



The Prophets & Kings

From Rehoboam To Zedekiah

Book 1

A Daily Devotional Study Guide

Week 50

“*Drunk With Wrath*”

Study: Jeremiah 25:15-38

Reading: Matthew 5:17-20, Revelation 14:6-13

Memory: Isaiah 40:14

For a few years I drove for Uber and Lyft on Friday and Saturday nights. One instance that stands out in my mind involved a group of young men who had to lift one of their buddies into the mini-van for the ride home. When we arrived at the place they were lodging, this individual was too drunk to even get out of the van. His buddies ended up just pushing and pulling him out of the van. They finally got him out, but he immediately fell on the ground. As I drove away, it appeared that they all went inside, leaving him laying on the lawn outside of the house.

Today, we are going to see how God illustrated His judgement by forcing Judah and the nations around them to drink from the cup of His wrath becoming drunk with the great judgment that was to come.

What Does the Bible Say?

God often used visual illustrations to help drive home the point He wanted to make. God illustrated His anger by comparing it to a cup that was filled to the brim with wine. The cup was full of His wrath and Jeremiah was told to make all the nations drink from it. The result would be that they would become drunk with the anger of God and would stagger around because of the great warfare that would happen. Most likely, this was not a physical cup that Jeremiah actually took to all of the nations, but was more of a picture of how Jeremiah pronounced God’s judgement upon these nations (vs 15-17)

This message started in Jerusalem but was also for all of the cities of Judah. God’s anger would not stop there, but would be poured out on Egypt and all the nations surrounding Israel. It would continue to all the kingdoms of the world and would even reach the great kingdom of Babylon who was the ultimate world power at that time (vs 18-26).

The message that Jeremiah was to deliver was one of great judgment. God described Himself as the “Lord of Hosts” (ESV) which pictures Himself as the head of that heavenly army, greater than any army of the

world. This cup of wrath was going to make them so drunk that they would fall and not be able to get up again. God was going to send His “sword” among them which was a picture of death and destruction (vs 27).

The nations had no option to refuse this cup. There was nothing they could do to avoid the wrath of God. If God was going to judge the city of Jerusalem for their wickedness, He also had to judge all the other nations of the world for their wickedness. This judgement was not a random judgment, but was going to come as a result of their sin and their choice not to turn to God (vs 28-29).

God was going to roar as a mighty lion against His own people. This great noise of disaster would travel to all the nations. This destruction would be so great that there would be times where dead bodies were scattered everywhere and there would be no one to bury them. The leaders of these nations would cry out because the people they were leading would be gone. The leaders would not be able to escape from this judgement either. This judgment was compared to herds of animals that would die in a short amount of time. God was like a lion who had left his den and laid waste to anything in its path (vs 30-38).

How Does this Apply to Me?

It is unclear if this prophecy is referring to end times events or just a general picture how none of the nations who did not follow God would be able to last. It appears that the main focus is that the wrath and fury of God will be poured out on those who refused to follow and obey Him. No one, not even the great nations of the world could stand against the power of God. There are many people today who want to declare that God is a loving God and wouldn't send people to an eternity apart from Him, but that is not what Scripture teaches. The Bible does teach that God is a God of love, but it is also very clear that He is a God of wrath and judgement. If you are a follower of God, you don't have to live in fear of this wrath, even when you fall short and sin. This is the wrath that God has reserved for those who do not believe in Him and do not trust in Him. This should be a reminder to you to actively let unbelievers around you know about the eternal wrath of God that they will face if they refuse to turn to Him. God loves men so much He made a way for them to escape this wrath through Jesus Christ. Yet, those who do not turn to Jesus will face the great wrath of God.

Why did God tell Jeremiah to take the cup (vs 15)?

What would happen when the nations drank from this cup (vs 16)?

What did Jeremiah do (vs 17)?

Where did this judgement start (vs 18)?

Why do you think this is significant?

What do the nations mentioned in verses 19-22 have in common?

What do the nations mentioned in 23-26 indicate about the judgement of God?

Why did God tell them to drink the cup (vs 27)?

What do you think this meant?

What were they not able to do (vs 28)?

Why was the judgement of God described as punishment (vs 29)?

How is God's judgement pictured (vs 30)?

What case was God bringing against the nations (vs 31)?

What did God declare (vs 32)?

How great was this judgement going to be (vs 33)?

Who did God tell to cry out (vs 34)? Why?

Who was not going to be able to escape (vs 35)?

Who was going to be devastated (vs 36-37)?

What did God compare His judgment to (vs 38)?

“Sovereign In Power”

Study: Jeremiah 46:1-13

Reading: Psalm 20:1-9, Nahum 1:2-15

Memory: Isaiah 40:14

I have been a pretty big sports fan much of my life, but one thing I have learned in that time is not to trash talk. I have often been disappointed over the years when the teams that I have rooted for lost when they should have won. As much as I want my team to win, I choose to talk about it very little because I hate being on the losing side. I always feel bad enough when the team loses and don't want to feel worse when others rub the loss in.

Today, we are going to see how the Egyptians were talking up their planned victory and how they fully expected to defeat the Babylonians. Not only was it a sound defeat in battle, but the Egyptians were completely humiliated by their loss.

What Does the Bible Say?

As we have seen before, there was a constant struggle for power between the Egyptians and the nations of the north, and Israel was often in the middle of it. Pharaoh Neco of Egypt had traveled north through Israel when Josiah went to fight him and lost his life. The Egyptians made it to Euphrates river, but lost to Nebuchadnezzar's army around 605 B.C., the same year that Nebuchadnezzar first invaded Jerusalem. Though this loss was far away from Egyptian soil, it signaled the beginning of a great territorial conquest by the Babylonian army. The prophecy given here in chapter 46 recalls the defeat of the Egyptian army and prophesied the great downfall in the nation of Egypt (vs 1-2).

The Egyptians wanted to be proactive and attack the Babylonians before they had a chance to become too powerful. They geared up for battle and mounted their horses for attack, but they were not victorious. They were soundly defeated and their soldiers had no where to go for safety since they were so far away from home (vs 3-6).

The Egyptians thought they would be victorious and compared themselves to the flooding Nile river which overflows its banks and fills the land with nothing to stop it. They advanced all the way to

Carchemish thinking that their mighty warriors would be victorious over the Babylonians. Yet, God had no intention of allowing the Egyptians to be victorious. It was going to be a day where God would avenge Himself for all the cruelty the Egyptians had performed towards the Israelite nation. There would be no healing for them after this great defeat. The result of this battle would bring great shame upon the nation of Egypt and the nations around them would be greatly shocked to hear of their defeat (vs 7-12).

The humiliation of Egypt wasn't going to be reserved for their defeat in Babylonian territory, but was going to extend down to the land of Egypt itself. The last part of chapter 46 is a prediction of how the Babylonians would travel down to Egypt, led by Nebuchadnezzar, and conquer the land of Egypt (vs 13).

How Does this Apply to Me?

The Egyptian army traveled to Babylon filled with confidence that they would be victorious over the rising nation of Babylon. They were excited about what their human power could do, but victory for the Egyptians was not part of God's plan. On paper, they could have been the more powerful army, but we know that God doesn't care about human power when it comes to accomplishing His plan. God's plan was for Egypt to lose and be conquered by the Babylonians and that is exactly what happened. This should be a great reminder for you today of the sovereign power of God. Humans often think that their earthly power will give them the victory they need over whatever stands in their way, but when God doesn't want it to happen, it won't. This should remind you of the importance of living in obedience to God and His Word, not fighting against His plan, but for His plan.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * *Thank God for giving you examples of why you can trust Him.*
- * *Ask God to remember that He is in sovereign control.*
- * *Praise God because His plan is always accomplished.*

Thought for the day

What were the next prophesies of Jeremiah going to be about (vs 1)?

What nation was being addressed in this first prophecy (vs 2)?

What happened to the Egyptian army (vs 2)?

When did this occur (vs 2)?

What was the plan of the Egyptians (vs 3)?

What did verse 4 indicate?

What happened to the Egyptian army (vs 5)?

What is indicated about the great defeat they suffered?

What were the soldiers not able to do (vs 6)?

What does this reveal about the great defeat they suffered?

How did the Egyptians picture themselves (vs 7)?

What did they think would happen?

Why did the Egyptians think they would be victorious (vs 9)?

Why weren't they going to win (vs 10)?

What do you think it means that God was holding a sacrifice near the Euphrates river (vs 10)?

What do you think verse 11 is referring to?

What would all the nations hear about (vs 12)?

What was the end result of this battle (vs 12)?

What was the next part of Jeremiah 46 about?

“Like Mount Tabor”

Study: Jeremiah 46:14-24

Reading: Judges 4:4-24, Exodus 15:1-18

Memory: Isaiah 40:14

Mount Tabor is one of the most recognizable mountains in the land of Israel. It is not a huge mountain and probably would be considered to be more like a very large hill in the United States. What is so unique about this mountain is that it towers by itself in the middle of a very large plain, the valley of Megiddo. It is not a rocky cliff, but a very large tree covered hill. This mountain still serves today as a great landmark in the land of Israel and I have had the opportunity to travel to the top of this mountain for incredible views of the valley below. Today, we are going to see how God compared Himself to Mount Tabor because He stuck out among the nations and among the gods of this world.

What Does the Bible Say?

The defeat of Egypt wasn't going to be limited to the army that attacked near Babylon, but it was going to extend all the way to the land of Egypt. The first defeat of the Egyptian army was around 605 B.C., but this was not the end of Egypt's defeats. Eventually, Nebuchadnezzar would make his way down to Egypt about 35 years later (571 B.C.). This prophecy directed towards the land called for the major cities in the southern part of Egypt to prepare for destruction that was coming. It appears that the reason these southern cities were mentioned was to reveal how great the conquest of Egypt would be. Though Egypt would have powerful warriors, they would not be able to stand against God's plan. Many would realize they could not win and abandon the army, leaving for their home towns in hopes that they could survive. The Pharaoh had boasted about his power and strength, but it was all noise since he could do nothing to stop the attack orchestrated by God (vs 14-17).

Though Nebuchadnezzar was doing the actual fighting, God declared that He was the One who was coming against them. He compared Himself to Mt. Tabor and the Carmel mountain range. The mountains

of Carmel raised high above sea level and could be clearly seen from the Mediterranean sea as a land mark. Just as these mountains stood out, God and His power was going to stand out above all the powers of the world. The Egyptians were told that they should pack their bags and prepared to be taken away to foreign lands (vs 18-19).

God compared Egypt to a beautiful heifer that was plagued by biting flies. He compared the soldiers they hired to fattened calves ready to be killed and destroyed. Many time nations would hire soldiers from other countries to help fight with them. The soldiers mentioned here would not stand and fight, but would flee for their lives because the day of judgment had come upon Egypt (vs 20-21).

The Egyptians would flee, like snakes in the grass, to try to protect their lives. This would allow the enemy forces to destroy anything in their paths including trees and dense forests. The strength and size of the Babylonian army would simply be overwhelming. Egypt would suffer great humiliation (vs 22-24).

How Does this Apply to Me?

One of the great proofs that Christianity is real is the fact that God and those who trust in Him have continually stood out for thousands of years. Many great nations have come and gone since the beginning of time. Many gods have come and gone throughout history, but the One who has stood the test of time is the God of Israel. The followers of the one true God have played a significant role in the history of the world and they continue to do so. God referred to the fact that He and His power will stand out above the nations and above all other gods. He is still standing out today and will continue to stand out among the gods of this world until the end of time.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * *Thank God for calling you to be on the winning side.*
- * *Ask God to help you trust in His power and His plan.*
- * *Praise God because He is above all other gods.*

Thought for the day

What cities were mentioned in verse 14?

What was significant about these cities?

****They were all great cities located in the southern part of Egypt. This indicated that the attack of Nebuchadnezzar would not be limited to a small area, but would extend deep into the land of Egypt where the Egyptians felt they would be safe.*

How were their mighty soldiers described (vs 15)? Why?

What did God cause the mighty Egyptians soldiers to do (vs 16)?

What will the people say that Pharaoh had done (vs 17)?

How did God describe Himself (vs 18)?

Why does He often describe Himself this way (vs 18)?

What did God compare Himself to (vs 18)? What was meant by this?

What were the Egyptians to get ready for (vs 19)?

What was going to be ruined (vs 19)?

Why do you think this was significant?

How did God described Egypt (vs 20)? Why?

What illustration did God use to describe the attack of the Babylonians (vs 20)?

What were the hired soldiers compared to (vs 21)?

What was Babylon going to do to Egypt (vs 22)?

How was the size of Babylon's army described (vs 23)?

What was going to be the end result (vs 24)?

“Judgement from the North”

Study: Jeremiah 46:25-47:7

Reading: Psalm 139:1-24

Memory: Isaiah 40:14

What Does the Bible Say?

God made it very clear that the reason that Egypt was going to face destruction was a result of their trust in their false gods and their oppressive actions towards Israel. God was going to show that He was more powerful than their most powerful gods, specifically the god Amon. This judgment was going to extend to Pharaoh and the whole nation of Egypt. All those who trusted in powers of this world would be put to shame. Nebuchadnezzar would seek to destroy the Egyptian nation and would be successful because God would give him and the Babylonians the victory. Eventually Egypt would be restored, but not until after they faced this great humiliation (vs 25-26).

Egypt was not the only nation that would find restoration after destruction. Israel would find this restoration as well. Though most of the surviving Israelites would be far away from the land of Israel in Babylon, God would bring their children back from captivity and they would once again inhabit the land. They would one day experience a great time of peace where they would not have to live in fear of their enemies. God had said He would bring the Israelites back to the land after seventy years and He did. Yet, they never fully experienced a time of great peace. It appears that this prophecy was partially fulfilled, but will be fully fulfilled in the end times (vs 27).

Though Israel was going to be decimated, they were not left without hope. God was not going to allow His people to be completely destroyed. Those nations which had destroyed them would eventually be destroyed themselves and would no longer exist. Yet, the nation of Israel would continue to exist and would never be fully destroyed. This does not mean that they would not be punished for their sins, only that this punishment would not result in complete destruction as it did for the other nations like Assyria and Babylon (vs 28).

The Babylonian conquest would also expand to the land of the Philistines. We are told that this happened before Pharaoh conquered

Gaza, making the time of this prophecy uncertain. God said He was going to bring conquerors from the north who would overwhelm the Philistine cities. Many would die causing great mourning and weeping throughout the land. This attack would be so severe that it would cause the fathers to run in terror and not even look back in concern for the welfare of their children. God was bringing destruction to the land of the Philistines for all of the times that they oppressed the Israelites. Their cities would be left bare and the people would be killed or scattered (vs 1-5).

In verse 6, a question went out to the Lord asking Him when he would be at rest from His judgement and when he would put His sword back in its sheath. The response was that God could not stop this judgement until He completed His mission of judgement on the nations. There would not be rest in the land until the city of Ashkelon, apparently the last Philistine stronghold, was destroyed (vs 6-7).

How Does this Apply to Me?

God was making it very clear in this passage that He was going to treat His people differently than He was going to treat the nations around them. The Israelites would experience future restoration and God would not abandon them while many of the other nations would be destroyed. Many of them would eventually fail to exist as the conquest of Babylon was the beginning of a whole new setting in the world. Though there was regional control at times, the Babylonian reign was followed by the Persians, Greeks and eventually the Romans. Smaller nations would not fully exist as they had until this time, but they would be assimilated into the larger nations. Though this would happen, the nation of Israel would continue to remain somewhat independent and fared differently than the nations around them. This is because the love of God would not allow Him to abandon them. The plan of God would not be spoiled or defeated.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * *Thank God for caring for you as His child.*
- * *Ask God to help you trust in His plan for the world around you.*
- * *Praise God because His plan and desire will never be stopped.*

Thought for the day

How does God describe Himself (vs 25)?

Why does He often describe Himself this way when He is talking about judgement and doing battle?

Who did God say He was going to punish (vs 25)?

Why do you think it mentions those who put their trust in these leaders and gods that would be destroyed (vs 25)?

Who was God going to allow to be victorious over the Egyptians (vs 26)?

What was God going to do for Egypt (vs 26)?

Why do you think Egypt is one of the few nations that He mentioned when it came to restoration?

Why was Israel told not to fear (vs 27)?

What was going to happen when God brought His children back to the land (vs 27)?

What did God tell Israel not to do (vs 28)?

Why do you think He said this a second time?

What was God going to have to punish His people (vs 28)?

Who was the prophecy in chapter 47 about (vs 1)?

How did God describe the invasion from the Babylonians (vs 2)?

How severe was this attack going to be (vs 3)?

What did God say He was going to do (vs 4)?

What question was asked in verse 6?

How did God respond in verse 7?

“Trusting the Wrong Things”

Study: Jeremiah 48:1-13

Reading: Matthew 10:1-42

Memory: Isaiah 40:14

What Does the Bible Say?

We read in the last two chapters how judgement was pronounced against Egypt, which was south of Israel, and Philistia, and west of Israel. Now we read about the judgement of Moab, a nation which was located to the east of Israel. The cities of Nebo and Kireathaim were mentioned, though the location of these cities has been lost to us today. They would have been leading cities of the land that were going to be destroyed as Nebuchadnezzar swept through the land. The inhabitants of the city would be left weeping and the people would flee for their lives. They would become like a dry and struggling bush in the middle of a desert (vs 1-6).

This destruction was not the result of a random attack, but was because they chose to trust in the great workmanship of their hands and the treasures they had accumulated. Those things would not help them in the day of judgement, but would be taken away from them as the survivors were taken into exile. All of the cities of the land would face this same judgement from God and none would be able to withstand the power of the enemy. Their main god, Chemosh, would not be able to stop the working of God, but would be taken away with all of the people. The people would wish for wings so they could fly away from the disaster that was coming upon



Israel and the surrounding nations

them (vs 7-9).

Verse 10 is very interesting because in it God declares judgement on those who would refuse to carry out the work of destroying Moab. This indicated God's great desire to judge Moab for their sin and for the way they treated the children of Israel over the years (vs 10).

The history of the people of Moab was far different than the history of the Israelites. The Moabites were descendants of Lot, the nephew of Abraham. Unlike the Israelites who were forced to dwell in Egypt and then establish themselves in the Promise Land, the people of Moab were able to live in their land without major problems or conflicts for many, many years. They didn't think it was possible for them to be taken from their land since their land had been secure throughout their recorded history. They were very well established in the land and felt very secure in what they had built up over the years. This would not stop God from destroying them, God was going to pour out the wealth of the land, like one would empty jars of wine. The jars would be broken to keep them from being refilled. They would become like the northern tribes of Israel who put their confidence in the wrong gods at Bethel. The Moabites would realize that their Chemosh could not save them (vs 11-13).

How Does this Apply to Me?

It is very interesting that one of the reasons that the people of Moab had great confidence in themselves was because they had build up something great over the years and didn't realize how fragile their nation really was. They hadn't learned through difficult times the importance of putting their trust in the right God because they had experienced many great things over the time their nation existed. This is the same type of attitude that many believers can have today, especially those who have lived in relative peace and safety when it comes to their faith. This doesn't mean that you should go around looking for trials and difficulties to increase your faith, but it should be a great lesson to you in where you put your trust. It is very, very difficult not to trust in the things of this world, especially when it seems they will always be there. Most people don't really think that those things can be taken away from them. The people of Moab certainly didn't. They were in for a great surprise when they were going to be conquered and would find out that the things of the world that they trusted in were not near as secure as they thought. Remind yourself today that your home and security needs to be found in Christ.

Who was the prophecy in Jeremiah 48 about (vs 1)?

Where was this nation located?

What was going to happen to Moab (vs 2)?

What does the description of "desolation" and "destruction" reveal about the severity of what was going to happen to Moab (vs 3)?

Why would there be cries of weeping (vs 4-5)?

What would they end up to be like (vs 6)?

What two things did they trust in (vs 7)?

- 1.
- 2.

How can you trust in these same things today?

Why do you think God declared that Chemosh would go into exile with them (vs 7)?

Who was going to be able to escape (vs 8)?

What did verse 9 express about wings?

Who did God say would be cursed (vs 10)?

What had Moab not experienced (vs 11)?

How do you think this provided a false sense of security (vs 11)?

What was God going to send (vs 12)?

Why do you think the jars were going to be broken (vs 12)?

What will Moab be ashamed of (vs 13)? Why?

What nation would they be like (vs 13)?

“Judged For Pride”

Study: Jeremiah 48:14-47

Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11, 2 Corinthians 10:1-18

Memory: Isaiah 40:14

What Does the Bible Say?

In Jeremiah 48-51 God pronounced His judgement on the nations surrounding Israel. Some of these were just a few sentences long, but two of them in particular were much longer. The judgement on Babylon was the longest, but the one towards Moab is not far behind. From chapter 47 we can see this great judgement would come upon them because of the pride they displayed as a result of their success as a nation. They had declared that they were mighty men of war indicating that they thought even the strongest armies would have problems conquering them. What they didn't understand was that they were fighting the army of the Lord. Though the physical army came from the Babylonian nation, they received their power from God. This destruction of Moab was near. All those who were allies of Moab were called to grieve for the nation because their mighty power was about to be broken (vs 14-17).

Dibon and Aroer would have been located somewhere near the Arnon river in Moab. They were known as being strongholds in the land, but they would not be able to withstand the power of God. They thought their fortresses were invincible, but they would soon find out they were wrong. Not only would the fortresses be broken, but the people would be broken as well. The mention of the cities in verse 21-24 indicate that all of Moab would experience this destruction (vs 18-25).

Moab had boasted about its greatness, and as a result, they were going to become like a drunk man who rolled around in his own vomit. They had ridiculed Israel after they destroyed, not realizing the same could happen to them. The people were told that the only chance they had of surviving was to run from their homes and live in caves or in the clefts of rocks (vs 26-28).

The pride of the Moabites was something they were known for. They boasted continually and exalted themselves in their eyes and in the eyes of others. As a result, God would cause mourning to extend everywhere in the land. Moab would no longer produce wine or have the great crops

that once sustained them. The nation would come to an end and all their wealth and power they trusted in would be gone (vs 29-36).

The people who remained alive would be humiliated by having their heads and beards shaved. They would have marks on their wrists from being pulled around with ropes. They would only have sackcloth for clothing. All that would be heard in the land was great weeping and no one else would care about how much they were suffering. They who were once an exalted nation would now be looked upon in shame (vs 37-39).

It appears that verse 40-47 could have been some type of poem or song summing up the destruction of Moab. The nation of Babylon was compared to a swift eagle who would quickly cover the land. All the cities would be taken and the hearts of the warriors would suffer like a woman giving birth. They would no longer exist as a nation because they exalted themselves. Their own pride was like a trap for them. They would try to flee, but only bring more harm to themselves. This would all be a punishment from God (vs 40-44).

The destruction of Moab would be like a sweeping fire and their children would be taken captive. Their God Chemosh would be proven to be a fraud, yet that was not going to be the end of Moab. Though He declared they would be destroyed, in the millennial reign of Christ He will bring restoration to the area and they will be people who will worship Him (vs 45-47).

How Does this Apply to Me?

The message from the destruction of Moab is one that is pretty clear. God hates pride. He despised the nations that chose to exalt themselves by thinking their greatness was because of what they have done or who they were. This should be a warning for all men, not just for nations. It is easy to think that you are who you are or have what you have because you have done it all yourself. I believe this to be especially true in the United States of America where we emphasize that you can be whoever you want to be as long as you are willing to work hard. Though hard work should be honored and praised, you have what you have only because God allows you to have it. You need to realize that all you have is from Him and choose to live each day in thankfulness for what He has given you. Every ability, every penny, every good characteristic about your life is a gift from your loving Heavenly Father.

What had the Moabites said about themselves (vs 14)?

What was going to happen to Moab (vs 15)?

Who was going to make this happen (vs 15)?

What were the people grieving for Moab going to say (vs 17)?

Why would they have to “come down from your glory” (vs 18-ESV)?

What was going to be the end result of the invasion (vs 20)?

What do you think verse 25 means?

Why was God going to do this (vs 26)?

What did the Moabites do when Israel fell (vs 27)?

What were the people of Moab instructed to do (vs 28)? Why?

What was known about Moab (vs 29)?

What did God declare about the pride of Moab (vs 30)?

What was going to be taken away from them (vs 33)?

What was God going to bring to an end (vs 35)?

What would happen to the survivors (vs 37)?

What would happen throughout the land (vs 38)?

What would happen to the hearts of the Moabite warriors (vs 41)?

What would be the end result (vs 42)? Why?

What does verse 42 & 43 indicated about those who tried to escape?

What will God do one day in the future (vs 47)?

Memory Verses

Isaiah 40:1 Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. 2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. 3 A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God? 4 Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. 5 Then the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all people will see it together. The LORD has spoken!" 6 A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. 7 The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on it; surely the people are grass. 8 The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. 9 Go on up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" 10 Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. 11 He will feed his flock like a shepherd. He will carry the lambs in his arms, holding them close to his heart. He will gently lead the mother sheep with their young. 12 Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand and marked off the heavens with a span, enclosed the dust of the earth in a measure and weighed the mountains in scales and the hills in a balance? 13 Who has measured the Spirit of the LORD, or what man shows him his counsel? 14 Whom did he consult, and who made him understand? Who taught him the path of justice, and taught him knowledge, and showed him the way of understanding?