

## Word of God

**20** Then God spoke all these words:

<sup>2</sup> I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; <sup>3</sup> you shall have no other gods before me.

<sup>4</sup> You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. <sup>5</sup> You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, <sup>6</sup> but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

<sup>7</sup> You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

<sup>8</sup> Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. <sup>9</sup> Six days you shall labor and do all your work. <sup>10</sup> But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. <sup>11</sup> For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

<sup>12</sup> Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

<sup>13</sup> You shall not murder.

<sup>14</sup> You shall not commit adultery.

<sup>15</sup> You shall not steal.

<sup>16</sup> You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

<sup>17</sup> You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

The New Revised Standard Version, (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers) 1989.

### **Exodus 20:1-17**

**35** God said to Jacob, "Arise, go up to Bethel, and settle there. Make an altar there to the God who appeared to you when you fled from your brother Esau." <sup>2</sup> So Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him, "Put away the foreign gods that are among you, and purify yourselves, and change your clothes;

The New Revised Standard Version, (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers) 1989.

### **Genesis 35:1-2**

<sup>22</sup> The Lord said to Moses: Thus you shall say to the Israelites: “You have seen for yourselves that I spoke with you from heaven. <sup>23</sup> You shall not make gods of silver alongside me, nor shall you make for yourselves gods of gold

The New Revised Standard Version, (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers) 1989.

**Exodus 20:22-23**

<sup>18</sup> You shall not permit a female sorcerer to live.

<sup>19</sup> Whoever lies with an animal shall be put to death.

<sup>20</sup> Whoever sacrifices to any god, other than the Lord alone, shall be devoted to destruction.

The New Revised Standard Version, (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers) 1989.

**Exodus 22:18-20**

<sup>13</sup> Be attentive to all that I have said to you. Do not invoke the names of other gods; do not let them be heard on your lips.

The New Revised Standard Version, (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers) 1989.

**Ex 23:13**

<sup>24</sup> you shall not bow down to their gods, or worship them, or follow their practices, but you shall utterly demolish them and break their pillars in pieces. <sup>25</sup> You shall worship the Lord your God, and I will bless your bread and your water; and I will take sickness away from among you. <sup>26</sup> No one shall miscarry or be barren in your land; I will fulfill the number of your days.

The New Revised Standard Version, (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers) 1989.

**Ex 23:24-26**

<sup>31</sup> I will set your borders from the Red Sea to the sea of the Philistines, and from the wilderness to the Euphrates; for I will hand over to you the inhabitants of the land, and you shall drive them out before you. <sup>32</sup> You shall make no covenant with them and their gods. <sup>33</sup> They shall not live in your land, or they will make you sin against me; for if you worship their gods, it will surely be a snare to you.

The New Revised Standard Version, (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers) 1989.

**Ex 23:31-33**

<sup>7</sup> The Lord said to Moses, “Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; <sup>8</sup> they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, ‘These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of

Egypt!’ ” <sup>9</sup> The Lord said to Moses, “I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. <sup>10</sup> Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation.”

The New Revised Standard Version, (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers) 1989.

**Ex 32:7-10**

<sup>26</sup> You shall make for yourselves no idols and erect no carved images or pillars, and you shall not place figured stones in your land, to worship at them; for I am the Lord your God.

The New Revised Standard Version, (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers) 1989.

**Lev 26:1**

<sup>14</sup> Do not follow other gods, any of the gods of the peoples who are all around you,

The New Revised Standard Version, (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers) 1989.

**Deu 6:14**

<sup>25</sup> The images of their gods you shall burn with fire. Do not covet the silver or the gold that is on them and take it for yourself, because you could be ensnared by it; for it is abhorrent to the Lord your God. <sup>26</sup> Do not bring an abhorrent thing into your house, or you will be set apart for destruction like it. You must utterly detest and abhor it, for it is set apart for destruction.

The New Revised Standard Version, (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers) 1989.

**Deu 7:25,26**

<sup>2</sup> You must demolish completely all the places where the nations whom you are about to dispossess served their gods, on the mountain heights, on the hills, and under every leafy tree. <sup>3</sup> Break down their altars, smash their pillars, burn their sacred poles with fire, and hew down the idols of their gods, and thus blot out their name from their places.

The New Revised Standard Version, (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers) 1989.

**Deu 12:2,3**

<sup>30</sup> take care that you are not snared into imitating them, after they have been destroyed before you: do not inquire concerning their gods, saying, “How did these nations worship their gods? I also want to do the same.” <sup>31</sup> You must not do the same for the Lord your God, because every abhorrent thing that the Lord hates they have done for their gods. They would even burn their sons and their daughters in the fire to their gods.

The New Revised Standard Version, (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers) 1989.

**Deu 12:30,31**

13 If prophets or those who divine by dreams appear among you and promise you omens or portents, <sup>2</sup> and the omens or the portents declared by them take place, and they say, "Let us follow other gods" (whom you have not known) "and let us serve them," <sup>3</sup> you must not heed the words of those prophets or those who divine by dreams; for the Lord your God is testing you, to know whether you indeed love the Lord your God with all your heart and soul. <sup>4</sup> The Lord your God you shall follow, him alone you shall fear, his commandments you shall keep, his voice you shall obey, him you shall serve, and to him you shall hold fast. <sup>5</sup> But those prophets or those who divine by dreams shall be put to death for having spoken treason against the Lord your God—who brought you out of the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery—to turn you from the way in which the Lord your God commanded you to walk. So you shall purge the evil from your midst.

<sup>6</sup> If anyone secretly entices you—even if it is your brother, your father's son or your mother's son, or your own son or daughter, or the wife you embrace, or your most intimate friend—saying, "Let us go worship other gods," whom neither you nor your ancestors have known, <sup>7</sup> any of the gods of the peoples that are around you, whether near you or far away from you, from one end of the earth to the other, <sup>8</sup> you must not yield to or heed any such persons. Show them no pity or compassion and do not shield them. <sup>9</sup> But you shall surely kill them; your own hand shall be first against them to execute them, and afterwards the hand of all the people. <sup>10</sup> Stone them to death for trying to turn you away from the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. <sup>11</sup> Then all Israel shall hear and be afraid, and never again do any such wickedness.

<sup>12</sup> If you hear it said about one of the towns that the Lord your God is giving you to live in, <sup>13</sup> that scoundrels from among you have gone out and led the inhabitants of the town astray, saying, "Let us go and worship other gods," whom you have not known, <sup>14</sup> then you shall inquire and make a thorough investigation. If the charge is established that such an abhorrent thing has been done among you, <sup>15</sup> you shall put the inhabitants of that town to the sword, utterly destroying it and everything in it—even putting its livestock to the sword. <sup>16</sup> All of its spoil you shall gather into its public square; then burn the town and all its spoil with fire, as a whole burnt offering to the Lord your God. It shall remain a perpetual ruin, never to be rebuilt. <sup>17</sup> Do not let anything devoted to destruction stick to your hand, so that the Lord may turn from his fierce anger and show you compassion, and in his compassion multiply you, as he swore to your ancestors, <sup>18</sup> if you obey the voice of the Lord your God by keeping all his commandments that I am commanding you today, doing what is right in the sight of the Lord your God.

The New Revised Standard Version, (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers) 1989.

**Dt 13:1-18**

<sup>16</sup> You know how we lived in the land of Egypt, and how we came through the midst of the nations through which you passed. <sup>17</sup> You have seen their detestable things, the filthy idols of wood and stone, of silver and gold, that were among them. <sup>18</sup> It may be that there is among you a man or woman, or a family or tribe, whose heart is already turning away from the Lord our God to serve the gods of those nations. It may be that there is among you a root sprouting poisonous and bitter growth.

The New Revised Standard Version, (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers) 1989.

**Dt 29:16-18**

<sup>15</sup> Jacob ate his fill;

Jeshurun grew fat, and kicked.

You grew fat, bloated, and gorged!

He abandoned God who made him,  
and scoffed at the Rock of his salvation.

<sup>16</sup> They made him jealous with strange gods,  
with abhorrent things they provoked him.

<sup>17</sup> They sacrificed to demons, not God,  
to deities they had never known,  
to new ones recently arrived,  
whom your ancestors had not feared.

<sup>18</sup> You were unmindful of the Rock that bore you;  
you forgot the God who gave you birth.

The New Revised Standard Version, (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers) 1989.

**Dt 32:15-18**

<sup>6</sup> Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel,  
and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts:  
I am the first and I am the last;  
besides me there is no god.

<sup>7</sup> Who is like me? Let them proclaim it,  
let them declare and set it forth before me.  
Who has announced from of old the things to come?

Let them tell us what is yet to be.

<sup>8</sup> Do not fear, or be afraid;  
have I not told you from of old and declared it?  
You are my witnesses!  
Is there any god besides me?  
There is no other rock; I know not one.  
The New Revised Standard Version, (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers) 1989.

**Is 44:6-8**

<sup>5</sup> I am the Lord, and there is no other;  
besides me there is no god.  
I arm you, though you do not know me,  
<sup>6</sup> so that they may know, from the rising of the sun  
and from the west, that there is no one besides me;  
I am the Lord, and there is no other.  
<sup>7</sup> I form light and create darkness,  
I make weal and create woe;  
I the Lord do all these things.

<sup>8</sup> Shower, O heavens, from above,  
and let the skies rain down righteousness;  
let the earth open, that salvation may spring up,  
and let it cause righteousness to sprout up also;  
I the Lord have created it.

<sup>9</sup> Woe to you who strive with your Maker,  
earthen vessels with the potter!  
Does the clay say to the one who fashions it, "What are you making"?  
or "Your work has no handles"?

The New Revised Standard Version, (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers) 1989.

**Is 45:5-9**

<sup>5</sup> For if you truly amend your ways and your doings, if you truly act justly one with another, <sup>6</sup> if you do not oppress the alien, the orphan, and the widow, or shed innocent blood in this place, and if

you do not go after other gods to your own hurt, <sup>7</sup> then I will dwell with you in this place, in the land that I gave of old to your ancestors forever and ever.

<sup>8</sup> Here you are, trusting in deceptive words to no avail. <sup>9</sup> Will you steal, murder, commit adultery, swear falsely, make offerings to Baal, and go after other gods that you have not known, <sup>10</sup> and then come and stand before me in this house, which is called by my name, and say, "We are safe!"—only to go on doing all these abominations? <sup>11</sup> Has this house, which is called by my name, become a den of robbers in your sight? You know, I too am watching, says the Lord. The New Revised Standard Version, (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers) 1989.

**Jer 7:5-11**

<sup>16</sup> As for you, do not pray for this people, do not raise a cry or prayer on their behalf, and do not intercede with me, for I will not hear you. <sup>17</sup> Do you not see what they are doing in the towns of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem? <sup>18</sup> The children gather wood, the fathers kindle fire, and the women knead dough, to make cakes for the queen of heaven; and they pour out drink offerings to other gods, to provoke me to anger. <sup>19</sup> Is it I whom they provoke? says the Lord. Is it not themselves, to their own hurt? <sup>20</sup> Therefore thus says the Lord God: My anger and my wrath shall be poured out on this place, on human beings and animals, on the trees of the field and the fruit of the ground; it will burn and not be quenched.

The New Revised Standard Version, (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers) 1989.

**Jer 7:16-20**

10 Hear the word that the Lord speaks to you, O house of Israel. <sup>2</sup> Thus says the Lord:

Do not learn the way of the nations,  
or be dismayed at the signs of the heavens;  
for the nations are dismayed at them.

<sup>3</sup> For the customs of the peoples are false:

a tree from the forest is cut down,  
and worked with an ax by the hands of an artisan;

<sup>4</sup> people deck it with silver and gold;  
they fasten it with hammer and nails  
so that it cannot move.

<sup>5</sup> Their idols are like scarecrows in a cucumber field,  
and they cannot speak;  
they have to be carried,

for they cannot walk.  
Do not be afraid of them,  
for they cannot do evil,  
nor is it in them to do good.

The New Revised Standard Version, (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers) 1989.

**Jer 10:1-5**

<sup>23</sup> Surely there is no enchantment against Jacob,  
no divination against Israel;

The New Revised Standard Version, (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers) 1989.

**Num 23:23**

<sup>18</sup> You shall not permit a female sorcerer to live.

<sup>19</sup> Whoever lies with an animal shall be put to death.

The New Revised Standard Version, (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers) 1989.

**Ex 22:18,19**

<sup>10</sup> No one shall be found among you who makes a son or daughter pass through fire, or who practices divination, or is a soothsayer, or an augur, or a sorcerer, <sup>11</sup> or one who casts spells, or who consults ghosts or spirits, or who seeks oracles from the dead. <sup>12</sup> For whoever does these things is abhorrent to the Lord; it is because of such abhorrent practices that the Lord your God is driving them out before you.

The New Revised Standard Version, (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers) 1989.

**Dt 18:10-12**

<sup>8</sup> Now therefore hear this, you lover of pleasures,

who sit securely,

who say in your heart,

“I am, and there is no one besides me;

I shall not sit as a widow

or know the loss of children”—

<sup>9</sup> both these things shall come upon you

in a moment, in one day:

the loss of children and widowhood



shall come upon you in full measure,  
in spite of your many sorceries  
and the great power of your enchantments.

<sup>10</sup> You felt secure in your wickedness;  
you said, "No one sees me."  
Your wisdom and your knowledge  
led you astray,  
and you said in your heart,  
"I am, and there is no one besides me."

<sup>11</sup> But evil shall come upon you,  
which you cannot charm away;  
disaster shall fall upon you,  
which you will not be able to ward off;  
and ruin shall come on you suddenly,  
of which you know nothing.

<sup>12</sup> Stand fast in your enchantments  
and your many sorceries,  
with which you have labored from your youth;  
perhaps you may be able to succeed,  
perhaps you may inspire terror.

<sup>13</sup> You are wearied with your many consultations;  
let those who study the heavens  
stand up and save you,  
those who gaze at the stars,  
and at each new moon predict  
what shall befall you.

<sup>14</sup> See, they are like stubble,  
the fire consumes them;  
they cannot deliver themselves  
from the power of the flame.  
No coal for warming oneself is this,  
no fire to sit before!

<sup>15</sup> Such to you are those with whom you have labored,  
who have trafficked with you from your youth;

they all wander about in their own paths;  
there is no one to save you.

The New Revised Standard Version, (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers) 1989.

**Is 47:8-15**

18 The Lord spoke to Moses, saying:

<sup>2</sup> Speak to the people of Israel and say to them: I am the Lord your God. <sup>3</sup> You shall not do as they do in the land of Egypt, where you lived, and you shall not do as they do in the land of Canaan, to which I am bringing you. You shall not follow their statutes. <sup>4</sup> My ordinances you shall observe and my statutes you shall keep, following them: I am the Lord your God. <sup>5</sup> You shall keep my statutes and my ordinances; by doing so one shall live: I am the Lord.

<sup>6</sup> None of you shall approach anyone near of kin to uncover nakedness: I am the Lord. <sup>7</sup> You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father, which is the nakedness of your mother; she is your mother, you shall not uncover her nakedness. <sup>8</sup> You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father's wife; it is the nakedness of your father. <sup>9</sup> You shall not uncover the nakedness of your sister, your father's daughter or your mother's daughter, whether born at home or born abroad. <sup>10</sup> You shall not uncover the nakedness of your son's daughter or of your daughter's daughter, for their nakedness is your own nakedness. <sup>11</sup> You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father's wife's daughter, begotten by your father, since she is your sister. <sup>12</sup> You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father's sister; she is your father's flesh. <sup>13</sup> You shall not uncover the nakedness of your mother's sister, for she is your mother's flesh. <sup>14</sup> You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father's brother, that is, you shall not approach his wife; she is your aunt. <sup>15</sup> You shall not uncover the nakedness of your daughter-in-law: she is your son's wife; you shall not uncover her nakedness. <sup>16</sup> You shall not uncover the nakedness of your brother's wife; it is your brother's nakedness. <sup>17</sup> You shall not uncover the nakedness of a woman and her daughter, and you shall not take her son's daughter or her daughter's daughter to uncover her nakedness; they are your flesh; it is depravity. <sup>18</sup> And you shall not take a woman as a rival to her sister, uncovering her nakedness while her sister is still alive.

<sup>19</sup> You shall not approach a woman to uncover her nakedness while she is in her menstrual uncleanness. <sup>20</sup> You shall not have sexual relations with your kinsman's wife, and defile yourself with her. <sup>21</sup> You shall not give any of your offspring to sacrifice them to Molech, and so profane the name of your God: I am the Lord. <sup>22</sup> You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; it is an abomination. <sup>23</sup> You shall not have sexual relations with any animal and defile yourself with it, nor shall any woman give herself to an animal to have sexual relations with it: it is perversion.

<sup>24</sup> Do not defile yourselves in any of these ways, for by all these practices the nations I am casting out before you have defiled themselves. <sup>25</sup> Thus the land became defiled; and I punished it for its iniquity, and the land vomited out its inhabitants. <sup>26</sup> But you shall keep my statutes and my

ordinances and commit none of these abominations, either the citizen or the alien who resides among you <sup>27</sup> (for the inhabitants of the land, who were before you, committed all of these abominations, and the land became defiled); <sup>28</sup> otherwise the land will vomit you out for defiling it, as it vomited out the nation that was before you. <sup>29</sup> For whoever commits any of these abominations shall be cut off from their people. <sup>30</sup> So keep my charge not to commit any of these abominations that were done before you, and not to defile yourselves by them: I am the Lord your God.

The New Revised Standard Version, (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers) 1989.

**Lev 18:1-30**

<sup>28</sup> But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

The New Revised Standard Version, (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers) 1989.

**Mt 5:28**

<sup>36</sup> I tell you, on the day of judgment you will have to give an account for every careless word you utter;

The New Revised Standard Version, (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers) 1989.

**Mt 12:36**

<sup>20</sup> And he said, "It is what comes out of a person that defiles. <sup>21</sup> For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, <sup>22</sup> adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. <sup>23</sup> All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

The New Revised Standard Version, (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers) 1989.

**Mk 7:20-23**

<sup>28</sup> For it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to impose on you no further burden than these essentials: <sup>29</sup> that you abstain from what has been sacrificed to idols and from blood and from what is strangled and from fornication. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well. Farewell."

The New Revised Standard Version, (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers) 1989.

**Acts 15:28,29**

<sup>25</sup> because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

<sup>26</sup> For this reason God gave them up to degrading passions. Their women exchanged natural intercourse for unnatural, <sup>27</sup> and in the same way also the men, giving up natural intercourse with women, were consumed with passion for one another. Men committed shameless acts with men and received in their own persons the due penalty for their error.

<sup>28</sup> And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind and to things that should not be done. <sup>29</sup> They were filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, covetousness, malice. Full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, craftiness, they are gossips, <sup>30</sup> slanderers, God-haters, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, rebellious toward parents, <sup>31</sup> foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. <sup>32</sup> They know God's decree, that those who practice such things deserve to die—yet they not only do them but even applaud others who practice them. The New Revised Standard Version, (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers) 1989.

**Romans 1:25-32**

<sup>19</sup> Now the works of the flesh are obvious: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, <sup>20</sup> idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, <sup>21</sup> envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

The New Revised Standard Version, (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers) 1989.

**Gal 5:19-21**

<sup>58</sup> If you do not diligently observe all the words of this law that are written in this book, fearing this glorious and awesome name, the Lord your God, <sup>59</sup> then the Lord will overwhelm both you and your offspring with severe and lasting afflictions and grievous and lasting maladies. <sup>60</sup> He will bring back upon you all the diseases of Egypt, of which you were in dread, and they shall cling to you. <sup>61</sup> Every other malady and affliction, even though not recorded in the book of this law, the Lord will inflict on you until you are destroyed. <sup>62</sup> Although once you were as numerous as the stars in heaven, you shall be left few in number, because you did not obey the Lord your God. <sup>63</sup> And just as the Lord took delight in making you prosperous and numerous, so the Lord will take delight in bringing you to ruin and destruction; you shall be plucked off the land that you are entering to possess. <sup>64</sup> The Lord will scatter you among all peoples, from one end of the earth to the other; and there you shall serve other gods, of wood and stone, which neither you nor your ancestors have known. <sup>65</sup> Among those nations you shall find no ease, no resting place for the

sole of your foot. There the Lord will give you a trembling heart, failing eyes, and a languishing spirit.

The New Revised Standard Version, (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers) 1989.

**Dt 28:58-65**

<sup>10</sup> when you obey the Lord your God by observing his commandments and decrees that are written in this book of the law, because you turn to the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

Exhortation to Choose Life

<sup>11</sup> Surely, this commandment that I am commanding you today is not too hard for you, nor is it too far away. <sup>12</sup> It is not in heaven, that you should say, "Who will go up to heaven for us, and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?" <sup>13</sup> Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, "Who will cross to the other side of the sea for us, and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?" <sup>14</sup> No, the word is very near to you; it is in your mouth and in your heart for you to observe.

<sup>15</sup> See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. <sup>16</sup> If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. <sup>17</sup> But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, <sup>18</sup> I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess.

The New Revised Standard Version, (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers) 1989.

**Dt 30:10-18**

<sup>2</sup> Do not follow your inclination and strength in pursuing the desires of your heart.

<sup>3</sup> Do not say, "Who can have power over me?" for the Lord will surely punish you.

<sup>4</sup> Do not say, "I sinned, yet what has happened to me?" for the Lord is slow to anger.

<sup>5</sup> Do not be so confident of forgiveness that you add sin to sin.

<sup>6</sup> Do not say, "His mercy is great,

he will forgive the multitude of my sins,”  
for both mercy and wrath are with him,  
and his anger will rest on sinners.

<sup>7</sup> Do not delay to turn back to the Lord,  
and do not postpone it from day to day;  
for suddenly the wrath of the Lord will come upon you,  
and at the time of punishment you will perish.

<sup>8</sup> Do not depend on dishonest wealth,  
for it will not benefit you on the day of calamity.

<sup>9</sup> Do not winnow in every wind,  
or follow every path.

The New Revised Standard Version, (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers) 1989.

**Sirach 5:2-9**

<sup>12</sup> Go, and proclaim these words toward the north, and say:

Return, faithless Israel,  
says the Lord.

I will not look on you in anger,  
for I am merciful,  
says the Lord;

I will not be angry forever.

<sup>13</sup> Only acknowledge your guilt,  
that you have rebelled against the Lord your God,  
and scattered your favors among strangers under every green tree,  
and have not obeyed my voice,  
says the Lord.

The New Revised Standard Version, (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers) 1989.

**Jer 3:12-13**

<sup>8</sup> does not take advance or accrued interest, withholds his hand from iniquity, executes true justice between contending parties, <sup>9</sup> follows my statutes, and is careful to observe my ordinances, acting faithfully—such a one is righteous; he shall surely live, says the Lord God.

<sup>10</sup> If he has a son who is violent, a shedder of blood, <sup>11</sup> who does any of these things (though his father does none of them), who eats upon the mountains, defiles his neighbor's wife, <sup>12</sup> oppresses the poor and needy, commits robbery, does not restore the pledge, lifts up his eyes to the idols,

commits abomination, <sup>13</sup> takes advance or accrued interest; shall he then live? He shall not. He has done all these abominable things; he shall surely die; his blood shall be upon himself.

<sup>14</sup> But if this man has a son who sees all the sins that his father has done, considers, and does not do likewise, <sup>15</sup> who does not eat upon the mountains or lift up his eyes to the idols of the house of Israel, does not defile his neighbor's wife,

The New Revised Standard Version, (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers) 1989.

**Ezek 18:8-15**

<sup>30</sup> Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. <sup>31</sup> Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? <sup>32</sup> For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

The New Revised Standard Version, (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers) 1989.

**Ezek 18:30-32**

<sup>10</sup> Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?" <sup>11</sup> Say to them, As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel? <sup>12</sup> And you, mortal, say to your people, The righteousness of the righteous shall not save them when they transgress; and as for the wickedness of the wicked, it shall not make them stumble when they turn from their wickedness; and the righteous shall not be able to live by their righteousness when they sin. <sup>13</sup> Though I say to the righteous that they shall surely live, yet if they trust in their righteousness and commit iniquity, none of their righteous deeds shall be remembered; but in the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. <sup>14</sup> Again, though I say to the wicked, "You shall surely die," yet if they turn from their sin and do what is lawful and right—<sup>15</sup> if the wicked restore the pledge, give back what they have taken by robbery, and walk in the statutes of life, committing no iniquity—they shall surely live, they shall not die. <sup>16</sup> None of the sins that they have committed shall be remembered against them; they have done what is lawful and right, they shall surely live.

The New Revised Standard Version, (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers) 1989.

**Ezek 33:10-16**

<sup>21</sup> “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. <sup>22</sup> On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many deeds of power in your name?’ <sup>23</sup> Then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; go away from me, you evildoers.’ <sup>24</sup> “Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. <sup>25</sup> The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock. <sup>26</sup> And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. <sup>27</sup> The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—and great was its fall!”

The New Revised Standard Version, (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers) 1989.

**Matt 7:21-27**

<sup>17</sup> Now this I affirm and insist on in the Lord: you must no longer live as the Gentiles live, in the futility of their minds. <sup>18</sup> They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of their ignorance and hardness of heart. <sup>19</sup> They have lost all sensitivity and have abandoned themselves to licentiousness, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. <sup>20</sup> That is not the way you learned Christ! <sup>21</sup> For surely you have heard about him and were taught in him, as truth is in Jesus. <sup>22</sup> You were taught to put away your former way of life, your old self, corrupt and deluded by its lusts, <sup>23</sup> and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, <sup>24</sup> and to clothe yourselves with the new self, created according to the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

Rules for the New Life

<sup>25</sup> So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbors, for we are members of one another. <sup>26</sup> Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, <sup>27</sup> and do not make room for the devil. <sup>28</sup> Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labor and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. <sup>29</sup> Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. <sup>30</sup> And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. <sup>31</sup> Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, <sup>32</sup> and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.

The New Revised Standard Version, (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers) 1989.

**Eph 4:17-32**



<sup>47</sup> I do not judge anyone who hears my words and does not keep them, for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world. <sup>48</sup> The one who rejects me and does not receive my word has a judge; on the last day the word that I have spoken will serve as judge,

The New Revised Standard Version, (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers) 1989.

**John 12:47,48**

<sup>12</sup> There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.”

The New Revised Standard Version, (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers) 1989.

**Acts 4:12**

<sup>43</sup> All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

The New Revised Standard Version, (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers) 1989.

**Acts 10:43**

<sup>28</sup> One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, “Which commandment is the first of all?” <sup>29</sup> Jesus answered, “The first is, ‘Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one;’ <sup>30</sup> you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ <sup>31</sup> The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

The New Revised Standard Version, (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers) 1989.

**Mark 12:28-31**

<sup>21</sup> They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

The New Revised Standard Version, (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers) 1989.

**John 14:21**

<sup>23</sup> Jesus answered him, “Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. <sup>24</sup> Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

The New Revised Standard Version, (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers) 1989.

**John 14:23-24**

<sup>4</sup> Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant <sup>5</sup> or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; <sup>6</sup> it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. <sup>7</sup> It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

<sup>8</sup> Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. <sup>9</sup> For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; <sup>10</sup> but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end

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**1Cor 13:4-10**

<sup>22</sup> By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. <sup>24</sup> And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

The New Revised Standard Version, (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers) 1989.

**Gal 5:22-24**

<sup>1</sup> The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

<sup>2</sup> He makes me lie down in green pastures;

he leads me beside still waters;

<sup>3</sup> he restores my soul.

He leads me in right paths

for his name's sake.

<sup>4</sup> Even though I walk through the darkest valley,

I fear no evil;

for you are with me;

your rod and your staff—

they comfort me.

<sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me

in the presence of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil;

my cup overflows.

<sup>6</sup> Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me

all the days of my life,

and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord

my whole life long.

The New Revised Standard Version, (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers) 1989.

**Pslams 23**

<sup>1</sup> You who live in the shelter of the Most High,  
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,  
<sup>2</sup> will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress;  
my God, in whom I trust."

<sup>3</sup> For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler  
and from the deadly pestilence;

<sup>4</sup> he will cover you with his pinions,  
and under his wings you will find refuge;  
his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.

<sup>5</sup> You will not fear the terror of the night,  
or the arrow that flies by day,

<sup>6</sup> or the pestilence that stalks in darkness,  
or the destruction that wastes at noonday.

<sup>7</sup> A thousand may fall at your side,  
ten thousand at your right hand,  
but it will not come near you.

<sup>8</sup> You will only look with your eyes  
and see the punishment of the wicked.

<sup>9</sup> Because you have made the Lord your refuge,  
the Most High your dwelling place,

<sup>10</sup> no evil shall befall you,  
no scourge come near your tent.

<sup>11</sup> For he will command his angels concerning you  
to guard you in all your ways.

<sup>12</sup> On their hands they will bear you up,  
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.

<sup>13</sup> You will tread on the lion and the adder,  
the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot.

<sup>14</sup> Those who love me, I will deliver;  
I will protect those who know my name.

<sup>15</sup> When they call to me, I will answer them;  
I will be with them in trouble,  
I will rescue them and honor them.

<sup>16</sup> With long life I will satisfy them,  
and show them my salvation.

The New Revised Standard Version, (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers) 1989.

**Psalms 91**

<sup>1</sup> I lift up my eyes to the hills—  
from where will my help come?

<sup>2</sup> My help comes from the Lord,  
who made heaven and earth.

<sup>3</sup> He will not let your foot be moved;  
he who keeps you will not slumber.

<sup>4</sup> He who keeps Israel  
will neither slumber nor sleep.

<sup>5</sup> The Lord is your keeper;  
the Lord is your shade at your right hand.

<sup>6</sup> The sun shall not strike you by day,  
nor the moon by night.

<sup>7</sup> The Lord will keep you from all evil;  
he will keep your life.

<sup>8</sup> The Lord will keep  
your going out and your coming in  
from this time on and forevermore.

The New Revised Standard Version, (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers) 1989.

**Psalms 121**

44 But now hear, O Jacob my servant,  
Israel whom I have chosen!

<sup>2</sup> Thus says the Lord who made you,  
who formed you in the womb and will help you:  
Do not fear, O Jacob my servant,  
Jeshurun whom I have chosen.

<sup>3</sup> For I will pour water on the thirsty land,  
and streams on the dry ground;  
I will pour my spirit upon your descendants,

and my blessing on your offspring.

<sup>4</sup> They shall spring up like a green tamarisk,  
like willows by flowing streams.

<sup>5</sup> This one will say, "I am the Lord's,"  
another will be called by the name of Jacob,  
yet another will write on the hand, "The Lord's,"  
and adopt the name of Israel.

The New Revised Standard Version, (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers) 1989.

**Is 44:1-5**

<sup>10</sup> Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. <sup>11</sup> Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. <sup>12</sup> For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

<sup>13</sup> Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. <sup>14</sup> Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. <sup>15</sup> As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup> With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. <sup>17</sup> Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

<sup>18</sup> Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. <sup>19</sup> Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, <sup>20</sup> for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

The New Revised Standard Version, (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers) 1989.

**Ephe 6:10-19**

<sup>1</sup> O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,  
for his steadfast love endures forever.

<sup>2</sup> O give thanks to the God of gods,  
for his steadfast love endures forever.

<sup>3</sup> O give thanks to the Lord of lords,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;

<sup>4</sup> who alone does great wonders,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;

<sup>5</sup> who by understanding made the heavens,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;

<sup>6</sup> who spread out the earth on the waters,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;

<sup>7</sup> who made the great lights,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;

<sup>8</sup> the sun to rule over the day,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;

<sup>9</sup> the moon and stars to rule over the night,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;

<sup>10</sup> who struck Egypt through their firstborn,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;

<sup>11</sup> and brought Israel out from among them,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;

<sup>12</sup> with a strong hand and an outstretched arm,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;

<sup>13</sup> who divided the Red Sea in two,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;

<sup>14</sup> and made Israel pass through the midst of it,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;

<sup>15</sup> but overthrew Pharaoh and his army in the Red Sea,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;

<sup>16</sup> who led his people through the wilderness,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;

<sup>17</sup> who struck down great kings,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;

<sup>18</sup> and killed famous kings,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;

<sup>19</sup> Sihon, king of the Amorites,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;

<sup>20</sup> and Og, king of Bashan,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;

<sup>21</sup> and gave their land as a heritage,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;

<sup>22</sup> a heritage to his servant Israel,  
for his steadfast love endures forever.

<sup>23</sup> It is he who remembered us in our low estate,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;  
<sup>24</sup> and rescued us from our foes,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;  
<sup>25</sup> who gives food to all flesh,  
for his steadfast love endures forever.

<sup>26</sup> O give thanks to the God of heaven,  
for his steadfast love endures forever.

The New Revised Standard Version, (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers) 1989.

**Psalms 136**

<sup>11</sup> For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. <sup>12</sup> Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. <sup>13</sup> When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, <sup>14</sup> I will let you find me, says the Lord, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, says the Lord, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

The New Revised Standard Version, (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers) 1989.

**Jer 29:11-14**