

¹هُوَذَا بِالْعَدْلِ يَمْلِكُ مَلِكٌ، وَرُؤَسَاءُ بِالْحَقِّ يَتَرَأْسُونَ.² وَيَكُونُ إِنْسَانٌ كَمَحْيَا مِنَ الرِّيحِ وَسِتَارَةٍ مِنَ السَّيْلِ، كَسَوَاقِي مَاءٍ فِي مَكَانٍ يَابِسٍ، كَطِلٍّ صَخْرَةٍ عَظِيمَةٍ فِي أَرْضٍ مُعْيِيَةٍ.³ وَلَا تَحْسِرُ عُيُونُ النَّاطِرِينَ، وَآذَانُ السَّامِعِينَ تَضَعِي،⁴ وَقُلُوبُ الْمُتَسَرِّعِينَ تَفْهَمُ عِلْمًا، وَاللِّسَنَةُ الْعَيِيَّةُ تُبَادِرُ إِلَى التَّكَلُّمِ قَصِيحًا.⁵ وَلَا يُدْعَى اللَّئِيمُ بَعْدُ كَرِيمًا، وَلَا الْمَاكِرُ يُقَالُ لَهُ نَبِيلٌ.⁶ لَأَنَّ اللَّئِيمَ يَتَكَلَّمُ بِاللُّؤْمِ، وَقَلْبُهُ يَعْمَلُ إِنَّمَا لِيَضَعُ نِفَاقًا، وَيَتَكَلَّمُ عَلَى الرَّبِّ بِافْتِرَاءٍ، وَيَفْرَعُ نَفْسَ الْجَانِعِ وَيَقْطَعَ شُرْبَ الْعَطْشَانِ.⁷ وَالْمَاكِرُ آلَتُهُ رَدِيئَةٌ. هُوَ يَتَأَمَّرُ بِالْحَبَائِثِ لِيُهْلِكَ الْبَائِسِينَ بِأَقْوَالِ الْكَذِبِ، حَتَّى فِي تَكَلُّمِ الْمُسْكِينِ بِالْحَقِّ.⁸ وَأَمَّا الْكَرِيمُ فَيَاكْرَأُمُ يَتَأَمَّرُ، وَهُوَ بِالْكَرَائِمِ يَقُومُ.⁹ أَتَبْهَأُ النِّسَاءُ الْمُطْمَئِنَّاتُ، فَمَنْ أَسْمَعَنَ صَوْتِي. أَتَبْهَأُ الْبَنَاتُ الْوَانِقَاتُ، اضْعِيفِي لِقَوْلِي.¹⁰ أَيَا مَعْ عَلَى سَنَةٍ تَزِيدُنَ أَتَبْهَأُ الْوَانِقَاتُ، لِأَنَّهُ قَدْ مَضَى الْفُطَافُ. الْاجْتِنَاءُ لَا يَأْتِي.¹¹ ارْجِعِي أَتَبْهَأُ الْمُطْمَئِنَّاتُ. ارْجِعِي أَتَبْهَأُ الْوَانِقَاتُ. تَجَرَّدِي وَتَعَرَّبِي وَتَتَطَفَّعِي عَلَى الْأَحْقَاءِ¹² لِاطِّمَاطٍ عَلَى النَّدِيِّ مِنْ أَجْلِ الْخُفُولِ الْمُشْتَهَةِ وَمِنْ أَجْلِ الْكَرَمَةِ الْمُثْمَرَةِ.¹³ عَلَى أَرْضِ شَعْبِي يَطْلُعُ سُوءٌ وَحَسَكٌ حَتَّى فِي كُلِّ بَيْتٍ الْفَرَحُ مِنَ الْمَدِينَةِ الْمُتَبَهِّجَةِ.¹⁴ لِأَنَّ الْقَصْرَ قَدْ هُدِمَ. جُمُهُورُ الْمَدِينَةِ قَدْ ثُرَكَ. الْأَكْمَةُ وَالْبُرْجُ صَارَا مَعَايِرَ إِلَى الْأَبَدِ، مَرَحًا لِحَمِيرِ الْوَحْشِ، مَرْعَى لِلْقُطْعَانِ.¹⁵ إِلَى أَنْ يُسْكَبَ عَلَيْنَا رَوْحٌ مِنَ الْعَلَاءِ، فَتَصِيرَ الْبَرِّيَّةُ بُسْتَانًا، وَبُحْسَبَ الْبُسْتَانُ وَغَرًّا.¹⁶ فَيَسْكُنُ فِي الْبَرِّيَّةِ الْحَقُّ، وَالْعَدْلُ فِي الْبُسْتَانِ يَقِيمُ.¹⁷ وَيَكُونُ صُنْعُ الْعَدْلِ سَلَامًا، وَعَمَلُ الْعَدْلِ سُكُونًا وَطَمَائِينَةً إِلَى الْأَبَدِ.¹⁸ وَيَسْكُنُ شَعْبِي فِي مَسْكِنِ السَّلَامِ، وَفِي مَسَاكِينِ مُطْمَئِنَّةٍ وَفِي مَحَلَّاتٍ أَمِينَةٍ.¹⁹ وَيَنْزِلُ بَرْدٌ يَهْبُوطُ الْوَعْرِ، وَإِلَى الْحَضِيضِ تُوَضَعُ الْمَدِينَةُ.²⁰ طُوبَاكُمْ أَتَبْهَأُ الزَّارِعُونَ عَلَى كُلِّ الْمِيَاهِ، الْمُسَرَّحُونَ أَرْجُلُ السَّوْرِ وَالْجِمَارِ.

¹Behold, a king shall reign in righteousness, and princes shall rule in judgment.²And a man shall be as an hiding place from the wind, and a covert from the tempest; as rivers of water in a dry place, as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land.³And the eyes of them that see shall not be dim, and the ears of them that hear shall hearken.⁴The heart also of the rash shall understand knowledge, and the tongue of the stammerers shall be ready to speak plainly.⁵The vile person shall be no more called liberal, nor the churl said to be bountiful.⁶For the vile person will speak villany, and his heart will work iniquity, to practise hypocrisy, and to utter error against the LORD, to make empty the soul of the hungry, and he will cause the drink of the thirsty to fail.⁷The instruments also of the churl are evil: he deviseth wicked devices to destroy the poor with lying words, even when the needy speaketh right.⁸But the liberal deviseth liberal things; and by liberal things shall he stand.⁹Rise up, ye women that are at ease; hear my voice, ye careless daughters; give ear unto my speech.¹⁰Many days and years shall ye be troubled, ye careless women: for the vintage shall fail, the gathering shall not come.¹¹Tremble, ye women that are at ease; be troubled, ye careless ones: strip you, and make you bare, and gird sackcloth upon your loins.¹²They shall lament for the teats, for the pleasant fields, for the fruitful vine.¹³Upon the land of my people shall come up thorns and briers; yea, upon all the houses of joy in the joyous city:¹⁴Because the palaces shall be forsaken; the multitude of the city shall

be left; the forts and towers shall be for dens for ever, a joy of wild asses, a pasture of flocks;¹⁵ Until the spirit be poured upon us from on high, and the wilderness be a fruitful field, and the fruitful field be counted for a forest.¹⁶ Then judgment shall dwell in the wilderness, and righteousness remain in the fruitful field.¹⁷ And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever.¹⁸ And my people shall dwell in a peaceable habitation, and in sure dwellings, and in quiet resting places;¹⁹ When it shall hail, coming down on the forest; and the city shall be low in a low place.²⁰ Blessed are ye that sow beside all waters, that send forth thither the feet of the ox and the ass.