

to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that crawl on the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶Then God said, “Let us^a make man^A in^B our image, according to our likeness.^b They will rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the livestock, the whole earth, and the creatures that crawl^C on the earth.”^c

²⁷ So God created man
in his own image;
he created him
in the image of God;
he created them male
and female.^d

²⁸God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth,^e and subdue it. Rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, and every creature that crawls on the earth.”

²⁹God also said, “Look, I have given you every seed-bearing plant on the surface of the entire earth and every tree whose fruit contains seed. This will be food for you,^f ³⁰for all the wildlife of the earth, for every bird of the sky, and for every creature that crawls on the earth — everything having the breath of life in it — I have given^D every green plant for food.”^g And it was so. ³¹God saw all that he had made, and it was very good indeed.^h Evening came and then morning: the sixth day.

2 So the heavens and the earth and everything in them were completed.ⁱ ²On the seventh^E day God had completed his work that he had done, and he rested^F on the seventh day from

all his work that he had done.^j ³God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy, for on it he rested^k from all his work of creation.^l

MAN AND WOMAN IN THE GARDEN

⁴These are the records^m of the heavens and the earth, concerning their creation. At the time^G that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens, ⁵no shrub of the fieldⁿ had yet grown on the land,^h and no plant of the field had yet sprouted, for the LORD God had not made it rain on the land, and there was no man to work the ground. ⁶But mist would come up from the earth and water all the ground. ⁷Then the LORD God formed the man out of the dust from the ground^o and breathed the breath of life into his nostrils,^p and the man became a living being.^q

⁸The LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east,^r and there he placed the man he had formed. ⁹The LORD God caused to grow out of the ground every tree pleasing in appearance and good for food, including the tree of life in the middle of the garden,^s as well as the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.^t

¹⁰A river went^l out from Eden to water the garden. From there it divided and became the source of four rivers.^l ¹¹The name of the first is Pishon, which flows through the entire land of Havilah,^{k,u} where there is gold. ¹²Gold from that land is pure;^l bdellium^m and onyxⁿ are also there. ¹³The name of the second river is Gihon, which flows through the entire land of Cush. ¹⁴The name of the third river is Tigris,^v which runs east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.^x

¹⁵The LORD God took the man and placed him in the garden of Eden to

^AOr human beings; Hb 'adam, also in v. 27 ^BOr as ^COr scurry ^DI have given added for clarity ^ESam, LXX, Syr read sixth ^FOr ceased, also in v. 3 ^GLit creation on the day ^HOr earth ^IOr goes ^JLit became four heads ^KOr of the Havilah ^LLit good ^MA yellowish, transparent gum resin ^NIdentity of this precious stone uncertain

1:26 ^aGn 3:22; 11:7 ^bGn 5:1,3; 9:6; Rm 8:29; 1Co 11:7; 15:49; 2Co 3:18; 4:4; Eph 4:24; Col 1:15; Jms 3:9 ^cGn 9:2; Ps 8:6-8; Jms 3:7 **1:27** ^dGn 5:2; Mt 19:4; Mk 10:6 **1:28** ^eGn 9:1,7 **1:29** ^fGn 9:3; Ps 104:14-15; 136:25; 145:15-16 **1:30** ^gPs 147:9 **1:31** ^h1Tm 4:4 **2:1** ⁱNeh 9:6; Ps 33:6; Is 34:4; 45:12 **2:2** ^jEx 20:8-11; 31:17; Dt 5:12-14; Heb 4:4 **2:3** ^kEx 31:17 ^lEx 20:11; 31:17; Ps 121:2 **2:4** ^mGn 5:1; 6:9; 10:1; 11:10,27; 25:12,19; 36:1,9; 37:2 **2:5** ⁿGn 1:11-12 **2:7** ^oGn 3:19,23; 18:27; Ps 103:14; Ec 12:7; 1Co 15:47 ^pGn 7:22; Jb 33:4; Is 2:22 ^q1Co 15:45 **2:8** ^rGn 13:10; Is 51:3; Ezk 28:13; 31:8; Jl 2:3 **2:9** ^sGn 3:22; Rv 2:7; 22:2,14 ^tPr 3:18 **2:11** ^uGn 10:7,29; 25:18; 1Sm 15:7 **2:14** ^vDn 10:4 ^xGn 15:18

so that the people will hear when I speak^a with you and will always believe you.” Moses reported the people’s words to the LORD,¹⁰ and the LORD told Moses, “Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow. They must wash their clothes^b ¹¹and be prepared by the third day, for on the third day the LORD will come down on Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people.^c ¹²Put boundaries for the people all around the mountain and say: Be careful that you don’t go up on the mountain or touch its base. Anyone who touches the mountain must be put to death.^d ¹³No hand may touch him;^e instead he will be stoned or shot with arrows and not live, whether animal or human. When the ram’s horn sounds a long blast, they may go up the mountain.”

¹⁴Then Moses came down from the mountain to the people and consecrated them, and they washed their clothes. ¹⁵He said to the people, “Be prepared by the third day. Do not have sexual relations with women.”

¹⁶On the third day, when morning came, there was thunder and lightning, a thick cloud on the mountain, and a very loud blast from a ram’s horn, so that all the people in the camp shuddered. ¹⁷Then Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain. ¹⁸Mount Sinai was completely enveloped in smoke because the LORD came down on it in fire.^e Its smoke went up like the smoke of a furnace,^f and the whole mountain shook violently.^g ¹⁹As the sound of the ram’s horn grew louder and louder, Moses spoke and God answered him in the thunder.^h

²⁰The LORD came down on Mount Sinai at the top of the mountain. Then the LORD summoned Moses to the top of the mountain, and he went up. ²¹The

LORD directed Moses, “Go down and warn the people not to break through to see the LORD; otherwise many of them will die.ⁱ ²²Even the priests who come near the LORD must consecrate themselves, or the LORD will break out in anger against them.”^j

²³Moses responded to the LORD, “The people cannot come up Mount Sinai, since you warned us: Put a boundary around the mountain and consecrate it.” ²⁴And the LORD replied to him, “Go down and come back with Aaron. But the priests and the people must not break through to come up to the LORD, or he will break out in anger against them.” ²⁵So Moses went down to the people and told them.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

20 Then God spoke all these words:

- ¹I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the place of slavery.^k
- ²Do not have other gods besides me.^l
- ³Do not make an idol^m for yourself, whether in the shape of anything in the heavens above or on the earth below or in the waters under the earth. ⁴Do not bow in worship to them, and do not serve them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God,ⁿ bringing the consequences of the fathers’ iniquity on the children to the third and fourth generations^o of those who hate me, ⁵but showing faithful love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commands.^p
- ⁶Do not misuse the name of the LORD your God, because the LORD will not leave anyone unpunished who misuses his name.^q

^AOr it

19:9 ^aDt 4:12,36; Jn 12:29 **19:10** ^bGn 35:2; Lv 11:44–45; Heb 10:22 **19:11** ^cEx 19:16; 34:5 **19:12** ^dHeb 12:20 **19:18** ^eEx 3:2; 24:17; Dt 4:11; 2Ch 7:1 ^fPs 144:5; Rv 15:8 ^gJdg 5:5; Ps 68:7; Jr 4:24; Heb 12:26 **19:19** ^hNeh 9:13; Ps 81:7 **19:21** ⁱEx 3:5; 1Sm 6:19 **19:22** ^jLv 10:3; 2Sm 6:7–8 **20:2** ^kEx 13:3; Hs 13:4 **20:3** ^lDt 6:14; Jr 35:15 **20:4** ^mLv 26:1; Dt 27:15 **20:5** ⁿEx 34:14; Dt 4:24; Is 44:15,19 ^oNm 14:18; Ps 79:8; Jr 32:18 **20:6** ^pDt 7:9 **20:7** ^qLv 19:12; Mt 5:33

- 8 Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy:^a 9 You are to labor six days and do all your work,^b 10 but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. You must not do any work — you, your son or daughter, your male or female servant, your livestock, or the resident alien who is within your city gates.^c 11 For the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and everything in them in six days; then he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and declared it holy.
- 12 Honor your father and your mother^d so that you may have a long life in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.
- 13 Do not murder.^e
- 14 Do not commit adultery.^f
- 15 Do not steal.^g
- 16 Do not give false testimony against your neighbor.^h
- 17 Do not covet your neighbor's house. Do not covet your neighbor's wife, his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.ⁱ

THE PEOPLE'S REACTION

18 All the people witnessed^A the thunder and lightning, the sound of the ram's horn, and the mountain surrounded by smoke. When the people saw it^B they trembled and stood at a distance.^J 19 "You speak to us, and we will listen," they said to Moses, "but don't let God speak to us, or we will die."^K

^ALit saw ^BSam, LXX, Syr, Tg, Vg read *smoke. The people (or they) were afraid,* ^CLit that the fear of him may be in you, and you do not ^DLit to go forth ^ELit he is the husband of ^FOr to God; that is, to his sanctuary or court

20 Moses responded to the people, "Don't be afraid, for God has come to test you, so that you will fear him and will not^C sin."^I 21 And the people remained standing at a distance as Moses approached the total darkness where God was.^M

MOSES RECEIVES ADDITIONAL LAWS

22 Then the LORD told Moses, "This is what you are to say to the Israelites: You have seen that I have spoken to you from heaven.^N 23 Do not make gods of silver to rival me; do not make gods of gold for yourselves.^O

24 "Make an earthen altar for me, and sacrifice on it your burnt offerings and fellowship offerings, your flocks and herds. I will come to you and bless you in every place where I cause my name to be remembered.^P 25 If you make a stone altar for me, do not build it out of cut stones. If you use your chisel on it, you will defile it.^Q 26 Do not go up to my altar on steps, so that your nakedness is not exposed on it.

21 "These are the ordinances that you are to set before them:

LAWS ABOUT SLAVES

2 "When you buy a Hebrew slave, he is to serve for six years; then in the seventh he is to leave as a free man^D without paying anything.^R 3 If he arrives alone, he is to leave alone; if he arrives with^E a wife, his wife is to leave with him. 4 If his master gives him a wife and she bears him sons or daughters, the wife and her children belong to her master, and the man must leave alone.

5 "But if the slave declares, 'I love my master, my wife, and my children; I do not want to leave as a free man,'^S 6 his master is to bring him to the judges^F and then bring him to the door or

20:8 ^aEx 31:13-16; Lv 26:2 20:9 ^bEx 34:21; Lk 13:14 20:10 ^cGn 2:2-3; Neh 13:16-19 20:12 ^dLv 19:3; Mt 15:4; Mk 7:10; Lk 18:20; Eph 6:2 20:13 ^eMt 5:21; Rm 13:9 20:14 ^fDt 5:18; Mt 5:27 20:15 ^gLv 19:11; Mt 19:18 20:16 ^hEx 23:1 20:17 ⁱDt 5:21; Mt 5:28; Lk 12:15; Rm 7:7; 13:9; Eph 5:3,5; Heb 13:5 20:18 ^jEx 19:18; Heb 12:18 20:19 ^kDt 5:25,27; Gl 3:19 20:20 ^lDt 13:3; Pr 16:6; Is 8:13 20:21 ^mEx 19:16; Dt 5:22 20:22 ⁿDt 4:36; Neh 9:13 20:23 ^oEx 20:3; 32:4 20:24 ^pGn 12:2; Dt 12:5; 16:6,11; 1Kg 9:3; 2Ch 6:6 20:25 ^qDt 27:5-6; Jos 8:31 21:2 ^rDt 4:14; Jr 34:14 21:5 ^sDt 15:16-17

- 49 Therefore I will give thanks to you
among the nations, LORD;
I will sing praises about
your name.^a
- 50 He gives great victories to his king;^b
he shows loyalty to his anointed,
to David
and his descendants forever.^c

THE WITNESS OF CREATION
AND SCRIPTURE

19 *For the choir director. A psalm of David.*

- 1 The heavens declare
the glory of God,
and the expanse^d proclaims
the work of his hands.^e
- 2 Day after day
they pour out speech;
night after night
they communicate knowledge.^A
- 3 There is no speech;
there are no words;
their voice is not heard.
- 4 Their message^B has gone out
to the whole earth,
and their words to the ends
of the world.^f
- In the heavens he has pitched
a tent for the sun.^g
- 5 It is like a bridegroom
coming from his home;
it rejoices like an athlete
running a course.
- 6 It rises from one end
of the heavens
and circles to their other end;^h
nothing is hidden from its heat.
- 7 The instruction of the LORD
is perfect,
renewing one's life;ⁱ
the testimony of the LORD
is trustworthy,
making the inexperienced wise.^j

- 8 The precepts of the LORD
are right,
making the heart glad;^k
the command of the LORD
is radiant,
making the eyes light up.^l
- 9 The fear of the LORD is pure,
enduring forever;^m
the ordinances of the LORD
are reliable
and altogether righteous.ⁿ
- 10 They are more desirable
than gold—
than an abundance of pure gold;^o
and sweeter than honey
dripping from a honeycomb.^p
- 11 In addition, your servant
is warned by them,
and in keeping them there
is an abundant reward.^q
- 12 Who perceives
his unintentional sins?
Cleanse me
from my hidden faults.^r
- 13 Moreover, keep your servant
from willful sins;^s
do not let them rule me.^t
Then I will be blameless
and cleansed
from blatant rebellion.^u
- 14 May the words of my mouth
and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable to you,^v
LORD, my rock
and my Redeemer.^w

DELIVERANCE IN BATTLE

20 *For the choir director. A psalm of David.*

- 1 May the LORD answer you
in a day of trouble;^x
may the name of Jacob's God
protect you.^y

^A Or Day to day pours out speech, and night to night communicates knowledge ^B LXX, Sym, Syr, Vg; MT reads line

18:49 ^aRm 15:9 18:50 ^bPs 144:10 ^c2Sm 7:12-13; Ps 89:4,29 19:1 ^dGn 1:6 ^ePs 50:6; Rm 1:19-20 19:4 ^fRm 10:18
^gIs 40:22 19:6 ^hEc 1:5 19:7 ⁱPs 111:7 ^jPs 93:5; 119:130 19:8 ^kPs 119:14 ^lPs 13:3 19:9 ^mPs 111:10 ⁿPs 119:30
19:10 ^oPs 119:72,127 ^pPs 119:103 19:11 ^qPr 29:18 19:12 ^rPs 90:8 19:13 ^sNm 15:30 ^tGn 4:7 ^uPs 51:7;
Ezk 36:25 19:14 ^vPs 104:34 ^wPs 78:35 20:1 ^xPs 50:15; 77:2; 102:2 20:1 ^yPs 46:7,11

- 2 May he send you help
from the sanctuary
and sustain you from Zion.^a
- 3 May he remember
all your offerings
and accept your burnt offering.^b
Selah
- 4 May he give you what
your heart desires^c
and fulfill your whole purpose.^d
- 5 Let us shout for joy
at your victory^e
and lift the banner
in the name of our God.^f
May the LORD fulfill
all your requests.^g
- 6 Now I know that the LORD
gives victory to his anointed;^h
he will answer him
from his holy heaven
with mighty victories
from his right hand.ⁱ
- 7 Some take pride in chariots,
and others in horses,
but we take pride in the name
of the LORD our God.^j
- 8 They collapse and fall,
but we rise and stand firm.^k
- 9 LORD, give victory to the king!^l
May he^a answer us
on the day that we call.

THE KING'S VICTORY

21 *For the choir director. A psalm of David.*

- 1 LORD, the king finds joy
in your strength.
How greatly he rejoices
in your victory!^m
- 2 You have given him
his heart's desireⁿ

- and have not denied the request
of his lips.^o *Selah*
- 3 For you meet him
with rich blessings;
you place a crown of pure gold
on his head.^p
- 4 He asked you for life,
and you gave it to him —
length of days forever and ever.^q
- 5 His glory is great
through your victory;
you confer majesty
and splendor on him.^r
- 6 You give him blessings forever;^s
you cheer him with joy
in your presence.^t
- 7 For the king relies on the LORD;
through the faithful love
of the Most High
he is not shaken.^u
- 8 Your hand will capture
all your enemies;
your right hand will seize
those who hate you.^v
- 9 You will make them burn
like a fiery furnace
when you appear;
the LORD will engulf them
in his wrath,
and fire will devour them.^w
- 10 You will wipe their progeny
from the earth
and their offspring
from the human race.^{b,x}
- 11 Though they intend to harm^c you
and devise a wicked plan,
they will not prevail.^y
- 12 Instead, you will put
them to flight
when you ready your bowstrings
to shoot at them.^z
- 13 Be exalted, LORD, in your strength;
we will sing and praise
your might.^{aa}

^aOr LORD, save. May the king ^bOr the descendants of Adam ^cLit they stretch out harm against

20:2 ^aPs 3:4; 110:2; 128:5 20:3 ^bPs 119:108 20:4 ^cPs 21:2; 145:19 ^dPs 138:8 20:5 ^ePs 21:1 ^fIs 13:2 ^gPs 21:2; 1Pt 3:12
20:6 ^hPs 18:50 ⁱPs 44:3; 98:1; 118:15 20:7 ^jPs 33:17; Is 31:1 20:8 ^kIs 2:11,17; Mc 7:8 20:9 ^lPs 18:50 21:1 ^mPs 28:7-8;
59:16-17 21:2 ⁿPs 20:4; 145:19 ^oPs 20:5; 1Pt 3:12 21:3 ^p2Sm 12:30; 1Ch 20:2 21:4 ^qPs 61:6; 91:16 21:5 ^rPs 8:5;
96:6 21:6 ^s1Ch 17:27 ^tPs 16:11 21:7 ^uPs 10:6; 16:8 21:8 ^vEx 15:6; Is 10:10 21:9 ^wPs 50:3; 97:3; Mal 4:1
21:10 ^x1Kg 13:34; Ps 37:28; Is 14:20 21:11 ^yPs 2:1-3; 7:15-16; 10:2 21:12 ^zPs 7:12 21:13 ^{aa}Ps 59:16; 81:1

FROM SUFFERING TO PRAISE

22 For the choir director: according to
"The Deer of the Dawn." A psalm of
David.

- 1** My God, my God, why have you
abandoned me?^a
Why are you so far
from my deliverance^b
and from my words of groaning?^c
- 2** My God, I cry by day,
but you do not answer,
by night, yet I have no rest.^d
- 3** But you are holy,
enthroned on the praises
of Israel.^e
- 4** Our ancestors trusted in you;
they trusted,
and you rescued them.^f
- 5** They cried to you
and were set free;
they trusted in you
and were not disgraced.^g
- 6** But I am a worm and not a man,^h
scorned by mankind
and despised by people.ⁱ
- 7** Everyone who sees me mocks me;
they sneer^A and shake
their heads;^j
- 8** "He relies on^B the LORD;
let him save him;
let the LORD^C rescue him,
since he takes pleasure in him."^k
- 9** It was you who brought
me out of the womb,
making me secure
at my mother's breast.^l
- 10** I was given over to you at birth;^D
you have been my God
from my mother's womb.^m
- 11** Don't be far from me,
because distress is near
and there's no one to help.ⁿ

- 12** Many bulls surround me;
strong ones of Bashan
encircle me.^o
- 13** They open their mouths
against me —
lions, mauling and roaring.^p
- 14** I am poured out like water,^q
and all my bones are disjointed;^r
my heart is like wax,
melting within me.^s
- 15** My strength is dried up
like baked clay;^t
my tongue sticks to the roof
of my mouth.^u
You put me into the dust
of death.^v
- 16** For dogs have surrounded me;^w
a gang of evildoers
has closed in on me;
they pierced^E my hands
and my feet.^x
- 17** I can count all my bones;
people^F look and stare at me.^y
- 18** They divided my garments
among themselves,
and they cast lots
for my clothing.^z
- 19** But you, LORD, don't be far away.^{aa}
My strength, come quickly
to help me.^{ab}
- 20** Rescue my life from the sword,^{ac}
my only life^G from the power
of these dogs.
- 21** Save me from the lion's mouth,^{ad}
from the horns of wild oxen.

You answered me!^H
- 22** I will proclaim your name
to my brothers and sisters;
I will praise you in the assembly.^{ae}

^ALit separate with the lip ^BOr Rely on ^CLit let him
^DLit was cast on you from the womb ^ESome Hb mss,
LXX, Syr; other Hb mss read me; like a lion ^FLit they
^GLit my only one ^HOr oxen you rescued me

22:1 ^aMt 27:46; Mk 15:34 ^bPs 10:1 ^cPs 32:3; 38:8 **22:2** ^dPs 42:3; 88:1 **22:3** ^ePs 99:3 **22:4** ^fPs 107:6 **22:5** ^gPs 25:2;
31:1; 71:1; Is 49:23 **22:6** ^hJb 25:6 ⁱPs 109:25; Is 53:3 **22:7** ^jMt 27:39; Mk 15:29; Lk 23:35 **22:8** ^kMt 27:43 **22:9** ^lPs 71:6
22:10 ^mIs 46:3; 49:1; Gl 1:15 **22:11** ⁿ2Kg 14:26; Ps 71:12; Is 63:5 **22:12** ^oPs 68:30; Am 4:1 **22:13** ^pPs 10:9; 17:12
22:14 ^qJb 30:16 ^rJb 4:14; Ps 6:2; 32:3 ^sNah 2:10 **22:15** ^tPs 38:10 ^uLm 4:4 ^vPs 104:29 **22:16** ^wPs 59:6,14
^xJn 20:25 **22:17** ^yLk 23:35 **22:18** ^zMt 27:35; Lk 23:34; Jn 19:24 **22:19** ^{aa}Ps 10:1 ^{ab}Ps 70:5
22:20 ^{ac}Jr 39:18 **22:21** ^{ad}Ps 35:17; 2Tm 4:17 **22:22** ^{ae}Ps 40:10; Heb 2:12

¹³Then the royal spokesman stood and called out loudly in Hebrew:

Listen to the words of the great king, the king of Assyria! ¹⁴This is what the king says: “Don’t let Hezekiah deceive you,^a for he cannot rescue you. ¹⁵Don’t let Hezekiah persuade you to rely on the LORD, saying, ‘The LORD will certainly rescue us! This city will not be handed over to the king of Assyria.’”

¹⁶Don’t listen to Hezekiah, for this is what the king of Assyria says: “Make peace^A with me and surrender to me. Then every one of you may eat from his own vine and his own fig tree^b and drink water from his own cistern ¹⁷until I come and take you away to a land like your own land—a land of grain and new wine, a land of bread and vineyards. ¹⁸Beware that Hezekiah does not mislead you by saying, ‘The LORD will rescue us.’^c Has any one of the gods of the nations^d rescued his land from the power of the king of Assyria? ¹⁹Where are the gods of Hamath and Arpad?^e Where are the gods of Sepharvaim? Have they rescued Samaria from my power?^f ²⁰Who among all the gods of these lands ever rescued his land from my power? So will the LORD rescue Jerusalem from my power?”

²¹But they kept silent; they didn’t say anything, for the king’s command was, “Don’t answer him.”^g ²²Then Eliakim son of Hilkiah, who was in charge of the palace, Shebna the court secretary, and Joah son of Asaph, the court historian, came to Hezekiah with their clothes torn and reported to him the words of the royal spokesman.

HEZEKIAH SEEKS ISAIAH’S COUNSEL

37 When King Hezekiah heard their report,^h he tore his clothes, covered himself with sackcloth,ⁱ and went to the LORD’s temple. ²He sent Eliakim, who was in charge of the palace, Shebna the court secretary, and the leading priests, who were covered with sackcloth, to the prophet Isaiah son of Amoz. ³They said to him, “This is what Hezekiah says: ‘Today is a day of distress, rebuke, and disgrace.^j It is as if children have come to the point of birth, and there is no strength to deliver them.^k ⁴Perhaps the LORD your God will hear all the words of the royal spokesman, whom his master the king of Assyria sent to mock the living God,^l and will rebuke him for the words that the LORD your God has heard. Therefore offer a prayer for the surviving remnant.’”^m

⁵So the servants of King Hezekiah went to Isaiah, ⁶who said to them, “Tell your master, ‘The LORD says this: Don’t be afraidⁿ because of the words you have heard, with which the king of Assyria’s attendants have blasphemed me.^o ⁷I am about to put a spirit^p in him and he will hear a rumor and return to his own land, where I will cause him to fall by the sword.’”^q

SENNACHERIB’S LETTER

⁸When the royal spokesman heard that the king of Assyria had pulled out of Lachish,^r he left and found him fighting against Libnah.^s ⁹The king had heard concerning King Tirhakah of Cush,^t “He has set out to fight against you.” So when he heard this, he sent messengers to Hezekiah, saying, ¹⁰“Say this to King Hezekiah of Judah: ‘Don’t let your God, on whom you rely,

^ALit a blessing

36:14 ^aIs 37:10 **36:16** ^b1Kg 4:25; Mc 4:4; Zch 3:10 **36:18** ^cIs 37:10 ^d1Ch 5:25; Is 37:12 **36:19** ^eIs 10:9–11; 37:11–13; Jr 49:23 ^f2Kg 17:6 **36:21** ^gPr 26:4 **37:1–35** ^h2Kg 19:1–34 **37:1** ⁱGn 37:34; 2Sm 3:31; 1Kg 21:27; Is 3:24 **37:3** ^jIs 22:5; 26:16; 33:2; Nah 1:7; Hab 3:16 ^kIs 26:17–18; 66:9; Hs 13:13 **37:4** ^lDt 5:26; 1Sm 17:26,36; Jr 10:10 ^mIs 1:9; 46:3 **37:6** ⁿIs 7:4; 35:4 ^oPs 44:7,13–16; Is 52:5; Rm 2:24 **37:7** ^pNm 5:14; Is 19:14; Hs 4:12; Zch 13:2; 2Tm 1:7 ^qIs 37:36–38 **37:8** ^rJos 10:31–32 ^sNm 33:20; Jos 10:12,29 **37:9** ^tIs 18:1; 20:5

deceive you^a by promising that Jerusalem won't be handed over to the king of Assyria. ¹¹Look, you have heard what the kings of Assyria have done to all the countries: they completely destroyed them. Will you be rescued? ¹²Did the gods of the nations^b that my predecessors destroyed rescue them — Gozan,^c Haran,^d Rezeph, and the Edenites in Telassar? ¹³Where is the king of Hamath, the king of Arpad, the king of the city of^e Sepharvaim, Hena, or Ivvah?''

HEZEKIAH'S PRAYER

¹⁴Hezekiah took the letter from the messengers' hands, read it, then went up to the LORD's temple and spread it out before the LORD. ^e¹⁵Then Hezekiah prayed^f to the LORD:

¹⁶LORD of Armies, God of Israel, enthroned among the cherubim,^g you are God^h — you aloneⁱ — of all the kingdoms of the earth.^j You made the heavens and the earth.^k

¹⁷Listen closely, LORD, and hear;^l open your eyes, LORD, and see.^m Hear all the words that Sennacherib has sent to mock the living God.ⁿ

¹⁸LORD, it is true that the kings of Assyria have devastated all these countries and their lands. ¹⁹They have thrown their gods into the fire, for they were not gods^o but made from wood and stone^p by human hands.^q So they have destroyed them. ²⁰Now, LORD our God, save us from his power so that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that you, LORD, are God^{B,r} — you alone.^s

GOD'S ANSWER THROUGH ISAIAH

²¹Then Isaiah son of Amoz sent a message to Hezekiah: "The LORD, the God of Israel, says, 'Because you prayed to me about King Sennacherib of Assyria, ²²this is the word the LORD has spoken against him:

Virgin Daughter Zion^t despises you and scorns you; Daughter Jerusalem shakes her head^u behind your back.

²³Who is it you have mocked^v and blasphemed? Against whom have you raised your voice and lifted your eyes in pride?^w Against the Holy One of Israel!^x

²⁴You have mocked the Lord through your servants. You have said, "With my many chariots^y I have gone up to the heights of the mountains, to the far recesses of Lebanon. I cut down its tallest cedars, its choice cypress trees. I came to its distant heights, its densest forest.

²⁵I dug wells and drank water in foreign lands.^c I dried up all the streams of Egypt with the soles of my feet."^z

²⁶Have you not heard?^{aa} I designed it long ago; I planned it in days gone by.^{ab} I have now brought it to pass, and you have crushed fortified cities^{ac} into piles of rubble.

^aOr *king of Lair*. ^Bare God supplied for clarity; see v. 16
^cDSS, 2Kg 19:24; MT omits *in foreign lands*

37:10 ^aIs 36:14–15 **37:12** ^bIs 36:18 ^c2Kg 17:6; 18:11 ^dGn 11:31; 12:1–4; Ac 7:2 **37:14** ^eDt 22:17; 1Kg 8:22; Ezk 2:10 **37:15** ^f2Ch 32:20 **37:16** ^gEx 25:22; Nm 7:89; 15m 4:4; 25m 6:2; Ps 80:1; 99:1 ^hDt 10:17; 2Sm 7:28; Ps 86:10; 90:2; 136:2–3 ⁱ1Kg 8:39; Neh 9:6; Ps 4:8; 83:18; 86:10; Rv 15:4 ^j2Ch 36:20; Ps 68:32; Rv 11:15 ^kEx 20:11; Neh 9:6; Ps 146:6; Ac 4:24 **37:17** ^l2Ch 6:40; Ps 17:6; Dn 9:18 ^mIs 42:5; 45:12; Jr 10:12 ⁿIs 37:4 **37:19** ^oDt 32:17; 2Ch 13:9; Jr 2:11; 5:7; 16:20; Hs 8:6; Ac 19:26; Gl 4:8 ^pDt 4:28; 28:36,64; 29:17; Ezk 20:32 ^qIs 2:8,20; 17:8; 31:7; 41:24,29; 44:9–20; 46:6 **37:20** ^rJos 4:24; 1Kg 8:60; 20:13; Is 45:3,6 ^sIs 37:16 **37:22** ^tLm 2:13; Is 1:8; 3:16–17; 4:4; 52:2; 62:11 ^uJb 16:4; Ps 22:7; 109:25; Jr 18:16; Lm 2:15 **37:23** ^vPs 74:10,18; Is 37:4; Gl 6:7 ^wIs 2:11; 5:15,21 ^xGn 12:3; Ex 23:22 **37:24** ^yEx 14:26–28; 15:4,19; Dt 20:1; Jos 11:4–9; 2Ch 16:8; Ps 68:17 **37:25** ^zDt 11:10; 1Kg 20:10 **37:26** ^{aa}Is 40:21,28 ^{ab}Is 5:19; 10:5–6; 14:24–26; 22:11; 46:11; Jr 18:11; Ac 2:23; 4:27–28; 1Pt 2:8 ^{ac}Is 34:13

- 27 Their inhabitants have
become powerless,
dismayed, and ashamed.
They are plants of the field,
tender grass,
grass on the rooftops,
blasted by the east wind.^a
- 28 But I know your sitting down,
your going out
and your coming in,^a
and your raging against me.
- 29 Because your raging against me
and your arrogance
have reached my ears,^b
I will put my hook in your nose^c
and my bit in your mouth;^d
I will make you go back
the way you came.

30 “This will be the sign for you:^e
This year you will eat what grows on its
own, and in the second year what grows
from that. But in the third year sow and
reap, plant vineyards and eat their fruit.
31 The surviving remnant of the house
of Judah will again take root^f downward
and bear fruit upward. 32 For a remnant^g
will go out from Jerusalem, and survivors
from Mount Zion. The zeal of the
LORD of Armies will accomplish this.^h

- 33 “Therefore, this is what the LORD
says about the king of Assyria:
He will not enter this city,
shoot an arrow here,
come before it with a shield,
or build up a siege ramp against it.
- 34 He will go back
the way he came,
and he will not enter this city.
This is the LORD’s declaration.
- 35 I will defend this city and rescue it
for my sakeⁱ
and for the sake of
my servant David.”^j

DEFEAT AND DEATH OF SENNACHERIB

36 Then^k the angel of the LORD^l went
out and struck down one hundred
eighty-five thousand in the camp of
the Assyrians. When the people got up
the next morning, there were all the
dead bodies! 37 So King Sennacherib
of Assyria broke camp and left. He re-
turned home and lived in Nineveh.^m

38 One day, while he was worship-
ing in the temple of his god Nisroch,
his sons Adrammelech and Sharezer
struck him down with the sword and
escaped to the land of Ararat.ⁿ Then his
son Esar-haddon^o became king in his
place.

HEZEKIAH’S ILLNESS AND RECOVERY

38 In those days Hezekiah became
terminally ill.^p The prophet Isa-
iah son of Amoz came and said to him,
“This is what the LORD says: ‘Set your
house in order,^q for you are about to
die; you will not recover.’”^b

2 Then Hezekiah turned his face to
the wall and prayed to the LORD. 3 He
said, “Please, LORD, remember how I
have walked before you faithfully and
wholeheartedly,^r and have done what
pleases you.”^s And Hezekiah wept
bitterly.

4 Then the word of the LORD came to
Isaiah: 5 “Go and tell Hezekiah, ‘This is
what the LORD God of your ancestor
David says: I have heard your prayer;
I have seen your tears. Look, I am go-
ing to add fifteen years to your life.’^{c,t}
6 And I will rescue you and this city
from the grasp of the king of Assyria; I
will defend this city.^u 7 This is the sign
to you^v from the LORD that he will do

^aDSS; MT reads *rooftops, field before standing grain*

^bLit *live* ^cLit *days*, also in v. 10

37:28 ^aPs 139:1 37:29 ^bIs 10:12 ^cEzk 19:9; 29:4; 38:4 ^dIs 30:28 37:30 ^eEx 3:12; 1Sm 2:34; 1Kg 13:3; Is 7:14; 38:7; Jr 44:29;
Lk 2:12 37:31 ^fIs 27:6 37:32 ^gEzr 9:14; Is 10:20–22 ^h2Kg 19:31; Is 9:7; 59:17; Jl 2:18; Zch 1:14 37:35 ⁱIs 43:25; 48:9,11
^j1Kg 11:13,32–38; 2Kg 20:6; Ezk 34:23 37:36–38 ^k2Kg 19:35–37; 2Ch 32:21 37:36 ^lGn 16:7–11; Ex 3:2; Nm 22:22–35;
Jdg 6:11–12; 2Sm 24:16; Ps 34:7 37:37 ^mGn 10:11; Jnh 1:2; 3:3; 4:11; Zph 2:13 37:38 ⁿGn 8:4; Jr 51:27 ^oEzr 4:2
38:1–8 ^p2Kg 20:1–6,9–11; 2Ch 32:24 38:1 ^q2Sm 17:23 38:3 ^rGn 17:1; 1Kg 2:4; 3:6; 8:23; 2Kg 18:5–6;
Ps 26:3 ^sDt 6:18 38:5 ^t2Kg 18:2,13 38:6 ^uIs 31:5; 37:35 38:7 ^vIs 37:30

THE FIRST DISCIPLES

¹⁸As^a he was walking along the Sea of Galilee,^b he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter), and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁹“Follow me,” he told them, “and I will make you fish for^a people.” ²⁰Immediately they left their nets and followed him.

²¹Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They were in a boat with Zebedee their father, preparing their nets, and he called them. ²²Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

TEACHING, PREACHING, AND HEALING

²³Now Jesus began to go all over Galilee,^c teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every^b disease and sickness^c among the people.^d ²⁴Then the news about him spread throughout Syria.^e So they brought to him all those who were afflicted, those suffering from various diseases and intense pains, the demon-possessed, the epileptics, and the paralytics.^f And he healed them. ²⁵Large crowds followed him from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and beyond the Jordan.^g

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

5 When he saw the crowds, he went up on the mountain,^h and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then^d he began to teach them, saying:ⁱ

THE BEATITUDES

- 3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit,^j
for the kingdom
of heaven^k is theirs.

- 4 Blessed are those who mourn,^l
for they will be comforted.
5 Blessed are the humble,^m
for they will inherit the earth.
6 Blessed are those who hunger
and thirst for righteousness,ⁿ
for they will be filled.
7 Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.^o
8 Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.^p
9 Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called sons of God.^q
10 Blessed are those who
are persecuted because
of righteousness,
for the kingdom of heaven^r is theirs.

¹¹“You are blessed when they insult you and persecute you and falsely say every kind of evil against you because of me. ¹²Be glad and rejoice, because your reward is great in heaven. For that is how they persecuted^s the prophets who were before you.^t

BELIEVERS ARE SALT AND LIGHT

¹³“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt should lose its taste, how can it be made salty?^e It’s no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet.^u

¹⁴“You are the light of the world. A city situated on a hill cannot be hidden.^v ¹⁵No one lights a lamp^w and puts it under a basket, but rather on a lampstand, and it gives light for all who are in the house.^x ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.^y

^aOr you fishers of ^bOr every kind of ^cOr physical ailment ^dLit Then opening his mouth ^eOr how can the earth be salted?

4:18–22 ^aMk 1:16–20; Lk 5:2–11; Jn 1:40–42 4:18 ^bMt 15:29; Mk 7:31; Lk 5:1; Jn 6:1 4:23–25 ^cMk 1:35–39; Lk 4:42–44
4:23 ^dMt 13:54; 24:14; Ac 10:38 4:24 ^eLk 2:2; Ac 15:23; Gl 1:21 ^fMt 8:16; 9:32; Mk 5:15; Jn 10:21 4:25 ^gMk 3:7; 5:20; Lk 6:17
5:1 ^hMk 3:13; Lk 9:28; Jn 6:3,15 5:2 ⁱAc 8:35; 10:34; 18:14 5:3 ^jIs 57:15; 66:2 ^kMt 19:14; 25:34; Mk 10:14; Lk 6:20
5:4 ^lIs 61:2; Mt 11:29; 21:5; Jn 16:20; Rv 7:17 5:5 ^mPs 37:11; Rm 4:13; Rv 21:7 5:6 ⁿIs 55:1–2; Jn 4:14; 6:48; 7:37
5:7 ^oPr 11:17; Mt 18:33; Lk 6:36; 2Tm 1:16 5:8 ^pPs 24:4; Heb 12:14; 1Jn 3:2; Rv 22:4 5:9 ^qMt 5:45; Lk 6:35;
Rm 8:14; Jms 3:18; 1Jn 3:1 5:10 ^rMt 19:14; 25:34; Mk 10:14; Lk 6:20; 22:29 5:12 ^sMt 2:23; 2Tm 3:12
^tMt 23:37; Ac 7:52; 1Th 2:15 5:13 ^uMk 9:50; Lk 14:34 5:14 ^vPr 4:18; Jn 8:12; Php 2:15
5:15 ^wJn 5:35; Rv 21:23 ^xMk 4:21; Lk 8:16; 11:33 5:16 ^yMt 9:8; Jn 15:8; 1Pt 2:12

CHRIST FULFILLS THE LAW

¹⁷“Don’t think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to abolish but to fulfill.^a ¹⁸For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter^A or one stroke of a letter will pass away from the law until all things are accomplished. ¹⁹Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commands and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven. But whoever does and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.^b ²⁰For I tell you, unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven.

MURDER BEGINS IN THE HEART

²¹“You have heard that it was said to our ancestors, **Do not murder**,^{c,B} and whoever murders will be subject to judgment.^d ²²But I tell you, everyone who is angry with his brother or sister^c will be subject to judgment. Whoever insults^D his brother or sister, will be subject to the court.^E Whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be subject to hellfire.^{F,e} ²³So if you are offering your gift on the altar, and there you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, ²⁴leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled with your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. ²⁵Reach a settlement quickly with your adversary while you’re on the way with him to the court, or your adversary will

^AOr *not one iota*; *iota* is the smallest letter of the Gk alphabet. ^BEx 20:13; Dt 5:17 ^COther mss add *without a cause* ^DLit *Whoever says ‘Raca’*; an Aramaic term of abuse that puts someone down, insulting one’s intelligence ^ELit *Sanhedrin* ^FLit *the gehenna of fire*
^GOther mss read *judge will hand you over to*
^HLit *quadrans*, the smallest and least valuable Roman coin, worth 1/64 of a daily wage ^IEx 20:14; Dt 5:18
^JDt 24:1 ^KLv 19:12; Nm 30:2; Dt 23:21

hand you over to the judge, and the judge to^G the officer, and you will be thrown into prison.^f ²⁶Truly I tell you, you will never get out of there until you have paid the last penny.^h

ADULTERY BEGINS IN THE HEART

²⁷“You have heard that it was said, **Do not commit adultery**.^{l,g} ²⁸But I tell you, everyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.^h ²⁹If your right eye causes you to sin,ⁱ gouge it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of the parts of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.^j ³⁰And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of the parts of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.

DIVORCE PRACTICES CENSURED

³¹“It was also said, **Whoever divorces^k his wife must give her a written notice of divorce**.^{l,j} ³²But I tell you, everyone who divorces his wife, except in a case of sexual immorality, causes her to commit adultery. And whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.^m

TELL THE TRUTH

³³“Again, you have heard that it was said to our ancestors, **You must not break your oath, but you must keep your oaths to the Lord**.^{k,n} ³⁴But I tell you, don’t take an oath at all: either by heaven, because it is God’s throne;³⁵ or by the earth, because it is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, because it is the city of the great King.^o ³⁶Do not swear by your head, because you cannot make a single hair white or black. ³⁷But let your ‘yes’ mean ‘yes,’ and your ‘no’ mean ‘no.’ Anything more than this is from the evil one.^p

5:17 ^aMt 7:12; Rm 3:31; 10:4; 13:8; Gl 3:24 **5:18–19** ^bMt 11:11; 24:35; Lk 16:17; Jms 2:10 **5:21** ^cEx 20:13; Dt 5:17 ^dMt 19:18; 23:31,35; Mk 10:19; Lk 18:20; Rm 13:9; Jms 2:11 **5:22** ^eMt 18:9; Mk 9:43; Jms 3:6; 1Jn 3:15 **5:25** ^fPr 25:8; Lk 12:58 **5:27** ^gEx 20:14; Dt 5:18 **5:28** ^h2Sm 11:2; Jb 31:1; Pr 6:25 **5:29** ⁱMt 18:9; Mk 9:47 ^jMt 10:28; 23:15,33; Lk 12:5 **5:31** ^kJr 3:1; Mt 19:7; Mk 10:4 ^lDt 24:1 **5:32** ^mMt 19:9; Mk 10:11; Lk 16:18; Rm 7:3; 1Co 7:11 **5:33** ⁿLv 19:12; Nm 30:2; Dt 23:21; Mt 23:16 **5:34–35** ^oPs 48:2; Is 66:1; Mt 23:22; Ac 7:49; Jms 5:12 **5:37** ^pMt 6:13; 13:19,38; Jn 17:15; 2Th 3:3

GO THE SECOND MILE

38 “You have heard that it was said, **An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.**^{A,a} 39 But I tell you, don’t resist^B an evildoer. On the contrary, if anyone slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also.^b 40 As for the one who wants to sue you and take away your shirt, let him have your coat as well. 41 And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two. 42 Give to the one who asks you, and don’t turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.^c

LOVE YOUR ENEMIES

43 “You have heard that it was said, **Love your neighbor**^{c,d} and hate your enemy. 44 But I tell you, love your enemies^D and pray for those who^E persecute you,^e 45 so that you may be^F children of your Father in heaven. For he causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.^f 46 For if you love those who love you, what reward will you have? Don’t even the tax collectors do the same? 47 And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what are you doing out of the ordinary?^{G,g} Don’t even the Gentiles^H do the same? 48 Be perfect,^h therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

HOW TO GIVE

6 “Be careful not to practice your righteousness^I in front of others to be seen by them. Otherwise, you have no reward with your Father in heaven. 2 So whenever you give to the poor, don’t sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be applauded by people. Truly I tell you, they have their reward.ⁱ 3 But when you give to the poor, don’t

let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4 so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.^{j,j}

HOW TO PRAY

5 “Whenever you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites, because they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by people. Truly I tell you, they have their reward.^k 6 But when you pray, go into your private room, shut your door, and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.^{k,l} 7 When you pray, don’t babble like the Gentiles, since they imagine they’ll be heard for their many words.^m 8 Don’t be like them, because your Father knows the things you need before you ask him.ⁿ

THE LORD’S PRAYER

9 “Therefore, you should pray like this:^O
 Our Father in heaven,
 your name be honored as holy.^p
 10 Your kingdom come.
 Your will be done
 on earth as it is in heaven.^q
 11 Give us today our daily bread.^r
 12 And forgive us our debts,
 as we also have forgiven
 our debtors.^r
 13 And do not bring us
 into^M temptation,^s
 but deliver us from the evil one.^{N,t}

^AEx 21:24; Lv 24:20; Dt 19:21 ^BOr *don’t set yourself against, or don’t retaliate against* ^CLv 19:18 ^DOther mss add *bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you,* ^EOther mss add *mistreat you and* ^FOr *may become, or may show yourselves to be* ^GOr *doing that is superior*; lit *doing more* ^HOther mss read *tax collectors* ^IOther mss read *charitable giving* ^JOther mss read *himself reward you openly* ^KOther mss add *openly* ^LOr *our necessary bread, or our bread for tomorrow* ^MOr *do not cause us to come into* ^NOr *from evil*; some later mss add *For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.*

5:38 ^aEx 21:24; Lv 24:20; Dt 19:21 5:39 ^bLk 6:29–30; Rm 12:17; 1Co 6:7; 1Pt 3:9 5:42 ^cDt 15:8; Lk 6:34 5:43 ^dLv 19:18; Dt 23:6; Lk 10:29 5:44 ^eLk 6:27; 23:34; Ac 7:60; Rm 12:20; 1Co 4:12; 1Pt 2:23 5:45 ^fJb 25:3; Mt 5:9; Lk 6:35; Ac 14:17 5:47 ^gMt 5:37; Mk 6:51; Jn 10:10; Rm 3:1; 2Co 9:1 5:48 ^hGn 17:1; Lv 19:2; Php 3:15; Col 4:12; Jms 1:4; 1Pt 1:15 6:1–2 ⁱMt 23:5; Lk 6:24 6:4 ^jJr 17:10; Lk 14:14; Col 3:23–24; Heb 4:13 6:5 ^kMt 6:16; Mk 11:25; Lk 6:24; 18:11 6:6 ^l2Kg 4:33; Is 26:20; Mt 6:18 6:7 ^m1Kg 18:26; Ec 5:2 6:8 ⁿMt 9:12; Mk 2:17; Lk 5:31; 9:11; 10:42; Ac 2:45 6:9–13 ^oLk 11:1–13 6:9 ^pLk 11:2; 1Co 7:14 6:10 ^qPs 103:20; Mt 3:2; 4:17; 26:42; Lk 22:42; Ac 21:14 6:11–12 ^rPr 30:8; Rm 4:4; Gl 5:3 6:13 ^sMt 26:41; 1Co 10:13; 2Pt 2:9 6:13 ^tMt 5:37; Jn 17:15; 2Th 3:3; 2Tm 4:18

Samuel, and the prophets,^a 33 who by faith conquered kingdoms,^b administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions,^c 34 quenched the raging of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, gained strength in weakness, became mighty in battle, and put foreign armies to flight.^d 35 Women received their dead, raised to life again. Other people were tortured, not accepting release, so that they might gain a better resurrection. 36 Others experienced mockings and scourgings, as well as bonds and imprisonment.^e 37 They were stoned,^f they were sawed in two, they died by the sword, they wandered about in sheepskins, in goatskins,^g destitute, afflicted, and mistreated. 38 The world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and on mountains, hiding in caves and holes in the ground.

39 All these were approved through their faith, but they did not receive what was promised, 40 since God had provided something better for us, so that they would not be made perfect without us.^h

THE CALL TO ENDURANCE

12 Therefore, since we also have such a large cloud of witnessesⁱ surrounding us, let us lay aside every hindrance and the sin that so easily ensnares us. Let us run with endurance^j the race that lies before us, 2 keeping our eyes on Jesus,^b the pioneer and perfecter^c of our faith. For the joy that lay before him,^d he endured the cross, despising the shame,^k and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

FATHERLY DISCIPLINE

3 For consider him who endured such hostility from sinners against himself, so that you won't grow weary and give up.^l 4 In struggling against sin, you

have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. 5 And you have forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons:

My son, do not take the Lord's discipline lightly or lose heart when you are reproved by him, 6 for the Lord disciplines the one he loves and punishes every son he receives.^{e,m}

7 Endure suffering as discipline: God is dealing with you as sons. For what son is there that a father does not discipline? 8 But if you are without discipline — which all receive^f — then you are illegitimate children and not sons.ⁿ 9 Furthermore, we had human fathers discipline us, and we respected them. Shouldn't we submit even more to the Father of spirits and live?^o 10 For they disciplined us for a short time based on what seemed good to them, but he does it for our benefit, so that we can share his holiness.^p 11 No discipline seems enjoyable at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it yields the peaceful fruit^q of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.^r

12 Therefore, strengthen your tired hands and weakened knees,^s 13 and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be dislocated^g but healed instead.^t

WARNING AGAINST REJECTING GOD'S GRACE

14 Pursue peace with everyone, and holiness^u — without it no one will see the Lord.^v 15 Make sure that no one falls

^AOther mss add *they were tempted*, ^BOr *us, looking to Jesus* ^COr *the founder and completer, or the source and perfecter* ^DOr *who instead of the joy lying before him* ^EPr 3:11–12 ^FLit *discipline, of which all have become participants* ^GOr *so that the lame will not be turned aside*

11:32 ^a1Sm 1:20; 16:1,13 11:33 ^b2Sm 7:11; 8:1–3 ^cJdg 14:5–6; 1Sm 17:34–37; Dn 6:22 11:34 ^dJdg 15:8; 2Kg 20:7; Dn 3:25 11:36 ^eGn 39:20; Jr 20:2 11:37 ^f1Kg 21:13; 2Ch 24:20–21 ^g1Kg 19:10; 2Kg 1:8 11:40 ^hHeb 11:16; Rv 6:11 12:1 ⁱHeb 11:2,4–5,39 ^j1Co 9:24; Heb 10:36 12:2 ^kLk 24:26; Php 2:8–9; Heb 13:13 12:3 ^lMt 10:24; Gl 6:9 12:5–6 ^mJb 5:17; Ps 94:12; Pr 3:11–12; Rv 3:16 12:7–8 ⁿDt 8:5; 1Pt 5:9 12:9 ^oNm 16:22; Is 38:16 12:10 ^pLv 11:44; 2Pt 1:4 12:11 ^qIs 32:17; Jms 3:17–18 ^r1Pt 1:6 12:12 ^sJb 4:3–4; Is 35:3 12:13 ^tPr 4:26; Gl 6:1 12:14 ^uRm 6:22; 14:19 12:14 ^vMt 5:8; 2Co 7:1

short of the grace of God and that no root of bitterness springs up, causing trouble and defiling many.^a ¹⁶And make sure that there isn't any immoral^A or irreverent^b person like Esau, who sold his birthright in exchange for a single meal.^c ¹⁷For you know that later, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, even though he sought it with tears, because he didn't find any opportunity for repentance.^d

¹⁸For you have not come to what could be touched, to a blazing fire, to darkness, gloom, and storm, ¹⁹to the blast of a trumpet, and the sound of words. Those who heard it begged that not another word be spoken to them, ²⁰for they could not bear what was commanded: **If even an animal touches the mountain, it must be stoned.**^{B,e} ²¹The appearance was so terrifying that Moses said, **I am trembling with fear.**^{c,f} ²²Instead, you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God (the heavenly Jerusalem), to myriads of angels, a festive gathering,^g ²³to the assembly of the first-born whose names have been written^D in heaven, to a Judge, who is God of all, to the spirits of righteous people made perfect,^h ²⁴and to Jesus, the mediatorⁱ of a new covenant,^j and to the sprinkled blood, which says better things than the blood of Abel.^k

²⁵See to it that you do not reject the one who speaks. For if they did not escape when they rejected him who warned them on earth, even less will we if we turn away from him who warns us from heaven.^l ²⁶His voice shook the earth at that time, but now he has promised, **Yet once more I will**

shake not only the earth but also the heavens.^{E,m} ²⁷This expression, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of what can be shakenⁿ—that is, created things—so that what is not shaken might remain. ²⁸Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful. By it, we may serve God acceptably, with reverence and awe,^o ²⁹for our God is a consuming fire.^p

FINAL EXHORTATIONS

13 Let brotherly love^q continue. ²Don't neglect to show hospitality, for by doing this some have welcomed angels as guests without knowing it.^r ³Remember those in prison, as though you were in prison with them, and the mistreated,^f as though you yourselves were suffering bodily.^g ⁴Marriage is to be honored by all and the marriage bed kept undefiled, because God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers.^s ⁵Keep your life free from the love of money. Be satisfied with what you have, for he himself has said, **I will never leave you or abandon you.**^{h,t} ⁶Therefore, we may boldly say,

The Lord is my helper;

I will not be afraid.

What can man do to me?^{l,u}

⁷Remember your leaders who have spoken God's word to you. As you carefully observe the outcome of their lives, imitate their faith.^v ⁸Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.^w ⁹Don't be led astray by various kinds of strange teachings; for it is good for the heart to be established by grace and not by food regulations, since those who observe them have not benefited.^x ¹⁰We have an altar from which those

^AOr sexually immoral ^BEx 19:12 ^CDt 9:19 ^DOr registered ^EHg 2:6 ^FOr tortured ^GOr mistreated, since you are also in a body ^HDt 31:6 ^IPs 118:6

12:15 ^a2Co 6:1; Gl 5:4; Heb 3:12; 10:39 **12:16** ^b1Tm 1:9; 4:7; 6:20; 2Tm 2:16 ^cGn 25:33 **12:17** ^dGn 27:34-38
12:18-20 ^eEx 19:12-13,18; 20:18-21; Dt 4:11; 5:5,25 **12:21** ^fDt 9:19 **12:22** ^gGl 4:26; Heb 11:10 **12:23** ^hPs 94:2; Lk 10:20; Php 3:12
12:24 ⁱ1Tm 2:5; Heb 7:22; 8:6; 9:15 ^j1Co 11:25; 2Co 3:6; Heb 13:20 ^kGn 4:10; Heb 11:4 **12:25** ^lHeb 2:2-4; 8:5; 11:7
12:26 ^mEx 19:18; Hg 2:6 **12:27** ⁿ1Co 7:31; 2Pt 3:10 **12:28** ^oDn 2:44; Heb 13:15 **12:29** ^pDt 4:24; 2Th 1:8 **13:1** ^qRm 12:10;
^r1Pt 1:22 **13:2** ^rGn 18:3; Mt 25:35 **13:3-4** ^sMt 25:36; 1Co 6:9 **13:5** ^tDt 31:6,8; Jos 1:5; Php 4:11 **13:6** ^uPs 27:1;
^v56:4,11; 118:6; Rm 8:31 **13:7** ^vHeb 6:12; 13:17,24 **13:8** ^wJn 8:58; Heb 1:12 **13:9** ^xEph 4:14; Col 2:16

who worship at the tabernacle do not have a right to eat.^a **11** For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the most holy place by the high priest^b as a sin offering are burned outside the camp.^c **12** Therefore, Jesus also suffered outside the gate,^d so that he might sanctify^e the people by his own blood. **13** Let us, then, go to him outside the camp, bearing his disgrace.^e **14** For we do not have an enduring city here; instead, we seek the one to come.^f **15** Therefore, through him let us continually offer up to God a sacrifice of praise, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name.^g **16** Don't neglect to do what is good and to share, for God is pleased with such sacrifices.^h **17** Obey your leaders^b and submit to them, since they keep watchⁱ over your souls as those who will give an account, so that they can do this with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you. **18** Pray for us, for we are convinced that we have a clear conscience, wanting to conduct ourselves

honorably in everything.^j **19** And I urge you all the more to pray^c that I may be restored to you very soon.

BENEDICTION AND FAREWELL

20 Now may the God of peace, who brought up from the dead our Lord Jesus — the great Shepherd of the sheep^k — through the blood of the everlasting covenant,^l **21** equip^d you with everything good to do his will, working in us what is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever.^{e,m} Amen.

22 Brothers and sisters, I urge you to receive this message of exhortation, for I have written to you briefly. **23** Be aware that our brother Timothy has been released. If he comes soon enough, he will be with me when I see you. **24** Greet all your leaders and all the saints. Those who are from Italy send you greetings. **25** Grace be with you all.ⁿ

^a Or *set apart, or consecrate* ^b Or *rulers* ^c Lit *to do this*
^d Or *perfect* ^e Other mss omit *and ever*

13:10 ^a1Co 9:13; 10:18 **13:11** ^b1Co 9:13; 10:18 ^cEx 29:14; Lv 16:27 **13:12** ^dJn 19:17; Ac 7:58 **13:13** ^eHeb 11:26; 1Pt 4:14
13:14 ^fMc 3:10; Heb 12:22 **13:15** ^gLv 7:12; Hs 14:2; Eph 5:20 **13:16** ^hRm 12:13; Php 4:18 **13:17** ⁱIs 62:6; Ezk 3:17;
Ac 20:28 **13:18** ^jAc 23:1; 1Th 5:25 **13:20** ^kJn 10:11; Ac 2:24; Rm 15:33 ^lZch 9:11; Heb 7:22; 8:6–10; 9:15;
12:24 **13:21** ^mRm 11:36; Php 2:13; 1Pt 5:10 **13:22–25** ⁿAc 16:1; Col 4:18; 1Th 3:2; Heb 13:7,17; 1Pt 5:12