

# TOBIYAH

תוביה תוביה

1 The book of the words of Tobiyah, son of Tobī'ēl, the son of Hanane'ēl, the son of Aḡu'ēl, the son of Gaḡa'ēl, son of Rapha'ēl, of Raḡu'ēl, of the seed of Asah'ēl, of the tribe of Naphtali;

2 who, in the time of Shalmaneser sovereign of Ashshur was led captive out of Thisbē, which is to the right hand of that city, in Galil above Ashēr which is properly called Naphtali.

3 I, Tobiyah have walked all the days of my life in the Ways of truth and righteousness, and I did many good works to my brothers, and my nation, who came with me to Ninewēh, to the land of Ashshur.

4 And when I was in my own land, in the land of Yisra'ēl being still young, all the tribe of my father Naphtali fell from the House of Yerushalayim, which was chosen out of all the tribes of Yisra'ēl, that all the tribes should slaughter there, where the Hēykal of the dwelling of the Most High was qadosh and built for ever and ever.

5 Now all the tribes which revolted together, and the house of my father Naphtali, slaughtered to the calf of Baal,

6 but I alone went often to Yerushalayim for the Feasts, as it was given to all the people of Yisra'ēl as an everlasting Law, having the first-fruits and tenths of increase, with that which was first shorn; and I gave them at the altar to the kohenim - the children of Aharon.

7 The first tenth part of all increase I gave to the sons of Aharon who served at Yerushalayim, another tenth part I sold away, and went and spent it every year at Yerushalayim,

8 and the third I gave to those to whom it was right, as Deḡorah my father's mother had commanded me, because I was left an orphan by my father.

9 Furthermore, when I came to manhood, I married Ḥannah of my own relatives, and from her I brought forth

Tobi.

10 And when we were carried away captive to Ninewēh, all my brothers and those who were of my relatives ate of the bread of the gentiles.

11 But I kept myself from eating;

12 because I remembered Elohim with all my heart.

13 And the Most High gave me favour and kindness before Shalmaneser, so that I was his attendant.

14 And I went to Maḡai, and left ten kiḡars of silver in trust with Gaḡa'ēl, the brother of Gaḡriyah at Rhaḡes a city of Maḡai.

15 Now when Shalmaneser was dead, Sanḡēriḡ his son reigned in his place; whose reign was troubled, so I could not go to Maḡai.

16 And in the time of Shalmaneser I did many kind deeds to my brothers and gave my bread to the hungry,

17 and my garments to the naked. And if I saw any of my nation dead or scattered around the walls of Ninewēh, I buried them.

18 And if Sanḡēriḡ the Sovereign had slain any when he had come and fled from Yahudāh, I buried them secretly; for in his wrath he killed many; but the bodies were not found when they were sought for by the sovereign.

19 And when one of the Ninewites went and complained of me to the sovereign, that I buried them and hid myself; understanding that I was sought for to be put to death, I withdrew myself for fear.

20 Then all my goods were forcibly taken away, neither was there any left to me, besides my wife Ḥannah and my son Tobi.

21 And fifty-five days had not passed before two of his sons killed him, and they fled into the mountains of Ararat. And Ēsarḡaddon his son reigned in his place, who appointed Aḡiqar my brother Ana'ēl's son over his father's accounts and over all his affairs.

22 And with Aḡiqar entreating for me, I returned to Ninewēh. Now Aḡiqar was cupbearer and keeper of the seal and manager, and overseer of the accounts, and Ēsarḡaddon appointed

him next to him, and he was my brother's son.

2 Now when I had come home again and my wife Hannah was restored to me with my son Tobi, at the Festival of Shabuoth - which is the qodesh Feast of the seven weeks - there was a good dinner prepared for me, for which I sat down to eat.

2 And when I saw the abundance of food, I said to my son, "Go and bring whatever poor man you shall find from among our brothers, who remembers אֲנִי; and see, I wait for you."

3 But he returned and said, "Father, one of our nation is strangled and is thrown out in the marketplace!"

4 Then before I had tasted any of the food, I stood up and took him up into a room until the going down of the sun.

5 Then I returned and washed myself, and ate my food in heaviness,

6 remembering the nebuah of Amos, when he said, "Your Festivals shall turn into mourning, and all your songs into lamentation."

7 Therefore I wept; and after the going down of the sun I went and dug a grave, and buried him.

8 But my neighbours mocked me and said, "This man is still not afraid to be put to death for this deed; who fled away, and yet see, he buries the dead again."

9 I also returned the same night from the burial and slept by the wall of my courtyard, being unclean. But my face was uncovered,

10 and I did not know that there were sparrows on the wall, the sparrows excreted warm dung into my eyes, and when I opened them, a whiteness came into my eyes. And I went to the physicians, but they could not help me, and Ahiqar sustained me, until I went to Eylam.

11 And my wife Hannah took women's work to do,

12 and when she had sent them home to the owners, they paid her wages, and also gave her a young goat as well.

13 And when it was in my house, and began to cry, I said to her, "Where

is this young goat from? is it not stolen? Return it to the owners, for it is not Lawful to eat whatever is stolen."

14 But she replied to me, "It was given for a gift in addition to the wages." However I did not believe her, but told her to return it to the owners; and I was ashamed of her. But she replied to me, "Where are your kind deeds and your righteous deeds? See, you and all your works are known."

3 Then being grieved I wept, and in my sorrow prayed, saying,

2 "O אֲנִי, You are righteous, and all Your works and all Your Ways are kindness and truth, and You judge truly and righteously forever.

3 "Remember me, and look on me. Do not punish me for my sins and ignorances and the sins of my fathers who have sinned before You.

4 "For they did not obey Your Commands, therefore You have delivered us for plunder, and to captivity, and to death, and for a proverb of reproach to all the nations among whom we are dispersed.

5 "And now Your Right-Rulings are many and true. Deal with me according to my sins and my fathers', because we have not guarded Your Commands, nor walked in truth before You.

6 "Now therefore deal with me as seems best to You and command my spirit to be taken from me, that I may become dust, and become earth, for it is more profitable for me to die rather than to live, because I have heard false reproaches, and have much sorrow. Command therefore that I may now be delivered out of this distress, and go into the everlasting place. Do not turn Your face away from me."

7 It came to be the same day, that in Ahmetha a city of Maḏai, Sarah the daughter of Raḡu'el was also reproached by her father's female servants;

8 because she had been married to seven husbands, whom Ashmedai the evil spirit had killed before they had

lain with her. "Do you not know," they said, "that you have strangled your husbands? You have already had seven husbands, neither were you named after any of them.

9 "Why do you punish us for them? If they are dead, go your way after them, let us never see from you either a son or daughter."

10 When she heard these words, she was so very sorrowful, that she thought to strangle herself; but she said, "I am the only daughter of my father, and if I do this, it shall be a reproach to him, and I shall bring his grey hair with sorrow to the grave."

11 Then she prayed toward the window and said, "Baruk are you, O אלהים my Elohim, and Your qodesh and esteemed Name is baruk and esteemed forever; let all Your works praise You forever.

12 "And now, O אלהים, I turn my eyes and my face toward You,

13 and say, 'Take me out of the earth, that I may hear the reproach no more.'

14 "You know, אלהים, that I am pure from all sin with man,

15 and that I never polluted my name, nor the name of my father in the land of my captivity. I am the only daughter of my father, neither has he any child to be his heir, neither any near relative, nor has he any living son to whom I may keep myself for a wife. My seven husbands are already dead, and why should I live? But if it does not please You that I should die, command that some compassion be had for me, and favour shown me, that I hear no more reproach."

16 So the prayers of them both were heard before the excellency of the Almighty Elohim.

17 And Repha'el was sent to heal them both, that is, to scale away the whiteness of Tobiyah's eyes and to give Sarah the daughter of Raġu'el as a wife to Toḃi the son of Tobiyah, and to bind Ashmedai the evil spirit, because she belonged to Toḃi by right of inheritance. At the same time Tobiyah came home and entered into his house, and Sarah the daughter of

Raġu'el came down from her upper room.

4 On that day Toḃiyah remembered the silver which he had entrusted to Gaḃa'el in Rhaġes of Maḡai, and said within himself, "I have wished for death; why do I not call for my son Toḃi that I may inform him of the silver before I die?"

3 And when he had called him he said, "My son, when I am dead, bury me and do not despise your mother, but esteem her all the days of your life, and do that which shall please her, and do not displease her.

4 "Remember, my son, that she saw many dangers for you when you were in her womb, and when she is dead, bury her by me in one grave.

5 "My son, remember אלהים our Elohim all your days, and do not let your desire be toward sin, or to transgress His Commands. Do rightly all your life long, and do not follow the ways of unrighteousness.

6 "For if you deal truly, your deeds shall succeed prosperously for you, and to all those who live righteously.

7 "Give in kindness from your supply, and when you give in kindness, do not let your eye be evil, neither turn your face from any poor, and the face of Elohim shall not be turned away from you.

8 "If you have abundance, give in kindness accordingly; if you have but a little, do not be afraid to give according to that little.

9 "For you lay up a good treasure for yourself against the day of distress,

10 so that kind deeds deliver from death, and withhold against darkness.

11 "For kind deeds are a good gift to all that give it in the sight of the Most High.

12 "Beware of all whoring my son, and firstly take a wife of the seed of your fathers, and do not take a strange woman who is not of your father's tribe as wife, for we are the children of the neḃi'im: Noah, Abraham, Yitsḃaq, and Ya'aqoḃ. Remember my son, that from the beginning our fathers, even they all married wives of their own relatives,

and were barak in their children, and their seed shall inherit the land.

13 "Now therefore, my son, love your brothers, and do not despise your brothers in your heart - the sons and daughters of your people - in not taking a wife from them; for destruction and much trouble comes from pride, and decay and great need comes from wickedness; for wickedness is the mother of hunger.

14 "Do not let the wages of any man, who has worked for you, remain with you, but give it to him from your hand; for if you serve Elohim, He shall also repay you. My son, be considerate in all that you do, and be wise in all your ways.

15 "Do not do to any man that which you hate; do not drink wine to make yourself drunk, neither let drunkenness go with you in your way.

16 Give of your bread to the hungry, and of your garments to those who are naked; and according to your abundance give in kindness, and do not let your eye be evil when you give in kindness.

17 "Pour out your bread on the burial of the righteous, but give naught to the wicked.

18 "Ask counsel from all who are wise, and do not despise any counsel that is useful.

19 "Barak ~~אשר~~ your Elohim always, and desire from Him that your ways be directed, and that all your paths and counsels prosper; for every nation has no counsel, but ~~אשר~~ Himself gives all that is good, and He humbles those whom He desires, as He desires. Now therefore, my son, remember my commands, neither let them be forgotten.

20 "And now I write this to those whom I committed ten kikars - to Gaba'el the son of Gabriyah at Rhaḡes in Maḡai.

21 "And do not fear, my son, that we are made poor, for you have much wealth if you revere Elohim and depart from all sin, and do that which is pleasing in His sight."

**5** Toḡi then answered and said, "Father, I shall do all that which

you have commanded me,  
2 but how may I receive the silver seeing I do not know him?"

3 Then he gave him the handwriting, and said to him, "Seek a man who would go with you while I still live, and I shall give him wages, and go and receive the silver."

4 Therefore when he went to seek a man, he found Repha'el who was a messenger.

5 But he did not know; and he said to him, "Would you go with me to Rhaḡes, and do you know those places well?"

6 To whom the messenger replied, "I shall go with you, and I know the way well, for I have stayed with our brother Gaba'el."

7 Then Toḡi said to him, "Wait for me till I tell my father."

8 Then he said to him, "Go and do not delay." So he went in and said to his father, "See, I have found one who shall go with me." Then he said, "Call him to me, so I may know of what tribe he is, and whether he is a trustworthy man to go with you."

9 So he called him, and he came in, and they greeted one another.

10 Then Toḡiyah said to him, "Brother, show me of what tribe and family you are."

11 To whom he replied, "Do you seek for a tribe or family, or a hired man to go with your son?" Then Toḡiyah said to him, "Brother, may I know your relatives and name?"

12 Then he said, "I am Azaryah the son of Hananyah the elder, and of your brothers."

13 Then Toḡiyah said, "You are welcome brother; do not be wroth with me because I have enquired to know your tribe and your family; for you are my brother, of an honest and good family; for I know Hananyah and Yonathan - sons of Shemayah the elder - for we went together to Yerushalayim to worship, and offered the firstborn and the tenths of the first-fruits; and they were not seduced with the straying of our brothers. My brother, you are of a good family.

14 "But tell me, what wages shall I give you? Would you accept a dragma a day, and what is necessary, and for my own son?"

15 "Even so, if you return safe, I shall add somewhat to your wages."

16 So they were well pleased. Then he said to Tobî, "Prepare yourself for the journey, and Elohim give you a good journey." And when his son had prepared all for the journey, his father said, "Go with this man, and Elohim, who dwells in the shamayim, prosper your journey, and the messenger of Elohim keep you company." So they both departed, and the young man's dog with them.

17 But Hannah his mother wept, and said to Tobiyah, "Why have you sent our son away? Is he not the staff of our hand, in going in and out before us?"

18 "Do not be greedy to add silver to silver; but let it be as filth in respect to our child.

19 "For that which אֱלֹהִים has given us to live with is sufficient for us."

20 Then Tobiyah said to her, "Do not worry my sister; he shall return in safety, and your eyes shall see him.

21 "For the good messenger shall keep him company and his journey shall be prosperous, and he shall return safe."

22 Then she ceased weeping.

**6** And as they went on their journey, in the evening they came to the River Hiddeqel, and they stayed there.

2 And when the young man went down to wash himself, a fish leaped out of the river, and would have bitten him.

3 Then the messenger said to him, "Catch the fish." And the young man took hold of the fish, and pulled it to land.

4 To whom the messenger said, "Open the fish and take the heart and the liver and the gall, and put them away safely."

5 So the young man did as the messenger commanded him, and when they had roasted the fish, they ate it. Then they both went on their way, till they drew near to Aḥmetha.

6 Then the young man said to the messenger, "Brother Azaryah, what

use is the heart and the liver and the gall of the fish?"

7 And he said to him, "Regarding the heart and the liver, if a demon or an evil spirit troubles anyone, we must make a smoke from it before the man or the woman, and they shall be troubled no more.

8 "As for the gall, it is good to anoint one who has whiteness in his eyes, and he shall be healed."

9 And when they had come near to Rhaḡes,

10 the messenger said to the young man, "Brother, today we shall stay with Raḡu'el, who is your cousin; he also has only one daughter named Sarah. I shall speak for her, that she may be given to you as a wife.

11 "For the right of her belongs to you, seeing only you are from her relatives,

12 and the maiden is lovely and wise. Now therefore listen to me and I shall speak to her father; and when we return from Rhaḡes we shall celebrate the marriage, for I know that Raḡu'el is not able to marry her to another according to the Law of Mosheh, but he shall be liable to judgment, because the right of inheritance belongs to you rather than to any other."

13 Then the young man answered the messenger, "I have heard brother Azaryah, that this maiden has been given to seven men, who all died in the marriage room.

14 "And now I am the only son of my father, and I am afraid, lest if I go in to her, I die as the others before. For a wicked spirit loves her, which harms none except those who come unto her; therefore I also fear lest I die, and bring the life of my father and my mother to the grave with sorrow because of me; for they have no other son to bury them."

15 Then the messenger said to him, "Do you not remember the orders which your father gave you: that you should marry a wife of your own relatives? Therefore hear me O my brother, for she shall be given to you as wife, and do not regard the evil

spirit; for this same night she shall be given to you in marriage.

16 "And when you go into the marriage room, you shall take the ashes of incense, and shall lay some of the heart and liver of the fish upon them, and shall make a smoke with it.

17 "And the demon shall smell it and flee away, and never come again any more. But when you come to her, both of you rise up and pray to Elohim who is kind, who shall show favour to you, and save you. Do not fear, for she is appointed to you from the beginning; and you shall preserve her, and she shall go with you, and I say that she shall bear you children." Now when Tobî had heard these words, he loved her, and his heart was completely joined to her.

**7** And when they had come to Aḥmetha, they came to the house of Raḡu'ël, and Sarah met them. And after they had greeted one another, she brought them into the house.

2 Then Raḡu'ël said to Eḡna his wife, "How similar this young man is to Tobîyah my cousin!"

3 And Raḡu'ël asked them, "Where are you from brothers?" To whom they replied, "We are of the sons of Naphtali, who are captives in Ninewēh."

4 Then he said to them, "Do you know Tobîyah our relative?" And they said, "We know him." Then he said, "Is he in good health?"

5 And they replied, "He is both alive, and in good health." and Tobî said, "He is my father."

6 Then Raḡu'ël leaped up, and kissed him, and wept,

7 and barak him, and said to him, "You are the son of an honest and good man." But when he had heard that Tobîyah was blind, he was sorrowful, and wept.

8 And likewise Eḡna his wife and Sarah his daughter wept, and they welcomed them gladly. And after they had slaughtered a ram from the flock, they lay some of the meat on the table. Then Tobî said to Repha'ël, "Brother Azaryah, speak of that of which you

spoke on the way, and let this matter be addressed."

9 So he spoke of the matter with Raḡu'ël, and Raḡu'ël said to Tobî, "Eat, drink and rejoice,

10 for it is right that you should marry my daughter; however I shall tell you the truth.

11 "I have given my daughter in marriage to seven men who died the night they came to her; nevertheless, for the present rejoice!" But Tobî said, "I shall not eat here till we agree and swear to one another."

12 Raḡu'ël said, "Then take her from here according to the custom, for you are her relative, and she is yours; and Elohim who is kind give you good success in all."

13 Then he called his daughter Sarah and she came to her father. And he took her by the hand, and gave her to be wife to Tobî saying, "See, take her according to the Law of Mosheh, and take her to your father." And he barak them;

14 and called Eḡna his wife, and took paper, and wrote a deed of covenant, and sealed it.

15 Then they began to eat.

16 Afterwards Raḡu'ël called his wife Eḡna, and said to her, "Sister, prepare another room, and take her in there."

17 When she had done as he had asked her, she brought her there, and she wept, and she received the tears of her daughter, and said to her,

18 "Take courage my daughter; ~~אשר~~ of the shamayim and earth give you joy in place of your sorrow. Take courage my daughter."

**8** And when they had eaten, they brought Tobî in to her.

2 And as he went, he remembered the words of Repha'ël, and took the ashes of the incense, and put the heart and the liver of the fish on them, and made a smoke with it.

3 When the evil spirit had smelled the smell, it fled to the furthest parts of Mitsrayim, and the messenger bound it.

4 And after they were both shut in

together, Toḅi rose out of the bed and said, "Sister arise, and let us pray that Elohim would show favour on us."

5 Then Toḅi began to say, "Baruḅ are You, O Elohim of our fathers, and baruḅ is Your ḡodesh and esteemed Name forever. Let the shamayim barak You, and all Your creation.

6 "You made Aḡam, and gave him Ḥawwah his wife for a helper and support; from them came mankind. You have said, 'It is not good for man to be alone, let Us make for him a helper as his counterpart.'

7 "And now, O אֱלֹהִים, I do not take this my sister for a whore, but uprightly; therefore favourably allow that we may grow old together."

8 And she said with him, "Aměn."

9 So they both slept that night. And Raḡu'ěl arose, and went and dug a grave,

10 saying, "I fear lest he is also dead."

11 And when Raḡu'ěl had come into his house,

12 he said to his wife Eḡna, "Send one of the female servants, and let her see whether he is alive; and if not, that we may bury him, and no one know it."

13 So the female servant opened the door and went in, and found them both asleep,

14 and came out, and told them that he was alive.

15 Then Raḡu'ěl praised Elohim, and said, "O Elohim, You are worthy to be praised with all pure and ḡodesh praise! Therefore let Your ḡodeshim praise You with all Your creation, and let all Your messengers and Your elect praise You forever!

16 "You are to be praised, for You have made me joyful. And what I expected has not come to be, but You have dealt with us according to Your great kindness.

17 "You are to be praised because You have shown kindness for two who were the only brought-forth children of their fathers. Grant them kindness, O אֱלֹהִים, and complete their life in health with joy and kindness."

18 Then Raḡu'ěl told his servants to fill in the grave.

19 And he held the wedding feast fourteen days,

20 for before the days of the marriage were finished, Raḡu'ěl had spoken to him with an oath saying, "You shall not depart till the fourteen days of the marriage have passed,

21 and then take half of your goods, and go in safety to your father, and then receive the remainder when my wife and I are dead."

9 Then Toḅi called Repha'ěl, and said to him,

2 "Azaryah my brother, take a servant and two camels with you, and go to Rhaḡes of Maḡai to Gaḅa'ěl and bring me the silver, and bring him to the wedding,

3 for Raḡu'ěl has sworn that I shall not depart.

4 "But my father counts the days, and if I stay long, he shall be very grieved."

5 So Repha'ěl departed and stayed with Gaḅa'ěl, and gave him the handwriting; who brought out bags which were sealed, and gave them to him.

6 And early in the morning they both went out together, and came to the wedding, and barak his wife.

10 Now Toḅiyah his father counted every day, and when the days of the journey had passed, and they did not come,

2 Toḅiyah then said, "Are they delayed, or is Gaḅa'ěl dead, and there is no one to give him the silver?"

3 Therefore he was very grieved.

4 Then his wife said to him, "My son is dead, seeing he stays long." and she began to bewail him, and said,

5 "Woe is me, since I have let you go, my son, the light of my eyes!"

6 To whom Toḅiyah said, "Keep calm, have no concern, for he is safe."

7 But she said, "Keep silent and do not deceive me; my son is dead."

And she went out every day out to the road which they went, and ate no food in the daytime, and every night unceasingly bewailed her son Toḅi until the fourteen days of the wedding had passed, which Raḡu'ěl had sworn that he would spend there. Then Toḅi said to Raḡu'ěl, "Let me go, for my

father and my mother may cease to look for me."

8 But his father-in-law said to him, "Stay with me, and I shall send to your father, and they shall inform him how it is with you."

9 But Toḇi said, "No, but let me go to my father."

10 Then Raḡu'ēl arose, and gave him Sarah his wife and half his goods, servants and cattle and silver.

11 And he barak them, and sent them away saying, "The Elohim of the shamayim give you a prosperous journey my children."

12 And he said to his daughter, "Esteem your father and mother-in-law, who are now your parents, that I may hear a good report of you." And he kissed her. Eḡna also said to Toḇi, "אני of the shamayim return you my dear brother, and grant that I may see your children of my daughter Sarah before I die, that I may rejoice before אלהים! See, I commit my daughter to you with special trust; therefore do not treat her wickedly."

**11** After this Toḇi went his way, praising Elohim that He had given him a prosperous journey, and barak Raḡu'ēl and Eḡna his wife, and went on his way till they drew near to Ninewēh.

2 Then Repha'ēl said to Toḇi, "You know, brother, how you left your father;

3 let us hasten ahead of your wife, and prepare the house,

4 and take in your hand the gall of the fish." So they went their way, and the dog went after them.

5 Now Ḥannah sat looking ahead toward the road for her son.

6 And when she saw him coming, she said to his father, "See, your son comes, and the man that went with him!"

7 Then Repha'ēl said, "I know Toḇi, that your father shall open his eyes.

8 "Therefore anoint his eyes with the gall, and with the stinging, he shall rub, and the whiteness shall fall away, and he shall see you."

9 Then Ḥannah ran out and fell upon

the neck of her son, and said to him, "Seeing I have seen you, my son, from now on I am content to die." And they both wept.

10 Toḇiyah also came out toward the door but stumbled, and his son ran to him,

11 and took hold of his father, and he spread of the gall on his father's eyes, saying, "Believe for good my father."

12 And when his eyes began to sting, he rubbed them,

13 and the whiteness peeled away from the corners of his eyes. And when he saw his son, he fell upon his neck,

14 and he wept and said, "Baruk are you O Elohim, and baruk is Your Name forever; and baruk are all Your qodesh messengers.

15 "For you have disciplined, but have taken pity on me, for look, I see my son Toḇi!" And his son went in rejoicing, and told his father the great matters that had befallen him in Maḡai.

16 Then Toḇiyah went out to meet his daughter-in-law at the gate of Ninewēh, rejoicing and praising Elohim; and those who saw him go marvelled, because he had received his sight.

17 And Toḇiyah gave thanks before them, because Elohim showed kindness toward him. And when he came near to Sarah his daughter-in-law, he barak her saying, "You are welcome, daughter. Baruk be Elohim who has brought you to us, and baruk be your father and your mother." And there was joy among all his brothers who were at Ninewēh.

18 And Aḥiqar, and Naḡab his brother's son came,

19 and Toḇi's wedding was held seven days with great joy.

**12** Then Toḇiyah called his son Toḇi, and said to him, "My son, see that the man who went with you receives his wages, and you must give him more."

2 And Toḇi said to him, "Father, it is no trouble for me to give him half of that which I have brought,

3 for he has brought me to you again in



safety, and healed my wife whole, and brought me the silver, and also healed you."

4 Then the old man said, "It is due to him."

5 So he called the messenger, and he said to him, "Take half of all that you have brought and go your way in peace."

6 Then he took them both separately and said to them, "Baruk Elohim, praise Him, and exalt Him, and thank Him for what He has done for you in the sight of all who live. It is good to praise Elohim and exalt His Name, and esteem to show the works of Elohim; therefore do not be slow to praise Him.

7 "It is good to guard the secret of a sovereign, but it is esteem to reveal the works of Elohim. Do that which is good, and no evil shall touch you.

8 "Prayer is good with fasting and kind deeds and righteousness. A little with righteousness is better than much with unrighteousness. It is better to give in kindness than to lay up gold;

9 for kindness delivers from death, and shall purge away all sin. Those that exercise kind deeds and righteousness shall be filled with life,

10 but those who sin are enemies to their own hai.

11 "Surely I shall keep naught from you; for I said, 'It was good to guard the secret of a sovereign, but that it was esteemed to reveal the works of Elohim.'

12 "Now therefore, when you and Sarah your daughter-in-law prayed, I brought the remembrance of your prayers before the Qadosh One. And when you buried the dead, I was with you also.

13 "And when you did not delay to rise up and leave your dinner to go and cover the dead, your good deed was not hidden from me, but I was with you.

14 "And now Elohim has sent me to heal you and Sarah your daughter-in-law.

15 "I am Repha'el, one of the seven qodesh messengers, who present the

prayers of the qodeshim, and who go in and out before the esteem of the Qadosh One."

16 Then they were both troubled, and fell upon their faces; for they were afraid.

17 But he said to them, "Do not fear, for it shall be well with you; therefore praise Elohim!

18 Not because any favour of mine, but by the desire of our Elohim I came; therefore praise Him forever.

19 "All these days I appeared to you; and I neither ate nor drank, but you saw a vision.

20 "Now therefore give thanks to Elohim, for I go up to Him who sent me; but write all that has been done in a book."

21 And when they arose, they saw him no more.

22 Then they praised the great and wondrous works of Elohim, and how the messenger of ~~אשר~~ had appeared to them.

**13** Then Tobiyah wrote a prayer of rejoicing, and said, "Baruk be Elohim who lives forever, and baruḵ be His reign!

2 "For He disciplines, but shows kindness. He leads down to She'ol, and raises up again, neither is there anyone who avoids His hand.

3 "Praise Him before the nations you children of Yisra'el, for He has scattered us among them.

4 "Therefore declare His greatness, and extol Him before all the living; for He is our Adon, and He is the Almighty, our Father forever.

5 "And He disciplines us for our wickednesses, but shall show favour again; and shall gather us out of all nations among whom He has scattered us.

6 "If you turn to Him with all your heart, and with all your being, and do righteously before Him, then He shall turn to you, and shall not hide His face from you. Therefore see what He does for you, and praise Him with all your words, and praise the Adon of righteousness, and extol the everlasting Sovereign. In the land of

my captivity I praise Him, and declare His might and excellence to a sinful nation. O you sinners, turn and do righteousness before Him! Who shall say if He might accept you, and show favour toward you?

7 "I shall extol my Elohim, and my being shall praise the Sovereign of the shamayim, and shall rejoice in His greatness.

8 "Let all men speak, and let all praise Him for His righteousness!

9 "O Yerushalayim, the qodesh city, He shall afflict you for the works of your children, but shall show favour again on the sons of the righteous.

10 "Give praise to אלהים, for He is good, and praise the everlasting Sovereign, that His Mishkan may be built in you again with joy, and let Him bring joy there to those who are captives, and love in you forever for those who are miserable.

11 "Many nations shall come from afar to the Name of אלהים Elohim with gifts in their hands, even gifts to the Sovereign of the shamayim. All generations shall praise You with great joy.

12 "Cursed are all those who hate You, and baruk forever are all who love You.

13 "Rejoice and be glad for the children of the righteous, for they shall be gathered together, and shall baruk the righteousness of אלהים.

14 "Baruk are those who love You, for they shall rejoice in Your peace. Baruk are those who have been sorrowful for all Your affliction; for they shall rejoice in You, when they have seen all Your esteem, and shall rejoice forever.

15 "Let my being baruk Elohim the great Sovereign!

16 "For Yerushalayim shall be built up with sapphires and emeralds, and precious stones; your walls and towers and battlements with pure gold.

17 "And the streets of Yerushalayim shall be paved with beryl and ruby and stones of Ophir.

18 "And all her streets shall say, HalleluYah! And they shall praise Him, saying, 'Baruk be Elohim, who has

exalted it forever.' "

14 Thus Tobiyah ended praising Elohim.

2 And he was fifty-eight years old when he lost his sight, which was restored to him after eight years. And he gave in kindness, and he increased in the reverence of אלהים Elohim, and praised Him.

3 And when he was very old, he called his son, and the sons of his son, and said to him, "My son, take your children; for see, I am old and am ready to leave this life.

4 "Go to Madai my son, for I surely believe that which Yonah the nabi spoke about Nineweh, that it shall be overthrown, and that peace shall be in Madai only for a time, and that our brothers shall lie scattered on the earth from that good land. And Yerushalayim shall be laid waste, and the House of Elohim in it shall be burned, and shall be laid waste for a time.

5 "But again, Elohim shall show favour on them, and again bring them into the land, where they shall build a Hëykal, but not like the first, until the time of that age is filled. And afterward they shall return from all the places of their captivity, and build up Yerushalayim with esteem. And the House of Elohim shall be built in it forever with an esteemed building, as the nebi'im have spoken of.

6 And all nations shall turn, and revere אלהים Elohim in truth, and shall bury their idols.

7 So all nations shall praise אלהים, and His people praise Elohim, and אלהים shall exalt His people. And all those who love אלהים Elohim in truth and righteousness shall rejoice, showing kindness to our brothers.

8 "And now, my son, depart out of Nineweh, because that which the nabi Yonah spoke of shall surely come to pass.

9 "But you, guard the Law and the Commands, and show yourself kind and righteous, that it may be well with you.

10 "And bury me fittingly, and your mother with me; but no longer stay at

Ninewēh. Remember, my son, how Naḡab treated Aḡiqar who raised him, how out of light he brought him into darkness, and how he was rewarded again. Yet Aḡiqar was saved, but the other had his reward, for he went down into darkness. Menashsheh gave in kindness, and escaped the snares of death which they had laid for him, but Naḡab fell into the snare, and perished.

11 "Now therefore my son, consider what kindness does, and how righteousness delivers." When he had said these words, he breathed his last on the bed, being a hundred and fifty-eight years old; and he buried him with esteem.

12 And when Ḥannah his mother was dead, he buried her with his father. But Toḡi departed with his wife and children to Aḡmetha to Raḡu'ēl his father-in-law,

13 where he became old with esteem, and he buried his father and mother-in-law in esteem, and he inherited their possessions, and that of his father Toḡiyah.

14 And he died at Aḡmetha in Maḡai, being a hundred and twenty-seven years old.

15 But before he died he heard of the destruction of Ninewēh, which was taken by Neḡuḡadnetstsar and Aḡashwērosh. And before his death he rejoiced over Ninewēh.