

¹وَصَرَخَ فِي سَمْعِي بِصَوْتٍ غَالٍ، قَرَّبْتُ وَكَلَاءَ الْمَدِينَةِ، كُلَّ وَاحِدٍ وَغَدَّتُهُ الْمُهْلِكَةُ بِيَدِهِ.² وَإِذَا بِيَسَّةَ رِجَالٍ مُقِيلِينَ مِنْ طَرِيقِ الْبَابِ الْأَعْلَى الَّذِي هُوَ مِنْ جِهَةِ الشَّمَالِ، وَكُلُّ وَاحِدٍ غَدَّتُهُ السَّاحِقَةُ بِيَدِهِ، وَفِي وَسْطِهِمْ رَجُلٌ لَا يَسُ الْكَثَّانَ، وَعَلَى جَانِبِهِ دَوَاهُ كَاتِبٍ. قَدَحُوا وَوَقَفُوا جَانِبَ مَذْبَحِ النَّحَاسِ.³ وَمَجَدُّ إِلَهٍ إِسْرَائِيلَ صَعَدَ عَنِ الْكُرُوبِ الَّذِي كَانَ عَلَيْهِ إِلَهِي عَتَبَةُ الْبَيْتِ. قَدَعَا الرَّبُّ الرَّجُلَ اللَّائِسَ الْكَثَّانَ الَّذِي دَوَاهُ الْكَاتِبِ عَلَى جَانِبِهِ،⁴ وَقَالَ لَهُ، اغْبَرْ فِي وَسْطِ الْمَدِينَةِ أَوْرُسَلِيمَ، وَسِمَ سِمَةً عَلَى جِثَاهِ الرِّجَالِ الَّذِينَ يَتَنَوَّنُونَ وَيَتَهَدَّوْنَ عَلَى كُلِّ الرَّجَاسَاتِ الْمُصْنُوعَةِ فِي وَسْطِهَا.⁵ وَقَالَ لَأُولَئِكَ فِي سَمْعِي، اغْبَرُوا فِي الْمَدِينَةِ وَرَاءَهُ وَاصْرُبُوا. لَا تُسْفِكُوا أَعْيُنَكُمْ وَلَا تَعْفُوا.⁶ أَلْشَّبَحَ وَالشَّابَّ وَالْعَذْرَاءَ وَالطِّفْلَ وَالتَّسَاءَ. أَقْتُلُوا لِلْهَلَاكِ. وَلَا تَقْرَبُوا مِنْ إِنْسَانٍ عَلَيْهِ السِّمَةُ، وَابْتَدِئُوا مِنْ مَقْدِسِي. قَابَتُوا بِالرِّجَالِ الشُّبُوحِ الَّذِينَ أَمَامَ الْبَيْتِ.⁷ وَقَالَ لَهُمْ، تَجَسَّسُوا الْبَيْتَ، وَأَمَلُوا الدَّوْرَ قُلِّي. اخْرُجُوا. فَخَرَجُوا وَقَتَلُوا فِي الْمَدِينَةِ.⁸ وَكَانَ بَيْنَمَا هُمْ يَقْتُلُونَ وَأَبْقَيْتُ أَتَا، أَنِّي حَزَرْتُ عَلَى وَجْهِِي وَصَرَخْتُ، أِهْ يَا سَيِّدَ الرَّبِّ. هَلْ أَنْتَ مُهْلِكُ بَقِيَّةِ إِسْرَائِيلَ كُلِّهَا بِصَبِّ رَجْزِكَ عَلَى أَوْرُسَلِيمَ.⁹ فَقَالَ لِي، إِنَّ إِيَّامَ بَيْتِ إِسْرَائِيلَ وَبَهُودًا عَظِيمًا جَدًّا، وَقَدْ امْتَلَأَتِ الْأَرْضُ دِمَاءً، وَامْتَلَأَتِ الْمَدِينَةُ جَنَفًا. لِأَنَّهُمْ يَقُولُونَ، الرَّبُّ قَدْ تَرَكَ الْأَرْضَ، وَالرَّبُّ لَا يَرَى.¹⁰ وَأَنَا أَيْضًا عَيْنِي لَا تُسْفِكُ وَلَا أَعْفُو. أَجْلِبُ طَرِيقَهُمْ عَلَى رُؤُوسِهِمْ.¹¹ وَإِذَا بِالرَّجُلِ اللَّائِسِ الْكَثَّانِ الَّذِي الدَّوَاهُ عَلَى جَانِبِهِ رَدًّا قَائِلًا، قَدْ فَعَلْتُ كَمَا أَمَرْتَنِي.

¹He cried also in mine ears with a loud voice, saying, Cause them that have charge over the city to draw near, even every man with his destroying weapon in his hand.²And, behold, six men came from the way of the higher gate, which lieth toward the north, and every man a slaughter weapon in his hand; and one man among them was clothed with linen, with a writer's inkhorn by his side: and they went in, and stood beside the brasen altar.³And the glory of the God of Israel was gone up from the cherub, whereupon he was, to the threshold of the house. And he called to the man clothed with linen, which had the writer's inkhorn by his side; And the LORD said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof.⁵And to the others he said in mine hearing, Go ye after him through the city, and smite: let not your eye spare, neither have ye pity:⁶Slay utterly old and young, both maids, and little children, and women: but come not near any man upon whom is the mark; and begin at my sanctuary. Then they began at the ancient men which were before the house.⁷And he said unto them, Defile the house, and fill the courts with the slain: go ye forth. And they went forth, and slew in the city.⁸And it came to pass, while they were slaying them, and I was left, that I fell upon my face, and cried, and said, Ah Lord GOD! wilt thou destroy all the residue of Israel in thy pouring out of thy fury upon Jerusalem?⁹Then said he unto

me, The iniquity of the house of Israel and Judah is exceeding great, and the land is full of blood, and the city full of perverseness: for they say, The LORD hath forsaken the earth, and the LORD seeth not.¹⁰ And as for me also, mine eye shall not spare, neither will I have pity, but I will recompense their way upon their head.¹¹ And, behold, the man clothed with linen, which had the inkhorn by his side, reported the matter, saying, I have done as thou hast commanded me.