



Sefer Yeshua

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HA-SÉFER YESHUA‘ HA-N’VI (THE BOOK OF THE PROPHET YESHUA‘)

Book One

1. ¹In the twelfth year of the reign of the Roman Emperor Tiberias, Herod Antipas being the tetrarch of Galilee; ²and in the ninth year of the High Priest Yosef Qayafah, Pontius Pilatus being the new prefect of Judea, ³the word of the Most High came to Yeshua‘, son of Yosef the craftsman of Nazareth. ⁴He obeyed the word of God, and spoke to the people of Galilee and Judea about the kingdom of God, ⁵and he exhorted them to walk in God’s paths, and away from the paths of destruction.

2. ¹Yeshua‘ said, ‘A king ordered a banquet to be prepared, and when it was finished, he sent his servants to invite the guests. ²He said to them, “Tell those who have been invited that I’ve prepared my table for them; my oxen and fattened livestock have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the banquet.”

³“So his servants went and did as the king had commanded them. They went to the first and said, “Come, my master invites you.” ⁴But this one said, “I’ve got claims against some merchants. They’re coming to me this evening, and I must go to give them my orders. I ask to be excused from the banquet.”

⁵“So the servants went to a second, and said to him, “Come, my master’s invited you.” ⁶But this one said, “I’ve just bought a house, and I’m required for the day. I won’t have any spare time.”

⁷“So the servants went to a third, and said to him, “Come, my master invites you.” ⁸But this one said, “I’ve leased out a farm, and I’m on my way to collect the rent. I won’t be able to come. I ask to be excused.” And so it was with all the others.

⁹“So the servants returned to their king, and said, “Those whom you invited asked to be excused.” ¹⁰And the king said to them, “Go then to the street corners, and invite anyone you find, so that they might come instead.”

¹¹“So the servants went to the street corners, and called to all to come – the poor and the lowly, the blind and the lame – and the banquet hall was filled with guests.

¹²“Believe me I tell you, the rich and the wealthy are too busy for the kingdom of God.’

3. ¹Yeshua‘ said to his followers,

²“Blessed are the humble in spirit, because theirs is the kingdom of God.

Blessed are the meek, because they shall inherit the land.

³Blessed are they who mourn, because they shall be comforted.

Blessed are they who weep, because they shall laugh.

⁴Blessed are the merciful, because they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the unselfish, because they shall see God.

⁵Blessed are they who hunger, because they shall be filled.

Blessed are they who thirst, because they shall be satisfied.

⁶Blessed are they who create peace, because they shall be called the children of God.

Blessed are they who pursue virtue simply for what it is, because theirs is the kingdom of God.

⁷Blessed are you when people reject you and malign you, because our ancestors did no less to the prophets.

Rejoice! Dance for joy! Because remember, your reward in heaven is great.'

4. ¹A woman from the crowd said to Yeshua', 'How fortunate the womb that carried you, and the breasts that nourished you!' ²But he said to her, 'Rather, fortunate are those who hear the word of God, and truly listen to it! ³Because the terrible day will come when you'll cry out, "How fortunate the womb that never conceived, and the breasts that never gave milk!"'

5. ¹Yeshua' went about Galilee, warning his fellow countrymen and women of the destruction to come, as the word of God had instructed him to do. ²So a woman came to Yeshua' and said, 'Why do you prophesy these things? Why do you tell us what isn't true?' ³And Yeshua' said to her, 'When it's evening, you say, "It'll be fair weather, because the sky's red." And in the morning, "It'll be stormy today, because the sky's red and overcast." ⁴You know how to interpret the signs in the sky, but you can't interpret the signs of the times.'

6. ¹A man shouted out to Yeshua', 'How will we know what you say is true? Give us a sign from the heavens!' ²But he said to the people, 'When you see a cloud rising in the west, you say at once, "A shower's coming," and so it happens. And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, "There'll be a scorching heat," and it happens. ³Blind watchmen! How is it you know how to read the signs of the earth, yet you can't read the signs of our time?'

7. ¹There was a young Zealot whose father had been killed while leading an attack upon the Romans. This Zealot said to Yeshua', 'Teacher, why should I follow your teaching, and believe your words? See how I must go and bury my father!' ²Yeshua' said to his followers, 'Leave it to the dead to bury their dead!' And to the man he said, 'Go, repent, and follow the ways of the kingdom of God.'

8. ¹When Yeshua' saw that the hearts of the elders and the Zealots were stubborn, and how their approach could not understand his teaching, ²Yeshua' cried out, 'Would that I could bring fire to this land! Would that it were already burning!'

9. ¹People said to Yeshua‘, ‘See how the people follow you and marvel, saying, “You are the messiah.” ²And Yeshua‘ raised his eyes to heaven and said, ‘O Heavenly Father, there are many around the drinking trough, but there’s nothing in the cistern.’

10. ¹People said to Yeshua‘, ‘The followers of Yochanan and the followers of the Pharisees are more virtuous than your followers, because they fast often, and yours don’t.’ ²So Yeshua‘ said to them, ‘Can the children of the bridechamber mourn, when their bridegroom’s with them? ³But believe me I tell you, the days will come when the bridechamber’s taken from them, and then the children will fast!’

11. ¹Yeshua‘ was speaking to the people about teachings that would lead people away from the kingdom of God, when two of Yochanan’s emissaries approached him and said, ‘Teacher, then what do you say of our Master, Yochanan?’ ²And Yeshua‘ answered them, ‘How fortunate is he who isn’t scandalised by my words! Because his eyes see, and his ears hear.’

12. ¹Yeshua‘ began to speak to the crowds about Yochanan. ‘What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed agitated by the wind? ²Then what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fancy clothes? Well, those who wear fancy clothes live in royal courts! ³So what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one of whom it was written, “Behold, I will send the prophet Eliyah to you before the great and awesome day of our God.” ⁴Believe me I tell you, among those born of women, no one’s greater than Yochanan.’

13. ¹There were many who spoke of new ways of piety, but Yeshua‘ spoke to his followers and said, ²‘No one sews a piece of new cloth onto an old garment. ³If he does, the new will tear the old, and a worse hole is made.’

14. ¹Yeshua‘ said, ‘No one pours new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the new will burst the old, and the skins will be ruined. ²And no one after drinking old wine desires new wine, because he says, “The old is good enough”.’

15. ¹The Zealots said to Yeshua‘, ‘Why do you eat with tax collectors and prostitutes?’ ²And Yeshua‘ said to them, ‘Those who are strong and healthy don’t need a physician, but those who are sick. ³I’m not here to call virtuous people, but sinners.’

16. ¹Yeshua‘ said to the people, ‘Any kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and a house divided against itself will fall.’

17. ¹There were some who believed themselves to be virtuous in the eyes of God, yet despised others. ²Yeshua‘ told them this parable. ‘Two men went up into the Temple to pray, one an elder and the other a tax collector. ³The elder stood and prayed in his heart,

“I thank you God, that I’m not like other people – thieving, unjust, adulterous, or even like this tax collector. ⁴I fast twice a week, and I give tithes of everything I get.” ⁵But the tax collector stood at a distance, and wouldn’t even lift his eyes to heaven, but beat his chest, saying, “God have mercy on me, a sinner!” ⁶I tell you, this man rather than the other, went home reconciled to God.’

18. ¹There were some who were hypocrites, and judged others without examining their own actions first. ²Yeshua‘ said to them, ‘Why do you look at the splinter in your brother’s eye, but don’t notice the plank in your own eye? ³Or how can you say to your brother, “Let me remove the splinter in your eye,” when you don’t see the plank in your own eye? ⁴You hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you’ll see clearly to remove the splinter from your brother’s eye.’

19. ¹There was a vain man who exalted himself, and exclaimed with pride that he worked for the kingdom of God, comparing himself to salt. ²But Yeshua‘ said to him, ‘Salt is good, but if the salt’s lost its taste, how will its saltiness be restored? ³Then it’s no longer fit for anything, and people throw it away on the dung heap.’

20. ¹Yeshua said, ‘Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, ²and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.’

21. ¹People asked Yeshua‘ ‘When will the kingdom come?’ ²But Yeshua‘ said to them, ‘The kingdom of God won’t come by watching and waiting for it. Nor will people say, “Here it is!” or “There it is!” ³Because the kingdom of God is within you.’

22. ¹Yeshua‘ said, ‘If the elders say, “Look, the kingdom of God is in the sky,” then the birds will have got there before you. ²If they say, “It’s in the sea,” then the fish will have got there before you. ³Rather, the kingdom of God is within you, and all around you.’

23. ¹Yeshua‘ said, ‘The kingdom of God is like a hoard of money hidden in a field. While ploughing, a man found it. ²He immediately covered it up again, and then in his joy went and sold every last possession in order to buy that field.’

24. ¹Yeshua‘ said, ‘The kingdom of God is like a pearl of great value, which a merchant found while examining a consignment of goods. ²He went and sold everything he owned. ³Then he came back and bought the whole consignment, in order that he might have the one pearl.’

25. ¹There was a sectary who was speaking to the people, saying, ²“The House of Israel shall grow like a mighty cedar planted on a high mountain, and the nations of the earth shall pay homage and dwell like eagles in its branches.’ ³But Yeshua‘ said, ‘To what shall I compare the kingdom of God? ⁴It’s like the tiny mustard seed, which a man took and

sowed in his field. ⁵It grew and became a bush, and little birds sheltered under its branches.' ⁶And Yeshua's followers laughed.

26. ¹His followers said to him, 'How will the kingdom of God come?' ²And Yeshua said to them, 'The kingdom of God is like a little yeast which a woman took and hid in three sata of flour. ³Eventually all the flour was leavened.'

27. ¹Yeshua said, 'A sower went out to sow his seed. ²As he scattered them, some fell along the path, and little birds came and devoured them. ³Some fell on shallow, rocky ground, and they grew, but they withered away because they didn't have much root. ⁴And some fell among thorns, and as they grew, the thorns choked them. ⁵And some fell on good soil, and yielded good ears. ⁶They yielded one hundred and twenty times their original measure.'

28. ¹A man came to Yeshua and revealed to him his new understanding of the kingdom of God.

²And Yeshua proclaimed, 'Blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear! ³Let me tell you, many sages and kings have longed to see what you see, but couldn't, and hear what you hear, but couldn't!'

29. ¹There was a Zealot who proclaimed that tax collectors and others who worked with the Romans had set themselves outside of God's people, ²and that God would never forgive them for what they had done. ³Yeshua entreated him, but the Zealot said, ⁴'We have kept God's covenant, but they have broken it; why should they ever be forgiven?'

⁵So Yeshua said, 'There was a man who had two sons; and the younger of them said to his father, ⁶"Father, give me the share of the property that will come to me." ⁷And so the father divided his resources between them.

⁸Not long after that, the younger son gathered together everything he had, and took himself off to a country far away, and there he squandered his property in riotous living.

⁹And when he had spent everything, a great famine arose in that country, and he began to be without. ¹⁰So he went and hired himself to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. ¹¹And he would gladly have fed on the carob husks that the pigs ate, because no one gave him anything.

¹²So he came to his senses and he said, "How many of my father's hired servants have enough food and more to spare, and here I am starving to death! ¹³I'll get up and go to my father and I'll say to him, ¹⁴"Father, I've sinned against God and shamed you; I'm no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants'."

¹⁵And he got up and returned to his father. ¹⁶But while he was still at a distance, his father saw him and had compassion on him, ¹⁷so he ran and threw his arms around him and kissed him.

¹⁸And the son said, "Father, I've sinned against God and shamed you; I'm no longer worthy to be called your son."

¹⁹But the father said to his servants, “Quick, bring the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and sandals on his feet; ²⁰and bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²¹because this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.” And they began to celebrate.

²²Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²³So he called one of the servant boys and asked what this meant.

²⁴And the servant boy said to him, “Your brother’s come back, and your father’s killed the fattened calf, because he’s got him back safe and sound.”

²⁵But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, ²⁶“Look, all these years I’ve served you, and I never disobeyed your orders, yet you never even gave me so much as a kid-goat, so that I could celebrate with my friends. ²⁷But when this son of yours returns, who’s squandered your resources on prostitutes, you go and kill the fattened calf for him!”

²⁸So his father said to him, “My son, you’re always with me, and all that’s mine is yours.

²⁹But it was right to celebrate and be glad, because this your brother was dead, and now he’s alive; he was lost, and now he’s found.” ’

³⁰And the Zealot, who himself had two sons, wept.

30. ¹Yeshua’ said, ‘Suppose a woman has ten silver denarii, and loses one. ²Doesn’t she light a lamp and sweep the whole house, and search meticulously until she finds it? ³And when she’s found it, she calls together her friends and neighbours, saying, ⁴“Rejoice with me, because I’ve found the coin that I’d lost.” ⁵In the same way, I tell you, there’s rejoicing in heaven over the sinner who returns to God’s ways.’

31. ¹Yeshua’ said, ‘Suppose a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them goes astray, doesn’t he leave the ninety-nine on the hillside, and go in search of the one that went astray? ²And when he finds it, he lays it across his shoulders, and I tell you he rejoices over it more than the other ninety-nine that never went astray.’

32. ¹Yeshua’ said, ‘There was a landlord who wished to settle his accounts with his servants. ²When he began his calculations, one servant was brought to him who owed him ten thousand kikkarin, and as he couldn’t pay, his master ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all that he had, so that he could recover his money. ³So the servant fell on his knees, saying, “Master, have patience with me, and I’ll repay you everything.” ⁴And out of pity for him, his master released him and cancelled his debt. ⁵But that same servant, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow servants who owed him one hundred denarii. ⁶Seizing him by the throat he said, “Pay me what you owe me.” ⁷So his fellow servant fell down on his face and begged him, “Have patience with me, and I’ll pay you.” ⁸The first servant refused and had him put in prison until such time as the debt would’ve been paid off.

⁹When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went to report to their master everything that had happened. ¹⁰So his master sum-

moned him and said, “You wicked servant! I cancelled your whole debt because you pleaded with me. ¹¹Shouldn’t you have shown mercy to your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?”

¹²And in anger, his master delivered him over to the jailers, and had him put in prison until such time as his debt would’ve been paid off.’

33. ¹Yeshua‘ said to his followers, ‘If you’ve got money, don’t lend it at interest. ²Rather, give it to someone from whom you won’t get anything back at all.’

34. ¹Yeshua‘ said, ‘Give to anyone who asks you for something on loan; don’t turn away someone who wishes to borrow from you.’

35. ¹Yeshua‘ said, ‘Be merciful, just as your heavenly Father is merciful. ²For doesn’t God who made the sun, cause it to rise on both the evil and the good? ³Doesn’t God send the rain, which he has made, to fall upon the righteous and the unrighteous? ⁴So, just as God is kind to both the good as well as the ungrateful, do the same, so that you may be called the children of the Most High.’

36. ¹Yeshua‘ said, ‘If you forgive others their offences, how much more so will your heavenly Father forgive you!’

37. ¹Yeshua‘ said, ‘Ask, and it’ll be given to you; look, and you’ll find; knock, and it’ll be opened to you. ²Because everyone who asks receives, and whoever looks finds, and to whomever knocks it’ll be opened.’

38. ¹Yeshua‘ said, ‘What father among you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? ²Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? ³If we then, who are imperfect, know how to give perfect gifts to our children, how much more so will our Father in heaven give us when his children ask him!’

39. ¹Yeshua‘ said to his followers, ‘Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, ²“Friend, lend me three loaves; because a friend of mine’s arrived on a journey, and I’ve got nothing to offer him.” ³And the one inside answers, “Don’t bother me; the door’s locked now, and my children are with me in bed. I can’t get up and give you anything.” ⁴Believe me I tell you, although he won’t get up and give him anything because he’s his friend, still because of the man’s boldness he’ll get up and give him whatever he needs.’

40. ¹Yeshua‘ told his followers this parable, so that they would always pray and not lose heart. ²He said to them, ‘There was this city where there was a judge who neither revered God nor had any regard for other people. ³And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, “Grant me justice against my adversary.” ⁴For a while he

refused, but afterwards he said to himself, ⁵“I know I don’t fear God and I don’t really care about other people, but because this widow keeps bothering me, I’ll grant her a favourable decision, or she’ll keep coming back until she wears me out.”

⁶So if an unjust judge will grant justice to someone who keeps on pleading with him, how much more so will your heavenly Father grant justice to his children, who cry out to him day and night!’

41. ¹Yeshua‘ was praying in a certain place, and when he stopped, one of his followers said to him, ²‘Master, teach us how to pray, in the same way that Yochanan taught his followers.

³And so he said to them, ‘When you pray each morning, say, ⁴“Heavenly Father, sanctified be your Name! May your kingdom come upon us; may your will be done, just as it is in heaven, so also upon the earth.

⁵“Our bread, which is from the earth, give us day by day; and forgive us our sins, just as we should forgive our debtors; and don’t bring us to trial, rather deliver us from evil.” ’

42. ¹Each day, Yeshua‘ saw the labours and worries of his fellow countrymen and women, and his heart felt for them. ²So he said to them, ‘Believe me I tell you, don’t worry about your life, about what you’ll eat or drink, or about your body, about what you’ll wear.

³Because life’s more than just food and drink, and the body more than just clothes.’

43. ¹Yeshua‘ said, ‘Look at the birds of the sky; they neither sow nor reap, nor gather their grain into barns, and yet our heavenly Father feeds them. ²How much more so will God feed you!’

44. ¹Yeshua‘ said, ‘Who of you by worrying can add a single cubit to the length of their days? ²If you aren’t able to do as small a thing as that, why be anxious about greater things?’

45. ¹Yeshua‘ said, ‘Why worry about clothes? See the wild flowers, how they clothe the grass. ²The grass neither cards nor spins, yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like that! ³So if that’s how God clothes the wild grass, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will God clothe you!’

46. ¹Yeshua‘ said, ‘Don’t be anxious, saying, “What will we eat?” or “What will we drink?” or “What will we wear?” ²Because even the Gentiles look for these things, and yet your heavenly Father knows that they need them all. ³Rather, look for the kingdom of God, and you’ll see, all these things will be yours as well.’

47. ¹Yeshua‘ said to his followers, ‘Aren’t five sparrows sold for two assaria? ²And not one of them will fall to the ground without God knowing about it! ³Why, even the hairs of

your head are all numbered. ⁴So don't be afraid – you're worth more than many sparrows!

48. ¹Yeshua' said, 'Don't worry about tomorrow, because tomorrow will worry about itself. ²Let each day's trouble be enough for that day.'

49. ¹Yeshua' said, 'No servant can serve two masters; because they'll either hate the first and love the second, or they'll be devoted to the first and despise the second. ²In the same way you can't serve both God and wealth.'

50. ¹Yeshua told this parable, saying, 'The land of a rich man produced a plentiful crop. ²So he thought to himself, "I sow, I plant and reap, and as a result I want for nothing. ³I shall store up my grain in my barns, so that I'll have enough laid by for many years. I'll take it easy, eat, drink and enjoy myself."

⁴Such were his intentions, but that same night he died. ⁵Of what service was his wealth to him then?'

51. ¹Yeshua' said to his followers, 'How hard it is for the rich to find the kingdom of God! ²It's easier to thread a rafter through the eye of a needle, than to bring a rich person into the kingdom of God!'

52. ¹Yeshua' saw how many people were taken with the ways of the Zealots, and how easily they listened to them. ²So Yeshua' said, 'Strive to enter by the narrow door; because the door that leads to destruction is wide, and the way is easy, and those who enter by it are many. ³But the way that leads to life is narrow, and the way is hard, and those who enter by it are few.'

53. ¹Yeshua' saw how many people were following sectaries who spoke out of the vanities of their own hearts, and not out of reverence for God, ²so Yeshua' said to the people, 'Each tree is known by its fruit. ³A bad tree doesn't bear good fruit, any more than a good tree can bear bad fruit. ⁴Are figs gathered from thornbushes? Or grapes picked from a bramblebush? ⁵Beware therefore, because by their fruits you'll know them.'

54. ¹Now, there was a sectary, a hateful man, who did not like what Yeshua' taught, so he called down all kinds of calamities upon him, saying that the wrath of God would strike him dead. ²Yeshua' said, 'The good person out of the storehouse of good in their heart brings forth good, and the evil person out of the storehouse of evil in their heart brings forth evil; ³because from the abundance of plenty in the heart, the mouth speaks.'

55. ¹Now there were sectaries who would come to Jerusalem and take advantage of the fear of the people, and the anxiety they had for the days to come. ²And they would stand in the courts of the Temple at festival times, speaking of the end of days, that the people

would all die, and would only be saved if they became their followers. ³But they were false prophets, and said these things only to gain a following, not to save the lives of the people of Judea, or out of any love for the people.

⁴So Yeshua⁴ turned to one of his own followers and quoted a proverb, saying, ‘Wherever lies the carcass, there will the vultures gather.’

56. ¹There were many who performed acts of piety only so that others would praise and exalt them. ²So Yeshua⁴ said to his followers, ‘Beware of hypocrites, who do their deeds in order to be seen by others. ³For they make their prayer-boxes broad and their fringes long, and they love the place of honour at festivals and the best seats in the synagogue. ⁴They love to be greeted in the market place, and acknowledged when they go up to the Temple. ⁵But when you do your deeds, expect no reward or salutation, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.’

57. ¹Yeshua⁴ said, When you fast, don’t look sombre like the hypocrites, because they disfigure their appearance so that their fasting might be seen and recognised by others. ²Rather, when you fast, do your hair, and wash your face, so that no one will know you’re fasting, but only your heavenly Father, who sees what’s done in secret, and will reward you.’

58. ¹Yeshua⁴ said to his followers, ‘When you pray, don’t be like the hypocrites, because they love to stand in open places and at street corners, only so that others might see what they’re doing. ²But when you pray, go into your innermost room and shut the door, and pray to your Father who is in secret places; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.’

59. ¹Yeshua⁴ said, ‘When you give alms, don’t be like the hypocrites, who love to have memorials to their gifts in synagogues, and their charity made known to everyone in the street. ²But when you give alms, don’t let your left hand know what your right hand’s doing, so that your alms may be in secret; ³and your heavenly Father who sees in secret will reward you.’

60. ¹Now, there were some Torah scholars, Pharisees from the school of Shammai. ²They would teach about tithes and ritual cleanliness, as if these were the paths to true righteousness, yet their righteousness gave no honour to justice and mercy. ³And they would take money from people to renovate the tombs of the prophets, even from the poor.

⁴So Yeshua⁴ said to them, ‘Shame on you scholars, you hypocrites! You observe the lighter commandments of Torah, and give exact tithes of your mint and dill and cummin; ⁵yet you neglect the heavier commandments of Torah, which are justice and mercy! ⁶Blind guides! You strain to swallow a gnat, yet you swallow a camel with ease!

⁷Shame on you scholars, you fraudsters! Because you say that if we cleanse the outside of a cup or a plate, then that’s enough for it to become ritually clean. ⁸But look inside! Be-

cause inside you you're full of extortion and greed! ⁹Blind scholars! First cleanse the inside, and then the outside will be clean as well!

¹⁰Shame on you scholars, you swindlers! You take money to adorn the tombs of the prophets, saying, "We wouldn't have murdered the prophets like our ancestors did." ¹¹False witnesses! Because you testify against yourselves by saying you're the sons of murderers!'

61. ¹Yeshua' debated what is permitted on the Sabbath with scholars from the school of Shammai, who are harsh in their teaching, and permit not even the smallest deed.

²But Yeshua' reminded them of a pearl from the Torah. 'Haven't you read what it says in the Torah? ³Because if one of your colleagues has a donkey or a farm animal that's fallen into a pit, won't you help him immediately to lift it out, even on the Sabbath?'

62. ¹Yeshua' said to the scholars of the school of Shammai, ²'The Sabbath was created for people, not people for the Sabbath.'

63. ¹Yeshua' said, 'Humanity has dominion even over the Sabbath.'

64. ¹Now, Yeshua' said to his emissaries, 'Off you go! See, I send you out like sheep among wolves; so be as cunning as snakes, and as innocent as doves.

²Don't take anything for the journey, neither staff nor side-bag; ³take no gold or silver or copper in your belts, nor food in your bag; ⁴take no spare sandals or extra tunics with you; and don't stop to greet anyone along the way.

⁵Go nowhere among the Gentiles, nor enter any town of the Samaritans, rather hurry to the lost sheep of Israel.

⁶Whatever town or village you enter, find out who is observant there, and stay with them until you leave.

⁷Whatever house you enter, first say, "Peace be upon this house!" ⁸And if a friendly person is there, your blessing of peace will remain on that household; but if not, withdraw your blessing and move on.

⁹Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide – ¹⁰"The worker deserves his wages"! Don't go from house to house.

¹¹Whenever you enter a town and they accept you, eat what's set before you. ¹²And preach as you go, saying, "The kingdom of God is upon us!" ¹³And minister to the sick, win over the followers of the Zealots, and tend to those with skin diseases. ¹⁴You received from me without paying, therefore give without pay.

¹⁵But whenever you enter a town and they don't accept you, or give you any hospitality, leave that place and shake the dust from your feet in witness against them, saying,

¹⁶"Even the dust of your city that clings to my feet, I shake off to you!" ¹⁷Believe me I tell you, your words will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town.'

65. ¹As they were going along the road, someone said to Yeshua', 'Teacher, I'll follow

you wherever you go.'

²So Yeshua' said to him, 'Foxes have holes, and the birds of the sky have nests, but this son of man has nowhere to lay his head.'

66. ¹Some of his emissaries said to him, 'Shall your teaching be like that of the Essenes, who conceal some words, and reveal others?'

²So Yeshua' said to them, 'I tell you, what I tell you in the dark, go say publicly in the light; ²and what you heard whispered in private rooms, go and proclaim it from the rooftops.'

67. ¹Yeshua' said to his emissaries, 'Nothing's so covered up that it won't be revealed, or so hidden that it won't be made known.'

68. ¹Yeshua' said, 'Don't fear those who kill the body, because after that there's nothing more they can do. ²Rather, fear that which can harm the soul within the body.'

69. ¹A Zealot came up to Yeshua' with some of his colleagues, and said to him, 'You say that we are dead, so tell us, what shall we do to live?'

²Yeshua' said, 'What are the two greatest commandments?'

³And the Zealot answered, "'You shall love the Holy One your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your might.'" ⁴And the second is: "Love your neighbour as yourself."

⁵And Yeshua' said to him, 'You have answered correctly. Do these things, and you shall live.'

⁶But the Zealot, not wishing to appear defeated in front of his friends, said, ⁷"So who is my neighbour? The Gentiles? The Samaritans?" And the colleagues of the Zealot laughed with him.

⁸So Yeshua' took him up on this and said, 'There was this man going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him and beat him up, then went away, leaving him half-dead.'

⁹Now, by chance this priest was going down that very same road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. ¹⁰So also a Levite, when he came upon the place, saw him, and passed by on the other side.

¹¹But this Samaritan man, as he was going along, came upon him. And when he saw him he was filled with pity. So he went up to him, and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. ¹²Then he placed him on his own animal, and took him to a travellers' lodge and cared for him.

¹³The following day he took out two denarii and gave them to the lodgekeeper and said, "Look after him, and whatever extra you spend on him, I'll repay you upon my return."

¹⁴Now, which of these three was neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?'

¹⁵And the Zealot said, 'The one who showed him mercy.'

¹⁶So Yeshua[‘] said, ‘Then go, and do the same.’

70. ¹Yeshua[‘] said, ‘To what shall I compare the kingdom of God? It’s like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers to work in his vineyard. ²Agreeing to pay the labourers one denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard.

³Now, going out at about the third hour, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, so he said to them, “You go into the vineyard as well, and I’ll pay you a fair wage.” And so they went.

⁴And again, going out at about the sixth hour and the ninth hour he did the same. And about the eleventh hour, he went out and found still others standing around. ⁵So he says to them, “Why have you been standing here idle the whole day?”

⁶And they say to him, “Because no one’s hired us.”

⁷He says to them, “You go into the vineyard as well.”

⁸So evening comes, and the owner of the vineyard says to his foreman, “Call the labourers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last and ending with the first.”

⁹And when those hired at about the eleventh hour came, they received one denarius each.

¹⁰Now, when the first came, they thought they would receive more, but they themselves also received one denarius each.

¹¹On receiving it, they grumbled against the landowner saying, “These ones who were hired last laboured only one hour, yet you’ve made them equal to us, we who have borne the greater burden of the day and the scorching heat.”

¹²So he answered one of them, saying, “My friend, I do you no wrong; didn’t you agree with me to work for one denarius? ¹³Take what’s yours and go – it is my desire to give this last man the same as I have also given you. ¹⁴Is it unlawful for me to do what I wish with what’s mine? Or are you envious because I’m generous?” ’

71. ¹Yeshua[‘] said to his followers, ‘I tell you, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who abuse you, so that you may be called the children of the Most High.

²For if you love only those who love you, what credit is that to you? Because even tax collectors do the same!

³And if you do good only to those who do good to you, what more are you doing than others? Don’t even Gentiles do the same?

⁴And if you give to those from whom you hope to receive, what reward are you expecting? Even moneylenders give to others to receive as much again!

⁵So I tell you, do good, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great. Because God’s kind to the ungrateful and the selfish; ⁶therefore be merciful, even as your heavenly Father is merciful.’

72. ¹Yeshua[‘] said, ‘Don’t try to get even with someone who’s wronged you. ²If your neighbour strikes you on the right cheek, present them even with your left cheek! If someone sues you, and demands your tunic, give them your cloak as well! ³And if anyone

conscripts you to go one mile, go with them two miles!’

73. ¹There was a Zealot who was secretly going about among the people, saying, ‘Whoever loves their life and loses it against the Romans, will have life in the world to come.’
²But Yeshua[‘] said, ‘Whoever loves their life only loses it. But whoever loses their life for the sake of the kingdom of God will have life in the world to come.’

74. ¹Yeshua[‘] said, ‘The eye is the lamp of the body. So if you’ve got a good eye, your whole body’s full of light, and your good eye becomes a source of light all around you.
²But if you’ve got a bad eye, your whole body’s full of darkness, and your bad eye spreads only darkness around you.’

75. ¹Yeshua[‘] exalted his followers, saying, ‘No one lights a lamp and puts it under a basket. Instead, they put it on a stand, so that it gives light to the whole house. ²And when someone enters the house, they’ll see that light, and bless your heavenly Father.’

76. ¹Yeshua[‘] said to his followers, ‘A city set on a hill can’t be hidden, ²nor yet a fortified city fall.’

77. ¹Now there was an elder who held himself to be a righteous man and blessed of God, but condemned those who did not match him in piety or righteousness. ²But Yeshua[‘] said to him, ‘Those who reckon themselves first will be last, and those whom others reckon last, will be first in the kingdom of God.’

78. ¹Yeshua[‘] said, ‘Settle your dispute quickly with your accuser while you’re on your way to court, in case your accuser hands you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you’re put in prison. ²Let me say this: You won’t get out until you’ve paid the last prutah.’

79. ¹Yeshua[‘] said to his emissaries, ‘What do you think? ²There was this rich man whose money-manager had been accused of squandering his master’s property. ³So he called him in and said, “What’s this I hear about you? Give me an account of your management, because you’re no longer going to manage my money.”

⁴So the money-manager said to himself, “What am I going to do? My master’s taking my position from me. I’m not strong enough to dig ditches, and I’m too ashamed to beg. ⁵I know what I’ll do! I know how I can get people to open their homes to me when I’m out of my job!”

⁶So he called in each of his master’s debtors. He said to the first, “How much do you owe my master?”

⁷He replied, “One hundred baath of oil.”

⁸So he said to him, “Take your invoice, and sit down quickly and write fifty.”

⁹Then he said to another, “And how much do you owe?”

¹⁰“This one said, “One hundred kor of wheat.”

¹¹“So he said to him, “Take your invoice, and write eighty.”

¹²The emissaries were surprised, and laughed at this story.

¹³Yeshua‘ said, ‘The rich man just had to hand it to the money-manager for his shrewdness! ¹⁴People with their heads in the affairs of this world are certainly shrewder in dealing with this generation than the sons and daughters of righteousness. But does this have to be so?’

¹⁵His emissaries were puzzled, and said to him, ‘Master, we don’t understand.’

¹⁶Yeshua‘ said to them, ‘The money-manager wrote off some of the debts of his master’s debtors, so securing for himself a place in their homes. ¹⁷But how much more will your heavenly Father welcome you into his home, if you forgive all the sins of those who have wronged you!’

80. ¹There was a landowner, one of Herod’s party, listening to Yeshua‘, and he said, ‘Why should we listen to you? ²Before the coming of the kingdom of the Holy One, blessed be He, He’ll send forth His prophet Elijah to restore the Covenant, and we’ll listen to his words, and obey his teaching, not yours.’

³But Yeshua‘ told him that his own words were witness against him. He said, ‘You are right, in that Elijah comes to restore the Covenant. But Elijah has already come – Yochanan the Immerser – but you did not acknowledge him. Instead you did all kinds of evil things against him.’ ⁴Yeshua‘ added that it was obvious that he had not even heeded the words of the prophets who came before him.

⁵Listen! There was a good man who owned a vineyard. He leased it out to some tenant farmers so that they might work it, and so that he might collect the produce from them.

⁶He sent one of his servants so that the tenants might give him the crop from the vineyard. But they seized this servant and beat him, nearly killing him. ⁷The servant went back and told his master. The master said, “Perhaps they didn’t recognise him.”

⁸So he sent another servant. The tenants beat this one as well. ⁹Then the owner sent his son and said, “Perhaps they’ll show respect to my son.” ¹⁰But because the tenants knew that this was the heir to the vineyard, they seized him and killed him.’

81. ¹In Jerusalem, a priest who belonged to the party of the Sadducees, said to Yeshua‘, ‘Your words are adding to the Torah of Moses. You do the same as the Pharisees with their Traditions of the Elders. But we observe the Torah and keep it faithfully, since we have never added to it.’

²So Yeshua‘ answered and told that him this was true – that they had never added to the Torah. But he also said that neither had they gained anything.

³It’s like when a rich man prepared to go on a long journey. He called three of his servants, and entrusted to them his gold. ⁴To the first he gave five kikkarin, to the second, two kikkarin, and to the last, he gave one kikkar. Then he went away.

⁵After a long while, the rich man returned, and commanded those servants, to whom he had entrusted the money, to be brought to him to settle accounts.

⁶The first came to him and said, “Master, you entrusted me with five kikkarin; see, I’ve made five kikkarin more.”

⁷His master said to him, “Well done, good and faithful servant! Because you’ve been faithful in a little matter, I’ll set you over much – you shall keep the five kikkarin you’ve gained.”

⁸So the second servant also came forward. “Master, you entrusted me with two kikkarin; see, I’ve made two kikkarin more.”

⁹His master said to him, “And you shall keep the two kikkarin you’ve gained.”

¹⁰But the third servant came forward, saying, “I know you to be a harsh man; you reap what you didn’t sow, and withdraw what you didn’t deposit. ¹¹So I went and buried the kikkar you gave me in the ground to keep it safe. Here, have what’s yours.”

¹²But his master answered him, “You wicked and lazy servant! So you knew that I was a harsh man, reaping what I didn’t sow, and withdrawing what I didn’t deposit? ¹³Then you should’ve invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would’ve collected it with interest.”

¹⁴Then he said to those standing by, “Take the kikkar from him, and give it to him who has ten.

¹⁵ “Be gone from here, you lazy and spiteful servant!” ’

82. ¹Yeshua‘ said, ‘I tell you, to everyone who has, more will be given, but from those who don’t have, even what they do have will be taken away.’

83. ¹Now the Zealots sought a way of trapping Yeshua‘, since he was respected by the elders and the people alike, and had taken many from their own ranks. So they devised a way of shaming him in the presence of the people.

²They said to him, ‘Teacher, is it lawful for us to pay taxes to Caesar or not?’

³But Yeshua‘ detected their trickery and said, ‘Show me a denarius. Whose image and inscription is this?’

⁴They said, ‘Caesar’s.’

⁵So he said to them, ‘Then give back to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.’

⁶And they were unable to catch him out in the presence of the people; and being amazed by his answer they fell silent and went away.

84. ¹A man called out to Yeshua‘, ‘If those who oppress our land take all our people into exile, who will be left to cry out to God for justice?’

²So Yeshua‘ said to the people, ‘There was a man who scattered seed upon the ground. He goes to bed by night, and gets up by day, and the seed sprouts and grows, ‘though he himself doesn’t notice it.

³The soil produces crops all by itself; first the blade, then the ear, then the mature grain in the ear.

⁴‘But as soon as the grain’s ripe, he immediately puts the sickle to it, because the harvest time has come.’

85. ¹A man said to Yeshua‘, ‘Why do you urge us in this way? Why do you frighten people? The day’s still a way off, and there’s still time to prepare.’

²But Yeshua‘ said to him, ‘It’s like a woman carrying a jar full of coarse flour. ³While she was walking along a road far off, the handle of the jar broke, and the coarse flour spilled behind her along the road. She didn’t know it – she had noticed no accident. ⁴But when she reached her house, she put the jar down, and discovered that it was empty.’

Book Two

86. ¹In those days when Claudius was Emperor of Rome, and Agrippa the King in Judea, the Followers of the teachings of Yeshua‘ son of Yosef came together to remember his words; ²to compile them so that they might be used to teach others.

87. ¹Yeshua‘ said to his emissaries, ‘Be on your way; see, I’m sending you out like lambs in the midst of wolves.’

88. ¹Yeshua‘ said to his emissaries, ‘Whoever hears you, hears me. ²Because as they say, “Whoever receives the emissary, it is as if they were receiving the Master himself.”’

89. ¹Yeshua‘ said, ‘Don’t give precious rings to dogs, in case they grind them with their teeth, and turn and tear you to shreds.

²‘Nor throw down pearls to pigs, in case they trample them underfoot, and cast them on the dung-heap.’

90. ¹Yeshua‘ said, ‘Everyone who hears my words and carries them out, is like someone who built a house upon the rock. ²The rain came down, the waters rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; but it didn’t fall, because it had been founded on the rock.

³‘But everyone who hears my words and ignores them, is like someone who built a house upon sand. ⁴The rain came down, the waters rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell down with an almighty crash!’

91. ¹Yeshua‘ said to his emissaries, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; ²pray therefore that the one in charge of the harvest will rush out labourers into the harvest.’

92. ¹A woman said to Yeshua‘, ‘Master, your teaching’s greater than that of Yochanan!’ ²But Yeshua‘ answered her, ‘A student isn’t greater than their teacher. It’s enough for a

student to be like their teacher.'

93. ¹Someone said to Yeshua' out of the crowd, 'Teacher, tell my brother to divide our father's inheritance with me!'

²But Yeshua' said to him, 'Look Mister, who appointed me as judge or arbiter over you?'

94. ¹A very rich man parted his way through the crowd, and addressed Yeshua' saying, 'Good teacher, what must I do to inherit life in the world to come?'

²But Yeshua' answered him, 'Why do you call me good? No one's good but God alone!'

95. ¹Yeshua' said, 'A person's life is not rated by the abundance of their possessions.'

96. ¹Yeshua' said, 'Whatever you would wish others to do to you, do so to them as well; ²because this is the whole of the Torah and the Prophets.'

97. ¹Yeshua' said, 'Don't judge, and you won't be judged; because in the same way that you judge others, you'll be judged, ²and the measure you use will be the same measure you get.'

98. ¹Yeshua' said, 'Don't condemn, and you won't be condemned; forgive, and you'll be forgiven; ²give, and the same will be given to you – a good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over will be poured into your lap.'

99. ¹Yeshua' said, 'Don't build up storehouses, nor put away treasures for yourselves on earth, where moth and maggot eat away, and thieves dig through and steal.

²'Rather, build up storehouses and put away treasures for yourselves in heaven, where neither moth nor maggot can eat away, nor thieves dig through and steal.'

100. ¹Yeshua' said, 'What you treasure is also a good indication of where your heart lies.'

101. ¹Yeshua' said, 'Sell your possessions, and give alms, and provide yourselves with purses that don't grow old, ²and a treasure in heaven that doesn't depreciate.'

102. ¹Yeshua' said to the people, 'Let me say this to you: If two make peace with one another, they can say to this mountain, "Move from here to there!" and it'll move. ²Or they can say to this fig tree, "Uproot yourself and plant yourself in the sea!" and it'll obey them. ³Nothing will be impossible for you.'

103. ¹Yeshua' said, 'Whoever is not against you is for you.'

104. ¹A man called out to Yeshua' and said, 'Master, how often shall my neighbour sin against me, and I forgive him?'

²Yeshua' said, 'If he sins against you seven times and says to you, "I'm sorry", you must forgive him.'

105. ¹Now there were many who paid only lip service to Yeshua's teaching, only to raise their standing in the eyes of the people.

²So Yeshua' said to them, 'Why do you call me "Master", when you do nothing that I say?'

106. ¹There were many people who made a display of their piety, calling upon God's Name only to pretend to others that they were faithful to God's ways.

²So Yeshua' said, 'Not everyone who calls out in God's Name, saying "Adonai! Adonai!" will find the kingdom of God; only those who do the will of their heavenly Father.'

107. ¹Yeshua' said, 'When they die, God will gather together the religious hypocrites.

²And on that day, they'll say, "Adonai! Adonai! Did we not prophesy in your Name? Did we not do many mighty deeds in your Name?"

³'And God will say to them, "I never knew you! Get away from me, you evildoers!'

108. ¹In the days when Yeshua' was in Kfar Nahum, a Roman centurion came forward and said to him, 'Teacher, I have in my house a Jewish servant, who is very dear to me.

²But he's sick and in terrible distress. Will you come and heal him?' But Yeshua' said nothing to him, and turned his face to look at the ground.

³The elders of that place said to him, 'He is worthy to have you do this for him, because he loves our people, and has given money for our synagogue.'

⁴Then the centurion said, 'Teacher, I am a man in authority, with many soldiers under me. And I say to one, "Go!" and he goes. And to another, "Come!" and he comes. And to my slave, "Do this!" and he does it. ⁵So likewise, I can command nine other men of my household, who are of different nations, to come forward and take hold of the hem of your cloak with me; come with me Teacher, because I have heard that God is with you.'

⁶Upon hearing this, Yeshua' was cut to the heart, and marvelled at him. ⁷Then, turning to his followers he said, 'Believe me I tell you, not even in all the House of Israel have I found such faith!'

109. ¹When Yeshua' was in Jerusalem, he saw how some of the chief priests, who were of the party of the Sadducees, were taking advantage of the people, and even of the priests who served God in the Temple.

²So Yeshua' said, 'Who then is the faithful and wise steward, whom his master has set over his household to give them their portion of food at the proper time? ³How fortunate is that steward, because when his master comes, he'll find him doing what he was given to do. ⁴Let me tell you, he'll put him in charge of all his possessions.

⁵'But if that steward says to himself, "My master's delayed in coming", and begins to beat and abuse the menservants and the maidservants, and to eat and get drunk, ⁶the

master of that household will come on a day when he doesn't expect him, and at an hour he doesn't know, and will punish him, and cast him out and assign him a place with the other men of deception.'

110. ¹Now, some parties believed that the kingdom of God could be fulfilled by violent acts.

²So Yeshua' said to them, 'You justify what you're doing in the eyes of human beings, but God knows what's in your heart. ³What you do may be considered by some to be a noble thing, but it's an abomination in the sight of God.

⁴'From the days of Yochanan, right to this very moment, the kingdom of God is being proclaimed, but men of violence are trying to gain the kingdom of God by violence.'

111. ¹Yeshua' spoke of the men of violence, saying, ²'Many will come from the east and the west to recline at the table of Avraham, Yitzchaq and Ya'aqov in the kingdom of God, ³but they will be thrown out, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth!'

112. ¹People said to Yeshua', 'Show us a sign, so that we might believe you.'

²But Yeshua' said, 'You're just unbelievable! ³You're like children who sit in the marketplace and call out to others, "We played the flute for you, but you wouldn't dance; we sang a dirge, but you wouldn't weep."

⁴'Look, Yochanan the Immerser came among you, neither eating bread nor drinking wine, and you say, "He's possessed!" ⁵This son of man comes among you, eating and drinking, and you say, "Look! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!"

⁶'But let me tell you, wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.'

113. ¹Now, there was a man who went among the people, expelling demons, and performing exorcisms in the name of Solomon, but doing little else. ²Yet all the people respected him, and held him in awe. ³And when he had finished, he would pronounce the man or woman clean.

⁴But Yeshua' rebuked him angrily and said, 'When an unclean spirit leaves a person, it wanders through waterless places in search of a resting-place. ⁵When it doesn't find any, it then says, "I'll return to the home I left". It then returns and finds it swept and refurbished. ⁶Next, it goes out and brings back with it seven other spirits even more vile than itself, who enter and settle in there. ⁷So that person ends up being worse off than when they started!'

⁸In this way, Yeshua' demonstrated that the man's actions defeated themselves, and such people only revelled in their own importance, and did not proclaim the kingdom of God.

114. ¹Now the party of the Pharisees have their Traditions, where they add to the Torah of Moses, and claim that their interpretations were given to Moses himself! ²They make decisions and pronouncements that are difficult to follow, and do nothing to resolve the problems they have caused.

³Yeshua‘ said to them, ‘Shame on you, you men of deception! You tie up heavy loads, hard to carry, and lay them on people’s shoulders, but you’re not willing to lift a finger to help!’

115. ¹Yeshua‘ spoke to the Pharisees of their Traditions, and said, ‘Shame on you, you men of deception! Because you shut the door of God’s kingdom in people’s faces and throw away the key. ²And you neither enter yourselves, nor allow those who wish to enter to go in!’

116. ¹Yeshua‘ spoke of the Pharisees’ Traditions, saying, ‘You’re like a dog sleeping in the feeding-trough of an ox; ²because neither does the dog eat the hay, nor does he let the oxen do so either.’

117. ¹Yeshua‘ said to the Pharisees, ‘You have a fine way of rejecting the commandments of God, in order to keep your Traditions! ²For it’s written in the Torah of Moses, “Honour your father and your mother”; note that it’s also written, “Whoever insults their father or their mother, they shall be put to death.” ³But you say, “If someone tells their father or mother, ‘What you would’ve received from me is already set aside as an offering to God’, then they need not honour their parents.” ⁴So for the sake of your Traditions, you have in fact nullified the commandment of God!’

118. ¹Yeshua‘’s followers spoke to Yeshua‘ and said, ‘Master, don’t you realise that the Pharisees are offended by what you say against their Traditions?’
²But Yeshua‘ said, ‘Every vine which our heavenly Father has not planted will be dug up by the roots.’

119. ¹Yeshua‘ said, ‘If a blind man leads a blind man, they’ll both fall into a pit.’

120. ¹Yeshua‘ said to the Interpreters of Torah, ‘Shame on you, blind guides! Because you say, “If anyone swears an oath by the Temple, it’s invalid, but if anyone swears an oath by the gold of the Temple, they’re bound by their oath.” ²Blind fools! Which is greater: the gold, or the Temple that makes the gold sacred? ³Again you say, “If anyone swears an oath by the altar, it’s invalid, but if anyone swears by the offering upon the altar, they’re bound by their oath.” ⁴Blind men! Which is greater: the offering, or the altar that makes the offering sacred?’

⁵‘Therefore I tell you, don’t swear oaths at all, neither by heaven, because it’s God’s throne; nor by the earth, because it’s God’s footstool. ⁶And don’t swear by your head, since you can’t make even one hair white or black. ⁷Simply let your “Yes” mean “Yes”, and your “No” mean “No”. Anything else comes from evil.’

121. ¹Whenever the Pharisees and the Interpreters of Torah heard Yeshua‘ speak against their Traditions, they would be angered and say, ‘In speaking against our Traditions, you

speaking against the Torah of Moses itself!

²But Yeshua' said, 'No, don't think that I'm here to nullify the Torah; I'm not here to nullify it but to restore it.'

³'Let me tell you this, it's easier for heaven and earth to pass away, than for one yod or tittle of the Torah to become void.'

122. ¹Yeshua' said, 'Whoever relaxes one of the least of the commandments, and encourages others to do the same, shall be called least in the kingdom of God. ²But whoever observes them, and teaches them to others, shall be called great in the kingdom of God. ³'For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the Pharisees and the Interpreters of Torah, you'll never find the kingdom of God.'

123. ¹Yeshua' said, 'The commandment was given to our ancestors, "You shall not commit murder"; and whoever commits murder will be liable to judgement. ²But let me just say, that everyone who's angry with their neighbour shall be liable to judgement – ³whoever says to their neighbour, "Worthless moron!" shall be answerable to the Great Council, and whoever says, "Fool!" shall be cast into the outer darkness!'

124. ¹Yeshua' said, 'If you're making a sin offering in the Temple, and there you remember that your friend has some disagreement with you, leave your offering there with the priest. ²First make peace with your friend, and only then can you return and make your sin offering.'

125. ¹Yeshua' said, 'If your neighbour sins, point out their fault privately, and if they repent, you must forgive them.'

126. ¹Yeshua' said, 'As you know, the commandment was given to our ancestors, "Whoever divorces his wife, let him write her a certificate of divorce". ²But let me tell you, whoever divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, in order to marry another woman, commits adultery.'

127. ¹Now, there were some who would hail the prophet Yeshua' as the messiah, the son of David. One day he became angry and pointed out their error to them.

²So he turned his face towards them and said, 'So tell me of this messiah! Whose son is he? You say he's the son of David, right? So how come David in the spirit of prophesy calls him "Lord"? ³Because David says in The Psalms, "The Holy One said to my lord, "Sit at my right hand until I put your enemies under your feet".' ⁴If then David calls him "Lord", how then can the messiah be his son?'

128. ¹Yeshua' said, 'Beware of messiahs and false prophets, because they come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they're ravenous wolves.'

129. ¹Yeshua‘ said, ‘Listen! If anyone says to you, “Look, here’s the messiah!” or “There he is!” don’t follow them. ²Because messiahs and false prophets will arise and lead many to their deaths. ³So if people say to you, “Look – he’s out in the wilderness!” don’t go out. Or if they say, “Look – he’s in the innermost rooms!” don’t believe it. ⁴Because messiahs and false prophets don’t proclaim the kingdom of God, only themselves.’

130. ¹Yeshua‘ raised his eyes to heaven, and held out his hands in prayer, and gave praise to God, saying,

²It is God alone who works
wonders,
and displays His power
among the nations.

³God alone shall save His
people,
the descendants of Ya‘aqov
and Yosef.

⁴The sound of His thunder is
in the whirlwind,
and the earth quakes and
trembles;

⁵His lightening flashes across
the world,
and lights up the sky from
east to west.

⁶So shall it be on the day of
our God
- the great and awesome day.

131. ¹A woman called out to Yeshua‘ from the crowd, ‘When will the end come? When are the last days?’

²But Yeshua‘ answered her, ‘Look lady, why do you ask me? No one knows the day or the hour, only God. ³Listen, if the owner of the house had known at what time the thief was coming, they would’ve kept watch and wouldn’t have let their house be broken into, now would they?’

132. ¹One time, Yeshua‘ stood on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem to pray with his followers. And he turned his face to the Holy City, and being given a terrible vision from God, he wept.

²‘O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and those who are sent to you! ³How often I’ve longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you wouldn’t let me!’

⁴Look, the House of our God lies abandoned. Abominations of war are set up where they ought not to be.

⁵And the day will come, when not one stone will be left standing upon another; every stone will be cast down.'

133. ¹Yeshua' saw how those who claimed to follow the ways of God, were instead ignoring the poor and the sick, hurrying by or refusing to help.

²So God called Yeshua' to go and stand in the Temple courts. And he spoke the word of God, saying, ³All the house of Israel will be gathered together before God, and he'll separate them from each other, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. God will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. ⁴Then God will say to those on his right, "Come, you who are blessed, take your inheritance prepared for you since the creation of the world. ⁵Because I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me."

⁶Then the righteous will answer him, "Adonai, when did we see you hungry or thirsty? When did we see you a stranger, or needing clothes? When did we see you sick or in prison?" ⁷And God will reply, "Whatever you did for one of the least of these my children, you did for me."

⁸Then God will say to those on his left, "Get away from me, you wicked! Because I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you didn't invite me in, I was naked and you didn't clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you didn't come to visit me."

⁹They too will answer, "Adonai, when did we see you hungry and not feed you, or thirsty and give you nothing to drink, or a stranger and not invite you in, or naked and not clothe you, or sick and not look after you, or in prison, and not visit you?" ¹⁰And God will reply to them, "Whatever you refused to do for one of the least of these - my children - you refused to do for me."

¹¹"Get away from me, you wicked! I'll have nothing to do with you!"

Book Three

134. ¹In the days of Ya'aqov the Righteous, while Antonius Felix was governor of Judea, the Followers of the teachings of the prophet Yeshua' would gather together, and stories were told to explain his teaching.

135. ¹The Holy One our God made Yeshua' travel a long way into the wilderness for forty days, to test him by hardships to learn what was in his heart. ²God subjected him to the hardship of hunger, to humble him and to see if Yeshua would keep God's commandments. ³In his hunger, he laid down and fell asleep.

⁴And he dreamed a dream. He dreamed that a tempter came to him and said, 'If you're a follower of the Holy One, then tell this stone to become bread.'

⁵But Yeshua' answered him, 'No, because it's written in the Torah, "People do not live on bread by itself, but they live on everything that is issued from the mouth of YHWH."

⁶And in his dream, the tempter took him to the Holy City, and set him on the highest pinnacle of the Temple, and said to him, ⁷'If you're a follower of the Holy One, throw yourself down from here, since it's written in The Psalms,

⁸"For God will order his angels
to guard you wherever you go.
They will carry you upon their hands,
so that you will not strike your foot on a stone."

⁹But Yeshua' answered him, 'It's written in the Torah, "You shall not test YHWH your God." '

¹⁰And in his dream, the tempter took him up, and showed him all the kingdoms of the known world, and their splendour. ¹¹And he said to Yeshua', 'All these things I'll give you, if you'll fall down and worship me.'

¹²But Yeshua' answered, 'It's written in the Torah, "You shall revere YHWH your God alone, and you shall serve only Him." '

¹³Then Yeshua' awoke from his dream.

136. ¹One day, when Yeshua' was teaching among the Temple porticoes, some of the chief priests came up to him and said, 'By what authority are you teaching these things, and who gave you this authority?'

²Yeshua' answered, 'I'll ask you a question as well, and if you can answer me, then I'll tell you by what authority I teach these things. ³Now, was the ritual immersion practised by Yochanan from God, or from human beings?'

⁴So they discussed it with one another, saying, 'If we say, "From God," he'll say to us, "Then why didn't you believe him?" ⁵And if we say, "From human beings," then the people around us will stone us, because they're all convinced that Yochanan was a prophet.' ⁶So they answered, 'We don't know.'

⁷And he said to them, 'Then neither will I tell you by what authority I teach, or who gave me this authority.'

137. ¹As they were going along, one of his followers saw a blind man. Pointing him out, he said to Yeshua', 'Master, I know this man, he's been blind since the time of his birth.'

²Surely it was the sin of his parents that caused God to punish him like this.'

³But Yeshua' said, 'No.'

⁴So this follower said, 'But Master, then surely he's being made to suffer because of his own sin!'

⁵But Yeshua' said, 'No. Neither this man nor his parents sinned.' ⁶Then Yeshua' turned to

the rest of his followers and said, 'You won't find the kingdom of God in questions such as these. ⁷Rather listen to the words that are written in The Prophets: "Do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God." '

⁸And Yeshua' gave the blind man alms out of the common purse, and ministered to him.

138. ¹Now the Zealots hated Yeshua', since he opposed their ways, and said they were already dead before God. ²So at every turn they sought ways to shame him in the eyes of the people, but did not kill him, since the people held him to be a prophet.

³So one day, while he was teaching in the outer courts of the Temple, a group of Zealots brought a woman to him who had been caught in adultery. They set her in front of them all and said to him, ⁴"Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of adultery. Now, the Torah of Moses commands us to stone such a woman. But what do you say about her?"

⁵Yeshua' simply sat down on the ground and wrote with his finger in the dust. But they kept on asking him, ⁶so he stood up, and picking up a stone in his right hand, said to them, 'Let him who is without sin among us be the first to throw a stone at her.'

⁷When the people around him heard this, they began to drift away, the older ones first, one by one, until Yeshua' was left alone with the woman before him. ⁸Yeshua' looked at her and said to her, 'Woman, where are your accusers? Has no one condemned you?'

⁹She said, 'No one, Master.'

¹⁰And dropping the stone to the ground, Yeshua' said, 'Then neither do I condemn you. Go, and sin this sin no more.'

139. ¹Now one of the merchants of the town who admired Yeshua', a jar-merchant by trade called Shim'on, invited him to have dinner with him. Upon entering, he reclined at the dining couch.

²Now there was a particular woman in that town, a prostitute, who was aware that he was taking dinner in the house of the jar-merchant. ³She brought in an alabaster flask of ointment – very expensive, pure nard. She stood behind him at his feet, weeping uncontrollably. ⁴Her tears wet his feet, and she wiped them dry with her hair, and kissed his feet.

Then she broke open the flask of nard, and anointed his feet with it.

⁵Now when Shim'on saw this he was puzzled, and said, 'If you were a prophet, you would know who this is, and what kind of a woman is touching you, seeing how she's a sinner.'

⁶And Yeshua' answered him, 'Shim'on, I have something to say.'

⁷'Yes Teacher,' he said. 'Go ahead.'

⁸'This moneylender had two debtors; one owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. Since neither one of them could pay up, he wrote off both debts. Now, which one of them will love him more?'

⁹Shimon answered, 'I suppose, the one who was forgiven of more.'

¹⁰And Yeshua' said, 'You're right!' Then, turning to the woman he said to Shim'on, 'Do you see this woman? I entered your house, and you gave me no water to wash my feet; but this woman's wet my feet with her tears, and wiped them dry with her hair. ¹¹You didn't greet me with a kiss, but from the moment she arrived, she hasn't stopped kissing

my feet; ¹²you didn't anoint my head with oil, but this woman's anointed my feet with nard. ¹³Because of this, I tell you it's obvious that her sins, which are many, have been forgiven by God, as this outpouring of love shows. But the one who's forgiven of little, shows little love to others.'

¹⁴And he said to her, 'Your sins have been forgiven by God.'

¹⁵But the other guests present at the dinner muttered amongst themselves, 'How can he say that? Heaven would never forgive such a woman!'

¹⁶But Yeshua' said to the woman, 'Your repentance has redeemed you; go in peace.'

140. ¹Yeshua' was invited to dinner at the house of a man who thought he could increase his standing with the people by inviting Yeshua' into his home.

²When he arrived, he noticed how a number of guests were choosing the places of honour.

³So he said to them, 'When you're invited by anyone to a banquet, don't go and recline in the place of honour, in case someone more important than you has been invited. ⁴Because the one who invited you both will come up to you and say, "Give your place up to this person," and then humiliated, you'll have to make your way to take the lowest place.

⁵Instead, when you're invited anywhere, go and recline in the lowest place, so that the one who invited you will say to you, "My friend, go up higher." Then you'll be honoured in the presence of all who are dining with you.'

⁶Then he said to his host, 'When you give a lunch or a dinner, don't call your friends, or your brothers or sisters, or your relatives, or your rich neighbours, because they might invite you in return, and you'll be repaid. ⁷Instead, when you throw a dinner party, invite the poor, the maimed, the crippled and the blind. And you'll be blessed, because they can't repay you. ⁸Let me tell you, you'll have your reward in the world to come.'

141. ¹One day Yeshua' sat opposite the Temple treasury speaking to his followers. ²He watched as the people around him put money into the trumpets of the thirteen donation chests, each one set apart for a different fund.

³Now, many rich people put in large sums, but then a poor widow came, and put in two copper prutah coins.

⁴So he said to his followers, 'Let me tell you, that poor widow's put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. ⁵Because they all contributed out of the surplus of their wealth; but she out of her poverty, has put in everything she had – her whole livelihood.'

142. ¹An elder of the sectaries said to Yeshua', 'My followers are rich beyond measure, because they have my teaching, and will sit like kings on thrones and judge over all Israel! ²But your followers dwell in poverty, because your teaching is barren, and your followers have nothing – they are ignorant peasants!'

³But Yeshua' said, 'Those who follow this son of man are like children who work as tenant farmers in a field that isn't theirs. ⁴And one day, the owners of the field will come, and they'll say to them, "Give us our field back". And the children will give them back

their field.

⁵“Then the landowners will say to them, “Give us back the seed we gave you, and the tools we gave you to work our field.” And the children will give them back their seed, and the tools that were loaned to them.

⁶“Then the landowners will say to them, “Give us the cloaks we gave you, and the tunics we gave you too.”

⁷“And in their presence, the children will hand over their cloaks, and their tunics as well.

⁸“Then the landowners will say to them, “Now what have you got left? You’ve got nothing – you’re just ignorant peasants!”

⁹“But the children will answer, “No, we’re children of the land, and the kingdom of God is ours. It wasn’t yours to give, and it’s not yours to take back.”’

143. ¹Now, Yeshua‘ was debating with some Pharisees, who believe that the gift of prophecy was closed off by Heaven, and that after Malakhi, there are no more prophets.

²He said to them, ‘Yochanan came to you as a prophet to show you the paths of righteousness, but you wouldn’t believe him. ³Yet the tax collectors and prostitutes believed him, and flocked to him to be immersed by him. ⁴And even when you saw that, you still didn’t change heart and believe him.’

144. ¹Now the Pharisees debated with Yeshua‘, and pressed him for a sign from Heaven, because they would not accept his calling as a prophet without one. ²But Yeshua‘ sighed deeply, knowing that they would not accept him as a prophet even if they were given a sign from Heaven either.

³So he said to them, ‘Why do people these days insist on a sign? Well, let me tell you this: you’re not going to get one any time soon!’
And with that, he left them.

145. ¹Yeshua‘ was debating with others in the Temple and said, ‘Tell me what you think of this: a man had two children. ²Approaching the first he said, “My child, go and work in the vineyard today.”

‘He replied, “I’ll go my lord,” but didn’t go.

³“So he approached the second one and said the same thing.

‘And he replied, “I won’t.” But later he had a change of heart and did go.

⁴“Now, which one of the two carried out their father’s will?”

His debaters answered, ‘The second.’

⁵So Yeshua‘ said to them, ‘Then go, and do the same.’

146. ¹The people of one village had heard that a prophet was coming to stay with them, so when Yeshua‘ arrived they brought their children to him. ²They asked him to bless them – to lay his hands upon them and pray for them. However, when his followers saw this, they scolded them.

³When Yeshua‘ realised what his followers were doing, he became indignant and said,

‘Let the children come to me, and don’t try to stop them; because the kingdom of God belongs to ones such as these.

⁴‘Let me tell you, unless you accept the kingdom of God like a child, you shall never find it.’

147. ¹Yeshua‘ said, ‘Whoever humbles themselves like a child will be the greatest in the kingdom of God.’

148. ¹Yeshua‘ said to his followers, ‘You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord their authority over them, and those in positions of leadership arrogantly hold their authority over them.

²‘But it shall not be so among you. Rather, whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave to all.’

149. ¹Yeshua‘ said, ‘The one who’s honest with a little, can be trusted with much. ²But the one who’s dishonest with a little, can’t be trusted with greater things.’

150. ¹Yeshua‘’s followers called to him and said, ‘Your mother and brothers are standing outside.’

²So he said, ‘Who is my mother? And who are my brothers?’ And he stretched out his hand to his followers and said, ³‘Here are my mother and brothers! Because whoever does the will of our heavenly Father, they are my mother, and my brother, and my sister.’

151. ¹Yeshua‘ would see people working hard in the fields, labouring to plant and to reap; and he would see the porters at the customs post on the shores of Lake Genessaret, bent double with their loads.

²So Yeshua‘ spoke of the wisdom of God’s Torah, and called to the people around him to rest a while, saying, ‘Come, all you who labour and are heavily laden, and I’ll give you rest for your souls. ³Learn from me, and take the yoke of Wisdom upon you; for her yoke is easy, and her burden light.’

152. ¹Yeshua‘ said, ‘When you pray, don’t babble and repeat your prayers over and over like Gentiles do, for they think that their prayers will be answered because of their many words and repetitions. ²Don’t be like them, for your heavenly Father knows what you need even before you ask.’

153. ¹Yeshua‘ warned people to watch their tongue when speaking of others, since there were some from whose lips hatred and spite raced like an untamed fire. ²He said to the people, ‘Beware your tongue, of what you say, because one day you’ll have to give an account for the heartless words you’ve spoken; ³because as the saying goes, “By your words you shall be acquitted, and by your words you shall be convicted.” ’

154. ¹Yeshua‘ said, ‘The kingdom of God is like a wise fisherman who cast his net into the sea, and drew it up from the sea full of fish. ²In the net there were many small fish, but among them the wise fisherman found a nice big fish. ³So he threw all the small fish back into the sea, and chose the big fish without any problem.’

155. ¹An interpreter of Torah, a Pharisee by training, who had decided to accept Yeshua‘’s teaching, asked him, ‘Master, now that I follow your teaching, will I have to abandon everything I’ve learned before?’

²So Yeshua‘ said to him, ‘Every Interpreter of Torah who becomes a follower of the kingdom of God, is like the owner of a house, who brings out of their wine-cellar new wine as well as old.’

156. ¹A rich man came up to Yeshua‘ and said, ‘Many times you have said that the lame, the crippled and the blind will find the kingdom of God, and the rich and the wealthy will be cast out. ²But surely you know that it’s written, “No one who is blind or lame, or has a crippled foot or hand may enter behind the curtain, or approach the altar, because to do so will profane the sacred places of the Temple.” ³Surely if they cannot even enter the holiest places of the Temple, then how can they deserve the kingdom of God more than we who have great wealth? ⁴My wealth has caused me no sin! I have my wealth, because I have two hands, two feet and two eyes. They, the maimed, the crippled and the blind, have nothing.’

⁵At this, Yeshua‘ became very angry indeed, and said to him, ‘If it’s your hand that’s caused you to sin, then cut it off! Because it’s better to enter the kingdom of God maimed, than with two hands to remain forever in the outer darkness!

⁶‘And if it’s your foot that’s caused you to sin, cut it off! Because it’s better to enter the kingdom of God crippled, than with two feet remain forever in the outer darkness!

⁷‘And if it’s your eyes that have caused you to sin, pluck them out! Because it’s better to enter the kingdom of God blind, than with two eyes remain forever in the outer darkness!’

157. ¹An interpreter of Torah said to Yeshua‘, ‘Isn’t it written in the Torah, “A man leaves his father and mother and clings to his wife, so that they become one flesh.” ²If it’s written thus, then all men must take a wife. If this is so, then why aren’t you married? It’s not good to be alone.’

³And Yeshua‘ said, ‘This teaching doesn’t apply to everyone; only those to whom it’s relevant. ⁴Because there are some who don’t marry, because they’ve been that way from the time they were born; ⁵and there are some single people whose right to marry has been taken away from them by human beings; ⁶and there are some who’ve taken the decision to stay single for the sake of the kingdom of God.

⁷‘So only those who are in a position to accept this teaching should accept it.’

158. ¹Now there were some elders and interpreters of Torah who were debating how far to go when ritually washing the hands before eating a meal, ²because they were concerned

that if one did not wash the hands in the correct way, then one's food would be defiled, and by eating it, one would also be defiled.

³Some said, 'It's enough to wash only the fingers;' others, 'One must wash past the wrists;' yet others, 'Wash up to the elbows;' and still others, 'It's not enough unless one washes up to one's shoulders.'⁴Each one believed that the others' way would defile their food, and so defile the person.

⁵But Yeshua' said, 'It's not what goes into a person that defiles them, but what comes out of them. ⁶Don't you see that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and passes out of the body? ⁷But the things that come out of a person come from the heart, and these things defile you – acts of murder and adultery, theft and false testimony.

⁸'These things are what make a person unclean; not washing the hands in a certain way won't defile your food or make a person unclean.'

159. ¹Yeshua' was given a terrible vision of the destruction to come, ²so he said to his emissaries, 'When you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near. ³Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, and let those who are within the city flee. ⁴Let not those who are on their housetops go down to take anything away, and let not those who are in the field return home to fetch their cloak.

⁵'Pity all those pregnant and nursing mothers in those days! Pray that their flight may not be in winter or on a Sabbath!

⁶In those days, there will be such tribulation as has not been seen since the creation of the world.

⁷The House of Israel will fall by the sword and be taken into exile; they will be led captive among all the nations, to mourn for a hundred generations.

⁸'Jerusalem will be ruled and downtrodden by the Gentiles, until the days of their rule are brought to an end, and the captives return.'

160. ¹Yeshua' said, 'Learn this lesson from the fig tree: as soon as it's fruit becomes tender, you know that summer's near; so also when you see all these things, you know that the end is near.

²'But of that day or hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, only God alone.'

161. ¹A rich man approached Yeshua' and said, 'Teacher, what must I do to have life in the world to come?

²And Yeshua' said, 'Keep the commandments: do not kill, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not bear false testimony, honour your father and your mother, and love your neighbour as yourself.'

³And he said to him, 'All these things I have observed from the days of my youth.'

⁴And Yeshua' looked at him and had compassion on him. 'You lack one thing; go, sell what you have and give to the poor. That way you'll have treasure in heaven. Then come, and follow me.'

⁵When the man heard this, his face fell, and he went away sorrowful, for he had a great

number of possessions.

162. ¹These then are the sayings of Yeshua⁴ of Nazareth, servant and prophet of God,
which God gave him to deliver to the House of Israel.

²Remember this: Do not abandon your God, for YHWH will not abandon his people. ³And
consider always, you who desire to follow the ways of the kingdom of God, that it is
written in the Torah,

⁴'You shall revere YHWH your God alone; and you shall serve only him.'

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'Sefer Yeshua'

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