

Daniel 1-12

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E-Prime consists of a paraphrase in which we have endeavored to replace all “to be” verbs (is, are, were, was, etc.) with concrete active verbs, eliminating the “is of identity” (instead of “John is a teacher,” we use “John teaches.”), the “is of predication” (instead of “The apple is sweet,” we use “The apple tastes sweet.”), as well as the passive voice and phantom subjects (instead of “Blessed is the man,” we use “God blesses the man.”). By performing these linguistic procedures, we have hoped to create a crisp, direct, and sparkling document.

Daniel 1

Rendered into E-Prime by Dr. David F. Maas

The Choice Young Men

¹In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it.

²The Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, along with some of the vessels of the house of God; and he brought them to the land of Shinar, to the house of his god, and he brought the vessels into the treasury of his god.

³Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, the chief of his officials, to bring in some of the sons of Israel, including some of the royal family and of the nobles,

⁴youths in whom no one could find a defect, who appeared good-looking, showing intelligence in every branch of wisdom, endowed with understanding and discerning knowledge, and who had ability for serving in the king's court; and he ordered him to teach them the literature and language of the Chaldeans.

⁵The king appointed for them a daily ration from the king's choice food and from the wine which he drank, and appointed that they should have education three years, at the end of which they would enter the king's personal service.

⁶Now among them from the sons of Judah consisted of Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah.

⁷Then the commander of the officials assigned new names to them; and to Daniel he assigned the name Belteshazzar, to Hananiah Shadrach, to Mishael Meshach and to Azariah Abed-nego.

Daniel's Resolve

⁸But Daniel made up his mind that he would not defile himself with the king's choice food or with the wine which he drank; so he sought permission from the commander of the officials that he might not defile himself.

⁹Now God granted Daniel favor and compassion in the sight of the commander of the officials,

¹⁰and the commander of the officials said to Daniel, "I fear my lord the king, who has appointed your food and your drink; for why should he see your faces looking more haggard than the youths who have reached your own age? Then you would make me forfeit my head to the king."

¹¹But Daniel said to the overseer whom the commander of the officials had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah,

¹²"Please test your servants for ten days, and give us some vegetables to eat and water to drink.

¹³"Then observe our appearance and the appearance of the youths who eat the king's choice food; and deal with your servants according to what you see."

¹⁴So he listened to them in this matter and tested them for ten days.

¹⁵At the end of ten days their appearance seemed better and they appeared fatter than all the youths who had eaten the king's choice food.

¹⁶So the overseer continued to withhold their choice food and the wine they would drink, and kept giving them vegetables.

¹⁷As for these four youths, God gave them knowledge and intelligence in every branch of literature and wisdom; Daniel even understood all kinds of visions and dreams.

¹⁸Then at the end of the days which the king had specified for presenting them, the commander of the officials presented them before Nebuchadnezzar.

¹⁹The king talked with them, and out of them all not one could compare with Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah; so they entered the king's personal service.

²⁰As for every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king consulted them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and conjurers who lived in all his realm.

²¹And Daniel continued until the first year of Cyrus the king.

Daniel 2

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The King's Forgotten Dream

¹Now in the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; and his spirit troubled him and his sleep left him.

²Then the king gave orders to call in the magicians, the conjurers, the sorcerers and the Chaldeans to tell the king his dreams. So they came in and stood before the king.

³The king said to them, "I had a dream and my spirit has anxiety to understand the dream."

⁴Then the Chaldeans spoke to the king in Aramaic: " O king, live forever! Tell the dream to your servants, and we will declare the interpretation."

⁵The king replied to the Chaldeans, "The command from me remains firm: if you do not make known to me the dream and its interpretation, I will command someone to tear you limb from limb and make your houses a rubbish heap.

⁶"But if you declare the dream and its interpretation, you will receive from me gifts and a reward and great honor; therefore declare to me the dream and its interpretation."

⁷They answered a second time and said, "Let the king tell the dream to his servants, and we will declare the interpretation."

⁸The king replied, "I know for certain that you bargain for time, inasmuch as you have seen that the command from me remains firm,

⁹that if you do not make the dream known to me, you have only one decree for you For you have agreed together to speak lying and corrupt words before me until the situation has changed; therefore tell me the dream, that I may know that you can declare to me its interpretation."

¹⁰The Chaldeans answered the king and said, "No man on earth could declare the matter for the king, inasmuch as no great king or ruler has ever asked anything like this of any magician, conjurer or Chaldean.

¹¹"Moreover, the thing which the king demands seems difficult, and no one else who could declare it to the king except gods, who do not dwell with mortal flesh."

¹²Because of this the king became indignant and very furious and gave orders to destroy all the wise men of Babylon.

¹³So the decree went forth that the wise men should become slain; and they looked for Daniel and his friends to kill them.

¹⁴Then Daniel replied with discretion and discernment to Arioch, the captain of the king's bodyguard, who had gone forth to slay the wise men of Babylon;

¹⁵he said to Arioch, the king's commander, "For what reason does the decree from the king seem so urgent?" Then Arioch informed Daniel about the matter.

¹⁶So Daniel went in and requested of the king that he would give him time, in order that he might declare the interpretation to the king.

¹⁷Then Daniel went to his house and informed his friends, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, about the matter,

¹⁸so that they might request compassion from the God of heaven concerning this mystery, so that Daniel and his friends would suffer destruction with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.

God Reveals The Secret to Daniel

¹⁹Then God revealed the mystery to Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven;

²⁰Daniel said, "Let the name of God remain blessed forever and ever, For wisdom and power belong to Him.

²¹" He changes the times and the epochs; He removes kings and establishes kings; He gives wisdom to wise men And knowledge to men of understanding.

²²" He reveals the profound and hidden things; He knows what takes place in the darkness, And the light dwells with Him.

²³"To You, O God of my fathers, I give thanks and praise, For You have given me wisdom and power; Even now You have made known to me what we requested of You, For You have made known to us the king's matter."

²⁴Therefore, Daniel went in to Arioch, whom the king had appointed to destroy the wise men of Babylon; he went and spoke to him as follows: " Do not destroy the wise men of Babylon! Take me into the king's presence, and I will declare the interpretation to the king."

²⁵Then Arioch hurriedly brought Daniel into the king's presence and spoke to him as follows: "I have found a man among the exiles from Judah who can make the interpretation known to the king!"

²⁶The king said to Daniel, who also had the name of Belteshazzar, "Can you make known to me the dream which I have seen and its interpretation?"

²⁷Daniel answered before the king and said, "As for the mystery about which the king has inquired, neither wise men, conjurers, magicians nor diviners have the ability to declare it to the king.

²⁸"However, there exists a God in heaven who reveals mysteries, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will take place in the latter days. This I declare your dream and the visions in your mind while on your bed.

²⁹"As for you, O king, while on your bed your thoughts turned to what would take place in the future; and He who reveals mysteries has made known to you what will take place.

³⁰"But as for me, this mystery did not become revealed to me for any wisdom residing in me more than in any other living man, but for the purpose of making the interpretation known to the king, and that you may understand the thoughts of your mind.

The King's Dream

³¹"You, O king, looked and behold, there stood a single great statue; that statue, which appeared large and of extraordinary splendor, stood in front of you, and its appearance looked awesome.

³²"The head of that statue consisted of fine gold, its breast and its arms of silver, its belly and its thighs of bronze,

³³its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay.

³⁴"You continued looking until God cut out a stone out without hands, and it struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and crushed them.

³⁵"Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold became crushed all at the same time and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away so that no one could find a trace of them. But the stone that struck the statue became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

The Interpretation--Babylon the First Kingdom

³⁶"This I declare the dream; now we will tell its interpretation before the king.

³⁷"You, O king, constitute the king of kings, to whom the God of heaven has given the kingdom, the power, the strength and the glory;

³⁸and wherever the sons of men dwell, or the beasts of the field, or the birds of the sky, He has given them into your hand and has caused you to rule over them all. You represent the head of gold.

Medo-Persia and Greece

³⁹"After you there will arise another kingdom inferior to you, then another third kingdom of bronze, which will rule over all the earth.

Rome

⁴⁰"Then there will come a fourth kingdom as strong as iron; inasmuch as iron crushes and shatters all things, so, like iron that breaks in pieces, it will crush and break all these in pieces.

⁴¹"In that you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, it will constitute a divided kingdom; but it will have in it the toughness of iron, inasmuch as you saw the iron mixed with common clay.

⁴²"As the toes of the feet consisted partly of iron and partly of pottery, so some of the kingdom will have strength and part of it will have brittleness.

⁴³"And in that you saw the iron mixed with common clay, they will combine with one another in the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, even as iron does not combine with pottery.

The Divine Kingdom

⁴⁴"In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which no one will ever destroy, and that kingdom will not go to another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever.

⁴⁵"Inasmuch as you saw that God cut a stone out of the mountain without hands and that it crushed the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold, the great God has made known to the king what will take place in the future; so the dream you can trust as true and its interpretation as trustworthy."

Daniel Promoted

⁴⁶Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell on his face and did homage to Daniel, and gave orders to present to him an offering and fragrant incense.

⁴⁷The king answered Daniel and said, "Surely your God proves Himself as a God of gods and a Lord of kings and a revealer of mysteries, since you have received the ability to reveal this mystery."

⁴⁸Then the king promoted Daniel and gave him many great gifts, and he made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon and chief prefect over all the wise men of Babylon.

⁴⁹And Daniel made request of the king, and he appointed Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego over the administration of the province of Babylon, while Daniel resided at the king's court.

Daniel 3

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The King's Golden Image

¹Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold, the height of which measured sixty cubits and its width six cubits; he set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon.

²Then Nebuchadnezzar the king sent word to assemble the satraps, the prefects and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the judges, the magistrates and all the rulers of the provinces to come to the dedication of the image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up.

³Then the satraps, the prefects and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the judges, the magistrates and all the rulers of the provinces all assembled for the dedication of the image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up; and they stood before the image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

⁴Then the herald loudly proclaimed: "To you I give you the command, O peoples, nations and men of every language,

⁵that at the moment you hear the sound of the horn, flute, lyre, trigon, psaltery, bagpipe and all kinds of music, you shall fall down and worship the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king has set up.

⁶"But whoever does not fall down and worship we shall immediately cast into the midst of a furnace of blazing fire."

⁷Therefore at that time, when all the peoples heard the sound of the horn, flute, lyre, trigon, psaltery, bagpipe and all kinds of music, all the peoples, nations and men of every language fell down and worshipped the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up.

Worship of the Image Refused

⁸For this reason at that time certain Chaldeans came forward and brought charges against the Jews.

⁹They responded and said to Nebuchadnezzar the king: "O king, live forever!

¹⁰"You, O king, have made a decree that every man who hears the sound of the horn, flute, lyre, trigon, psaltery, and bagpipe and all kinds of music, shall fall down and worship the golden image.

¹¹"But whoever does not fall down and worship we shall cast into the midst of a furnace of blazing fire.

¹²" We discovered certain Jews whom you have appointed over the administration of the province of Babylon, namely Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego. These men, O king, have disregarded you; they do not serve your gods or worship the golden image which you have set up."

¹³Then Nebuchadnezzar in rage and anger gave orders to bring Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego; then they brought these men before the king.

¹⁴Nebuchadnezzar responded and said to them, " Do we find it true, Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the golden image that I have set up?"

¹⁵"Now if you have made yourself ready, at the moment you hear the sound of the horn, flute, lyre, trigon, psaltery and bagpipe and all kinds of music, to fall down and worship the image that I have made, very well But if you do not worship, we will immediately cast you into the midst of a furnace of blazing fire; and what god can we find who can deliver you out of my hands?"

¹⁶Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego replied to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to give you an answer concerning this matter.

¹⁷"If it should occur, our God whom we serve can deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire; and He will deliver us out of your hand, O king.

¹⁸ But even if He does not, let it become known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up."

Daniel's Friends Protected

¹⁹Then Nebuchadnezzar became filled with wrath, and his facial expression altered toward Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego. He answered by giving orders to heat the furnace seven times more than they usually heated it.

²⁰He commanded certain valiant warriors who served in his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego in order to cast them into the furnace of blazing fire.

²¹Then they tied these men up in their trousers, their coats, their caps and their other clothes, and cast them into the midst of the furnace of blazing fire.

²²For this reason, because the king's command seemed urgent and the furnace had become extremely hot, the flame of the fire slew those men who carried up Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego.

²³But these three men, Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego, fell into the midst of the furnace of blazing fire still tied up.

²⁴Then Nebuchadnezzar the king felt astounded and stood up in haste; he said to his high officials, " Did we not cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?" They replied to the king, "Certainly, O king."

²⁵He said, "Look! I see four men loosed and walking about in the midst of the fire without harm, and the appearance of the fourth looks like a son of the gods!"

²⁶Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the door of the furnace of blazing fire; he responded and said, "Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego, come out, you servants of the Most High God, and come here!" Then Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego came out of the midst of the fire.

²⁷The satraps, the prefects, the governors and the king's high officials gathered around and saw in regard to these men that the fire had no effect on the bodies of these men nor did the hair of their head become singed, nor did their trousers suffer damage, nor had the smell of fire even come upon them.

²⁸Nebuchadnezzar responded and said, " We bless the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego, who has sent His angel and delivered His servants who put their trust in Him, violating the king's command, and yielded up their bodies so as not to serve or worship any god except their own God.

²⁹"Therefore I make a decree that any people, nation or tongue that speaks anything offensive against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego shall become torn limb from limb and their houses reduced to a rubbish heap, inasmuch as no other god can deliver in this way."

³⁰Then the king caused Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego to prosper in the province of Babylon.

Daniel 4

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The King Acknowledges God

¹Nebuchadnezzar the king to all the peoples, nations, and men of every language that live in all the earth: "May your peace abound!

²"It has seemed good to me to declare the signs and wonders which the Most High God has done for me.

³"How great do we consider His signs And how mighty do we consider His wonders! His kingdom will become an everlasting kingdom And His dominion endures from generation to generation.

The Vision of a Great Tree

⁴"I, Nebuchadnezzar, felt at ease in my house and flourishing in my palace.

⁵"I saw a dream and it made me fearful; and these fantasies as I lay on my bed and the visions in my mind kept alarming me.

⁶"So I gave orders to bring into my presence all the wise men of Babylon, that they might make known to me the interpretation of the dream.

⁷"Then the magicians, the conjurers, the Chaldeans and the diviners came in and I related the dream to them, but they could not make its interpretation known to me.

⁸"But finally Daniel came in before me, who also has the name as Belteshazzar according to the name of my god, and in whom dwells a spirit of the holy gods; and I related the dream to him, saying,

⁹"O Belteshazzar, chief of the magicians, since I know that a spirit of the holy gods dwells in you and no mystery baffles you, tell me the visions of my dream which I have seen, along with its interpretation.

¹⁰"Now these constituted the visions in my mind as I lay on my bed: I looked, and behold, there grew a tree in the midst of the earth and it had great height.

¹¹"The tree grew large and became strong And its height reached to the sky, And it became visible to the end of the whole earth.

¹²"Its foliage looked beautiful and its fruit abundant, And in it contained food for all The beasts of the field found shade under it, And the birds of the sky dwelt in its branches, And all living creatures fed themselves from it.

¹³"I looked in the visions in my mind as I lay on my bed, and behold, an angelic watcher, a holy one, descended from heaven.

¹⁴"He shouted out and spoke as follows: " Chop down the tree and cut off its branches, Strip off its foliage and scatter its fruit; Let the beasts flee from under it And the birds from its branches.

¹⁵"Yet leave the stump with its roots in the ground, But with a band of iron and bronze around it In the new grass of the field; And let him become drenched with the dew of heaven, And let him share with the beasts in the grass of the earth.

¹⁶"Let his mind become changed from that of a man And let a beast's mind become given to him, And let seven periods of time pass over him.

¹⁷" Angelic watchers decreed his sentence And the holy ones commanded the decision , In order that the living may know That the Most High rules over the realm of mankind, And bestows it on whom He wishes And sets over it the lowliest of men."

¹⁸"This dream I, King Nebuchadnezzar, have seen. Now you, Belteshazzar, tell me its interpretation, inasmuch as none of the wise men of my kingdom can make known to me the interpretation; but you can, for a spirit of the holy gods dwells in you.'

Daniel Interprets the Vision

¹⁹"Then Daniel, who also has the name Belteshazzar, felt appalled for a while as his thoughts alarmed him. The king responded and said, 'Belteshazzar, do not let the dream or its interpretation alarm you.' Belteshazzar replied, 'My lord, if only the dream applied to those who hate you and its interpretation to your adversaries!'

²⁰The tree that you saw, which became large and grew strong, whose height reached to the sky and appeared visible to all the earth

²¹and whose foliage looked beautiful and its fruit abundant, and in which provided food for all, under which the beasts of the field dwelt and in whose branches the birds of the sky lodged--

²²it represents you, O king; for you have become great and grown strong, and your majesty has become great and reached to the sky and your dominion to the end of the earth.

²³"In that the king saw an angelic watcher, a holy one, descending from heaven and saying, "Chop down the tree and destroy it; yet leave the stump with its roots in the ground, but with a band of iron and bronze around it in the new grass of the field, and let him become drenched with the dew of heaven, and let him share with the beasts of the field until seven periods of time pass over him,"

²⁴this constitutes the interpretation, O king, and this constitutes the decree of the Most High, which has come upon my lord the king:

²⁵that God will drive you away from mankind and your dwelling place will become with the beasts of the field, and you will eat grass like cattle and become drenched with the dew of heaven; and seven periods of time will pass over you, until you recognize that the Most High rules over the realm of mankind and bestows it on whomever He wishes.

²⁶And in that the command came to leave the stump with the roots of the tree, your kingdom will return to you after you recognize that Heaven rules.

²⁷Therefore, O king, may my advice please you: break away now from your sins by doing righteousness and from your iniquities by showing mercy to the poor, in case there may continue a prolonging of your prosperity.'

The Vision Fulfilled

²⁸"All this happened to Nebuchadnezzar the king.

²⁹" Twelve months later he walked on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon.

³⁰"The king reflected and said, 'Has not Babylon achieved greatness, which I myself have built as a royal residence by the might of my power and for the glory of my majesty?'

³¹"While the word became uttered in the king's mouth, a voice came from heaven, saying, 'King Nebuchadnezzar, to you I declare: I will remove your sovereignty from you,

³²and you will become driven away from mankind, and you will dwell with the beasts of the field. You will eat grass like cattle, and seven periods of time will pass over you until you recognize that the Most High rules over the realm of mankind and bestows it on whomever He wishes.'

³³"Immediately the word concerning Nebuchadnezzar became fulfilled; and God drove him away from mankind and Nebuchadnezzar began eating grass like cattle, and his body became drenched with the dew of heaven until his hair had grown like eagles' feathers and his nails like birds' claws.

³⁴"But at the end of that period, I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever; For His dominion endures as an everlasting dominion, And His kingdom endures from generation to generation.

³⁵" All the inhabitants of the earth I account as nothing, But He does according to His will in the host of heaven. And among the inhabitants of earth; And no one can ward off His hand. Or say to Him, 'What have You done?'

³⁶"At that time my reason returned to me. And my majesty and splendor became restored to me for the glory of my kingdom, and my counselors and my nobles began seeking me out; so I became reestablished in my sovereignty, and surpassing greatness increased in me.

³⁷"Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise, exalt and honor the King of heaven, for all His works I know as true and His ways just, and He can humble those who walk in pride."

Daniel 5

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Belshazzar's Feast

¹Belshazzar the king held a great feast for a thousand of his nobles, and he drank wine in the presence of the thousand.

²When Belshazzar tasted the wine, he gave orders to bring the gold and silver vessels which Nebuchadnezzar his father had taken out of the temple which stood in Jerusalem, so that the king and his nobles, his wives and his concubines might drink from them.

³Then they brought the gold vessels that they had taken out of the temple, the house of God which stood in Jerusalem; and the king and his nobles, his wives and his concubines drank from them.

⁴They drank the wine and praised the gods of gold and silver, of bronze, iron, wood and stone.

⁵Suddenly the fingers of a man's hand emerged and began writing opposite the lampstand on the plaster of the wall of the king's palace, and the king saw the back of the hand that did the writing.

⁶Then the king's face grew pale and his thoughts alarmed him, and his hip joints went slack and his knees began knocking together.

⁷The king called aloud to bring in the conjurers, the Chaldeans and the diviners. The king spoke and said to the wise men of Babylon, "Any man who can read this inscription and explain its interpretation to me I shall clothe with purple and have a necklace of gold around his neck, and have authority as third ruler in the kingdom."

⁸Then all the king's wise men came in, but they could not read the inscription or make known its interpretation to the king.

⁹Then King Belshazzar became greatly alarmed, his face grew even paler, and his nobles became perplexed.

¹⁰The queen entered the banquet hall because of the words of the king and his nobles; the queen spoke and said, "O king, live forever! Do not let your thoughts alarm you or your face become pale.

¹¹"There lives a man in your kingdom in whom dwells a spirit of the holy gods; and in the days of your father, illumination, insight and wisdom like the wisdom of the gods appeared in him. And King Nebuchadnezzar, your father, your father the king, appointed him chief of the magicians, conjurers, Chaldeans and diviners.

¹²"This came because an extraordinary spirit, knowledge and insight, interpretation of dreams, explanation of enigmas and solving of difficult problems appeared in this Daniel, whom the king named Belshazzar. Summon Daniel now and he will declare the interpretation."

Daniel Interprets Handwriting on the Wall

¹³Then the authorities brought Daniel in before the king. The king spoke and said to Daniel, "Do we identify you as that Daniel who came from the exiles from Judah, whom my father the king brought from Judah?"

¹⁴"Now I have heard about you that a spirit of the gods dwells in you, and that illumination, insight and extraordinary wisdom have emanated from you.

¹⁵"Just now I brought the wise men and the conjurers before me that they might read this inscription and make its interpretation known to me, but they could not declare the interpretation of the message.

¹⁶"But I personally have heard about you, that you have the ability to give interpretations and solve difficult problems. Now if you can read the inscription and make its interpretation known

to me, I will clothe you with purple and you shall wear a necklace of gold around your neck, and you will have authority as the third ruler in the kingdom."

¹⁷Then Daniel answered and said before the king, "Keep your gifts for yourself or give your rewards to someone else; however, I will read the inscription to the king and make the interpretation known to him.

¹⁸"O king, the Most High God granted sovereignty, grandeur, glory and majesty to Nebuchadnezzar your father.

¹⁹"Because of the grandeur which He bestowed on him, all the peoples, nations and men of every language feared and trembled before him; whomever he wished he killed and whomever he wished he spared alive; and whomever he wished he elevated and whomever he wished he humbled.

²⁰"But when his heart became lifted up and his spirit became so proud that he behaved arrogantly, God deposed him from his royal throne and took his glory away from him.

²¹"God drove him away from mankind, and his heart became like that of beasts, and he dwelled with the wild donkeys and ate grass like cattle, and his body became drenched with the dew of heaven until he recognized that the Most High God rules over the realm of mankind and that He sets over it whomever He wishes.

²²"Yet you, his son, Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart, even though you knew all this,

²³but you have exalted yourself against the Lord of heaven; and they have brought the vessels of His house before you, and you and your nobles, your wives and your concubines have drunk wine from them; and you have praised the gods of silver and gold, of bronze, iron, wood and stone, which do not see, hear or understand But the God in whose hand comes your life-breath and all your ways, you have not glorified.

²⁴"Then God sent the hand and wrote this inscription.

²⁵"Now He wrote out this inscription : 'MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN.'

²⁶" I will interpret the message: 'MENE'--God has numbered your kingdom and put an end to it.

²⁷"'TEKEL' I have weighed you on the scales and found you deficient.

²⁸"'PERES' I have divided your kingdom and have given it over to the Medes and Persians."

²⁹Then Belshazzar gave orders, and they clothed Daniel with purple and put a necklace of gold around his neck, and issued a proclamation concerning him that he now had authority as the third ruler in the kingdom.

³⁰That same night someone assassinated Belshazzar the Chaldean king.

³¹So Darius the Mede received the kingdom at about the age of sixty-two.

Daniel 6

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Daniel Serves Darius

¹It seemed good to Darius to appoint 120 satraps over the kingdom, that they could take charge of the whole kingdom,

²and over them three commissioners (of whom Daniel served as one), that these satraps might report to them, and that the king might not suffer loss.

³Then this Daniel began distinguishing himself among the commissioners and satraps because he possessed an extraordinary spirit, and the king planned to appoint him over the entire kingdom.

⁴Then the commissioners and satraps began trying to find a ground of accusation against Daniel in regard to government affairs; but they could find no ground of accusation or evidence of corruption, inasmuch as he proved faithful, and no one could find negligence or corruption .

⁵Then these men said, "We will not find any ground of accusation against this Daniel unless we find it against him with regard to the law of his God."

⁶Then these commissioners and satraps came by agreement to the king and spoke to him as follows: "King Darius, live forever!

⁷"All the commissioners of the kingdom, the prefects and the satraps, the high officials and the governors have consulted together that the king should establish a statute and enforce an injunction that anyone who makes a petition to any god or man besides you, O king, for thirty days, we shall cast into the lions' den.

⁸"Now, O king, establish the injunction and sign the document so that it may not change, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which no one may revoke."

⁹Therefore King Darius signed the document, namely, the injunction.

¹⁰Now when Daniel knew that the king had signed the document , he entered his house (now in his roof chamber he had windows open toward Jerusalem); and he continued kneeling on his knees three times a day, praying and giving thanks before his God, as he had done previously.

¹¹Then these men came by agreement and found Daniel making petition and supplication before his God.

¹²Then they approached and spoke before the king about the king's injunction, "Did you not sign an injunction that any man who makes a petition to any god or man besides you, O king, for thirty days, we shall cast into the lions' den?" The king replied, "The statement we acknowledge as true, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which no one may revoke."

¹³Then they answered and spoke before the king, " Daniel, one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, O king, or to the injunction which you signed, but keeps making his petition three times a day."

¹⁴Then, as soon as the king heard this statement, he felt deeply distressed and set his mind on delivering Daniel; and even until sunset he kept exerting himself to rescue him.

¹⁵Then these men came by agreement to the king and said to the king, "Recognize, O king, that we acknowledge it as a law of the Medes and Persians that no one can change an injunction or statute which the king establishes."

Daniel in the Lions' Den

¹⁶Then the king gave orders, and brought Daniel in and cast him into the lions' den The king spoke and said to Daniel, " Your God whom you constantly serve will Himself deliver you."

¹⁷ The authorities brought in a stone and laid over the mouth of the den; and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the signet rings of his nobles, so that no one could change anything in regard to Daniel.

¹⁸Then the king went off to his palace and spent the night fasting, and ordered that no entertainment appear before him; and his sleep fled from him.

¹⁹Then the king arose at dawn, at the break of day, and went in haste to the lions' den.

²⁰When he had come near the den to Daniel, he cried out with a troubled voice. The king spoke and said to Daniel, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you constantly serve, delivered you from the lions?"

²¹Then Daniel spoke to the king, " O king, live forever!

²²"My God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths and they have not harmed me, inasmuch as He considered me innocent before Him; and also toward you, O king, I have committed no crime."

²³Then the king felt very pleased and gave orders for the authorities to take Daniel up out of the den. So they took Daniel up out of the den and no one found any injury on him, because he had trusted in his God.

²⁴The king then gave orders, and they brought those men who had maliciously accused Daniel, and they cast them, their children and their wives into the lions' den; and they had not reached the bottom of the den before the lions overpowered them and crushed all their bones.

²⁵Then Darius the king wrote to all the peoples, nations and men of every language who lived in all the land: " May your peace abound!

²⁶"I make a decree that in all the dominion of my kingdom men will fear and tremble before the God of Daniel; For He we regard as the living God and enduring forever, And His kingdom will not suffer destruction, And His dominion will endure forever.

²⁷"He delivers and rescues and performs signs and wonders In heaven and on earth, Who has also delivered Daniel from the power of the lions."

²⁸So this Daniel enjoyed success in the reign of Darius and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

Daniel 7

NASB E-Prime DFM

Vision of the Four Beasts

¹In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon Daniel saw a dream and visions in his mind as he lay on his bed; then he wrote the dream down and related the following summary of it.

²Daniel said, "I looked in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven stirred up the great sea.

³"And four great beasts came up from the sea, different from one another.

⁴"The first resembled a lion and had the wings of an eagle. I kept looking until its wings became plucked, and it lifted up from the ground and stood on two feet like a man; it received a human mind.

⁵"And behold, another beast, a second one, resembling a bear. And it raised up on one side, and three ribs appeared in its mouth between its teeth; and thus they said to it, 'Arise, devour much meat!'

⁶"After this I kept looking, and behold, another one, like a leopard, which had on its back four wings of a bird; the beast also had four heads, and it received a dominion.

⁷"After this I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrifying and extremely strong; and it had large iron teeth It devoured and crushed and trampled down the remainder with its feet; and it seemed different from all the beasts that lived before it, and it had ten horns.

⁸"While I contemplated the horns, behold, another horn, a little one, came up among them, and three of the first horns became pulled out by the roots before it; and behold, this horn possessed eyes like the eyes of a man and a mouth uttering great boasts.

The Ancient of Days Reigns

⁹"I kept looking Until thrones became set up, And the Ancient of Days took His seat; His vesture resembled white snow And the hair of His head like pure wool His throne seemed ablaze with flames, Its wheels seemed a burning fire.

¹⁰"A river of fire flowed And coming out from before Him; Thousands upon thousands attended Him, And myriads upon myriads stood before Him; The court sat, And the books opened.

¹¹"Then I kept looking because of the sound of the boastful words which the horn spoke; I kept looking until the beast became slain, and its body suffered destruction and given to the burning fire.

¹²"As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion disappeared, but they received an extension of life for an appointed period of time.

The Son of Man Presented

¹³"I kept looking in the night visions, And behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man came, And He came up to the Ancient of Days And appeared before Him.

¹⁴"And He received dominion, Glory and a kingdom, That all the peoples, nations and men of every language Might serve Him His dominion lasts forever Which will not pass away; And His kingdom proves only one kingdom Which will not suffer destruction.

The Vision Interpreted

¹⁵"As for me, Daniel, my spirit became distressed within me, and the visions in my mind kept alarming me.

¹⁶"I approached one of those who stood by and began asking him the exact meaning of all this So he told me and made known to me the interpretation of these things:

¹⁷"These great beasts, which number four, constitute four kings who will arise from the earth.

¹⁸"But the saints of the Highest One will receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, for all ages to come.'

¹⁹"Then I desired to know the exact meaning of the fourth beast, which seemed different from all the others, exceedingly dreadful, with its teeth of iron and its claws of bronze, and which devoured, crushed and trampled down the remainder with its feet,

²⁰and the meaning of the ten horns that appeared on its head and the other horn which came up, and before which three of them fell, namely, that horn which had eyes and a mouth uttering great boasts and which seemed larger in appearance than its associates.

²¹"I kept looking, and that horn waged war with the saints and overpowered them

²²until the Ancient of Days came and passed judgment in favor of the saints of the Highest One, and the time arrived when the saints took possession of the kingdom.

²³"Thus he said: 'The fourth beast will consist of a fourth kingdom on the earth, which will seem different from all the other kingdoms and will devour the whole earth and tread it down and crush it.

²⁴As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings will arise; and another will arise after them, and he will seem different from the previous ones and will subdue three kings.

²⁵He will speak out against the Most High and wear down the saints of the Highest One, and he will intend to make alterations in times and in law; and his hand will receive them for a time, times, and half a time.

²⁶But the court will sit for judgment, and will take away his dominion, annihilate and destroy it forever.

²⁷Then the sovereignty, the dominion and the greatness of all the kingdoms under the whole heaven the court will give to the people of the saints of the Highest One; His kingdom will last forever, and all the dominions will serve and obey Him.'

²⁸"At this point the revelation ended. As for me, Daniel, my thoughts greatly alarmed me and my face grew pale, but I kept the matter to myself."

Daniel 8

NASB E-Prime DFM

Vision of the Ram and Goat

¹In the third year of the reign of Belshazzar the king a vision appeared to me, Daniel, subsequent to the one which appeared to me previously.

²I looked in the vision, and while I looked I found myself in the citadel of Susa, which locates in the province of Elam; and I looked in the vision and I myself found myself beside the Ulai Canal.

³Then I lifted my eyes and looked, and behold, a ram which had two horns stood in front of the canal. Now the two horns appeared long, but one appeared longer than the other, with the longer one coming up last.

⁴I saw the ram butting westward, northward, and southward, and no other beasts could stand before him nor could anyone rescue from his power, but he did as he pleased and magnified himself.

⁵While I observed, behold, a male goat came from the west over the surface of the whole earth without touching the ground; and the goat had a conspicuous horn between his eyes.

⁶He came up to the ram that had the two horns, which I had seen standing in front of the canal, and rushed at him in his mighty wrath.

⁷I saw him come beside the ram, and he became enraged at him; and he struck the ram and shattered his two horns, and the ram had no strength to withstand him. So he hurled him to the ground and trampled on him, and no one could rescue the ram from his power.

⁸Then the male goat magnified himself exceedingly. But as soon as he grew mighty, the large horn broke; and in its place there came up four conspicuous horns toward the four winds of heaven.

The Little Horn

⁹Out of one of them came forth a rather small horn which grew exceedingly great toward the south, toward the east, and toward the Beautiful Land.

¹⁰It grew up to the host of heaven and caused some of the host and some of the stars to fall to the earth, and it trampled them down.

¹¹It even magnified itself as equal with the Commander of the host; and it removed the regular sacrifice from Him, and the place of His sanctuary he threw down.

¹²And on account of transgression the host will fall into the horn along with the regular sacrifice; and it will fling truth to the ground and perform its will and prosper.

¹³Then I heard a holy one speaking, and another holy one said to that particular one who spoke, "How long will the vision about the regular sacrifice apply, while the transgression causes horror, so as to allow both the holy place and the host to become trampled?"

¹⁴He said to me, "For 2,300 evenings and mornings; then the holy place will become properly restored."

Interpretation of the Vision

¹⁵When I, Daniel, had seen the vision, I sought to understand it; and behold, standing before me appeared one who looked like a man.

¹⁶And I heard the voice of a man between the banks of Ulai, and he called out and said, "Gabriel, give this man an understanding of the vision."

¹⁷So he came near to where I stood, and when he came I felt frightened and fell on my face; but he said to me, "Son of man, understand that the vision pertains to the time of the end."

¹⁸Now while he talked with me, I sank into a deep sleep with my face to the ground; but he touched me and made me stand upright.

¹⁹He said, "Behold, I intend to let you know what will occur at the final period of the indignation, for it pertains to the appointed time of the end."

The Ram's Identity

²⁰"The ram which you saw with the two horns represents the kings of Media and Persia.

The Goat

²¹"The shaggy goat represents the kingdom of Greece, and the large horn that you see between his eyes represents the first king.

²²"The broken horn and the four horns that arose in its place represent four kingdoms which will arise from his nation, although not with his power.

²³"In the latter period of their rule, When the transgressors have run their course, A king will arise, Insolent and skilled in intrigue.

²⁴"He will have mighty power, but not by his own power, And he will destroy to an extraordinary degree And prosper and perform his will; He will destroy mighty men and the holy people.

²⁵"And through his shrewdness He will cause deceit to succeed by his influence; And he will magnify himself in his heart, And he will destroy many while they feel at ease. He will even oppose the Prince of princes, But he will break without human agency.

²⁶"The vision of the evenings and mornings Which you have heard proves true; But keep the vision secret, For it pertains to many days in the future."

²⁷Then I, Daniel, felt exhausted and sick for days Then I got up again and carried on the king's business; but I felt astounded at the vision, and no one could explain it.

Daniel 9

NASB E-Prime DFM

Daniel's Prayer for His People

¹In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, of Median descent, who became king over the kingdom of the Chaldeans--

²in the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, observed in the books the number of the years which became revealed as the word of the LORD to Jeremiah the prophet for the completion of the desolations of Jerusalem, namely, seventy years.

³So I gave my attention to the Lord God to seek Him by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth and ashes.

⁴I prayed to the LORD my God and confessed and said, "Alas, O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and lovingkindness for those who love Him and keep His commandments,

⁵we have sinned, committed iniquity, acted wickedly and rebelled, even turning aside from Your commandments and ordinances.

⁶"Moreover, we have not listened to Your servants the prophets, who spoke in Your name to our kings, our princes, our fathers and all the people of the land.

⁷" Righteousness belongs to You, O Lord, but to us open shame, as it has come this day--to the men of Judah, the inhabitants of Jerusalem and all Israel, those who live nearby and those who live far away in all the countries to which You have driven them, because of their unfaithful deeds which they have committed against You.

⁸"Open shame belongs to us, O Lord, to our kings, our princes and our fathers, because we have sinned against You.

⁹"To the Lord our God belong compassion and forgiveness, for we have rebelled against Him;

¹⁰nor have we obeyed the voice of the LORD our God, to walk in His teachings which He set before us through His servants the prophets.

¹¹"Indeed all Israel has transgressed Your law and turned aside, not obeying Your voice; so You poured the curse out on us, along with the oath which we read in the law of Moses the servant of God, for we have sinned against Him.

¹²"Thus He has confirmed His words which He had spoken against us and against our rulers who ruled us, to bring on us great calamity; for under the whole heaven nothing has taken place like what has happened to Jerusalem.

¹³"As we read in the law of Moses, all this calamity has come on us; yet we have not sought the favor of the LORD our God by turning from our iniquity and giving attention to Your truth.

¹⁴"Therefore the LORD has kept the calamity in store and brought it on us; for the LORD our God shows righteousness with respect to all His deeds which He has done, but we have not obeyed His voice.

¹⁵"And now, O Lord our God, who have brought Your people out of the land of Egypt with a mighty hand and have made a name for Yourself, as it has become on this day--we have sinned, we have done wickedly.

¹⁶"O Lord, in accordance with all Your righteous acts, let now Your anger and Your wrath turn away from Your city Jerusalem, Your holy mountain; for because of our sins and the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and Your people have become a reproach to all those around us.

¹⁷"So now, our God, listen to the prayer of Your servant and to his supplications, and for Your sake, O Lord, let Your face shine on Your desolate sanctuary.

¹⁸"O my God, incline Your ear and hear! Open Your eyes and see our desolations and the city which calls itself by Your name; for we do not present our supplications before You on account of any merits of our own, but on account of Your great compassion.

¹⁹"O Lord, hear! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, listen and take action! For Your own sake, O my God, do not delay, because Your city and Your people who call themselves by Your name."

Gabriel Brings an Answer

²⁰Now while I spoke and prayed, and confessed my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and present my supplication before the LORD my God in behalf of the holy mountain of my God,

²¹while I still spoke in prayer, then the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision previously, came to me in my extreme weariness about the time of the evening offering.

²²He gave me instruction and talked with me and said, "O Daniel, I have now come forth to give you insight with understanding.

²³"At the beginning of your supplications the command became issued, and I have come to tell you, for we highly esteem You; so give heed to the message and gain understanding of the vision.

Seventy Weeks and the Messiah

²⁴" God has decreed seventy weeks for your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sin, to make atonement for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy place.

²⁵"So you will know and discern that from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince we will count seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; we will build it again, with plaza and moat, even in times of distress.

²⁶"Then after the sixty-two weeks the Messiah will become cut off and have nothing, and the people of the prince who will come to destroy the city and the sanctuary And its end will come with a flood; even to the end war will break out; desolations will have become determined.

²⁷"And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations will come one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that had become decreed, has become poured out on the one who makes desolate."

Daniel 10

NASB E-Prime DFM

Daniel Becomes Terrified by a Vision

¹In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia Daniel received a revelatory message, who also had the name Belteshazzar; and the message proved true and one of great conflict, but he understood the message and had an understanding of the vision.

²In those days, I, Daniel, had mourned for three entire weeks.

³I did not eat any tasty food, nor did meat or wine enter my mouth, nor did I use any ointment at all until the entire three weeks had reached completion.

⁴On the twenty-fourth day of the first month, while I stood by the bank of the great river, namely, the Tigris,

⁵I lifted my eyes and looked, and behold, there stood a certain man dressed in linen, who girded his waist with a belt of pure gold of Uphaz.

⁶His body also resembled beryl, his face had the appearance of lightning, his eyes resembled flaming torches, his arms and feet like the gleam of polished bronze, and the sound of his words like the sound of a tumult.

⁷Now I, Daniel, alone saw the vision, while the men who stood with me did not see the vision; nevertheless, a great dread fell on them, and they ran away to hide themselves.

⁸So I became left alone and saw this great vision; yet no strength remained in me, for my natural color turned to a deathly pallor, and I retained no strength.

⁹But I heard the sound of his words; and as soon as I heard the sound of his words, I fell into a deep sleep on my face, with my face to the ground.

Daniel Comforted

¹⁰Then behold, a hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees.

¹¹He said to me, "O Daniel, man of high esteem, understand the words that I will soon tell you and stand upright, for I have now become sent to you " And when he had spoken this word to me, I stood up trembling.

¹²Then he said to me, " Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart on understanding this and on humbling yourself before your God, He heard your words , and I have come in response to your words.

¹³"But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me for twenty-one days; then behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had found myself left there with the kings of Persia.

¹⁴"Now I have come to give you an understanding of what will happen to your people in the latter days, for the vision pertains to the days yet future."

¹⁵When he had spoken to me according to these words, I turned my face toward the ground and became speechless.

¹⁶And behold, one who resembled a human being touched my lips; then I opened my mouth and spoke and said to him who stood before me, "O my lord, as a result of the vision anguish has come upon me, and I have strength.

¹⁷"For how can such a servant of my lord talk with such as my lord? As for me, there remains just now no strength in me, nor has any breath remained in me."

¹⁸Then this one with human appearance touched me again and strengthened me.

¹⁹He said, "O man of high esteem, do not fear May peace come on you; take courage and act courageously!" Now as soon as he spoke to me, I received strength and said, "May my lord speak, for you have strengthened me."

²⁰Then he said, "Do you understand why I came to you? But I shall now return to fight against the prince of Persia; so I go forth, and behold, the prince of Greece will soon come.

²¹"However, I will tell you what God has inscribed in the writing of truth Yet no one who stands firmly with me against these forces except Michael your prince.

Daniel 11

NASB E-Prime DFM

Conflicts to Come

¹"In the first year of Darius the Mede, I arose to serve as an encouragement and a protection for him.

²"And now I will tell you the truth Behold, three more kings will arise in Persia Then a fourth will gain far more riches than all of them; as soon as he becomes strong through his riches, he will arouse the whole empire against the realm of Greece.

³"And a mighty king will arise, and he will rule with great authority and do as he pleases.

⁴"But as soon as he has arisen, his kingdom will break up and parceled out toward the four points of the compass, though not to his own descendants, nor according to his authority which he wielded, for his sovereignty will become uprooted and given to others besides them.

⁵"Then the king of the South will grow strong, along with one of his princes who will gain ascendancy over him and obtain dominion; people will consider his domain great indeed.

⁶"After some years they will form an alliance, and the daughter of the king of the South will come to the king of the North to carry out a peaceful arrangement. But she will not retain her position of power, nor will he remain with his power, but she will be given up, along with those who brought her in and the one who sired her as well as he who supported her in those times.

⁷"But one of the descendants of her line will arise in his place, and he will come against their army and enter the fortress of the king of the North, and he will deal with them and display great strength.

⁸"Also their gods with their metal images and their precious vessels of silver and gold he will take into captivity to Egypt, and he on his part will refrain from attacking the king of the North for some years.

⁹"Then the latter will enter the realm of the king of the South, but will return to his own land.

¹⁰"His sons will mobilize and assemble a multitude of great forces; and one of them will keep on coming and overflow and pass through, that he may again wage war up to his very fortress.

¹¹"The king of the South will become enraged and go forth and fight with the king of the North. Then the latter will raise a great multitude, but that multitude will fall into the hand of the former.

¹²"When they carry the multitude away, his heart will lift up, and he will cause tens of thousands to fall; yet he will not prevail.

¹³"For the king of the North will again raise a greater multitude than the former, and after an interval of some years he will press on with a great army and much equipment.

¹⁴"Now in those times many will rise up against the king of the South; the violent ones among your people will also lift themselves up in order to fulfill the vision, but they will fall down.

¹⁵"Then the king of the North will come, cast up a siege ramp and capture a well-fortified city; and the forces of the South will not stand their ground, not even their choicest troops, for they will have no strength to make a stand.

¹⁶"But he who comes against him will do as he pleases, and no one will be able to withstand him; he will also stay for a time in the Beautiful Land, with destruction in his hand.

¹⁷"He will set his face to come with the power of his whole kingdom, bringing with him a proposal of peace which he will put into effect; he will also give him the daughter of women to ruin it. But she will not take a stand for him or remain on his side.

¹⁸"Then he will turn his face to the coastlands and capture many. But a commander will put a stop to his scorn against him; moreover, he will repay him for his scorn.

¹⁹"So he will turn his face toward the fortresses of his own land, but he will stumble and fall and no one will find him anymore.

²⁰"Then in his place one will arise who will send an oppressor through the Jewel of his kingdom; yet within a few days he will become shattered, though not in anger nor in battle.

²¹"In his place a despicable person will arise, on whom no one conferred the honor of kingship, but he will come in a time of tranquility and seize the kingdom by intrigue.

²²"The overflowing forces will become flooded away before him and shattered, and also the prince of the covenant.

²³"After one makes an alliance with him he will practice deception, and he will go up and gain power with a small force of people.

²⁴"In a time of tranquility he will enter the richest parts of the realm, and he will accomplish what his fathers never did, nor his ancestors; he will distribute plunder, booty and possessions among them, and he will devise his schemes against strongholds, but only for a time.

²⁵"He will stir up his strength and courage against the king of the South with a large army; so the king of the South will mobilize an extremely large and mighty army for war; but he will not stand, for his enemies will devise schemes against him.

²⁶"Those who eat his choice food will destroy him, and his army will overflow, but many will fall down slain.

²⁷"As for both kings, they will make their hearts intent on evil, and they will speak lies to each other at the same table; but it will not succeed, for the end will still come at the appointed time.

²⁸"Then he will return to his land with much plunder; but he will set his heart against the holy covenant, and he will take action and then return to his own land.

²⁹"At the appointed time he will return and come into the South, but this last time it will not turn out the way it did before.

³⁰"For ships of Kittim will come against him; therefore he will feel disheartened and will return and become enraged at the holy covenant and take action; so he will come back and show regard for those who forsake the holy covenant.

³¹"Forces from him will arise, desecrate the sanctuary fortress, and do away with the regular sacrifice. And they will set up the abomination of desolation.

³²"By smooth words he will turn to godlessness those who act wickedly toward the covenant, but the people who know their God will display strength and take action.

³³"Those who have insight among the people will give understanding to the many; yet they will fall by sword and by flame, by captivity and by plunder for many days.

³⁴"Now when they fall they will receive a little help, and many will join with them in hypocrisy.

³⁵"Some of those who have insight will fall, in order to refine, purge and make them pure until the end time; because it will still come at the appointed time.

³⁶"Then the king will do as he pleases, and he will exalt and magnify himself above every god and will speak monstrous things against the God of gods; and he will prosper until the indignation finishes, for that which he decrees they will do.

³⁷"He will show no regard for the gods of his fathers or for the desire of women, nor will he show regard for any other god; for he will magnify himself above them all.

³⁸"But instead he will honor a god of fortresses, a god whom his fathers did not know; he will honor him with gold, silver, costly stones and treasures.

³⁹"He will take action against the strongest of fortresses with the help of a foreign god; he will give great honor to those who acknowledge him and will cause them to rule over the many, and will parcel out land for a price.

⁴⁰"At the end time the king of the South will collide with him, and the king of the North will storm against him with chariots, with horsemen and with many ships; and he will enter countries, overflow them and pass through.

⁴¹"He will also enter the Beautiful Land, and many countries will fall; but these will find rescue out of his hand: Edom, Moab and the foremost of the sons of Ammon.

⁴²"Then he will stretch out his hand against other countries, and the land of Egypt will not escape.

⁴³"But he will gain control over the hidden treasures of gold and silver and over all the precious things of Egypt; and Libyans and Ethiopians will follow at his heels.

⁴⁴"But rumors from the East and from the North will disturb him, and he will go forth with great wrath to destroy and annihilate many.

⁴⁵"He will pitch the tents of his royal pavilion between the seas and the beautiful Holy Mountain; yet he will come to his end, and no one will help him.

Daniel 12

NASB E-Prime DFM

The Time of the End

¹"Now at that time Michael, the great prince who stands guard over the sons of your people, will arise And there will come a time of distress such as never occurred since a nation existed until that time; and at that time your people, everyone who finds his name written in the book, will find rescue.

²" Many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt.

³"Those who have insight will shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead the many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.

⁴"But as for you, Daniel, conceal these words and seal up the book until the end of time; many will go back and forth, and knowledge will increase."

⁵Then I, Daniel, looked and behold, two others stood, one on this bank of the river and the other on that bank of the river.

⁶And one said to the man dressed in linen, who appeared above the waters of the river, " How long will it take until the end of these wonders?"

⁷I heard the man dressed in linen, who appeared above the waters of the river, as he raised his right hand and his left toward heaven, and swore by Him who lives forever that it would occur

for a time, times, and half a time; and as soon as they finish shattering the power of the holy people, all these events will come to a completion.

⁸As for me, I heard but could not understand; so I said, "My lord, how will these events come out?"

⁹He said, "Go your way, Daniel, for these words I will conceal and seal up until the end time.

¹⁰" Many will become purged, purified and refined, but the wicked will act wickedly; and none of the wicked will understand, but those who have insight will understand.

¹¹"From the time that the regular sacrifice will become abolished and the abomination of desolation will become set up, there will add up to 1,290 days.

¹²"How blessed will we consider him who keeps waiting and attains to the 1,335 days!

¹³"But as for you, go your way to the end; then you will enter into rest and rise again for your allotted portion at the end of the age."

Hosea 1-14

Hosea 1

Rendered into E-Prime by Dr. David F. Maas

Hosea's Wife and Children

¹The word of the LORD which came to Hosea the son of Beerī, during the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, and during the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel.

²When the LORD first spoke through Hosea, the LORD said to Hosea, "Go, take to yourself a wife of harlotry and have children of harlotry; for the land commits flagrant harlotry, forsaking the LORD."

³So he went and took Gomer the daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son.

⁴And the LORD said to him, "Name him Jezreel; for yet a little while, and I will punish the house of Jehu for the bloodshed of Jezreel, and I will put an end to the kingdom of the house of Israel.

⁵"On that day I will break the bow of Israel in the valley of Jezreel."

⁶Then she conceived again and gave birth to a daughter. And the LORD said to him, "Name her Lo-ruhamah, for I will no longer have compassion on the house of Israel, that I would ever forgive them.

⁷"But I will have compassion on the house of Judah and deliver them by the LORD their God, and will not deliver them by bow, sword, battle, horses or horsemen."

⁸When she had weaned Lo-ruhamah, she conceived and gave birth to a son.

⁹And the LORD said, "Name him Lo-ammi, for I do not consider you not My people and I will not serve as your God."

¹⁰Yet the number of the sons of Israel Will resemble the sand of the sea, Which no one cannot measure or number; And in the place Where I said to them, "I do not consider You My people," I will say to them, "I consider you the sons of the living God."

¹¹And the sons of Judah and the sons of Israel gather together, And they will appoint for themselves one leader, And they will go up from the land, For great will we consider the day of Jezreel.

Hosea 2

NASB E-Prime DFM

Israel's Unfaithfulness Condemned

¹Say to your brothers, " Ammi," and to your sisters, " Ruhamah."

²"Contend with your mother, contend, For she does not behave like my wife, and I do not consider myself her husband; And let her put away her harlotry from her face And her adultery from between her breasts,

³Or I will strip her naked And expose her as on the day when she came into the world I will also make her like a wilderness, Make her like desert and And slay her with thirst.

⁴"Also, I will have no compassion on her children, Because they show themselves as children of harlotry.

⁵"For their mother has played the harlot; She who conceived them has acted shamefully For she said, ' I will go after my lovers, Who give me my bread and my water, My wool and my flax, my oil and my drink.'

⁶"Therefore, behold, I will hedge up her way with thorns, And I will build a wall against her so that she cannot find her paths.

⁷"She will pursue her lovers, but she will not overtake them; And she will seek them, but will not find them Then she will say, ' I will go back to my first husband, For I had it better than than now!'

⁸"For she does not know that I gave her the grain, the new wine and the oil, And lavished on her silver and gold, Which they used for Baal.

⁹"Therefore, I will take back My grain at harvest time And My new wine in its season. I will also take away My wool and My flax Given to cover her nakedness.

¹⁰"And then I will uncover her lewdness In the sight of her lovers, And no one will rescue her out of My hand.

¹¹"I will also put an end to all her gaiety, Her feasts, her new moons, her sabbaths And all her festal assemblies.

¹²"I will destroy her vines and fig trees, Of which she said, 'These I consider my wages Which my lovers have given me ' And I will make them a forest, And the beasts of the field will devour them.

¹³"I will punish her for the days of the Baals When she used to offer sacrifices to them And adorn herself with her earrings and jewelry, And follow her lovers, so that she forgot Me," declares the LORD.

Restoration of Israel

¹⁴"Therefore, behold, I will allure her, Bring her into the wilderness And speak kindly to her.

¹⁵"Then I will give her vineyards from there, And the valley of Achor as a door of hope And she will sing there as in the days of her youth, As in the day when she came up from the land of Egypt.

¹⁶"It will come about in that day," declares the LORD,"That you will call Me Ishi And will no longer call Me Baali.

¹⁷"For I will remove the names of the Baals from her mouth, So that you will mention their names no more.

¹⁸"In that day I will also make a covenant for them With the beasts of the field, The birds of the sky And the creeping things of the ground And I will abolish the bow, the sword and war from the land, And will make them lie down in safety.

¹⁹"I will betroth you to Me forever; Yes, I will betroth you to Me in righteousness and in justice, In lovingkindness and in compassion,

²⁰And I will betroth you to Me in faithfulness. Then you will know the LORD.

²¹"It will come about in that day that I will respond," declares the LORD. "I will respond to the heavens, and they will respond to the earth,

²²And the earth will respond to the grain, to the new wine and to the oil, And they will respond to Jezreel.

²³"I will sow her for Myself in the land I will also have compassion on her who had not obtained compassion, And I will say to those who previously I considered My people, ' I consider You My people!' And they will say, ' I acknowledge You my God!'"

Hosea 3

NASB E-Prime DFM

Hosea's Second Symbolic Marriage

¹Then the LORD said to me, "Go again, love a woman whose husband loves her , yet an adulteress, even as the LORD loves the sons of Israel, though they turn to other gods and love raisin cakes."

²So I bought her for myself for fifteen shekels of silver and a homer and a half of barley.

³Then I said to her, "You shall stay with me for many days. You shall not play the harlot, nor shall you have a man; so I will also honor you."

⁴For the sons of Israel will remain for many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or sacred pillar and without ephod or household idols.

⁵Afterward the sons of Israel will return and seek the LORD their God and David their king; and they will come trembling to the LORD and to His goodness in the last days.

Hosea 4

NASB E-Prime DFM

God's Controversy with Israel

¹ Listen to the word of the LORD, O sons of Israel, For the LORD has a case against the inhabitants of the land, Because no faithfulness or kindness exists Or knowledge of God in the land.

² We see swearing, deception, murder, stealing and adultery They employ violence, so that bloodshed follows bloodshed.

³ Therefore the land mourns, And everyone who lives in it languishes Along with the beasts of the field and the birds of the sky, And also the fish of the sea disappear.

⁴ Yet let no one find fault, and let none offer reproof; For your people compare to those who contend with the priest.

⁵ So you will stumble by day, And the prophet also will stumble with you by night; And I will destroy your mother.

⁶ My people have destroyed themselves for lack of knowledge Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from serving as My priest Since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.

⁷ The more they multiplied, the more they sinned against Me; I will change their glory into shame.

⁸ They feed on the sin of My people And direct their desire toward their iniquity.

⁹ And it will come to pass, like people, like priest; So I will punish them for their ways And repay them for their deeds.

¹⁰ They will eat, but not have enough; They will play the harlot, but not increase, Because they have stopped giving heed to the LORD.

¹¹ Harlotry, wine and new wine take away the understanding.

¹² My people consult their wooden idol, and their diviner's wand informs them; For a spirit of harlotry has led them astray, And they have played the harlot, departing from their God.

¹³ They offer sacrifices on the tops of the mountains And burn incense on the hills, Under oak, poplar and terebinth, Because their shade seems pleasant. Therefore your daughters play the harlot And your brides commit adultery.

¹⁴ I will not punish your daughters when they play the harlot Or your brides when they commit adultery, For the men themselves go apart with harlots And offer sacrifices with temple prostitutes; So the people without understanding ruin themselves.

¹⁵ Though you, Israel, play the harlot, Do not let Judah become guilty; Also do not go to Gilgal, Or go up to Beth-aven And take the oath: "As the LORD lives!"

¹⁶ Since Israel has proved herself stubborn Like a stubborn heifer, Can the LORD now pasture them Like a lamb in a large field?

¹⁷ Ephraim joins herself to idols; Let him alone.

¹⁸Their liquor gone, They play the harlot continually; Their rulers dearly love shame.

¹⁹The wind wraps them in its wings, And they will feel shame because of their sacrifices.

Hosea 5

NASB E-Prime DFM

The People's Apostasy Rebuked

¹Hear this, O priests! Give heed, O house of Israel! Listen, O house of the king! For the judgment applies to you, For you have made yourselves a snare at Mizpah And a net spread out on Tabor.

²The rebels have gone deep in depravity, But I will chastise all of them.

³I know Ephraim, and Israel cannot hide from Me; For now, O Ephraim, you have played the harlot, Israel has defiled itself.

⁴Their deeds will not allow them To return to their God. For a spirit of harlotry dwells within them, And they do not know the LORD.

⁵Moreover, the pride of Israel testifies against him, And Israel and Ephraim stumble in their iniquity; Judah also has stumbled with them.

⁶They will go with their flocks and herds To seek the LORD, but they will not find Him; He has withdrawn from them.

⁷They have dealt treacherously against the LORD, For they have borne illegitimate children Now the new moon will devour them with their land.

⁸Blow the horn in Gibeah, The trumpet in Ramah Sound an alarm at Beth-aven: " Behind you, Benjamin!"

⁹Ephraim will become a desolation in the day of rebuke; Among the tribes of Israel I declare what I know as sure.

¹⁰The princes of Judah have become like those who move a boundary; On them I will pour out My wrath like water.

¹¹Ephraim feels oppressed, crushed in judgment, Because he felt determined to follow man's command.

¹²Therefore I resemble a moth to Ephraim And like rotteness to the house of Judah.

¹³When Ephraim saw his sickness, And Judah his wound, Then Ephraim went to Assyria And sent to King Jareb But he cannot heal you, Or to cure you of your wound.

¹⁴For I will resemble a lion to Ephraim And like a young lion to the house of Judah I, even I, will tear to pieces and go away, I will carry away, and none will deliver.

¹⁵I will go away and return to My place Until they acknowledge their guilt and seek My face; In their affliction they will earnestly seek Me.

Hosea 6

NASB E-Prime DFM

The Response to God's Rebuke

¹"Come, let us return to the LORD For He has torn us, but He will heal us; He has wounded us, but He will bandage us.

²"He will revive us after two days; He will raise us up on the third day, That we may live before Him.

³"So let us know, let us press on to know the LORD His going forth we acknowledge as certain as the dawn; And He will come to us like the rain, Like the spring rain watering the earth."

⁴What shall I do with you, O Ephraim? What shall I do with you, O Judah? For your loyalty resembles a morning cloud And like the dew which goes away early.

⁵Therefore I have hewn them in pieces by the prophets; I have slain them by the words of My mouth; And the judgments on you resemble the light that goes forth.

⁶For I delight in loyalty rather than sacrifice, And in the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.

⁷But like Adam they have transgressed the covenant; There they have dealt treacherously against Me.

⁸Gilead proves herself a city of wrongdoers, Tracked with bloody footprints.

⁹And as raiders wait for a man, So a band of priests murder on the way to Shechem; Surely they have committed crime.

¹⁰In the house of Israel I have seen a horrible thing; Ephraim's harlotry appears there, Israel has defiled itself.

¹¹Also, O Judah, I appoint a harvest for you, When I restore the fortunes of My people.

Hosea 7

NASB E-Prime DFM

Ephraim's Iniquity

¹When I would heal Israel, The iniquity of Ephraim shall become uncovered, And the evil deeds of Samaria, For they deal falsely; The thief enters in, Bandits raid outside,

²And they do not consider in their hearts That I remember all their wickedness Now their deeds appear all around them; They appear before My face.

³With their wickedness they make the king glad, And the princes with their lies.

⁴They all prove themselves adulterers, Like an oven heated by the baker Who ceases to stir up

the fire From the kneading of the dough until it becomes leavened.

⁵On the day of our king, the princes became sick with the heat of wine; He stretched out his hand with scoffers,

⁶For their hearts resemble an oven As they approach their plotting; Their anger smolders all night, In the morning it burns like a flaming fire.

⁷All of them seem hot like an oven, And they consume their rulers; All their kings have fallen None of them calls on Me.

⁸Ephraim mixes himself with the nations; Ephraim has become a cake not turned.

⁹Strangers devour his strength, Yet he does not know it; Gray hairs also have become sprinkled on him, Yet he does not know it.

¹⁰Though the pride of Israel testifies against him, Yet they have not returned to the LORD their God, Nor have they sought Him, for all this.

¹¹So Ephraim has become like a silly dove, without sense; They call to Egypt, they go to Assyria.

¹²When they go, I will spread My net over them; I will bring them down like the birds of the sky I will chastise them in accordance with the proclamation to their assembly.

¹³Woe to them, for they have strayed from Me! Destruction has become theirs, for they have rebelled against Me! I would redeem them, but they speak lies against Me.

¹⁴And they do not cry to Me from their heart When they wail on their beds; For the sake of grain and new wine they assemble themselves, They turn away from Me.

¹⁵Although I trained and strengthened their arms, Yet they devise evil against Me.

¹⁶They turn, but not upward, They resemble a deceitful bow; Their princes will fall by the sword Because of the insolence of their tongue This will constitute their derision in the land of Egypt.

Hosea 8

NASB E-Prime DFM

Israel Reaps the Whirlwind

¹Put the trumpet to your lips! Like an eagle the enemy comes against the house of the LORD, Because they have transgressed My covenant And rebelled against My law.

²They cry out to Me, "My God, we of Israel know You!"

³Israel has rejected the good; The enemy will pursue him.

⁴They have set up kings, but not by Me; They have appointed princes, but I did not know it With their silver and gold they have made idols for themselves, That they might cut themselves off.

⁵He has rejected your calf, O Samaria, saying, "My anger burns against them!" How long will they show incapability of innocence?

⁶For from Israel comes even this! A craftsman made it, so we cannot call it God; Surely the

calf of Samaria will break to pieces.

⁷For they sow the wind And they reap the whirlwind The standing grain has no heads; It yields no grain. Should it yield, strangers would swallow it up.

⁸Israel has become swallowed up; They now find themselves among the nations Like a vessel in which no one delights.

⁹For they have gone up to Assyria, Like a wild donkey all alone; Ephraim has hired lovers.

¹⁰Even though they hire allies among the nations, Now I will gather them up; And they will begin to diminish Because of the burden of the king of princes.

¹¹Since Ephraim has multiplied altars for sin, They have become altars of sinning for him.

¹²Though I wrote for him ten thousand precepts of My law, They treat them as a strange thing.

¹³As for My sacrificial gifts, They sacrifice the flesh and eat it, But the LORD has taken no delight in them Now He will remember their iniquity, And punish them for their sins; They will return to Egypt.

¹⁴For Israel has forgotten his Maker and built palaces; And Judah has multiplied fortified cities, But I will send a fire on its cities that it may consume its palatial dwellings.

Hosea 9

NASBE-Prime DFM

Ephraim Punished

¹ Do not rejoice, O Israel, with exultation like the nations! For you have played the harlot, forsaking your God. You have loved harlots' earnings on every threshing floor.

²Threshing floor and wine press will not feed them, And the new wine will fail them.

³They will not remain in the LORD'S land, But Ephraim will return to Egypt, And in Assyria they will eat unclean food.

⁴They will not pour out drink offerings of wine to the LORD, Their sacrifices will not please Him Their bread will resemble mourners' bread; All who eat of it will defile themselves, For their bread they will consume for themselves alone; It will not enter the house of the LORD.

⁵ What will you do on the day of the appointed festival And on the day of the feast of the LORD?

⁶For behold, they will go because of destruction; Egypt will gather them up, Memphis will bury them Weeds will take over their treasures of silver; Thorns will appear in their tents.

⁷The days of punishment have come, The days of retribution have come; Let Israel know this! The prophet shows himself a fool, The inspired man has dementia, Because of the grossness of your iniquity, And because your hostility has become great.

⁸Ephraim serves as a watchman with my God, a prophet; Yet the snare of a bird catcher enters all his ways, And only hostility remains in the house of his God.

⁹They have gone deep in depravity As in the days of Gibeah; He will remember their

iniquity, He will punish their sins.

¹⁰I found Israel like grapes in the wilderness; I saw your forefathers as the earliest fruit on the fig tree in its first season But they came to Baal-peor and devoted themselves to shame, And they became as detestable as that which they loved.

¹¹As for Ephraim, their glory will fly away like a bird-- No birth, no pregnancy and no conception!

¹²Though they bring up their children, Yet I will bereave them until not a man remains. Yes, woe to them indeed when I depart from them!

¹³Ephraim, as I have seen, I have planted in a pleasant meadow like Tyre; But Ephraim will bring out his children for slaughter.

¹⁴Give them, O LORD--what will You give? Give them a miscarrying womb and dry breasts.

¹⁵All their evil appears at Gilgal; Indeed, I came to hate them there! Because of the wickedness of their deeds I will drive them out of My house! I will love them no more; All their princes have become rebels.

¹⁶Ephraim has become stricken, their root dries up, They will bear no fruit Even though they bear children, I will slay the precious ones of their womb.

¹⁷My God will cast them away Because they have not listened to Him; And they will wander among the nations.

Hosea 10

NASB E-Prime DFM

Retribution for Israel's Sin

¹Israel resembles a luxuriant vine; He produces fruit for himself The more his fruit, The more altars he made; The richer his land, The better he made the sacred pillars.

²Their heart has become faithless; Now they must bear their guilt The LORD will break down their altars And destroy their sacred pillars.

³Surely now they will say, "We have no king, For we do not revere the LORD. As for the king, what can he do for us?"

⁴They speak mere words, With worthless oaths they make covenants; And judgment sprouts like poisonous weeds in the furrows of the field.

⁵The inhabitants of Samaria will fear For the calf of Beth-aven Indeed, its people will mourn for it, And its idolatrous priests will cry out over it, Over its glory, since it has departed from it.

⁶The thing itself will become carried to Assyria As tribute to King Jareb; Ephraim will become seized with shame And Israel will have shame because of its own counsel.

⁷Samaria will cut herself off with her king Like a stick on the surface of the water.

⁸Also the high places of Aven, the sin of Israel, will become destroyed; Thorn and thistle will grow on their altars; Then they will say to the mountains, "Cover us!" And to the hills, "Fall on

us!"

⁹From the days of Gibeah you have sinned, O Israel; There they stand! Will not the battle against the sons of iniquity overtake them in Gibeah?

¹⁰When I desire, I will chastise them; And the peoples will gather against them When they become entangled for their double guilt.

¹¹Ephraim resembles a trained heifer that loves to thresh, But I will come over her fair neck with a yoke; I will harness Ephraim, Judah will plow, Jacob will harrow for himself.

¹²Sow with a view to righteousness, Reap in accordance with kindness; Break up your fallow ground, For time has come to seek the LORD Until He comes to rain righteousness on you.

¹³You have plowed wickedness, you have reaped injustice, You have eaten the fruit of lies Because you have trusted in your way, in your numerous warriors,

¹⁴Therefore a tumult will arise among your people, And all your fortresses will suffer destruction, As Shalman destroyed Beth-arbel on the day of battle, When they dashed mothers in pieces with their children.

¹⁵Thus God will do to you at Bethel because of your great wickedness. At dawn the king of Israel will become completely cut off.

Hosea 11

NASB E-Prime DFM

God Yearns over His People

¹When Israel grew up as a youth I loved him, And out of Egypt I called My son.

²The more they called them, The more they went from them; They kept sacrificing to the Baals And burning incense to idols.

³Yet I taught Ephraim to walk, I took them in My arms; But they did not know that I healed them.

⁴I led them with cords of a man, with bonds of love, And I became to them as one who lifts the yoke from their jaws; And I bent down and fed them.

⁵They will not return to the land of Egypt; But Assyria--he will serve as their king Because they refused to return to Me.

⁶The sword will whirl against their cities, And will demolish their gate bars And consume them because of their counsels.

⁷So My people have become intent on turning from Me. Though they call them to the One on high, None at all exalts Him.

⁸How can I give you up, O Ephraim? How can I surrender you, O Israel? How can I make you like Admah? How can I treat you like Zeboiim? My heart turns over within Me, All My compassions have kindled.

⁹I will not execute My fierce anger; I will not destroy Ephraim again For I proclaim myself as

God and not man, the Holy One in your midst, And I will not come in wrath.

¹⁰They will walk after the LORD, He will roar like a lion; Indeed He will roar And His sons will come trembling from the west.

¹¹They will come trembling like birds from Egypt And like doves from the land of Assyria; And I will settle them in their houses, declares the LORD.

¹²Ephraim surrounds Me with lies And the house of Israel with deceit; Judah has become unruly against God, Even against the Holy One who has demonstrated faithfulness.

Hosea 12

NASB E-Prime DFM

Ephraim Reminded

¹Ephraim feeds on wind, And pursues the east wind continually; He multiplies lies and violence. Moreover, he makes a covenant with Assyria, And oil becomes transported to Egypt.

²The LORD also has a dispute with Judah, And will punish Jacob according to his ways; He will repay him according to his deeds.

³In the womb he took his brother by the heel, And in his maturity he contended with God.

⁴Yes, he wrestled with the angel and prevailed; He wept and sought His favor He found Him at Bethel And there He spoke with us,

⁵Even the LORD, the God of hosts, We acknowledge the LORD as His name.

⁶Therefore, return to your God, Observe kindness and justice, And wait for your God continually.

⁷A merchant, in whose hands hold false balances, He loves to oppress.

⁸And Ephraim said, "Surely I have become rich, I have found wealth for myself; In all my labors they will find in me No iniquity, which would constitute sin."

⁹But I have served as the LORD your God since the land of Egypt; I will make you live in tents again, As in the days of the appointed festival.

¹⁰I have also spoken to the prophets, And I gave numerous visions, And through the prophets I gave parables.

¹¹Does iniquity exist in Gilead? Surely they prove worthless. In Gilgal they sacrifice bulls, Yes, their altars resemble the stone heaps Beside the furrows of the field.

¹²Now Jacob fled to the land of Aram, And Israel worked for a wife, And for a wife he kept sheep.

¹³But by a prophet the LORD brought Israel from Egypt, And a prophet kept him.

¹⁴Ephraim has provoked to bitter anger; So his Lord will leave his bloodguilt on him And bring back his reproach to him.

Hosea 13

NASB E-Prime DFM

Ephraim's Idolatry

¹ When Ephraim spoke, people trembled He exalted himself in Israel, But through Baal he did wrong and died.

² And now they sin more and more, And make for themselves molten images, Idols skillfully made from their silver, All of them the work of craftsmen They say of them, "Let the men who sacrifice kiss the calves!"

³ Therefore they will resemble the morning cloud And like dew which soon disappears, Like chaff which blows away from the threshing floor And like smoke from a chimney.

⁴ Yet I have proclaimed myself the LORD your God Since the land of Egypt; And you would not know any god except Me, For no savior exists besides Me.

⁵ I cared for you in the wilderness, In the land of drought.

⁶ As they had their pasture, they became satisfied, And having become satisfied, their heart became proud; Therefore they forgot Me.

⁷ So I will resemble a lion to them; Like a leopard I will lie in wait by the wayside.

⁸ I will encounter them like a bear robbed of her cubs, And I will tear open their chests; There I will also devour them like a lioness, As a wild beast would tear them.

⁹ Your destruction has come, O Israel, That you rebel against Me, against your help.

¹⁰ Where now has your king gone That he may save you in all your cities, And your judges of whom you requested, "Give me a king and princes"?

¹¹ I gave you a king in My anger And took him away in My wrath.

¹² The iniquity of Ephraim has become bound up; His sin he has stored up.

¹³ The pains of childbirth come upon him; He has not proved a wise son, For the time has not come that he should delay at the opening of the womb.

¹⁴ Shall I ransom them from the power of Sheol? Shall I redeem them from death? O Death, where do we see your thorns? O Sheol, where do we feel your sting? Compassion will hide from My sight.

¹⁵ Though he flourishes among the reeds, An east wind will come, The wind of the LORD coming up from the wilderness; And his fountain will become dry And his spring will dry up; It will plunder his treasury of every precious article.

¹⁶ Samaria will prove herself guilty, For she has rebelled against her God They will fall by the sword, Their little ones will they dash in pieces, And their pregnant women they will rip open.

Hosea 14

NASB E-Prime DFM

Israel's Future Blessing

¹ Return, O Israel, to the LORD your God, For you have stumbled because of your iniquity.

² Take words with you and return to the LORD. Say to Him, " Take away all iniquity And receive us graciously, That we may present the fruit of our lips.

³ "Assyria will not save us, We will not ride on horses; Nor will we say again, ' Our god,' To the work of our hands; For in You the orphan finds mercy."

⁴ I will heal their apostasy, I will love them freely, For My anger has turned away from them.

⁵ I will resemble the dew to Israel; He will blossom like the lily, And he will take root like the cedars of Lebanon.

⁶ His shoots will sprout, And his beauty will resemble the olive tree

And his fragrance like the cedars of Lebanon.

⁷ Those who live in his shadow Will again raise grain, And they will blossom like the vine. His renown will resemble the wine of Lebanon.

⁸ O Ephraim, what more have I to do with idols? I answer and look after you I resemble a luxuriant cypress; From Me comes your fruit.

⁹ Whoever considers himself wise, let him understand these things; Whoever discerns, let him know them For the ways of the LORD prove right, And the righteous will walk in them, But transgressors will stumble in them.

Joel 1-3

Joel 1

Rendered into E-Prime by Dr. David F. Maas

The Devastation of Locusts

¹The word of the LORD that came to Joel, the son of Pethuel:

²Hear this, O elders, And listen, all inhabitants of the land Has anything like this happened in your days Or in your fathers' days?

³Tell your sons about it, And let your sons tell their sons, And their sons the next generation.

⁴What the gnawing locust has left, the swarming locust has eaten; And what the swarming locust has left, the creeping locust has eaten; And what the creeping locust has left, the stripping locust has eaten.

⁵Awake, drunkards, and weep; And wail, all you wine drinkers, On account of the sweet wine That your mouth no longer has.

⁶For a nation has invaded my land, Mighty and without number; Its teeth resemble the teeth of a lion, And it has the fangs of a lioness.

⁷It has made my vine a waste And my fig tree splinters. It has stripped them bare and cast them away; Their branches have become white.

⁸Wail like a virgin girded with sackcloth For the bridegroom of her youth.

⁹The grain offering and the drink offering disappear From the house of the LORD The priests mourn, The ministers of the LORD.

¹⁰The field has gone to ruin, The land mourns; For the grain has become ruined, The new wine dries up, Fresh oil fails.

¹¹Have shamed, O farmers, Wail, O vinedressers, For the wheat and the barley; Because the harvest of the field has suffered destruction.

¹²The vine dries up And the fig tree fails; The pomegranate, the palm also, and the apple tree, All the trees of the field dry up Indeed, rejoicing dries up From the sons of men.

¹³Gird yourselves with sackcloth And lament, O priests; Wail, O ministers of the altar! Come, spend the night in sackcloth O ministers of my God, For the grain offering and the drink offering you have withheld from the house of your God.

Starvation and Drought

¹⁴Consecrate a fast, Proclaim a solemn assembly; Gather the elders And all the inhabitants of the land To the house of the LORD your God, And cry out to the LORD.

¹⁵Alas for the day! For the day of the LORD draws near, And it will come as destruction from the Almighty.

¹⁶Has not food disappeared before our eyes, Gladness and joy from the house of our God?

¹⁷The seeds shrivel under their clods; The storehouses suffered desolation, They have torn the barns down, For the grain has dried up.

¹⁸How the beasts groan! The herds of cattle wander aimlessly Because they have no pasture for them; Even the flocks of sheep suffer.

¹⁹ To You, O LORD, I cry; For fire has devoured the pastures of the wilderness And the flame has burned up all the trees of the field.

²⁰ Even the beasts of the field pant for You; For the water brooks have dried up And fire has devoured the pastures of the wilderness.

Joel 2

NASB E-Prime DFM

The Terrible Visitation

¹ Blow a trumpet in Zion, And sound an alarm on My holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, For the day of the LORD will come; Surely it draws near,

² A day of darkness and gloom, A day of clouds and thick darkness As the dawn spreads over the mountains, So there exists a great and mighty people; There has never existed anything like it, Nor will there ever again come after it To the years of many generations.

³ A fire consumes before them And behind them a flame burns The land resembles the garden of Eden before them But a desolate wilderness behind them, And nothing at all escapes them.

⁴ Their appearance resembles the appearance of horses; And like war horses, so they run.

⁵ With a noise as of chariots They leap on the tops of the mountains, Like the crackling of a flame of fire consuming the stubble, Like a mighty people arranged for battle.

⁶ Before them the people suffer anguish; All faces turn pale.

⁷ They run like mighty men, They climb the wall like soldiers; And they each march in line, Nor do they deviate from their paths.

⁸ They do not crowd each other, They march everyone in his path; When they burst through the defenses, They do not break ranks.

⁹ They rush on the city, They run on the wall; They climb into the houses, They enter through the windows like a thief.

¹⁰ Before them the earth quakes, The heavens tremble, The sun and the moon grow dark And the stars lose their brightness.

¹¹ The LORD utters His voice before His army; Surely His camp looks very great, For he who carries out His word must have strength The day of the LORD appears indeed great and very awesome, And who can endure it?

¹² "Yet even now," declares the LORD, "Return to Me with all your heart, And with fasting, weeping and mourning;

¹³ And rend your heart and not your garments " Now return to the LORD your God, For He shows graciousness and compassion, Slow to anger, abounding in lovingkindness And relenting of evil.

¹⁴ Who knows whether He will not turn and relent And leave a blessing behind Him, Even a grain offering and a drink offering For the LORD your God?

¹⁵ Blow a trumpet in Zion, Consecrate a fast, proclaim a solemn assembly,

¹⁶ Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, Assemble the elders, Gather the children and the nursing infants Let the bridegroom come out of his room And the bride out of her bridal chamber.

¹⁷ Let the priests, the LORD'S ministers, Weep between the porch and the altar, And let them

say, " Spare Your people, O LORD, And do not make Your inheritance a reproach, A byword among the nations Why should they among the peoples say, ' Where has their God gone?'"

Deliverance Promised

¹⁸Then the LORD will show zeal for His land And will have pity on His people.

¹⁹The LORD will answer and say to His people, "Behold, I go to send you grain, new wine and oil, And you will show satisfaction in full with them; And I will never again make you a reproach among the nations.

²⁰"But I will remove the northern army far from you, And I will drive it into a parched and desolate land, And its vanguard into the eastern sea, And its rear guard into the western sea And its stench will arise and its foul smell will come up, For it has done great things."

²¹Do not fear, O land, rejoice and show gladness, For the LORD has done great things.

²²Do not fear, beasts of the field, For the pastures of the wilderness have turned green, For the tree has borne its fruit, The fig tree and the vine have yielded in full.

²³So rejoice, O sons of Zion, And show gladness in the LORD your God; For He has given you the early rain for your vindication And He has poured down for you the rain, The early and latter rain as before.

²⁴The threshing floors will fill with grain, And the vats will overflow with the new wine and oil.

²⁵"Then I will make up to you for the years That the swarming locust has eaten, The creeping locust, the stripping locust and the gnawing locust, My great army which I sent among you.

²⁶"You will have plenty to eat and satisfy yourself. And praise the name of the LORD your God, Who has dealt wondrously with you; Then My people will never fall into shame.

²⁷"Thus you will know that I dwell in the midst of Israel, And that you will regard me as the LORD your God, And there exist no other; And My people will never fall into shame.

The Promise of the Spirit

²⁸" It will come about after this That I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind; And your sons and daughters will prophesy, Your old men will dream dreams, Your young men will see visions.

²⁹"Even on the male and female servants I will pour out My Spirit in those days.

The Day of the LORD

³⁰"I will display wonders in the sky and on the earth, Blood, fire and columns of smoke.

³¹"The sun will become dark And the moon into blood Before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes.

³²"And it will come about that whoever calls on the name of the LORD Will have deliverance; For on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem There some will escape, As the LORD has said, Even among the survivors whom the LORD calls.

Joel 3

NASB E-Prime DFM

The Nations Will receive judgment Judged

¹"For behold, in those days and at that time, When I restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem,

²I will gather all the nations And bring them down to the valley of Jehoshaphat Then I will enter into judgment with them there On behalf of My people and My inheritance, Israel, Whom they have scattered among the nations; And they have divided up My land.

³"They have also cast lots for My people, Traded a boy for a harlot And sold a girl for wine that they may drink.

⁴"Moreover, what do I consider you , O Tyre, Sidon and all the regions of Philistia? Do you render Me a recompense? But if you do recompense Me, swiftly and speedily I will return your recompense on your head.

⁵"Since you have taken My silver and My gold, brought My precious treasures to your temples,

⁶and sold the sons of Judah and Jerusalem to the Greeks in order to remove them far from their territory,

⁷behold, I plan to arouse them from the place where you have sold them, and return your recompense on your head.

⁸"Also I will sell your sons and your daughters into the hand of the sons of Judah, and they will sell them to the Sabeans, to a distant nation," for the LORD has spoken.

⁹Proclaim this among the nations: Prepare a war; rouse the mighty men! Let all the soldiers draw near, let them come up!

¹⁰Beat your plowshares into swords And your pruning hooks into spears; Let the weak say, "I feel like a mighty man."

¹¹Hasten and come, all you surrounding nations, And gather yourselves there Bring down, O LORD, Your mighty ones.

¹²Let the nations become aroused And come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat, For there I will sit to judge All the surrounding nations.

¹³Put in the sickle, for the harvest has ripened Come, tread, for the wine press has filled; The vats overflow, for their wickedness has waxed great.

¹⁴Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the LORD draws near in the valley of decision.

¹⁵The sun and moon grow dark And the stars lose their brightness.

¹⁶The LORD roars from Zion And utters His voice from Jerusalem, And the heavens and the earth tremble But the LORD has served as a refuge for His people And a stronghold to the sons of Israel.

¹⁷Then you will know that you must acknowledge me as the LORD your God, Dwelling in

Zion, My holy mountain So Jerusalem will become holy, And strangers will pass through it no more.

Judah Will receive Blessings

¹⁸And in that day The mountains will drip with sweet wine, And the hills will flow with milk, And all the brooks of Judah will flow with water; And a spring will go out from the house of the LORD To water the valley of Shittim.

¹⁹Egypt will become a waste, And Edom will become a desolate wilderness, Because of the violence done to the sons of Judah, In whose land they have shed innocent blood.

²⁰But Judah will see habitation forever And Jerusalem for all generations.

²¹And I will avenge their blood which I have not avenged, For the LORD dwells in Zion.

Amos 1 -9

Amos 1

Rendered into E-Prime by Dr. David F. Maas

Judgment on Neighbor Nations

¹The words of Amos, who lived among the shepherders from Tekoa, which he envisioned in visions concerning Israel in the days of Uzziah king of Judah, and in the days of Jeroboam son of Joash, king of Israel, two years before the earthquake.

²He said, "The LORD roars from Zion And from Jerusalem He utters His voice; And the shepherds' pasture grounds mourn, And the summit of Carmel dries up."

³Thus says the LORD, "For three transgressions of Damascus and for four I will not revoke its punishment, Because they threshed Gilead with implements of sharp iron.

⁴"So I will send fire upon the house of Hazael And it will consume the citadels of Ben-hadad.

⁵"I will also break the gate bar of Damascus, And cut off the inhabitant from the valley of Aven, And him who holds the scepter, from Beth-eden; So the people of Aram will go exiled to Kir," Says the LORD.

⁶Thus says the LORD, "For three transgressions of Gaza and for four I will not revoke its punishment, Because they deported an entire population To deliver it up to Edom.

⁷"So I will send fire upon the wall of Gaza And it will consume her citadels.

⁸"I will also cut off the inhabitant from Ashdod, And him who holds the scepter, from Ashkelon; I will even unleash My power upon Ekron, And the remnant of the Philistines will perish," Says the Lord GOD.

⁹Thus says the LORD, "For three transgressions of Tyre and for four I will not revoke its punishment, Because they delivered up an entire population to Edom And did not remember the covenant of brotherhood.

¹⁰"So I will send fire upon the wall of Tyre And it will consume her citadels."

¹¹Thus says the LORD, "For three transgressions of Edom and for four I will not revoke its punishment, Because he pursued his brother with the sword, While he stifled his compassion; His anger also tore continually, And he maintained his fury forever.

¹²"So I will send fire upon Teman And it will consume the citadels of Bozrah."

¹³Thus says the LORD, "For three transgressions of the sons of Ammon and for four I will not revoke its punishment, Because they ripped open the pregnant women of Gilead In order to enlarge their borders.

¹⁴"So I will kindle a fire on the wall of Rabbah And it will consume her citadels Amid war cries on the day of battle, And a storm on the day of tempest.

¹⁵"Their king will go into exile, He and his princes together," says the LORD.

Amos 2

NASB E-Prime DFM

Judgment on Judah and Israel

¹Thus says the LORD, "For three transgressions of Moab and for four I will not revoke its punishment, Because he burned the bones of the king of Edom to lime.

²"So I will send fire upon Moab And it will consume the citadels of Kerioth; And Moab will die amid tumult, With war cries and the sound of a trumpet.

³"I will also cut off the judge from her midst And slay all her princes with him," says the LORD.

⁴Thus says the LORD, "For three transgressions of Judah and for four I will not revoke its punishment, Because they rejected the law of the LORD And have not kept His statutes; Their lies also have led them astray, Those after which their fathers walked.

⁵"So I will send fire upon Judah And it will consume the citadels of Jerusalem."

⁶Thus says the LORD, "For three transgressions of Israel and for four I will not revoke its punishment, Because they sell the righteous for money And the needy for a pair of sandals.

⁷"These who pant after the very dust of the earth on the head of the helpless Also turn aside the way of the humble; And a man and his father resort to the same girl In order to profane My holy name.

⁸"On garments taken as pledges they stretch out beside every altar, And in the house of their God they drink the wine of those who have received fines.

⁹"Yet I destroyed the Amorite before them, Though his height compared to the height of cedars And he proved strong as the oaks; I even destroyed his fruit above and his root below.

¹⁰" I brought you up from the land of Egypt, And I led you in the wilderness forty years That you might take possession of the land of the Amorite.

¹¹"Then I raised up some of your sons to become prophets And some of your young men to become Nazirites. Do I not speak correctly, O sons of Israel?" declares the LORD.

¹²"But you made the Nazirites drink wine, And you commanded the prophets saying, 'You shall not prophesy!'

¹³"Behold, I feel weighted down beneath you As a wagon becomes weighted down when filled with sheaves.

¹⁴" Flight will perish from the swift, And the stalwart will not strengthen his power, Nor the mighty man save his life.

¹⁵"He who grasps the bow will not stand his ground, The swift of foot will not escape, Nor will he who rides the horse save his life.

¹⁶"Even the bravest among the warriors will flee naked in that day," declares the LORD.

Amos 3

NASB E-Prime DFM

All the Tribes Have Guilt

¹Hear this word which the LORD has spoken against you, sons of Israel, against the entire family which He brought up from the land of Egypt:

²"You only have I chosen among all the families of the earth; Therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities."

³Do two men walk together unless they have made an appointment?

⁴Does a lion roar in the forest when he has no prey? Does a young lion growl from his den unless he has captured something?

⁵Does a bird fall into a trap on the ground when no bait appears in it? Does a trap spring up from the earth when it captures nothing at all?

⁶If someone blows a trumpet in a city will not the people tremble? If a calamity occurs in a city has not the LORD done it?

⁷Surely the Lord GOD does nothing Unless He reveals His secret counsel To His servants the prophets.

⁸A lion has roared! Who will not fear? The Lord GOD has spoken! Who can but prophesy?

⁹Proclaim on the citadels in Ashdod and on the citadels in the land of Egypt and say, "Assemble yourselves on the mountains of Samaria and see the great tumults within her and the oppressions in her midst.

¹⁰"But they do not know how to do right," declares the LORD, "these who hoard up violence and devastation in their citadels."

¹¹Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD, "An enemy, even one surrounding the land, Will pull down your strength from you And an enemy will loot your citadels ."

¹²Thus says the LORD, "Just as the shepherd snatches from the lion's mouth a couple of legs or a piece of an ear, So will the sons of Israel dwelling in Samaria become snatched away-- With the corner of a bed and the cover of a couch!

¹³"Hear and testify against the house of Jacob," Declares the Lord GOD, the God of hosts.

¹⁴"For on the day that I punish Israel's transgressions, I will also punish the altars of Bethel; They will cut off the horns of the altar And they will fall to the ground.

¹⁵"I will also smite the winter house together with the summer house; The houses of ivory will also perish And the great houses will come to an end," Declares the LORD.

Amos 4

NASB E-Prime DFM

"Yet You Have Not Returned to Me"

¹Hear this word, you cows of Bashan who graze on the mountain of Samaria, Who oppress the poor, who crush the needy, Who say to your husbands, "Bring now, that we may drink!"

²The Lord GOD has sworn by His holiness, "Behold, the days come upon you When they will take you away with meat hooks, And the last of you with fish hooks.

³"You will go out through breaches in the walls, Each one straight before her, And you will become cast to Harmon," declares the LORD.

⁴"Enter Bethel and transgress; In Gilgal multiply transgression! Bring your sacrifices every morning, Your tithes every three days.

⁵"Offer a thank offering also from that which has become leavened, And proclaim freewill offerings, make them known For so you love to do, you sons of Israel," Declares the Lord GOD.

⁶"But I gave you also cleanness of teeth in all your cities And lack of bread in all your places, Yet you have not returned to Me," declares the LORD.

⁷"Furthermore, I withheld the rain from you While there remained still three months until harvest Then I would send rain on one city And on another city I would not send rain; One part would not receive rain, While the part not rained on would dry up.

⁸"So two or three cities would stagger to another city to drink water, But would not become satisfied; Yet you have not returned to Me," declares the LORD.

⁹"I smote you with scorching wind and mildew; And the caterpillar devoured Your many gardens and vineyards, fig trees and olive trees; Yet you have not returned to Me," declares the LORD.

¹⁰"I sent a plague among you after the manner of Egypt; I slew your young men by the sword along with your captured horses, And I made the stench of your camp rise up in your nostrils; Yet you have not returned to Me," declares the LORD.

¹¹"I overthrew you, as I overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah, And you resembled a firebrand snatched from a blaze; Yet you have not returned to Me," declares the LORD.

¹²"Therefore thus I will do to you, O Israel; Because I will do this to you, Prepare to meet your God, O Israel."

¹³For behold, He who forms mountains and creates the wind And declares to man what He had in His thoughts, He who makes dawn into darkness And treads on the high places of the earth, The LORD God of hosts we call as His name.

Amos 5

NASB E-Prime DFM

"Seek Me that You May Live"

¹Hear this word which I take up for you as a dirge, O house of Israel:

²She has fallen, she will not rise again—The virgin Israel She lies neglected on her land; No one will raise her up.

³For thus says the Lord GOD, "The city which goes forth a thousand strong Will have a hundred left, And the one which goes forth a hundred strong Will have ten left to the house of Israel."

⁴For thus says the LORD to the house of Israel, " Seek Me that you may live.

⁵"But do not resort to Bethel And do not come to Gilgal, Nor cross over to Beersheba; For Gilgal will certainly go into captivity And Bethel will come to trouble.

⁶" Seek the LORD that you may live, Or He will break forth like a fire, O house of Joseph, And it will consume with none to quench it for Bethel,

⁷For those who turn justice into wormwood And cast righteousness down to the earth."

⁸He who made the Pleiades and Orion And changes deep darkness into morning, Who also darkens day into night, Who calls for the waters of the sea And pours them out on the surface of the earth, The LORD we acknowledge as His name.

⁹ He flashes forth with destruction upon the strong, So that destruction comes upon the fortress.

¹⁰They hate him who reproveth in the gate, And they abhor him who speaks with integrity.

¹¹Therefore because you impose heavy rent on the poor And exact a tribute of grain from them, Though you have built houses of well-hewn stone, Yet you will not live in them; You have planted pleasant vineyards, yet you will not drink their wine.

¹²For I know your transgressions have multiplied and your sins have become great, You who distress the righteous and accept bribes And turn aside the poor in the gate.

¹³Therefore at such a time the prudent person keeps silent, for it proves an evil time.

¹⁴Seek good and not evil, that you may live; And thus may the LORD God of hosts remain with you, Just as you have said!

¹⁵Hate evil, love good, And establish justice in the gate! Perhaps the LORD God of hosts May show graciousness to the remnant of Joseph.

¹⁶Therefore thus says the LORD God of hosts, the Lord, "There will occur wailing in all the plazas, And in all the streets they say, 'Alas! Alas!' They also call the farmer to mourning And professional mourners to lamentation.

¹⁷"And in all the vineyards they will hear wailing, Because I will pass through the midst of you," says the LORD.

¹⁸Alas, you who long for the day of the LORD, For what purpose will the day of the LORD have for you? It will turn into darkness and not light;

¹⁹As when a man flees from a lion And a bear meets him, Or goes home, leans his hand against the wall And a snake bites him.

²⁰Will not the day of the LORD turn into darkness instead of light, Even gloom with no brightness in it?

²¹"I hate, I reject your festivals, Nor do I delight in your solemn assemblies.

²²"Even though you offer up to Me burnt offerings and your grain offerings, I will not accept them; And I will not even look at the peace offerings of your fatlings.

²³"Take away from Me the noise of your songs; I will not even listen to the sound of your harps.

²⁴"But let justice roll down like waters And righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

²⁵" Did you present Me with sacrifices and grain offerings in the wilderness for forty years, O house of Israel?

²⁶" You also carried along Sikkuth your king and Kiyyun, your images, the star of your gods which you made for yourselves.

²⁷"Therefore, I will make you go into exile beyond Damascus," says the LORD, who we acknowledge as the God of hosts.

Amos 6

NASB E-Prime DFM

"Those at Ease in Zion"

¹ Woe to those who have become at ease in Zion And to those who feel secure in the mountain of Samaria, The distinguished men of the foremost of nations, To whom the house of Israel comes.

²Go over to Calneh and look, And go from there to Hamath the great, Then go down to Gath of the Philistines. Do we consider ourselves better than these kingdoms, Or do they have greater territory greater than yours?

³Do you put off the day of calamity, And would you bring near the seat of violence?

⁴Those who recline on beds of ivory And sprawl on their couches, And eat lambs from the flock And calves from the midst of the stall,

⁵Who improvise to the sound of the harp, And like David have composed songs for themselves,

⁶Who drink wine from sacrificial bowls While they anoint themselves with the finest of oils, Yet they have not grieved over the ruin of Joseph.

⁷Therefore, they will now go into exile at the head of the exiles, And the sprawlers' banqueting will pass away.

⁸The Lord GOD has sworn by Himself, the LORD God of hosts has declared: "I loathe the arrogance of Jacob, And detest his citadels; Therefore I will deliver up the city and all it contains."

⁹And it will occur, if ten men remain left in one house, they will die.

¹⁰Then one's uncle, or his undertaker, will lift him up to carry out his bones from the house, and he will say to the one who lives in the innermost part of the house, "Does anyone else dwell with you?" And that one will say, "No one." Then he will answer, "Keep quiet For the name of the LORD we will not mention."

¹¹For behold, the LORD will command that the great house become smashed to pieces and the small house to fragments.

¹²Do horses run on rocks? Or does one plow them with oxen? Yet you have turned justice into poison And the fruit of righteousness into wormwood,

¹³You who rejoice in Lodebar, And say, "Have we not by our own strength taken Karnaim for ourselves?"

¹⁴"For behold, I intend to raise up a nation against you, O house of Israel," declares the LORD God of hosts, "And they will afflict you from the entrance of Hamath To the brook of the Arabah."

Amos 7

NASB E-Prime DFM

Warning Through Visions

¹Thus the Lord GOD showed me, and behold, He formed a locust-swarm when the spring crop began to sprout. And behold, the spring crop came after the king's mowing.

²And it came about, when it had finished eating the vegetation of the land, that I said, "Lord GOD, please pardon! How can Jacob stand, For he seems small?"

³The LORD changed His mind about this. "It shall not happen," said the LORD.

⁴Thus the Lord GOD showed me, and behold, the Lord GOD called to contend with them by fire, and it consumed the great deep and began to consume the farm land.

⁵Then I said, "Lord GOD, please stop! How can Jacob stand, for he seems small?"

⁶The LORD changed His mind about this. "This too shall not occur," said the Lord GOD.

⁷Thus He showed me, and behold, the Lord stood by a vertical wall with a plumb line in His hand.

⁸The LORD said to me, "What do you see, Amos?" And I said, "A plumb line." Then the Lord said, "Behold I will soon put a plumb line In the midst of My people Israel I will spare them no longer.

⁹"The high places of Isaac will I will make desolate And the sanctuaries of Israel laid waste Then I will rise up against the house of Jeroboam with the sword."

Amos Accused, Answers

¹⁰Then Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, sent word to Jeroboam king of Israel, saying, "Amos has conspired against you in the midst of the house of Israel; the land cannot endure all his words.

¹¹"For thus Amos says, 'Jeroboam will die by the sword and Israel will certainly go from its land into exile.'"

¹²Then Amaziah said to Amos, "Go, you seer, flee away to the land of Judah and there eat bread and there do your prophesying!

¹³"But no longer prophesy at Bethel, for it has become a sanctuary of the king and a royal residence."

¹⁴Then Amos replied to Amaziah, "I do not consider myself a prophet, nor the son of a prophet; for I work as a herdsman and a grower of sycamore figs.

¹⁵"But the LORD took me from following the flock and the LORD said to me, 'Go prophesy to My people Israel.'

¹⁶"Now hear the word of the LORD: you say, 'You shall not prophesy against Israel nor shall you speak against the house of Isaac.'

¹⁷"Therefore, thus says the LORD, 'Your wife will become a harlot in the city, your sons and your daughters will fall by the sword, your land people will parcel up by a measuring line and you yourself will die upon unclean soil. Moreover, Israel will certainly go from its land into exile.'"

Amos 8

NASB E-Prime DFM

Basket of Fruit and Israel's Captivity

¹Thus the Lord GOD showed me, and behold, there appeared a basket of summer fruit.

²He said, "What do you see, Amos?" And I said, "A basket of summer fruit " Then the LORD said to me, "The end has come for My people Israel I will spare them no longer.

³"The songs of the palace will turn to wailing in that day," declares the Lord GOD "Many will increase the corpses; in every place they will cast them forth in silence."

⁴Hear this, you who trample the needy, to do away with the humble of the land,

⁵saying, "When will the new moon end, So that we may sell grain, And the sabbath, that we may open the wheat market, To make the bushel smaller and the shekel bigger, And to cheat with dishonest scales,

⁶So as to buy the helpless for money And the needy for a pair of sandals, And that we may sell the refuse of the wheat?"

⁷The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob, "Indeed, I will never forget any of their deeds.

⁸"Because of this will not the land quake And everyone who dwells in it mourn? Indeed, all of it will rise up like the Nile, And it will toss about And subside like the Nile of Egypt.

⁹"It will come about in that day," declares the Lord GOD, "That I will make the sun go down at noon And make the earth dark in broad daylight.

¹⁰"Then I will turn your festivals into mourning And all your songs into lamentation; And I will bring sackcloth on everyone's loins And baldness on every head And I will make it like a time of mourning for an only son, And the end of it will seem like a bitter day.

¹¹"Behold, days come," declares the Lord GOD, "When I will send a famine on the land, Not a famine for bread or a thirst for water, But rather for hearing the words of the LORD.

¹²"People will stagger from sea to sea And from the north even to the east; They will go to and fro to seek the word of the LORD, But they will not find it.

¹³"In that day the beautiful virgins And the young men will faint from thirst.

¹⁴"As for those who swear by the guilt of Samaria, Who say, 'As your god lives, O Dan,' And, 'As the way of Beersheba lives,' They will fall and not rise again."

Amos 9

NASB E-Prime DFM

God's Judgment Unavoidable

¹I saw the Lord standing beside the altar, and He said, "Smite the capitals so that the thresholds will shake, And break them on the heads of them all! Then I will slay the rest of them with the sword; They will not have a fugitive who will flee, Or a refugee who will escape.

²"Though they dig into Sheol, From there will My hand take them; And though they ascend to heaven, From there will I bring them down.

³"Though they hide on the summit of Carmel, I will search them out and take them from there; And though they conceal themselves from My sight on the floor of the sea, From there I will command the serpent and it will bite them.

⁴"And though they go into captivity before their enemies, From there I will command the sword that it slay them, And I will set My eyes against them for evil and not for good."

⁵The Lord GOD of hosts, The One who touches the land so that it melts, And all those who dwell in it mourn, And all of it rises up like the Nile And subsides like the Nile of Egypt;

⁶The One who builds His upper chambers in the heavens And has founded His vaulted dome over the earth, He who calls for the waters of the sea And pours them out on the face of the earth, The LORD we acknowledge as His name.

⁷"Do I not regard you as the sons of Ethiopia, O sons of Israel?" declares the LORD "Have I not brought up Israel from the land of Egypt, And the Philistines from Caphtor and the Arameans

from Kir?

⁸"Behold, the eyes of the Lord GOD gaze on the sinful kingdom, And I will destroy it from the face of the earth; Nevertheless, I will not totally destroy the house of Jacob," Declares the LORD.

⁹"For behold, I command, And I will shake the house of Israel among all nations As one would shake grain in a sieve, But not a kernel will fall to the ground.

¹⁰"All the sinners of My people will die by the sword, Those who say, 'The calamity will not overtake or confront us.'

The Restoration of Israel

¹¹"In that day I will raise up the fallen booth of David, And wall up its breaches; I will also raise up its ruins And rebuild it as in the days of old;

¹²That they may possess the remnant of Edom And all the nations who call themselves by My name," Declares the LORD who does this.

¹³"Behold, days will come," declares the LORD, "When the plowman will overtake the reaper And the treader of grapes him who sows seed; When the mountains will drip sweet wine And all the hills will dissolve.

¹⁴"Also I will restore the captivity of My people Israel, And they will rebuild the ruined cities and live in them; They will also plant vineyards and drink their wine, And make gardens and eat their fruit.

¹⁵"I will also plant them on their land, And no one will root them from their land Which I have given them," Says the LORD your God.

Obadiah 1

Rendered into E-Prime by Dr. David F. Maas

Edom Will Suffer Humiliation

¹The vision of Obadiah. Thus says the Lord GOD concerning Edom-- We have heard a report from the LORD, And an envoy has moved among the nations saying, "Arise and let us go against her for battle"—

²"Behold, I will make you small among the nations; You have become greatly despised.

³"The arrogance of your heart has deceived you, you who live in the clefts of the rock, In the loftiness of your dwelling place, Who say in your heart, ' Who will bring me down to earth?'

⁴"Though you build high like the eagle, Though you set your nest among the stars, From there I will bring you down," declares the LORD.

⁵"If thieves came to you, If robbers by night-- O how you will receive ruin!-- Would they not steal only until they had enough? If grape gatherers came to you, Would they not leave some gleanings?

⁶"O how Esau will suffer ruin, And his hidden treasures searched out!

⁷"All the men allied with you Will send you forth to the border, And the men at peace with you Will deceive you and overpower you They who eat your bread Will set an ambush for you (There exists no understanding in him.)

⁸"Will I not on that day," declares the LORD, " Destroy wise men from Edom And understanding from the mountain of Esau?

⁹"Then your mighty men will suffer dismay, O Teman, So that everyone may feel themselves cut off from the mountain of Esau by slaughter.

¹⁰"Because of violence to your brother Jacob, You will cover yourself with shame, And people will cut you off forever.

¹¹"On the day that you stood aloof, On the day that strangers carried off his wealth, And foreigners entered his gate And cast lots for Jerusalem-- You too joined yourself to them.

¹²" Do not gloat over your brother's day, The day of his misfortune And do not rejoice over the sons of Judah In the day of their destruction; Yes, do not boast In the day of their distress.

¹³"Do not enter the gate of My people In the day of their disaster Yes, you, do not gloat over their calamity In the day of their disaster And do not loot their wealth In the day of their disaster.

¹⁴"Do not stand at the fork of the road To cut down their fugitives; And do not imprison their survivors In the day of their distress.

The Day of the LORD and the Future

¹⁵"For the day of the LORD draws near on all the nations As you have done, you will receive Your dealings will return on your own head.

¹⁶"Because just as you drank on My holy mountain, All the nations will drink continually. They will drink and swallow And become as if they had never existed.

¹⁷"But on Mount Zion there will stand those who escape, And it will become holy And the house of Jacob will possess their possessions.

¹⁸"Then the house of Jacob will resemble a fire And the house of Joseph a flame; But the house of Esau will become as stubble And they will set them on fire and consume them, So that no survivor of the house of Esau will exist," For the LORD has spoken.

¹⁹Then those of the Negev will possess the mountain of Esau, And those of the Shephelah the Philistine plain; Also, possess the territory of Ephraim and the territory of Samaria, And Benjamin will possess Gilead.

²⁰And the exiles of this host of the sons of Israel, Who dwell among the Canaanites as far as Zarephath, And the exiles of Jerusalem who live in Sepharad Will possess the cities of the Negev.

²¹The deliverers will ascend Mount Zion To judge the mountain of Esau, And the kingdom will become the LORD'S.

Jonah 1-4

Jonah 1

Rendered into E-Prime by Dr. David F. Maas

Jonah's Disobedience

¹The word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai saying,

²"Arise, go to Nineveh the great city and cry against it, for their wickedness has come up before Me."

³But Jonah rose up to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD So he went down to Joppa, found a ship which planned to embark to Tarshish, paid the fare and went down into it to go with them to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD.

⁴The LORD hurled a great wind on the sea and a great storm developed on the sea so that the ship almost broke up.

⁵Then the sailors became afraid and every man cried to his god, and they threw the cargo which the ship contained into the sea to lighten it for them. But Jonah had gone below into the hold of the ship, lain down and fallen sound asleep.

⁶So the captain approached him and said, "How can you sleep? Get up, call on your god Perhaps your god will concern himself with us so that we will not perish."

⁷Each man said to his mate, "Come, let us cast lots so we may learn on whose account this calamity has struck us " So they cast lots and the lot fell on Jonah.

⁸Then they said to him, " Tell us, now! On whose account has this calamity struck us? What do you do? And where do you come from? What country do you come from? From what people do you come from?"

⁹He said to them, "I come from Hebrew stock, and I fear the LORD God of heaven who made the sea and the dry land."

¹⁰Then the men became extremely frightened and they said to him, "How could you do this?" For the men knew that he fled from the presence of the LORD, because he had told them.

¹¹So they said to him, "What should we do to you that the sea may become calm for us?"--for the sea had become increasingly stormy.

¹²He said to them, "Pick me up and throw me into the sea. Then the sea will become calm for you, for I know that on account of me this great storm has come upon you."

¹³However, the men rowed desperately to return to land but they could not, for the sea became even stormier against them.

¹⁴Then they called on the LORD and said, "We earnestly pray, O LORD, do not let us perish on account of this man's life and do not put innocent blood on us; for You, O LORD, have done as You have pleased."

¹⁵So they picked up Jonah, threw him into the sea, and the sea stopped its raging.

¹⁶Then the men feared the LORD greatly, and they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows.

¹⁷And the LORD appointed a great fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah dwelled in the stomach of the fish three days and three nights.

Jonah 2

NASB E-Prime DFM

Jonah's Prayer

¹Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the stomach of the fish,

²and he said, "I called out of my distress to the LORD, And He answered me I cried for help from the depth of Sheol; You heard my voice.

³"For You had cast me into the deep, Into the heart of the seas, And the current engulfed me All Your breakers and billows passed over me.

⁴"So I said, ' You have expelled me from Your sight Nevertheless I will look again toward Your holy temple.'

⁵" Water encompassed me to the point of death The great deep engulfed me, Weeds wrapped around my head.

⁶"I descended to the roots of the mountains The earth with its bars surrounded me forever, But You have brought up my life from the pit, O LORD my God.

⁷"While I fainted away, I remembered the LORD, And my prayer came to You, Into Your holy temple.

⁸"Those who regard vain idols Forsake their faithfulness,

⁹But I will sacrifice to You With the voice of thanksgiving That which I have vowed I will pay Salvation comes from the LORD."

¹⁰Then the LORD commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah up onto the dry land.

Jonah 3

NASB E-Prime DFM

Nineveh Repents

¹Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying,

²"Arise, go to Nineveh the great city and proclaim to it the proclamation which I will tell you."

³So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh we consider as an exceedingly great city, a three days' walk.

⁴Then Jonah began to go through the city one day's walk; and he cried out and said, "Yet forty days and Nineveh will become overthrown."

⁵Then the people of Nineveh believed in God; and they called a fast and put on sackcloth from the greatest to the least of them.

⁶When the word reached the king of Nineveh, he arose from his throne, laid aside his robe from him, covered himself with sackcloth and sat on the ashes.

⁷He issued a proclamation and it said, "In Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles: Do not let man, beast, herd, or flock taste a thing. Do not let them eat or drink water.

⁸"But both man and beast must cover themselves with sackcloth; and let men call on God earnestly that each may turn from his wicked way and from the violence which remains in his hands.

⁹" Who knows, God may turn and relent and withdraw His burning anger so that we will not perish."

¹⁰When God saw their deeds, that they turned from their wicked way, then God relented concerning the calamity which He had declared He would bring upon them. And He did not do it.

Jonah 4

NASB E-Prime DFM

Jonah's Displeasure Rebuked

¹But it greatly displeased Jonah and he became angry.

²He prayed to the LORD and said, "Please LORD, did I not say this while I still lived in my own country? Therefore in order to forestall this I fled to Tarshish, for I knew You as a gracious

and compassionate God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, and one who relents concerning calamity.

³"Therefore now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for I would rather die than live."

⁴The LORD said, "Do you have good reason to show anger?"

⁵Then Jonah went out from the city and sat east of it. There he made a shelter for himself and sat under it in the shade until he could see what would happen in the city.

⁶So the LORD God appointed a plant and it grew up over Jonah to serve as a shade over his head to deliver him from his discomfort. And Jonah felt extremely happy about the plant.

⁷But God appointed a worm when dawn came the next day and it attacked the plant and it withered.

⁸When the sun came up God appointed a scorching east wind, and the sun beat down on Jonah's head so that he became faint and begged with all his soul to die, saying, "I would rather die rather than live."

⁹Then God said to Jonah, "Do you have good reason to rage about the plant?" And he said, "I have good reason to have anger, even to death."

¹⁰Then the LORD said, "You had compassion on the plant for which you did not work and which you did not cause to grow, which came up overnight and perished overnight.

¹¹"Should I not have compassion on Nineveh, the great city in which dwell more than 120,000 persons who do not know the difference between their right and left hand, as well as many animals?"

Micah 1-7

Micah 1

Rendered into E-Prime by Dr. David F. Maas

Destruction in Israel and Judah

¹The word of the LORD which came to Micah of Moresheth in the days of Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, which he saw concerning Samaria and Jerusalem.

²Hear, O peoples, all of you; Listen, O earth and all it contains, And let the Lord GOD witness against you, The Lord from His holy temple.

³For behold, the LORD comes forth from His place He will come down and tread on the high places of the earth.

⁴The mountains will melt under Him And the valleys will split, Like wax before the fire, Like water poured down a steep place.

⁵All this occurred because of the rebellion of Jacob And for the sins of the house of Israel. What do we mean the rebellion of Jacob? Does it not constitute Samaria? What do we consider the high place of Judah? Do we not consider it Jerusalem?

⁶For I will make Samaria a heap of ruins in the open country, Planting places for a vineyard I will pour her stones down into the valley And will lay bare her foundations.

⁷All of her idols I will smash, All of her earnings will I burn with fire And all of her images I will make desolate, For she collected them from a harlot's earnings, And to the earnings of a harlot they will return.

⁸Because of this I must lament and wail, I must go barefoot and naked; I must make a lament like the jackals And a mourning like the ostriches.

⁹For her wound has become incurable, For it has come to Judah; It has reached the gate of my people, Even to Jerusalem.

¹⁰Tell it not in Gath, Weep not at all. At Beth-le-aphrah roll yourself in the dust.

¹¹Go on your way, inhabitant of Shaphir, in shameful nakedness The inhabitant of Zaanan does not escape. The lamentation of Beth-ezel: "He will take from you its support."

¹²For the inhabitant of Maroth Becomes weak waiting for good, Because a calamity has come down from the LORD To the gate of Jerusalem.

¹³Harness the chariot to the team of horses, O inhabitant of Lachish-- She became the beginning of sin To the daughter of Zion-- Because in you we found The rebellious acts of Israel.

¹⁴Therefore you will give parting gifts On behalf of Moresheth-gath; The houses of Achzib will become a deception To the kings of Israel.

¹⁵Moreover, I will bring on you The one who takes possession, O inhabitant of Mareshah The glory of Israel will enter Adullam.

¹⁶Make yourself bald and cut off your hair, Because of the children of your delight; Extend your baldness like the eagle, For they will go from you into exile.

Micah 2

NASB E-Prime DFM

Woe to Oppressors

¹Woe to those who scheme iniquity, Who work out evil on their beds! When morning comes, they do it, For they have the power of their hands.

²They covet fields and then seize them, And houses, and take them away They rob a man and his house, A man and his inheritance.

³Therefore thus says the LORD, "Behold, I plan against this family a calamity From which you cannot remove your necks; And you will not walk haughtily, For it will prove an evil time.

⁴"On that day they will take up against you a taunt And utter a bitter lamentation and say, 'We find ourselves completely destroyed! He exchanges the portion of my people; How He removes it from me! To the apostate He apportions our fields.'

⁵"Therefore you will have no one stretching a measuring line For you by lot in the assembly of the LORD.

⁶'Do not speak out,' so they speak out But if they do not speak out concerning these things, Reproaches I will not turn back.

⁷"People say, O house of Jacob: 'Has the Spirit of the LORD proved impatient? Does this look like His doings?' Do not My words do good To the one walking uprightly?

⁸"Recently My people have arisen as an enemy— You strip the robe off the garment From unsuspecting passers-by, From those returned from war.

⁹"The women of My people you evict, Each one from her pleasant house From her children you take My splendor forever.

¹⁰"Arise and go, For this has become no place of rest Because of the uncleanness that brings on destruction, A painful destruction.

¹¹"If a man walking after wind and falsehood Had told lies and said, 'I will speak out to you concerning wine and liquor,' He would serve as a spokesman to this people.

¹²"I will surely assemble all of you, Jacob, I will surely gather the remnant of Israel. I will put them together like sheep in the fold; Like a flock in the midst of its pasture They will resound with the noise of men.

¹³"The breaker goes up before them; They break out, pass through the gate and go out by it. So their king goes on before them, And the LORD at their head."

Micah 3

NASB E-Prime DFM

Rulers Denounced

¹And I said, " Hear now, heads of Jacob And rulers of the house of Israel Do you not consider it time for you to know justice?"

²"You who hate good and love evil, Who tear off their skin from them And their flesh from their bones,

³Who eat the flesh of my people, Strip off their skin from them, Break their bones And chop them up as for the pot And as meat in a kettle."

⁴Then they will cry out to the LORD, But He will not answer them Instead, He will hide His face from them at that time Because they have practiced evil deeds.

⁵Thus says the LORD concerning the prophets who lead my people astray; When they have something to bite with their teeth, They cry, "Peace," But against him who puts nothing in their mouths They declare holy war.

⁶Therefore it will appear as night for you--without vision, And darkness for you--without divination The sun will go down on the prophets, And the day will become dark over them.

⁷The seers will feel ashamed And the diviners will embarrass themselves Indeed, they will all cover their mouths Because God does not answer.

⁸On the other hand I have become filled with power-- With the Spirit of the LORD-- And with justice and courage To make known to Jacob his rebellious act, Even to Israel his sin.

⁹Now hear this, heads of the house of Jacob And rulers of the house of Israel, Who abhor justice And twist everything that appeared straight,

¹⁰Who build Zion with bloodshed And Jerusalem with violent injustice.

¹¹Her leaders pronounce judgment for a bribe, Her priests instruct for a price And her prophets divine for money Yet they lean on the LORD saying, "Do we not find the LORD in our midst? Calamity will not come upon us."

¹²Therefore, on account of you Zion will become plowed as a field, Jerusalem will become a heap of ruins, And the mountain of the temple will become high places of a forest.

Micah 4

NASB E-Prime DFM

Peaceful Latter Days

¹And it will come about in the last days That the mountain of the house of the LORD Will become established as the chief of the mountains It will rise above the hills, And the peoples will stream to it.

²Many nations will come and say, " Come and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD And to the house of the God of Jacob, That He may teach us about His ways And that we may walk in His paths " For from Zion will go forth the law, Even the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

³And He will judge between many peoples And render decisions for mighty, distant nations Then they will hammer their swords into plowshares And their spears into pruning hooks; Nation will not lift up sword against nation, And never again will they train for war.

⁴Each of them will sit under his vine And under his fig tree, With no one to make them afraid, For the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken.

⁵Though all the peoples walk Each in the name of his god, As for us, we will walk In the name of the LORD our God forever and ever.

⁶"In that day," declares the LORD,"I will assemble the lame And gather the outcasts, Even those whom I have afflicted.

⁷"I will make the lame a remnant And the outcasts a strong nation, And the LORD will reign over them in Mount Zion From now on and forever.

⁸"As for you, tower of the flock, Hill of the daughter of Zion, To you it will come-- Even the former dominion will come, The kingdom of the daughter of Jerusalem.

⁹"Now, why do you cry out loudly? Do you have no king among you, Or has your counselor perished, That agony has gripped you like a woman in childbirth?

¹⁰" Writhe and labor to give birth, Daughter of Zion, Like a woman in childbirth; For now you will go out of the city, Dwell in the field, And go to Babylon There the Lord will rescue you; There the LORD will redeem you From the hand of your enemies.

¹¹"And now many nations assembled themselves against you Who say, 'Let her become polluted, And let our eyes gloat over Zion.'

¹²"But they do not know the thoughts of the LORD, And they do not understand His purpose; For He has gathered them like sheaves to the threshing floor.

¹³"Arise and thresh, daughter of Zion, For your horn I will make iron And your hoofs I will make bronze, That you may pulverize many peoples, That you may devote to the LORD their unjust gain And their wealth to the Lord of all the earth.

Micah 5

NASB E-Prime DFM

Birth of the King in Bethlehem

¹"Now muster yourselves in troops, daughter of troops; They have laid siege against us; With a rod they will smite the judge of Israel on the cheek.

²"But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Too little to receive prominence among the clans of Judah, From you One will go forth for Me to rule in Israel His goings forth begin a long ago, From the days of eternity."

³Therefore He will give them up until the time When she who finds herself in labor has borne a child Then the remainder of His brethren Will return to the sons of Israel.

⁴And He will arise and shepherd His flock In the strength of the LORD, In the majesty of the name of the LORD His God And they will remain, Because at that time He will become great To the ends of the earth.

⁵This One will guarantee our peace When the Assyrian invades our land, When he tramples on our citadels, Then we will raise against him Seven shepherds and eight leaders of men.

⁶They will shepherd the land of Assyria with the sword, The land of Nimrod at its entrances; And He will deliver us from the Assyrian When he attacks our land And when he tramples our territory.

⁷Then the remnant of Jacob Will dwell among many peoples Like dew from the LORD, Like showers on vegetation Which do not wait for man Or delay for the sons of men.

⁸The remnant of Jacob Will dwell among the nations, Among many peoples Like a lion among

the beasts of the forest, Like a young lion among flocks of sheep, Which, if he passes through, Tramples down and tears, And no one will come to rescue.

⁹Your hand will lift up against your adversaries, And all your enemies the Lord will cut off.

¹⁰"A day will come," declares the LORD, "That I will cut off your horses from among you And destroy your chariots.

¹¹"I will also cut off the cities of your land And tear down all your fortifications.

¹²"I will cut off sorceries from your hand, And you will have fortune-tellers no more.

¹³"I will cut off your carved images And your sacred pillars from among you, So that you will no longer bow down To the work of your hands.

¹⁴"I will root out your Asherim from among you And destroy your cities.

¹⁵"And I will execute vengeance in anger and wrath On the nations which have not obeyed."

Micah 6

NASB E-Prime DFM

God's Indictment of His People

¹Hear now what the LORD said, "Arise, plead your case before the mountains, And let the hills hear your voice.

²"Listen, you mountains, to the indictment of the LORD, And you enduring foundations of the earth, Because the LORD has a case against His people; Even with Israel He will dispute.

³"My people, what have I done to you, And how have I wearied you? Answer Me.

⁴"Indeed, I brought you up from the land of Egypt And ransomed you from the house of slavery, And I sent before you Moses, Aaron and Miriam.

⁵"My people, remember now What Balak king of Moab counseled And what Balaam son of Beor answered him, And from Shittim to Gilgal, So that you might know the righteous acts of the LORD."

What God Requires of Man

⁶With what shall I come to the LORD And bow myself before the God on high? Shall I come to Him with burnt offerings, With yearling calves?

⁷Does the LORD take delight in thousands of rams, In ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I present my firstborn for my rebellious acts, The fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

⁸He has told you, O man, what proves good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justice, to love kindness, And to walk humbly with your God?

⁹The voice of the LORD will call to the city-- And we consider it sound wisdom to fear Your name: "Hear, O tribe. Who has appointed its time?"

¹⁰"Does another man live in the wicked house, Along with treasures of wickedness And a short measure that has become cursed?

¹¹"Can I justify wicked scales And a bag of deceptive weights?"

¹²"For the rich men of the city prove themselves full of violence, Her residents speak lies, And their tongue shows deceit in their mouth.

¹³"So also I will make you sick, striking you down, Desolating you because of your sins.

¹⁴"You will eat, but you will not feel satisfied, And your vileness will dwell in your midst You will try to remove for safekeeping, But you will not preserve anything, And what you do preserve I will give to the sword.

¹⁵"You will sow but you will not reap You will tread the olive but will not anoint yourself with oil; And the grapes, but you will not drink wine.

¹⁶"The statutes of Omri And you observe all the works of the house of Ahab ; And in their devices you walk Therefore I will give you up for destruction And your inhabitants for derision, And you will bear the reproach of My people."

Micah 7

NASB E-Prime DFM

The Prophet Acknowledges

¹Woe to me! For I resemble the fruit pickers, like the grape gatherers You will not find a cluster of grapes to eat, Or a first-ripe fig which I crave.

²The godly person has perished from the land, And no upright person dwells among men All of them lie in wait for bloodshed; Each of them hunts the other with a net.

³Concerning evil, both hands do it well The prince asks, also the judge, for a bribe, And a great man speaks the desire of his soul; So they weave it together.

⁴The best of them resembles a briar, The most upright like a thorn hedge The day when you post your watchmen, Your punishment will come Then their confusion will occur.

⁵Do not trust in a neighbor; Do not have confidence in a friend. From her who lies in your bosom Guard your lips.

⁶For son treats father contemptuously, Daughter rises up against her mother, Daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; A man's enemies have become the men of his own household.

God as the Source of Salvation and Light

⁷But as for me, I will watch expectantly for the LORD; I will wait for the God of my salvation My God will hear me.

⁸Do not rejoice over me, O my enemy Though I fall I will rise; Though I dwell in darkness, the LORD will serve as a light for me.

⁹I will bear the indignation of the LORD Because I have sinned against Him, Until He pleads my case and executes justice for me He will bring me out to the light, And I will see His righteousness.

¹⁰Then my enemy will see, And shame will cover her who said to me, "Where has the LORD your God gone to?" My eyes will look on her; At that time she will find herself trampled down Like mire of the streets.

¹¹It will prove a day for building your walls. On that day will your boundary extend.

¹²A day will come when they will come to you From Assyria and the cities of Egypt, From Egypt even to the Euphrates, Even from sea to sea and mountain to mountain.

¹³And the earth will become desolate because of her inhabitants, On account of the fruit of their deeds.

¹⁴Shepherd Your people with Your scepter, The flock of Your possession Which dwells by itself in the woodland, In the midst of a fruitful field Let them feed in Bashan and Gilead As in the days of old.

¹⁵"As in the days when you came out from the land of Egypt, I will show you miracles."

¹⁶Nations will see you and feel ashamed Of all their might They will put their hand on their mouth, Their ears will become deaf.

¹⁷They will lick the dust like a serpent, Like reptiles of the earth They will come trembling out of their fortresses; To the LORD our God they will come in dread And they will fear You.

¹⁸What god can we compare to You, who pardons iniquity And passes over the rebellious act of the remnant of His possession? He does not retain His anger forever, Because He delights in unchanging love.

¹⁹He will again have compassion on us; He will tread our iniquities under foot Yes, You will cast all their sins Into the depths of the sea.

²⁰You will give truth to Jacob And unchanging love to Abraham, Which You swore to our forefathers From the days of old.

Nahum 1-3

Nahum 1

Rendered into E-Prime by Dr. David F. Maas

God Appears Awesome

¹The oracle of Nineveh. The book of the vision of Nahum the Elkoshite.

²A jealous and avenging God we acknowledge as the LORD; The LORD avenges and takes wrath The LORD takes vengeance on His adversaries, And He reserves wrath for His enemies.

³The LORD has slowness to anger and greatness in power, And the LORD will by no means leave the guilty unpunished In whirlwind and storm He moves, And clouds appear as the dust beneath His feet.

⁴He rebukes the sea and makes it dry; He dries up all the rivers Bashan and Carmel wither; The blossoms of Lebanon wither.

⁵Mountains quake because of Him And the hills dissolve; Indeed the earth appears upheaved by His presence, The world and all the inhabitants in it.

⁶Who can stand before His indignation? Who can endure the burning of His anger? He pours His wrath out like fire And He breaks up the rocks .

⁷The LORD does good, A stronghold in the day of trouble, And He knows those who take refuge in Him.

⁸But with an overflowing flood He will make a complete end of its site, And will pursue His enemies into darkness.

⁹Whatever you devise against the LORD, He will make a complete end of it. Distress will not rise up twice.

¹⁰Like tangled thorns, And like those who become drunken with their drink, They become consumed As stubble completely withered.

¹¹From you has gone forth One who plotted evil against the LORD, A wicked counselor.

¹²Thus says the LORD, "Though they grow to full strength and likewise many, Even so, God will cut them off and they will pass away Though I have afflicted you, I will afflict you no longer.

¹³"So now, I will break his yoke bar from upon you, And I will tear off your shackles."

¹⁴The LORD has issued a command concerning you:"Your name will no longer continue I will cut off idol and image From the house of your gods I will prepare your grave, For you seem contemptible."

Nahum 2

NASB E-Prime DFM

The Overthrow of Nineveh

¹The one who scatters has come up against you. Man the fortress, watch the road; Strengthen your back, summon all your strength.

²For the LORD will restore the splendor of Jacob Like the splendor of Israel, Even though devastators have devastated them And destroyed their vine branches.

³The shields of his mighty men have a red color, The warriors dress in scarlet, The chariots have become enveloped in flashing steel When he prepares to march, And they brandish cypress spears.

⁴The chariots race madly in the streets, They rush wildly in the squares, Their appearance resemble torches, They dash to and fro like lightning flashes.

⁵He remembers his nobles; They stumble in their march, They hurry to her wall, And they set the mantelet up.

⁶The gates of the rivers open And the palace dissolves.

⁷It has become fixed: They strip her and carry away, And her handmaids moan like the sound of doves, Beating on their breasts.

⁸Though Nineveh resembled a pool of water throughout her days, Now they flee; "Stop, stop," But no one turns back.

⁹Plunder the silver! Plunder the gold! For there seems no limit to the treasure-- Wealth from every kind of desirable object.

¹⁰She has emptied! Yes, she has become desolate and waste! Hearts melt and knees knock! Also anguish fills the whole body And all their faces grow pale!

¹¹Where do we find the den of the lions And the feeding place of the young lions, Where the lion, lioness and lion's cub prowled, With nothing to disturb them?

¹²The lion tore enough for his cubs, Killed enough for his lionesses, And filled his lairs with prey And his dens with torn flesh.

¹³"Behold, I place myself against you," declares the LORD of hosts "I will burn up her chariots in smoke, a sword will devour your young lions; I will cut off your prey from the land, and no longer will they hear the voice of your messengers ."

Nahum 3

NASB E-Prime DFM

Nineveh's Complete Ruin

¹ Woe to the bloody city, completely full of lies and pillage; Her prey never departs.

² The noise of the whip, The noise of the rattling of the wheel, Galloping horses And bounding chariots!

³ Horsemen charging, Swords flashing, spears gleaming, Many slain, a mass of corpses, And countless dead bodies-- They stumble over the dead bodies!

⁴ All because of the many harlotries of the harlot, The charming one, the mistress of sorceries, Who sells nations by her harlotries And families by her sorceries.

⁵ "Behold, I place myself against you," declares the LORD of hosts; "And I will lift up your skirts over your face, And show to the nations your nakedness And to the kingdoms your disgrace.

⁶ "I will throw filth on you And make you vile, And set you up as a spectacle.

⁷ "And it will come about that all who see you Will shrink from you and say, 'Nineveh has become devastated! Who will grieve for her?' Where will I seek comforters for you?"

⁸ Do you consider yourself better than No-amon, Which located by the waters of the Nile, With water surrounding her, Whose used the sea as her rampart , Whose wall consisted of the sea?

⁹ She used Ethiopia as her might, And Egypt too, without limits Put and Lubim she numbered among her helpers.

¹⁰ Yet she became an exile, She went into captivity; Also she saw her small children dashed to pieces At the head of every street; They cast lots for her honorable men, And they bound all her great men with fetters.

¹¹ You too will become drunk, You will become hidden. You too will search for a refuge from the enemy.

¹² Fig trees with ripe fruit—serve as your fortifications When shaken, they fall into the eater's mouth.

¹³ Behold, your people act like women in your midst! The gates of your land open wide to your enemies; Fire consumes your gate bars.

¹⁴ Draw for yourself water for the siege! Strengthen your fortifications! Go into the clay and tread the mortar! Take hold of the brick mold!

¹⁵ There fire will consume you, The sword will cut you down; It will consume you as the locust does. Multiply yourself like the creeping locust, Multiply yourself like the swarming locust.

¹⁶ You have increased your traders more than the stars of heaven-- The creeping locust strips and flies away.

¹⁷ Your guardsmen resemble the swarming locust Your marshals resemble hordes of grasshoppers Settling in the stone walls on a cold day. The sun rises and they flee, And the place

where they go they do not know.

¹⁸Your shepherds sleep, O king of Assyria; Your nobles recline Your people scatter on the mountains And no one will regather them.

¹⁹You will find no relief for your breakdown, Your wound seems incurable All who hear about you Will clap their hands over you, For on whom has not your evil passed continually?

Habakkuk 1-3

Habakkuk 1

Rendered into E-Prime by Dr. David F. Maas

Chaldeans Used to Punish Judah

¹The oracle which Habakkuk the prophet saw.

²How long, O LORD, will I call for help, And You will not hear? I cry out to You, "Violence!" Yet You do not save.

³Why do You make me see iniquity, And cause me to look on wickedness? Yes, destruction and violence are before me; Strife exists and contention arises.

⁴Therefore the people ignore the law And no one ever uphold justice For the wicked surround the righteous; Therefore justice comes out perverted.

⁵"Look among the nations! Observe! Become astonished! Wonder! Because I do something in your days-- You would not believe if someone told you .

⁶"For behold, I will raise up the Chaldeans, That fierce and impetuous people Who march throughout the earth To seize dwelling places which do not belong to them.

⁷"People dread and fear them; Their justice and authority originate with themselves.

⁸"Their horses move swifter than leopards And keener than wolves in the evening Their horsemen come galloping, Their horsemen come from afar; They fly like an eagle swooping down to devour.

⁹"All of them come for violence. Their horde of faces moves forward. They collect captives like sand.

¹⁰"They mock at kings And rulers become a laughing matter to them They laugh at every fortress And heap up rubble to capture it.

¹¹"Then they will sweep through like the wind and pass on But people will judge them guilty, They who regard strength as their god."

¹²Do You not exist from everlasting, O LORD, my God, my Holy One? We will not die You, O LORD, have appointed them to judge; And You, O Rock, have established them to correct.

¹³You have eyes too pure to approve evil, And You cannot look on wickedness with favor Why do You look with favor On those who deal treacherously? Why do You remain silent when the wicked swallow up Those more righteous than they?

¹⁴Why have You made men like the fish of the sea, Like creeping things without a ruler over them?

¹⁵The Chaldeans bring all of them up with a hook, Drag them away with their net, And gather them together in their fishing net. Therefore they rejoice and become glad.

¹⁶Therefore they offer a sacrifice to their net And burn incense to their fishing net; Because through these things their catch appears large, And their food has become plentiful.

¹⁷Will they therefore empty their net And continually slay nations without sparing?

Habakkuk 2

NASB E-Prime DFM

God Answers the Prophet

¹I will stand on my guard post And station myself on the rampart; And I will keep watch to see what He will speak to me, And how I may reply when He reproves me.

²Then the LORD answered me and said, "Record the vision And inscribe it on tablets, That the one who reads it may run.

³For the vision I have reserved yet for the appointed time; It hastens toward the goal and it will not fail Though it tarries, wait for it; For it will certainly come, it will not delay.

⁴"Behold, as for the proud one, His soul has no righteousness within him; But the righteous will live by his faith.

⁵"Furthermore, wine betrays the haughty man, So that he does not stay at home He enlarges his appetite like Sheol, And he, like death, never has satisfaction. He also gathers to himself all nations And collects to himself all peoples.

⁶"Will not all of these take up a taunt-song against him, Even mockery and insinuations against him And say, ' Woe to him who increases what does not belong to him- For how long-- And makes himself rich with loans?'

⁷"Will not your creditors rise up suddenly, And those who collect from you awaken? Indeed, you will become plunder for them.

⁸"Because you have looted many nations, All the remainder of the peoples will loot you-- Because of human bloodshed and violence done to the land, To the town and all its inhabitants.

⁹"Woe to him who gets evil gain for his house To put his nest on high, To receive deliverance from the hand of calamity!

¹⁰"You have devised a shameful thing for your house By cutting off many peoples; So you sin against yourself.

¹¹"Surely the stone will cry out from the wall, And the rafter will answer it from the framework.

¹²"Woe to him who builds a city with bloodshed And founds a town with violence!

¹³"Does it not indeed come from the LORD of hosts That peoples toil for fire, And nations grow weary for nothing?

¹⁴"For the earth will fill With the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, As the waters cover the sea.

¹⁵"Woe to you who make your neighbors drink, Who mix in your venom even to make them drunk So as to look on their nakedness!

¹⁶"You will fill with disgrace rather than honor. Now you yourself drink and expose your own nakedness The cup in the LORD'S right hand will come around to you, And utter disgrace will come upon your glory.

¹⁷"For the violence done to Lebanon will overwhelm you, And the devastation of its beasts by

which you terrified them, Because of human bloodshed and violence done to the land, To the town and all its inhabitants.

¹⁸"What profit does the idol bring when its maker has carved it, Or an image, a teacher of falsehood? For its maker trusts in his own handiwork When he fashions speechless idols.

¹⁹"Woe to him who says to a piece of wood, 'Awake!' To a mute stone, 'Arise!' And that you consider your teacher? Behold, you overlaid the idol with gold and silver, And it has no breath at all inside it.

²⁰"But the LORD dwells in His holy temple Let all the earth keep silent before Him."

Habakkuk 3

NASB E-Prime DFM

God's Deliverance of His People

¹A prayer of Habakkuk the prophet, according to Shigionoth.

²LORD, I have heard the report about You and I fear O LORD, revive Your work in the midst of the years, In the midst of the years make it known; In wrath remember mercy.

³God comes from Teman, And the Holy One from Mount Paran Selah His splendor covers the heavens, And the earth fills full of His praise.

⁴His radiance resembles the sunlight; He has rays flashing from His hand, And there we witness the hiding of His power.

⁵Before Him goes pestilence, And plague comes after Him.

⁶He stood and surveyed the earth; He looked and startled the nations Yes, the perpetual mountains became shattered, The ancient hills collapsed His ways exist forever.

⁷I saw the tents of Cushan under distress, The tent curtains of the land of Midian trembled.

⁸Did the LORD rage against the rivers, Or did You demonstrate Your anger against the rivers, Or did You demonstrate Your wrath against the sea, That You rode on Your horses, On Your chariots of salvation?

⁹Your bow became bare, You swore the rods of chastisement Selah You cleaved the earth with rivers.

¹⁰The mountains saw You and quaked; The downpour of waters swept by. The deep uttered forth its voice, It lifted high its hands.

¹¹Sun and moon stood in their places; They went away at the light of Your arrows, At the radiance of Your gleaming spear.

¹²In indignation You marched through the earth; In anger You trampled the nations.

¹³You went forth for the salvation of Your people, For the salvation of Your anointed You struck the head of the house of the evil To lay him open from thigh to neck. Selah.

¹⁴You pierced with his own spears The head of his throngs They stormed in to scatter

us; Their exultation seemed like those Who devour the oppressed in secret.

¹⁵You trampled on the sea with Your horses, On the surge of many waters.

¹⁶I heard and my inward parts trembled, At the sound my lips quivered Decay enters my bones, And in my place I tremble Because I must wait quietly for the day of distress, For the people to arise who will invade us.

¹⁷Though the fig tree should not blossom And there will grow no fruit on the vines, Though the yield of the olive should fail And the fields produce no food, Though the flock should become cut off from the fold And you find no cattle in the stalls,

¹⁸Yet I will exult in the LORD, I will rejoice in the God of my salvation.

¹⁹The Lord GOD serves as my strength, And He has made my feet like hinds' feet, And makes me walk on my high places. For the choir director, on my stringed instruments.

Zephaniah 1-3

Zephaniah 1

Rendered into E-Prime by Dr. David F. Maas

Day of Judgment on Judah

¹The word of the LORD which came to Zephaniah son of Cushi, son of Gedaliah, son of Amariah, son of Hezekiah, in the days of Josiah son of Amon, king of Judah:

²"I will completely remove all things From the face of the earth," declares the LORD.

³"I will remove man and beast; I will remove the birds of the sky And the fish of the sea, And the ruins along with the wicked; And I will cut off man from the face of the earth," declares the LORD.

⁴"So I will stretch out My hand against Judah And against all the inhabitants of Jerusalem And I will cut off the remnant of Baal from this place, And the names of the idolatrous priests along with the priests.

⁵"And those who bow down on the housetops to the host of heaven, And those who bow down and swear to the LORD and yet swear by Milcom,

⁶And those who have turned back from following the LORD, And those who have not sought the LORD or inquired of Him."

⁷ Keep silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD draws near, For the LORD has prepared a sacrifice, He has consecrated His guests.

⁸"Then it will come about on the day of the LORD'S sacrifice That I will punish the princes, the king's sons And all who clothe themselves with foreign garments.

⁹"And I will punish on that day all who leap on the temple threshold, Who fill the house of their lord with violence and deceit.

¹⁰"On that day," declares the LORD, "The sound of a cry will come from the Fish Gate, A wail from the Second Quarter, And a loud crash from the hills.

¹¹"Wail, O inhabitants of the Mortar, For all the people of Canaan will fall into silence; All who weigh out silver will find themselves cut off.

¹²"It will come about at that time That I will search Jerusalem with lamps, And I will punish the men Who have become stagnant in spirit, Who say in their hearts, 'The LORD will not do good or evil!'

¹³"Moreover, their wealth will become plunder And their houses desolate; Yes, they will build houses but not inhabit them, And plant vineyards but not drink their wine."

¹⁴ The great day of the LORD draws near, Near and coming very quickly; Listen, the day of the LORD! In it the warrior cries out bitterly.

¹⁵A day of wrath describes that day, A day of trouble and distress, A day of destruction and desolation, A day of darkness and gloom, A day of clouds and thick darkness,

¹⁶A day of trumpet and battle cry Against the fortified cities And the high corner towers.

¹⁷I will bring distress on men So that they will walk like the blind, Because they have sinned against the LORD; And their blood will pour out like dust And their flesh like dung.

¹⁸Neither their silver nor their gold Will have the capability to deliver them On the day of the LORD'S wrath; And all the earth will become devoured In the fire of His jealousy, For He will make a complete end, Indeed a terrifying one, Of all the inhabitants of the earth.

Zephaniah 2

NASB E-Prime DFM

Judgments on Judah's Enemies

¹Gather yourselves together, yes, gather, O nation without shame,

²Before the decree takes effect-- The day passes like the chaff--Before the burning anger of the LORD comes upon you, Before the day of the LORD'S anger comes upon you.

³Seek the LORD, All you humble of the earth Who have carried out His ordinances; Seek righteousness, seek humility Perhaps He will hide you In the day of the LORD'S anger.

⁴For people will abandon Gaza And Ashkelon a desolation; The Lord will drive out Ashdod at noon And will uproot Ekron.

⁵Woe to the inhabitants of the seacoast, The nation of the Cherethites! The word of the LORD speaks against you, O Canaan, land of the Philistines; And I will destroy you So that no inhabitant will remain.

⁶So the seacoast will turn into pastures, With caves for shepherds and folds for flocks.

⁷And the Lord will turn the coast over to the remnant of the house of Judah, They will pasture on it In the houses of Ashkelon they will lie down at evening; For the LORD their God will care for them And restore their fortune.

⁸"I have heard the taunting of Moab And the reviling of the sons of Ammon, With which they have taunted My people And become arrogant against their territory.

⁹"Therefore, as I live," declares the LORD of hosts, The God of Israel, "Surely Moab will resemble Sodom And the sons of Ammon like Gomorrah-- A place possessed by nettles and salt pits, And a perpetual desolation The remnant of My people will plunder them And the remainder of My nation will inherit them."

¹⁰This they will have in return for their pride, because they have taunted and become arrogant against the people of the LORD of hosts.

¹¹The LORD will prove a terror to them, for He will starve all the gods of the earth; and all the coastlands of the nations will bow down to Him, everyone from his own place.

¹²" I will slay you also, O Ethiopians, by My sword."

¹³And He will stretch out His hand against the north And destroy Assyria, And He will make Nineveh a desolation, Parched like the wilderness.

¹⁴Flocks will lie down in her midst, All beasts which range in herds; Both the pelican and the hedgehog Will lodge in the tops of her pillars; Birds will sing in the window, Desolation will lie

on the threshold; For He has laid bare the cedar work.

¹⁵We hear the exultant city Which dwells securely, Who says in her heart, " I exist, and no one exists besides me " How she has become a desolation, A resting place for beasts! Everyone who passes by her will hiss And wave his hand in contempt.

Zephaniah 3

NASB E-Prime DFM

Woe to Jerusalem and the Nations

¹Woe to her who has become rebellious and defiled, The tyrannical city!

²She heeded no voice, She accepted no instruction She did not trust in the LORD, She did not draw near to her God.

³Her princes within her resemble roaring lions, Her judges resemble wolves at evening; They leave nothing for the morning.

⁴Her prophets prove themselves reckless, treacherous men; Her priests have profaned the sanctuary. They have done violence to the law.

⁵The LORD works righteousness within her; He will do no injustice Every morning He brings His justice to light; He does not fail But the unjust knows no shame.

⁶"I have cut off nations; Their corner towers have become ruins. I have made their streets desolate, With no one passing by; Their cities have become waste, Without a man, without an inhabitant.

⁷"I said, 'Surely you will revere Me, Accept instruction ' So her dwelling will not become cut off According to all that I have appointed concerning her But they felt eager to corrupt all their deeds.

⁸"Therefore wait for Me," declares the LORD, "For the day when I rise up as a witness Indeed, I decide to gather nations, To assemble kingdoms, To pour out on them My indignation, All My burning anger; For I will devour all the earth By the fire of My zeal.

⁹"For then I will give to the peoples purified lips, That all of them may call on the name of the LORD, To serve Him shoulder to shoulder.

¹⁰"From beyond the rivers of Ethiopia My worshipers, My dispersed ones, Will bring My offerings.

¹¹"In that day you will feel no shame Because of all your deeds By which you have rebelled against Me; For then I will remove from your midst Your proud, exulting ones, And you will never again become haughty On My holy mountain.

A Remnant of Israel

¹²"But I will leave among you A humble and lowly people, And they will take refuge in the name of the LORD.

¹³"The remnant of Israel will do no wrong And tell no lies, Nor will a deceitful tongue speak in their mouths; For they will feed and lie down With no one to make them tremble."

¹⁴Shout for joy, O daughter of Zion! Shout in triumph, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all

your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem!

¹⁵The LORD has taken away His judgments against you, He has cleared away your enemies
The King of Israel, the LORD, dwells in your midst; You will fear disaster no more.

¹⁶In that day people will say to Jerusalem: " Do not fear, O Zion; Do not let your hands fall
limp.

¹⁷"The LORD your God dwells in your midst, A victorious warrior He will exult over you
with joy, He will show quietness in His love, He will rejoice over you with shouts of joy.

¹⁸"I will gather those who grieve about the appointed feasts-- They came from you, O
Zion; The reproach of exile has become a burden on them.

¹⁹"Behold, I intend to deal at that time With all your oppressors, I will save the lame And
gather the outcast, And I will turn their shame into praise and renown In all the earth.

²⁰"At that time I will bring you in, Even at the time when I gather you together; Indeed, I will
give you renown and praise Among all the peoples of the earth, When I restore your fortunes
before your eyes," Says the LORD.

Haggai 1

Rendered into E-Prime by Dr. David F. Maas

Haggai Begins Temple Building

¹In the second year of Darius the king, on the first day of the sixth month, the word of the LORD came by the prophet Haggai to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, saying,

²"Thus says the LORD of hosts, 'This people says, "The time has not come, even the time for someone to rebuild the house of the LORD.'"

³Then the word of the LORD came by Haggai the prophet, saying,

⁴" Do you feel you can dwell in your paneled houses while this house lies desolate?"

⁵Now therefore, thus says the LORD of hosts, "Consider your ways!

⁶"You have sown much, but harvest little; you eat, but you don't find enough to feel satisfied; you drink, but you cannot even drink enough to become drunk; you put on clothing, but no one feels warm enough; and he who earns, earns wages to put into a purse with holes."

⁷Thus says the LORD of hosts, "Consider your ways!

⁸"Go up to the mountains, bring wood and rebuild the temple, that I may take pleasure with it and become glorified," says the LORD.

⁹" You look for much, but behold, it comes to little; when you bring it home, I blow it away Why?" declares the LORD of hosts, "Because of My house which lies desolate, while each of you runs to his own house.

¹⁰"Therefore, because of you the sky has withheld its dew and the earth has withheld its produce.

¹¹"I called for a drought on the land, on the mountains, on the grain, on the new wine, on the oil, on what the ground produces, on men, on cattle, and on all the labor of your hands."

¹²Then Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, with all the remnant of the people, obeyed the voice of the LORD their God and the words of Haggai the prophet, as the LORD their God had sent him And the people showed reverence for the LORD.

¹³Then Haggai, the messenger of the LORD, spoke by the commission of the LORD to the people saying, " ' I accompany you,' declares the LORD."

¹⁴So the LORD stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and the spirit of all the remnant of the people; and they came and worked on the house of the LORD of hosts, their God,

¹⁵on the twenty-fourth day of the sixth month in the second year of Darius the king.

Haggai 2

NASB E-Prime DFM

The Builders Encouraged

¹On the twenty-first of the seventh month, the word of the LORD came by Haggai the prophet saying,

²"Speak now to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and to the remnant of the people saying,

³"Who remains among you who saw this temple in its former glory? And how do you see it now? Does it not seem to you like nothing in comparison?

⁴"But now take courage, Zerubbabel,' declares the LORD, 'take courage also, Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and all you people of the land take courage,' declares the LORD, 'and work; for I accompany you,' declares the LORD of hosts.

⁵'As for the promise which I made you when you came out of Egypt, My Spirit abides in your midst; do not fear!'

⁶"For thus says the LORD of hosts, 'Once more in a little while, I will shake the heavens and the earth, the sea also and the dry land.

⁷'I will shake all the nations; and they will come with the wealth of all nations, and I will fill this house with glory,' says the LORD of hosts.

⁸"The silver belongs to Me and the gold belongs to Me,' declares the LORD of hosts.

⁹"The latter glory of this house will wax greater than the former,' says the LORD of hosts, 'and in this place I will give peace,' declares the LORD of hosts."

¹⁰On the twenty-fourth of the ninth month, in the second year of Darius, the word of the LORD came to Haggai the prophet, saying,

¹¹"Thus says the LORD of hosts, 'Ask now the priests for a ruling:

¹²"If a man carries holy meat in the fold of his garment, and touches bread with this fold, or cooked food, wine, oil, or any other food, will it become holy?" And the priests answered, "No."

¹³Then Haggai said, " If one who has become unclean from a corpse touches any of these, will the latter become unclean?" And the priests answered, "It will become unclean."

¹⁴Then Haggai said, " ' So does this people. And so has this nation before Me,' declares the LORD, 'and so has every work of their hands; and what they offer there has become unclean.

¹⁵But now, do consider from this day onward: before one stone becomes placed on another in the temple of the LORD,

¹⁶from that time when one came to a grain heap of twenty measures, there would number only ten; and when one came to the wine vat to draw fifty measures, there would number only twenty.

¹⁷I smote you and every work of your hands with blasting wind, mildew and hail; yet you did not come back to Me,' declares the LORD.

¹⁸Do consider from this day onward, from the twenty-fourth day of the ninth month; from the day when the temple of the LORD becomes constructed, consider:

¹⁹Do you still find the seed in the barn? Even including the vine, the fig tree, the pomegranate and the olive tree, it has not borne fruit. Yet from this day on I will bless you."

²⁰Then the word of the LORD came a second time to Haggai on the twenty-fourth day of the month, saying,

²¹"Speak to Zerubbabel governor of Judah, saying, 'I will shake the heavens and the earth.

²²I will overthrow the thrones of kingdoms and destroy the power of the kingdoms of the nations; and I will overthrow the chariots and their riders, and the horses and their riders will go down, everyone by the sword of another.'

²³'On that day,' declares the LORD of hosts, 'I will take you, Zerubbabel, son of Shealtiel, My servant,' declares the LORD, 'and I will make you like a signet ring, for I have chosen you,'" declares the LORD of hosts.

Zechariah 1-14

Zechariah 1

Rendered into E-Prime by Dr. David F. Maas

A Call to Repentance

¹In the eighth month of the second year of ¹Darius, the word of the LORD came to Zechariah the prophet, the son of Berechiah, the son of Iddo saying,

²"The LORD became very angry with your fathers.

³"Therefore say to them, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, "Return to Me," declares the LORD of hosts, "that I may return to you," says the LORD of hosts.

⁴"Do not behave like your fathers, to whom the former prophets proclaimed, saying, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, "Return now from your evil ways and from your evil deeds "' But they did not listen or give heed to Me," declares the LORD.

⁵"Your fathers, where have they gone? And the prophets, do they live forever?

⁶"But did not My words and My statutes, which I commanded My servants the prophets, overtake your fathers? Then they repented and said, 'As the LORD of hosts purposed to do to us in accordance with our ways and our deeds, so He has dealt with us.'""

Patrol of the Earth

⁷On the twenty-fourth day of the eleventh month, which we acknowledge as the month Shebat, in the second year of Darius, the word of the LORD came to Zechariah the prophet, the son of Berechiah, the son of Iddo, as follows:

⁸I saw at night, and behold, a man rode on a red horse, and he stood among the myrtle trees which stood in the ravine, with red, sorrel and white horses behind him.

⁹Then I said, "My lord, what do you call these?" And the angel who spoke with me said to me, "I will show you what these mean."

¹⁰And the man who stood among the myrtle trees answered and said, "These we identify as those whom the LORD has sent to patrol the earth."

¹¹So they answered the angel of the LORD who stood among the myrtle trees and said, "We have patrolled the earth, and behold, all the earth has become peaceful and quiet."

¹²Then the angel of the LORD said, "O LORD of hosts, how long will You have no compassion for Jerusalem and the cities of Judah, with which You have remained indignant these seventy years?"

¹³The LORD answered the angel who spoke with me with gracious words, comforting words.

¹⁴So the angel who spoke with me said to me, " Proclaim, saying, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, 'I have become exceedingly jealous for Jerusalem and Zion.

¹⁵"But I have much anger with the nations who have become at ease; for while I felt only a little angry, they furthered the disaster."

¹⁶Therefore thus says the LORD, "I will return to Jerusalem with compassion; they will build My house in it," declares the LORD of hosts, "and I will stretch a measuring line over Jerusalem."

¹⁷"Again, proclaim, saying, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, "My cities will again overflow with prosperity, and the LORD will again comfort Zion and again choose Jerusalem.'"

¹⁸Then I lifted up my eyes and looked, and behold, I saw four horns.

¹⁹So I said to the angel who spoke with me, "What do you call these?" And he answered me, "These symbolize the horns which have scattered Judah, Israel and Jerusalem."

²⁰Then the LORD showed me four craftsmen.

²¹I said, "What do these who come propose to do?" And he said, "These symbolize the horns which have scattered Judah so that no man lifts up his head; but these craftsmen have come to terrify them, to throw down the horns of the nations who have lifted up their horns against the land of Judah in order to scatter it."

Zechariah 2

NASB E-Prime DFM

God's Favor to Zion

¹Then I lifted up my eyes and looked, and behold, a man appeared with a measuring line in his hand.

²So I said, "Where do you intend to go?" And he said to me, "To measure Jerusalem, to see its width and its length."

³And behold, the angel who spoke with me went out, and another angel came out to meet him,

⁴and said to him, "Run, speak to that young man, saying, ' Jerusalem will receive new inhabitants without walls because of the multitude of men and cattle within it.

⁵'For I,' declares the LORD, 'will provide a wall of fire around her, and I will serve as the glory in her midst.'"

⁶"Ho there! Flee from the land of the north," declares the LORD, "for I have dispersed you as the four winds of the heavens," declares the LORD.

⁷"Ho, Zion! Escape, you who live with the daughter of Babylon."

⁸For thus says the LORD of hosts, "After glory He has sent me against the nations which plunder you, for he who touches you, touches the apple of His eye.

⁹"For behold, I will wave My hand over them so that they will become plunder for their slaves. Then you will know that the LORD of hosts has sent Me.

¹⁰" Sing for joy and feel glad, O daughter of Zion; for behold I come and I will dwell in your midst," declares the LORD.

¹¹" Many nations will join themselves to the LORD in that day and will become My people Then I will dwell in your midst, and you will know that the LORD of hosts has sent Me to you.

¹²"The LORD will possess Judah as His portion in the holy land, and will again choose Jerusalem.

¹³" Keep silent, all flesh, before the LORD; for He has aroused Himself from His holy habitation."

Zechariah 3

NASB E-Prime DFM

Joshua, the High Priest

¹Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to accuse him.

²The LORD said to Satan, " The LORD rebuke you, Satan! Indeed, the LORD who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Have you not become a brand plucked from the fire?"

³Now Joshua wore filthy garments and stood before the angel.

⁴He spoke and said to those who stood before him, saying, "Remove the filthy garments from him." Again he said to him, "See, I have taken your iniquity away from you and will clothe you with festal robes."

⁵Then I said, "Let them put a clean turban on his head." So they put a clean turban on his head and clothed him with garments, while the angel of the LORD stood by.

⁶And the angel of the LORD admonished Joshua, saying,

⁷"Thus says the LORD of hosts, 'If you will walk in My ways and if you will perform My service, then you will also govern My house and also have charge of My courts, and I will grant you free access among these who stand here.'

The Branch

⁸Now listen, Joshua the high priest, you and your friends who sit in front of you--indeed these men serve as a symbol, for behold, I intend to bring in My servant the Branch.

⁹For behold, the stone that I have set before Joshua; on one stone appear seven eyes Behold, I will engrave an inscription on it,' declares the LORD of hosts, 'and I will remove the iniquity of that land in one day.'

¹⁰'In that day,' declares the LORD of hosts, 'every one of you will invite his neighbor to sit under his vine and under his fig tree.'"

Zechariah 4

NASB E-Prime DFM

The Golden Lampstand and Olive Trees

¹Then the angel who spoke with me returned and roused me, as a man who has awakened from his sleep.

²He said to me, "What do you see?" And I said, "I see, and behold, a lampstand all of gold with its bowl on the top of it, and its seven lamps on it with seven spouts belonging to each of the lamps which stand on the top of it;

³also two olive trees by it, one on the right side of the bowl and the other on its left side."

⁴Then I said to the angel who spoke with me saying, "What do these represent, my lord?"

⁵So the angel who spoke with me answered and said to me, "Do you not know what these represent?" And I said, "No, my lord."

⁶Then he said to me, "This I declare as the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel saying, ' Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' says the LORD of hosts.

⁷"What do you consider yourself, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you will become a plain; and he will bring forth the top stone with shouts of "Grace, grace to it!"

⁸Also the word of the LORD came to me, saying,

⁹"The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house, and his hands will finish it. Then you will know that the LORD of hosts has sent me to you.

¹⁰"For who has despised the day of small things? But these seven will feel glad when they see the plumb line in the hand of Zerubbabel--these represent the eyes of the LORD which range to and fro throughout the earth."

¹¹Then I said to him, "What meaning has the two olive trees on the right of the lampstand and on its left?"

¹²And I answered the second time and said to him, "What signifies the two olive branches which stand beside the two golden pipes, which empty the golden oil from themselves?"

¹³So he answered me, saying, " Do you not know what these signify?" And I said, "No, my lord."

¹⁴Then he said, "These represent the two anointed ones who stand by the Lord of the whole earth."

Zechariah 5

NASB E-Prime DFM

The Flying Scroll

¹Then I lifted up my eyes again and looked, and behold, I saw a flying scroll.

²And he said to me, " What do you see?" And I answered, "I see a flying scroll; its length looks twenty cubits and its width ten cubits."

³Then he said to me, "This signifies the curse that goes forth over the face of the whole land; surely everyone who steals will become purged away according to the writing on one side, and everyone who swears will become purged away according to the writing on the other side.

⁴"I will make it go forth," declares the LORD of hosts, "and it will enter the house of the thief and the house of the one who swears falsely by My name; and it will spend the night within that house and consume it with its timber and stones."

⁵Then the angel who spoke with me went out and said to me, "Lift up now your eyes and see what this goes forth."

⁶I said, "What does this signify?" And he said, "This represents the ephah going forth." Again he said, "This signifies their appearance in all the land

⁷(and behold, a lead cover appeared lifted up); and a woman sits inside the ephah."

⁸Then he said, "This represents Wickedness!" And he threw her down into the middle of the ephah and cast the lead weight on its opening.

⁹Then I lifted up my eyes and looked, and two women came out with the wind in their wings; and they had wings like the wings of a stork, and they lifted up the ephah between the earth and the heavens.

¹⁰I said to the angel who spoke with me, "Where do they take the ephah?"

¹¹Then he said to me, "To build a temple for her in the land of Shinar; and when we prepare it she will stand there on her own pedestal."

Zechariah 6

NASB E-Prime DFM

The Four Chariots

¹Now I lifted up my eyes again and looked, and behold, four chariots came forth from between the two mountains; and the mountains appeared as bronze mountains.

²With the first chariot came red horses, with the second chariot black horses,

³with the third chariot white horses, and with the fourth chariot strong dappled horses.

⁴Then I spoke and said to the angel who spoke with me, "What do these mean, my lord?"

⁵The angel replied to me, "These represent the four spirits of heaven, going forth after standing before the Lord of all the earth,

⁶with one of which the black horses to go forth to the north country; and the white ones go forth after them, while the dappled ones go forth to the south country.

⁷"When the strong ones went out, they seemed eager to go to patrol the earth." And He said, "Go, patrol the earth." So they patrolled the earth.

⁸Then He cried out to me and spoke to me saying, "See, those who go to the land of the north have appeased My wrath in the land of the north."

⁹The word of the LORD also came to me, saying,

¹⁰" Take an offering from the exiles, from Heldai, Tobijah and Jedaiah; and you go the same day and enter the house of Josiah the son of Zephaniah, where they have arrived from Babylon.

The Symbolic Crowns

¹¹"Take silver and gold, make an ornate crown and set it on the head of Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest.

¹²"Then say to him, "Thus says the LORD of hosts, "Behold, a man who has the name Branch, for He will branch out from where He stands; and He will build the temple of the LORD.

¹³"Yes, He will build the temple of the LORD, and He will bear the honor and sit and rule on His throne Thus, He will serve as a priest on His throne, and the counsel of peace will exist between the two offices."

¹⁴"Now the crown will become a reminder in the temple of the LORD to Helem, Tobijah, Jedaiah and Hen the son of Zephaniah.

¹⁵" Those who live far off will come and build the temple of the LORD " Then you will know that the LORD of hosts has sent me to you And it will take place if you completely obey the LORD your God.

Zechariah 7

NASB E-Prime DFM

Hearts like Flint

¹In the fourth year of King Darius, the word of the LORD came to Zechariah on the fourth day of the ninth month, which we acknowledge as Chislev.

²Now the town of Bethel had sent Sharezer and Regemmelech and their men to seek the favor of the LORD,

³speaking to the priests who belong to the house of the LORD of hosts, and to the prophets, saying, "Shall I weep in the fifth month and abstain, as I have done these many years?"

⁴Then the word of the LORD of hosts came to me, saying,

⁵"Say to all the people of the land and to the priests, 'When you fasted and mourned in the fifth and seventh months these seventy years, did you actually fast for me?

⁶"When you eat and drink, do you not eat for yourselves and do you not drink for yourselves?

⁷ Do you not recognize these words which the LORD proclaimed by the former prophets, when Jerusalem had inhabitants and prosperous along with its cities around it, and the Negev and the foothills also had inhabitants?"

⁸Then the word of the LORD came to Zechariah saying,

⁹"Thus has the LORD of hosts said, 'Dispense true justice and practice kindness and compassion each to his brother;

¹⁰and do not oppress the widow or the orphan, the stranger or the poor; and do not devise evil in your hearts against one another.'

¹¹"But they refused to pay attention and turned a stubborn shoulder and topped their ears from hearing.

¹²"They made their hearts like flint so that they could not hear the law and the words which the LORD of hosts had sent by His Spirit through the former prophets; therefore great wrath came from the LORD of hosts.

¹³"And just as He called and they would not listen, so they called and I would not listen," says the LORD of hosts;

¹⁴"but I scattered them with a storm wind among all the nations whom they have not known. Thus the land has become desolate behind them so that no one went back and forth, for they made the pleasant land desolate."

Zechariah 8

NASB E-Prime DFM

The Coming Peace and Prosperity of Zion

¹Then the word of the LORD of hosts came, saying,

²"Thus says the LORD of hosts, 'I have become exceedingly jealous for Zion, yes, with great wrath I feel jealous for her.'

³"Thus says the LORD, 'I will return to Zion and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. Then people will call Jerusalem the City of Truth, and the mountain of the LORD of hosts people will call the Holy Mountain.'

⁴"Thus says the LORD of hosts, 'Old men and old women will again sit in the streets of Jerusalem, each man with his staff in his hand because of age.'

⁵'And the streets of the city will fill with boys and girls playing in its streets.'

⁶"Thus says the LORD of hosts, 'If it seems too difficult in the sight of the remnant of this people in those days, will it also seem too difficult in My sight?' declares the LORD of hosts.

⁷"Thus says the LORD of hosts, 'Behold, I intend to save My people from the land of the east and from the land of the west;

⁸and I will bring them back and they will live in the midst of Jerusalem; and I shall call them My people, and they will consider me their God in truth and righteousness.'

⁹"Thus says the LORD of hosts, 'Let your hands remain strong, you who listen in these days to these words from the mouth of the prophets, those who spoke in the day that they laid the foundation of the house of the LORD of hosts, to the end that the temple might become built.'

¹⁰'For before those days there came no wage for man or any wage for animal; and for him who went out or came in there existed no peace because of his enemies, and I set all men one against another.'

¹¹'But now I will not treat the remnant of this people as in the former days,' declares the LORD of hosts.

¹²'For there will come peace for the seed: the vine will yield its fruit, the land will yield its produce and the heavens will give their dew; and I will cause the remnant of this people to inherit all these things.'

¹³It will come about that just as you became a curse among the nations, O house of Judah and house of Israel, so I will save you that you may become a blessing Do not fear; let your hands remain strong.'

¹⁴"For thus says the LORD of hosts, 'Just as I purposed to do harm to you when your fathers provoked Me to wrath,' says the LORD of hosts, 'and I have not relented,

¹⁵so I have again purposed in these days to do good to Jerusalem and to the house of Judah Do not fear!

¹⁶These things you should do: speak the truth to one another; judge with truth and judgment for peace in your gates.

¹⁷Also let none of you devise evil in your heart against another, and do not love perjury; for all these I hate,' declares the LORD."

¹⁸Then the word of the LORD of hosts came to me, saying,

¹⁹"Thus says the LORD of hosts, 'The fast of the fourth, the fast of the fifth, the fast of the seventh and the fast of the tenth months will become joy, gladness, and cheerful feasts for the house of Judah; so love truth and peace.'

²⁰"Thus says the LORD of hosts, 'It will yet occur that peoples will come, even the inhabitants of many cities.

²¹The inhabitants of one will go to another, saying, "Let us go at once to entreat the favor of the LORD, and to seek the LORD of hosts; I will also go."

²²So many peoples and mighty nations will come to seek the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem and to entreat the favor of the LORD.'

²³"Thus says the LORD of hosts, 'In those days ten men from all the nations will grasp the garment of a Jew, saying, "Let us go with you, for we have heard that God dwells with you.'"

Zechariah 9

NASB E-Prime DFM

Prophecies against Neighboring Nations

¹The burden of the word of the LORD comes against the land of Hadrach, with Damascus as its resting place (for the eyes of men, especially of all the tribes of Israel, look toward the LORD),

²And Hamath also, which borders on it; Tyre and Sidon, though they seem very wise.

³For Tyre built herself a fortress And piled up silver like dust, And gold like the mire of the

streets.

⁴Behold, the Lord will dispossess her And cast her wealth into the sea; And she will become consumed with fire.

⁵Ashkelon will see it and fear. Gaza too will writhe in great pain; Also Ekron, for her expectation has become confounded. Moreover, the king will perish from Gaza, And Ashkelon will not have inhabitants.

⁶And a mongrel race will dwell in Ashdod, And I will cut off the pride of the Philistines.

⁷And I will remove their blood from their mouth And their detestable things from between their teeth. Then they also will become a remnant for our God, And seem like a clan in Judah, And Ekron like a Jebusite.

⁸But I will camp around My house because of an army, Because of him who passes by and returns; And no oppressor will pass over them anymore, For now I have seen with My eyes.

⁹Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout in triumph, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king comes to you; He appears just and endowed with salvation, Humble, and mounted on a donkey, Even on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

¹⁰I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim And the horse from Jerusalem; And the bow of war I will cut off And He will speak peace to the nations; And His dominion will range from sea to sea, And from the River to the ends of the earth.

Deliverance of Judah and Ephraim

¹¹As for you also, because of the blood of My covenant with you, I have set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

¹²Return to the stronghold, O prisoners who have the hope; This very day I declare that I will restore double to you.

¹³For I will bend Judah as My bow, I will fill the bow with Ephraim And I will stir up your sons, O Zion, against your sons, O Greece; And I will make you like a warrior's sword.

¹⁴Then the LORD will appear over them, And His arrow will go forth like lightning; And the Lord GOD will blow the trumpet, And will march in the storm winds of the south.

¹⁵The LORD of hosts will defend them And they will devour and trample on the sling stones; And they will drink and become boisterous as with wine; And they will become filled like a sacrificial basin, Drenched like the corners of the altar.

¹⁶And the LORD their God will save them in that day As the flock of His people; For they resemble the stones of a crown, Sparkling in His land.

¹⁷For what comeliness and beauty will they possess! Grain will make the young men flourish, and new wine the virgins.

Zechariah 10

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God Will Bless Judah and Ephraim

¹Ask rain from the LORD at the time of the spring rain-- The LORD who makes the storm clouds; And He will give them showers of rain, vegetation in the field to each man.

²For the teraphim speak iniquity, And the diviners see lying visions And tell false dreams; They comfort in vain Therefore the people wander like sheep, They became afflicted, because no shepherd appeared.

³"My anger I kindle against the shepherds, And I will punish the male goats; For the LORD of hosts has visited His flock, the house of Judah, And will make them like His majestic horse in battle.

⁴"From them will come the cornerstone, From them the tent peg, From them the bow of battle, From them every ruler, all of them together.

⁵"They will appear as mighty men, Treading down the enemy in the mire of the streets in battle; And they will fight, for the LORD will accompany them; And the riders on horses will fall into shame.

⁶"I will strengthen the house of Judah, And I will save the house of Joseph, And I will bring them back, Because I have had compassion on them; And they will feel as though I had not rejected them, For I proclaim Myself as the LORD their God and I will answer them.

⁷"Ephraim will seem like a mighty man, And their heart will have gladness as if from wine; Indeed, their children will see it and feel glad, Their heart will rejoice in the LORD.

⁸"I will whistle for them to gather them together, For I have redeemed them; And they will seem as numerous as before.

⁹"When I scatter them among the peoples, They will remember Me in far countries, And they with their children will live and come back.

¹⁰"I will bring them back from the land of Egypt And gather them from Assyria; And I will bring them into the land of Gilead and Lebanon Until they can find no room for them.

¹¹"And they will pass through the sea of distress And He will strike the waves in the sea, So that all the depths of the Nile will dry up; And I will bring down the pride of Assyria And the scepter of Egypt will depart.

¹²"And I will strengthen them in the LORD, And in His name they will walk," declares the LORD.

Zechariah 11

NASB E-Prime DFM

The Doomed Flock

¹Open your doors, O Lebanon, That a fire may feed on your cedars.

²Wail, O cypress, for the cedar has fallen, Because the glorious trees have suffered destruction; Wail, O oaks of Bashan, For the impenetrable forest has come down.

³There comes a sound of the shepherds' wail, For their glory has turned into ruin; We hear the sound of the young lions' roar, For the pride of the Jordan has turned into ruin.

⁴Thus says the LORD my God, "Pasture the flock doomed to slaughter.

⁵"Those who buy them slay them and go unpunished, and each of those who sell them says, 'Blessed we acknowledge the LORD, for I have become rich!' And their own shepherds have no pity on them.

⁶"For I will no longer have pity on the inhabitants of the land," declares the LORD; "but behold, I will cause the men to fall, each into another's power and into the power of his king; and they will strike the land, and I will not deliver them from their power."

⁷So I pastured the flock doomed to slaughter, hence the afflicted of the flock And I took for myself two staffs: the one I called Favor and the other I called Union; so I pastured the flock.

⁸Then I annihilated the three shepherds in one month, for my soul felt impatience with them, and their soul also felt weary of me.

⁹Then I said, "I will not pasture you. What will die, let it die, and what will become annihilated, let it become annihilated; and let those who remain eat one another's flesh."

¹⁰I took my staff Favor and cut it in pieces, to break my covenant which I had made with all the peoples.

¹¹So it broke on that day, and thus the afflicted of the flock who watched me realized that the word of the LORD had come upon them.

¹²I said to them, "If you consider it good in your sight, give me my wages; but if not, never mind!" So they weighed out thirty shekels of silver as my wages.

¹³Then the LORD said to me, "Throw it to the potter, that magnificent price at which they valued me." So I took the thirty shekels of silver and threw them to the potter in the house of the LORD.

¹⁴Then I cut in pieces my second staff Union, to break the brotherhood between Judah and Israel.

¹⁵The LORD said to me, "Take again for yourself the equipment of a foolish shepherd.

¹⁶"For behold, I will raise up a shepherd in the land who will not care for the perishing, seek the scattered, heal the broken, or sustain the one standing, but will devour the flesh of the fat sheep and tear off their hoofs.

¹⁷" Woe to the worthless shepherd Who leaves the flock! A sword will he wear on his arm And on his right eye! His arm will totally wither And his right eye will become blind."

Zechariah 12

NASB E-Prime DFM

Jerusalem to undergo attack

¹The burden of the word of the LORD concerning Israel. Thus declares the LORD who stretches out the heavens, lays the foundation of the earth, and forms the spirit of man within him,

²"Behold, I intend to make Jerusalem a cup that causes reeling to all the peoples around; and when the siege takes place against Jerusalem, it will also takes place against Judah.

³"It will come about in that day that I will make Jerusalem a heavy stone for all the peoples; all who lift it will severely injure themselves. And all the nations of the earth will gather against it.

⁴"In that day," declares the LORD, "I will strike every horse with bewilderment and his rider with madness. But I will watch over the house of Judah, while I strike every horse of the peoples with blindness.

⁵"Then the clans of Judah will say in their hearts, ' We regard the inhabitants of Jerusalem a strong support for us through the LORD of hosts, their God.'

⁶"In that day I will make the clans of Judah like a firepot among pieces of wood and a flaming torch among sheaves, so they will consume on the right hand and on the left all the surrounding peoples, while the inhabitants of Jerusalem again dwell on their own sites in Jerusalem.

⁷"The LORD also will save the tents of Judah first, so that the glory of the house of David and the glory of the inhabitants of Jerusalem will not magnify above Judah.

⁸"In that day the LORD will defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and the one who appears feeble among them in that day will resemble David, and the house of David will resemble God, like the angel of the LORD before them.

⁹"And in that day I will set about to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.

¹⁰"I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him like the bitter weeping over a firstborn.

¹¹"In that day there will arise great mourning in Jerusalem, like the mourning of Hadadrimmon in the plain of Megiddo.

¹²"The land will mourn, every family by itself; the family of the house of David by itself and their wives by themselves; the family of the house of Nathan by itself and their wives by themselves;

¹³the family of the house of Levi by itself and their wives by themselves; the family of the Shimeites by itself and their wives by themselves;

¹⁴all the families that remain, every family by itself and their wives by themselves.

Zechariah 13

NASB E-Prime DFM

False Prophets Ashamed

¹"In that day a fountain will open for the house of David and for the inhabitants of Jerusalem, for sin and for impurity.

²"It will come about in that day," declares the LORD of hosts, "that I will cut off the names of the idols from the land, and no one will remember them any longer; and I will also remove the prophets and the unclean spirit from the land.

³"And if anyone still prophesies, then his father and mother who gave birth to him will say to him, 'You shall not live, for you have spoken falsely in the name of the LORD'; and his father and mother who gave birth to him will pierce him through when he prophesies.

⁴"Also it will come about in that day that the prophets will each have shame of his vision when he prophesies, and they will not put on a hairy robe in order to deceive;

⁵but he will say, 'I do not consider myself a prophet; I serve as a tiller of the ground, for a man sold me as a slave in my youth.'

⁶"And one will say to him, 'How did you get these wounds between your arms?' Then he will say, 'Those with which I received wounds in the house of my friends.'

⁷"Awake, O sword, against My Shepherd, And against the man, My Associate," Declares the

LORD of hosts " Strike the Shepherd that the sheep will scatter; And I will turn My hand against the little ones.

⁸"It will come about in all the land," Declares the LORD," That two parts in it will become severed and perish; But the third will remain in it.

⁹"And I will bring the third part through the fire, Refine them as people refine silver , And test them as people test gold They will call on My name, And I will answer them; I will say, ' I acknowledge them as My people,' And they will say, ' We acknowledge The LORD as our God.'"

Zechariah 14

NASB E-Prime DFM

God Will Battle Jerusalem's Foes

¹Behold, a day comes for the LORD when the spoil taken from you others will divide among you.

²For I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle, and the city will suffer captivity, the houses plundered, the women ravished and half of the city exiled, but the rest of the people will not become cut off from the city.

³Then the LORD will go forth and fight against those nations, as when He fights on a day of battle.

⁴In that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which stands in front of Jerusalem on the east; and the Mount of Olives will split in its middle from east to west by a very large valley, so that half of the mountain will move toward the north and the other half toward the south.

⁵You will flee by the valley of My mountains, for the valley of the mountains will reach to Azel; yes, you will flee just as you fled before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah Then the LORD, my God, will come, and all the holy ones with Him!

⁶In that day no light will appear; the luminaries will dwindle.

⁷For there will come a unique day which the LORD knows, neither day nor night, but it will come about that at evening time light will appear.

⁸And in that day living waters will flow out of Jerusalem, half of them toward the eastern sea and the other half toward the western sea; it will occur in summer as well as in winter.

God Will Serve as King over All

⁹And the LORD will rule as king over all the earth; in that day we will acknowledge LORD as the only one, and His name the only one.

¹⁰All the land will change into a plain from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem; but Jerusalem will rise and remain on its site from Benjamin's Gate as far as the place of the First Gate to the Corner Gate, and from the Tower of Hananel to the king's wine presses.

¹¹People will live in it, and no longer will a curse exist, for Jerusalem will dwell in security.

¹²Now this will constitute the plague with which the LORD will strike all the peoples who have gone to war against Jerusalem; their flesh will rot while they stand on their feet, and their eyes will rot in their sockets, and their tongue will rot in their mouth.

¹³It will come about in that day that a great panic from the LORD will fall on them; and they will seize one another's hand, and the hand of one will lift against the hand of another.

¹⁴Judah also will fight at Jerusalem; and the wealth of all the surrounding nations will accumulate, gold and silver and garments in great abundance.

¹⁵So also like this plague will come the plague on the horse, the mule, the camel, the donkey and all the cattle that dwell in those camps.

¹⁶Then it will come about that any who remain of all the nations that went against Jerusalem will go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to celebrate the Feast of Booths.

¹⁷And it will come to pass that whichever of the families of the earth does not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, will receive no rain.

¹⁸If the family of Egypt does not go up or enter, then no rain will fall on them; it will constitute the plague with which the LORD smites the nations who do not go up to celebrate the Feast of Booths.

¹⁹This people will know as the punishment of Egypt, and the punishment of all the nations who do not go up to celebrate the Feast of Booths.

²⁰In that day people will inscribe on the bells of the horses, " HOLY TO THE LORD " And the cooking pots in the LORD'S house will resemble the bowls before the altar.

²¹Every cooking pot in Jerusalem and in Judah will become holy to the LORD of hosts; and all who sacrifice will come and take of them and boil in them And there will no longer dwell a Canaanite in the house of the LORD of hosts in that day.

Malachi 1-4

Malachi 1

Rendered into E-Prime by Dr. David F. Maas

God's Love for Jacob

¹The oracle of the word of the LORD to Israel through Malachi.

²"I have loved you," says the LORD But you say, "How have You loved us?" "Did not Jacob have a brother Esau?" declares the LORD "Yet I have loved Jacob;

³but I have hated Esau, and I have made his mountains a desolation and appointed his inheritance for the jackals of the wilderness."

⁴Though Edom says, "We have received ruin, but we will return and build up the ruins"; thus says the LORD of hosts, "They may build, but I will tear down; and men will call them the wicked territory, and the people toward whom the LORD maintains His indignity forever."

⁵Your eyes will see this and you will say, "The LORD has become magnified beyond the border of Israel!"

Sin of the Priests

⁶"A son honors his father, and a servant his master Then if you consider me a father, where have you honored Me? And if you consider me a master, why don't you respect me?' says the LORD of hosts to you, O priests who despise My name. But you say, 'How have we despised Your name?'

⁷"You present defiled food upon My altar But you say, 'How have we defiled You?' In that you say, 'We have despised the table of the LORD.'

⁸"But when you present the blind for sacrifice, do you not do that with an evil motive? And when you present the lame and sick, do you not do it with an evil motive? Why not offer it to your governor? Would he take satisfaction with you? Or would he receive you kindly?" says the LORD of hosts.

⁹"But now will you not entreat God's favor, that He may show graciousness to us? With such an offering on your part, will He receive any of you kindly?" says the LORD of hosts.

¹⁰"Oh if only someone among you would shut the gates, that you might not uselessly kindle fire on My altar! I take no pleasure with you," says the LORD of hosts, "nor will I accept an offering from you.

¹¹"For from the rising of the sun even to its setting, The nations will exalt my name among the nations, and in every place They will offer incense in My name, and offer a pure grain offering; for the nations will glorify My name," says the LORD of hosts.

¹²"But you profane it, in that you say, 'The table of the Lord looks defiled, and as for its fruit, we despise its food.'

¹³"You also say, 'My, how tiresome we find it!' And you disdainfully sniff at it," says the LORD of hosts, "and you bring what you took by robbery and what has become lame or sick; so you bring the offering! Should I receive that from your hand?" says the LORD.

¹⁴"But God curses the swindler who has a male in his flock and vows it, but sacrifices a blemished animal to the Lord, for I have demonstrated myself a great King," says the LORD of hosts, "and the nations fear My name ."

Malachi 2

NASB E-Prime DFM

Priests to Receive Discipline

¹"And now I give this commandment to you, O priests.

²"If you do not listen, and if you do not take it to heart to give honor to My name," says the LORD of hosts, "then I will send the curse upon you and I will curse your blessings; and indeed, I have cursed them already, because you do not take it to heart.

³"Behold, I will rebuke your offspring, and I will spread refuse on your faces, the refuse of your feasts; and you will become overwhelmed by it.

⁴"Then you will know that I have sent this commandment to you, that My covenant may continue with Levi," says the LORD of hosts.

⁵"My covenant with him gave life and peace, and I gave them to him as an object of reverence; so he revered Me and stood in awe of My name.

⁶" True instruction came from his mouth and unrighteousness did not light on his lips; he walked with Me in peace and uprightness, and he turned many back from iniquity.

⁷"For the lips of a priest should preserve knowledge, and men should seek instruction from his mouth; for he serves as the messenger of the LORD of hosts.

⁸"But as for you, you have turned aside from the way; you have caused many to stumble by the instruction; you have corrupted the covenant of Levi," says the LORD of hosts.

⁹"So I also have made you despised and abased before all the people, just as you do not keep My ways but show partiality in the instruction.

Sin in the Family

¹⁰"Do we not all have one father? Has not one God created us? Why do we deal treacherously each against his brother so as to profane the covenant of our fathers?

¹¹"Judah has dealt treacherously, and Israel has committed an abomination throughout the land and in Jerusalem; for Judah has profaned the sanctuary of the LORD which He loves and has married the daughter of a foreign god.

¹²"As for the man who does this, may the LORD cut off from the tents of Jacob everyone who awakes and answers, or who presents an offering to the LORD of hosts.

¹³"Furthermore: you cover the altar of the LORD with tears, with weeping and with groaning, because He no longer regards the offering or accepts it with favor from your hand.

¹⁴"Yet you say, 'For what reason?' Because the LORD has served as a witness between you and the wife of your youth, against whom you have dealt treacherously, though she has faithfully served as your companion and your wife by covenant.

¹⁵"But not one has done so who has a remnant of the Spirit And what did that one do while he sought godly offspring? Take heed then to your spirit, and let no one deal treacherously against the wife of your youth.

¹⁶"For I hate divorce," says the LORD, the God of Israel, "and him who covers his garment with wrong," says the LORD of hosts. "So take heed to your spirit, that you do not deal treacherously."

¹⁷You have wearied the LORD with your words Yet you say, "How have we wearied Him?" In that you say, " Everyone who does evil does good in the sight of the LORD, and He delights in them," or, " Where can we find the God of justice?"

Malachi 3

NASB E-Prime DFM

The Purifier

¹"Behold, I will send My messenger, and he will clear the way before Me And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple; and the messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight, behold, He comes," says the LORD of hosts.

²"But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He resembles a refiner's fire and fullers' soap.

³"He will sit as a smelter and purifier of silver, and He will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, so that they may present to the LORD offerings in righteousness.

⁴"Then the Lord will find the offering of Judah and Jerusalem pleasing as in the days of old and as in former years.

⁵"Then I will draw near to you for judgment; and I will swiftly witness against the sorcerers and against the adulterers and against those who swear falsely, and against those who oppress the wage earner in his wages, the widow and the orphan, and those who turn aside the alien and do not fear Me," says the LORD of hosts.

⁶"For I, the LORD, do not change; therefore I have not consumed you, O sons of Jacob.

⁷"From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from My statutes and have not kept them Return to Me, and I will return to you," says the LORD of hosts. "But you say, 'How shall we return?'

You Have Robbed God

⁸"Will a man rob God? Yet you rob Me! But you say, 'How have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings.

⁹"I curse you with a curse, for you rob Me, the whole nation of you!

¹⁰" Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that I may have food in My house, and test Me now in this," says the LORD of hosts, "if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows.

¹¹"Then I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of the ground; nor will your vine in the field cast its grapes," says the LORD of hosts.

¹²" All the nations will call you blessed, for you shall have a delightful land," says the LORD of hosts.

¹³"Your words have been arrogant against Me," says the LORD. "Yet you say, 'What have we spoken against You?'

¹⁴"You have said, 'We consider it vain to serve God; and what profit do we have in keeping His charge, and that we have walked in mourning before the LORD of hosts?'

¹⁵"So now we call the arrogant blessed; not only have the doers of wickedness built themselves up but they also test God and escape.'"

The Book of Remembrance

¹⁶Then those who feared the LORD spoke to one another, and the LORD gave attention and heard it, and His servants wrote a book of remembrance before Him for those who fear the LORD and who esteem His name.

¹⁷"They will become Mine," says the LORD of hosts, "on the day that I prepare My own possession, and I will spare them as a man spares his own son who serves him."

¹⁸So you will again distinguish between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve Him.

Malachi 4

NASB E-Prime DFM

Final Admonition

¹"For behold, the day shall come, burning like a furnace; and all the arrogant and every evildoer will become chaff; and the day that comes will set them ablaze," says the LORD of hosts, "so that it will leave them neither root nor branch."

²"But for you who fear My name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings; and you will go forth and skip about like calves from the stall.

³"You will tread down the wicked, for they will become ashes under the soles of your feet on the day which I prepare," says the LORD of hosts.

⁴"Remember the law of Moses My servant, even the statutes and ordinances which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel.

⁵"Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the LORD.

⁶"He will restore the hearts of the fathers to their children and the hearts of the children to their fathers, so that I will not come and smite the land with a curse."

