

Easter Vigil Readings According to the Armenian Rite

1-Ծննդ Genesis 1:1-3:24

1-1 In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth and the earth was without form or shape, with darkness over the abyss and a mighty wind sweeping over the waters

3 Then God said: Let there be light, and there was light. 4 God saw that the light was good. God then separated the light from the darkness. 5 God called the light “day,” and the darkness he called “night.” Evening came, and morning followed—the first day.

6 Then God said: Let there be a dome in the middle of the waters, to separate one body of water from the other. 7 God made the dome, and it separated the water below the dome from the water above the dome. And so it happened. 8 God called the dome “sky.” Evening came, and morning followed—the second day.

9 Then God said: Let the water under the sky be gathered into a single basin, so that the dry land may appear. And so it happened: the water under the sky was gathered into its basin, and the dry land appeared. 10 God called the dry land “earth,” and the basin of water he called “sea.” God saw that it was good. 11 Then God said: Let the earth bring forth vegetation: every kind of plant that bears seed and every kind of fruit tree on earth that bears fruit with its seed in it. And so it happened: 12 the earth brought forth vegetation: every kind of plant that bears seed and every kind of fruit tree that bears fruit with its seed in it. God saw that it was good. 13 Evening came, and morning followed—the third day.

14 Then God said: Let there be lights in the dome of the sky, to separate day from night. Let them mark the seasons, the days and the years, 15 and serve as lights in the dome of the sky, to illuminate the earth. And so it happened: 16 God made the two great lights, the greater one to govern the day, and the lesser one to govern the night, and the stars. 17 God set them in the dome of the sky, to illuminate the earth, 18 to govern the day and the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. God saw that it was good. 19 Evening came, and morning followed—the fourth day.

20ⁱ Then God said: Let the water teem with an abundance of living creatures, and on the earth let birds fly beneath the dome of the sky. 21 God created the great sea monsters and all kinds of crawling living creatures with which the water teems, and all kinds of winged birds. God saw that it was good, 22 and God blessed them, saying: Be fertile, multiply, and fill the water of the seas; and let the birds multiply on the earth. 23 Evening came, and morning followed—the fifth day.

24 Then God said: Let the earth bring forth every kind of living creature: tame animals, crawling things, and every kind of wild animal. And so it happened: 25 God made every

kind of wild animal, every kind of tame animal, and every kind of thing that crawls on the ground. God saw that it was good.²⁶ Then God said: Let us make human beings in our image, after our likeness. Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, the tame animals, all the wild animals, and all the creatures that crawl on the earth.
²⁷God created mankind in his image;

in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

²⁸God blessed them and God said to them: Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it. Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all the living things that crawl on the earth. ²⁹ God also said: See, I give you every seed-bearing plant on all the earth and every tree that has seed-bearing fruit on it to be your food;³⁰and to all the wild animals, all the birds of the air, and all the living creatures that crawl on the earth, I give all the green plants for food. And so it happened.³¹God looked at everything he had made, and found it very good. Evening came, and morning followed—the sixth day.

²⁻¹Thus the heavens and the earth and all their array were completed. ² On the seventh day God completed the work he had been doing; he rested on the seventh day from all the work he had undertaken. ³God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work he had done in creation.

*The Garden of Eden.*⁴This is the story of the heavens and the earth at their creation. When the LORD God made the earth and the heavens—⁵there was no field shrub on earth and no grass of the field had sprouted, for the LORD God had sent no rain upon the earth and there was no man to till the ground,⁶but a stream was welling up out of the earth and watering all the surface of the ground—⁷then the LORD God formed the man* out of the dust of the ground and blew into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

⁸The LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and placed there the man whom he had formed. ⁹ Out of the ground the LORD God made grow every tree that was delightful to look at and good for food, with the tree of life in the middle of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

¹⁰A river rises in Eden^z to water the garden; beyond there it divides and becomes four branches.¹¹The name of the first is the Pishon; it is the one that winds through the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold.¹²The gold of that land is good; bdellium and lapis lazuli are also there.¹³The name of the second river is the Gihon; it is the one that winds all through the land of Cush.^g¹⁴The name of the third river is the Tigris; it is the one that flows east of Asshur. The fourth river is the Euphrates.

15The LORD God then took the man and settled him in the garden of Eden, to cultivate and care for it. 16The LORD God gave the man this order: You are free to eat from any of the trees of the garden¹⁷except the tree of knowledge of good and evil. From that tree you shall not eat; when you eat from it you shall die.

18The LORD God said: It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suited to him. 19So the LORD God formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds of the air, and he brought them to the man to see what he would call them; whatever the man called each living creature was then its name.²⁰The man gave names to all the tame animals, all the birds of the air, and all the wild animals; but none proved to be a helper suited to the man.

21So the LORD God cast a deep sleep on the man, and while he was asleep, he took out one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. 22The LORD God then built the rib that he had taken from the man into a woman. When he brought her to the man,²³the man said:

“This one, at last, is bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;

This one shall be called ‘woman,’
for out of man this one has been taken.”

24 That is why a man leaves his father and mother and clings to his wife, and the two of them become one body.

25The man and his wife were both naked, yet they felt no shame.

3-1Now the snake was the most cunning of all the wild animals that the LORD God had made. He asked the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You shall not eat from any of the trees in the garden?’”²The woman answered the snake: “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden;³ it is only about the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden that God said, ‘You shall not eat it or even touch it, or else you will die.’”⁴But the snake said to the woman: “You certainly will not die! ⁵God knows well that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, who know good and evil.”⁶The woman saw that the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eyes, and the tree was desirable for gaining wisdom. So she took some of its fruit and ate it; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. ⁷Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

⁸When they heard the sound of the LORD God walking about in the garden at the breezy time of the day, the man and his wife hid themselves from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹The LORD God then called to the man and asked him: Where are

you?10He answered, “I heard you in the garden; but I was afraid, because I was naked, so I hid.”11Then God asked: Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I had forbidden you to eat?12The man replied, “The woman whom you put here with me—she gave me fruit from the tree, so I ate it.”13The LORD God then asked the woman: What is this you have done? The woman answered, “The snake tricked me, so I ate it.”

14Then the LORD God said to the snake:

Because you have done this,

cursed are you

among all the animals, tame or wild;

On your belly you shall crawl,

and dust you shall eat

all the days of your life.

15I will put enmity between you and the woman,

and between your offspring and hers;

They will strike at your head,

while you strike at their heel.

16To the woman he said:

I will intensify your toil in childbearing;

in pain you shall bring forth children.

Yet your urge shall be for your husband,

and he shall rule over you.

17To the man he said: Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, You shall not eat from it,

Cursed is the ground* because of you!

In toil you shall eat its yield

all the days of your life.

18Thorns and thistles it shall bear for you,

and you shall eat the grass of the field.

19By the sweat of your brow

you shall eat bread,

Until you return to the ground,

from which you were taken;

For you are dust,

and to dust you shall return.

20The man gave his wife the name “Eve,” because she was the mother of all the living.

21The LORD God made for the man and his wife garments of skin, with which he clothed

them.22Then the LORD God said: See! The man has become like one of us, knowing

good and evil! Now, what if he also reaches out his hand to take fruit from the tree of life,

and eats of it and lives forever? 23The LORD God therefore banished him from the

garden of Eden, to till the ground from which he had been taken.24He expelled the man,

stationing the cherubim and the fiery revolving sword east of the garden of Eden, to guard

the way to the tree of life.

2-Ḑũñḡng Genesis 22:1-18

1Some time afterward, God put Abraham to the test and said to him: Abraham! “Here I am!” he replied.

2Then God said: Take your son Isaac, your only one, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There offer him up as a burnt offering on one of the heights that I will point out to you.

3Early the next morning Abraham saddled his donkey, took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac, and after cutting the wood for the burnt offering, set out for the place of which God had told him.

4On the third day Abraham caught sight of the place from a distance.

5Abraham said to his servants: “Stay here with the donkey, while the boy and I go on over there. We will worship and then come back to you.”

6So Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, while he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two walked on together,

7Isaac spoke to his father Abraham. “Father!” he said. “Here I am,” he replied. Isaac continued, “Here are the fire and the wood, but where is the sheep for the burnt offering?”

8“My son,” Abraham answered, “God will provide the sheep for the burnt offering.” Then the two walked on together.

9When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. Next he bound* his son Isaac, and put him on top of the wood on the altar.

10Then Abraham reached out and took the knife to slaughter his son.

11But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven, “Abraham, Abraham!” “Here I am,” he answered.

12“Do not lay your hand on the boy,” said the angel. “Do not do the least thing to him. For now, I know that you fear God, since you did not withhold from me your son, your only one.”

13Abraham looked up and saw a single ram caught by its horns in the thicket. So, Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering in place of his son.

14Abraham named that place Yahweh-yireh; hence people today say, “On the mountain the LORD will provide.”

15A second time the angel of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven

16and said: “I swear by my very self—oracle of the LORD—that because you acted as you did in not withholding from me your son, your only one,

17I will bless you and make your descendants as countless as the stars of the sky and the sands of the seashore; your descendants will take possession of the gates of their enemies,

18and in your descendants all the nations of the earth will find blessing, because you obeyed my command.”

3-ᵊᵊᵊ Exodus 12:1-24

1The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt:

2 This month will stand at the head of your calendar; you will reckon it the first month of the year.

3Tell the whole community of Israel: On the tenth of this month every family must procure for itself a lamb, one apiece for each household.

4If a household is too small for a lamb, it along with its nearest neighbor will procure one, and apportion the lamb’s cost in proportion to the number of persons, according to what each household consumes.

5Your lamb must be a year-old male and without blemish. You may take it from either the sheep or the goats.

6You will keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, and then, with the whole community of Israel assembled, it will be slaughtered during the evening twilight.

7They will take some of its blood and apply it to the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it.

8They will consume its meat that same night, eating it roasted with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.

9Do not eat any of it raw or even boiled in water, but roasted, with its head and shanks and inner organs.

10You must not keep any of it beyond the morning; whatever is left over in the morning must be burned up.

11 This is how you are to eat it: with your loins girt, sandals on your feet and your staff in hand, you will eat it in a hurry. It is the LORD's Passover.

12 For on this same night I will go through Egypt, striking down every firstborn in the land, human being and beast alike, and executing judgment on all the gods of Egypt—I, the LORD!

13 But for you the blood will mark the houses where you are. Seeing the blood, I will pass over you; thereby, when I strike the land of Egypt, no destructive blow will come upon you.

14 This day will be a day of remembrance for you, which your future generations will celebrate with pilgrimage to the LORD; you will celebrate it as a statute forever.

15 For seven days you must eat unleavened bread. From the very first day you will have your houses clear of all leaven. For whoever eats leavened bread from the first day to the seventh will be cut off from Israel.

16 On the first day you will hold a sacred assembly, and likewise on the seventh. On these days no sort of work shall be done, except to prepare the food that everyone needs.

17 Keep, then, the custom of the unleavened bread, since it was on this very day that I brought your armies out of the land of Egypt. You must observe this day throughout your generations as a statute forever.

18 From the evening of the fourteenth day of the first month until the evening of the twenty-first day of this month you will eat unleavened bread.

19 For seven days no leaven may be found in your houses; for anyone, a resident alien or a native, who eats leavened food will be cut off from the community of Israel.

20 You shall eat nothing leavened; wherever you dwell you may eat only unleavened bread.

21 Moses summoned all the elders of Israel and said to them, "Go and procure lambs for your families, and slaughter the Passover victims.

22 Then take a bunch of hyssop,* and dipping it in the blood that is in the basin, apply some of this blood to the lintel and the two doorposts. And none of you shall go outdoors until morning.

23 For when the LORD goes by to strike down the Egyptians, seeing the blood on the lintel and the two doorposts, the LORD will pass over that door and not let the destroyer come into your houses to strike you down.

24 "You will keep this practice forever as a statute for yourselves and your descendants.

4-ᖃᖅᖃᖅᖃᖅ Jonah: 1:1-4:11

1 The word of the LORD came to Jonah, son of Amittai:

2Set out for the great city of Nineveh, and preach against it; for their wickedness has come before me.

3But Jonah made ready to flee to Tarshish,* away from the LORD. He went down to Joppa, found a ship going to Tarshish, paid the fare, and went down in it to go with them to Tarshish, away from the LORD.

4The LORD, however, hurled a great wind upon the sea, and the storm was so great that the ship was about to break up.

5Then the sailors were afraid and each one cried to his god. To lighten the ship for themselves, they threw its cargo into the sea. Meanwhile, Jonah had gone down into the hold of the ship, and lay there fast asleep.

6The captain approached him and said, “What are you doing asleep? Get up, call on your god! Perhaps this god will be mindful of us so that we will not perish.”

7Then they said to one another, “Come, let us cast lots to discover on whose account this evil has come to us.” So, they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah.

8They said to him, “Tell us why this evil has come to us! What is your business? Where do you come from? What is your country, and to what people do you belong?”

9“I am a Hebrew,” he replied; “I fear the LORD, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land.”

10Now the men were seized with great fear and said to him, “How could you do such a thing!”—They knew that he was fleeing from the LORD, because he had told them.

11They asked, “What shall we do with you, that the sea may calm down for us?” For the sea was growing more and more stormy.

12Jonah responded, “Pick me up and hurl me into the sea and then the sea will calm down for you. For I know that this great storm has come upon you because of me.”

13Still the men rowed hard to return to dry land, but they could not, for the sea grew more and more stormy.

14Then they cried to the LORD: “Please, O LORD, do not let us perish for taking this man’s life; do not charge us with shedding innocent blood, for you, LORD, have accomplished what you desired.”

15Then they picked up Jonah and hurled him into the sea, and the sea stopped raging.16Seized with great fear of the LORD, the men offered sacrifice to the LORD and made vows.

Chapter2

1But the LORD sent a great fish to swallow Jonah, and he remained in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

2Jonah prayed to the LORD, his God, from the belly of the fish:

3Out of my distress I called to the LORD,

and he answered me;

From the womb of Sheol I cried for help,
and you heard my voice.
4You cast me into the deep, into the heart of the sea,

and the flood enveloped me;

All your breakers and your billows
passed over me.

5Then I said, "I am banished from your sight!
How will I again look upon your holy temple?"

6The waters surged around me up to my neck;

the deep enveloped me;
seaweed wrapped around my head.

7I went down to the roots of the mountains;

to the land whose bars closed behind me forever,

But you brought my life up from the pit,
O LORD, my God.

8When I became faint,
I remembered the LORD;

My prayer came to you
in your holy temple.

9Those who worship worthless idols
abandon their hope for mercy.

10But I, with thankful voice,

will sacrifice to you;

What I have vowed I will pay:
deliverance is from the LORD.

11Then the LORD commanded the fish to vomit Jonah upon dry land.

Chapter 3

1The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time:

2Set out for the great city of Nineveh, and announce to it the message that I will tell you.

3So Jonah set out for Nineveh, in accord with the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an awesomely great city; it took three days to walk through it.

4Jonah began his journey through the city, and when he had gone only a single day's walk announcing, "Forty days more and Nineveh shall be overthrown,"

5the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast and all of them, great and small,* put on sackcloth.

6When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, laid aside his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes.

7Then he had this proclaimed throughout Nineveh: “By decree of the king and his nobles, no man or beast, no cattle or sheep, shall taste anything; they shall not eat, nor shall they drink water.

8Man and beast alike must be covered with sackcloth and call loudly to God; they all must turn from their evil way and from the violence of their hands.

9 Who knows? God may again repent and turn from his blazing wrath, so that we will not perish.”

10When God saw by their actions how they turned from their evil way, he repented of the evil he had threatened to do to them; he did not carry it out.

Chapter 4

1But this greatly displeased Jonah, and he became angry.

2He prayed to the LORD, “O LORD, is this not what I said while I was still in my own country? This is why I fled at first toward Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, abounding in kindness, repenting of punishment.

3So now, LORD, please take my life from me; for it is better for me to die than to live.”

4But the LORD asked, “Are you right to be angry?”

5Jonah then left the city for a place to the east of it, where he built himself a hut and waited under it in the shade, to see what would happen to the city.

6Then the LORD God provided a gourd plant.* And when it grew up over Jonah’s head, giving shade that relieved him of any discomfort, Jonah was greatly delighted with the plant.

7But the next morning at dawn God provided a worm that attacked the plant, so that it withered.

8And when the sun arose, God provided a scorching east wind; and the sun beat upon Jonah’s head till he became faint. Then he wished for death, saying, “It is better for me to die than to live.”

9But God said to Jonah, “Do you have a right to be angry over the gourd plant?” Jonah answered, “I have a right to be angry—angry enough to die.”

10Then the LORD said, “You are concerned* over the gourd plant which cost you no effort and which you did not grow; it came up in one night and in one night it perished.

11And should I not be concerned over the great city of Nineveh, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who cannot know their right hand from their left, not to mention all the animals?”

5-ᵊᵊᵊ Exodus 14:24-15:21:

24But during the watch just before dawn, the LORD looked down from a column of fiery cloud upon the Egyptian army and threw it into a panic;

25and he so clogged their chariot wheels that they could drive only with difficulty. With that the Egyptians said, “Let us flee from Israel, because the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt.”

26Then the LORD spoke to Moses: Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the water may flow back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and their horsemen.

27So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at daybreak the sea returned to its normal flow. The Egyptians were fleeing head on toward it when the LORD cast the Egyptians into the midst of the sea.

28 As the water flowed back, it covered the chariots and the horsemen. Of all Pharaoh’s army which had followed the Israelites into the sea, not even one escaped.

29But the Israelites had walked on dry land through the midst of the sea, with the water as a wall to their right and to their left.

30Thus the LORD saved Israel on that day from the power of Egypt. When Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the seashore³¹ and saw the great power that the LORD had shown against Egypt, the people feared the LORD. They believed in the LORD and in Moses his servant.

Chapter 15

1Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD:*

I will sing to the LORD, for he is gloriously triumphant;

horse and chariot he has cast into the sea.

2My strength and my refuge is the LORD,
and he has become my savior.

This is my God, I praise him;

the God of my father, I extol him.

3The LORD is a warrior,
LORD is his name!

4Pharaoh’s chariots and army he hurled into the sea;
the elite of his officers were drowned in the Red Sea.*

5The flood waters covered them,
they sank into the depths like a stone.

6Your right hand, O LORD, magnificent in power,
your right hand, O LORD, shattered the enemy.

7In your great majesty you overthrew your adversaries;

you loosed your wrath to consume them like stubble.

8At the blast of your nostrils the waters piled up,

the flowing waters stood like a mound,

the flood waters foamed in the midst of the sea.

9The enemy boasted, "I will pursue and overtake them;

I will divide the spoils and have my fill of them;

I will draw my sword; my hand will despoil them!"

10When you blew with your breath, the sea covered them;

like lead they sank in the mighty waters.

11Who is like you among the gods, O LORD?

Who is like you, magnificent among the holy ones?

Awe-inspiring in deeds of renown, worker of wonders,

12when you stretched out your right hand, the earth swallowed them!

13In your love* you led the people you redeemed;

in your strength you guided them to your holy dwelling.

14The peoples heard and quaked;

anguish gripped the dwellers in Philistia.

15Then were the chieftains of Edom dismayed,

the nobles of Moab seized by trembling;

All the inhabitants of Canaan melted away;

16 terror and dread fell upon them.

By the might of your arm they became silent like stone,

while your people, LORD, passed over,

while the people whom you created passed over.*

17You brought them in, you planted them

on the mountain that is your own—

The place you made the base of your throne, LORD,

the sanctuary, LORD, your hands established.

18May the LORD reign forever and ever!

19When Pharaoh's horses and chariots and horsemen entered the sea, the LORD made the waters of the sea flow back upon them, though the Israelites walked on dry land through the midst of the sea.

20Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand, while all the women went out after her with tambourines, dancing;

21and she responded to them:

Sing to the LORD, for he is gloriously triumphant;

horse and chariot he has cast into the sea.

6-፪፻፲፭ Isaiah 60:1-13:

1Arise! Shine, for your light has come,
the glory of the LORD has dawned upon you.

2Though darkness covers the earth,

and thick clouds, the peoples,

Upon you the LORD will dawn,

and over you his glory will be seen.

3Nations shall walk by your light,
kings by the radiance of your dawning.

4Raise your eyes and look about;

they all gather and come to you—

Your sons from afar,

your daughters in the arms of their nurses.

5Then you shall see and be radiant,

your heart shall throb and overflow.

For the riches of the sea shall be poured out before you,

the wealth of nations shall come to you.

6Caravans of camels shall cover you,

dromedaries of Midian and Ephah;

All from Sheba shall come

bearing gold and frankincense,

and heralding the praises of the LORD.
7All the flocks of Kedar shall be gathered for you,
the rams of Nebaioth shall serve your needs;
They will be acceptable offerings on my altar,
and I will glorify my glorious house.
8Who are these that fly along like a cloud,
like doves to their cotes?
9The vessels of the coastlands are gathering,
with the ships of Tarshish in the lead,
To bring your children from afar,
their silver and gold with them—
For the name of the LORD, your God,
for the Holy One of Israel who has glorified you.
10Foreigners shall rebuild your walls,
their kings shall minister to you;
Though in my wrath I struck you,
yet in my good will I have shown you mercy.^d
11Your gates shall stand open constantly;
day and night they shall not be closed
So that they may bring you the wealth of nations,
with their kings in the vanguard.^e
12For the nation or kingdom that will not serve you shall perish;
such nations shall be utterly destroyed!^f
13The glory of Lebanon shall come to you—
the juniper, the fir, and the cypress all together—
To bring beauty to my sanctuary,
and glory to the place where I stand.

7-ՅԽԱՆԻ Joshua 1:1-9:

1After Moses, the servant of the LORD, had died, the LORD said to Moses' aide Joshua, son of Nun:

2Moses my servant is dead. So now, you and the whole people with you, prepare to cross the Jordan to the land that I will give the Israelites.

3Every place where you set foot I have given you, as I promised Moses.

4All the land of the Hittites, from the wilderness and the Lebanon east to the great river Euphrates and west to the Great Sea, will be your territory.

5No one can withstand you as long as you live. As I was with Moses, I will be with you: I will not leave you nor forsake you.

6Be strong and steadfast, so that you may give this people possession of the land I swore to their ancestors that I would give them.

7Only be strong and steadfast, being careful to observe the entire law which Moses my servant enjoined on you. Do not swerve from it either to the right or to the left, that you may succeed wherever you go.

8Do not let this book of the law depart from your lips. Recite it by day and by night, that you may carefully observe all that is written in it; then you will attain your goal; then you will succeed.9I command you: be strong and steadfast! Do not fear nor be dismayed, for the LORD, your God, is with you wherever you go.

8-ԵՐԵՄԻԱՅԱ Jeremiah 31:31-34:

31See, days are coming—oracle of the LORD—when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah.

32It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors the day I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt. They broke my covenant, though I was their master—oracle of the LORD.

33But this is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after those days—oracle of the LORD. I will place my law within them, and write it upon their hearts; I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

34They will no longer teach their friends and relatives, “Know the LORD!” Everyone, from least to greatest, shall know me—oracle of the LORD—for I will forgive their iniquity and no longer remember their sin.

9-ԵԶԵԿԻԵԼԻ Ezekiel 37:1-14:

1The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he led me out in the spirit of the LORD and set me in the center of the broad valley. It was filled with bones.

2He made me walk among them in every direction. So many lay on the surface of the valley! How dry they were!

3He asked me: Son of man, can these bones come back to life? “Lord GOD,” I answered, “you alone know that.”

4Then he said to me: Prophecy over these bones, and say to them: Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD!

5Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: Listen! I will make breath enter you so you may come to life.

6I will put sinews on you, make flesh grow over you, cover you with skin, and put breath into you so you may come to life. Then you shall know that I am the LORD.

7I prophesied as I had been commanded. A sound started up, as I was prophesying, rattling like thunder. The bones came together, bone joining to bone.

8As I watched, sinews appeared on them, flesh grew over them, skin covered them on top, but there was no breath in them.

9Then he said to me: Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, son of man! Say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: From the four winds come, O breath, and breathe into these slain that they may come to life.

10I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath entered them; they came to life and stood on their feet, a vast army.

11He said to me: Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel! They are saying, “Our bones are dried up, our hope is lost, and we are cut off.”

12Therefore, prophecy and say to them: Thus says the Lord GOD: Look! I am going to open your graves; I will make you come up out of your graves, my people, and bring you back to the land of Israel.

13You shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and make you come up out of them, my people!

14I will put my spirit in you that you may come to life, and I will settle you in your land. Then you shall know that I am the LORD. I have spoken; I will do it—oracle of the LORD.

1 King Nebuchadnezzar had a golden statue made, sixty cubits high and six cubits wide, which he set up in the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon.

2 He then ordered the satraps, prefects, and governors, the counselors, treasurers, judges, magistrates and all the officials of the provinces to be summoned to the dedication of the statue which he had set up.

3 The satraps, prefects, and governors, the counselors, treasurers, judges, magistrates and all the officials of the provinces came together for the dedication and stood before the statue which King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

4 A herald cried out: "Nations and peoples of every language,

5 when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, zither, dulcimer, harp, double-flute, and all the other musical instruments, you must fall down and worship the golden statue which King Nebuchadnezzar has set up.

6 Whoever does not fall down and worship shall be instantly cast into a white-hot furnace."

7 Therefore, as soon as they heard the sound of the horn, pipe, zither, dulcimer, harp, double-flute, and all the other musical instruments, the nations and peoples of every language all fell down and worshiped the golden statue which King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

8 At that point, some of the Chaldeans came and accused the Jews

9 to King Nebuchadnezzar: "O king, live forever!

10 O king, you issued a decree that everyone who heard the sound of the horn, pipe, zither, dulcimer, harp, and double-flute, and all the other musical instruments should fall down and worship the golden statue;

11 whoever did not was to be cast into a white-hot furnace.

12 There are certain Jews whom you have made administrators of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego; these men, O king, have paid no attention to you; they will not serve your god or worship the golden statue which you set up."

13 Nebuchadnezzar flew into a rage and sent for Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who were promptly brought before the king.

14 King Nebuchadnezzar questioned them: "Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you will not serve my god, or worship the golden statue that I set up?

15 Now, if you are ready to fall down and worship the statue I made, whenever you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, zither, dulcimer, harp, double-flute, and all the other musical instruments, then all will be well; if not, you shall be instantly cast into the white-hot furnace; and who is the God who can deliver you out of my hands?"

16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered King Nebuchadnezzar, "There is no need for us to defend ourselves before you in this matter.

17If our God, whom we serve, can save us* from the white-hot furnace and from your hands, O king, may he save us!

18But even if he will not, you should know, O king, that we will not serve your god or worship the golden statue which you set up.”

19Nebuchadnezzar’s face became livid with utter rage against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. He ordered the furnace to be heated seven times more than usual
20and had some of the strongest men in his army bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and cast them into the white-hot furnace.

21They were bound and cast into the white-hot furnace with their trousers, shirts, hats and other garments,

22for the king’s order was urgent. So huge a fire was kindled in the furnace that the flames devoured the men who threw Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego into it.

23But these three fell, bound, into the midst of the white-hot furnace.

24They walked about in the flames, singing to God and blessing the Lord.

25Azariah stood up in the midst of the fire and prayed aloud:

26“Blessed are you, and praiseworthy,

O Lord, the God of our ancestors,

and glorious forever is your name.

27For you are just in all you have done;

all your deeds are faultless, all your ways right,

and all your judgments proper.

28You have executed proper judgments

in all that you have brought upon us

and upon Jerusalem, the holy city of our ancestors.

By a proper judgment you have done all this

because of our sins;

29For we have sinned and transgressed

by departing from you,

and we have done every kind of evil.

30Your commandments we have not heeded or observed,

nor have we done as you ordered us for our good.

31 Therefore all you have brought upon us,

all you have done to us,

you have done by a proper judgment.

32 You have handed us over to our enemies,

lawless and hateful rebels;

to an unjust king, the worst in all the world.

33 Now we cannot open our mouths;

shame and reproach have come upon us,

your servants, who revere you.

34 For your name's sake, do not deliver us up forever,

or make void your covenant.

35 Do not take away your mercy from us,

for the sake of Abraham, your beloved,

Isaac your servant, and Israel your holy one,

36 To whom you promised to multiply their offspring

like the stars of heaven,

or the sand on the shore of the sea.

37 For we are reduced, O Lord, beyond any other nation,

brought low everywhere in the world this day

because of our sins.

38 We have in our day no prince, prophet, or leader,

no burnt offering, sacrifice, oblation, or incense,

no place to offer first fruits, to find favor with you.

39 But with contrite heart and humble spirit

let us be received;

As though it were burnt offerings of rams and bulls,

or tens of thousands of fat lambs,

40 So let our sacrifice be in your presence today

and find favor before you;

for those who trust in you cannot be put to shame.

41 And now we follow you with our whole heart,

we fear you and we seek your face.

Do not put us to shame,

42 but deal with us in your kindness and great mercy.

43 Deliver us in accord with your wonders,

and bring glory to your name, O Lord:

44 Let all those be put to shame

who inflict evils on your servants;

Let them be shamed and powerless,

and their strength broken;

45 Let them know that you alone are the Lord God,

glorious over the whole world.”

46 Now the king’s servants who had thrown them in continued to stoke the furnace with naphtha, pitch, tow, and brush.

47 The flames rose forty-nine cubits above the furnace,

48 and spread out, burning the Chaldeans that it caught around the furnace.

49 But the angel of the Lord went down into the furnace with Azariah and his companions, drove the fiery flames out of the furnace,

50 and made the inside of the furnace as though a dew-laden breeze were blowing through it. The fire in no way touched them or caused them pain or harm.

51 Then these three in the furnace with one voice sang, glorifying and blessing God:

52 “Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our ancestors,

praiseworthy and exalted above all forever;

And blessed is your holy and glorious name,

praiseworthy and exalted above all for all ages.

53 Blessed are you in the temple of your holy glory,

praiseworthy and glorious above all forever.

54 Blessed are you on the throne of your kingdom,

praiseworthy and exalted above all forever.

55 Blessed are you who look into the depths

from your throne upon the cherubim,

praiseworthy and exalted above all forever.

56 Blessed are you in the firmament of heaven,

praiseworthy and glorious forever.

57 Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord,

praise and exalt him above all forever.

58 Angels of the Lord, bless the Lord,

praise and exalt him above all forever.

59 You heavens, bless the Lord,

praise and exalt him above all forever.^a

60 All you waters above the heavens, bless the Lord,

praise and exalt him above all forever.

61 All you powers, bless the Lord;

praise and exalt him above all forever.

62 Sun and moon, bless the Lord;

praise and exalt him above all forever.

63 Stars of heaven, bless the Lord;

praise and exalt him above all forever.

64 Every shower and dew, bless the Lord;

praise and exalt him above all forever.

65 All you winds, bless the Lord;

praise and exalt him above all forever.

66 Fire and heat, bless the Lord;

praise and exalt him above all forever.

67 Cold and chill, bless the Lord;

praise and exalt him above all forever.

68Dew and rain, bless the Lord;

praise and exalt him above all forever.

69Frost and chill, bless the Lord;

praise and exalt him above all forever.

70Hoarfrost and snow, bless the Lord;

praise and exalt him above all forever.

71Nights and days, bless the Lord;

praise and exalt him above all forever.

72Light and darkness, bless the Lord;

praise and exalt him above all forever.

73Lightnings and clouds, bless the Lord;

praise and exalt him above all forever.

74Let the earth bless the Lord,

praise and exalt him above all forever.

75Mountains and hills, bless the Lord;

praise and exalt him above all forever.

76Everything growing on earth, bless the Lord;

praise and exalt him above all forever.

77You springs, bless the Lord;

praise and exalt him above all forever.

78Seas and rivers, bless the Lord;

praise and exalt him above all forever.

79You sea monsters and all water creatures, bless the Lord;

praise and exalt him above all forever.

80All you birds of the air, bless the Lord;

praise and exalt him above all forever.

81All you beasts, wild and tame, bless the Lord;

praise and exalt him above all forever.

82All you mortals, bless the Lord;

praise and exalt him above all forever.
83 O Israel, bless the Lord;

praise and exalt him above all forever.
84 Priests of the Lord, bless the Lord;

praise and exalt him above all forever.
85 Servants of the Lord, bless the Lord;

praise and exalt him above all forever.
86 Spirits and souls of the just, bless the Lord;

praise and exalt him above all forever.
87 Holy and humble of heart, bless the Lord;

praise and exalt him above all forever.
88 Hananiah, Azariah, Mishael, bless the Lord;

praise and exalt him above all forever.

For he has delivered us from Sheol,
and saved us from the power of death;

He has freed us from the raging flame
and delivered us from the fire.

89 Give thanks to the Lord, who is good,

whose mercy endures forever.

90 Bless the God of gods, all you who fear the Lord;

praise and give thanks,

for his mercy endures forever.”

91 Then King Nebuchadnezzar was startled and rose in haste, asking his counselors,
“Did we not cast three men bound into the fire?” “Certainly, O king,” they answered.