

אֵשׁ מִן־הַשָּׁמַיִם
the heavenly fire

*A Compendium of
the Finished Works*



David Colo

אש מן־השמים

the heavenly fire

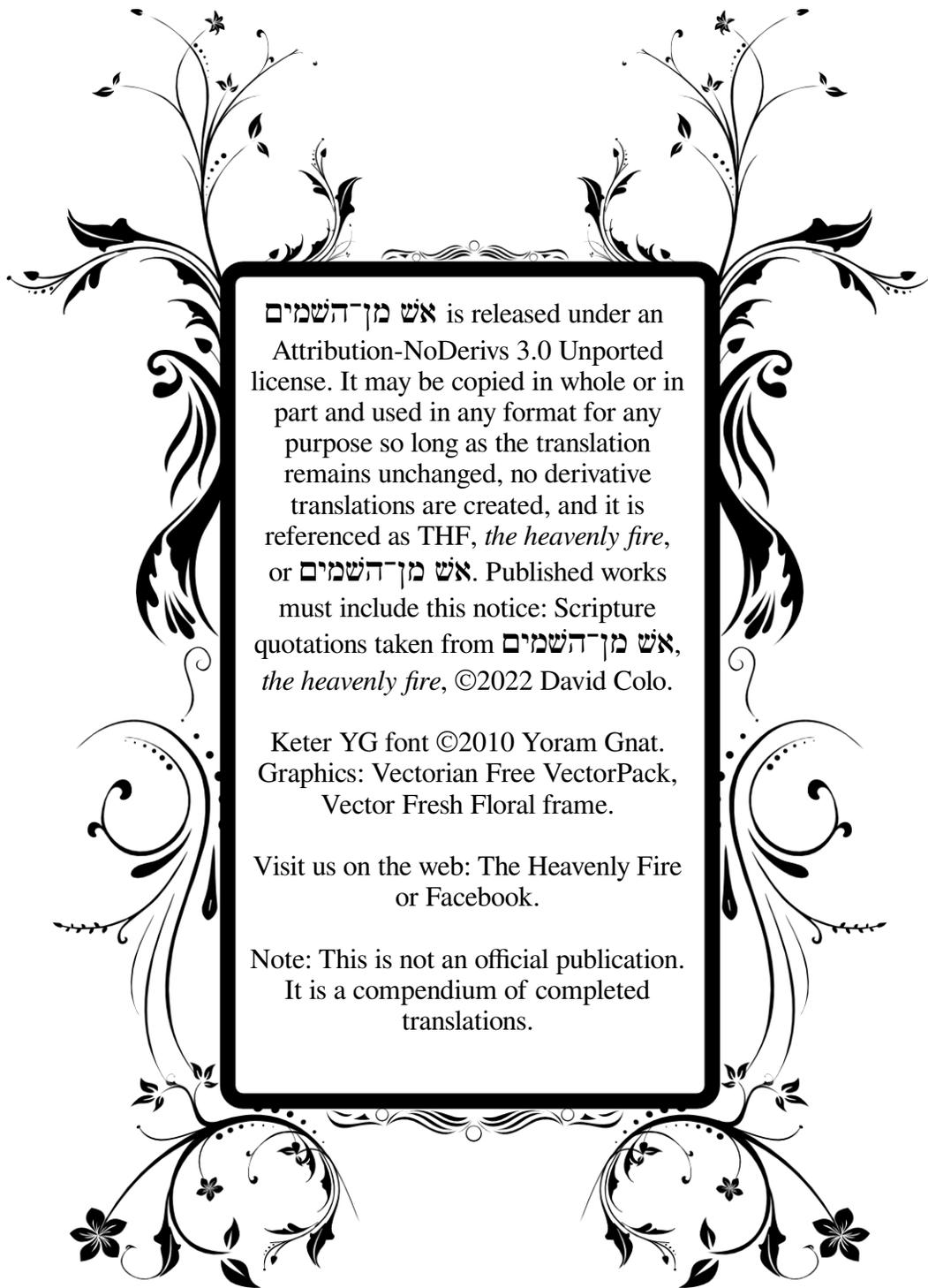
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Yonah, Habakkuk, Zephaniah,
and Ruth

David Colo

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ר' יהודה אומר המתרגם פסוק כצורתו הרי זה בדאי
והמוסיף עליו הרי זה מחרף ומגדף

Rabbi Judah says: “The one who translates a verse equivalent to its form—
that person is a liar. But the one who adds to it—
that person is a reviler and defiler.”

—*b. Kiddushin 49a*



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אש מן־השמים

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Yonah

Chapter 1

א

¹ YHWH's oracle came to Yonah, son of Amittai, as follows: ² "Get up. Go to that great city, Nineveh, and call out over it that their wickedness has come [right] up into my face."

³ Yonah got up, however, to *escape* toward Tarshish—away from the face of YHWH! He went down [to] Jaffa, found a ship arriving [from] Tarshish, [and] hired it. He went down inside it to go with them [back] toward Tarshish{—away from the face of YHWH}.

⁴ But YHWH—he hurled [such] a great wind to the sea [that] a great storm came on it. And the ship—it reckoned a wrecking! ⁵ The sailors were [so] fearful, they cried out—each [one] to his gods—[and] hurled the objects that [were] on the ship into the sea to bring appeasement by them. But Yonah—he went down to the recesses of the boat, laid back, [and] went down to sleep.

⁶ The head of the crew headed to him and said to him, "What do you benefit [by] sleeping? Get up! Call out to your god! Perhaps that god will show concern for us so that we do not perish!"

⁷ They said—[each] one to his peer, "Let's go throw down lots so that we may learn on whose account we have incurred this wickedness." So they threw down lots [and] the lot was thrown down on Yonah.

⁸ They said to him, "Please explain to us for what reason we have incurred this wickedness! What [is] your *profit* [in this] and where are you coming from? What [is] your homeland and what ethnicity [are] you?"

⁹ "Israeli I [be]," he said to them. "And [of] YHWH, the Overarching God, [am] I fearful—[he] who made the wet and the dry [extents]."

¹⁰ The men then feared [with] great fear. "What a thing you have done!" they said to him, because the men learned, as he had explained to them, that away from the face of YHWH he was *escaping*.

¹¹ They said to him, "What should we do with you so that the sea may be quelled by us since the sea is storming incessantly?"

¹² "Lift me up and hurl me into the sea," he said to them, "then the sea will be quelled by you since it knows of me—that this great storm [is] over you on my account."

¹³ The men, however, tunneled [ahead] to drive back to the dry land, but could not since the sea was storming incessantly over them. ¹⁴ So they called out to YHWH [and] said, "Please, YHWH—please don't let us perish with the life of this man nor repay us [for] *expelled* blood! Because just as you, YHWH, intended, [so] have you done!"

¹⁵ They lifted Yonah up, hurled him into the sea, [and] the sea stabilized from its raging. ¹⁶ Then [so] great [was] the fear the men feared of YHWH, they sacrificed a sacrifice [and] pledged pledges to YHWH.

Chapter 2

ב

¹ YHWH, however, appointed a great fish to swallow up Yonah. Yonah was in the guts of the fish three days and three nights.

² Yonah prayed to YHWH his god from the guts of the fish. ³ He said,

"I call out from my calamity
to YHWH—he answers me!

I cry out from Sheol's belly.
My shout comes to thee!

⁴ You tossed me deep in the well of [the] seas
so that River swelled around me.
*All your breakers and your waves—
over me, they passed.*

⁵ Then I, myself, thought I was pitched out
from the sight of your eyes,
/never/ again to peer
toward your hallowed hall.

⁶ Waters submerged me up to [the] throat.
Abyss swelled around me.

Finality was fastened to my head.

⁷ In the chasms of the mountains,

I went down.

The earth with its *escapes* [were] beyond me
in Nevermore.

But you made my life come up from the Pit,
YHWH my god!

⁸ As it faded from me—my breath,
YHWH did I recall.

It came to you—my prayer,
into your hallowed hall.

⁹ Defenders of hollow illusions—
their commitment will they renounce.

¹⁰ But I, with shout of appreciation,
an immolation will hereby bring you.

That [which] I pledged
I will hereby bring to completion.
Salvation belongs to YHWH!”

¹¹ YHWH then spoke to the fish so that it
expelled Yonah to the dry land.

Chapter 3 3

¹ YHWH’s oracle then came to Yonah a second
[time] as follows: ² “Get up. Go to that great city,
Nineveh, and call out to it the [very] call-out that I
convey to you.”

³ So Yonah got up [and] marched toward
Nineveh according to YHWH’s oracle even though
Nineveh was a great city of [other] gods [and] a
three-day march [besides].

⁴ Yonah then began to enter into the city.
Marching around a single day, he called out [and]
said,

“At most forty days
till Nineveh is turned!”

⁵ The people of Nineveh relied on Elohim. They
called out [for] a fast [and] dressed [in] rags—from
the greatest of them even to the least of them.

⁶ Since what was spoken was a blow to
Nineveh’s king, he got up from his throne [and],
having thrown [on] a rag [and] settled in the dirt,

the heavenly fire

made his majesty pass away from him. ⁷ Then he
made a cry [go] out in Nineveh, which, [arising]
from what was sensible to the king and his great
ones, said the following:

“Whether human or whether beast,
whether herd or whether flock,
let their senses not be indulged at all.

Let no feeding be done,
nor water *wicked* away.

⁸ Let them cover themselves [with] rags instead,
whether human or whether beast,
and call out to Elohim in force.

Let them turn back as well—
each from his wicked way
and from the violence that they carry out.

⁹ Who knows?
He may turn aside [and] relent—
the One God.

He may turn aside from his fuming rage
so that we do not perish!”

¹⁰ The One God saw their acts—how they
turned away from their wicked way. Then the One
God relented from the wickedness that he had
spoke of enacting against them and did not act.

Chapter 4 7

¹ But that was wicked to Yonah—[so] great a
wickedness that it fumed in him! ² He prayed to
YHWH [and] said, “Please, YHWH! This is
exactly what I thought while I was on my [own]
soil, which is why I *counteracted* by *escaping*
toward Tarshish! I knew for true about you: a god
merciful and mothering, long-suffering and
superbly faithful—one even who relents from that
which is wicked! ³ So now, YHWH, please take
my breath from me, since better [is] my death than
my life!”

⁴ “Is it enough [that] it fumes in you?” said
YHWH.

⁵ Yonah set out from the city [and] settled
counter to the city. He made a [stick] hut for
himself there [and] settled in the shelter under it so
that he could see what would appear in the city.

⁶ The god YHWH then appointed an **expeliona** [bush] to grow to the top of Yonah to appear [as] a shelter above his head—to bring him shelter from what to him was wicked. Yonah delighted [with] great delight because of the *expeliona*.

⁷ The One God then appointed a grub at the growing of the next day's dawn. It struck the *expeliona* so that it was desiccated ⁸ as the rising sun appeared.

Elohim then appointed a blistering *counterwind* [while] the sun struck above Yonah's head so that he collapsed [and] longed [for] his breath to expire. "Better [is] my death than my life!" he said.

⁹ Elohim said to Yonah, "Is it enough [that] it fumes in you because of the *expeliona*?"

"Yes," he replied. "Till death [at least]."

¹⁰ YHWH said, "You, yourself, are distressed over the *expeliona* when you did not toil for it nor make it great—when a one-night-old [bush] appeared and a one-night-old [bush] perished.

¹¹ Should I, myself, then not be distressed over that great city, Nineveh, when there are many more than twelve myriad people in it who do not know how to walk a straight line and beasts abundant?"



Habaquq

Chapter 1

8

¹ *The [divine] clarification that the prophet Habaquq envisioned.*

² Long enough, YHWH!

I shouted,

but you listened not—
cried to you "Violation!",
but you rescued not.

³ Why have you looked [on]
[in] my harm and oppression
[or] watched

as ruin and violation [were] before me;
when strife appeared and conflict escalated

⁴ so that defeated was law—

yes, continually unissued, order;
while [the] wicked was obstructing the just
so that [any] order issued was distorted?

⁵ "Look, [all of you], on the nations and watch,
then be razzle-dazzled,

since a proceeding proceeds in your lifetime
you would not rely [on] were it recounted;

⁶ since I am now propping up the [tribes of] Kaldu,
that caste eager and beleaguered,
that marches toward earth's extents
to make settlements not his his."

⁷ Breathtaking and imperious [is] he.

From him will his divine order issue.

⁸ Swifter indeed than leopards [are] his horses
and more penetrating than wolves of evening
when *stampedes* his steeds.

When his steeds from afar arrive,

they will swoop vulture-like, swift to devour.

⁹ Each one for violation will arrive.

The assembly [at] their front advances,
collects captives like sand.

¹⁰ [It is] he, indeed, [who] belittles kings.

Monarchs even [are] a joke to him.

[It is] he [who], at every rampart, jokes,
ramps up dirt to capture it.

- ¹¹ Then courage vanishes, passes [away],
as he devastates—Such [is] his *sway!*—
for his deity.
- ¹² Undeniably ancient [are] you,
YHWH, my god, my holy [one].
We should not die!
YHWH, for the sake of order,
you established him.
Yes, Bedrock, for *swaying* [behavior],
you founded him.
- ¹³ Pure eyes [refrain] from looking [into] evil.
So to watch over oppression
should not be possible [for] you!
Why [then] do you watch betrayers,
are unresponsive while [the] wicked
swallows [up] from us [the] just?
- ¹⁴ You made humankind to be like fish of the sea,
like a critter none can control.
- ¹⁵ Each one with a *hook* he hauled up,
slashed it with his /sword/,
and collected it in his net.
For this reason, he shouts triumphantly.
- ¹⁶ For this reason, it is sacrificed on his /sword/
and immolated on his net.
Indeed, by means of them,
fat [is] his helping and his meal, ample!
- ¹⁷ [So] he has every reason
to unsheathe his sword
and continue slaying nations unrestrained!

Chapter 2 כ

¹ At my lookout, I hereby will stand. In fact, I
hereby will position myself on a rocky [height] and
keep watch to see what he may communicate with
me and what I should send back from my *swayer*.

- ² When YHWH answered me, he said,
“Write and confirm [the] vision on your boards
since a herald will run with it.
- ³ [I swear] that a witness
[is] [the] vision of the appointed time,
[the] testimony of the resolution—
and it will not perjure!

- If it dilly-dallies,
[may I be cursed]!
Stay *hooked* on it
because [what] occurs will occur—
will not deter!
- ⁴ See [how] rebellious is his desire?
It deviates from it!
- Yet [the] just,
because of its reliability, will flourish.
- ⁵ How much more defiant then [the] betrayer,
[the] man haughty and malcontent,
who widens like [the] Grave his throat!”
He indeed [is] like Mot—that is, insatiable—
who collects to himself all the nations,
gathers to himself all populations.
- ⁶ It is certainly they—each of them—
who, toward him,
will conjure a mimicking [retaliation],
even accusatory runes about him!
So let [each] one say:
- “Oh [no]!
He increasingly makes not his his—
Long enough!—
and enforces toward him payments!
- ⁷ It will, no doubt, be sudden
[when] they arise who owe you—
yes, are roused who kowtow you.
Then you will become spoil for them.
- ⁸ Just as you yourself plundered
numerous nations,
they will plunder you,
all remaining populations,
because of the butchery of human beings
and the violation of land, city,
and all who dwell therein.
- ⁹ Oh [no]!
He enriches [with] injurious riches
his house
to set on the height his perch,
to escape from the grip of injury.
- ¹⁰ You conspired—Shame on your house!—
to finish off numerous populations,
but misplace your ambition.
- ¹¹ Surely [every] stone from [the] wall
will cry out

and [every] beam from [the] wood[work],
echo it!

¹² Oh [no]!

He builds a city through butchery—
yes, founds a village on victimization!

¹³ It is certainly he who roars
at YHWH, [God of] Legions!

So populations will labor
for conflagration—
yes, peoples, for desolation,
will languish

¹⁴ when that land is [as] overwhelmed
by the revelation of YHWH's honor
as the waters inundate [the] sea!

¹⁵ Oh [no]!

He makes his neighbor[s] swill
from the deluge of your wine-skin—
yes, brings to inebriation as well
in order to leer at their bare [places].

¹⁶ You were gluttoned [with] dishonor
[rather] than honor!

Drink up—You too!
Yes, you foreskinned [one],
let it turn against you,
the cup of YHWH's power,
till dishonor disgorges
[all] over your honor!

¹⁷ Just as Lebanon's violation covers you,
so [will] ruin!

Beasts will terrorize
because of the butchery of human beings
and the violation of land, city,
and all who dwell therein.

¹⁸ What benefit brings a statue
once one instatuates it?

Its form [is] a cast-metal [bod]
and instructor of fraud!

Yet he who forms its form trusts in it
[enough] to make idiotic idols!

¹⁹ Oh [no]!

He says to wood[work], 'Awake!',
[calls] 'Come alive!' to stone.
'Silence! It instructs!'

Look [at] it!

Stamped [on] is gold or silver,
but no spirit at all exists inside it.

²⁰ YHWH, however, [is] in his holy palace.

Hush at his manifestation, all you earth!"

Chapter 3

¹ *An incantation by Habbaquq, the prophet in charge of battle hymns.*

² YHWH, I heard [what] [was] heard of you,
was awestruck, YHWH,

[by] [what] proceeded [from] you.
In *battle*, a second [time], prosper him!
In *battle*, a second [time], bring revelation!
When *trembles* [the] *womb*, consider!

³ Eloah—from Teman, he came.

[The] Holy [One], indeed,
from Mount Paran [went forth].

Exalt!

He covered heaven [with] his prestige.

With his illustriousness, the earth filled.

⁴ He blazed, in fact, like a luminary!

A pair of horns appeared by his might
to [serve] him

and he secured a hideout [by] his strength.

⁵ At his front marched pestilence—

yes, plague advanced at his heels.

⁶ He stood [and] made earth stoop,

looked [out] [and] jolted nations.

They fractured, mountains of yore,

bowed, hills [and] highways of old, to him.

⁷ [In consequence] for harm, I did discover,

the camps of Kushan *trembled*,

[every] tent-cover [in] Midian's land [shook]!

⁸ Because of rivers it really did *fume*, YHWH!

Truly because of the rivers

[did] the nose of you!

Truly because of the sea

[did] the violence of you

when you rode with your horses—
your chariots [to] victory!

⁹ Bare [and] brandished was your bow.
Seven-fold [was] [the] bending of [your] bough.

Exalt!

[The] rivers you sundered [in] [the] earth.

¹⁰ They saw you [and] convulsed—
the mountains,

[as] [the] torrent of water passed [by],
[as] abyss gave [off] its bellow.

Majestic [in] its might was the towering of sun.

¹¹ Moon stood [in] its eminence.

Due to the luminance of your arrows,
they dashed—

due to [the] blaze [and] *rattle* of your spear!

¹² With condemnation, you trod earth;
with fulmination, trampled nations.

¹³ You advanced for [the] victory
of [those] you appointed,
for victory with your anointed.

You bashed [down] [the] head
from the wicked homestead,
baring [it], foundation to neck.

Exalt!

¹⁴ You impaled on his staff [that] head
[and] they scattered
who stormed [out] to disperse me,
they [whose] delight
[was] like /those who lie in wait/
to devour [the] weak in ambush.

¹⁵ You stomped on the sea [with] your horses,
[making] *spume* [the] wide waters.

¹⁶ My core *trembled* [when] I heard.
Due to [the] sound, my speech slurred.
Into my bones and my lower [limbs],
addle entered.

I *trembled* where I laid
due to [the] day of distress,
due to [its] ascension,
due to [the] people who banded [against] us;
¹⁷ while fig [tree] blossomed not
and yield vanished on the vines;
withered was the produce of the olive [tree]
and fields produced not grain;
assembled not in pens was [the] flock
and *cattle* vanished in the stalls.

¹⁸ Yet [it is] I, in YHWH, [who] will hereby exult,
will hereby rejoice in the god who rescues me,
¹⁹ [in] YHWH, lord of my vitality,
who secured my feet like does—
yes, on summits, made me stride!

To bring glory with music.



Zephaniah

Chapter 1 §

¹ *The oracle of YHWH that came to Zephaniah, son of Cushi, son of Gedaliah, son of Amariah, son of Hezekiah, during the reign of Josiah, son of Amon, King of Judah.*

² “I intend to utterly end all over the earth’s surface!”

—prophecy of YHWH—

³ “I intend to end human and beast!

I intend to end the birds of the sky and the fish of the sea and the pitfalls along with the wicked!

I plan to eradicate the earthling over the earth’s surface!”

—prophecy of YHWH—

⁴ “I plan to swing my hand against Judah and against the whole populace of Jerusalem.

I plan to eradicate from this place Baal’s trace, the existence of the [syncretistic] clerics among the priests.”

⁵ And those who bow on their roofs to the celestial host.

And those who swear [allegiance] to YHWH, yet swear [an oath] by their Molek.

⁶ And those deterred from YHWH’s wake— that is, they who sought not YHWH nor consulted him.

⁷ Hush before Sovereign YHWH because presently [is] YHWH’s day!

Because YHWH readied a sacrifice, consecrated his guests.

⁸ When YHWH’s day of sacrifice comes,

“I will rightly set in siege the princes, and the royal family, and all those garbed [in] others’ garb.

⁹ I will rightly set in siege every one who [flagrantly] crosses the line

(on that day)— those who fill their masters’ home coercively and fraudulently.

¹⁰ When that day comes,”

—prophecy of YHWH—

“Listen!

Clamor from the Fish Gate! Ululating from the Second [District]! And a loud crash from the hills!

¹¹ They ululate—the mortar’s populace, because destroyed is the whole tribe of Canaan, eradicated are all stacks of silver!

¹² When that time comes,

I will scour Jerusalem with lamps, rightly set in siege the elites— those who congeal on their [wine] dregs, those who think to themselves,

‘YHWH brings neither benefit nor detriment.’

¹³ Plunder will become of their stashes, their residences [turned to] ashes!

Though they raise residences, they will not move in.

Though they plant vineyards, they will not drink their wine.”

¹⁴ Presently [is] the great day of YHWH!

Presently! Yes, so very soon!

Listen! YHWH’s day!

One shouts sharp: “There! A warrior!”

¹⁵ A day of fury [is] that day.

A day of stress and distress.

A day of ruin and ruination.

A day of blackest dark.

A day of murkiest haze.

¹⁶ A day of horn-blast and battle-cry

against the fortified cities and against the “grandiose corners.”

¹⁷ “I will lay siege against the people so they move like those without sight!”

because, against YHWH, they sinned.

Dumped will be their blood like debris,
and their offspring like feces.
¹⁸ Their silver and their gold combined
will not possibly rescue them
on the day of YHWH's fury,
when, by his fervid fire,
the whole land will be consumed.
Yes, a consummation quite terrifying
he will execute
on the whole populace of the land!

Chapter 2 כ

¹ Creep and crawl, you nation uneager,
² before engendering conviction—
[before], like chaff, time passes;
so it may not come upon you—
the fuming of YHWH's rage;
so it may not come upon you—
the day of YHWH's rage!
³ Seek YHWH!
Any [who are] humble [in] the land,
whatever his demand, do!
Seek [what is] right! Seek humility!
Perhaps you will be concealed
on the day of YHWH's rage.
⁵ Oh [no]!
[You] populaces of the coastal league—
nation of the Cut-off-ones (Cretans)—
this oracle of YHWH [is] against you:
“Canaan, territory of Philistines,
I will wipe you out—void of populace!
⁴ Yes, Gaza—a ghost-town will she be,
while Ashkelon [is turned] to ashes.
[As for] Oustville (Ashdod)—
in half a day will they eject her,
while Ekron is excised.
⁶ She will become (the coastal league)
meadows cut [for] shepherds
and pens [carved for] flocks.”
⁷ ([The] league will be possessed
by the remnant of Judah's house.)
“In place of them, will they graze.

Among Ashkelon's edifices,
by evening, will they repose.”
(Because their god YHWH will set them right,
will turn their tide.)

⁸ “I have heard Moab's slur
and the Ammonites' offense—
how they slurred my people,
launched an offensive against their border.
⁹ Therefore, [by] my life,”
—prophecy of YHWH, [Lord] of Legions,
God of Israel—
“[I swear] that Moab—
the same as Sodom, will she be,
while the Ammonites [become] like Gomorrah:
a perpetual expanse
of weed, salt-pit, and ashes.
(The remnant of my people
will seize what is theirs.
Yes, of the rest of the nation,
will they become heirs.”)
¹⁰ This [comes] to them for their insolence
since they slurred
(launched an offensive against)
the people of YHWH, [God] of Legions.

¹¹ Terrifying is YHWH's opposition to them!
When he has thinned out all earthly majesties, then,
wherever one may be, all the regions of the nations
will bow to him.

¹² “Moreover, you Nubians—
those run through [with] my sword
[are] they.”

¹³ Now let his hand swing against [the] north and
wipe out Ashur. Yes, let him turn Nineveh to ashes
—[to] desiccation like the wilderness.

¹⁴ “In her midst will repose packs
of every creature of the nation.

Both scops owl and lizard,
in her [pillar] capitals, will retire.
Listen! One warbles in the sill!

Swelter [will pass] through the entryway
because I am about to thin out her city.”

¹⁵ *This [is] the championed city;
she whose settlement is secure;*

she who thought to herself,
 “No one else but me”?
 How can it be that she turned to ruin—
 [to] a reposal for [wild] creatures?
 Anyone who passes by her will hiss—
 will shake their fist.

Chapter 3 א

¹ Oh [no]!
 She is defiant and defiled,
 the city—the oppressor!
² She listens not to the message,
 receives not correction.
 In YHWH, she trusts not,
 before her god, is not present.
³ Her princes [are] in her presence
 lions roaring—
 her judges, wolves of evening
 [that] disperse not by the morn.
⁴ Her prophets are shifty—
 men of treachery.
 Her priests desecrate [what is] holy,
 violate YHWH’s directive.
⁵ [What is] right [is] present to her:
 “One must not do wrong!”
 Morning by morning, his demand emanates
 as a light never-failing,
 yet [the] wrongdoer ignores reproach!
⁶ “I eradicated nations.
 Reduced to ash are their ‘corners.’
 I devastated their roads.
 Vacant [is the] wayfarer.
 Destroyed are their cities—
 vacant of person, void of populace.
⁷ I thought if you would fear me
 [and] receive correction,
 then her dwelling would not be eradicated
 [by] all whom I rightly set against her.
 Nevertheless, a continuation of contamination
 they made of all their affairs.
⁸ Therefore, wait for me, all of you”
 —prophecy of YHWH—
 “for the day I rise up for [the] catch.

Because my intent [is]
 for a mustering of nations;
 for a gathering of kingdoms;
 for pouring over them my scourge—
 all my fuming rage;
 when, by my fervid fire,
 the whole land will be consumed.

⁹ Yet I will then endow to pagans a lip purified”
 for collectively invoking YHWH’s name;
 for serving him shoulder-to-shoulder.
¹⁰ “From across the rivers of Nubia,
 my supplicants [will come].
 Lady Libya will convey my offering.
¹¹ On that day, [Lady,]
 you will have no reproach from all the affairs
 [in] which you defied me
 because I will then remove from your presence
 the champions of your infamy
 and you will not continue
 to have contempt any more
 for my sacred mount.
¹² I will cause to remain in your presence
 [the] people afflicted and powerless.”
 (They will seek the protection
 of YHWH’s nature—
¹³ the remnant of Israel.)
 “They will not do wrong
 and will not speak a lie,
 since in their mouth will not be found
 a tongue of deceit.”
 (Yes, [it is] they who will graze and repose
 since [the] intimidator has vanished.)
¹⁴ Exclaim, Lady Zion! Shout, [all] Israel!
 Whoop and holler—whole-heartedly,
 Lady Jerusalem!
¹⁵ YHWH dismissed the verdicts [against] you,
 cleared out your foes.
 Israel’s King, YHWH, [is] in your presence.
 You will never fear [such] severity again.
¹⁶ On that day,
 it will be said to Jerusalem, “Have no fear!”
 [to] Zion, “Don’t lose your grip!”

¹⁷ Your god, YHWH, [will be] in your presence
 a delivering warrior
 who delightfully rejoices over you;
 who lovingly schemes;
 who loudly cheers for you.

¹⁸ “Sufferers, [at] the appointed time,
 I will remove from you
 they who were a mark on her of disgrace.

¹⁹ Watch [what] I do to all your violators!
 At that time,
 I will deliver the crippled [city].
 Yes, she [who] was scattered, will I rally.
 I will give them acclaim and fame
 whose disgrace [was] throughout the earth.

²⁰ At that time, I will bring you [all] in,
 and at that time, rally you.
 I will, in fact, grant you [all] fame and acclaim
 among all the earthly tribes
 when I turn your tide before your eyes!”

YHWH has spoken.



Ruth

Act I

8

¹ During the time of deliverance [by] the deliverers, there was famine in the land, so a [certain] man set out from the Bread-House (Bethlehem) of Judah to settle a while in the country of Moab—he and his wife and his two sons. ² Now, the *name* of the man [was] Elimelek, the *name* of his wife [was] No’omi, and the *name* of his two sons [was] Machlon and Kilion. [All these were] Ephrathites from Bethlehem of Judah. They entered the country of Moab. That’s [where] they *came*.

³ Elimelek, No’omi’s husband, died. She, herself, [however], was left with her two sons, ⁴ who got themselves Moabite wives. The *name* of the first [was] Orpah and the *name* of the second Ruth. They settled the *same* about ten years. ⁵ Both Machlon and Kilion also, [however], died. So the woman was left without her two little boys and her husband.

⁶ Having, herself, started out—her daughters-in-law alongside, she turned away from the country of Moab because she heard in Moabite country that YHWH had righted his people[’s plight] by bringing to their [breadth] bread. ⁷ She departed from the place to which she had come—her two daughters-in-law, [who were] in her [keep], alongside. They set out on the road to go back to the land of Judah.

⁸ No’omi said to her two daughters-in-law, “Come [now], each [of you] go back to her mother’s keep. May YHWH deal [as] faithfully with you both as you both did with those [now] deceased and with me. ⁹ May YHWH reward you both. That is, find peace—each [in] her husband’s home.” [After] she kissed them [good-bye], they [all] wailed aloud.

¹⁰ They told her, “With you [alone] will we go back—to your clan.”

¹¹ No’omi insisted, “Go back, my daughters. Why go with me? I certainly have no more sons in

my innards to be husbands for you both. ¹² Go back, my daughters. Scat! Because I am too old for a man to have me.

If I thought there was hope for me . . .
 even if I were a man's tonight . . .
 if even, indeed, I bore sons,
¹³ for both, then, would you abide
 till when they were grown;
 for both, then, be penned up
 [so as] not to become a man's?
 Never, my daughters!
 [I swear] that this marring of mine
 far exceeds you both
 since against me has swung
 the [very] hand of YHWH!"

¹⁴ They [all] wailed aloud a while. Then Orpah kissed her mother-in-law [good-bye], but Ruth stuck with her.

¹⁵ "Look!" she protested. "Your sister-in-law went back to her clan and to her [ancestral] spirits. Go after her!"

¹⁶ "Stop bullying me to abandon you,
 to turn back from your wake," Ruth replied,
 "because to whatever [place] you go, I will go,
 and in whatever [place] you spend the night,
 will I.

Your clan [is] my clan
 and your [ancestral] spirits, mine.

¹⁷ In whatever [place] you die, I will die,
 and there be interred.

So be it [that] YHWH deals with me—
 yes, so be it utterly—
 if death itself forces you and me apart!

¹⁸ Having seen that fortified [was] she to go on with her, she stopped [trying] to dissuade her.

¹⁹ The two of them went on till arriving [at] Bethlehem.

At the time of [their] arrival, the whole town was abuzz over them. The women exclaimed, "Is that [really] No'omi?" ²⁰ She told them,

"Do not call me No'omi.
 Call me *Mara*
 because Shaddai *marred* me harshly.

²¹ I [was] full [when] I left,
 but with nothing was I brought back
 [by] YHWH.

Why call me *No'omi*
 when YHWH gave *no omen me* [but ill],
 when Shaddai maltreated me?"

²² So No'omi returned with Ruth the Moabite, her daughter-in-law, [who was] in her [keep]—she who turned away from the country of Moab. Both of them arrived [at] Bethlehem at the start of barley harvest.

Act 2



¹ Now, [as] for No'omi, [there was] a relative of her husband—a powerful, valorous man from Elimelek's family—whose name [was] Boaz.

² Ruth the Moabite said to No'omi, "Please let me go [to] the field that I might glean among the grain stalks [in the] wake of one who regards me favorably."

"Go [ahead], my daughter," she replied.

³ So she went in to glean in the field [in the] wake of the harvesters. [By] chance, [she] chanced [upon] the part of the field owned by Boaz—the one from Elimelek's family.

⁴ Now, quite suddenly, the fellow [himself] followed from Bethlehem! Boaz said to the harvesters, "YHWH [be] with you [all]."

"May YHWH bless you," they replied.

⁵ Boaz then said to his young male [attendant], the harvesters' foreman, "Who owns that young woman?"

⁶ The young male [attendant], the harvesters' foreman, said in reply, "A young Moabite woman [is] she—the one who turned away from the country of Moab in No'omi's [keep]. ⁷ She said, 'Please let me glean [and] gather among the bundles [in the] wake of the harvesters.' Then she came [and] took her place [ever] since the morning. But up to this moment, she has been resting [in] the shelter a while."

⁸ Boaz then said to Ruth, "Haven't you heard [the saying], my daughter, 'Don't go gleaning in someone else's field' or even 'do not pass beyond

this [point]”? In such a way, then, stick with my young women. ⁹ [Fix] your eyes on the field. Where they harvest, go after them. Be assured, I have ordered the young men not to assault you should you thirst, go to the buckets, [and] drink of what the young men draw.”

¹⁰ She dropped face-forward in obeisance to the ground [and] replied, “How is it [that] I am regarded by you favorably [enough] to make me an insider—even I, an outsider?”

¹¹ Boaz said in reply, “Firmly affirmed to me was every [way] that you conducted [yourself] at your mother-in-law’s side after your husband died: you abandoned your father and your mother and the land of your descent to go to a clan [with] which you were not acquainted [in] a prior day. ¹² May YHWH [so] repay your deed that what you earned is [returned] replete by YHWH, Israel’s god, [to] whom you came for sanctuary beneath his fringes.”

¹³ “Let your favorable regard for me continue, my lord,” she appealed, “since you have reassured me and since you have addressed [what is] on your slave’s mind, though I, myself, may not be equivalent to one of your slaves.”

¹⁴ At mealtime, Boaz said to her, “Come right up here. Taste some of the bread [and] baste your piece in the [wine] vinegar.” So she sat beside the harvesters [and] he grabbed for her roasted [grain]. She ate plenty, saved [the rest], ¹⁵ then got up to glean.

Boaz ordered his young men as follows: “Even between the bundles may she glean—and you must not denounce her. ¹⁶ Even more, please seize for her some of the takings, forsaking [it] for her to glean—and you must not rail against her.”

¹⁷ She gleaned in the field until the evening, then threshed what she had gleaned—[the] barley came to about a [full] *sack*. ¹⁸ Having loaded up, she arrived [at] the town.

When her mother-in-law saw what she had gleaned [and] she brought out [and] gave her what she had saved of her plenitude, ¹⁹ her mother-in-law said to her,

“What [field] did you *sack* today?

“Where, indeed, did you conduct [yourself]?”

May he who made you an insider
be blessed!”

She affirmed to her mother-in-law the one in whose [keep] she conducted [herself]: “The name of the man in whose [keep] I conducted [myself] today,” she said, “[is] *Boaz*.”

²⁰ No‘omi said to her daughter-in-law, “Blessed be he by YHWH because his faithfulness is *as boundless* with those who live as with those [now] deceased!”

No‘omi [then] told her,

“Close to us [is] that man.

One of our restorers [is] he!”

²¹ Ruth the Moabite said, moreover, that “He told me, ‘With the young men, my [very] own, stick, up until they have finished the whole harvest{, my [very] own}.”

²² No‘omi replied to her daughter-in-law Ruth, “Better, my daughter, if you go out with his young women, then they will not attack you in someone else’s field.”

²³ So, in order to glean, she stuck with Boaz’s young women until the finish of the barley harvest and the wheat harvest, but stayed with her mother-in-law.

Act 3 1

¹ No‘omi, her mother-in-law, said to her, “My daughter, I must certainly pursue for you whatever peace is best for you. ² Now then, Boaz [is,] in fact, our relative—the one with whose young women you have been. When he is winnowing the barley threshing-floor tonight, ³ wash, apply oil, drape your cape over you, [and] get down [to] the threshing-floor. Remain unbeknownst to the man until he finishes feasting. ⁴ But let it be, when he lies down, that you are aware of the place wherein he lies. Go in, uncover his [lower] coverings, [and] lie low. Then he, himself, will tell you how to conduct [yourself].”

⁵ She replied to her, “Whatever you might think [is best], I will do.”

⁶ So she went down [to] the threshing-floor to act in conformity [with] everything that her mother-in-law had instructed her. ⁷ When Boaz had eaten, drank, [and] his state was well-[effected], he went over to lie at the edge of the [grain] pile. She then went in under wraps, uncovered his [lower] coverings, [and] laid down.

⁸ Then, in the middle of the night, the man shivered, stretched out, and right there [was] a woman lying [at] his [lower] coverings! ⁹ “Who [are] you?” he asked.

“I [am] Ruth, your slave,” she said. “Spread your fringe over your slave since a restorer [are] you.”

¹⁰ “Blessed be you by YHWH, my daughter,” he said. “[With] your later allegiance, you have surpassed by far the former [by] not going after single men, whether destitute or whether prosperous.

¹¹ So now, my daughter, don’t worry—whatever you might think [is best], I will do for you, since everyone knows [at] my clan’s gate that a valorous woman [are] you.

¹² And now, even though, in matter of fact, a restorer [am] I, there is also, however, a restorer closer than I. ¹³ Stay the night. Then, at first light, if he restores you, great! Let him! But if he does not want to restore you, then I, myself, will restore you. [By] the life of YHWH, [I swear it]! Lie down till the morning.”

¹⁴ So she laid down [at] his [lower] coverings till the morning, but got up [at] break of day before one [person] could identify another.

He thought, “It must not be known that this woman entered the threshing-floor.” ¹⁵ So he said, “Bring the apron that you [have] on and grip it.”

She gripped it.

He measured [and] placed upon it six [shares] of barley, then went into the town.

¹⁶ She went in to her mother-in-law, who said, “How [are] you, my daughter?”

She affirmed to her every [way] that the man had conducted [himself] on her behalf: ¹⁷ “These six [shares] of barley, he gave to me,” she said,

“when he stated, ‘Do not go in with nothing to your mother-in-law.’”

¹⁸ “Stay here, daughter dear,” she said, “till the time you know how thing[s] fall, since the man will not rest unless he finishes this thing today.”

Act 4

7

¹ Now, Boaz had gone up [to] the gate and stayed there when, quite suddenly, the restorer was passing by—the one Boaz had mentioned! So he said, “This way! Sit here, so-and-so.” He went that way and sat.

² Then he fetched ten men—some of the town elders—and said, “Sit here.” They sat.

³ He said to the restorer, “The part of the field that is owned by our clansman—by Elimelek—No’omi sold—she who turned away from the country of Moab. ⁴ So my aim, I exclaim, is to implore [in] your hearing ‘Purchase [it back]!’ before those [now] sitting and before the elders of my clan. If you can restore [it], restore [it]. But if one [such as you] cannot restore [it], let me know for certain, because there is no one to restore [it] except you and myself after you.”

“I, myself, can restore [it],” he replied.

⁵ Boaz then said, “At the time you purchase the field [debt] held by No’omi, so [al]so Ruth the Moabite, the deceased’s wife, do I hereby purchase in order to re-establish the name of the deceased on his inheritance.”

⁶ The restorer replied, “I am unable to restore [it] for my [sake], otherwise I could ruin my inheritance. Restore [it] for your [sake]—you with my [right of] restoration—since I am unable to restore [it].”

⁷ (This then [was] [the] precedent in Israel regarding the [right of] *restoration* or regarding the [way of] *commutation*—to establish any [such] matter: one [person] would draw forth his sandal [and] give [it] to the other. This then [was] its *validation* in Israel.)

⁸ The restorer said to Boaz, “Purchase [it back] for your [sake]” [and] he drew forth his sandal.

⁹ Boaz said to the elders and the whole clan, “Witnesses [are] you today that I hereby purchase

[back] all that Elimelek owns and all that Kilion and Machlon own [as] held [in debt] by No'omi.

¹⁰ Furthermore, Ruth the Moabite, Machlon's wife, do I hereby purchase as my own, as a slave-wife, in order to re-establish the name of the deceased on his inheritance. Then the name of the deceased will not have ceased among his kinsmen and from the gate of his [ancestral] establishment. Witnesses [are] you today!"

¹¹ The whole clan that [was] in the gate—including the elders—said, "Affirmative! May YHWH make the woman who enters into your house like Rachel and like Leah, who built, between them both, the household of Israel.

So, act valorously in Ephrathah.

Yes, invite acclaim in Bethlehem!

¹² And may your household be like the household of Perez—he whom Tamar bore to Judah—from the offspring that YHWH will give you from that young woman."

¹³ So Boaz fetched Ruth, she became his own as a slave-wife, [and] he went to her. YHWH then rewarded her [with] a pregnancy [and] she bore a son.

¹⁴ The women said to No'omi, "Blessed be YHWH because he did not *withhold* restoration for you today. May his name, therefore, be proclaimed in Israel! ¹⁵ May he serve on your behalf as a life *upholder* and to mitigate your *old* age since your son's mate, who loves you, bore him—who, herself, [is] better for you than *seven-fold* sons!"

¹⁶ So No'omi fetched the little boy, set him in the hollow of her [arms], [and] became his own as a nanny.

¹⁷ The townswomen acclaimed him as follows: "Born is a son on No'omi's behalf!" They called his name "Obaid." He [was] the father of Yishai, the grandfather of David.

¹⁸ Now, these [are] the descendants of Perez.

Perez fathered Hezron.

¹⁹ And Hezron fathered Ram.

And Ram fathered Amminadab.

²⁰ And Amminadab fathered Nahshon.

And Nahshon fathered Salmah.

²¹ And Salmon fathered Boaz.

And Boaz fathered Obaid.

²² And Obaid fathered Yishai.

And Yishai fathered David.



THF

