you will begin to melt. ²²Silver melts in the fire _{and workers pour off the silver and save it.} In the same way, you will melt in the city. Then you will know that I am the Lord. And you will know that I have poured out my anger against you.’”

Ezekiel Speaks Against Jerusalem

²³The word of the Lord came to me. He said, ²⁴“Son of man,* speak to Israel. Tell her that she is not pure.* I am angry at that country, so

not pure This is a word play. The Hebrew word also means “not rained on.”

that country has not received its rain. ²⁵The prophets in Jerusalem are making evil plans. They are like a lion—it roars when it begins to eat the animal it caught. Those prophets have destroyed many lives. They have taken many valuable things. They caused many women to become widows* in Jerusalem.

²⁶“The priests have really hurt my teachings. They don’t treat my holy things right—they don’t show they are important. They treat holy things just like things that are not holy. They treat clean* things just like things that are unclean. They don’t teach the people about these things. They refuse to respect my special days of rest. They treat me like I am not important.

²⁷“The leaders in Jerusalem are like a wolf eating the animal it has caught. Those leaders attack and kill people just to get rich.

²⁸“The prophets don’t warn the people—they cover up the truth. They are like workers that don’t really fix a wall—they only put plaster over the holes. They only see lies. They do their magic to learn the future, but they only tell lies. They say, ‘The Lord my Master said these things.’ But they are only lying—the Lord did not speak to them!

²⁹“The common people take advantage of each other. They cheat and steal from each other. They get rich by taking advantage of poor helpless beggars. And they really cheat the foreigners—they are not fair to them at all!

³⁰“I asked the people to change their lives and protect their country. I asked people to fix the walls. I wanted them to stand by those holes in the wall and fight to protect their city. But no person came to help! ³¹So I will show them my anger—I will completely destroy them! I will punish them for the bad things they have done. It is all their fault!” The Lord my Master said these things.

23 The word of the Lord came to me. He said, ²“Son of man,* listen to this story about Samaria and Jerusalem. There were

two sisters. They were daughters of the same mother. ³They became prostitutes* in Egypt while they were still young girls. In Egypt, they first made love and let men touch their nipples and hold their young breasts. ⁴The older daughter was named Oholah.* And her sister was named Oholibah.* Those sisters became my wives. And we had children. (Oholah is really Samaria. And Oholibah is really Jerusalem.)

⁵“Then Oholah became unfaithful to me—she began to live like a prostitute*. She began to want her lovers. She saw the Assyrian soldiers ⁶in their blue uniforms. They were all desirable young men riding horses. They were leaders and officers. ⁷And Oholah gave herself to all those men. All of them were hand-picked soldiers in the Assyrian army. And she wanted them all! She became filthy with their filthy idols. ⁸Besides that, she never stopped her love affair with Egypt. Egypt made love to her when she was a young girl. Egypt was the first lover to touch her young breasts. Egypt poured his untrue love on her. ⁹So I let her lovers have her. She wanted Assyria, so I gave her to them! ¹⁰They raped* her. They took her children. And they used a sword and killed her. They punished her. And women still talk about her.

¹¹“Her younger sister, Oholibah, saw all these things happen. But Oholibah did more sins than her sister! She was more unfaithful than Oholah. ¹²She wanted the Assyrian leaders and officers. She wanted those soldiers in blue uniforms riding their horses. They were all desirable young men. ¹³I saw that both women were going to ruin their lives with the same mistakes.

¹⁴“Oholibah continued to be unfaithful to me. In Babylon, she saw pictures of men carved on the walls. These were pictures of

prostitute(s) A woman paid by men for sexual sin. Sometimes this also means a person that is not faithful to God and stops following him.

Oholah This name means “Tent.” It probably refers to the Holy Tent where the people of Israel went to worship God.

Oholibah This name means “My Tent is in her [country].”

raped Literally, “revealed her nakedness.” The Hebrew word meaning “revealed” is like the word meaning “carried away as a prisoner to a faraway country.”

widows Women whose husbands have died. Often these women had no one to care for them.

clean Pure or acceptable to God for worship.

Son of man This was usually just a way of saying “a person,” or “a human being.” But here this is a title for the man, Ezekiel.

Chaldean* men wearing their red uniforms. ¹⁵They wore belts around their waists and long turbans on their heads. All of those men looked like chariot* officers. They all looked like native born Babylonian men. ¹⁶And Oholibah wanted them. ¹⁷So those Babylonian men came to her love bed to have sex with her. They used her and made her so filthy that she became disgusted with them!

¹⁸“Oholibah* let everyone see that she was unfaithful. She let so many men enjoy her naked body, that I became disgusted with her—just like I had become disgusted with her sister. ¹⁹Again and again Oholibah was unfaithful to me. And then she remembered the love affair she had as a young girl in Egypt. ²⁰She remembered her lover with the penis like a donkey and a flood of semen like a horse.

²¹“Oholibah,* you dreamed of those times when you were young; when your lover touched your nipples and held your young breasts. ²²So Oholibah, the Lord my Master says these things, ‘You became disgusted with your lovers. But I will bring your lovers here. They will surround you. ²³I will bring all those men from Babylon, especially the Chaldeans. I will bring the men from Pekod, Shoa, and Koa. And I will bring all those men from Assyria. So I will bring all those leaders and officers. They were all desirable young men, chariot* officers and hand-picked soldiers riding their horses. ²⁴Those crowd of men will come to you. They will come riding on their horses and in their chariots. There will be many, many people. They will have their spears, shields, and helmets. They will gather together around you. I will tell them what you have done to me. And they will punish you their own way. ²⁵I will show you how jealous I am. They will be very angry and hurt you. They will cut off your nose and ears. They will use a sword and kill you. Then they will take your children, and burn whatever is left of you. ²⁶They will take your nice clothes and jewelry. ²⁷And I will stop your dreams

about your love affair with Egypt. You will never again look for them. You will never remember Egypt again!’”

²⁸The Lord my Master says these things, “I am giving you to the men you hate. I am giving you to the men you became disgusted with. ²⁹And they will show how much they hate you! They will take everything you worked for. And they will leave you bare and naked! People will clearly see your sins. They will see that you acted like a prostitute and dreamed wicked dreams. ³⁰You did those bad things when you left me to chase after those other nations. You did those bad things when you began to worship their filthy idols. ³¹You followed your sister and lived like her. You, yourself, took her cup of poison and held it in your hands.* ³²The Lord my Master says these things:

“You will drink your sister’s cup of poison.

It is a tall, wide cup of poison.

That cup holds much poison (*punishment*).

People will laugh at you

and make fun of you.

³³ You will stagger like a drunk person.

You will become very dizzy.

That is the cup of destruction

and devastation.

It is like the cup (*punishment*)

that your sister drank.

³⁴ You will drink the poison in that cup.

You will drink it to the last drop.

You will throw down the glass

and break it to pieces.

And you will tear at your breasts

from the pain.

This will happen because

I am the Lord and Master.

And I said these things.

³⁵“So, the Lord my Master said these things, ‘³⁶Jerusalem, you forgot me. You threw me away and left me behind. So now you must suffer for leaving me and living like a prostitute.* You must suffer for your wicked dreams.’”

Chaldean An important family group in Babylonia. Sometimes this name means simply, “people from Babylonia.”

chariot(s) A small wagon used in war.

Oholibah This name means “My Tent is in her country.”

You ... your hands Or, “I put her cup in your hands.”

prostitute A woman paid by men for sexual sin. Sometimes this also means a person that is not faithful to God and stops following him.

Judgment Against Oholah and Oholibah

³⁶The Lord my Master said to me, “Son of man,* will you judge Oholah and Oholibah? Then tell them about the terrible things they have done. ³⁷They have done the sin of adultery.* They are guilty of murder. They acted like prostitutes—they left me to be with their filthy idols. They had my children. But they forced them to pass through fire. They did this to give food to their filthy idols. ³⁸They also treated my special days of rest and my holy place like they were not important. ³⁹They killed their children for their idols,* and then they went into my holy place and made it filthy too! They did this inside my temple!*

⁴⁰“They have sent for men from faraway places. You sent a messenger to these men. And those men came to see you. You bathed for them, painted your eyes, and put on your jewelry. ⁴¹You sat on a fine bed with a table set before it. You put my incense* and my oil* on this table.

⁴²“The noise in Jerusalem sounded like a crowd of people having a party.* Many people came to the party. People were already drinking as they came in from the desert. They gave bracelets and beautiful crowns to the women. ⁴³Then I spoke to one of the women who was worn out from her sexual sins. I told her, ‘Will they continue to do sexual sins with her, and she with them?’ ⁴⁴But they kept going to her like they would go to a prostitute.* Yes,

Son of man This was usually just a way of saying “a person,” or “a human being.” But here this is a title for the man, Ezekiel.

adultery Breaking the marriage promise by sexual sin.

idols Statues of false gods that people worshiped.

temple The special building in Jerusalem for Jewish worship.

my incense A special blend of spices that were burned as a gift to God. This special incense was to be burned only in the temple. See Ex. 30:34–38.

my oil The special oil that was used for anointing priests and things in the temple to make them holy (*special*). See Ex. 30:22–33.

party The Hebrew word is like the word for a fellowship offering, a time when people came to share a meal and enjoy themselves together with the Lord. Here it seems this time of worship turned into a wild party. See Deut 14:22–29; 26:1–15.

prostitute A woman paid by men for sexual sin. Sometimes this also means a person that is not faithful to God and stops following him.

they went again and again to Oholah and Oholibah, those wicked women.

⁴⁵“But good men will judge them guilty. They will judge those women guilty of the sin of adultery* and murder. Why? Because Oholah and Oholibah have done the sin of adultery and the blood from people they killed is still on their hands!”

⁴⁶The Lord my Master said these things, “Gather the people together. Then let those people punish Oholah and Oholibah. This group of people will punish and make fun of these two women. ⁴⁷Then the group will throw stones at them and kill them. Then the group will cut the women to pieces with their swords. They will kill the women’s children and burn their houses. ⁴⁸In this way, I remove that shame from this country. And all the other women will be warned not to do the shameful things you have done. ⁴⁹They will punish you for the wicked things you did. And you will be punished for worshiping your filthy idols. Then you will know that I am the Lord and Master.”

The Pot and the Meat

24 The word of the Lord my Master came to me. This was on the tenth day of the tenth month, in the ninth year [of exile].* He said, ²“Son of man,* write today’s date and this note: ‘On this date the army of the king of Babylon surrounded Jerusalem.’ ³Tell this story to the family that refuses to obey (*Israel*). Tell them these things, ‘The Lord my Master says this:

““Put the pot on the fire.

Put on the pot and pour in the water.

⁴ Put in the pieces of meat.

Put in every good piece,

the thighs and the shoulders.

Fill the pot with the best bones.

⁵ Use the best animals in the flock.

Pile the wood under the pot.

And boil the pieces of meat.

Boil the soup until even the bones

are cooked!’

ninth year of exile This was 15 Jan 588 B.C., the date that Nebuchadnezzar began his attack on Jerusalem.

- 6 “So the Lord my Master says these things:
 ‘It will be bad for Jerusalem.
 It will be bad for that city of murderers.
 Jerusalem is like a pot with rust on it.
 And those spots of rust can’t be removed!
That pot is not clean, so you must
 take every piece of meat out of the pot!
Don’t eat that meat!
 And don’t let the priests choose any
of that ruined meat.
- 7 Jerusalem is like a pot with rust on it.
 Why? Because the blood from
 the murders is still there!
 She put the blood on the bare rock!
 She did not pour the blood on the ground
 and cover it with dirt.*
- 8 I put her blood on the bare rock,
 so it would not be covered.
 I did this so people would get angry and
 punish her for killing innocent people.’
- 9 “So the Lord my Master says these things:
 ‘It will be bad for that city of murderers!
 I will pile up plenty of wood for the fire.
 10 Put plenty of wood under the pot.
 Light the fire.
 Cook the meat well done!
 Mix in the spices.*
 And let the bones be burned up.
- 11 Then let the pot stand empty
 on the coals.
 Let it become so hot that its stains*
 begin to glow.
 Those stains will be melted away.
 The rust will be destroyed.
- 12“Jerusalem might work hard
 to scrub away her stains.
 But that ‘rust’ won’t go away!
 Only fire (*punishment*) will remove
 that rust!

blood ... dirt The Law of Moses teaches that if a person killed an animal for food, he must pour the blood on the ground and cover it with dirt. This showed that he was giving the life of that animal back to God. See Lev. 17:1-16 and Deut. 12:1-25. If the blood was not covered with dirt, then it was a witness against the killer. See Gen. 4:10, Job 15:18, and Isa. 26:21.

Mix in the spices We are not sure of the meaning of this sentence.

stains Or, “bronze.”

- 13 ““You sinned against me
 and became stained with sin.
 I wanted to wash you and make you clean.
 But the stains would not come out.
 I won’t try washing you again
 until my hot anger is finished with you!

14““I am the Lord. I said your punishment would come, and I will make it happen. I won’t hold back the punishment. I won’t feel sorry for you. I will punish you for the bad things you did.’ The Lord my Master said those things.”

The Death of Ezekiel’s Wife

15Then the word of the Lord came to me. He said, 16“Son of man,* you love your wife very much, but I am going to take her away from you. Your wife will die suddenly. But you must not show your sadness. You must not cry loudly. You will cry and your tears will fall, 17but you must make your sad sounds quietly. Don’t cry out loud for your dead wife. You must wear the clothes you normally wear. Wear your turban* and your shoes. Don’t cover your mustache to show your sadness. And don’t eat the food people normally eat when a person dies.”

18The next morning I told the people what God had said. That evening, my wife died. The next morning I did the things God commanded. 19Then the people said to me, “Why are you doing these things? What does it mean?”

20Then I said to them, “The word of the Lord came to me. He told me 21to speak to the family of Israel. The Lord my Master said, ‘Look, I will destroy my holy place. You are proud of that place and sing songs of praise about it. You love to see that place. You really love that place. But I will destroy that place, and your children that you left behind will be killed in battle. 22But you will do the same things that I have done about my dead wife. You won’t cover your mustache to show your sadness. You won’t eat the food people normally eat when a person dies. 23You will wear your turbans* and your shoes. You

Son of man This was usually just a way of saying “a person,” or “a human being.” But here this is a title for the man, Ezekiel.

turban(s) A head covering made by wrapping a long piece of cloth around the head or around a cap worn on the head.

won't show your sadness. You won't cry. But you will be wasting away because of your sins. You will make your sad sounds quietly to each other. ²⁴So Ezekiel is an example for you. You will do all the same things he did. That time of punishment will come. And then you will know that I am the Lord.”

^{25–26}“Son of man,* I will take away that safe place (*Jerusalem*) from the people. That beautiful place makes them happy. They love to see that place. They really love that place. But at that time, I will take that city and their children away from these people. One of the survivors will come to you with the bad news about Jerusalem. ²⁷At that time, you will be able to speak to that person. You won't be silent any more. In this way, you will be an example for them. Then they will know that I am the Lord.”

Prophecy Against Ammon

25 The word of the Lord came to me. He said, ²“Son of man,* look toward the people of Ammon and speak against them for me. ³Say to the people of Ammon: ‘Listen to the word of the Lord my Master! The Lord my Master says this: You were happy when my holy place was destroyed. You were against the land of Israel when it was polluted. You were against the family of Judah when the people were carried away as prisoners. ⁴So I will give you to the people from the east. They will get your land. Their armies will set up their camps in your country. They will live among you. They will eat your fruit and drink your milk.

⁵“I will make the city Rabbah a pasture for camels and the country of Ammon a sheep pen. Then you will know that I am the Lord. ⁶The Lord says these things: You were happy that Jerusalem was destroyed. You clapped your hands and stamped your feet. You had fun insulting the land of Israel. ⁷So I will punish you. You will be like the valuable things soldiers take in war. You will lose your inheritance. You will die in faraway lands. I will destroy your country! Then you will know that I am the Lord.”

Son of man This was usually just a way of saying “a person,” or “a human being.” But here this is a title for the man, Ezekiel.

Prophecy Against Moab and Seir

⁸The Lord my Master says these things, “Moab and Seir (*Edom*) say, ‘The family of Judah is just like any other nation.’ ⁹I will cut into Moab's shoulder—I will take away its cities which are on its borders, the glory of the land, Beth Jeshimoth, Baal Meon, and Kiriathaim. ¹⁰Then I will give these cities to the people of the east. They will get your land. And I will let those people from the east destroy the people of Ammon. Then everyone will forget that the people of Ammon were a nation. ¹¹So, I will punish Moab. Then they will know that I am the Lord.”

Prophecy Against Edom

¹²The Lord my Master says these things, “The people of Edom turned against the family of Judah and tried to get even. The people of Edom are guilty.” ¹³So the Lord my Master says: “I will punish Edom. I will destroy the people and the animals in Edom. I will destroy the whole country of Edom, all the way from Teman to Dedan. The Edomites will be killed in battle. ¹⁴I will use my people Israel and get even against Edom. In this way, the people of Israel will show my anger against Edom. Then those people of Edom will know that I punished them.” The Lord my Master said these things.

Prophecy Against the Philistines

¹⁵The Lord my Master says these things, “The Philistines tried to get even. They were very cruel. They let their anger burn inside them too long!” ¹⁶So the Lord my Master said, “I will punish the Philistines. Yes, I will destroy those people from Crete. I will completely destroy those people living on the sea coast. ¹⁷I will punish those people—I will get even. I will let my anger teach them a lesson. Then they will know that I am the Lord!”

The Sad Message About Tyre

26 In the eleventh year [of exile],* on the first day of the month, the word of the Lord came to me. He said, ²“Son of man,*

eleventh year of exile This is probably the summer of 587 B.C. See 2 Kings 25:3.

Tyre said bad things about Jerusalem: ‘Hurray! The city gate protecting the people is destroyed! The city gate is open for me. The city (*Jerusalem*) is ruined, so I can get plenty of valuable things out of it!’”

³So the Lord my Master says: “I am against you, Tyre! I will bring many nations to fight against you. They will come again and again, like waves on the beach.”

⁴God said, “Those enemy soldiers will destroy the walls of Tyre and pull down her towers. I will also scrape the topsoil from her land. I will make Tyre a bare rock. ⁵Tyre will become a place by the sea for spreading fishing nets. I have spoken!” The Lord my Master says, “Tyre will be like the valuable things soldiers take in war. ⁶Her daughters (*small towns*) on the mainland will be killed in battle. Then they will know that I am the Lord.”

Nebuchadnezzar Will Attack Tyre

⁷The Lord my Master says these things, “I will bring an enemy from the north against Tyre. That enemy is Nebuchadnezzar, the great king of Babylon! He will bring a very large army. There will be horses, chariots,* horse soldiers and many, many other soldiers! Those soldiers will be from many different nations. ⁸Nebuchadnezzar will kill your daughters (*small towns*) on the mainland. He will build towers to attack your city. He will build a dirt road around your city. He will build a dirt road leading up to the walls. ⁹He will bring the logs to break down your walls. He will use picks and break down your towers. ¹⁰There will be so many of his horses that the dust from them will cover you. Your walls will shake at the noise of horse soldiers, wagons, and chariots when the king of Babylon enters the city through your city gates. Yes, they will come into your city because its walls will be pulled down. ¹¹The king of Babylon will come riding through your city. His horses’ hoofs* will come pounding over your streets. He will kill your people with swords. The strong columns in your city will fall to the ground. ¹²Nebuchadnezzar’s men will take away your

riches. They will take the things you wanted to sell. They will break down your walls and destroy your pleasant houses. They will throw your stones and wood [houses] into the sea like garbage. ¹³So I will stop the sound of your happy songs. People won’t hear your harps any more. ¹⁴I will make you a bare rock. You will be a place by the sea for spreading fishing nets! You won’t be built again. Why? Because I, the Lord, have spoken!” The Lord my Master said those things.

Other Nations Will Cry for Tyre

¹⁵The Lord my Master says this to Tyre: “The countries along the Mediterranean coast will shake at the sound of your fall. That will happen when your people are hurt and killed. ¹⁶Then all the leaders of the countries by the sea will step down from their thrones [and show their sadness]. They will take off their special robes. They will take off their beautiful clothes. Then they will put on their ‘clothes of shaking’ (*fear*). They will sit on the ground and shake with fear. They will be shocked at how quickly you were destroyed. ¹⁷They will sing this sad song about you:

“‘Tyre, you were a famous city.*

People came from across the sea
to live in you.*

You were famous,

but now you are gone!

You were strong on the sea,

and so were the people living in you.

You made all the people living
on the mainland afraid of you.

¹⁸ Now, on the day you fall,
the countries along the coast
will shake with fear.

You started many colonies along the coast.

Now those people will be scared
when you are gone!’”

¹⁹The Lord my Master says these things, “Tyre, I will destroy you, and you will become an old, empty city. No one will live there. I will cause the sea to flow over you.

you were a famous city This can also mean, “People have cried for you.”

People ... you This can also mean, “People have lived in you for a long time.”

chariot(s) A small wagon used in war.

hoof(s) The hard part of a horse’s foot.

The great sea will cover you. ²⁰I will send you down into that deep hole—to the place where dead people are. You will join the people that died long ago. I will send you to the world below, like all the other old, empty cities. You will be with all the others that go down to the grave. No one will live in you then. You will never again be in the land of the living! ²¹Other people will be afraid about what happened to you. You will be finished! People will look for you, but they will never find you again!” That is what the Lord my Master says.

Tyre the Great Center of Trade on the Seas

27 The word of the Lord came to me again. He said, ²“Son of man,* sing this sad song about Tyre. ³Say these things about Tyre:

- “_⌋Tyre,_⌋ you are the door to the seas.
 You are the merchant* for many nations.
 You travel to many countries
 along the coast.’
 The Lord my Master says these things:
 “Tyre, you think that you are so beautiful.
 You think you are perfectly beautiful!
⁴ The Mediterranean Sea is the border
 around your city.
 Your builders made you perfectly beautiful,
⌋like the ships that sail from you.⌋
⁵ Your builders used cypress trees from
 the Senir mountains to make your planks.
 They used cedar trees from Lebanon
 to make your mast.
⁶ They used oak trees from Bashan
 to make your oars.
 They used pine trees from Cyprus
 to make the cabin on your deck.*
 They decorated that shelter with ivory.
⁷ For your sail,
 they used colorful linen made in Egypt.
 That sail was your flag.
 The coverings over your cabin
 were blue and purple.
 They came from the coast of Cyprus.*

Son of man This was usually just a way of saying “a person,” or “a human being.” But here this is a title for the man, Ezekiel.

merchant A person who buys and sells things for a living.

deck The floor of a ship.

Cyprus Literally, “Elishah.” This might be the area near Enkomi, Cyprus or it might be the Greek islands.

- ⁸ Men from Sidon and Arvad
 rowed your boats for you.
 Tyre, your wise men were the pilots
 on your ships.
⁹ The elders and wise men from Byblos*
 were on board to help put caulking*
 between the boards on your ship.
 All the ships of the sea and their sailors
 came to trade and do business with you.’

¹⁰“Men from Persia, Lud, and Put were in your army. They were your men of war. They hung their shields and helmets on your walls. They brought honor and glory to your city.
¹¹Men from Arvad and Cilicia were guards standing on the wall around your city. Men from Gammad were in your towers. They hung their shields on the walls around your city. They made your beauty complete.

¹²“Tarshish* was one of your best customers. They traded silver, iron, tin, and lead for all the wonderful things you sold. ¹³People in Greece, Turkey, and the area around the Black Sea traded with you. They traded slaves and bronze for the things you sold. ¹⁴People from the nation* of Togarmah traded horses, war horses, and mules for the things you sold. ¹⁵The people of Rhodes* traded with you. You sold your things in many places. People brought ivory tusks and ebony wood to pay you. ¹⁶Aram traded with you because you had so many good things. They traded emeralds, purple cloth, fine needlework, fine linen, coral* and rubies for the things you sold.

¹⁷“The people in Judah and Israel traded with you. They paid for the things you sold with the wheat, olives, early figs, honey, oil, and balm.* ¹⁸Damascus was a good customer. They traded with you for the many wonderful things you had. They traded wine from Helbon

Byblos Literally, “Geba.”

caulking Often a mixture of tar and rope that was put between the boards to make a ship watertight so it would not leak.

Tarshish This is probably a city in Spain.

nation Literally, “house.” This might mean the royal family of that country.

Rhodes Or, “Dedan.” See verse 20.

coral Sea animals that leave skeletons after they die. The skeletons are hard like rocks and are used for jewelry.

balm An ointment from some kinds of trees and plants. It is used as medicine.

and white wool for those things. ¹⁹Damascus traded wine from Uzal for the things you sold. They paid wrought iron, cassia* and sugar cane for those things. ²⁰Dedan provided good business. They traded with you for saddlecloths and for riding horses. ²¹Arabia and all the leaders of Kedar traded lambs, rams, and goats for your goods. ²²The merchants* of Sheba and Raamah traded with you. They traded all the best spices and every kind of precious stone and gold for your goods. ²³Haran, Canneh, Eden, the merchants of Sheba, Asshur and Kilmad traded with you. ²⁴They paid with the best clothes, clothes from blue and fine needlework, carpets of many colors, tightly wound ropes and [things made from] cedar wood. These were the things they traded with you. ²⁵The ships of Tarshish carried the things you sold.

- “[Tyre, you are like one of those cargo ships.]
You are on the sea, loaded with many riches.
²⁶ Your oarsmen rowed you far out to sea.
But a powerful east wind
will destroy your ship at sea.
²⁷ And all your wealth will spill into the sea.
Your wealth—
the things you buy and sell—
will spill into the sea.
Your whole crew—
sailors, pilots, and the men who
put caulking* between the boards
on your ship—
will spill into the sea.
The merchants* and soldiers in your city,
will all sink into the sea.
That will happen on the day
that you are destroyed!
- ²⁸ “You send your businessmen
to faraway places.
Those places will shake with fear
when they hear your pilot’s cry!
²⁹ Your whole crew will jump ship.
The sailors and pilots will jump ship
and swim to the shore.

cassia A spice or perfume.

merchant(s) A person who buys and sells things for a living.

caulking Often a mixture of tar and rope that was put between the boards to make a ship watertight so it would not leak.

- ³⁰ They will be very sad about you.
They will cry,
throw dust on their heads,
and roll in ashes.
³¹ They will shave their heads for you.
They will put on clothes of sadness.
They will cry for you like someone crying
for a person that died.
³² “And in their heavy crying they will sing
this sad song about you, and cry about you.
“No one is like Tyre!
Tyre is destroyed,
in the middle of the sea!
³³ Your businessmen sailed across the seas.
You satisfied many people
with your great wealth
and the things you sold.
You made the kings of the earth rich!
³⁴ But now you are broken by the seas,
and by the deep waters.
All the things you sell
and all your people have fallen!
³⁵ All the people living on the coast
are shocked about you.
Their kings are terribly afraid.
Their faces show their shock.
³⁶ The merchants* in other nations
whistle about you.
The things that happened to you
will scare people.
Why? Because you are finished.
You will be no more.”

Tyre Thinks It Is Like a God

28 The word of the Lord came to me. He said, ²“Son of man,* say to the ruler of Tyre, ‘The Lord my Master says these things:

- “You are very proud!
And you say,
“I am a god!
I sit on the seat of gods
in the middle of the seas.”
“But you are a man and not God!
You only think you are a god.

Son of man This was usually just a way of saying “a person,” or “a human being.” But here this is a title for the man, Ezekiel.

3 You think you are wiser than Danel!*
 You think you can find out all secrets!
 4 Through your wisdom and understanding
 you have gotten riches for yourself.
 And you put gold and silver
 in your treasuries.
 5 Through your great wisdom and trade,
 you have made your riches grow.
 And now you are proud because of
 those riches.

6““So the Lord my Master says these things:
 Tyre, you thought you were like a god.
 7 I will bring strangers to fight against you.
 They are most terrible among the nations!
 They will pull out their swords
 and use them against the beautiful things
 that your wisdom brought you.
 They will ruin your glory.
 8 They will bring you down to the grave.
 You will be like a sailor that died at sea.
 9 That person will kill you.
 Will you still say, “I am a god”?
 No! He will have you in his power.
 You will see that you are a man, not God!
 10 Strangers will treat you like a foreigner*
 and kill you.
 [Those things will happen because]
 I gave the command!”
 The Lord my Master said those things.

¹¹The word of the Lord came to me. He said, ¹²“Son of man,* sing this sad song about the king of Tyre. Say to him, ‘The Lord my Master says these things:

““You were the ideal man.
 You were full of wisdom.
 You were perfectly handsome.
 13 You were in Eden,
 the Garden of God.
 You had every precious stone—
 rubies, topaz, and diamonds;
 beryls, onyx, and jasper;
 sapphires, turquoise, and emeralds.

Danel An ancient wise man.

foreigner Literally, “uncircumcised.” To have the foreskin cut off. This was done to every Jewish male to show he shared in the Agreement God made with Israel. See Gen. 17:9–14.

Son of man This was usually just a way of saying “a person,” or “a human being.” But here this is a title for the man, Ezekiel.

And each of these stones was set in gold.
 You were given this beauty
 on the day you were created.
 [God] made you strong.
 14 You were one of the chosen Cherubs.*
 [Your wings] spread over [my throne].
 And I put you on the holy mountain of God.
 You walked among the jewels
 that sparkled like fire.
 15 You were good and honest
 when I created you.
 But then you became evil.
 16 Your business brought you [many riches].
 But they also put cruelty inside you.
 And you sinned.
 So I treated you like you were some
 unclean thing—
 I threw you off the mountain of God.
 You were one of the special
 Cherub angels—
 [Your wings] spread over [my throne].
 But I forced you to leave the jewels
 that sparkled like fire.
 17 Your beauty made you proud.
 Your glory ruined your wisdom.
 So I threw you down to the ground.
 And now other kings stare at you.
 18 You did many wrong things.
 You were a very crooked businessman.
 In this way, you made the holy places
 unclean.
 So I brought fire from inside you.
 It burned you!
 You burned to ashes on the ground.
 Now everyone can see your shame.
 19 All the people in other nations
 were shocked about what happened
 to you.
 What happened to you will make people
 very afraid.
 You are finished!”

Cherubs Angels that were often used like guards to be around the king (*God*) or to protect things (*the Garden of Eden*). The Cherub angels on the Box of the Agreement were like guards by the king’s throne .

The Message Against Sidon

²⁰The word of the Lord came to me. He said, ²¹“Son of man,* look toward Sidon and speak for me against that place. ²²Say, ‘The Lord my Master says these things:

“I am against you, Sidon!
 Your people will learn to respect me!
 I will punish Sidon.
 Then people will know that
 I am the Lord.
 Then they will learn that
 I am holy
 and they will treat me that way.
²³ I will send disease and death to Sidon,
 and many people inside the city will die.
 The sword (*enemy soldiers*) outside the city
 will kill many people.
 Then they will know that I am the Lord!”

The Nations Will Stop Laughing at Israel

²⁴“The countries around Israel hated her. [But bad things will happen to those countries.] Then there won’t be any sharp stickers or thorn bushes to hurt the family of Israel. And they will know that I am the Lord their Master.”

²⁵The Lord my Master said these things, “I scattered the people of Israel among other nations. But I will gather the family of Israel together again. Then those nations will know that I am holy and they will treat me that way. At that time, the people of Israel will live in their land—I gave that land to my servant Jacob. ²⁶They will live safely in the land. They will build houses and plant vineyards. I will punish the nations around them that hated them. Then the people of Israel will live in safety. And they will know that I am the Lord their God.”

The Message Against Egypt

29 On the twelfth day of the tenth month (*January*) of the tenth year [of exile],* the word of the Lord my Master came to me. He said, ²“Son of man,* look toward Pharaoh, king

of Egypt. Speak for me against him and Egypt. ³Say, ‘The Lord my Master says these things:

“I am against you, Pharaoh, king of Egypt.
 You are the great monster*
 lying beside the Nile River.
 You say,
 “This is my river!
 I made this river!”

⁴⁻⁵“But I will put hooks in your jaws.
 The fish in the Nile River
 will stick to your scales.
 I will pull you and your fish up
 out of your rivers
 and onto the dry land.
 You will fall on the ground,
 And no one will pick you up or bury you.
 I will give you to the wild animals and birds.
 You will be their food.
⁶ Then all the people living in Egypt
 will know that I am the Lord!

“‘Why will I do these things?’
 Because the people of Israel leaned
 on Egypt for support.
 But Egypt was only a weak blade
 of grass.
⁷ The people of Israel leaned on Egypt
 for support.
 But Egypt only pierced their hands
 and shoulder.
 They leaned on you for support,
 but you broke and twisted their back.”

⁸ So the Lord my Master says these things:
 “I will bring a sword against you.
 I will destroy all your people and animals.
⁹ Egypt will be empty and destroyed.
 Then they will know that I am the Lord.”

[God said,] “Why will I do those things? Because you said, ‘This is my river. I made this river.’ ¹⁰So, I (*God*) am against you. I am against the many branches of your Nile River. I will destroy Egypt completely. The cities will be empty from Migdol to Aswan, and as far as

Son of man This was usually just a way of saying “a person,” or “a human being.” But here this is a title for the man, Ezekiel.
tenth year of exile This was the winter of 587 B.C.

great monster There were ancient stories about a sea monster that fought against God. The prophets called Egypt that sea monster many times. But here this might mean the crocodiles that rest on the banks of the Nile River.

the border of Ethiopia. ¹¹No person or animal will pass through Egypt. Nothing will pass through or settle there for 40 years. ¹²I will destroy Egypt. The cities will be in ruins for 40 years! I will scatter the Egyptians among the nations. I will make them strangers* in foreign lands.”

¹³The Lord my Master says these things, “I will scatter the people of Egypt among many nations. But at the end of 40 years, I will gather those people together again. ¹⁴I will bring back the Egyptian captives. I will bring back the Egyptians to the land of Pathros, to the land where they were born. But their kingdom won’t be important. ¹⁵It will be the least important kingdom. It will never again lift itself above the other nations. I will make them so small that they won’t rule over the nations. ¹⁶And the family of Israel will never again depend on Egypt. The Israelites will remember their sin—they will remember that they turned to Egypt [for help and not to God]. And they will know that I am the Lord and Master.”

Babylon Will Get Egypt

¹⁷On the first day of the first month (*April*) in the twenty-seventh year [of exile],* the word of the Lord came to me. He said, ¹⁸“Son of man,* Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, made his army fight hard against Tyre. They shaved every soldiers’ hair. Every shoulder was rubbed bare [from carrying heavy loads]. Nebuchadnezzar and his army worked hard to defeat Tyre. But they got nothing from all that hard work.” ¹⁹So the Lord my Master says these things, “I will give the land of Egypt to Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon. And Nebuchadnezzar will carry away Egypt’s people. Nebuchadnezzar will take the many valuable things in Egypt. This will be the pay for Nebuchadnezzar’s army. ²⁰I have given Nebuchadnezzar the land of Egypt as a reward for the hard work he did. Why? Because they worked for me!” The Lord my Master said these things!

I will ... strangers Or, “I will scatter them...”

twenty-seventh year of exile This was in the spring of 571 B.C.

Son of man This was usually just a way of saying “a person,” or “a human being.” But here this is a title for the man, Ezekiel.

²¹“On that day I will make the family of Israel strong. Then [Ezekiel], I will let you speak to them so they will know that I am the Lord.”

The Army of Babylon Will Attack Egypt

30 The word of the Lord came to me again. He said, ²“Son of man,* speak for me. Say, ‘The Lord my Master says these things:

“‘Cry and say,

“That terrible day is coming.”

³ That day is near!

Yes, the Lord’s day for judging is near.

It will be a cloudy day,

It will be the time for judging the nations!

⁴ A sword will come against Egypt!

People in Ethiopia will shake with fear,
at the time that Egypt falls.

The army of Babylon will take Egypt’s
people away as prisoners.

Egypt’s foundations will be torn down!

⁵“Many people made peace agreements with Egypt. But all those people from Ethiopia, Put, Lud, all Arabia, Libya and the people of Israel* will be destroyed!

⁶ The Lord my Master says these things:

“The people who support Egypt will fall!

The pride in her power will end.

The people in Egypt will be killed in battle,
all the way from Migdol to Aswan.”

The Lord my Master said those things!

⁷ Egypt will join the other countries

that were destroyed.

Egypt will be one of those empty lands.

⁸ I will start a fire in Egypt,

and all her helpers will be destroyed.

Then they will know that I am the Lord!

⁹“At that time, I will send out messengers. They will go in ships to carry the bad news to Ethiopia. Ethiopia now feels safe. But the people of Ethiopia will shake with fear at the time Egypt is punished. That time is coming!

people of Israel Literally, “sons of the Agreement.” This might mean “all the people that made peace agreements with Egypt” or it might mean “Israel, the people that made the Agreement with God.”

- 10 The Lord my Master says these things:
 “I will use the king of Babylon.
 I will use Nebuchadnezzar to destroy
 the people of Egypt.
 11 Nebuchadnezzar and his people
 are the most terrible of the nations.
 And I will bring them to destroy Egypt.
 They will pull out their swords
 against Egypt.
 They will fill the land with dead bodies.
 12 I will make the Nile River become dry land.
 Then I will sell the dry land to evil people.
 I will use strangers to make that land empty.
 I, the Lord, have spoken!”

The Idols of Egypt Will Be Destroyed

- 13 The Lord my Master says these things:
 “I will also destroy the idols* in Egypt.
 I will take the statues away from Memphis.
 There won’t be a leader anymore
 in the land of Egypt,
 And I will put fear in the land of Egypt.
 14 I will make Pathros empty.
 I will start a fire in Zoan.
 I will punish No,
 15 And I will pour out my anger against Sin,
 the fortress* of Egypt!
 I will destroy the people of No.
 16 I will start a fire in Egypt;
 The city named Sin will ache with fear.
 The soldiers will break into the city No,
 and Memphis will have new troubles
 every day.
 17 The young men of On and Pi Beseth*
 will die in battle.
 And the women will be captured
 and taken away.
 18 It will be a dark day in Tahpanhes
 when I break Egypt’s control.*
 Egypt’s proud power will be finished!
 A cloud will cover Egypt,
 and her daughters will be captured
 and taken away.
 19 So I will punish Egypt.
 Then they will know I am the Lord!”

idols Statues of false gods that people worshiped.

fortress A building or city with tall, strong walls for protection.

On, Pi Beseth Heliopolis and Bubastis, cities in Egypt.

control Literally, “yoke.”

Egypt Will Become Weak Forever

²⁰On the seventh day of the first month
 (*April*) of the eleventh year _{of exile},* the
 word of the Lord came to me. He said, ²¹“Son
 of man,* I have broken the arm (*power*) of
 Pharaoh, king of Egypt. No one will wrap his
 arm with a bandage. It won’t heal. So his arm
 won’t be strong enough to hold a sword.”

²²The Lord my Master says these things, “I
 am against Pharaoh, king of Egypt. I will
 break both his arms, the strong arm and the
 arm that is already broken. I will make the
 sword fall from his hand. ²³I will scatter the
 Egyptians among the nations. ²⁴I will make
 the arms of the king of Babylon strong. I will
 put my sword in his hand. But I will break the
 arms of Pharaoh. Then Pharaoh will cry out in
 pain, the kind of cry that a dying man makes.
²⁵So I will make the arms of the king of
 Babylon strong, but the arms of Pharaoh will
 fall. Then they will know that I am the Lord.

“I will put my sword in the hand of the king
 of Babylon. Then he will stretch the sword out
 against the land of Egypt. ²⁶I will scatter the
 Egyptians among the nations. Then they will
 know that I am the Lord!”

Assyria Is Like A Cedar Tree

31 On the first day of the third month
 (*June*) in the eleventh year _{of exile},*
 the word of the Lord came to me. He said,
²“Son of man,* say these things to Pharaoh,
 king of Egypt, and to his people:

““You are so great!

Who can I compare you to?

³ Assyria was a cedar tree in Lebanon

With beautiful branches,

With forest shade,

And very tall.

Its top was among the clouds!

⁴ The water made the tree grow.

The deep river made the tree tall.

Rivers flowed around the place

where the tree was planted.

Only small streams flowed from that tree
 to all the other trees of the field.

eleventh year of exile This was the summer of 587 B.C.

Son of man This was usually just a way of saying “a person,” or
 “a human being.” But here this is a title for the man, Ezekiel.

- 5 So that tree was taller
than all the other trees of the field.
And it grew many branches.
There was plenty of water,
so the tree branches spread out.
- 6 All the birds of the sky made their nests
in the branches of that tree.
And all the animals of the field gave birth
under the branches of that tree.
All the great nations lived
under the shade of that tree.
- 7 The tree was very beautiful.
It was so large!
It had such long branches.
Its roots had plenty of water!
- 8 Even the cedar trees in God's garden
were not as big as this tree.
Cypress trees did not have as
many branches.
Plane-trees did not have such branches.
No tree in God's garden
was as beautiful as this tree.
- 9 I gave it many branches
and made it beautiful.
And all the trees in Eden, God's garden,
were jealous!"

¹⁰So the Lord my Master says these things:
"That tree grew tall. Its top reached up to the
clouds. It grew so big that it became proud! ¹¹So
I let a powerful king have that tree. That ruler
punished the tree for the bad things it did. I took
that tree out of my garden. ¹²Strangers—the
most terrible people in the world—cut it down
and scattered its branches on the mountains and
in the valleys. Its broken limbs drifted down the
rivers flowing through that land. There was no
more shadow under that tree, so all the people
left. ¹³Now birds live in that fallen tree. Wild
animals walk over its fallen branches.

¹⁴"Now, none of the trees by that water will
be proud. They won't try to reach the clouds.
None of the strong trees that drink that water
will brag about being tall. Why? Because all of
them have been appointed to die. They will all
go down into the world below—to Sheol, the
place of death. They will join the other people
who died and went down into that deep hole."

¹⁵The Lord my Master says these things, "I
made the people cry on the day that tree went

down to Sheol.* I covered him with the deep
ocean. I stopped its rivers and all the water
stopped flowing. I made Lebanon mourn* for
it. All the trees of the field became sick with
sadness for that big tree. ¹⁶I made the tree
fall—and the nations shook with fear at the
sound of the falling tree. I sent the tree down
to the place of death, to join the other people
that had gone down into that deep hole. In the
past, all the trees of Eden, the best of
Lebanon, drank that water. Those trees were
comforted in the world below. ¹⁷Yes, those
trees also went down with the big tree to the
place of death. They joined the people that
were killed in battle. That big tree made the
other trees strong. Those trees had lived
under the big tree's shadow among the
nations.

¹⁸"Egypt, there were many big and
powerful trees in Eden. Which of those trees
should I compare you to! They all went down
into the world below! And you too will join
those foreigners* in that place of death. You
will lie there among the people killed in battle.

"Yes, that will happen to Pharaoh and to
the crowds of people with him!" The Lord my
Master said those things.

Pharaoh: a Lion Or a Dragon?

32 On the first day of the twelfth month
(*March*) in the twelfth year ^{of exile,}*
the word of the Lord came to me. He said,
²"Son of man,* sing this sad song about
Pharaoh, king of Egypt. Say to him:

"You thought you were like
a powerful young lion
walking proud among the nations.
But really, you are like
a dragon* in the lakes.

Sheol The place where people go when they die. Usually this
means the grave, but it can mean the place where spirits go.

mourn Crying and showing sadness for a person that died.

foreigners Literally, "uncircumcised."

twelfth year of exile This was early spring, 585 B.C.

Son of man This was usually just a way of saying "a person," or
"a human being." But here this is a title for the man, Ezekiel.

dragon This might be a crocodile or a giant sea creature. The
giant sea creature represented the power of the sea, and the
Nile River made Egypt a powerful nation.

You push your way through the streams.
You make the water muddy with your feet.
You stir up the rivers of Egypt.”

³The Lord my Master says these things:

“I have gathered many people together.
Now I will throw my net over you.

Then those people will pull you in.

⁴ Then I will drop you on the dry ground.

I will throw you down in the field.

I will let all the birds come and eat you.

I will let wild animals from every place
come and eat you until they are full.

⁵ I will scatter your body on the mountains.

I will fill the valleys with your dead body.

⁶ I will pour your blood on the mountains,
and it will soak down into the ground.

The rivers will be full of you.

⁷ I will make you disappear.

I will cover the sky
and make the stars dark.

I will cover the sun with a cloud,
and the moon will not shine.

⁸ I will make all the shining lights in the sky
become dark over you.

I will make your whole country dark.”

The Lord my Master said those things.

⁹“I will make many people sad and upset when I bring an enemy to destroy you. Nations you don’t even know will be upset. ¹⁰I will make many people shocked about you. Their kings will be terribly afraid about you, when I swing my sword before them. The kings will shake with fear every moment on the day you fall. Each king will be afraid for his own life.”

¹¹Why? Because the Lord my Master says these things: “The sword of the king of Babylon will come to fight against you. ¹²I will use those soldiers to kill your people in battle. Those soldiers come from the most terrible of the nations. They will destroy the things Egypt is proud of. The people of Egypt will be destroyed. ¹³There are many animals by the rivers in Egypt. I will also destroy all those animals! People won’t make the waters muddy with their feet any more. The hoofs of cows won’t make the water muddy any more.

¹⁴So I will make the water in Egypt calm. I will cause their rivers to run slowly—they will

be slick like oil.” The Lord my Master said those things. ¹⁵“I will make the land of Egypt empty. That land will lose everything. I will punish all the people living in Egypt. Then they will know that I am the Lord and Master!

¹⁶“This is a sad song that people will sing for Egypt. The daughters (*cities*) in other nations will sing this sad song about Egypt. They will sing it as a sad song about Egypt and all its people.” The Lord my Master said those things!

Egypt to Be Destroyed

¹⁷On the fifteenth day of that month, in the twelfth year [of exile],* the word of the Lord came to me. He said, ¹⁸“Son of man,* cry for the people of Egypt. Lead Egypt and those daughters from powerful nations to the grave. Lead them to the world below where they will be with the other people that went down into that deep hole.

¹⁹“Egypt, you are no better than anyone else! Go down to the place of death. Go lie down with those foreigners.*

²⁰“Egypt will go to be with all the other men that were killed in battle. The enemy has pulled her and all her people away.

²¹“Strong and powerful men were killed in battle. Those foreigners went down to the place of death. And from that place, those men that were killed will speak to Egypt and his helpers.

^{22–23}“Assyria* and all its army are there in the place of death. Their graves are deep down in that deep hole. All those Assyrian soldiers were killed in battle. Their graves are all around his grave. When they were alive, they made people afraid. But now all of them [are quiet]—they were all killed in battle.

²⁴“Elam is there and all its army is around her grave. All of them were killed in battle. Those foreigners went deep down into the ground. When they were alive, they made people afraid. But they carried their shame

twelfth year of exile This was early spring, 585 B.C.

Son of man This was usually just a way of saying “a person,” or “a human being.” But here this is a title for the man, Ezekiel.

foreigners Literally, “uncircumcised.” This showed that those people did not share in the Agreement that God made with Israel.

Assyria This was a powerful nation northeast of Israel.

with them down to that deep hole. ²⁵They have made a bed for Elam and all its soldiers that were killed in battle. Elam's army is all around its grave. All those foreigners were killed in battle. When they were alive, they scared people. But they carried their shame with them down into that deep hole. They were put with all the other people that were killed.

²⁶“Meshech, Tubal, and all their armies are there. Their graves are around it. All of those foreigners were killed in battle. When they were alive, they made people afraid. ²⁷But now they are lying down by the powerful men that died long, long ago! They were buried with their weapons of war. Their swords will be laid under their heads. But their sins are on their bones. Why? Because when they were alive, they scared people.

²⁸“Egypt, you too will be destroyed. And you will lie down by those foreigners. You will lie with those other soldiers that were killed in battle.

²⁹“Edom is there also. His kings and other leaders are there with him. They were powerful soldiers too. But now they lie with the other men that were killed in battle. They are lying there with those foreigners. They are there with the other people that went down into that deep hole.

³⁰“The rulers from the north are there, all of them! And there are all the soldiers from Sidon. Their strength scared people. But they are embarrassed. Those foreigners lie there with the other men that were killed in battle. They carried their shame with them down into that deep hole.

³¹“Pharaoh will see the people that went down to the place of death. He and all his people with him will be comforted. Yes, Pharaoh and all his army will be killed in battle.” The Lord my Master said these things.

³²“When Pharaoh was alive, I made people afraid of him. But now, he will lie down with those foreigners. Pharaoh and his army will lie down with the other soldiers that were killed in battle.” The Lord my Master said those things.

God Chooses Ezekiel To Be a Watchman

33 The word of the Lord came to me. He said, ²“Son of man,* speak to your people. Say to them, ‘I might bring enemy soldiers to fight against this country. When that happens people choose a man to be the watchman. ³If this guard sees the enemy soldiers coming, then he blows the trumpet and warns the people. ⁴If people hear the warning but ignore it, then the enemy will capture them and take them away as prisoners. That person will be responsible for his own death. ⁵He heard the trumpet, but he ignored the warning. So he is to blame for his death. If he had paid attention to the warning, then he could have saved his own life.

⁶“But maybe that guard sees the enemy soldiers coming, but does not blow the trumpet. That guard did not warn the people. The enemy will capture them and take them away as prisoners. That person will be taken away because he sinned. But the guard will also be responsible for that man's death.’

⁷“Now, Son of man,* I am choosing you to be a watchman for the family of Israel. If you hear a message from my mouth, you must warn the people for me. ⁸I might say to you, ‘This evil person will die.’ Then you must go warn that person for me. If you don't warn that evil person and tell him to change his life, then that evil person will die because he sinned. But I will make you responsible for his death. ⁹But if you do warn the evil person to change his life and stop sinning, and if he refuses to stop sinning, then he will die because he sinned. But you have saved your life.

God Does Not Want to Destroy People

¹⁰“So, Son of man,* speak to the family of Israel for me. Those people might say, ‘We have sinned and broken the law. Our sins are too heavy to bear. We rot away because of those sins. What can we do to live?’

¹¹“You must say to them, ‘The Lord my Master says: On my life, I promise, I don't enjoy seeing people die—not even evil

Son of man This was usually just a way of saying “a person,” or “a human being.” But here this is a title for the man, Ezekiel.

people! I don't want them to die. I want those evil people to come back to me. I want them to change their lives so they can really live! So come back to me! Stop doing bad things! Why must you die, family of Israel?'

¹²“And Son of man,* say to your people: ‘The good things a person did in the past won't save him if he becomes bad and begins to sin. And the bad things a person did in the past won't destroy him if he turns from his evil. So remember, the good things a person did in the past won't save him if he begins to sin.’

¹³“Maybe I will tell a good person that he will live. But maybe that good person will begin to think that the good things he did in the past will save him. So he might begin to do bad things. But I won't remember the good things he did in the past! No, he will die because of the bad things he begins to do.

¹⁴“Or maybe I will tell a bad person that he will die. But he might change his life. He might stop sinning and begin to live right. He might become good and fair. ¹⁵He might give back the things he took when he loaned money. He might pay for the things he stole. He might begin to follow the laws that give life. He stops doing bad things. Then that person will surely live. He won't die. ¹⁶I won't remember the bad things he did in the past. Why? Because now he lives right and is fair. So he will live!

¹⁷“But your people say, ‘That's not fair! [The Lord] my Master can't be like that!’

“But they are the people that are not fair! They are the people who must change! ¹⁸If a good person stops doing good things and begins to sin, then he will die because of his sins. ¹⁹And if an evil person stops doing bad things and begins to live right and be fair, then he will live! ²⁰But you people still say that I am not fair. But I am telling you the truth. Family of Israel, each person will be judged for the things he does!”

Jerusalem Has Been Taken

²¹On the fifth day of the tenth month (*January*) in the twelfth year [of exile],* a person came to me from Jerusalem. He had escaped from the battle there. He said, “The city (*Jerusalem*) has been taken!”

²²Now the power of the Lord my Master had come on me the evening before that person came to me. [God made me not able to speak.] At the time that person came to me, the Lord had opened my mouth and let me speak again. ²³Then the word of the Lord came to me. He said, ²⁴“Son of man,* there are Israelite people living in the ruined cities in Israel. Those people are saying, ‘Abraham was only one man, and God gave him all this land. Now, we are many people, so surely this land belongs to us! It is our land!’

²⁵“You must tell them that the Lord and Master says these things, ‘You eat meat with the blood still in it. You look to your idols* for help. You murder people. So why should I give you this land? ²⁶You depend on your own sword. Each of you does terrible things. Each of you does sexual sins with his neighbor's wife. So you cannot have the land!’

²⁷“You must tell them that the Lord and Master says these things, “On my life I promise, those people living in those ruined cities will be killed with a sword! If anyone is out in the country, I will let animals kill him and eat him. If people are hiding in the fortresses* and the caves, they will die from disease. ²⁸I will make the land empty and a waste. That country will lose all the things it was proud of. The mountains of Israel will become empty. No one will pass through that place. ²⁹Those people have done many terrible things. So I will make that land an empty wasteland. Then these people will know that I am the Lord.”

³⁰“And now, about you, Son of man.* Your people lean against the walls and stand in their doorways talking about you. They tell each other, “Come on, let's go hear what the

Son of man This was usually just a way of saying “a person,” or “a human being.” But here this is a title for the man, Ezekiel.

twelfth year of exile This was the winter of 586 B.C.

idols Statues of false gods that people worshipped.

fortress(es) A building or city with tall, strong walls for protection.

Lord says.” ³¹So they come to you like they are my people. They sit in front of you like they are my people. They hear your words. But they won’t do the things you say. They only want to do what feels good. They only want to cheat people and make more money.

³²“You are nothing to these people but a singer singing love songs. You have a good voice. You play your instrument well. They hear your words, but they won’t do the things you say. ³³But the things you sing about really will happen. And then the people will know that there really was a prophet living among them!”

Israel Is Like a Flock of Sheep

34 The word of the Lord came to me. He said, ²“Son of man,* speak against the shepherds (*leaders*) of Israel for me. Speak to them for me. Tell them that the Lord and Master says these things, ‘You shepherds of Israel have only been feeding yourselves. It will be very bad for you! Why don’t you shepherds feed the flock? ³You eat the fat sheep and use their wool to make clothes for yourselves. You kill the fat sheep, but you don’t feed the flock. ⁴You have not made the weak strong. You have not cared for the sick sheep. You have not put bandages on the sheep that were hurt. Some of the sheep wandered away, and you did not go get them and bring them back. You did not go to look for those lost sheep. No, you were cruel and severe—that’s the way you tried to lead the sheep!

⁵“And now the sheep are scattered because there was no shepherd. They became food for every wild animal. So they were scattered. ⁶My flock wandered over all the mountains and on every high hill. My flock was scattered over all the face of the earth. There was no one to search or to look for them.”

⁷So, you shepherds, listen to the word of the Lord. The Lord my Master says, ⁸“By my life, I promise this to you. Wild animals caught my sheep. Yes, my flock has become food for all the wild animals. Why? Because they did not have a real shepherd. My shepherds did not look out for my flock. No,

those shepherds only killed the sheep and fed themselves. They did not feed my flock.”

⁹So, you shepherds, listen to the word of the Lord! ¹⁰The Lord says, “I am against those shepherds! I will demand my sheep from them. I will fire them! They won’t be my shepherds any more! Then the shepherds won’t be able to feed themselves. And I will save my flock from their mouths. Then my sheep won’t be food for them.”

¹¹The Lord my Master says, “I, myself, will be their Shepherd. I will search for my sheep. I will look out for them. ¹²If a shepherd is with his sheep when they begin to wander away, then he will go searching for them. In the same way I will search for my sheep. I will save my sheep. I will bring them back from all the places where they were scattered on that dark and cloudy day. ¹³I will bring them back from those nations. I will gather them from those countries. I will bring them to their own land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the streams, in all the places where people live. ¹⁴I will lead them to grassy fields. They will go to the place high on the mountains of Israel. There they will lie down on good ground and eat the grass. They will eat in rich grassland on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵Yes, I will feed my flock and I will lead them to a place of rest.” The Lord my Master said those things.

¹⁶“I will search for the lost sheep. I will bring back the sheep that were scattered. I will put bandages on the sheep that were hurt. I will make the weak sheep strong. But I will destroy those fat and powerful shepherds. I will feed them the punishment they deserve.”

¹⁷The Lord my Master says these things, “And you, my flock, I will judge between one sheep and another. I will judge between the male sheep and the male goats. ¹⁸You can eat the grass growing on the good land. So why do you also crush the grass that other sheep want to eat? You can drink plenty of clear water. So why do you also stir the water that other sheep want to drink? ¹⁹My flock must eat the grass you crushed with your feet, and they must drink the water you stir with your feet!”

²⁰So the Lord my Master says to them: “I, myself, will judge between the fat sheep and

Son of man This was usually just a way of saying “a person,” or “a human being.” But here this is a title for the man, Ezekiel.

the thin sheep! ²¹You push with your side and shoulder. You knock down all the weak sheep with your horns. You push until you have forced them away. ²²So I will save my flock. They won't be caught by wild animals any more. I will judge between one sheep and another. ²³Then I will put one shepherd over them, my servant David. He will feed them and be their shepherd. ²⁴Then I, the Lord and Master, will be their God. And my servant David will be the ruler living among them. I, the Lord, have spoken.

²⁵“And I will make a peace agreement with my sheep. I will take harmful animals away from the land. Then the sheep can be safe in the desert and sleep in the woods. ²⁶I will bless the sheep and the places around my hill (*Jerusalem*). I will cause the rains to fall at the right time. They will shower them with blessings. ²⁷And the trees growing in the field will produce their fruit. The earth will give its harvest. So the sheep will be safe on their land. I will break the yokes* on them. I will save them from the power of the people that made them slaves. Then they will know that I am the Lord. ²⁸They won't be caught like an animal by the nations any more. Those animals won't eat them any more. But they will live safely. No one will make them afraid. ²⁹I will give them some land that will make a good garden. Then they won't suffer from hunger in that land. They won't suffer the insults from the nations any more. ³⁰Then they will know that I am the Lord their God. And they will know that I am with them. And the family of Israel will know that they are my people!” The Lord my Master said those things!

³¹“You are my sheep, the sheep of my grassland. You are only human beings. And I am your God.” The Lord my Master said those things.

yokes A pole that was put on the shoulders of men or animals to help them carry or pull things. This often showed that a person was a slave.

The Message Against Edom

35 The word of the Lord came to me. He said, ²“Son of man,* look toward Mount Seir, and speak against it for me. ³Say to it, ‘The Lord my Master says these things:

“‘I am against you, Mount Seir!

I will punish you.

I will make you an empty wasteland.

⁴ I will destroy your cities.

And you will become empty.

Then you will know that I am the Lord.

⁵ Why? Because you have always been against my people.

You used your sword against Israel
at the time of their trouble,

at the time of their final punishment.”

⁶So the Lord my Master says, “By my life I promise that I will let death have you. Death will chase you. You did not hate killing people. So death will chase you. ⁷And I will make Mount Seir an empty ruin. I will kill every person that comes from that city. And I will kill every person that tries to go into that city. ⁸I will cover its mountains with dead bodies. Those dead bodies will be all over your hills, in your valleys, and in all your ravines. ⁹I will make you empty forever. No one will live in your cities. Then you will know that I am the Lord.”

¹⁰You said, “These two nations and countries (*Israel and Judah*) will be mine. We will take them for our own.”

But the Lord is there! ¹¹And the Lord my Master says, “You were jealous of my people. You were angry at them and you were hateful to me. So by my life, I promise that I will punish you the same way you hurt them! I will punish you and let my people know that I am with them. ¹²And then you too will know that I have heard all your insults. You said many bad things against the mountain of Israel. You said, ‘Israel has been destroyed! We will chew them up like food!’ ¹³And you were proud and said things against me. You spoke too many

Son of man This was usually just a way of saying “a person,” or “a human being.” But here this is a title for the man, Ezekiel.

times and I have heard every word you said! Yes, I heard you.”

¹⁴The Lord my Master says these things, “All the earth will be happy when I destroy you ¹⁵You were happy when the country of Israel was destroyed. I will treat you the same way. Mount Seir and the whole country of Edom will be destroyed. Then you will know that I am the Lord.”

The Land of Israel Will Be Built again

36“Son of man,* speak to the mountains of Israel for me. Tell the mountains of Israel to listen to the word of the Lord! ²Tell them that the Lord and Master says these things, ‘The enemy said bad things against you. They said: Hurrah! Now the ancient mountains* will be ours!’

³“So speak to the mountains of Israel for me. Tell them that the Lord and Master says these things, ‘The enemy destroyed your cities and attacked you from every direction. They did this so you would belong to the other nations. Then people talked and whispered about you.’”

⁴So, mountains of Israel, listen to the word of the Lord my Master! The Lord my Master says this to the mountains, hills, streams, valleys, empty ruins, and abandoned cities that have been looted and laughed at by the other nations around them. ⁵The Lord my Master says, “I swear (*promise*), I will let my strong feelings speak for me! I will let Edom and the other nations feel my anger. Those nations took my land for themselves. They really had a good time when they showed how much they hated this land. They took the land for themselves just so they could destroy it!”

⁶“So, say these things about the land of Israel. Speak to the mountains and to the hills, to the streams and to the valleys. Tell them that the Lord and Master says these things, ‘I will let my strong feelings and anger speak for me. Why? Because you had to suffer the insults from those nations.’”

Son of man This was usually just a way of saying “a person,” or “a human being.”^b But here this is a title for the man, Ezekiel.

mountains Literally, “high places”—usually a reference to places of worship.

⁷So the Lord my Master says these things, “I am the One making this promise! I swear that the nations around you will have to suffer for those insults.

⁸“But mountains of Israel, you will grow new trees and produce fruit for my people Israel. My people will soon come back. ⁹I am with you. I will help you. People will till your soil. People will plant seeds in you. ¹⁰There will be many, many people living on you. The whole family of Israel—all of them—will live there. The cities will have people living in them. The destroyed places will be built like new. ¹¹I will give you many people and animals. And they will grow and have many children. I will bring people to live on you like in the past. I will make it better for you than before. Then you will know that I am the Lord. ¹²Yes, I will lead many people—my people, Israel—to your land. You will be their property. And you won’t take away their children again.”

¹³The Lord my Master says these things, “Land of Israel, people say bad things to you. They say you destroyed your people. They say you took the children away from your people. ¹⁴But you won’t destroy people any more. You won’t take away their children again.” The Lord my Master said those things. ¹⁵“I won’t let those other nations insult you any more. You won’t be hurt by those people any more. You won’t take the children away from your people again.” The Lord my Master said those things.

The Lord Will Protect His Own Good Name

¹⁶Then the word of the Lord came to me. He said, ¹⁷“Son of man,* the family of Israel lived in their own country. But they made that land filthy by the bad things they did. To me, they were like a woman that becomes unclean* because of her monthly time of bleeding. ¹⁸They spilled blood on the ground when they murdered people in that land. They made the land filthy with their idols.* So I showed them how angry I was. ¹⁹I scattered them among the nations and spread them

unclean Not pure or not acceptable to God for worship.

idols Statues of false gods that people worshiped.

through all the lands. I gave them the punishment they should have for the bad things they did. ²⁰But even in those other nations they ruined my good name. How? Those nations said, ‘These are the Lord’s people, but they left his land. [So there must be something wrong with the Lord!]

²¹“The people of Israel ruined my holy name in the places where they went. And I felt sorry for my name. ²²So tell the family of Israel that the Lord and Master says these things, ‘Family of Israel, you ruined my holy name in the places where you went. I am going to do something to stop this. I won’t do it for your sake, Israel. I will do it for my holy name. ²³I will show those nations that my great name is truly holy. You ruined my good name in those nations! But I will show you that I am holy. I will make you respect my name. And then those nations will know that I am the Lord.’” The Lord my Master said those things.

²⁴[God said,] “I will take you out of those nations, gather you together, and bring you back to your own land. ²⁵Then I will sprinkle pure water on you and make you pure. I will wash away all your filth. I will wash away the filth from those nasty idols and make you pure.”

²⁶[God said,] “I will also put a new spirit in you [and change your way of thinking,]. I will take out the heart of stone from your body and give you a tender, human heart. ²⁷And I will put my Spirit inside you.* I will change you so you will obey my laws. You will carefully obey my commands. ²⁸Then you will live in the land that I gave to your ancestors.* You will be my people, and I will be your God.”

²⁹[God said,] “Also, I will save you and keep you from becoming unclean.* I will command the grain to grow. I won’t bring a time of hunger against you. ³⁰I will give you large crops of fruit from your trees and the harvest from your fields so you will never again feel the shame of being hungry in a foreign country. ³¹You will remember the bad

things you did. You will remember that those things were not good. Then you will hate yourselves because of your sins and the terrible things you did.”

³²The Lord my Master says, “I want you to remember this: I am not doing these things for your good! [I am doing them for my good name!] Family of Israel, you should be ashamed and embarrassed about the way you lived!”

³³The Lord my Master says these things, “On the day that I wash away your sins, I will bring people back to your cities. Those ruined cities will be built again. ³⁴People will again begin to work the land so when other people pass by they won’t see ruins any more. ³⁵They will say, ‘In the past, this land was ruined. But now it is like the garden of Eden. The cities were destroyed. They were ruined and empty. But now they are protected, and there are people living in them.’”

³⁶[God said,] “Then those nations that are still around you will know I am the Lord and that I built those ruined places again. I planted things in this land that was empty. I am the Lord. I said these things, and I will make them happen!”

³⁷The Lord my Master says these things, “I will also let the family of Israel come to me and ask me to do these things for them. I will make them grow and become many, many people. They will be like flocks of sheep. ³⁸During the special festivals, Jerusalem is filled with flocks of sheep and goats that have been made holy. In the same way, the cities and ruined places will be filled with flocks of people. Then they will know that I am the Lord.”

The Vision of the Dry Bones

37 The Lord’s power came on me. The Spirit* of the Lord carried me [out of the city] and put me down in the middle of the valley.* The valley was full of dead men’s bones. ²There were many, many bones lying on the ground in the valley. The Lord made me walk all around among the bones. I saw the bones were very dry.

I will put my Spirit inside you. Or, “I will make my Spirit live among you.”

ancestors Literally, “fathers,” meaning a person’s parents, grandparents, and all the people they are descended from.

unclean Not pure or not acceptable to God for worship.

Spirit Or “wind.”

the valley Possibly Jezreel Valley, a fertile area where many battles were fought. It is often called simply, “The Valley.”

³Then the Lord my Master said to me, “Son of man,* can these bones come to life?”

I answered, “Lord my Master, only you know the answer to that question.”

⁴The Lord my Master said to me. “Speak to those bones for me. Tell those bones, ‘Dry bones, listen to the word of the Lord!’ ⁵The Lord my Master says these things to you: I will cause breath* to come into you, and you will come to life! ⁶I will put sinews and muscles on you. And I will cover you with skin. Then I will put breath in you, and you will come back to life! Then you will know that I am the Lord and Master.”

⁷So I spoke to the bones for the Lord, like he said. I was still speaking, when I heard the loud noise. The bones began to rattle, and bone joined together with bone! ⁸There before my eyes, I saw sinew and muscles begin to cover the bones. And skin began to cover them. But [the bodies didn’t move]—there was no breath in them.

⁹Then the Lord my Master said to me, “Speak to the wind* for me. Son of man,* speak to the wind for me. Tell the wind that the Lord and Master says these things: ‘Wind, come from every direction and breathe air into these dead bodies! Breathe into them and they will come to life again!’”

¹⁰So I spoke to the wind for the Lord, like he said. And the breath came into the dead bodies. They came to life and stood up. There were many, many men—they were a very large army!

¹¹Then the Lord my Master said to me, “Son of man,* these bones are like the whole family of Israel. The people of Israel say, ‘Our bones have dried up,* our hope is gone. We have been completely destroyed!’ ¹²So, speak to them for me. Tell them the Lord and Master says these things, ‘My people, I will open your graves and bring you up out of your graves! Then I will bring you to the land of Israel. ¹³My people, I

will open your graves and bring you up out of your graves. And then you will then know that I am the Lord. ¹⁴I will put my Spirit* in you and you will come to life again. Then I will lead you back to your own land. Then you will know that I am the Lord. You will know that I said these things and that I made them happen.’” The Lord said those things.

Judah and Israel to Become One Again

¹⁵The word of the Lord came to me again. He said, ¹⁶“Son of man,* get one stick and write this message on it: ‘This stick belongs to Judah and his friends,* the people of Israel.’ Then take another stick and write on it, ‘This stick of Ephraim belongs to Joseph and his friends, the people of Israel.’ ¹⁷Then join those two sticks together. In your hand, they will be one stick.

¹⁸“Your people will ask you to explain what that means. ¹⁹Tell them that the Lord and Master says these things, ‘I will take the stick of Joseph, which is in the hand of Ephraim and his friends, the people of Israel. Then I will put that stick with the stick of Judah, and make them one stick. In my hand, they will become one stick!’

²⁰“Hold those sticks in your hands in front of you. You wrote those names on those sticks. ²¹Tell the people that the Lord and Master says these things: ‘I will take the people of Israel from among the nations where they have gone. I will gather them from all around, and I will bring them into their own land. ²²I will make them one nation in the land on the mountains of Israel. One king will be king for all of them. They won’t continue to be two nations. They won’t be divided into two kingdoms any more. ²³And they won’t continue to make themselves filthy with their idols* and horrible statues or with any of their other crimes. But I will save them from all the places where they have sinned. And I will

Son of man This was usually just a way of saying “a person,” or “a human being.” Here this is a title for the man, Ezekiel.

breath Or “wind,” or “a spirit.”

wind This could also be translated “breath” or “spirit.”

bones ... dried up This is a way of saying, “We have lost our strength.”

Spirit Or “spirit,” or “wind.”

friends This is a word play. The Hebrew word is like the word meaning “joined together.”

idols Statues of false gods that people worshiped.

wash them and make them pure. And they will be my people, and I will be their God.

²⁴“And my servant David will be the king over them. There will be only one shepherd over all of them. They will live by my rules and obey my laws. They will do the things I tell them. ²⁵They will live on the land that I gave to my servant Jacob. Your ancestors* lived in that place. And my people will live there. They and their children, and their grandchildren will live there forever. And David my servant will be their leader forever. ²⁶And I will make a peace agreement with them. This agreement will continue forever. I agree to give them their land. I agree to make them become many, many people. And I agree to put my holy place among them forever. ²⁷My Holy Tent will be with them. Yes, I will be their God and they will be my people. ²⁸And the other nations will know that I am the Lord. And they will know that I make Israel my special people by putting my holy place there among them forever.”

The Message Against Gog

38 The word of the Lord came to me. He said, ²“Son of man,* look toward Gog in the land of Magog. He is the most important leader of the nations of Meshech and Tubal. Speak for me against Gog. ³Tell him that the Lord and Master says these things, ‘Gog, you are the most important leader of the nations of Meshech and Tubal! But I am against you. ⁴I will capture you and bring you back. I will bring back all the men in your army. I will bring back all the horses and horse soldiers. I will put hooks in your mouths, and I will bring all of you back. All of the soldiers will be wearing their uniforms with all their shields and swords. ⁵Soldiers from Persia, Ethiopia, and Put will be with them. They will all be wearing their shields and helmets. ⁶There will also be Gomer with all his groups of soldiers. And there will be the nation of Togarmah*

ancestors Literally, “fathers,” meaning a person’s parents, grandparents, and all the people they are descended from.

Son of man This was usually just a way of saying “a person,” or “a human being.”^b But here this is a title for the man, Ezekiel.

nation of Togarmah Or, “Beth Togarmah.”

from the far north with all its groups of soldiers. There will be many, many people in that parade of prisoners.

⁷“Be prepared. Yes, prepare yourself and the armies that have joined with you. You must watch and be ready. ⁸After a long time you will be called for duty. In the later years you will come into the land that has been healed from war. The people in that land were gathered from many nations and brought back to the mountains of Israel. In the past, the mountains of Israel had been destroyed again and again. But these people will have come back from those other nations. They all will have lived in safety. ⁹But you will come to attack them. You will come like a storm. You will come like a thundercloud covering the land. You and all your groups of soldiers from many nations will come to attack these people.”

¹⁰The Lord my Master says these things: “At that time, an idea will come into your mind. You will begin to make an evil plan. ¹¹You will say, ‘I will go attack that country that has towns without walls (*Israel*). Those people live in peace. They think they are safe. There are not any walls around the cities to protect them. They don’t have any locks on their gates—they don’t even have gates! ¹²I will defeat those people and take all their valuable things away from them. I will fight against the places that were destroyed but now have people living in them. I will fight against those people (*Israel*) that were gathered from the nations. Now those people have cattle and property. They live at the crossroads of the world—¹³The powerful countries must travel through that place to get to all the other powerful countries.’”

¹³“Sheba, Dedan, and the businessmen of Tarshish, and all the cities they trade with will ask you, ‘Did you come to capture valuable things? Did you bring your groups of soldiers together to grab those good things and to carry away silver, gold, cattle, and property. Did you come to take all those valuable things?’”

¹⁴God said,^j “Son of man,* speak to Gog for me. Tell him that the Lord and Master says these things: ‘You will come to attack my people while they are living in peace and safety. ¹⁵You will come from your place out of

the far north. And you will bring many people with you. All of them will ride on horses. You will be a large and a powerful army. ¹⁶You will come to fight against my people Israel. You will be like a thundercloud covering the land. When that time comes, I will bring you to fight against my land. Then, Gog, the nations will learn how powerful I am! They will learn to respect me and know that I am holy. They will see what I will do to you!”

¹⁷The Lord my Master says these things, “¹At that time, people will remember¹ that I spoke about you in the past. They will remember that I used my servants the prophets of Israel. They will remember that the prophets of Israel spoke for me in the past and said that I would bring you to fight against them.”

¹⁸The Lord my Master said, “At that time, Gog will come to fight against the land of Israel. I will show my anger. ¹⁹In my anger and strong emotions I make this promise: I promise that there will be a strong earthquake in the land of Israel. ²⁰At that time, all living things will quake (*shake*) with fear. The fish in the sea, the birds in the air, the wild animals in the fields, and all the little creatures crawling on the ground will shake with fear. The mountains will fall down and the cliffs will collapse. Every wall will fall to the ground!”

²¹The Lord my Master says, “And on the mountains of Israel, I will call for every kind of terror against* Gog. His soldiers will be so scared that they will attack each other and kill each other with their swords. ²²I will punish Gog with diseases and death. I will cause hailstones, fire, and sulfur to rain down on Gog and his groups of soldiers from many nations. ²³Then I will show how great I am. I will prove that I am holy. Many nations will see me do these things and they will learn who I am. Then they will know that I am the Lord.”

The Death of Gog and His Army

39 “Son of man,* speak against Gog for me. Tell him that the Lord and Master says these things, ‘Gog, you are the most

every kind of terror against This is from the ancient Greek translation. The Hebrew has, “a sword against.”

Son of man This was usually just a way of saying “a person,” or “a human being.” But here this is a title for the man, Ezekiel.

important leader of the countries Meshech and Tubal! But I am against you. ²I will capture you and bring you back. I will bring you from the far north. I will bring you to fight against the mountains of Israel. ³But I will knock your bow from your left hand. I will knock your arrows from your right hand. ⁴You will be killed on the mountains of Israel. You, your groups of soldiers, and all the other nations with you will be killed in the battle. I will give you as food to every kind of bird that eats meat and to all the wild animals. ⁵You will not enter the city.¹ You will be killed out in the open fields. I have spoken!” The Lord my Master said those things.

⁶God said,¹ “I will send fire against Magog and those people living along the coast. They think they are safe, but they will know that I am the Lord. ⁷And I will make my holy name known among my people Israel. I will not let people ruin my holy name any more. The nations will know that I am the Lord. They will know that I am the Holy One in Israel. ⁸That time is coming! It will happen!” The Lord said these things. “That is the day I am talking about.

⁹“At that time, the people living in the cities of Israel will go out to the fields. They will collect the enemy’s weapons and burn them. They will burn all the shields, bows and arrows, clubs and spears. They will use those weapons as firewood for seven years. ¹⁰They won’t have to gather wood from the fields or chop firewood from the forests because they will use the weapons as firewood. They will take the valuable things from the soldiers that wanted to steal from them. They will take the good things from the soldiers that took good things from them.” The Lord my Master said these things.

¹¹God said,¹ “At that time, I will choose a place in Israel to bury Gog. He will be buried in the Valley of the Travelers,* east of the Dead Sea. It will block the road for travelers. Why? Because Gog and all his army will be buried in that place. People will call it ‘The Valley of Gog’s Army.’ ¹²It will take seven

Valley of the Travelers This is a word play on the name Arabah Valley.

months for the family of Israel to bury them. They must do this to make the land pure. ¹³The common people will bury those enemy soldiers. And those people will become famous on the day that I bring honor to myself.” The Lord my Master said those things.

¹⁴God said, “Workers will be given a fulltime job burying those dead soldiers to make the land pure. Those workers will work for seven months. They will go around looking for dead bodies. ¹⁵Those workers will go around looking. If one of them sees a bone, then he will put up a marker by it. The sign will stay there until the grave diggers come and bury the bone in the Valley of Gog’s Army. ¹⁶That city of dead people (*graveyard*) will be named Hamonah.* In this way, they will make the country pure.”

¹⁷The Lord my Master said these things, “Son of man,* speak to all the birds and wild animals for me. Tell them, ‘Come here! Come here! Gather around. Come eat this sacrifice I am preparing for you. There will be a very big sacrifice on the mountains of Israel. Come, eat the meat and drink the blood. ¹⁸You will eat the meat from the bodies of powerful soldiers. You will drink the blood from world leaders. They will be like rams, lambs, goats and fat bulls from Bashan. ¹⁹You can eat all the fat you want. You can drink blood until you are full. You will eat and drink from my sacrifice which I will kill for you. ²⁰You will have plenty of meat to eat at my table. There will be horses and chariot drivers, powerful soldiers, and all the other fighting men.’” The Lord my Master said those things.

²¹God said, “I will let the other nations see what I have done. And those nations will begin to respect me! They will see my power that I used against that enemy. ²²Then from that day on, the family of Israel will know that I am the Lord their God. ²³And the nations will know why the family of Israel was carried away as prisoners to other countries. They will learn that my people turned against me. So I turned away from them. I let their

enemies defeat them. So my people were killed in battle. ²⁴They sinned and made themselves filthy. So I punished them for the things they did. I turned away from them and refused to help them.”

²⁵So the Lord my Master says these things: “Now I will bring the family of Jacob back from captivity. I will have mercy on the whole family of Israel. I will show my strong feelings for my holy name. ²⁶The people will forget their shame and all the times they turned against me. They will live in safety on their own land. No one will make them afraid. ²⁷I will bring my people back from other countries. I will gather them from the lands of their enemies. Then many nations will see how holy I am. ²⁸They will know that I am the Lord their God. Why? Because I made them to leave their homes and go as prisoners to other countries. And then I gathered them together and brought them back to their own land. ²⁹I will pour my Spirit onto the family of Israel. And after that time, I will never turn away from my people again.” The Lord my Master said those things.

The New Temple

40 In the twenty-fifth year after we were taken away into captivity, at the beginning of the year (*October*), on the tenth day of the month* the Lord’s power came on me. This was fourteen years after the Babylonians took Jerusalem. On that day, the Lord took me there in a vision.

²In a vision,* God carried me to the land of Israel. He put me down near a very high mountain. On that mountain in front of me was a building that looked like a city.* ³The Lord brought me there. There was a man there that looked shiny like polished bronze. That man had a cloth tape measure and a measuring rod in his hand. He was standing by the gate. ⁴The man said to me, “Son of man,* use your

tenth day of the month This was the Day of Atonement, 573 B.C. See Lev. 25:9 and Lev. 36:24

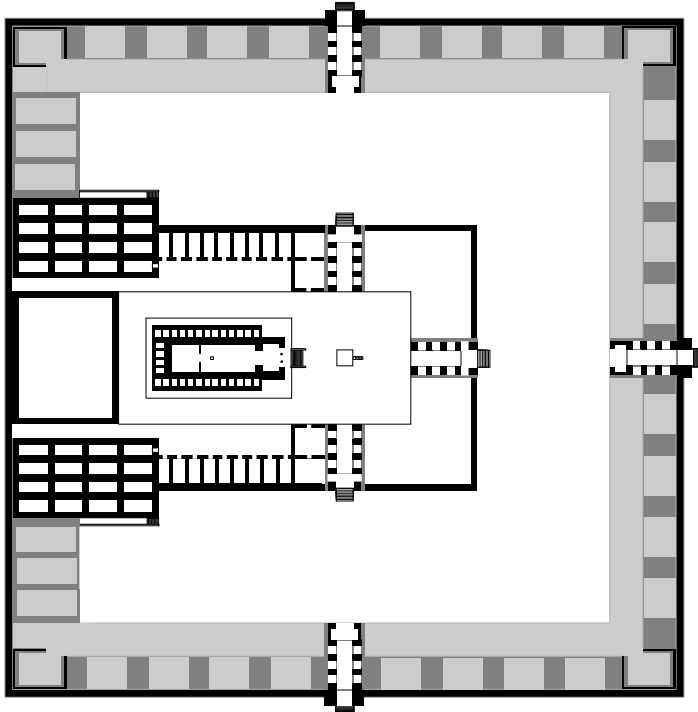
vision(s) Like a dream that God used to speak to people.

On the mountain ... city Or, “On the mountain, there was a building that looked like a city with a city south of it.”

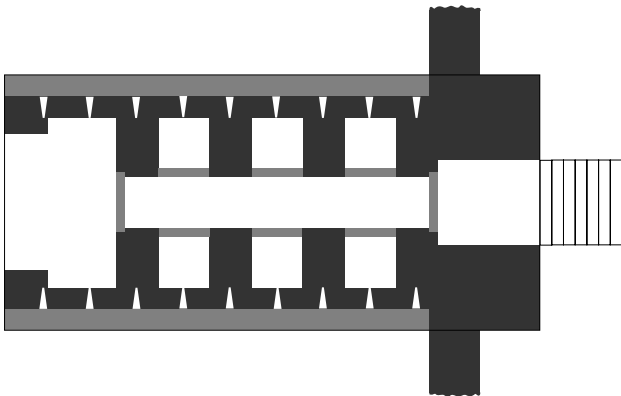
Hamonah This Hebrew word means “crowd.”

Son of man This was usually just a way of saying “a person,” or “a human being.” Here it is a title for the man, Ezekiel.

A
Reconstruction
of the Temple
Described by Ezekiel



0 500
Measurements in long cubit of 20.67 inches (52.5cm)
0 50



The Eastern Gate
in the Outer Courtyard

eyes and ears. Look at these things and listen to me. Pay attention to everything that I show you. Why? Because you have been brought here so I can show you these things. You must tell the family of Israel all that you see.”

⁵I saw a wall that went all the way around the outside of the temple.* In the man’s hand there was a ruler for measuring things. It was 6 cubits* long using the long measurement.* So the man measured the thickness of the wall. It was one ruler* thick. The man measured the height of the wall. It was one ruler tall.

⁶Then the man went to the east gate. The man walked up its steps and measured the opening for the gate. It was one ruler* wide. ⁷The rooms for the guards were one ruler long and one ruler wide. The walls between the rooms were 5 cubits* thick. The opening by the porch at the end of the gateway that faced the temple was also one ruler wide. ⁸Then the man measured the porch. ⁹It was 8 cubits* long. The man measured the walls on either side of the gate. Each side wall was 2 cubits* wide. The porch was at the end of the gateway that faced the temple. ¹⁰There were three little rooms on each side of the gateway. All of these rooms measured the same. And all of their side walls measured the same. ¹¹The man measured the entrance to the gateway. It was 10 cubits* wide and 13 cubits* long. ¹²There was a low wall in front of each room. That wall was 1 cubit* tall and 1 cubit thick. The rooms were square. Each wall was 6 cubits* long.

¹³The man measured the gateway from [outside edge of] the roof of one room to the [outside edge of] roof of the opposite room. It was 25 cubits.* Each door was directly

opposite the other door. ¹⁴*The man measured the faces of all the side walls, including the side walls on either side of the porch at the courtyard. The total was 60 cubits.* ¹⁵From the inside edge of the outer gate to the far end of the porch was 50 cubits.* ¹⁶There were small windows* above all the guard rooms, the side walls, and the porch. The wide part of the windows faced into the gateway. There were carvings of palm trees on the walls that were on either side of the gateway.

The Outside Courtyard

¹⁷Then the man led me into the outer courtyard. I saw thirty rooms and a pavement that went all the way around the courtyard. The rooms were along the wall and faced in toward the pavement. ¹⁸The pavement was as wide as the gates were long. The pavement reached to the inside end of the gateway. This was the lower pavement. ¹⁹The man measured the distance from the inside of the lower gateway to the outside of the [inner] courtyard. It was 100 cubits* on the east side as well as on the north side.

²⁰Then the man measured the length and width of the north gate that was in the wall surrounding the outer courtyard. ²¹This gateway, its three rooms on each side, and its porch all measured the same as the first gate. The gateway was 50 cubits* long and 25 cubits* wide. ²²Its windows, its porch, and its carvings of palm trees measured the same as the east gate. [On the outside,] there were seven steps leading up to the gate. And its porch was at the inside end of the gateway. ²³Across [the courtyard] from the north gate, there was a gate to the inner courtyard. It was like the gate on the east. The man measured from the gate [on the inner wall] to the gate [on the outer wall]. It was 100 cubits* from gate to gate.

temple The special building in Jerusalem for Jewish worship.

6 cubits 10’ 4” or 3.15m.

long measurement Literally, “a cubit and a handbreadth.” This cubit equals 20.67 inches (52.5cm).

one ruler That is, 6 cubits (10’ 4” or 3.15m).

5 cubits 8’ 7 5/16” or 2.625m.

8 cubits 13’ 9 5/16” or 4.2m.

2 cubits 3’ 5 5/16” or 105cm.

10 cubits 17’ 2 11/16” or 5.25m.

13 cubits 22’ 4 11/16” or 6.825m.

1 cubit 1’ 8 5/8” or 52.5cm.

25 cubits 43’ 3/4” or 13.125m.

Verse 14 The meaning of this verse is very uncertain.

60 cubits 103’ 4 3/16” or 31.5m.

50 cubits 86’ 1 1/2” or 26.25m.

small windows These let the soldiers defending the city shoot arrows out at the enemy. The narrow part of the window was on the enemy’s side of the wall to give the smallest target.

100 cubits 172’ 3” or 52.5m.

²⁴Then the man led me to the south wall. I saw a gate in the south [wall]. The man measured its side walls and its porch. They measured the same as the other gates. ²⁵The gateway and its porch had windows all around like the other gates. The gateway was 50 cubits* long and 25 cubits* wide. ²⁶There were seven steps going up to this gate. And its porch was at the inside end of the gateway. It had carvings of palm trees on the walls that were on either side of the gateway. ²⁷A gate was on the south side of the inner courtyard. The man measured from the gate [on the inner wall] to the gate [on the outer wall]. It was 100 cubits* from gate to gate.

The Inner Courtyard

²⁸Then the man led me through the south gate into the inner courtyard. He measured this gate. This gateway measured the same as the other gates to the inner courtyard. ²⁹Its rooms, side walls, and porch also measured the same as the other gates. There were windows all around gateway and its porch. The gateway was 50 cubits* long and 25 cubits* wide. ³⁰The porch was 25 cubits* wide and 5 cubits* long. ³¹And its porch was at the end of the gateway next to the outer courtyard. Carvings of palm trees were on the walls [on either side of the gateway]. There were eight steps leading up to the gate.

³²Then the man led me into the inner courtyard on the east side. He measured the gate. It measured the same as the other gates. ³³Its rooms, side walls, and porch also measured the same as the other gates. There were windows all around the gateway and its porch. The gateway was 50 cubits* long and 25 cubits* wide. ³⁴And its porch was at the end of the gateway next to the outer courtyard. Carvings of palm trees were on the walls on either side of the gateway. There were eight steps leading up to the gate.

50 cubits 86' 1 1/2" or 26.25m.
25 cubits 43' 3/4" or 13.125m.
100 cubits 172' 3" or 52.5m.
5 cubits 8' 7 5/16" or 2.625m.

³⁵Then the man led me to the north gate. He measured it. It measured the same as the other gates. ³⁶Its rooms, side walls, and porch also measured the same as the other gates. There were windows all around gateway and its porch. The gateway was 50 cubits* long and 25 cubits* wide. ³⁷And its porch* was at the end of the gateway next to the outer courtyard. Carvings of palm trees were on the walls on either side of the gateway. There were eight steps leading up to the gate.

The Rooms For Preparing Sacrifices

³⁸There was a room with a door that opened onto the porch of this gate. This is where the priests wash the animals for the burnt offerings. ³⁹There were two tables on each side [of the door] of this porch. The animals for the burnt offerings, the sin offerings, and the guilt offerings were killed on these tables. ⁴⁰There were also two tables on each side of the door on the outside [wall] of this porch. ⁴¹So there were four tables on the inside [wall] and four tables on the outside [wall]—eight tables that the priests used when they killed the animals for sacrifices. ⁴²There were also four tables made from cut stone for the burnt offerings. These tables were 1 1/2 cubits* long, 1 1/2 cubits* wide, and 1 cubit* high. On these tables, the priests put their tools that they used to kill the animals for the burnt offerings and other sacrifices. ⁴³There were meat hooks three inches long* on all the walls in this area. The meat of the offerings was put on the tables.

The Priests' Rooms

⁴⁴There were two rooms in the inner courtyard. One was by the north gate facing south. The other room was by the south* gate facing north. ⁴⁵The man said to me, "The room that looks to the south is for the priests who are on duty and serving in the temple area. ⁴⁶But the room that looks to the north is

porch Hebrew has "side walls."

1 1/2 cubits 2'7" or 78.75cm.

1 cubit 1' 8 5/8" or 52.5cm.

Meat hooks ... long Or, "Double shelves three inches wide ..."

south This is from the ancient Greek translation. The Hebrew has "east."

for the priests who are on duty and serving at the altar.* The priests are from the family group of Levi. But this second group of priests are the descendants* of Zadok. They are the only people who can carry the sacrifices to the altar to serve the Lord.”*

⁴⁷The man measured the [inner] courtyard. The courtyard was a perfect square. It was 100 cubits* long and 100 cubits wide. The altar* was in front of the temple.

The Porch of the Temple

⁴⁸Then the man led me to the porch of the temple and measured the walls on either side of the porch. Each side wall was 5 cubits* thick and 3 cubits* wide. And the opening [between them] was 14 cubits.* ⁴⁹The porch was 20 cubits* wide and 12 cubits* long.* Ten steps went up to the porch. There were two columns for the walls on either side of the porch—one at each wall.

The Holy Place of the Temple

41 Then the man led me into the Holy Place. He measured the walls on either side of the room. Those side walls were 6 cubits* thick on each side. ²The door was 10 cubits* wide. The sides of the doorway were 5 cubits* on each side. The man measured that room. It was 40 cubits* long, and 20 cubits* wide.

The Most Holy Place in the Temple

³Then the man went into the last room. He measured the walls on either side of the doorway. Each side wall was 2 cubits* thick

and 7 cubits* wide. The doorway was 6 cubits* wide. ⁴Then the man measured the length of the room. It was 20 cubits* long and 20 cubits* wide. The man said to me, “This is the Most Holy Place.”

Other Rooms around the Temple

⁵Then the man measured the wall of the temple. It was 6 cubits* thick. There were side rooms all around the temple. They were 4 cubits* wide. ⁶The side rooms were on three different floors, one above the other. There were 30 rooms on each floor. The wall of the temple was built with ledges. The side rooms rested on these ledges but were not attached to the temple wall itself. ⁷Each floor of the side rooms around the temple was wider than the floor below. The [walls of] the rooms around the temple [became narrower] the higher they went so the rooms on the top floors were wider. A stairway went up from the lowest floor to the highest floor through the middle floor.

⁸I also saw that the temple had a raised base all the way around it. It was the foundation for the side rooms, and it was a full ruler* high. ⁹The outer wall of the side rooms was 5 cubits* thick. There was an open area between the side rooms of the temple ¹⁰and [the priests'] rooms. It was 20 cubits* wide and went all the way around the temple. ¹¹The doors of the side rooms opened onto the raised base. There was one entrance on the north side and one entrance on the south side. The raised base was 5 cubits* wide all around.

¹²There was a building in this restricted area west of the temple. The building was 70 cubits* wide and 90 cubits* long. The wall of the building was 5 cubits* thick all around. ¹³Then the man measured the temple. The temple was 100 cubits* long. The restricted area, including the building and its walls, was also 100 cubits* long. ¹⁴The restricted area on the east side, in front of the temple, was 100 cubits* long.

altar(s) A stone table or raised area used for offering sacrifices.
descendants A person's children and their future families.
carry the sacrifices ... to serve the Lord Literally, “approach the Lord to serve him.”

100 cubits 172'3" or 52.5m.

5 cubits 8' 7 5/16" or 2.625m.

3 cubits 5'2" or 157.5cm.

14 cubits 24'1 3/8" or 7.35m.

20 cubits 34'5 3/8" or 10.5m.

12 cubits 20'8" or 6.3m.

20 ... long Literally, “20 cubits long ... 12 cubits wide.”

6 cubits 10' 4" or 3.15m.

10 cubits 17'2 11/16" or 5.25m.

40 cubits 68'10 3/4" or 21m.

2 cubits 3'5 5/16" or 105cm.

7 cubits 12' 11/16" or 3.675m.

4 cubits 6'10 5/8" or 2.1m.

full ruler That is, 6 cubits (10'4" or 3.15m).

70 cubits 120'6 7/8" or 36.75m.

90 cubits 155' 1/4" or 47.25m.

The Priests' Room

¹⁵The man measured the length of the building in the restricted area at the rear of the temple. It was 100 cubits* from one wall to the other wall.

The Most Holy Place, the Holy Place, and the Porch [that looked out onto the inner] courtyard ¹⁶had wood paneling on all the walls. All the windows and doors had wood trim around them. By the doorway, the Temple had wood paneling from the floor up to the windows, up to the part of the wall ¹⁷over the doorway.

On all the walls in the inner room and the outer room of the temple were carvings ¹⁸of Cherub angels and palm trees. A palm tree was between Cherub angels. Every Cherub angel had two faces. ¹⁹One face was a man's face looking toward the palm tree on one side. The other face was a lion's face looking toward the palm tree on the other side. They were carved all around on the temple. ²⁰From the floor to the area above the door, Cherub angels and palm trees were carved on all walls of the Holy Place.

²¹The walls on either side of the Holy Place were square. In front of the Most Holy Place, there was something that looked like ²²an altar* made from wood. It was 3 cubits* high and 2 cubits* long. Its corners, its base, and its sides were wood. The man said to me, "This is the table that is before the Lord."

²³Both the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place had a double door. ²⁴Each of the doors was made from two smaller doors. Each door was really two swinging doors. ²⁵Also Cherub angels and palm trees were carved on the doors of the Holy Place. They were like those carved on the walls. There was a wood roof over the front of the porch. ²⁶There were windows with frames around them and palm trees on the walls on both sides of the porch, on the roof over the porch, and on the rooms around the temple.

42 Then the man led me through the north gate out into the outer courtyard. He led me [west] to a building with many rooms that was west of the restricted area and the building on the north side. ²This building was 100 cubits* long and 50 cubits* wide. People entered it from [the courtyard on] the north side. ³The building was three stories tall and had balconies. The 20-cubit* inner courtyard was between the building and the Temple. On the other side, the rooms faced the pavement of the outer courtyard. ⁴There was a path 10 cubits* wide and 100 cubits* long running along the south side of the building, even though the entrance was on the north side. ⁵⁻⁶Since this building was three stories tall and did not have columns like the columns of the outer courtyards, the top rooms were farther back than the rooms on the middle and bottom floors. The top floor was narrower than the middle floor which was narrower than the bottom floor because the balconies used this space. ⁷There was a wall outside that was parallel to the rooms and ran along the outer courtyard. It ran in front of the rooms for 50 cubits.* ⁸The row of rooms that ran along the outer courtyard was 50 cubits* long, although the total length of the building, as on the Temple side, was 100 cubits* long. ⁹The entrance was below these rooms at the east end of the building so people could enter from the outer courtyard. ¹⁰The entrance was at the start of the wall beside the courtyard.

There were rooms on the south side, by the restricted area and the other building. These rooms had a ¹¹path in front of them. They were like the rooms on the north side. They had the same length and width and the same kind of doors. ¹²The entrance to the lower rooms was at the east end of the building so people could enter from the open end of the path by the wall.

¹³The man said to me, "The north rooms and south rooms across from the restricted area are holy. These rooms are for the priests that offer

100 cubits 172'3" or 52.5m.

altar(s) A stone table or raised area used for offering sacrifices.

3 cubits 5'2" or 157.5cm.

2 cubits 3'5 5/16" or 105cm.

50 cubits 86'1 1/2" or 26.25m.

20 cubits 34'5 3/8" or 10.5m.

10 cubits 17'2 11/16" or 5.25m.

the sacrifices to the Lord. That is where the priests will eat the most holy offerings. And that is where they will put the most holy offerings. Why? Because this place is holy. The most holy offerings are: the grain offerings, the sin offerings, and the guilt offerings. ¹⁴The priests who enter the holy area must leave their serving clothes in that holy place before they go out into the outer courtyard. Why? Because these clothes are holy. If a priest wants to go to the part of the temple where the other people are, then he must go to those rooms and put on other clothes.

The Outer Courtyard

¹⁵The man had finished measuring inside the Temple area. Then he brought me out through the east gate and measured all around that area. ¹⁶The man measured the east side with the ruler. It was 500 cubits* long. ¹⁷He measured the north side. It was 500 cubits long. ¹⁸He measured the south side. It was 500 cubits long. ¹⁹He went around to the west side and measured it. It was 500 cubits long. ²⁰He measured the four walls that went all the way around [the temple]. The wall was 500 cubits long and 500 cubits wide. It separated the holy area from the area that is not holy.

The Lord Will Live Among His People

43 The man led me to the east gate. ²There the Glory of the God of Israel came from the east. God's voice was loud like the sound of the sea. The ground was bright with the light from the Glory of God. ³The vision* that I saw was like the vision I saw by the Kebar Canal. I bowed with my face to the ground. ⁴The Glory of the Lord came into the temple through the east gate.

⁵Then the Spirit* picked me up and brought me into the inner courtyard. The Glory of the Lord filled the temple. ⁶I heard someone speaking to me from inside the temple. The man was still standing beside me. ⁷The voice from the temple said to me, "Son of man,*

this is the place with my throne and footstool. I will live in this place among the people of Israel forever. The family of Israel won't ruin my holy name again. The kings and their people won't bring shame to my name by doing sexual sins* or by burying the dead bodies of their kings in this place. ⁸They won't bring shame to my name by putting their threshold next to my threshold, and their door post next to my door post. In the past, only a wall separated them from me. So they brought shame to my name every time they sinned and did those terrible things. That is why I became angry and destroyed them. ⁹Now let them take their sexual sins and the dead bodies of their kings far away from me. Then I will live among them forever.

¹⁰"Now, Son of man,* tell the family of Israel about the temple. Then, when they learn about the plans for the temple, they will be ashamed of their sins. ¹¹And they will be ashamed of all the bad things they have done. Let them know the design of the temple. Let them know how it should be built, where the entrances and exits are, and all the designs on it. Teach them about all its rules and all its laws. And write down these things for everyone to see so they can obey all the laws and rules for the temple. ¹²This is the law of the temple: The whole area on the top of the mountain within these boundaries is most holy. This is the law of the temple.

The Altar

¹³"And these are the measurements of the altar* in cubits using the long measurement.* There was a gutter all the way around the base of the altar. It was 1 cubit* deep, and [each side] was 1 cubit wide. There was a rim around the edge 1 span* high. And this was how tall the altar was: ¹⁴From the ground to the lower ledge,

sexual sins This might also mean "turning away from God and being unfaithful to him."

altar(s) A stone table or raised area used for offering sacrifices.

long measurement Literally, "a cubit and a handbreadth."

1 cubit 1' 8 5/8" or 52.5cm.

1 span The distance from the tip of the thumb to the tip of the little finger, about 9" or 22cm.

500 cubits 861'3" or 262.5m.

vision Something like a dream that God used to speak to people.

Spirit Or "spirit," or "wind."

Son of man This was usually just a way of saying "a person," or "a human being." But here this is a title for the man, Ezekiel.

the base measures 2 cubits.* It was 1 cubit* wide. It measures 4 cubits* from the smaller ledge to the larger ledge. It was 2 cubits wide. ¹⁵The place for the fire on the altar was 4 cubits high. The four corners were shaped like horns. ¹⁶The place for the fire on the altar was 12 cubits* long by 12 cubits wide. It was perfectly square. ¹⁷The ledge was also square, 14 cubits* long by 14 cubits wide. The border around it was 1/2 cubit* wide. (The gutter around the base was 2 cubits wide.) The steps going up to the altar were on the east side.”

¹⁸Then the man said to me, “Son of man,* the Lord and Master says these things: ‘These are the rules for the altar:* At the time you build the altar, use these rules to offer burnt offerings and to sprinkle blood on it. ¹⁹You will give a young bull as a sin offering to the men from Zadok’s family. These men are the priests from the family group of Levi. They are the men who serve me by bringing the offerings to me.’” The Lord my Master said these things. ²⁰“You will take some of the bull’s blood and put it on the altar’s four horns, on the four corners of the ledge, and on the rim around it. In this way, you will make the altar pure. ²¹Then take the bull for the sin offering and burn it in the proper place in the temple area, outside the Temple building.

²²On the second day you will offer a male goat that has nothing wrong with it. It will be for a sin offering. The priests will make the altar* pure the same way they made it pure with the bull. ²³When you have finished making the altar pure you will offer a young bull that has nothing wrong with it and a ram* from the flock that has nothing wrong in it. ²⁴Then you will offer them before the Lord. The priests will sprinkle salt on them. Then the priests will offer the bull and ram up as a

2 cubits 3’5 5/16” or 105cm.

1 cubit 1’8 5/8” or 52.5cm.

4 cubits 6’10 5/8” or 2.1m.

12 cubits 20’8” or 6.3m.

14 cubits 24’1 3/8” or 7.35m.

1/2 cubit 10 5/16” or 26.25cm.

Son of man This was usually just a way of saying “a person,” or “a human being.” But here this is a title for the man, Ezekiel.

altar(s) A stone table or raised area used for offering sacrifices.

ram(s) A male sheep.

burnt offering to the Lord. ²⁵You will prepare a goat every day for seven days for a sin offering. Also, you will prepare a young bull and a ram from the flock. These animals must have nothing wrong with them. ²⁶For seven days the priests will make the altar pure and ready for use in worshiping God. ²⁷After seven days, on the eighth day, the priests must offer your burnt offerings and fellowship offerings on the altar. Then I will accept you.” The Lord my Master said these things.

The Outer Gate

44 Then the man brought me back to the east gate of the temple area. We were outside the gate and the gate was shut. ²The Lord said to me, “This gate will stay shut. It won’t be opened. No one will enter through it. Why? Because the Lord of Israel has entered through it. So it must stay shut. ³Only the ruler of the people may sit at this gate when he eats a meal with the Lord. He must enter through the porch of the gateway and go out the same way.”

The Holiness of the Temple

⁴Then the man led me through the north gate to the front of the temple. I looked and saw the Glory of the Lord filling the Lord’s temple. I bowed with my face touching the ground. ⁵The Lord said to me, “Son of man,* look very carefully! Use your eyes and ears. Look at these things. And listen very carefully to everything that I tell you about all the rules and laws about the Lord’s temple. Look carefully at the entrances to the temple and at all the exits from the holy place. ⁶Then give this message to all the people of Israel that refused to obey me. Tell them, ‘The Lord my Master says these things: Family of Israel, I have had enough of the terrible things you have done! ⁷You brought foreigners into my temple—and those people were not truly circumcised*—they did not give themselves completely to me. In this way you made my temple unclean. You broke our

truly circumcised Literally, “they were not circumcised in their heart or in their body.” This was done to every male to show he shared in the Agreement God made with Israel. See Gen. 17:9–14.

agreement and did terrible things, and then you gave me the offerings of bread, the fat, and the blood. But this only made my temple unclean. ⁸You did not take care of my holy things. No, you let foreigners have responsibility of my holy place!”

⁹The Lord my Master says these things, “A foreigner that is not truly circumcised* must not come into my temple—not even a foreigner living permanently among the people of Israel. He must be circumcised and he must give himself completely to me [before he can come into my temple.] ¹⁰In the past, the Levites left me when Israel turned away from me. Israel left me to follow their idols.* The Levites will be punished for their sin. ¹¹The Levites were chosen to serve in my holy place. They guarded the gates of the temple. They served in the temple. They killed the animals for the sacrifices and burnt offerings for the people. They were chosen to help the people and to serve them. ¹²But those Levites helped the people sin against me! They helped the people worship their idols! So I am making this promise against them: ‘They will be punished for their sin.’” The Lord my Master said this.

¹³“So the Levites will not bring offerings to me like the priests. They won’t come near any of my holy things or the things that are most holy. They must carry their shame because of the terrible things that they did. ¹⁴But I will let them take care of the temple. They will work in the temple and do the things that must be done in it.

¹⁵“The priests are all from the family group of Levi. But only priests from Zadok’s family took care of my holy place when the people of Israel turned away from me. So only Zadok’s descendants will bring offerings to me. They will stand before me to offer me the fat and the blood from the animals they sacrifice.” The Lord my Master said those things! ¹⁶“They will enter my holy place. They will

come near my table to serve me. They will take care of the things I gave them. ¹⁷When they enter the gates of the inner courtyard, they will wear linen clothes. They won’t wear wool while they serve at the gates of the inner courtyard and in the temple. ¹⁸They will wear linen turbans* on their heads. And they will wear linen underwear. They won’t wear anything that makes them sweat. ¹⁹Before they go out into the outer courtyard to the people, they will take off the clothes they wear while serving me. They will put these clothes away in the holy rooms. Then they will put on other clothes. In this way, they will not let people touch those holy clothes.

²⁰“These priests won’t shave their heads or let their hair grow long. [This would show they are sad, and the priests must be happy about serving the Lord.] The priests may only trim the hair of their heads. ²¹None of the priests may drink wine when they go into the inner courtyard. ²²The priests must not marry a widow* or a divorced woman. No, they must marry only a virgin* from the family of Israel or a woman whose dead husband was a priest.

²³“Also, the priests must teach my people the difference between the holy things and the things that are not holy. They must help my people know what is clean and what is unclean. ²⁴The priests will be the judges in court. They will follow my laws when they judge people. They will obey my laws and my rules at all my special feasts. They will respect my special days of rest and keep them holy. ²⁵They won’t go near a dead person to make themselves unclean. But they may make themselves unclean if the dead person is their father, mother, son, daughter, brother, or a sister that is not married. ²⁶[This will make the priest unclean.] After the priest has been made clean, he must wait seven days. ²⁷Then he can go back into the holy place. But on the day he goes into the inner courtyard to serve in the holy place, he must offer a sin

truly circumcised Literally, “they were not circumcised in their heart or in their body.” This was done to every male to show he shared in the Agreement God made with Israel. See Gen. 17:9–14.

idols Statues of false gods that people worshiped.

turban(s) A head covering made by wrapping a long piece of cloth around the head or around a cap worn on the head.

widow A woman whose husband has died.

virgin A pure young woman that has not had sexual relations with anyone.

offering for himself.” The Lord my Master said these things.

²⁸“About the land that will belong to the Levites: I am their property. You won’t give the Levites any property (*land*) in Israel. I am their share in Israel. ²⁹They will get to eat the grain offerings, the sin offerings, and the guilt offerings. Everything the people in Israel give to the Lord will be theirs. ³⁰And the first part of the harvest from every kind of crop will be for the priests. You will also give the priests the first of your dough. This will bring blessings to your house. ³¹The priests must not eat any bird or animal that died a natural death or had been torn to pieces [by a wild animal].

The Division of the Land for Holy Use

45 “You will divide the land for the Israelite family groups by throwing lots.* At that time, you will separate a part of the land. It will be a holy part for the Lord. The land will be 25,000 cubits* long and 20,000 cubits* wide. All of this land will be holy. ²A square area that is 500 cubits* long on each side will be for the temple. There will be an open space around the temple that is 50 cubits* wide. ³In the holy area you will measure 25,000 cubits long and 10,000 cubits* wide. The temple will be in this area. The temple area will be the Most Holy Place.

⁴This holy part of the land will be for the priests, the servants of the temple, where they come near to serve the Lord. It will be a place for the priests’ houses and a place for the temple. ⁵Another area, 25,000 cubits* long and 10,000 cubits* wide, will be for the Levites who serve in the temple. This land will also belong to the Levites for their cities to live in.

⁶“And you will give the city an area that is 5,000 cubits* wide and 25,000 cubits* long. It

will be along the side of the holy area. It will be for all the family of Israel. ⁷The ruler will have land on both sides of the holy area and of the land belonging to the city. It will be in the area between the holy area and the area belonging to the city. It will be the same width as the land that belongs to a family group. It will go all the way from the west border to the east border. ⁸This land will be the ruler’s property in Israel. So the ruler won’t need to make life hard for my people any more. But they will give the land to the Israelites for their family groups.”

⁹The Lord my Master said these things, “Enough, you rulers of Israel! Stop being cruel and stealing things from people! Be fair and do good things! Stop forcing my people out from their homes!” The Lord my Master said these things.

¹⁰“Stop cheating people. Use accurate scales and measures! ¹¹The ephah (*a dry measure*) and the bath (*a liquid measure*) must be the same size: A bath and an ephah must both equal 1/10 homer.* Those measures will be based on the homer. ¹²A shekel* must equal 20 gerahs. A mina must equal 60 shekels. It must be equal to 20 shekels plus 25 shekels plus 15 shekels.

¹³“This is a special offering that you must give:

- 1/6 ephah* of wheat for every homer* of wheat;
- 1/6 ephah of barley for every homer of barley;
- ¹⁴ 1/10 bath* of olive oil for every cor* of olive oil;
- Remember:
 - Ten baths make a homer.
 - Ten baths make a cor.
- ¹⁵ And one sheep for every 200 sheep from every watering hole in Israel.

lots Sticks, stones, or pieces of bone used like dice for making decisions. See Proverbs 16:33.

25,000 cubits 8.12 miles or 13.125km.

20,000 cubits 6.52 miles or 10.5km. This is from the Greek translation. The Hebrew has 10,000 cubits (3.26 miles or 5.25km).

500 cubits 861’3” or 262.5m.

50 cubits 86’1 1/2” or 26.25m.

10,000 cubits 3.26 miles or 5.25km.

5,000 cubits 1.63 miles or 2.625km.

homer A measure that equals about 6 bushels or 48.4 gallons or 220 liters.

shekel A weight equal to 2/5 of an ounce or 11.5 grams. This also this became an amount of money too.

1/6 ephah 14 cups or 3.67 liters.

1/10 bath 1/2 gallon or 2.2 liters

cor 55 gallons or 220 liters.

“Those special offerings are for the grain offerings, for the burnt offerings, and for the fellowship offerings. These offerings are to make the people pure.” The Lord my Master said these things.

¹⁶“Every person in the country will give to this offering for the ruler of Israel. ¹⁷But the ruler must give the things needed for the special holy days. The ruler must provide the burnt offerings, the grain offerings, and the drink offerings for the feast days, for the New Moons, for the Sabbaths, and for all the special feasts of the family of Israel. The ruler must give all the sin offerings, grain offerings, burnt offerings, and fellowship offerings that are used to make the family of Israel pure.”

¹⁸The Lord my Master says these things, “In the first month, on the first day of the month, you will take a young bull that has nothing wrong with it. You must use that bull to make the temple pure. ¹⁹The priest will take some of the blood from the sin offering and put it on the doorposts of the temple and on the four corners of the ledge of the altar,* and on the posts of the gate to the inner courtyard. ²⁰You will do the same thing on the seventh day of that month for any person who has sinned by mistake or by not knowing it. So you will make the temple pure.

Offerings During the Passover Feast

²¹“On the 14th day of the first month you must celebrate the Passover. The festival of unleavened bread* begins at this time. That festival continues for seven days. ²²At that time, the ruler will offer a bull for himself and for all the people of Israel. The bull will be for a sin offering. ²³During the seven days of the feast the ruler will offer seven bulls and seven rams* that have nothing wrong with them. They will be burnt offerings to the Lord. The ruler will offer one bull on every day of the seven days of the festival. And he will offer a male goat every day for a sin offering. ²⁴The ruler will give an ephah* [of barley] as a grain offering with each

bull, and an ephah [of barley] with each ram. And the ruler must give a hin* of oil for each ephah [of grain]. ²⁵The ruler must do the same thing for the seven days of the Festival [of Shelters]. This festival begins on the 15th day of the seventh month. These offerings will be the sin offering, the burnt offering, the grain offering and the oil offering.”

The Ruler and the Festivals

46 The Lord my Master says these things, “The east gate of the inner courtyard will be closed on the six working days. But it will be opened on the Sabbath* day and on the day of the New Moon. ²The ruler will go into the porch of that gate and stand by the gatepost. Then the priests will offer the ruler’s burnt offering and fellowship offerings. The ruler will worship at the opening of that gate. Then he will go out. But the gate will not be shut until evening. ³On the Sabbath day and on the day of the New Moon, the common people will also worship the Lord at that gate.

⁴The ruler will offer burnt offerings to the Lord on the Sabbath.* He must provide six lambs that have nothing wrong with them, and a ram* that has nothing wrong with it. ⁵He must give an ephah* of grain offering with the ram. As for the grain offering with the lambs, the ruler can give as much as he wants. But he must give 1 hin* of olive oil for each ephah of grain.

⁶“On the day of the New Moon he must offer a young bull that has nothing wrong with it. He will also offer six lambs and a ram that have nothing wrong with them. ⁷The ruler must give an ephah* of grain offering with the bull, and an ephah of grain offering with the ram. As for the grain offering with the lambs, the ruler can give as much as he wants. But he must give 1 hin* of olive oil for each ephah of grain.

⁸“When the ruler goes in, he must enter at the porch of the east gate—and he must leave that same way.

⁹“When the common people come to meet with the Lord at the special feasts, the person who enters through the north gate to worship

altar(s) A stone table or raised area used for offering sacrifices.

unleavened bread Bread made without yeast.

ram(s) A male sheep.

ephah A dry measure (3/5 bushel or 22 liters).

hin A liquid measure (1 gallon or 2.2 liters).

Sabbath Saturday, a special day of rest and worship for Jews.

ram(s) A male sheep.

will go out through the south gate. The person who enters through the south gate will go out through the north gate. No one will return the same way he entered. Each person must go out straight ahead. ¹⁰The ruler should be there among the people. When the people go in, the ruler will go in with them. When they go out, the ruler will go out.

¹¹“At the feasts and other special meetings, an ephah* of grain offering must be offered with each young bull. And an ephah of grain offering must be offered with each ram. As for the grain offering with the lambs, the ruler can give as much as he wants. But he must give 1 hin* of olive oil for each ephah of grain.

¹²“When the ruler gives a freewill offering to the Lord—it might be a burnt offering, a fellowship offering, or a freewill offering—the east gate will be opened for him. Then he will offer his burnt offering and his fellowship offerings like he does on the Sabbath* day. After he leaves, the gate will be shut.

The Daily Offering

¹³“Every day you will provide a year-old lamb that has nothing wrong with it. It will be for a burnt offering to the Lord. You will provide it every morning. ¹⁴Also, you will offer a grain offering with the lamb every morning. You will give 1/6 ephah* [of flour] and 1/3 hin* of oil to make the fine flour moist. It will be the daily grain offering to the Lord. ¹⁵So they will give the lamb, the grain offering and the oil every morning, for a burnt offering forever.”

Laws of Inheritance for the Ruler

¹⁶The Lord my Master says these things, “If the ruler gives a gift from part of his land to any of his sons, it will belong to his sons. It is their property. ¹⁷But if the ruler gives a gift from part of his land to one of his slaves, the gift will belong to the slave only until the year

of freedom.* Then the gift will go back to the ruler. Only the ruler’s sons will keep a gift of land from the ruler. ¹⁸And the ruler will not take any of the people’s land or force them to leave their land. He must give some of his own land to his sons. In that way, my people will not be forced to lose their land.”

The Special Kitchens

¹⁹The man led me through the entrance at the side of the gate. He led me to the holy rooms for the priests on the north side. There I saw a place at the west end [of the path]. ²⁰The man said to me, “This is the place where the priests will boil the guilt offering and the sin offering. It is where the priests will bake the grain offering. Why? So they will not need to bring these offerings out into the outer courtyard. So they will not bring those holy things out where the common people are.”

²¹Then the man led me out to the outer courtyard. He led me to the four corners of the courtyard. I saw smaller courtyards in each corner of the large courtyard. ²²There was a small, enclosed area in each of the four corners of the courtyard. Each small courtyard was 40 cubits* long and 30 cubits* wide. The four areas measured the same. ²³There was a brick wall around each of the four small courtyards. And there were places built into the brick walls for cooking. ²⁴The man said to me, “These are the kitchens where the people that serve at the temple cook the sacrifices for the people.”

The Water Flowing From the Temple

47 The man led me back to the entrance of the temple. I saw water coming out from under the east gate of the temple. (The front of the temple is on the east side.) The water flowed down from under the south end of the temple and ran south of the altar.* ²The man led me out through the north gate and

year of freedom Also called “Jubilee.” Every 50 years the Israelites were to set their slaves free if they were Israelites. Also the people gave all the land back to the Israelite family that originally owned the land.

40 cubits 68’10 3/4” or 21m.

30 cubits 51’8 1/16” or 15.75m.

altar(s) A stone table or raised area used for offering sacrifices.

ephah A dry measure (3/5 bushel or 22 liters).

hin A liquid measure (1 gallon or 2.2 liters).

Sabbath Saturday, a special day of rest and worship for the Jews.

1/6 ephah 14 cups or 3.67 liters.

then around the outside to the outer gate on the east side. The water was flowing out on the south side of the gate.

³The man walked east with a tape measure in his hand. He measured 1,000 cubits.* Then he told me to walk through the water at that place. The water was only ankle deep. ⁴The man measured another 1,000 cubits. Then he told me to walk through the water at that place. There, the water came up to my knees. Then he measured another 1,000 cubits and told me to walk through the water at that place. There, the water was waist deep. ⁵The man measured another 1,000 cubits. But there the water was too deep to cross. It had become a river. The water was deep enough to swim in. It was a river that was too deep to cross. ⁶Then the man said to me, “Son of Man,* did you pay close attention to the things you saw?”

Then the man led me back along the side of the river. ⁷As I walked back along the side of the river, I saw very many trees on both sides of the water. ⁸The man said to me, “This water flows east, down to the Arabah Valley. ⁹This water flows into the Dead Sea so the water in that sea becomes fresh and clean. There are many fish in this water. And all kinds of animals live where this river goes. ¹⁰You can see fishermen standing by the river all the way from En Gedi to En Eglaim. You can see them throwing their fishing nets and catching many kinds of fish. There are as many kinds of fish in the Dead Sea as there are in the Mediterranean Sea. ¹¹But the swamps and small areas of wet land will not become fresh. They will be left for salt. ¹²All kinds of fruit trees will grow on both sides of the river. Their leaves never will become dry and fall. The fruit will never stop growing on those trees. The trees will produce fruit every month. Why? Because the water for the trees comes from the temple. The fruit from the trees will be for food, and their leaves will be for healing.”

1,000 cubits 1/3 mile or .525km.

Son of Man This was usually just a way of saying “a person,” or “a human being.” But here this is a title for the man, Ezekiel.

Division of the Land for the Family Groups

¹³The Lord my Master says these things, “These are the borders for dividing the land among the twelve family groups of Israel. Joseph will have two parts. ¹⁴You will divide the land equally. I promised to give this land to your ancestors.* So I am giving this land to you.

¹⁵“Here are the borders of the land: On the north side, it goes from the Mediterranean Sea by the way of Hethlon where the road turns toward Hamath, and on to Zedad, ¹⁶Berothah, Sibraim (which is on the border between Damascus and Hamath) and Hazer Hatticon, which is on the border of Hauran. ¹⁷So the border will go from the sea to Hazar Enan on the northern border of Damascus, and Hamath. This will be on the north side.

¹⁸“On the east side, the border will go from Hazar Enan between Hauran and Damascus and continue along the Jordan River between Gilead and the land of Israel, to the eastern sea and all the way to Tamar. This will be the eastern border.

¹⁹“On the south side, the border will go from Tamar all the way to the oasis at Meribah-kadesh. Then it will go along the Brook of Egypt to the Mediterranean Sea. This will be the southern border.

²⁰“On the west side, the Mediterranean Sea will be the border all the way to the area in front of Lebo Hamath. This will be your western border.

²¹“So you will divide this land among you for the family groups of Israel. ²²You will divide it as a property for yourselves and for the foreigners who live among you and who have had children among you. These foreigners will be residents—they will be like natural born Israelites. You will divide some land for them among the family groups of Israel. ²³The family group where that resident lives must give him some land.” The Lord my Master said these things!

ancestors Literally, “fathers,” meaning a person’s parents, grandparents, and all the people they are descended from.

The Land for the Family Groups of Israel

48^{1–7}“The northern border goes east from the Mediterranean Sea, to Hethlon to Hamath Pass, and then all the way to Hazar Enan. This is on the border between Damascus and Hamath. The land for the family groups in this group will go from the east of these borders to the west. From north to south, the family groups in this area are: Dan, Asher, Naphtali, Manasseh, Ephraim, Reuben, Judah.

The Special Section of Land

⁸“The next area of land will be for a special use. This land is south of Judah’s land. This area is 25,000 cubits* long from north to south. And from east to west, it will be as wide as the land that belongs to the other family groups. The temple will be in the middle of this section of land. ⁹You will dedicate this land to the Lord. It will be 25,000 cubits long and 20,000 cubits* wide. ¹⁰This special area of land will be divided among the priest and Levites.

“The priests will get one part of this area. The land will be 25,000 cubits* long on the north side, 10,000 cubits* wide on the west side, 10,000 cubits wide on the east side, and 25,000 cubits long on the south side. The Lord’s temple will be in the middle of this area of land. ¹¹This land is for Zadok’s descendants. These men were chosen to be my holy priests. Why? Because they continued to serve me when the other people of Israel left me. Zadok’s family did not leave me like the other people from the family group of Levi. ¹²This special share from this holy part of the land will be especially for these priests. It will be next to the land of the Levites.

¹³“Next to the land for the priests, the Levites will have a share of the land. It will be 25,000 cubits* long and 10,000 cubits* wide. They will get the full length and width of this land—25,000 cubits long and 20,000 cubits* wide. ¹⁴The Levites will not sell or trade any

of this land. They will not be able to sell any of this land. They must not cut up this part of the country! Why? Because this land belongs to the Lord—it is very special. It is the best part of the land.

The Shares for the City Property

¹⁵“There will be an area of land 5,000 cubits* wide by 25,000 cubits* long that is left over from the land given to the priests and Levites. This land can be for the city, for grasslands for animals and for building houses. The common people may use this land. The city will be in the middle of it. ¹⁶These are the city’s measurements: The north side will be 4,500 cubits.* The south side will be 4,500 cubits. The east side will be 4,500 cubits. The west side will be 4,500 cubits. ¹⁷The city will have grasslands. These grasslands will be 250 cubits* on the north and 250 cubits on the south. They will be 250 cubits on the east and 250 cubits on the west. ¹⁸What is left of the length along the side of the holy area will be 10,000 cubits* on the east and 10,000 cubits on the west. This land will be along the side of the holy area. This land will grow food for the city workers. ¹⁹The city workers will till this land. The workers will be from all the family groups of Israel.

²⁰“This special area of land will be square. It will be 25,000 cubits* long by 25,000 cubits wide. You must set apart this area for its special purposes. One part is for the priests. One part is for the Levites. And one part is for the city.

^{21–22}“Part of that special land will be for the ruler of the country. That special area of land is square. It is 25,000 cubits* long by 25,000 cubits wide. Part of this special land is for the priests and part of it is for the Levites, and part of it is for the temple. The temple is in the middle of this area of land. The rest of the land belongs to the ruler of the country. The ruler will get the area between the land of Benjamin and the land of Judah.

25,000 cubits 8.12 miles or 13.125km.

20,000 cubits 6.52 miles or 10.5 km. Most Greek copies have 25,000 cubits and Hebrew has 10,000 cubits. But see Ez.45:1.

10,000 cubits 3.26 miles or 5.25km.

5,000 cubits 1.63 miles or 2.625km.

4,500 cubits 1.47 miles or 2.36km.

250 cubits 430’7 1/2” or 131.25m.

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²³⁻²⁷“South of this special area will be the land for the family groups that lived east of the Jordan River. Each family group will get a section of land that goes from the eastern border to the Mediterranean Sea. From north to south, these family groups are: Benjamin, Simeon, Issachar, Zebulun, and Gad.

²⁸“The south border of Gad’s land will go from Tamar to the Oasis of Meribah-kadesh, then along the Brook of Egypt to the Mediterranean Sea. ²⁹And that is the land that you will divide among the family groups of Israel. That is what each group will get.” The Lord my Master said these things!

The Gates of the City

³⁰“These are the gates of the city. The gates will be named for the family groups of Israel.

“The north side of the city will be 4,500 cubits* long. ³¹There will be three gates: Reuben’s Gate, Judah’s Gate, and Levi’s Gate.

³²“The east side of the city will be 4,500 cubits* long. There will be three gates: Joseph’s Gate, Benjamin’s Gate, and Dan’s Gate.

³³“The south side of the city will be 4,500 cubits* long. There will be three gates: Simeon’s Gate, Issachar’s Gate, and Zebulun’s Gate.

³⁴“The west side of the city will be 4,500 cubits* long. There will be three gates: Gad’s Gate, Asher’s Gate, and Naphtali’s Gate.

³⁵“The distance around the city will be 18,000 cubits.* From now on, the name of the city will be: THE LORD IS THERE.*

4,500 cubits 1.47 miles or 2.36km.

18,000 cubits 5.87 miles or 9.45km.

THE LORD IS THERE In Hebrew this name sounds like Jerusalem.