

¹Now when these things were done, the princes came to me, saying, The people of Israel, and the priests, and the Levites, have not separated themselves from the people of the lands, doing according to their abominations, even of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Jebusites, the Ammonites, the Moabites, the Egyptians, and the Amorites.²For they have taken of their daughters for themselves, and for their sons: so that the holy seed have mingled themselves with the people of those lands: yea, the hand of the princes and rulers hath been chief in this trespass.³And when I heard this thing, I rent my garment and my mantle, and plucked off the hair of my head and of my beard, and sat down astonished.⁴Then were assembled unto me every one that trembled at the words of the God of Israel, because of the transgression of those that had been carried away; and I sat astonished until the evening sacrifice.⁵And at the evening sacrifice I arose up from my heaviness; and having rent my garment and my mantle, I fell upon my knees, and spread out my hands unto the LORD my God,⁶And said, O my God, I am ashamed and blush to lift up my face to thee, my God: for our iniquities are increased over our head, and our trespass is grown up unto the heavens.⁷Since the days of our fathers have we been in a great trespass unto this day; and for our iniquities have we, our kings, and our priests, been delivered into the hand of the kings of the lands, to the sword, to captivity, and to a spoil, and to confusion of face, as it is this day.⁸And now for a little space grace hath

¹وَلَمَّا كَمَلْتُ هَذِهِ تَقَدَّمَ إِلَيَّ الرُّؤَسَاءُ قَائِلِينَ، لَمْ يَنْفَصِلْ شَعْبُ إِسْرَائِيلَ وَالْكَهَنَةُ وَاللَّوِيُّونَ مِنْ شُعُوبِ الْأَرْضِ حَسَبَ رَجَاسَاتِهِمْ مِنَ الْكَعَنَانِيِّينَ وَالْجَتِّيِّينَ وَالْفِرِزِّيِّينَ وَالْيَبُوسِيِّينَ وَالْعَمُورِيِّينَ وَالْمُؤَابِيِّينَ وَالْمِصْرِيِّينَ وَالْأَمُورِيِّينَ. ²لَأَنَّهُمْ اتَّخَذُوا مِنْ بَنَاتِهِمْ لَأَنفُسِهِمْ وَلِبَنِيهِمْ، وَاحْتَلَطَ الزَّرْعُ الْمُقَدَّسُ بِشُعُوبِ الْأَرْضِ. وَكَانَتْ يَدُ الرُّؤَسَاءِ وَالْوَلَاةِ فِي هَذِهِ الْحَيَاتَةِ أَوَّلًا. ³فَلَمَّا سَمِعْتُ بِهَذَا الْأَمْرِ مَرَقْتُ ثِيَابِي وَرِدَائِي وَتَقَفْتُ شَعْرَ رَأْسِي وَدَقَقِي وَجَلَسْتُ مُتَحَبِّرًا. ⁴فَاجْتَمَعَ إِلَيَّ كُلُّ مَنْ ارْتَعَدَ مِنْ كَلَامِ إِلَهٍ إِسْرَائِيلَ مِنْ أَجْلِ خِيَاةِ الْمَسِيئِينَ، وَأَنَا جَلَسْتُ مُتَحَبِّرًا إِلَى تَقْدِمَةِ الْمَسَاءِ. ⁵وَعِنْدَ تَقْدِمَةِ الْمَسَاءِ قُمْتُ مِنْ تَدَلِّي، وَفِي ثِيَابِي وَرِدَائِي الْمَمَرَّقَةِ جَثُوتُ عَلَى رُكْبَتَيَّ وَبَسَطْتُ يَدَيَّ إِلَى الرَّبِّ إِلَهِي ⁶وَقُلْتُ، اإِلَهِي أَجْلُ وَأُخْرَى مِنْ أَنْ أَرْفَعَ يَا إِلَهِي وَجْهِي تَحَوُّكَ، لِأَنَّ دُنُوبَنَا قَدْ كَثُرَتْ فَوْقَ رُؤُوسِنَا، وَأَتَامَنَا تَعَاظَمَتْ إِلَى السَّمَاءِ. ⁷مُنْذُ آبَائِنَا تَخُنْ فِي إِيْمٍ عَظِيمٍ إِلَى هَذَا الْيَوْمِ، وَلَأَجْلِ دُنُوبِنَا قَدْ دُفِعْنَا تَخُنْ وَمَلُوكُنَا وَكَهَنَتُنَا لِيَدِ مُلُوكِ الْأَرْضِ لِلسَّيْفِ وَالسَّبْيِ وَالنَّهْبِ وَخِزْيِ الْوُجُوهِ كَهَذَا الْيَوْمِ. ⁸وَالآنَ كُلَّحَيْطَةَ كَانَتْ رَافَةُ مِنْ لَدُنِ الرَّبِّ إِلَهِنَا لِيُنْقِذَنَا لَنَا نَجَاةً وَنُعْطِيَنَا وَدَاً فِي مَكَانٍ قُدْسِيهِ، لِيُنِيرَ إِلَهِنَا أَعْيُنَنَا وَيُعْطِيَنَا حَيَاةً قَلِيلَةً فِي عُيُودِنَا. ⁹لَأَنَّنَا عَبِيدُ تَخُنْ، وَفِي عُيُودِنَا لَمْ يَتْرُكْنَا إِلَهِنَا بَلْ بَسَطَ عَلَيْنَا رَحْمَةً أَمَامَ مُلُوكِ قَارِسَ لِيُعْطِيَنَا حَيَاةً لِنَرْفَعَ بَيْتَ إِلَهِنَا وَنُقِيمَ خَرَائِبَهُ وَلِيُعْطِيَنَا خَائِطاً فِي يَهُودَا وَفِي أُورُشَلِيمَ. ¹⁰وَالآنَ فَمَادَا نَقُولُ يَا إِلَهِنَا بَعْدَ هَذَا، لَأَنَّنَا قَدْ تَرَكْنَا وَصَايَاكَ ¹¹الَّتِي أَوْصَيْتَ بِهَا عَنْ يَدِ عَبِيدِكَ الْأَنْبِيَاءِ قَائِلًا، إِنَّ الْأَرْضَ الَّتِي تَدْخُلُونَ لَتَمْلِكُوهَا هِيَ أَرْضُ مُتَجَسِّسَةٍ بِنَجَاسَةِ شُعُوبِ الْأَرْضِ يَرْجَاسَاتِهِمِ الَّتِي مَلَأُوهَا بِهَا مِنْ جِهَةٍ إِلَى جِهَةٍ بِنَجَاسَتِهِمْ. ¹²وَالآنَ فَلَا نُعْطُوا بَنَاتِكُمْ لِبَنِيهِمْ وَلَا تَأْخُذُوا بَنَاتِهِمْ لِبَنِيكُمْ، وَلَا تَطْلُبُوا سَلَامَتَهُمْ وَخَيْرَهُمْ إِلَى الْأَبَدِ لِنَسْتَدْذُوا وَنَأْكُلُوا خَيْرَ الْأَرْضِ وَنُورِثُوا بَنِيكُمْ إِيَّاهَا إِلَى الْأَبَدِ. ¹³وَبَعْدَ كُلِّ مَا جَاءَ عَلَيْنَا لِأَجْلِ أَعْمَالِنَا الرَّدِيئَةِ وَأَتَامِنَا الْعَظِيمَةِ لَأَنَّكَ قَدْ جَارَيْتَنَا يَا إِلَهِنَا أَقَلَّ مِنْ أَتَامِنَا وَأَعْطَيْتَنَا نَجَاةً كَهَذِهِ، ¹⁴أَقْنَعُودُ وَتَعْدَى وَصَايَاكَ وَنُصَاهِرُ شُعُوبَ هَذِهِ الرَّرَاسَاتِ. أَمَا نَسْخُطُ عَلَيْنَا حَتَّى تُفْقِيَتَنَا فَلَا تَكُونُ بَقِيَّةً وَلَا نَجَاةً. ¹⁵إِنَّمَا الرَّبُّ إِلَهُ إِسْرَائِيلَ، أَنْتَ بَارٌّ لَأَنَّنَا بَقِيْنَا تَاجِبِينَ كَهَذَا الْيَوْمِ. هَا بَخُنْ أَمَامَكَ فِي أَتَامِنَا، لِأَنَّهُ لَيْسَ لَنَا أَنْ تَقِفَ أَمَامَكَ مِنْ أَجْلِ هَذَا.

been shewed from the LORD our God, to leave us a remnant to escape, and to give us a nail in his holy place, that our God may lighten our eyes, and give us a little reviving in our bondage.⁹ For we were bondmen; yet our God hath not forsaken us in our bondage, but hath extended mercy unto us in the sight of the kings of Persia, to give us a reviving, to set up the house of our God, and to repair the desolations thereof, and to give us a wall in Judah and in Jerusalem.¹⁰ And now, O our God, what shall we say after this? for we have forsaken thy commandments,¹¹ Which thou hast commanded by thy servants the prophets, saying, The land, unto which ye go to possess it, is an unclean land with the filthiness of the people of the lands, with their abominations, which have filled it from one end to another with their uncleanness.¹² Now therefore give not your daughters unto their sons, neither take their daughters unto your sons, nor seek their peace or their wealth for ever: that ye may be strong, and eat the good of the land, and leave it for an inheritance to your children for ever.¹³ And after all that is come upon us for our evil deeds, and for our great trespass, seeing that thou our God hast punished us less than our iniquities deserve, and hast given us such deliverance as this;¹⁴ Should we again break thy commandments, and join in affinity with the people of these abominations? wouldest not thou be angry with us till thou hadst consumed us, so that there should be no remnant nor escaping?¹⁵ O LORD God of Israel, thou art

righteous: for we remain yet escaped, as it is this day: behold, we are before thee in our trespasses: for we cannot stand before thee because of this.