

Ki Tavo Deuteronomy 26:1-29:8(9)

(Deu 26:1 CJB) "When you have come to the land Adonai your God is giving you as your inheritance, taken possession of it and settled there;

(Deu 26:2 CJB) you are to take the firstfruits of all the crops the ground yields, which you will harvest from your land that Adonai your God is giving you, put them in a basket and go to the place where Adonai your God will choose to have his name live.

(Deu 26:3 CJB) You will approach the cohen holding office at the time and say to him, 'Today I declare to Adonai your God that I have come to the land Adonai swore to our ancestors that he would give us.'

(Deu 26:4 CJB) The cohen will take the basket from your hand and put it down in front of the altar of Adonai your God.

(Deu 26:5 CJB) "Then, in the presence of Adonai your God, you are to say, 'My ancestor was a nomad from Aram. He went down into Egypt few in number and stayed. There he became a great, strong, populous nation.

(Deu 26:6 CJB) But the Egyptians treated us badly; they oppressed us and imposed harsh slavery on us.

(Deu 26:7 CJB) So we cried out to Adonai, the God of our ancestors. Adonai heard us and saw our misery, toil and oppression;

(Deu 26:8 CJB) and Adonai brought us out of Egypt with a strong hand and a stretched-out arm, with great terror, and with signs and wonders.

(Deu 26:9 CJB) Now he has brought us to this place and given us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey.

(Deu 26:10 CJB) Therefore, as you see, I have now brought the firstfruits of the land which you, Adonai, have given me.' You are then to put the basket down before Adonai your God, prostrate yourself before Adonai your God,

(Deu 26:11 CJB) and take joy in all the good that Adonai your God has given you, your household, the Levi and the foreigner living with you.

(Deu 26:12 CJB) "After you have separated a tenth of the crops yielded in the third year, the year of separating a tenth, and have given it to the Levi, the foreigner, the orphan and the widow, so that they can have enough food to satisfy them while staying with you;

(Deu 26:13 CJB) you are to say, in the presence of Adonai your God, 'I have rid my house of the things set aside for God and given them to the Levi, the foreigner, the orphan and the widow, in keeping with every one of the mitzvot you gave me. I haven't disobeyed any of your mitzvot or forgotten them.

(Deu 26:14 CJB) I haven't eaten any of this food when mourning, I haven't put any of it aside when unclean, nor have I given any of it for the dead. I have listened to what Adonai my God has said, and I have done everything you ordered me to do.

(Deu 26:15 CJB) Look out from your holy dwelling-place, from heaven; and bless your people Isra'el and the land you gave us, as you swore to our ancestors, a land flowing with milk and honey.'

(Deu 26:16 CJB) "Today Adonai your God orders you to obey these laws and rulings. Therefore, you are to observe and obey them with all your heart and all your being.

(Deu 26:17 CJB) You are agreeing today that Adonai is your God and that you will follow his ways; observe his laws, mitzvot and rulings; and do what he says.

(Deu 26:18 CJB) In turn Adonai is agreeing today that you are his own unique treasure, as he promised you; that you are to observe all his mitzvot;

(Deu 26:19 CJB) and that he will raise you high above all the nations he has made, in praise, reputation and glory; and that, as he said, you will be a holy people for Adonai your God."

(Deu 27:1 CJB) Then Moshe and all the leaders of Isra'el gave orders to the people. They said, "Observe all the mitzvot I am giving you today.

(Deu 27:2 CJB) When you cross the Yarden to the land Adonai your God is giving you, you are to set up large stones, put plaster on them,

(Deu 27:3 CJB) and, after crossing over, write this Torah on them, every word - so that you can enter the land Adonai your God is giving you, a land flowing with milk and honey, as Adonai, the God of your ancestors, promised you.

(Deu 27:4 CJB) When you have crossed the Yarden, you are to set up these stones, as I am ordering you today, on Mount `Eival; and put plaster on them.

(Deu 27:5 CJB) There you are to erect an altar to Adonai your God, an altar made of stones. You are not to use any iron tool on them,

(Deu 27:6 CJB) but are to build the altar of Adonai your God of uncut stones; and you are to offer burnt offerings on it to Adonai your God.

(Deu 27:7 CJB) Also you are to sacrifice peace offerings, eat there and be joyful in the presence of Adonai your God.

(Deu 27:8 CJB) You are to write on the stones all the words of this Torah very clearly."

(Deu 27:9 CJB) Next Moshe and the cohanim, who are L'vi'im, spoke to all Isra'el. They said, "Be quiet; and listen, Isra'el! Today you have become the people of Adonai your God.

(Deu 27:10 CJB) Therefore you are to listen to what Adonai your God says and obey his mitzvot and laws, which I am giving you today."

(Deu 27:11 CJB) That same day Moshe commissioned the people as follows:

(Deu 27:12 CJB) "These are the ones who are to stand on Mount G'rizim and bless the people after you have crossed the Yarden: Shim`on, Levi, Y'hudah, Yissakhar, Yosef and Binyamin;

(Deu 27:13 CJB) while these are to stand on Mount `Eival for the curse: Re'uven, Gad, Asher, Z'vulun, Dan and Naftali.

(Deu 27:14 CJB) The L'vi'im, speaking loudly, will proclaim to every man of Isra'el:

(Deu 27:15 CJB) " 'A curse on anyone who makes a carved or metal image, something Adonai detests, the handiwork of a craftsman, and sets it up in secret!' All the people are to respond by saying, 'Amen!'

(Deu 27:16 CJB) " 'A curse on anyone who dishonors his father or mother.' All the people are to say, 'Amen!'

(Deu 27:17 CJB) " 'A curse on anyone who moves his neighbor's boundary marker.' All the people are to say, 'Amen!'

(Deu 27:18 CJB) " 'A curse on anyone who causes a blind person to lose his way on the road.' All the people are to say, 'Amen!'

(Deu 27:19 CJB) " 'A curse on anyone who interferes with justice for the foreigner, orphan or widow.' All the people are to say, 'Amen!'

(Deu 27:20 CJB) " 'A curse on anyone who has sexual relations with his father's wife, because he has violated his father's rights.' All the people are to say, 'Amen!'

(Deu 27:21 CJB) " 'A curse on anyone who has sexual relations with any kind of animal.' All the people are to say, 'Amen!'

(Deu 27:22 CJB) " 'A curse on anyone who has sexual relations with his sister, no matter whether she is the daughter of his father or of his mother.' All the people are to say, 'Amen!'

(Deu 27:23 CJB) " 'A curse on anyone who has sexual relations with his mother-in-law.' All the people are to say, 'Amen!'

(Deu 27:24 CJB) " 'A curse on anyone who secretly attacks a fellow member of the community.' All the people are to say, 'Amen!'

(Deu 27:25 CJB) " 'A curse on anyone who accepts a bribe to kill an innocent person.' All the people are to say, 'Amen!'

(Deu 27:26 CJB) " 'A curse on anyone who does not confirm the words of this Torah by putting them into practice.' All the people are to say, 'Amen!'

(Deu 28:1 CJB) "If you listen closely to what Adonai your God says, observing and obeying all his mitzvot which I am giving you today, Adonai your God will raise you high above all the nations on earth;

(Deu 28:2 CJB) and all the following blessings will be yours in abundance - if you will do what Adonai your God says:

(Deu 28:3 CJB) "A blessing on you in the city, and a blessing on you in the countryside.

(Deu 28:4 CJB) "A blessing on the fruit of your body, the fruit of your land and the fruit of your livestock - the young of your cattle and flocks.

(Deu 28:5 CJB) "A blessing on your grain-basket and kneading-bowl.

(Deu 28:6 CJB) "A blessing on you when you go out, and a blessing on you when you come in.

(Deu 28:7 CJB) "Adonai will cause your enemies attacking you to be defeated before you; they will advance on you one way and flee before you seven ways.

(Deu 28:8 CJB) "Adonai will order a blessing to be with you in your barns and in everything you undertake; he will bless you in the land Adonai your God is giving you.

(Deu 28:9 CJB) "Adonai will establish you as a people separated out for himself, as he has sworn to you - if you will observe the mitzvot of Adonai your God and follow his ways.

(Deu 28:10 CJB) Then all the peoples on earth will see that Adonai's name, his presence, is with you; so that they will be afraid of you.

(Deu 28:11 CJB) "Adonai will give you great abundance of good things - of the fruit of your body, the fruit of your livestock and the fruit of your land in the land Adonai swore to your ancestors to give you.

(Deu 28:12 CJB) Adonai will open for you his good treasure, the sky, to give your land its rain at the right seasons and to bless everything you undertake. You will lend to many nations and not borrow;

(Deu 28:13 CJB) Adonai will make you the head and not the tail; and you will be only above, never below - if you will listen to, observe and obey the mitzvot of Adonai your God

(Deu 28:14 CJB) and not turn away from any of the words I am ordering you today, neither to the right nor to the left, to follow after other gods and serve them.

(Deu 28:15 CJB) "But if you refuse to pay attention to what Adonai your God says, and do not observe and obey all his mitzvot and regulations which I am giving you today, then all the following curses will be yours in abundance:

(Deu 28:16 CJB) "A curse on you in the city, and a curse on you in the countryside.

(Deu 28:17 CJB) "A curse on your grain-basket and kneading-bowl.

(Deu 28:18 CJB) "A curse on the fruit of your body, the fruit of your land and the young of your cattle and flocks.

(Deu 28:19 CJB) "A curse on you when you come in, and a curse on you when you go out.

(Deu 28:20 CJB) "Adonai will send on you curses, disasters and frustration in everything you set out to do, until you are destroyed and quickly perish, because of your evil actions in abandoning me.

(Deu 28:21 CJB) "Adonai will bring on you a plague that will stay with you until he has exterminated you from the land you are entering in order to take possession of it.

(Deu 28:22 CJB) Adonai will strike you down with wasting diseases, fever, inflammation, fiery heat, drought, blasting winds and mildew; and they will pursue you until you perish.

(Deu 28:23 CJB) "The sky over your head will be brass and the earth under you iron.

(Deu 28:24 CJB) Adonai will turn the rain your land needs into powder and dust that will fall on you from the sky until you are destroyed.

(Deu 28:25 CJB) "Adonai your God will cause you to be defeated before your enemies; you will advance on them one way and flee before them seven. You will become an object of horror to every kingdom on earth.

(Deu 28:26 CJB) Your carcasses will become food for all the birds in the air and the wild animals, and there will be no one to scare them away.

(Deu 28:27 CJB) Adonai will strike you down with the boils that broke out on the Egyptians, tumors, skin lesions and itching, all incurable.

(Deu 28:28 CJB) Adonai will strike you with insanity, blindness and utter confusion.

(Deu 28:29 CJB) You will grope about at noon like a blind person groping in the dark, unable to find your way. "You will be continually oppressed and robbed, and there will be no one to save you.

(Deu 28:30 CJB) You will get engaged to a woman, but another man will marry her. You will build a house but not live in it. You will plant a vineyard but not use its fruit.

(Deu 28:31 CJB) Your ox will be slaughtered before your eyes, but you won't eat any of its meat. Your donkey will be taken away from you by force as you watch, and you won't get it back. Your sheep will be given to your enemies, and there will be no one to help you.

(Deu 28:32 CJB) Your sons and daughters will be handed over to another people; you will watch for them longingly all day but not see them; and there will be nothing you can do about it.

(Deu 28:33 CJB) A nation unknown to you will eat the fruit of your land and labor. Yes, you will be continually oppressed and crushed,

(Deu 28:34 CJB) till you go crazy from what your eyes have to see.

(Deu 28:35 CJB) Adonai will strike you down in the knees and legs with painful and incurable boils; they will spread from the sole of your foot to the crown of your head.

(Deu 28:36 CJB) Adonai will bring you and your king whom you have put over yourselves to a nation you have not known, neither you nor your ancestors; and there you will serve other gods made of wood and stone.

(Deu 28:37 CJB) You will be so devastated as to become a proverb and a laughingstock among all the peoples to which Adonai will drive you.

(Deu 28:38 CJB) "You will carry much seed out to the field but gather little in, because locusts will devour it.

(Deu 28:39 CJB) You will plant vineyards and dress them but neither drink the wine nor gather the grapes, because worms will eat them.

(Deu 28:40 CJB) You will have olive trees throughout your territory but not anoint yourself with the oil, because your olives will fall off unripe.

(Deu 28:41 CJB) You will father sons and daughters, but they won't belong to you, because they will go into captivity.

(Deu 28:42 CJB) The bugs will inherit all your trees and the produce of your land.

(Deu 28:43 CJB) "The foreigner living with you will rise higher and higher while you sink lower and lower.

(Deu 28:44 CJB) He will lend to you, but you will not lend to him; he will be the head and you the tail.

(Deu 28:45 CJB) "All these curses will come on you, pursuing you and overtaking you until you are destroyed, because you didn't pay attention to what Adonai your God said, observing his mitzvot and regulations that he gave you.

(Deu 28:46 CJB) These curses will be on you and your descendants as a sign and a wonder forever.

(Deu 28:47 CJB) Because you didn't serve Adonai your God with joy and gladness in your heart when you had such an abundance of everything;

(Deu 28:48 CJB) Adonai will send your enemy against you; and you will serve him when you are hungry, thirsty, poorly clothed and lacking everything; he will put a yoke of iron on your neck until he destroys you.

(Deu 28:49 CJB) Yes, Adonai will bring against you a nation from far away that will swoop down on you from the end of the earth like a vulture, a nation whose language you don't understand,

(Deu 28:50 CJB) a nation grim in appearance, whose people neither respect the old nor pity the young.

(Deu 28:51 CJB) They will devour the offspring of your livestock and the produce of your soil, until you have been destroyed. They will leave you without grain, wine, olive oil, or your young cattle and sheep - until they have caused you to perish.

(Deu 28:52 CJB) They will besiege all your towns until your high, fortified walls, in which you trusted, collapse everywhere in your land, which Adonai your God gave you.

(Deu 28:53 CJB) Then, because of the severity of the siege and distress that your enemies are inflicting on you, you will eat the offspring of your own body, the flesh of your own sons and daughters, whom Adonai your God has given you.

(Deu 28:54 CJB) Even the most gentle and sensitive man among you will be without pity for his brother, his beloved wife or his surviving children,

(Deu 28:55 CJB) to the degree that he will refuse to share with any of them the flesh of his children whom he is eating; because if he did, he would have nothing left for himself — in the severity of the siege and distress your enemies are inflicting on you in all your towns.

(Deu 28:56 CJB) The most delicate and sensitive woman among you, so sensitive and delicate that she wouldn't think of touching the sole of her foot to the ground, will so begrudge her own beloved husband, son and daughter

(Deu 28:57 CJB) that she will secretly eat the afterbirth that comes out of her and even her own children as she bears them — so desperately hungry will she be in the severity of the siege and distress your enemies are inflicting on you in your towns.

(Deu 28:58 CJB) "If you will not observe and obey all the words of this Torah that are written in this book, so that you will fear this glorious and awesome name, Adonai your God;

(Deu 28:59 CJB) then Adonai will strike down you and your descendants with extraordinary plagues and severe sicknesses that go on and on.

(Deu 28:60 CJB) He will bring back upon you all the diseases the Egyptians had, which you were in dread of; and they will cling to you.

(Deu 28:61 CJB) Not only that, but Adonai will bring upon you all the sicknesses and plagues that are not written in this book of the Torah - until you are destroyed.

(Deu 28:62 CJB) You will be left few in number, whereas you were once as numerous as the stars in the sky - because you did not pay attention to the voice of Adonai your God.

(Deu 28:63 CJB) "Thus it will come about that just as once Adonai took joy in seeking to do you good and increase your numbers, so now Adonai will take joy in causing you to perish and be destroyed, and you will be plucked off the land you are entering in order to take possession of it.

(Deu 28:64 CJB) Adonai will scatter you among all peoples from one end of the earth to the other, and there you will serve other gods, made of wood and stone, which neither you nor your ancestors have known.

(Deu 28:65 CJB) Among these nations you will not find repose, and there will be no rest for the sole of your foot; rather Adonai will give you there anguish of heart, dimness of eyes and apathy of spirit.

(Deu 28:66 CJB) Your life will hang in doubt before you; you will be afraid night and day and have no assurance that you will stay alive.

(Deu 28:67 CJB) In the morning you will say, 'Oh, how I wish it were evening!' and in the evening you will say, 'Oh, how I wish it were morning!' - because of the fear overwhelming your heart and the sights your eyes will see.

(Deu 28:68 CJB) Finally, Adonai will bring you back in ships to Egypt, the place of which I said to you, 'You will never ever see it again'; and there you will try to sell yourselves as slaves to your enemies, but no one will buy you."

(Deu 29:1 CJB) (28:69) These are the words of the covenant which Adonai ordered Moshe to make with the people of Isra'el in the land of Mo'av, in addition to the covenant which he made with them in Horev.

(Deu 29:2 CJB) (29:1) Then Moshe summoned all Isra'el and said to them, "You saw everything Adonai did before your eyes in the land of Egypt to Pharaoh, to all his servants and to all his land;

(Deu 29:3 CJB) (29:2) the great testings which you saw with your own eyes, and the signs and those great wonders.

(Deu 29:4 CJB) (29:3) Nevertheless, to this day Adonai has not given you a heart to understand, eyes to see or ears to hear!

(Deu 29:5 CJB) (29:4) I led you forty years in the desert. Neither the clothes on your body nor the shoes on your feet wore out.

(Deu 29:6 CJB) (29:5) You didn't eat bread, and you didn't drink wine or other intoxicating liquor; this was so that you would know that 'I am Adonai your God.'

(Deu 29:7 CJB) (29:6) When you arrived at this place, Sichon the king of Heshbon and `Og the king of Bashan advanced against us in battle, and we defeated them,

(Deu 29:8 CJB) (29:7) took their land and gave it as an inheritance to the Re'uveni, the Gadi and the M'nashi.

(Deu 29:9 CJB) (29:8) Therefore, observe the words of this covenant and obey them; so that you can make everything you do prosper.

Haftarah Ki Tavo: Yesha'yahu (Isaiah) 60:1-22

(Isa 60:1 CJB) "Arise, shine [*Yerushalayim*], for your light has come, the glory of Adonai has risen over you.

(Isa 60:2 CJB) For although darkness covers the earth and thick darkness the peoples; on you Adonai will rise; over you will be seen his glory.

(Isa 60:3 CJB) Nations will go toward your light and kings toward your shining splendor.

(Isa 60:4 CJB) Raise your eyes and look around: they are all assembling and coming to you; your sons are coming from far off, your daughters being carried on their nurses' hips.

(Isa 60:5 CJB) Then you will see and be radiant, your heart will throb and swell with delight; for the riches of the seas will be brought to you, the wealth of nations will come to you.

(Isa 60:6 CJB) Caravans of camels will cover your land, young camels from Midyan and `Eifah, all of them coming from Sh'va, bringing gold and frankincense, and proclaiming the praises of Adonai.

(Isa 60:7 CJB) All the flocks of Kedar will be gathered for you, the rams of N'vayot will be at your service; they will come up and be received on my altar, as I glorify my glorious house.

(Isa 60:8 CJB) "Who are these, flying along like clouds, like doves to their dove-cotes?"

(Isa 60:9 CJB) The coastlands are putting their hope in me, with the 'Tarshish' ships in the lead, to bring your children from far away, and with them their silver and gold, for the sake of Adonai your God, the Holy One of Isra'el, who glorifies you.

(Isa 60:10 CJB) Foreigners will rebuild your walls, their kings will be at your service; for in my anger I struck you, but in my mercy I pity you.

(Isa 60:11 CJB) Your gates will always be open, they will not be shut by day or by night, so that people can bring you the wealth of nations, with their kings led in procession.

(Isa 60:12 CJB) For the nation or kingdom that won't serve you will perish; yes, those nations will be utterly destroyed.

(Isa 60:13 CJB) "The glory of the L'vanon will come to you, cypresses together with elm trees and larches, to beautify the site of my sanctuary — I will glorify the place where I stand.

(Isa 60:14 CJB) The children of your oppressors will come and bow low before you, all who despised you will fall at your feet, calling you the city of Adonai, Tziyon of the Holy One of Isra'el.

(Isa 60:15 CJB) "In the past you were abandoned and hated, so that no one would even pass through you; but now I will make you the pride of the ages, a joy for many generations.

(Isa 60:16 CJB) You will drink the milk of nations, you will nurse at royal breasts and know that I, Adonai, am your Savior, your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Ya`akov.

(Isa 60:17 CJB) "For bronze I will bring you gold, for iron I will bring you silver, bronze in place of wood, and iron in place of stones. I will make shalom your governor and righteousness your taskmaster.

(Isa 60:18 CJB) Violence will no longer be heard in your land, desolation or destruction within your borders; instead, you will call your walls Salvation and your gates Praise.

(Isa 60:19 CJB) "No more will the sun be your light by day, nor will moonlight shine on you; instead Adonai will be your light forever and your God your glory.

(Isa 60:20 CJB) No longer will your sun go down; your moon will no longer wane; for Adonai will be your light forever; your days of mourning will end.

(Isa 60:21 CJB) All your people will be tzaddikim; they will inherit the land forever; they will be the branch I planted, my handiwork, in which I take pride.

(Isa 60:22 CJB) The smallest will grow to a thousand, the weakest will become a mighty nation. I, Adonai, when the right time comes, will quickly bring it about."

B'rit Hadashah suggested readings for Parashah Ki Tavo: Mattityahu (Matthew) 13:1-23; Luke 21:1-4; Acts 28:17-31; Romans 11:1-15

Matthew 13:1-23

(Mat 13:1 CJB) That same day, Yeshua went out of the house and sat down by the lake;

(Mat 13:2 CJB) but such a large crowd gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there while the crowd stood on the shore.

(Mat 13:3 CJB) He told them many things in parables: "A farmer went out to sow his seed.

(Mat 13:4 CJB) As he sowed, some seed fell alongside the path; and the birds came and ate it up.

(Mat 13:5 CJB) Other seed fell on rocky patches where there was not much soil. It sprouted quickly because the soil was shallow;

(Mat 13:6 CJB) but when the sun had risen, the young plants were scorched; and since their roots were not deep, they dried up.

(Mat 13:7 CJB) Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants.

(Mat 13:8 CJB) But others fell into rich soil and produced grain, a hundred or sixty or thirty times as much as had been sown.

(Mat 13:9 CJB) Those who have ears, let them hear!"

(Mat 13:10 CJB) Then the talmidim came and asked Yeshua, "Why are you speaking to them in parables?"

(Mat 13:11 CJB) He answered, "Because it has been given to you to know the secrets of the Kingdom of Heaven, but it has not been given to them.

(Mat 13:12 CJB) For anyone who has something will be given more, so that he will have plenty; but from anyone who has nothing, even what he does have will be taken away.

(Mat 13:13 CJB) Here is why I speak to them in parables: they look without seeing and listen without hearing or understanding.

(Mat 13:14 CJB) That is, in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Yesha`yahu which says, 'You will keep on hearing but never understand, and keep on seeing but never perceive,

(Mat 13:15 CJB) because the heart of this people has become dull — with their ears they barely hear, and their eyes they have closed, so as not to see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their heart, and do t'shuvah, so that I could heal them.'

(Mat 13:16 CJB) But you, how blessed are your eyes, because they see, and your ears, because they hear!

(Mat 13:17 CJB) Yes indeed! I tell you that many a prophet and many a tzaddik longed to see the things you are seeing but did not see them, and to hear the things you are hearing but did not hear them.

(Mat 13:18 CJB) "So listen to what the parable of the sower means.

(Mat 13:19 CJB) Whoever hears the message about the Kingdom, but doesn't understand it, is like the seed sown along the path — the Evil One comes and seizes what was sown in his heart.

(Mat 13:20 CJB) The seed sown on rocky ground is like a person who hears the message and accepts it with joy at once,

(Mat 13:21 CJB) but has no root in himself. So he stays on for a while; but as soon as some trouble or persecution arises on account of the message, he immediately falls away.

(Mat 13:22 CJB) Now the seed sown among thorns stands for someone who hears the message, but it is choked by the worries of the world and the deceitful glamor of wealth, so that it produces nothing.

(Mat 13:23 CJB) However, what was sown on rich soil is the one who hears the message and understands it; such a person will surely bear fruit, a hundred or sixty or thirty times what was sown."

Luke 21:1-4

(Luk 21:1 CJB) Then Yeshua looked up, and as he watched the rich placing their gifts into the Temple offering-boxes,

(Luk 21:2 CJB) he also saw a poor widow put in two small coins.

(Luk 21:3 CJB) He said, "I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put in more than all the others.

(Luk 21:4 CJB) For they, out of their wealth, have contributed money they could easily spare; but she, out of her poverty, has given all she had to live on."

Acts 28:17-31

(Act 28:17 CJB) After three days Sha'ul called a meeting of the local Jewish leaders. When they had gathered, he said to them: "Brothers, although I have done nothing against either our people or the traditions of our fathers, I was made a prisoner in Yerushalayim and handed over to the Romans.

(Act 28:18 CJB) They examined me and were ready to release me, because I had done nothing to justify a death sentence.

(Act 28:19 CJB) But when the Judeans objected, I was forced to appeal to the Emperor — not that I had any charge to make against my own people.

(Act 28:20 CJB) This is why I have asked to see you and speak with you, for it is because of the hope of Isra'el that I have this chain around me."

(Act 28:21 CJB) They said to him, "We have not received any letters about you from Y'hudah, and none of the brothers who have come from there has reported or said anything bad about you.

(Act 28:22 CJB) But we do think it would be appropriate to hear your views from you, yourself; for all we know about this sect is that people everywhere speak against it."

(Act 28:23 CJB) So they arranged a day with him and came to his quarters in large numbers. From morning until evening he explained the matter to them, giving a thorough witness about the Kingdom of God and making use of both the Torah of Moshe and the Prophets to persuade them about Yeshua.

(Act 28:24 CJB) Some were convinced by what he said,

(Act 28:25 CJB) while others refused to believe. So they left, disagreeing among themselves, after Sha'ul had made one final statement: "The Ruach HaKodesh spoke well in saying to your fathers through Yesha`yahu the prophet,

(Act 28:26 CJB) 'Go to this people and say, "You will keep on hearing but never understand, and you will keep on seeing but never perceive,

(Act 28:27 CJB) because the heart of this people has grown thick — with their ears they barely hear, and their eyes they have closed, for fear that they should see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their heart, and do t'shuvah, so that I could heal them." ' "

(Act 28:28 CJB) Therefore, let it be known to you that this salvation of God has been sent to the Goyim, and they will listen!"

(Act 28:29 CJB) *[After he had said this, the Jews left, arguing vehemently among themselves.]*

(Act 28:30 CJB) Sha'ul remained two whole years in a place he rented for himself; and he continued receiving all who came to see him,

(Act 28:31 CJB) openly and without hindrance proclaiming the Kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Yeshua the Messiah.

Romans 11:1-15

(Rom 11:1 CJB) "In that case, I say, isn't it that God has repudiated his people?" Heaven forbid! For I myself am a son of Isra'el, from the seed of Avraham, of the tribe of Binyamin.

(Rom 11:2 CJB) God has not repudiated his people, whom he chose in advance. Or don't you know what the Tanakh says about Eliyahu? He pleads with God against Isra'el,

(Rom 11:3 CJB) "Adonai, they have killed your prophets and torn down your altars, and I'm the only one left, and now they want to kill me too!"

(Rom 11:4 CJB) But what is God's answer to him? "I have kept for myself seven thousand men who have not knelt down to Ba`al."

(Rom 11:5 CJB) It's the same way in the present age: there is a remnant, chosen by grace.

(Rom 11:6 CJB) (Now if it is by grace, it is accordingly not based on legalistic works; if it were otherwise, grace would no longer be grace.)

(Rom 11:7 CJB) What follows is that Isra'el has not attained the goal for which she is striving. The ones chosen have obtained it, but the rest have been made stonelike,

(Rom 11:8 CJB) just as the Tanakh says, "God has given them a spirit of dullness — eyes that do not see and ears that do not hear, right down to the present day."

(Rom 11:9 CJB) And David says, "Let their dining table become for them a snare and a trap, a pitfall and a punishment.

(Rom 11:10 CJB) Let their eyes be darkened, so that they can't see, with their backs bent continually."

(Rom 11:11 CJB) "In that case, I say, isn't it that they have stumbled with the result that they have permanently fallen away?" Heaven forbid! Quite the contrary, it is by means of their stumbling that the deliverance has come to the Gentiles, in order to provoke them to jealousy.

(Rom 11:12 CJB) Moreover, if their stumbling is bringing riches to the world — that is, if Isra'el's being placed temporarily in a condition less favored than that of the Gentiles is bringing riches to the latter — how much greater riches will Isra'el in its fullness bring them!

(Rom 11:13 CJB) However, to those of you who are Gentiles I say this: since I myself am an emissary sent to the Gentiles, I make known the importance of my work

(Rom 11:14 CJB) in the hope that somehow I may provoke some of my own people to jealousy and save some of them!

(Rom 11:15 CJB) For if their casting Yeshua aside means reconciliation for the world, what will their accepting him mean? It will be life from the dead!