

Matthew

Chapter 1

¹ The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, son of David, son of Abraham.

² Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers.

³ Judah was the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram.

⁴ Ram was the father of Amminadab, Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon.

⁵ Salmon was the father of Boaz by Rahab, Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, Obed the father of Jesse.

⁶ Jesse was the father of David the king.

David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah.

⁷ Solomon was the father of Rehoboam, Rehoboam the father of Abijah, Abijah the father of Asa.

⁸ Asa was the father of Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram an ancestor of Uzziah.

⁹ Uzziah was the father of Jotham, Jotham the father of Ahaz, Ahaz the father of Hezekiah.

¹⁰ Hezekiah was the father of Manasseh, Manasseh the father of Amon, and Amon the father of Josiah.

¹¹ Josiah was an ancestor of Jechoniah and his brothers at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

¹² After the deportation to Babylon, Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, Shealtiel was an ancestor of Zerubbabel.

¹³ Zerubbabel was the father of Abiud, Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor.

¹⁴ Azor was the father of Zadok, Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud.

¹⁵ Eliud was the father of Eleazar, Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob.

¹⁶ Jacob was the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, by whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.

¹⁷ All the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations.

¹⁸ The birth of Jesus Christ happened in the following way. His mother, Mary, was engaged to marry Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant by the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ But Joseph, her husband, was a righteous man and did not want to publicly disgrace her, so he intended to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ As he thought about these things, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, because the one who is conceived in her is conceived by the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you will call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²² Now all this happened to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, ²³ "Behold, the virgin will become pregnant and will bear a son, and they will call his name Immanuel"—which being translated is, "God with us." ²⁴ Joseph got up from his sleep and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and he took her as his wife. ²⁵ But he did not know her until she gave birth to a son. Then he called his name Jesus.

Chapter 2

¹ After Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, learned men from the east arrived in Jerusalem saying, ² "Where is he who was born King of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him." ³ When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ Herod brought together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, and he asked them, "Where is the Christ to be born?" ⁵ They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for this is what was written by the prophet,

⁶ 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are not the least among the rulers of Judah,
for from you will come one who rules,
who will shepherd my people Israel.'"

⁷ Then Herod secretly called the learned men to ask them exactly what time the star had appeared. ⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search carefully for the young child. When you have found him, bring me a report so that I also may come and worship him." ⁹ After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star that they had seen in the east went before them until it came and stood still over where the young child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced with very great joy. ¹¹ They went into the house and saw the young child with Mary his mother. They fell down and worshiped him. They opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² God warned them in a dream not to return to Herod, so they departed to their own country by another way.

¹³ After they had departed, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the young child and his mother, and flee to Egypt. Remain there until I tell you, for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him." ¹⁴ That night Joseph rose and took the young child and his mother and departed into Egypt. ¹⁵ He remained there until the death of Herod. This fulfilled what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, "Out of Egypt I have called my Son."

¹⁶ Then Herod, when he saw that he had been mocked by the learned men, was very angry. He sent and killed all the male children that were in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old and under, according to the time that he had determined exactly from the learned men. ¹⁷ Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through Jeremiah the prophet, saying,

¹⁸ "A voice was heard in Ramah,
weeping and great mourning,
Rachel weeping for her children,
and she refused to be comforted,
because they were no more."

¹⁹ When Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ²⁰ "Get up and take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." ²¹ Joseph rose, took the child and his mother, and came into the land of Israel. ²² But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in the place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. After God warned him in a dream, he left for the region of Galilee ²³ and went and lived in a city called Nazareth. This fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophets, that he would be called a Nazarene.

Chapter 3

¹ In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea saying, ² "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near." ³ For this is he who was spoken of by Isaiah the prophet, saying,

"The voice of one calling out in the wilderness,
'Make ready the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.'"

⁴ Now John wore clothing of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then Jerusalem, all Judea, and all the region around the Jordan River went out to him. ⁶ They were baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins. ⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to him for baptism, he said to them, "You offspring of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath that is coming? ⁸ Bear fruit worthy of repentance. ⁹ Do not think of saying among yourselves, 'We have Abraham for our father.' For I say to you that God is able to raise up children for Abraham even out of these stones. ¹⁰ Already the ax has been placed against the root of the trees. So every tree that does not produce good fruit is chopped down and thrown into the fire. ¹¹ I baptize you with water for repentance. But he who comes after me is mightier than I, and I am not worthy even to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. ¹² His winnowing fork is in his hand to thoroughly clear off his threshing floor and to gather his wheat into the storehouse. But he will burn up the chaff with fire that can never be put out."

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan River to be baptized by John. ¹⁴ But John kept trying to stop him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" ¹⁵ Jesus responded and said to him, "Permit it now, for it is right for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then John permitted him. ¹⁶ After he was baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him. He saw the Spirit of God coming down like a dove and resting upon him. ¹⁷ Behold, a voice came out of the heavens saying, "This is my beloved Son. I am very pleased with him."

Chapter 4

¹ Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ² When he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³ The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become bread."

⁴ But Jesus answered and said to him, "It is written, 'Man does not live on bread alone, but by every word that comes out of the mouth of God.'"

⁵ Then the devil took him into the holy city and set him on the highest point of the temple building, ⁶ and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

'He will command his angels to take care of you,'

and

'They will carry you in their hands,
so that you will not hit your foot against a stone.'"

⁷ Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'You must not test the Lord your God.'"

⁸ Again, the devil took him up to a very high hill and showed him all the kingdoms of the world along with all their glory. ⁹ He said to him, "All these things I will give you, if you fall down and worship me."

¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, "Go away from here, Satan! For it is written, 'You will worship the Lord your God, and you will serve only him.'"

¹¹ Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and served him.

¹² Now when Jesus heard that John had been handed over, he withdrew into Galilee. ¹³ He left Nazareth and went and lived in Capernaum, which is by the Sea of Galilee in the territories of Zebulun and Naphtali. ¹⁴ This happened to fulfill what was said by Isaiah the prophet,

¹⁵ "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali,
toward the sea, beyond the Jordan,
Galilee of the Gentiles!

¹⁶ The people who sat in darkness
have seen a great light,
and to those who sat in the region and shadow of death,
upon them has a light arisen."

¹⁷ From that time Jesus began to preach and say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near." ¹⁸ As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. ¹⁹ Jesus said to them, "Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." ²⁰ Immediately they left the nets and followed him. ²¹ As Jesus was going on from there he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and John his brother. They were in the boat with Zebedee their father mending their nets. He called them, ²² and they immediately left the boat and their father and followed him.

²³ Jesus went about in all of Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom and healing every kind of disease and sickness among the people. ²⁴ The news about him went out into all of Syria, and the people brought to him all those who suffered from various diseases and pains, those who were possessed by demons, the epileptics, and the paralytics. Jesus healed them. ²⁵ Large crowds followed him from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.

Chapter 5

¹ When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on the mountain. When he had sat down, his disciples came to him. ² He opened his mouth and taught them, saying,

³ "Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

⁵ Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.

⁷ Blessed are the merciful,
for they will obtain mercy.

⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.

⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called sons of God.

¹⁰ Blessed are those who have been persecuted for righteousness' sake,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ "Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you and say all kinds of evil things against you falsely for my sake. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for great is your reward in heaven. For in this way people persecuted the prophets who lived before you.

¹³ "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt has lost its taste, how can it be made salty again? It is never again good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. ¹⁴ You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but rather on the lampstand, and it shines for everyone in the house. ¹⁶ Let your light shine before people in such a way that they see your good deeds and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

¹⁷ "Do not think that I have come to destroy the law or the prophets. I have come not to destroy them, but to fulfill them. ¹⁸ For truly I say to you that until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or the smallest part of a letter will in any way pass away from the law, until all things have been accomplished. ¹⁹ Therefore whoever breaks the least one of these commandments and teaches others to do so will be called least in the kingdom of heaven. But whoever keeps them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I say to you that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will in no way enter the kingdom of heaven.

²¹ "You have heard that it was said to them in ancient times, 'Do not murder,' and, 'Whoever murders will be subject to judgment.' ²² But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment; and whoever says to his brother, 'You worthless person!' will be subject to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be subject to the fire of hell. ²³ Therefore if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has anything against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there in front of the altar, and go on your way. First be reconciled with your brother, and then come and offer your gift. ²⁵ Agree with your adversary quickly while you are with him on the way to court, or your adversary may hand you over to the judge, and the judge may hand you over to the officer, and you may be thrown into prison. ²⁶ Truly I say to you, you will never come out from there until you have paid the last penny you owe.

²⁷ "You have heard that it was said, 'Do not commit adultery.' ²⁸ But I say to you that everyone who looks on a woman to lust after her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹ If your right eye causes you to stumble, pluck it out and throw it away from you. For it is better for you that one of your members should perish than that your whole body should be thrown into hell. ³⁰ If your right hand causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away from you. For it is better for you that one of your members should perish than that your whole body should go into hell. ³¹ It was also said, 'Whoever sends his wife

away, let him give her a certificate of divorce.' ³² But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on account of sexual immorality, makes her an adulteress. Whoever marries her after she has been divorced commits adultery.

³³ "Again, you have heard that it was said to those in ancient times, 'Do not swear a false oath, but carry out your oaths to the Lord.' ³⁴ But I say to you, swear not at all, neither by heaven, for it is the throne of God; ³⁵ nor by the earth, for it is the footstool for his feet; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. ³⁶ Neither swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. ³⁷ But let your speech be 'Yes, yes,' or 'No, no.' Anything that is more than this is from the evil one.

³⁸ "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.' ³⁹ But I say to you, do not resist one who is evil. Instead, whoever strikes you on your right cheek, turn to him the other also. ⁴⁰ If anyone wishes to bring a lawsuit against you and takes away your tunic, let that person also have your cloak. ⁴¹ Whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two. ⁴² Give to anyone who asks you, and do not turn away from anyone who wishes to borrow from you.

⁴³ "You have heard that it was said, 'You must love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' ⁴⁴ But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ^[1]⁴⁵ so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the just and the unjust. ⁴⁶ For if you love those who love you, what reward do you get? Do not even the tax collectors do the same thing? ⁴⁷ If you greet only your brothers, what do you do more than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same thing? ⁴⁸ Therefore you must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Footnotes

5:44 ^[1]The best ancient copies do not have

Chapter 6

¹ "Watch out that you do not do your acts of righteousness before people to be seen by them, or else you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. ² So when you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before yourself as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be glorified by people. Truly I say to you, they have received their reward in full. ³ But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing ⁴ so that your alms may be given in secret. Then your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵ "When you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners so that they may be seen by people. Truly I say to you, they have received their reward.

⁶ But you, when you pray, enter your inner chamber. Shut the door and pray to your Father, who is in secret. Then your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ⁷ When you pray, do not make useless repetitions as the pagans do, for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. ⁸ Therefore, do not be like them, for your Father knows what things you need before you ask him.

⁹ Therefore pray like this:

'Our Father in heaven,
may your name be honored as holy.

¹⁰ May your kingdom come.
May your will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.

¹¹ Give us today our daily bread.

¹² Forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.

¹³ Do not bring us into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.' [1]

¹⁴ For if you forgive people their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you do not forgive their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

¹⁶ "When you fast, do not have a sad face as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces so that they may appear to people to be fasting. Truly I say to you, they have received their reward in full. ¹⁷ But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face ¹⁸ so that you may not appear to people to be fasting, but only to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁹ "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on the earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ Instead, store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. ²² The eye is the lamp of the body. Therefore, if your eye is good, the whole body is filled with light. ²³ But if your eye is bad, your whole body is full of darkness. Therefore, if the light that is in you is actually darkness, how great is that darkness! ²⁴ No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth. ²⁵ Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; or about your body, what you will wear. For is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? ²⁶ Look at the birds in the sky. They do not sow or reap or gather into barns, but your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not more valuable than they are? ²⁷ Which one of you by being anxious can add one cubit to his lifespan? ²⁸ Why are you anxious about clothing? Think about the lilies in the fields, how they grow. They do not labor, and they do not spin cloth. ²⁹ Yet I say to you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. ³⁰ If God so clothes the grass in the fields, which exists today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, you of little faith? ³¹ Therefore do not be anxious and say, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What clothes will we wear?' ³² For the Gentiles search for these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. ³³ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you. ³⁴ Therefore, do not be anxious for tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Each day has enough evil of its own.

Footnotes

6:13 ^[1]The best ancient copies do not have

Chapter 7

¹ "Do not judge, and you will not be judged. ² For with the judgment you judge, you will be judged, and with the measure that you measure, it will be measured out to you. ³ Why do you look at the tiny piece of straw that is in your brother's eye, but you do not take notice of the log that is in your own eye? ⁴ How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take out the piece of straw that is in your eye,' while the log is in your own eye? ⁵ You hypocrite! First take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take out the piece of straw that is in your brother's eye. ⁶ Do not give what is holy to the dogs, and do not throw your pearls in front of the pigs. Otherwise they may trample them underfoot, and then turn and tear you to pieces.

⁷ "Ask, and it will be given to you. Seek, and you will find. Knock, and it will be opened to you. ⁸ For everyone who asks, receives; everyone who seeks, finds; and to the person who knocks, it will be opened. ⁹ Or which one of you, if his son asks for a loaf of bread, will give him a stone? ¹⁰ Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? ¹¹ Therefore, if you who are evil know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him? ¹² Therefore, whatever things you want people to do to you, you should also do to them, for this is the law and the prophets.

¹³ "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many people who go through it. ¹⁴ But the gate is narrow and the way is difficult that leads to life, and there are few who find it.

¹⁵ "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but are truly ravenous wolves. ¹⁶ By their fruits you will know them. Do people gather grapes from a thornbush or figs from thistles? ¹⁷ In the same way, every good tree produces good fruit, but the bad tree produces bad fruit. ¹⁸ A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit. ¹⁹ Every tree that does not produce good fruit is chopped down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰ So then, you will recognize them by their fruits. ²¹ Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter into the kingdom of heaven, but only those who do the will of my Father who is in heaven. ²² Many people will say to me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, in your name drive out demons, and in your name do many miracles?' ²³ Then will I openly declare to them, 'I never knew you! Get away from me, you who practice lawlessness!'

²⁴ "Therefore, everyone who hears my words and obeys them will be like a wise man who built his house upon a rock. ²⁵ The rain came down, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat upon that house, but it did not fall down, for it was founded on the rock. ²⁶ But everyone who hears my words and does not obey them will be like a foolish man who built his house upon the sand. ²⁷ The rain came down, the floods came, and the winds blew and struck that house, and it fell, and its destruction was complete."

²⁸ It came about that when Jesus finished speaking these words, the crowds were astonished by his teaching, ²⁹ for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes.

Chapter 8

¹ When Jesus had come down from the hill, large crowds followed him. ² Behold, a leper came to him and bowed before him, saying, "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean."

³ Jesus reached out his hand and touched him, saying, "I am willing. Be clean." Immediately he was cleansed of his leprosy. ⁴ Jesus said to him, "See that you say nothing to any man. Go on your way, show yourself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a testimony to them."

⁵ When he was coming into Capernaum, a centurion came to him, begging him ⁶ and saying, "Lord, my servant lies at home paralyzed and in terrible agony."

⁷ Then Jesus said to him, "I will come and heal him."

⁸ The centurion answered and said, "Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof. Only say the word and my servant will be healed. ⁹ For I also am a man under authority, and I have soldiers under me. I say to this one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to another one, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."

¹⁰ When Jesus heard this, he was amazed and said to those who were following him, "Truly I say to you, I have not found anyone with such faith in Israel. ¹¹ I tell you, many will come from the east and the west, and they will recline at the table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven. ¹² But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth." ¹³ Jesus said to the centurion, "Go! As you have believed, so may it be done for you." And the servant was healed at that very hour.

¹⁴ When Jesus had come into Peter's house, he saw Peter's mother-in-law lying sick with a fever. ¹⁵ Jesus touched her hand, and the fever left her. Then she got up and started serving him. ¹⁶ When evening had come, the people brought to Jesus many who were possessed by demons. He drove out the spirits with a word and healed all who were sick. ¹⁷ This was to fulfill what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet, saying,

"He took our illnesses
and bore our diseases."

¹⁸ Now when Jesus saw the crowd around him, he gave instructions to leave for the other side of the Sea of Galilee. ¹⁹ Then a scribe came to him and said, "Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go."

²⁰ Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and the birds of the sky have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head."

²¹ Another of the disciples said to him, "Lord, allow me first to go and bury my father."

²² But Jesus said to him, "Follow me, and leave the dead to bury their own dead."

²³ When Jesus had entered a boat, his disciples followed him into it. ²⁴ Behold, there arose a great storm on the sea, so that the boat was covered with the waves. But Jesus was asleep. ²⁵ The disciples came to him and woke him up, saying, "Save us, Lord; we are perishing!"

²⁶ Jesus said to them, "Why are you afraid, you of little faith?" Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the sea. Then there was a great calm.

²⁷ The men marveled and said, "What sort of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him?"

²⁸ When Jesus had come to the other side and to the country of the Gadarenes, two men who were possessed by demons met him. They were coming out of the tombs and were very violent, so that no traveler could pass that way. ²⁹ Behold, they cried out and said, "What do we have to do with you, Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the set time?"

30 Now a herd of many pigs was there feeding, not too far away from them. **31** The demons kept pleading with Jesus and saying, "If you cast us out, send us away into that herd of pigs."

32 Jesus said to them, "Go!" The demons came out and went into the pigs; and behold, the whole herd rushed down the steep hill into the sea and they died in the water. **33** Those who had been tending the pigs ran away and they went into the city and reported everything, especially what had happened to the men who had been possessed by demons. **34** Behold, all the city came out to meet Jesus. When they saw him, they begged him to leave their region.

Chapter 9

¹ Jesus entered a boat, crossed over, and came into his own city. ² Behold, they brought to him a paralyzed man lying on a mat. Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralyzed man, "Son, be encouraged. Your sins have been forgiven."

³ Behold, some of the scribes said among themselves, "This man is blaspheming." ⁴ Jesus knew their thoughts and said, "Why are you thinking evil in your hearts? ⁵ For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? ⁶ But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins, ... " he said to the paralytic, "Get up, pick up your mat, and go to your house." ⁷ Then the man got up and went away to his house. ⁸ When the crowds saw this, they were afraid and glorified God, who had given such authority to people. ⁹ As Jesus passed by from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's tent. He said to him, "Follow me." He got up and followed him.

¹⁰ As Jesus sat down to eat in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and dined with Jesus and his disciples. ¹¹ When the Pharisees saw it, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

¹² When Jesus heard this, he said, "People who are strong in body do not need a physician, only those who are sick. ¹³ You should go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice.' For I came not to call the righteous to repent, but sinners."

¹⁴ Then the disciples of John came to him and said, "Why do we and the Pharisees often fast, but your disciples do not fast?"

¹⁵ Jesus said to them, "Can the sons of the wedding hall mourn while the bridegroom is still with them? But the days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast. ¹⁶ No man puts a piece of new cloth on an old garment, for the patch will tear away from the garment, and a worse tear will be made. ¹⁷ Neither do people put new wine into old wineskins. If they do, the skins will burst, the wine will be spilled, and the wineskins will be destroyed. Instead, they put new wine into fresh wineskins, and both will be preserved."

¹⁸ While Jesus was saying these things to them, behold, an official came and bowed down to him. He said, "My daughter has just now died, but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live." ¹⁹ Then Jesus got up and followed him, and so did his disciples.

²⁰ Behold, a woman who suffered from a discharge of blood for twelve years came up behind Jesus and touched the edge of his garment. ²¹ For she had said to herself, "If only I touch his clothes, I will be made well."

²² But Jesus turned and saw her, and said, "Daughter, take courage; your faith has made you well." And the woman was healed from that hour. ²³ When Jesus came into the official's house, he saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion. ²⁴ He said, "Go away, for the girl is not dead, but she is asleep." But they laughed at him in mockery. ²⁵ When the crowd had been put outside, he entered the room and took her by the hand, and the girl got up. ²⁶ The news about this spread into all that region.

²⁷ As Jesus passed by from there, two blind men followed him. They kept shouting and saying, "Have mercy on us, Son of David!"

²⁸ When Jesus had come into the house, the blind men came to him. Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I can do this?"

They said to him, "Yes, Lord."

²⁹ Then Jesus touched their eyes and said, "Let it be done to you according to your faith," ³⁰ and their eyes were opened. Then Jesus strictly commanded them and said, "See that no one knows about this." ³¹ But the two men went out and spread the news about this throughout that region.

³² As those two men were going away, behold, a mute man possessed by a demon was brought to Jesus.

³³ When the demon had been driven out, the mute man spoke. The crowds were astonished and said, "This has never been seen before in Israel!"

³⁴ But the Pharisees were saying, "By the ruler of the demons, he drives out demons."

³⁵ Jesus went about all the cities and the villages. He continued teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom and healing all kinds of disease and all kinds of sickness. ³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were troubled and discouraged. They were like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ He said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. ³⁸ Therefore urgently pray to the Lord of the harvest, so that he may send out laborers into his harvest."

Chapter 10

¹ Jesus called his twelve disciples together and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to drive them out, and to heal all kinds of disease and all kinds of sickness. ² Now the names of the twelve apostles were these. The first, Simon (whom he also called Peter), and Andrew his brother; James son of Zebedee, and John his brother; ³ Philip, and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; ⁴ Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot, who would betray him.

⁵ These twelve Jesus sent out. He instructed them and said, "Do not go to any place where Gentiles live, and do not enter any town of the Samaritans. ⁶ Go instead to the lost sheep of the house of Israel; ⁷ and as you go, preach and say, 'The kingdom of heaven is near.' ⁸ Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, and cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give. ⁹ Do not carry any gold, silver, or copper in your belts. ¹⁰ Do not take a traveling bag for your journey, or an extra tunic, or sandals, or a staff, for a laborer deserves his food. ¹¹ Whatever city or village you enter, find who is worthy in it, and stay there until you leave. ¹² As you enter into the house, greet it. ¹³ If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it. But if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. ¹⁴ As for those who do not receive you or listen to your words, when you depart from that house or city, shake off the dust from your feet. ¹⁵ Truly I say to you, it will be more bearable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment than for that city.

¹⁶ "See, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be as wise as serpents and innocent as doves. ¹⁷ Watch out for people! They will deliver you up to councils, and they will whip you in their synagogues. ¹⁸ Then you will be brought before governors and kings for my sake, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles. ¹⁹ When they deliver you up, do not be anxious about how or what you will speak, for what to say will be given to you at that time. ²⁰ For it is not you who will speak, but the Spirit of your Father who will speak in you. ²¹ Brother will deliver up brother to death, and a father his child. Children will rise up against their parents and cause them to be put to death. ²² You will be hated by everyone because of my name. But whoever endures to the end, that person will be saved. ²³ When they persecute you in this city, flee to the next, for truly I say to you, you will not have gone through the cities of Israel before the Son of Man has come.

²⁴ "A disciple is not greater than his teacher, nor a servant above his master. ²⁵ It is enough for the disciple that he should be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much worse would be the names they call the members of his household! ²⁶ Therefore do not fear them, for there is nothing concealed that will not be revealed, and nothing hidden that will not be known. ²⁷ What I tell you in the darkness, say in the daylight, and what you hear softly in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops. ²⁸ Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul. Instead, fear him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a small coin? Yet not one of them falls to the ground without your Father's knowledge. ³⁰ But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. ³¹ Do not fear. You are more valuable than many sparrows. ³² Therefore everyone who confesses me before men, I will also confess before my Father who is in heaven. ³³ But he who denies me before men, I will also deny before my Father who is in heaven.

³⁴ "Do not think that I came to bring peace upon the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. ³⁵ For I came to set

a man against his father,
and a daughter against her mother,
and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law.

³⁶ A man's enemies will be those of his own household. ³⁷ He who loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; he who loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. ³⁸ He who does not pick up his cross and follow after me is not worthy of me. ³⁹ He who finds his life will lose it. But he who loses his life for my sake will find it.

40 "He who welcomes you welcomes me, and he who welcomes me also welcomes him who sent me. **41**
He who welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and he who
welcomes a righteous man in the name of a righteous man will receive a righteous man's reward. **42**
Whoever gives to one of these little ones even a cup of cold water to drink in the name of a disciple, truly
I say to you, he will in no way lose his reward."

Chapter 11

¹ It came about that when Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he departed from there to teach and preach in their cities. ² Now when John heard in the prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent a message by his disciples ³ and said to him, "Are you the one who is coming, or should we look for another?"

⁴ Jesus answered and said to them, "Go and report to John what you see and hear. ⁵ The blind are receiving sight, the lame are walking, lepers are being cleansed, the deaf are hearing again, the dead are being raised back to life, and the gospel is being preached to the poor. ⁶ Blessed is anyone who does not stumble because of me."

⁷ As these men went on their way, Jesus began to say to the crowds about John, "What did you go out in the desert to see—a reed being shaken by the wind? ⁸ But what did you go out to see—a man dressed in soft clothing? Really, those who wear soft clothing live in kings' houses. ⁹ But what did you go out to see—a prophet? Yes, I say to you, and much more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is he of whom it was written,

'See, I am sending my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way before you.'

¹¹ Truly I say to you that among those born of women, there has not arisen anyone greater than John the Baptist. Yet the least important person in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is. ¹² From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and men of violence take it by force.

¹³ For all the prophets and the law have been prophesying until John; ¹⁴ and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who was to come. ¹⁵ He who has ears to hear, let him hear. ¹⁶ To what should I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces calling out to the others, ¹⁷ saying:

'We played a flute for you,
and you did not dance.
We mourned,
and you did not weep.'

¹⁸ For John came not eating bread or drinking wine, and they say, 'He has a demon.' ¹⁹ The Son of Man came eating and drinking and they say, 'Look, he is a gluttonous man and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' But wisdom is justified by her deeds."

²⁰ Then Jesus began to denounce the cities in which most of his miracles were done, because they had not repented. ²¹ "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! If the miracles had been done in Tyre and Sidon which were done in you, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. ²² But, I tell you it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the day of judgment than for you. ²³ You, Capernaum, do you think you will be exalted to heaven? No, you will be brought down to Hades. For if in Sodom there had been done the miracles that were done in you, it would still have remained until today. ²⁴ But I say to you that it will be easier for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment than for you."

²⁵ At that time Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you concealed these things from the wise and understanding, and revealed them to little children. ²⁶ Yes, Father, for this was pleasing in your sight. ²⁷ All things have been entrusted to me from my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. ²⁸ Come to me, all you who labor and are heavy burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke on you and learn from me, for I am meek and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Chapter 12

¹ At that time Jesus went on the Sabbath day through the grainfields. His disciples were hungry and began to pluck heads of grain and eat them. ² But when the Pharisees saw that, they said to Jesus, "See, your disciples do what is unlawful to do on the Sabbath."

³ But Jesus said to them, "Have you never read what David did when he was hungry, and the men who were with him? ⁴ He went into the house of God and ate the bread of the presence, which was unlawful for him to eat and unlawful for those who were with him, but lawful only for the priests. ⁵ Have you not read in the law that on the Sabbath the priests in the temple profane the Sabbath but are guiltless? ⁶ But I say to you that one greater than the temple is here. ⁷ If you had known what this meant, 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the guiltless. ⁸ For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath."

⁹ Then Jesus left from there and went into their synagogue. ¹⁰ Behold, there was a man who had a withered hand. The Pharisees asked Jesus, saying, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?" so that they might accuse him of sinning.

¹¹ Jesus said to them, "What man would there be among you, who, if he had just one sheep, and if this sheep fell into a pit on the Sabbath, would not take hold of it and raise it out? ¹² How much more valuable, then, is a man than a sheep! Therefore it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath." ¹³ Then Jesus said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and it was restored to health, just like the other hand. ¹⁴ But the Pharisees went out and plotted against him. They were seeking how they might destroy him.

¹⁵ Jesus, knowing this, withdrew from there. Many people followed him, and he healed them all. ¹⁶ He commanded them not to make him known to others, ¹⁷ that it might be fulfilled, what had been said through Isaiah the prophet, saying,

¹⁸ "See, my servant whom I have chosen;
my beloved one, in whom my soul is well pleased.
I will put my Spirit upon him,
and he will proclaim justice to the Gentiles.

¹⁹ He will not strive nor cry aloud;
neither will anyone hear his voice in the streets.

²⁰ He will not break any bruised reed;
he will not quench any smoking flax,
until he leads justice to victory,

²¹ and in his name the Gentiles will have hope."

²² Then someone blind and mute, possessed by a demon, was brought to Jesus. He healed him, with the result that the mute man spoke and saw. ²³ All the crowds were amazed and said, "Can this man be the Son of David?"

²⁴ But when the Pharisees heard of this miracle, they said, "This man does not cast out demons except by Beelzebul, the prince of the demons."

²⁵ But Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself is made desolate, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand. ²⁶ If Satan drives out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand? ²⁷ And if I drive out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons drive them out? For this reason they will be your judges. ²⁸ But if I drive out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. ²⁹ How can anyone enter the house of the strong man and take away his belongings without tying up the strong man first? Then he will steal his belongings from his house. ³⁰ The one who is not with me is against me, and the one who does not gather with me scatters. ³¹ Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. ³² Whoever speaks any word against the Son of Man, that will be forgiven him. But whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, that will not be forgiven him,

neither in this world, nor in that which is to come. ³³ Make a tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad, for a tree is recognized by its fruit. ³⁴ You offspring of vipers, since you are evil, how can you say good things? For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks. ³⁵ The good man from the good treasure of his heart produces what is good, and the evil man from the evil treasure of his heart produces what is evil. ³⁶ I say to you that in the day of judgment people will give an account for every idle word they will have said. ³⁷ For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."

³⁸ Then certain scribes and Pharisees answered Jesus and said, "Teacher, we wish to see a sign from you."

³⁹ But Jesus answered and said to them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign. But no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah the prophet. ⁴⁰ For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the stomach of the big fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. ⁴¹ The men of Nineveh will stand up at the judgment with this generation of people and will condemn it. For they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and see, someone greater than Jonah is here. ⁴² The Queen of the South will rise up at the judgment with the men of this generation and condemn them. She came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and see, someone greater than Solomon is here. ⁴³ When an unclean spirit has gone away from a man, it passes through waterless places and looks for rest, but does not find it. ⁴⁴ Then it says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' Having returned, it finds the house empty—it had been swept clean and put in order. ⁴⁵ Then it goes and takes along with it seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they all come in to live there. Then the final condition of that man becomes worse than the first. It will be just like that with this evil generation."

⁴⁶ While Jesus was still speaking to the crowds, behold, his mother and his brothers stood outside, seeking to speak to him. ⁴⁷ Someone said to him, "Look, your mother and your brothers stand outside, seeking to speak to you."

⁴⁸ But Jesus answered and said to him who told him, "Who is my mother and who are my brothers?" ⁴⁹ Then he stretched out his hand toward his disciples and said, "See, here are my mother and my brothers! ⁵⁰ For whoever does the will of my Father who is in heaven, that person is my brother, and sister, and mother."

Chapter 13

¹ On that day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ² A very large crowd gathered around him, so he got into a boat and sat in it while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³ Then Jesus said many things to them in parables. He said, "Behold, a farmer went out to sow seed. ⁴ As he sowed, some seeds fell beside the road, and the birds came and devoured them. ⁵ Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil. Immediately they sprang up because the soil had no depth. ⁶ But when the sun had risen, they were scorched because they had no root, and they withered away. ⁷ Other seeds fell among the thorn plants. The thorn plants grew up and choked them. ⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil and produced a crop, some one hundred times as much, some sixty, and some thirty. ⁹ He who has ears, let him hear."

¹⁰ The disciples came and said to Jesus, "Why do you talk to the crowd in parables?"

¹¹ Jesus answered and said to them, "You have been given the privilege of understanding mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given. ¹² For whoever has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. But whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him. ¹³ This is why I talk to them in parables:

Though they are seeing,
they do not see;
and though they are hearing,
they do not hear, or understand.

¹⁴ To them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, that which says,

'Listening, you will hear, but you will never understand;
seeing, you will see, but you will never know.

¹⁵ For the heart of this people has become dull,
and with their ears they hardly hear,
and they have shut their eyes.

Otherwise they might see with their eyes,
and hear with their ears,
and understand with their heart and turn again,

and I would heal them.'" ¹⁶ But blessed are your eyes, for they see; and your ears, for they hear. ¹⁷ Truly I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see the things that you see and did not see them. They desired to hear the things that you hear and did not hear them. ¹⁸ Listen then to the parable of the farmer who sowed his seed. ¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom but does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is the seed that was sown beside the road. ²⁰ What was sown on rocky ground is the person who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹ yet he has no root in himself and he endures for a while. When tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, he quickly falls away. ²² What was sown among the thorn plants, this is the person who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful. ²³ The seed that was sown on the good soil, this is the person who hears the word and understands it. He bears fruit and produces a crop, yielding in one case a hundred, in another sixty, and in another thirty times as much as was planted."

²⁴ Jesus presented another parable to them. He said, "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. ²⁵ But while people slept, his enemy came and also sowed weeds among the wheat and then went away. ²⁶ When the blades sprouted and then produced their crop, then the weeds appeared also. ²⁷ The servants of the landowner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How does it now have weeds?'

²⁸ "He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.'

"The servants said to him, 'So do you want us to go and pull them out?'

²⁹ "The landowner said, 'No. Because while you are pulling out the weeds, you might uproot the wheat with them. ³⁰ Let both grow together until the harvest. At the time of the harvest I will say to the reapers, "First pull out the weeds and tie them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn.'"

³¹ Then Jesus presented another parable to them. He said, "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field. ³² This seed is indeed the smallest of all seeds. But when it has grown, it is greater than the garden plants. It becomes a tree, so that the birds of the sky come and nest in its branches." ³³ Jesus then told them another parable. "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed with three measures of flour until all the dough had risen."

³⁴ All these things Jesus said to the crowds in parables; and he said nothing to them without a parable. ³⁵ This was in order that what had been said through the prophet might be fulfilled, when he said,

"I will open my mouth in parables.

I will say things that were hidden from the foundation of the world."

³⁶ Then Jesus left the crowds and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field."

³⁷ Jesus answered and said, "He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. ³⁸ The field is the world; and the good seed, these are the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, ³⁹ and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰ Therefore, as the weeds are gathered up and consumed by fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all stumbling blocks and those who commit lawlessness. ⁴² They will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth. ⁴³ Then will the righteous people shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.

⁴⁴ "The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field. A man found it and hid it. In his joy he goes, sells everything he possesses, and buys that field. ⁴⁵ Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a man who is a merchant looking for valuable pearls. ⁴⁶ When he found one very valuable pearl, he went and sold everything that he possessed and bought it.

⁴⁷ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was cast into the sea, and that gathered all kinds of fish. ⁴⁸ When it was filled, the fishermen drew it up on the beach. Then they sat down and gathered the good ones into containers, but the bad ones they threw away. ⁴⁹ It will be this way at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from among the righteous. ⁵⁰ They will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.

⁵¹ "Have you understood all these things?"

The disciples said to him, "Yes."

⁵² Then Jesus said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple to the kingdom of heaven is like a man who is the owner of a house, who draws out old and new things from his treasure." ⁵³ Then it came about that when Jesus had finished these parables, he departed from that place.

⁵⁴ Then Jesus entered his own region and taught the people in their synagogue. The result was that they were astonished and said, "Where does this man get his wisdom and these miraculous powers from? ⁵⁵ Is not this man the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary? Are not his brothers James, Joseph, Simon, and Judas? ⁵⁶ Are not all his sisters with us? Where did he get all these things?" ⁵⁷ They were offended by him.

But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his own country and in his own family."

⁵⁸ He did not do many miracles there because of their unbelief.

Chapter 14

¹ About that time, Herod the tetrarch heard the news about Jesus. ² He said to his servants, "This is John the Baptist; he has risen from the dead. Therefore these powers are at work in him."

³ For Herod had arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison because of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife. ⁴ For John had said to him, "It is not lawful for you to have her as your wife." ⁵ Herod would have killed him, but he feared the people, because they regarded him as a prophet.

⁶ But when Herod's birthday came, the daughter of Herodias danced in the midst and pleased Herod. ⁷ In response, he promised with an oath to give her whatever she should ask. ⁸ After being instructed by her mother, she said, "Give me here, on a platter, the head of John the Baptist." ⁹ The king was grieved by her request, but because of his oath and because of all those at dinner with him, he ordered that it should be done. ¹⁰ He sent and beheaded John in the prison. ¹¹ Then his head was brought on a platter and given to the girl and she took it to her mother. ¹² Then his disciples came, took up the corpse, and buried it. After this, they went and told Jesus.

¹³ Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place. When the crowds heard of it, they followed him on foot from the cities. ¹⁴ Then Jesus came before them and saw the large crowd. He had compassion on them and healed their sick. ¹⁵ When the evening had come, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour has already passed. Dismiss the crowds, so that they can go into the villages and buy food for themselves."

¹⁶ But Jesus said to them, "They have no need to go away. You give them something to eat."

¹⁷ They said to him, "We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish."

¹⁸ Jesus said, "Bring them to me." ¹⁹ Then Jesus ordered the crowd to sit down on the grass. He took the five loaves and the two fish. Looking up to heaven, he blessed and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowd. ²⁰ They all ate and were filled. Then they took up what remained of the broken pieces of food—twelve baskets full. ²¹ Those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

²² Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he sent away the crowds. ²³ After he had sent away the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone. ²⁴ But the boat was now a long way from land, being tossed about by the waves, for the wind was blowing against them. ²⁵ In the fourth watch of the night Jesus approached them, walking on the sea. ²⁶ When the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled and said, "It is a ghost," and they cried out in fear.

²⁷ But Jesus spoke to them right away and said, "Be brave! It is I! Do not be afraid."

²⁸ Peter answered him and said, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water."

²⁹ Jesus said, "Come."

So Peter got out from the boat and walked on the water to go to Jesus. ³⁰ But when Peter saw the strong wind, he became afraid. As he began to sink, he cried out and said, "Lord, save me!"

³¹ Jesus immediately stretched out his hand, took hold of Peter, and said to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?"

³² Then when Jesus and Peter went into the boat, the wind ceased blowing. ³³ Then the disciples in the boat worshiped Jesus and said, "Truly you are the Son of God."

³⁴ When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret. ³⁵ When the men in that place recognized Jesus, they sent messages everywhere into the surrounding area, and they brought to him everyone who was sick. ³⁶ They begged him that they might just touch the edge of his garment, and as many as touched it were healed.

Chapter 15

¹ Then some Pharisees and scribes came to Jesus from Jerusalem. They said, ² "Why do your disciples violate the traditions of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat bread."

³ He answered and said to them, "Then why do you violate the commandment of God for the sake of your traditions? ⁴ For God said, 'Honor your father and your mother,' and 'He who speaks evil of his father or mother will surely die.' ⁵ But you say, 'Whoever says to his father or mother, "Whatever help you would have received from me is now a gift given to God," ⁶ that person does not need to honor his father.' In this way you have made void the word of God ^[1] for the sake of your traditions. ⁷ You hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy about you when he said,

⁸ 'This people honors me with their lips,
but their heart is far from me.

⁹ They worship me in vain
because they teach as their doctrines the commandments of people.'"

¹⁰ Then he called the crowd to himself and said to them, "Listen and understand— ¹¹ Nothing that enters into the mouth defiles a person. Instead, what comes out of the mouth, this is what defiles a person."

¹² Then the disciples came and said to Jesus, "Do you know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this statement?"

¹³ Jesus answered and said, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be rooted up. ¹⁴ Let them alone, they are blind guides. If a blind person guides another blind person, both will fall into a pit."

¹⁵ Peter responded and said to Jesus, "Explain this parable to us."

¹⁶ Jesus said, "Are you also still without understanding? ¹⁷ Do you not understand that whatever goes into the mouth passes into the stomach and then goes out into the latrine? ¹⁸ But the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart. They are the things that defile a person. ¹⁹ For from the heart proceed evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, and slander. ²⁰ These are the things that defile a person. But to eat with unwashed hands does not defile a person."

²¹ Then Jesus went away from there and withdrew toward the regions of the cities of Tyre and Sidon. ²² Behold, a Canaanite woman came out from that region. She shouted out and said, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed."

²³ But Jesus answered her not a word. His disciples came and begged him, saying, "Send her away, for she is shouting after us."

²⁴ But Jesus answered and said, "I was not sent to anyone except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

²⁵ But she came and bowed down before him, saying, "Lord, help me."

²⁶ He answered and said, "It is not proper to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs."

²⁷ She said, "Yes, Lord, but even the little dogs eat some of the crumbs that fall from their masters' tables."

²⁸ Then Jesus answered and said to her, "Woman, great is your faith; let it be done for you just as you wish." Her daughter was healed from that hour.

²⁹ Jesus left that place and went near to the Sea of Galilee. Then he went up a hill and sat there. ³⁰ Large crowds came to him. They brought with them lame, blind, mute, and crippled people, and many others who were sick. They presented them at Jesus' feet, and he healed them. ³¹ So the crowd marveled when they saw the mute persons speak, the crippled made well, the lame walking, and the blind seeing. They glorified the God of Israel.

³² Jesus called his disciples to him and said, "I have compassion on the crowd because they have stayed with me for three days already and have nothing to eat. I do not want to send them away without eating, or they may faint on the way."

³³ The disciples said to him, "Where can we get enough loaves of bread in such a deserted place to satisfy so large a crowd?"

³⁴ Jesus said to them, "How many loaves do you have?"

They said, "Seven, and a few small fish." ³⁵ Then Jesus commanded the crowd to sit down on the ground.

³⁶ He took the seven loaves and the fish, and after giving thanks, he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples. The disciples gave them to the crowd. ³⁷ The people all ate and were satisfied. Then they gathered up seven baskets full of the broken pieces that were left over. ³⁸ Those who ate were four thousand men, besides women and children. ³⁹ Then Jesus sent the crowds away and got into the boat and went into the region of Magadan.

Footnotes

15:6 ^[1]The best ancient copies have

Chapter 16

- ¹ The Pharisees and Sadducees came and tested him by asking him to show them a sign from the sky. ² But he answered and said to them, "When it is evening, you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red.' ³ When it is morning, you say, 'It will be foul weather, for the sky is red and overcast.' You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times. ⁴ An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah." Then Jesus left them and went away.
- ⁵ When the disciples reached the other side, they had forgotten to take bread. ⁶ Jesus said to them, "Watch out and beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees."
- ⁷ The disciples reasoned among themselves and said, "It is because we took no bread."
- ⁸ Jesus was aware of this and said, "You of little faith, why do you reason among yourselves and say that it is because you have taken no bread? ⁹ Do you not understand? Do you not remember the five loaves for the five thousand, and how many baskets you gathered up? ¹⁰ Or the seven loaves for the four thousand, and how many baskets you took up? ¹¹ How is it that you do not understand that I was not speaking to you about bread? Watch out and beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees." ¹² Then they understood that he was not telling them to beware of yeast in bread, but to beware of the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.
- ¹³ Now when Jesus came to the regions near Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?"
- ¹⁴ They said, "Some say John the Baptist; some, Elijah; and others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets."
- ¹⁵ He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"
- ¹⁶ Answering, Simon Peter said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."
- ¹⁷ Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for flesh and blood have not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸ I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church. The gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give to you the keys of the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." ²⁰ Then Jesus commanded the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.
- ²¹ From that time Jesus started to tell his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem, suffer many things at the hand of the elders and chief priests and scribes, be killed, and be raised back to life on the third day.
- ²² Then Peter took him aside and rebuked him, saying, "May this be far from you, Lord! May this never happen to you!"
- ²³ But Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me, for you do not think about the things of God, but about the things of people." ²⁴ Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone wants to follow me, he must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. ²⁵ For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ For what does it profit a person if he gains the whole world but forfeits his life? What can a person give in exchange for his life? ²⁷ For the Son of Man will come in the glory of his Father with his angels. Then he will reward every person according to his deeds. ²⁸ Truly I say to you, there are some of you standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."
-

Chapter 17

¹ Six days later Jesus took with him Peter, James, and John his brother, and brought them up a high mountain by themselves. ² He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his garments became as brilliant as the light. ³ Behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah talking with him. ⁴ Peter answered and said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you desire, I will make here three shelters—one for you, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

⁵ While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and behold, there was a voice out of the cloud, saying, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Listen to him."

⁶ When the disciples heard it, they fell facedown and were very afraid. ⁷ Then Jesus came and touched them and said, "Get up and do not be afraid." ⁸ Then they looked up but saw no one except Jesus only.

⁹ As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, saying, "Report this vision to no one until the Son of Man has risen from the dead."

¹⁰ His disciples asked him, saying, "Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?"

¹¹ Jesus answered and said, "Elijah will indeed come and restore all things. ¹² But I tell you, Elijah has already come, but they did not recognize him. Instead, they did whatever they wanted to him. In the same way, the Son of Man will also suffer at their hands." ¹³ Then the disciples understood that he was speaking to them about John the Baptist.

¹⁴ When they had come to the crowd, a man came to him, knelt before him, and said, ¹⁵ "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is epileptic and suffers severely. For he often falls into the fire or the water. ¹⁶ I brought him to your disciples, but they could not cure him."

¹⁷ Jesus answered and said, "Unbelieving and perverse generation, how long will I have to stay with you? How long must I bear with you? Bring him here to me." ¹⁸ Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him, and the boy was healed from that hour.

¹⁹ Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?"

²⁰ Jesus said to them, "Because of your small faith. For I truly say to you, if you have faith even as small as a grain of mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you." ²¹^[1]

²² While they stayed in Galilee, Jesus said to his disciples, "The Son of Man will be given over into the hands of people, ²³ and they will kill him, and the third day he will be raised up." The disciples were deeply grieved.

²⁴ When they had come to Capernaum, the men who collected the two-drachma tax came to Peter and said, "Does not your teacher pay the two-drachma tax?"

²⁵ He said, "Yes."

When Peter came into the house, Jesus spoke to him first and said, "What do you think, Simon? From whom do the kings of the earth collect tolls or taxes? From their sons or from others?"

²⁶ "From others," Peter answered.

"Then the sons are free," Jesus said. ²⁷ But so that we do not cause the tax collectors to stumble, go to the sea, throw in a hook, and draw in the fish that comes up first. When you have opened its mouth, you will find a shekel. Take it and give it to the tax collectors for me and you."

Footnotes

17:21 ^[1]The best ancient copies do not have v. 21,

Chapter 18

¹ At that time the disciples came to Jesus and said, "Who is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"

² Jesus called to himself a little child, set him among them, ³ and said, "Truly I say to you, unless you turn and become like little children, you will in no way enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. ⁵ Whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name receives me. ⁶ But whoever causes one of these little ones who believes in me to stumble, it would be better for him that a large millstone should be hung about his neck, and that he should be sunk into the depths of the sea.

⁷ "Woe to the world because of stumbling blocks! For it is necessary that those stumbling blocks come, but woe to the person through whom those stumbling blocks come! ⁸ If your hand or your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away from you. It is better for you to enter into life maimed or lame than to be thrown into the eternal fire having two hands or two feet. ⁹ If your eye causes you to stumble, pluck it out and throw it away from you. It is better for you to enter into life with one eye than to be thrown into the fiery hell having both eyes. ¹⁰ See that you do not despise any of these little ones. For I say to you that in heaven their angels always look on the face of my Father who is in heaven. ¹¹¹² What do you think? If anyone has a hundred sheep, and one of them goes astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the hillside and go off seeking the one that went astray? ¹³ If he finds it, truly I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that did not go astray. ¹⁴ In the same way, it is not the will of your Father in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

¹⁵ "If your brother sins against you, go and rebuke him, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you will have gained your brother. ¹⁶ But if he does not listen to you, take one or two others along with you so that by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word might be confirmed. ¹⁷ And if he refuses to listen to them, tell the matter to the church. If he also refuses to listen to the church, let him be to you as a pagan and a tax collector. ¹⁸ I tell you truly, whatever things you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again I tell you truly, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father who is in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there I am in their midst."

²¹ Then Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Until seven times?"

²² Jesus said to him, "I do not tell you seven times, but until seventy times seven. ²³ Therefore the kingdom of heaven is similar to a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ As he began the settling, one servant was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵ But since he did not have the means to repay, his master commanded him to be sold, together with his wife and children and everything that he had, and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the servant fell down, bowed down before him, and said, 'Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷ So the master of that servant, since he was moved with compassion, released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants, who owed him one hundred denarii. He took hold of him, began to choke him, and said, 'Pay me what you owe.'

²⁹ "But his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will repay you.' ³⁰ But the first servant refused. Instead, he went and threw him into prison until he should pay him what he owed. ³¹ When his fellow servants saw what had happened, they were deeply grieved. They came and told their master everything that had happened.

³² "Then that servant's master called him and said to him, 'You wicked servant, I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow servant, even as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴ His master was angry and handed him over to the torturers until he would pay all that was owed. ³⁵ So also my heavenly Father will do to you if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

Footnotes

18:11 ^[1] The best ancient Greek copies do not have the sentence that some translations include,

Chapter 19

¹ It came about that when Jesus had finished these words, he departed from Galilee and came to the region of Judea that is beyond the Jordan River. ² Great crowds followed him, and he healed them there.

³ Pharisees came to him, testing him, saying to him, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any cause?"

⁴ Jesus answered and said, "Have you not read that he who made them from the beginning made them male and female? ⁵ He who made them also said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and join to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.' ⁶ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one tear apart."

⁷ They said to him, "Why then did Moses command us to give a certificate of divorce and then to send her away?"

⁸ He said to them, "For your hardness of heart, Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not that way. ⁹ I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery." ^[1]

¹⁰ The disciples said to Jesus, "If that is the case of a man with his wife, it is not good to marry."

¹¹ But Jesus said to them, "Not everyone can accept this saying, but only those to whom it is given. ¹² For there are eunuchs who were born that way from their mother's womb, and there are eunuchs who were made eunuchs by men, and there are eunuchs who made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. He who is able to accept this teaching, let him accept it."

¹³ Then some little children were brought to him so that he would lay his hands on them and pray, but the disciples rebuked them. ¹⁴ But Jesus said, "Permit the little children, and do not forbid them to come to me, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such ones." ¹⁵ He placed his hands on the children, and then he went away from there.

¹⁶ Behold, a man came to Jesus and said, "Teacher, what good thing must I do that I may have eternal life?"

¹⁷ Jesus said to him, "Why do you ask me about what is good? Only one is good, but if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments."

¹⁸ The man said to him, "Which commandments?"

Jesus said, "Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not bear false witness, ¹⁹ honor your father and your mother, and love your neighbor as yourself."

²⁰ The young man said to him, "All these things I have obeyed. What do I still need?"

²¹ Jesus said to him, "If you wish to be perfect, go, sell your possessions, and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." ²² But when the young man heard what Jesus said, he went away sorrowful, for he had many possessions.

²³ Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly I say to you, it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven.

²⁴ Again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God."

²⁵ When the disciples heard it, they were very astonished and said, "Who then can be saved?"

²⁶ Jesus looked at them and said, "With people this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

²⁷ Then Peter answered and said to him, "See, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?"

28 Jesus said to them, "Truly I say to you, in the new age when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. **29** Every one who has left houses, brothers, sisters, father, mother, children, or land for my name's sake will receive one hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life. **30** But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.

Footnotes

19:9 ^[1]The best ancient copies do not have

Chapter 20

¹ "For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ² After he had agreed with the laborers for one denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ He went out again about the third hour and saw other laborers standing idle in the marketplace. ⁴ To them he said, 'You also, go into the vineyard, and I will give you what is right.' So they went to work. ⁵ Again he went out about the sixth hour and again the ninth hour, and did the same. ⁶ Once more about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing idle. He said to them, 'Why do you stand here idle all the day long?'

⁷ "They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.'

"He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' ⁸ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning from the last to the first.'

⁹ "When the laborers who had been hired at the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰ When the first laborers came, they thought that they would receive more, but they also received one denarius each. ¹¹ When they received their wages, they complained about the landowner. ¹² They said, 'These last laborers have spent only one hour in work, but you have made them equal to us, we who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.'

¹³ "But the owner answered and said to one of them, 'Friend, I do you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for one denarius? ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go your way. I choose to give to these last hired laborers just the same as to you. ¹⁵ Is it not lawful for me to do as I want with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am good?' ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first last." [\[1\]](#)

¹⁷ As Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside, and on the way he said to them, ¹⁸ "See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be given over to the chief priests and scribes. They will condemn him to death ¹⁹ and will deliver him to the Gentiles for them to mock, to flog, and to crucify him. But on the third day he will be raised up."

²⁰ Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came to Jesus with her sons. She bowed down before him and asked for something from him.

²¹ Jesus said to her, "What do you wish?"

She said to him, "Command that these my two sons may sit, one at your right hand and one at your left hand, in your kingdom."

²² But Jesus answered and said, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?"

They said to him, "We are able."

²³ He said to them, "My cup you will indeed drink. But to sit at my right hand and at my left hand is not mine to give, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father." ²⁴ When the other ten disciples heard this, they were very angry with the two brothers. ²⁵ But Jesus called them to himself and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles dominate them, and their important men exercise authority over them. ²⁶ But it must not be this way among you. Instead, whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, ²⁷ and whoever wishes to be first among you must be your servant, ²⁸ just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

²⁹ As they went out from Jericho, a great crowd followed him. ³⁰ There were two blind men sitting by the road. When they heard that Jesus was passing by, they shouted, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us."

³¹ The crowd rebuked them, telling them to be quiet, but they cried out even more loudly, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us."

³² Then Jesus stood still and called to them and said, "What do you wish me to do for you?"

³³ They said to him, "Lord, that our eyes may be opened." ³⁴ Then Jesus, being moved with compassion, touched their eyes. Immediately they received their sight and followed him.

Footnotes

20:16 ^[1] The best ancient copies do not have

Chapter 21

¹ As Jesus and his disciples approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, ² saying to them, "Go into the next village, and you will immediately find a donkey tied up there, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. ³ If anyone says anything to you about that, you will say, 'The Lord has need of them,' and that person will immediately send them with you."

⁴ Now all this happened to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet, saying,

⁵ "Tell the daughter of Zion,
 'See, your King is coming to you,
Humble and riding on a donkey—
 on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'"

⁶ Then the disciples went and did just as Jesus had instructed them. ⁷ They brought the donkey and the colt and put their cloaks on them, and Jesus sat upon the cloaks. ⁸ Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches off the trees and spread them in the road. ⁹ Then the crowds that went before Jesus and those that followed him were shouting,

"Hosanna to the son of David!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest!"

¹⁰ When Jesus had come into Jerusalem, all the city was stirred and said, "Who is this?"

¹¹ The crowds answered, "This is Jesus the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee."

¹² Then Jesus entered the temple. He cast out all those who bought and sold in the temple, and turned over the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. ¹³ He said to them, "It is written, 'My house will be called a house of prayer,' but you make it a den of robbers."

¹⁴ Then the blind and the lame came to him in the temple, and he healed them. ¹⁵ But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the marvelous things that he did, and when they heard the children shouting in the temple and saying, "Hosanna to the Son of David," they became very angry.

¹⁶ They said to him, "Do you hear what they are saying?"

Jesus said to them, "Yes! But have you never read,

'Out of the mouths of little children and nursing infants
you have prepared praise?'"

¹⁷ Then Jesus left them and went out of the city to Bethany and spent the night there.

¹⁸ Now in the morning as he returned to the city, he was hungry. ¹⁹ Seeing a fig tree along the roadside, he went to it and found nothing on it except leaves. He said to it, "May there be no fruit from you ever again," and immediately the fig tree withered.

²⁰ When the disciples saw it, they marveled and said, "How did the fig tree immediately wither away?"

²¹ Jesus answered and said to them, "Truly I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to this fig tree, but you will even say to this mountain, 'Be taken up and thrown into the sea,' and it will be done. ²² Whatever you ask for in prayer, believing, you will receive."

²³ When Jesus had come into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, "By what authority do you do these things, and who gave you this authority?"

²⁴ Jesus answered and said to them, "I also will ask you one question. If you tell me, I will tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵ The baptism of John—from where did it come? From heaven or from men?"

They discussed among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' ²⁶ But if we say, 'From men,' we fear the crowd, because they all view John as a prophet." ²⁷ Then they answered Jesus and said, "We do not know."

He also said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁸ But what do you think? A man had two sons. He went to the first and said, 'Son, go labor today in the vineyard.'

²⁹ "The son answered and said, 'I will not,' but afterward he changed his mind and went.

³⁰ "Then the man went to the second son and said the same thing. He answered and said, 'I will go, sir,' but he did not go. ³¹ Which of the two sons did his father's will?"

They said, "The first one."

Jesus said to them, "Truly I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes will enter the kingdom of God before you do. ³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness, but you did not believe him. But the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. But you, even when you saw this, you did not repent afterward and believe him.

³³ "Listen to another parable. There was a man, a landowner. He planted a vineyard, set a hedge about it, dug a winepress in it, built a watchtower, and rented it out to vine growers. Then he went into another country. ³⁴ When the time of the fruit harvest approached, he sent some servants to the vine growers to collect his fruit. ³⁵ But the vine growers took his servants, beat one, killed another, and stoned still another. ³⁶ Again, the owner sent other servants, more than the first, but the vine growers treated them in the same way. ³⁷ After that, the owner sent his own son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.'

³⁸ "But when the vine growers saw the son, they said among themselves, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and take over the inheritance.' ³⁹ So they took him, threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. ⁴⁰ Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vine growers?"

⁴¹ They said to him, "He will violently destroy those wicked people, and he will then rent out the vineyard to other vine growers, men who will give him his share of crops at the harvest time."

⁴² Jesus said to them, "Did you never read in the scriptures,

'The stone which the builders rejected
has been made the cornerstone.
This was from the Lord,
and it is marvelous in our eyes'?

⁴³ Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and will be given to a nation that produces its fruits. ⁴⁴ Whoever falls on this stone will be broken to pieces. But anyone on whom it falls will be crushed." ⁴⁵ When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they understood he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶ Seeking to arrest him, they were afraid of the crowd, because the people regarded him as a prophet.

Chapter 22

¹ Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying, ² "The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who prepared a marriage feast for his son. ³ He sent out his servants to call those who had been invited to come to the marriage feast, but they would not come. ⁴ Again the king sent other servants, saying, 'Tell them who are invited, "See, I have prepared my dinner. My oxen and fattened cattle have been killed, and all things are ready. Come to the marriage feast."' ⁵ But they paid no attention and went away, one to his farm, another to his business. ⁶ The others seized the king's servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them. ⁷ The king was angry, and he sent his soldiers and they destroyed those murderers and burned their city. ⁸ Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. ⁹ Therefore go to the highway crossings and invite as many people to the marriage feast as you can find.' ¹⁰ The servants went out to the highways and gathered together all the people they found, both bad and good. So the wedding hall was filled with guests. ¹¹ But when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. ¹² The king said to him, 'Friend, how did you come in here without wedding clothes?' But the man was speechless. ¹³ Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind this man hand and foot, and throw him out into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and the grinding of teeth.' ¹⁴ For many people are called, but few are chosen."

¹⁵ Then the Pharisees went and planned how they might entrap Jesus in his own talk. ¹⁶ Then they sent to him their disciples, together with the Herodians. They said to Jesus, "Teacher, we know that you are truthful, and that you teach God's way in truth. You care for no one's opinion, and you do not show partiality between people. ¹⁷ So tell us, what do you think? Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?"

¹⁸ But Jesus understood their wickedness and said, "Why are you testing me, you hypocrites? ¹⁹ Show me the coin for the tax." Then they brought a denarius to him. ²⁰ Jesus said to them, "Whose image and name are these?"

²¹ They said to him, "Caesar's."

Then Jesus said to them, "Then give to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." ²² When they heard it, they marveled. Then they left him and went away.

²³ On that day some Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to him. They asked him, ²⁴ saying, "Teacher, Moses said, 'If a man dies, having no children, his brother must marry his wife and raise children for his brother.' ²⁵ There were seven brothers. The first married and then died. Having left no children, he left his wife to his brother. ²⁶ Then the second brother did the same thing, then the third, all the way to the seventh brother. ²⁷ After them all, the woman died. ²⁸ Now in the resurrection, whose wife will she be of the seven brothers? For they all had married her."

²⁹ But Jesus answered and said to them, "You are mistaken because you do not know the scriptures or the power of God. ³⁰ For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage. Instead, they are like angels in heaven. ³¹ But concerning the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was spoken to you by God, saying, ³² 'I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living." ³³ When the crowds heard this, they were astonished at his teaching.

³⁴ But when the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered themselves together. ³⁵ One of them, an expert in the law, asked him a question, testing him— ³⁶ "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the law?"

³⁷ Jesus said to him, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' ³⁸ This is the great and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second commandment is like it—'Love your neighbor as yourself.' ⁴⁰ On these two commandments depend the whole law and the prophets."

⁴¹ Now while the Pharisees were still gathered together, Jesus asked them a question. ⁴² He said, "What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is he?"

They said to him, "The son of David."

⁴³ Jesus said to them, "How then does David in the Spirit call him Lord, saying,

⁴⁴ 'The Lord said to my Lord,
"Sit at my right hand,
until I make your enemies your footstool"?'"

⁴⁵ If David then calls the Christ 'Lord,' how is he David's son?" ⁴⁶ No one was able to answer him a word, and no man dared ask him any more questions from that day on.

Chapter 23

¹ Then Jesus spoke to the crowds and to his disciples. ² He said, "The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat. ³ Therefore whatever they command you to do, do these things and observe them. But do not imitate their deeds, for they say things but then do not do them. ⁴ Yes, they bind heavy burdens that are difficult to carry, and then they put them on people's shoulders. But they themselves will not move a finger to carry them. ⁵ They do all their deeds to be seen by people. For they make their phylacteries wide, and they enlarge the edges of their garments. ⁶ They love the places of honor at feasts and the chief seats in the synagogues, ⁷ and special greetings in the marketplaces, and to be called 'Rabbi' by people. ⁸ But you must not be called 'Rabbi,' for you have only one teacher, and all of you are brothers. ⁹ And call no man on earth your father, for you have only one Father, and he is in heaven. ¹⁰ Neither must you be called 'teacher,' for you have only one teacher, the Christ. ¹¹ But he who is greatest among you will be your servant. ¹² Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

¹³ But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! You shut the kingdom of heaven against people. For you do not enter it yourselves, and neither do you allow those about to enter to do so. ¹⁴^[1]¹⁵ Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you go over sea and land to make one convert, and when he has become one, you make him twice as much a son of hell as you.

¹⁶ "Woe to you, you blind guides, you who say, 'Whoever swears by the temple, it is nothing. But whoever swears by the gold of the temple, he is bound to his oath.' ¹⁷ You blind fools! Which is greater, the gold or the temple that makes the gold holy? ¹⁸ And, 'Whoever swears by the altar, it is nothing. But whoever swears by the gift that is on it, he is bound to his oath.' ¹⁹ You blind people! Which is greater, the gift or the altar that makes the gift holy? ²⁰ Therefore, he who swears by the altar swears by it and by everything on it. ²¹ The one who swears by the temple swears by it and by the one who lives in it. ²² And the one who swears by heaven swears by the throne of God and by him who sits on it.

²³ "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, but you have left undone the weightier matters of the law—justice and mercy and faithfulness. But these you ought to have done and not to have left the other undone. ²⁴ You blind guides, you who strain out a gnat but swallow a camel!

²⁵ "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and of the plate, but inside they are full of robbery and self-indulgence. ²⁶ You blind Pharisee! Clean first the inside of the cup and of the plate, so that the outside may become clean also.

²⁷ "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which on the outside look beautiful, but on the inside are full of dead men's bones and everything unclean. ²⁸ In the same way, you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

²⁹ "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you build the tombs of the prophets and decorate the tombs of the righteous. ³⁰ You say, 'If we had lived in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partners with them in shedding the blood of the prophets.' ³¹ Therefore you testify against yourselves that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets. ³² You also fill up the measure of your fathers. ³³ You serpents, you offspring of vipers, how will you escape the judgment of hell? ³⁴ Therefore, see, I am sending you prophets and wise men and scribes. Some of them you will kill and crucify, and some you will whip in your synagogues and chase from city to city. ³⁵ The result is that upon you will come all the righteous blood that has been shed on the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel, to the blood of Zechariah son of Berekiah, whom you murdered between the sanctuary and the altar. ³⁶ Truly I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation.

³⁷ "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those who are sent to you! How often did I long to gather your children together, just as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! ³⁸ See, your house is left to you desolate. ³⁹ For I say to you, You will not see me from now on until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

Footnotes

23:14 ^[1] The best ancient copies do not have verse 14 (some copies add the verse after verse 12).

Chapter 24

¹ Jesus went out from the temple and was going on his way. His disciples came to him to point out to him the buildings of the temple. ² But he answered and said to them, "Do you not see all these things? Truly I say to you, not one stone will be left on another that will not be torn down."

³ As he sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately and said, "Tell us, when will these things happen? What will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?"

⁴ Jesus answered and said to them, "Be careful that no one leads you astray. ⁵ For many will come in my name. They will say, 'I am the Christ,' and will lead many astray. ⁶ You will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled, for these things must happen; but the end is not yet. ⁷ For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. ⁸ But all these things are only the beginning of birth pains. ⁹ Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you. You will be hated by all the nations for my name's sake. ¹⁰ Then many will stumble, and betray one another and hate one another. ¹¹ Many false prophets will rise up and lead many astray. ¹² Because lawlessness will increase, the love of many will grow cold. ¹³ But the one who endures to the end will be saved. ¹⁴ This good news of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations. Then the end will come.

¹⁵ "Therefore, when you see the abomination of desolation, which was spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (let the reader understand), ¹⁶ "let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, ¹⁷ let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house, ¹⁸ and let him who is in the field not return to take his cloak. ¹⁹ But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing infants in those days! ²⁰ Pray that your flight will not occur in the winter or on a Sabbath. ²¹ For there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, nor ever will be again. ²² Unless those days had been shortened, no flesh would be saved. But for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened. ²³ Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or, 'There is the Christ!' do not believe it. ²⁴ For false Christs and false prophets will arise and show great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect. ²⁵ See, I have told you ahead of time. ²⁶ Therefore, if they say to you, 'Look, he is in the wilderness,' do not go out to the wilderness. Or, 'See, he is in the inner rooms,' do not believe it. ²⁷ For as the lightning shines out from the east and flashes all the way to the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ²⁸ Wherever a dead animal is, there the vultures will gather.

²⁹ "But immediately after the tribulation of those days

the sun will be darkened,
the moon will not give its light,
the stars will fall from the sky,

and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ³⁰ Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the tribes of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory. ³¹ He will send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.

³² "Learn a lesson from the fig tree. As soon as the branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. ³³ So also, when you see all these things, you should know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁴ Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all of these things will have happened. ³⁵ Heaven and the earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. ³⁶ But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷ As the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage until the day that Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they knew nothing until the flood came and took them all away—so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Then two men will be in a field—one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding with a mill—one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴² Therefore be on your guard, for you do not know on what day your Lord will come. ⁴³ But know this, that if the master of the house had known in

what time of night the thief was coming, he would have been on guard and would not have allowed his house to be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore you must also be ready, for the Son of Man will come at an hour that you do not expect.

⁴⁵ "So who is the faithful and wise servant whom his master has set over his household in order to give them their food at the right time? ⁴⁶ Blessed is that servant whom his master will find doing that when he comes. ⁴⁷ Truly I say to you that the master will set him over all his possessions. ⁴⁸ But if an evil servant says in his heart, 'My master has been delayed,' ⁴⁹ and begins to beat his fellow servants, and eats and drinks with drunkards, ⁵⁰ then the master of that servant will come on a day that the servant does not expect and at an hour that he does not know. ⁵¹ His master will cut him in pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.

Chapter 25

¹ "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ² Five of them were foolish and five were wise. ³ For when the foolish virgins took their lamps, they did not take any oil with them. ⁴ But the wise virgins took containers of oil along with their lamps. ⁵ Now while the bridegroom was delayed, they all got sleepy and slept. ⁶ But at midnight there was a cry, 'Look, the bridegroom! Go out and meet him.'

⁷ Then all those virgins rose up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸ The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil because our lamps are going out.'

⁹ "But the wise answered and said, 'Since there will not be enough for us and you, go instead to those who sell and buy some for yourselves.' ¹⁰ While they went away to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut.

¹¹ "Afterward the other virgins also came and said, 'Master, master, open for us.'

¹² "But he answered and said, 'Truly I say to you, I do not know you.' ¹³ Watch therefore, for you do not know the day or the hour.

¹⁴ "For it is like when a man was about to go into another country. He called his own servants and entrusted his possessions to them. ¹⁵ To one of them he gave five talents, to another he gave two, and to yet another he gave one talent. Each one received an amount according to his own ability, and that man went on his journey. ¹⁶ The one who received the five talents went at once and worked with them and gained another five talents. ¹⁷ In the same way, the one who had received two talents gained another two. ¹⁸ But the servant who had received one talent went away, dug a hole in the ground, and hid his master's money. ¹⁹ Now after a long time the master of those servants came back and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ The servant who had received the five talents came and brought another five talents. He said, 'Master, you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five talents more.'

²¹ "His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful over a few things. I will put you in charge over many things. Enter into the joy of your master.'

²² "The servant who had received two talents came and said, 'Master, you gave me two talents. See, I have gained two more talents.'

²³ "His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful over a few things. I will put you in charge over many things. Enter into the joy of your master.'

²⁴ "Then the servant who had received one talent came and said, 'Master, I know that you are a hard man. You reap where you did not sow, and you harvest where you did not scatter. ²⁵ I was afraid, so I went away and hid your talent in the ground. See, you have here what belongs to you.'

²⁶ "But his master answered and said to him, 'You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sowed and harvest where I have not scattered. ²⁷ Therefore you should have given my money to the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. ²⁸ Therefore take away the talent from him and give it to the servant who has ten talents. ²⁹ For to everyone who possesses more will be given, and he will have an abundance. But from anyone who does not possess anything, even what he does have will be taken away. ³⁰ Throw the worthless servant out into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.'

³¹ "When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. ³² Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate the people one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ He will place the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on his left. ³⁴ Then the King will say to those on his right hand, 'Come, you who have been blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. ³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me a drink; I was a stranger and you took me in; ³⁶ I was naked and you clothed me; I was sick and you cared for me; I was in prison and you came to me.'

³⁷ "Then the righteous will answer and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you a drink? ³⁸ When did we see you a stranger and take you in? Or naked and clothe you? ³⁹ When did we see you sick or in prison and come to you?'

⁴⁰ "Then the King will answer and say to them, 'Truly I say to you, what you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it for me.' ⁴¹ Then he will say to those on his left hand, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire that has been prepared for the devil and his angels, ⁴² because I was hungry, but you did not give me food; I was thirsty, but you did not give me a drink; ⁴³ I was a stranger, but you did not take me in; naked, but you did not clothe me; sick and in prison, but you did not care for me.'

⁴⁴ "Then they will also answer and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not serve you?'

⁴⁵ "Then he will answer them and say, 'Truly I say to you, what you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.' ⁴⁶ These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

Chapter 26

¹ It came about that when Jesus had finished all these words, he said to his disciples, ² "You know that after two days the Passover is coming, and the Son of Man will be given over to be crucified."

³ Then the chief priests and the elders of the people were gathered together in the palace of the high priest, who was named Caiaphas. ⁴ They plotted together to arrest Jesus stealthily and kill him. ⁵ For they were saying, "Not during the festival, so that a riot does not arise among the people."

⁶ Now while Jesus was in Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, ⁷ as he was reclining at table, a woman came to him having an alabaster jar of very expensive ointment, and she poured it upon his head. ⁸ But when his disciples saw it, they became angry and said, "What is the reason for this waste? ⁹ This could have been sold for a large amount and given to the poor."

¹⁰ But Jesus, knowing this, said to them, "Why are you causing trouble for this woman? For she has done a beautiful thing for me. ¹¹ You always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me. ¹² For when she poured this ointment on my body, she did it for my burial. ¹³ Truly I say to you, wherever this good news is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be spoken of in memory of her."

¹⁴ Then one of the twelve, who was named Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests ¹⁵ and said, "What are you willing to give me to turn him over to you?" They weighed out thirty pieces of silver for him. ¹⁶ From that moment he sought an opportunity to turn him over to them.

¹⁷ Now on the first day of unleavened bread the disciples came to Jesus and said, "Where do you want us to prepare for you to eat the Passover meal?"

¹⁸ He said, "Go into the city to a certain man and say to him, 'The Teacher says, "My time is at hand. I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples."'" ¹⁹ The disciples did as Jesus directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal.

²⁰ When evening came, he sat down to eat with the twelve disciples. ²¹ As they were eating, he said, "Truly I say to you that one of you will betray me."

²² They were very sorrowful, and each one began to ask him, "Surely not I, Lord?"

²³ He answered, "The one who dips his hand with me in the dish is the one who will betray me. ²⁴ The Son of Man will go, just as it is written about him. But woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would be better for that man if he had not been born."

²⁵ Judas, who would betray him said, "Is it I, Rabbi?"

He said to him, "You have said it yourself."

²⁶ As they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed it, and broke it. He gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat. This is my body." ²⁷ He took a cup and gave thanks, and gave it to them and said, "Drink it, all of you. ²⁸ For this is my blood of the covenant that is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹ But I say to you, I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

³⁰ When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. ³¹ Then Jesus said to them, "All of you will fall away tonight because of me, for it is written,

'I will strike the shepherd
and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.'

³² But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you into Galilee."

³³ But Peter said to him, "Even if all fall away because of you, I will never fall away."

³⁴ Jesus said to him, "Truly I say to you, this very night, before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times."

³⁵ Peter said to him, "Even if I must die with you, I will not deny you." All the other disciples said the same thing.

³⁶ Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane and said to his disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." ³⁷ He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee with him and began to become sorrowful and troubled. ³⁸ Then he said to them, "My soul is deeply sorrowful, even to death. Remain here and watch with me." ³⁹ He went a little farther, fell on his face, and prayed. He said, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me. Yet, not as I will, but as you will." ⁴⁰ He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter, "What, could you not watch with me for one hour? ⁴¹ Watch and pray that you do not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." ⁴² He went away a second time and prayed. He said, "My Father, if this cannot pass away unless I drink it, your will be done." ⁴³ He came again and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. ⁴⁴ So leaving them again, he went away and prayed a third time, saying the same words. ⁴⁵ Then Jesus came to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Look, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴⁶ Arise, let us go. Look, the one who is betraying me is near."

⁴⁷ While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, came. A large crowd came with him from the chief priests and elders of the people. They came with swords and clubs. ⁴⁸ Now the man who was going to betray Jesus had given them a signal, saying, "The one I kiss is the man. Seize him." ⁴⁹ Immediately he came up to Jesus and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and he kissed him.

⁵⁰ Jesus said to him, "Friend, do what you have come to do." Then they came, laid hands on Jesus, and seized him. ⁵¹ Behold, one of those who was with Jesus stretched out his hand, drew his sword, and struck the servant of the high priest, and cut off his ear. ⁵² Then Jesus said to him, "Put your sword back in its place, for all those who take up the sword will perish by the sword. ⁵³ Do you think that I could not call upon my Father, and he would send me more than twelve legions of angels? ⁵⁴ But how then would the scriptures be fulfilled, that this must happen?" ⁵⁵ At that time Jesus said to the crowd, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to seize me like a robber? Every day I sat teaching in the temple, and you did not arrest me. ⁵⁶ But all this has happened so that the writings of the prophets might be fulfilled." Then all the disciples abandoned him and fled.

⁵⁷ Those who had seized Jesus led him away to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders had gathered together. ⁵⁸ But Peter followed him from a distance to the courtyard of the high priest. He went inside and sat down with the officers to see the outcome. ⁵⁹ Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for false testimony against Jesus so that they might put him to death. ⁶⁰ They did not find any, even though many false witnesses came forward. But later two came forward ⁶¹ and said, "This man said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and rebuild it in three days.'"

⁶² The high priest stood up and said to him, "Do you have no answer? What is it that they are testifying against you?" ⁶³ But Jesus was silent. The high priest said to him, "I command you by the living God, tell us whether you are the Christ, the Son of God."

⁶⁴ Jesus replied to him, "You have said it yourself. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven."

⁶⁵ Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "He has spoken blasphemy! Why do we still need witnesses? Look, now you have heard the blasphemy. ⁶⁶ What do you think?"

They answered and said, "He is deserving of death." ⁶⁷ Then they spit in his face and beat him with their fists, while some slapped him ⁶⁸ and said, "Prophecy to us, you Christ. Who is it that struck you?"

⁶⁹ Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard, and a servant girl came to him and said, "You were also with Jesus of Galilee."

⁷⁰ But he denied it in front of them all, saying, "I do not know what you are talking about."

⁷¹ When he went out to the gateway, another servant girl saw him and said to those there, "This man was also with Jesus of Nazareth."

⁷² He again denied it with an oath, "I do not know the man!"

⁷³ After a little while those who were standing by came and said to Peter, "Surely you are also one of them, for the way you speak gives you away."

⁷⁴ Then he began to curse and swear, "I do not know the man," and immediately a rooster crowed.

⁷⁵ Peter remembered the words that Jesus had said, "Before the rooster crows you will deny me three times." Then he went outside and wept bitterly.

Chapter 27

¹ Now when morning came, all the chief priests and elders of the people plotted against Jesus to put him to death. ² They bound him, led him away, and delivered him to Pilate the governor.

³ Then when Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus had been condemned, he repented and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, ⁴ and said, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood."

But they said, "What is that to us? See to that yourself." ⁵ Then he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went out and hanged himself. ⁶ The chief priests took the pieces of silver and said, "It is not lawful to put this into the treasury because it is the price of blood." ⁷ They discussed the matter together, and they bought with the money the potter's field in which to bury strangers. ⁸ For this reason that field has been called, "The Field of Blood" to this day. ⁹ Then that which had been spoken by Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled, saying, "They took the thirty pieces of silver, the price set on him by the sons of Israel, ¹⁰ and they gave it for the potter's field, as the Lord had directed me."

¹¹ Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered him, "You say so."

¹² But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he answered nothing. ¹³ Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many things they accuse you of?" ¹⁴ But he did not answer even one word, so that the governor was greatly amazed. ¹⁵ Now at the festival it was the custom of the governor to set free one prisoner chosen by the crowd. ¹⁶ At that time they had a notorious prisoner named Jesus Barabbas. ¹⁷ So when they were gathered together, Pilate said to them, "Who do you want me to set free for you? Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?" ¹⁸ He knew that they had handed Jesus over to him because of envy.

¹⁹ While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him and said, "Have nothing to do with that innocent man. For I have suffered much today because of a dream I had about him."

²⁰ Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd that they should ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. ²¹ The governor asked them, "Which of the two do you want me to set free for you?"

They said, "Barabbas."

²² Pilate said to them, "What should I do with Jesus who is called Christ?"

They all answered, "Crucify him."

²³ Then he said, "Why, what evil has he done?"

But they cried out even louder, "Crucify him."

²⁴ So when Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing, but instead a riot was starting, he took water, washed his hands in front of the crowd, and said, "I am innocent of the blood of this man. You see to it."

²⁵ All the people said, "May his blood be on us and our children." ²⁶ Then he set Barabbas free for them, but he scourged Jesus and handed him over to be crucified.

²⁷ Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the government headquarters and they gathered the whole company of soldiers. ²⁸ They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him. ²⁹ They made a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and placed a staff in his right hand. They knelt down before him and mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" ³⁰ They spat on him, and they took the staff and struck him on the head again and again. ³¹ When they had mocked him, they took the robe off him and put his own garments on him, and led him away to crucify him.

³² As they came out, they found a man from Cyrene named Simon, whom they forced to go with them so that he might carry his cross. ³³ They came to a place called Golgotha, which means "The Place of a

Skull." ³⁴ They gave him wine to drink mixed with gall. But when he tasted it, he would not drink. ³⁵ When they had crucified him, they divided up his garments by casting lots, ³⁶ and they sat and kept guard over him. ³⁷ Above his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the king of the Jews." ³⁸ Two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right of him and one on the left. ³⁹ Those who passed by insulted him, shaking their heads ⁴⁰ and saying, "You who were going to destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross!"

⁴¹ In the same way the chief priests were mocking him, along with the scribes and elders, and said, ⁴² "He saved others, but he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel. Let him come down off the cross, and then we will believe in him." ⁴³ He trusts in God, let God rescue him now, if God consents to release him. For he even said, 'I am the Son of God.'" ⁴⁴ In the same way the robbers who were crucified with him also insulted him.

⁴⁵ Now from the sixth hour darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour. ⁴⁶ About the ninth hour, Jesus cried with a loud voice and said, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?"

⁴⁷ When some of those who were standing there heard it, they said, "He is calling for Elijah."

⁴⁸ Immediately one of them ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a reed staff, and gave it to him to drink. ⁴⁹ The rest of them said, "Leave him alone. Let us see whether Elijah comes to save him." ⁵⁰ Then Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and gave up his spirit.

⁵¹ Behold, the curtain of the temple was split in two from the top to the bottom, and the earth shook, and the rocks split apart. ⁵² The tombs were opened, and the bodies of the holy people who had fallen asleep were raised. ⁵³ They came out of the tombs after his resurrection, entered the holy city, and appeared to many. ⁵⁴ Now when the centurion and those who were watching Jesus saw the earthquake and the things that had happened, they became very afraid and said, "Truly this was the Son of God." ⁵⁵ Many women who had followed Jesus from Galilee to attend to his needs were there watching from a distance. ⁵⁶ Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

⁵⁷ When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. ⁵⁸ He approached Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. ⁵⁹ Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, ⁶⁰ and laid it in his own new tomb that he had cut into the rock. Then he rolled a large stone against the door of the tomb and went away. ⁶¹ Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

⁶² The next day, which was the day after the Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees were gathered together with Pilate. ⁶³ They said, "Sir, we remember that when that deceiver was alive, he said, 'After three days will I rise again.' ⁶⁴ Therefore command that the tomb be made secure until the third day, otherwise his disciples may come and steal him and say to the people, 'He has risen from the dead,' and the last deception will be worse than the first."

⁶⁵ Pilate said to them, "Take a guard. Go and make it as secure as you know how." ⁶⁶ So they went and made the tomb secure, sealing the stone and placing the guard.

Footnotes

27:16 ^[1] Many ancient copies do not have

Chapter 28

¹ Now after the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb. ² Behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, came and rolled away the stone, and sat on it. ³ His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow. ⁴ The guards shook with fear and became like dead men. ⁵ The angel addressed the women and said to them, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus, who has been crucified. ⁶ He is not here, but is risen, just as he said. Come see the place where the Lord was lying. ⁷ Go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has risen from the dead. See, he is going ahead of you to Galilee. There you will see him.' See, I have told you."

⁸ The women quickly left the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹ Behold, Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" The women came, took hold of his feet and worshiped him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go tell my brothers to leave for Galilee. There they will see me."

¹¹ Now while the women were going, behold, some of the guards went into the city and told the chief priests all the things that had happened. ¹² When the priests had met with the elders and discussed the matter with them, they gave a large amount of money to the soldiers ¹³ and told them, "Say to others, 'The disciples of Jesus came by night and stole his body while we were sleeping.' ¹⁴ If this report reaches the governor, we will persuade him and take any worries away from you." ¹⁵ So the soldiers took the money and did as they had been instructed. This report spread widely among the Jews and continues even today.

¹⁶ But the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him, but some doubted. ¹⁸ Jesus came to them and spoke to them and said, "All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations. Baptize them into the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. ²⁰ Teach them to obey all the things that I have commanded you. See, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Mark

Chapter 1

¹ This is the beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

² As it is written in Isaiah the prophet,

"Look, I am sending my messenger before your face,
the one who will prepare your way.

³ The voice of one crying out in the wilderness,
'Make ready the way of the Lord;
make his paths straight.'"

⁴ John came, baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ The whole country of Judea and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. They were baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins. ⁶ John wore a coat of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey.

⁷ He was preaching, saying, "One will come after me who is more powerful than I; the strap of his sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸ I baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

⁹ It happened in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee, and he was baptized by John in the Jordan River. ¹⁰ As Jesus came up out of the water, he saw the heavens split open and the Spirit coming down on him like a dove. ¹¹ A voice came out of the heavens, "You are my beloved Son. I am very pleased with you."

¹² Then the Spirit compelled him to go out into the wilderness. ¹³ He was in the wilderness forty days being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and the angels served him.

¹⁴ Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God. ¹⁵ He said, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the gospel."

¹⁶ When he was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net in the sea, for they were fishermen. ¹⁷ Jesus said to them, "Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." ¹⁸ Then immediately they left the nets and followed him. ¹⁹ As Jesus was walking on a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and John his brother; they were in the boat mending the nets. ²⁰ He called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants, and they followed him.

²¹ Then they came into Capernaum, and on the Sabbath, Jesus went into the synagogue and taught. ²² They were astonished at his teaching, for he was teaching them as someone who has authority and not as the scribes. ²³ Just then a man in their synagogue who had an unclean spirit cried out, ²⁴ saying, "What do we have to do with you, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are. You are the Holy One of God!"

²⁵ Jesus rebuked the demon and said, "Be quiet and come out of him!" ²⁶ The unclean spirit threw him down and went out from him while crying out with a loud voice. ²⁷ All the people were amazed, so they asked each other, "What is this? A new teaching with authority! He even commands the unclean spirits and they obey him!" ²⁸ The news about him went out everywhere into the whole region of Galilee.

²⁹ After coming out of the synagogue, they came into the house of Simon and Andrew, along with James and John. ³⁰ Now Simon's mother-in-law was lying sick with a fever, and they told Jesus about her. ³¹ So he came, took her by the hand, and raised her up; the fever left her, and she started serving them.

³² That evening after the sun had set, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed by demons. ³³ The whole city gathered together at the door. ³⁴ He healed many who were sick with various diseases and cast out many demons, but he did not allow the demons to speak because they knew him.

³⁵ He got up very early, while it was still dark; he left and went out into a solitary place and there he prayed. ³⁶ Simon and those who were with him searched for him. ³⁷ They found him and they said to him, "Everyone is looking for you."

³⁸ He said, "Let us go elsewhere, out into the surrounding towns, so that I may preach there also. That is why I came out here." ³⁹ He went throughout all of Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out demons.

⁴⁰ A leper came to him. He was begging him; he knelt down and said to him, "If you are willing, you can make me clean."

⁴¹ Moved with compassion, Jesus reached out his hand and touched him, saying to him, "I am willing. Be clean." ⁴² Immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean. ⁴³ Jesus strictly warned him and sent him away. ⁴⁴ He said to him, "Be sure to say nothing to anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest, and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, as a testimony to them." ⁴⁵ But he went out and began to declare it freely and spread the word, so much so that Jesus could no longer enter a town openly but he stayed out in remote places. Yet people were still coming to him from everywhere.

Chapter 2

¹ When Jesus came back to Capernaum after a few days, it was heard that he was at home. ² So many gathered there that there was no more space, not even at the door, and he spoke the word to them. ³ Then some men came to him who were bringing a paralyzed man; four people were carrying him. ⁴ When they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof that was above Jesus, and after they made an opening, they lowered the mat the paralyzed man was lying on. ⁵ Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralyzed man, "Son, your sins are forgiven."

⁶ Now some of the scribes were sitting there, and they reasoned in their hearts, ⁷ "How can this man speak this way? He blasphemes! Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

⁸ Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit what they were thinking within themselves. He said to them, "Why are you thinking this in your hearts? ⁹ Which is easier, to say to the paralyzed man, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take up your mat and walk'? ¹⁰ But in order that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins," he said to the paralytic, ¹¹ "I say to you, get up, take up your mat, and go to your house."

¹² He got up and immediately took up the mat, and went out of the house in front of everyone, so that they were all amazed and they gave glory to God, and they said, "We never saw anything like this."

¹³ He went out again by the lake, and all the crowd came to him, and he taught them. ¹⁴ As he passed by, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax collector's tent and he said to him, "Follow me." He got up and followed him.

¹⁵ Jesus was having a meal in Levi's house and many tax collectors and sinners were dining with him and his disciples, for there were many and they followed him. ¹⁶ When the scribes, who were Pharisees, saw that Jesus was eating with sinners and tax collectors, they said to his disciples, "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

¹⁷ When Jesus heard this he said to them, "People who are strong in body do not need a physician; only people who are sick need one. I did not come to call righteous people, but sinners."

¹⁸ Now John's disciples and the Pharisees were fasting. Some people came and said to him, "Why do John's disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?"

¹⁹ Jesus said to them, "Can the wedding attendants fast while the bridegroom is still with them? As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast. ²⁰ But the days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, and in those days, they will fast. ²¹ No one sews a piece of new cloth on an old garment. Otherwise the patch tears away from it, the new from the old, and there is a worse tear. ²² No one puts new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise the wine will burst the skins and both the wine and the wineskins are lost. Instead, new wine is put into fresh wineskins."

²³ On the Sabbath day Jesus went through some grainfields, and his disciples began picking heads of grain as they made their way. ²⁴ The Pharisees said to him, "Look, why are they doing something that is not lawful on the Sabbath day?"

²⁵ He said to them, "Have you never read what David did when he was in need and hungry—he and the men who were with him— ²⁶ how he went into the house of God when Abiathar was high priest, and ate the bread of the presence, which is unlawful for anyone to eat except the priests, and he even gave some to those who were with him?" ²⁷ Jesus said, "The Sabbath was made for mankind, not mankind for the Sabbath. ²⁸ Therefore, the Son of Man is Lord, even of the Sabbath."

Chapter 3

¹ Again Jesus walked into the synagogue, and there was a man with a withered hand. ² Some people watched him closely to see if he would heal him on the Sabbath so that they could accuse him. ³ Jesus said to the man with the withered hand, "Get up and stand here in the middle of everyone." ⁴ Then he said to the people, "Is it lawful to do good on the Sabbath day or to do harm; to save a life or to kill?" But they were silent. ⁵ He looked around at them with anger, and he was grieved by their hardness of heart, and he said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and his hand was restored. ⁶ The Pharisees went out and immediately began to plot with the Herodians as to how they might put him to death.

⁷ Then Jesus, with his disciples, went to the sea, and a great crowd of people followed from Galilee and from Judea ⁸ and from Jerusalem and from Idumea and beyond the Jordan and around Tyre and Sidon. When they heard about the things he was doing, a great crowd came to him. ⁹ He told his disciples to have a small boat ready for him because of the crowd, so that they would not press against him. ¹⁰ For he healed many, so that everyone who had afflictions eagerly approached him in order to touch him. ¹¹ Whenever the unclean spirits saw him, they fell down before him and cried out, and they said, "You are the Son of God." ¹² He strictly ordered them not to make him known.

¹³ He went up on the mountain, and he called for those he wanted, and they came to him. ¹⁴ He appointed the twelve (whom he named apostles) so that they might be with him and he might send them to proclaim the message, ¹⁵ and to have authority to cast out demons. ¹⁶ He appointed the twelve: Simon, to whom he gave the name Peter; ¹⁷ James son of Zebedee, and John the brother of James, to whom he gave the name Boanerges, that is, sons of thunder; ¹⁸ and Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the Zealot, ¹⁹ and Judas Iscariot, who would betray him.

²⁰ Then he went home, and the crowd came together again, so that they could not even eat bread. ²¹ When his family heard about it, they went out to seize him, for they said, "He is out of his mind."

²² The scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, "He is possessed by Beelzebul" and "By the ruler of the demons he drives out demons."

²³ Jesus called them to himself and said to them in parables, "How can Satan cast out Satan? ²⁴ If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. ²⁵ If a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. ²⁶ If Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he is not able to stand, but has come to an end. ²⁷ But no one can enter into the house of a strong man and steal his belongings without tying up the strong man first, and then he will plunder his house. ²⁸ Truly I say to you, all sins of the sons of men will be forgiven, even all the blasphemies which they utter, ²⁹ but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin."

³⁰ Jesus said this because they were saying, "He has an unclean spirit."

³¹ Then his mother and his brothers came and stood outside. They sent for him, summoning him. ³² A crowd was sitting around him and they said to him, "Your mother and your brothers and your sisters are outside, and they are looking for you."

³³ He answered them, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" ³⁴ He looked around at those who were sitting in a circle around him and said, "See, here are my mother and my brothers! ³⁵ For whoever does the will of God, that person is my brother, and sister, and mother."

Chapter 4

¹ Again he began to teach beside the sea, and a large crowd gathered around him. He stepped into a boat that was on the sea, and he sat down in it. The whole crowd was on the shore beside the sea. ² He taught them many things in parables, and in his teaching, this is what he said to them. ³ "Listen! A farmer went out to sow his seed. ⁴ As he sowed, some seed fell beside the road, and the birds came and devoured it. ⁵ Other seed fell on the rocky ground, where it did not have much soil. Immediately it sprang up, because it did not have deep soil. ⁶ But when the sun rose, the plants were scorched, and because they had no root, they dried up. ⁷ Other seed fell among the thorn plants. The thorn plants grew up and choked it, and it did not produce a crop. ⁸ Other seed fell into good soil and it produced a crop growing up and increasing and yielding thirty, sixty, and even a hundred times." ⁹ Then he said, "Whoever has ears to hear, let him hear!"

¹⁰ When Jesus was alone, those around him with the twelve asked him about the parables. ¹¹ He said to them, "To you is given the mystery of the kingdom of God. But to those outside everything is in parables,

¹² so that when they look,
yes they look,
but do not see,
and so that when they hear,
yes they hear,
but do not understand,
or else they would turn
and God would forgive them."

¹³ He said to them, "Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables?"

¹⁴ The sower sows the word. ¹⁵ These are the ones beside the road, where the word is sown. When they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them. ¹⁶ And these are the seed sown on the rocky ground; who, when they hear the word immediately receive it with joy. ¹⁷ But they do not have root in themselves, but they endure for a while. Afterward when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, they immediately fall away. ¹⁸ Still others are the ones sown among the thorns. They are those who hear the word, ¹⁹ but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, and it is unproductive. ²⁰ Those that were sown on the good soil are the ones who hear the word, accept it and bear fruit, thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times as much.

²¹ Jesus said to them, "Do you bring a lamp inside the house to put it under a basket or under the bed? You bring it in and you put it on a lampstand. ²² For nothing is hidden that will not be known, and nothing is secret that will not come out into the open. ²³ If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear!" ²⁴ He said to them, "Pay attention to what you hear, for the measure you use will be measured to you, and more will be added to you. ²⁵ Because whoever has, to him will be given more, and whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken."

²⁶ He also said, "The kingdom of God is like a man who sows his seed on the ground. ²⁷ He sleeps at night and gets up by day, and the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. ²⁸ The earth bears grain by itself: First the blade, then the ear, then the mature grain in the ear. ²⁹ When the crop is ripe, he immediately sends in the sickle because the harvest has come."

³⁰ Again he said, "To what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable can we use to explain it?"

³¹ It is like a mustard seed, which, when it is sown, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth. ³² Yet, when it is sown, it grows and becomes greater than all the garden plants, and it forms large branches, so that the birds of heaven can make their nests in its shade."

³³ With many parables like this he spoke the word to them, as much as they were able to understand, ³⁴ and he did not speak to them without a parable. But when he was alone, he explained everything to his own disciples.

³⁵ On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, "Let us go over to the other side." ³⁶ So they left the crowd, taking Jesus with them, just as he was, in the boat. There were other boats going along with

him. ³⁷ Just then a violent windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat so that the boat was almost full of water. ³⁸ But Jesus himself was in the stern, asleep on a cushion. They woke him up, saying, "Teacher, do you not care that we are about to die?"

³⁹ He got up, rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" Then the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. ⁴⁰ Then he said to them, "Why are you afraid? Do you still not have faith?"

⁴¹ They were filled with great fear and said to one another, "Who then is this, because even the wind and the sea obey him?"

Chapter 5

¹ They came to the other side of the sea, to the region of the Gerasenes. ² When Jesus was getting out of the boat, a man with an unclean spirit came up to him out of the tombs. ³ The man lived in the tombs. No one could restrain him anymore, not even with a chain. ⁴ He had been bound many times with shackles and with chains. He tore the chains apart and his shackles were shattered. No one had the strength to subdue him. ⁵ Every night and day in the tombs and in the mountains, he cried out and cut himself with sharp stones. ⁶ When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran to him and bowed down before him. ⁷ He cried out with a loud voice, "What do I have to do with you, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you by God himself, do not torment me." ⁸ For he had been saying to him, "Come out of the man, you unclean spirit."

⁹ He asked him, "What is your name?"

He answered him, "My name is Legion, for we are many." ¹⁰ He begged him again and again not to send them out of the region. ¹¹ Now a great herd of pigs was there feeding on the hill, ¹² and they begged him, saying, "Send us into the pigs; let us enter into them." ¹³ So he allowed them; the unclean spirits came out and entered into the pigs, and the herd rushed down the steep hill into the sea, and about two thousand pigs drowned in the sea. ¹⁴ Then those who were feeding the pigs ran away and reported what had happened in the city and in the countryside, and so people went out to see what had happened. ¹⁵ Then they came to Jesus and they saw the demon-possessed man, the one who had been possessed by Legion, sitting there, clothed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. ¹⁶ Those who had seen what happened to the demon-possessed man told them about it in detail, and they also told them about the pigs. ¹⁷ Then they started to beg him to leave their region.

¹⁸ When he was getting into the boat, the demon-possessed man begged him that he might be with him.

¹⁹ But Jesus did not permit him, but said to him, "Go to your house and to your people and tell them what the Lord has done for you, and how he has shown you mercy." ²⁰ So he went away and began to proclaim in the Decapolis the great things that Jesus had done for him, and everyone was amazed.

²¹ Now when Jesus had crossed over again to the other side in the boat, a great crowd gathered around him, as he was beside the sea. ²² Then one of the leaders of the synagogue named Jairus came, and when he saw him, fell at his feet. ²³ He begged again and again, saying, "My little daughter is near death. I beg you, come and lay your hands on her that she may be made well and live." ²⁴ So he went with him, and a great crowd followed him and pressed close around him.

²⁵ Now a woman was there who had a flow of blood for twelve years. ²⁶ She had suffered much from many doctors and had spent everything that she had, but instead of getting better she grew worse. ²⁷ When she had heard the reports about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak. ²⁸ For she said, "If I touch just his clothes, I will be healed." ²⁹ When she touched him, the bleeding stopped, and she felt in her body that she was healed from her affliction.

³⁰ Jesus immediately realized in himself that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and said, "Who touched my clothes?"

³¹ His disciples said to him, "You see this crowd pressed around you, and you say, 'Who touched me?'"

³² But Jesus looked around to see who had done it. ³³ The woman, knowing what had happened to her, feared and trembled. She came and fell down before him and told him the whole truth. ³⁴ He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace and be healed from your affliction."

³⁵ While he was speaking, some people came from the leader of the synagogue, saying, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the teacher any longer?"

³⁶ But when Jesus overheard the message that was spoken, he said to the leader of the synagogue, "Do not be afraid. Just believe." ³⁷ He did not permit anyone to accompany him except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James. ³⁸ They came to the house of the leader of the synagogue and he saw there people making a lot of noise; they were weeping and wailing loudly. ³⁹ When he entered the house, he said to them, "Why are you upset and why do you weep? The child is not dead but sleeps." ⁴⁰ They began to mock

him. But he put them all outside and took the father of the child and the mother and those who were with him, and he went in where the child was. ⁴¹ He took the hand of the child and said to her, "Talitha, koum!" which is translated, "Little girl, I say to you, get up." ⁴² Immediately the child got up and walked (for she was twelve years of age). They were immediately astonished with overwhelming amazement. ⁴³ He strictly ordered them that no one should know about this. Then he told them to give her something to eat.

Chapter 6

¹ He went out from there and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. ² When the Sabbath came, he taught in the synagogue. Many people heard him and they were amazed. They said, "Where did he get these teachings?" "What is this wisdom that has been given to him?" "What are these miracles that he does with his hands?" ³ "Is this not the carpenter, the son of Mary and the brother of James and Josés and Judas and Simon? Are his sisters not here with us?" They were offended by Jesus. ^[1]

⁴ Then Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor, except in his hometown and among his own relatives and in his own household." ⁵ He could not do any mighty work, except to lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them. ⁶ He was amazed at their unbelief. Then he went around the villages teaching.

⁷ Then he called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and he gave them authority over the unclean spirits, ⁸ and instructed them to take nothing for their journey, except a staff—no bread, no bag, and no money in their belts— ⁹ but to wear sandals, and not to wear two tunics. ¹⁰ He said to them, "Whenever you enter a house, remain until you go away from there. ¹¹ If any town will not receive you or listen to you, when you leave that place, shake the dust off your feet as a testimony to them." ¹² They went out and proclaimed that people should repent. ¹³ They cast out many demons, and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.

¹⁴ King Herod heard this, for Jesus' name had become well known. Some were saying, "John the Baptist has been raised from the dead, and that is why these miraculous powers are at work in him." ¹⁵ Some others said, "He is Elijah." Still others said, "He is a prophet, like one of the prophets in ancient times."

¹⁶ But when Herod heard this he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised."

¹⁷ For Herod sent to have John arrested and he had him bound in prison on account of Herodias (his brother Philip's wife), because he had married her. ¹⁸ For John told Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." ¹⁹ But Herodias held on to anger against him and wanted to kill him, but she could not, ²⁰ for Herod feared John; he knew that he was a righteous and holy man, and he kept him safe. Listening to him made him greatly perplexed, yet he heard him gladly.

²¹ Then an opportunity came when Herod had his birthday and he made a dinner for his officials and for the commanders and leaders of Galilee. ²² The daughter of Herodias herself came in and danced for them, and she pleased Herod and his dinner guests. The king said to the girl, "Ask me for anything you want and I will give it to you." ²³ He swore to her saying, "Whatever you ask of me, I will give you, up to half of my kingdom."

²⁴ She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask him for?"

She said, "The head of John the Baptist."

²⁵ She immediately hurried back to the king, and she asked, saying, "I want you to give me, right now, the head of John the Baptist on a wooden platter." ²⁶ Though this deeply grieved the king, he could not refuse her request because of the oath he had made and because of his dinner guests. ²⁷ So the king sent a soldier from his guard and commanded him to bring him John's head. The guard went and beheaded him in the prison. ²⁸ He brought his head on a platter and gave it to the girl, and the girl gave it to her mother. ²⁹ When his disciples heard of this, they came and took his body and placed it in a tomb.

³⁰ The apostles came together with Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught. ³¹ Then he said to them, "Come away by yourselves into a deserted place and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they did not even have time to eat. ³² So they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. ³³ But they saw them leaving and many recognized them, and they ran there together on foot from all the towns, and they arrived there before them. ³⁴ When they came ashore, he saw a great crowd and he had compassion on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began to teach them many things.

³⁵ When the hour was late, his disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place and the hour is already late. ³⁶ Send them away so that they may go into the nearby countryside and villages to buy something to eat for themselves."

³⁷ But he answered and said to them, "You give them something to eat."

They said to him, "Can we go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread and give it to them to eat?"

³⁸ He said to them, "How many loaves do you have? Go and see."

When they found out, they said, "Five loaves and two fish." ³⁹ He commanded all the people to sit down in groups upon the green grass. ⁴⁰ They sat down in groups of hundreds and fifties. ⁴¹ He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven he blessed and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before the people. He also divided the two fish among them all. ⁴² They all ate until they were satisfied. ⁴³ They took up broken pieces of bread, twelve baskets full, and also pieces of the fish. ⁴⁴ There were five thousand men who ate the loaves.

⁴⁵ Immediately he made his disciples get into the boat and go ahead of him to the other side, to Bethsaida, while he sent the crowd away. ⁴⁶ After taking leave of them, he went up the mountain to pray. ⁴⁷ Evening came, and the boat was now in the middle of the sea, and he was alone on land. ⁴⁸ He saw that they were straining against the oars, for the wind was against them. About the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea, and he wanted to pass by them. ⁴⁹ But when they saw him walking on the sea, they thought he was a ghost and cried out, ⁵⁰ because they saw him and were troubled. Immediately he spoke to them and said to them, "Be courageous! It is I! Do not be afraid!" ⁵¹ He got into the boat with them, and the wind ceased blowing. They were completely amazed. ⁵² For they had not understood what the loaves meant. Instead, their hearts were hardened.

⁵³ When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and anchored the boat. ⁵⁴ When they came out of the boat, the people recognized him immediately, ⁵⁵ and they ran throughout the whole region and began to bring the sick on their mats to wherever they heard he was. ⁵⁶ Wherever he entered into villages, or cities, or into the country, they would put the sick in the marketplaces. They begged him to let them touch the edge of his garment, and as many as touched him were healed.

Footnotes

6:3 ^[1]The man called Joses here is called

Chapter 7

¹ The Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him. ² They saw that some of his disciples ate bread with hands that were unclean, that is, unwashed. ³ (For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they wash their hands carefully, because they hold to the tradition of the elders. ⁴ When the Pharisees come from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they bathe themselves, and they hold to many other things they have received, such as the washing of cups, pots, copper vessels, and the couches upon which they eat.) ⁵ The Pharisees and the scribes asked Jesus, "Why do your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat their bread with unclean hands?"

⁶ But he said to them, "Isaiah prophesied well about you hypocrites. As it is written,

'This people honors me with their lips,
but their heart is far from me.

⁷ In vain they worship me,
teaching the commands of men as their doctrines.'

⁸ You abandon the commandment of God and hold on to the tradition of men." ⁹ He also said to them, "How well you reject the commandment of God so you may keep your tradition! ¹⁰ For Moses said, 'Honor your father and your mother,' and, 'He who speaks evil of his father or mother will surely be put to death.' ¹¹ But you say, 'If a man says to his father or mother, "Whatever help you would have received from me is Corban"' (that is to say, 'a Gift'), ¹² then you no longer permit him to do anything for his father or his mother. ¹³ You are making the word of God void by your tradition which you have handed down. And many similar things you do." ¹⁴ He called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand. ¹⁵ There is nothing from outside of a person that can defile him when it enters into him. It is what comes out of the person that defiles him." ¹⁶^[1]¹⁷ Now when Jesus left the crowd and entered the house, his disciples asked him about the parable. ¹⁸ Jesus said, "Are you also still without understanding? Do you not know that whatever enters into a person from outside cannot defile him, ¹⁹ because it cannot go into his heart, but it goes into his stomach and then passes out into the latrine?" With this statement Jesus declared all foods clean. ²⁰ He said, "It is that which comes out of the person that defiles him. ²¹ For from within a person, out of the heart, proceed evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, ²² adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, folly. ²³ All these evils come from within, and they are what defile a person."

²⁴ He got up from there and went away to the region of Tyre and Sidon. There he went into a house, and he wanted no one to know where he was, yet he could not be hidden. ²⁵ But immediately ^[2] a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit heard about him and came and fell down at his feet. ²⁶ Now the woman was a Greek, a Syrophenician by descent. She begged him to cast out the demon from her daughter. ²⁷ He said to her, "Let the children first be fed. For it is not proper to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs."

²⁸ But she answered and said to him, "Yes, Lord, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs."

²⁹ He said to her, "Because of what you have said, you are free to go. The demon has gone out of your daughter." ³⁰ She went back to her house and found the child lying on the bed, and the demon was gone.

³¹ Then he went out again from the region of Tyre, and went through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee up into the region of the Decapolis. ³² They brought to him someone who was deaf and had difficulty speaking, and they begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³ Then taking him aside away from the crowd privately, he put his fingers into his ears, and then he spit and touched his tongue. ³⁴ Then he looked up to heaven, sighed, and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is to say, "Open!" ³⁵ At once his ears were opened, the bond of his tongue was released, and he began to speak plainly.

³⁶ Jesus ordered them to tell no one. But the more he ordered them, the more abundantly they proclaimed it. ³⁷ They were extremely astonished, saying, "He has done all things well. He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."

Footnotes

7:16 ^[1]The best ancient copies do not have verse 16.

7:25 ^[2]Some ancient copies do not have the words,

Chapter 8

¹ In those days, there was again a great crowd, and they had nothing to eat. Jesus called his disciples and said to them, ² "I have compassion on the crowd because they continue to be with me already for three days and have nothing to eat. ³ If I send them away to their home without eating, they may faint on the way. Some of them have come a long way."

⁴ His disciples answered him, "Where can we get enough loaves of bread in such a deserted place to satisfy these people?"

⁵ He asked them, "How many loaves do you have?"

They said, "Seven." ⁶ He commanded the crowd to sit down on the ground. He took the seven loaves, gave thanks, and broke them. He gave them to his disciples to set before them, and they set them before the crowd. ⁷ They also had a few small fish, and after he gave thanks for them, he commanded the disciples to serve these as well. ⁸ They ate and were satisfied, and they picked up the remaining broken pieces, seven large baskets. ⁹ There were about four thousand people. Then he sent them away. ¹⁰ Immediately he got into the boat with his disciples, and they went into the region of Dalmanutha.

¹¹ Then the Pharisees came out and began to argue with him. They sought from him a sign from heaven, to test him. ¹² He sighed deeply in his spirit and said, "Why does this generation seek for a sign? Truly I say to you, no sign will be given to this generation." ¹³ Then he left them, got into a boat again, and went away to the other side.

¹⁴ Now the disciples had forgotten to take bread with them. They had no more than one loaf of bread in the boat. ¹⁵ He instructed them, saying, "Keep watch and be on guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and the yeast of Herod."

¹⁶ The disciples were arguing with one another about having no bread.

¹⁷ When he understood this, he asked them, "Why are you arguing about having no bread? Do you still not see or understand? Do you have hardened hearts? ¹⁸ You have eyes, do you not see? You have ears, do you not hear? Do you not remember? ¹⁹ When I broke the five loaves among the five thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces of bread did you take up?"

They said to him, "Twelve."

²⁰ "When I broke the seven loaves among the four thousand, how many basketfuls of broken pieces of bread did you take up?"

They said to him, "Seven."

²¹ He said, "Do you not yet understand?"

²² They came to Bethsaida. The people there brought to him a blind man and begged Jesus to touch him.

²³ Jesus took hold of the blind man by the hand and led him out of the village. When he had spit on his eyes and laid his hands on him, he asked him, "Do you see anything?"

²⁴ He looked up, and said, "I see men who look like walking trees."

²⁵ Then he again laid his hands upon his eyes, and the man opened his eyes, his sight was restored, and he saw all things clearly. ²⁶ Jesus sent him away to his home and said, "Do not enter the village."

²⁷ Jesus went out with his disciples into the villages of Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked his disciples, "Who do the people say that I am?"

²⁸ They answered him and said, "John the Baptist. Others say, 'Elijah,' and others, 'One of the prophets.'"

²⁹ He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?"

Peter said to him, "You are the Christ." ³⁰ Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him.

³¹ He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things, and would be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and would be killed, and after three days rise up. ³² He spoke that message openly. Then Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³ But Jesus turned and looked at his disciples and then he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! You are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of people." ³⁴ Then he called the crowd and his disciples together, and he said to them, "If anyone wants to follow me, he must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. ³⁵ For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake and for the gospel will save it. ³⁶ What does it profit a person to gain the whole world and then forfeit his life? ³⁷ What can a person give in exchange for his life? ³⁸ Whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

Chapter 9

¹ He said to them, "Truly I say to you, there are some of you who are standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power."

² Six days later, Jesus took Peter and James and John with him up a high mountain, alone by themselves. Then he was transfigured before them. ³ His garments became radiantly brilliant, extremely white, whiter than any bleacher on earth could bleach them. ⁴ Then Elijah with Moses appeared to them, and they were talking with Jesus. ⁵ Peter answered and said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here, and so let us make three shelters, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." ⁶ (For he did not know what to say, for they were terrified.)

⁷ A cloud came and overshadowed them. Then a voice came out of the cloud, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him." ⁸ Suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone with them, but only Jesus.

⁹ As they were coming down the mountain, he commanded them to tell no one what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead. ¹⁰ So they kept the matter to themselves, but they discussed among themselves what "rising from the dead" could mean. ¹¹ They asked him, "Why do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?"

¹² He said to them, "Elijah does come first to restore all things. Why then is it written that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be despised? ¹³ But I say to you that Elijah has come, and they did whatever they wanted to him, just as it is written about him."

¹⁴ When they came to the disciples, they saw a great crowd around them, and scribes were arguing with them. ¹⁵ As soon as they saw Jesus, the whole crowd was amazed and as they ran up to him they greeted him. ¹⁶ He asked his disciples, "What are you arguing with them about?"

¹⁷ Someone in the crowd answered him, "Teacher, I brought my son to you. He has a spirit that makes him unable to speak. ¹⁸ It seizes him and it throws him down, and he foams at the mouth, grinds his teeth, and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to drive it out of him, but they could not."

¹⁹ He answered them, "Unbelieving generation, how long will I have to stay with you? How long will I bear with you? Bring him to me." ²⁰ They brought the boy to him. When the spirit saw Jesus, it immediately threw him into a convulsion. The boy fell on the ground and foamed at the mouth. ²¹ Jesus asked his father, "For how much time has he been like this?"

The father said, "Since childhood. ²² It has often thrown him into the fire or into the waters and tried to destroy him. If you are able to do anything, have pity on us and help us."

²³ Jesus said to him, "'If you are able'? All things are possible for the one who believes."

²⁴ Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "I believe! Help my unbelief!"

²⁵ When Jesus saw the crowd running to them, he rebuked the unclean spirit and said, "You mute and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him, and never enter into him again."

²⁶ It cried out and convulsed the boy greatly and then came out. The boy looked like one who was dead, so that many said, "He is dead." ²⁷ But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and the boy stood up.

²⁸ When Jesus came into the house, his disciples asked him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?"

²⁹ He said to them, "This kind cannot be cast out except by prayer."

³⁰ They went out from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know where they were, ³¹ for he was teaching his disciples. He said to them, "The Son of Man will be given over into the

hands of men, and they will put him to death. When he has been put to death, after three days he will rise again." ³² But they did not understand this statement, and they were afraid to ask him.

³³ Then they came to Capernaum. After he entered the house he asked them, "What were you discussing on the way?" ³⁴ But they were silent. For they had been arguing with one with another on the way about who was the greatest. ³⁵ Sitting down, he called the twelve together and he said to them, "If anyone wants to be first, he must be last of all and servant of all." ³⁶ He took a little child and placed him in their midst. He took him in his arms and said to them, ³⁷ "Whoever receives such a child in my name receives me; whoever receives me does not receive me but the one who sent me."

³⁸ John said to him, "Teacher, we saw someone driving out demons in your name and we stopped him, because he does not follow us."

³⁹ But Jesus said, "Do not stop him, for there is no one who will do a mighty work in my name and can soon afterwards say anything bad about me. ⁴⁰ Whoever is not against us is for us. ⁴¹ Whoever gives you a cup of water to drink in my name because you belong to Christ, truly I say to you, he will not lose his reward. ⁴² Whoever causes one of these little ones who believes in me to stumble, it would be better for him to have a large millstone tied around his neck and be thrown into the sea. ⁴³ If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed than to have two hands and to go into hell, into the unquenchable fire. ⁴⁴^[1]⁴⁵ If your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life lame than to have your two feet and be thrown into hell. ⁴⁶^[2]⁴⁷ If your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out. It is better for you to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, ⁴⁸ where their worm does not die, and the fire is not put out. ⁴⁹ For everyone will be salted with fire. ⁵⁰ Salt is good, but if the salt has lost its saltiness, how can you make it salty again? Have salt among yourselves, and be at peace with one another."

Footnotes

9:44 ^[1]The best ancient copies do not have this phrase, and verse 44 is not included in the ULB,

9:46 ^[2]The best ancient copies do not have this phrase, and verse 46 is not included in the ULB,

Chapter 10

¹ Jesus left that place and went to the region of Judea and to the area beyond the Jordan River, and the crowds came to him again. He was teaching them again, as he was accustomed to do. ² Then Pharisees came to him to test him and asked, "Is it lawful for a husband to divorce his wife?"

³ He answered, "What did Moses command you?"

⁴ They said, "Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of divorce and then to send her away."

⁵ "It was because of your hard hearts that he wrote you this law," Jesus said to them. ⁶ "But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.'

⁷ 'For this reason
a man will leave his father and mother
and be united to his wife,

⁸ and the two will become one flesh.'

So they are no longer two, but one flesh. ⁹ Therefore what God has joined together, let no man tear apart."

¹⁰ When they were in the house, the disciples asked him again about this. ¹¹ He said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery against her. ¹² If she divorces her husband and marries another man, she commits adultery."

¹³ Then they brought their little children to him so that he might touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. ¹⁴ But when Jesus noticed it, he was angry and said to them, "Permit the little children to come to me, and do not forbid them, for the kingdom of God belongs to those who are like them. ¹⁵ Truly I say to you, whoever will not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will definitely not enter it." ¹⁶ Then he took the children into his arms and blessed them as he placed his hands on them.

¹⁷ When he began his journey, a man ran up to him and knelt before him and asked, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

¹⁸ Jesus said, "Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. ¹⁹ You know the commandments: 'Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not testify falsely, do not defraud, honor your father and mother.'"

²⁰ The man said, "Teacher, all these things I have obeyed from the time I was a youth."

²¹ Jesus looked at him and loved him. He said to him, "One thing you lack. You must sell all that you have and give it to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." ²² But because of this statement he looked very sad and he went away sorrowful, because he had many possessions.

²³ Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How difficult it is for those who are rich to enter the kingdom of God!" ²⁴ The disciples were astonished at his words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how hard it is to enter into the kingdom of God! ²⁵ It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God."

²⁶ They were greatly astonished and said to each other, "Then who can be saved?"

²⁷ Jesus looked at them and said, "With people it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God."

²⁸ Peter began to speak to him, "Look, we have left everything and have followed you."

²⁹ Jesus said, "Truly I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands for my sake and for the gospel ³⁰ who will not receive a hundred times as much now in this age: houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with

persecutions, and in the world to come, eternal life. ³¹ But many who are first will be last, and the last first."

³² They were on the road going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was going ahead of them. The disciples were amazed, and those who were following behind were afraid. Then Jesus took the twelve aside again and began to tell them what would soon happen to him. ³³ "See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be given over to the chief priests and the scribes. They will condemn him to death and give him over to the Gentiles. ³⁴ They will mock him, spit on him, whip him, and put him to death. But after three days he will rise."

³⁵ James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came up to him and said, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask you."

³⁶ He said to them, "What do you want me to do for you?"

³⁷ They said, "Allow us to sit with you in your glory, one at your right hand and the other at your left."

³⁸ But Jesus replied to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup which I will drink or be baptized with the baptism with which I will be baptized?"

³⁹ They said to him, "We are able."

Jesus said to them, "The cup that I will drink, you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you also will be baptized. ⁴⁰ But who is to sit at my right hand or at my left hand is not mine to give, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared." ⁴¹ When the other ten disciples heard about this, they began to be very angry with James and John. ⁴² Jesus called them to himself and said, "You know those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles dominate them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. ⁴³ But it is not this way among you. Whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴ and whoever wishes to be first among you must be the slave of all. ⁴⁵ For the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

⁴⁶ They came to Jericho. As he left Jericho with his disciples and a great crowd, the son of Timaeus, Bartimaeus, a blind beggar, sat by the road. ⁴⁷ When he heard that it was Jesus the Nazarene, he began to shout and to say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

⁴⁸ Many rebuked the blind man, telling him to be quiet. But he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

⁴⁹ Jesus stopped and commanded him to be called. They called the blind man, saying, "Be brave! Get up! He is calling for you." ⁵⁰ He threw aside his coat, sprang up, and came to Jesus.

⁵¹ Jesus answered him and said, "What do you want me to do for you?"

The blind man said, "Rabboni, I want to receive my sight."

⁵² Then Jesus said to him, "Go. Your faith has healed you." Immediately he could see again, and he followed him on the road.

Chapter 11

¹ Now as they came to Jerusalem, they were close to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, and Jesus sent out two of his disciples ² and said to them, "Go into the village opposite us. As soon as you enter it, you will find a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it to me. ³ If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' you should say, 'The Lord has need of it and will immediately send it back here.'"

⁴ They went away and found a colt tied at a door outside in the street, and they untied it. ⁵ Some people were standing there and said to them, "What are you doing, untying that colt?" ⁶ They spoke to them as Jesus told them, and the people let them go their way. ⁷ They brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and he sat on it. ⁸ Many people spread their garments on the road, and others spread branches they had cut from the fields. ⁹ Those who went before him and those who followed shouted,

"Hosanna! Blessed is the one
who comes in the name of the Lord.

¹⁰ Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!
Hosanna in the highest!"

¹¹ Then Jesus entered into Jerusalem and went into the temple and looked around at everything. Now the time being late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve. ¹² The next day while they were going out from Bethany, he was hungry. ¹³ Seeing from far away a fig tree that had leaves, he went to see if he could find any fruit on it, and when he came to it, he found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs. ¹⁴ He spoke to it, "No one will ever eat fruit from you again." And his disciples heard it.

¹⁵ They came to Jerusalem, and he entered the temple and began to cast out the sellers and the buyers in the temple. He turned over the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons. ¹⁶ He did not allow anyone to carry anything through the temple that could be sold. ¹⁷ He taught them and said, "Is it not written,

'My house will be called
a house of prayer for all the nations'?

But you have made it a den of robbers."

¹⁸ The chief priests and the scribes heard what he had said, and they looked for a way to destroy him. For they feared him because the entire crowd was amazed at his teaching. ¹⁹ When evening came, they left the city.

²⁰ As they walked by in the morning, they saw the fig tree withered away to its roots. ²¹ Peter remembered and said, "Rabbi, look! The fig tree you cursed has withered away."

²² Jesus answered them, "Have faith in God. ²³ Truly I say to you that if anyone says to this mountain, 'Get up and cast yourself into the sea,' and if he does not doubt in his heart but believes that what he said will happen, that is what God will do. ²⁴ Therefore I say to you: Everything you pray and ask for, believe that you received it, and it will be yours. ²⁵ When you stand and pray, you must forgive whatever you have against anyone, so that your Father who is in heaven will also forgive you your trespasses." ²⁶^[1]

²⁷ They came to Jerusalem again. As Jesus was walking in the temple, the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders came to him. ²⁸ They said to him, "By what authority do you do these things, and who gave you the authority to do them?"

²⁹ Jesus said to them, "I will ask you one question. Tell me and I will tell you by what authority I do these things. ³⁰ The baptism of John, was it from heaven or from men? Answer me." ³¹ They discussed between themselves and argued and said, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say, 'Why then did you not believe him?' ³² But if we say, 'From men,'" They were afraid of the people, for everyone was convinced that John was a prophet. ³³ Then they answered Jesus and said, "We do not know."

Then Jesus said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things."

Footnotes

11:26 ^[1] The best ancient copies of Mark do not have this sentence:

Chapter 12

¹ Then Jesus began to teach them in parables. He said, "A man planted a vineyard, put a hedge around it, and dug a pit for a winepress. He built a watchtower and then leased the vineyard to vine growers. Then he went away on a journey. ² At the right time, he sent a servant to the vine growers to receive from them some of the fruit of the vineyard. ³ But they took him, beat him, and sent him away empty-handed. ⁴ Again he sent to them another servant, and they wounded him in the head and treated him shamefully. ⁵ He sent yet another, and this one they killed. They treated many others in the same way, beating some and killing others. ⁶ He had still one more person to send, a beloved son. He was the last one he sent to them. He said, 'They will respect my son.'

⁷ "But the vine growers said to one another, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.' ⁸ They seized him, killed him, and threw him out of the vineyard. ⁹ Therefore, what will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and destroy the vine growers and will give the vineyard to others.

¹⁰ Have you not read this scripture?

'The stone which the builders rejected
has been made the cornerstone.

¹¹ This was from the Lord,
and it is marvelous in our eyes.'"

¹² After this the Jewish leaders sought a way to arrest Jesus because they understood that he spoke the parable against them. But they were afraid of the crowd. So they left him and went away.

¹³ Then they sent some of the Pharisees and the Herodians to him to trap him with words. ¹⁴ When they came, they said to him, "Teacher, what people think is not a concern to you because you do not show partiality to anyone. You truly teach the way of God. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not? Should we pay or not?"

¹⁵ But Jesus knew their hypocrisy and said to them, "Why do you test me? Bring me a denarius so I can look at it." ¹⁶ They brought one to Jesus. He said to them, "Whose likeness and inscription is this?"

They said, "Caesar's."

¹⁷ Jesus said, "Give to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." They marveled at him.

¹⁸ Then Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to him. They asked him, saying, ¹⁹ "Teacher, Moses wrote for us, 'If a man's brother dies and leaves a wife behind him, but had no child, the man should take the brother's wife, and raise up children for his brother.' ²⁰ There were seven brothers; the first took a wife and then died, having no children. ²¹ Then the second took her and died, leaving no child, and the third in the same way. ²² The seven left no children. Last of all, the woman also died. ²³ In the resurrection, when they rise again, whose wife will she be? For all seven brothers had her as their wife."

²⁴ Jesus said, "Is this not the reason you are mistaken, because you do not know the scriptures nor the power of God? ²⁵ For when they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but they are like angels in heaven. ²⁶ But concerning the dead that are raised, have you not read in the book of Moses, in the account about the bush, how God spoke to him and said, 'I am the God of Abraham and the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob'? ²⁷ He is not the God of the dead, but of the living. You are quite mistaken."

²⁸ One of the scribes came and heard their discussion; he saw that Jesus answered them well. He asked him, "What commandment is the most important of all?"

²⁹ Jesus answered, "The most important is, 'Hear, Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. ³⁰ You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' ³¹ The second commandment is this, 'You must love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other greater commandment than these."

³² The scribe said, "Good, Teacher! You have truly said that God is one, and that there is no other besides him. ³³ To love him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself is even more than all burnt offerings and sacrifices."

³⁴ When Jesus saw that he had given a wise answer, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." After that, no one dared to ask Jesus any more questions.

³⁵ While Jesus was teaching in the temple courts, he said, "How is it that the scribes say the Christ is the son of David? ³⁶ David himself, in the Holy Spirit, said,

'The Lord said to my Lord,
"Sit at my right hand
until I put your enemies under your feet.'"

³⁷ David himself calls him 'Lord,' so how can the Christ be David's son?" The large crowd gladly listened to him.

³⁸ In his teaching Jesus said, "Beware of the scribes, who like to walk in long robes and be greeted in the marketplaces, ³⁹ and have the most important seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at feasts.

⁴⁰ They also devour widows' houses, and they pray long prayers for people to see. These men will receive greater condemnation."

⁴¹ Then Jesus sat down across from an offering box in the temple area; he was watching people as they dropped their money into the box. Many rich people put in large amounts of money. ⁴² Then a poor widow came and put in two mites, worth about a penny. ⁴³ He called his disciples and said to them, "Truly I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them who contributed to the offering box. ⁴⁴ For all of them gave out of their abundance. But this widow, out of her poverty, put in all of the money which she had to live on."

Chapter 13

¹ As Jesus was walking away from the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Teacher, look at the wonderful stones and wonderful buildings!"

² Jesus said to him, "Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left on another which will not be torn down."

³ As he sat on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, ⁴ "Tell us, when will these things happen? What will be the sign when all these things are about to happen?"

⁵ Jesus began to say to them, "Be careful that no one leads you astray. ⁶ Many will come in my name and say, 'I am he,' and they will lead many astray. ⁷ When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be frightened; these things must happen, but the end is not yet. ⁸ For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in many places, and famines. These are the beginnings of birth pains.

⁹ "Be on your guard. They will give you over to councils, and you will be beaten in synagogues. You will stand before both governors and kings for my sake, as a testimony to them. ¹⁰ But the gospel must first be proclaimed to all the nations. ¹¹ When they arrest you and hand you over, do not worry about what you should say. For in that hour, what you should say will be given to you; it will not be you who speak, but the Holy Spirit. ¹² Brother will deliver up brother to death, and a father his child. Children will rise up against their parents and cause them to be put to death. ¹³ You will be hated by everyone because of my name. But whoever endures to the end, that person will be saved.

¹⁴ "When you see the abomination of desolation standing where it should not be standing," (let the reader understand) "let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, ¹⁵ let him who is on the housetop not go down into the house or take anything out of it, ¹⁶ and let him who is in the field not return to take his cloak. ¹⁷ But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing infants in those days! ¹⁸ Pray that it might not occur in the winter. ¹⁹ For those will be days of great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of creation, which God created, until now, no, nor ever will be again. ²⁰ Unless the Lord had shortened the days, no flesh would be saved. But for the sake of the elect, those whom he chose, he cut short the days. ²¹ Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'Look, there he is!' do not believe it. ²² For false Christs and false prophets will appear and will give signs and wonders so as to deceive, if possible, even the elect. ²³ Be on guard! I have told you all these things ahead of time.

²⁴ "But after the tribulation of those days,

'the sun will be darkened,
the moon will not give its light,

²⁵ the stars will fall from the sky,
and the powers that are in the heavens
will be shaken.'

²⁶ Then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory. ²⁷ Then he will send his angels and he will gather together his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the sky.

²⁸ Learn a lesson from the fig tree. As soon as the branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹ So also, when you see these things happening, recognize that he is near, close to the gates. ³⁰ Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all of these things occur.

³¹ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. ³² But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but the Father.

³³ "Be alert! Watch, because you do not know what time it is. ³⁴ It is like a man who goes on a journey—he leaves his house and puts his servants in charge of the house, each one with his work, and he commands the doorkeeper to stay alert. ³⁵ Therefore stay alert because you do not know when the master of the house will come home; it could be in the evening, at midnight, when the rooster crows, or in the

morning. ³⁶ If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. ³⁷ What I say to you I say to everyone: Watch!"

Footnotes

13:33 ^[1] Some ancient copies of the Greek text read:

Chapter 14

¹ It was now two days before the Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread. The chief priests and the scribes were seeking ways to stealthily arrest Jesus and then kill him. ² For they were saying, "Not during the festival, so that a riot does not arise among the people."

³ While Jesus was in Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he was reclining at the table, a woman came to him having an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, which was pure nard. She broke the jar and poured the nard on his head. ⁴ But there were some who were angry. They spoke among themselves and said, "What is the reason for the waste of this perfume? ⁵ This perfume could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii, and given to the poor." Then they scolded her.

⁶ But Jesus said, "Leave her alone. Why are you troubling her? She has done a beautiful thing for me. ⁷ You always have the poor with you, and whenever you desire you can do good to them, but you will not always have me. ⁸ She has done what she could. She has anointed my body for burial. ⁹ Truly I say to you, wherever the gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will be spoken of, in memory of her."

¹⁰ Then Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve, went away to the chief priests so that he might give him over to them. ¹¹ When the chief priests heard it, they were glad and promised to give him money. He began looking for an opportunity to give him over to them.

¹² On the first day of unleavened bread, when they sacrificed the Passover lamb, his disciples said to him, "Where do you want us to go to prepare, so you may eat the Passover meal?"

¹³ He sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the city, and a man bearing a pitcher of water will meet you. Follow him. ¹⁴ Where he enters a house, follow him in and say to the owner of that house, 'The Teacher says, "Where is my guest room where I will eat the Passover with my disciples?"'" ¹⁵ He will show you a large furnished upper room that is ready. Make the preparations for us there." ¹⁶ The disciples left and went to the city. They found everything as he had said to them, and they prepared the Passover meal.

¹⁷ When it was evening, he came with the twelve. ¹⁸ As they were lying down at the table and eating, Jesus said, "Truly I say to you, one of you eating with me will betray me."

¹⁹ They were all very sorrowful, and one by one they said to him, "Surely not I?"

²⁰ Jesus answered and said to them, "It is one of the twelve, the one now dipping bread with me in the bowl. ²¹ For the Son of Man will go as it is written about him. But woe to that man through whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for him if he had not been born."

²² As they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed it, and broke it. He gave it to them and said, "Take this. This is my body." ²³ He took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, and they all drank from it. ²⁴ He said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, the blood that is poured out for many. ²⁵ Truly I say to you, I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

²⁶ When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. ²⁷ Jesus said to them, "All of you will fall away, for it is written,

'I will strike the shepherd
and the sheep will be scattered.'

²⁸ But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you into Galilee."

²⁹ Peter said to him, "Even if all fall away, I will not."

³⁰ Jesus said to him, "Truly I say to you, today—yes, this very night—before the rooster crows twice you will deny me three times."

31 But Peter said emphatically, "If I must die with you, I will not deny you." They all made the same promise.

32 They came to the place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." **33** He took Peter, James, and John with him and began to be distressed and deeply troubled. **34** He said to them, "My soul is deeply grieved, even to the point of death. Remain here and watch." **35** Going a little farther, Jesus fell to the ground and prayed that if it were possible the hour might pass from him. **36** He said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible with you. Remove this cup from me. But not my will, but yours." **37** He came back and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not watch for one hour? **38** Watch and pray that you do not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." **39** Again he went away and prayed, and he used the same words. **40** When he came back again, he found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. They did not know what to say to him. **41** He came the third time and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come. Look! The Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners. **42** Get up; let us go. Look, the one who is betraying me is near."

43 While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived, and a large crowd was with him with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. **44** Now his betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I kiss is the man. Seize him and lead him away under guard." **45** When Judas arrived, immediately he came up to Jesus and said, "Rabbi," and he kissed him. **46** Then they laid hands on him and seized him. **47** But one of them who stood by drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his ear.

48 Jesus said to them, "Do you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs, to arrest me? **49** When I was daily with you and I was teaching in the temple, you did not arrest me. But this was done that the scriptures might be fulfilled." **50** All those with Jesus left him and ran away.

51 A young man, wearing only a linen garment that was wrapped around him, was following Jesus. When the men seized him, **52** he left the linen garment and ran away naked.

53 They led Jesus to the high priest. There were gathered with him all the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes. **54** Now Peter followed him from a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest. He sat among the officers, warming himself near the fire. **55** Now the chief priests and the entire Jewish council were seeking testimony against Jesus so they might put him to death. But they did not find any. **56** For many brought false testimony against him, but even their testimony did not agree. **57** Some stood up and brought false testimony against him; they said, **58** "We heard him say, 'I will destroy this temple made with hands, and in three days I will build another made without hands.'" **59** Yet even their testimony did not agree.

60 The high priest stood up among them and asked Jesus, "Have you no answer? What is it these men testify against you?" **61** But he was silent and answered nothing. Again the high priest questioned him and said, "Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?"

62 Jesus said, "I am;

and you will see the Son of Man
when he sits at the right hand of power
and comes with the clouds of heaven."

63 The high priest tore his garments and said, "Do we still need witnesses? **64** You have heard the blasphemy. What is your decision?" They all condemned him as one who deserved death.

65 Some began to spit on him and to cover his face and strike him with their fists and say to him, "Prophecy!" The officers took him and beat him.

66 While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came to him. **67** She saw Peter warming himself, and she looked closely at him and said, "You were also with the Nazarene, Jesus."

68 But he denied it, saying, "I neither know nor understand what you are talking about." Then he went out into the gateway. And the rooster crowed. ^[1]

69 But the servant girl saw him and began to say again to those who stood there, "This man is one of them!"

70 But he denied it again. After a little while those who stood there were saying to Peter, "Surely you are one of them, for you also are a Galilean."

71 But he began to put himself under curses and to swear, "I do not know this man you are talking about."

72 The rooster immediately crowed a second time. Then Peter remembered the words that Jesus had said to him: "Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times," and he broke down and wept.

Footnotes

14:68 ^[1]Some ancient copies do not have,

Chapter 15

¹ Early in the morning, the chief priests, with the elders and scribes and the entire Jewish council consulted together. Then they bound Jesus and led him away. They handed him over to Pilate. ² Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?"

He answered him, "You say so." ³ The chief priests were accusing him of many things.

⁴ Pilate again asked him, "Do you give no answer? See how many things they are accusing you of!" ⁵ But Jesus no longer answered Pilate, and that amazed him.

⁶ Now at the time of the festival, Pilate usually released to them one prisoner, a prisoner they requested.

⁷ There was a man called Barabbas in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the rebellion. ⁸ The crowd came to Pilate and began to ask him to do for them as he had done in the past. ⁹ Pilate answered them and said, "Do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?" ¹⁰ For he knew that it was because of envy that the chief priests had handed Jesus over to him. ¹¹ But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to cry out that Barabbas should be released instead. ¹² Pilate answered them again and said, "What then should I do with the King of the Jews?"

¹³ They shouted again, "Crucify him!"

¹⁴ Pilate said to them, "What evil has he done?"

But they shouted more and more, "Crucify him." ¹⁵ Pilate wanted to satisfy the crowd, so he released Barabbas to them. He scourged Jesus and then handed him over to be crucified.

¹⁶ The soldiers led him inside the courtyard (which is the government headquarters), and they called together the whole company of soldiers. ¹⁷ They put a purple robe on Jesus, and they twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on him. ¹⁸ They began to salute him and say, "Hail, King of the Jews!" ¹⁹ They were striking his head with a reed staff and spitting on him. They went to their knees and they bowed down before him. ²⁰ When they had mocked him, they took off of him the purple robe and put his own garments on him, and then led him out to crucify him. ²¹ A certain man, Simon of Cyrene, was coming in from the country (he was the father of Alexander and Rufus), and they forced him to carry his cross.

²² The soldiers brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which is translated "Place of a Skull"). ²³ They offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not drink it. ²⁴ They crucified him and divided up his garments by casting lots to determine what piece each soldier would take. ²⁵ It was the third hour when they crucified him. ²⁶ On a sign they wrote the charge against him, "The king of the Jews." ²⁷ With him they crucified two robbers, one on the right of him and one on his left. ²⁸^[1]²⁹ Those who passed by insulted him, shaking their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, ³⁰ save yourself and come down from the cross!"

³¹ In the same way the chief priests were mocking him with each other, along with the scribes, and said, "He saved others, but he cannot save himself. ³² Let the Christ, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross, that we may see and believe." Those who were crucified with him also insulted him.

³³ At the sixth hour, darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour. ³⁴ At the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?" which is interpreted, "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?" ³⁵ Some of those standing by heard his words and said, "Look, he is calling for Elijah."

³⁶ Someone ran, put sour wine on a sponge, put it on a reed staff, and gave it to him to drink. The man said, "Let us see if Elijah comes to take him down." ³⁷ Then Jesus cried out with a loud voice and died.

³⁸ The curtain of the temple was split in two from the top to the bottom. ³⁹ When the centurion who stood and faced Jesus saw that he had died in this way, he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God." ⁴⁰ There were also women who looked on from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary (the mother of James the younger and of Joses), ^[2] and Salome. ⁴¹ When he was in Galilee they followed him and served him. Many other women also came up with him to Jerusalem.

⁴² When evening had come, because it was the Day of Preparation, that is, the day before the Sabbath, ⁴³ Joseph of Arimathea came there. He was a respected member of the council who was waiting for the kingdom of God. He boldly went in to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. ⁴⁴ Pilate was amazed that Jesus was already dead; he called the centurion and asked him if Jesus was dead. ⁴⁵ When Pilate learned from the centurion that Jesus was dead, he gave the body to Joseph. ⁴⁶ Joseph had bought a linen cloth. He took him down from the cross, wrapped him in the linen cloth, and laid him in a tomb that had been cut out of a rock. Then he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb. ⁴⁷ Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jesus saw the place where Jesus was buried.

Footnotes

15:28 ^[1]The best ancient copies do not have Mark 15:28,

15:40 ^[2]The man called

Chapter 16

¹ When the Sabbath day was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices that they might come and anoint Jesus' body. ² Very early on the first day of the week, they went to the tomb when the sun had come up. ³ They were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" ⁴ When they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away, for it was very large. ⁵ They entered the tomb and saw a young man dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed.

⁶ He said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus, the Nazarene, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here. Look at the place where they had laid him. ⁷ But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.'"

⁸ They went out and ran from the tomb; they were trembling and amazed. They said nothing to anyone because they were so afraid. ⁹^[1] [Early on the first day of the week, after he arose, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, from whom he had cast out seven demons. ¹⁰ She went and told those who were with him, while they were mourning and weeping. ¹¹ They heard that he was alive and that he had been seen by her, but they did not believe.

¹² After these things he appeared in a different form to two of them as they were walking out into the country. ¹³ They went back and told the rest, but they did not believe them.

¹⁴ Jesus later appeared to the eleven as they were reclining at the table, and he rebuked them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they did not believe those who saw him after he rose from the dead. ¹⁵ He said to them, "Go into all the world, and preach the gospel to the entire creation. ¹⁶ He who believes and is baptized will be saved, and he who does not believe will be condemned. ¹⁷ These signs will go with those who believe: In my name they will cast out demons. They will speak in new languages. ¹⁸ They will pick up snakes with their hands, and if they drink anything deadly, it will not hurt them. They will lay hands on the sick, and they will get well."

¹⁹ After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. ²⁰ The disciples left and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the word by the signs that went with them.] ^[2]

Footnotes

16:9 ^[1]The best ancient copies do not have Mark 16:9-20.

16:20 ^[2]See the note on Mark 16:9.

Luke

Chapter 1

¹ Many have taken on the work of putting together an account of the things that have been accomplished among us, ² just as they were passed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. ³ So it seemed good to me also, because I have accurately investigated everything from the beginning, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, ⁴ so that you might know the certainty of the things you have been taught.

⁵ In the days of Herod king of Judea there was a certain priest named Zechariah from the division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron. ⁶ They were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord. ⁷ But they had no child because Elizabeth was barren, and they were both advanced in their days.

⁸ Now it came about that Zechariah was in God's presence, carrying out the priestly duties in the order of his division. ⁹ According to the customary way of choosing which priest would serve, he had been chosen by lot to enter into the temple of the Lord to burn incense. ¹⁰ The whole crowd of people was praying outside at the hour when the incense was burned. ¹¹ Now an angel of the Lord appeared to him and stood at the right side of the incense altar. ¹² When Zechariah saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell on him. ¹³ But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, because your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son. You will call his name John. ¹⁴ You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth. ¹⁵ For he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit from his mother's womb. ¹⁶ Many of the descendants of Israel will be turned to the Lord their God. ¹⁷ He will go before the face of the Lord in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready for the Lord a people prepared for him."

¹⁸ Zechariah said to the angel, "How can I know this? For I am an old man and my wife is advanced in her days." ¹⁹ The angel answered and said to him, "I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God. I was sent to speak to you, to bring you this good news. ²⁰ Behold! You will be silent, unable to speak, until the day these things take place. This is because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled at the right time." ²¹ Now the people were waiting for Zechariah. They were surprised that he was spending so much time in the temple. ²² But when he came out, he could not speak to them. They realized that he had seen a vision while he was in the temple. He kept on making signs to them and remained silent. ²³ It came about that when the days of his service were over, he went to his house.

²⁴ After these days, his wife Elizabeth conceived and for five months she kept herself hidden. She said, ²⁵ "This is what the Lord has done for me when he looked at me with favor in order to take away my shame before people."

²⁶ In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, who was a descendant of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ He came to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." ²⁹ But she was very confused by his words and she wondered what kind of greeting this could be. ³⁰ The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ See, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son. You will call his name 'Jesus.' ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and there will be no end to his kingdom."

³⁴ Mary said to the angel, "How will this happen, since I have not known any man?"

³⁵ The angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will overshadow you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶ See, your relative Elizabeth has also conceived a son in her old age. This is the sixth month for her, she who was called barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible for God."

38 Mary said, "See, I am the female servant of the Lord. Let it be for me according to your message." Then the angel left her.

39 Then Mary arose in those days and quickly went into the hill country, to a city in Judea. **40** She went into the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. **41** Now it happened that when Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby in her womb jumped, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. **42** She cried out with a loud shout and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. **43** Why has it happened to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? **44** For see, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb jumped for joy. **45** Blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of the things that were told her from the Lord."

46 Mary said,

"My soul praises the Lord,

47 and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.

48 For he has looked

at the low condition of his female servant.

For see, from now on all generations will call me blessed.

49 For the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and his name is holy.

50 His mercy lasts from generation to generation
for those who fear him.

51 He has displayed strength with his arm;
he has scattered those who were proud
about the thoughts of their hearts.

52 He has thrown down princes from their thrones
and he has raised up those of low condition.

53 He has filled the hungry with good things,
but the rich he has sent away empty-handed.

54 He has given help to Israel his servant,
so as to remember to show mercy

55 (as he said to our fathers)
to Abraham and his descendants forever."

56 Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months and then returned to her house.

57 Now the time had come for Elizabeth to deliver her baby and she gave birth to a son. **58** Her neighbors and her relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.

59 Now it happened on the eighth day that they came to circumcise the child. They would have called him "Zechariah," after the name of his father. **60** But his mother answered and said, "No. He will be called John." **61** They said to her, "There is no one among your relatives who is called by this name." **62** They made signs to his father as to how he wanted him to be named. **63** His father asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." They all were astonished at this. **64** Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue was freed. He spoke and praised God. **65** Fear came on all who lived around them. All these matters were spread throughout all the hill country of Judea. **66** All who heard them stored them in their hearts, saying, "What then will this child become?" For the hand of the Lord was with him.

67 His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying,

68 "Praised be the Lord, the God of Israel,
for he has come to help
and he has accomplished redemption for his people.

69 He has raised up a horn of salvation for us
in the house of his servant David

70 (as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from long ago),

71 salvation from our enemies
and from the hand of all who hate us.

72 He will do this to show mercy to our fathers

and to remember his holy covenant,
73 the oath that he swore
to Abraham our father.
74 He swore to grant to us that we,
having been delivered out of the hand of our enemies,
would serve him without fear
75 in holiness and righteousness
before him all our days.
76 Yes, and you, child,
will be called a prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the face of the Lord
to prepare his paths,
to prepare people for his coming,
77 to give knowledge of salvation to his people
by the forgiveness of their sins.
78 This will happen because
of the tender mercy of our God,
because of which the sunrise
from on high will come to help us,
79 to shine on those who sit in darkness
and in the shadow of death.
He will do this to guide our feet
into the path of peace."

80 Now the child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day of his public appearance to Israel.

Chapter 2

¹ Now in those days, it came about that Caesar Augustus sent out a decree ordering that a census be taken of all the people living in the world. ² This was the first census made while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ So everyone went to his own city to be registered for the census. ⁴ Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family line of David. ⁵ He went there to register along with Mary, who was engaged to him and was pregnant. ⁶ Now it came about that while they were there, the time came for her to deliver her baby. ⁷ She gave birth to a son, her firstborn child, and she wrapped him in long strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

⁸ There were shepherds in that region who were staying in the fields, guarding their flock at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰ Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, because I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all the people. ¹¹ Today a Savior was born for you in the city of David! He is Christ the Lord! ¹² This is the sign that will be given to you: You will find a baby wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³ Suddenly there was together with the angel a great multitude from heaven, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest,

and may there be peace on earth
among people with whom he is pleased." [1]

¹⁵ It came about that when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶ They hurried there and found Mary, Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in a manger. ¹⁷ After they had seen him, they made known what had been said to them about this child. ¹⁸ All who heard it were amazed at what was spoken to them by the shepherds. ¹⁹ But Mary kept thinking about all the things she had heard, treasuring them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for everything that they had heard and seen, just as it had been spoken to them.

²¹ When it was the end of the eighth day, when he was circumcised, he was named Jesus, the name he had been given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

²² When the required number of days for their purification had passed, according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to the temple in Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. ²³ As it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every male who opens the womb will be set apart to the Lord." ²⁴ So they offered a sacrifice according to what was said in the law of the Lord, "a pair of doves or two young pigeons." ²⁵ Behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. ²⁷ Led by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple. When the parents brought in the infant Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the law, ²⁸ he took him into his arms and praised God, and he said,

²⁹ "Now let your servant depart in peace, Lord,

according to your word.

³⁰ For my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹ which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples:

³² A light for revelation to the Gentiles
and glory to your people Israel."

³³ His father and mother [2] were amazed at what was said about him. ³⁴ Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the downfall and rising up of many people in Israel

and for a sign that is rejected—³⁵ and a sword will pierce your own soul—so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed." ³⁶ A prophetess named Anna was there. She was the daughter of Phanuel from the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in her days. She had lived with her husband for seven years after her virginity, ³⁷ and was a widow for eighty-four years. She never left the temple but was serving with fastings and prayers, night and day. ³⁸ At that very hour she came near to them and began giving thanks to God, and she spoke about the child to everyone who had been waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem. ³⁹ When they had finished everything they were required to do according to the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth.

⁴⁰ The child grew and became strong; he was full of wisdom, and the grace of God was upon him.

⁴¹ His parents went every year to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover. ⁴² When he was twelve years old, they again went up at the customary time for the festival. ⁴³ After they had stayed the full number of days for the feast, they began to return home. But the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem and his parents did not know it. ⁴⁴ They assumed that he was with the group that was traveling with them, so they traveled a day's journey. Then they started to search carefully for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵ When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem and started to search carefully for him there. ⁴⁶ It came about that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the middle of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷ All who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸ When they saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us this way? Look, your father and I have been anxiously searching for you." ⁴⁹ He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I had to be about my Father's business?" ⁵⁰ But they did not understand what he meant by those words. ⁵¹ Then he went back home with them to Nazareth and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

⁵² But Jesus continued to grow in wisdom and stature, and increased in favor with God and people.

Footnotes

2:14 ^[1]Some ancient Greek copies have different spellings that suggest two possible meanings of the last phrase of verse 14, the second being preferred. The suggestions are:

2:33 ^[2]Some copies of the ancient Greek text add to the text the name of his father,

2:49 ^[3]Some scholars translate "about my Father's business" as

Chapter 3

¹ In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—while Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip was tetrarch of the region of Iturea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene, ² during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas—the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³ He went into all the region around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁴ As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet,

"A voice of one crying out in the wilderness,
'Make ready the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

⁵ Every valley will be filled,
and every mountain and hill will be made low,
and the crooked roads will be made straight,
and the uneven places will be built into roads,

⁶ and all flesh will see the salvation of God."

⁷ So John said to the crowds who were coming out to be baptized by him, "You offspring of vipers! Who warned you to run away from the wrath that is coming? ⁸ Therefore, produce fruits that are worthy of repentance, and do not begin to say within yourselves, 'We have Abraham for our father,' for I tell you that God is able to raise up children for Abraham from these stones. ⁹ Even now the ax is set against the root of the trees. So every tree that does not produce good fruit is chopped down and thrown into the fire."

¹⁰ Then the crowds kept asking him, saying, "What then are we to do?"

¹¹ He answered and said to them, "If someone has two tunics, he should share it with a person who has none, and the one having food should do the same."

¹² Tax collectors also came to be baptized, and they said to him, "Teacher, what must we do?"

¹³ He said to them, "Do not collect more money than you have been ordered to collect."

¹⁴ Some soldiers also asked him, saying, "What about us? What must we do?"

He said to them, "Do not take money from anyone by force, and do not accuse anyone falsely. Be content with your wages."

¹⁵ Now as the people were eagerly expecting the Christ to come, everyone was wondering in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ. ¹⁶ John answered by saying to them all, "As for me, I baptize you with water, but someone is coming who is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy even to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand to thoroughly clear off his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his storehouse. But he will burn up the chaff with fire that can never be put out."

¹⁸ With many other exhortations also, John was announcing the good news to the people. ¹⁹ When Herod the tetrarch had been reproved for marrying his brother's wife Herodias, and for all the other evil things that Herod had done, ²⁰ he added this to them all, that he locked John up in prison.

²¹ Now it came about, when all the people were baptized, Jesus also was baptized, and while he was praying, the heavens opened, ²² and the Holy Spirit in bodily form came down on him like a dove, and a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son. I am pleased with you."

²³ When Jesus began his ministry, he was about thirty years of age. He was the son (as it was assumed) of Joseph, the son of Heli, ²⁴ the son of Matthat, the son of Levi, the son of Melchi, the son of Jannai, the son of Joseph.

²⁵ Joseph was the son of Mattathias, the son of Amos, the son of Nahum, the son of Esli, the son of Naggai, ²⁶ the son of Maath, the son of Mattathias, the son of Semein, the son of Josech, the son of Joda.

²⁷ Joda was the son of Joanan, the son of Rhesa, the son of Zerubbabel, the son of Salathiel, the son of Neri, ²⁸ the son of Melchi, the son of Addi, the son of Cosam, the son of Elmadam, the son of Er,

²⁹ the son of Joshua, the son of Eliezer, the son of Jorim, the son of Matthat, the son of Levi. ³⁰ Levi was the son of Simeon, the son of Judah, the son of Joseph, the son of Jonam, the son of Eliakim,

³¹ the son of Melea, the son of Menna, the son of Mattatha, the son of Nathan, the son of David, ³² the son of Jesse, the son of Obed, the son of Boaz, the son of Salmon, the son of Nahshon.

³³ Nahshon was the son of Amminadab, the son of Admin, the son of Arni, the son of Hezron, the son of Perez, the son of Judah, ³⁴ the son of Jacob, the son of Isaac, the son of Abraham, the son of Terah, the son of Nahor,

³⁵ the son of Serug, the son of Reu, the son of Peleg, the son of Eber, the son of Shelah. ³⁶ Shelah was the son of Cainan, the son of Arphaxad, the son of Shem, the son of Noah, the son of Lamech,

³⁷ the son of Methuselah, the son of Enoch, the son of Jared, the son of Mahalalel, the son of Cainan, ³⁸ the son of Enos, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God.

Chapter 4

¹ Then Jesus, being full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan River and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, ² where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of that time he was hungry. ³ The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread."

⁴ Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Man does not live on bread alone.'"

⁵ Then the devil led Jesus up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in an instant of time. ⁶ The devil said to him, "I will give to you all this authority and all their glory, for they have been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want. ⁷ So then, if you will bow down and worship me, it will be yours."

⁸ But Jesus answered and said to him, "It is written, 'You will worship the Lord your God, and you will serve only him.'"

⁹ Then the devil led Jesus to Jerusalem and put him on the very highest point of the temple building, and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here. ¹⁰ For it is written,

'He will give orders to his angels regarding you,
to protect you,'

¹¹ and, 'They will lift you up in their hands,
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'"

¹² Answering him, Jesus said, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

¹³ When the devil had finished tempting Jesus, he went away and left him until another time.

¹⁴ Then Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread throughout the entire surrounding region. ¹⁵ Then he began to teach in their synagogues and he was praised by all.

¹⁶ He came into Nazareth, where he had been raised, and, as was his custom, he entered the synagogue on the Sabbath day and he stood up to read aloud. ¹⁷ The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. He opened the scroll and found the place where it was written,

¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he anointed me
to announce good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to set free those who are oppressed,
¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

²⁰ Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ He began to speak to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

²² Everyone there spoke well of him and they were amazed at the gracious words which were coming out of his mouth, and they asked, "Is this not the son of Joseph?"

²³ He said to them, "Surely you will say this proverb to me, 'Doctor, heal yourself. Whatever we heard that you did in Capernaum, do the same in your hometown.'"²⁴ But he said, "Truly I say to you, no prophet is received in his own hometown. ²⁵ But in truth I tell you that there were many widows in Israel during the time of Elijah, when the sky was shut up for three years and six months and a great famine came upon all the land. ²⁶ But Elijah was sent to none of them, but only to Zarephath in Sidon, to a widow living there.

²⁷ There were many lepers in Israel during the time of Elisha the prophet, but none of them were cleansed except Naaman the Syrian." ²⁸ All the people in the synagogue were filled with rage when they heard these things. ²⁹ They got up, forced him out of the town, and led him to the cliff of the hill on which

their town was built, so they might throw him off the cliff. ³⁰ But he passed through the middle of them and he went to another place.

³¹ Then he went down to Capernaum, a city in Galilee, and he began to teach them on the Sabbath. ³² They were astonished at his teaching, because he spoke with authority. ³³ Now in the synagogue there was a man who had the spirit of an unclean demon, and he cried out with a loud voice, ³⁴ "Ah! What do we have to do with you, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!"

³⁵ Jesus rebuked the demon, saying, "Do not speak! Come out of him!" When the demon had thrown the man down in the middle of them, he came out of him, and did not harm him in any way.

³⁶ All the people were very amazed, and they kept talking about it with one another. They said, "What kind of words are these? He commands the unclean spirits with authority and power and they come out."

³⁷ So news about him began to spread into every part of the surrounding region.

³⁸ Then Jesus left the synagogue and entered into the house of Simon. Now Simon's mother-in-law was suffering with a high fever, and they pleaded with him on her behalf. ³⁹ So he stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her. Immediately she got up and started serving them.

⁴⁰ When the sun was setting, people brought to Jesus everyone who was sick with various kinds of diseases. He laid his hands on every one of them and healed them. ⁴¹ Demons also came out from many of them, crying out and saying, "You are the Son of God!" Jesus rebuked the demons and would not let them speak, because they knew that he was the Christ.

⁴² When daybreak came, he went out into a solitary place. Crowds of people were looking for him and came to the place where he was. They tried to keep him from going away from them. ⁴³ But he said to them, "I must also preach the gospel about the kingdom of God to many other cities, because this is the reason I was sent here."

⁴⁴ Then he continued to preach in the synagogues throughout Judea.

Chapter 5

¹ Now it happened while the people were crowding around Jesus and listening to the word of God, that he was standing by the lake of Gennesaret. ² He saw two boats pulled up by the edge of the lake. The fishermen had gotten out of them and were washing their nets. ³ Jesus got into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put it out in the water a short distance from the land. Then he sat down and taught the people out of the boat. ⁴ When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Take the boat out into the deeper water and let down your nets for a catch."

⁵ Simon answered and said, "Master, we have labored all night and caught nothing, but at your word, I will let down the nets." ⁶ When they had done this, they gathered a very large number of fish, and their nets were breaking. ⁷ So they motioned to their partners in the other boat that they should come and help them. They came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. ⁸ But Simon Peter, when he saw it, fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, Lord." ⁹ For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish which they had taken. ¹⁰ And so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon.

Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid, because from now on you will catch men." ¹¹ When they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.

¹² It came about that while he was in one of the cities, a man full of leprosy was there. When he saw Jesus, he fell on his face and begged him, saying, "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean."

¹³ Then Jesus reached out his hand and touched him, saying, "I am willing. Be clean." Immediately the leprosy left him.

¹⁴ He instructed him to tell no one but told him, "Go on your way, and show yourself to the priest and offer a sacrifice for your cleansing, according to what Moses commanded, for a testimony to them." ¹⁵ But the report about him spread even farther, and large crowds of people came together to hear him teach and to be healed of their sicknesses. ¹⁶ But he often withdrew into the deserted places and prayed.

¹⁷ It came about on one of those days that he was teaching, and there were Pharisees and teachers of the law sitting there who had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem. The power of the Lord was with him to heal. ¹⁸ Now some men came carrying on a mat a man who was paralyzed, and they looked for a way to bring him inside in order to lay him down in front of Jesus. ¹⁹ They could not find a way to bring him in because of the crowd, so they went up to the housetop and let the man down through the tiles, on his mat, into the midst of the people, right in front of Jesus. ²⁰ Seeing their faith, Jesus said, "Man, your sins are forgiven you."

²¹ The scribes and the Pharisees began to question this, saying, "Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

²² But Jesus, knowing what they were thinking, answered and said to them, "Why are you questioning this in your hearts? ²³ Which is easier to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you' or to say 'Get up and walk'? ²⁴ But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins,"—he said to the paralyzed man—"I tell you, get up, pick up your mat and go to your house." ²⁵ Immediately he got up in front of them and picked up the mat on which he was lying. Then he went away to his house, glorifying God.

²⁶ Everyone was amazed and they glorified God. They were filled with fear, saying, "We have seen extraordinary things today."

²⁷ After these things happened, Jesus went out from there and saw a tax collector named Levi sitting at the tax collector's tent. He said to him, "Follow me." ²⁸ So Levi got up and followed him, leaving everything behind.

²⁹ Then Levi gave a big banquet in his house for Jesus. There were many tax collectors there and other people who were reclining at the table and eating with them. ³⁰ But the Pharisees and their scribes were complaining to his disciples, saying, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?"

31 Jesus answered them, "People who are well do not need a physician; only those who are sick. **32** I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

33 They said to him, "The disciples of John often fast and pray, and the disciples of the Pharisees do the same. But your disciples eat and drink."

34 Jesus said to them, "Can anyone make the wedding attendants of the bridegroom fast while the bridegroom is still with them? **35** But the days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, then in those days they will fast." **36** Then Jesus also spoke a parable to them. "No one tears a piece of cloth from a new garment and uses it to mend an old garment. If he does that, he will tear the new garment, and the piece of cloth from the new garment will not fit with the cloth of the old garment. **37** No one puts new wine into old wineskins. If he does that, the new wine will burst the skins, and the wine will be spilled, and the wineskins will be destroyed. **38** But new wine must be put into fresh wineskins. **39** No one after drinking old wine wants the new, for he says, 'The old is better.'"

Chapter 6

¹ Now it happened on a Sabbath that Jesus was going through the grainfields, and his disciples were picking the heads of grain, rubbing them between their hands, and eating the grain. ² But some of the Pharisees said, "Why are you doing something that is not lawful to do on the Sabbath day?"

³ Answering them, Jesus said, "Have you not even read what David did when he was hungry, he and the men who were with him? ⁴ He went into the house of God and took the bread of the presence and ate some of it, and also gave some to the men who were with him to eat, even though it was only lawful for the priests to eat it." ⁵ Then he said to them, "The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath."

⁶ It happened on another Sabbath that he went into the synagogue and taught the people there. A man was there whose right hand was withered. ⁷ The scribes and the Pharisees were watching him closely to see whether he would heal someone on the Sabbath, so that they might find a reason to accuse him. ⁸ But he knew what they were thinking and he said to the man whose hand was withered, "Get up and stand here in the middle of everyone." So the man got up and stood there. ⁹ Jesus said to them, "I ask you, is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save a life or to destroy it?" ¹⁰ Then he looked around at them all and said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He did so, and his hand was restored. ¹¹ But they were filled with senseless rage, and they talked to each other about what they might do to Jesus.

¹² It happened in those days that he went out to the mountain to pray. He continued all night in prayer to God. ¹³ When it was day, he called his disciples to him, and he chose twelve of them, whom he also named apostles. ¹⁴ The names of the apostles were Simon (whom he also named Peter) and his brother Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, ¹⁵ Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Simon who was called the Zealot, ¹⁶ Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor. ¹⁷ Then Jesus came down the mountain with them and stood on a level place with a large crowd of his disciples and a large number of the people from Judea and Jerusalem and the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon. ¹⁸ They had come to listen to him and to be healed of their diseases. People who were troubled with unclean spirits were also healed. ¹⁹ Everyone in the crowd kept trying to touch him because power to heal was coming out from him, and he healed them all.

²⁰ Then he looked at his disciples and said,

"Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹ Blessed are you who hunger now,
for you will be filled.
Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

²² Blessed are you when people hate you,
and when they exclude you and insult you
and reject your name as evil,
because of the Son of Man.

²³ Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because you will surely have a great reward in heaven, for their ancestors treated the prophets in the same way.

²⁴ But woe to you who are rich,
for you have already received your comfort.

²⁵ Woe to you who are full now,
for you will be hungry later.
Woe to you who laugh now,
for you will mourn and weep later.

²⁶ Woe to you when all men speak well of you,
for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets.

²⁷ "But I say to you who are listening, love your enemies and do good to those who hate you. ²⁸ Bless those who curse you and pray for those who mistreat you. ²⁹ To him who strikes you on the one cheek, offer him also the other. If someone takes away your coat, do not withhold your tunic either. ³⁰ Give to

everyone who asks you. If someone takes away something that belongs to you, do not ask him to give it back to you. ³¹ As you want people to do to you, you should do the same to them. ³² If you only love people who love you, what reward is there for you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³ If you do good only to people who do good to you, what reward is there for you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴ If you only lend to people from whom you hope to be repaid, what reward is there for you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive back the same amount. ³⁵ But love your enemies and do good to them. Lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he himself is kind toward unthankful and evil people. ³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. ³⁷ Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive others, and you will be forgiven. ³⁸ Give, and it will be given to you. A good amount—pressed down, shaken together and spilling over—will pour into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you."

³⁹ Then he also told them a parable. "Can a blind person guide another blind person? If he did, they would both fall into a pit, would they not? ⁴⁰ A disciple is not greater than his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher. ⁴¹ Why do you look at the tiny piece of straw that is in your brother's eye, but you do not notice the log that is in your own eye? ⁴² How can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me take out the piece of straw that is in your eye,' when you yourself do not even see the log that is in your own eye? You hypocrite! First take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take out the piece of straw that is in your brother's eye. ⁴³ For there is no good tree that produces rotten fruit, nor is there a rotten tree that produces good fruit. ⁴⁴ For each tree is known by the kind of fruit it produces. For people do not gather figs from a thornbush, nor do they gather grapes from a briar bush. ⁴⁵ The good man from the good treasure of his heart produces what is good, and the evil man from the evil treasure of his heart produces what is evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

⁴⁶ "Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and yet you do not obey the things that I say? ⁴⁷ Every person who comes to me and hears my words and obeys them, I will tell you what he is like. ⁴⁸ He is like a man building a house, who dug down deep in the ground and built the house's foundation on solid rock. When a flood came, the torrent of water flowed against that house but could not shake it, because it had been well built. ⁴⁹ But the person who hears my words and does not obey them, he is like a man who built a house on top of the ground without a foundation. When the torrent of water flowed against that house, it immediately collapsed, and the ruin of that house was complete."

Chapter 7

¹ After Jesus had finished everything he was saying in the hearing of the people, he entered Capernaum.

² Now a centurion had a slave who was highly regarded by him, and he was sick and about to die. ³ When the centurion heard about Jesus, he sent to him elders of the Jews, asking him to come and heal his servant. ⁴ When they had come to Jesus, they asked him earnestly, saying, "He is worthy to have you do this for him, ⁵ because he loves our nation, and he is the one who built the synagogue for us."

⁶ So Jesus continued on his way with them. But when he was not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to say to him, "Lord, do not trouble yourself, because I am not worthy for you to come under my roof. ⁷ For this reason I did not even consider myself worthy to come to you, but just say a word and my servant will be healed. ⁸ For I also am a man who is under authority, with soldiers under me. I say to this one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to another one, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."

⁹ When Jesus heard this, he was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd following him said, "I say to you, not even in Israel have I found such faith." ¹⁰ When those who had been sent returned to the house, they found the servant was healthy.

¹¹ Soon after that, Jesus went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a great crowd went with him.

¹² As he came near to the gate of the town, behold, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother (who was a widow), and a rather large crowd from the town was with her. ¹³ When the Lord saw her, he was deeply moved with compassion for her and said to her, "Do not cry." ¹⁴ Then he went up and touched the wooden frame on which they carried the body, and those carrying it stood still. He said, "Young man, I say to you, arise." ¹⁵ The dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother.

¹⁶ Then fear overcame all of them, and they kept praising God, saying, "A great prophet has been raised among us" and "God has looked upon his people." ¹⁷ This news about Jesus spread throughout the whole of Judea and all the neighboring regions.

¹⁸ John's disciples told him about all these things. Then John called two of his disciples ¹⁹ and sent them to the Lord to say, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?"

²⁰ When they had come near to Jesus, the men said, "John the Baptist has sent us to you to say, 'Are you the one who is coming, or should we look for another?'"

²¹ In that hour he healed many people from sicknesses and afflictions and from evil spirits, and to many blind people he gave sight. ²² Jesus answered and said to them, "After you have gone on your way, report to John what you have seen and heard. Blind people are receiving sight, lame people are walking, lepers are being cleansed, deaf people are hearing, people who have died are being raised back to life, and the poor are being told good news. ²³ The person who does not stop believing in me because of my actions is blessed."

²⁴ After John's messengers had gone away, Jesus began to say to the crowds about John, "What did you go out into the desert to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ²⁵ But what did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothes? Look, those who wear splendid clothing and who live in luxury are in kings' palaces. ²⁶ But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I say to you, and more than a prophet. ²⁷ This is he of whom it is written,

'See, I am sending my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way before you.'

²⁸ I say to you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he is." ²⁹ (When all the people heard this, including the tax collectors, they declared that God is righteous, because they had been baptized with the baptism of John. ³⁰ But the Pharisees and the experts in the law rejected God's purpose for themselves, because they had not been

baptized by John.) ³¹ "To what, then, can I compare the people of this generation? What are they like? ³² They are like children playing in the marketplace, who sit and call to one another and say,

'We played a flute for you,
and you did not dance.

We sang a funeral song,

and you did not cry.' ³³ For John the Baptist came eating no bread and drinking no wine, and you say, 'He has a demon.' ³⁴ The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and you say, 'Look, he is a gluttonous man and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' ³⁵ But wisdom is justified by all her children."

³⁶ Now one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to eat with him. So after Jesus entered into the Pharisee's house, he reclined at the table to eat. ³⁷ Behold, there was a woman in the city who was a sinner. When she found out that he was reclining at the table in the Pharisee's house, she brought an alabaster jar of perfumed oil. ³⁸ As she stood behind him near his feet, weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears, and she wiped them with her hair and kissed them and anointed them with perfumed oil. ³⁹ When the Pharisee who had invited Jesus saw this, he thought to himself, saying, "If this man were a prophet, then he would know who and what type of woman is touching him, that she is a sinner."

⁴⁰ Jesus responded and said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you."

He said, "Say it, Teacher!"

⁴¹ Jesus said, "A certain moneylender had two debtors. The one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. ⁴² When they could not pay him, he forgave them both. Therefore, which of them will love him more?"

⁴³ Simon answered him and said, "I suppose the one whom he forgave the most."

Jesus said to him, "You have judged correctly." ⁴⁴ Jesus turned to the woman and said to Simon, "You see this woman. I have entered into your house. You gave me no water for my feet, but she has wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. ⁴⁵ You did not give me a kiss, but from the time I came in she did not stop kissing my feet. ⁴⁶ You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with perfumed oil. ⁴⁷ For this reason I say to you, her sins, which were many, have been forgiven—for she loved much. But the one who is forgiven little, loves little." ⁴⁸ Then he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."

⁴⁹ Those reclining together began to say among themselves, "Who is this that even forgives sins?"

⁵⁰ Then Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you. Go in peace."

Chapter 8

¹ It happened soon afterward that Jesus began traveling around to different cities and villages, preaching and proclaiming the good news about the kingdom of God. The twelve were with him, ² as well as certain women who had been healed of evil spirits and diseases: Mary who was called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had been driven out; ³ Joanna, the wife of Chuza, Herod's manager; Susanna; and many others, who, out of their possessions, provided for their needs.

⁴ While a large crowd of people was gathering, and people were coming to him from town after town, he told a parable: ⁵ "A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he sowed, some fell beside the road and it was trampled underfoot, and the birds of the sky devoured it. ⁶ Some fell on the rock, and as soon as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. ⁷ Some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up together with the seed and choked it. ⁸ But some fell on good soil and produced a crop that was a hundred times greater." After Jesus had said these things, he called out, "Whoever has ears to hear, let him hear."

⁹ His disciples asked him what this parable meant. ¹⁰ He said, "The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of God has been given to you, but for others I speak in parables, so that

'seeing they may not see,

and hearing they may not understand.' ¹¹ Now this is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God. ¹² The ones along the road are those who have heard, but then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts so they may not believe and be saved. ¹³ The ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But they have no root; they believe for a while, and in a time of testing they fall away. ¹⁴ The seeds that fell among the thorns are people who hear the word, but as they go on their way, they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and their fruit does not mature. ¹⁵ But the seed that fell on the good soil, these are the ones who, hearing the word with an honest and good heart, hold it securely and bear fruit with patient endurance.

¹⁶ "No one lights a lamp and covers it with a bowl or puts it under a bed. Rather, he puts it on a lampstand so that everyone who enters may see the light. ¹⁷ For nothing is hidden that will not be made known, nor is anything secret that will not be known and come into the light. ¹⁸ So listen carefully, for to the one who has, more will be given to him, but the one who does not have, even what he thinks he has will be taken away from him."

¹⁹ Then his mother and brothers came to him, but they could not get near him because of the crowd. ²⁰ He was told, "Your mother and your brothers are standing outside, wanting to see you." ²¹ But Jesus answered and said to them, "My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it."

²² Now one day he got into a boat with his disciples, and he said to them, "Let us go over to the other side of the lake." They set sail. ²³ But as they sailed he fell asleep. A terrible windstorm came down on the lake, and their boat was filling with water, and they were in danger. ²⁴ Then Jesus' disciples came over to him and woke him up, saying, "Master! Master! We are about to die!"

He awoke and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water, and they ceased, and there was a calm. ²⁵ Then he said to them, "Where is your faith?"

But they were afraid and amazed, and they asked one another, "Who then is this, that he commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him?"

²⁶ They sailed to the region of the Gerasenes, which is across the lake from Galilee. ²⁷ When Jesus stepped on the land, he was met by a certain man from the city who had demons. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he did not live in a house but among the tombs. ²⁸ When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him and he said with a loud voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me." ²⁹ For Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For many times it had seized him, and though he was bound with chains and shackles and kept under guard, he had broken his chains and he would be driven by the demon into the wilderness.

³⁰ Then Jesus asked him, "What is your name?"

He said, "Legion," for many demons had entered into him. ³¹ They kept begging him not to command them to go away into the abyss. ³² Now a large herd of pigs was there feeding on the hillside. The demons begged him to let them go into them, and he gave them permission. ³³ So the demons came out of the man and went into the pigs, and the herd rushed down the steep slope into the lake and was drowned. ³⁴ When those tending the pigs saw what had happened, they ran off and told about it in the city and countryside. ³⁵ So the people went out to see what had happened, and they came to Jesus and found the man from whom the demons had gone out. He was sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. ³⁶ Then those who had seen it told them how the man who had been possessed by demons had been healed. ³⁷ Then all the people of the region of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to depart from them, for they were overwhelmed with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned.

³⁸ The man from whom the demons had gone out begged him to let him go with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, ³⁹ "Return to your home and give a full account of what God has done for you." The man went on his way, proclaiming throughout the whole city what Jesus had done for him.

⁴⁰ Now when Jesus returned, the crowd welcomed him, for they were all expecting him. ⁴¹ Behold, a man named Jairus, who was one of the leaders of the synagogue, came and fell down at Jesus' feet, and he begged him to come to his house ⁴² because his only daughter, a girl of about twelve years of age, was dying. As Jesus was on his way, the crowds of people pressed together around him.

⁴³ Now a woman was there who had been bleeding for twelve years ^[1] and could not be healed by anyone. ⁴⁴ She came behind Jesus and touched the edge of his coat, and immediately her bleeding stopped. ⁴⁵ Jesus said, "Who was it who touched me?"

When all denied it, Peter said, "Master, the crowds of people are all around you and they are pressing in against you."

⁴⁶ But Jesus said, "Someone did touch me, for I know that power has gone out from me." ⁴⁷ When the woman saw that she could not escape notice, she came trembling and fell down before him. In the presence of all the people she declared why she had touched him and how she had been immediately healed. ⁴⁸ Then he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace."

⁴⁹ While he was still speaking, someone came from the synagogue leader's house, saying, "Your daughter is dead. Do not trouble the teacher any longer."

⁵⁰ But when Jesus heard this, he answered Jairus, "Do not be afraid; only believe, and she will be healed."

⁵¹ When he came to the house, he allowed no one to enter with him, except Peter and John and James, and the father of the child and her mother. ⁵² Now all were mourning and wailing for her, but he said, "Do not weep; she is not dead but asleep." ⁵³ But they began to mock him, knowing that she was dead. ⁵⁴ But he took her by the hand and called out, saying, "Child, get up!" ⁵⁵ Her spirit returned, and she rose up immediately. He ordered them to get her something to eat. ⁵⁶ Her parents were astonished, but he ordered them to tell no one what had happened.

Footnotes

8:43 ^[1]Scholars are divided whether the phrase

Chapter 9

¹ He called the twelve together and gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases. ² He sent them out to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick. ³ He said to them, "Take nothing for your journey—no staff, no wallet, no bread, no money, and no extra tunic. ⁴ Whatever house you enter, stay there until you leave. ⁵ Wherever they do not receive you, when you leave that town, shake off the dust from your feet as a testimony against them." ⁶ Then they departed and went through the villages, proclaiming the gospel and healing everywhere.

⁷ Now Herod the tetrarch heard about all that was happening, and he was perplexed, because it was said by some that John had risen from the dead, ⁸ and others said that Elijah had appeared, and still others that one of the prophets of long ago had risen. ⁹ Herod said, "I beheaded John. Who is this about whom I hear such things?" And so he tried to see him.

¹⁰ When the apostles returned, they told him everything they had done. Then he took them with him, and they went away privately to a town called Bethsaida. ¹¹ But when the crowds heard about this, they followed him. He welcomed them and spoke to them about the kingdom of God, and he cured those who needed healing. ¹² Now the day was about to come to an end, and the twelve came to him and said, "Send the crowd away that they may go into the surrounding villages and countryside to find lodging and food, because we are here in an isolated place."

¹³ But he said to them, "You give them something to eat."

They said, "We have no more than five loaves of bread and two fish—unless we go and buy food for all these people."

¹⁴ (There were about five thousand men.) He said to his disciples, "Have them sit down in groups of about fifty each." ¹⁵ So they did this, and made the people sit down. ¹⁶ Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, he blessed them and broke them into pieces, and he gave them to the disciples to set before the crowd. ¹⁷ They all ate and were satisfied, and what was left over was picked up—twelve baskets of broken pieces.

¹⁸ It came about while Jesus was praying by himself, the disciples were with him. He questioned them, saying, "Who do the crowds say that I am?"

¹⁹ They answered, "John the Baptist. But others say Elijah, and others say that one of the prophets from long ago has risen."

²⁰ Then he said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"

Peter answered, "The Christ of God."

²¹ But he warned and instructed them to tell this to no one, ²² saying, "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and he will be killed and on the third day be raised." ²³ Then he said to them all, "If anyone wants to come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. ²⁴ Whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. ²⁵ What profit is there for a person to gain the whole world and yet lose or forfeit himself? ²⁶ Whoever is ashamed of me and my words, of him will the Son of Man be ashamed when he comes in his own glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels. ²⁷ But truly I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God."

²⁸ Now about eight days after Jesus said these words, he took with him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray. ²⁹ As he was praying, the form of his face was changed, and his clothes became brilliant white. ³⁰ Behold, two men were talking with him, Moses and Elijah, ³¹ who appeared in glory, talking with him about his departure, which he was about to bring to completion in Jerusalem. ³² Now Peter and those who were with him were heavy with sleep, but when they became fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men who were standing with him. ³³ As they were going away from Jesus, Peter said to him, "Master, it is good for us to be here. Let us make three shelters, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." (He did not know what he was saying.) ³⁴ As he was saying this, a cloud came and

overshadowed them, and they were afraid as they entered into the cloud. ³⁵ A voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, the one who is chosen; listen to him." ³⁶ When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. They kept silent and told no one in those days anything of what they had seen.

³⁷ Now on the next day, when they came down from the mountain, a large crowd met him. ³⁸ Behold, a man from the crowd cried out, saying, "Teacher, I beg you to look at my son, for he is my only child. ³⁹ You see, a spirit takes control over him and he suddenly screams; it causes him to have convulsions so that he foams at the mouth. It hardly ever leaves him and it bruises him badly. ⁴⁰ I begged your disciples to force it out, but they could not."

⁴¹ Jesus answered and said, "You unbelieving and perverse generation, how long must I be with you and put up with you? Bring your son here." ⁴² While the boy was coming, the demon threw him to the ground and shook him with convulsions. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit and healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. ⁴³ Then they were all amazed at the greatness of God. While they all were marveling at everything he was doing, he said to his disciples, ⁴⁴ "Let these words go deeply into your ears: The Son of Man will be betrayed into the hands of men." ⁴⁵ But they did not understand this statement. It was hidden from them, so they could not know its meaning, and yet they were afraid to ask about this statement.

⁴⁶ Then an argument started among them about which of them would be the greatest. ⁴⁷ But Jesus, knowing the reasoning in their hearts, took a little child and put him by his side ⁴⁸ and said to them, "Whoever welcomes this child in my name, welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me, welcomes the one who sent me. For whoever is least among you all is the one who is great."

⁴⁹ John answered, "Master, we saw someone forcing out demons in your name and we prevented him, because he does not follow along with us." ⁵⁰ "Do not stop him," Jesus said, "because whoever is not against you is for you."

⁵¹ When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. ⁵² He sent messengers on ahead of him, and they went and entered into a Samaritan village to prepare everything for him. ⁵³ But the people there did not welcome him because he had set his face to go to Jerusalem. ⁵⁴ When the disciples James and John saw this, they said, "Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and destroy them?" ⁵⁵ But he turned and rebuked them, ⁵⁶ and they went on to another village.

⁵⁷ As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go."

⁵⁸ Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds in the sky have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." ⁵⁹ Then he said to another, "Follow me."

But he said, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father."

⁶⁰ But he said to him, "Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim far and wide the kingdom of God."

⁶¹ Then someone else said, "I will follow you, Lord, but first let me say goodbye to those in my home."

⁶² Jesus replied to him, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

Chapter 10

¹ Now after these things, the Lord appointed seventy ^[1] others, and sent them out two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he himself was about to go. ² He said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. ³ Go on your way. See, I send you out as lambs in the midst of wolves. ⁴ Do not carry a money bag, or a traveler's bag, or sandals, and greet no one on the road. ⁵ Whatever house you enter, first say, 'May peace be on this house!' ⁶ If a son of peace is there, your peace will rest upon him, but if not, it will return to you. ⁷ Remain in that same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer is worthy of his wages. Do not move around from house to house. ⁸ Whatever town you enter, and they receive you, eat what is set before you ⁹ and heal the sick that are there. Say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come close to you.' ¹⁰ Whenever you enter a town and they do not receive you, go out into its streets and say, ¹¹ 'Even the dust from your town that clings to our feet we wipe off against you! But know this: The kingdom of God is near.' ¹² I say to you that on that day it will be more tolerable for Sodom than for that town. ¹³ Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! If the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. ¹⁴ But it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the judgment than for you. ¹⁵ You, Capernaum, do you think you will be exalted to heaven? No, you will be brought down to Hades. ¹⁶ The one who listens to you listens to me, and the one who rejects you rejects me, and the one who rejects me rejects the one who sent me."

¹⁷ The seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons submitted to us in your name."

¹⁸ Jesus said to them, "I was watching Satan fall from heaven as lightning. ¹⁹ See, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing will in any way hurt you. ²⁰ Nevertheless do not rejoice only in this, that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice even more that your names are engraved in heaven."

²¹ At that same hour he rejoiced greatly in the Holy Spirit and said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you concealed these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to those who are untaught, like little children. Yes, Father, for so it was well pleasing in your sight. ²² "All things have been entrusted to me from my Father, and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, and no one knows who the Father is except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him." ²³ Then he turned around to the disciples and said privately, "Blessed are those who see the things that you see. ²⁴ I say to you, many prophets and kings desired to see the things you see, and they did not see them, and to hear the things that you hear, and they did not hear them."

²⁵ Behold, an expert in the law stood up so that he might test him, saying, "Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

²⁶ Jesus said to him, "What is written in the law? How do you read it?"

²⁷ He gave an answer and he said, "You will love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself."

²⁸ Jesus said to him, "You have answered correctly. Do this, and you will live." ²⁹ But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, "Who is my neighbor?"

³⁰ Jesus answered him and said, "A certain man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho. He fell among robbers, who stripped him of his belongings, and beat him, and left him half dead. ³¹ By chance a certain priest was going down that way, and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. ³² In the same way, a Levite also, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was. When he saw him, he was moved with compassion. ³⁴ He approached him and bound up his wounds, pouring oil and wine on them. He set him on his own animal, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he took out two denarii, and gave them to the host, and said, 'Take care of him, and whatever extra you spend, when I return, I will repay you.' ³⁶ Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to him who fell among the robbers?"

³⁷ He said, "The one who showed mercy to him."

Jesus said to him, "Go and do the same."

³⁸ Now as they were traveling along, he entered into a certain village, and a certain woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. ³⁹ She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and heard his word. ⁴⁰ But Martha was overly busy with preparing to serve a meal. She came up to Jesus and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me."

⁴¹ But the Lord answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, ⁴² but only one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen what is best, which will not be taken away from her."

Footnotes

10:1 ^[1]Many of the best ancient copies read

Chapter 11

¹ It happened one day that Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray just as John taught his disciples."

² Jesus said to them, "When you pray say,

'Father, may your name be honored as holy.

May your kingdom come.

³ Give us our daily bread each day.

⁴ Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive everyone who is in debt to us.
Do not lead us into temptation."

⁵ Jesus said to them, "Which of you will have a friend, and will go to him at midnight, and say to him, 'Friend, lend to me three loaves of bread,' ⁶ since a friend of mine just came in from the road, and I do not have anything to set before him'? ⁷ Then the one inside who answered him may say, 'Do not bother me. The door is already shut, and my children, along with me, are in bed. I am not able to get up and give bread to you.' ⁸ I say to you, even if he does not get up and give bread to you because you are his friend, yet because of your shameless persistence, he will get up and give you as many loaves of bread as you need. ⁹ I also say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ¹⁰ For every asking person receives; and the seeking person finds; and to the person who knocks, it will be opened. ¹¹ Which father among you, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead of a fish? ¹² Or if he asks for an egg, will you give a scorpion to him? ¹³ Therefore, if you who are evil know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father from heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?"

¹⁴ Now Jesus was driving out a demon that was mute. When the demon had gone out, the man who had been mute spoke, and the crowd was amazed. ¹⁵ But some of the people said, "By Beelzebul, the ruler of demons, he is driving out demons." ¹⁶ Others tested him and sought from him a sign from heaven.

¹⁷ But Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself is made desolate, and a house divided against itself falls. ¹⁸ If Satan is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? For you say I cast out demons by Beelzebul. ¹⁹ If I drive out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your followers drive them out? Because of this, they will be your judges. ²⁰ But if I drive out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come to you. ²¹ When a strong man who is fully armed guards his own palace, his possessions are safe, ²² but when a stronger man overcomes him, the stronger man takes away the armor in which the man trusted and plunders the man's possessions. ²³ The one who is not with me is against me, and the one who does not gather with me scatters. ²⁴ When an unclean spirit has gone away from a man, it passes through waterless places and looks for rest. Finding none, it says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' ²⁵ Having returned, it finds the house had been swept clean and put in order. ²⁶ Then it goes and takes along with it seven other spirits more evil than itself and they all come in to live there. Then the final condition of that man becomes worse than the first."

²⁷ It happened that, as he said these things, a certain woman raised her voice above the crowd and said to him, "Blessed is the womb that bore you and the breasts that nursed you."

²⁸ But he said, "Rather, blessed are they who hear the word of God and keep it."

²⁹ As the crowds were increasing, Jesus began to say, "This generation is an evil generation. It seeks a sign, though no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah. ³⁰ For just as Jonah became a sign to the Ninevites, so too the Son of Man will be a sign to this generation. ³¹ The Queen of the South will rise up at the judgment with the men of this generation and condemn them, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and see, someone greater than Solomon is here. ³² The men of Nineveh will stand up at the judgment with this generation of people and will condemn it, for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and see, someone greater than Jonah is here."

³³ No one, after lighting a lamp, puts it in a hidden place or under a basket, but on a lampstand, so that those who enter may see the light. ³⁴ Your eye is the lamp of the body. When your eye is good, the whole body is filled with light. But when your eye is bad, your body is full of darkness. ³⁵ Therefore, watch out that the light in you is not darkness. ³⁶ If then your whole body is full of light, not having any member in darkness, then your whole body will be like when a lamp shines its brightness on you."

³⁷ When he had finished speaking, a Pharisee asked him to eat with him at his house, so Jesus went in and reclined. ³⁸ The Pharisee was surprised that Jesus did not first wash before dinner. ³⁹ But the Lord said to him, "Now then, you Pharisees clean the outside of cups and bowls, but the inside of you is filled with robbery and evil. ⁴⁰ You senseless men! Did not the one who made the outside also make the inside? ⁴¹ Give what is inside as alms, and then all things will be clean for you."

⁴² "But woe to you Pharisees, because you tithe mint and rue and every other garden herb, but you neglect justice and the love of God. It is necessary to act justly and love God, without failing to do the other things also. ⁴³ Woe to you Pharisees, for you love the front seats in the synagogues and respectful greetings in the marketplaces. ⁴⁴ Woe to you, for you are like unmarked graves that people walk over without knowing it."

⁴⁵ One of the experts in the law said to him, "Teacher, what you say insults us too." ⁴⁶ Jesus said, "Woe to you, teachers of the law! For you put people under burdens that are hard to carry, but you do not touch the burdens with one of your own fingers. ⁴⁷ Woe to you, because you build tombs for the prophets, and it was your ancestors who killed them. ⁴⁸ So you are witnesses and you consent to the works of your ancestors, for they indeed killed them and you build their tombs. ⁴⁹ For this reason also, God's wisdom said, 'I will send to them prophets and apostles, and they will persecute and kill some of them.' ⁵⁰ As a result, this generation will be charged for all the blood of the prophets shed since the foundation of the world, ⁵¹ from Abel's blood to the blood of Zechariah, who was killed between the altar and the temple. Yes, I say to you, this generation will be held responsible. ⁵² Woe to you experts in the law, because you have taken away the key of knowledge; you do not enter in yourselves, and you hinder those who are entering."

⁵³ After Jesus left there, the scribes and the Pharisees opposed him and argued with him about many things, ⁵⁴ lying in wait to catch him in something he might say.

Footnotes

11:11 ^[1]The best ancient copies have the shorter reading. Some ancient copies have a longer reading, which also is found in Matthew 7:9:

Chapter 12

¹ In the meantime, when many thousands of the people were gathered together so much that they trampled on each other, he began to say to his disciples first of all, "Beware of the yeast of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy." ² But there is nothing concealed that will not be revealed, and nothing hidden that will not be known. ³ So whatever you have said in the darkness will be heard in the light, and what you have spoken in the ear in the inner rooms will be proclaimed upon the housetops. ⁴ I say to you, my friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that they have no more that they can do. ⁵ But I will warn you about whom to fear. Fear the one who, after he has killed, has authority to throw you into hell. Yes, I say to you, fear him. ⁶ Are not five sparrows sold for two small coins? Yet not one of them is forgotten in the sight of God. ⁷ But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear. You are more valuable than many sparrows. ⁸ I say to you, everyone who confesses me before men, the Son of Man will also confess before the angels of God, ⁹ but he who denies me before men will be denied before the angels of God. ¹⁰ Everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him, but to him who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven. ¹¹ When they bring you before the synagogues, the rulers, and the authorities, do not worry about how you will speak in your defense, or what you will say, ¹² for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that hour what you should say."

¹³ Then someone from the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me."

¹⁴ Jesus said to him, "Man, who appointed me a judge or a mediator over you?" ¹⁵ He said to them, "Watch that you keep yourselves from all greedy desires, because a person's life does not consist of the abundance of his possessions." ¹⁶ Then Jesus told them a parable, saying, "The field of a rich man yielded abundantly, ¹⁷ and he reasoned with himself, saying, 'What will I do, because I do not have a place to store my crops?' ¹⁸ He said, 'This is what I will do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all of my grain and other goods. ¹⁹ I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have many goods stored up for many years. Rest easy, eat, drink, be merry.'" ²⁰ But God said to him, 'Foolish man, tonight your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' ²¹ That is what someone is like who stores up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God."

²² Jesus said to his disciples, "Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. ²³ For life is more than food, and the body is more than clothes. ²⁴ Think about the ravens, that they do not sow or reap. They have no storeroom or barn, but God feeds them. How much more valuable you are than the birds! ²⁵ Which of you by being anxious can add a cubit to his lifespan? ²⁶ If then you are not able to do such a very little thing, why do you worry about the rest? ²⁷ Think about the lilies—how they grow. They do not labor, neither do they spin. Yet I say to you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. ²⁸ If God so clothes the grass in the field, which exists today, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith! ²⁹ Do not seek what you will eat and what you will drink, and do not be anxious. ³⁰ For all the nations of the world seek these things, and your Father knows that you need them. ³¹ But seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you. ³² Do not fear, little flock, because your Father is very pleased to give you the kingdom. ³³ Sell your possessions and give alms. Make for yourselves purses which will not wear out—treasure in the heavens that does not run out, where no thief comes near, and no moth destroys. ³⁴ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

³⁵ "Keep your loins girded and your lamps lit, ³⁶ and be like people waiting expectantly for their master when he returns from the marriage feast, so that when he comes and knocks, they may immediately open the door for him. ³⁷ Blessed are those servants whom the master will find watching when he comes. Truly I say to you, he will gird himself to serve and have them sit down at the table, and he will come and serve them. ³⁸ If the master comes in the second watch of the night, or if even in the third watch, and finds them ready, blessed are those servants. ³⁹ But understand this, that if the master of the house had known the hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁰ You also must be ready, because the Son of Man is coming at an hour that you do not expect."

⁴¹ Peter said, "Lord, are you telling this parable only to us, or also to everyone?"

⁴² The Lord said, "Who then is the faithful and wise manager whom his lord will set over his other servants to give them their portion of food at the right time? ⁴³ Blessed is that servant whom his lord finds doing that when he comes. ⁴⁴ Truly I say to you that he will set him over all his property. ⁴⁵ But if that servant says in his heart, 'My lord delays his return,' and begins to beat the male servants and female servants and to eat and drink and to become drunk, ⁴⁶ the lord of that servant will come in a day when he does not expect and in an hour that he does not know and will cut him in pieces and appoint a place for him with the unfaithful. ⁴⁷ That servant, having known his lord's will and not having prepared or done according to his will, will be beaten with many blows. ⁴⁸ But the one who did not know and did what deserved a beating, he will be beaten with a few blows. But everyone who has been given much, from them much will be required, and the one who has been entrusted with much, even more will be asked.

⁴⁹ "I came to cast fire upon the earth, and how I wish that it were already kindled. ⁵⁰ But I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how I am distressed until it is completed! ⁵¹ Do you think that I came to bring peace on the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. ⁵² For from now on there will be five in one house divided—three people against two, and two people against three. ⁵³ They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

⁵⁴ Jesus was saying to the crowds also, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, immediately you say, 'A shower is coming,' and so it happens. ⁵⁵ When a south wind is blowing, you say, 'There will be a scorching heat,' and it happens. ⁵⁶ Hypocrites, you know how to interpret the appearance of the earth and the heavens, but how is it that you do not know how to interpret the present time? ⁵⁷ Why do you not judge what is right for yourselves? ⁵⁸ For when you go with your adversary before the magistrate, on the way make an effort to be reconciled with him so that he does not drag you to the judge, and so that the judge does not deliver you to the officer, and the officer does not throw you into prison. ⁵⁹ I say to you, you will never come out from there until you have paid the very last bit of money."

Chapter 13

¹ At that time, some people there told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate mixed with their own sacrifices. ² Jesus answered and said to them, "Do you think that these Galileans were more sinful than all the other Galileans because they suffered in this way?" ³ No, I tell you. But if you do not repent, all of you will perish in the same way. ⁴ Or those eighteen people in Siloam on whom a tower fell and killed them, do you think they were worse sinners than other men in Jerusalem?" ⁵ No, I say. But if you do not repent, all of you will also perish."

⁶ Jesus told this parable, "Someone had a fig tree planted in his vineyard and he came and looked for fruit on it but found none. ⁷ The man said to the gardener, 'Look, for three years I have come and tried to find fruit on this fig tree and found none. Cut it down. Why let it waste the ground?'"

⁸ "The gardener answered and said, 'Sir, leave it alone this year while I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹ If it bears fruit next year, good; but if it does not, cut it down!'"

¹⁰ Now Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues during the Sabbath. ¹¹ Behold, a woman was there who for eighteen years had a spirit of weakness. She was bent over and was not able to straighten up completely. ¹² When Jesus saw her, he called to her and said, "Woman, you are freed from your weakness." ¹³ He placed his hands on her, and immediately she was made straight again and glorified God.

¹⁴ But the synagogue ruler was indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath. So the ruler answered and said to the crowd, "There are six days in which it is necessary to labor. Come and be healed then, not on the Sabbath day."

¹⁵ The Lord answered him and said, "Hypocrites! Does not each of you untie his ox or his donkey from the stall and lead it to drink on the Sabbath?" ¹⁶ So too this daughter of Abraham, whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, should her bonds not be untied on the Sabbath day?" ¹⁷ As he said these things, all those who opposed him were ashamed, but the whole crowd was rejoicing over all the glorious things he did.

¹⁸ Then Jesus said, "What is the kingdom of God like, and what can I compare it to?" ¹⁹ It is like a mustard seed that a man took and threw into his garden, and it grew into a big tree, and the birds of heaven built their nests in its branches."

²⁰ Again he said, "To what can I compare the kingdom of God?" ²¹ It is like yeast that a woman took and mixed with three measures of flour until all the flour was leavened."

²² Then Jesus traveled through the towns and villages, teaching and making his way toward Jerusalem. ²³ Someone said to him, "Lord, are only a few people to be saved?"

So he said to them, ²⁴ "Struggle to enter through the narrow door, because, I say to you, many will try to enter, but will not be able to enter. ²⁵ Once the owner of the house gets up and locks the door, then you will stand outside and pound the door and say, 'Lord, Lord, let us in.'

"He will answer and say to you, 'I do not know you or where you are from.'

²⁶ "Then you will say, 'We ate and drank in front of you and you taught in our streets.'

²⁷ "But he will reply, 'I say to you, I do not know where you are from. Get away from me, all you workers of unrighteousness!' ²⁸ There will be crying and the grinding of teeth when you see Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and all the prophets in God's kingdom, but you are thrown out. ²⁹ They will come from the east, west, north, and south, and be seated at a table in the kingdom of God. ³⁰ Know this, those who are least important will be first, and those who are most important will be last."

³¹ In that same hour, some Pharisees came and said to him, "Go and leave here because Herod wants to kill you."

³² Jesus said, "Go and tell that fox, 'Look, I cast out demons and perform healings today and tomorrow, and the third day I will reach my goal.' ³³ In any case, it is necessary for me to continue on today, tomorrow, and the following day, since it is not acceptable for a prophet to be destroyed outside of Jerusalem. ³⁴ Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those sent to you. How often I desired to gather your children the way a hen gathers her brood under her wings, but you did not desire this. ³⁵ See, your house is abandoned. I say to you, you will not see me until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

Chapter 14

¹ It happened one Sabbath, when he went into the house of one of the leaders of the Pharisees to eat bread, that they were watching him closely. ² Behold, there in front of him was a man who was suffering from edema. ³ Jesus asked the experts in the Jewish law and the Pharisees, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath, or not?" ⁴ But they kept silent. So Jesus took hold of him, healed him, and sent him away. ⁵ He said to them, "Which of you who has a son or an ox that falls into a well on the Sabbath day will not immediately pull him out?" ⁶ They were not able to give an answer to these things.

⁷ When Jesus noticed how those who were invited chose the seats of honor, he spoke a parable, saying to them, ⁸ "When you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in the place of honor, because someone may have been invited who is more honored than you. ⁹ When the person who invited both of you arrives, he will say to you, 'Give this other person your place,' and then in shame you will proceed to take the lowest place. ¹⁰ But when you are invited, go and sit down in the lowest place, so that when the one who has invited you comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, go up higher.' Then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. ¹¹ For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

¹² Jesus also said to the man who had invited him, "When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or your rich neighbors, as they may also invite you in return, and you will be repaid. ¹³ But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind, ¹⁴ and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. For you will be repaid in the resurrection of the just."

¹⁵ When one of them who sat at the table with Jesus heard these things, he said to him, "Blessed is he who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!"

¹⁶ But Jesus said to him, "A certain man prepared a large dinner and invited many. ¹⁷ At the dinner hour, he sent his servant to say to those who were invited, 'Come, because everything is now ready.'

¹⁸ "They all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it. Please excuse me.'

¹⁹ "Another said, 'I have bought five pairs of oxen, and I am going to try them out. Please excuse me.'

²⁰ "Then another man said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.'

²¹ "The servant came and told his master these things. Then the master of the house became angry and said to his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the town and bring in here the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.'

²² "The servant said, 'Master, what you commanded has been done, and yet there is still room.'

²³ "The master said to the servant, 'Go out into the highways and hedges and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled. ²⁴ For I say to you, none of those men who were invited will taste my dinner.'"

²⁵ Now large crowds were going with him, and he turned and said to them, ²⁶ "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father, mother, wife, children, brothers and sisters, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸ For which of you who desires to build a tower does not first sit down and count the cost to calculate if he has what he needs to complete it? ²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to mock him, ³⁰ saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.' ³¹ Or what king, as he goes to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and take advice about whether he is able with ten thousand men to fight the other king who comes against him with twenty thousand men? ³² If not, while the other army is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for conditions of peace. ³³ So therefore, any one of you who does not give up all his possessions cannot be my disciple. ³⁴ Salt is good, but if the salt has lost its taste, how can it be made salty again? ³⁵ It is of no use for the soil or even for the manure pile. It is thrown away. He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

Chapter 15

¹ Now all the tax collectors and other sinners were coming to Jesus to listen to him. ² Both the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled to each other, saying, "This man welcomes sinners, and even eats with them."

³ Jesus spoke this parable to them, saying, ⁴ "Which one of you, if he has a hundred sheep and then loses one of them, will not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the lost one until he finds it? ⁵ Then when he has found it, he lays it across his shoulders and rejoices. ⁶ When he comes to the house, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.' ⁷ I say to you that even so, there will be joy in heaven over one sinner who repents, more than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent."

⁸ Or what woman who has ten silver coins, if she were to lose one coin, would not light a lamp, sweep the house, and seek diligently until she has found it? ⁹ When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin which I lost.' ¹⁰ Even so, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

¹¹ Then Jesus said, "A certain man had two sons, ¹² and the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the portion of the wealth that falls to me.' So he divided his property between them. ¹³ Not many days later, the younger son gathered together all he owned and went to a country far away, and there he wasted all his wealth by living recklessly. ¹⁴ Now when he had spent everything, a severe famine spread through that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ He went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ He was longing to eat the carob pods that the pigs ate because no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ But when the young son came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, and I am here, perishing from hunger! ¹⁸ I will get up and leave here and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me as one of your hired servants.'" ²⁰ So the young son got up and left and came toward his father. While he was still far away, his father saw him and was moved with compassion, and he ran and embraced him and kissed him. ²¹ The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

²² "The father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and sandals on his feet. ²³ Then bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let us feast and be merry! ²⁴ For my son was dead, and now he is alive. He was lost, and now he is found.' Then they began to be merry."

²⁵ "Now his older son was out in the field. As he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called to one of the servants and asked what these things might be. ²⁷ The servant said to him, 'Your brother has come home and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has received him in good health.'

²⁸ "The older son was angry and would not go in, and his father came out and pleaded with him. ²⁹ But the older son answered and said to his father, 'Look, these many years I slaved for you, and I never neglected a command of yours, and yet you never gave me a young goat that I might be merry with my friends, ³⁰ but when your son came, who has devoured your living with prostitutes, you killed for him the fattened calf.'

³¹ "The father said to him, 'Child, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² But it was proper for us to be merry and rejoice, for this brother of yours was dead, and is now alive; he was lost, and has now been found.'"

Chapter 16

¹ Jesus also said to the disciples, "There was a certain rich man who had a manager, and it was reported to him that this manager was wasting his possessions. ² So the rich man called him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give an account of your management, for you can no longer be manager.'

³ "The manager said to himself, 'What should I do, since my master is taking away my management job? I do not have strength to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. ⁴ I know what I will do, so that when I am removed from my management job, people will welcome me into their houses.'

⁵ "Then the manager called for each one of his master's debtors, and he asked the first one, 'How much do you owe to my master?' ⁶ He said, 'A hundred baths of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and write fifty.'

⁷ "Then the manager said to another, 'How much do you owe?' He said, 'A hundred cors of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, and write eighty.'

⁸ "The master then commended the unrighteous manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the sons of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own people than are the sons of light. ⁹ I say to you, make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal dwellings.

¹⁰ "He who is faithful in very little is also faithful in much, and he who is unrighteous in very little is also unrighteous in much. ¹¹ If you have not been faithful in using unrighteous wealth, who will trust you with true wealth? ¹² If you have not been faithful in using other people's property, who will give you money of your own?

¹³ "No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

¹⁴ Now the Pharisees, who were lovers of money, heard all these things, and they ridiculed him. ¹⁵ He said to them, "You justify yourselves in the sight of men, but God knows your hearts. That which is exalted among men is detestable in the sight of God. ¹⁶ The law and the prophets were in effect until John came. From that time on, the gospel of the kingdom of God is preached, and everyone tries to force their way into it. ¹⁷ But it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one stroke of a letter of the law to become invalid.

¹⁸ Everyone who divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery, and he who marries one who is divorced from her husband commits adultery.

¹⁹ "Now there was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and was enjoying every day his great wealth. ²⁰ A certain beggar named Lazarus was laid at his gate, covered with sores, ²¹ and longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores. ²² It came about that the beggar died and was carried away by the angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried, ²³ and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far away and Lazarus at his side. ²⁴ So he cried out and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.'

²⁵ "But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things. But now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. ²⁶ Besides all this, a great chasm has been put in place, so that those who want to cross over from here to you cannot, and no one can cross over from there to us.'

²⁷ "The rich man said, 'I beg you, Father Abraham, that you would send him to my father's house— ²⁸ for I have five brothers—in order that he may warn them, so that it may not be that they come into this place of torment.'

²⁹ "But Abraham said, 'They have Moses and the prophets; let them listen to them.'

30 "The rich man replied, 'No, Father Abraham, but if someone would go to them from the dead, they will repent.'

31 "But Abraham said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded if someone rises from the dead.'"

Chapter 17

¹ Jesus said to his disciples, "It is certain there will be stumbling blocks, but woe to that person through whom they come! ² It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck and he were thrown into the sea than that he should cause one of these little ones to stumble. ³ Watch yourselves. If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him. ⁴ If he sins against you seven times in the day, and seven times returns to you, saying, 'I repent,' you must forgive him!"

⁵ The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith."

⁶ The Lord said, "If you had faith like a mustard seed, you would say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted, and be planted in the sea,' and it would obey you. ⁷ But which of you, who has a servant plowing or keeping sheep, will say to him when he has come in from the field, 'Come immediately and sit down to eat'? ⁸ Will he not say to him, 'Prepare something for me to eat, and put a belt around your clothes and serve me until I have finished eating and drinking. Then afterward you will eat and drink'? ⁹ He does not thank the servant because he did the things that were commanded, does he? ¹⁰ Even so you also, when you have done everything that you are commanded, should say, 'We are unworthy servants. We have only done what we ought to do.'"

¹¹ It came about that as he traveled to Jerusalem, he went along the border between Samaria and Galilee.

¹² As he entered into a certain village, there he was met by ten men who were lepers. They stood far away from him ¹³ and they lifted up their voices, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us."

¹⁴ When he saw them, he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." As they went away they were cleansed. ¹⁵ When one of them saw that he was healed, he turned back, with a loud voice glorifying God. ¹⁶ He fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. ¹⁷ Then Jesus said, "Were not the ten cleansed? Where are the nine? ¹⁸ Were there no others who returned to give glory to God, except this foreigner?" ¹⁹ He said to him, "Arise, and go. Your faith has made you well."

²⁰ Being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus answered them and said, "The kingdom of God does not come with careful observing. ²¹ Neither will they say, 'Look, here it is!' or, 'There it is!' For look, the kingdom of God is within you."

²² He said to the disciples, "The days are coming when you will desire to see one of the days of the Son of Man, but you will not see it. ²³ Then they will say to you, 'Look, there! Look, here!' But do not go out or run after them, ²⁴ for as the lightning shines brightly when it flashes from one part of the sky to another part of the sky, so will the Son of Man be in his day. ²⁵ But first he must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation. ²⁶ As it happened in the days of Noah, even so will it also happen in the days of the Son of Man. ²⁷ They ate, they drank, they married, and they were given in marriage until the day that Noah entered into the ark—and the flood came and destroyed them all. ²⁸ In the same way, even as it happened in the days of Lot—they were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building. ²⁹ But in the day that Lot went out from Sodom, it rained fire and sulfur from heaven and destroyed them all. ³⁰ After the same manner it will be in the day that the Son of Man is revealed. ³¹ In that day let him who is on the housetop not go down to get his goods out of the house, and in the same way let him who is in the field not return. ³² Remember Lot's wife. ³³ Whoever seeks to gain his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life will save it. ³⁴ I tell you, in that night there will be two people in one bed. One will be taken, and the other will be left. ³⁵ There will be two women grinding grain together. One will be taken, and the other will be left." ³⁶^[1]

³⁷ They asked him, "Where, Lord?"

He said to them, "Where there is a body, there will the vultures also be gathered together."

Footnotes

17:36 ^[1] Luke 17:36 the best ancient copies do not have verse 36,

Chapter 18

¹ Then he spoke a parable to them about how they should always pray and not become discouraged, ² saying, "In a certain city there was a judge who did not fear God and did not respect people. ³ Now there was a widow in that city, and she came often to him, saying, 'Help me get justice against my opponent.'

⁴ For a long time he was not willing to help her, but after a while he said to himself, 'Though I do not fear God or respect man, ⁵ yet because this widow causes me trouble, I will help her get justice, so that she does not wear me out by her constant coming.'" ⁶ Then the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷ Now will not God also bring justice to his chosen ones who cry out to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? ⁸ I say to you that he will bring justice to them speedily. Even so, when the Son of Man comes, will he indeed find faith on the earth?"

⁹ Then he also spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and who despised other people, ¹⁰ "Two men went up into the temple to pray—the one was a Pharisee and the other was a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee stood and prayed these things about himself, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, unrighteous people, adulterers—or even like this tax collector.

¹² I fast two times every week. I give tithes of all that I get.'

¹³ But the tax collector, standing at a distance, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but hit his breast, saying, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.' ¹⁴ I say to you, this man went back down to his house justified rather than the other, because everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but everyone who humbles himself will be exalted."

¹⁵ The people were also bringing to him their infants so that he might touch them, but when the disciples saw it, they rebuked them. ¹⁶ But Jesus called them to him, saying, "Permit the little children to come to me, and do not forbid them. For the kingdom of God belongs to such ones. ¹⁷ Truly I say to you, whoever will not receive the kingdom of God like a child will definitely not enter it."

¹⁸ A certain ruler asked him, saying, "Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

¹⁹ Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good, except God alone. ²⁰ You know the commandments—do not commit adultery, do not murder, do not steal, do not testify falsely, honor your father and mother."

²¹ The ruler said, "All these things I have obeyed from the time I was a youth."

²² When Jesus heard that, he said to him, "One thing you still lack. You must sell all that you have and distribute it to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven—and come, follow me."

²³ But when the ruler heard these things, he became extremely sad, for he was very rich. ²⁴ Then Jesus, seeing him ^[1] said, "How difficult it is for those who are rich to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵ For it is easier for a camel to go through a needle's eye, than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God."

²⁶ Those hearing it said, "Then who can be saved?"

²⁷ Jesus answered, "The things which are impossible with people are possible with God."

²⁸ Peter said, "Well, we have left everything that is our own and have followed you."

²⁹ Jesus then said to them, "Truly, I say to you that there is no one who has left house, or wife, or brothers, or parents, or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, ³⁰ who will not receive much more in this time, and in the age to come, eternal life."

³¹ After he gathered the twelve to himself, he said to them, "See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and all the things that have been written by the prophets about the Son of Man will be accomplished. ³² For he will be given over to the Gentiles, and will be mocked, and shamefully treated, and spit upon. ³³ After whipping him, they will kill him, and on the third day he will rise again." ³⁴ They understood none of these things, and this word was hidden from them, and they did not understand the things that were said.

³⁵ It came about that, as Jesus approached Jericho, a certain blind man was sitting by the road begging, ³⁶ and hearing a crowd going by, he asked what was happening. ³⁷ They told him that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by. ³⁸ So the blind man cried out, saying, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me." ³⁹ The ones who were walking ahead rebuked the blind man, telling him to be quiet. But he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me."

⁴⁰ Jesus stood still and commanded that the man be brought to him. Then when the blind man was near, Jesus asked him, ⁴¹ "What do you want me to do for you?"

He said, "Lord, I want to receive my sight."

⁴² Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight. Your faith has healed you." ⁴³ Immediately he received his sight and followed him, glorifying God. All the people, when they saw this, gave praise to God.

Footnotes

18:24 ^[1]Some ancient Greek copies have the phrase:

Chapter 19

¹ Jesus entered and was passing through Jericho. ² Behold, there was a man there named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector and was rich. ³ He was trying to see who Jesus was, but could not see over the crowd, because he was small in height. ⁴ So he ran on ahead of the people and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, because Jesus was about to pass that way. ⁵ When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down quickly, for today I must stay at your house." ⁶ So he hurried and came down and welcomed him joyfully. ⁷ When everyone saw this, they all complained, saying, "He has gone in to visit a man who is a sinner." ⁸ Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord, the half of my possessions I give to the poor, and if I have cheated anyone of anything, I will restore four times the amount."

⁹ Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the people who are lost."

¹¹ As they heard these things, he continued speaking and told a parable, because he was near to Jerusalem, and they thought that the kingdom of God was about to appear immediately. ¹² He said therefore, "A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and then to return. ¹³ He called ten of his servants and gave them ten minas and said to them, 'Conduct business until I come back.'

¹⁴ "But his citizens hated him and sent a delegation after him, saying, 'We will not have this man reign over us.' ¹⁵ It happened when he returned, having received the kingdom, he commanded the servants to whom he had given the money to be called to him, that he might know what profit they had made by doing business.

¹⁶ "The first came before him, saying, 'Lord, your mina has made ten minas more.'

¹⁷ "The nobleman said to him, 'Well done, good servant. Because you were faithful in very little, you will have authority over ten cities.'

¹⁸ "The second came, saying, 'Your mina, lord, has made five minas.'

¹⁹ "The nobleman said to him, 'You take charge over five cities.'

²⁰ "Another came, saying, 'Lord, here is your mina, which I kept safely in a cloth, ²¹ for I was afraid of you, because you are a demanding person. You take up what you did not put in, and you reap what you did not sow.'

²² "The nobleman said to him, 'By your own words I will judge you, you wicked servant. You knew that I am a demanding person, taking up what I did not put in, and reaping what I did not sow. ²³ Then why did you not put my money in the bank, so that when I returned I would have collected it with interest?' ²⁴ The nobleman said to them that stood by, 'Take away from him the mina, and give it to him that has the ten minas.'

²⁵ "They said to him, 'Lord, he has ten minas.'

²⁶ "'I say to you, that everyone who has will be given more, but from him that has not, even that which he has will be taken away. ²⁷ But these enemies of mine, those who did not want me to reign over them, bring them here and kill them before me.'"

²⁸ When he had said these things, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.

²⁹ It came about that when he came near to Bethphage and Bethany, to the mountain that is called Olives, he sent two of the disciples, ³⁰ saying, "Go into the next village. As you enter, you will find a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it to me. ³¹ If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' say, 'The Lord has need of it.'" ³² Those who were sent went and found the colt just as Jesus had told them.

³³ As they were untying the colt, the owners said to them, "Why are you untying the colt?"

34 They said, "The Lord has need of it." **35** They brought it to Jesus, and they threw their cloaks upon the colt and set Jesus on it. **36** As he went, they spread their cloaks on the road.

37 As he was now approaching the place where the Mount of Olives descends, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works which they had seen, saying,

38 "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!
Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

39 Some of the Pharisees in the multitude said to him, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples."

40 Jesus answered and said, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would cry out."

41 When Jesus approached the city, he wept over it, **42** saying, "If only you had known in this day, even you, the things which bring you peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. **43** For the days will come upon you when your enemies will build a barricade around you and surround you and press in on you from every side. **44** They will strike you down to the ground, and your children with you. They will not leave one stone upon another because you did not recognize the time of your visitation."

45 Jesus entered the temple and began to cast out those who were selling, **46** saying to them, "It is written, 'My house will be a house of prayer,' but you have made it a den of robbers."

47 So Jesus was teaching daily in the temple. The chief priests and the scribes were seeking to destroy him, as were the leaders of the people, **48** but they could not find a way to do it because all the people were listening to him intently.

Chapter 20

¹ It came about one day as Jesus was teaching the people in the temple and preaching the gospel that the chief priests and the scribes came to him with the elders. ² They spoke, saying to him, "Tell us by what authority you do these things, or who it is who gave you this authority."

³ He answered and said to them, "I will also ask you a question, and you tell me. ⁴ The baptism of John: Was it from heaven or from men?"

⁵ They reasoned with themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say, 'Then why did you not believe him?' ⁶ But if we say, 'From men,' all the people will stone us, for they are persuaded that John was a prophet." ⁷ So they answered that they did not know where it came from.

⁸ Jesus said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things."

⁹ He told the people this parable, "A man planted a vineyard, rented it out to vine growers, and went into another country for a long time. ¹⁰ At the appointed time he sent a servant to the vine growers, that they should give him of the fruit of the vineyard. But the vine growers beat him, and sent him away empty-handed. ¹¹ He then sent yet another servant and they also beat him, treated him shamefully, and sent him away empty-handed. ¹² He also sent yet a third and they also wounded him, and threw him out. ¹³ So the lord of the vineyard said, 'What will I do? I will send my beloved son. Maybe they will respect him.'

¹⁴ "But when the vine growers saw him, they discussed among themselves, saying, 'This is the heir. Let us kill him, that the inheritance may be ours.' ¹⁵ They threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. What then will the lord of the vineyard do to them? ¹⁶ He will come and destroy these vine growers, and will give the vineyard to others."

When they heard it, they said, "May it never be!"

¹⁷ But Jesus looked at them, and said, "What is the meaning of that which is written:

'The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone'?

¹⁸ Every one who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces, and the one on whom it falls will be crushed."

¹⁹ So the scribes and the chief priests sought to lay hands on him in that very hour, for they knew that he had spoken this parable against them. But they were afraid of the people. ²⁰ Watching him carefully, they sent out spies who pretended to be righteous, that they might find fault with his speech, so as to deliver him up to the rule and to the authority of the governor. ²¹ They asked him, saying, "Teacher, we know that you say and teach rightly, and are not partial to anyone, but you teach the truth about the way of God. ²² Is it lawful for us to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?"

²³ But Jesus understood their craftiness, and said to them, ²⁴ "Show me a denarius. Whose image and name is on it?"

They said, "Caesar's."

²⁵ He said to them, "Then give to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." ²⁶ They were not able to find fault with what he had said in front of the people, but marveling at his answer, they were silent.

²⁷ When some of the Sadducees came to him, the ones who say that there is no resurrection, ²⁸ they asked him, saying, "Teacher, Moses wrote to us that if a man's brother dies, having a wife, and being childless, the man should take the brother's wife, and raise up children for his brother. ²⁹ There were seven brothers and the first took a wife, and died childless, ³⁰ and the second as well. ³¹ The third took her, and in the same way the seven also left no children and died. ³² Afterward the woman also died. ³³ In the resurrection then, whose wife will she be? For the seven had her as their wife."

³⁴ Jesus said to them, "The sons of this age marry and are given in marriage. ³⁵ But those who are regarded as worthy in that age to receive the resurrection from the dead will neither marry nor be given in marriage. ³⁶ Neither can they die anymore, for they are equal to the angels and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection. ³⁷ But that the dead are raised, even Moses showed, in the place concerning the bush, where he calls the Lord the God of Abraham and the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob. ³⁸ Now he is not the God of the dead, but of the living, because all live to him."

³⁹ Some of the scribes answered, "Teacher, you have answered well." ⁴⁰ For they did not dare ask him any more questions.

⁴¹ Jesus said to them, "How do they say that the Christ is David's son? ⁴² For David himself says in the Book of Psalms,

The Lord said to my Lord,
'Sit at my right hand,

⁴³ until I make your enemies
your footstool.'

⁴⁴ David therefore calls the Christ 'Lord,' so how is he David's son?"

⁴⁵ In the hearing of all the people he said to his disciples, ⁴⁶ "Beware of the scribes, who desire to walk in long robes and love special greetings in the marketplaces and chief seats in the synagogues and places of honor at feasts. ⁴⁷ They also devour widows' houses, and for a show they make long prayers. Men like this will receive greater condemnation."

Chapter 21

¹ Jesus looked up and saw the rich men who were putting their gifts into the treasury. ² He saw a certain poor widow putting in two mites. ³ So he said, "Truly I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all of them. ⁴ All of these gave gifts out of their abundance. But this widow, out of her poverty, put in all she had to live on."

⁵ As some spoke of the temple, how it was decorated with beautiful stones and offerings, he said, ⁶ "As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left on another which will not be torn down." ⁷ So they asked him, saying, "Teacher, when will these things happen? What will be the sign when these things are about to happen?" ⁸ Jesus answered, "Be careful that you are not deceived. For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am he,' and, 'The time is near.' Do not go after them. ⁹ When you hear of wars and riots, do not be terrified, for these things must happen first, but the end will not happen immediately."

¹⁰ Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. ¹¹ There will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues. There will be terrifying events and great signs from heaven. ¹² But before all of these things, they will lay their hands on you and will persecute you, delivering you over to the synagogues and prisons, bringing you before kings and governors because of my name. ¹³ It will lead to an opportunity for your testimony. ¹⁴ Therefore resolve in your hearts not to prepare your defense ahead of time, ¹⁵ for I will give you words and wisdom that all your adversaries will not be able to resist or contradict. ¹⁶ But you will be given over also by parents, brothers, relatives, and friends, and they will put some of you to death. ¹⁷ You will be hated by everyone because of my name. ¹⁸ But not a hair from your head will perish. ¹⁹ In your endurance you will gain your lives.

²⁰ "When you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then recognize that its desolation is near. ²¹ Then let those in Judea flee to the mountains, let those who are in the city leave it, and those who are out in the country must not enter the city. ²² For these are days of vengeance, so that all the things that are written will be fulfilled. ²³ Woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing in those days! For there will be great distress upon the land, and wrath to this people. ²⁴ They will fall by the edge of the sword, and they will be led captive into all the nations, and Jerusalem will be trampled by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

²⁵ "There will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars, and on the earth. The nations will be in distress, anxious because of the roar of the sea and waves. ²⁶ There will be men fainting from fear and from expectation of the things which are coming upon the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸ But when these things begin to happen, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is coming near."

²⁹ Jesus told them a parable, "Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. ³⁰ When they sprout buds, you see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹ So also, when you see these things happening, recognize that the kingdom of God is near. ³² Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

³⁴ "But pay attention to yourselves, so that your hearts are not burdened with excessive drinking and drunkenness and the worries of life, and that day does not close on you suddenly ³⁵ like a trap. For it will come upon everyone living on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ But be alert at all times, praying that you may be strong enough to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

³⁷ So during the days he was teaching in the temple, and at night he went out and stayed on the mountain that is called Olives. ³⁸ All of the people came early in the morning to hear him in the temple.

Chapter 22

¹ Now the Festival of Unleavened Bread was approaching, which is called the Passover. ² The chief priests and the scribes were seeking how they could put Jesus to death, for they were afraid of the people.

³ Then Satan entered into Judas, the one called Iscariot, who was one of the twelve. ⁴ Judas went to the chief priests and captains and discussed with them how he would betray Jesus to them. ⁵ They were glad and agreed to give him money. ⁶ He consented and looked for an opportunity to give him over to them away from the crowd.

⁷ Then came the day of unleavened bread, on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. ⁸ So Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and prepare for us the Passover meal, so that we may eat it."

⁹ They said to him, "Where do you want us to make preparations?"

¹⁰ He answered them, "Look, when you have entered the city, a man bearing a pitcher of water will meet you. Follow him into the house that he goes into. ¹¹ Then say to the master of the house, 'The Teacher says to you, "Where is the guest room, where I will eat the Passover with my disciples?"'" ¹² He will show you a large furnished upper room. Make the preparations there." ¹³ So they went, and found everything as he had said to them. Then they prepared the Passover meal.

¹⁴ When the hour came, he sat down with the apostles. ¹⁵ Then he said to them, "I have greatly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. ¹⁶ For I say to you, I will not eat it again until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." ¹⁷ Then Jesus took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he said, "Take this, and share it among yourselves. ¹⁸ For I say to you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine again until the kingdom of God comes." ¹⁹ Then he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and gave to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁰ He took the cup in the same way after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you. ²¹ But pay attention. The hand of the one who betrays me is with me at the table. ²² For the Son of Man indeed goes as it has been determined. But woe to that man through whom he is betrayed!" ²³ They began to discuss among themselves which one of them it might be who would do this.

²⁴ Then there arose also a quarrel among them about which of them was considered to be greatest. ²⁵ He said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles are lords over them, and the ones who have authority over them are called doers of good deeds. ²⁶ But it must not be like this with you. Instead, let the greatest among you become like the youngest and the one who leads like the one who serves. ²⁷ For who is greater, the one who sits at the table, or the one who serves? Is it not the one who sits at the table? Yet I am among you as one who serves. ²⁸ But you are the ones who have continued with me in my trials. ²⁹ I set you over a kingdom, even as my Father has set me over a kingdom, ³⁰ that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

³¹ "Simon, Simon, be aware, Satan asked to have you, that he might sift you as wheat. ³² But I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail. After you have turned back again, strengthen your brothers."

³³ Peter said to him, "Lord, I am ready to go with you both to prison and to death."

³⁴ Jesus replied, "I tell you, Peter, the rooster will not crow this day, before you deny three times that you know me."

³⁵ Then Jesus said to them, "When I sent you out without a purse, a bag of provisions, or sandals, did you lack anything?"

They answered, "Nothing."

³⁶ Then he said to them, "But now, the one who has a purse, let him take it, and likewise a bag of provisions. The one who does not have a sword should sell his cloak and buy one. ³⁷ For I say to you, what is written about me must be fulfilled, 'He was counted with the lawless ones.' For what is predicted about me is being fulfilled."

38 Then they said, "Lord, look! Here are two swords."

He said to them, "It is enough."

39 Jesus went, as he often did, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed him. **40** When they arrived, he said to them, "Pray that you do not enter into temptation." **41** He went away from them about a stone's throw, and he knelt down and prayed, **42** saying, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless not my will, but yours be done." **43** Then an angel from heaven appeared to him, strengthening him. **44** Being in agony, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down upon the ground. **45** When he rose up from his prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping because of their sorrow **46** and asked them, "Why are you sleeping? Rise and pray, that you may not enter into temptation."

47 While he was still speaking, behold, a crowd appeared, with Judas, one of the twelve, leading them. He came near to Jesus to kiss him, **48** but Jesus said to him, "Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?"

49 When those who were around Jesus saw what was happening, they said, "Lord, should we strike with the sword?" **50** Then one of them struck the servant of the high priest, and cut off his right ear.

51 Jesus said, "That is enough!" He touched his ear, and healed him. **52** Jesus said to the chief priests, to the captains of the temple, and to elders who came against him, "Do you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs? **53** When I was daily with you in the temple, you did not lay your hands on me. But this is your hour, and the authority of darkness."

54 Seizing him, they led him away and brought him into the high priest's house. But Peter followed from a distance. **55** After they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and had sat down together, Peter sat in the midst of them. **56** A certain female servant saw him as he sat in the light of the fire and looked straight at him and said, "This man also was with him."

57 But Peter denied it, saying, "Woman, I do not know him."

58 After a little while someone else saw him, and said, "You are also one of them."

But Peter said, "Man, I am not."

59 After about an hour another man insisted and said, "Truly this man also was with him, for he is a Galilean."

60 But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are saying." Immediately, while he was speaking, a rooster crowed. **61** Turning, the Lord looked at Peter, and Peter remembered the word of the Lord, when he said to him, "Before a rooster crows today you will deny me three times." **62** Peter went outside and wept bitterly.

63 Then the men holding Jesus in custody mocked and beat him. **64** They put a cover over him and asked him, saying, "Prophecy! Who is the one who hit you?" **65** They spoke many other things against Jesus, blaspheming him.

66 As soon as it was day, the elders of the people gathered together, both chief priests and scribes. They led him into the Council **67** and said, "If you are the Christ, tell us."

But he said to them, "If I tell you, you will not believe, **68** and if I ask you, you will not answer. **69** But from now on, the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God."

70 They all said, "Then you are the Son of God?"

Jesus said to them, "You say that I am."

71 They said, "Why do we still need a witness? For we ourselves have heard from his own mouth."

Chapter 23

¹ The whole company of them rose up and brought Jesus before Pilate. ² They began to accuse him, saying, "We found this man misleading our nation, forbidding to give tribute to Caesar, and saying that he himself is Christ, a king."

³ Pilate asked him, saying, "Are you the King of the Jews?"

Jesus answered him and said, "You say so."

⁴ Pilate said to the chief priests and the multitudes, "I find no guilt in this man."

⁵ But they were insisting, saying, "He stirs up the people, teaching throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee even to this place." ⁶ So when Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. ⁷ When he learned that he was under Herod's authority, he sent Jesus to Herod, who himself also was at Jerusalem in those days.

⁸ When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, because he had wanted to see him for a long time. He had heard about him and he hoped to see some sign done by him. ⁹ Herod questioned Jesus in many words, but Jesus answered him nothing. ¹⁰ The chief priests and the scribes stood, vigorously accusing him. ¹¹ Herod with his soldiers showed Jesus contempt and they mocked him. Then they dressed him in splendid clothes and sent him back to Pilate. ¹² For Herod and Pilate had become friends with each other that very day, for before this they had been enemies with each other.

¹³ Pilate then called together the chief priests and the rulers and the crowd of people ¹⁴ and said to them, "You brought to me this man like a man who is misleading the people, and see, I, having questioned him before you, find no guilt in this man concerning those things of which you accuse him. ¹⁵ No, nor does Herod, for he sent him back to us, and see, nothing worthy of death has been done by him. ¹⁶ I will therefore punish him and release him." ¹⁷^[1]¹⁸ But they cried out all together, saying, "Away with this man, and release to us Barabbas!" ¹⁹ Barabbas was a man who had been put into prison for a certain rebellion in the city and for murder. ²⁰ Pilate addressed them again, desiring to release Jesus. ²¹ But they shouted, saying, "Crucify him, crucify him." ²² He said to them a third time, "Why, what evil has this man done? I have found no guilt deserving death in him. Therefore after punishing him, I will release him." ²³ But they were insistent with loud voices, demanding for him to be crucified. Their voices convinced Pilate. ²⁴ So Pilate decided to grant their demand. ²⁵ He released the one they asked for who had been put in prison for rebellion and murder. But he delivered up Jesus to their will.

²⁶ As they led him away, they seized one Simon of Cyrene, coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him to carry, following Jesus.

²⁷ A great crowd of the people, and of women who grieved and mourned for him, were following him. ²⁸ But turning to them, Jesus said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. ²⁹ For see, the days are coming in which they will say, 'Blessed are the barren and the wombs that did not bear, and the breasts that did not nurse.'

³⁰ Then they will begin to say to the mountains,

'Fall on us,' and to the hills, 'Cover us.' ³¹ For if they do these things while the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

³² Other men, two criminals, were led away with him to be put to death.

³³ When they came to the place that is called "The Skull," there they crucified him and the criminals—one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴ Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." Then they cast lots, dividing up his garments.

³⁵ The people stood watching while the rulers also were mocking him, saying, "He saved others. Let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, the chosen one."

³⁶ The soldiers also ridiculed him, approaching him, offering him vinegar, ³⁷ and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself." ³⁸ There was also a sign over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

³⁹ One of the criminals who was hanging there insulted him by saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us."

⁴⁰ But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? ⁴¹ We indeed are here justly, for we are receiving what we deserve for our deeds. But this man did nothing wrong." ⁴² Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

⁴³ Jesus said to him, "Truly I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise."

⁴⁴ It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour ⁴⁵ as the sun turned dark. Then the curtain of the temple was split in two. ⁴⁶ Crying with a loud voice, Jesus said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." Having said this, he died.

⁴⁷ When the centurion saw what was done, he glorified God, saying, "Surely this was a righteous man." ⁴⁸ When all the multitudes who came together to witness this sight saw the things that were done, they returned beating their breasts. ⁴⁹ But all those who knew him, and the women who followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

⁵⁰ Behold, there was a man named Joseph, who was a member of the Council. He was a good and righteous man. ⁵¹ This man had not agreed with their plan and action. He was from Arimathea, a city of the Jews, and he was looking for the kingdom of God. ⁵² This man, approaching Pilate, asked for the body of Jesus. ⁵³ He took it down, wrapped it in fine linen, and placed it in a tomb that was cut in stone, where no one had ever been laid. ⁵⁴ It was the Day of the Preparation, and the Sabbath was about to begin. ⁵⁵ The women who had come with Jesus out of Galilee followed and saw the tomb and how his body was laid. ⁵⁶ They returned and prepared spices and ointments.

Then on the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

Footnotes

23:17 ^[1]The best ancient copies do not have Luke 23:17,

Chapter 24

¹ Very early on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb, bringing the spices which they had prepared. ² They found the stone rolled away from the tomb. ³ They entered in, but did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴ It happened that, while they were confused about this, suddenly, two men stood by them in bright shining garments. ⁵ As the women were terrified and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said to the women, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? ⁶ He is not here, but has been raised! Remember how he spoke to you when he was still in Galilee, ⁷ saying that the Son of Man must be delivered up into the hands of sinful men and be crucified, and on the third day rise again." ⁸ The women remembered his words ⁹ and returned from the tomb and told all these things to the eleven and all the rest. ¹⁰ Now Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them reported these things to the apostles. ¹¹ But this message seemed like idle talk to the apostles, and they did not believe the women. ¹² Yet Peter rose up and ran to the tomb, and, stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves. Peter then departed to his home, wondering what had happened.

¹³ Behold, two of them were going that very day to a village named Emmaus, which was sixty stadia from Jerusalem. ¹⁴ They discussed with each other about all the things that had happened. ¹⁵ It happened that, while they discussed and questioned together, Jesus himself approached and went with them. ¹⁶ But their eyes were prevented from recognizing him. ¹⁷ Jesus said to them, "What are these matters you two are discussing as you walk?" They stood there looking sad.

¹⁸ One of them, named Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only person in Jerusalem who does not know the things which have happened there these days?"

¹⁹ Jesus said to them, "What things?"

They answered him, "The things concerning Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet, mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹ But we hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. Yes, and what is more, it is now the third day since all these things happened. ²² But also, some women of our company amazed us, having been at the tomb early in the morning. ²³ When they did not find his body, they came, saying that they had also seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. ²⁴ Some men who were with us went to the tomb, and found it just as the women had said. But they did not see him."

²⁵ Jesus said to them, "O foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things, and to enter into his glory?" ²⁷ Then beginning from Moses and through all the prophets, Jesus interpreted to them the things concerning himself in all the scriptures.

²⁸ As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus acted as though he were going further. ²⁹ But they compelled him, saying, "Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is almost over." So Jesus went in to stay with them. ³⁰ It happened that, when he had sat down with them to eat, he took the bread, blessed it, and breaking it, he gave it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened, and they knew him, and he vanished out of their sight. ³² They said one to another, "Was not our heart burning within us, while he spoke to us on the way, while he opened to us the scriptures?" ³³ They rose up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem. They found the eleven gathered together and those who were with them, ³⁴ saying, "The Lord is risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon." ³⁵ So they told the things that happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them in the breaking of the bread.

³⁶ As they spoke these things, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them, and said to them, "Peace be to you." ³⁷ But they were terrified and filled with fear and thought that they were seeing a spirit. ³⁸ Jesus said to them, "Why are you troubled? Why do questions arise in your heart? ³⁹ See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones, as you see me having." ⁴⁰ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹ They still could not believe it because of joy, and they were amazed. Jesus said to them, "Do you have anything to eat?" ⁴² They gave him a piece of a broiled fish, ⁴³ and he took it and ate it before them.

44 He said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you when I was with you, that all that was written in the law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." **45** Then he opened their minds, that they might understand the scriptures. **46** He said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and rise again from the dead on the third day. **47** Repentance and forgiveness of sins should be preached in his name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. **48** You are witnesses of these things. **49** See, I am sending you what my Father promised. But remain in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."

50 Then Jesus led them out until they were near Bethany. He lifted up his hands and blessed them. **51** It happened that, while he was blessing them, he left them and was carried up into heaven. **52** So they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. **53** They were continually in the temple, blessing God.

John

Chapter 1

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² This one was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him there was not one thing made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man who was sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸ John was not the light, but came that he might testify about the light.

⁹ The true light, which gives light to all men, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through him, and the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to his own, and his own did not receive him. ¹² But to as many as received him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. ¹³ These were not born of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and lived among us. We have seen his glory, glory as of the one and only who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ John testified about him and cried out, saying, "This was the one of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is greater than I am, for he was before me.'" ¹⁶ For from his fullness we have all received grace after grace. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses. Grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made God known.

¹⁹ This is the testimony of John when the Jews sent priests and Levites to him from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰ He confessed—he did not deny, but confessed—"I am not the Christ." ²¹ So they asked him, "What are you then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." They said, "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." ²² Then they said to him, "Who are you, so that we may give an answer to those who sent us? What do you say about yourself?" ²³ He said, "I am a voice, crying in the wilderness: 'Make the way of the Lord straight,' just as Isaiah the prophet said."

²⁴ Now some from the Pharisees were sent, ²⁵ and they asked him and said to him, "Why do you baptize then if you are not the Christ nor Elijah nor the prophet?" ²⁶ John answered them, saying, "I baptize with water. But among you stands someone you do not know. ²⁷ He is the one who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." ²⁸ These things were done in Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

²⁹ The next day John saw Jesus coming to him and said, "Look, there is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" ³⁰ This is the one of whom I said, 'The one who comes after me is more than me, for he was before me.' ³¹ I did not know him, but it was so that he could be revealed to Israel that I came baptizing with water." ³² John testified, saying, "I saw the Spirit coming down like a dove from heaven, and it stayed upon him. ³³ I did not recognize him, but he who sent me to baptize in water said to me, 'The one on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain, he is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' ³⁴ I have both seen and testified that this is the Son of God."

³⁵ Again, the next day, as John was standing with two of his disciples, ³⁶ they saw Jesus walking by, and John said, "Look, the Lamb of God!" ³⁷ His two disciples heard him say this and they followed Jesus. ³⁸ Then Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, "What are you looking for?" They replied, "Rabbi" (which is translated "Teacher"), "where are you staying?" ³⁹ He said to them, "Come and see." Then they came and saw where he was staying; they stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour.

⁴⁰ One of the two who heard John speak and then followed Jesus was Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter.

⁴¹ He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is

translated "Christ"). ⁴² He brought him to Jesus, and Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas" (which is translated "Peter").

⁴³ The next day, when Jesus wanted to leave to go to Galilee, he found Philip and said to him, "Follow me."

⁴⁴ Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵ Philip found Nathaniel and said to him, "He of whom Moses wrote in the law, and the prophets, we have found him: Jesus son of Joseph, from Nazareth." ⁴⁶ Nathaniel said to him, "Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him,

"Come and see." ⁴⁷ Jesus saw Nathaniel coming to him and said about him, "See, a true Israelite, in whom is no deceit!" ⁴⁸ Nathaniel said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before

Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." ⁴⁹ Nathaniel replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" ⁵⁰ Jesus replied and said to him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you underneath the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than this." ⁵¹ Then he said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see the heavens opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

Chapter 2

¹ Three days later, there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ² Jesus and his disciples were invited to the wedding. ³ When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." ⁴ Jesus said to her, "Woman, why do you come to me? My time has not yet come." ⁵ His mother said to the servants, "Whatever he says to you, do it."

⁶ Now there were six stone water pots there used for the Jewish ceremonial washing, each containing two to three metretres. ⁷ Jesus said to them, "Fill the water pots with water." So they filled them up to the brim. ⁸ Then he told the servants, "Take some out now and take it to the head waiter." So they did.

⁹ The head waiter tasted the water that had become wine, but he did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew). Then he called the bridegroom ¹⁰ and said to him, "Every man serves the good wine first and then the cheaper wine when they are drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." ¹¹ This first sign Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and he revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him. ¹² After this Jesus, his mother, his brothers, and his disciples went down to Capernaum and they stayed there for a few days.

¹³ Now the Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴ He found sellers of oxen and sheep and pigeons in the temple, and the money changers were sitting there. ¹⁵ So he made a whip of cords and drove all of them out from the temple, including both the sheep and the cattle. He scattered the coins of the money changers and turned their tables over. ¹⁶ To the pigeon sellers he said, "Take these things away from here. Stop making the house of my Father a marketplace." ¹⁷ His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me."

¹⁸ Then the Jewish authorities responded and said to him, "What sign will you show us, since you are doing these things?" ¹⁹ Jesus replied, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." ²⁰ Then the Jewish authorities said, "This temple was built in forty-six years, and you will raise it up in three days?" ²¹ However, he was speaking about the temple of his body. ²² After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he said this, and they believed the scripture and this statement that Jesus had spoken.

²³ Now when he was in Jerusalem at the Passover festival, many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he did. ²⁴ But Jesus did not trust in them because he knew them all, ²⁵ because he did not need anyone to testify to him about man, for he knew what was in man.

Chapter 3

¹ Now there was a Pharisee whose name was Nicodemus, a Jewish leader. ² This man came to Jesus at night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher that came from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him." ³ Jesus replied to him, "Truly, truly, unless someone is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

⁴ Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born, can he?" ⁵ Jesus replied, "Truly, truly, unless someone is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. ⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not be amazed that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' ⁸ The wind blows wherever it wishes; you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it is going. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit."

⁹ Nicodemus replied and said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰ Jesus answered and said to him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? ¹¹ Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak what we know, and we testify about what we have seen. Yet you do not accept our testimony. ¹² If I told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven—the Son of Man. ¹⁴ Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ so that all who believe in him may have eternal life."

¹⁶ "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send the Son into the world in order to condemn the world, but in order to save the world through him. ¹⁸ He who believes in him is not condemned, but he who does not believe is already condemned because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹ This is the reason for the judgment: The light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ For everyone who does evil hates the light, and does not come to the light, so that his deeds will not be exposed. ²¹ However, he who practices the truth comes to the light so that it may be plainly seen that his deeds have been done in God."

²² After this, Jesus and his disciples went into the land of Judea. There he spent some time with them and baptized. ²³ Now John was also baptizing in Aenon near to Salim because there was much water there. People were coming to him and were being baptized, ²⁴ for John had not yet been thrown in prison.

²⁵ Then there arose a dispute between some of John's disciples and a Jew about ceremonial washing. ²⁶ They went to John and said to him, "Rabbi, the one who was with you on the other side of the Jordan River, about whom you have testified, look, he is baptizing, and they are all going to him."

²⁷ John replied, "A man cannot receive anything unless it has been given to him from heaven. ²⁸ You yourselves can testify that I said, 'I am not the Christ,' but instead, 'I have been sent before him.' ²⁹ The bride belongs to the bridegroom. Now the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the voice of the bridegroom. This, then, is my joy made complete. ³⁰ He must increase, but I must decrease."

³¹ "He who comes from above is above all. He who is from the earth is from the earth and speaks about the earth. He who comes from heaven is above all. ³² He testifies about what he has seen and heard, but no one accepts his testimony. ³³ He who has received his testimony has confirmed that God is true. ³⁴ For the one whom God has sent speaks the words of God. For he does not give the Spirit by measure. ³⁵ The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand. ³⁶ He who believes in the Son has eternal life, but the one who disobeys the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God stays on him."

Chapter 4

¹ Now when Jesus knew that the Pharisees had heard that he was making and baptizing more disciples than John ² (although Jesus himself was not baptizing, but his disciples were), ³ he left Judea and went back again to Galilee. ⁴ But it was necessary for him to go through Samaria. ⁵ So he came to a town of Samaria, called Sychar, near the piece of land that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ The well of Jacob was there. Jesus was tired from his journey and sat by the well. It was about the sixth hour.

⁷ A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me some water to drink." ⁸ For his disciples had gone away into the town to buy food.

⁹ Then the Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, being a Jew, are asking me, being a Samaritan woman, for something to drink?" For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.

¹⁰ Jesus answered and said to her, "If you had known the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water."

¹¹ The woman said to him, "Sir, you do not have a bucket and the well is deep. Where then do you have the living water?" ¹² You are not greater, are you, than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock?"

¹³ Jesus replied and said to her, "Everyone who drinks from this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but whoever drinks from the water that I will give him will not ever be thirsty again. Instead, the water that I will give him will become a fountain of water in him, springing up to eternal life."

¹⁵ The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water so that I may not become thirsty and not have to come here to draw water."

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back here."

¹⁷ The woman answered and said to him, "I do not have a husband."

Jesus replied, "You have said correctly, 'I have no husband,' ¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true."

¹⁹ The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. ²⁰ Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that Jerusalem is the place where people have to worship."

²¹ Jesus said to her, "Believe me, woman, that an hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²² You worship what you do not know. We worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³ However, the hour is coming, and is now here, when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to be his worshipers. ²⁴ God is Spirit, and the people who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."

²⁵ The woman said to him, "I know that the Messiah is coming (the one called Christ). When he comes, he will explain everything to us."

²⁶ Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one speaking to you."

²⁷ At that moment his disciples returned. Now they were wondering why he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What are you looking for?" or "Why are you speaking with her?"

²⁸ So the woman left her water pot, went back to the town, and said to the people, ²⁹ "Come, see a man who told me everything that I have ever done. This could not be the Christ, could it?" ³⁰ They left the town and came to him.

³¹ In the meantime, the disciples were urging him, saying, "Rabbi, eat." ³² But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." ³³ So the disciples said to each other, "No one has brought him anything to eat, have they?"

³⁴ Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. ³⁵ Do you not say, 'There are four more months and then the harvest comes'? I am saying to you, look up and see the fields, for they are already ripe for harvest! ³⁶ He who is harvesting receives wages and gathers fruit for everlasting life, so that he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. ³⁷ For in this the saying, 'One sows, and another reaps,' is true. ³⁸ I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

³⁹ Many of the Samaritans in that city believed in him because of the report of the woman who was testifying, "He told me everything that I have done." ⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. ⁴¹ Many more believed because of his word. ⁴² They said to the woman, "We no longer believe because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard, and we know that this one is indeed the Savior of the world."

⁴³ After those two days, he departed from there for Galilee. ⁴⁴ For Jesus himself declared that a prophet has no honor in his own country. ⁴⁵ When he came into Galilee, the Galileans welcomed him. They had seen all the things that he had done in Jerusalem at the festival, for they had also gone to the festival.

⁴⁶ Now he came again to Cana in Galilee, where he had made the water wine. There was a certain royal official whose son in Capernaum was ill. ⁴⁷ When he heard that Jesus had come from Judea to Galilee, he went to Jesus and asked him to come down and heal his son, who was about to die. ⁴⁸ Jesus then said to him, "Unless you see signs and wonders, you will not believe." ⁴⁹ The royal official said to him, "Sir, come down before my child dies." ⁵⁰ Jesus said to him, "Go. Your son lives." The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him, and he went away. ⁵¹ While he was going down, his servants met him, saying that his son was living. ⁵² So he asked them the hour when he began to improve. They replied to him, "Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him." ⁵³ Then the father realized that it was at that hour that Jesus had said to him, "Your son lives." So he himself and his whole household believed. ⁵⁴ This was the second sign that Jesus did when he came out of Judea to Galilee.

Chapter 5

¹ After this there was a Jewish festival, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ² Now in Jerusalem by the sheep gate there is a pool, which in the Aramaic language is called Bethesda, and it has five roofed porches. ³ A large number of people who were sick, blind, lame, or paralyzed were lying there. [¹][⁴][²]⁵ A certain man was there who had been sick for thirty-eight years. ⁶ When Jesus saw him lying there, and after he realized that he had been there a long time, he said to him, "Do you want to be healthy?" ⁷ The sick man replied, "Sir, I do not have anyone to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up. When I come, another steps down before me." ⁸ Jesus said to him, "Get up, take up your bed, and walk." ⁹ Immediately the man was healed, and he took up his bed and walked.

Now that day was a Sabbath. ¹⁰ So the Jews said to him who was healed, "It is the Sabbath and you are not permitted to carry your mat." ¹¹ He replied, "He who made me healthy said to me, 'Pick up your mat and walk.'" ¹² They asked him, "Who is the man that said to you, 'Pick it up and walk?'" ¹³ However, the one who was healed did not know who it was because Jesus had gone away secretly, for there was a crowd in the place.

¹⁴ Afterward, Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, "See, you have become healthy! Do not sin anymore, so that something worse will not happen to you." ¹⁵ The man went away and reported to the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him healthy.

¹⁶ Now because of these things the Jews persecuted Jesus, because he did these things on the Sabbath. ¹⁷ Jesus replied to them, "My Father is working even now, and I, too, am working." ¹⁸ Because of this, the Jews sought even more to kill him because he not only broke the Sabbath, but also called God his own Father, making himself equal to God.

¹⁹ Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, the Son can do nothing of himself, except only what he sees the Father doing, for whatever the Father is doing, the Son does in the same way. ²⁰ For the Father loves the Son and he shows him everything that he himself does, and he will show him greater works than these so that you will be amazed. ²¹ For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to anyone he wishes. ²² For the Father judges no one, but he has given all judgment to the Son ²³ so that everyone will honor the Son just as they honor the Father. The one who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him. ²⁴ Truly, truly, he who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned, but he has passed from death to life.

²⁵ "Truly, truly, I tell you the time is coming, and is now, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. ²⁶ For just as the Father has life in himself, so he has also given to the Son so that he has life in himself, ²⁷ and the Father has given the Son authority to carry out judgment because he is the Son of Man. ²⁸ Do not be amazed at this, for there is a time coming in which everyone who is in the tombs will hear his voice ²⁹ and will come out: those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.

³⁰ "I can do nothing from myself. As I hear, I judge, and my judgment is righteous because I am not seeking my own will but the will of him who sent me. ³¹ If I should testify about myself, my testimony would not be true. ³² There is another who testifies about me, and I know that the testimony that he gives about me is true. ³³ You have sent to John, and he has testified the truth. ³⁴ But the testimony that I receive is not from man. I say these things that you might be saved. ³⁵ John was a lamp that was burning and shining, and you were willing to rejoice in his light for a while. ³⁶ Yet the testimony that I have is greater than that of John, for the works that the Father has given me to accomplish, the very works that I do, testify about me that the Father has sent me. ³⁷ The Father who sent me has himself testified about me. You have neither heard his voice nor seen his form at any time. ³⁸ You do not have his word remaining in you, for you are not believing in the one whom he has sent. ³⁹ You search the scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life, and these same scriptures testify about me, ⁴⁰ and you are not willing to come to me so that you may have life. ⁴¹ I do not receive glory from men, ⁴² but I know that you do not have the love of God in yourselves. ⁴³ I have come in my Father's name, and you do not receive me. If another should come in his own name, you would receive him. ⁴⁴ How can you believe, you who accept glory from one another but are not seeking the glory that comes from the only God? ⁴⁵ Do

not think that I myself will accuse you before the Father. The one who accuses you is Moses, in whom you have hoped. ⁴⁶ If you believed Moses, you would believe me, because he wrote about me. ⁴⁷ If you do not believe his writings, how are you going to believe my words?"

Footnotes

- 5:3 ^[1]The best ancient copies do not have the phrase,
5:4 ^[2]The best ancient copies do not have verse 4,
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Chapter 6

¹ After these things, Jesus went away to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. ² A great crowd was following him because they saw the signs that he was doing on those who were sick. ³ Jesus went up the mountain and there he sat down with his disciples. ⁴ (Now the Passover, the Jewish festival, was near.) ⁵ When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming to him, he said to Philip, "Where are we going to buy bread so that these may eat?" ⁶ (But Jesus said this to test Philip, for he himself knew what he was going to do.) ⁷ Philip answered him, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread would not be sufficient for each one to have even a little." ⁸ One of the disciples, Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, said to Jesus, ⁹ "There is a boy here who has five loaves of barley bread and two fish, but what are these among so many?" ¹⁰ Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, about five thousand in number. ¹¹ Then Jesus took the loaves and after giving thanks, he gave it to those who were sitting. He did the same with the fish, as much as they wanted. ¹² When the people were filled, he said to his disciples, "Gather up the broken pieces which remain, so that nothing will be lost." ¹³ So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with broken pieces from the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten. ¹⁴ Then, when the people saw this sign that he did, they said, "This truly is the prophet who is to come into the world." ¹⁵ When Jesus realized that they were about to come and seize him by force to make him king, he withdrew again up the mountain by himself.

¹⁶ When it became evening, his disciples went down to the sea. ¹⁷ They got into a boat, and were going over the sea to Capernaum. It was dark by this time, and Jesus had not yet come to them. ¹⁸ A strong wind was blowing, and the sea was getting rough. ¹⁹ When they had rowed about twenty-five or thirty stadia, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were afraid. ²⁰ But he said to them, "It is I! Do not be afraid." ²¹ Then they were willing to receive him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land where they were going.

²² The next day, the crowd that had been standing on the other side of the sea saw that there was no other boat there except the one, and that Jesus had not entered it with his disciples but that his disciples had gone away alone. ²³ However, there were some boats that came from Tiberias close to the place where they had eaten the bread loaves after the Lord had given thanks. ²⁴ When the crowd discovered that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum seeking Jesus. ²⁵ After they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" ²⁶ Jesus replied to them, saying, "Truly, truly, you seek me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate some of the bread loaves and were filled. ²⁷ Do not labor for the food that perishes, but labor for the food that endures to eternal life which the Son of Man will give you, for God the Father has set his seal on him." ²⁸ Then they said to him, "What must we do, so that we may do the works of God?" ²⁹ Jesus replied and said to them, "This is the work of God: That you believe in the one whom he has sent." ³⁰ So they said to him, "What sign then will you do, so that we may see and believe you? What will you do?" ³¹ Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" ³² Then Jesus replied to them, "Truly, truly, it was not Moses who gave you the bread out of heaven, but it is my Father who is giving you the true bread from heaven. ³³ For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." ³⁴ So they said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always." ³⁵ Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; he who comes to me will not be hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty. ³⁶ But I told you that indeed you have seen me, and you do not believe. ³⁷ Everyone whom the Father gives me will come to me, and he who comes to me I will certainly not throw out. ³⁸ For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. ³⁹ This is the will of him who sent me, that I would lose not one of all those whom he has given me, but will raise them up on the last day. ⁴⁰ For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him would have eternal life and I will raise him up on the last day."

⁴¹ Then the Jews grumbled about him because he had said, "I am the bread that has come down from heaven." ⁴² They said, "Is not this Jesus son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How then does he now say, 'I have come down from heaven'?" ⁴³ Jesus replied and said to them, "Stop grumbling among yourselves. ⁴⁴ No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up on the last day. ⁴⁵ It is written in the prophets, 'Everyone will be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard

and learned from the Father comes to me. ⁴⁶ Not that anyone has seen the Father, except he who is from God—he has seen the Father. ⁴⁷ Truly, truly, he who believes has eternal life. ⁴⁸ I am the bread of life. ⁴⁹ Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. ⁵⁰ This is the bread which comes down from heaven, so that a person may eat some of it and not die. ⁵¹ I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats some of this bread, he will live forever. The bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world."

⁵² The Jews became angry among themselves and began to argue, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" ⁵³ Then Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you will not have life in yourselves. ⁵⁴ Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has everlasting life, and I will raise him up at the last day. ⁵⁵ For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. ⁵⁶ He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him. ⁵⁷ As the living Father sent me, and as I live because of the Father, so he who eats me, he will also live because of me. ⁵⁸ This is the bread that has come down from heaven, not as the fathers ate and died. He who eats this bread will live forever." ⁵⁹ But Jesus said these things in the synagogue while he was teaching in Capernaum.

⁶⁰ Then many of his disciples who heard this said, "This is a difficult saying; who can hear it?" ⁶¹ Jesus, because he knew in himself that his disciples were grumbling at this, said to them, "Does this offend you?" ⁶² Then what if you should see the Son of Man going up to where he was before? ⁶³ It is the Spirit who makes alive; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit, and they are life. ⁶⁴ Yet there are some of you who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the beginning who were the ones that would not believe and who it was who would betray him. ⁶⁵ He said, "It is because of this that I said to you that no one can come to me unless it is granted to him by the Father."

⁶⁶ Because of this, many of his disciples went away and no longer walked with him. ⁶⁷ Then Jesus said to the twelve, "You do not want to go away also, do you?" ⁶⁸ Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom would we go? You have words of eternal life, ⁶⁹ and we have believed and come to know that you are the Holy One of God." ^[1]⁷⁰ Jesus said to them, "Did not I choose you, the twelve, and one of you is a devil?" ⁷¹ Now he spoke of Judas son of Simon Iscariot, for it was he, one of the twelve, who would betray Jesus.

Footnotes

6:69 ^[1]The phrase

Chapter 7

¹ After these things Jesus traveled about in Galilee, for he did not want to go into Judea because the Jews were seeking to kill him. ² Now the Jewish Festival of Shelters was near. ³ His brothers therefore said to him, "Leave this place and go to Judea, so that your disciples also may see the works that you do. ⁴ No one does anything in secret if he himself seeks to be known openly. If you do these things, show yourself to the world." ⁵ For even his brothers did not believe in him. ⁶ Jesus therefore said to them, "My time has not yet come, but your time is always ready. ⁷ The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify about it that its works are evil. ⁸ You go up to the festival; I am not going to this festival because my time has not yet been fulfilled." ⁹ After he said these things to them, he stayed in Galilee.

¹⁰ But when his brothers had gone up to the festival, then he also went up, not publicly but in secret. ¹¹ The Jews were looking for him at the festival and said, "Where is he?" ¹² There was much discussion among the crowds about him. Some said, "He is a good man." Others said, "No, he leads the crowds astray." ¹³ Yet no one spoke openly about him for fear of the Jews.

¹⁴ When the festival was already half over, Jesus went up into the temple and began to teach. ¹⁵ Then the Jews marveled, saying, "How does this man know so much? He has never been educated." ¹⁶ Jesus answered them and said, "My teaching is not mine, but is of him who sent me. ¹⁷ If anyone wishes to do his will, he will know about this teaching, whether it comes from God, or whether I speak from myself. ¹⁸ Whoever speaks from himself seeks his own glory, but whoever seeks the glory of him who sent him, that person is true, and there is no unrighteousness in him. ¹⁹ Did not Moses give you the law? Yet none of you keeps the law. Why do you seek to kill me?" ²⁰ The crowd answered, "You have a demon. Who seeks to kill you?" ²¹ Jesus answered and said to them, "I did one work, and you all marvel because of it. ²² Moses gave you circumcision (not that it is from Moses, but from the ancestors), and on the Sabbath you circumcise a man. ²³ If a man receives circumcision on the Sabbath so that the law of Moses is not broken, why are you angry with me because I made a man completely healthy on the Sabbath? ²⁴ Do not judge according to appearance, but judge righteously."

²⁵ Some of them from Jerusalem said, "Is not this the one they seek to kill? ²⁶ See, he speaks openly, and they say nothing to him. It cannot be that the rulers indeed know that this is the Christ, can it? ²⁷ Yet we know where this one is from. But when the Christ comes, no one will know where he is from." ²⁸ Then Jesus cried out in the temple, teaching and saying, "You both know me and know where I come from. I have not come of myself, but he who sent me is true, and you do not know him. ²⁹ I know him because I come from him and he sent me." ³⁰ They were trying to arrest him, but no one laid a hand on him because his hour had not yet come. ³¹ But many in the crowd believed in him, and they said, "When the Christ comes, will he do more signs than what this one has done?" ³² The Pharisees heard the crowds whispering these things about Jesus, and the chief priests and the Pharisees sent officers to arrest him. ³³ Jesus then said, "I am still with you for a short amount of time, and then I go to him who sent me. ³⁴ You will seek me but you will not find me; where I go, you will not be able to come." ³⁵ The Jews therefore said among themselves, "Where will this man go that we will not be able to find him? Will he go to the dispersion among the Greeks and teach the Greeks? ³⁶ What is this word that he said, 'You will seek me but will not find me; where I go, you will not be able to come'?"

³⁷ Now on the last, great day of the festival, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. ³⁸ He who believes in me, just as the scripture says, rivers of living water will flow from his belly." ³⁹ But he said this about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him would receive; the Spirit had not yet been given because Jesus was not yet glorified. ⁴⁰ Some of the crowd, when they heard these words, said, "This is indeed the prophet." ⁴¹ Others said, "This is the Christ." But some said, "Does the Christ come from Galilee? ⁴² Have the scriptures not said that the Christ will come from the descendants of David and from Bethlehem, the village where David was?" ⁴³ So there arose a division in the crowds because of him. ⁴⁴ Some of them would have arrested him, but no one laid hands on him.

⁴⁵ Then the officers came back to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, "Why did you not bring him?" ⁴⁶ The officers answered, "Never has anyone spoken like this." ⁴⁷ So the Pharisees answered them, "Have you also been deceived? ⁴⁸ Have any of the rulers believed in him, or any of the Pharisees?"

⁴⁹ But this crowd that does not know the law, they are cursed." ⁵⁰ Nicodemus (one of the Pharisees, who came to him earlier) said to them, ⁵¹ "Does our law judge a man before hearing from him and knowing what he does?" ⁵² They answered and said to him, "Are you also from Galilee? Search and see that no prophet comes from Galilee."

⁵³^[1] [Then everyone went to his own house.

Footnotes

7:53 ^[1]The best ancient copies do not have John 7:53-8:11.

Chapter 8

¹^[1] Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. ² Early in the morning he came to the temple again, and all the people came; he sat down and taught them. ³ The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman caught in the act of adultery. They placed her in the middle. ⁴ Then they said to him, "Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. ⁵ Now in the law, Moses commanded us to stone such people; what do you say about her?" ⁶ They said this in order to trap him so that they might have something to accuse him about, but Jesus bent down and wrote on the ground with his finger. ⁷ When they continued asking him questions, he stood up and said to them, "The one among you who has no sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her." ⁸ Again he stooped down, and wrote on the ground with his finger. ⁹ When they heard it, they left one by one, beginning with the oldest. Finally Jesus was left alone, with the woman who had been in the middle. ¹⁰ Jesus stood up and said to her, "Woman, where are your accusers? Did no one condemn you?" ¹¹ She said, "No one, Lord." Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go and sin no more."]
[2]

¹² Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in the darkness but will have the light of life." ¹³ The Pharisees said to him, "You testify about yourself; your testimony is not true." ¹⁴ Jesus answered and said to them, "Even if I testify about myself, my testimony is true. I know where I came from and where I am going, but you do not know where I came from or where I am going. ¹⁵ You judge according to the flesh; I judge no one. ¹⁶ Yet if I judge, my judgment is true because I am not alone, but I am with the Father who sent me. ¹⁷ Yes, and in your law it is written that the testimony of two men is true. ¹⁸ I am he who testifies about myself, and the Father who sent me testifies about me." ¹⁹ They said to him, "Where is your father?" Jesus answered, "You know neither me nor my Father; if you had known me, you would have known my Father also." ²⁰ He said these words in the treasury as he taught in the temple, and no one arrested him because his hour had not yet come.

²¹ So again he said to them, "I am going away; you will seek me and will die in your sin. Where I am going, you cannot come." ²² The Jews said, "Will he kill himself? Is that why he says, 'Where I am going you cannot come'?" ²³ Jesus said to them, "You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. ²⁴ Therefore, I said to you that you will die in your sins. For unless you believe that I AM, you will die in your sins." ²⁵ They said therefore to him, "Who are you?" Jesus said to them, "What I have said to you from the beginning. ²⁶ I have many things to speak and to judge about you. However, he who sent me is true; and the things that I heard from him, these things I say to the world." ²⁷ They did not understand that he was speaking to them about the Father. ²⁸ Jesus said, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then will you know that I AM, and that I do nothing of myself. As the Father taught me, I speak these things. ²⁹ He who sent me is with me, and he has not left me alone, because I always do what is pleasing to him." ³⁰ As Jesus was saying these things, many believed in him.

³¹ Jesus said to those Jews who had believed him, "If you remain in my word, then you are truly my disciples; ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." ³³ They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves of anyone; how can you say, 'You will be set free'?" ³⁴ Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin. ³⁵ The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. ³⁶ Therefore, if the Son sets you free, you will be truly free. ³⁷ I know that you are Abraham's descendants; you seek to kill me because my word has no place in you. ³⁸ I say what I have seen with my Father, and you also do what you heard from your father." ³⁹ They answered and said to him, "Our father is Abraham." Jesus said to them, "If you were Abraham's children, you would do the works of Abraham. ⁴⁰ Yet, now you seek to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. Abraham did not do this. ⁴¹ You do the works of your father." They said to him, "We were not born in sexual immorality; we have one Father: God." ⁴² Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and am here; for neither have I come of myself, but he sent me. ⁴³ Why do you not understand my words? It is because you cannot hear my words. ⁴⁴ You are of your father, the devil, and you wish to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature because he is a liar and the father of lies. ⁴⁵ Yet, because I speak the truth, you do not believe me. ⁴⁶ Which one of you convicts me of sin? If I speak the truth, why

do you not believe me? ⁴⁷ He who is of God hears the words of God; you do not hear them because you are not of God." ⁴⁸ The Jews answered and said to him, "Do we not truly say that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?" ⁴⁹ Jesus answered, "I do not have a demon, but I honor my Father, and you dishonor me. ⁵⁰ I do not seek my glory; there is one seeking and judging. ⁵¹ Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death." ⁵² The Jews said to him, "Now we know that you have a demon. Abraham and the prophets died; but you say, 'If anyone keeps my word, he will never taste death.' ⁵³ You are not greater than our father Abraham who died, are you? The prophets also died. Who do you make yourself out to be?" ⁵⁴ Jesus answered, "If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing; it is my Father who glorifies me—about whom you say that he is your God. ⁵⁵ You have not known him, but I know him. If I would say, 'I do not know him,' I would be like you, a liar. However, I know him and keep his word. ⁵⁶ Your father Abraham rejoiced at seeing my day; he saw it and was glad." ⁵⁷ The Jews said to him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and you have seen Abraham?" ⁵⁸ Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM." ⁵⁹ Then they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.

Footnotes

8:1 ^[1]See the note on John 7:53.

8:11 ^[2]See the note on John 7:53.

Chapter 9

¹ Now as Jesus passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, so that he was born blind?" ³ Jesus answered, "Neither did this man sin, nor his parents, but so that the works of God would be revealed in him. ⁴ We must do the works of him who sent me while it is day. Night is coming when no one will be able to work. ⁵ While I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶ After Jesus said these things, he spit on the ground, made mud with the saliva, and smeared the mud on his eyes. ⁷ He said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which is translated "Sent"). So the man went away, washed, and came back seeing. ⁸ Then the man's neighbors and those who had seen him previously as a beggar were saying, "Is not this the man that used to sit and beg?" ⁹ Some said, "It is he." Others said, "No, but he is like him." But he said, "It is me." ¹⁰ They said to him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" ¹¹ He answered, "The man who is called Jesus made mud and smeared it on my eyes and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed, and I received my sight." ¹² They said to him, "Where is he?" He replied, "I do not know."

¹³ They brought the man who used to be blind to the Pharisees. ¹⁴ Now it was the Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵ Then again the Pharisees asked him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes, I washed, and I now can see." ¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God because he does not keep the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" So there was a division among them. ¹⁷ So they asked the blind man again, "What do you say about him, since he opened your eyes?" The blind man said, "He is a prophet." ¹⁸ Now the Jews still did not believe about him that he was blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of him who had received his sight. ¹⁹ They asked the parents, "Is this your son whom you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" ²⁰ So his parents answered them, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. ²¹ How he now sees, we do not know, and who opened his eyes, we do not know. Ask him, he is an adult. He can speak for himself." ²² His parents said these things, because they were afraid of the Jews. For the Jews had already agreed that if anyone would confess him to be the Christ, he would be thrown out of the synagogue. ²³ Because of this, his parents said, "He is an adult, ask him." ²⁴ So for a second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, "Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner." ²⁵ Then that man replied, "I do not know if he is a sinner. One thing I do know: I was blind, and now I see." ²⁶ Then they said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" ²⁷ He answered, "I have told you already, and you did not listen! Why do you want to hear it again? You do not want to become his disciples too, do you?" ²⁸ They insulted him and said, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹ We know that God has spoken to Moses, but we do not know where this one is from." ³⁰ The man answered and said to them, "This is remarkable, that you do not know where he is from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if someone worships God and does his will, he listens to him. ³² Since the world began it has never been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. ³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." ³⁴ They answered and said to him, "You were completely born in sins, and you are teaching us?" Then they threw him out.

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had cast him out of the synagogue. He found him and said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" ³⁶ He replied and said, "Who is he, Lord, that I may believe in him?" ³⁷ Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is the one who is speaking with you." ³⁸ The man said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him. ³⁹ Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world so that those who do not see may see and so that those who see may become blind." ⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard these things and asked him, "Are we also blind?" ⁴¹ Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no sin, but now you say, 'We see,' so your sin remains."

Chapter 10

¹ "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter through the gate into the sheep pen, but climbs up some other way, that man is a thief and a robber. ² He who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ The gatekeeper opens for him. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. ⁵ They will not follow a stranger but instead they will avoid him, for they do not know the voice of strangers." ⁶ Jesus spoke this parable to them, but they did not understand what these things were that he was saying to them.

⁷ Then Jesus said to them again, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the gate of the sheep. ⁸ Everyone who came before me is a thief and a robber, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ I am the gate. If anyone enters in through me, he will be saved; he will go in and out and will find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief does not come except to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so that they will have life and have it abundantly. ¹¹ I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² The hired servant is not a shepherd and does not own the sheep. He sees the wolf coming and abandons the sheep and escapes, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³ He runs away because he is a hired servant and does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴ I am the good shepherd, and I know my own, and my own know me. ¹⁵ The Father knows me, and I know the Father, and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also, and they will hear my voice so that there will be one flock and one shepherd. ¹⁷ This is why the Father loves me: I lay down my life so that I may take it again. ¹⁸ No one takes it away from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

¹⁹ A division again occurred among the Jews because of these words. ²⁰ Many of them said, "He has a demon and is insane. Why do you listen to him?" ²¹ Others said, "These are not the words of a demon-possessed man. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?"

²² Then it was time for the Festival of the Dedication in Jerusalem. It was winter, ²³ and Jesus was walking in the temple in the porch of Solomon. ²⁴ Then the Jews surrounded him and said to him, "How long will you hold us doubting? If you are the Christ, tell us openly." ²⁵ Jesus replied to them, "I told you, but you do not believe. The works that I do in the name of my Father, these testify concerning me. ²⁶ Yet you do not believe because you are not my sheep. ²⁷ My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life; they will never die, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all others, and no one is able to snatch them out of the hand of the Father. ³⁰ I and the Father are one." ³¹ Then the Jews took up stones again to stone him. ³² Jesus answered them, "I have shown you many good works from the Father. For which of those works are you stoning me?" ³³ The Jews answered him, "We are not stoning you for any good work, but for blasphemy, because you, a man, are making yourself God." ³⁴ Jesus answered them, "Is it not written in your law, 'I said, "You are gods"?' ³⁵ If he called them gods, to whom the word of God came (and the scripture cannot be broken), ³⁶ do you say to him whom the Father set apart and sent into the world, 'You are blaspheming,' because I said, 'I am the Son of God'? ³⁷ If I am not doing the works of my Father, do not believe me. ³⁸ But if I am doing them, even if you do not believe me, believe in the works so that you may know and understand that the Father is in me and that I am in the Father." ³⁹ They tried to seize him again, but he went away out of their hand.

⁴⁰ He went away again beyond the Jordan to the place where John had first been baptizing, and he stayed there. ⁴¹ Many people came to him and they said, "John indeed did no signs, but all the things that John has said about this man are true." ⁴² Many people believed in him there.

Chapter 11

¹ Now a certain man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² It was Mary who anointed the Lord with myrrh and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick. ³ The sisters then sent for Jesus, saying, "Lord, see, he whom you love is sick." ⁴ When Jesus heard it, he said, "This sickness is not to death, but instead it is for the glory of God so that the Son of God may be glorified by it." ⁵ Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. ⁶ So when he heard that Lazarus was sick, Jesus stayed two more days in the place where he was. ⁷ Then after this, he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." ⁸ The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, right now the Jews are trying to stone you, and you are going back there again?" ⁹ Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of light in a day? If someone walks in the daytime, he will not stumble, because he sees by the light of this world. ¹⁰ However, if he walks at night, he will stumble because the light is not in him." ¹¹ He said these things, and after these things, he said to them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going so that I may wake him out of sleep." ¹² The disciples therefore said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover." ¹³ Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that he was speaking about the sleep of resting. ¹⁴ Then Jesus said to them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵ I am glad, for your sakes, that I was not there so that you may believe. Let us go to him." ¹⁶ Thomas, who was called Didymus, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go so that we may die with Jesus."

¹⁷ When Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. ¹⁸ Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, about fifteen stadia away. ¹⁹ Many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary, to comfort them about their brother. ²⁰ Then Martha, when she heard that Jesus was coming, went to meet him, but Mary was sitting in the house. ²¹ Martha then said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² Even now, I know that whatever you ask from God, he will give to you." ²³ Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴ Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, even if he dies, will live; ²⁶ and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷ She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world." ²⁸ When she had said this, she went away and called her sister Mary privately. She said, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." ²⁹ When she heard this, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet come into the village but was still in the place where Martha had met him. ³¹ So when the Jews, who were with her in the house and who were comforting her, saw Mary getting up quickly and going out, they followed her, thinking that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³² When Mary came to the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell down at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." ³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and was troubled; ³⁴ he said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵ Jesus wept. ³⁶ Then the Jews said, "See how much he loved Lazarus!" ³⁷ But some of them said, "Could not this man, who opened the eyes of a blind man, also have made this man not die?" ³⁸ Then Jesus again, being deeply moved in himself, went to the tomb. Now it was a cave, and a stone lay against it. ³⁹ Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of Lazarus, the one who had died, said to Jesus, "Lord, by this time the body will be decaying, for he has been dead for four days." ⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, "Did I not say to you that, if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you listened to me. ⁴² I knew that you always listen to me, but it is because of the crowd that is standing around me that I said this, so that they may believe that you have sent me." ⁴³ After he had said this, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴ The dead man came out; his feet and hands were bound with cloths, and his face was bound about with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Untie him and let him go."

⁴⁵ Then many of the Jews who came to Mary and saw what Jesus did, believed in him. ⁴⁶ But some of them went away to the Pharisees and told them the things that Jesus had done.

⁴⁷ Then the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered the council together and said, "What will we do? This man does many signs. ⁴⁸ If we leave him alone like this, all will believe in him; the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation." ⁴⁹ However, a certain man among them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing. ⁵⁰ You do not consider that it is better for you

that one man dies for the people than that the whole nation perishes." ⁵¹ Now this he said not from himself. Instead, being high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus should die for the nation; ⁵² and not only for the nation, but so that the children of God who are scattered would be gathered together into one. ⁵³ So from that day onward they planned how to put Jesus to death.

⁵⁴ No longer did Jesus walk openly among the Jews, but he departed from there into the country near to the wilderness into a town called Ephraim. There he stayed with the disciples. ⁵⁵ Now the Passover of the Jews was near, and many went up to Jerusalem from the country before the Passover in order to purify themselves. ⁵⁶ They were looking for Jesus, and speaking one with another as they stood in the temple, "What do you think? That he will not come to the festival?" ⁵⁷ Now the chief priests and the Pharisees had given an order that if anyone knew where Jesus was, he should report it so that they might seize him.

Chapter 12

¹ Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. ² So they made him a dinner there, and Martha was serving, but Lazarus was one of those who were lying down at the table with Jesus. ³ Then Mary took a litre of perfume made of very precious pure nard, anointed the feet of Jesus with it, and wiped his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴ Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples, the one who would betray him, said, ⁵ "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" ⁶ Now he said this, not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief. He had the moneybag and would steal from what was put in it. ⁷ Jesus said, "Allow her to keep what she has for the day of my burial." ⁸ You will always have the poor with you. But you will not always have me."

⁹ Now a large crowd of the Jews learned that Jesus was there, and they came, not only for Jesus, but also to see Lazarus, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. ¹⁰ The chief priests conspired together so that they might also put Lazarus to death; ¹¹ for it was because of him that many of the Jews went away and believed in Jesus.

¹² On the next day a great crowd came to the festival. When they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, ¹³ they took the branches of the palm trees and went out to meet him and cried out, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, the King of Israel."

¹⁴ Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it; as it was written,

¹⁵ "Do not fear, daughter of Zion;
see, your King is coming,
sitting on the colt of a donkey."

¹⁶ His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, they remembered that these things had been written about him and that they had done these things to him. ¹⁷ Now the crowd testified that they had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him up from the dead. ¹⁸ It was also for this reason that the crowd went out to meet him, because they heard that he had done this sign. ¹⁹ The Pharisees therefore said among themselves, "Look, you can do nothing good; see, the world has gone after him."

²⁰ Now certain Greeks were among those who were going up to worship at the festival. ²¹ These went to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, saying, "Sir, we want to see Jesus." ²² Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew went with Philip, and they told Jesus. ²³ Jesus answered them and said, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴ Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains by itself alone; but if it dies, it will bear much fruit. ²⁵ He who loves his life will lose it; but he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶ If anyone serves me, let him follow me; and where I am, there will my servant also be. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him. ²⁷ Now my soul is troubled and what should I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But for this reason I came to this hour. ²⁸ Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven and said, "I have glorified it and I will glorify it again." ²⁹ Then the crowd that stood by and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." ³⁰ Jesus answered and said, "This voice did not come for me, but for you. ³¹ Now is the judgment of this world: Now will the ruler of this world be thrown out. ³² When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself." ³³ He said this to indicate what kind of death he would die. ³⁴ The crowd answered him, "We have heard from the law that the Christ will stay forever. How can you say, 'The Son of Man must be lifted up'? Who is this Son of Man?" ³⁵ Jesus then said to them, "The light will still be with you for a short amount of time. Walk while you have the light, so that darkness does not overtake you. He who walks in the darkness does not know where he is going. ³⁶ While you have the light, believe in the light so that you may be sons of light."

Jesus said these things and then departed and hid from them. ³⁷ Although Jesus had done so many signs before them, yet they did not believe in him ³⁸ so that the word of Isaiah the prophet would be fulfilled, in which he said:

"Lord, who has believed our report,

and to whom has the arm
of the Lord been revealed?"

39 For this reason they could not believe, for Isaiah had also said,

40 "He has blinded their eyes,
and he has hardened their heart,
otherwise they would see with their eyes
and understand with their hearts,
and turn, and I would heal them."

41 Isaiah said these things because he saw the glory of Jesus and spoke of him. **42** But despite that, many of the rulers believed in Jesus; but because of the Pharisees, they did not confess it so that they would not be banned from the synagogue. **43** They loved the glory that comes from people more than the glory that comes from God.

44 Jesus cried out and said, "The one who believes in me, believes not only in me but also in him who sent me, **45** and the one who sees me sees him who sent me. **46** I have come as a light into the world, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in the darkness. **47** If anyone hears my words but does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I have not come to judge the world, but to save the world. **48** The one who rejects me and who does not receive my words, has one who judges him. The word I have spoken will judge him on the last day. **49** For I did not speak for myself, but it is the Father who sent me, who has given me the command about what to say and what to speak. **50** I know that his command is eternal life, so that is what I say—just as the Father has spoken to me, so I speak."

Chapter 13

¹ Now it was before the Festival of the Passover. Jesus knew that his hour had come to go out of this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. ² Now the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot son of Simon, to betray Jesus. So during dinner, ³ Jesus—who knew that the Father had given everything over into his hands and that he had come from God and was going back to God—⁴ got up from dinner and took off his outer clothing. Then he took a towel and wrapped it around himself. ⁵ Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the feet of the disciples and dry them with the towel that he had put around himself. ⁶ He came to Simon Peter, and Peter said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" ⁷ Jesus answered and said to him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will understand this later." ⁸ Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me." ⁹ Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, do not only wash my feet, but also my hands and my head." ¹⁰ Jesus said to him, "He who is bathed has no need, except to wash his feet, but he is completely clean; you are clean, but not everyone." ¹¹ (For Jesus knew who would betray him; that is why he said, "Not all of you are clean.")

¹² So when Jesus had washed their feet and taken his garments and sat down again, he said to them, "Do you understand what I have done for you?" ¹³ You call me 'teacher' and 'Lord,' and you are speaking correctly, because so I am. ¹⁴ If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, have washed your feet, you should also wash the feet of one another. ¹⁵ For I have given you an example so that you should also do just as I did for you. ¹⁶ Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is a messenger greater than he who sent him. ¹⁷ If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them. ¹⁸ I am not speaking about all of you; I know those whom I have chosen—but this is so that the scripture will be fulfilled: 'He who eats my bread lifted up his heel against me.' ¹⁹ I tell you this now before it happens so that when it happens, you may believe that I AM. ²⁰ Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever receives the one I send receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me."

²¹ When Jesus said this, he was troubled in spirit. He testified and said, "Truly, truly, I say to you that one of you will betray me." ²² The disciples looked at each other, wondering of whom he was speaking. ²³ One of his disciples, whom Jesus loved, was lying down at the table against Jesus' side. ²⁴ Simon Peter motioned to this disciple and said, "Ask him who he is speaking about." ²⁵ So he leaned back against the side of Jesus and said to him, "Lord, who is it?" ²⁶ Then Jesus answered, "It is the one for whom I will dip the piece of bread and give it him." So when he had dipped the bread, he gave it to Judas son of Simon Iscariot. ²⁷ Then after the bread, Satan entered into him, so Jesus said to him, "What you are doing, do it quickly." ²⁸ Now no one who was lying down at the table knew why he said this to him. ²⁹ Some thought that, since Judas had the moneybag, Jesus said to him, "Buy what we need to have for the festival," or that he should give something to the poor. ³⁰ After Judas received the bread, he went out immediately. It was night.

³¹ When Judas was gone, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man is glorified, and God is glorified in him. ³² If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify the Son in himself, and he will glorify him at once. ³³ Little children, I am with you for still a short amount of time. You will seek me, and as I said to the Jews, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' Now I also say this to you. ³⁴ I am giving you a new commandment, that you should love one another; as I have loved you, so also you should love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love one for another."

³⁶ Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, where are you going?" Jesus answered, "Where I am going, you cannot follow me now, but you will follow later." ³⁷ Peter said to him, "Lord, why can I not follow you now? I will lay down my life for you." ³⁸ Jesus answered, "Will you lay down your life for me? Truly, truly, I say to you, the rooster will not crow before you have denied me three times."

Chapter 14

¹ "Do not let your heart be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. ² In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, I would have told you, for I am going to prepare a place for you. ³ If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to myself, so that where I am you will also be. ⁴ You know the way to where I am going." ⁵ Thomas said to Jesus, "Lord, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?" ⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you know him and have seen him." ⁸ Philip said to Jesus, "Lord, show us the Father, and that will be enough for us." ⁹ Jesus said to him, "I have been with you for such a long time and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? ¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak from my own authority, but the Father living in me is doing his work. ¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father is in me, or else believe because of the works themselves. ¹² Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in me will do the works that I do, and he will do greater works than these because I am going to the Father. ¹³ Whatever you ask in my name, I will do it so that the Father will be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it. ¹⁵ If you love me, you will keep my commandments, ¹⁶ and I will pray to the Father, and he will give you another Comforter so that he will be with you forever— ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth. The world cannot receive him because it does not see him or know him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. ¹⁸ I will not leave you as orphans; I will come back to you. ¹⁹ Yet a short amount of time and the world will no longer see me, but you will see me. Because I live, you will also live. ²⁰ On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and that you are in me, and that I am in you. ²¹ He who has my commandments and keeps them is the one who loves me, and he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and I will show myself to him." ²² Judas (not Iscariot) said to Jesus, "Lord, why is it that you will show yourself to us and not to the world?" ²³ Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and we will make our home with him. ²⁴ He who does not love me does not keep my words. The word that you hear is not from me but from the Father who sent me.

²⁵ I have said these things to you, while I am staying with you. ²⁶ However, the Comforter—the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in my name—he will teach you everything and he will remind you of everything that I said to you. ²⁷ I leave you peace; I give you my peace. I do not give it as the world gives. Do not let your heart be troubled, and do not be afraid. ²⁸ You heard that I said to you, 'I am going away, and I will come back to you.' If you loved me, you would be glad because I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I am. ²⁹ Now I have told you before it happens so that, when it happens, you will believe. ³⁰ I will no longer speak much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no power over me, ³¹ but in order that the world will know that I love the Father, I do just as the Father commanded me. Let us get up and go from here."

Chapter 15

¹ "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ² He takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and he prunes every branch that bears fruit so that it will bear more fruit. ³ You are already clean because of the message that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Remain in me, and I in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it remains in the vine, so neither can you, unless you remain in me. ⁵ I am the vine, you are the branches. He who remains in me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for without me you can do nothing. ⁶ If anyone does not remain in me, he is thrown away like a branch and dries up, and they gather the branches and throw them into the fire, and they are burned up. ⁷ If you remain in me, and if my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ My Father is glorified in this, that you bear much fruit and so prove that you are my disciples. ⁹ As the Father has loved me, I have also loved you. Remain in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, as I have kept the commandments of my Father and remain in his love. ¹¹ I have spoken these things to you so that my joy will be in you and so that your joy will be made full. ¹² This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ No one has greater love than this—that one lays down his life for his friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do the things that I command you. ¹⁵ No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing. I have called you friends, for everything that I heard from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain. This is so that whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. ¹⁷ These things I command you, so that you love one another. ¹⁸ If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. ¹⁹ If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own. But because you are not of the world and because I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. ²⁰ Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they kept my word, they will also keep yours. ²¹ They will do all these things to you because of my name, because they do not know him who sent me. ²² If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. ²³ He who hates me also hates my Father. ²⁴ If I had not done the works that no one else did among them, they would have no sin, but now they have seen and hated both me and my Father. ²⁵ But this is in order to fulfill the word that is written in their law, 'They hated me without a cause.' ²⁶ When the Comforter comes—whom I will send to you from the Father, that is, the Spirit of truth, who goes out from the Father—he will testify about me. ²⁷ You also must testify, because you have been with me from the beginning.

Chapter 16

¹ "I have spoken these things to you so that you will not fall away. ² They will throw you out of the synagogues. But the hour is coming when everyone who kills you will think that he is offering a service to God. ³ They will do these things because they have not known the Father nor me. ⁴ I have spoken these things to you so that when their hour comes, you will remember that I told you about them. I did not tell you about these things in the beginning, because I was with you. ⁵ But now I go to him who sent me, yet none of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' ⁶ But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. ⁷ But truly I tell you, it is better for you that I go away. For if I do not go away, the Comforter will not come to you, but if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸ When he comes, the Comforter will prove the world to be wrong about sin, about righteousness, and about judgment— ⁹ about sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰ about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, and you will no longer see me; ¹¹ and about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged. ¹² I have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³ But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak from himself. But he will say whatever he hears, and he will tell you things that are to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify me, because he will take from what is mine and he will tell it to you. ¹⁵ Everything that the Father has is mine. Therefore, I said that the Spirit will take from what is mine and he will tell it to you. ¹⁶ In a short amount of time you will no longer see me, and after another short amount of time you will see me." ¹⁷ Then some of his disciples said to one another, "What is this that he says to us, 'A short amount of time you will no longer see me and after another short amount of time you will see me,' and, 'Because I go to the Father'?" ¹⁸ Therefore they said, "What is this that he says, 'A short amount of time'? We do not know what he is talking about." ¹⁹ Jesus saw that they wanted to ask him, and he said to them, "Is this what you are asking each other, what I meant by saying, 'In a short amount of time and you will no longer see me, and again in a short amount of time and you will see me'? ²⁰ Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will be glad. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will be turned into joy. ²¹ When a woman gives birth she has sorrow because her hour has come, but when she has given birth to the child, she no longer remembers her tribulation because of her joy that a man has been born into the world. ²² So you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your heart will be glad, and no one will be able to take away your joy from you. ²³ On that day you will not ask me anything. Truly, truly, I say to you, if you ask anything of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. ²⁴ Until now you have not asked anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, so that your joy will be fulfilled.

²⁵ "I have said these things to you in figures of speech, but the hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech, but instead I will tell you plainly about the Father. ²⁶ On that day you will ask in my name and I do not say to you that I will pray to the Father for you, ²⁷ for the Father himself loves you because you have loved me and because you have believed that I came from God. ²⁸ I came from the Father, and I have come into the world. Again, I am leaving the world and I am going to the Father." ²⁹ His disciples said, "See, now you are speaking plainly and you are not using figures of speech. ³⁰ Now we know that you know all things, and you do not need anyone to ask you questions. Because of this, we believe that you have come from God." ³¹ Jesus answered them, "Do you believe now? ³² See, the hour is coming, yes, and has indeed come, when you will be scattered, everyone to his own home, and you will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone because the Father is with me. ³³ I have spoken these things to you so that you will have peace in me. In the world you have tribulation, but have courage, I have conquered the world."

Chapter 17

¹ After Jesus said these things, he lifted up his eyes to the heavens and said, "Father, the hour has come, glorify your Son so that the Son will glorify you—² just as you gave him authority over all flesh so that he would give eternal life to everyone whom you have given him. ³ This is eternal life: That they know you, the only true God, and him whom you sent, Jesus Christ. ⁴ I glorified you on the earth. I have finished the work that you have given me to do. ⁵ Now, Father, glorify me along with yourself with the glory that I had with you before the world was made. ⁶ I revealed your name to the people whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything that you have given me comes from you, ⁸ for I have given them all the words that you gave me. They received them and truly knew that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. ⁹ I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. ¹⁰ Everything that is mine is yours, and yours is mine, and I am glorified in them. ¹¹ I am no longer in the world, but these people are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name that you have given me so that they will be one, just as we are one. ¹² While I was with them, I kept them safe in your name, which you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was destroyed, except for the son of destruction, so that the scriptures would be fulfilled. ¹³ Now I am coming to you, but I am saying these things in the world so that they will have my joy fulfilled in themselves. ¹⁴ I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁵ I do not ask for you to take them away from the world, but for you to keep them safe from the evil one. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁷ Set them apart by the truth. Your word is truth. ¹⁸ Just as you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ For their sakes I have set myself apart, so that they themselves may also be set apart in truth. ²⁰ I pray not only for these, but also for those who will believe in me through their word ²¹ so that they will all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world will believe that you have sent me. ²² The glory that you gave me, I have given to them, so that they will be one, just as we are one: ²³ I in them, and you in me—that they may be brought to complete unity, so that the world will know that you sent me, and that you have loved them just as you loved me. ²⁴ Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you gave me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. ²⁵ Righteous Father, the world did not know you, but I know you; and these know that you sent me. ²⁶ I made your name known to them, and I will make it known so that the love with which you have loved me will be in them, and I will be in them."

Chapter 18

¹ After Jesus spoke these words, he went out with his disciples to the other side of the Kidron Brook, where there was a garden into which he and his disciples entered. ² Now Judas, who was going to betray him, also knew the place, for Jesus often met there with his disciples. ³ Then Judas, leading a company of soldiers and some officers from the chief priests and Pharisees, went there with lanterns, torches, and weapons. ⁴ Then Jesus, who knew all the things that were happening to him, went forward and asked them, "Who are you looking for?" ⁵ They answered him, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus said to them, "I am." Judas, who betrayed him, was also standing with the soldiers. ⁶ So when he said to them, "I am," they went backward and fell to the ground. ⁷ Then again he asked them, "Who are you looking for?" Again they said, "Jesus of Nazareth." ⁸ Jesus answered, "I told you that I am. So if you are looking for me, let these go." ⁹ This was in order to fulfill the word that he said: "Of those whom you have given me, I lost no one." ¹⁰ Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it and struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his right ear. Now the name of the servant was Malchus. ¹¹ Jesus said to Peter, "Put the sword back into its sheath. Should I not drink the cup that the Father has given me?"

¹² So a company of soldiers and the captain, and the officers of the Jews, seized Jesus and tied him up. ¹³ They led him first to Annas, for he was father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. ¹⁴ Now Caiaphas was the one who had given the advice to the Jews that it would be better that one man die for the people.

¹⁵ Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple. Now that disciple was known to the high priest, and he entered with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest; ¹⁶ but Peter was standing at the door outside. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the doorkeeper, and he brought Peter in. ¹⁷ Then the female servant, the doorkeeper, said to Peter, "Are you not also one of the disciples of this man?" He said, "I am not." ¹⁸ Now the servants and the officers were standing there, and they had made a charcoal fire, for it was cold, and they were warming themselves. Peter was also with them, standing there and warming himself.

¹⁹ The high priest then asked Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. ²⁰ Jesus answered him, "I have spoken openly to the world. I was always teaching in synagogues and in the temple where all the Jews come together. I said nothing in secret." ²¹ Why did you ask me? Ask those who have heard me about what I said. Look, these people know what I said." ²² When Jesus had said this, one of the officers standing there struck Jesus and said, "Is that how you answer the high priest?" ²³ Jesus answered him, "If I spoke wrongly, testify about the wrong, but if rightly, why do you hit me?" ²⁴ Then Annas sent him tied up to Caiaphas the high priest.

²⁵ Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. The people then said to him, "Are you not also one of his disciples?" He denied it and said, "I am not." ²⁶ One of the servants of the high priest, who was a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, said, "Did I not see you in the garden with him?" ²⁷ Then Peter denied it again; and immediately the rooster crowed.

²⁸ Then they led Jesus from Caiaphas to the government headquarters. It was early in the morning, and they did not enter the government headquarters so that they would not be defiled but would be able to eat the Passover. ²⁹ So Pilate went out to them and said, "What accusation are you bringing against this man?" ³⁰ They answered and said to him, "If this man was not an evildoer, we would not have given him over to you." ³¹ Pilate therefore said to them, "Take him yourselves, and judge him according to your law." The Jews said to him, "It is not lawful for us to put any man to death." ³² They said this so that the word of Jesus would be fulfilled which he had spoken to indicate by what kind of death he would die.

³³ Then Pilate entered the government headquarters again and called Jesus and he said to him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" ³⁴ Jesus answered, "Do you speak from yourself, or did others speak to you about me?" ³⁵ Pilate answered, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own people and the chief priests gave you over to me. What did you do?" ³⁶ Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were part of this world, then my servants would fight so that I would not be given over to the Jews. But now my kingdom is not from here." ³⁷ Pilate then said to him, "Are you a king then?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this purpose I have been born, and for this purpose I have come into the world, to

testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice." ³⁸ Pilate said to him, "What is truth?" When he had said this, he went out again to the Jews and said to them, "I find no guilt in this man. ³⁹ But you have the custom that I release one person to you at the Passover. So do you want me to release the King of the Jews to you?" ⁴⁰ Then they cried out again and said, "Not this man, but Barabbas." Now Barabbas was a revolutionary.

Chapter 19

¹ Then Pilate took Jesus and whipped him. ² The soldiers weaved a crown of thorns. They put it on the head of Jesus and dressed him with a purple garment. ³ They came to him and said, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and they struck him.

⁴ Then Pilate went outside again and said to them, "See, I am bringing him outside to you so that you will know that I find no guilt in him." ⁵ So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple garment. Pilate said to them, "Look, here is the man!"

⁶ When therefore the chief priests and the officers saw Jesus, they cried out and said, "Crucify him, crucify him!"

Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him, for I find no guilt in him." ⁷ The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to that law he has to die because he claimed to be the Son of God." ⁸ When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid, ⁹ and he entered the government headquarters again and said to Jesus, "Where do you come from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰ Then Pilate said to him, "Are you not speaking to me? Do you not know that I have authority to release you, and authority to crucify you?" ¹¹ Jesus answered him, "You do not have any authority over me except for what has been given to you from above. Therefore, he who gave me over to you has a greater sin." ¹² At this answer, Pilate tried to release him, but the Jews cried out, saying, "If you release this man, you are not a friend of Caesar. Everyone who makes himself a king speaks against Caesar."

¹³ When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down in the judgment seat in a place called "The Pavement," but in the Aramaic language, "Gabbatha." ¹⁴ Now it was the day of preparation for the Passover, at about the sixth hour. Pilate said to the Jews, "See, here is your king!"

¹⁵ They cried out, "Away with him, away with him; crucify him!"

Pilate said to them, "Should I crucify your King?"

The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar." ¹⁶ Then Pilate gave Jesus over to them to be crucified.

¹⁷ Then they took Jesus, and he went out, carrying the cross for himself, to the place called "The Place of a Skull," which in the Aramaic language is called "Golgotha." ¹⁸ They crucified Jesus there, and with him two other men, one on each side, with Jesus in the middle. ¹⁹ Pilate also wrote a sign and put it on the cross. There it was written: JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS. ²⁰ Many of the Jews read this sign because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city. The sign was written in Aramaic, in Latin, and in Greek. ²¹ Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but rather, 'This one said, 'I am King of the Jews.''"

²² Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written."

²³ When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes, divided them into four shares, one for each of them; and also the tunic. Now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. ²⁴ Then they said to each other, "Let us not tear it, but instead let us cast lots for it to decide whose it will be." This happened so that the scripture would be fulfilled which said,

"They divided my garments among themselves
and cast lots for my clothing."

This is what the soldiers did.

²⁵ Now standing beside Jesus' cross were his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶ When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, see, your son!" ²⁷ Then he said to the disciple, "See, your mother!" From that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

²⁸ After this, knowing that everything was now accomplished and so that the scriptures would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty." ²⁹ A container full of sour wine was placed there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop staff and lifted it up to his mouth. ³⁰ When Jesus had taken the sour wine, he said, "It is finished." He bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

³¹ Then the Jews, because it was the day of preparation, and so that the bodies would not remain on the cross during the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was especially important), asked Pilate to break their legs and to remove them. ³² Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first man and of the second man who had been crucified with Jesus. ³³ When they came to Jesus, they saw that he was already dead, so they did not break his legs. ³⁴ However, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out. ³⁵ The one who saw this has testified, and his testimony is true. He knows that what he said is true so that you would also believe. ³⁶ For these things happened in order to fulfill scripture, "Not one of his bones will be broken." ³⁷ Again, another scripture says, "They will look at him whom they pierced."

³⁸ After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, since he was a disciple of Jesus (but secretly for fear of the Jews), asked Pilate if he could take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission. So Joseph came and took away his body. ³⁹ Nicodemus also came, he who at first had come to Jesus by night. He brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about one hundred litras. ⁴⁰ So they took the body of Jesus and wrapped it in linen cloths with the spices, as was the custom of the Jews to bury bodies. ⁴¹ Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden; and in the garden was a new tomb in which no person had yet been buried. ⁴² Because it was the day of preparation for the Jews and because the tomb was close by, they laid Jesus in it.

Chapter 20

¹ Now early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and she saw the stone rolled away from the tomb. ² So she ran and came to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and she said to them, "They took away the Lord out from the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him."

³ Then Peter and the other disciple went out, and they were going to the tomb. ⁴ They both ran together, and the other disciple quickly ran ahead of Peter and arrived at the tomb first. ⁵ Then stooping down, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go inside. ⁶ Simon Peter then arrived after him and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there ⁷ and the cloth that had been on his head. It was not lying with the linen cloths but was folded up in a place by itself. ⁸ Then the other disciple, the one who first arrived at the tomb, also went in, and he saw and believed. ⁹ For until that time they still did not know the scripture that he should rise from the dead. ¹⁰ So the disciples went back home again.

¹¹ But Mary was standing outside the tomb weeping. As she wept, she stooped down into the tomb. ¹² She saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head, and one at the foot of where the body of Jesus had lain. ¹³ They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?"

She said to them, "Because they took away my Lord, and I do not know where they have put him." ¹⁴ When she said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus.

¹⁵ Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?"

She thought that he was the gardener, so she said to him, "Sir, if you have taken him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will take him away."

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Mary."

She turned and said to him in Aramaic, "Rabboni" (which is to say "Teacher").

¹⁷ Jesus said to her, "Do not touch me, for I have not yet gone up to the Father, but go to my brothers and say to them that I will go up to my Father and your Father, and my God and your God."

¹⁸ Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples, "I have seen the Lord," and that he had said these things to her.

¹⁹ On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the middle of them and said to them, "Peace to you." ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus then said to them again, "Peace to you. As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you." ²² When Jesus had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ Whoever's sins you forgive, they are forgiven; whoever's sins you keep back, they are kept back."

²⁴ Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ The other disciples later said to him, "We have seen the Lord."

He said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and put my finger into the mark of the nails, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

²⁶ After eight days his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Jesus came while the doors were closed, and stood among them, and said, "Peace to you." ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Reach here with your finger and see my hands. Reach here with your hand and put it into my side. Do not be unbelieving, but believe."

²⁸ Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God."

²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen, and believed."

30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, signs that have not been written in this book, **31** but these have been written so that you would believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and so that believing, you would have life in his name.

Chapter 21

¹ After these things Jesus revealed himself again to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias. This is how he revealed himself: ² Simon Peter was together with Thomas called Didymus, Nathaniel from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples of Jesus. ³ Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We, too, will come with you." They went and got into a boat, but they caught nothing during the whole night.

⁴ Now, when it was already early in the morning, Jesus stood on the beach, but the disciples did not know it was Jesus. ⁵ So Jesus said to them, "Young men, do you have anything to eat?"

They answered him, "No."

⁶ He said to them, "Throw your net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they threw their net and were not able to draw it in because of the large number of fish.

⁷ Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord." When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he tied up his outer garment (for he was undressed), and threw himself into the sea. ⁸ The other disciples came in the boat (for they were not far from the land, about two hundred cubits off), and they were pulling the net full of fish. ⁹ When they got out upon the land, they saw a charcoal fire there and fish laid on it, with bread.

¹⁰ Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." ¹¹ Simon Peter then went up and drew the net to land, full of large fish, 153 of them, but even with so many, the net was not torn. ¹² Jesus said to them, "Come and eat breakfast." None of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. ¹³ Jesus came, took the bread, and gave it to them, and the fish also. ¹⁴ This was the third time that Jesus revealed himself to the disciples after he had risen from the dead.

¹⁵ After they ate breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?"

Peter said to him, "Yes Lord, you know that I love you."

Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs."

¹⁶ He said to him again a second time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?"

Peter said to him, "Yes Lord, you know that I love you."

Jesus said to him, "Shepherd my sheep."

¹⁷ He said to him a third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?"

Peter was sorrowful because Jesus had said to him a third time, "Do you love me?" He said to him, "Lord, you know all things, you know that I love you."

Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. ¹⁸ Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you used to gird yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when you become old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will gird you and carry you where you will not want to go."

¹⁹ Now Jesus said this in order to indicate with what kind of death Peter would glorify God. After he had said this, he said to Peter, "Follow me."

²⁰ Peter turned around and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them, the one who had also leaned back against the side of Jesus at the dinner and who had said, "Lord, who is the one who will betray you?" ²¹ Peter saw him and then said to Jesus, "Lord, what will this man do?"

²² Jesus said to him, "If I want him to stay until I come, what is that to you? Follow me."

²³ So this statement spread among the brothers, that that disciple would not die. Yet Jesus did not say to Peter that the other disciple would not die, but, "If I want him to stay until I come, what is that to you?"

²⁴ This is the disciple who testifies about these things, and who wrote these things, and we know that his testimony is true. ²⁵ There are also many other things that Jesus did. If each one were written down, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.

Acts

Chapter 1

¹ The former account I wrote, Theophilus, told all that Jesus began to do and to teach, ² until the day that he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. ³ After his suffering, he presented himself alive to them with many convincing proofs. For forty days he appeared to them, and he spoke about the kingdom of God. ⁴ When he was meeting together with them, he commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, about which he said, "You heard from me ⁵ that John indeed baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit in a few days."

⁶ When they were assembled together they asked him, "Lord, is this the time you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷ He said to them, "It is not for you to know the times or the seasons which the Father has determined by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ⁹ When the Lord Jesus had said these things, as they were looking up, he was raised up, and a cloud hid him from their eyes. ¹⁰ While they were looking intensely to heaven as he went, suddenly, two men stood by them in white clothing. ¹¹ They said, "You men of Galilee, why do you stand here looking into heaven? This Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, will return in the same manner as you saw him going into heaven."

¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mountain that is called Olives, which is near to Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey. ¹³ When they arrived, they went up into the upper chamber, where they were staying. They were Peter, John, James, Andrew, Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴ They all were devoted with one purpose to prayer, together with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

¹⁵ In those days Peter stood up in the midst of the brothers, about 120 names, and said, ¹⁶ "Brothers, it was necessary that the scripture should be fulfilled, that the Holy Spirit spoke before by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who guided the ones who arrested Jesus. ¹⁷ For he was one of us and received a share of this ministry." ¹⁸ (Now this man bought a field with the earnings he received for his wickedness, and there he fell headfirst, and his body burst open, and all his intestines poured out. ¹⁹ All those living in Jerusalem heard about this, so they called that field in their language "Akeldama," that is, "Field of Blood.") ²⁰ "For it is written in the Book of Psalms,

'Let his field be made desolate,
and do not let even one person live there';
'Let someone else take his position of leadership.'

²¹ It is necessary, therefore, that one of the men who accompanied us all the time the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²² beginning from the baptism of John to the day that he was taken up from us, become a witness with us of his resurrection." ²³ They put forward two men, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also called Justus, and Matthias. ²⁴ They prayed and said, "You, Lord, know the hearts of all people, so reveal which of these two is the one whom you have chosen ²⁵ to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned away to go to his own place." ²⁶ They cast lots for them, and the lot fell to Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

Chapter 2

¹ When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in the same place. ² Suddenly a sound like the rush of a violent wind came from heaven, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ There appeared to them tongues like fire that were distributed, and they sat upon each one of them. ⁴ They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them the ability.

⁵ Now there were Jews who were living in Jerusalem, godly men, from every nation under heaven. ⁶ When this sound was heard, the multitude came together and was confused because everyone heard them speaking in his own language. ⁷ They were amazed and marveled; they said, "Really, are not all these who are speaking Galileans?" ⁸ Why is it that we are hearing them, each in our own language in which we were born? ⁹ Parthians and Medes and Elamites, and those who live in Mesopotamia, in Judea and Cappadocia, in Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, in Egypt and the parts of Libya toward Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, ¹¹ Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians, we hear them telling in our languages about the mighty works of God." ¹² They were all amazed and perplexed; they said to one another, "What does this mean?" ¹³ But others mocked and said, "They are full of new wine."

¹⁴ But Peter stood with the eleven, raised his voice, and declared to them, "Men of Judea and all of you who live at Jerusalem, let this be known to you; pay attention to my words. ¹⁵ For these people are not drunk as you assume, for it is only the third hour of the day. ¹⁶ But this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ 'It will be in the last days,' God says,
 'I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh.
 Your sons and your daughters will prophesy,
 your young men will see visions,
 and your old men will dream dreams.

¹⁸ Surely on my servants
 and my female servants in those days
 I will pour out my Spirit, and they will prophesy.

¹⁹ I will show wonders in the sky above
 and signs on the earth below,
 blood, fire, and vapor of smoke.

²⁰ The sun will be turned to darkness
 and the moon to blood
 before the great and remarkable
 day of the Lord comes.

²¹ It will be that everyone who calls
 on the name of the Lord will be saved.'

²² Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited to you by God with the mighty deeds and wonders and signs which God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know.

²³ This man was handed over by God's predetermined plan and foreknowledge; and you, by the hand of lawless men, put him to death by nailing him to a cross. ²⁴ But God raised him up, freeing him from the agonies of death, because it was impossible for him to be held by it. ²⁵ For David says about him,

'I saw the Lord always before my face,
 for he is beside my right hand
 so that I should not be moved.

²⁶ Therefore my heart was glad
 and my tongue rejoiced.
 Also, my flesh will live in hope.

²⁷ For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,
 neither will you allow
 your Holy One to see decay.

²⁸ You have made known to me the ways of life;
 you will make me full of gladness with your face.'

²⁹ Brothers, it is proper for me to speak to you confidently about the patriarch David, that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰ Therefore, he was a prophet and knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of the fruit of his loins on his throne. ³¹ He saw what was to happen in the future and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was neither abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see decay.

³² This Jesus—God raised him up, of which we all are witnesses. ³³ Therefore, having been exalted to the right hand of God and having received the promised Holy Spirit from the Father, he has poured out what you see and hear.

³⁴ For David did not ascend to the heaven, but he says,

'The Lord said to my Lord,
"Sit at my right hand

³⁵ until I make your enemies
the footstool for your feet."

³⁶ Therefore, let all the house of Israel certainly know that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified."

³⁷ Now when they heard this, they were pierced in their hearts, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what must we do?"

³⁸ Then Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized, each of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is to you and to your children and to all who are far off, as many people as the Lord our God will call." ⁴⁰ With many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation." ⁴¹ Then they received his word and were baptized, and there were added in that day about three thousand souls. ⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and in prayers.

⁴³ Fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ All who believed were together and had all things in common, ⁴⁵ and they sold their property and possessions and distributed them to all, according to the needs anyone had. ⁴⁶ So day after day they devoted themselves with one purpose in the temple. They also broke bread in homes, and they shared food together with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people, and every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Chapter 3

¹ Now Peter and John were going up into the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. ² Now a man who was lame from his mother's womb was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful. They would place him there every day so he could ask those who were going into the temple for alms. ³ When he saw Peter and John about to enter the temple, he asked them for alms. ⁴ Peter, fastening his eyes upon him, with John, said, "Look at us." ⁵ The lame man looked at them, expecting to receive something from them. ⁶ But Peter said, "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have, I will give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk." ⁷ Taking him by the right hand, Peter raised him up, and immediately the man's feet and ankles were made strong. ⁸ Leaping up, the lame man stood and began to walk; and he entered with Peter and John into the temple, walking, leaping, and praising God. ⁹ All the people saw him walking and praising God. ¹⁰ They noticed that it was the man who had been asking people for alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple; and they were filled with wonder and amazement because of what had happened to him.

¹¹ As he was holding on to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the porch that is called Solomon's, greatly marveling. ¹² When Peter saw this, he answered the people, "You Israelite men, why do you marvel? Why do you fix your eyes on us, as if we made him walk by our own power or godliness? ¹³ The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus. He is the one whom you handed over and rejected before the face of Pilate, when he had decided to release him. ¹⁴ You rejected the Holy and Righteous One, and you asked instead for a murderer to be given to you. ¹⁵ You killed the Founder of life, whom God raised from the dead—and we are witnesses of this. ¹⁶ On the basis of faith in his name, his name made this man, whom you see and know, strong. The faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of you all. ¹⁷ Now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸ But the things which God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ should suffer, he has now fulfilled. ¹⁹ Repent, therefore, and turn, so that your sins may be blotted out, ²⁰ so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord; and that he may send the Christ who has been appointed for you, Jesus. ²¹ He is the One heaven must receive until the time of the restoration of all things, about which God spoke from ancient times by the mouth of his holy prophets. ²² Moses indeed said, 'The Lord God will raise up a prophet like me from among your brothers. You must listen to everything he tells you. ²³ It will happen that every person who does not listen to that prophet will be completely destroyed from among the people.' ²⁴ Yes, and all the prophets from Samuel and those who came after him, they spoke out and announced these days. ²⁵ You are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant that God made with your ancestors, as he said to Abraham, 'In your seed all the families of the earth will be blessed.' ²⁶ After God raised up his servant, he sent him to you first, in order to bless you by turning every one of you from your wickedness."

Chapter 4

¹ As Peter and John were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them. ² They were deeply troubled because Peter and John were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. ³ They laid hands on them and put them in custody until the next morning, since it was now evening. ⁴ But many of the people who had heard the message believed; and the number of the men who believed was about five thousand.

⁵ It came about on the next day that their rulers, elders, and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem. ⁶ Annas the high priest was there, and Caiaphas, and John, and Alexander, and all who were relatives of the high priest. ⁷ When they had set Peter and John in their midst, they asked them, "By what power, or in what name, have you done this?" ⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "You rulers of the people, and elders, ⁹ if we are on trial today concerning a good deed done to a sick man, and by what means this man was healed, ¹⁰ let it be known to you all and to all the people of Israel that this man stands before you healthy in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, but whom God raised from the dead. ¹¹ Jesus Christ is the stone which you builders rejected but which has been made the cornerstone. ¹² There is no salvation in any other person, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

¹³ Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John and realized that they were ordinary, uneducated men, they were surprised, becoming aware that Peter and John had been with Jesus. ¹⁴ Because they saw the man who was healed standing with them, they had nothing to say against this. ¹⁵ But after they had commanded the apostles to leave the council meeting, they talked among themselves. ¹⁶ They said, "What should we do with these men? For a remarkable sign has been done through them, and this is evident to everyone who lives in Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it. ¹⁷ But in order that it spreads no further among the people, let us warn them not to speak anymore to anyone in this name." ¹⁸ Then they called them in and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. ¹⁹ But Peter and John answered and said to them, "Whether it is proper in the sight of God to obey you rather than him, you judge. ²⁰ We are not able to stop speaking about the things we have seen and heard." ²¹ After further warning Peter and John, they let them go. They were unable to find any excuse to punish them, because all of the people were glorifying God for what had been done. ²² The man who had experienced this sign of healing was more than forty years old.

²³ After they were set free, Peter and John came to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them. ²⁴ When they heard it, they raised their voices with one purpose to God and said, "Lord, you made the heavens and the earth and the sea, and all that is in them. ²⁵ You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David,

'Why did the Gentile nations rage,
and the peoples imagine useless things?'

²⁶ You said,
'The kings of the earth set themselves together,
and the rulers gathered together
against the Lord, and against his Christ.'

²⁷ Indeed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, gathered together in this city against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. ²⁸ They gathered together to do all that your hand and your plan had decided in advance would happen. ²⁹ Now, Lord, look upon their warnings and grant to your servants to speak your word with all boldness. ³⁰ Stretch out your hand to heal and to give signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus." ³¹ After they had prayed, the place where they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and they spoke the word of God with boldness.

³² The great number of those who believed were of one heart and soul. No one said that anything he possessed was his own, but they had everything in common. ³³ With great power the apostles were proclaiming their testimony about the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all.

³⁴ There was no person among them who lacked anything, for all who owned title to lands or houses sold

them and brought the money from the things that were sold ³⁵ and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each one according to their need.

³⁶ Joseph, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which is translated Son of Encouragement), a Levite, a man from Cyprus, ³⁷ sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

Chapter 5

¹ Now a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a piece of property, ² and he kept back part of the sale money (his wife also knew it), and brought the other part of it and laid it at the apostles' feet. ³ But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back part of the price of the land? ⁴ While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own, and after it was sold, was it not under your authority? Why did you put it in your heart to do this? You have not lied to men, but to God." ⁵ Hearing these words, Ananias fell down and breathed his last, and great fear came upon all who heard it. ⁶ The young men arose and wrapped him up, and they carried him out and buried him.

⁷ After about three hours, his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. ⁸ Peter said to her, "Tell me whether you sold the land for so much." She said, "Yes, for so much." ⁹ Then Peter said to her, "How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look, the feet of the men who buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out." ¹⁰ She immediately fell down at his feet and breathed her last. When the young men came in, they found her dead, and carried her out and buried her beside her husband. ¹¹ Great fear came upon the whole church and upon all who heard these things.

¹² Many signs and wonders were taking place among the people through the hands of the apostles. They were all together in Solomon's Porch. ¹³ But none of the rest had the courage to join them; however, they were held in high esteem by the people. ¹⁴ Still more believers were being added to the Lord, multitudes of men and women, ¹⁵ so that they even carried the sick into the streets and laid them on beds and couches, so that as Peter came by, his shadow might fall on some of them. ¹⁶ There also came together a great number of people from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed.

¹⁷ But the high priest rose up, and all those who were with him (which is the sect of the Sadducees); and they were filled with jealousy ¹⁸ and laid hands on the apostles, and held them in custody in the common prison. ¹⁹ Yet during the night an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the prison and led them out, and said, ²⁰ "Go, stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life." ²¹ When they heard this, they entered into the temple about daybreak and taught. But the high priest came, and those who were with him, and called the council together, all the elders of the people of Israel, and sent to the prison to have the apostles brought. ²² But the officers that went did not find them in the prison, and they returned and reported, ²³ "We found the prison securely shut and the guards standing at the door, but when we had opened it, we found no one inside." ²⁴ Now when the captain of the temple and the chief priests heard these words, they were much perplexed concerning them as to what would come of it. ²⁵ Then someone came and told them, "The men whom you put in the prison are standing in the temple and teaching the people." ²⁶ So the captain went with the officers and brought them back, but without violence, for they feared the people, that they might be stoned. ²⁷ When they had brought them, they set them before the council. The high priest interrogated them, ²⁸ saying, "We ordered you with a command not to teach in this name, and yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and desire to bring this man's blood upon us." ²⁹ But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men. ³⁰ The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. ³¹ God exalted him to his right hand to be a Prince and a Savior, to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins. ³² We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him."

³³ When the council members heard this, they were furious and they wanted to kill the apostles. ³⁴ But a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law who was honored by all the people, stood up in the council and gave a command to take the men outside for a little while. ³⁵ Then he said to them, "Men of Israel, pay close attention to what you propose to do with these people. ³⁶ For before these days, Theudas rose up claiming to be somebody, and a number of men, about four hundred, joined him. He was killed, and all who had been obeying him were scattered and came to nothing. ³⁷ After this man, Judas of Galilee rose up in the days of the census and drew away some people after him. He also perished, and all who had been obeying him were scattered. ³⁸ Now I say to you, keep away from these men and let them alone, for if this plan or work is of men, it will be overthrown. ³⁹ But if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them; you may even find that you are fighting against God." So they were persuaded. ⁴⁰ Then they called the apostles in and beat them and commanded them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. ⁴¹ They went away from before the council rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for

the Name. ⁴² Thereafter every day, in the temple and from house to house, they were continuously teaching and proclaiming the good news that the Christ is Jesus.

Chapter 6

¹ Now in these days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, a complaint by the Grecian Jews began against the Hebrews, because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of help.

² The twelve called the multitude of the disciples to them and said, "It is not right for us to give up the word of God in order to serve tables. ³ You should therefore choose, brothers, seven men from among yourselves, men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. ⁴ As for us, we will always continue in prayer and in the ministry of the word." ⁵ Their speech pleased the whole multitude. So they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte from Antioch. ⁶ The believers brought these men before the apostles, who prayed and then placed their hands upon them.

⁷ So the word of God continued to spread, and the number of disciples in Jerusalem increased greatly, and a large number of the priests became obedient to the faith.

⁸ Now Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people. ⁹ But there arose some people who belonged to the synagogue called the synagogue of the Freedmen, of the Cyrenians and Alexandrians, and some from Cilicia and Asia. These people were debating with Stephen.

¹⁰ But they were not able to stand against the wisdom and the Spirit with which Stephen spoke. ¹¹ Then they bribed some men to say, "We have heard Stephen speak blasphemous words against Moses and against God." ¹² They stirred up the people, the elders, and the scribes, and they approached Stephen and seized him and brought him before the council. ¹³ They brought false witnesses, who said, "This man does not stop speaking words against this holy place and the law. ¹⁴ For we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and change the customs that Moses handed down to us." ¹⁵ Everyone who sat in the council fixed their eyes on him and saw his face was like the face of an angel.

Chapter 7

¹ The high priest said, "Are these things true?" ² Stephen said,

"Brothers and fathers, listen to me: The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran; ³ he said to him, 'Leave your land and your relatives, and go into the land that I will show you.'

⁴ "Then he left the land of the Chaldeans and lived in Haran; from there, after his father died, God brought him into this land, where you live now. ⁵ He gave none of it as an inheritance to him, no, not even enough to set a foot on. But he promised—even though Abraham had no child yet—that he would give the land as a possession to him and to his descendants after him. ⁶ God was speaking to him like this, that his descendants would live for a while in a foreign land, and that the inhabitants there would bring them into slavery and mistreat them for four hundred years. ⁷ 'But I will judge the nation that they serve,' said God, 'and after that they will come out and worship me in this place.' ⁸ Then God gave Abraham the covenant of circumcision, so Abraham became the father of Isaac and circumcised him on the eighth day; Isaac became the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of the twelve patriarchs.

⁹ "Because the patriarchs were jealous of Joseph, they sold him into Egypt; but God was with him ¹⁰ and rescued him from all his tribulation. He gave Joseph favor and wisdom in the presence of Pharaoh, king of Egypt, who appointed him governor over Egypt and over all his household.

¹¹ "Now a famine and great tribulation came over all Egypt and Canaan, and our fathers could find no food. ¹² But when Jacob heard that there was grain in Egypt, he sent out our fathers on their first trip. ¹³ On their second trip Joseph made himself known to his brothers, and Joseph's family became known to Pharaoh. ¹⁴ Joseph sent his brothers back to invite Jacob his father to come to Egypt, along with all his relatives, seventy-five persons in all. ¹⁵ So Jacob went down into Egypt, and he died, he and our fathers. ¹⁶ They were carried over to Shechem and laid in the tomb that Abraham had bought for a price in silver from the sons of Hamor in Shechem.

¹⁷ "As the time of the promise approached, the promise that God had made to Abraham, the people grew and multiplied in Egypt, ¹⁸ until there arose another king over Egypt, a king who did not know about Joseph. ¹⁹ He deceived our people and mistreated our fathers, forcing them to expose their newborn infants so they would not be kept alive.

²⁰ "At that time Moses was born; he was very beautiful before God and was nourished for three months in his father's house. ²¹ When he was placed outside, Pharaoh's daughter adopted him and raised him as her own son. ²² Moses was educated in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and he was mighty in his words and works.

²³ "But when he was about forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brothers, the descendants of Israel. ²⁴ Seeing an Israelite being mistreated, Moses defended him and avenged him who was oppressed by striking the Egyptian: ²⁵ he thought that his brothers would understand that God, by his hand, was giving them salvation, but they did not understand. ²⁶ On the next day he appeared to them when they were fighting, and he tried to make peace between them, saying, 'Men, you are brothers; why are you wronging one another?'

²⁷ "But the one who had wronged his neighbor pushed him away, and said, 'Who appointed you a ruler and a judge over us?' ²⁸ Would you like to kill me, as you killed the Egyptian yesterday?' ²⁹ Moses ran away after hearing this statement; he became a foreigner in the land of Midian, where he became the father of two sons.

³⁰ "When forty years were past, an angel appeared to him in the wilderness of Mount Sinai, in a flame of fire in a bush. ³¹ When Moses saw the fire, he marveled at the sight; and as he approached to look at it, the voice of the Lord came, saying, ³² 'I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob.' Moses trembled and did not dare to look.

³³ "The Lord said to him, 'Take off the sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy ground. ³⁴ I have certainly seen the oppression of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their groaning, and I have come down to rescue them; now come, I will send you to Egypt.'

³⁵ "This Moses whom they rejected, when they said, 'Who appointed you a ruler and a judge?'—he was the one whom God sent as both a ruler and deliverer. God sent him by the hand of the angel who appeared to Moses in the bush. ³⁶ Moses led them out of Egypt, after doing miracles and signs in Egypt and at the Sea of Reeds, and in the wilderness during forty years.

³⁷ "It is the same Moses who said to the people of Israel, 'God will raise up a prophet for you from among your brothers, a prophet like me.' ³⁸ This is the man who was in the assembly in the wilderness with the angel who had spoken to him on Mount Sinai, who was with our fathers, and who received living words to give to us.

³⁹ "But our fathers refused to obey him; they pushed him away from themselves, and in their hearts they turned back to Egypt. ⁴⁰ At that time they said to Aaron, 'Make us gods who will lead us. As for this Moses, who led us out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has happened to him.' ⁴¹ So they made a calf in those days and brought a sacrifice to the idol, and rejoiced because of the work of their hands. ⁴² But God turned and gave them up to worship the stars in the sky, as it is written in the book of the prophets,

'Did you bring me offerings and sacrifices
during the forty years in the wilderness, house of Israel?

⁴³ You accepted the tabernacle of Molech
and the star of the god Rephan,
and the images that you made to worship them:
and I will carry you away beyond Babylon.'

⁴⁴ "Our fathers had the tabernacle of the testimony in the wilderness, just as God commanded when he spoke to Moses, that he should make it like the pattern that he had seen. ⁴⁵ Later, our fathers, under Joshua, received the tabernacle and brought it with them when they took possession of the land. God took the land from the nations and drove them out before the face of our fathers. The tabernacle remained in the land until the time of David, ⁴⁶ who found favor in the sight of God, and he asked if he might find a dwelling place for the house of Jacob ^[1]. ⁴⁷ But it was Solomon who built the house for God.

⁴⁸ "However, the Most High does not live in houses made with hands, as the prophet says,

⁴⁹ 'Heaven is my throne,
and the earth is the footstool for my feet.
What kind of house can you build for me? says the Lord,
or what is the place for my rest?

⁵⁰ Did my hand not make all these things?'

⁵¹ "You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit; you act just as your fathers acted. ⁵² Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? They killed the prophets who appeared in advance of the coming of the Righteous One; and you have now become the betrayers and murderers of him also, ⁵³ you people who received the law that angels had ordained, but you did not keep it."

⁵⁴ Now when the council members heard these things, they were furious in their hearts and they ground their teeth at Stephen. ⁵⁵ But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, looked up intently into heaven and saw the glory of God; and he saw Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ Stephen said, "Look, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."

⁵⁷ At this the council members covered their ears, and shouting out with a loud voice, they rushed at him with one purpose. ⁵⁸ They forced him out of the city and began to stone him. The witnesses laid down their outer clothing at the feet of a young man named Saul.

⁵⁹ As they were stoning Stephen, he was calling out to the Lord and saying, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰ He knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he fell asleep.

Footnotes

7:46 ^[1]The phrase:

Chapter 8

¹ Saul was in agreement with his death.

So there began on that day a great persecution against the church that was in Jerusalem; and the believers were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. ² Devout men buried Stephen and made great lamentation over him. ³ But Saul tried to destroy the church. He would enter house after house, drag off both men and women, and put them in prison.

⁴ Yet the believers who had been scattered went about preaching the word. ⁵ Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed to them the Christ. ⁶ Crowds of people were giving close attention to what was being said by Philip; with one mind they heard him, and they saw the signs he did. ⁷ Unclean spirits came out of many who were possessed, crying out with a loud voice, and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed. ⁸ So there was much joy in that city.

⁹ But there was a certain man in the city named Simon, who had earlier been practicing sorcery; he used to astonish the people of Samaria while claiming that he was an important person. ¹⁰ All the Samaritans, from the least to the greatest, paid attention to him; they said, "This man is that power of God which is called Great." ¹¹ They listened to him because he had astonished them for a long time with his sorceries. ¹² But when they believed Philip as he proclaimed the gospel about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. ¹³ Even Simon himself believed, and after he was baptized he stayed with Philip constantly. When he saw signs and mighty works taking place, he was amazed.

¹⁴ Now when the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John. ¹⁵ When they had come down, they prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Spirit. ¹⁶ For until that time, the Holy Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. ¹⁷ Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. ¹⁸ Now when Simon saw that the Holy Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money. ¹⁹ He said, "Give me this authority, too, that whoever I place my hands on might receive the Holy Spirit."

²⁰ But Peter said to him, "May your silver perish along with you, because you thought to obtain the gift of God with money. ²¹ You have no part or allotted portion in this matter, because your heart is not right with God. ²² Therefore repent of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord, so that he might perhaps forgive you for the intention of your heart. ²³ For I see that you are in the poison of bitterness and in the bonds of unrighteousness."

²⁴ Simon answered and said, "Pray to the Lord for me, so that nothing you have said may happen to me."

²⁵ When they had testified and spoken the word of the Lord, Peter and John returned to Jerusalem, proclaiming the gospel to many villages of the Samaritans.

²⁶ Now an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip and said, "Arise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This road is in a desert.) ²⁷ He arose and went. Behold, there was a man from Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under Candace, queen of the Ethiopians. He was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship. ²⁸ He was returning and sitting in his chariot, and was reading the prophet Isaiah.

²⁹ The Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and stay close to this chariot."

³⁰ So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet, and said, "Do you understand what you are reading?"

³¹ Then he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" He invited Philip to come up into the chariot and sit with him.

³² Now the passage of the scripture which the Ethiopian was reading was this,

"He was led like a sheep to the slaughter,
and like a lamb before his shearer is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.

33 In his humiliation
justice was taken away from him.
Who can give a full account of his descendants?
For his life was taken from the earth."

34 So the eunuch asked Philip, and said, "I beg you, tell me who is the prophet speaking about, himself, or someone else?" **35** Philip began to speak, and beginning with this scripture he proclaimed the gospel about Jesus to him. **36** As they went on the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, there is water here. What prevents me from being baptized?" **37**^[1]**38** So the Ethiopian commanded the chariot to stop. They went down into the water, both Philip and the eunuch, and Philip baptized him. **39** When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord took Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, but went on his way rejoicing. **40** But Philip appeared at Azotus and he went through that region, proclaiming the gospel to all the cities until he came to Caesarea.

Footnotes

8:37 ^[1]The best ancient copies do not have Acts 8:37,

Chapter 9

¹ But Saul, still speaking threats even of murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ² and asked him for letters for the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ³ As he was traveling, it happened that as he came near to Damascus, suddenly there shone all around him a light out of heaven; ⁴ and he fell upon the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" ⁵ Saul replied, "Who are you, Lord?" The Lord said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting; ⁶ but rise, enter into the city, and it will be told you what you must do." ⁷ The men who traveled with Saul stood speechless, hearing the voice, but seeing no one. ⁸ Saul arose from the ground, and when he opened his eyes, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. ⁹ For three days he was without sight, and he neither ate nor drank.

¹⁰ Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias!" He said, "See, I am here, Lord."

¹¹ The Lord said to him, "Arise, and go to the street which is called Straight, and at the house of Judas ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. ¹² He has seen in a vision a man named Ananias coming in and laying his hands on him, so that he might see again."

¹³ But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he has done to your holy people in Jerusalem. ¹⁴ He has authority from the chief priests to put in bonds everyone here who calls upon your name."

¹⁵ But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine, to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel; ¹⁶ for I will show him how much he must suffer for the cause of my name."

¹⁷ So Ananias departed, and entered into the house. Laying his hands on him, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road when you were coming, has sent me so that you might receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." ¹⁸ Immediately something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he received his sight; he arose and was baptized; ¹⁹ and he ate and was strengthened.

He stayed with the disciples in Damascus for several days. ²⁰ Right away he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying that he is the Son of God. ²¹ All who heard him were amazed and said, "Is not this the man who destroyed those in Jerusalem who called on this name? He has come here to take them bound to the chief priests." ²² But Saul became more and more powerful, and he was causing distress among the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Christ.

²³ After many days, the Jews planned together to kill him. ²⁴ But their plan became known to Saul. They watched the gates day and night in order to kill him. ²⁵ But his disciples took him by night and let him down through the wall, lowering him in a basket.

²⁶ When he had come to Jerusalem, Saul attempted to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he was a disciple. ²⁷ But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles, and he told them how Saul had seen the Lord on the road and that the Lord had spoken to him, and how at Damascus Saul had spoken boldly in the name of Jesus. ²⁸ He was with them, going in and out around Jerusalem. He spoke boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus ²⁹ and debated with the Grecian Jews; but they kept trying to kill him. ³⁰ When the brothers learned of this, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him away to Tarsus.

³¹ So then, the church throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and was built up; and, walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, the church grew in numbers. ³² Now it came about that, as Peter went throughout the whole region, he came down also to God's holy people who lived in the town of Lydda. ³³ There he found a certain man named Aeneas, who had been in his bed for eight years, for he was paralyzed. ³⁴ Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you. Get up and make your bed," and right away he got up. ³⁵ So everyone who lived in Lydda and in Sharon saw the man and they turned to the Lord.

³⁶ Now there was in Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha (which is translated "Dorcas"). This woman was full of good works and merciful deeds that she did for the poor. ³⁷ It came about in those days that she fell sick and died; when they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room. ³⁸ Since Lydda was near Joppa, and the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent two men to him, pleading with him, "Come to us without delay." ³⁹ Peter arose and went with them. When he had arrived, they brought him to the upper room, and all the widows stood by him weeping, showing him the tunics and garments that Dorcas had made while she had been with them. ⁴⁰ Peter put them all out of the room, knelt down, and prayed; then, turning to the body, he said, "Tabitha, arise." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter she sat up. ⁴¹ Peter then gave her his hand and raised her up; and when he called God's holy people and the widows, he presented her alive to them. ⁴² This matter became known throughout all Joppa, and many people believed on the Lord. ⁴³ It happened that Peter stayed for many days in Joppa with a man named Simon, a tanner.

Chapter 10

¹ Now there was a certain man in the city of Caesarea, Cornelius by name, a centurion of what was called the Italian Company of Soldiers. ² He was a devout man, one who feared God with all his household, gave many alms to the people, and prayed to God constantly. ³ About the ninth hour of the day, he clearly saw in a vision an angel of God coming to him. The angel said to him, "Cornelius!" ⁴ Cornelius stared at the angel and was very afraid and said, "What is it, sir?"

The angel said to him, "Your prayers and your alms have gone up as a memorial offering into God's presence. ⁵ Now send men to the city of Joppa to bring a man named Simon who is called Peter. ⁶ He is staying with a tanner named Simon, whose house is by the seaside."

⁷ When the angel who spoke to him had left, Cornelius called two of his house servants, and a devout soldier from among those who served him. ⁸ Cornelius told them all that had happened and sent them to Joppa.

⁹ Now on the next day at about the sixth hour, as they were on their journey and were approaching the city, Peter went up upon the housetop to pray. ¹⁰ He then became hungry and wanted something to eat, but while the people were cooking some food, a trance came on him, ¹¹ and he saw the sky open and a certain container descending, something like a large sheet coming down to the earth, let down by its four corners. ¹² In it were all kinds of four-footed animals and things that crawled on the earth, and birds of the sky. ¹³ Then a voice spoke to him: "Rise, Peter, kill and eat."

¹⁴ But Peter said, "Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that was defiled and unclean."

¹⁵ But the voice came to him again a second time: "What God has made clean, you must not call defiled."

¹⁶ This happened three times; then the container was immediately taken back up into the sky.

¹⁷ Now while Peter was very confused about what the vision that he had seen could mean, behold, the men who were sent by Cornelius stood before the gate, after they had asked their way to the house. ¹⁸ They called out and asked whether Simon, who was also called Peter, was staying there.

¹⁹ While Peter was still thinking about the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Behold, three men are looking for you. ^[1]²⁰ Arise and go down and go with them. Do not hesitate to go with them, because I have sent them."

²¹ So Peter went down to the men and said, "I am he whom you are seeking. Why have you come?"

²² They said, "A centurion named Cornelius, a righteous man and one who fears God, and is well spoken of by all the nation of the Jews, was instructed by a holy angel to send for you to come to his house, so he could listen to a message from you." ²³ So Peter invited them to come in and stay with him.

On the next morning he got up and went with them, and some of the brothers from Joppa accompanied him. ²⁴ On the following day they came to Caesarea. Cornelius was waiting for them; he had called together his relatives and his close friends. ²⁵ It came about that when Peter entered, Cornelius met him and fell down at his feet to worship him. ²⁶ But Peter helped him up, saying, "Stand up! I too am a man."

²⁷ While Peter was talking with him, he went in and found many people gathered together. ²⁸ He said to them, "You yourselves know that it is not lawful for a Jewish man to associate with or to visit a foreigner. But God has shown me that I should not call any man defiled or unclean. ²⁹ That is why I came without arguing, when I was sent for. So I ask you why you sent for me."

³⁰ Cornelius said, "Four days ago at this very hour, I was praying at the ninth hour in my house; and see, a man stood before me in bright clothing. ³¹ He said, 'Cornelius, your prayer has been heard by God, and your alms have reminded God about you. ³² So send someone to Joppa, and call to you a man named Simon who is called Peter. He is staying in the house of a tanner named Simon, by the seaside.' ^[2]³³ So at once I sent for you. You are kind to have come. Now then, we are all here present in the sight of God to hear everything that you have been instructed by the Lord to say." ^[3]

³⁴ Then Peter opened his mouth and said, "Truly I understand that God is not partial. ³⁵ Instead, in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶ You know the message that he sent to the people of Israel, when he announced the good news about peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all— ³⁷ you yourselves know the events that took place, which occurred throughout all Judea, beginning in Galilee, after the baptism that John announced; ³⁸ the events concerning Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹ We are witnesses of all the things Jesus did, both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a tree, ⁴⁰ but God raised him up on the third day and caused him to be seen, ⁴¹ not by all the people, but to the witnesses who were chosen beforehand by God—by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴² He commanded us to proclaim to the people and to testify that this is the one who has been chosen by God to be the Judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ About him all the prophets testify, that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

⁴⁴ While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all of those who were listening to his message. ⁴⁵ The people who belonged to the circumcision group of believers—all of those who came with Peter—were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out also on the Gentiles. ⁴⁶ For they heard these Gentiles speaking in tongues and exalting God. Then Peter answered, ⁴⁷ "Can anyone keep water from these people so they should not be baptized, these people who have received the Holy Spirit as well as we?" ⁴⁸ Then he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to stay with them for several days.

Footnotes

10:19 ^[1]Some ancient copies have,

10:32 ^[2]Some ancient copies add:

10:33 ^[3]Instead of

Chapter 11

¹ Now the apostles and the brothers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. ² When Peter had come up to Jerusalem, they who belonged to the circumcision group criticized him; ³ they said, "You associated with uncircumcised men and ate with them!" ⁴ But Peter started to explain the matter to them in detail, saying, ⁵ "I was praying in the city of Joppa, and in a trance I saw a vision of a container coming down, like a large sheet let down from heaven by its four corners. It descended to me. ⁶ I gazed at it and I thought about it. I saw the four-legged animals of earth, wild beasts, things that crawled, and birds of the sky. ⁷ Then I heard a voice say to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat!'

⁸ I said, 'Not so, Lord; for nothing unholy or unclean has ever entered into my mouth.'

⁹ But the voice answered again from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call defiled.' ¹⁰ This happened three times, and then everything was taken back up into heaven again.

¹¹ "Behold, right away there were three men standing in front of the house where we were; they had been sent from Caesarea to me. ¹² The Spirit commanded me to go with them, and that I should make no distinction regarding them. These six brothers went with me, and we went into the man's house. ¹³ He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send men to Joppa and bring back Simon who is called Peter. ¹⁴ He will speak to you a message by which you will be saved—you and all your household.' ¹⁵ As I began to speak to them, the Holy Spirit came on them, just as on us in the beginning. ¹⁶ I remembered the words of the Lord, how he said, 'John indeed baptized with water; but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' ¹⁷ Then if God gave to them the same gift as he gave to us when we believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I, that I could oppose God?"

¹⁸ When they heard these things, they said nothing in response, but they glorified God and said, "Then God has given repentance for life to the Gentiles also."

¹⁹ Now those who had been scattered by the persecution that arose over Stephen spread as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, speaking the word only to Jews. ²⁰ But some of them, men from Cyprus and Cyrene, came to Antioch and spoke also to Greeks, proclaiming to them the gospel about the Lord Jesus. ²¹ The hand of the Lord was with them; a great number believed and turned to the Lord. ²² News about them came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent out Barnabas as far as Antioch. ²³ When he came and saw the grace of God, he was glad and he encouraged them all to remain with the Lord with purpose of heart. ²⁴ For he was a good man and full of the Holy Spirit and of faith, and many people were added to the Lord. ²⁵ Barnabas then went out to Tarsus to search carefully for Saul. ²⁶ When he found him, he brought him to Antioch. It came about, that for an entire year they gathered together with the church and taught many people. The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.

²⁷ Now in these days some prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. ²⁸ One of them, Agabus by name, stood up and indicated by the Spirit that a great famine would occur over all the world. This happened in the days of Claudius. ²⁹ So the disciples, as each one was able, determined to send a contribution for the relief of the brothers in Judea. ³⁰ They did this; they sent money to the elders by the hand of Barnabas and Saul.

Chapter 12

¹ Now about that time Herod the king laid hands on some who belonged to the church so that he might mistreat them. ² He killed James the brother of John with the sword. ³ After he saw that this pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. That was during the days of unleavened bread. ⁴ After arresting him, he put him in prison, assigning him over to four squads of soldiers to guard him; he was intending to bring him to the people after the Passover. ⁵ So Peter was kept in the prison, but prayer was made earnestly to God for him by those in the church. ⁶ On the night before Herod was going to bring him out for trial, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, while guards in front of the door were keeping watch over the prison. ⁷ Behold, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared by him, and a light shone in the prison cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him and said, "Get up quickly," and his chains fell off his hands. ⁸ The angel said to him, "Gird yourself and put on your sandals." Peter did so. The angel said to him, "Put on your outer garment and follow me." ⁹ So Peter followed the angel and went out. He did not know that what was done by the angel was real. He thought he was seeing a vision. ¹⁰ After they had passed by the first guard and the second, they came to the iron gate that led into the city; it opened for them by itself. They went out and went down a street, and the angel left him right away. ¹¹ When Peter came to himself, he said, "Now I truly know that the Lord has sent his angel and delivered me out of the hand of Herod, and from everything the Jewish people were expecting." ¹² When he realized this, he went to the house of Mary the mother of John, also called Mark, where many people had gathered and were praying. ¹³ When he knocked at the door of the gate, a servant girl named Rhoda came to answer. ¹⁴ When she recognized Peter's voice, out of joy she failed to open the gate; instead, she came running into the room; she reported that Peter was standing at the gate. ¹⁵ So they said to her, "You are insane." But she insisted that it was so. They said, "It is his angel." ¹⁶ But Peter continued knocking, and when they had opened the door, they saw him and were amazed. ¹⁷ Peter motioned to them with his hand to be silent, and he told them how the Lord had brought him out of prison. He said, "Report these things to James and the brothers." Then he left and went to another place. ¹⁸ Now when it became day, there was no small disturbance among the soldiers over what had happened to Peter. ¹⁹ After Herod had searched for him and could not find him, he questioned the guards and ordered them to be put to death.

Then Herod went down from Judea to Caesarea and stayed there. ²⁰ Now Herod was very angry with the people of Tyre and Sidon. They went to him with one purpose, and after persuading Blastus, the king's assistant, to help them, they asked for peace because their country received its food from the king's country. ²¹ On a set day Herod dressed himself in royal clothing and sat on a throne; he made a speech to them. ²² The people shouted, "This is the voice of a god, not of a man!" ²³ Immediately an angel of the Lord struck him, because he did not give God the glory; he was eaten by worms and died.

²⁴ But the word of God increased and multiplied.

²⁵ So when Barnabas and Saul had completed their mission, they returned from Jerusalem, ^[1] bringing with them John, also called Mark.

Footnotes

12:25 ^[1]Some ancient copies read,

Chapter 13

¹ Now in the church in Antioch, there were some prophets and teachers. They were Barnabas, Simeon (who is called Niger), Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (the foster brother of Herod the tetrarch), and Saul. ² While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul, to do the work to which I have called them." ³ After they had fasted, prayed, and laid their hands on these men, they sent them off.

⁴ So Barnabas and Saul, having been sent out by the Holy Spirit, went down to Seleucia; from there they sailed away to Cyprus. ⁵ While they were in the city of Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews. They also had John for an assistant. ⁶ When they had gone through the whole island to Paphos, they found a certain magician, a Jewish false prophet, whose name was Bar-Jesus. ⁷ This magician associated with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, who was an intelligent man. This man summoned Barnabas and Saul, because he sought to hear the word of God. ⁸ But Elymas "the magician" (that is how his name is translated) opposed them; he tried to turn the proconsul away from the faith. ⁹ But Saul, who is also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, stared at him intensely ¹⁰ and said, "You son of the devil, you are full of all kinds of deceit and wickedness. You are an enemy of every kind of righteousness. You will never stop twisting the straight paths of the Lord, will you?" ¹¹ Now look, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you will become blind. You will not see the sun for a while." Immediately there fell on Elymas a mist and darkness; he started going around seeking people to lead him by the hand. ¹² After the proconsul saw what had happened, he believed, because he was astonished at the teaching about the Lord.

¹³ Now Paul and his friends set sail from Paphos and came to Perga in Pamphylia. But John left them and returned to Jerusalem. ¹⁴ Paul and his friends traveled from Perga and came to Antioch of Pisidia. There they went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day and sat down. ¹⁵ After the reading of the law and the prophets, the leaders of the synagogue sent them a message, saying, "Brothers, if you have any message of encouragement for the people here, say it." ¹⁶ So Paul stood up and motioned with his hand; he said, "Men of Israel and you who fear God, listen. ¹⁷ The God of this people Israel chose our fathers and exalted the people when they stayed in the land of Egypt, and with an uplifted arm he led them out of it. ¹⁸ For about forty years he put up with them in the wilderness. ¹⁹ After he had destroyed seven nations in the land of Canaan, he gave our people their land for an inheritance. ²⁰ All these events took place over 450 years. After all these things, God gave them judges until Samuel the prophet. ²¹ Then the people asked for a king, and God gave them Saul son of Kish, a man from the tribe of Benjamin, to be king for forty years. ²² After God removed him from the kingship, he raised up David to be their king. It was about David that God testified, saying, 'I have found David son of Jesse to be a man after my heart, who does all I want him to do.' ²³ From this man's descendants God has brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus, as he promised to do. ²⁴ Before the arrival of Jesus, John proclaimed a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel. ²⁵ As John was finishing his work, he said, 'Who do you think I am? I am not the one. But listen, one is coming after me, the sandals of whose feet I am not worthy to untie.' ²⁶ Brothers, children of the offspring of Abraham, and those among you who fear God, it is to us that the message about this salvation has been sent. ²⁷ For they who live in Jerusalem and their rulers did not recognize him, and they fulfilled the voices of the prophets that are read every Sabbath by condemning him. ²⁸ Even though they found no reason for the death penalty, they called on Pilate to kill him. ²⁹ When they had completed all the things that were written about him, they took him down from the tree and laid him in a tomb. ³⁰ But God raised him from the dead. ³¹ He was seen for many days by those who had come up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem. These people are now his witnesses to the people. ³² So we tell you the good news: The promise that came to our fathers ³³ God has fulfilled for us, their children, by raising up Jesus. As it is written in the second Psalm:

'You are my Son,
today I have become your Father.'

³⁴ As to his raising him from the dead, never to return to decay, he has spoken in this way:

'I will give you the holy and sure blessings
promised to David.'

³⁵ This is why he also says in another Psalm,

'You will not allow your Holy One
to see decay.'

³⁶ For when David had served the purpose of God in his own generation, he fell asleep; he was laid with his fathers and his body experienced decay. ³⁷ But he whom God raised up experienced no decay. ³⁸ So let it be known to you, brothers, that through this man forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. The law of Moses could not make you righteous. ³⁹ But by this man God makes righteous everyone who believes. ⁴⁰ So then be careful that the thing the prophets spoke about does not happen to you:

⁴¹ 'Look, you despisers,
and be astonished and then perish;
For I am doing a work in your days,
a work that you would never believe,
even if someone announces it to you.'"

⁴² As Paul and Barnabas left, the people begged them that they might speak these same words again the next Sabbath. ⁴³ When the synagogue meeting ended, many of the Jews and devout proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas, who were speaking to them and persuading them to continue in the grace of God.

⁴⁴ On the next Sabbath, almost the whole city was gathered together to hear the word of the Lord. ⁴⁵ When the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with envy and spoke against the things that were said by Paul and insulted him. ⁴⁶ But Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly and said, "It was necessary that the word of God should first be spoken to you. Seeing you push it away from yourselves and consider yourselves unworthy of eternal life, see, we will turn to the Gentiles. ⁴⁷ For so has the Lord commanded us, saying,

'I have appointed you as a light for the Gentiles,
that you should bring salvation
to the uttermost parts of the earth.'"

⁴⁸ As the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the word of the Lord. As many as were appointed to eternal life believed. ⁴⁹ The word of the Lord was spread out through the whole region. ⁵⁰ But the Jews incited the devout women of high standing and the leading men of the city. They stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas and threw them out of their region. ⁵¹ But Paul and Barnabas shook off the dust from their feet against them. Then they went to the city of Iconium. ⁵² And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

Footnotes

13:18 ^[1] Some ancient copies read,

Chapter 14

¹ It came about in Iconium that Paul and Barnabas entered together into the synagogue of the Jews and spoke in such a way that a great multitude both of Jews and of Greeks believed. ² But the Jews who were disobedient stirred up the minds of the Gentiles and made them bitter against the brothers. ³ So they stayed there for a long time, speaking boldly with the Lord's power, while he gave evidence about the message of his grace. He did this by granting signs and wonders to be done by the hands of Paul and Barnabas. ⁴ But the people of the city were divided; some sided with the Jews, others with the apostles. ⁵ Both Gentiles and Jews (together with their leaders) made an attempt to mistreat them and to stone them, ⁶ but as soon as they learned about this, they fled to the Lycaonian cities of Lystra and Derbe and the surrounding region, ⁷ where they continued to proclaim the gospel.

⁸ At Lystra a certain man sat, powerless in his feet, a cripple from his mother's womb, who never had walked. ⁹ This man heard Paul speaking. Paul fixed his eyes on him and saw that he had faith to be made well. ¹⁰ So he said to him in a loud voice, "Stand up on your feet." Then the man jumped up and walked around.

¹¹ When the multitude saw what Paul had done, they raised their voice, saying in the dialect of Lycaonia, "The gods have become like men and come down to us." ¹² They called Barnabas "Zeus," and Paul "Hermes," because he was the main speaker. ¹³ The priest of Zeus, whose temple was just outside the city, brought oxen and wreaths to the gates; he and the multitudes wanted to offer sacrifice. ¹⁴ But when the apostles, Barnabas and Paul, heard of it, they tore their clothing and quickly went out into the crowd, crying out, ¹⁵ "Men, why are you doing these things? We also are human beings, with the same nature as you. We are telling you good news that you should turn from these useless things to the living God, who made the heavens, the earth, the sea, and everything that is in them. ¹⁶ In the past ages, he allowed all the nations to walk in their own ways. ¹⁷ But still, he did not leave himself without witness, in that he did good and gave you the rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling your hearts with food and gladness." ¹⁸ Even with these words, Paul and Barnabas barely kept the multitudes from sacrificing to them.

¹⁹ But some Jews from Antioch and Iconium came and persuaded the crowds. They stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, thinking that he was dead. ²⁰ Yet as the disciples were standing around him, he got up and entered the city. The next day, he went to Derbe with Barnabas. ²¹ After they had proclaimed the gospel in that city and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, to Iconium, and to Antioch. ²² They kept strengthening the souls of the disciples and encouraging them to continue in the faith, saying, "We must enter into the kingdom of God through many tribulations." ²³ When they had appointed for them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they entrusted them to the Lord, in whom they had believed. ²⁴ Then they passed through Pisidia and came to Pamphylia. ²⁵ When they had spoken the word in Perga, they went down to Attalia. ²⁶ From there they sailed to Antioch, where they had been committed to the grace of God for the work which they had now completed. ²⁷ When they arrived in Antioch and gathered the church together, they reported all the things that God had done with them, and how he had opened a door of faith for the Gentiles. ²⁸ They stayed for a long time with the disciples.

Chapter 15

¹ Some men came down from Judea to Antioch and taught the brothers, saying, "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved." ² This brought Paul and Barnabas into a sharp dispute and debate with them. So Paul and Barnabas, along with some others from among them, were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to meet with the apostles and elders about this question. ³ They therefore, being sent by the church, passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria and announced the conversion of the Gentiles. They brought great joy to all the brothers. ⁴ When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they reported all the things that God had done with them. ⁵ But certain men who believed, who belonged to the group of Pharisees, stood up and said, "It is necessary to circumcise them and to command them to keep the law of Moses." ⁶ So the apostles and the elders gathered together to consider this matter.

⁷ After much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, "Brothers, you know that a good while ago God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel, and believe. ⁸ God, who knows the heart, has testified to them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he did to us. ⁹ He made no distinction between us and them, having cleansed their hearts by faith. ¹⁰ Now therefore why do you test God, that you should put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear? ¹¹ But we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they were."

¹² All the multitude kept silent while they listened to Barnabas and Paul report the signs and wonders God had worked among the Gentiles through them. ¹³ After they stopped speaking, James answered, saying,

"Brothers, listen to me. ¹⁴ Simon has told how God first graciously helped the Gentiles in order to take from them a people for his name. ¹⁵ The words of the prophets agree with this, as it is written,

¹⁶ 'After these things I will return,
and I will build again the tabernacle of David,
which has fallen down;
I will set up and restore its ruins again,
¹⁷ so that the remnant of men may seek the Lord,
including all the Gentiles called by my name.'
¹⁸ This is what the Lord says,
who has done these things
that have been known from ancient times. ^[1]

¹⁹ Therefore, I have decided that we should not trouble those of the Gentiles who turn to God. ²⁰ But we will write to them that they must keep away from the pollution of idols, from sexual immorality, and from the meat of strangled animals, and from blood. ²¹ For Moses has been proclaimed in every city from ancient generations and he is preached in the synagogues every Sabbath."

²² Then it seemed good to the apostles and the elders, with the whole church, to choose Judas called Barsabbas, and Silas, who were leaders of the brothers, and send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas.

²³ They wrote this with their hands,

"From the apostles and elders, your brothers,
to the Gentile brothers in Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia:
Greetings!

²⁴ Because we have heard that certain men have gone out from us, with no orders from us, and have disturbed you with words that upset your souls, ²⁵ it seemed good to us, who have come to one mind, to choose men and to send them to you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, ²⁶ men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁷ Therefore we have sent Judas and Silas, who will report to you the same things in their own words. ²⁸ For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things: ²⁹ that you abstain from things

sacrificed to idols, blood, things strangled, and from sexual immorality. If you avoid these things, you will do well.

Farewell."

³⁰ So they, when they were dismissed, came down to Antioch; after they gathered the multitude together, they delivered the letter. ³¹ When they had read it, they rejoiced because of the encouragement. ³² Judas and Silas, also prophets, encouraged the brothers with many words and strengthened them. ³³ After they had spent some time there, they were sent away in peace from the brothers to those who had sent them. ³⁴^[2]³⁵ But Paul and Barnabas stayed in Antioch, teaching and preaching (along with many others) the word of the Lord.

³⁶ After some days Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us return now and visit the brothers in every city where we proclaimed the word of the Lord, and see how they are." ³⁷ Barnabas wanted to also take with them John, who was called Mark. ³⁸ But Paul thought it was not good to take Mark, who had left them in Pamphylia and did not go further with them in the work. ³⁹ Then there arose a sharp disagreement, so that they separated from each other, and Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus. ⁴⁰ But Paul chose Silas and left, after he was entrusted by the brothers to the grace of the Lord. ⁴¹ Then he went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

Footnotes

15:18 ^[1] There are some copies of the ancient Greek text that have a slightly different meaning,

15:34 ^[2] The best ancient copies do not have verse 34 (See: Acts 15:40),

Chapter 16

¹ Paul also came to Derbe and to Lystra, and behold, a certain disciple named Timothy was there, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek. ² He was well spoken of by the brothers who were at Lystra and Iconium. ³ Paul wanted him to travel with him, so he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews that were in those places, for they all knew that his father was a Greek. ⁴ As they were going along through the cities, they were passing along the decrees to obey that were decided on by the apostles and elders who were in Jerusalem. ⁵ So the churches were strengthened in the faith and increased in number daily.

⁶ Paul and his companions went through the regions of Phrygia and Galatia, since they had been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to proclaim the word in the province of Asia. ⁷ When they came near Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus prevented them. ⁸ So passing by Mysia, they came down to the city of Troas. ⁹ A vision appeared to Paul in the night: A man of Macedonia was standing there, begging him and saying, "Come over into Macedonia and help us." ¹⁰ When Paul had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go to Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

¹¹ Setting sail therefore from Troas, we made a straight course to Samothrace, and the next day we came to Neapolis. ¹² From there we went to Philippi, which is a city of Macedonia, the most important city in the district and a Roman colony, and we stayed in this city for several days.

¹³ On the Sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we thought there would be a place of prayer. We sat down and spoke to the women who had come together. ¹⁴ A certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God, listened to us. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul. ¹⁵ When she and her house were baptized, she pleaded with us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay in my house." And she persuaded us.

¹⁶ It came about that, as we were going to the place of prayer, a certain slave girl who had a spirit of divination encountered us. She brought her masters much gain by fortunetelling. ¹⁷ This woman followed after Paul and us and shouted, saying, "These men are servants of the Most High God. They proclaim to you the way of salvation." ¹⁸ She did this for many days. But Paul, being greatly annoyed by her, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out at that same hour.

¹⁹ When her masters saw that their hope of profit was now gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the authorities. ²⁰ When they had brought them to the magistrates, they said, "These men are causing trouble in our city. They are Jews. ²¹ They proclaim customs that are not lawful for Romans to accept or practice."

²² Then the crowd rose up together against Paul and Silas; the magistrates tore their garments off them and commanded them to be beaten with rods. ²³ When they had laid many blows upon them, they threw them into prison and commanded the jailer to guard them securely. ²⁴ After he got this command, the jailer threw them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.

²⁵ Around midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. ²⁶ Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's chains were unfastened. ²⁷ The jailer was awakened from sleep and saw the open prison doors; he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, because he thought that the prisoners had escaped.

²⁸ But Paul shouted with a loud voice, saying, "Do not harm yourself, because we are all here."

²⁹ The jailer called for lights and rushed in and, trembling for fear, fell down before Paul and Silas, ³⁰ and brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

³¹ They said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." ³² They spoke the word of the Lord to him, together with everyone in his house. ³³ Then the jailer took them at the same

hour of the night, and washed their wounds, and he and those in his entire house were baptized immediately. ³⁴ Then as he brought Paul and Silas up into his house and he set food before them, he rejoiced greatly with those of his house, that he had believed in God.

³⁵ Now when it was day, the magistrates sent word to the guards, saying, "Let those men go."

³⁶ The jailer reported the words to Paul, saying, "The magistrates have sent word to me to let you go. Now therefore come out, and go in peace."

³⁷ But Paul said to them, "They have publicly beaten us without a trial, even though we are Roman citizens—and they threw us into prison. Do they now want to send us away secretly? No! Let them come themselves and lead us out."

³⁸ The guards reported these words to the magistrates, and when they heard that Paul and Silas were Romans, they were afraid. ³⁹ The magistrates came and apologized to them and brought them out, asking them to go away from the city. ⁴⁰ So Paul and Silas went out of the prison and came to the house of Lydia. When Paul and Silas saw the brothers, they encouraged them and then departed from the city.

Chapter 17

¹ Now when they had passed through the cities of Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to the city of Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. ² Paul, as his custom was, went to them, and for three Sabbath days reasoned with them from the scriptures. ³ He was opening the scriptures and explaining that it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise again from the dead. He said, "This Jesus whom I proclaim to you is the Christ." ⁴ Some of the Jews were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, including a large number of devout Greeks, and not a few of the leading women. ⁵ But the unbelieving Jews, being moved with jealousy, took certain wicked men from the marketplace, gathered a crowd together, and set the city in an uproar. Assaulting the house of Jason, they were seeking to bring Paul and Silas out to the people. ⁶ But when they did not find them, they dragged Jason and certain other brothers before the officials of the city, crying, "These men who have turned the world upside down have come here also. ⁷ These men whom Jason has welcomed act against the decrees of Caesar; they say that there is another king—Jesus." ⁸ They troubled the crowd and the officials of the city who heard these things. ⁹ But after they took security from Jason and the rest, they let them go.

¹⁰ That night the brothers sent Paul and Silas to Berea. When they arrived there, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. ¹¹ Now these people were more noble than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with all readiness of mind, examining the scriptures daily to see whether these things were so. ¹² Therefore many of them believed, including some influential Greek women and many men. ¹³ But when the Jews of Thessalonica learned that Paul was also proclaiming the word of God at Berea, they went there and stirred up and troubled the crowds. ¹⁴ Then immediately, the brothers sent Paul to go to the sea, but Silas and Timothy stayed there. ¹⁵ Those who were leading Paul took him as far as the city of Athens. As they left Paul there, they received from him instructions for Silas and Timothy to come to him as quickly as possible.

¹⁶ Now while Paul was waiting for them in Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw the city full of idols. ¹⁷ So he reasoned every day in the synagogue with the Jews and others who worshiped God, as well as in the marketplace with those who happened to be there. ¹⁸ But also some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers encountered him. Some said, "What is this babbler trying to say?" Others said, "He seems to be one who calls people to follow strange gods," because he was proclaiming the gospel about Jesus and the resurrection. ¹⁹ They took Paul and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, "May we know this new teaching which you were speaking? ²⁰ For you bring some strange things to our ears. Therefore, we want to know what these things mean." ²¹ (Now all the Athenians and the strangers living there spent their time in nothing but either telling or listening about something new.)

²² So Paul stood in the middle of the Areopagus and said,

"You men of Athens, I see that you are very religious in every way. ²³ For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found an altar with this inscription, 'TO AN UNKNOWN GOD.' What therefore you worship in ignorance, this I announce to you.

²⁴ The God who made the world and everything in it, since he is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples built with hands. ²⁵ Neither is he served by men's hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives people life and breath and everything else. ²⁶ From one man he made every nation of people to live on the surface of the earth, having determined their appointed seasons and the boundaries of their living areas, ²⁷ so that they should search for God and perhaps they may feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸ For in him we live and move and have our being, just as one of your own poets has said, 'For we also are his offspring.'

²⁹ "Therefore, since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the qualities of deity are like gold, or silver, or stone—images created by the art and imagination of man. ³⁰ Therefore God overlooked the times of ignorance, but now he commands all men everywhere to repent. ³¹ This is because he has set a day when he will judge the world in righteousness by the man he has appointed. God has given proof of this man to everyone by raising him from the dead."

³² Now when the men of Athens heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked Paul; but others said, "We will listen to you again about this matter." ³³ After that, Paul left them. ³⁴ But certain men

joined him and believed, including Dionysius the Areopagite, a woman named Damaris, and others with them.

Chapter 18

¹ After these things Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. ² There he met a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome. Paul went to them, ³ and because he worked at the same trade, he stayed with them and labored, for they were tentmakers by trade. ⁴ So Paul reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, trying to persuade both Jews and Greeks. ⁵ Now when Silas and Timothy came down from Macedonia, Paul devoted himself to the word, testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ. ⁶ But when the Jews opposed and insulted him, Paul shook out his garment at them and said to them, "May your blood be upon your own heads; I am clean. From now on I will go to the Gentiles." ⁷ Then he left from there and went to the house of a man named Titius Justus, a man who worshiped God. His house was next to the synagogue. ⁸ Crispus, the leader of the synagogue, believed in the Lord, together with all his household; and many of the Corinthians who heard about it believed and were baptized. ⁹ The Lord said to Paul in the night in a vision, "Do not be afraid, but speak and do not be silent." ¹⁰ For I am with you, and no one will try to harm you, for I have many people in this city." ¹¹ Paul lived there for a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

¹² But when Gallio became governor of Achaia, the Jews rose up with one mind against Paul and brought him before the judgment seat; ¹³ they said, "This man persuades people to worship God contrary to the law." ¹⁴ Yet when Paul was about to speak, Gallio said to the Jews, "You Jews, if indeed it were a matter of wrong or a wicked crime, it would be reasonable to put up with you. ¹⁵ But since these are questions about words and names and your own law, settle it yourselves. I do not wish to be a judge of these matters." ¹⁶ Gallio made them leave the judgment seat. ¹⁷ So they all seized Sosthenes, the ruler of the synagogue, and beat him in front of the judgment seat. But Gallio did not care what they did.

¹⁸ Paul, after staying there for many more days, left the brothers and sailed for Syria with Priscilla and Aquila. Before he left the seaport, Cenchreae, he had his hair cut off because of a vow he had taken. ¹⁹ When they came to Ephesus, Paul left Priscilla and Aquila there, but he himself went into the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews. ²⁰ When they asked Paul to stay a longer time, he declined. ²¹ But taking his leave of them, he said, "I will return again to you if it is God's will." He then set sail from Ephesus.

²² When Paul had landed at Caesarea, he went up and greeted the Jerusalem church and then went down to Antioch. ²³ After having spent some time there, Paul departed and went through the regions of Galatia and Phrygia, strengthening all the disciples.

²⁴ Now a certain Jew named Apollos, an Alexandrian by birth, came to Ephesus. He was eloquent in speech and mighty in the scriptures. ²⁵ Apollos had been instructed in the teachings of the Lord. Being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things concerning Jesus, but he knew only the baptism of John. ²⁶ Apollos began to speak boldly in the synagogue. But when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately. ²⁷ When he desired to pass over into Achaia, the brothers encouraged him and wrote to the disciples in Achaia to welcome him. When he arrived, he greatly helped those who believed by grace. ²⁸ Apollos powerfully refuted the Jews in public debate, showing by the scriptures that Jesus is the Christ.

Chapter 19

¹ It came about that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the upper country and came to the city of Ephesus, and found certain disciples there. ² Paul said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?"

They said to him, "No, we did not even hear about the Holy Spirit."

³ Paul said, "Into what then were you baptized?"

They said, "Into John's baptism."

⁴ So Paul replied, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance. He told the people that they should believe in the one who would come after him, that is, in Jesus." ⁵ When the people heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶ Then when Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. ⁷ In all they were about twelve men.

⁸ Paul went into the synagogue and spoke boldly for three months, reasoning and persuading them about the kingdom of God. ⁹ But when some Jews were hardened and disobedient, they began to speak evil of the Way before the crowd. So Paul left them and took the disciples with him, reasoning with them every day in the lecture hall of Tyrannus. ¹⁰ This continued for two years, so that all who lived in Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks. ¹¹ God was doing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul, ¹² so that even handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched him were taken to the sick and their illnesses left them and the evil spirits came out of them.

¹³ But there were Jewish exorcists traveling through the area. They called on the name of the Lord Jesus so they could have power over evil spirits when they said, "By the Jesus whom Paul proclaims, I command you to come out." ¹⁴ The Jewish high priest, whose name was Sceva, had seven sons who were doing this.

¹⁵ An evil spirit answered them, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?" ¹⁶ The evil spirit in the man leaped on the exorcists and subdued them and beat them up. Then they fled out of that house naked and wounded. ¹⁷ This became known to all, both Jews and Greeks, who lived at Ephesus. They became very afraid, and the name of the Lord Jesus was honored. ¹⁸ Also, many of the believers came and confessed and gave a full account of the evil things they had done. ¹⁹ Many who practiced magic brought their books together and burned them in the sight of everyone. When they counted the value of them, it was fifty thousand pieces of silver. ²⁰ So the word of the Lord spread very widely in powerful ways.

²¹ Now after these things were completed, Paul decided in the Spirit to pass through Macedonia and Achaia on his way to Jerusalem; he said, "After I have been there, I must also see Rome." ²² Paul sent to Macedonia two of those who served him, Timothy and Erastus. But he himself stayed in Asia for a while.

²³ At about that time there was no small disturbance in Ephesus concerning the Way. ²⁴ A certain silversmith named Demetrius, who made silver shrines of Artemis, brought in much business for the craftsmen. ²⁵ So he gathered together the workmen of that occupation and said, "Men, you know that in this business we make much money. ²⁶ You see and hear that, not only at Ephesus, but almost throughout all Asia, this Paul has persuaded and turned away many people. He is saying that gods made by hands are not gods. ²⁷ Not only is there danger that our trade will be discredited, but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis might be regarded as worthless, and her greatness would be brought to nothing, she whom all Asia and the world worship."

²⁸ When they heard this, they were filled with anger and cried out, saying, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians." ²⁹ The whole city was filled with confusion, and the people rushed with one mind into the theater. They had seized Paul's travel companions, Gaius and Aristarchus, who came from Macedonia. ³⁰ Paul wanted to enter in among the crowd of people, but the disciples prevented him. ³¹ Also, some of the officials of the province of Asia who were his friends sent him a message pleading with him not to enter the theater. ³² Some people were shouting one thing, and some another, for the crowd was in confusion. Most of them did not even know why they had come together. ³³ Some of the crowd advised Alexander, whom the Jews were pushing forward. So Alexander motioned with his hand, wanting to give a defense to the assembly. ³⁴ But when they recognized that he was a Jew, they all cried out for about two hours with

one voice, saying, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians." ³⁵ When the town clerk had quieted the crowd, he said, "You men of Ephesus, what man is there who does not know that the city of the Ephesians is temple keeper of the great Artemis and of the image which fell down from heaven? ³⁶ Seeing then that these things are undeniable, you ought to be quiet and do nothing rash. ³⁷ For you have brought these men to this court who are neither robbers of temples nor blasphemers of our goddess. ³⁸ Therefore, if Demetrius and the craftsmen who are with him have an accusation against anyone, the courts are open and there are proconsuls. Let them accuse one another. ³⁹ But if you are seeking anything more, it should be resolved in the regular assembly. ⁴⁰ For we are in danger of being accused of rioting today, and there is no cause we can give to justify this uproar." When he had said this, he dismissed the assembly. ^[1]

Footnotes

19:40 ^[1]Some Greek copies number this last sentence as verse 41.

Chapter 20

¹ After the uproar was over, Paul sent for the disciples and after he encouraged them, he said farewell and left to go into Macedonia. ² When he had gone through those regions and had spoken many words of encouragement to them, he came to Greece. ³ After he had spent three months there, a plot was formed against him by the Jews as he was about to sail for Syria, so he decided to return through Macedonia. ⁴ Accompanying him as far as Asia were Sopater son of Pyrrhus from Berea; Aristarchus and Secundus, both from the Thessalonian believers; Gaius of Derbe; Timothy; and Tychicus and Trophimus from Asia. ⁵ But these men had gone before us and were waiting for us at Troas. ⁶ We sailed away from Philippi after the days of unleavened bread, and in five days we came to them in Troas. There we stayed for seven days.

⁷ On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul spoke to the believers. He was planning to leave the next day, so he prolonged his message until midnight. ⁸ There were many lamps in the upper room where we had come together. ⁹ In the window was sitting a young man named Eutychus, who fell into a deep sleep. As Paul spoke even longer, this young man, still sleeping, fell down from the third story and was picked up dead. ¹⁰ But Paul went down, stretched himself out on him, and embraced him. Then he said, "Do not be upset any more, for he is alive." ¹¹ Then he went upstairs again and broke bread and ate. After talking with them much longer until dawn, he left. ¹² They brought back the boy alive and were greatly comforted.

¹³ We ourselves went ahead of Paul by ship and sailed away to Assos, where we planned to take Paul on board. This is what he himself desired to do, because he planned to go by land. ¹⁴ When he met us at Assos, we took him onto the ship and went to Mitylene. ¹⁵ Then we sailed from there and arrived the next day opposite the island of Chios. The following day we touched at the island of Samos, and the day after we came to the city of Miletus. ¹⁶ For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he would not spend any time in Asia; for he was hurrying to be in Jerusalem for the day of Pentecost, if it were at all possible for him to do so.

¹⁷ From Miletus he sent men to Ephesus and called to himself the elders of the church. ¹⁸ When they had come to him, he said to them, "You yourselves know, from the first day that I set foot in Asia, how I always spent my time with you. ¹⁹ I kept serving the Lord with all lowliness of mind and with tears, and in trials that happened to me because of the plots of the Jews. ²⁰ You know how I did not keep back from declaring to you anything that was useful, and how I taught you in public and from house to house, ²¹ testifying to both Jews and Greeks about repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus. ²² Now look, I am going to Jerusalem, compelled by the Spirit, not knowing what will happen to me there, ²³ except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that chains and afflictions await me. ²⁴ But I do not consider my life valuable to myself, if only I may finish the race and complete the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God. ²⁵ Now look, I know that you all, among whom I went about proclaiming the kingdom, will see my face no more. ²⁶ Therefore I testify to you this day, that I am innocent of the blood of any man. ²⁷ For I did not hold back from declaring to you the whole will of God. ²⁸ Therefore be careful about yourselves, and about all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has appointed you overseers. Be careful to shepherd the church of God, which he purchased with his own blood. ²⁹ I know that after my departure, vicious wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. ³⁰ Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth to draw away the disciples after them. ³¹ So be on guard. Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each one of you night and day with tears. ³² Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are being sanctified. ³³ I coveted no man's silver, gold, or clothing. ³⁴ You yourselves know that these hands served my own needs and the needs of those who were with me. ³⁵ In all things I gave you an example of how you should help the weak by laboring, and of how you should remember the words of the Lord Jesus, words that he himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

³⁶ After he had spoken in this way, he knelt down and prayed with them all. ³⁷ There was a lot of crying and they embraced Paul and kissed him. ³⁸ They were in anguish most of all because of what he had said, that they would never see his face again. Then they escorted him to the ship.

Footnotes

20:28 [\[1\]](#) Instead of

Chapter 21

¹ When we had gone away from them and set sail, we took a straight course to the city of Cos, and the next day to the city of Rhodes, and from there to the city of Patara. ² When we found a ship crossing over to Phoenicia, we went aboard and set sail. ³ After sighting Cyprus, leaving it on the left side of the boat, we sailed on to Syria and landed at Tyre, where the ship was to unload its cargo. ⁴ After we found the disciples, we stayed there seven days. Through the Spirit they kept urging Paul not to go to Jerusalem. ⁵ When our days there were over, we left and went on our way, and they all, with their wives and children, accompanied us out of the city. Then we knelt down on the beach, prayed, ⁶ and said farewell to each other. Then we went on board the ship, and they returned home.

⁷ When we had finished the voyage from Tyre, we arrived at Ptolemais. There we greeted the brothers and stayed with them for one day. ⁸ On the next day we left and went to Caesarea. We entered the house of Philip, the evangelist, who was one of the seven, and we stayed with him. ⁹ Now this man had four virgin daughters who prophesied.

¹⁰ As we stayed there for some days, a certain prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. ¹¹ He came to us and took Paul's belt. With it he tied his own feet and hands and said, "Thus says the Holy Spirit, 'This is how the Jews in Jerusalem will tie up the man who owns this belt, and they will hand him over into the hands of the Gentiles.'" ¹² When we heard these things, both we and the people who lived in that place pleaded with Paul not to go up to Jerusalem.

¹³ Then Paul answered, "What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready, not only to be tied up, but also to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus."

¹⁴ Since Paul would not be persuaded, we remained silent and then we said, "May the will of the Lord be done."

¹⁵ After these days, we picked up our bags and went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁶ There also went with us some of the disciples from Caesarea. They brought with them a man named Mnason, a man from Cyprus, an early disciple, with whom we would stay.

¹⁷ When we had arrived in Jerusalem, the brothers welcomed us gladly. ¹⁸ The next day Paul went with us to James, and all the elders were present. ¹⁹ When he had greeted them, he reported one by one the things that God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry. ²⁰ When they heard it, they glorified God, and they said to him, "You see, brother, how many thousands have believed among the Jews. They are all zealous to keep the law. ²¹ They have been told about you, that you teach all the Jews who live among the Gentiles to abandon Moses, and that you tell them not to circumcise their children, and not to walk according the traditional ways. ²² What should we do? They will certainly hear that you have come. ²³ So do what we say to you. We have four men who made a vow. ²⁴ Take these men and purify yourself with them, and pay their expenses for them, so that they may shave their heads. So everyone will know that the things they have been told about you are false. They will learn that you also live correctly, obeying the law. ²⁵ But concerning the Gentiles who have believed, we wrote about our decision that they should keep themselves from things sacrificed to idols, from blood, from what is strangled, and from sexual immorality." ²⁶ Then Paul took the men, and the next day he purified himself along with them. Then they went into the temple, giving notice when the days of purification would be fulfilled and the offering would be presented for each of them.

²⁷ When the seven days were almost finished, some Jews from Asia, seeing Paul in the temple, stirred up the whole crowd and laid hands on him. ²⁸ They were shouting, "Men of Israel, help us. This is the man who teaches all men everywhere things that are against the people, the law, and this place. Besides, he has also brought Greeks into the temple and has defiled this holy place." ²⁹ For they had previously seen Trophimus the Ephesian with him in the city, and they thought that Paul had brought him into the temple. ³⁰ All the city was excited, and the people ran together and laid hold of Paul. They dragged him out of the temple, and the doors were immediately shut. ³¹ As they were trying to kill him, news came up to the chief captain of the company of soldiers, that all Jerusalem was in an uproar. ³² Right away he took soldiers and centurions and ran down to the crowd. When the people saw the chief captain and the soldiers, they stopped beating Paul. ³³ Then the chief captain approached and laid hold of Paul, and

commanded him to be bound with two chains. Then he asked who he was and what he had done. ³⁴ Some in the crowd were shouting one thing and others another. Since the captain could not learn the truth because of all the noise, he ordered that Paul be brought into the fortress. ³⁵ When he came to the steps, he was carried by the soldiers because of the crowd's violence. ³⁶ For the crowd of people followed after and kept shouting out, "Away with him!"

³⁷ As Paul was about to be brought into the fortress, he said to the chief captain, "Is it permitted for me to say something to you?"

The captain said, "Do you know Greek? ³⁸ Are you not then the Egyptian who some time ago started a rebellion and led the four thousand men of the 'Assassins' out into the wilderness?"

³⁹ Paul said, "I am a Jew, from the city of Tarsus in Cilicia. I am a citizen of no unimportant city. I beg you, allow me to speak to the people."

⁴⁰ When the captain had given him permission, Paul stood on the steps and motioned with the hand to the people. When there was a deep silence, he spoke to them in the Hebrew language. He said,

Chapter 22

¹ "Brothers and fathers, listen to my defense which I will now make to you."

² When the crowd heard Paul speak to them in the Hebrew language, they became quiet. He said,

³ "I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but educated in this city at the feet of Gamaliel. I was instructed according to the strict ways of the law of our fathers. I am zealous for God, just as all of you are today. ⁴ I persecuted this Way to the death, binding up and delivering to prison both men and women, ⁵ as the high priest and all the elders can testify. I received letters from them for the brothers in Damascus, and I went there to bring them back in bonds to Jerusalem to be punished. ⁶ It happened that when I was traveling and nearing Damascus, about noon suddenly a great light from heaven began to shine around me. ⁷ I fell to the ground and heard a voice say to me, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?'

⁸ I answered, 'Who are you, Lord?'

He said to me, 'I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting.'

⁹ Those who were with me saw the light, but they did not understand the voice of him who spoke to me.

¹⁰ I said, 'What should I do, Lord?'

The Lord said to me, 'Arise and go into Damascus. There you will be told everything that has been appointed for you to do.' ¹¹ I could not see because of that light's brightness, and being led by the hands of those who were with me, I came into Damascus. ¹² There I met a man named Ananias, a devout man according to the law and well spoken of by all the Jews who lived there. ¹³ He came to me, stood by me, and said, 'Brother Saul, receive your sight.' In that very hour I saw him. ¹⁴ Then he said, 'The God of our fathers has appointed you to know his will, to see the Righteous One, and to hear the voice coming from his own mouth. ¹⁵ For you will be a witness for him to all men about what you have seen and heard. ¹⁶ Now why are you waiting? Arise, be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on his name.' ¹⁷ After I had returned to Jerusalem, and while I was praying in the temple, a trance came on me. ¹⁸ I saw him say to me, 'Hurry and leave Jerusalem quickly, because they will not accept your testimony about me.' ¹⁹ I said, 'Lord, they themselves know that I imprisoned and beat those who believed in you in every synagogue. ²⁰ When the blood of Stephen your witness was spilled, I also was standing by and agreeing, and I was guarding the cloaks of those who killed him.' ²¹ But he said to me, 'Go, because I will send you far away to the Gentiles.'"

²² They listened to him until that statement. Then they raised their voices and said, "Away with such a fellow from the earth, for it is not right that he should live." ²³ As they were shouting, throwing off their cloaks, and throwing dust into the air, ²⁴ the chief captain commanded Paul to be brought into the fortress. He ordered that he should be questioned with scourging, so that he himself might know why they were shouting against him like that. ²⁵ When they had tied him up with the thongs, Paul said to the centurion who was standing by, "Is it lawful for you to scourge a man who is a Roman and who has not been put on trial?"

²⁶ When the centurion heard this, he went to the chief captain and told him, saying, "What are you about to do? For this man is a Roman citizen." ²⁷ The chief captain came and said to him, "Tell me, are you a Roman citizen?"

Paul said, "Yes."

²⁸ The chief captain answered, "It was only with a large amount of money that I acquired citizenship."

But Paul said, "I was born a Roman citizen." ²⁹ Then the men who were going to question him left him immediately. The chief captain also was afraid, when he learned that Paul was a Roman citizen, because he had tied him up.

³⁰ On the next day, the chief captain wanted to know for certain about the Jews' accusations against Paul. So he untied his bonds and ordered the chief priests and all the council to meet. Then he brought Paul down and placed him in their midst.

Chapter 23

¹ Paul looked directly at the council members and said, "Brothers, I have lived before God in all good conscience until this day." ² The high priest Ananias commanded those who stood by him to strike him on the mouth.

³ Then Paul said to him, "God will strike you, you whitewashed wall. Are you sitting to judge me by the law, yet order me to be struck, against the law?"

⁴ Those who stood by said, "Is this how you insult God's high priest?"

⁵ Paul said, "I did not know, brothers, that he was high priest. For it is written, 'You must not speak evil of a ruler of your people.'"

⁶ When Paul saw that the one part of the council were Sadducees and the other Pharisees, he spoke loudly in the council, "Brothers, I am a Pharisee, a son of Pharisees. It is because I have the hope of the resurrection of the dead that I am being judged." ⁷ When he said this, an argument began between the Pharisees and Sadducees, and the crowd was divided. ⁸ For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, no angels, and no spirits, but the Pharisees acknowledge all of them.

⁹ So a large uproar occurred, and some of the scribes belonging to the Pharisees stood up and argued, saying, "We find nothing wrong with this man. What if a spirit or an angel has spoken to him?" ¹⁰ When there arose a great argument, the chief captain feared that Paul would be torn to pieces by them, so he commanded the soldiers to go down and take him by force from among the council members, and bring him into the fortress.

¹¹ The following night the Lord stood beside him and said, "Have courage, for as you have testified about me in Jerusalem, so you must also testify in Rome."

¹² When it became day, some Jews formed a conspiracy and put themselves under an oath, saying that they would not eat or drink anything until they had killed Paul. ¹³ There were more than forty men who formed this conspiracy. ¹⁴ They went to the chief priests and the elders and said, "We have sworn a great oath to eat nothing until we have killed Paul. ¹⁵ Now, therefore, let the council formally request the chief captain to bring him down to you, as if you would decide his case more precisely. As for us, we are ready to kill him before he comes here."

¹⁶ But Paul's sister's son heard that they were lying in wait, so he went and entered the fortress and told Paul.

¹⁷ Paul called one of the centurions and said, "Take this young man to the chief captain, for he has something to report to him."

¹⁸ So the centurion took the young man and brought him to the chief captain and said, "Paul the prisoner called me to him, and asked me to bring this young man to you. He has something to say to you."

¹⁹ The chief captain took him by the hand to a private place and asked him, "What is it that you have to report to me?"

²⁰ The young man said, "The Jews have agreed to ask you to bring down Paul tomorrow to the council, as if they were going to ask more precisely about his case. ²¹ But do not be persuaded by them, because there are more than forty men who are lying in wait for him. They have put themselves under oath neither to eat nor to drink until they have killed him. Even now they are ready, waiting for your approval."

²² So the chief captain let the young man go, after instructing him, "Tell no one that you have reported these things to me."

²³ Then he called to him two of the centurions and said, "Get two hundred soldiers ready to go as far as Caesarea, and seventy horsemen also, and two hundred spearmen. You will leave at the third hour of the night." ²⁴ He also ordered them to provide animals which Paul could ride and to take him safely to Felix the governor.

²⁵ Then he wrote a letter like this:

²⁶ "Claudius Lysias,
To the most excellent Governor Felix,
Greetings.

²⁷ This man was arrested by the Jews and was about to be killed by them when I came upon them with soldiers and rescued him, since I learned that he was a Roman citizen. ²⁸ I wanted to know why they accused him, so I took him down to their council. ²⁹ I learned that he was being accused about questions concerning their own law, but that there was no accusation against him that deserved death or imprisonment. ³⁰ Then it was reported to me that there was a plot against the man, so I immediately sent him to you and instructed his accusers also to bring their charges against him in your presence. Farewell."

³¹ So the soldiers obeyed their orders. They took Paul and brought him by night to Antipatris. ³² On the next day, most of the soldiers left the horsemen to go with him and they themselves returned to the fortress. ³³ When the horsemen reached Caesarea and delivered the letter to the governor, they also presented Paul to him. ³⁴ When the governor read the letter, he asked what province Paul was from. When he learned that he was from Cilicia, ³⁵ he said, "I will hear you fully when your accusers come here." Then he commanded him to be kept in Herod's government headquarters.

Chapter 24

¹ After five days, Ananias the high priest, certain elders, and an orator named Tertullus went there. These men brought charges against Paul before the governor. ² When Paul stood before the governor, Tertullus began to accuse him and said to the governor, "Because of you we have great peace, and your foresight brings good reform to our nation;

³ so with all thankfulness we welcome everything that you do, most excellent Felix. ⁴ So that I detain you no more, I beg you in your kindness to hear us briefly. ⁵ For we have found this man to be a pest and one who causes all the Jews throughout the world to rebel. He is a leader of the Nazarene sect. ⁶ He even tried to desecrate the temple, so we arrested him. ^[1]⁷^[2]⁸ When you examine Paul about all these matters, you will be able to learn about all the things of which we are accusing him." ⁹ The Jews also joined in the accusation, affirming that these charges were true.

¹⁰ But when the governor motioned for Paul to speak, Paul answered, "I understand that for many years you have been a judge to this nation, and so I gladly explain myself to you.

¹¹ You can learn for yourself that it has not been more than twelve days since I went up to worship in Jerusalem. ¹² When they found me in the temple, I did not argue with anyone, and I did not stir up a crowd, either in the synagogues, or in the city. ¹³ They cannot prove to you the accusations they are now making against me. ¹⁴ But I confess this to you, that according to the Way, which they call a sect, I serve the God of our fathers, believing all things that are according to the law and that has been written in the prophets. ¹⁵ I have a hope in God, which these men also have, that there will be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked. ¹⁶ So I always strive to have a blameless conscience before God and human beings. ¹⁷ Now after many years I came to give alms to my nation and present sacrifices. ¹⁸ When I did this, certain Jews from Asia found me in a purification ceremony in the temple, not with a crowd or an uproar. ¹⁹ These men ought to be before you now and accuse me, if they have anything. ²⁰ Or else, these same men should say what wrong they found in me when I stood before the Jewish council, ²¹ unless it is about this one thing that I shouted out when I stood among them, 'It is concerning the resurrection of the dead that I am on trial before you today.'"

²² Then Felix, who was well informed about the Way, postponed the hearing. He said, "When Lysias the commander comes down from Jerusalem, I will decide your case." ²³ Then he commanded the centurion that Paul should be kept in custody, but to have some freedom so that none of his friends would be prevented from attending to his needs.

²⁴ After some days, Felix returned with Drusilla his wife, who was Jewish, and he sent for Paul and he heard from him about faith in Christ Jesus. ²⁵ But when Paul reasoned with him about righteousness, self-control, and the coming judgment, Felix became frightened and said, "Go away for now. But when I have time later on, I will send for you." ²⁶ At the same time he hoped that Paul would give money to him, so he often sent for him and spoke with him. ²⁷ But when two years passed, Porcius Festus became the governor after Felix, but Felix wanted to gain favor with the Jews, so he left Paul bound.

Footnotes

24:6 ^[1]Some ancient copies add,

24:7 ^[2]Some ancient copies have for verse 7 and the beginning of verse 8,

Chapter 25

¹ Now, Festus entered the province, and after three days, he went from Caesarea up to Jerusalem. ² The chief priests and the prominent Jews brought their charges against Paul, and they asked Festus earnestly — ³ asking him to do them a favor against Paul—to summon him to Jerusalem, for they were preparing an ambush to kill him along the way. ⁴ Festus answered that Paul was being held in custody at Caesarea, and that he himself was going there soon. ⁵ "Therefore, those who can," he said, "should go there with us. If there is something wrong with the man, you should accuse him."

⁶ Festus stayed not more than eight or ten days and then he went down to Caesarea, and on the next day he sat on the judgment seat and commanded Paul to be brought to him. ⁷ When he arrived, the Jews from Jerusalem stood nearby, and they brought many serious charges which they could not prove.

⁸ Paul defended himself and said, "I have committed no sin against the law of the Jews or against the temple or against Caesar."

⁹ But Festus wanted to gain the favor of the Jews, and so he answered Paul and said, "Do you want to go up to Jerusalem and to be judged by me about these things there?" ¹⁰ Paul said, "I stand before the judgment seat of Caesar where I must be judged. I have wronged no Jews, just as you also very well know. ¹¹ Though if I have done wrong and if I have done what is worthy of death, I do not refuse to die. But if their accusations are nothing, no one can hand me over to them. I appeal to Caesar." ¹² After Festus talked with the council, he answered, "You have appealed to Caesar. To Caesar you will go!"

¹³ Now after some days, King Agrippa and Bernice arrived at Caesarea to pay an official visit to Festus. ¹⁴ After they had been there for many days, Festus presented Paul's case to the king; he said, "A certain man was left behind here by Felix as a prisoner. ¹⁵ When I was in Jerusalem, the chief priests and the elders of the Jews brought charges against this man to me, and they asked for a sentence of condemnation against him. ¹⁶ I answered them that it was not the custom of the Romans to hand over anyone before the accused had faced his accusers and received an opportunity to defend himself against the charges. ¹⁷ Therefore, when they came together here, I did not wait, but the next day I sat in the judgment seat and I ordered the man to be brought in. ¹⁸ When the accusers stood up, they charged him with nothing that I considered wickedness. ¹⁹ Instead, they had certain disputes with him about their own religion and about a certain Jesus who was dead, whom Paul claims to be alive. ²⁰ I was perplexed about how to investigate this matter, and so I asked him if he would be willing to go to Jerusalem to stand trial there about these charges. ²¹ But when Paul appealed to be kept in custody while awaiting the decision of the emperor, I ordered him to be held in custody until I could send him to Caesar." ²² Agrippa spoke to Festus, "I would also like to listen to this man." "Tomorrow," Festus said, "you will hear him."

²³ So on the next day, Agrippa and Bernice came with much ceremony; they came into the hall with the military officers and with the prominent men of the city. When Festus spoke the command, Paul was brought to them. ²⁴ Festus said, "King Agrippa, and all you men who are here with us, you see this man; all the multitude of Jews appealed to me in Jerusalem and here also, and they shouted to me that he should no longer live. ²⁵ I found he had done nothing worthy of death; but because he appealed to the emperor, I decided to send him to Rome. ²⁶ But I do not have anything certain to write to my lord. For this reason, I have brought him to you, especially to you, King Agrippa, so that I might have something more to write about the case. ²⁷ For it seems unreasonable for me to send a prisoner and to not also state the charges against him."

Chapter 26

¹ So Agrippa said to Paul, "You may speak for yourself." Then Paul stretched out his hand and made his defense.

² "I consider myself happy, King Agrippa, to make my case before you today against all the accusations of the Jews, ³ especially because you are an expert in all the Jewish customs and questions. So I beg you to hear me patiently. ⁴ Truly, all the Jews know how I lived from my youth in my own nation and at Jerusalem. ⁵ They have known about me from the beginning, if they are willing to admit it, that I lived as a Pharisee, the strictest party of our religion. ⁶ Now I stand here to be judged because of my hope in the promise made by God to our fathers. ⁷ It is this promise that our twelve tribes hope to receive as they worship God earnestly night and day, and it is for this hope, king, that the Jews are accusing me. ⁸ Why should any of you judge it to be incredible that God raises the dead? ⁹ Now indeed, I myself thought that I should do many things against the name of Jesus of Nazareth. ¹⁰ I did these in Jerusalem. I locked up in prison many of God's holy people by the authority I received from the chief priests; and when they were killed, I cast my vote against them. ¹¹ I punished them many times in all the synagogues and I tried to force them to blaspheme. I was furiously enraged against them and I persecuted them even to foreign cities. ¹² While I was doing this, I went to Damascus with authority and orders from the chief priests; ¹³ and on the way there, in the middle of the day, king, I saw a light from heaven that was brighter than the sun, and it shone around both me and the men who were traveling with me. ¹⁴ When we all fell to the ground, I heard a voice speaking to me that said in the Hebrew language, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? It is hard for you to kick a goad.' ¹⁵ Then I said, 'Who are you, Lord?' The Lord replied, 'I am Jesus whom you persecute. ¹⁶ Now get up and stand on your feet; because for this purpose I appeared to you, to appoint you to be a servant and a witness concerning the things that you know about me now and the things that I will show to you later; ¹⁷ and I will rescue you from the people and from the Gentiles to whom I am sending you, ¹⁸ to open their eyes and to turn them from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, so that they may receive from God the forgiveness of sins and the inheritance that I give to them who are sanctified by faith in me.' ¹⁹ Therefore, King Agrippa, I did not disobey the heavenly vision; ²⁰ but, to those in Damascus first, and then at Jerusalem, and throughout all the country of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, I gave them the message that that they should repent and turn to God, doing deeds worthy of repentance. ²¹ For this cause the Jews arrested me in the temple and tried to kill me. ²² Therefore I have received the help that comes from God until this very day, and I stand and testify to both small and great about nothing more than what the prophets and Moses said would happen— ²³ that Christ must suffer, and by being the first to rise from the dead he would proclaim light to our own people and to the Gentiles."

²⁴ As Paul completed his defense, Festus said with a loud voice, "Paul, you are insane; your great learning makes you insane." ²⁵ But Paul said, "I am not insane, most excellent Festus, but I am declaring words of truth and sound judgment. ²⁶ For the king knows about these things; and so I speak boldly to him, for I am persuaded that none of this is hidden from him; for this has not been done in a corner. ²⁷ Do you believe the prophets, King Agrippa? I know that you believe." ²⁸ Agrippa said to Paul, "In a short time would you persuade me and make me a Christian?"

²⁹ Paul said, "I pray to God, that whether in a short or long time, not you only, but also all that hear me today, would be like me, but without these prison chains."

³⁰ Then the king stood up, and the governor, and Bernice also, and those who were sitting with them; ³¹ when they left the hall, they talked to one another and said, "This man does nothing worthy of death or of bonds."

³² Agrippa said to Festus, "This man could have been freed if he had not appealed to Caesar."

Chapter 27

¹ When it was decided that we should sail for Italy, they committed Paul and some other prisoners to a centurion named Julius, who belonged to the Augustan company of soldiers. ² We boarded a ship from Adramyttium which was about to sail along the coast of Asia. So we went to sea. Aristarchus from Thessalonica in Macedonia went with us. ³ The next day we landed at the city of Sidon, where Julius treated Paul kindly and allowed him to go to his friends to receive their care. ⁴ From there we went to sea and sailed under the lee of Cyprus, close to the island, because the winds were against us. ⁵ When we had sailed across the sea past Cilicia and Pamphylia, we landed at Myra, a city of Lycia. ⁶ There, the centurion found a ship from Alexandria that was going to sail to Italy. He put us on it. ⁷ When we had sailed slowly for many days and had finally arrived with difficulty near Cnidus and the wind no longer allowed us to go that way, we sailed along the sheltered side of Crete, opposite Salmone. ⁸ We sailed along the coast with difficulty, until we came to a certain place called Fair Havens, which is near the city of Lasea.

⁹ We had now taken much time, the time of the Jewish fast also had passed, and it had now become dangerous to sail. So Paul warned them, ¹⁰ and said, "Men, I see that the voyage we are about to take will be with injury and much loss, not only of the cargo and the ship, but also of our lives." ¹¹ But the centurion was more persuaded by the master and by the owner of the ship than by those things that were spoken by Paul. ¹² Because the harbor was not easy to spend the winter in, most of the sailors advised to sail from there, and if by any means we could reach the city of Phoenix, to spend the winter there. Phoenix is a harbor in Crete, facing both southwest and northwest. ¹³ When a south wind began to blow gently, the sailors thought that they had what they needed. So they weighed anchor and sailed along Crete, close to the shore. ¹⁴ But after a short time a wind of hurricane force, called the northeaster, began to beat down from the island. ¹⁵ When the ship was caught by the storm and could no longer head into the wind, we had to give way to the storm and were driven along by the wind. ¹⁶ We sailed along the lee of a small island called Cauda, and with difficulty we were able to secure the lifeboat. ¹⁷ When they had hoisted the lifeboat up, they used its ropes to bind the hull of the ship. They were afraid that they should run upon the sandbars of Syrtis, so they lowered the sea anchor and were driven along. ¹⁸ We took such a violent battering by the storm that the next day they began throwing the cargo overboard. ¹⁹ On the third day the sailors threw overboard the ship's equipment with their own hands. ²⁰ When the sun and stars did not shine on us for many days, and the great storm still beat upon us, any more hope that we should be saved was abandoned. ²¹ When they had gone long without food, then Paul stood up among the sailors and said, "Men, you should have listened to me, and not have set sail from Crete, so as to get this injury and loss. ²² Now I urge you to take courage, for there will be no loss of life among you, but only the loss of the ship. ²³ For last night an angel of the God to whom I belong, whom also I worship—his angel stood beside me ²⁴ and said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul. You must stand before Caesar, and see, God in his kindness has given to you all those who are sailing with you.' ²⁵ Therefore have courage, men! For I trust God that it will happen just as it was told to me. ²⁶ But we must run aground upon some island."

²⁷ When the fourteenth night had come, as we were driven this way and that in the Adriatic Sea, about midnight the sailors thought that they were approaching some land. ²⁸ They took soundings and found twenty fathoms; after a little while, they took more soundings and found fifteen fathoms. ²⁹ They were afraid that we might crash on the rocks, so they lowered four anchors from the stern and prayed that morning would come soon. ³⁰ The sailors were looking for a way to abandon the ship and had lowered the lifeboat into the sea, and pretended that they would throw down the anchors from the bow. ³¹ But Paul said to the centurion and to the soldiers, "Unless these men stay in the ship, you cannot be saved." ³² Then the soldiers cut away the ropes of the boat and let it drift away. ³³ When daylight was coming on, Paul encouraged them all to take some food. He said, "This day is the fourteenth day that you have been on constant guard and have gone without food—you have not eaten anything. ³⁴ So I urge you to share some food, for this is necessary for you to survive. For not one of you will lose a single hair from his head." ³⁵ When he had said this, he took bread and he thanked God in the sight of everyone. Then he broke the bread and began to eat. ³⁶ Then they were all encouraged and they also took food. ³⁷ We were 276 souls on the ship. ³⁸ When they had eaten enough, they made the ship lighter by throwing out the wheat into the sea. ³⁹ When it was day, they did not recognize the land, but they saw a bay with a beach, and they discussed whether they could drive the ship onto it. ⁴⁰ So they cut loose the anchors and left them in the sea. At the same time they loosed the ropes of the rudders and raised the foresail to the wind;

and so they headed to the beach. ⁴¹ But the ship struck a sandbar and ran aground. The bow was stuck there and remained unmovable, and the stern was broken up by the force of the waves. ⁴² The soldiers' plan was to kill the prisoners so that none of them could swim away and escape. ⁴³ But the centurion wanted to save Paul, so he stopped their plan; and he ordered those who could swim to jump overboard first and get to land. ⁴⁴ Then the rest of the men should follow, some on planks, and some on other things from the ship. In this way it happened that all of us were brought safely to land.

Chapter 28

¹ When we were brought safely through, we learned that the island was called Malta. ² The native people offered to us not just ordinary kindness, but they lit a fire and welcomed us all because of the constant rain and cold. ³ But when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks and placed them on the fire, a viper came out because of the heat and fastened onto his hand. ⁴ When the native people saw the animal hanging from his hand, they said one to another, "This man certainly is a murderer who has been saved from the sea; Justice does not permit him to live." ⁵ But then he shook the animal into the fire and suffered no harm. ⁶ They were waiting for him to swell up or suddenly fall down dead. But after they watched him for a long time and saw that nothing was wrong with him, they changed their minds and said that he was a god.

⁷ Now in a nearby place there were lands belonging to the chief man of the island, a man named Publius. He welcomed us and kindly provided for us for three days. ⁸ It happened that the father of Publius was lying afflicted with a fever and dysentery. When Paul went to him, he prayed, placed his hands on him, and healed him. ⁹ After this happened, the rest of the people on the island who were sick also came and were healed. ¹⁰ The people also honored us with many honors. When we were preparing to sail, they gave us what we needed.

¹¹ After three months we set sail in a ship that had spent the winter at the island, a ship of Alexandria, with "the twin gods" as its figurehead. ¹² After we landed at the city of Syracuse, we stayed there three days. ¹³ From there we sailed and arrived at the city of Rhegium. After one day a south wind sprang up, and in two days we came to the city of Puteoli. ¹⁴ There we found some brothers and were invited to stay with them for seven days. In this way we came to Rome. ¹⁵ From there the brothers, after they heard about us, came to meet us as far as the Market of Appius and the Three Taverns. When Paul saw the brothers, he thanked God and took courage.

¹⁶ When we entered Rome, Paul was allowed to live by himself with the soldier who was guarding him.

¹⁷ Then it came about that after three days Paul called together those men who were the leaders among the Jews. When they had come together, he said to them, "Brothers, although I have done nothing wrong against the people or the customs of our fathers, I was delivered as a prisoner from Jerusalem into the hands of the Romans. ¹⁸ After they questioned me, they wished to set me free, because there was no reason for the death penalty in my case. ¹⁹ But when the Jews spoke against their desire, I was forced to appeal to Caesar, although it is not as if I were bringing any accusation against my nation. ²⁰ For this reason, therefore, I called upon you that I might see you and speak with you, since it is because of the hope of Israel that I am now wearing this chain."

²¹ Then they said to him, "We neither received letters from Judea about you, nor did any of the brothers come and report or say anything bad about you. ²² But we want to hear from you what you think about this sect, because it is known by us that it is spoken against everywhere."

²³ When they had appointed a day for him, more people came to him at his dwelling place. He presented the matter to them, and testified about the kingdom of God. He tried to persuade them about Jesus, both from the law of Moses and from the prophets, from morning until evening. ²⁴ Some were convinced about the things which were said, while others did not believe. ²⁵ When they did not agree with one another, they left after Paul had spoken this one word: "The Holy Spirit spoke well through Isaiah the prophet to your fathers.

²⁶ He said, 'Go to this people and say,
"Hearing you will hear, but you will never understand;
seeing, you will see, but you will never know.

²⁷ For the heart of this people has become dull,
and with their ears they hardly hear,
and they have shut their eyes.
Otherwise they might see with their eyes,
and hear with their ears,
and understand with their heart and turn again,
and I would heal them.'"

28 Therefore, you should know that this salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles, and they will listen." **29**^[1]

30 Paul lived for two whole years in his own rented house, and he welcomed all who came to him. **31** He was proclaiming the kingdom of God and was teaching the things about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness without being hindered.

Footnotes

28:29 ^[1] Acts 28:29—Some ancient copies have verse 29:

Romans

Chapter 1

¹ Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God, ² which he promised beforehand by his prophets in the holy scriptures, ³ concerning his Son who was a descendant of David according to the flesh. ⁴ Through the Spirit of holiness he was declared with power to be the Son of God by the resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord. ⁵ Through him we have received grace and apostleship for obedience of faith among all the nations, for the sake of his name. ⁶ Among these nations, you also have been called to belong to Jesus Christ.

⁷ To all in Rome who are beloved of God and called to be his holy people: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁸ First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed throughout the whole world. ⁹ For God is my witness, whom I serve in my spirit in the gospel of his Son, of how continually I make mention of you. ¹⁰ I always request in my prayers that by any means I may at last be successful now by the will of God in coming to you. ¹¹ For I desire to see you, that I may give you some spiritual gift, in order to strengthen you. ¹² That is, I long to be mutually encouraged among you, through each other's faith, yours and mine. ¹³ Now I do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, that I often intended to come to you (but I was hindered until now), in order to have some fruit among you also, just as I have had among the rest of the Gentiles. ¹⁴ I am a debtor both to Greeks and to foreigners, both to the wise and to the foolish. ¹⁵ So, as for me, I am ready to proclaim the gospel also to you who are in Rome.

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and for the Greek. ¹⁷ For in it God's righteousness is revealed from faith to faith, as it has been written, "The righteous will live by faith."

¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of people who through unrighteousness hold back the truth. ¹⁹ This is because that which is known about God is visible to them. For God has enlightened them. ²⁰ For ever since the creation of the world, his invisible qualities, namely his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, having been discerned in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. ²¹ This is because, although they knew about God, they did not glorify him as God, nor did they give him thanks. Instead, they became foolish in their thoughts, and their senseless hearts were darkened. ²² They claimed to be wise, but they became foolish. ²³ They exchanged the glory of the imperishable God for the likenesses of an image of perishable man, of birds, of four-footed beasts, and of creeping things.

²⁴ Therefore God delivered them over to the lusts of their hearts for uncleanness, for their bodies to be dishonored among themselves. ²⁵ It is they who exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and who worshiped and served the creation instead of the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

²⁶ Because of this, God delivered them over to dishonorable lusts, for their women exchanged natural relations for those that were unnatural. ²⁷ In the same way, the men also left their natural relations with women and burned in their lust for one another. These were men who committed shameless acts with men and received in themselves the penalty they deserved for their error.

²⁸ And just as they did not approve of having God in their awareness, he gave them up to a corrupted mind, for them to do those things that are not proper. ²⁹ They have been filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, covetousness, and malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, and evil intentions. They are gossips, ³⁰ slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventing ways of doing evil; they are disobedient to parents. ³¹ They are senseless, faithless, heartless, and unmerciful. ³² They understand the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death. But not only do they do these things, they also approve of others who do them.

Chapter 2

¹ Therefore you are without excuse, you person, you who judge, for in things for which you judge the other person, you condemn yourself. For you who judge practice the same things. ² But we know that God's judgment is according to truth when it falls on those who practice such things. ³ But consider this, you person, you who judge those who practice such things although you do the same things. Will you escape from the judgment of God? ⁴ Or do you think so little of the riches of his kindness, his delayed punishment, and his patience? Do you not know that his kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? ⁵ But it is to the extent of your hardness and unrepentant heart that you are storing up for yourself wrath on the day of wrath, that is, the day of the revelation of God's righteous judgment. ⁶ He will pay back to every person according to his actions: ⁷ to those who according to the perseverance of good deeds have sought glory, honor, and incorruptibility, he will give eternal life. ⁸ But to those who are self-seeking, who disobey the truth but obey unrighteousness, wrath and fierce anger will come. ⁹ God will bring tribulation and distress on every human soul that has practiced evil, to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. ¹⁰ But glory, honor, and peace will come to everyone who practices good, to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. ¹¹ For there is no partiality with God. ¹² For as many as have sinned without the law will also perish without the law, and as many as have sinned with respect to the law will be judged by the law. ¹³ For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but it is the doers of the law who will be justified. ¹⁴ For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature the things of the law, they are a law to themselves, although they do not have the law. ¹⁵ By this they show that the actions required by the law are written in their hearts. Their conscience also bears witness to them, and their own thoughts either accuse or defend them ¹⁶ on the day when God will judge the secrets of all people, according to my gospel, through Jesus Christ.

¹⁷ But if you say that you are a Jew and rest upon the law and boast in God, ¹⁸ and know his will and approve of what is excellent because you have been instructed from the law; ¹⁹ and if you are convinced that you yourself are a guide to the blind, a light to those who are in darkness, ²⁰ an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of little children, and that you have in the law the form of knowledge and of the truth, then how does this affect the way you live your life? ²¹ You who teach others, do you not teach yourself? You who preach against stealing, do you steal? ²² You who say that one must not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who hate idols, do you rob temples? ²³ You who boast in the law, do you dishonor God by transgressing the law? ²⁴ For "the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you," just as it has been written. ²⁵ For circumcision is profitable to you if you obey the law, but if you are a transgressor of the law, your circumcision becomes uncircumcision. ²⁶ If, then, the uncircumcised person keeps the requirements of the law, will not his uncircumcision be considered as circumcision? ²⁷ And will not the one who is naturally uncircumcised condemn you if he fulfills the law? This is because you have the written law and circumcision, yet you are a transgressor of the law! ²⁸ For he is not a Jew who is merely one outwardly; neither is circumcision that which is merely outward in the flesh. ²⁹ But he is a Jew who is one inwardly, and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter. The praise of such a person comes not from people but from God.

Chapter 3

¹ Then what advantage does the Jew have? And what is the benefit of circumcision? ² It is great in every way. First of all, the Jews were entrusted with revelation from God.

³ For what if some Jews were without faith? Will their unbelief nullify God's faithfulness? ⁴ May it never be. Instead, let God be found to be true, even though every man is a liar. As it has been written,

"That you might be shown to be righteous in your words,
and that you might prevail when you come into judgment."

⁵ But if our unrighteousness shows the righteousness of God, what can we say? Can we say that God is unrighteous to bring his wrath upon us? (I am using a human argument.) ⁶ May it never be! For then how would God judge the world? ⁷ But if through my lie the truth of God increases his glory, why am I still being judged as a sinner? ⁸ Why not say, as we are slandered as saying, and as some affirm that we say, "Let us do evil, so that good may come"? Their condemnation is just.

⁹ What then? Are we excusing ourselves? Not at all. For we have already accused both Jews and Greeks, all of them, of being under sin. ¹⁰ This is as it is written:

"No one is righteous, not one;
¹¹ there is no one who understands;
there is no one who seeks God.
¹² They have all turned away;
together they have become useless.
There is no one who does good, no,
not even one."
¹³ "Their throat is an open grave.
Their tongues have deceived.
The poison of snakes is under their lips."
¹⁴ "Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness."
¹⁵ "Their feet are swift to pour out blood.
¹⁶ Destruction and suffering are in their paths.
¹⁷ These people have not known a way of peace."
¹⁸ "There is no fear of God before their eyes."

¹⁹ Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to the ones who are under the law, so that every mouth may be shut, and the whole world held accountable to God. ²⁰ For no flesh will be justified by the works of the law in his sight. For through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹ But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been revealed, to which the Law and the Prophets bear witness— ²² the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³ for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and they are freely justified by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. ²⁵ For God provided Christ Jesus as an atoning sacrifice through faith in his blood. He offered Christ as proof of his justice, because of his disregard of previous sins ²⁶ in his patience. This was to show his righteousness at this present time, so he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

²⁷ Where then is boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of law? Of works? No, but through a law of faith. ²⁸ We conclude then that a person is justified by faith without works of the law. ²⁹ Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not also the God of Gentiles? Yes, of Gentiles also. ³⁰ If, indeed, God is one, he will justify the circumcision by faith, and the uncircumcision through faith.

³¹ Do we then nullify the law through faith? May it never be! Instead, we uphold the law.

Chapter 4

¹ What then will we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, found? ² For if Abraham had been justified by works, he would have had a reason to boast, but not before God. ³ For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness."

⁴ Now for him who labors, his wage is not counted as a gift, but as what is owed. ⁵ But for him who does not work but instead believes in the one who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness. ⁶ David also pronounces blessing on the man to whom God counts righteousness without works.

⁷ He says,

"Blessed are those
whose lawless deeds are forgiven,
and whose sins are covered.

⁸ Blessed is the man
against whom the Lord will not count sin."

⁹ Then is this blessing pronounced only on those of the circumcision, or also on those of the uncircumcision? For we say, "Faith was counted to Abraham as righteousness." ¹⁰ How was it counted to him? Was it before or after he had been circumcised? It was not after, but before! ¹¹ Abraham received the sign of circumcision as a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. The purpose was to make him the father of all who believe but have not been circumcised, so that righteousness would be counted to them. ¹² He is also the father of the circumcised who not only are circumcised but who also walk in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised.

¹³ For the promise to Abraham and to his descendants that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴ For if those who live by the law are to be the heirs, faith is made empty, and the promise does nothing. ¹⁵ For the law brings about wrath, but where there is no law, there is no transgression. ¹⁶ For this reason it is by faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all of Abraham's descendants—not only to those who are under the law, but also to those who share the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all, ¹⁷ as it is written, "I have appointed you the father of many nations." Abraham was in the presence of him whom he trusted, that is, God, who gives life to the dead and calls the things that do not exist into existence. ¹⁸ In hope he believed against hope, that he would become the father of many nations, according to what he had been told, "So will your descendants be." ¹⁹ Without becoming weak in faith, he considered his own body as dead (because he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb. ²⁰ But because of God's promise, Abraham did not hesitate in unbelief. Instead, he was strengthened in faith and gave glory to God. ²¹ He was fully convinced that what God had promised, he was also able to accomplish. ²² Therefore this was also "counted to him as righteousness." ²³ But the words "it was counted to him" were not written for his sake alone. ²⁴ They were written also for us, and it will be counted to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. ²⁵ This is the one who was delivered up for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

Chapter 5

¹ Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ² Through him we also have our access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we boast in the hope of the glory of God. ³ Not only this, but we also boast in our tribulations. We know that tribulation brings about perseverance. ⁴ Perseverance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not make ashamed because the love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who was given to us. ⁶ For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ For one will hardly die for a righteous person, though perhaps someone would dare to die for a good person. ⁸ But God proves his own love toward us, because while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹ Much more, then, now that we are justified by his blood, we will be saved by him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰ For if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more, after having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. ¹¹ Not only this, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we now have received this reconciliation.

¹² So then, as through one man sin entered into the world, in this way death entered through sin. And death spread to all people, because all sinned. ¹³ For until the law, sin was in the world, but there is no accounting for sin when there is no law. ¹⁴ Nevertheless, death reigned from Adam until Moses, even over those who did not sin like Adam's disobedience, who is a pattern of him who was to come.

¹⁵ But the gift is not like the trespass. For if by the trespass of one the many died, how much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abound for the many! ¹⁶ For the gift is not like the outcome of that one man's sin. The judgment followed one trespass and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many trespasses and brought justification. ¹⁷ For if, by the trespass of the one, death ruled through the one, how much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one, Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ So then, as one trespass led to condemnation for all people, so also through the one act of righteousness came justification and life for all people. ¹⁹ For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the one will the many be made righteous. ²⁰ But the law came in to increase the trespass. But where sin abounded, grace abounded even more. ²¹ This happened so that, as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness for everlasting life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Chapter 6

¹ What then will we say? Should we continue in sin so that grace may abound? ² May it never be. We who died to sin, how can we still live in it? ³ Do you not know that as many as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were buried, then, with him through baptism into death. This happened in order that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so also we might walk in newness of life. ⁵ For if we have become united with him in the likeness of his death, we will also be united with his resurrection. ⁶ We know this, that our old man was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be destroyed. This happened so that we should no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷ He who has died is declared righteous with respect to sin. ⁸ But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live together with him. ⁹ We know that since Christ has been raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer rules over him. ¹⁰ For in regard to the death that he died to sin, he died once for all. However, the life that he lives, he lives for God. ¹¹ In the same way, you also must consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

¹² Therefore do not let sin rule in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts. ¹³ Do not present the members of your bodies to sin, to be tools used for unrighteousness. But present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present the members of your bodies to God as tools to be used for righteousness. ¹⁴ Do not allow sin to rule over you. For you are not under law, but under grace.

¹⁵ What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law, but under grace? May it never be. ¹⁶ Do you not know that if you present yourselves as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey? You are either slaves to sin, which leads to death, or slaves to obedience, which leads to righteousness. ¹⁷ But thanks be to God! For you were slaves of sin, but you have obeyed from the heart the pattern of teaching that you were given. ¹⁸ You have been made free from sin, and you have been made slaves of righteousness. ¹⁹ I speak like a man because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented the members of your bodies as slaves to uncleanness and to lawlessness, resulting in more lawlessness, in the same way, now present the members of your bodies as slaves to righteousness for sanctification. ²⁰ For when you were slaves of sin, you were free from righteousness. ²¹ At that time, what fruit then did you have of the things of which you are now ashamed? For the outcome of those things is death. ²² But now that you have been made free from sin and are enslaved to God, you have your fruit for sanctification. The result is eternal life. ²³ For the wages of sin are death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Chapter 7

¹ Or do you not know, brothers (for I am speaking to people who know about law), that the law rules over a person for whatever time he lives? ² For the married woman is bound by law to the husband while he lives, but if the husband dies, she is released from the law of marriage. ³ So then, while her husband is living, if she lives with another man, she will be called an adulteress. But if the husband dies, she is free from the law, so she is not an adulteress if she lives with another man. ⁴ Therefore, my brothers, you were also made dead to the law through the body of Christ. This is so that you could be joined to another, that is, to him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might produce fruit for God. ⁵ For when we were in the flesh, the sinful passions, aroused by the law, were at work in the members of our bodies to bear fruit for death. ⁶ But now we have been released from the law. We have died to that by which we were bound. This is so that we might serve in newness of the Spirit, and not in oldness of the letter.

⁷ What will we say then? Is the law itself sin? May it never be. However, I would never have known sin, if it were not through the law. For I would not have known covetousness unless the law said, "You must not covet." ⁸ But sin took the opportunity through the commandment and produced every kind of coveting in me. For apart from the law, sin was dead. ⁹ At one time I was alive without the law, but when the commandment came, sin regained life ¹⁰ and I died. The commandment that was to bring life turned out to be death for me. ¹¹ For sin took the opportunity through the commandment and deceived me. Through the commandment it killed me. ¹² So the law is holy, and the commandment is holy, righteous, and good.

¹³ So did what is good become death to me? May it never be. But sin, in order that it might be shown to be sin, brought about death in me through what was good, and through the commandment sin might become sinful beyond measure. ¹⁴ For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh. I have been sold under slavery to sin. ¹⁵ For what I do, I do not really understand. For what I want to do, I do not do, and what I hate, I do. ¹⁶ But if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law that the law is good. ¹⁷ But now it is no longer I who do it, but the sin that lives in me. ¹⁸ For I know that in me, that is in my flesh, lives no good thing. For the desire for good is with me, but I cannot do it. ¹⁹ For the good that I want, I do not do, but the evil that I do not want, that I do. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want to do, then it is no longer I who am acting, but rather sin that lives in me. ²¹ So, I find this law: When I want to do good, evil is present with me. ²² For I rejoice in the law of God with my inner person. ²³ But I see a different law in the members of my body. It fights against that new law in my mind. It takes me captive by the law of sin that is in the members of my body. ²⁴ I am a miserable man! Who will deliver me from this body of death? ²⁵ But thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind. However, with the flesh I serve the law of sin.

Chapter 8

¹ There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death. ³ For what the law was unable to do because it was weak through the flesh, God did. He sent his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be an offering for sin, and he condemned sin in the flesh. ⁴ He did this in order that the requirements of the law might be fulfilled in us, we who walk not according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. ⁵ Those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶ For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ The mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God, for it does not submit to God's law, nor is it able to do so. ⁸ Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. ⁹ However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed God's Spirit lives in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to him. ¹⁰ If Christ is in you, the body is dead with respect to sin, but the spirit is alive with respect to righteousness. ¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead lives in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life also to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.

¹² So then, brothers, we are debtors, but not to the flesh to live according to the flesh. ¹³ For if you live according to the flesh, you are about to die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the body's actions, you will live. ¹⁴ For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. ¹⁵ You did not receive a spirit of slavery so that you live in fear again; but you received the Spirit of adoption, by which we cry, "Abba, Father!" ¹⁶ The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God. ¹⁷ If we are children, then we are also heirs, heirs of God. And we are joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that will be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the eager expectation of the creation waits for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be delivered from slavery to decay, and that it will be brought into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² For we know that the whole creation groans and labors in pain together even now. ²³ Not only that, but even we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly, as we wait eagerly for our adoption, the redemption of our body. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he can see? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

²⁶ In the same way, the Spirit also helps in our weakness. For we do not know how we should pray, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with inexpressible groans. ²⁷ He who searches out the hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because he intercedes on behalf of God's holy people according to the will of God. ²⁸ We know that for those who love God, he works all things together for good, ^[1] for those who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ Because those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰ Those whom he predestined, these he also called. Those whom he called, these he also justified. Those whom he justified, these he also glorified.

³¹ What, therefore, can we say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son but delivered him up on behalf of us all, how will he not also with him freely give us all things? ³³ Who will bring any accusation against God's chosen ones? God is the one who justifies. ³⁴ Who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, and who also is interceding for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or hunger, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶ Just as it is written,

"For your benefit we are killed all day long.
We were considered as sheep for the slaughter."

³⁷ In all these things we are more than conquerors through the one who loved us. ³⁸ For I have been convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor governments, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Footnotes

8:28 ^[1]Instead of

Chapter 9

¹ I tell the truth in Christ. I do not lie, and my conscience bears witness with me in the Holy Spirit ² that for me there is great sorrow and unceasing pain in my heart. ³ For I could wish that I myself would be cursed and set apart from Christ for the sake of my brothers, my kinsmen according to the flesh. ⁴ They are Israelites. They have adoption, the glory, the covenants, the gift of the law, the ministry in the temple, and the promises. ⁵ Theirs are the patriarchs from whom Christ has come with respect to the flesh—he who is God over all. May he be praised forever. Amen.

⁶ But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For it is not everyone in Israel who truly belongs to Israel. ⁷ Neither are all Abraham's descendants truly his children. But, "It is through Isaac that your descendants will be called." ⁸ That is, the children of the flesh are not the children of God. But the children of the promise are regarded as descendants. ⁹ For this is the word of promise: "At this time I will come, and a son will be given to Sarah." ¹⁰ Not only this, but after Rebekah also had conceived by one man, our father Isaac— ¹¹ for the children were not yet born and had not yet done anything good or bad, so that the purpose of God according to choice might stand, ¹² not because of actions, but because of him who calls—it was said to her, "The older will serve the younger." ¹³ It is just as had been written: "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated."

¹⁴ What then will we say? Is there unrighteousness with God? May it never be. ¹⁵ For he says to Moses,

"I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy,
and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion."

¹⁶ So then, it is not because of him who wills, nor because of him who runs, but because of God, who shows mercy. ¹⁷ For the scripture says to Pharaoh, "For this very purpose I raised you up, so that I might demonstrate my power in you, and so that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth." ¹⁸ So then, God has mercy on whom he wishes, and whom he wishes, he makes stubborn.

¹⁹ You will say then to me, "Why does he still find fault? For who has ever withstood his will?" ²⁰ On the contrary, man, who are you who answers against God? Will what has been molded say to the one who molds it, "Why did you make me this way?" ²¹ Does the potter not have the right over the clay to make from the same lump a container for honorable use, and another container for dishonorable use? ²² What if God, who is willing to show his wrath and to make his power known, endured with much patience containers of wrath prepared for destruction? ²³ What if he did this in order that he might make known the riches of his glory upon containers of mercy, which he had previously prepared for glory? ²⁴ What if he did this also for us, whom he also called, not only from among the Jews, but also from among the Gentiles? ²⁵ As he says also in Hosea:

"I will call them 'my people' who were not my people,
and her 'beloved' who was not beloved.

²⁶ Then it will be that where it was said to them,
'You are not my people,'
there they will be called 'sons of the living God.'"

²⁷ Isaiah cries out concerning Israel,

"Though the number of the sons of Israel were as the sand of the sea,
it will be a remnant that will be saved,

²⁸ for the Lord will execute his word
on the earth completely and without delay."

²⁹ As Isaiah had said previously,

"If the Lord of hosts
had not left us descendants,
we would be like Sodom,
and we would have become like Gomorrah."

30 What will we say then? That the Gentiles, who were not pursuing righteousness, laid hold of righteousness, the righteousness by faith. **31** But Israel, who did pursue a law of righteousness, did not arrive at that law. **32** Why not? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as if by works. They stumbled over the stone of stumbling, **33** as it has been written,

"Look, I am laying in Zion a stone of stumbling
and a rock of offense.
He who believes in it will not be ashamed."

Chapter 10

¹ Brothers, my heart's desire and my plea to God is for them, for their salvation. ² For I testify about them that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. ³ For, failing to understand the righteousness that comes from God, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, they did not submit to God's righteousness. ⁴ For Christ is the fulfillment of the law for righteousness for everyone who believes. ⁵ For Moses writes about the righteousness that comes from the law: "The man who does these things will live by them." ⁶ But the righteousness that comes from faith says this: "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?' (that is, to bring Christ down); ⁷ and do not say, 'Who will descend into the abyss?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸ But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart." That is the word of faith, which we proclaim. ⁹ For if with your mouth you confess Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes and has righteousness, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. ¹¹ For scripture says, "Everyone who believes on him will not be put to shame." ¹² For there is no difference between Jew and Greek. For the same Lord is Lord of all, and he is rich to all who call upon him. ¹³ For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. ¹⁴ How then can they call on him in whom they have not believed? How can they believe in him of whom they have not heard? How can they hear without a preacher? ¹⁵ Then how can they preach, unless they are sent?—As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who proclaim good news!"

¹⁶ But not all of them obeyed the good news. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our report?" ¹⁷ So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ. ¹⁸ But I say, "Did they not hear?" Yes, most certainly.

"Their sound has gone out into all the earth,
and their words to the ends of the world."

¹⁹ Moreover, I say, "Did Israel not know?" First Moses says,

"I will provoke you to jealousy by what is not a nation.
By means of a nation without understanding, I will stir you up to anger."

²⁰ Then Isaiah was very bold when he says,

"I was found by those who did not seek me.
I appeared to those who did not ask for me."

²¹ But to Israel he says,

"All the day long I reached out my hands
to a disobedient and stubborn people."

Chapter 11

¹ I say then, did God reject his people? May it never be. For I also am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. ² God did not reject his people, whom he foreknew. Do you not know what the scripture says about Elijah, how he pleaded with God against Israel? ³ "Lord, they have killed your prophets, they have broken down your altars. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life." ⁴ But what does God's answer say to him? "I have reserved for myself seven thousand men who have not bent the knee to Baal." ⁵ Even so then, at this present time also there is a remnant because of the choice of grace. ⁶ But if it is by grace, it is no longer based on works. Otherwise grace would no longer be grace. ¹⁷ What then? The thing that Israel was seeking, it did not obtain, but the chosen obtained it, and the rest were hardened. ⁸ It is just as it is written:

"God has given them a spirit of dullness,
eyes so that they should not see,
and ears so that they should not hear,
to this very day."

⁹ Then David says,

"Let their table become a snare and a trap,
a stumbling block and a retribution for them.

¹⁰ Let their eyes be darkened so that they may not see,
and bend their backs continually."

¹¹ I say then, "Did they stumble so as to fall?" May it never be. Instead, by their trespass, salvation has come to the Gentiles, in order to provoke them to jealousy. ¹² Now if their trespass is the riches of the world, and if their loss is the riches of the Gentiles, how much greater will their fulfillment be? ¹³ But now I am speaking to you Gentiles, and as long as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I take pride in my ministry. ¹⁴ Perhaps I will provoke to jealousy those who are of my own flesh. Perhaps we will save some of them. ¹⁵ For if their rejection means the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead? ¹⁶ If the firstfruits are holy, so is the lump of dough. If the root is holy, so are the branches. ¹⁷ But if some of the branches were broken off, if you, a wild olive branch, were grafted in among them, and if you shared with them in the rich root of the olive tree, ¹⁸ do not boast over the branches. But if you do boast, it is not you who supports the root, but the root that supports you. ¹⁹ You will say then, "Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in." ²⁰ That is true. Because of their unbelief they were broken off, but you stand firm because of your faith. Do not be arrogant in your thoughts, but fear. ²¹ For if God did not spare the natural branches, neither will he spare you. ²² Look at, then, the kind actions and the severity of God: severity came on the Jews who fell, but God's kindness comes on you, if you continue in his kindness. Otherwise you also will be cut off. ²³ And even they, if they do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in. For God is able to graft them in again. ²⁴ For if you were cut out of what is by nature a wild olive tree, and contrary to nature were grafted into a good olive tree, how much more will these, the natural branches, be grafted back into their own olive tree?

²⁵ For I do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, of this mystery, so that you may not be wise in your own thinking: A partial hardening has come upon Israel until the full number of the Gentiles comes in. ²⁶ Thus all Israel will be saved, just as it is written:

"Out of Zion will come the Deliverer.
He will remove ungodliness from Jacob,

²⁷ and this will be my covenant with them,
when I will take away their sins."

²⁸ As far as the gospel is concerned, they are enemies for your sake. But as far as election is concerned, they are beloved because of the patriarchs. ²⁹ For the gifts and the call of God are irrevocable. ³⁰ For just as you were formerly disobedient to God, now you have received mercy because of their disobedience. ³¹ In the same way, now these Jews have been disobedient. The result was that by the mercy shown to you

they may also now receive mercy. ³² For God has shut up all into disobedience in order that he might show mercy on all.

³³ Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and the knowledge of God!
How unsearchable are his judgments,
and his ways beyond discovering!

³⁴ "For who has known the mind of the Lord
or who has become his advisor?

³⁵ Or who has first given anything to God,
that God must repay him?"

³⁶ For from him and through him and to him are all things.

To him be the glory forever. Amen.

Footnotes

11:6 ^[1]Some old copies read

Chapter 12

¹ I urge you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God. This is your reasonable service. ² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind. Do this so that you can test and approve what is the good, acceptable, and perfect will of God.

³ For by the grace that was given to me I say to everyone among you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather, think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has given you. ⁴ For we have many members in one body, but not all the members have the same function. ⁵ In the same way, we who are many are one body in Christ, and are individually members of each other. ⁶ We have different gifts according to the grace that was given to us. If one's gift is prophecy, let it be done according to the proportion of his faith. ⁷ If one's gift is service, let him serve. If one has the gift of teaching, let him teach. ⁸ If one's gift is encouragement, let him encourage. If one's gift is giving, let him do it generously. If one's gift is leading, let it be done with diligence. If one's gift is in showing mercy, let it be done with cheerfulness.

⁹ Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; hold on to that which is good. ¹⁰ Concerning love of the brothers, be affectionate to one another. Concerning honor, respect one another. ¹¹ Concerning diligence, do not be hesitant. Concerning the spirit, be eager. Concerning the Lord, serve him. ¹² Rejoice in hope, endure tribulation, be faithful in prayer. ¹³ Share in the needs of God's holy people. Find many ways to show hospitality. ¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not think in proud ways, but accept lowly people. Do not be wise in your own thoughts. ¹⁷ Repay no one evil for evil. Do good things in the sight of all people. ¹⁸ If possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with all people. ¹⁹ Do not avenge yourselves, beloved, but give way to the wrath of God. For it is written, "Vengeance belongs to me; I will repay," says the Lord."

²⁰ But "if your enemy is hungry, feed him.
If he is thirsty, give him a drink.
For if you do this, you will heap coals of fire on his head."

²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Chapter 13

¹ Let every soul be subject to higher authorities, for there is no authority unless it comes from God. The authorities that exist have been appointed by God. ² Therefore he who rebels against that authority opposes the command of God; and those who oppose it will receive judgment on themselves. ³ For rulers are not a terror to those who do good deeds, but to those who do evil deeds. Do you desire to have no fear of the one in authority? Do what is good, and you will receive his praise. ⁴ For he is a servant of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for he does not carry the sword for no reason. For he is a servant of God, an avenger for wrath on the one who does evil. ⁵ Therefore you must be subject, not only because of the wrath, but also because of conscience. ⁶ Because of this you pay taxes also. For authorities are servants of God, who attend to this very thing continually. ⁷ Pay to everyone what is owed to them: tax to whom tax is due, toll to whom toll is due, fear to whom fear is due, honor to whom honor is due.

⁸ Owe no one anything, except to love one another. For he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, "Do not commit adultery, do not murder, do not steal, do not covet," and if there is any other commandment it is summed up in this, "Love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰ Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore, love is the fulfillment of the law.

¹¹ Because of this, you know the time, that it is already the hour for you to awake out of sleep. For now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. ¹² The night has advanced, and the day is near. Let us therefore put aside the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. ¹³ Let us walk appropriately, as in the day, not in drunken celebrations or drunkenness; and let us not walk in sexual immorality or in uncontrolled lust, and not in strife or jealousy. ¹⁴ But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its lusts.

Chapter 14

¹ Receive anyone who is weak in faith, without giving judgment about arguments. ² One person has faith to eat anything, another who is weak eats only vegetables. ³ May the one who eats everything not despise the one who does not; and may the one who does not eat everything not judge the other who eats everything. For God has accepted him. ⁴ Who are you, you who judge a servant belonging to someone else? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. But he will be made to stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand. ⁵ One person values one day above another. Another has concluded that every day is equal. Let each person be convinced in his own mind. ⁶ He who observes the day, observes it for the Lord; and he who eats, eats for the Lord, for he gives thanks to God. He who does not eat, refrains from eating for the Lord; he also gives thanks to God. ⁷ For none of us lives for himself, and none dies for himself. ⁸ For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord. Then whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this purpose Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord of both the dead and those who are living. ¹⁰ But you, why do you judge your brother? And you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹ For it is written,

"As I live," says the Lord, "
to me every knee will bend,
and every tongue will confess to God."

¹² So then, each one of us will give an account of himself to God.

¹³ Therefore, let us no longer judge one another, but instead decide this, that no one will place a stumbling block or a snare for his brother. ¹⁴ I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean by itself. Only for him who considers anything to be unclean, for him it is unclean. ¹⁵ If because of food your brother is hurt, you are no longer walking in love. Do not destroy with your food one for whom Christ died. ¹⁶ So do not allow what you consider to be good to be spoken of as evil. ¹⁷ For the kingdom of God is not about food and drink, but about righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit. ¹⁸ For the one who serves Christ in this way is acceptable to God and approved by people. ¹⁹ So then, let us pursue the things of peace and the things that build up one another. ²⁰ Do not destroy the work of God on account of food. All things are clean, but it is wrong for a man to eat anything that causes someone to stumble. ²¹ It is good not to eat meat, nor to drink wine, nor to do anything over which your brother stumbles. ²² The faith you have, keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the one who does not condemn himself by what he approves. ²³ He who doubts is condemned if he eats, because it is not from faith. And whatever is not from faith is sin.

Chapter 15

¹ Now we who are strong ought to bear the weaknesses of the weak, and ought not to please ourselves. ² Let each one of us please his neighbor for that which is good, in order to build him up. ³ For even Christ did not please himself. Instead, it was just as it is written, "The insults of those who insulted you fell on me." ⁴ For whatever was previously written was written for our instruction in order that through patience and through encouragement of the scriptures we would have hope. ⁵ Now may the God of patience and of encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with each other according to Christ Jesus. ⁶ May he do this in order that with one mind you may glorify with one mouth the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷ Therefore receive one another, even as Christ also received you, to the glory of God. ⁸ For I say that Christ has been made a servant of the circumcision on behalf of God's truth, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹ and for the Gentiles to glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will give praise to you among the Gentiles
and sing praise to your name."

¹⁰ Again it says,

"Rejoice, you Gentiles, with his people."

¹¹ And again,

"Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles;
let all the peoples praise him."

¹² Again, Isaiah says,

"The root of Jesse will come,
the one who rises to rule over the Gentiles;
in him the Gentiles will have hope."

¹³ Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

¹⁴ I myself am also convinced about you, my brothers. I am convinced that also you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge. I am convinced that you are also able to instruct one another. ¹⁵ But I am writing more boldly to you about some things in order to remind you again, because of the grace given me by God. ¹⁶ This grace was that I should be a servant of Christ Jesus sent to the Gentiles, to offer as a priest the gospel of God, so that the offering of the Gentiles might become acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit. ¹⁷ In Christ Jesus I have reason to boast of my service for God. ¹⁸ For I will not dare to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me for the obedience of the Gentiles. These are things done by word and action, ¹⁹ by the power of signs and wonders, and by the power of the Spirit of God. This was so that from Jerusalem, and round about as far as Illyricum, I might fully carry out the gospel of Christ. ²⁰ In this way, my desire has been to proclaim the gospel, but not where Christ is known by name, in order that I might not build upon another man's foundation. ²¹ It is as it is written:

"Those to whom no report of him came will see him,
and those who have not heard will understand."

²² Therefore I was also hindered many times from coming to you. ²³ But now, I no longer have any place in these regions, and I have been longing for many years to come to you. ²⁴ I hope to see you when I pass through there on my way to Spain, and to be helped by you on my journey there, once I have enjoyed your company for a while. ²⁵ But now I am going to Jerusalem, serving God's holy people. ²⁶ For it was the

good pleasure of Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution to the poor among God's holy people who are in Jerusalem. ²⁷ Yes, it was their good pleasure, and they owe it to them. For if the Gentiles have shared in their spiritual things, they owe it to the Jews to minister to them with their material things. ²⁸ Therefore, when I have completed this task and have made sure that they receive all that was collected, I will go to Spain and visit you on the way. ²⁹ I know that when I come to you I will come in the fullness of the blessing of Christ.

³⁰ Now I urge you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ, and by the love of the Spirit, that you strive together with me in your prayers to God for me. ³¹ Pray that I may be rescued from those who are disobedient in Judea, and that my service for Jerusalem may be acceptable to God's holy people. ³² Pray that I may come to you in joy through the will of God, and that I may, together with you, find rest. ³³ May the God of peace be with you all. Amen.

Chapter 16

¹ I commend to you Phoebe our sister, who is a servant of the church that is in Cenchreae, ² in order that you may receive her in the Lord. Do this in a manner worthy of God's holy people, and provide her with whatever help she may need from you, for she has been a great help to many and to myself as well.

³ Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, ⁴ who for my life risked their own lives. I give thanks to them, and not only I, but also all the churches of the Gentiles.

⁵ Greet the church that is in their house. Greet Epänetus my beloved, who is the firstfruit of Asia to Christ.

⁶ Greet Mary, who has labored hard for you.

⁷ Greet Andronicus and Junia, my kinsmen and fellow prisoners. They are well known among the apostles, and they were in Christ before me.

⁸ Greet Ampliatus, my beloved in the Lord.

⁹ Greet Urbanus, our fellow worker in Christ, and Stachys, my beloved.

¹⁰ Greet Apelles, the approved in Christ. Greet those who are of the household of Aristobulus.

¹¹ Greet Herodion, my kinsman. Greet those of the household of Narcissus who are in the Lord.

¹² Greet Tryphaena and Tryphosa, laborers in the Lord. Greet Persis the beloved, who has labored much in the Lord.

¹³ Greet Rufus, chosen in the Lord, and his mother and mine.

¹⁴ Greet Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas, and the brothers who are with them.

¹⁵ Greet Philologus and Julia, Nereus and his sister, and Olympas, and all God's holy people who are with them.

¹⁶ Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ greet you.

¹⁷ Now I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and stumbling contrary to the teaching that you have learned. Turn away from them. ¹⁸ For people such as these do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own stomach. By their smooth and flattering speech they deceive the hearts of the innocent. ¹⁹ For your example of obedience reaches everyone. I rejoice, therefore, over you, but I want you to be wise as to that which is good, and innocent to that which is evil. ²⁰ The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

²¹ Timothy, my fellow worker, greets you, and Lucius, Jason, and Sosipater, my kinsmen. ²² I, Tertius, who write this epistle down, greet you in the Lord. ²³ Gaius, the host for me and for the whole church, greets you. Erastus, the treasurer of the city, greets you, with Quartus the brother. ²⁴^[1]

²⁵ Now to him who is able to make you strong according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ,

according to the revelation of the mystery that had been kept secret for long ages

²⁶ but now has been revealed and made known through the prophetic writings to all nations, by the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—

²⁷ to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be glory forever. Amen.

Footnotes

16:24 ^[1]The best ancient copies do not have this verse. (See: Romans 16:20). v. 24

1 Corinthians

Chapter 1

¹ Paul, called by Christ Jesus to be an apostle by the will of God, and Sosthenes our brother,

² to the church of God at Corinth, those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be holy people, together with all those in every place who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is their Lord and ours.

³ May grace and peace be to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴ I always give thanks to my God for you because of the grace of God that Christ Jesus gave to you. ⁵ He has made you rich in every way, in all speech and with all knowledge, ⁶ just as the testimony about Christ has been confirmed as true among you. ⁷ Therefore you lack no spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸ He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God is faithful, who called you into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

¹⁰ Now I urge you, brothers, through the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree, and that there be no divisions among you. I urge that you be joined together with the same mind and by the same purpose. ¹¹ For I have been informed concerning you, my brothers, by Chloe's people that there are factions among you. ¹² I mean this: Each one of you says, "I am with Paul," or "I am with Apollos," or "I am with Cephas," or "I am with Christ." ¹³ Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptized into the name of Paul? ¹⁴ I thank God that I baptized none of you, except Crispus and Gaius. ¹⁵ This was so that no one would say that you were baptized into my name. ¹⁶ (I also baptized the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know if I baptized any others.) ¹⁷ For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel—not with clever speech, in order that the cross of Christ would not be emptied of its power.

¹⁸ For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing. But among those who are being saved, it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written,

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise.
I will set aside the understanding of the intelligent."

²⁰ Where is the wise person? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this world? Has not God turned the wisdom of the world into foolishness? ²¹ Since the world in its wisdom did not know God, God was pleased to save those who believe through the foolishness of preaching. ²² For Jews ask for miraculous signs and Greeks seek wisdom. ²³ But we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles. ²⁴ But to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, we preach Christ as the power and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For the foolishness of God is wiser than people, and the weakness of God is stronger than people.

²⁶ Look at your calling, brothers. Not many of you were wise according to the flesh. Not many of you were powerful. Not many of you were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise. God chose what is weak in the world to shame what is strong. ²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world. He even chose things that are regarded as nothing, to bring to nothing things that are held as valuable. ²⁹ He did this so that no flesh would have a reason to boast before him. ³⁰ Because of what God did, now you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God. He became our righteousness, holiness, and redemption. ³¹ As a result, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

Chapter 2

¹ When I came to you, brothers, I did not come with eloquence of speech or wisdom as I proclaimed hidden truths about God. ^[1]² For I decided to know nothing when I was among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. ³ And I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. ⁴ And my message and my proclamation were not with persuasive words of wisdom, but with the demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵ so that your faith might not be in the wisdom of humans, but in the power of God.

⁶ Now we do speak wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this world, or of the rulers of this age, who are passing away. ⁷ Instead, we speak God's wisdom in hidden truth, the hidden wisdom that God predestined before the ages for our glory. ⁸ None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had understood it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹ But as it is written,

"No eye has seen,
no ear has heard,
no human heart has imagined
what God has prepared for those who love him"—

¹⁰ For God has revealed these things to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything out, even the deep things of God. ^[2]¹¹ For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of the person in him? So also, no one knows the deep things of God except the Spirit of God. ¹² But we did not receive the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, so that we might know the things freely given to us by God. ¹³ We speak about these things in words not taught by human wisdom but by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to spiritual people. ¹⁴ The unspiritual person does not receive the things that belong to the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him. He cannot understand them because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵ The one who is spiritual judges all things, but he is not judged by others.

¹⁶ "For who can know the mind of the Lord,
that he can instruct him?"

But we have the mind of Christ.

Footnotes

2:1 ^[1]A few important and ancient Greek copies read,

2:10 ^[2]Some ancient Greek copies say

Chapter 3

¹ And I, brothers, could not speak to you as spiritual people, but instead as to fleshly people, as to little children in Christ. ² I fed you milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it; and even now you are not yet ready. ³ For you are still fleshly. For where jealousy and strife exist among you, are you not living according to the flesh, and are you not walking by human standards? ⁴ For when one says, "I follow Paul," and another says, "I follow Apollos," are you not merely human beings? ⁵ Who then is Apollos? Who is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, just as the Lord gave tasks to each. ⁶ I planted and Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. ⁷ So then, neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything. But it is God who gives the growth. ⁸ Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his own wages according to his own labor. ⁹ For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's garden, God's building.

¹⁰ According to the grace of God that was given to me as a skilled master builder, I laid a foundation and another is building on it. But let each man be careful how he builds on it. ¹¹ For no one can lay a foundation other than the one that has been laid, that is, Jesus Christ. ¹² Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, or straw, ¹³ his work will be revealed, for the day will reveal it. For it will be revealed in fire. The fire will test the quality of what each one has done. ¹⁴ If anyone's work remains, he will receive a reward; ¹⁵ but if anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, but he himself will be saved, as though escaping through fire.

¹⁶ Do you not know that you are God's temple and that the Spirit of God lives in you? ¹⁷ If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person. For God's temple is holy, and so are you.

¹⁸ Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you thinks he is wise in this age, let him become a "fool" that he may become wise. ¹⁹ For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written,

"He catches the wise in their craftiness."

²⁰ And again,

"The Lord knows that the reasoning of the wise is futile."

²¹ For this reason, let no one boast in men. All things are yours, ²² whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come. All things are yours, ²³ and you are Christ's, and Christ is God's.

Chapter 4

¹ This is how a person should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the hidden truths of God. ² Now what is required of stewards is that they are found to be trustworthy. ³ But for me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. For I do not even judge myself. ⁴ I am not aware of any charge being made against me, but that does not justify me. The one who judges me is the Lord. ⁵ Therefore do not pronounce judgment about anything before the time, before the Lord comes. He will bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his praise from God.

⁶ Now, brothers, I applied these principles to myself and Apollos for your sakes, so that from us you might learn the meaning of the saying,

"Do not go beyond what is written."

This is so that none of you may be puffed up in favor of one against the other. ⁷ For who sees any difference between you and others? What do you have that you did not receive? If you have received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it? ⁸ Already you have all you could want! Already you have become rich! You began to reign—and that quite apart from us! Indeed, I wish you did reign, so that we could reign with you. ⁹ For I think God has put us apostles on display as the last in line, in a procession and like men sentenced to death. We have become a spectacle to the world—to angels, and to human beings. ¹⁰ We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are held in honor, but we are held in dishonor. ¹¹ Up to this present hour we are hungry and thirsty, we are poorly clothed, we are beaten, and we are homeless. ¹² We labor hard, working with our own hands. When we are slandered, we bless. When we are persecuted, we endure. ¹³ When we are slandered, we speak with kindness. We have become as the refuse of the world and the filthiest of all things, even till now.

¹⁴ I do not write these things to shame you, but to warn you as my beloved children. ¹⁵ For even if you have ten thousand guardians in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel. ¹⁶ So I urge you to be imitators of me. ¹⁷ That is why I sent you Timothy, my beloved and faithful child in the Lord. He will remind you of my ways in Christ, just as I teach them everywhere and in every church. ¹⁸ Now some of you have become puffed up, acting as though I were not coming to you. ¹⁹ But I will come to you soon, if the Lord wills. Then I will know not merely the words of these who are so puffed up, but I will see their power. ²⁰ For the kingdom of God does not consist in words but in power. ²¹ What do you want? Should I come to you with a rod or with love and in a spirit of gentleness?

Chapter 5

¹ We heard a report that there is sexual immorality among you, a kind of immorality that is not even permitted among the pagans: A man has his father's wife. ² You are puffed up! Should you not mourn instead, so that the one who did this deed might be removed from among you? ³ For even though I am absent in body, I am present in spirit. I have already passed judgment on the one who did this, just as though I were there. ⁴ When you are assembled in the name of our Lord Jesus and I am with you in spirit, and the power of our Lord Jesus is present, ⁵ deliver this man over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved on the day of the Lord. ⁶ Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little yeast leavens the whole loaf? ⁷ Cleanse yourselves of the old yeast so that you may be a new batch of dough, unleavened, just as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. ⁸ So let us then celebrate the festival, not with the old yeast, the yeast of bad behavior and wickedness. Instead, let us celebrate with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

⁹ I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people. ¹⁰ In no way did I mean the immoral people of this world, or the greedy, or swindlers, or idolaters, since to stay away from them you would need to go out of the world. ¹¹ But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who is called a brother but who is living in sexual immorality, or who is greedy, or is an idolater, or is verbally abusive, or is a drunkard, or a swindler. Do not even eat a meal with such a person. ¹² For how am I involved with judging those who are outside the church? Instead, are you not to judge those who are inside the church? ¹³ But God judges those who are on the outside.

"Remove the evil person from among you."

Chapter 6

¹ When one of you has a dispute against another, does he dare to bring a lawsuit before the unrighteous rather than before God's holy people? ² Do you not know that God's holy people will judge the world? If then you will judge the world, are you not able to settle matters of little importance? ³ Do you not know that we will judge the angels? How much more, then, can we judge matters of this life? ⁴ If then you have to make judgments that pertain to daily life, why do you lay such cases as these before those who have no standing in the church? ⁵ I say this to your shame. Is there no one among you wise enough to settle a dispute between brothers? ⁶ But one brother brings a lawsuit against another brother—and this before unbelievers! ⁷ The fact that you have lawsuits with one another is already a defeat for you. Why not rather suffer the wrong? Why not rather allow yourselves to be cheated? ⁸ But you yourselves do wrong and you cheat, and you do this to your own brothers! ⁹ Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who submit to homosexual acts, nor men who perform homosexual acts, ¹⁰ nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor slanderers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹ That is what some of you were like. But you have been cleansed, you have been sanctified, you have been justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

¹² "Everything is lawful for me," but not everything is profitable. "Everything is lawful for me," but I will not be mastered by any of them. ¹³ "Food is for the stomach, and the stomach is for food," but God will do away with both of them. The body is not intended for sexual immorality. Instead, the body is for the Lord, and the Lord will provide for the body. ¹⁴ God both raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. ¹⁵ Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Should I then take the members of Christ and join them to a prostitute? May it not be! ¹⁶ Do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? As scripture says, "The two will become one flesh." ¹⁷ But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. ¹⁸ Run away from sexual immorality! Every other sin that a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. ¹⁹ Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives within you, whom you have from God? Do you not know that you are not your own? ²⁰ For you were bought with a price. Therefore glorify God with your body and in your spirit, which belong to God.

Chapter 7

¹ Now concerning the issues you wrote about: "It is good for a man not to touch a woman." ² But because of temptations for many immoral acts, each man should have his own wife, and each woman should have her own husband. ³ The husband should fulfill his duty to have sexual relations with his wife, and in the same way the wife to her husband. ⁴ It is not the wife who has authority over her own body, it is the husband. In the same way, the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. ⁵ Do not deprive each other, except by mutual agreement and for a specific period of time. Do this so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then you should come together again, so that Satan may not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

⁶ But I say these things to you as a concession and not as a command. ⁷ I wish that everyone were as I am. But each one has his own gift from God. One has this kind of gift, and another that kind. ⁸ To the unmarried and to widows I say that it is good for them if they remain unmarried, as I am. ⁹ But if they cannot exercise self-control, they should marry. For it is better for them to marry than to burn with passion. ¹⁰ Now to the married I give this command—not I, but the Lord—the wife should not separate from her husband ¹¹ (but if she does separate from her husband, she should remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband), and the husband should not divorce his wife. ¹² But to the rest I say—I, not the Lord—that if any brother has a wife who is an unbeliever, and if she is content to live with him, he should not divorce her. ¹³ If a woman has an unbelieving husband, and if he is content to live with her, she should not divorce him. ¹⁴ For the unbelieving husband is set apart because of his wife, and the unbelieving wife is set apart because of the brother. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but actually they are set apart. ¹⁵ But if the unbeliever departs, let him go. In such cases, the brother or sister is not bound to their vows. God has called us to live in peace. ¹⁶ For how do you know, woman, whether you will save your husband? Or how do you know, man, whether you will save your wife? ¹⁷ However, as the Lord has given each one his portion, let each one walk as God has called him. This is my rule in all the churches. ¹⁸ Was anyone circumcised when he was called to believe? He should not try to appear uncircumcised. Was anyone uncircumcised when he was called to faith? He should not be circumcised. ¹⁹ For it is neither circumcision nor uncircumcision that matters. What matters is obeying the commandments of God. ²⁰ Each one should remain in the calling he was in when God called him to believe. ²¹ Were you a slave when God called you? Do not be concerned about it. But if you can become free, take advantage of it. ²² For someone who is called by the Lord as a slave is the Lord's freeman. In the same way, the one who was free when he was called to believe is Christ's slave. ²³ You have been bought with a price, so do not become slaves of men. ²⁴ Brothers, in whatever situation he was in when he was called, let each one remain with God in that.

²⁵ Now concerning virgins, I have no commandment from the Lord. But I give my opinion as one who, by the Lord's mercy, is trustworthy. ²⁶ Therefore, I think that because of the disaster that is coming, it is good for a man to remain as he is. ²⁷ Are you bound to a wife? Do not seek a divorce. If you are free of a wife, do not seek a wife. ²⁸ But if you do marry, you have not sinned, and if a virgin marries, she has not sinned. But those who do will have many kinds of fleshly trouble, and I want to spare you from this. ²⁹ But this I say, brothers: The time is short. From now on, let those who have wives live as though they had none. ³⁰ Those who weep should act as though they were not weeping, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they did not possess anything, ³¹ and those who use the world should not act as though they are using it to the full. For the world in its present form is coming to an end. ³² I would like you to be free from worries. The unmarried man is concerned about the things of the Lord, how to please him. ³³ But the married man is concerned about the things of the world, how to please his wife— ³⁴ he is divided. The unmarried woman or the virgin is concerned about the things of the Lord, how to be set apart in body and in spirit. But the married woman is concerned about the things of the world, how to please her husband. ³⁵ I say this for your own benefit, and not to put any constraint on you. I say this for what is right, so that you may be devoted to the Lord without any distraction. ³⁶ But if anyone thinks that he is not treating his virgin with respect—if she is beyond the age of marriage and it must be so—he should do what he wants. He is not sinning. They should marry. ³⁷ But if he is standing firm in his heart, if he is not under pressure but can control his own will, and if he has decided in his own heart to do this, to keep his own a virgin, he will do well. ³⁸ So the one who marries his virgin does well, and the one who chooses not to marry will do even better. ³⁹ A woman is bound to

her husband while he lives. But if her husband dies, she is free to marry anyone she wishes, but only in the Lord. ⁴⁰ Yet in my judgment she would be happier if she lives as she is. And I think that I also have the Spirit of God.

Chapter 8

¹ Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: We know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. ² If anyone thinks he knows something, that person does not yet know as he should know. ³ But if anyone loves God, that person is known by him. ⁴ Therefore, concerning the eating of food sacrificed to idols: We know that an idol in this world is nothing and that there is no God but one. ⁵ For even if there were so-called gods, either in heaven or on earth (just as there are many "gods" and many "lords"), ⁶ yet for us there is only one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we live, and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom all things exist, and through whom we exist.

⁷ However, this knowledge is not in everyone. Instead, some previously practiced idol worship, and they eat this food as if it were something sacrificed to an idol. Their conscience is thereby defiled because it is weak. ⁸ But food will not present us to God. We are not worse if we do not eat, nor better if we do eat it. ⁹ But take care that your freedom does not become a reason for someone who is weak in faith to stumble.

¹⁰ For suppose that someone sees you, who have knowledge, eating a meal in an idol's temple. Is not his weak conscience emboldened to eat what is offered to idols? ¹¹ So because of your understanding about the true nature of idols, the weaker one, the brother for whom Christ died, is destroyed. ¹² Thus, when you sin against your brothers and wound their weak consciences, you sin against Christ. ¹³ Therefore, if food causes my brother to stumble, I will never eat meat again, so that I may not cause my brother to fall.

Chapter 9

¹ Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord? ² If I am not an apostle to others, at least I am to you. For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord. ³ This is my defense to those who examine me: ⁴ Do we not have the right to eat and drink? ⁵ Do we not have the right to take along a wife who is a believer, as do the rest of the apostles, and the brothers of the Lord, and Cephas? ⁶ Or do only I and Barnabas not have the right to not work at a trade? ⁷ Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat its fruit? Or who shepherds a flock and does not drink milk from it? ⁸ Do I say these things based on human authority? Does not the law also say this? ⁹ For it is written in the law of Moses, "Do not put a muzzle on an ox when it is threshing the grain." Is it really the oxen that God cares about? ¹⁰ Is he not speaking about us? It was written for us, because the one who plows should plow in hope, and the one who threshes should thresh in the hope of sharing in the harvest. ¹¹ If we sowed spiritual things among you, is it too much for us to reap physical things from you? ¹² If others exercised this right from you, do we not have even more? But we did not claim this right. Instead we endured everything rather than be a hindrance to the gospel of Christ. ¹³ Do you not know that those who perform sacred duties get their food from the temple? Do you not know that those who serve at the altar share in what is offered on the altar? ¹⁴ In the same way, the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living from the gospel. ¹⁵ But I have not claimed any of these rights. And I do not write this so something might be done for me. It would be better for me to die than—No one will make my boast empty! ¹⁶ For if I preach the gospel, I have no reason for boasting, because I must do this. And woe be to me if I do not preach the gospel! ¹⁷ For if I do this willingly, I have a reward. But if not willingly, I still have a stewardship that was entrusted to me. ¹⁸ What then is my reward? That when I preach, I may offer the gospel without charge and so not take full use of my right in the gospel. ¹⁹ For though I am free from all, I became a servant to all, in order that I might win more. ²⁰ To the Jews I became like a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law, I became like one under the law in order to win those under the law. I did this even though I myself was not under the law. ^[1]²¹ To those outside the law, I became like one outside the law, although I was not outside the law of God myself, but under the law of Christ. I did this so that I may win those outside the law. ²² To the weak I became weak, so that I may win the weak. I have become all things to all people, so that I may by all means save some. ²³ I do all things for the gospel's sake, so that I may participate in its blessings. ²⁴ Do you not know that in a race all the runners run the race, but that only one receives the prize? So run to win the prize. ²⁵ Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a wreath that is perishable, but we do it to receive one that is imperishable. ²⁶ Therefore this is how I run, as not without purpose; this is how I box, not as one beating the air. ²⁷ But I subdue my body and make it a slave, so that after I have preached to others, I myself may not be disqualified.

Footnotes

9:20 ^[1]The ULB has:

Chapter 10

¹ I do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea. ² All were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³ and all ate the same spiritual food. ⁴ All drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from a spiritual rock that followed them, and that rock was Christ. ⁵ But God was not well pleased with most of them, and their corpses were scattered about in the wilderness. ⁶ Now these things were examples for us, so we would not be those who lust for evil things as they lusted. ⁷ Do not be idolaters, as some of them were. This is as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play." ⁸ Let us not commit sexual immorality, as many of them did. In one day, twenty-three thousand people died because of it. ⁹ Neither let us put Christ to the test, as many of them tested him and were destroyed by snakes. ¹⁰ Also do not grumble, as many of them did and were destroyed by an angel of death. ¹¹ Now these things happened to them as examples for us. They were written for our instruction—for us on whom the end of the ages has come. ¹² Therefore let anyone who thinks he stands be careful that he does not fall. ¹³ No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to all humanity. Instead, God is faithful. He will not let you be tempted beyond your ability. With the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, so that you may be able to endure it.

¹⁴ Therefore, my beloved ones, run away from idolatry. ¹⁵ I speak to you as people who have understanding, so you may judge what I say. ¹⁶ The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a sharing in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a sharing in the body of Christ? ¹⁷ Because there is one loaf of bread, we who are many are one body. We all take of one loaf of bread together. ¹⁸ Look at the Israel that is according to the flesh. Are not those who eat the sacrifices participants in the altar? ¹⁹ What am I saying then? That an idol is anything? Or that food sacrificed to an idol is anything? ²⁰ But I say about the things they sacrifice, that they offer these things to demons and not to God. I do not want you to be participants with demons! ²¹ You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You cannot participate at the table of the Lord and the table of demons. ²² Or do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than he is?

²³ "Everything is lawful," but not everything is profitable. "Everything is lawful," but not everything builds people up. ²⁴ No one should seek his own good. Instead, each one should seek the good of his neighbor. ²⁵ Eat everything sold in the market without asking questions of conscience. ²⁶ For "the earth is the Lord's, and the fullness of it." ²⁷ If an unbeliever invites you to eat a meal, and you wish to go, eat whatever is set before you without asking questions of conscience. ²⁸ But if someone says to you, "This has been offered in sacrifice," then do not eat it, both for the sake of the one who informed you, and for the sake of conscience—^[1]²⁹ the conscience of the other man, I mean, and not yours. For why should my freedom be judged by another's conscience? ³⁰ If I partake of the meal with gratitude, why am I being insulted for that for which I gave thanks? ³¹ Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. ³² Be blameless both to Jews and to Greeks, and to the church of God. ³³ In the same way I try to please all people in all things. I do not seek my benefit, but that of the many. I do this so that they may be saved.

Footnotes

10:28 ^[1] Some ancient copies of the Greek text add,

Chapter 11

¹ Be imitators of me, just as I am an imitator of Christ.

² Now I praise you because you remember me in everything. I praise you because you hold firmly to the traditions just as I delivered them to you. ³ Now I want you to understand that Christ is the head of every man, that a man is the head of a woman, and that God is the head of Christ. ⁴ Any man who prays or prophesies with his head covered dishonors his head. ⁵ But any woman who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her head. For it is the same thing as if her head were shaved. ⁶ For if a woman will not cover her head, she should cut her hair short. If it is disgraceful for a woman to have her hair cut off or for her to shave her head, let her cover her head. ⁷ For a man should not have his head covered, since he is the image and glory of God. But the woman is the glory of the man. ⁸ For man was not made from woman. Instead, woman was made from man. ⁹ For neither was man created for woman. Instead, woman was created for man. ¹⁰ This is why the woman ought to have a symbol of authority on her head, because of the angels. ¹¹ Nevertheless, in the Lord, the woman is not independent from the man, nor is the man independent from the woman. ¹² For as the woman comes from the man, so does the man come from the woman. And all things come from God. ¹³ Judge for yourselves: Is it proper for a woman to pray to God with her head uncovered? ¹⁴ Does not even nature itself teach you that if a man has long hair, it is a dishonor for him? ¹⁵ Does not nature teach you that if a woman has long hair, it is her glory? For her hair has been given to her as a covering. ¹⁶ But if anyone wants to argue about this, we do not have any other practice, nor do the churches of God.

¹⁷ But in the following instructions, I do not praise you. For when you come together, it is not for the better but for the worse. ¹⁸ For in the first place, I hear that when you come together in the church, there are divisions among you, and in part I believe it. ¹⁹ For there must also be factions among you, so that those who are approved may become evident among you. ²⁰ For when you come together, it is not the Lord's Supper that you eat. ²¹ When you eat, each one eats his own food before the others have their meal. One is hungry, and another becomes drunk. ²² Do you not have houses to eat and to drink in? Do you despise the church of God and humiliate those who have nothing? What should I say to you? Should I praise you? I will not praise you for this! ²³ For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you, that the Lord Jesus, on the night when he was betrayed, took bread. ²⁴ After he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this to remember me." ²⁵ In the same way he took the cup after supper, and he said, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this as often as you drink it, to remember me." ²⁶ For every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. ²⁷ Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord. ²⁸ Let a person examine himself first, and in this way let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. ²⁹ For he who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment to himself. ³⁰ That is why many among you are weak and ill, and some of you have fallen asleep. ³¹ But if we examine ourselves, we will not be judged. ³² But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined, so that we may not be condemned along with the world. ³³ Therefore, my brothers, when you come together to eat, wait for one another. ³⁴ If anyone is hungry, let him eat at home, so that when you come together it will not be for judgment. And about the other things you wrote, I will give instructions when I come.

Chapter 12

¹ About spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed. ² You know that when you were pagans, you were led astray to idols who could not speak, in whatever ways you were led by them. ³ Therefore I want you to know that no one who speaks by the Spirit of God can say, "Jesus is accursed." No one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.

⁴ Now there are different gifts, but the same Spirit. ⁵ There are different ministries, but the same Lord; ⁶ and there are different kinds of work, but it is the same God who works all in all. ⁷ Now to each one is given the outward display of the Spirit for the benefit of all. ⁸ For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom, and to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit. ⁹ To another is given faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit. ¹⁰ To another is given miraculous works, and to another prophecy. To another is given the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, giving the gifts to each one individually, as he chooses.

¹² For as the body is one and has many members and all are members of the same body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slave or free, and all were made to drink of one Spirit. ¹⁴ For the body is not a single member, but many. ¹⁵ If the foot says, "Since I am not the hand, I am not part of the body," it is not any less a part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear says, "Because I am not an eye, I am not part of the body," it is not any less a part of the body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸ But God has appointed each member, each one of them, into the body as he has desired. ¹⁹ If they were all the same member, where would the body be? ²⁰ So now they are many members, but only one body. ²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you." Nor does the head say to the feet, "I have no need of you." ²² But the members of the body that appear to be weaker are essential, ²³ and the parts of the body that we think are less honorable, we give them greater honor, and our unpresentable members have more dignity. ²⁴ Now our presentable members have no such need. Rather, God has composed the body, giving greater honor to those members that lack it. ²⁵ He did this so there may be no division within the body, but that the members should care for one another with the same affection. ²⁶ So when one member suffers, all the members suffer together; or when one member is honored, all the members rejoice together. ²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸ And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then those who do miracles, then gifts of healing, those who provide helps, those who do the work of administration, and those who have various kinds of tongues. ²⁹ Are all of them apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all do miracles? ³⁰ Do all of them have gifts of healing? Do all of them speak with tongues? Do all of them interpret tongues? ³¹ Zealously seek the greater gifts. And now I will show you a more excellent way.

Chapter 13

¹ Suppose that I speak with the tongues of men and of angels. But if I do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ² Suppose that I have the gift of prophecy and understand all hidden truths and knowledge, and that I have all faith so as to remove mountains. But if I do not have love, I am nothing. ³ Suppose that I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and that I give my body to be burned. But if I do not have love, I gain nothing. ^[1]⁴ Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous and does not boast. It is not puffed up ⁵ or rude. It does not seek its own. It is not provoked, nor does it keep a count of wrongs. ⁶ It does not rejoice in unrighteousness. Instead, it rejoices in the truth. ⁷ Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things. ⁸ Love never ends. If there are prophecies, they will pass away. If there are tongues, they will cease. If there is knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹ For we know in part and we prophesy in part. ¹⁰ But when the perfect comes, that which is incomplete will pass away. ¹¹ When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became an adult, I put away childish things. ¹² For now we see indirectly in a mirror, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I have been fully known. ¹³ But now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love.

Footnotes

13:3 ^[1]Most important and ancient Greek copies, and ancient translations read,

Chapter 14

¹ Pursue love and be zealous for spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy. ² For the one who speaks in a tongue does not speak to people but to God. For no one understands him because he speaks mysteries in the Spirit. ³ But the one who prophesies speaks to people to build them up, to exhort them, and to comfort them. ⁴ The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but the one who prophesies builds up the church. ⁵ Now I wish that you all spoke in tongues. But even more than that, I wish that you would prophesy. The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues (unless someone interprets so that the church may receive edification). ⁶ But now, brothers, if I come to you speaking in tongues, how will I benefit you? I cannot, unless I speak to you with revelation, or knowledge, or prophecy, or teaching. ⁷ In the same way, when lifeless instruments are producing sounds—like the flute or the harp—if they do not produce different tones, how will anyone know what tune the flute or harp is playing? ⁸ For if the trumpet is played with an uncertain sound, how will anyone know when it is time to prepare for battle? ⁹ It is the same way for you with the tongue. If you utter speech that is not clear, how will what is said be understood? You will be speaking into the air. ¹⁰ There are doubtless many kinds of languages in the world, and none is without meaning. ¹¹ But if I do not know the meaning of a language, I will be a foreigner to the speaker, and the speaker will be a foreigner to me. ¹² So it is with you. Since you are eager for the manifestations of the Spirit, seek for the edification of the church so that you might abound. ¹³ So the one who speaks in a tongue should pray that he may interpret. ¹⁴ For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful. ¹⁵ What am I to do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my mind. I will sing with my spirit, and I will also sing with my mind. ¹⁶ Otherwise, if you bless God with the spirit, how will the outsider say "Amen" when you are giving thanks if he does not know what you are saying? ¹⁷ For you certainly give thanks well enough, but the other person is not built up. ¹⁸ I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you. ¹⁹ But in the church I would rather speak five words with my understanding so that I might instruct others, than ten thousand words in a tongue.

²⁰ Brothers, do not be children in your thinking. Rather, in regard to evil, be like infants. But in your thinking be mature. ²¹ In the law it is written,

"By men of strange tongues
and by the lips of strangers
I will speak to this people.
Even then they will not hear me,"
says the Lord.

²² So then, tongues are a sign, not to believers, but to unbelievers. But prophecy is for a sign, not for unbelievers, but for believers. ²³ If, therefore, the whole church comes together and all speak in tongues, and outsiders and unbelievers come in, would they not say that you are insane? ²⁴ But if you all were prophesying and an unbeliever or an outsider came in, he would be convicted by all he hears. He would be judged by all that is said. ²⁵ The secrets of his heart would be revealed. As a result, he would fall on his face and worship God. He would declare that God is really among you.

²⁶ What is next then, brothers? When you come together, each one has a psalm, a teaching, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Do everything so that you build up the church. ²⁷ If anyone speaks in a tongue, let there be two or at most three, and each one in turn, and then someone should interpret what is said. ²⁸ But if there is no one to interpret, let each of them keep silent in the church. Let each one speak to himself alone and to God. ²⁹ Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others listen with discernment to what is said. ³⁰ But if there is a revelation to one who is sitting, let the first be silent. ³¹ For each of you can prophesy one by one so that each one may learn and all may be exhorted. ³² For the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets. ³³ For God is not a God of confusion, but of peace.

This is the rule in all the churches of God's holy people. ³⁴ The women should keep silent in the churches. For they are not permitted to speak. Instead, they should be in submission, as also the law says. ³⁵ If there is anything they desire to learn, let them ask their husbands at home. For it is disgraceful for a woman to speak in the church. ³⁶ Did the word of God come from you? Are you the only ones it has reached?

37 If anyone thinks himself to be a prophet or spiritual, he should acknowledge that the things I write to you are a command of the Lord. **38** But if anyone does not recognize this, let him not be recognized.

39 So then, brothers, earnestly desire to prophesy, and do not forbid anyone from speaking in tongues. **40** But let all things be done properly and in order.

Chapter 15

¹ Now I want to make known to you, brothers, the gospel I proclaimed to you, which you received and on which you stand, ² and by which you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. ³ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day according to the scriptures. ⁵ Christ appeared to Cephas, and then to the twelve; ⁶ then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at once. Most of them are still alive, but some have fallen asleep. ⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸ Last of all, he appeared to me, as if to one born prematurely. ⁹ For I am the least of the apostles. I am unworthy to be called an apostle because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace in me was not in vain. Instead, I labored harder than all of them. Yet it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. ¹¹ Therefore whether it is I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

¹² Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³ But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised; ¹⁴ and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain, and your faith also is in vain. ¹⁵ Also, we are found to be false witnesses about God, because we testified that God raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him, if indeed the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised; ¹⁷ and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is in vain and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those who have fallen asleep in Christ have also perished. ¹⁹ If only in this life we hope in Christ, of all people we are most to be pitied.

²⁰ But now Christ has been raised from the dead as the firstfruits of those who sleep. ²¹ For since death came by a man, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead. ²² For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive. ²³ But each in his own order: Christ, who is the firstfruits, and then those who belong to Christ will be made alive at his coming. ²⁴ Then will be the end, when he will hand over the kingdom to God the Father, when he will abolish all rule and all authority and power. ²⁵ For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶ The last enemy to be destroyed is death. ²⁷ For "he has put everything under his feet." But when it says "he has put everything," it is clear that this does not include the one who put everything in subjection under him. ²⁸ When all things are subjected under him, then the Son himself will be subjected under the one who put all things into subjection under him, that God may be all in all.

²⁹ Or else what will those do who are baptized for the dead? If the dead are not raised at all, why are they baptized for them? ³⁰ Why then are we in danger every hour? ³¹ I die every day! This is as sure as my boasting in you, which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord. ³² What do I gain, from a human point of view, if I fought with beasts at Ephesus, if the dead are not raised?

"Let us eat and drink,
for tomorrow we die."

³³ Be not deceived: "Bad company corrupts good morals." ³⁴ Sober up! Live righteously! Do not keep sinning. For some of you have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame.

³⁵ But someone will say, "How are the dead raised, and with what kind of body will they come?" ³⁶ You fool! What you sow will not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷ What you sow is not the body that will be, but a bare grain. It may become wheat or something else. ³⁸ But God will give it a body as he chooses, and to each seed its own body. ³⁹ Not all flesh is the same. Instead, there is one flesh for human beings, and another flesh for animals, and another flesh for birds, and another for fish. ⁴⁰ There are also heavenly bodies and earthly bodies. But the glory of the heavenly body is one kind and the glory of the earthly is another. ⁴¹ There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars. For one star differs from another star in glory. ⁴² So also is the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, and what is raised is imperishable. ⁴³ It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. ⁴⁴ It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a

natural body, there is also a spiritual body. ⁴⁵ So also it is written, "The first man Adam became a living soul." The last Adam became a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶ But the spiritual did not come first but the natural, and then the spiritual. ⁴⁷ The first man is of the earth, made of dust. The second man is from heaven. ⁴⁸ Just as the one made from dust is, so also are those who are made of the dust, and as the man of heaven is, so also are those who are of heaven. ⁴⁹ Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

⁵⁰ Now this I say, brothers, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God. Neither does what is perishable inherit what is imperishable. ⁵¹ Look! I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed. ⁵² We will be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. ⁵³ For this perishable body must put on what is imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. ⁵⁴ But when this perishable body has put on what is imperishable, and when this mortal body has put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, "Death is swallowed up in victory."

⁵⁵ "Death, where is your victory?
Death, where is your sting?"

⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ! ⁵⁸ Therefore, my dear brothers, be steadfast and immovable. Always abound in the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

Chapter 16

¹ Now concerning the collection for God's holy people: as I instructed the churches of Galatia, so you are to do. ² On the first day of the week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up as he may prosper. Do this so that there will be no collections when I come. ³ When I arrive, to whomever you approve, I will give letters of introduction to them and will send them with your gift to Jerusalem. ⁴ If it is appropriate for me to go also, they will go with me. ⁵ But I will come to you when I pass through Macedonia. For I will pass through Macedonia. ⁶ Perhaps I may stay with you or even spend the winter, so that you may help me on my way, wherever I go. ⁷ For I do not wish to see you now for only a passing visit. For I hope to spend more time with you, if the Lord permits. ⁸ But I will stay in Ephesus until Pentecost, ⁹ for a wide door has opened for me, and there are many adversaries.

¹⁰ Now when Timothy comes, see that he is with you unafraid, for he is laboring at the work of the Lord, as I am doing. ¹¹ Let no one despise him. Help him on his way in peace, so that he may come to me. For I am expecting him to come along with the brothers. ¹² Now concerning our brother Apollos, I strongly encouraged him to visit you with the brothers. But it was not at all his will that he come now. However, he will come when the time is right.

¹³ Be watchful, stand fast in the faith, act like men, be strong. ¹⁴ Let all that you do be done in love.

¹⁵ You know the household of Stephanas, that they were the firstfruits of Achaia, and that they have devoted themselves to the service of God's holy people. Now I urge you, brothers, ¹⁶ to be in submission to such people and to everyone who helps in the work and labors with us. ¹⁷ I rejoice at the coming of Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus. They have made up for your absence. ¹⁸ For they have refreshed my spirit and yours. So then, acknowledge people like them.

¹⁹ The churches of Asia send greetings to you. Aquila and Priscilla greet you in the Lord, with the church that is in their home. ²⁰ All the brothers greet you. Greet one another with a holy kiss.

²¹ I, Paul, write this with my own hand. ²² If anyone does not love the Lord, may he be accursed. Our Lord, come! ²³ The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you. ²⁴ My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. ^[1]

Footnotes

16:24 ^[1] A few important and ancient Greek copies and some ancient translations have

2 Corinthians

Chapter 1

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, to the church of God that is in Corinth, and to all God's holy people in the entire region of Achaia.

² May grace be to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

³ May the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ be praised. He is the Father of mercies and the God of all comfort. ⁴ God comforts us in all our tribulation, so that we can comfort those who are in any tribulation. We comfort others with the same comfort that God used to comfort us. ⁵ For just as the sufferings of Christ abound for our sake, so also our comfort abounds through Christ. ⁶ But if we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; and if we are comforted, it is for your comfort. Your comfort is working effectively in your endurance of the same sufferings that we also suffer. ⁷ Our hope concerning you is unshaken, for we know that as you share the sufferings, you also share our comfort. ⁸ For we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about the tribulation we had in Asia. We were utterly burdened beyond our strength, so that we despaired even of life. ⁹ Indeed, we had the sentence of death on us. But that was to make us not put our trust in ourselves, but instead in God, who raises the dead. ¹⁰ He rescued us from such a deadly peril, and he will rescue us. On him we have set our hope that he will rescue us. ¹¹ He will do this as you also help us by your prayer. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the favor given to us through the prayers of many.

¹² Our boast is this: Our conscience testifies that we have conducted ourselves in the world with integrity and godly sincerity, not relying on fleshly wisdom but on the grace of God. ¹³ We write to you nothing that you cannot read and understand, and I hope that you will fully understand ¹⁴ as you have understood us in part, that you can boast of us on the day of our Lord Jesus, just as we will boast of you.

¹⁵ Because I was confident about this, I wanted to come to you first, so that you might receive a second favor. ¹⁶ I was planning to visit you on my way to Macedonia. Then I wanted to visit you again on my trip from Macedonia, and then for you to send me on my way to Judea. ¹⁷ When I was thinking this way, was I hesitating? Do I plan things according to the flesh, so that I say "Yes, yes" and "No, no" at the same time? ¹⁸ But just as God is faithful, our word to you is not "Yes" and "No." ¹⁹ For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, whom Silvanus, Timothy and I proclaimed among you, is not "Yes" and "No." Instead, he is always "Yes." ²⁰ For all the promises of God are "Yes" in him. So also through him we say "Amen" to the glory of God. ²¹ Now it is God who confirms us with you in Christ, and he anointed us, ²² he set his seal on us and he gave us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee of what is to come.

²³ But I call God as witness to my soul that the reason I did not come to Corinth was so that I might spare you. ²⁴ This is not because we want to be lords over your faith. Instead, we are fellow laborers with you for your joy, as you stand firm in your faith.

Chapter 2

¹ So I decided for my own part that I would not again come to you in sorrow. ² If I caused you sorrow, who could make me glad but the very one who was made sorrowful by me? ³ I wrote as I did in order that when I came to you I might not be hurt by those who should have made me rejoice. I have confidence about all of you that my joy is the same joy you all have. ⁴ For I wrote to you from great tribulation, with anguish of heart, and with many tears. I did not write you so that you would be made sorrowful. Instead, I wanted you to know the depth of the love that I have for you.

⁵ If anyone has caused sorrow, he has caused sorrow not only to me, but in some measure—not to burden you—to all of you. ⁶ This punishment of that person by the majority is enough. ⁷ So now rather than punish him, you should forgive and comfort him. Do this so that he is not overwhelmed by too much sorrow. ⁸ So I exhort you to confirm your love for him. ⁹ This was the reason I wrote, so that I might test you and know whether you are obedient in everything. ¹⁰ If you forgive anyone, I forgive that person as well. What I have forgiven—if I have forgiven anything—it is forgiven for your sake in the presence of Christ. ¹¹ This is so that Satan will not trick us. For we are not ignorant of his schemes.

¹² A door was opened to me by the Lord when I came to the city of Troas to preach the gospel of Christ there. ¹³ I had no relief in my spirit because I did not find my brother Titus there. So I left them and went on to Macedonia.

¹⁴ But may thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumph. Through us he reveals the sweet aroma of the knowledge of him everywhere. ¹⁵ For we are to God the sweet aroma of Christ, both among those who are saved and among those who are perishing. ¹⁶ To the people who are perishing, it is an aroma from death to death. To the ones being saved, it is an aroma from life to life. Who is worthy of these things? ¹⁷ For we are not like so many people who sell the word of God for profit. Instead, with purity of motives, we speak in Christ, as we are sent from God, in the sight of God.

Chapter 3

¹ Are we beginning to praise ourselves again? We do not need letters of recommendation to you or from you, like some people, do we? ² You yourselves are our letter of recommendation, written on our hearts, known and read by all people. ³ You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry. It was written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God. It was not written on tablets of stone, but on tablets of human hearts. ⁴ And this is the confidence that we have through Christ before God. ⁵ We are not competent in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us. Rather, our competence is from God. ⁶ It is God who made us able to be servants of a new covenant. This is a covenant not of the letter but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life. ⁷ Now the ministry of death—engraved in letters on stones—came in such glory that the sons of Israel could not look directly at Moses' face. This is because of the glory of his face, a glory that was fading. ⁸ How much more glorious will the ministry of the Spirit be? ⁹ For if the ministry of condemnation had glory, how much more does the ministry of righteousness abound in glory! ¹⁰ For indeed, that which was once made glorious is no longer glorious in this respect, because of the glory that exceeds it. ¹¹ For if that which was passing away had glory, how much more will what is permanent have glory!

¹² Since we have such a hope, we are very bold. ¹³ We are not like Moses, who put a veil over his face so that the sons of Israel were not able to look directly at the ending of a glory that was passing away. ¹⁴ But their minds were hardened. For to this day, when they read the old covenant, that same veil remains. It has not been removed, because only in Christ is it taken away. ¹⁵ But even today, whenever Moses is read, a veil covers their hearts. ¹⁶ But when a person turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. ¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit. Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸ Now all of us, with unveiled faces, see the glory of the Lord. We are being transformed into the same glorious likeness from one degree of glory into another, just as from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

Chapter 4

¹ Therefore, because we have this ministry, and just as we have received mercy, we do not become discouraged. ² Instead, we have rejected secret and shameful ways. We do not walk in craftiness, and we do not mishandle the word of God, but by presenting the truth, we recommend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. ³ But if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled only to those who are perishing. ⁴ In their case, the god of this world has blinded their unbelieving minds. As a result, they are not able to see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵ For we do not proclaim ourselves, but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. ⁶ For God is the one who said, "Light will shine out of darkness." He has shone in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the presence of Jesus Christ.

⁷ But we have this treasure in jars of clay, so that it is clear that the exceedingly great power belongs to God and not to us. ⁸ We are afflicted in every way, but not overwhelmed. We are perplexed but not filled with despair. ⁹ We are persecuted but not abandoned; struck down but not destroyed; ¹⁰ always carrying around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. ¹¹ For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be revealed in our mortal flesh. ¹² So death is at work in us, but life is at work in you. ¹³ But we have the same spirit of faith according to that which was written: "I believed, and so I spoke." We also believe, and so we also speak, ¹⁴ because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will also raise us with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. ¹⁵ For everything is for your sake, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to increase to the glory of God.

¹⁶ So we do not become discouraged. Even though outwardly we are wasting away, inwardly we are being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For this momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal burden of glory that exceeds all measurement. ¹⁸ For we are not watching for things that are seen, but for things that are unseen. The things that we can see are temporary, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

Chapter 5

¹ We know that if our earthly house—the tent—is destroyed, we have a building from God. It is a house not made by human hands, but an eternal house, in heaven. ² For in this tent we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly residence. ³ We long for this because by putting it on we will not be found to be naked. ⁴ For indeed while we are in this tent, we groan, being burdened. We do not want to be unclothed. Instead, we want to be clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. ⁵ The one who prepared us for this very thing is God, who gave us the Spirit as a guarantee of what is to come. ⁶ Therefore always be confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body, we are away from the Lord. ⁷ For we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸ So we have confidence. We would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹ So we make it our goal, whether we are at home or away, to please him. ¹⁰ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for the things done in the body, whether for good or for bad.

¹¹ Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade people. What we are is clearly seen by God, and I hope that it is also clear to your conscience. ¹² We are not commending ourselves to you again, but we are giving you a reason to be proud of us, so you may have an answer for those who boast about appearances but not about what is in the heart. ¹³ For if we are out of our minds, it is for God; and if we are in our right minds, it is for your sake. ¹⁴ For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: That one person died for all, and that therefore all have died. ¹⁵ He died for all, so that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised. ¹⁶ For this reason, from now on we do not regard anyone according to the flesh, even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh. But now we no longer regard him that way. ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old things have passed away. See, they have become new. ¹⁸ All these things are from God. He reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation. ¹⁹ That is, in Christ God is reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them. He is entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

²⁰ So we are appointed as representatives of Christ, as though God were making his appeal through us. We plead with you, for the sake of Christ: "Be reconciled to God!" ²¹ He made him who knew no sin to become sin for us, so that we might become the righteousness of God in him.

Chapter 6

¹ Working together with him, we also urge you not to receive the grace of God in vain. ² For he says,

"In a favorable time I paid attention to you,
and in the day of salvation I helped you."

Look, now is the favorable time. Look, now is the day of salvation. ³ We do not place a stumbling block in front of anyone, for we do not wish our ministry to be discredited. ⁴ Instead, in every way we commend ourselves as God's servants in much endurance, in affliction, in distress, in hardship, ⁵ in beatings, in imprisonments, in riots, in hard labor, in sleepless nights, in hunger, ⁶ in purity, in knowledge, in patience, in kindness, in the Holy Spirit, in sincere love, ⁷ in the word of truth, in the power of God; with the armor of righteousness for the right hand and the left. ⁸ We are God's servants in glory and dishonor, in slander and praise; regarded as deceivers and yet truthful; ⁹ as unknown, yet well known; as dying, yet, look, we live; as being disciplined, yet not killed; ¹⁰ as sorrowful, yet rejoicing; as poor, yet many are enriched; as having nothing, yet possessing all things.

¹¹ We have spoken the whole truth to you, Corinthians, and our heart is wide open. ¹² You are not restrained by us, but you are restrained in your own hearts. ¹³ Now in fair exchange—I speak as to children—open yourselves wide also. ¹⁴ Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what association does righteousness have with lawlessness? For what fellowship does light have with darkness? ¹⁵ What agreement can Christ have with Belial? Or what share does a believer have together with an unbeliever? ¹⁶ And what agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God, just as God said:

"I will dwell among them
and walk among them.
I will be their God,
and they will be my people."

¹⁷ Therefore,

"Come out from among them,
and be set apart," says the Lord.
"Touch no unclean thing,
and I will welcome you."

¹⁸ I will be a Father to you,
and you will be my sons and daughters,"
says the Lord Almighty.

Chapter 7

¹ Beloved, since we have these promises, let us cleanse ourselves of all defilement of flesh and spirit. Let us perfect holiness in the fear of God.

² Make room for us! We have not wronged anyone. We have not corrupted anyone or taken advantage of anyone. ³ It is not to condemn you that I say this. For I have already said that you are in our hearts, for us to die together and to live together. ⁴ I have great confidence in you, and great is my boast about you. I am filled with comfort. I overflow with joy even in all our tribulation.

⁵ When we came to Macedonia, our bodies had no rest. Instead, we were troubled in every way by conflicts on the outside and fears on the inside. ⁶ But God, who comforts the lowly, comforted us by the arrival of Titus. ⁷ It was not only by his arrival that God comforted us. It was also by the comfort that Titus had received from you. He told us of your great affection, your sorrow, and your zeal for me. So I rejoiced even more. ⁸ Even though my letter made you sorrowful, I do not regret it. But I did regret it when I saw that my letter made you sorrowful, though only for a little while. ⁹ Now I rejoice, not because you were sorrowful, but because your sorrow brought you to repentance. You experienced a godly sorrow, so you suffered no loss because of us. ¹⁰ For godly sorrow brings about repentance that accomplishes salvation without regret. Worldly sorrow, however, brings about death. ¹¹ See what great diligence this godly sorrow produced in you. How great was the determination in you to prove you were innocent. How great was your indignation, your fear, your longing, your zeal, and your desire to see that justice should be done! In everything you have proved yourselves to be innocent in this matter. ¹² Although I wrote to you, I did not write for the sake of the wrongdoer, nor for the one who suffered the wrong, but so that your earnestness toward us should be made known to you in the sight of God. ¹³ It is by this that we are encouraged.

In addition to our own comfort, we also rejoiced even more because of Titus' joy, because his spirit was refreshed by all of you. ¹⁴ For if I boasted to him about you, I was not put to shame. On the contrary, just as everything we said to you was true, our boasting about you to Titus proved to be true. ¹⁵ His affection for you is even greater as he remembers the obedience of all of you, how you welcomed him with fear and trembling. ¹⁶ I rejoice because I have complete confidence in you.

Chapter 8

¹ We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given to the churches of Macedonia. ² During a great test of tribulation, the abundance of their joy and the extremity of their poverty have produced great riches of generosity. ³ For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond what they were able, and of their own free will ⁴ they begged us with much earnestness for the privilege of sharing in this service to God's holy people. ⁵ This did not happen as we had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord and then to us by the will of God. ⁶ So we urged Titus, who had already begun this task, to complete among you this act of grace. ⁷ But you abound in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all diligence, and in your love for us. So also make sure that you excel in this act of grace. ¹⁸ I say this not as a command but to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it to the eagerness of other people. ⁹ For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Even though he was rich, for your sakes he became poor, so that through his poverty you might become rich. ¹⁰ In this matter I will give you advice that will help you. One year ago, you not only started to do something, but you desired to do it. ¹¹ Now finish it. Just as there was an eagerness and desire to do it then, may you also bring it to completion, as much as you can. ¹² For if you are eager to do this deed, it is a good and acceptable thing. It must be based on what a person has, not on what he does not have. ¹³ For this is not to cause relief for others and tribulation for you, but for fairness. ¹⁴ Your abundance at the present time will supply what they need. This is also so that their abundance may supply your need, and so that there may be fairness. ¹⁵ It is as it is written:

"The one with much did not have anything left over,
and the one who had little did not have any lack."

¹⁶ But thanks be to God, who put into Titus' heart the same earnest care that I have for you. ¹⁷ For he not only accepted our appeal, but he was also very earnest about it. He came to you of his own free will. ¹⁸ We have sent with him the brother who is praised among all of the churches for his work in proclaiming the gospel. ¹⁹ Not only this, but he also was chosen by the churches to be our traveling companion with this act of grace, which is being administered by us for the glory of the Lord himself and our good will. ²⁰ We are avoiding the possibility that anyone should complain about this act of generosity that we are carrying out. ²¹ We take care to do what is good, not only before the Lord, but also before people. ²² We are also sending another brother with them. We have tested him in many ways and found him diligent for many tasks. He is even more eager now because of the great confidence he has in you. ²³ As for Titus, he is my partner and fellow worker for you. As for our brothers, they are messengers from the churches. They are a glory to Christ. ²⁴ So show them the proof of your love, and show to the churches the reason for our boasting about you.

Footnotes

8:7 ^[1]There is evidence that corrections were made to verse 7 by later copyists who were referring to other ancient texts. Most modern translations follow those corrections, and they now read,

Chapter 9

¹ Concerning the service for God's holy people, it is not necessary for me to write to you. ² I know about your desire, which I boasted about to the people of Macedonia. I told them that Achaia has been getting ready since last year. Your eagerness has motivated most of them to action. ³ Now I have sent the brothers so that our boasting about you may not be futile, and so that you would be ready, as I said you would be. ⁴ Otherwise, if any Macedonians come with me and find you unprepared, we would be ashamed—I say nothing about you—for being so confident in you. ⁵ So I thought it was necessary to urge the brothers to come to you and to make arrangements in advance for the gift you have promised. This is so that it might be ready as a blessing, and not as something extorted.

⁶ The point is this: The one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows for the purpose of a blessing will also reap a blessing. ⁷ Let each one give as he has planned in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ And God is able to make all grace overflow for you, so that, always, in all things, you may have all you need. This will be so that you may multiply every good deed. ⁹ It is as it is written:

"He has distributed his riches and given them to the poor.
His righteousness lasts forever."

¹⁰ He who supplies seed to the farmer who sows and bread for food will also supply and multiply your seed for sowing. He will increase the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹ You will be enriched in every way so you can be generous. This will bring about thanksgiving to God through us. ¹² For carrying out this service not only meets the needs of God's holy people, but it also is overflowing into many acts of thanksgiving to God. ¹³ Because of your being tested and proved by this service, you will also glorify God by obedience to your confession of the gospel of Christ. You will also glorify God by the generosity of your contribution to them and to everyone. ¹⁴ They long for you, and they are praying for you. They do this because of the very great grace of God that is on you. ¹⁵ May thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!

Chapter 10

¹ I, Paul, myself urge you, by the humility and gentleness of Christ. I am meek when I am in your presence, but I am bold toward you when I am away. ² I beg of you that, when I am present with you, I will not need to be bold with the confidence that I think I will need to be bold when I oppose those who think that we are walking according to the flesh. ³ For even though we walk in the flesh, we do not make war according to the flesh. ⁴ For the weapons we fight with are not fleshly. Rather, they have divine power to destroy strongholds. They bring misleading arguments to nothing. ⁵ We also destroy every high thing that rises up against the knowledge of God. We take every thought captive into obedience to Christ. ⁶ And we are getting ready to punish every act of disobedience, as soon as your obedience is complete. ⁷ Look at what is clearly in front of you. If anyone is convinced that he is Christ's, let him remind himself that just as he is Christ's, so also are we. ⁸ For even if I boast a little too much about our authority, which the Lord gave for us to build you up and not to destroy you, I will not be ashamed. ⁹ I do not want it to appear that I am terrifying you by my letters. ¹⁰ For some people say, "His letters are serious and powerful, but his bodily presence is weak. His words are not worth listening to." ¹¹ Let such people be aware that what we are in the words of our letters when we are absent is what we will be in our actions when we are there. ¹² We are not so bold as to group ourselves or compare ourselves with those who praise themselves. But when they measure themselves by one another and compare themselves with each other, they have no insight. ¹³ We, however, will not boast beyond limits. Instead, we will do so only within the limits of what God has assigned to us, limits that reach even as far as you. ¹⁴ For we are not overextending ourselves as though we did not reach you. We were the first to reach as far as you with the gospel of Christ. ¹⁵ We have not boasted beyond limits about the labors of others. Rather, our hope is that as your faith continues to grow, our work among you will greatly expand, ¹⁶ so that we may preach the gospel even in regions beyond you, without boasting of work already done in another's area.

¹⁷ "But let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

¹⁸ For it is not the one who recommends himself who is approved, but the one whom the Lord recommends.

Chapter 11

¹ I wish that you could put up with me in some foolishness. But you are indeed putting up with me! ² For I am jealous about you. I have a godly jealousy for you, since I promised you in marriage to one husband. I promised to present you as a pure virgin to Christ. ³ But I am afraid that somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your thoughts might be led astray away from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ. ⁴ For suppose that someone comes and proclaims another Jesus than the one we preached. Or suppose that you receive a different spirit than what you received. Or suppose that you receive a different gospel than the one you received. You put up with these things well enough! ⁵ For I think that I am not in the least inferior to those so-called super-apostles. ⁶ But even if I am untrained in speech, I am not untrained in knowledge. In every way and in all things we have made this known to you. ⁷ Did I sin by humbling myself so you might be exalted? For I freely preached the gospel of God to you. ⁸ I robbed other churches by accepting support from them so that I could serve you. ⁹ When I was with you and I was in need, I did not burden anyone. For my needs were met by the brothers who came from Macedonia. In everything I have kept myself from being a burden to you, and I will continue to do that. ¹⁰ As the truth of Christ is in me, this boasting of mine will not be silenced in the parts of Achaia. ¹¹ Why? Because I do not love you? God knows. ¹² And what I do I will keep doing, so that I may cut off the opportunity of those who want an opportunity to be found to be like us in the things they boast about. ¹³ For such people are false apostles and deceitful workers. They disguise themselves as apostles of Christ. ¹⁴ And this is no surprise, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. ¹⁵ It is no great surprise if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their fate will be what their deeds deserve.

¹⁶ I say again: Let no one think I am a fool. But if you do, receive me as a fool so I may boast a little. ¹⁷ What I am saying with this boastful confidence—I am not talking the way the Lord would—I am saying as a fool. ¹⁸ Since many people boast according to the flesh, I will also boast. ¹⁹ For you gladly put up with fools. You are wise yourselves! ²⁰ For you put up with someone if he enslaves you, if he devours you, if he takes advantage of you, if he exalts himself, or if he slaps you in the face. ²¹ I will say to our shame that we were too weak to do that. Yet if anyone is bold—I am speaking like a fool—I too will be bold. ²² Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they descendants of Abraham? So am I. ²³ Are they servants of Christ? (I speak as though I were insane.) I am more: in harder labor, in more prisons, in beatings beyond measure, in facing many deadly dangers. ²⁴ From Jews I received five times the "forty lashes minus one." ²⁵ Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked. I have spent a night and a day on the open sea. ²⁶ I have been on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, in danger from robbers, in danger from my own people, in danger from the Gentiles, in danger in the city, in danger in the wilderness, in danger at sea, in danger from false brothers. ²⁷ I have served in labor and toil, in many sleepless nights, in hunger and thirst, often in fasting, in cold and nakedness. ²⁸ Apart from everything else, there is the daily pressure of my concern for all the churches. ²⁹ Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who has been caused to stumble, and I do not burn? ³⁰ If I must boast, I will boast about what shows my weaknesses. ³¹ The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, the one who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying!

³² At Damascus, the governor under King Aretas was guarding the city of Damascus to arrest me. ³³ But I was lowered in a basket through a window in the wall, and I escaped from his hands.

Chapter 12

¹ I must boast, even if it is unprofitable. But I will go on to visions and revelations from the Lord. ² I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago who—whether in the body or out of the body, I do not know, God knows—was caught up into the third heaven. ³ And I know that this man—whether in the body, or out of the body, I do not know, God knows—⁴ was caught up into paradise and heard inexpressible words that people are not permitted to speak. ⁵ On behalf of such a person I will boast. But on behalf of myself I will not boast, except about my weaknesses. ⁶ If I should choose to boast, I will not be a fool, because I would be speaking the truth. But I will keep from boasting, so that no one will think more of me than what he sees in me or hears from me. ⁷ To keep me from exalting myself because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger from Satan to afflict me—so I would not exalt myself. ⁸ Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, for him to take it away from me. ⁹ But he said to me, "My grace is enough for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." So I would much rather boast about my weakness, so that the power of Christ might reside on me. ¹⁰ Therefore I am content for Christ's sake in weaknesses, in insults, in troubles, in persecutions and distressing situations. For whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

¹¹ I have become a fool! You forced me to this, for I should have been praised by you. For I was not at all inferior to the so-called super-apostles, even though I am nothing. ¹² The true signs of an apostle were performed among you with all perseverance, signs and wonders and miracles. ¹³ For how were you less important than the rest of the churches, except that I was not a burden to you? Forgive me for this wrong!

¹⁴ Look! I am ready to come to you a third time. I will not be a burden to you, for I do not seek what is yours. I want you. For children should not save up for the parents. Instead, the parents should save up for the children. ¹⁵ I will most gladly spend and be spent for your souls. If I love you more, am I to be loved less? ¹⁶ But as it is, I did not burden you. But since I am so crafty, I am the one who caught you by deceit. ¹⁷ Did I take advantage of you by anyone I sent to you? ¹⁸ I urged Titus to go to you, and I sent the other brother with him. Did Titus take advantage of you? Did we not walk in the same spirit? Did we not walk in the same steps?

¹⁹ Do you think all of this time we have been defending ourselves to you? It is in the sight of God that we speak in Christ, and all for your strengthening, beloved. ²⁰ For I fear that when I come I may not find you as I wish. I fear that you might not find me as you wish. I fear that there may be quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, rivalries, slander, gossip, arrogance, and disorder. ²¹ I fear that when I come back, my God might humble me before you. I fear that I might be grieved by many of those who have sinned before now and who did not repent of the uncleanness and sexual immorality and lustful indulgence that they practiced.

Chapter 13

¹ This is the third time that I am coming to you. "Every matter must be established by the mouth of two or three witnesses." ² I have already said to those who sinned before and to all the rest when I was there the second time, and I say it again: When I come again, I will not spare them. ³ I tell you this because you are looking for proof that Christ is speaking through me. He is not weak toward you. Rather, he is powerful in you. ⁴ For he was crucified in weakness, but he is alive by God's power. For we also are weak in him, but we will live with him by the power of God among you. ⁵ Examine yourselves, to see if you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless, of course, you have failed the test. ⁶ And I hope that you will recognize that we have not failed the test. ⁷ Now we pray to God that you may not do any wrong. I do not pray this so that we may appear to have passed the test. Rather, I pray that you may do what is proper, although we may seem to have failed the test. ⁸ For we are not able to do anything against the truth, but only for the truth. ⁹ For we rejoice when we are weak and you are strong. We also pray that you may be made complete. ¹⁰ I write these things while I am away from you so that when I am with you I do not have to deal harshly with you in the use of my authority—which the Lord gave to me so that I may build you up, and not tear you down.

¹¹ Finally, brothers, rejoice! Work for restoration, be encouraged, think alike, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you. ¹² Greet each other with a holy kiss. All God's holy people greet you. ^[1]

¹³ The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with all of you. ^[2]

Footnotes

13:12 ^[1] Some copies number this sentence as verse 13.

13:13 ^[2] Some translations number this sentence as verse 14.

Galatians

Chapter 1

¹ Paul, an apostle—not an apostle from men nor by human agency, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead— ² and all the brothers with me, to the churches of Galatia:

³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, ⁴ who gave himself for our sins so that he might deliver us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, ⁵ to him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

⁶ I am amazed that you are turning away so quickly from him who called you by the grace of Christ. I am amazed that you are turning to a different gospel, ⁷ not that there is another gospel, but there are some men who cause you trouble and want to distort the gospel of Christ. ⁸ But even if we or an angel from heaven should proclaim to you a gospel other than the one we proclaimed to you, let him be cursed. ⁹ As we have said before, so now I say again, "If someone proclaims to you a gospel other than the one you received, let him be cursed." ¹⁰ For am I now seeking the favor of men or of God? Am I seeking to please men? If I am still trying to please men, I am not a servant of Christ.

¹¹ For I want you to know, brothers, that the gospel I proclaimed is not man's gospel. ¹² I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it. Instead, it was by revelation of Jesus Christ to me. ¹³ You have heard about my former life in Judaism, how I was persecuting the church of God beyond measure and that I was trying to destroy it. ¹⁴ I advanced in Judaism beyond many of those who were my own age, from out of my own people. That is how extremely zealous I was for the traditions of my fathers. ¹⁵ But when God, who had set me apart from my mother's womb, and who called me through his grace, was pleased ¹⁶ to reveal his Son in me, so that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with flesh and blood. ¹⁷ I did not go up to Jerusalem to those who had become apostles before me. Instead, I went to Arabia and then returned to Damascus.

¹⁸ Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to get to know Cephas and I stayed with him fifteen days. ¹⁹ But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother. ²⁰ In what I write to you, I assure you before God that I am not lying. ²¹ Then I went to the regions of Syria and Cilicia. ²² I was still not known by face to the churches of Judea that are in Christ. ²³ They only heard it being said, "The man who once persecuted us is now proclaiming as good news the faith he once tried to destroy." ²⁴ So they glorified God because of me.

Chapter 2

¹ Then after fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, taking Titus along with me. ² I went up because of a revelation and set before them the gospel that I preach among the Gentiles. I spoke privately to those who seemed to be important, in order to make sure that I was not running—or had not run—in vain. ³ But not even Titus, who was with me and who was a Greek, was forced to be circumcised. ⁴ The false brothers came in secretly to spy on the liberty we have in Christ Jesus. They desired to enslave us, ⁵ but we did not yield in submission to them for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel would remain with you. ⁶ But those who seemed to be important (whatever they were does not matter to me, God shows no partiality)—those, I say, who seemed important added nothing to me. ⁷ On the contrary, they saw that I had been entrusted with the gospel to those who are uncircumcised, just as Peter had been entrusted with the gospel to those who are circumcised. ⁸ For God, who worked in Peter for the apostleship to those who are circumcised, also worked in me to the Gentiles. ⁹ When James, Cephas, and John, who had a reputation as pillars, recognized the grace that had been given to me, they gave the right hand of fellowship to Barnabas and me. They agreed that we should go to the Gentiles and they should go to the circumcised. ¹⁰ They requested only that we remember the poor, the very thing that I was eager to do.

¹¹ But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face because he stood condemned. ¹² Before certain men came from James, Cephas was eating with the Gentiles. But when these men came, he stopped and kept away from the Gentiles. He was afraid of those who were demanding circumcision. ¹³ Also the rest of the Jews joined in this hypocrisy. Even Barnabas was led astray with them by their hypocrisy. ¹⁴ But when I saw that their behavior was not following the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas in front of all of them, "If you are a Jew but are living like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you force the Gentiles to live like Jews?" ¹⁵ We ourselves are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners; ¹⁶ yet we know that no person is justified by the works of the law but through faith in Christ Jesus. So we also have believed in Christ Jesus so that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law. For by the works of the law no flesh will be justified. ¹⁷ But if, while we seek to be justified in Christ, we too were found to be sinners, is Christ then a minister of sin? Absolutely not! ¹⁸ For if I rebuild those things I once destroyed, I prove myself to be a transgressor. ¹⁹ For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live for God. I have been crucified with Christ. ^[1]²⁰ It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. ²¹ I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, then Christ died for nothing!

Footnotes

2:19 ^[1]Some translations include this sentence with verse 20.

Chapter 3

¹ Foolish Galatians! Who has put a spell on you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly displayed as crucified. ² This is the only thing I want to learn from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law or by the hearing of faith? ³ Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now going to be perfected by the flesh? ⁴ Have you suffered so many things for nothing—if indeed it was for nothing? ⁵ Does he who gives the Spirit to you and works miracles among you do so by the works of the law or by the hearing of faith? ⁶ Just as Abraham "believed God and it was credited to him as righteousness," ⁷ in the same way, understand, then, that those of faith are the children of Abraham. ⁸ The scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, "In you all the nations will be blessed." ⁹ So then, those of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith. ¹⁰ All who rely on the works of the law are under a curse; and so it is written, "Cursed is everyone who does not abide by all the things written in the book of the law, and do them." ¹¹ Now it is clear that no one is justified before God by the law, because "the righteous will live by faith." ¹² But the law is not of faith, rather, "The person who does the works of the law must live by them." ¹³ Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"—¹⁴ so that the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.

¹⁵ Brothers, let me speak in human terms. Once a man-made contract is established by law, no one can set it aside or add to it. ¹⁶ Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his descendant. It does not say, "to descendants," referring to many, but instead to only one, "and to your descendant," who is Christ. ¹⁷ Now what I am saying is this: The law, which came 430 years afterward, does not set aside the covenant previously established by God, to nullify the promise. ¹⁸ For if the inheritance comes by the law, then it no longer comes by promise. But God freely gave it to Abraham by a promise. ¹⁹ What, then, was the purpose of the law? It was added because of transgressions until the descendant of Abraham would come to whom the promise had been made. The law was ordained through angels by the hand of an intermediary. ²⁰ Now an intermediary implies more than one person. But God is one. ²¹ So is the law against the promises of God? Absolutely not! For if a law had been given that could give life, then righteousness would certainly have come by the law. ²² But the scripture imprisoned everything under sin so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.

²³ Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until faith should be revealed. ²⁴ So then the law became our guardian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵ But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian. ²⁶ For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. ²⁷ For as many of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ Then if you are Christ's, you are Abraham's descendants, and heirs according to promise.

Chapter 4

¹ I am saying that the heir, for whatever time he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is owner of the entire estate. ² But he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father. ³ So also, when we were children, we were enslaved to the elemental principles of the world. ⁴ But when the fullness of time had come, God sent out his Son, born of a woman, born under the law ⁵ so that he might redeem those under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶ And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, who cries out, "Abba, Father." ⁷ So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then you are also an heir through God.

⁸ But at that time, when you did not know God, you were made to be slaves to those who are, by their natural powers, not gods at all. ⁹ But now that you have come to know God, or rather that you are known by God, how is it that you are turning back to the weak and worthless elemental principles? Do you want to be enslaved all over again? ¹⁰ You observe days and new moons and seasons and years! ¹¹ I am afraid for you that somehow my labor with you may have been for nothing.

¹² I beg you, brothers, become like me, for I also have become like you. You did me no wrong. ¹³ But you know that it was because of a disease of the flesh that I proclaimed the gospel to you the first time, ¹⁴ and though my physical condition put you to the test, you did not despise or reject me. Instead you welcomed me as if I were an angel of God, as if I were Christ Jesus himself. ¹⁵ Where then is your blessing now? For I testify to you that, if it were possible, you would have torn out your own eyes and given them to me. ¹⁶ So then, have I become your enemy because I am telling you the truth? ¹⁷ They are zealous to win you over, but for no good purpose. They want to shut you out so you may be zealous for them. ¹⁸ It is always good to be zealous for a good purpose, and not only when I am present with you. ¹⁹ My little children, again I am suffering the pains of childbirth for you until Christ is formed in you. ²⁰ I wish I could be present with you now and change my tone, because I am perplexed about you.

²¹ Tell me, you who desire to be under the law, do you not listen to the law? ²² For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the slave girl and one by the free woman. ²³ One was born by the slave girl according to the flesh, but the other was born by the free woman through promise. ²⁴ These things may be interpreted as an allegory, for these women represent two covenants. One of them is from Mount Sinai and she bears children into slavery. This is Hagar. ²⁵ Now Hagar represents Mount Sinai in Arabia; and she represents the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. ²⁶ But the Jerusalem that is above is free, and she is our mother. ²⁷ For it is written,

"Rejoice, you barren one who does not give birth;
cry out and shout for joy,
you who are not suffering the pains of childbirth;
because the children of the desolate woman are more numerous
than those of the woman who has a husband."

²⁸ But you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise. ²⁹ At that time the one who was born according to the flesh persecuted the one born according to the Spirit. It is the same now. ³⁰ But what does the scripture say? "Send away the slave girl and her son. For the son of the slave girl will not share in the inheritance with the son of the free woman." ³¹ Therefore, brothers, we are not children of a slave girl, but of the free woman.

Chapter 5

¹ For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not again be subject to a yoke of slavery.

² Look, I, Paul, say to you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will not benefit you in any way.

³ I testify again to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obligated to obey the whole law. ⁴ You are cut off from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you no longer experience grace. ⁵ For through the Spirit, by faith, we eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness. ⁶ In Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has value, but only faith working through love. ⁷ You were running well. Who prevented you from obeying the truth? ⁸ This persuasion does not come from him who calls you! ⁹ A little yeast leavens the whole batch of dough. ¹⁰ I have confidence in the Lord that you will think nothing different. The one who is troubling you will suffer the judgment, whoever he is. ¹¹ Brothers, if I still proclaim circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? In that case the stumbling block of the cross has been removed. ¹² As for those who are disturbing you, I wish they would cut themselves off!

¹³ For you were called to freedom, brothers. But do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh; rather, through love serve one another. ¹⁴ For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You must love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁵ But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another.

¹⁶ But I say, walk by the Spirit and you will not carry out the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh. For these oppose each other, so that you cannot do the things you want. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. ¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, hostilities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, rivalry, dissension, divisions, ²¹ envy, drunkenness, drunken celebrations, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, ²³ gentleness, and self-control; against such things there is no law. ²⁴ Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. ²⁶ Let us not become boastful, provoking one another, envying one another.

Chapter 6

¹ Brothers, if someone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Be concerned about yourself, so you also may not be tempted. ² Carry one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. ³ For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. ⁴ Each one should examine his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in someone else. ⁵ For each one will carry his own burden.

⁶ The one who is taught the word must share all good things with the one who teaches. ⁷ Do not be deceived. God is not mocked, for whatever a man plants, that he will also reap. ⁸ For he who plants seed to his own flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction. The one who plants seed to the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. ⁹ Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the right time we will reap a harvest, if we do not give up. ¹⁰ So then, as we have the opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the household of faith.

¹¹ See what large letters I write to you with my own hand. ¹² Those who want to make a good impression in the flesh are trying to compel you to be circumcised. They do this only to avoid being persecuted for the cross of Christ. ¹³ For not even those who circumcised themselves keep the law, but they want you to be circumcised so that they may boast about your flesh. ¹⁴ But may I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. ¹⁵ For neither circumcision counts for anything nor uncircumcision, but what counts is a new creation. ¹⁶ To all who walk according to this standard, peace and mercy be upon them, even upon the Israel of God.

¹⁷ From now on let no one trouble me, for I carry on my body the marks of Jesus.

¹⁸ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers. Amen.

Ephesians

Chapter 1

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus through the will of God, to God's holy people in Ephesus, who are faithful in Christ Jesus. ^[1]

² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

³ May the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ be praised, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ. ⁴ God chose us in him from the foundation of the world, that we may be holy and blameless in his sight in love. ⁵ God predestined us ^[2] for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will. ⁶ Our adoption results in the praise of his glorious grace that he has freely given us in the One he loves. ⁷ In Jesus Christ we have redemption through his blood and the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace. ⁸ He multiplied this grace to us with all wisdom and understanding. ⁹ God made known to us the mystery of his will, according to what pleased him, and which he demonstrated in Christ, ¹⁰ with a view to a plan for the fullness of time, to bring all things together, all things in heaven and on earth, under one head, even Christ. ¹¹ In Christ we were given an inheritance, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything according to the purpose of his will. ¹² God appointed us as heirs so that we, who are the first to hope in Christ, would be for the praise of his glory. ¹³ In Christ, you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, you believed in him and were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the possession, to the praise of his glory.

¹⁵ For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's holy people, ¹⁶ I have not stopped thanking God for you as I mention you in my prayers. ¹⁷ I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, will give to you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him. ¹⁸ I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, that you may know the hope to which he has called you and the riches of his glorious inheritance among all God's holy people. ¹⁹ In my prayers I ask that you may know the incomparable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of the strength of his might. ²⁰ This is the same power that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places. ²¹ He seated Christ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named. Christ will rule, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. ²² God subjected all things under Christ's feet and gave him to the church as head over all things. ²³ The church is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Footnotes

1:1 ^[1]Some important and ancient Greek copies do not have,

1:5 ^[2]Some interpreters place the last phrase of Ephesians 1:4

Chapter 2

¹ And as for you, you were dead in your trespasses and sins, ² in which you once walked, according to the ways of this world. You were living according to the ruler of the authorities of the air, the spirit that is working in the sons of disobedience. ³ Once we all lived among these people, fulfilling the evil desires of our flesh, and carrying out the desires of the flesh and of the mind. We were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of humanity. ⁴ But God is rich in mercy because of his great love with which he loved us. ⁵ While we were dead in trespasses, he made us alive together in Christ—by grace you have been saved. ⁶ God raised us up together with Christ, and God made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ so that in the ages to come he might show to us the immeasurably great riches of his grace expressed in his kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this did not come from you, it is the gift of God, ⁹ not from works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good deeds that God planned long ago for us, so that we would walk in them.

¹¹ Therefore remember that once you were Gentiles in the flesh. You are called "uncircumcision" by what is called the "circumcision" in the flesh made by human hands. ¹² For at that time you were separated from Christ, foreigners to citizenship in Israel, strangers to the covenants of the promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away from God have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴ For he himself is our peace, because he made us both one. By his flesh he broke down the dividing wall of hostility. ¹⁵ He set aside the law with its commands and ordinances so that he might create in himself one new man out of two, so making peace. ¹⁶ Christ reconciles both peoples into one body to God through the cross, putting to death the hostility. ¹⁷ Jesus came and proclaimed the good news of peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through Jesus we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹ So then, now you Gentiles are no longer foreigners and strangers. Rather you are fellow citizens with God's holy people and members of the household of God. ²⁰ You have been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, and Christ Jesus himself is the cornerstone. ²¹ In him the whole building fits together and grows as a holy temple in the Lord. ²² It is in him that you also are being built together as a dwelling place for God in the Spirit.

Chapter 3

¹ For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles— ² I assume that you have heard of the stewardship of the grace of God that was given to me for you. ³ The mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. ⁴ When you read about this, you will be able to understand my insight into this mystery about Christ. ⁵ In other generations this mystery was not made known to the sons of men. But now it has been revealed by the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets. ⁶ This hidden truth is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, and fellow members of the body, and they share the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷ For I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given to me through the working of his power. ⁸ To me—although I am the least of all God's holy people—this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ ⁹ and to bring to light for everyone the plan—the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things. ¹⁰ This plan was made known through the church so the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places would come to know the many-sided nature of the wisdom of God. ¹¹ This happened according to the eternal plan that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. ¹² For in Christ we have boldness and access with confidence because of our faith in him. ¹³ Therefore I ask you not to be discouraged because of my tribulations for you, which is your glory.

¹⁴ For this reason I bend my knees to the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named. ¹⁶ I pray that he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with power through his Spirit, who is in your inner person. ¹⁷ I pray that Christ may live in your hearts through faith and that you may be rooted and founded in his love, ¹⁸ in order that you might be able to understand, along with all God's holy people, what is the width, the length, the height, and the depth, ¹⁹ and to know the love of Christ, which goes beyond knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

²⁰ Now to him who is able to do far beyond all that we ask or think, according to his power that works in us, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.

Chapter 4

¹ I, therefore, as the prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk worthily of the calling by which you were called. ² I urge you to live with great humility and gentleness and patience, bearing with one another in love. ³ Do your best to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling. ⁵ And there is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ and one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. ⁷ To each one of us grace has been given according to the measure of the gift of Christ. ⁸ It is as scripture says:

"When he ascended on high,
he led the captives into captivity,
and he gave gifts to the people."

⁹ What is the meaning of "he ascended," except that he also descended into the lower regions of the earth? ¹⁰ He who descended is the same person who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things. ¹¹ Christ gave some to be apostles, some as prophets, some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers ¹² to equip God's holy people for the work of service, for the building up of the body of Christ, ¹³ until we all reach the unity of faith and knowledge of the Son of God, so that we become mature and reach the measure of the fullness of Christ. ¹⁴ Christ builds us up so that we should no longer be children who are tossed back and forth by the waves, carried away by every wind of doctrine and by the trickery of people in their deceitful schemes. ¹⁵ Instead, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, that is, Christ. ¹⁶ Christ builds the whole body, and it is joined and held together by every supporting ligament, and when each part works together, that makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

¹⁷ Therefore, I say and insist on this in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their minds. ¹⁸ They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their hearts. ¹⁹ They have become shameless and have committed themselves to sensuality, and they practice every kind of uncleanness with greed. ²⁰ But that is not how you learned about Christ. ²¹ I assume that you have heard about him, and that you were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus. ²² You were taught to put off what belongs to your former manner of life, to put off the old man. It is the old man that is corrupt because of its deceitful desires. ²³ You were taught to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, ²⁴ and to put on the new man that is created in the image of God—in true righteousness and holiness.

²⁵ Therefore, get rid of lies, and let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor, because we are members of one another. ²⁶ Be angry and do not sin. Do not let the sun go down on your anger. ²⁷ Do not give an opportunity to the devil. ²⁸ The one who had been stealing must steal no longer. Instead, he must labor, working at what is good with his hands, so that he may have something to share with those who are in need. ²⁹ Do not let any harmful talk come out of your mouth. Use only words that are good for the edification of those who need it, so that your words give grace to the hearers. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, for it is by him that you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Put away all bitterness, rage, anger, quarreling, and insults, along with every kind of evil. ³² Be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you.

Chapter 5

¹ Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. ² And walk in love, as also Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

³ But sexual immorality or any kind of uncleanness or of greed must not even be named among you, for these are improper for God's holy people. ⁴ Let there be no filthiness, no foolish talk, and no crude jokes—all of which are improper. Instead there should be thanksgiving. ⁵ For you know and are certain that no sexually immoral, impure, or greedy person—that is, an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. ⁶ Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience. ⁷ Therefore, do not join in with them. ⁸ For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹ (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), ¹⁰ and test and approve what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹ Do not associate with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. ¹² For it is disgraceful even to mention the things they do in secret. ¹³ But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible. ¹⁴ For anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

"Awake, you sleeper,
and arise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you."

¹⁵ Look carefully how you walk—not as unwise but as wise. ¹⁶ Redeem the time because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Therefore, do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸ And do not get drunk with wine, for that leads to reckless behavior. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit, ¹⁹ speaking to each other in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart, ²⁰ always giving thanks for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God the Father, ²¹ being subject to one another in reverence for Christ.

²² Wives, submit to your husbands, as to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ also is the head of the church, himself the Savior of the body. ²⁴ But as the church is subject to Christ, so also wives to their husbands in everything. ²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶ so that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷ so that he might present the church to himself as glorious, without stain or wrinkle or any such thing, but holy and blameless. ²⁸ In the same way husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself. ²⁹ For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and treats it with care, just as Christ nourishes and treats the church with care, ³⁰ because we are members of his body. ³¹ "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and will be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." ³² This hidden truth is great—but I am speaking about Christ and the church. ³³ Nevertheless, each of you also must love his own wife as himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

Chapter 6

¹ Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is proper. ² "Honor your father and mother" (which is the first commandment with promise), ³ "so that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth." ⁴ Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger. Instead, raise them in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

⁵ Slaves, be obedient to your masters according to the flesh with deep respect and trembling, in the honesty of your heart. Be obedient to them as you would be obedient to Christ. ⁶ Be obedient not only when your masters are watching, in order to please them. Instead, be obedient as slaves of Christ, who do the will of God from your heart. ⁷ Serve with all your heart, as though you were serving the Lord and not people, ⁸ because we know that for whatever good deed each person does, he will receive a reward from the Lord, whether he is slave or free.

⁹ Masters, treat your slaves in the same way. Do not threaten them. You know that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no partiality with him.

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the scheming plans of the devil. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand in the evil day, and after you have done everything, to stand firm. ¹⁴ Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ and, with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, by which you will be able to put out all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸ With every prayer and request, pray at all times in the Spirit. To this end, always be watching with all perseverance as you offer prayers for all God's holy people. ¹⁹ And pray for me, that a message might be given to me when I open my mouth. Pray that I might make known with boldness the hidden truth about the gospel. ²⁰ It is for the gospel that I am an ambassador who is kept in chains, so that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

²¹ Tychicus, the beloved brother and faithful servant in the Lord, will make everything known to you, so that you may know how I am doing. ²² I have sent him to you for this very purpose, so that you may know how we are, and so that he may encourage your hearts.

²³ Peace be to the brothers, and love with faith from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ Grace be to all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ with an incorruptible love.

Philippians

Chapter 1

¹ Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, to all God's holy people in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi, with the overseers and deacons.

² May grace be to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

³ I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴ always, in every prayer of mine for all of you, making my prayer with joy ⁵ because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶ I am confident of this very thing, that he who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus. ⁷ It is proper for me to feel this way about all of you because I have you in my heart. You all have been my partners in grace both in my imprisonment and in my defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸ For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹ So this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and all understanding ¹⁰ so that you may approve what is excellent, and so you may be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ, ¹¹ filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ to the glory and praise of God.

¹² Now I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel. ¹³ As a result, my chains in Christ came to light throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else. ¹⁴ Most of the brothers have far more confidence in the Lord because of my chains, and they have courage to fearlessly speak the word. ¹⁵ Some indeed even proclaim Christ out of envy and strife, and also others out of good will. ¹⁶ The latter do it out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. ¹⁷ But the former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely. They think they will cause me distress while I am in chains. ¹⁸ What then? Only that in every way—whether from false motives or from true—Christ is proclaimed, and in this I rejoice. Yes, and I will rejoice, ¹⁹ for I know that this will result in my deliverance through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ. ²⁰ It is my eager expectation and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but with all boldness, now as always, Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹ For to me to live is Christ and to die is gain. ²² But if I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which to choose? I do not know. ²³ For I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, which is far better, ²⁴ yet to remain in the flesh is more necessary for your sake. ²⁵ Being convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶ so that in me you may have increasing reasons to boast in Christ Jesus when I come to you again. ²⁷ Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come to see you or am absent, I may hear about you, that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel. ²⁸ Do not be frightened in any respect by those who are your opponents. This is a sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation—and this from God. ²⁹ For it has been freely given to you for the sake of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for his sake, ³⁰ having the same conflict which you saw in me, and now you hear in me.

Chapter 2

¹ If there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any comfort provided by love, if there is any fellowship in the Spirit, if there are any tender mercies and compassions, ² then make my joy full by being of the same mind, having the same love, being united in spirit, and having one purpose. ³ Do nothing out of ambition or empty conceit. Instead with humility consider others better than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. ⁵ Have this mind in yourselves which also was in Christ Jesus,

⁶ who, though he existed in the form of God,
did not consider his equality with God as something to hold on to.

⁷ Rather, he emptied himself,
taking the form of a servant,
and he was born in the likeness of men.
And being found in the form of a man,

⁸ he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death,
even death on a cross!

⁹ Therefore also God highly exalted him
and gave him the name that is above every name,

¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

¹² So then, my beloved, as you always obey, not only in my presence but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. ¹³ For it is God who is working in you both to will and to work for his good pleasure. ¹⁴ Do all things without complaining or arguing ¹⁵ so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without blemish in the middle of a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine as lights in the world. ¹⁶ Hold on to the word of life so that on the day of Christ I may boast that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. ¹⁷ But even if I am being poured out as an offering on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. ¹⁸ In the same manner you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

¹⁹ But I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I may also be encouraged when I know the things about you. ²⁰ For I have no one else like him, who is truly concerned for you. ²¹ For they all seek their own interests, not the things of Jesus Christ. ²² But you know his proven worth, because as a son with his father, so he served with me in the gospel. ²³ So I hope to send him as soon as I see how things will go with me. ²⁴ But I am confident in the Lord that I myself will also come soon. ²⁵ But I think it is necessary to send Epaphroditus back to you. He is my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, and your messenger and servant for my needs. ²⁶ For he was very distressed, and he longed to be with you all, because you heard that he was sick. ²⁷ For indeed he was so sick that he almost died. But God had mercy on him, and not on him only, but also on me, so that I might not have sorrow upon sorrow. ²⁸ So it is all the more eagerly that I am sending him, so that when you see him again you may rejoice, and I can have less sorrow. ²⁹ Therefore, welcome him in the Lord with all joy. Honor people like him. ³⁰ For it was for the work of Christ that he came near death. He risked his life so that he could bring to completion what was lacking in your service to me.

Chapter 3

¹ Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord. For me to write these same things again to you is no trouble for me, and it keeps you safe. ² Watch out for the dogs. Watch out for those evil workers. Watch out for the mutilation. ³ For it is we who are the circumcision—the ones who worship by the Spirit of God, and take pride in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh. ⁴ Even so, I myself could have confidence in the flesh. If anyone thinks he has confidence in the flesh, I could have even more. ⁵ I was circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; with regard to the law, a Pharisee. ⁶ As for zeal, I persecuted the church; as for righteousness under the law, I was blameless. ⁷ But whatever things were a profit for me, I have considered them as loss because of Christ. ⁸ In fact, now I count all things to be loss because of the surpassing value of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord. For him I have given up all things—and I consider them rubbish—so that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness from God that is by faith. ¹⁰ So now I want to know him and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ so somehow I may experience the resurrection from the dead. ¹² Not that I have already obtained these things, or am already perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which I was taken hold of by Christ Jesus. ¹³ Brothers, I do not think that I myself have yet taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining forward to what is ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal with a view to the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ All of us who are mature, let us think this way; and if you think differently about anything, God will also reveal that to you. ¹⁶ Nevertheless, let us live up to what we have already attained.

¹⁷ Be imitators of me, brothers. Closely watch those who are walking by the example that you have in us. ¹⁸ Many are walking—those about whom I have often told you, and now I am telling you with tears—as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹ Their end is destruction. For their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. They think about earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, from where we also wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹ He will transform our lowly bodies into bodies formed like his glorious body, formed by the might of his power to subject all things to himself.

Chapter 4

¹ Therefore, my beloved brothers whom I long for, my joy and crown, in this way stand firm in the Lord, beloved friends.

² I am pleading with Euodia, and I am pleading with Syntyche, be of the same mind in the Lord. ³ Yes, I ask you, my true companion, to help these women who labored with me in spreading the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the Book of Life.

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to all people. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything. Instead, in everything by prayer and earnest appeal with thanksgiving, let your requests be known to God, ⁷ and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus.

⁸ Finally, brothers, whatever things are true, whatever things are honorable, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is anything excellent, if there is anything to be praised, think about these things. ⁹ The things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, do these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

¹⁰ I greatly rejoice in the Lord because now at last you have renewed your concern for me. You had indeed been concerned for me before, but there was no opportunity for you to help. ¹¹ I am not saying this because I am in need. For I have learned to be content in all circumstances. ¹² I know what it is to be poor, and I also know what it is to have plenty. In every way and in all things I have learned the secret of how to be well fed or to be hungry, and how to have an abundance or to be in need. ¹³ I can do all things through him who strengthens me. ¹⁴ However, you did well to share with me in my difficulties. ¹⁵ You Philippians know that in the beginning of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church supported me in the matter of giving and receiving except you alone. ¹⁶ Even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent help for my needs more than once. ¹⁷ It is not that I seek the gift. Instead, I seek the fruit that increases to your credit. ¹⁸ I have received everything in full, and even more. I have been well supplied now that I have received from Epaphroditus the things you sent. They are a sweet-smelling aroma, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. ¹⁹ My God will meet all your needs according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. ²⁰ Now to our God and Father be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

²¹ Greet all God's holy people in Christ Jesus. The brothers who are with me greet you. ²² All God's holy people who are here greet you, especially those of Caesar's household.

²³ The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. ^[1]

Footnotes

4:23 ^[1]Some ancient and important Greek copies add,

Colossians

Chapter 1

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus through the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

² to God's holy people and faithful brothers in Christ who are at Colossae. May grace be to you, and peace from God our Father. ^[1]

³ We give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, and we always pray for you. ⁴ We have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all God's holy people, ⁵ because of the hope reserved for you in heaven, which you heard about in the word of truth, the gospel ⁶ which has come to you. In the same way this gospel is bearing fruit and is growing in all the world—just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth. ⁷ This is the gospel as you learned it from Epaphras, our beloved fellow servant, who is a faithful servant of Christ on our behalf. ^[2]⁸ Epaphras has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

⁹ Because of this love, from the day we heard this we have not stopped praying for you. We pray that you will be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding, ¹⁰ so that you will walk in a manner that is worthy of the Lord and that pleases him in every way: by bearing fruit in every good work and growing in the knowledge of God, ¹¹ by being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, so that you may have great endurance and patience, and by joyfully ¹² giving thanks to the Father, who made you able ^[3] to have a share in the inheritance of God's holy people in light. ¹³ He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. ^[4]¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶ For in him all things were created, those in the heavens and those on the earth, the visible and the invisible things. Whether thrones or dominions or governments or authorities, all things were created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ He is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from among the dead, so he has first place among all things. ¹⁹ For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in the Son, ²⁰ and through the Son to reconcile all things to himself, having made peace through the blood of his cross, whether things on earth or things in heaven. ²¹ At one time you also were alienated and hostile in mind and in evil deeds. ²² But now he has reconciled you by his physical body through death to present you holy, blameless, and above accusation before him, ²³ if indeed you continue in the faith, established and firm, not moved away from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which was proclaimed to every person created under heaven. This is the gospel of which I, Paul, became a servant.

²⁴ Now I rejoice in my sufferings for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is lacking of the afflictions of Christ for the sake of his body, which is the church. ²⁵ It is of this church that I am a servant, according to the stewardship from God that was given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God. ²⁶ This is the mystery that was hidden for ages and for generations but now has been revealed to God's holy people. ²⁷ It is to them that God wanted to make known the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. ²⁸ We proclaim him, warning every person and teaching every person with all wisdom, so that we may present every person mature in Christ. ²⁹ For this I labor and strive according to his energy that is at work in me in power.

Footnotes

1:2 ^[1]Some important and ancient Greek copies add,

1:7 ^[2]Some important and ancient Greek copies read,

1:12 ^[3]Some ancient Greek copies read,

1:14 ^[4]Some ancient Greek copies read,

Chapter 2

¹ For I want you to know how great a struggle I have had for you, for those at Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh. ² I work so that their hearts may be encouraged by being brought together in love and into all the riches of full assurance of understanding, into the knowledge of the mystery of God, that is, Christ. ³ In him all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden. ⁴ I say this so that no one may trick you with persuasive speech. ⁵ Although I am not with you in the flesh, yet I am with you in spirit. I rejoice to see your good order and the strength of your faith in Christ.

⁶ As you received Christ Jesus the Lord, walk in him. ⁷ Be rooted in him, be built on him, be established in faith just as you were taught, and abound in thanksgiving.

⁸ See that no one captures you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, conforming to the elemental spirits of the world, and not conforming to Christ. ⁹ For in him all the fullness of God lives in bodily form. ¹⁰ You have been filled in him, who is the head over every ruler and authority. ¹¹ In him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not done by humans in the removal of the body of flesh, but in the circumcision of Christ. ¹² You were buried with him in baptism, and in him you were raised up through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³ When you were dead in your trespasses and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, he made you alive together with him and forgave us all of our trespasses. ¹⁴ He blotted out the written record of debts that was hostile to us with its regulations. He took it away by nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

¹⁶ So then, let no one judge you in eating or in drinking, or about a festival or a new moon, or about Sabbath days. ¹⁷ These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance is Christ. ¹⁸ Let no one who wants humility and the worship of angels judge you out of your prize. Such a person enters into the things he has seen and becomes puffed up for no reason by his fleshly thinking. ¹⁹ He does not hold on to the head. It is from the head that the whole body throughout its joints and ligaments is supplied and held together; it grows with the growth given by God.

²⁰ If you died together with Christ to the elemental spirits of the world, why do you live as obligated to the world: ²¹ "Do not handle, nor taste, nor touch"? ²² All these things will perish with use, according to the commandments and teachings of men. ²³ These rules have the appearance of wisdom, with their self-made religion and humility and severe treatment of the body. But they have no value against the indulgence of the flesh.

Footnotes

2:13 ^[1]Some ancient Greek copies read,

Chapter 3

¹ If then God has raised you with Christ, seek the things above, where Christ is sitting at the right hand of God. ² Think about the things above, not about the things on earth. ³ For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ appears, who is your life, then you will also appear with him in glory. ^[1]

⁵ Put to death, then, the members that are on earth—sexual immorality, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and greed, which is idolatry. ⁶ It is for these things that the wrath of God is coming on the sons of disobedience. ^[2]⁷ It is in these things that you also once walked when you lived in them. ⁸ But now you must get rid of all these things—wrath, anger, evil intentions, slander, and obscene speech from your mouth. ⁹ Do not lie to one another, since you have taken off the old man with its practices, ¹⁰ and you have put on the new man that is being made new in knowledge according to the image of the one who created it, ¹¹ where there is no Greek or Jew, circumcision or uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, freeman, but Christ is all, and is in all.

¹² Therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, put on a heart of mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. ¹³ Bear with one another. Be gracious to each other. If someone has a complaint against someone else, forgive in the same way that the Lord has forgiven you. ¹⁴ Above all these things, have love, which is the bond of perfection. ¹⁵ Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts. It was for this peace that you were called in one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ live in you richly, teaching and instructing one another with all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷ Whatever you do, in word or in deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus. Give thanks to God the Father through him.

¹⁸ Wives, submit to your husbands, as it is appropriate in the Lord. ¹⁹ Husbands, love your wives, and do not be bitter against them. ²⁰ Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is pleasing in the Lord. ²¹ Fathers, do not provoke your children, so that they will not be discouraged. ²² Slaves, obey your masters according to the flesh in all things, not with eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with a sincere heart. Fear the Lord. ²³ Whatever you do, work from the soul as to the Lord and not as to people. ²⁴ You know that you will receive from the Lord the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve. ²⁵ For anyone who does unrighteousness will receive the penalty for the unrighteousness that he did, and there is no partiality.

Footnotes

3:4 ^[1]Some ancient Greek copies, and some ancient translations read,

3:6 ^[2]Some ancient Greek copies read,

Chapter 4

¹ Masters, give to slaves what is right and fair, knowing you also have a Master in heaven.

² Continue steadfastly in prayer, staying alert in it in thanksgiving, ³ praying together for us also, that God would open a door to us for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which also I have been in chains. ⁴ Pray that I may make it clear, as I ought to speak. ⁵ Walk in wisdom toward those outside, and redeem the time. ⁶ Let your words always be with grace. Let them be seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you should answer each person.

⁷ As for all the things concerning me, Tychicus will make them known to you. He is a beloved brother, a faithful servant, and fellow slave in the Lord. ⁸ I have sent him to you for this, that you might know the matters about us, and so that he may encourage your hearts. ^[1]⁹ I have sent him together with Onesimus, the faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They will make known to you everything that has happened here.

¹⁰ Aristarchus, my fellow prisoner, greets you, as well as Mark, the cousin of Barnabas (about whom you received orders; if he comes to you, receive him), ¹¹ and also Jesus who is called Justus. These alone of the circumcision are my fellow workers for the kingdom of God. They have been a comfort to me. ¹² Epaphras greets you. He is one of you and a slave of Christ Jesus. He always strives for you in prayer, so that you may stand complete and fully assured in all the will of God. ¹³ For I can testify that he works hard for you, for those in Laodicea, and for those in Hierapolis. ¹⁴ Luke the beloved physician and Demas greet you. ¹⁵ Greet the brothers in Laodicea, and Nympha, and the church that is in her house. ¹⁶ When this letter has been read among you, have it read also in the church of the Laodiceans, and see that you also read the letter from Laodicea. ¹⁷ Say to Archippus, "Look to the ministry that you have received in the Lord, that you should fulfill it."

¹⁸ This greeting is with my own hand—Paul. Remember my chains. May grace be with you.

Footnotes

4:8 ^[1]There are some important and ancient Greek copies, along with some ancient translations of the Greek that read,

1 Thessalonians

Chapter 1

¹ Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy to the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. May grace and peace be to you. ^[1]

² We always give thanks to God for all of you as we mention you continually in our prayers. ³ We remember before our God and Father your work of faith, labor of love, and patient endurance of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ Brothers loved by God, we know he has chosen you, ⁵ because our gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power, in the Holy Spirit, and in much assurance. In the same way, you also know what kind of men we were among you for your sake. ⁶ You became imitators of us and of the Lord when you received the word in much tribulation with joy from the Holy Spirit. ⁷ As a result, you became an example to all in Macedonia and Achaia who believe. ⁸ For from you the word of the Lord has rung out, and not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone out everywhere. Therefore we do not need to say anything about it. ⁹ For they themselves report concerning us what kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from the idols to serve the living and true God, ¹⁰ and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come.

Footnotes

1:1 ^[1]Some important and ancient Greek copies read,

Chapter 2

¹ For you yourselves know, brothers, that our coming to you was not useless. ² Rather, as you know, though we previously suffered and were shamefully treated at Philippi, we were bold in our God to speak to you the gospel of God in much struggling. ³ For our exhortation was not from error, nor from uncleanness, nor from deceit. ⁴ Instead, just as we have been approved by God to be trusted with the gospel, so we speak, not to please men, but God. He is the one who examines our hearts. ⁵ For we never came with words of flattery, as you know, nor with a pretext to cover up greed—God is our witness. ⁶ Nor did we seek glory from people, either from you or from others. ⁷ We could have claimed privileges as apostles of Christ. ^[1] Instead, we were as gentle among you as a mother comforting her own children. ^[2]⁸ In this way we had affection for you. We were pleased to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives. For you had become very dear to us. ⁹ For you remember, brothers, our labor and toil. Night and day we were working so that we might not be a burden to any of you as we preached to you the gospel of God. ¹⁰ You are witnesses, and God also, how holy, righteous, and blameless was our behavior toward you who believe. ¹¹ In the same way you know how we were with each one of you, as a father with his own children, ¹² exhorting you and comforting you and urging you to walk in a manner that is worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.

¹³ For this reason we also thank God constantly, that when you received God's message that you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of man, but just as it truly is, the word of God, which is also at work in you who believe. ¹⁴ For you, brothers, became imitators of the churches of God that are in Judea in Christ Jesus. For you also suffered the same things from your own countrymen, as they did from the Jews ¹⁵ who killed both the Lord Jesus and the prophets, and who drove us out. They do not please God. Instead, they are hostile to all people. ¹⁶ They forbid us to speak to the Gentiles for them to be saved. The result is that they always fill up their sins to the limit. But wrath will overtake them in the end.

¹⁷ But we, brothers, were separated from you for a short time, in person not in heart. We were especially eager, with great desire, to see your faces. ¹⁸ For we wished to come to you—indeed I, Paul, once and again—but Satan stopped us. ¹⁹ For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of pride in front of our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you? ²⁰ For you are our glory and joy.

Footnotes

2:7 ^[1]Many copies include this sentence in verse 6.

2:7 ^[2]Some important and ancient Greek copies read,

Chapter 3

¹ Therefore, when we could no longer bear it, we thought it was good to be left behind at Athens alone. ² We sent Timothy, our brother and fellow worker for God in the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and comfort you regarding your faith, ^[1]³ so that no one would be shaken by these tribulations. For you yourselves know that for this we have been appointed. ⁴ Truly, when we were with you, we told you in advance that we were about to suffer affliction, and it happened just so, as you know. ⁵ For this reason, when I could no longer endure it, I sent that I might know about your faith. Perhaps the tempter had somehow tempted you, and our labor was in vain. ⁶ But Timothy came to us from you and brought us the good news of your faith and love. He told us that you always have good memories of us, and that you long to see us just as we also long to see you. ⁷ Because of this, brothers, we were comforted by you because of your faith, in all our distress and affliction. ⁸ For now we live, if you stand firm in the Lord. ⁹ For what thanks can we give to God for you, for all the joy that we have before our God over you? ¹⁰ Night and day we pray very hard that we may see your face and provide what is lacking in your faith.

¹¹ May our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you. ¹² May the Lord make you increase and abound in love one for another and toward all people, as we also do for you. ¹³ May he strengthen your hearts so that they will be blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his holy people.

Footnotes

3:2 ^[1]Some important and ancient Greek copies read,

Chapter 4

¹ Finally, brothers, we earnestly appeal to you and exhort you in the Lord Jesus. As you received instructions from us about how you must walk and please God, also in this way walk, so that you do so even more. ² For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus. ³ For this is the will of God, your sanctification, that you avoid sexual immorality, ⁴ that each of you knows how to possess his own vessel in holiness and honor, ⁵ not in the passion of lust (as the Gentiles who do not know God). ⁶ Let no man transgress and wrong his brother in this matter. For the Lord is an avenger in all these things, just as we forewarned you and testified. ⁷ For God did not call us to uncleanness, but to holiness. ⁸ Therefore, he who rejects this rejects not people, but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.

⁹ Regarding brotherly love, you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another. ¹⁰ Indeed, you do this for all the brothers who are in all Macedonia. But we exhort you, brothers, to do this even more. ¹¹ We also exhort you to aspire to live quietly, take care of your own responsibilities, and labor with your hands, just as we commanded you, ¹² so that you may walk properly before outsiders and not be in any need.

¹³ We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who sleep, so that you do not grieve like the rest, who do not have hope. ¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. ¹⁵ For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left at the coming of the Lord, will surely not go before those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself will descend from heaven. He will come with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive, who are left, will together with them be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. In this way we will always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore, comfort one another with these words.

Chapter 5

¹ Now concerning the times and seasons, brothers, you have no need that anything be written to you. ² For you yourselves know perfectly well that the day of the Lord is coming like a thief in the night. ³ When they say, "Peace and safety," then sudden destruction will come on them. It will be like birth pains in a pregnant woman. They will in no way escape. ⁴ But you, brothers, are not in darkness so that the day would overtake you like a thief. ⁵ For you are all sons of the light and sons of the day. We are not sons of the night or the darkness. ⁶ So then, let us not sleep as the rest do. Instead, let us keep watch and be sober. ⁷ For those who sleep do so at night, and those who get drunk do so at night. ⁸ But since we belong to the day, we must stay sober and put on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation for our helmet. ⁹ For God did not appoint us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰ who died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. ¹¹ Therefore comfort one another and build each other up, just as you are already doing.

¹² We earnestly appeal to you, brothers, to acknowledge those who labor among you and who rule over you in the Lord and who instruct you, ¹³ and to esteem them highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. ¹⁴ We exhort you, brothers: Warn those who are lazy, encourage the discouraged, help the weak, and be patient toward all. ¹⁵ See that no one pays back evil for evil to anyone. Instead, pursue what is good for one another and for all. ¹⁶ Rejoice always. ¹⁷ Pray without ceasing. ¹⁸ In everything give thanks. For this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰ Do not despise prophecies. ²¹ Test all things. Hold firmly to what is good. ²² Keep away from every kind of evil.

²³ May the God of peace sanctify you completely. May your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ Faithful is he who calls you, the one who will also do it.

²⁵ Brothers, pray also for us.

²⁶ Greet all the brothers with a holy kiss. ²⁷ I command you by the Lord to have this letter read to all the brothers.

²⁸ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

2 Thessalonians

Chapter 1

¹ Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, to the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

³ We should always give thanks to God for you, brothers, as is appropriate, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love each of you has for one another increases. ⁴ So we ourselves boast about you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions, and in the tribulations that you are enduring. ⁵ This is evidence of God's righteous judgment, so that you will be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are also suffering. ⁶ For indeed, it is righteous for God to return affliction to those who afflict you, ⁷ and relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels ⁸ in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. ⁹ They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his power. ¹⁰ He will do this when he comes on that day to be glorified in his holy people and to be marveled at by all those who believed, because our testimony to you was believed. ¹¹ Because of this we also pray continually for you, that our God may consider you worthy of your calling and with his power he may fulfill every good purpose and every work of faith. ¹² We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Chapter 2

¹ Now about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to be with him, we earnestly appeal to you, brothers, ² that you not be easily disturbed or troubled, either by a spirit or by a message, or by a letter that seems to be coming from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has already come. ³ Let no one deceive you in any way. For it will not come until after the falling away comes and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction. ^[1]⁴ This is he who opposes and exalts himself against all that is called God or that is worshiped. As a result, he sits in the temple of God and exhibits himself as God. ⁵ Do you not remember that when I was with you I told you these things? ⁶ Now you know what restrains him, so that he will be revealed only at the right time. ⁷ For the mystery of lawlessness is already working, only there is someone who restrains him now until he is taken out of the way. ⁸ Then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring him to nothing by the revelation of his coming. ⁹ The coming of the lawless one will be due to the work of Satan with all power, signs, and false wonders, ¹⁰ and with every kind of evil that deceives those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. ¹¹ For this reason God is sending them a powerful delusion so that they will believe a lie ¹² and so that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but instead took pleasure in unrighteousness.

¹³ But we should always give thanks to God for you, brothers loved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved through the sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. ^[2]¹⁴ He called you to this through our gospel, so that you might obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁵ So then, brothers, stand firm and hold tightly to the traditions that you were taught, whether by word or by our letter.

¹⁶ Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, ¹⁷ comfort and strengthen your hearts in every good work and word.

Footnotes

2:3 ^[1]Some important and ancient Greek copies read,

2:13 ^[2]Some important and ancient Greek copies read,

Chapter 3

¹ Now, brothers, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may rush and be glorified, as it also is with you, ² and that we may be delivered from unrighteous and evil people, for not all have faith. ³ But the Lord is faithful, who will strengthen you and guard you from the evil one. ⁴ We have confidence in the Lord about you, that you both do and will continue to do the things that we command. ⁵ May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the endurance of Christ.

⁶ Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you avoid every brother who is idle and does not live according to the traditions you received from us. ⁷ For you yourselves know it is proper for you to imitate us, because we were not idle when we were with you. ⁸ We did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but we worked night and day in labor and toil, so we might not be a burden to any of you. ⁹ We did this not because we have no authority, but we did this in order to be an example to you, so that you may imitate us. ¹⁰ For when we were with you, we commanded you, "The one who is unwilling to labor must not eat." ¹¹ For we hear that some among you are idle, not busy at labor, but busybodies. ¹² Now such ones we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ, that they should labor with quietness and eat their own bread. ¹³ But you, brothers, do not become tired of doing well. ¹⁴ And if anyone does not obey our word in this letter, take note of him and have no association with him, so that he may be ashamed. ¹⁵ Yet do not consider him as an enemy, but warn him as a brother.

¹⁶ Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in all ways. The Lord be with you all. ¹⁷ I, Paul, write this with my own hand, which is the mark on every letter I write. ¹⁸ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

1 Timothy

Chapter 1

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus according to the commandment of God our Savior and Christ Jesus our hope,

² to Timothy, a true son in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

³ As I urged you to do when I was leaving for Macedonia, remain in Ephesus so that you can command certain people not to teach a different doctrine. ⁴ Neither should they pay attention to stories and endless genealogies. These promote arguments rather than the plan of God, which is by faith. ⁵ Now the goal of the commandment is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from a sincere faith. ⁶ Some people have gone astray from these things and have turned to worthless talk. ⁷ They want to be teachers of the law, but they do not understand what they are saying or what they so confidently affirm. ⁸ But we know that the law is good if one uses it lawfully. ⁹ We know this, that law is not set in place for a righteous man, but for lawless and rebellious people, for ungodly people and sinners, and for those who are unholy and profane, for those who kill their fathers and mothers, for murderers, ¹⁰ for sexually immoral people, for those who practice homosexuality, for those who kidnap people for slaves, for liars, for false witnesses, and for whatever else is opposed to truthful teaching. ¹¹ This instruction is according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God with which I have been entrusted.

¹² I thank Christ Jesus our Lord. He strengthened me, for he considered me faithful, and he appointed me to service. ¹³ I was a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a violent man. But I received mercy because I acted ignorantly in unbelief. ¹⁴ And the grace of our Lord overflowed with the faith and the love that is in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ This message is reliable and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. ¹⁶ But for this reason I was given mercy, so that in me, the chief, Christ Jesus might demonstrate all patience. He did this as an example for those who would believe in him for eternal life. ¹⁷ Now to the king of the ages, the immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

¹⁸ I am placing this command before you, Timothy, my child, in accordance with the prophecies previously made about you, that you might fight the good fight, ¹⁹ holding faith and a good conscience. By rejecting this, some have shipwrecked their faith. ²⁰ Such are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I delivered over to Satan so that they may be taught not to blaspheme.

Chapter 2

¹ Therefore, first of all, I urge that humble requests, prayers, petitions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, ² for kings and all who are in authority, in order that we may live a peaceful and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. ³ This is good and acceptable before God our Savior. ⁴ He desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵ For there is one God, and there is one mediator for God and man, the man Christ Jesus. ⁶ He gave himself as a ransom for all, as the testimony at the right time. ⁷ For this purpose I was appointed a herald and an apostle—I am telling the truth, I am not lying—and a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

⁸ Therefore, I want men in every place to pray and to lift up holy hands without anger or arguing. ⁹ In the same way, the women are to dress with proper clothing, with modesty and self-control, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or expensive clothing, ¹⁰ but with what is proper for women who proclaim godliness through good works. ¹¹ A woman should learn in silence and with all submission. ¹² I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man, but to live in quietness. ¹³ For Adam was formed first, then Eve. ¹⁴ Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor. ¹⁵ However, she will be saved through bearing children, if they continue in faith and love and sanctification with self-control.

Chapter 3

¹ This saying is trustworthy: If someone desires to be an overseer, he desires a good work. ² Therefore the overseer must have a good reputation. He must be a husband of one wife. He must be moderate, sensible, orderly, and hospitable. He must be able to teach. ³ He must not be addicted to wine, not a brawler, but instead, gentle, peaceful. He must not be a lover of money. ⁴ He should manage his own household well, and he should make sure his children obey and respect him in every way. ⁵ For if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for a church of God? ⁶ He should not be a new convert, so that he does not swell with pride and might fall into condemnation as the devil. ⁷ He must also have a good reputation with those outside, so that he does not fall into disgrace and the trap of the devil. ⁸ In the same way, deacons should be dignified, not double-talkers. They should not drink too much wine or be greedy. ⁹ They should keep the mystery of the faith with a clean conscience. ¹⁰ They should also be approved first, and then they should serve because they are blameless. ¹¹ In the same way, their wives should be dignified, not slanderers, but sober and faithful in all things. ¹² Deacons must be husbands of one wife. They must manage well their children and household. ¹³ For those who have served well acquire for themselves a good standing and great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

¹⁴ As I write these things to you, I hope to come to you soon. ¹⁵ But if I delay, I am writing so that you may know how to conduct yourself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth. ¹⁶ We all agree that the mystery of godliness is great:

"He was revealed in the flesh,
was vindicated by the Spirit,
was seen by angels,
was proclaimed among nations,
was believed on in the world,
and was taken up in glory."

Chapter 4

¹ Now the Spirit clearly says that in later times some people will leave the faith and pay attention to deceitful spirits and the teachings of demons ² by the hypocrisy of liars, their own consciences having been seared. ³ They will forbid people to marry and require them to abstain from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. ⁴ For every creation of God is good, and nothing received with thanksgiving is to be rejected. ⁵ For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.

⁶ If you place these things before the brothers, you will be a good servant of Jesus Christ. For you are being nourished by the words of faith and by the good teaching that you have followed. ⁷ But reject profane stories loved by old women. Instead, train yourself in godliness. ⁸ For bodily training is a little useful, but godliness is useful for all things. It holds promise for this life now and the life to come. ⁹ This message is trustworthy and worthy of full acceptance. ¹⁰ For it is for this that we labor and struggle. For we hope in the living God, who is the Savior of all people, but especially of believers. ¹¹ Instruct the people and teach these things. ¹² Let no one despise your youth, but be an example for the believers in speech, conduct, love, faithfulness, and purity. ¹³ Until I come, attend to the reading, to the exhortation, and to the teaching. ¹⁴ Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you through prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the elders. ¹⁵ Care for these things. Be in them, so that your progress may be evident to all people. ¹⁶ Give careful attention to yourself and to the teaching. Continue in these things. For by doing so, you will save yourself and those who listen to you.

Chapter 5

¹ Do not rebuke an older man. Instead, exhort him as if he were a father. Exhort younger men as brothers, ² older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters, in all purity. ³ Honor widows, the real widows. ⁴ But if a widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show honor in their own household. Let them repay their parents, because this is pleasing to God. ⁵ But she who is a real widow, who is left all alone, has set her hope in God and continues in offering earnest appeals and prayers night and day, ⁶ but the woman who lives for pleasure is dead even while she lives. ⁷ Instruct them in these things as well, so that they may be blameless. ⁸ But if someone does not provide for his own relatives, especially for those of his own household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever. ⁹ Let a woman be enrolled as a widow who is not younger than sixty years old, a wife of one husband. ¹⁰ She must have a reputation for doing good deeds, whether it is that she has cared for children, or has been hospitable to strangers, or has washed the feet of God's holy people, or has relieved the afflicted, or has been devoted to every good work. ¹¹ But as for younger widows, refuse to enroll them in the list. For when they give in to bodily desires against Christ, they want to marry. ¹² In this way they incur condemnation because they set aside their first commitment. ¹³ At the same time, they also learn to be lazy and they go around from house to house. They not only become lazy, but they also talk nonsense and are busybodies, saying things they should not say. ¹⁴ I therefore want younger widows to marry, to bear children, to manage the household, and to give no opportunity for the enemy to slander us. ¹⁵ For some have already turned aside after Satan. ¹⁶ If any believing woman has widows, let her help them, so that the church will not be burdened, so that it might help the real widows.

¹⁷ Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor with the word and in teaching. ¹⁸ For the scripture says, "You must not put a muzzle on an ox while it threshes the grain" and "The laborer is worthy of his wages." ¹⁹ Do not receive an accusation against an elder unless there are two or three witnesses. ²⁰ Correct sinners before all so that the rest may be afraid. ²¹ I solemnly command you, before God and Christ Jesus and the chosen angels, to keep these commands without partiality, and to do nothing out of favoritism. ²² Place hands hastily on no one. Do not share in the sins of another person. You should keep yourself pure. ²³ You should no longer drink water. Instead, you should take a little wine for the stomach and your frequent sicknesses. ²⁴ The sins of some people are openly known, and they go before them into judgment. But some sins follow later. ²⁵ In the same way, some good works are openly known, but even the others cannot be hidden.

Chapter 6

¹ Let all who are under the yoke as slaves regard their own masters as worthy of all honor. They should do this so that the name of God and the teaching might not be blasphemed. ² The slaves who have believing masters should not show them disrespect because they are brothers. Instead, they should serve them all the more. For those who receive the benefit are believers and beloved. Teach and declare these things.

³ If anyone teaches false doctrine and does not agree with the truthful words of our Lord Jesus Christ and with godly teaching, ⁴ he is proud and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy interest in controversies and arguments about words that result in envy, strife, insults, evil suspicions, ⁵ and constant conflict between people who have morally corrupt minds. They have lost the truth and they think that godliness is a way to get more money. ^[1]⁶ Now godliness with contentment is great gain, ⁷ for we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. ⁸ Instead, let us be satisfied with food and clothing. ⁹ Now those who desire to become wealthy fall into temptation, into a trap. They fall into many foolish and harmful desires, and into whatever else sinks people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people who desire it have been misled away from the faith and have pierced themselves with much grief.

¹¹ But you, man of God, flee from these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faithfulness, love, endurance, and gentleness. ¹² Fight the good fight of faith. Take hold of the everlasting life to which you were called, and about which you gave the good confession before many witnesses. ¹³ I give these orders to you before God, who gives life to all things, and before Christ Jesus, who testified before Pontius Pilate and made the good confession, ¹⁴ to keep the command without spot or blame until the appearance of our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁵ God will reveal Christ's appearing at the right time—God, the blessed and only Sovereign, the King who reigns and the Lord who rules. ¹⁶ Only he has immortality and dwells in inapproachable light. No man sees him or is able to view him. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

¹⁷ Instruct the rich in this world not to be proud and not to hope in riches, which are uncertain. Instead, they should hope in God. He offers to us all the true riches to enjoy. ¹⁸ Tell them to do good, to be rich in good works, and to be generous and willing to share. ¹⁹ In that way they will store up for themselves a good foundation for what is to come, so that they will take hold of real life.

²⁰ Timothy, protect what was given to you. Avoid the profane and empty talk and the conflicting ideas of what is falsely called knowledge. ²¹ Some men proclaim these things and so they have gone astray from the faith. May grace be with you.

Footnotes

6:5 ^[1]Some old copies add the exhortation,

2 Timothy

Chapter 1

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus through the will of God, according to the promise of the life that is in Christ Jesus,

² to Timothy, beloved child: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

³ I thank God, whom I serve from my forefathers, with a clean conscience, as I constantly remember you in my prayers night and day. ⁴ As I remember your tears, I long to see you, that I may be filled with joy. ⁵ I have been reminded of your genuine faith, which lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am convinced that it lives in you also. ⁶ This is the reason I am reminding you to rekindle the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. ⁷ For God did not give us a spirit of fear, but of power and love and discipline. ⁸ So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me, Paul, his prisoner. Instead, share in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God, ⁹ who saved us and called us with a holy calling. He did this, not according to our works, but according to his own plan and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before times ever began. ¹⁰ But now God's salvation has been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who put an end to death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. ¹¹ Because of this, I was appointed a herald, an apostle, and a teacher. ¹² For this cause I also suffer these things. But I am not ashamed, for I know him whom I have believed. I am convinced that he is able to keep that which I have entrusted to him until that day. ¹³ Keep the example of the truthful words that you heard from me, with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁴ The good thing that God committed to you, guard it through the Holy Spirit, who lives in us.

¹⁵ You know this, that all who live in Asia turned away from me. In this group are Phygelus and Hermogenes. ¹⁶ May the Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, for he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chain. ¹⁷ Instead, when he was in Rome, he sought me diligently, and he found me. ¹⁸ May the Lord grant to him to find mercy from him on that day. All the ways he served me in Ephesus, you know very well.

Footnotes

1:11 ^[1]Some important and ancient Greek copies add,

Chapter 2

¹ You therefore, my child, be strengthened in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. ² The things you heard from me among many witnesses, entrust them to faithful people who will be able to teach others also. ³ Suffer hardship with me as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. ⁴ No soldier serves while entangled in the affairs of this life, so that he may please his superior officer. ⁵ Also, if someone competes as an athlete, he is not crowned unless he competes by the rules. ⁶ It is necessary that the hard-working farmer receive his share of the crops first. ⁷ Think about what I am saying, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything. ⁸ Remember Jesus Christ, a descendant of David, who was raised from the dead. This is according to my gospel message, ⁹ for which I am suffering to the point of being bound with chains as a criminal. But the word of God is not bound. ¹⁰ Therefore I endure all things for those who are chosen, so that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory. ¹¹ This is a trustworthy saying:

"If we have died with him, we will also live with him.

¹² If we endure, we will also reign with him.

If we deny him, he also will deny us.

¹³ If we are unfaithful, he remains faithful,
for he cannot deny himself."

¹⁴ Keep reminding them of these things. Command them before God not to quarrel about words; it is of no value and only ruins those who listen. ^[1]¹⁵ Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a laborer who has no reason to be ashamed, who accurately teaches the word of truth. ¹⁶ Avoid profane and empty talk, which leads to more and more godlessness. ¹⁷ Their talk will spread like cancer. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, ¹⁸ who have gone astray from the truth. They say that the resurrection has already happened, and they destroy the faith of some. ¹⁹ However, the firm foundation of God stands. It has this inscription: "The Lord knows those who are his" and "Everyone who names the name of the Lord must depart from unrighteousness." ²⁰ In a wealthy home there are not only containers of gold and silver. There are also containers of wood and clay. Some of these are for honorable use, and some for dishonorable. ²¹ If someone cleans himself from dishonorable use, he is an honorable container. He is set apart, useful to the Master, and prepared for every good work. ²² Flee youthful lusts. Pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace with those who call on the Lord out of a clean heart. ²³ But refuse foolish and ignorant questions. You know that they give birth to quarrels. ²⁴ The Lord's servant must not quarrel. Instead he must be gentle toward all, able to teach, and patient, ²⁵ correcting his opponents with gentleness. Perhaps God may give them repentance for the knowledge of the truth. ²⁶ They may become sober again and leave the devil's trap, after they have been captured by him for his will.

Footnotes

2:14 ^[1]Some important and ancient Greek copies read,

Chapter 3

¹ But know this: In the last days there will be difficult times. ² For people will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, and unholy. ³ They will be without natural affection, unable to reconcile, slanderers, without self-control, violent, not lovers of good. ⁴ They will be betrayers, reckless, prideful, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God. ⁵ They will have a shape of godliness, but they will deny its power. Turn away from these people. ⁶ For some of them are men who enter into households and captivate foolish women. These are women who are loaded up with sins and are led away by various desires. ⁷ These women are always learning, but they are never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁸ In the same way that Jannes and Jambres stood against Moses, these false teachers also stand against the truth. They are men corrupt in mind, and with regard to the faith they are rejected. ⁹ But they will not advance very far. For their foolishness will be obvious to all, just like that of those men. ¹⁰ But as for you, you have followed my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, patience, ¹¹ persecutions, sufferings, and what happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra. I endured persecutions. Out of them all, the Lord rescued me. ¹² All those who want to live in a godly manner in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. ¹³ Evil people and impostors will go from bad to worse, leading others astray and being led astray. ¹⁴ But as for you, remain in the things that you have learned and have firmly believed. You know from whom you have learned. ¹⁵ You know that from childhood you have known the sacred writings. These are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All scripture has been inspired by God. It is profitable for doctrine, for conviction, for correction, and for training in righteousness. ¹⁷ This is so that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.

Chapter 4

¹ I give this solemn command before God and Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and because of his appearing and his kingdom: ² Preach the word; be ready when it is convenient and when it is not. Reprove, rebuke, exhort, with all patience and teaching. ³ For the time will come when people will not endure sound teaching. Instead, they will heap up for themselves teachers according to their own desires, who say what their itching ears want to hear. ⁴ They will turn their hearing away from the truth, and they will turn aside to myths. ⁵ But you, be sober-minded in all things. Suffer hardship; do the work of an evangelist; fulfill your ministry. ⁶ For I am already being poured out. The time of my departure has come. ⁷ I have fought the good fight; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith. ⁸ The crown of righteousness has been reserved for me, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on that day, and not to me only, but also to all those who have loved his appearing.

⁹ Do your best to come to me quickly. ¹⁰ For Demas has left me. He loves this present world and has gone to Thessalonica. Crescens went to Galatia, and Titus went to Dalmatia. ¹¹ Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you because he is useful to me in the service. ¹² Tychicus I sent to Ephesus. ¹³ The cloak that I left at Troas with Carpus, bring it when you come, and the books, especially the parchments. ¹⁴ Alexander the coppersmith displayed many evil deeds against me. The Lord will repay him according to his deeds. ¹⁵ You also should guard yourself against him, because he greatly opposed our words. ¹⁶ At my first defense, no one stood with me. Instead, everyone left me. May it not be counted against them. ¹⁷ But the Lord stood by me and strengthened me so that, through me, the proclamation of the message might be fully accomplished, and that all the Gentiles might hear it. And I was rescued out of the lion's mouth. ¹⁸ The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and will save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

¹⁹ Greet Priscilla, Aquila, and the house of Onesiphorus. ²⁰ Erastus remained at Corinth, but Trophimus I left sick at Miletus. ²¹ Do your best to come before winter. Eubulus greets you, also Pudens, Linus, Claudia, and all the brothers.

²² May the Lord be with your spirit. May grace be with you.

Titus

Chapter 1

¹ Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ for the faith of God's chosen people and the knowledge of the truth that agrees with godliness, ² with the hope of everlasting life that God, who does not lie, promised before all the ages of time. ³ At the right time he revealed his word through the preaching with which I have been entrusted according to the command of God our Savior.

⁴ To Titus, a true son in our common faith. Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.

⁵ For this purpose I left you in Crete, that you might set in order things not yet complete and ordain elders in every city as I directed you. ⁶ An elder must be blameless, the husband of one wife, with faithful children not accused of being reckless or disobedient. ⁷ It is necessary for the overseer, as a manager of the household of God, to be blameless. He must not be arrogant, not be easily angered, not addicted to wine, not a brawler, and not a greedy man. ⁸ Instead, he should be hospitable, loving goodness, sensible, upright, holy, and self-controlled. ⁹ He should hold tightly to the trustworthy message that was taught, so that he may be able to encourage others with truthful teaching and correct those who oppose him.

¹⁰ For there are many rebellious people, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision. ¹¹ It is necessary to stop them. They are upsetting whole families by teaching for disgraceful profit what they should not teach. ¹² One of their own prophets has said, "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons." ¹³ This testimony is true. Therefore, correct them severely, so that they may be truthful in the faith, ¹⁴ not paying any attention to Jewish myths or to the commands of people who turn away from the truth. ¹⁵ To those who are pure, all things are pure. But to those who are corrupt and unbelieving, nothing is pure, but both their minds and their consciences have been corrupted. ¹⁶ They profess to know God, but they deny him by their actions. They are detestable, disobedient, and worthless for any good work.

Chapter 2

¹ But you, speak what fits with truthful instruction. ² Teach older men to be temperate, dignified, sensible, and sound in faith, in love, and in perseverance. ³ In the same way, teach older women to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or being slaves to much wine, but to be teachers of what is good, ⁴ and so train the younger women to love their husbands and to love their children, ⁵ to be sensible, pure, good housekeepers, and to be obedient to their own husbands, so that God's word may not be spoken of as evil. ⁶ In the same way, encourage the younger men to use good sense. ⁷ In all ways present yourself as an example of good works. In your teaching, show integrity, dignity, ⁸ and a truthful message that is above criticism, so that anyone who opposes you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us. ⁹ Slaves are to be submissive to their masters in everything, to please them and not argue with them, ¹⁰ to not steal from them, but instead to demonstrate all good faith, so that in every way they may bring credit to the teaching about God our Savior. ¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared for the salvation of all people. ¹² It trains us to reject godlessness and worldly desires, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in this age, ¹³ while we look forward to receiving our blessed hope, the appearance of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ. ¹⁴ Jesus gave himself for us in order to redeem us from all lawlessness and to make pure for himself a special people who are eager to do good works.

¹⁵ Speak of these things, encourage people to do them, and give correction with all authority. Let no one disregard you.

Chapter 3

¹ Remind them to submit to rulers and authorities, to obey them, to be ready for every good work, ² to insult no one, to not be eager to fight, and to be gentle, showing all humility toward everyone. ³ For once we ourselves were thoughtless and disobedient. We were led astray and enslaved by various desires and pleasures. We lived in evil and envy. We were detestable and hated one another. ⁴ But when the kindness of God our Savior and his love for mankind appeared, ⁵ it was not by works of righteousness that we did, but by his mercy that he saved us, through the washing of new birth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom God richly poured on us through our Savior Jesus Christ, ⁷ so that having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. ⁸ This message is trustworthy. I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to engage themselves in good works. These things are good and useful for everyone. ⁹ But avoid foolish debates and genealogies and strife and conflict about the law. Those things are unprofitable and worthless. ¹⁰ Reject anyone who is causing divisions among you, after one or two warnings, ¹¹ knowing that such a person has turned from the right way and is sinning and condemns himself.

¹² When I send Artemas or Tychicus to you, hurry and come to me at Nicopolis, where I have decided to spend the winter. ¹³ Do everything you can to send on their way Zenas the lawyer and Apollos, so that they lack nothing. ¹⁴ Our people must learn to engage themselves in good works that provide for urgent needs, and so not be unfruitful.

¹⁵ All those who are with me greet you. Greet those who love us in faith. Grace be with all of you.

Philemon

Chapter 1

¹ Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and the brother Timothy, to Philemon, our dear friend and fellow worker, ² and to Apphia our sister, and to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church that meets in your home.

³ May grace be to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴ I always thank my God when I mention you in my prayers, ⁵ because I hear about the faith that you have toward the Lord Jesus and the love you have for all his holy people. ⁶ I pray that the sharing of your faith may be effective, so you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ. ⁷ For I have had much joy and comfort because of your love, because the hearts of God's holy people have been refreshed by you, brother.

⁸ Therefore, although I have all the boldness in Christ to command you to do what you should do, ⁹ yet because of love, I appeal to you instead—I, Paul, an old man, and now a prisoner for Christ Jesus. ¹⁰ I am appealing to you concerning my child Onesimus, whom I have fathered in my chains. ¹¹ For he once was useless to you, but now he is useful both to you and to me. ¹² I have sent him back to you, he who is my very heart. ¹³ I wish I could have kept him with me so he could serve me for you while I am in chains for the sake of the gospel. ¹⁴ But I did not want to do anything without your consent. I did not want your good deed to be from necessity but from good will. ¹⁵ Perhaps for this he was separated from you for a time, so that you might have him back forever. ¹⁶ No longer would he be a slave, but better than a slave, a beloved brother. He is beloved especially to me, and much more so to you, in both the flesh and in the Lord. ¹⁷ So if you have me as a partner, receive him as me. ¹⁸ If he has wronged you or owes you anything, charge that to me. ¹⁹ I, Paul, write this with my own hand. I myself will pay it back—not to mention that you owe me your own self! ²⁰ Yes, brother, let me benefit from you in the Lord; refresh my heart in Christ.

²¹ Confident about your obedience, I am writing to you. I know that you will do even more than I ask. ²² At the same time, prepare a guest room for me, for I hope that through your prayers I will be returned to you.

²³ Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, greets you. ²⁴ So do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my fellow workers.

²⁵ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

Hebrews

Chapter 1

¹ Long ago God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in many ways. ² But in these last days, he has spoken to us through a Son, whom he appointed to be the heir of all things. It is through him that God also made the universe. ³ He is the brightness of God's glory, the exact representation of his being. He even holds everything together by the word of his power. After he had made cleansing for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high. ⁴ He has become just as superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than their name. ⁵ For to which of the angels did God ever say,

"You are my Son,
today I have become your Father"?

Or to which of the angels did God ever say,

"I will be a Father to him,
and he will be a Son to me"?

⁶ But again, when God brings the firstborn into the world, he says,

"All God's angels must worship him."

⁷ About the angels he says,

"He is the one who makes his angels spirits,
and his servants flames of fire."

⁸ But to the Son he says,

"Your throne, God, is forever and ever.
The scepter of justice is the scepter of your kingdom.

⁹ You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness.
Therefore God, your God, has anointed you
with the oil of joy more than your companions."

¹⁰ "In the beginning, Lord, you laid the earth's foundation.
The heavens are the work of your hands.

¹¹ They will perish, but you will continue.
They will all wear out like a piece of clothing.

¹² You will roll them up like a cloak,
and they will be changed like a piece of clothing.
But you are the same,
and your years do not end."

¹³ But to which of the angels has God said at any time,

"Sit at my right hand
until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet"?

¹⁴ Are not all angels spirits who serve, and who are sent to care for those who will inherit salvation?

Chapter 2

¹ Therefore we must give far more attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it. ² For if the message that was spoken through the angels proved to be so reliable, and every transgression and disobedience receives just repayment, ³ how then can we escape if we ignore so great a salvation? This is salvation that was first announced by the Lord and confirmed to us by those who heard it. ⁴ At the same time God testified to it by signs, wonders, and various miracles, and by distributing the gifts of the Holy Spirit according to his will.

⁵ For it was not to the angels that God subjected the world to come, about which we are speaking. ⁶ But someone has somewhere testified, saying,

"What is man, that you are mindful of him?
Or a son of man, that you care for him?

⁷ You made man a little lower than the angels;
you crowned him with glory and honor. ^[1]

⁸ You put everything in subjection under his feet."

For it was to him that God has subjected all things. He did not leave anything not subjected to him. But now we do not yet see everything subjected to him. ⁹ But we see him who was made lower than the angels for a little while, Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of his suffering and death, so that by God's grace he might taste death for everyone. ¹⁰ For it was proper for God, because everything exists for him and through him, to bring many sons to glory. It was proper for him to make the founder of their salvation complete through his sufferings. ¹¹ For both the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified have one source. So he is not ashamed to call them brothers. ¹² He says,

"I will proclaim your name to my brothers,
I will sing about you from inside the assembly."

¹³ And again,

"I will trust in him."

And again,

"See, here am I and the children whom God has given me."

¹⁴ Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, he shared in those things in the same way, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil. ¹⁵ This was so that he would free all those who through fear of death lived all their lives subject to slavery. ¹⁶ For surely it is not the angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants. ¹⁷ So it was necessary for him to become like his brothers in all ways, so that he could be a merciful and faithful high priest in relation to the things of God, and so that he could make atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ Because Jesus himself has suffered and was tempted, he is able to help those who are tempted.

Footnotes

2:7 ^[1] Some important and ancient Greek copies add,

Chapter 3

¹ Therefore, holy brothers, you share in a heavenly calling. Think about Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession. ² He was faithful to God, who appointed him, just as Moses was also faithful in all the house of God. ³ For Jesus has been considered worthy of greater glory than Moses, because the one who builds a house has more honor than the house itself. ⁴ For every house is built by someone, but the one who built everything is God. ⁵ For Moses was faithful as a servant in God's entire house, bearing witness about the things that were to be spoken of in the future. ⁶ But Christ is faithful as a Son who is in charge of the house of God. We are his house if we hold firmly to our courage and the hope of which we boast. ⁷ Therefore, it is just as the Holy Spirit says:

"Today, if you hear his voice

⁸ do not harden your hearts
as in the rebellion,
in the time of testing in the wilderness.

⁹ This was when your ancestors rebelled by testing me,
after they had seen my deeds for forty years.

¹⁰ Therefore I was angry with that generation.
I said, 'They have always gone astray in their hearts.
They have not known my ways.'

¹¹ It is just as I swore in my wrath:
'They will never enter my rest.'"

¹² Be careful, brothers, that none of you has an evil heart of unbelief, a heart that turns away from the living God. ¹³ But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called "today," so that no one among you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. ¹⁴ For we have become partners of Christ if we firmly hold to our confidence in him from the beginning to the end. ¹⁵ About this it has been said,

"Today, if you hear his voice,
do not harden your hearts,
as in the rebellion."

¹⁶ Who was it who heard God and rebelled? Was it not all those who came out of Egypt through Moses? ¹⁷ With whom was he angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose dead bodies fell in the wilderness? ¹⁸ To whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, if it was not to those who disobeyed him? ¹⁹ We see that they were not able to enter his rest because of unbelief.

Chapter 4

¹ Therefore, since the promise of entering his rest is still allowed to stand, let us fear, so that none of you may seem to have fallen short of it. ² For we were told the good news just as they were. But that message did not benefit those who did not unite in faith with those who obeyed. ^[1]³ For we who have believed enter that rest, just as he said,

"As I swore in my wrath,
They will never enter my rest."

Even so, his works were finished from the foundation of the world. ⁴ For he has somewhere spoken about the seventh day:

"And God rested on the seventh day from all his works." ⁵ And again in this same passage he said,
"They will never enter my rest."

⁶ Therefore, it remains for some to enter that rest, and those who previously had the good news proclaimed to them did not go in because of their disobedience. ⁷ So God again appointed a certain day, calling it "Today," when he spoke through David much later in words already quoted:

"Today if you hear his voice,
do not harden your hearts."

⁸ For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken about another day. ⁹ So there remains a Sabbath rest reserved for God's people. ¹⁰ For he who enters into God's rest has himself also rested from his deeds, just as God did from his. ¹¹ Therefore let us be eager to enter that rest, so that no one will fall into the kind of disobedience that they did. ¹² For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword. It pierces even to the dividing of soul and spirit, of joints and marrow, and is able to discern the thoughts and intentions of the heart. ¹³ No thing that has been created is hidden before God, but everything is bare and open to the eyes of the one to whom we must give an account.

¹⁴ Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us firmly hold to our confession. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who cannot feel sympathy for our weaknesses. Rather, we have someone who has in all ways been tempted as we are, except that he is without sin. ¹⁶ Let us then go with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Footnotes

4:2 ^[1]Some important and ancient copies read,

Chapter 5

¹ For every high priest, chosen from among people, is appointed to act on the behalf of people in the things concerning God, so that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins. ² He can deal gently with those who are ignorant and who have been deceived, because he himself is subject to weakness. ³ Because of this, he also is required to offer sacrifices for his own sins, just as he does for the people's sins. ⁴ No one takes this honor for himself. Rather, he is called by God, just as Aaron was. ⁵ In the same way, neither did Christ glorify himself by making himself high priest. Instead, the one speaking to him said,

"You are my Son;
today I have become your Father."

⁶ It is just as he also says in another place,

"You are a priest forever
after the manner of Melchizedek."

⁷ During the days of his flesh, Christ offered up both prayers and requests with loud cries and tears to God, the one able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his godly life. ⁸ Even though he was a Son, he learned obedience from what he suffered. ⁹ He was made perfect and became, for everyone who obeys him, the cause of eternal salvation. ¹⁰ He was designated by God as high priest after the manner of Melchizedek.

¹¹ We have much to say about Jesus, but it is hard to explain since you have become dull in hearing. ¹² For though by this time you should be teachers, you still have need for someone to teach you the elementary principles of God's messages. You need milk, not solid food! ¹³ For anyone who only takes milk is inexperienced with the message of righteousness, because he is still a little child. ¹⁴ But solid food is for the mature. These are those who because of their maturity have their understanding trained for distinguishing good from evil.

Chapter 6

¹ So then, let us leave the beginning of the message of Christ and move forward to maturity. Let us not lay again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith in God, ² nor the foundation of teaching about baptisms, laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. ³ We will also do this if God permits. ⁴ For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, who tasted the heavenly gift, who were sharers of the Holy Spirit, ⁵ and who tasted God's good word and the powers of the age to come, ⁶ but who then fell away—it is impossible to restore them again to repentance. This is because they crucify the Son of God for themselves again, and publicly shame him. ⁷ For the land that drinks in the rain that often comes on it, and that gives birth to the plants useful to those for whom the land was worked—this is the land that receives a blessing from God. ⁸ But if it bears thorns and thistles, it is worthless and is near to a curse. Its end is in burning.

⁹ But we are convinced about better things concerning you, beloved ones, things that concern salvation, even though we speak like this. ¹⁰ For God is not unjust. He will not forget your work and the love you showed for his name, because you served his holy people, and you are still serving them. ¹¹ We greatly desire that each of you may show the same diligence to the end, in order to make your hope certain. ¹² This is so that you will not become lazy, but imitators of those who by faith and patience inherit the promises.

¹³ For when God made his promise to Abraham, he swore by himself, since he could not swear by anyone greater. ¹⁴ He said, "I will certainly bless you and give you many descendants." ¹⁵ In this way, Abraham obtained what was promised after he had patiently waited. ¹⁶ For people swear by someone greater than themselves. At the end of each of their disputes, an oath serves as confirmation. ¹⁷ When God decided to show more clearly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable quality of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath. ¹⁸ He did this so that by two unchangeable things—with which it is impossible for God to lie—we, who have fled for refuge, will have a strong encouragement to hold firmly to the hope set before us. ¹⁹ We have this as a secure and reliable anchor for the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, ²⁰ where Jesus, who went before us, has entered into that place on our behalf. He has become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

Chapter 7

¹ It was this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of God Most High, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him. ² It was to him that Abraham gave a tenth of everything. First, the translation of his name means, "king of righteousness"; then he is also "king of Salem," that is, "king of peace." ³ He is without father, without mother, without ancestors, with neither beginning of days nor end of life. And resembling the Son of God, he remains a priest forever.

⁴ See how great this man was to whom the patriarch Abraham gave a tenth of the things that he had taken in battle. ⁵ The descendants of Levi who receive the priestly office have a command according to the law to collect tithes from the people, that is, from their brothers, even though they, too, are descended from Abraham. ⁶ But Melchizedek, whose descent was not traced from them, received tithes from Abraham, and blessed him, the one who had the promises. ⁷ There is no denying that the lesser person is blessed by the greater person. ⁸ In this case, mortal men receive tithes, but in that case it is testified that he lives on. ⁹ And, in a manner of speaking, Levi, who received tithes, also paid tithes through Abraham, ¹⁰ because Levi was in the body of his ancestor when Melchizedek met Abraham.

¹¹ Now if perfection were possible through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need would there have been for another priest to arise after the manner of Melchizedek, and not be considered to be after the manner of Aaron? ¹² For when the priesthood is changed, the law must also be changed. ¹³ For the one about whom these things are said belongs to another tribe, from which no one has ever served at the altar. ¹⁴ Now clearly it is from Judah that our Lord was born, a tribe that Moses never mentioned concerning priests. ¹⁵ What we say is even clearer when another priest arises in the likeness of Melchizedek. ¹⁶ This one became a priest, not based on a law of physical requirement, but by the power of an everlasting life. ¹⁷ For scripture witnesses about him:

"You are a priest forever
according to the order of Melchizedek."

¹⁸ For not only has the former command been set aside because it is weak and useless— ¹⁹ for the law made nothing perfect—but also a better hope is introduced, through which we come near to God. ²⁰ And it was not without an oath! Others became priests without any oath, ²¹ but he became a priest with an oath by the one who said to him,

"The Lord has sworn and he will not change his mind:
"You are a priest forever."

²² By this also Jesus has given the guarantee of a better covenant. ²³ The former priests were many in number, since death prevented them from continuing in office. ²⁴ But because Jesus continues to live forever, he has a permanent priesthood. ²⁵ Therefore he is also able to save completely those who approach God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them. ²⁶ For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, who is holy, innocent, pure, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. ²⁷ He does not need, unlike the high priests, to offer up daily sacrifices, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He did this once for all when he offered himself. ²⁸ For the law appoints as high priests men who have weaknesses. But the word of the oath, which came after the law, appointed a Son, who has been made perfect forever.

Chapter 8

¹ Now the point of what we are saying is this: We have a high priest who has sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens. ² He is a servant in the holy place, the true tabernacle that the Lord, not a man, set up. ³ For every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices. Therefore it is necessary to have something to offer. ⁴ Now if Christ were on earth, he would not be a priest at all, since there are those who offer the gifts according to the law. ⁵ They serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things. It is just as Moses was warned by God when he was about to construct the tabernacle: God said, "See that you make everything according to the pattern that was shown to you on the mountain." ⁶ But now Christ has received a much better ministry, just as he is also the mediator of a better covenant, which is based on better promises. ⁷ For if that first covenant had been faultless, no occasion for a second would have been sought. ⁸ For when God found fault with the people, he said,

"See, the days are coming—says the Lord—
when I will make a new covenant
with the house of Israel
and with the house of Judah.

⁹ It will not be like the covenant
that I made with their ancestors
on the day that I took them by their hand
to lead them out of the land of Egypt.
For they did not carefully obey my covenant,
and I disregarded them—
says the Lord.

¹⁰ This is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel
after those days says the Lord.
I will put my laws into their minds,
and I will also write them on their hearts.
I will be their God,
and they will be my people.

¹¹ They will not teach each one his fellow citizen
and each one his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord.'
For they will all know me,
from the least of them to the greatest.

¹² For I will be merciful toward their evil deeds,
and their sins I will not remember any longer."

¹³ By calling this covenant "new," he declared the first covenant to be obsolete, and what has become obsolete and old will soon disappear.

Chapter 9

¹ Now even the first covenant had regulations for worship and an earthly sanctuary. ² For a tabernacle was prepared. The first room, in which were the lampstand, the table, and the bread of the presence, was called the holy place. ³ Behind the second curtain was another room in the tabernacle, called the most holy place. ⁴ It had a golden altar for incense. It also had the ark of the covenant, which was completely overlaid with gold. Inside it was a golden jar that held the manna, Aaron's rod that budded, and the tablets of the covenant. ⁵ Above the ark of the covenant, glorious cherubim overshadowed the atonement lid, which we cannot now talk about in detail. ⁶ After these things were prepared, the priests always entered the outer room of the tabernacle to perform their services. ⁷ But only the high priest entered the second room, once each year, and not without blood that he offered for himself and for the people's unintentional sins. ⁸ The Holy Spirit showed that as long as the first tabernacle was still standing the way into the most holy place had not yet appeared. ⁹ This was an illustration for the present time. Both the gifts and sacrifices that are now being offered are not able to perfect the worshiper's conscience. ¹⁰ They are only concerned with food and drink and various ceremonial washings, regulations for the body until the time of the new order.

¹¹ Christ came as a high priest of the good things that have come. He went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that was not made by human hands, one not belonging to this created world. ^[1]¹² It was not by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood that he entered into the most holy place once for all and secured our eternal redemption. ¹³ For if the blood of goats and bulls and the sprinkling of a heifer's ashes on those who have been defiled sanctifies them for the cleansing of their flesh, ¹⁴ how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our conscience from dead works to serve the living God? ¹⁵ For this reason, he is the mediator of a new covenant. This is so that, since a death has taken place to redeem those under the first covenant from their transgressions, those who are called will receive the promise of an eternal inheritance. ¹⁶ For where there is a will, the death of the person who made it must be proven. ¹⁷ For a will is only valid when there has been a death, because it has no force while the one who made it is still alive. ¹⁸ So not even the first covenant was established without blood. ¹⁹ For when Moses had given every command in the law to all the people, he took the blood of the calves and the goats, with water, red wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the scroll itself and all the people. ²⁰ Then he said, "This is the blood of the covenant that God has commanded for you." ²¹ In the same manner, he sprinkled the blood on the tabernacle and all the containers used in the ministry. ²² According to the law, almost everything is cleansed with blood. Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

²³ Therefore it was necessary that the copies of the things in heaven should be cleansed with these animal sacrifices. However, the heavenly things themselves had to be cleansed with much better sacrifices. ²⁴ For Christ did not enter into the most holy place made with hands, which is only a copy of the true one. Rather he entered into heaven itself, to appear now in God's presence for us. ²⁵ He did not go there in order to offer himself many times, as does the high priest, who enters the most holy place year by year with the blood of another. ²⁶ If that had been the case, then he would have had to suffer many times since the foundation of the world. But now he has appeared at the end of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself. ²⁷ Just as man is appointed to die once, and after that comes judgment, ²⁸ so also, Christ was offered once to take away the sins of many, and will appear a second time, not to deal with sin, but for the salvation of those who are waiting for him.

Footnotes

9:11 ^[1]Some important and ancient Greek copies read,

Chapter 10

¹ For the law is only a shadow of the good things to come, not the real forms of those things themselves. Those who approach God can never be made perfect by the same sacrifices that the priests continually bring year after year. ² Otherwise, would the sacrifices not have ceased to be offered? For the worshipers would have been cleansed one time and would no longer have any consciousness of sin. ³ But with those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins year after year. ⁴ For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. ⁵ When Christ came into the world, he said,

"Sacrifices and offerings you did not desire,
but a body you have prepared for me;

⁶ with burnt offerings and sin offerings
you did not take pleasure.

⁷ Then I said, 'See, here I am—as it is written about me in the scroll—
to do your will, God.'"

⁸ First he said, "It was neither sacrifices, nor offerings, nor whole burnt offerings, nor sin offerings that you desired. Nor did you take pleasure in them." These are sacrifices that are offered according to the law. ⁹ Then he said, "See, here I am to do your will." He takes away the first practice in order to establish the second practice. ¹⁰ By that will, we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. ¹¹ Day after day every priest stands and ministers, offering the same sacrifices again and again—sacrifices that can never take away sins. ¹² But when Christ offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God. ¹³ He is waiting until his enemies are made a footstool for his feet. ¹⁴ For by one offering he has perfected forever those who are being sanctified. ¹⁵ The Holy Spirit also testifies to us. First he says,

¹⁶ "This is the covenant that I will make with them
after those days, says the Lord.
I will put my laws in their hearts,
and I will write them on their minds."

¹⁷ Then he adds,

"Their sins and lawlessness
I will remember no longer."

¹⁸ Now where there is forgiveness for these, there is no longer any sacrifice for sin.

¹⁹ Therefore, brothers, we have confidence to enter into the most holy place by the blood of Jesus. ²⁰ That is the new and living way that he has established for us through the curtain, that is, by means of his flesh. ²¹ Because we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² let us approach with true hearts in the full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us also hold firmly to the hope we confess, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴ Let us think carefully about how to motivate one another to love and good deeds. ²⁵ Let us not abandon meeting together, as some have done. Instead, encourage one another, and all the more as you see the day coming closer.

²⁶ For if we deliberately go on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, a sacrifice for sins no longer remains. ²⁷ Instead, there is only a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume God's enemies. ²⁸ Anyone who has rejected the law of Moses dies without mercy at the testimony of two or three witnesses. ²⁹ How much worse punishment do you think one deserves who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, who regarded the blood of the covenant as unholy—the blood by which he was sanctified—and insulted the Spirit of grace? ³⁰ For we know the one who said, "Vengeance belongs to me; I will pay back." And again, "The Lord will judge his people." ³¹ It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God!

³² But remember the former days, after you were enlightened, how you endured a great struggle in suffering. ³³ Sometimes you were publicly exposed to insult and persecution, and other times you shared with those who were so treated. ³⁴ For you had compassion on those who were prisoners, and you accepted with joy the seizure of your possessions. You knew that you yourselves had a better and everlasting possession. ^[1]³⁵ So do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. ³⁶ For you need perseverance so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised.

³⁷ "For in a very little while,
the one who is coming will indeed come and not delay.

³⁸ My righteous one will live by faith.
If he shrinks back, my soul will not be pleased with him."

³⁹ But we are not any of those who turn back to destruction, but we are among those who have faith and preserve their souls.

Footnotes

10:34 ^[1]Some important and ancient Greek copies read,

Chapter 11

¹ Now faith is being sure of the things hoped for and certain of things that are not seen. ² For because of this the ancestors were approved for their faith. ³ By faith we understand that the universe was created by God's command, so that what is visible was not made out of things that were visible.

⁴ It was by faith that Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain, through which he was attested to be righteous, and God spoke well of him because of his offerings, and by faith Abel still speaks, even though he is dead.

⁵ It was by faith that Enoch was taken up so that he did not see death. "He was not found, because God took him away." For before he was taken up, it was testified that he had pleased God. ⁶ Now without faith it is impossible to please him. For it is necessary that anyone coming to God must believe that he exists and that he is a rewarder of those who seek him.

⁷ It was by faith that Noah, having been given a divine message about things not yet seen, with godly reverence built an ark to save his household. By doing this, he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that is according to faith.

⁸ It was by faith that Abraham, when he was called, obeyed and went out to the place that he was to receive as an inheritance. He went out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹ It was by faith that he lived in the land of promise as a foreigner. He lived in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise. ¹⁰ For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

¹¹ It was by faith, even though Sarah herself was barren, that she received ability to conceive. This happened even though she was too old, since she considered as faithful the one who had given the promise. ¹² Therefore, from this one man—and he was almost dead—were born descendants as many as the stars in the sky and as countless as sand by the seashore.

¹³ It was in faith that all these died without receiving the promises. Rather, they saw and greeted them from far off, and they acknowledged that they were foreigners and exiles on earth. ¹⁴ For those who say such things make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵ If they had been thinking of the country from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, since he has prepared a city for them.

¹⁷ It was by faith that Abraham, when he was tested, offered Isaac. It was his only son whom he offered, he who had received the promises. ¹⁸ It was Abraham to whom it had been said, "It is through Isaac that your descendants will be named." ¹⁹ Abraham reasoned that God was able to raise up Isaac from the dead, and figuratively speaking, it was from them that he received him back. ²⁰ It was also by faith about things to come that Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau. ²¹ It was by faith that Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of Joseph's sons. Jacob worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff. ²² It was by faith that Joseph, when his end was near, spoke of the departure of the children of Israel from Egypt and instructed them about his bones.

²³ It was by faith that Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents because they saw he was a beautiful child. They were not afraid of the king's command. ²⁴ It was by faith that Moses, after he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter. ²⁵ He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a while. ²⁶ He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as greater value than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking ahead to his reward. ²⁷ It was by faith that Moses left Egypt. He did not fear the king's anger, for he endured as if he were seeing the one who is invisible. ²⁸ It was by faith that he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of the blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn should not touch the Israelites' firstborn sons.

²⁹ It was by faith that they passed through the Sea of Reeds as if over dry land. When the Egyptians tried to do this, they were swallowed up. ³⁰ It was by faith that Jericho's walls fell down, after they had been circled around for seven days. ³¹ It was by faith that Rahab the prostitute did not die with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

³² What more can I say? For the time will fail me if I give a full account of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and about the prophets. ³³ It was through faith that they conquered kingdoms, committed righteousness, and received promises. They stopped the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong when they were weak, became mighty in battle, and defeated foreign armies. ³⁵ Women received back their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, not accepting release, so that they might experience a better resurrection. ³⁶ Others experienced mocking and whippings, and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷ They were stoned. They were sawn in two. They were killed with the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins. They were destitute, oppressed, mistreated. ^[1]³⁸ The world was not worthy of them. They were always wandering about in the deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground.

³⁹ Although all these people were approved by God because of their faith, they did not receive the promise. ⁴⁰ God planned something better for us, so that without us, they would not be made perfect.

Footnotes

11:37 ^[1] Some important and ancient Greek copies read,

Chapter 12

¹ Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a large cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight and easily entangling sin. Let us run with perseverance the race that is placed before us. ² Let us pay attention to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of the faith. For the joy that was placed before him, he endured the cross, despised its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ So think about him, the one who has endured such opposition from sinners against himself, so that you do not become weary and lose heart.

⁴ You have not yet resisted or struggled against sin to the point of blood; ⁵ and you have forgotten the encouragement that instructs you as sons:

"My son, do not think lightly of the Lord's discipline,
nor grow weary when you are corrected by him.

⁶ For the Lord disciplines the one he loves,
and he punishes every son he receives."

⁷ Endure suffering as discipline. God deals with you as with sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? ⁸ But if you are without discipline, which all people share in, then you are illegitimate and not his sons. ⁹ Furthermore, we had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. How much more should we submit to the Father of spirits and live! ¹⁰ Our fathers disciplined us for a short time as they thought best. But God disciplines us for our benefit, so that we can share in his holiness. ¹¹ No discipline at the time seems to give joy, but to give sorrow. But later it produces the peaceful fruit of righteousness for those who have been trained by it. ¹² So strengthen your hands that hang down and your weak knees. ¹³ Make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame will not be sprained but rather be healed.

¹⁴ Pursue peace with everyone, and holiness, for without it no one will see the Lord. ¹⁵ Be careful so that no one lacks God's grace, and that no root of bitterness grows up to cause trouble, so that many do not become defiled by it, ¹⁶ and that there is no one who is sexually immoral or profane, such as Esau, who for one meal sold his own birthright. ¹⁷ For you know that afterwards, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, because he found no opportunity for repentance, even though he sought it with tears.

¹⁸ For you have not come to a mountain that can be touched, a mountain of burning fire, darkness, gloom, and storm. ¹⁹ You have not come to a trumpet blast, nor to a voice that speaks words whose hearers begged that not another word be spoken to them. ²⁰ For they could not endure what was commanded: "If even an animal touches the mountain, it must be stoned." ^[1]²¹ So fearful was this sight that Moses said, "I am terrified and am trembling." ²² Rather, you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to tens of thousands of angels in joyful assembly. ²³ You have come to the congregation of the firstborn, who have been registered in heaven. You have come to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous ones who have been made perfect. ²⁴ And you have come to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks better than Abel's blood. ²⁵ See that you do not refuse the one who is speaking. For if they did not escape when they refused the one who warned them on earth, much less will we escape if we turn away from the one who is warning from heaven. ²⁶ At one time, his voice shook the earth. But now he has promised and said, "One more time I will shake not only the earth, but also the heavens." ²⁷ These words, "One more time," mean the removal of those things that can be shaken, that is, of the things that have been created, so that the things that cannot be shaken will remain. ²⁸ Therefore, receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful and in this manner worship God with reverence and awe. ²⁹ For our God is a consuming fire.

Footnotes

12:20 ^[1]Some important and ancient Greek copies read,

Chapter 13

¹ Let brotherly love continue. ² Do not forget hospitality for strangers. For through this, some have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. ³ Remember prisoners as if you were bound with them. Remember those who are mistreated since you yourselves also are in the body. ⁴ Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept pure, for God will judge sexually immoral people and adulterers. ⁵ Let your conduct be free from the love of money. Be content with the things you have, for God himself has said,

"I will never leave you,
nor will I abandon you."

⁶ Let us be content so that we may have courage to say,

"The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.
What can a man do to me?"

⁷ Consider your leaders, those who spoke God's word to you, and consider the result of their conduct. Imitate their faith. ⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. ⁹ Do not be carried away by various strange teachings. For it is good that the heart should be strengthened by grace, not by foods that do not help those who walk by them. ¹⁰ We have an altar from which those who serve in the tabernacle have no right to eat. ¹¹ For the blood of the animals killed for sins is brought by the high priest into the holy place, while their bodies are burned outside the camp. ¹² So Jesus also suffered outside the city gate, in order to sanctify the people through his own blood. ¹³ Let us therefore go to him outside the camp, bearing the disgrace he endured. ¹⁴ For we do not have a permanent city here. Rather, we are looking for the one that is to come. ¹⁵ Through him, then, let us always offer up sacrifices of praise to God, praise that is the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. ¹⁶ Let us not forget doing good and sharing, for it is with such sacrifices that God is very pleased. ¹⁷ Obey and submit to your leaders, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give account. Obey so that your leaders will do this with joy, and not with groaning, which would be useless to you.

¹⁸ Pray for us, for we are convinced that we have a good conscience and that we desire to live rightly in all things. ¹⁹ I encourage you even more to do this, so that I will be returned to you sooner.

²⁰ Now may the God of peace, who brought back from the dead the great shepherd of the sheep, our Lord Jesus, by the blood of the eternal covenant, ²¹ equip you with everything good to do his will, working in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

²² Now I encourage you, brothers, to bear with the word of encouragement that I have briefly written to you. ²³ Know that our brother Timothy has been set free, with whom I will see you if he comes soon.

²⁴ Greet all your leaders and all God's holy people. Those from Italy greet you.

²⁵ May grace be with you all.

James

Chapter 1

¹ James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes in the dispersion: Greetings! ² Consider it all joy, my brothers, when you experience various troubles. ³ You know that the testing of your faith produces endurance. ⁴ Let endurance complete its work so that you may become fully developed and complete, not lacking anything. ⁵ But if any of you needs wisdom, let him ask for it from God, the one who gives generously and without rebuke to all who ask, and he will give it to him. ⁶ But let him ask in faith, doubting nothing. For anyone who doubts is like a wave in the sea that is driven by the wind and tossed around. ⁷ For that person must not think that he will receive anything from the Lord; ⁸ he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways. ⁹ Let the lowly brother boast of his high position, ¹⁰ but the rich man of his low position, because he will pass away as a wild flower in the grass. ¹¹ For the sun rises with burning heat and dries up the grass. The flower falls off, and its beauty perishes. In the same way, the rich man will fade away in the middle of his journey. ¹² Blessed is the man who endures testing. For after he has passed the test, he will receive the crown of life, which has been promised to those who love God. ¹³ Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God," because God is not tempted by evil, nor does he himself tempt anyone. ¹⁴ But each person is tempted by his own desire, which drags him away and entices him. ¹⁵ Then after the desire conceives, it gives birth to sin, and after the sin is full grown, it gives birth to death. ¹⁶ Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. ¹⁷ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above. It comes down from the Father of lights. With him there is no changing or shadow because of turning. ¹⁸ God chose to give us birth by the word of truth, so that we would be a kind of firstfruits of all his creatures. ¹⁹ You know this, my beloved brothers: Let every man be quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger. ²⁰ For the anger of man does not accomplish the righteousness of God. ²¹ Therefore take off all sinful filth and abundant amounts of evil. In humility receive the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. ²² Be doers of the word and not only hearers, deceiving yourselves. ²³ For if anyone is a hearer of the word but not a doer, he is like a man who examines his natural face in a mirror. ²⁴ He examines himself and then goes away and immediately forgets what he was like. ²⁵ But the person who looks carefully into the perfect law of freedom, and continues to do so, not just being a hearer who forgets, this man will be blessed in his actions. ²⁶ If anyone thinks he is religious and does not control his tongue, he deceives his heart and his religion is worthless. ²⁷ Religion that is pure and unspoiled before our God and Father is to help the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

Chapter 2

¹ My brothers, do not hold to faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with partiality toward certain people. ² Suppose that someone enters your meeting wearing gold rings and splendid clothes, and there also enters a poor man in dirty clothes. ³ If you look at the person wearing fine clothes and say, "You sit here in a good place," but you say to the poor man, "You stand over there" or "Sit by my footstool," ⁴ are you not judging among yourselves? Have you not become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵ Listen, my beloved brothers, did not God choose the poor of the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he promised to those who love him? ⁶ But you have dishonored the poor! Is it not the rich who oppress you? Are they not the ones who drag you to court? ⁷ Do they not insult the good name by which you have been called? ⁸ If, however, you fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you do well. ⁹ But if you favor certain people, you are committing sin, and you are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰ For whoever obeys the whole law, except that he stumbles in just a single way, has become guilty of breaking the whole law. ¹¹ For the one who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not murder." If you do not commit adultery, but if you do commit murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. ¹² So speak and act as those who will be judged by means of the law of freedom. ¹³ For judgment comes without mercy to those who have shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

¹⁴ What profit is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith, but he has no works? Can that faith save him? ¹⁵ Suppose that a brother or sister is badly clothed and lacks food for the day. ¹⁶ Suppose that one of you says to them, "Go in peace, stay warm and be filled." If you do not give them the things necessary for the body, what profit is that? ¹⁷ In the same way faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. ¹⁸ Yet someone may say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without works, and I will show you my faith by my works. ¹⁹ You believe that there is one God; you do well. But even the demons believe that, and they tremble. ²⁰ Do you want to know, foolish man, that faith without works is useless? ²¹ Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up Isaac his son on the altar? ²² You see that faith worked with his works, and that by works his faith was completed. ²³ The scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness," and he was called a friend of God. ²⁴ You see that it is by works that a man is justified, and not only by faith. ²⁵ In the same way also, was not Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she welcomed the messengers and sent them away by another road? ²⁶ For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, even so faith apart from works is dead.

Footnotes

2:20 ^[1]Some important and ancient Greek copies read,

Chapter 3

¹ Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. ² For we all stumble in many ways. If anyone does not stumble in words, he is a perfect man, able to control even his whole body. ³ Now if we put bits into horses' mouths for them to obey us, we can also direct their whole bodies. ⁴ Notice also that ships, although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, are steered by a very small rudder to wherever the pilot desires. ⁵ In this way, the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts great things. Notice also how small a fire sets on fire a large forest. ⁶ The tongue is also a fire, a world of evil set among our members. The tongue defiles the whole body, sets on fire the course of life, and is itself set on fire by hell. ⁷ For every kind of wild animal, bird, reptile, and sea creature is being tamed and has been tamed by mankind. ⁸ But no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹ With it we praise the Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness. ¹⁰ Out of the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things should not happen. ¹¹ Does a spring pour out from its opening both sweet and bitter water? ¹² Does a fig tree, my brothers, make olives? Or a grapevine, figs? Neither can salty water produce sweet water.

¹³ Who is wise and understanding among you? Let that person show a good life by his works in the humility of wisdom. ¹⁴ But if you have bitter jealousy and ambition in your heart, do not boast and lie against the truth. ¹⁵ This is not the wisdom that comes down from above. Rather, it is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. ¹⁶ For where there are jealousy and ambition, there is confusion and every evil practice. ¹⁷ But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peace-loving, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. ¹⁸ The fruit of righteousness is sown in peace among those who make peace.

Chapter 4

¹ Where do quarrels and disputes among you come from? Do they not come from your desires that fight among your members? ² You desire, and you do not have. You murder and covet, and you are not able to obtain. You fight and quarrel. You do not possess because you do not ask. ³ You ask and do not receive because you ask wrongly, in order that you may use it for your desires. ⁴ You adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility against God? So whoever desires to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. ⁵ Or do you think the scripture says in vain, "The Spirit he caused to live in us is deeply envious"? ⁶ But God gives more grace, so the scripture says, "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble."

⁷ So submit to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ Come close to God, and he will come close to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded people. ⁹ Grieve, mourn, and cry! Let your laughter turn into mourning and your joy into gloom. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

¹¹ Do not speak evil about another, brothers. The person who speaks evil about a brother or judges his brother speaks evil about the law and judges the law. If you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law, but a judge. ¹² Only one is the lawgiver and judge. He is the one who is able to save and to destroy. Who are you, you who judge your neighbor?

¹³ Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go into this city, spend a year there, trade, and make a profit." ¹⁴ Who knows what will happen tomorrow, and what is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little while and then disappears. ¹⁵ Instead, you should say, "If the Lord wishes, we will live and do this or that." ¹⁶ But now you are boasting about your arrogant plans. All such boasting is evil. ¹⁷ So for anyone who knows to do good but does not do it, for him it is sin.

Chapter 5

¹ Come now, you who are rich, weep and wail because of the miseries coming on you. ² Your riches have rotted, and your clothes have become moth-eaten. ³ Your gold and your silver have become tarnished and their rust will be a witness against you. It will consume your flesh like fire. You have stored up your treasure for the last days. ⁴ Look, the wages you kept back from the laborers who mowed your fields is crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. ⁵ You have lived in luxury on the earth and indulged yourselves. You have fattened your hearts for a day of slaughter. ⁶ You have condemned and murdered the righteous person. He does not oppose you.

⁷ Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit from the ground and he is patient about it, until it receives the early and late rains. ⁸ You, too, be patient. Strengthen your hearts because the Lord's coming is near. ⁹ Do not complain, brothers, against one another, so that you will not be condemned. See, the judge is standing at the door. ¹⁰ Take an example, brothers, from the suffering and patience of the prophets, those who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹ See, we regard those who endured as blessed. You have heard of the endurance of Job, and you know the purpose of the Lord, how he is very compassionate and merciful.

¹² Above all, my brothers, do not swear, either by heaven or by the earth, or by any other oath. Rather, let your "Yes" mean "Yes" and your "No" mean "No," so you do not fall under judgment.

¹³ Is anyone among you suffering hardship? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. ¹⁴ Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him. Let them anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵ The prayer of faith will heal the sick person, and the Lord will raise him up. If he has committed sins, God will forgive him. ¹⁶ So confess your sins to one another and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is very strong in its working. ¹⁷ Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain in the land for three years and six months. ¹⁸ Then Elijah prayed again. The heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.

¹⁹ My brothers, if anyone among you strays from the truth, and someone brings him back, ²⁰ that person should know that whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save him from death and will cover over a great number of sins.

1 Peter

Chapter 1

¹ Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the foreigners of the dispersion, the chosen ones, throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia. ² This is according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, for obedience and for the sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ. May grace be to you, and may your peace increase.

³ May the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ be praised! In his great mercy, he has given us new birth to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. ⁴ This is for an inheritance that will not perish, will not become stained, and will not fade away. It is reserved in heaven for you. ⁵ You are protected by God's power through faith for the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In this you greatly rejoice, even though now, for a little while, you may have to suffer all kinds of trials. ⁷ This is for the proving of your faith, which is more precious than gold that perishes, even though it is tested by fire. This happens so that your faith will be found to result in praise, glory, and honor at the revealing of Jesus Christ. ⁸ You have not seen him, but you love him. You do not see him now, but you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory. ⁹ You are now receiving for yourselves the result of your faith, the salvation of your souls. ¹⁰ Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to come to you, searched diligently and examined carefully, ¹¹ inquiring into what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he testified beforehand about the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. ¹² It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told to you by those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things into which angels long to look.

¹³ So gird up the loins of your mind. Be sober. Put your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed. ¹⁴ As obedient children, do not conform yourselves to the desires that you followed when you were ignorant. ¹⁵ But as the one who called you is holy, you, too, be holy in your whole behavior. ¹⁶ For it is written, "Be holy, because I am holy." ¹⁷ So if you call "Father" the one who judges impartially and according to each person's work, conduct yourselves in fear during your time here as foreigners. ¹⁸ You know that it was not with perishable silver or gold that you have been redeemed from the futile behavior that you inherited from your ancestors, ¹⁹ but by the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. ²⁰ Christ was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but now he has been revealed to you in these last times. ²¹ Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God. ²² You made your souls pure by obedience to the truth. This was for the purpose of sincere brotherly love; so love one another earnestly from a pure heart. ^[1]²³ You have been born again, not from perishable seed, but from imperishable seed, through the living and remaining word of God. ²⁴ For,

"All flesh is like grass,
and all its glory is like the wild flower of the grass.
The grass dries up, and the flower falls off,
²⁵ but the word of the Lord remains forever."

This word is the gospel that was preached to you.

Footnotes

1:22 ^[1]Some important and ancient Greek copies read,

Chapter 2

¹ Therefore put aside all evil, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all slander. ² As newborn infants, long for pure spiritual milk, so that through it you may grow in salvation, ³ if you have tasted that the Lord is kind. ⁴ Come to him who is a living stone that has been rejected by people, but that has been chosen by God as valuable to him. ⁵ You also are like living stones that are being built up to be a spiritual house in order to be a holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ Scripture contains this:

"See, I am laying in Zion a cornerstone,
chosen and valuable.
Whoever believes in him
will not be ashamed."

⁷ The value, then, is to you who believe. But to those who do not believe,

"The stone that was rejected by the builders,
this has become the head of the corner,"

⁸ and,

"A stone of stumbling
and a rock that makes them fall."

They stumble because they disobey the word—which is what they were appointed to do. ⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's possession, so that you would announce the wonderful actions of the one who called you out from darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God. You did not receive mercy, but now you have received mercy.

¹¹ Beloved, I exhort you as foreigners and exiles to abstain from fleshly desires, which fight against your soul. ¹² Your conduct among the Gentiles should be honorable, so that when they slander you as evildoers, they may be eyewitnesses of your good deeds and give glory to God on the day when he appears.

¹³ Be subject to every human authority for the Lord's sake. Obey both the king as supreme ¹⁴ and also the governors, who are sent for the punishment of evildoers and to praise those who do good. ¹⁵ For this is God's will, that in doing good you silence the ignorant talk of foolish people. ¹⁶ As free people, do not use your freedom as a covering for wickedness, but be like servants of God. ¹⁷ Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.

¹⁸ Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect. Be subject not only to the good and gentle masters, but also to the malicious ones. ¹⁹ For it is praiseworthy if, because he is conscious of God, a person endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. ²⁰ For how much credit is there if you sin and then endure while being afflicted? But if you have done good and then you suffer while being punished, this is worthy of praise from God. ²¹ For it is to this that you were called, because Christ also suffered for you. He left an example for you to follow in his steps.

²² "He committed no sin,
neither was any deceit found in his mouth."

²³ When he was insulted, he gave no insult in return. When he suffered, he did not threaten back, but he gave himself over to the one who judges justly. ²⁴ He himself carried our sins in his body on the tree so

that we would die to sin and live for righteousness. By his bruises you have been healed. ²⁵ All of you had been straying like lost sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and overseer of your souls.

Chapter 3

¹ In the same way, you who are wives should submit to your own husbands. Do this so even if some men are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word, through their wives' behavior, ² having been eyewitnesses of your respectful, pure behavior. ³ Do not let your adornment be outward—the braiding of hair, and putting on of gold ornaments, or the clothing you wear. ⁴ Instead, let your adornment be the inner person of the heart with the lasting beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious before God. ⁵ For this is how holy women long ago who hoped in God adorned themselves, by submitting to their husbands. ⁶ In this way Sarah obeyed Abraham and called him her lord. You are now her children if you do what is good and if you are not afraid of trouble.

⁷ In the same way, you husbands should live with your wives according to understanding, as with a weaker container, a woman. You should give them honor as fellow heirs of the grace of life. Do this so that your prayers will not be hindered.

⁸ Finally, all of you, be likeminded, compassionate, loving as brothers, tenderhearted, and humble. ⁹ Do not pay back evil for evil or insult for insult. On the contrary, continue to bless, because for this you were called, that you might inherit a blessing.

¹⁰ "The one who wants to love life
and see good days
should stop his tongue from evil
and his lips from speaking deceit.

¹¹ Let him turn away from what is bad and do what is good.
Let him seek peace and pursue it.

¹² The eyes of the Lord see the righteous,
and his ears hear their prayers.
But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil."

¹³ Who is the one who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴ But even if you suffer because of righteousness, you are blessed. Do not fear their threats. Do not be troubled. ¹⁵ Instead, set apart the Lord Christ in your hearts as holy. Always be ready to give an account to anyone who asks about the hope you have— ¹⁶ however, with meekness and respect. Have a good conscience so that in whatever you are spoken of as evil the people who slander your good life in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷ It is better, if it should be God's will, that you suffer for doing good than for doing evil. ¹⁸ Christ also suffered once for sins. He who is righteous suffered for us, who were unrighteous, so that he would bring us to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but he was made alive by the Spirit. ¹⁹ By the Spirit, he went and preached to the spirits who are now in prison. ²⁰ They were disobedient when the patience of God was waiting in the days of Noah, in the days of the building of an ark, and God saved a few people—eight souls—by means of the water. ²¹ This is a symbol of the baptism that saves you now—not as a washing away of dirt from the body, but as the appeal of a good conscience to God—through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. ²² Christ is at the right hand of God. He went into heaven. Angels, authorities, and powers must submit to him.

Chapter 4

¹ Therefore, because Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same intention. For whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin. ² As a result, such a person, for the rest of his time in the flesh, no longer lives for men's desires, but for God's will. ³ For the time that has passed is enough for you to do the desire of the Gentiles, living in sensuality, lusts, drunkenness, drunken celebrations, having wild parties, and committing lawless acts of idolatry. ⁴ They think it is strange that you do not join with them in these floods of reckless behavior, so they speak evil about you. ⁵ They will give an account to the one who is ready to judge the living and the dead. ⁶ For this purpose the gospel was preached also to the dead, so that, although they have been judged in the flesh as humans, they may live in the spirit the way God does.

⁷ The end of all things is coming near. Therefore be of sound mind, and be sober in your thinking for the sake of prayers. ⁸ Above all things, have fervent love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. ⁹ Be hospitable to one another without complaining. ¹⁰ As each one of you has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's grace in its various forms. ¹¹ If anyone speaks, let it be with God's words. If anyone serves, let it be from the strength that God supplies. Do these things so that in all ways God would be glorified through Jesus Christ. May there be to Jesus Christ glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

¹² Beloved, do not regard as strange the testing in the fire that has come upon you, as if something strange were happening to you. ¹³ Instead, however much you experience the sufferings of Christ, rejoice, so that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴ If you are insulted for Christ's name, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. ¹⁵ But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or a meddler. ¹⁶ Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; instead, let him glorify God with that name. ¹⁷ For it is time for judgment to begin with the household of God. If it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who disobey God's gospel?

¹⁸ And

"If it is difficult for the righteous to be saved,
what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?"

¹⁹ Therefore let those who suffer because of God's will commit their souls to the faithful Creator in well-doing.

Chapter 5

¹ I am exhorting the elders among you, I, who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and am also one who will share in the glory that will be revealed: ² Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God would have you serve—not for shameful profit but eagerly. ³ Do not act as lords over those allotted to you. Instead, be examples to the flock. ⁴ Then when the Chief Shepherd is revealed, you will receive an unfading crown of glory. ⁵ In the same way, you younger men, submit to the older men. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility and serve one another.

For God is opposed to the proud,
but he gives grace to the humble.

⁶ Therefore humble yourselves under God's mighty hand so that he may exalt you in due time. ⁷ Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. ⁸ Be sober, be watchful. Your adversary the devil is walking around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. ⁹ Stand against him. Be strong in your faith. You know that your brotherhood in the world is enduring the same sufferings. ¹⁰ After you suffer for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will perfect you, confirm you, strengthen you, and establish you. ¹¹ To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

¹² I regard Silvanus as a faithful brother, and I have written to you briefly through him. I am exhorting you and I am testifying to you that what I have written is the true grace of God. Stand in it. ¹³ The woman who is in Babylon, who is chosen together with you, greets you. Also Mark, my son, greets you. ¹⁴ Greet one another with a kiss of love.

May peace be to you all who are in Christ.

2 Peter

Chapter 1

¹ Simon Peter, a slave and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have received the same precious faith as we have received, faith in the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ.

² May grace and peace increase in measure in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. ³ By his divine power, all things for life and godliness have been given to us through the knowledge of him who called us through his own glory and excellence. ⁴ Through these he gave us precious and great promises, so that you might be sharers in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world that is caused by evil desires. ⁵ For this reason, do your best to add goodness to your faith, and to goodness add knowledge, ⁶ to knowledge add self-control, to self-control add endurance, to endurance add godliness, ⁷ to godliness add brotherly love, and to brotherly love add love. ⁸ If these things are in you and grow in you, they will keep you from being barren or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ But whoever lacks these things is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten he has been cleansed from his past sins. ¹⁰ Therefore, brothers, do your best to make your calling and election sure, for if you do these things, you will not stumble. ¹¹ In this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

¹² Therefore I will always be ready to remind you of these things, although you know them, and although you are strong in the truth you now have. ¹³ I think it is proper for me, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by way of reminder. ¹⁴ For I know that the putting off of my tent will be soon, because our Lord Jesus Christ has revealed this to me. ¹⁵ I will make every effort to see that after my departure you may always be able to remember these things. ¹⁶ For we did not follow cleverly invented myths when we made known to you the power and the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷ For he received honor and glory from God the Father when a voice was brought to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my beloved Son, with him I am well pleased." ¹⁸ We ourselves heard this voice brought from heaven when we were with him on the holy mountain. ¹⁹ For we have the prophetic word made more certain, to which you would do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. ²⁰ Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. ²¹ For no prophecy was ever brought by the will of man, but men spoke from God when they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

Chapter 2

¹ False prophets came to the people, and false teachers will also come to you. They will secretly bring with them destructive heresies, and they will deny the master who bought them. They are bringing quick destruction upon themselves. ² Many will follow their sensuality, and through them the way of truth will be slandered. ³ In their greed they will exploit you with deceptive words. Their condemnation has been coming for a long time, and their destruction is not asleep. ⁴ For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but delivered them into hell to be kept in chains of darkness until the judgment, ^[1]⁵ and if he did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a herald of righteousness, along with seven others when he brought a flood on the world of the ungodly. ⁶ and if he reduced the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes and condemned them to destruction as an example of what is to happen to the ungodly, ⁷ but delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the sensual behavior of lawless people— ⁸ for that righteous man, who was living among them day after day, was tormented in his righteous soul by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds— ⁹ if the Lord did these things, then he knows how to rescue godly men out of trials and how to hold unrighteous men in custody so they can be punished on the day of judgment. ¹⁰ This is especially true for those who walk after the corrupt desires of the flesh and who despise authority. Bold and self-willed, they do not tremble when they blaspheme the glorious ones. ¹¹ Angels have greater strength and power, but they do not bring insulting judgments against them to the Lord. ¹² But these people are like unreasoning animals, born for capture and destruction. They do not know what they insult. In destruction they also will be destroyed, ¹³ suffering harm as a reward for doing harm. They think that luxury during the day is a pleasure. They are stains and blemishes. They enjoy their deceitful actions while they are feasting with you. ^[2]¹⁴ They have eyes full of adultery; they are never satisfied with sin. They entice unstable souls into wrongdoing, and they have their hearts trained in greed. They are cursed children! ¹⁵ They have abandoned the straight way and have gone astray, following the way of Balaam son of Beor, who loved to receive payment for unrighteousness. ^[3]¹⁶ But he obtained a rebuke for his own transgression—a mute donkey speaking in a human voice stopped the prophet's insanity. ¹⁷ These men are springs without water and mists driven by a storm. The gloom of thick darkness is reserved for them. ¹⁸ They speak with vain arrogance. Through the lusts of the flesh, through sensuality, they entice people who are trying to escape from those who live in error. ¹⁹ They promise freedom to them, but they themselves are slaves of corruption. For a man is a slave to whatever overcomes him. ²⁰ If they have escaped the corruptions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and are again entangled in them and overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. ²¹ It would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness than to have known it and to turn away from the holy commandment delivered to them. ²² This proverb is true for them: "A dog returns to its own vomit, and a washed pig returns to the mud."

Footnotes

2:4 ^[1]Some important and ancient Greek copies read,

2:13 ^[2]Some ancient copies of the Greek text read,

2:15 ^[3]Many modern translations read

Chapter 3

¹ Beloved, this is now the second letter that I have written to you, and in both of them they are reminders to stir up your sincere mind ² so that you will recall the words spoken in the past by the holy prophets and the command of our Lord and Savior given through your apostles. ³ Know this first, that mockers will come in the last days. They will mock and proceed according to their own desires. ⁴ They will say, "Where is the promise of his return? From when our fathers fell asleep, all things have stayed the same, since the beginning of creation." ⁵ They deliberately forget that long ago by the word of God the heavens and the earth came to exist out of water and through water, ⁶ through which the world at that time was destroyed, being flooded with water. ⁷ By the same word the heavens and the earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly people.

⁸ It should not escape your notice, beloved, that one day with the Lord is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow concerning his promise, as some consider slowness to be. Rather, he is patient toward you. He does not desire for any of you to perish, but for everyone to come to repentance. ¹⁰ However, the day of the Lord will come as a thief: The heavens will pass away with a loud noise. The elements will be burned with fire, and the earth and the deeds in it will be laid bare. ¹¹ Since all these things will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people should you be? You should live holy and godly lives. ¹² You should expect and hasten the coming of the day of God. On that day, the heavens will be destroyed by fire, and the elements will be melted in great heat. ¹³ But according to his promise we are waiting for the new heavens and the new earth, where righteousness will dwell.

¹⁴ Therefore, beloved, since you expect these things, do your best to be found spotless and blameless before him, in peace. ¹⁵ Also, consider the patience of our Lord to be salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul wrote to you, according to the wisdom that was given to him. ¹⁶ Paul speaks of these things in all his letters, in which there are things that are difficult to understand. Ignorant and unstable men distort these things, as they also do the other scriptures, to their own destruction. ¹⁷ Therefore, beloved, since you know about these things beforehand, guard yourselves so that you are not led astray by the deceit of lawless people and you lose your own faithfulness. ¹⁸ But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. May the glory be to him both now and to the day of eternity. Amen!

Footnotes

3:10 ^[1]It is uncertain which Greek word is intended for the last word of verse 10, either

1 John

Chapter 1

¹ That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched, concerning the Word of life— ² the life was made known, and we have seen and testify and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father, and which has been made known to us. ³ That which we have seen and heard we declare also to you, so you also will have fellowship with us. Our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. ⁴ Also, we are writing these things to you so that our joy will be complete. ^[1]

⁵ This is the message that we have heard from him and are proclaiming to you: God is light, and in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we say that we have fellowship with him and walk in darkness, we are lying and are not practicing the truth. ⁷ But if we walk in the light as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from every sin. ⁸ If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ But if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we say that we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar, and his word is not in us.

Footnotes

1:4 ^[1]Some important ancient Greek copies read,

Chapter 2

¹ Children, I am writing these things to you so that you will not sin. But if anyone sins, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, the one who is righteous. ² He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the whole world. ³ We know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. ⁴ The one who says "I know God" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him. ⁵ But whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God has been perfected. By this we know that we are in him: ⁶ whoever says that he remains in God should himself also walk just as he walked.

⁷ Beloved, I am not writing a new commandment to you, but an old commandment that you have had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word that you heard. ⁸ Yet I am writing a new commandment to you, which is true in Christ and in you, because the darkness is passing away, and the true light is already shining. ⁹ The one who says that he is in the light and hates his brother is in the darkness until now. ¹⁰ The one who loves his brother remains in the light and there is no occasion for stumbling in him. ¹¹ But the one who hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness; he does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

¹² I am writing to you, children, because your sins are forgiven because of his name. ¹³ I am writing to you, fathers, because you know the one who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I have written to you, children, because you know the Father.

¹⁴ I have written to you, fathers, because you know the one who is from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God remains in you, and you have overcome the evil one. ¹⁵ Do not love the world or the things that are in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For everything that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the arrogance of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. ¹⁷ The world and its desire are passing away. But whoever does the will of God will remain forever.

¹⁸ Children, it is the last hour. Just as you heard that the antichrist is coming, now many antichrists have come. By this we know that it is the last hour. ¹⁹ They went out from us, but they were not from us. For if they had been from us they would have remained with us. But when they went out, that showed they were not from us. ²⁰ But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you all know. ²¹ I did not write to you because you do not know the truth, but because you know it and because no lie is from the truth. ²² Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? That person is the antichrist, since he denies the Father and the Son. ²³ No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever confesses the Son also has the Father. ²⁴ As for you, let what you have heard from the beginning remain in you. If what you heard from the beginning remains in you, you will also remain in the Son and in the Father. ²⁵ This is the promise he gave to us—eternal life. ²⁶ I have written these things to you about those who would lead you astray. ²⁷ As for you, the anointing that you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you everything and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, remain in him.

²⁸ Now, children, remain in him so that when he appears we will have boldness and not be ashamed before him at his coming. ²⁹ If you know that he is righteous, you know that everyone who does what is right has been born from him.

Chapter 3

¹ See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God, and this is what we are. For this reason, the world does not know us, because it did not know him. ^[1]² Beloved, we are now children of God, and it has not yet been revealed what we will be. We know that when Christ appears, we will be like him, for we will see him just as he is. ³ Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself just as he is pure. ⁴ Everyone who sins is committing acts of lawlessness, for sin is lawlessness. ⁵ You know that Christ was revealed in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. ⁶ No one who remains in him will keep on sinning. No one who continues to sin has seen him or known him. ⁷ Children, do not let anyone lead you astray. The one who does righteousness is righteous, just as Christ is righteous. ⁸ The one who commits sin is from the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this reason the Son of God was revealed, so that he would destroy the devil's works. ⁹ Whoever has been born from God does not continue to sin, because God's seed remains in him. He cannot continue to sin because he has been born of God. ¹⁰ In this the children of God and children of the devil are revealed: Whoever does not do what is righteous is not from God, neither is the one who does not love his brother. ¹¹ For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning: We should love one another. ¹² We should not be like Cain, who was from the evil one and murdered his brother. Why did he kill him? Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous.

¹³ Do not be amazed, my brothers, if the world hates you. ¹⁴ We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Anyone who does not love remains in death. ¹⁵ Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer. You know that no murderer has eternal life residing in him. ¹⁶ By this we know love, because Christ laid down his life for us. We also ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. ¹⁷ But whoever has the world's goods, sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart of compassion from him, how does the love of God remain in him? ¹⁸ My children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in actions and truth. ¹⁹ It is by this we know that we are from the truth, and we assure our hearts before him. ²⁰ For if our hearts condemn us, God is greater than our hearts, and he knows all things. ²¹ Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence toward God. ²² Whatever we ask we will receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do the things that are pleasing before him. ²³ This is his commandment: that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he gave us this commandment. ²⁴ The one who keeps God's commandments remains in him, and God remains in him. By this we know that he remains in us, by the Spirit whom he gave to us.

Footnotes

3:1 ^[1]Some important and ancient Greek copies leave out,

Chapter 4

¹ Beloved, do not believe every spirit. Instead, test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. ² By this you will know the Spirit of God—every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³ and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming, and now is already in the world. ^[1]⁴ You are from God, children, and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. ⁵ They are from the world; therefore what they say is from the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶ We are from God. Anyone who knows God listens to us. He who is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and everyone who loves is born from God and knows God. ⁸ The person who does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹ Because of this the love of God was revealed among us, that God has sent his only Son into the world so that we would live because of him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and that he sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also should love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God. If we love one another, God remains in us, and his love is perfected in us. ¹³ By this we know that we remain in him and he in us, because he has given us some of his Spirit. ¹⁴ Also, we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God remains in him and he in God. ¹⁶ Also, we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and the one who remains in this love remains in God, and God remains in him. ¹⁷ Because of this, this love has been made perfect among us, so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because as he is, just so are we in this world. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love. Instead, perfect love throws out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. But the one who fears has not been made perfect in love. ¹⁹ We love because God first loved us. ²⁰ If anyone says, "I love God" but hates his brother, he is a liar. For the one who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. ²¹ Also, this is the commandment we have from him: Whoever loves God must also love his own brother.

Footnotes

4:3 ^[1]Some important and ancient Greek copies read,

Chapter 5

¹ Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born from God, and whoever loves a father also loves the child born from him. ² This is how we know that we love the children of God: when we love God and obey his commandments. ³ For this is love for God: that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. ⁴ For everyone who is born from God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. ⁵ Who is the one who overcomes the world? The one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God. ⁶ This is the one who came by water and blood: Jesus Christ. He came not only by water, but also by water and blood. The Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. ⁷ For there are three that testify: ⁸ the Spirit, the water, and the blood. These three are in agreement. ^[1]⁹ If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater. For this is the testimony of God that he has testified concerning his Son. ¹⁰ Anyone who believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. Anyone who does not believe God has made him out to be a liar, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. ¹¹ And the testimony is this: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ¹² The one who has the Son has life. The one who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

¹³ I have written to you these things so that you will know that you have eternal life—to you who believe in the name of the Son of God. ¹⁴ Also, this is the confidence we have before him, that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. ¹⁵ Also, if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask of him—we know that we have whatever we have asked of him. ¹⁶ If anyone sees his brother commit a sin that does not result in death, he must pray, and God will give him life. I refer to those whose sin does not result in death. There is a sin that results in death; I am not saying that he should pray about that. ¹⁷ All unrighteousness is sin, but there is sin that does not result in death.

¹⁸ We know that whoever has been born from God does not sin. But the one who was born from God keeps him safe, and the evil one cannot harm him. ¹⁹ We know that we are from God, and we know that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one. ²⁰ But we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding so that we may know him who is true. Also, we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. This one is the true God and eternal life. ²¹ Children, keep yourselves from idols.

Footnotes

5:8 ^[1]Some important and ancient Greek copies read,

2 John

Chapter 1

¹ From the elder to the chosen lady and her children, whom I love in truth—and not only I, but also all those who have known the truth— ² because of the truth that remains in us and will be with us forever.

³ Grace, mercy, and peace will be with us from God the Father and from Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.

⁴ I rejoice greatly that I have found some of your children walking in truth, just as we have received this commandment from the Father. ⁵ Now I plead with you, lady—not as though I were writing to you a new commandment, but one that we have had from the beginning—that we should love one another. ⁶ This is love, that we should walk according to his commandments. This is the commandment, just as you heard from the beginning, that you should walk in it. ⁷ For many deceivers have gone out into the world, and they do not confess that Jesus Christ came in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the antichrist. ⁸ Look to yourselves, that you do not lose the things for which we have labored, but so that you may receive a full reward. ⁹ Whoever goes on ahead and does not remain in the teaching of Christ does not have God. The one who remains in the teaching, this one has both the Father and the Son. ¹⁰ If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house and do not greet him. ¹¹ For the one who speaks a greeting to him participates in his evil deeds.

¹² I have many things to write to you, but I did not wish to write them with paper and ink. However, I hope to come to you and speak face to face, so that our joy will be complete.

¹³ The children of your chosen sister greet you.

3 John

Chapter 1

¹ The elder to beloved Gaius, whom I love in truth.

² Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be healthy, just as it is well with your soul. ³ For I rejoiced greatly when brothers came and bore witness to your truth, just as you walk in truth.

⁴ I have no greater joy than this, to hear that my children walk in the truth.

⁵ Beloved, you practice faithfulness whenever you labor for the brothers and for strangers ⁶ who have borne witness of your love in the presence of the church. You do well to send them off on their journey in a manner worthy of God, ⁷ because it was for the sake of the name that they went out, taking nothing from the Gentiles. ⁸ We therefore should welcome such as these so that we will be fellow workers for the truth.

⁹ I wrote something to the congregation, but Diotrephes, who loves to be first among them, does not receive us. ¹⁰ So if I come, I will call attention to the deeds he is doing, falsely accusing us with wicked words. Not satisfied with that, he not only refused to welcome the brothers himself, but he also stops those who want to welcome them and drives them out of the church. ¹¹ Beloved, do not imitate what is evil but what is good. The one who does good is of God; the evildoer has not seen God. ¹² Demetrius received a good testimony from everyone and by the truth itself. We also testify about him, and you know that our testimony is true.

¹³ I had many things to write to you, but I do not wish to write them to you with pen and ink. ¹⁴ But I hope to see you soon, and we will speak face to face. ¹⁵ May peace be with you. The friends greet you. Greet our friends there by name.

Jude

Chapter 1

¹ Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James, to those who are called, beloved in God the Father, and kept for Jesus Christ:

² May mercy and peace and love be multiplied to you.

³ Beloved, while I was making every effort to write to you about our common salvation, I had to write to you to exhort you to struggle earnestly for the faith that was entrusted once for all to God's holy people. ⁴ For certain men have slipped in secretly among you. These men were marked out for condemnation. They are ungodly men who have changed the grace of our God into sensuality, and who deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

⁵ Now I wish to remind you—although once you fully knew it—that the Lord saved a people out of the land of Egypt, but that afterward he destroyed those who did not believe. ⁶ Also, angels who did not keep to their own position of authority, but who left their proper dwelling place—God has kept them in everlasting chains, in utter darkness, for the judgment on the great day. ⁷ So also Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them gave themselves over to sexual immorality and perverse sexual acts. They serve as an example of those who suffer the punishment of eternal fire. ⁸ Yet in the same way, these dreamers also defile their bodies. They reject authority and they slander the glorious ones. ⁹ But even Michael the archangel, when he was arguing with the devil and disputing with him about the body of Moses, did not dare to bring a slanderous judgment against him, but he said, "May the Lord rebuke you!" ¹⁰ But these people insult whatever they do not understand; and what they do understand naturally, like unreasoning animals, these are the very things that destroy them. ¹¹ Woe to them! For they have walked in the way of Cain and have plunged into Balaam's error for profit. They have perished in Korah's rebellion. ¹² These people are dangerous reefs at your love feasts, feasting with you fearlessly—shepherds who only feed themselves. They are clouds without rain carried along by winds; autumn trees, without fruit—twice dead, uprooted. ¹³ They are violent waves in the sea, foaming up their shame; wandering stars, for whom the gloom of complete darkness has been reserved forever. ¹⁴ Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about them, saying, "Look! The Lord is coming with thousands and thousands of his holy ones. ¹⁵ He is coming to execute judgment on everyone. He is coming to convict all the ungodly of all the works they have done in an ungodly way, and of all the bitter words that ungodly sinners have spoken against him." ¹⁶ These are grumblers, complainers, following their evil desires. Their mouths speak loud boasts, flattering others for profit.

¹⁷ But you, beloved, remember the words that were spoken in the past by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ They said to you, "In the last time there will be mockers who will follow their own ungodly desires." ¹⁹ It is these who cause divisions; they are worldly and they do not have the Spirit. ²⁰ But you, beloved, build yourselves up in your most holy faith, and pray in the Holy Spirit. ²¹ Keep yourselves in God's love, and wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that brings you eternal life. ²² Be merciful to those who doubt. ²³ Save others by snatching them out of the fire; to others show mercy with fear, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh.

²⁴ Now to the one who is able to keep you from stumbling and to cause you to stand before his glorious presence without blemish and with great joy, ²⁵ to the only God our Savior through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time, now, and forever. Amen.

Revelation

Chapter 1

¹ This is the revelation of Jesus Christ that God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, ² who testified about the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ, all the things that he saw. ³ Blessed is the one who reads aloud this prophecy and those who listen to the words of this prophecy and who obey what is written in it, because the time is near.

⁴ John, to the seven churches in Asia: May grace be to you and peace from the one who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To the one who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood— ⁶ he has made us a kingdom, priests for his God and Father—to him be the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.

⁷ Look, he is coming with the clouds;
every eye will see him,
including those who pierced him.
All the tribes of the earth will mourn because of him.
Yes, Amen.

⁸ "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "the one who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty." ^[1]

⁹ I, John—your brother and the one who shares with you in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are in Jesus—was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony about Jesus. ¹⁰ I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day. I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet. ¹¹ It said, "Write what you see in a book, and send it to the seven churches—to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamum, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea." ¹² I turned around to see whose voice was speaking to me, and as I turned I saw seven golden lampstands. ¹³ In the middle of the lampstands there was one like a son of man, wearing a long robe that reached down to his feet and a golden sash around his chest. ¹⁴ His head and hair were as white as wool—as white as snow—and his eyes were like a flame of fire. ¹⁵ His feet were like polished bronze, like bronze that had been refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of many rushing waters. ¹⁶ He had seven stars in his right hand, and a sword with two sharp edges was coming out of his mouth. His face was shining like the sun at its strongest. ¹⁷ When I saw him, I fell at his feet like a dead man. He placed his right hand on me and said, "Do not be afraid. I am the first and the last ¹⁸ and the one who lives. I was dead, but look, I live forever and ever! And I have the keys of death and of Hades. ¹⁹ Therefore write down what you have seen, what is now, and what will take place after this. ²⁰ As for the hidden meaning about the seven stars you saw in my right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches."

Footnotes

1:8 ^[1]Some important and ancient Greek copies read,

Chapter 2

¹ "To the angel of the church in Ephesus write:

"The words of the one who holds the seven stars in his right hand and who walks among the seven golden lampstands, ² "I know your deeds, your hard labor, and your patient endurance, and that you cannot tolerate those who are evil, but you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and you have found them to be false. ³ You are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name, and you have not grown weary. ⁴ But I have against you the fact that you have left behind your first love. ⁵ Remember therefore from where you have fallen. Repent and do the things you did at first. Unless you repent, I will come to you and I will remove your lampstand from its place. ⁶ But you have this: You hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. ⁷ Let the one who has an ear, hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches. To the one who conquers I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God."

⁸ "To the angel of the church in Smyrna write:

"The words of the one who is the first and the last, the one who was dead and who became alive again: ⁹ "I know your sufferings and your poverty, but you are rich. I know the slander of those who say they are Jews, but they are not. They are a synagogue of Satan. ¹⁰ Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Look! The devil is about to throw some of you into prison so that you will be tested, and you will suffer for ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life. ¹¹ Let the one who has an ear, hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches. The one who conquers will not be hurt by the second death."

¹² "To the angel of the church in Pergamum write:

"The words of the one who has the sword with two sharp edges: ¹³ "I know where you live, there where Satan's throne is. Yet you hold on tightly to my name. I know that you did not deny your faith in me, even in the days of Antipas my witness, my faithful one, who was killed among you, there where Satan lives. ¹⁴ But I have a few things against you: You have there some who hold tightly to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to throw a stumbling block before the sons of Israel so they would eat food sacrificed to idols and be sexually immoral. ¹⁵ In the same way, you even have some who hold tightly to the teaching of the Nicolaitans. ¹⁶ Repent, therefore! If you do not, I will quickly come to you, and I will wage war against them with the sword in my mouth. ¹⁷ Let the one who has an ear, hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches. To the one who conquers, I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give a white stone with a new name written on the stone, a name which no one knows but the one who receives it."

¹⁸ "To the angel of the church in Thyatira write:

"These are the words of the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire and feet like polished bronze: ¹⁹ "I know your deeds: your love and faith and service and your patient endurance. I know that what you have done recently is more than you did at first. ²⁰ But I have this against you: You tolerate the woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess. By her teaching she deceives my servants to commit sexual immorality and to eat food sacrificed to idols. ²¹ I gave her time to repent, but she is not willing to repent of her immorality. ²² Look! I will throw her onto a sickbed and those who commit adultery with her into great suffering, unless they repent of her deeds. ²³ I will strike her children dead, and all the churches will know that I am the one who searches out thoughts and hearts. I will give to each one of you according to your deeds. ²⁴ But to the rest of you in Thyatira, to everyone who does not hold this teaching and does not know what some call the deep things of Satan—to you I say, 'I do not put any other burden on you.' ²⁵ In any case, you must hold on tightly until I come.

²⁶ The one who conquers and does my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations.

²⁷ 'He will rule them with an iron rod,
like clay jars he will break them into pieces.'

²⁸ Just as I have received from my Father, I will also give him the morning star. ²⁹ Let the one who has an ear, hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches."

Chapter 3

¹ "To the angel of the church in Sardis write:

"The words of the one who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. "I know your deeds. You have a name that you are alive, but you are dead. ² Wake up and strengthen what remains but is about to die, because I have not found your deeds complete in the sight of my God. ³ Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard. Obey it, and repent. But if you do not wake up, I will come as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come against you. ⁴ But you have a few names in Sardis who have not stained their clothes, and they will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy. ⁵ The one who conquers will be clothed in white garments, and I will never wipe his name out of the Book of Life, and I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels. ⁶ Let the one who has an ear, hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches."

⁷ "To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write:

"The words of the one who is holy and true—
 he holds the key of David,
 he opens and no one shuts,
 he shuts and no one can open.

⁸ "I know your deeds. Look, I have put before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have obeyed my word and have not denied my name. ⁹ Look! I will cause those who belong to the synagogue of Satan, those calling themselves Jews but are not, but rather liars—I will make them come and bow down before your feet, and they will know that I love you. ¹⁰ Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of testing that is coming on the whole world, to test those who live on the earth. ¹¹ I am coming soon. Hold to what you have so no one can take away your crown. ¹² The one who conquers I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will he go out of it, and I will write on him the name of my God, the name of the city of my God (the new Jerusalem, that comes down out of heaven from my God), and my new name. ¹³ Let the one who has an ear, hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches."

¹⁴ "To the angel of the church in Laodicea write:

"The words of the Amen, the reliable and true witness, the ruler over God's creation. ¹⁵ "I know your deeds and that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish that you were either cold or hot! ¹⁶ So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to vomit you out of my mouth. ¹⁷ For you say, 'I am rich, I have had many material possessions, and I need nothing.' But you do not know that you are most miserable, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. ¹⁸ Listen to my advice: Buy from me gold refined by fire so that you may become rich, and brilliant white garments so you may clothe yourself and not show the shame of your nakedness, and salve to anoint your eyes so you will see. ¹⁹ I rebuke and discipline everyone whom I love. Therefore, be earnest and repent. ²⁰ Look, I am standing at the door and am knocking. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come into his home and will eat with him, and he with me. ²¹ The one who conquers I will give him the right to sit down with me on my throne, just as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. ²² Let the one who has an ear, hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches.""

Chapter 4

¹ After these things I looked, and I saw an open door in heaven. The first voice that I had heard was speaking to me like a trumpet, saying, "Come up here, and I will show you what must happen after these things." ² At once I was in the Spirit, and I saw there a throne placed in heaven, with someone sitting on it. ³ The one who was sitting on it looked like jasper and carnelian. There was a rainbow around the throne. The rainbow was like an emerald in appearance. ⁴ Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones were twenty-four elders, dressed with white garments, with golden crowns on their heads. ⁵ From the throne came flashes of lightning, rumblings, and crashes of thunder. Seven flaming lamps were burning in front of the throne, lamps that were the seven spirits of God. ⁶ Before the throne was a sea of glass, like crystal. In the middle of the throne and around the throne were four living creatures, full of eyes, front and back. ⁷ The first living creature was like a lion, the second living creature was like a calf, the third living creature had a face like a man, and the fourth living creature was like a flying eagle. ⁸ The four living creatures each had six wings, full of eyes on top and underneath. Night and day they do not stop saying,

"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty,
who was, and who is, and who is to come."

⁹ Whenever the living creatures give glory, honor, and thanks to the one who sits on the throne, the one who lives forever and ever, ¹⁰ the twenty-four elders fall down before the one seated on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne, saying,

¹¹ "Worthy are you, our Lord and our God,
to receive glory and honor and power,
for you created all things,
and by your will they existed and were created."

Chapter 5

¹ Then I saw in the right hand of the one who was seated on the throne a scroll written on the front and on the back, sealed with seven seals. ² I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" ³ No one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to read it. ⁴ I wept bitterly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to read it. ⁵ But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Look! The Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals." ⁶ I saw a Lamb standing in the middle of the throne area and among the four living creatures and among the elders. He looked as though he had been killed. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. ⁷ He went and took hold of the scroll out of the right hand of the one who was seated on the throne. ⁸ When he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each of them had a harp and a golden bowl full of incense, which are the prayers of God's holy people. ⁹ They sang a new song:

"You are worthy to take the scroll
and to open its seals.
For you were slaughtered,
and with your blood you purchased people for God
from every tribe, language, people, and nation.
¹⁰ You made them a kingdom and priests to serve our God,
and they will reign on the earth."

¹¹ Then I looked and heard the sound of many angels who encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. Their total number was ten thousands of ten thousands and thousands of thousands. ¹² They said in a loud voice,

"Worthy is the Lamb, who has been slaughtered,
to receive power, wealth, wisdom, strength,
honor, glory, and praise."

¹³ I heard every created thing that was in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea—everything in them—saying,

"To the one who sits on the throne and to the Lamb
be praise, honor, glory, and dominion
forever and ever."

¹⁴ The four living creatures said, "Amen!" and the elders fell down and worshiped. [\[1\]](#)

Footnotes

5:14 [\[1\]](#)Some important and ancient Greek copies read,

Chapter 6

¹ I looked when the Lamb opened one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures say in a voice that sounded like thunder, "Come!" ² I looked and there was a white horse. Its rider held a bow, and he was given a crown. He came out as a conqueror in order to conquer.

³ When the Lamb opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say, "Come!" ⁴ Then another horse came out—fiery red. To its rider was given permission to take peace away from the earth, so that its people would slaughter one another. This rider was given a huge sword.

⁵ When the Lamb opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, "Come!" I saw a black horse, and its rider held a pair of scales in his hand. ⁶ I heard what seemed to be a voice among the four living creatures say, "A choenix of wheat for one denarius, and three choenices of barley for a denarius. But do not harm the oil and the wine."

⁷ When the Lamb opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature say, "Come!" ⁸ Then I saw a pale horse. The rider on it was named Death, and Hades was following him. They were given authority over one-fourth of the earth, to kill with the sword, with famine and disease, and with the wild animals of the earth.

⁹ When the Lamb opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been killed because of the word of God and the testimony which they held. ¹⁰ They cried out with a loud voice, "How long, Ruler over all, holy and true, until you judge those who live on the earth, and until you avenge our blood?" ¹¹ Then each of them was given a white robe, and they were told that they should wait a short time longer until the full number of their fellow servants and their brothers who were to be killed, just as they had been killed, was made complete.

¹² When the Lamb opened the sixth seal, I watched and there was a great earthquake. The sun became as black as sackcloth, and the full moon became like blood. ¹³ The stars in the heavens fell to the earth, just as a fig tree drops its unripe figs when shaken by a stormy wind. ¹⁴ The sky vanished like a scroll that was being rolled up. Every mountain and island was moved out of its place. ¹⁵ Then the kings of the earth and the important people, and the commanders, and the rich, and the powerful, and everyone else, slave and free, hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains. ¹⁶ They said to the mountains and to the rocks, "Fall on us! Hide us from the face of the one who is seated on the throne and from the Lamb's wrath." ¹⁷ For the great day of their wrath has come. Who is able to stand?"

Chapter 7

¹ After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, tightly holding back the four winds of the earth so that no wind should blow on the earth, on the sea, or against any tree. ² I saw another angel coming up from the east, who had the seal of the living God. He cried out with a loud voice to the four angels who were given permission to harm the earth and the sea: ³ "Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees until we have put a seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God." ⁴ I heard the number of those who were sealed: 144,000, who were sealed from every tribe of the people of Israel:

- ⁵ twelve thousand from the tribe of Judah were sealed,
twelve thousand from the tribe of Reuben,
twelve thousand from the tribe of Gad,
- ⁶ twelve thousand from the tribe of Asher,
twelve thousand from the tribe of Naphtali,
twelve thousand from the tribe of Manasseh,
- ⁷ twelve thousand from the tribe of Simeon,
twelve thousand from the tribe of Levi,
twelve thousand from the tribe of Issachar,
- ⁸ twelve thousand from the tribe of Zebulun,
twelve thousand from the tribe of Joseph, and
twelve thousand from the tribe of Benjamin were sealed.

⁹ After these things I looked, and there was a huge multitude that no one could count—from every nation, tribe, people, and language—standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and holding palm branches in their hands, ¹⁰ and they were crying out with a loud voice:

"Salvation belongs to our God,
who is seated on the throne,
and to the Lamb!"

¹¹ All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne. They worshiped God, ¹² saying,

"Amen!
Praise, glory, wisdom, thanksgiving, honor, power, and strength
be to our God forever and ever!
Amen!"

¹³ Then one of the elders asked me, "Who are these, clothed with white robes, and where did they come from?" ¹⁴ I said to him, "Sir, you know," and he said to me, "These are the ones who have come out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

¹⁵ For this reason,

- they are before the throne of God,
and they worship him day and night in his temple.
The one who is seated on the throne
will spread his tent over them.
- ¹⁶ They will not be hungry again,
nor will they be thirsty again.
The sun will not beat down on them,
nor any burning heat.
- ¹⁷ For the Lamb at the center of the throne
will shepherd them,
and he will guide them to springs of living water,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

Chapter 8

¹ When the Lamb opened the seventh seal, there was a silence in heaven for about half an hour. ² Then I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them.

³ Another angel came, holding a golden incense bowl, standing at the incense altar. Much incense was given to him so that he would offer it with the prayers of all God's holy people on the golden incense altar before the throne. ⁴ The smoke of the incense—with the prayers of God's holy people—rose up before God from the angel's hand. ⁵ The angel took the incense bowl and filled it with fire from the altar. Then he threw it down to the earth, and there were crashes of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning, and an earthquake.

⁶ The seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared to sound them.

⁷ The first angel sounded his trumpet, and there was hail and fire mixed with blood. It was thrown down onto the earth so that a third of it was burned up, a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up. ^[1]

⁸ The second angel sounded his trumpet, and something like a great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea. A third of the sea became blood, ⁹ a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.

¹⁰ The third angel sounded his trumpet, and a huge star fell from the sky, blazing like a torch, on a third of the rivers and springs of water. ¹¹ The name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters became wormwood, and many people died from the waters that became bitter.

¹² The fourth angel sounded his trumpet, and a third of the sun was struck, as well as a third of the moon and a third of the stars. So a third of them turned dark; a third of the day and a third of the night had no light.

¹³ I looked, and I heard an eagle ^[2] that was flying overhead calling out with a loud voice, "Woe, woe, woe, to those who live on the earth, because of the remaining trumpet blasts that are about to be sounded by the three angels."

Footnotes

8:7 ^[1]Some important and ancient Greek copies leave out,

8:13 ^[2]Some copies have the word

Chapter 9

¹ Then the fifth angel sounded his trumpet. I saw a star from heaven that had fallen to the earth. The star was given the key to the shaft of the bottomless pit. ² He opened the shaft of the bottomless pit, and smoke went up out of the shaft like smoke from a huge furnace. The sun and the air were turned dark by the smoke from the shaft. ³ Out of the smoke locusts came on the earth, and they were given power like that of scorpions on the earth. ⁴ They were told not to damage the grass on the earth or any green plant or tree, but only the people who did not have the seal of God on their foreheads. ⁵ They were not given permission to kill those people, but only to torture them for five months. Their agony would be like the sting of a scorpion when it strikes a person. ⁶ In those days people will seek death but will not find it. They will greatly desire to die, but death will flee from them. ⁷ The locusts looked like horses prepared for war. On their heads were something like crowns of gold, and their faces were like human faces. ⁸ They had hair like women's hair, and their teeth were like lions' teeth. ⁹ They had breastplates like iron breastplates, and the sound of their wings was like the sound made by many chariots and horses running into battle. ¹⁰ They had tails with stingers like scorpions; in their tails they had power to harm people for five months. ¹¹ They had as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit. His name in Hebrew was Abaddon, and in Greek he had the name Apollyon.

¹² The first woe is past. Look! After this there are still two disasters to come.

¹³ The sixth angel sounded his trumpet, and I heard a voice coming from the horns of the golden altar that is present before God, ¹⁴ saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who had been bound at the great Euphrates River." ¹⁵ The four angels who had been prepared for that hour, that day, that month, and that year were released to kill a third of mankind. ¹⁶ The number of the soldiers on horseback was 200,000,000. I heard their number. ¹⁷ This is how I saw the horses in my vision and those who rode on them: Their breastplates were fiery red, dark blue and yellow as sulfur. The heads of the horses resembled the heads of lions, and out of their mouths came fire, smoke, and sulfur. ¹⁸ A third of the people were killed by these three plagues: the fire, smoke, and sulfur that came out of their mouths. ¹⁹ For the power of the horses was in their mouths and in their tails—for their tails were like snakes, having heads with which they inflicted wounds on people. ²⁰ The rest of mankind, those who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, nor did they stop worshiping demons and idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone, and wood—things that cannot see, hear, or walk. ²¹ Neither did they repent of their murders, their sorcery, their sexual immorality or their acts of theft.

Chapter 10

¹ Then I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven. He was clothed in a cloud, and there was a rainbow above his head. His face was like the sun and his feet were like pillars of fire. ² He held a little scroll, which was opened in his hand. He put his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land. ³ Then he shouted in a loud voice like a roaring lion. When he shouted, the seven thunders spoke out with their sounds. ⁴ When the seven thunders spoke out, I was about to write, but I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Seal up what the seven thunders said. Do not write it down." ⁵ Then the angel I saw standing on the sea and the earth raised his right hand to heaven. ⁶ He swore by the one who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and all that is in it, the earth and all that is on it, and the sea and all that is in it, and the angel said, "There will be no more delay. ⁷ But on the day when the seventh angel is about to sound his trumpet, then the mystery of God will be accomplished, just as he proclaimed the good news to his servants the prophets." ⁸ The voice I heard from heaven spoke to me again: "Go, take the open scroll that is in the hand of the angel standing on the sea and on the land." ⁹ Then I went to the angel and told him to give me the little scroll. He said to me, "Take the scroll and eat it. It will make your stomach bitter, but in your mouth it will be as sweet as honey." ¹⁰ I took the little scroll from the angel's hand and ate it. It was as sweet as honey in my mouth, but after I ate it, my stomach became bitter. ¹¹ Then someone said to me, "You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, languages, and kings."

Chapter 11

¹ A reed was given to me to use like a measuring rod. I was told, "Get up and measure the temple of God and the altar, and those who worship in it. ² But do not measure the courtyard outside the temple, for it has been given over to the Gentiles. They will trample the holy city for forty-two months. ³ I will give my two witnesses authority to prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth." ⁴ These witnesses are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that have stood before the Lord of the earth. ⁵ If anyone chooses to harm them, fire comes out of their mouth and devours their enemies. Anyone who wishes to harm them must be killed in this way. ⁶ These witnesses have authority to close up the sky so that no rain will fall during the days that they prophesy. They have power to turn the waters to blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague whenever they wish. ⁷ When they will have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up from the bottomless pit will wage war against them. He will conquer them and kill them. ⁸ Their bodies will lie in the street of the great city (which is symbolically called Sodom and Egypt) where their Lord was crucified. ⁹ For three and a half days some from every people, tribe, language, and nation will look at their bodies. They will not permit them to be placed in a tomb. ¹⁰ Those who live on the earth will rejoice over them and celebrate. They will even send gifts to one another because these two prophets tormented those who lived on the earth. ¹¹ But after three and a half days a breath of life from God will enter them, and they will stand on their feet. Great fear will fall on those who see them. ¹² Then they will hear a loud voice from heaven say to them, "Come up here!" Then they will go up into heaven in a cloud, while their enemies look on. ¹³ At that hour there will be a major earthquake, and a tenth part of the city will collapse. Seven thousand people will be killed in the earthquake, and the survivors will be terrified and give glory to the God of heaven.

¹⁴ The second woe is past. Look! The third woe is coming quickly.

¹⁵ Then the seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and loud voices spoke in heaven and said,

"The kingdom of the world has become
the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ,
and he will reign forever and ever."

¹⁶ Then the twenty-four elders, who sit on their thrones in the presence of God, fell upon their faces and worshiped God. ¹⁷ They said,

"We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty,
the one who is and who was,
because you have taken your great power
and have begun to reign. ^[1]

¹⁸ The nations were enraged,
but your wrath has come.
The time has come for the dead to be judged
and for you to reward your servants the prophets
and God's holy people, and those who feared your name,
both the unimportant and the mighty.
The time has come
for you to destroy those who are destroying the earth."

¹⁹ Then God's temple in heaven was opened and the ark of his covenant was seen within his temple. There were flashes of lightning, rumblings, crashes of thunder, an earthquake, and a great hailstorm.

Footnotes

11:17 ^[1] The best copies of the ancient Greek text have the phrase

Chapter 12

¹ A great sign was seen in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head. ² She was pregnant, and she was crying out in birth pains, in the anguish of childbirth. ³ Then another sign was seen in heaven: Look! There was a huge red dragon that had seven heads and ten horns, and there were seven crowns on his heads. ⁴ His tail swept away a third of the stars in heaven and hurled them down to the earth. The dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she gave birth, he would devour her child. ⁵ She gave birth to a son, a male child, who would rule all the nations with an iron rod. Her child was snatched away to God and to his throne, ⁶ and the woman fled into the wilderness, where God had prepared a place for her, so she could be taken care of for 1,260 days.

⁷ Now there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. ⁸ But the dragon was not strong enough to win. So there was no longer any place in heaven for him and his angels. ⁹ The great dragon—that old serpent called the Devil or Satan, who deceives the whole world—was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. ¹⁰ Then I heard a loud voice in heaven:

"Now have come the salvation and the power
and the kingdom of our God,
and the authority of his Christ.
For the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down,
the one who accused them before our God day and night.

¹¹ They conquered him
by the blood of the Lamb
and by the word of their testimony,
for they did not love their lives
even to death.

¹² Therefore rejoice, you heavens
and all who reside in them!
But woe to the earth and to the sea,
because the devil has gone down to you!
He is filled with terrible anger
and knows that he has only a little time!

¹³ When the dragon realized he had been thrown down to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child. ¹⁴ But the woman was given the two wings of a great eagle so that she would flee to the place prepared for her in the wilderness. This was the place where she would be taken care of, for a time, times, and half a time—out of the serpent's presence. ¹⁵ The serpent poured water out of his mouth like a river so that he might make a flood to sweep her away. ¹⁶ But the earth helped the woman. The earth opened its mouth and swallowed the river that the dragon was pouring out of his mouth. ¹⁷ Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to wage war with the rest of her descendants, those who obey God's commandments and hold to the testimony about Jesus. ¹⁸ Then the dragon stood on the sand of the seashore.

Chapter 13

¹ Then I saw a beast coming up out of the sea. It had ten horns and seven heads. On its horns were ten crowns, and on each of its heads was a blasphemous name. ² This beast I saw was like a leopard. Its feet were like a bear's feet, and its mouth was like a lion's mouth. The dragon gave it his power, his throne, and his great authority to rule. ³ One of the beast's heads seemed to have a fatal wound, but that fatal wound had been healed. The whole earth marveled as they followed the beast. ⁴ They also worshiped the dragon, for he had given his authority to the beast. They worshiped the beast, too, and kept saying, "Who is like the beast?" and "Who can fight against it?" ⁵ The beast was given a mouth that could speak proud words and blasphemies. It was permitted to exercise authority for forty-two months. ⁶ So the beast opened its mouth to speak blasphemies against God, blaspheming his name and his tabernacle, those who live in heaven. ⁷ The beast was permitted to wage war with God's holy people and to conquer them. Also, authority was given to it over every tribe, people, language, and nation. ⁸ All who live on the earth will worship it, everyone whose name was not written in the Book of Life, which belongs to the Lamb who had been slaughtered from the foundation of the world. ⁹ If anyone has an ear, let him hear.

¹⁰ If anyone is to be taken into captivity,
 into captivity he will go.
 If anyone is to be killed with the sword,
 with the sword he will be killed.

Here is a call for the patient endurance and faith of God's holy people.

¹¹ Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth. He had two horns like a lamb, and it spoke like a dragon. ¹² He exercised all the authority of the first beast in his presence, and he made the earth and those who live on it worship the first beast—the one whose lethal wound had been healed. ¹³ He performed mighty miracles. He even made fire come down on the earth from heaven in front of people. ¹⁴ By the signs he was given power on behalf of the beast, he deceived those who live on the earth, telling them to set up an image for the beast—who was wounded by the sword, but he still lived. ¹⁵ He was permitted to give breath to the beast's image so that the image would even speak and cause all who refused to worship the beast to be killed. ¹⁶ He also forced everyone, unimportant and mighty, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on the right hand or on the forehead. ¹⁷ It was impossible for anyone to buy or sell unless he had the mark of the beast, that is, the number representing its name. ¹⁸ This calls for wisdom. If anyone has insight, let him calculate the number of the beast. For it is the number of a human being. His number is 666.

Chapter 14

¹ I looked and saw the Lamb standing on Mount Zion. With him were 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads. ² I heard a voice from heaven sounding like a roar of many waters and loud thunder. The sound I heard was also like harpists playing their harps. ³ They sang a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders. No one could learn the song except for the 144,000 who had been bought from the earth. ⁴ These are the ones that have not defiled themselves with women, for they have kept themselves sexually pure. It is these who follow the Lamb wherever he goes. These were redeemed from among mankind as firstfruits for God and for the Lamb. ⁵ No lie was found in their mouth; they are blameless.

⁶ I saw another angel flying in midair, who had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth—to every nation, tribe, language, and people. ⁷ He called out with a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory. For the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him, the one who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and the springs of water."

⁸ Another angel—a second angel—followed, saying, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, who persuaded all the nations to drink the wine of her immoral passion."

⁹ Another angel—a third angel—followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and his image and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, ¹⁰ he will also drink some of the wine of God's wrath, the wine that has been poured undiluted into the cup of his anger. The person who drinks it will be tormented with fire and sulfur before God's holy angels and before the Lamb. ¹¹ The smoke from their torment goes up forever and ever, and they have no rest day or night—these worshipers of the beast and his image, and everyone who receives the mark of his name. ¹² Here is a call for the patient endurance of God's holy people, those who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus."

¹³ I heard a voice from heaven say, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord."

"Yes," says the Spirit, "so that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds will follow them."

¹⁴ I looked, and there was a white cloud. Seated on the cloud was one like a son of man. He had a golden crown on his head and a sharp sickle in his hand. ¹⁵ Then another angel came out of the temple and called with a loud voice to the one sitting on the cloud: "Take your sickle and start to reap. For the time to reap has come, since the harvest of the earth is ripe." ¹⁶ Then the one who was sitting on the cloud swung his sickle over the earth, and the earth was reaped.

¹⁷ Another angel came out from the temple in heaven; he also had a sharp sickle. ¹⁸ Still another angel came out from the incense altar, who had authority over the fire. He called out with a loud voice to the one who had the sharp sickle, "Take your sharp sickle and gather in the clusters of grapes from the vines of the earth, for their grapes are now ripe." ¹⁹ The angel swung his sickle to the earth and harvested the grapevine of the earth. He threw it into the great winepress of God's wrath. ²⁰ The winepress was trodden outside the city, and blood poured out from it up to the height of a horse's bridle, for 1,600 stadia.

Chapter 15

¹ Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous: There were seven angels with seven plagues, which are the final plagues, for with them the wrath of God will be completed.

² I saw what appeared to be a sea of glass mixed with fire. Standing beside the sea were those who had been victorious over the beast and his image and over the number representing his name. They were holding harps given to them by God. ³ They were singing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb:

"Great and marvelous are your deeds,
Lord God, the Almighty.
Just and true are your ways,
King of the nations.

⁴ Who will not fear you, Lord,
and glorify your name?
For you alone are holy.
All nations will come
and worship before you
because your righteous deeds have been revealed."

⁵ After these things I looked, and the temple of the tabernacle of witness was open in heaven. ⁶ Out of the temple came the seven angels holding the seven plagues. They were clothed with pure, bright linen and had golden sashes around their chests. ⁷ One of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God, who lives forever and ever. ⁸ The temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from his power. No one could enter it until the seven plagues of the seven angels were completed.

Chapter 16

¹ I heard a loud voice call out of the temple and say to the seven angels, "Go and pour out on the earth the seven bowls of God's wrath."

² The first angel went and poured out his bowl on the earth; ugly and painful sores came on the people who had the mark of the beast, those who worshiped his image.

³ The second angel poured out his bowl into the sea. It became blood, like the blood of a dead person, and every living thing in the sea died.

⁴ The third angel poured out his bowl into the rivers and the springs of water, and they became blood. ⁵ I heard the angel of the waters say,

"You are righteous—the one who is and who was, the Holy One—
because you have judged these things.

⁶ Because they poured out the blood of God's holy people and prophets,
you have given them blood to drink;
it is what they deserve."

⁷ I heard the altar reply,

"Yes, Lord God Almighty,
your judgments are true and righteous."

⁸ The fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and it was given permission to scorch the people with fire. ⁹ They were scorched by the terrible heat, and they blasphemed the name of God, who has the authority over these plagues. They did not repent or give him glory.

¹⁰ Then the fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and darkness covered its kingdom. They chewed on their tongues because of the pain. ¹¹ They blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pain and sores, and they still refused to repent of their deeds.

¹² The sixth angel poured out his bowl into the great river, the Euphrates. Its water was dried up in order to prepare the way for the kings that would come from the east. ¹³ I saw three unclean spirits that looked like frogs coming out of the mouths of the dragon, of the beast, and of the false prophet. ¹⁴ For they are spirits of demons performing miraculous signs. They were going out to the kings of the whole world in order to gather them together for the battle on the great day of God Almighty. ¹⁵ ("Look! I am coming as a thief! Blessed is the one who keeps watching, keeping his garments on so that he does not walk around naked and so that they do not see his shameful condition.")

¹⁶ They brought them together at the place that is called Armageddon in Hebrew.

¹⁷ Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air. Then a loud voice came out of the temple and from the throne, saying, "It is done!" ¹⁸ There were flashes of lightning, rumblings, crashes of thunder, and a terrible earthquake—an earthquake greater than any that has ever happened since human beings have been on the earth, so great was this earthquake. ¹⁹ The great city was split into three parts, and the nations' cities collapsed. Then God called to mind Babylon the great, and he gave that city the cup filled with the wine made from his furious wrath. ²⁰ Every island disappeared, and the mountains were no longer found. ²¹ Great hailstones, weighing about a talent, came down from the sky upon the people. They blasphemed God for the plague of hail because that plague was so terrible.

Chapter 17

¹ One of the seven angels who had been holding the seven bowls came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the condemnation of the great prostitute who is seated on many waters, ² with whom the kings of the earth committed sexual immorality, and with the wine of her sexual immorality the inhabitants of the earth became drunk." ³ Then the angel carried me away in the Spirit to a wilderness, and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was full of blasphemous names. The beast had seven heads and ten horns. ⁴ The woman was dressed in purple and scarlet and was adorned with gold, precious stones, and pearls. She was holding in her hand a golden cup full of detestable things and the impurities of her sexual immorality. ⁵ On her forehead was written a name, a mystery: "Babylon the great, the mother of prostitutes and of the detestable things of the earth."

⁶ I saw that the woman was drunk with the blood of God's holy people and with the blood of the martyrs for Jesus. When I saw her, I was greatly astonished. ⁷ But the angel said to me, "Why are you astonished? I will explain to you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that is carrying her, the beast that has the seven heads and the ten horns. ⁸ The beast you saw existed, does not exist now, and is about to come up from the bottomless pit. Then he will go on to destruction. Those who live on the earth, those whose names have not been written in the Book of Life since the foundation of the world—they will be astounded when they see the beast, because he once was, and now is not, and yet will come. ⁹ This calls for a mind that has wisdom. The seven heads are seven hills on which the woman is seated. ¹⁰ They are also seven kings. Five kings have fallen, one exists, and the other has not yet come, and when he comes, he must remain for a little while. ¹¹ The beast that once was, and now is not, yet he is an eighth king. He belongs to the seven and is going to his destruction. ¹² The ten horns that you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but they will receive authority as kings for one hour together with the beast. ¹³ These are of one mind, and they give over their power and authority to the beast. ¹⁴ They will wage war against the Lamb. But the Lamb will conquer them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings—and those with him are the called, chosen, and faithful ones." ¹⁵ The angel said to me, "The waters you saw, where the prostitute is seated, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and languages. ¹⁶ The ten horns that you saw—they and the beast will hate the prostitute. They will make her desolate and naked, they will devour her flesh, and they will burn her completely with fire. ¹⁷ For God has put it into their hearts to carry out his purpose by agreeing to give their power to rule to the beast until God's words are fulfilled. ¹⁸ The woman you saw is the great city that has power to rule over the kings of the earth."

Chapter 18

¹ After these things I saw another angel coming down out of heaven. He had great authority, and the earth was illumined by his glory. ² He cried out with a mighty voice, saying,

"Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great!
 She has become a dwelling place for demons,
 a prison for every unclean spirit,
 a prison for every unclean bird,
 a prison for every unclean and detestable animal.

³ For all the nations have drunk
 the wine of her immoral passion.
 The kings of the earth have committed immorality with her.
 The merchants of the earth have become rich from the power of her sensual way of living."

⁴ Then I heard another voice from heaven say,

"Come out from her, my people,
 so that you will not share in her sins,
 and so that you will not receive any of her plagues.

⁵ Her sins have piled up as high as heaven,
 and God has remembered her evil actions.

⁶ Pay her back as she has paid others back,
 and repay her double for her deeds;
 in the cup she mixed, mix double the amount for her.

⁷ As she glorified herself and lived in luxury,
 give her just as much torture and grief.

For she says in her heart,
 'I am seated as a queen;
 I am not a widow,
 and I will never see mourning.'

⁸ Therefore in one day her plagues will come:
 death, mourning, and famine.
 She will be consumed by fire,
 for the Lord God is mighty, and he is her judge."

⁹ The kings of the earth who committed sexual immorality and went out of control with her will weep and wail over her when they see the smoke of her burning. ¹⁰ They will stand off at a distance, afraid of her torment, saying,

"Woe, woe to the great city,
 Babylon, the powerful city!
 For in a single hour your punishment has come."

¹¹ The merchants of the earth weep and mourn for her since no one buys their merchandise anymore— ¹² merchandise of gold, silver, precious stone, pearls, fine linen, purple, silk, scarlet, all kinds of scented wood, every vessel of ivory, every vessel made of most precious wood, bronze, iron, marble, ¹³ cinnamon, spice, incense, myrrh, frankincense, wine, oil, fine flour, wheat, cattle and sheep, horses and chariots and bodies and souls of people. ¹⁴ The fruit that you desired with all your might is gone from you. All your luxury and splendor have vanished, never to be found again. ¹⁵ The merchants of these goods who became rich by her will stand away from her at a distance because of the fear of her torment, weeping and mourning loudly.

¹⁶ They will say,

"Woe, woe to the great city
 that was dressed in fine linen, in purple, and in scarlet,
 and was adorned with gold, precious jewels, and pearls!

17 In a single hour all that wealth has been laid waste."

Every ship's captain, every seafaring man, sailors, and all who make their living from the sea stood off at a distance.

18 They cried out as they saw the smoke of her burning. They said, "What city is like the great city?" **19** They threw dust on their heads, and cried out, weeping and mourning,

"Woe, woe to the great city
where all who had their ships
at sea became rich from her wealth.
For in a single hour she has been laid waste."

20 "Rejoice over her, heaven,
you holy people and apostles and prophets,
for God has brought your judgment on her!"

21 A mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying,

"In this way, Babylon, the great city,
will be thrown down with violence
and will not be seen anymore.

22 The sound made by harpists, musicians,
flute players, and trumpeters
will not be heard anymore in you.

No craftsman of any kind
will be found in you.

No sound of a mill
will be heard anymore in you.

23 The light of a lamp
will not shine in you anymore.
The voices of the bridegroom and the bride
will not be heard in you anymore,
for your merchants were the princes of the earth,
and the nations were deceived by your sorcery.

24 In her the blood of prophets and of God's holy people was found,
and the blood of all who have been killed on the earth."

Chapter 19

¹ After these things I heard what sounded like a loud voice of a large number of people in heaven calling out,

"Hallelujah!
Salvation, glory, and power belong to our God.

² His judgments are true and just,
for he has judged the great prostitute
who corrupted the earth with her sexual immorality.
He has avenged the blood of his servants
from her hand."

³ They spoke a second time:

"Hallelujah!
The smoke rises from her forever and ever."

⁴ The twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God, who was seated on the throne. They were saying,

"Amen. Hallelujah!"

⁵ Then a voice came out from the throne, saying,

"Praise our God,
all you his servants,
you who fear him,
both the unimportant and the powerful."

⁶ Then I heard what sounded like the voice of a great number of people, like the roar of many waters, and like mighty crashes of thunder, saying,

"Hallelujah!
For the Lord reigns, our God, the Almighty.

⁷ Let us rejoice and be glad
and give him the glory!
For the wedding celebration of the Lamb has come,
and his bride has made herself ready.

⁸ She was permitted to be dressed
in bright and clean fine linen"

fine linen is the righteous acts of God's holy people).

⁹ The angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb." He also said to me, "These are true words of God." ¹⁰ I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, "Do not do this! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers who hold the testimony about Jesus. Worship God, for the testimony about Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

¹¹ Then I saw heaven open, and I looked and there was a white horse. The one riding it is called faithful and true. It is with justice that he judges and wages war. ¹² His eyes are like a fiery flame, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but himself. ¹³ He is clothed with a robe that was dipped in blood, and his name is called the Word of God. ¹⁴ The armies of heaven

were following him on white horses, dressed in fine linen, white and clean. ¹⁵ Out of his mouth goes a sharp sword with which he strikes down the nations, and he will rule them with an iron rod. He tramples in the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. ¹⁶ He has a name written on his robe and on his thigh: "King of kings and Lord of lords."

¹⁷ I saw an angel standing in the sun. He called out in a loud voice to all the birds flying overhead, "Come, gather together for the great feast of God. ¹⁸ Come eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of commanders, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all men, both free and slave, the unimportant and the powerful."

¹⁹ I saw the beast and the kings of the earth with their armies. They were assembling in order to wage war with the one who rode the horse and with his army. ²⁰ The beast was captured and with him the false prophet who performed the signs in his presence. With these signs he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and who worshiped his image. The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur. ²¹ The rest of them were killed by the sword that came out of the mouth of the one who rode on the horse. All the birds ate their dead flesh.

Chapter 20

¹ Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven. He had the key to the bottomless pit, and he had a great chain in his hand. ² He took hold of the dragon, the old serpent, which is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. ³ He threw him into the bottomless pit. He shut it and sealed it over him. This was so that he would not deceive the nations anymore until the thousand years were over. After that, he must be set free for a short amount of time.

⁴ Then I saw thrones. Seated on them were those who had been given authority to judge. I also saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony about Jesus and for the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or his image, and they had refused to receive the mark on their forehead or hand. They came to life, and they reigned with Christ for a thousand years. ⁵ The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended. This is the first resurrection. ⁶ Blessed and holy is anyone who takes part in the first resurrection! Over these the second death has no power. They will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.

⁷ When the thousand years come to an end, Satan will be released from his prison. ⁸ He will go out to deceive the nations at the four corners of the earth—Gog and Magog—to bring them together for the battle. They will be as many as the sand of the sea. ⁹ They went up over the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of God's holy people—the beloved city. But fire came down from heaven and devoured them. ¹⁰ The devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

¹¹ Then I saw a great white throne and the one who is seated on it. The earth and the heavens fled away from his presence, but there was no place for them to go. ¹² I saw the dead—the mighty and the unimportant—standing before the throne, and the books were opened. Then another book was opened—the Book of Life. The dead were judged by what was recorded in the books, according to their deeds. ¹³ The sea gave up the dead who were in it. Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and the dead were judged according to their deeds. ¹⁴ Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death—the lake of fire. ¹⁵ If anyone's name was not found written in the Book of Life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Chapter 21

¹ Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, that came down out of heaven from God, prepared like a bride adorned for her husband. ³ I heard a great voice from the throne saying, "Look! The dwelling place of God is with human beings, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and he will be their God. ⁴ He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death, or grieving, or crying, or pain. The former things have passed away. ⁵ The one who was seated on the throne said, "Look! I make all things new." He said, "Write this down because these words are trustworthy and true." ⁶ He said to me, "These things are done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the one who thirsts I will give drink without cost from the spring of the water of life. ⁷ The one who conquers will inherit these things, and I will be his God, and he will be my son. ⁸ But as for the cowards, the faithless, the detestable, the murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. That is the second death."

⁹ One of the seven angels came to me, the one who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues, and he said, "Come here. I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb." ¹⁰ Then he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God. ¹¹ Jerusalem had the glory of God, and its brightness was like a very precious jewel, like a stone of crystal-clear jasper. ¹² It had a great, high wall with twelve gates, with twelve angels at the gates. On the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel. ¹³ On the east were three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. ¹⁴ The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. ¹⁵ The one who spoke with me had a measuring rod made of gold to measure the city, its gates, and its wall. ¹⁶ The city was laid out in a square; its length was the same as its width. He measured the city with the measuring rod, twelve thousand stadia in length (its length, width, and height were the same). ¹⁷ He also measured its wall, 144 cubits thick by human measurement (which is also the angel's measure). ¹⁸ The wall was built of jasper and the city of pure gold, like clear glass. ¹⁹ The foundations of the wall were adorned with every kind of precious stone. The first was jasper, the second was sapphire, the third was agate, the fourth was emerald, ²⁰ the fifth was onyx, the sixth was carnelian, the seventh was chrysolite, the eighth was beryl, the ninth was topaz, the tenth was chrysoprase, the eleventh was jacinth, and the twelfth was amethyst. ²¹ The twelve gates were twelve pearls; each of the gates was made from a single pearl. The streets of the city were pure gold, like transparent glass. ²² I saw no temple in the city, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. ²³ The city had no need of the sun or the moon in order to shine on it because the glory of God shone on it, and its lamp is the Lamb. ²⁴ The nations will walk by the light of that city. The kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. ²⁵ Its gates will not be shut during the day, and there will be no night there. ²⁶ They will bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it, ²⁷ but nothing unclean will ever enter into it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

Chapter 22

¹ Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, clear as crystal. It was flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ² through the middle of the city's street. On each side of the river was the tree of life, bearing twelve kinds of fruits, and it bears its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. ³ There will no longer be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. ⁴ They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵ There will be no more night; they will have no need for the light of a lamp or sunlight because the Lord God will shine on them. They will reign forever and ever.

⁶ The angel said to me, "These words are trustworthy and true. The Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, sent his angel to show his servants what must happen soon." ⁷ "Look! I am coming soon! Blessed is the one who obeys the words of the prophecy of this book."

⁸ I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. When I heard and saw them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who had been showing me these things. ⁹ He said to me, "Do not do that! I am a fellow servant with you, with your brothers the prophets, and with those who obey the words of this book. Worship God!"

¹⁰ Then he said to me, "Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near. ¹¹ The one who is unrighteous, let him continue to do unrighteousness. The one who is morally filthy, let him continue to be morally filthy. The one who is righteous, let him continue to do what is righteous. The one who is holy, let him continue to be holy."

¹² "Look! I am coming soon. My reward is with me, to pay back each one according to his deeds. ¹³ I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end. ¹⁴ Blessed are those who wash their robes so that they will have the right to eat from the tree of life and to enter the city through the gates. ¹⁵ Outside are the dogs, the sorcerers, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.

¹⁶ I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star."

¹⁷ The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come!" Let the one who hears say, "Come!" Whoever is thirsty, let him come, and whoever desires it, let him freely have the water of life.

¹⁸ I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues that are written about in this book. ¹⁹ If anyone takes away from the words of this book of prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city that are written about in this book. ²⁰

²⁰ The one who testifies to these things says, "Yes! I am coming soon." Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!

²¹ The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen. ²²

Footnotes

22:14 ^[1] Instead of,

22:19 ^[2] Some older copies read

22:21 ^[3] Some ancient copies of the Greek text or ancient translations of the Greek text add the phrase:

Matthew

அத்தியாயம்- 1

¹ ஆபிரகாமின் மகனாகிய தாவீதின் குமாரனான இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவின் வம்சவரலாறு: ² ஆபிரகாம் ஈசாக்கைப் பெற்றான்; ஈசாக்கு யாக்கோபைப் பெற்றான்; யாக்கோபு யூதாவையும் அவனுடைய சகோதரர்களையும் பெற்றான்; ³ யூதா பாரேசையும் சாராவையும் தாமாரினிடத்தில் பெற்றான்; பாரேஸ் எஸ்ரோமைப் பெற்றான்; எஸ்ரோம் ஆராமைப் பெற்றான்; ⁴ ஆராம் அம்மினதாபைப் பெற்றான்; அம்மினதாப் நகசோனைப் பெற்றான்; நகசோன் சல்மோனைப் பெற்றான்; ⁵ சல்மோன் போவாசை ராகாபினிடத்தில் பெற்றான்; போவாஸ் ஒபேத்தை ருத்தினிடத்தில் பெற்றான்; ஒபேத் ஈசாயைப் பெற்றான்; ⁶ ஈசாய் தாவீது ராஜாவைப் பெற்றான்; தாவீது ராஜா உரியாவின் மனைவியாக இருந்தவளிடத்தில் சாலொமோனைப் பெற்றான்; ⁷ சாலொமோன் ரெகொபெயாமைப் பெற்றான்; ரெகொபெயாம் அபியாவைப் பெற்றான்; அபியா ஆசாவைப் பெற்றான்; ⁸ ஆசா யோசபாததைப் பெற்றான்; யோசபாத் யோராமைப் பெற்றான்; யோராம் உசியாவைப் பெற்றான்; ⁹ உசியா யோதாமைப் பெற்றான்; யோதாம் ஆகாசைப் பெற்றான்; ஆகாஸ் எசேக்கியாவைப் பெற்றான்; ¹⁰ எசேக்கியா மனாசேயைப் பெற்றான்; மனாசே ஆமோனைப் பெற்றான்; ஆமோன் யோசியாவைப் பெற்றான்; ¹¹ பாபிலோனுக்குச் சிறைப்பட்டுப் போகும்காலத்தில், யோசியா எகொனியாவையும் அவனுடைய சகோதரர்களையும் பெற்றான். ¹² பாபிலோனுக்குச் சிறைப்பட்டுப் போனபின்பு, எகொனியா சலாத்தியேலைப் பெற்றான்; சலாத்தியேல் சொரொபாபேலைப் பெற்றான்; ¹³ சொரொபாபேல் அபியூதைப் பெற்றான்; அபியூத் எலியாக்கீமைப் பெற்றான்; எலியாக்கீம் ஆசோரைப் பெற்றான்; ¹⁴ ஆசோர் சாதோக்கைப் பெற்றான்; சாதோக்கு ஆகீமைப் பெற்றான்; ஆகீம் எலியூதைப் பெற்றான்; ¹⁵ எலியூத் எலெயாசாரைப் பெற்றான்; எலெயாசார் மாத்தானைப் பெற்றான்; மாத்தான் யாக்கோபைப் பெற்றான்; ¹⁶ யாக்கோபு மரியாளுடைய புருஷனாகிய யோசேப்பைப் பெற்றான்; மரியாளிடத்தில் கிறிஸ்து எனப்படுகிற இயேசு பிறந்தார். ¹⁷ இவ்விதமாக உண்டான தலைமுறைகளெல்லாம் ஆபிரகாம்முதல் தாவீதுவரைக்கும் பதினாலு தலைமுறைகளும்; தாவீதுமுதல் பாபிலோனுக்குச் சிறைப்பட்டுப்போன காலம்வரைக்கும் பதினாலு தலைமுறைகளும்; பாபிலோனுக்குச் சிறைப்பட்டுப்போன காலம்முதல் கிறிஸ்துவரைக்கும் பதினான்கு தலைமுறைகளாகும்.

¹⁸ இயேசு கிறிஸ்துவினுடைய பிறப்பின் விபரமாவது: அவருடைய தாயாகிய மரியாள் யோசேப்புக்கு நியமிக்கப்பட்டிருக்கும்போது, அவர்கள் இணைவதற்குமுன்பே, அவள் பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவராலே கர்ப்பவதியானாள் என்று காணப்பட்டது. ¹⁹ அவள் கணவனாகிய யோசேப்பு நீதிமானாக இருந்து, அவளை அவமானப்படுத்த விரும்பவில்லாமல், இரகசியமாக அவளை விவாகரத்துசெய்ய யோசனையாக இருந்தான். ²⁰ அவன் இப்படி நினைத்துக்கொண்டு இருக்கும்போது, கர்த்தருடைய தூதன் கனவில் அவனுக்குக் காணப்பட்டு: தாவீதின் குமாரனாகிய யோசேப்பே, உன் மனைவியாகிய மரியாளைச் சேர்த்துக்கொள்ள பயப்படாதே; அவளிடத்தில் கருவுற்றிருக்கிறது பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவரால் உண்டானது. ²¹ அவள் ஒரு மகனைப் பெறுவாள், அவருக்கு இயேசு என்று பெயரிடுவாயாக; ஏனென்றால், அவர் தமது மக்களின் பாவங்களை நீக்கி அவர்களை இரட்சிப்பார் என்றான். ²² தீர்க்கதரிசியின் மூலமாகக் கர்த்தராலே உரைக்கப்பட்டது நிறைவேறும்படி இதெல்லாம் நடந்தது. ²³ அவன்: இதோ, ஒரு கன்னிகை கர்ப்பவதியாகி ஒரு மகனைப் பெறுவாள்; அவருக்கு இம்மானுவேல் என்று பெயரிடுவார்கள் என்று சொன்னான். இம்மானுவேல் என்பதற்கு தேவன் நம்மோடு இருக்கிறார் என்று அர்த்தம். ²⁴ யோசேப்பு தூக்கம் தெளிந்து எழுந்து, கர்த்தருடைய தூதன் தனக்குக் கட்டளையிட்டபடியே தன் மனைவியைச் சேர்த்துக்கொண்டு; ²⁵ அவள் தன் முதற்பேறான மகனைப் பெற்றெடுக்கும் வரை அவளோடு இணையாமலிருந்து, அவருக்கு இயேசு என்று பெயரிட்டான்.

அத்தியாயம்- 2

¹ ஏரோது ராஜாவின் நாட்களில் யூதேயாவிலுள்ள பெத்லகேமிலே இயேசு பிறந்தபொழுது, கிழக்கிலிருந்து சாஸ்திரிகள் எருசலேமுக்கு வந்து, ² யூதர்களுக்கு ராஜாவாகப் பிறந்திருக்கிறவர் எங்கே? கிழக்கிலே அவருடைய நட்சத்திரத்தைக் கண்டு, அவரைத் தொழுதுகொள்ள வந்தோம் என்றார்கள். ³ ஏரோதுராஜா அதைக் கேட்டபொழுது, அவனும் அவனோடுகூட எருசலேம் நகரத்தார் அனைவரும் கலங்கினார்கள். ⁴ அவன் பிரதான ஆசாரியர்கள், மக்களின் வேதபண்டிதர்கள் எல்லோரையும் கூடிவரச்செய்து: கிறிஸ்துவானவர் எங்கே பிறப்பாரென்று அவர்களிடத்தில் விசாரித்தான். ⁵ அதற்கு அவர்கள்: யூதேயாவிலுள்ள பெத்லகேமிலே பிறப்பார்; அது ஏனென்றால்: ⁶ யூதேயா நாட்டிலுள்ள பெத்லகேமே, யூதாவின் பிரபுக்களில் நீ சிறியதல்ல; என் மக்களாகிய இஸ்ரவேலை ஆளும் பிரபு உன்னிடத்திலிருந்து புறப்படுவார் என்று, தீர்க்கதரிசியினால் எழுதப்பட்டிருக்கிறது என்றார்கள். ⁷ அப்பொழுது ஏரோது, சாஸ்திரிகளை இரகசியமாக அழைத்து, நட்சத்திரம் காணப்பட்ட காலத்தைக்குறித்து அவர்களிடத்தில் திட்டமாக விசாரித்து: ⁸ நீங்கள் போய், பிள்ளையைக்குறித்துத் திட்டமாக விசாரியுங்கள்; நீங்கள் பிள்ளையைக் கண்டபின்பு, நானும் வந்து பிள்ளையைப் பணிந்துகொள்ளும்படி எனக்கு அறிவியுங்கள் என்று சொல்லி, அவர்களை பெத்லகேமுக்கு அனுப்பினான். ⁹ ராஜா சொன்னதை அவர்கள் கேட்டுப் போகும்போது, அவர்கள் கிழக்கிலே கண்ட நட்சத்திரம் பிள்ளை இருந்த இடத்திற்குமேல் வந்து நிற்கும்வரைக்கும் அவர்களுக்குமுன் சென்றது. ¹⁰ அவர்கள் அந்த நட்சத்திரத்தைக் கண்டபோது, மிகுந்த ஆனந்த சந்தோஷமடைந்தார்கள். ¹¹ அவர்கள் அந்த வீட்டிற்குள் பிரவேசித்து, பிள்ளையையும் அதின் தாயாகிய மரியாளையும் கண்டு, சாஷ்டாங்கமாக விழுந்து பிள்ளையைப் பணிந்துகொண்டு, தங்களுடைய பொக்கிஷங்களைத் திறந்து, பொன்னையும் தூபவர்க்கத்தையும் வெள்ளைப்போளத்தையும் காணிக்கையாக வைத்தார்கள். ¹² பின்பு, அவர்கள் ஏரோதினிடத்திற்குத் திரும்பிப் போகவேண்டாம் என்று கனவில் தேவனால் எச்சரிக்கப்பட்டு, வேறுவழியாகத் தங்களுடைய நாட்டிற்குத் திரும்பிப்போனார்கள்.

¹³ அவர்கள் போனபின்பு, கர்த்தருடைய தூதன் கனவில் யோசேப்புக்குத் தோன்றி: ஏரோது பிள்ளையைக் கொலைசெய்யத் தேடுவான்; ஆதலால் நீ எழுந்து, பிள்ளையையும், தாயையும் கூட்டிக்கொண்டு எகிப்துக்கு ஓடிப்போய், நான் உனக்குச் சொல்லும்வரைக்கும் அங்கே இரு என்றான். ¹⁴ அவன் எழுந்து, இரவிலே பிள்ளையையும், தாயையும் கூட்டிக்கொண்டு, எகிப்துக்குப் புறப்பட்டுப்போய், ¹⁵ ஏரோது மரிக்கும்வரைக்கும் அங்கே இருந்தான். எகிப்திலிருந்து என்னுடைய குமாரனை வரவழைத்தேன் என்று தீர்க்கதரிசியின் மூலமாகக் கர்த்தரால் சொல்லப்பட்டது நிறைவேறும்படி இப்படி நடந்தது. ¹⁶ அப்பொழுது ஏரோது தான் சாஸ்திரிகளால் ஏமாற்றப்பட்டதைக் கண்டு, மிகுந்த கோபமடைந்து, ஆட்களை அனுப்பி, தான் சாஸ்திரிகளிடத்தில் திட்டமாக விசாரித்த காலத்தின்படியே, பெத்லகேமிலும் அதின் எல்லா எல்லைகளிலுமிருந்த இரண்டு வயதுக்குட்பட்ட எல்லா ஆண் பிள்ளைகளையும் கொலைசெய்தான். ¹⁷ புலம்பலும் அழுகையும் மிகுந்த துக்கங்கொண்டாடலுமாகிய கூக்குரல் ராமாவிலே கேட்கப்பட்டது; ராகேல் தன் பிள்ளைகளுக்காக அழுது, அவைகள் இல்லாதபடியால் ஆறுதலடையாமல் இருக்கிறாள் என்று, ¹⁸ எரேமியா தீர்க்கதரிசியினால் சொல்லப்பட்டது அப்பொழுது நிறைவேறியது.

¹⁹ ஏரோது மரித்தபின்பு, கர்த்தருடைய தூதன் எகிப்திலே யோசேப்புக்குக் கனவில் தோன்றி: ²⁰ நீ எழுந்து, பிள்ளையையும், தாயையும் கூட்டிக்கொண்டு, இஸ்ரவேல் தேசத்திற்குப் போ; பிள்ளையின் உயிரையெடுக்கத் தேடினவர்கள் மரித்துப்போனார்கள் என்றான். ²¹ அவன் எழுந்து பிள்ளையையும், தாயையும் கூட்டிக்கொண்டு இஸ்ரவேல் தேசத்திற்கு வந்தான். ²² ஆனாலும், அர்கெலாயு தன் தகப்பனாகிய ஏரோதின் பட்டத்திற்கு வந்து, யூதேயாவில் அரசாளுகிறான் என்று கேள்விப்பட்டு, அங்கே போகப் பயந்தான். அப்பொழுது, அவன் கனவில் தேவனால் எச்சரிக்கப்பட்டு, கலிலேயா நாட்டின் வெளிப்புறங்களிலே விலகிப்போய், ²³ நாசரேத்து என்னும் ஊரிலே வந்து குடியிருந்தான். நசரேயன் எனப்படுவார் என்று தீர்க்கதரிசிகளால் சொல்லப்பட்டது நிறைவேறும்படி இப்படி நடந்தது.

அத்தியாயம்- 3

¹ அந்த நாட்களிலே யோவான்ஸ்நானன் யூதேயாவின் வனாந்திரத்தில் வந்து: ² மனந்திரும்புங்கள், பரலோகராஜ்யம் சமீபமாக இருக்கிறது என்று பிரசங்கம் செய்தான். ³ கர்த்தருக்கு வழியை ஆயத்தப்படுத்துங்கள்; அவருக்குப் பாதைகளைச் செவ்வைபண்ணுங்கள் என்று வனாந்திரத்திலே கூப்பிடுகிறவனுடைய சத்தம் உண்டென்று, ஏசாயா தீர்க்கதரிசியினால் சொல்லப்பட்டவன் இவனே. ⁴ இந்த யோவான் ஒட்டகமயிர் ஆடையை அணிந்து, தன் இடுப்பிலே வார்க்கச்சையைக் கட்டிக்கொண்டிருந்தான்; வெட்டுக்கிளியும் காட்டுத்தேனும் அவனுக்கு ஆகாரமாக இருந்தது. ⁵ அப்பொழுது, எருசலேம் நகரத்தாரும், யூதேயாவில் உள்ள அனைவரும், யோர்தானுக்கு அடுத்த சுற்றுப்புறத்தார் அனைவரும் அவனிடத்திற்குப்போய், ⁶ தங்களுடைய பாவங்களை அறிக்கைசெய்து, யோர்தான் நதியில் அவனால் ஞானஸ்நானம் பெற்றார்கள். ⁷ பரிசேயர்களிலும் சதுசேயர்களிலும் அநேகர் தன்னிடத்தில் ஞானஸ்நானம் பெறும்படி வருகிறதை அவன் கண்டு: விரியன்பாம்புக் குட்டிகளே! வருங்கோபத்திற்குத் தப்பித்துக்கொள்ள உங்களுக்கு வழிகாட்டினவன் யார்? ⁸ மனந்திரும்புதலுக்கு ஏற்ற கனிகளைக் கொடுங்கள். ⁹ ஆபிரகாம் உங்களுக்குத் தகப்பன் என்று உங்களுக்குள்ளே சொல்லிக்கொள்ள நினைக்காதிருங்கள்; தேவன் இந்தக் கல்லுகளினாலே ஆபிரகாமுக்குப் பிள்ளைகளை உண்டுபண்ண வல்லவராக இருக்கிறார் என்று உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன். ¹⁰ இப்பொழுதே கோடரியானது மரங்களின் வேர் அருகே வைக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது; எனவே, நல்ல கனிகொடுக்காத மரங்களெல்லாம் வெட்டப்பட்டு நெருப்பிலே போடப்படும். ¹¹ மனந்திரும்புதலுக்கென்று நான் தண்ணீரினால் உங்களுக்கு ஞானஸ்நானம் கொடுக்கிறேன்; எனக்குப்பின்பு வருகிறவரோ என்னைவிட வல்லவராக இருக்கிறார், அவருடைய காலணிகளைச் சுமக்கிறதற்குக்கூட நான் தகுதியானவன் இல்லை; அவர் பரிசுத்த ஆவியினாலும் அக்கினியினாலும் உங்களுக்கு ஞானஸ்நானம் கொடுப்பார். ¹² தூற்றுக்கூடை அவருடைய கையில் இருக்கிறது; அவர் தமது களத்தை நன்றாக சுத்தம்செய்து, தமது கோதுமையைக் களஞ்சியத்தில் சேர்ப்பார்; பதரையோ அணையாத அக்கினியினால் சுட்டெரிப்பார் என்றான்.

¹³ அப்பொழுது யோவானால் ஞானஸ்நானம் பெறுவதற்கு இயேசு கலிலேயாவைவிட்டு யோர்தானுக்கு அருகே அவனிடத்தில் வந்தார். ¹⁴ யோவான் அவருக்குத் தடைசெய்து: நான் உம்மாலே ஞானஸ்நானம் பெறவேண்டியதாயிருக்க, நீர் என்னிடத்தில் வரலாமா என்றான். ¹⁵ இயேசு அவனுக்கு மறுமொழியாக: இப்பொழுது இதற்கு சம்மதி, இப்படி எல்லா நீதியையும் நிறைவேற்றுவது நமக்கு ஏற்றதாக இருக்கிறது என்றார். அப்பொழுது அவருக்கு சம்மதித்தான். ¹⁶ இயேசு ஞானஸ்நானம் பெற்று, தண்ணீரிலிருந்து கரையேறின உடனே, இதோ, வானம் அவருக்குத் திறக்கப்பட்டது; தேவ ஆவியானவர் புறாவைப்போல இறங்கி, தம்மேல் வருகிறதைக் கண்டார். ¹⁷ அன்றியும், வானத்திலிருந்து ஒரு சத்தம் உண்டாகி: இவர் என்னுடைய நேசகுமாரன், இவரில் பிரியமாக இருக்கிறேன் என்று உரைத்தது.

அத்தியாயம்- 4

¹ அப்பொழுது இயேசு பிசாசினால் சோதிக்கப்படுவதற்கு ஆவியானவராலே வனாந்திரத்திற்குக் கொண்டுபோகப்பட்டார். ² அவர் இரவும் பகலும் நாற்பதுநாட்கள் உபவாசமாக இருந்தபின்பு, அவருக்குப் பசியுண்டானது. ³ அப்பொழுது சோதனைக்காரன் அவரிடத்தில் வந்து: நீர் தேவனுடைய குமாரனென்றால், இந்தக் கற்கள் அப்பங்களாக மாறும்படிச் சொல்லும் என்றான். ⁴ அவர் மறுமொழியாக: மனிதன் அப்பத்தினால்மட்டுமில்லை, தேவனுடைய வாயிலிருந்து புறப்படுகிற ஒவ்வொரு வார்த்தையினாலும் பிழைப்பான் என்று எழுதியிருக்கிறதே என்றார். ⁵ அப்பொழுது பிசாசு அவரைப் பரிசுத்த நகரத்திற்குக் கொண்டுபோய், தேவாலயத்தின் உச்சியில் அவரை நிறுத்தி: ⁶ நீர் தேவனுடைய குமாரனென்றால் கீழே குதியும்; ஏனென்றால், தம்முடைய தூதர்களுக்கு உம்மைக்குறித்துக் கட்டளையிடுவார்; உமது பாதம் கல்லில் மோதாதபடி, அவர்கள் உம்மைத் தங்களுடைய கைகளில் ஏந்திக்கொண்டுபோவார்கள் என்று எழுதியிருக்கிறதே என்றான். ⁷ அதற்கு இயேசு: உன் தேவனாகிய கர்த்தரைச் சோதித்துப்பார்க்காமல் இருப்பாயாக என்றும் எழுதியிருக்கிறதே என்றார். ⁸ மறுபடியும், பிசாசு அவரை மிகவும் உயர்ந்த மலையின்மேல் கொண்டுபோய், உலகத்தின் எல்லா ராஜ்யங்களையும் அவைகளின் மகிமையையும் அவருக்குக் காண்பித்து: ⁹ நீர் சாஷ்டாங்கமாக விழுந்து, என்னைப் பணிந்துகொண்டால், இவைகளையெல்லாம் உமக்குத் தருவேன் என்று சொன்னான்; ¹⁰ அப்பொழுது இயேசு: அப்பாலே போ சாத்தானே; உன் தேவனாகிய கர்த்தரைப் பணிந்துகொண்டு, அவர் ஒருவருக்கே ஆராதனை செய்வாயாக என்று எழுதியிருக்கிறதே என்றார். ¹¹ அப்பொழுது பிசாசு அவரைவிட்டு விலகிப்போனான். உடனே தேவதூதர்கள் வந்து, அவருக்கு பணிவிடை செய்தார்கள்.

¹² யோவான் காவலில் வைக்கப்பட்டான் என்று இயேசு கேள்விப்பட்டு, கலிலேயாவிற்குத் திரும்பிப்போனார். ¹³ பின்பு, அவர் நாசரேத்தைவிட்டு, செபுலோன், நப்தலி என்னும் நாடுகளின் எல்லைகளிலிருக்கும் கடற்கரைக்கு அருகில் உள்ள கப்பர்நகூமிற்கு வந்து தங்கியிருந்தார். ¹⁴ கடற்கரை அருகிலும் யோர்தானுக்கு அப்புறத்திலும் உள்ள செபுலோன் நாடும் நப்தலி நாடுமாகிய யூதரல்லாதவர்களுடைய கலிலேயாவிலே, ¹⁵ இருளில் இருக்கும் மக்கள் பெரிய வெளிச்சத்தைக் கண்டார்கள்; மரண இருளின் திசையில் இருக்கிறவர்களுக்கு வெளிச்சம் தோன்றினது என்று, ¹⁶ ஏசாயா தீர்க்கதரிசியினால் சொல்லப்பட்டது நிறைவேறும்படி இப்படி நடந்தது. ¹⁷ அதுமுதல் இயேசு: மனந்திரும்புங்கள், பரலோக ராஜ்யம் அருகில் இருக்கிறது என்று பிரசங்கிக்கத் தொடங்கினார்.

¹⁸ இயேசு கலிலேயாக் கடலோரமாக நடந்துபோகும்போது, மீனவர்களாக இருந்த இரண்டு சகோதரர்களாகிய பேதுரு என்ற சீமோனும், அவனுடைய சகோதரன் அந்திரேயாவும், கடலில் வலையைப் போட்டுக்கொண்டிருக்கின்றபோது, அவர்களைக் கண்டு: ¹⁹ என் பின்னே வாருங்கள், உங்களை மனிதர்களைப் பிடிக்கிறவர்களாக ஆக்குவேன் என்றார். ²⁰ உடனே அவர்கள் வலைகளைவிட்டு, அவருக்குப் பின்னே சென்றார்கள். ²¹ அவர் அந்த இடத்தைவிட்டுப் போகும்போது, வேறு இரண்டு சகோதரர்களாகிய செபெதேயுவின் குமாரர்களான யாக்கோபும், யோவானும் தங்களுடைய தகப்பன் செபெதேயுவோடு படகிலிருந்து, தங்களுடைய வலைகளைப் பழுதுபார்த்துக்கொண்டிருக்கிறபோது, அவர்களைக் கண்டு, அவர்களையும் அழைத்தார். ²² உடனே அவர்கள் படகையும் தங்களுடைய தகப்பனையும்விட்டு, அவருக்குப் பின்னே சென்றார்கள்.

²³ பின்பு, இயேசு கலிலேயா எங்கும் சுற்றி நடந்து, அவர்களுடைய ஜெப ஆலயங்களில் உபதேசித்து, ராஜ்யத்தின் நற்செய்தியைப் பிரசங்கித்து, மக்களுக்கு உண்டாயிருந்த எல்லா வியாதிகளையும் எல்லா நோய்களையும் நீக்கி குணமாக்கினார். ²⁴ அவருடைய புகழ் சீரியா தேசமெங்கும் பரவியது. அப்பொழுது பலவிதமான வியாதிகளிலும் வேதனைகளிலும் இருந்த எல்லா நோயாளிகளையும், பிசாசு பிடித்தவர்களையும், வலிப்பு நோயாளிகளையும், பக்கவாதக்காரர்களையும் அவரிடத்தில் கொண்டுவந்தார்கள்; அவர்களைக் குணமாக்கினார். ²⁵ கலிலேயாவிலும், தெக்கப்போலியிலும், எருசலேமிலும், யூதேயாவிலும், யோர்தானுக்கு அப்புறத்திலுமிருந்து அநேக மக்கள் வந்து, அவருக்குப் பின்னே சென்றார்கள்.

அத்தியாயம்- 5

¹ இயேசு திரளான மக்களைக் கண்டு மலையின்மேல் ஏறினார்; அவர் உட்கார்ந்தபொழுது, அவருடைய சீடர்கள் அவரிடத்தில் வந்தார்கள். ² அப்பொழுது அவர் அவர்களுக்கு உபதேசித்துச் சொன்னது என்னவென்றால்: ³ ஆவியில் எளிமையுள்ளவர்கள் பாக்கியவான்கள்; பரலோகராஜ்யம் அவர்களுடையது. ⁴ துயரப்படுகிறவர்கள் பாக்கியவான்கள்; அவர்கள் ஆறுதலடைவார்கள். ⁵ சாந்தகுணமுள்ளவர்கள் பாக்கியவான்கள்; அவர்கள் பூமியைச் சுதந்தரித்துக்கொள்வார்கள். ⁶ நீதியின்மேல் பசிதாகமுள்ளவர்கள் பாக்கியவான்கள்; அவர்கள் திருப்தியடைவார்கள். ⁷ இரக்கமுள்ளவர்கள் பாக்கியவான்கள்; அவர்கள் இரக்கம்பெறுவார்கள். ⁸ இருதயத்தில் சுத்தமுள்ளவர்கள் பாக்கியவான்கள்; அவர்கள் தேவனைத் தரிசிப்பார்கள். ⁹ சமாதானம் செய்கிறவர்கள் பாக்கியவான்கள்; அவர்கள் தேவனுடைய பிள்ளைகள் எனப்படுவார்கள். ¹⁰ நீதியினிமித்தம் துன்பப்படுகிறவர்கள் பாக்கியவான்கள்; பரலோகராஜ்யம் அவர்களுடையது. ¹¹ என்னிமித்தம் உங்களை நிந்தித்துத் துன்பப்படுத்தி, பலவிதமான தீமையான சொற்களையும் உங்கள்மேல் பொய்யாகச் சொல்வார்களானால் பாக்கியவான்களாக இருப்பீர்கள்; ¹² சந்தோஷப்பட்டு மகிழ்ந்திருங்கள்; பரலோகத்தில் உங்களுடைய பலன் அதிகமாக இருக்கும்; உங்களுக்குமுன்பே வாழ்ந்த தீர்க்கதரிசிகளையும் அப்படியே துன்பப்படுத்தினார்களே.

¹³ நீங்கள் பூமிக்கு உப்பாக இருக்கிறீர்கள்; உப்பானது சாரமற்றுப்போனால், எதினால் சாரமாக்கப்படும்? வெளியே கொட்டப்படுவதற்கும், மனிதர்களால் மிதிக்கப்படுவதற்குமே ஒழிய வேறொன்றுக்கும் உதவாது. ¹⁴ நீங்கள் உலகத்திற்கு வெளிச்சமாக இருக்கிறீர்கள்; மலையின்மேல் இருக்கிற பட்டணம் மறைந்திருக்கமாட்டாது. ¹⁵ விளக்கைக் கொளுத்தி பாத்திரத்தினாலே மூடிவைக்காமல், விளக்குத்தண்டின்மேல் வைப்பார்கள்; அப்பொழுது அது வீட்டிலுள்ள அனைவருக்கும் வெளிச்சம் கொடுக்கும். ¹⁶ இவ்விதமாக, மனிதர்கள் உங்களுடைய நற்செயல்களைக் கண்டு, பரலோகத்திலிருக்கிற உங்களுடைய பிதாவை மகிமைப்படுத்தும்படி, உங்களுடைய வெளிச்சம் அவர்களுக்கு முன்பாகப் பிரகாசிக்கக்கூடவது.

¹⁷ நியாயப்பிரமாணத்தையானாலும் தீர்க்கதரிசனங்களையானாலும் அழிக்கிறதற்கு வந்தேன் என்று நினைத்துக்கொள்ளாதேயுங்கள்; அழிக்கிறதற்கு இல்லை, நிறைவேற்றுவதற்கே வந்தேன். ¹⁸ வானமும் பூமியும் ஒழிந்துபோனாலும், நியாயப்பிரமாணத்தில் உள்ளதெல்லாம் நிறைவேறும்வரை, அதில் ஒரு சிறு எழுத்தாவது, ஒரு எழுத்தின் உறுப்பாவது ஒழிந்துபோகாது என்று உண்மையாகவே உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன். ¹⁹ ஆகவே, இந்தக் கட்டளைகள் எல்லாவற்றிலும் சிறிதானதொன்றையாவது மீறி, அவ்விதமாக மனிதர்களுக்குப் போதிக்கிறவன் பரலோகராஜ்யத்தில் எல்லோரையும்விட சிறியவன் எனப்படுவான்; இவைகளைக் கைக்கொண்டு போதிக்கிறவனோ, பரலோகராஜ்யத்தில் பெரியவன் எனப்படுவான். ²⁰ வேதபண்டிதர்கள் பரிசேயர்கள் என்பவர்களுடைய நீதியைவிட உங்களுடைய நீதி அதிகமாக இல்லாவிட்டால், பரலோகராஜ்யத்தில் பிரவேசிக்கமாட்டீர்கள் என்று உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன்.

²¹ கொலை செய்யாதிருப்பாயாக என்பதும், கொலைசெய்கிறவன் நியாயத்தீர்ப்பிற்கு உரியவனாக இருப்பான் என்பதும், முன்னோர்களுக்குச் சொல்லப்பட்டதென்று கேள்விப்பட்டிருக்கிறீர்கள். ²² நான் உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன்; தன் சகோதரனை நியாயமில்லாமல் கோபித்துக்கொள்பவன் நியாயத்தீர்ப்பிற்கு உரியவனாக இருப்பான்; தன் சகோதரனை வீணெனென்று சொல்லுகிறவன் ஆலோசனைச் சங்கத்தீர்ப்பிற்கு உரியவனாக இருப்பான்; மூடனே என்று சொல்லுகிறவன் எரிநரகத்திற்கு உரியவனாக இருப்பான். ²³ ஆகவே, நீ பலிபீடத்தில் உன் காணிக்கையைச் செலுத்த வந்து, உன்பேரில் உன் சகோதரனுக்குக் குறை உண்டென்று அங்கே நினைவுகூருவாயானால், ²⁴ அங்கே பலிபீடத்தின்முன்பு உன் காணிக்கையை வைத்துவிட்டுப்போய், முதலில் உன் சகோதரனோடு ஒப்புரவாகி, பின்பு வந்து உன் காணிக்கையைச் செலுத்து.

²⁵ எதிராளி உன்னை நியாயாதிபதியினிடத்தில் ஒப்புக்கொடுக்காமலும், நியாயாதிபதி உன்னைச் சேவகனிடத்தில் ஒப்புக்கொடுக்காமலும், நீ சிறைச்சாலையில் வைக்கப்படாமலும் இருக்கும்படியாக, நீ உன் எதிராளியோடு வழியில் இருக்கும்போதே சீக்கிரமாக அவனோடு சமாதானமாகு. ²⁶ இல்லாவிட்டால், நீ ஒரு காசும் குறைவில்லாமல் செலுத்தித்தீர்க்கும்வரைக்கும் சிறைச்சாலையிலிருந்து வெளியே வரமாட்டாய் என்று உண்மையாகவே உனக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன்.

²⁷ விபசாரம் செய்யாதிருப்பாயாக என்பது முன்னோர்களுக்குச் சொல்லப்பட்டதென்று கேள்விப்பட்டிருக்கிறீர்கள். ²⁸ நான் உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன்; ஒரு பெண்ணை இச்சையோடு

பார்க்கிற எவனும் தன் இருதயத்தில் அவனோடு விபசாரம் செய்துவிட்டான். ²⁹ உன் வலது கண் உனக்கு இடறல் உண்டாக்கினால், அதைப் பிடுங்கி எறிந்துபோடு; உன் சரீரம் முழுவதும் நரகத்தில் தள்ளப்படுவதைவிட, உன் உறுப்புகளில் ஒன்று கெட்டுப்போவது உனக்கு நலமாக இருக்கும். ³⁰ உன் வலது கை உனக்கு இடறல் உண்டாக்கினால், அதை வெட்டி எறிந்துபோடு; உன் சரீரம் முழுவதும் நரகத்தில் தள்ளப்படுவதைவிட, உன் உறுப்புகளில் ஒன்று கெட்டுப்போவது உனக்கு நலமாக இருக்கும்.

³¹ தன் மனைவியை விவாகரத்து செய்கிற எவனும், அவளுக்கு விடுதலைப்பத்திரம் கொடுக்கவேண்டும் என்று சொல்லப்பட்டது. ³² நான் உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன்; வேசித்தனக் காரணத்தினாலொழிய தன் மனைவியை விவாகரத்து செய்கிறவன், அவளை விபசாரம்செய்யத் தூண்டுகிறவனாக இருப்பான்; அப்படி விவாகரத்து செய்யப்பட்டவளைத் திருமணம் செய்கிறவனும் விபசாரம் செய்கிறவனாக இருப்பான்.

³³ அன்றியும், பொய்யாணையிடாமல், உன் ஆணைகளைக் கர்த்தரின் முன்னிலையில் செலுத்துவாயாக என்று முன்னோர்களுக்குச் சொல்லப்பட்டதென்று கேள்விப்பட்டிருக்கிறீர்கள். ³⁴ நான் உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன்; எதையும் செய்வேன் என்று சத்தியம் செய்யவேண்டாம்; பரலோகத்தின்பேரில் சத்தியம் செய்யவேண்டாம், அது தேவனுடைய சிங்காசனம். ³⁵ பூமியின்பேரிலும் சத்தியம் செய்யவேண்டாம், அது அவருடைய பாதபடி; எருசலேமின்பேரிலும் சத்தியம் செய்யவேண்டாம், அது மகாராஜாவினுடைய நகரம். ³⁶ உன் தலையின்பேரிலும் சத்தியம் செய்யவேண்டாம், அதின் ஒரு முடியையாவது வெண்மையாக்கவும் கருமையாக்கவும் உன்னால் முடியாதே. ³⁷ உள்ளதை உள்ளதென்றும், இல்லாததை இல்லையென்றும் சொல்லுங்கள்; இதற்கு மிஞ்சினது தீமையினால் உண்டாயிருக்கும்.

³⁸ கண்ணுக்குக் கண், பல்லுக்குப் பல் என்று, சொல்லப்பட்டதைக் கேள்விப்பட்டிருக்கிறீர்கள். ³⁹ நான் உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன்; தீமையோடு எதிர்த்து நிற்கவேண்டாம்; ஒருவன் உன்னை வலது கன்னத்தில் அறைந்தால், அவனுக்கு மறு கன்னத்தையும் காட்டு. ⁴⁰ உன்னோடு வழக்காடி உன் ஆடையை எடுத்துக்கொள்ளவேண்டுமென்று விரும்புகிறவனுக்கு உன் மேலாடையையும் கொடுத்துவிடு. ⁴¹ ஒருவன் உன்னை ஒரு மைல்தூரம் வரக் கட்டாயப்படுத்தினால், அவனோடுசுட இரண்டு மைல்தூரம் போ. ⁴² உன்னிடத்தில் கேட்கிறவனுக்குக் கொடு, உன்னிடத்தில் கடன் வாங்க விரும்புகிறவனுக்கு முகங்கோணாதே.

⁴³ உனக்கடுத்தவனைச் நேசித்து, உன் சத்துருவைப் பகைப்பாயாக என்று சொல்லப்பட்டதைக் கேள்விப்பட்டிருக்கிறீர்கள். ⁴⁴ நான் உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன்; உங்களுடைய சத்துருக்களை நேசியுங்கள்; உங்களைச் சபிக்கிறவர்களை ஆசீர்வதியுங்கள்; உங்களைப் பகைக்கிறவர்களுக்கு நன்மை செய்யுங்கள்; உங்களை நிந்திக்கிறவர்களுக்காகவும் உங்களைத் துன்பப்படுத்துகிறவர்களுக்காகவும் ஜெபம்பண்ணுங்கள். ⁴⁵ இப்படிச் செய்வதினால் நீங்கள் பரலோகத்திலிருக்கிற உங்களுடைய பிதாவிற்குப் பிள்ளைகளாக இருப்பீர்கள்; அவர் தீயவர்கள்மேலும் நல்லவர்கள்மேலும் தமது சூரியனை உதிக்கச்செய்து, நீதியுள்ளவர்கள்மேலும் அநீதியுள்ளவர்கள்மேலும் மழையைப் பெய்யப்பண்ணுகிறார். ⁴⁶ உங்களை நேசிக்கிறவர்களையே நீங்கள் நேசிப்பீர்களானால், உங்களுக்குப் பலன் என்ன? வரி வசூலிப்பவர்களும் அப்படியே செய்கிறார்கள் அல்லவா? ⁴⁷ உங்களுடைய சகோதரர்களைமட்டும் வாழ்த்துவீர்களானால், நீங்கள் விசேஷித்துச் செய்கிறது என்ன? வரி வசூலிப்பவர்களும் அப்படியே செய்கிறார்கள் அல்லவா? ⁴⁸ ஆகவே, பரலோகத்திலிருக்கிற உங்களுடைய பிதா பூரண சற்குணராக இருக்கிறதுபோல, நீங்களும் பூரண சற்குணராக இருக்கக்கடவீர்கள்.

அத்தியாயம்- 6

¹ மனிதர்கள் காணவேண்டுமென்று அவர்களுக்கு முன்பாக உங்களுடைய நல்ல செயல்களைச் செய்யாதபடிக்கு எச்சரிக்கையாக இருங்கள்; அப்படிச் செய்தால், பரலோகத்திலிருக்கிற உங்களுடைய பிதாவினிடத்தில் உங்களுக்குப் பலனில்லை. ² ஆகவே, நீ தர்மம் செய்யும்போது, மனிதர்களால் புகழப்படுவதற்கு, மாயக்காரர்கள் ஆலயங்களிலும் வீதிகளிலும் செய்வதுபோல, உனக்கு முன்பாகத் தாரை ஊதாதே; அவர்கள் தங்களுடைய பலனை அடைந்து தீர்ந்தார்களென்று உண்மையாகவே உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன். ³ நீயோ தர்மம் செய்யும்போது, உன் தர்மம் மறைமுகமாக இருப்பதற்கு, உன் வலது கை செய்கிறதை உன் இடதுகை அறியாதிருக்கக்கடவது. ⁴ அப்பொழுது மறைவிடத்தில் பார்க்கிற உன் பிதா தாமே, உனக்கு வெளியரங்கமாகப் பலனளிப்பார்.

⁵ அன்றியும் நீ ஜெபம்செய்யும்போது மாயக்காரர்களைப்போல இருக்கவேண்டாம்; மனிதர்கள் பார்க்கும்படியாக அவர்கள் ஜெபஆலயங்களிலும் வீதிகளின் முற்சந்திகளிலும் நின்று ஜெபம்செய்ய விரும்புகிறார்கள்; அவர்கள் தங்களுடைய பலனை அடைந்து தீர்ந்தென்று உண்மையாகவே உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன். ⁶ நீயோ ஜெபம்செய்யும்போது, உன் அறைவீட்டிற்குள் பிரவேசித்து, உன் கதவைப்பூட்டி, மறைவிடத்திலிருக்கிற உன் பிதாவை நோக்கி ஜெபம் செய்; அப்பொழுது மறைவிடத்தில் பார்க்கிற உன் பிதா வெளியரங்கமாக உனக்குப் பலனளிப்பார். ⁷ அன்றியும் நீங்கள் ஜெபம்செய்யும்போது, தேவனை அறியாதவர்களைப்போல வீண்வார்த்தைகளைத் திரும்பத்திரும்ப பேசாதிருங்கள்; அவர்கள், அதிக வார்த்தைகளினால் தங்களுடைய ஜெபம் கேட்கப்படுமென்று நினைக்கிறார்கள். ⁸ அவர்களைப்போல நீங்கள் செய்யாமலிருங்கள்; நீங்கள், உங்களுடைய பிதாவை நோக்கி வேண்டிக்கொள்ளுகிறதற்கு முன்னமே உங்களுக்கு என்ன தேவை என்று அவர் அறிந்திருக்கிறார். ⁹ நீங்கள் ஜெபம் செய்யவேண்டிய விதமாவது: பரலோகத்திலிருக்கிற எங்களுடைய பிதாவே, உம்முடைய நாமம் பரிசுத்தப்படுவதாக. ¹⁰ உம்முடைய ராஜ்யம் வருவதாக; உம்முடைய விருப்பம் பரலோகத்திலே செய்யப்படுகிறதுபோல பூமியிலேயும் செய்யப்படுவதாக. ¹¹ எங்களுக்கு வேண்டிய ஆகாரத்தை இன்று எங்களுக்குத் தாரும். ¹² எங்களுடைய எதிராளிகளுக்கு நாங்கள் மன்னிக்கிறதுபோல எங்களுடைய பாவங்களை எங்களுக்கு மன்னியும். ¹³ எங்களைச் சோதனைக்குட்படச் செய்யாமல், தீமையிலிருந்து எங்களை இரட்சித்துக்கொள்ளும், ராஜ்யமும், வல்லமையும், மகிமையும் என்றென்றைக்கும் உம்முடையவைகளே, ஆமென், என்பதே. ¹⁴ மனிதர்களுடைய குற்றங்களை நீங்கள் அவர்களுக்கு மன்னித்தால், உங்களுடைய பரமபிதா உங்களுக்கும் மன்னிப்பார். ¹⁵ மனிதர்களுடைய குற்றங்களை நீங்கள் அவர்களுக்கு மன்னிக்காதிருந்தால், உங்களுடைய பிதா உங்களுடைய குற்றங்களையும் மன்னிக்காதிருப்பார்.

¹⁶ நீங்கள் உபவாசிக்கும்போது, மாயக்காரர்களைப்போல முகவாடலாக இராதேயுங்கள்; அவர்கள் உபவாசிக்கிறதை மனிதர்கள் பார்க்கும்படிக்கு, தங்களுடைய முகங்களை வாட்செய்கிறார்கள்; அவர்கள் தங்களுடைய பலனை அடைந்து தீர்ந்தென்று, உண்மையாகவே உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன். ¹⁷ நீயோ உபவாசிக்கும்போது, உன் உபவாசம் மனிதர்களுக்குக் காணப்படாமல், மறைவிடத்தில் இருக்கிற உன் பிதாவுக்கே காணப்படும்படியாக, உன் தலைக்கு எண்ணெய் பூசி, உன் முகத்தைக் கழுவு. ¹⁸ அப்பொழுது, மறைவிடத்தில் பார்க்கிற உன் பிதா உனக்கு வெளியரங்கமாகப் பலனளிப்பார்.

¹⁹ பூமியிலே உங்களுக்கு சொத்துக்களைச் சேர்த்துவைக்கவேண்டாம்; இங்கே பூச்சியும் துருவும் அவைகளைக் கெடுக்கும்; இங்கே திருடர்களும் கன்னமிட்டுத் திருடுவார்கள். ²⁰ பரலோகத்திலே உங்களுக்கு சொத்துக்களைச் சேர்த்துவையுங்கள்; அங்கே பூச்சியாவது துருவாவது கெடுக்கிறது இல்லை; அங்கே திருடர்கள் கன்னமிட்டுத் திருடுகிறதும் இல்லை. ²¹ உங்களுடைய சொத்து எங்கேயிருக்கிறதோ அங்கே உங்களுடைய இருதயமும் இருக்கும். ²² கண்ணானது சரீரத்தின் விளக்காக இருக்கிறது; உன் கண் தெளிவாக இருந்தால், உன் சரீரம் முழுவதும் வெளிச்சமாக இருக்கும். ²³ உன் கண் கெட்டதாயிருந்தால், உன் சரீரம் முழுவதும் இருளாக இருக்கும்; இப்படி உன்னிலுள்ள வெளிச்சம் இருளாக இருந்தால், அந்த இருள் எவ்வளவு அதிகமாக இருக்கும்! ²⁴ இரண்டு முதலாளிகளுக்கு வேலைசெய்ய ஒருவனாலும் முடியாது; ஒருவனைப் பகைத்து, மற்றவனை நேசிப்பான்; அல்லது ஒருவனைப்பற்றிக்கொண்டு, மற்றவனைப் புறக்கணிப்பான்; தேவனுக்கும் உலகப்பொருளுக்கும் வேலைசெய்ய உங்களால் முடியாது.

²⁵ ஆகவே, என்னத்தை உண்போம், என்னத்தைக் குடிப்போம் என்று உங்களுடைய வாழ்க்கைக்காகவும்; என்னத்தை உடுப்போம் என்று உங்களுடைய சரீரத்திற்காகவும் கவலைப்படாமலிருங்கள் என்று உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன்; உணவைவிட வாழ்க்கையும், உடையைவிட சரீரமும் விசேஷித்தவைகள் அல்லவா? ²⁶ வானத்துப் பறவைகளைக் கவனித்துப்பாருங்கள்; அவைகள் விதைக்கிறதுமில்லை,

அறுக்கிறதும்மில்லை, களஞ்சியங்களில் சேர்த்து வைக்கிறதும்மில்லை; அவைகளையும் உங்களுடைய பரமபிதா பிழைப்பூட்டுகிறார்; அவைகளைவிட நீங்கள் விசேஷித்தவர்கள் அல்லவா? ²⁷ கவலைப்படுகிறதினாலே உங்களில் எவன் தன் சரீர அளவோடு ஒரு முழத்தைக் கூட்டுவான்? ²⁸ உடைக்காகவும் நீங்கள் கவலைப்படுகிறது ஏன்? காட்டுப்பூக்கள் எப்படி வளருகிறதென்று கவனித்துப்பாருங்கள்; அவைகள் உழைக்கிறதும்மில்லை, நூற்கிறதும்மில்லை; ²⁹ என்றாலும், சாலொமோன்கூட தன் சர்வமகிமையிலும் அவைகளில் ஒன்றைப்போலாவது உடுத்தியிருந்ததில்லை என்று உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன். ³⁰ விசுவாசக்குறைவுள்ளவர்களே! இன்றைக்கு இருந்து நாளைக்கு அடுப்பிலே போடப்படும் காட்டுப்புல்லுக்கு தேவன் இவ்விதமாக உடுத்துவித்தால், உங்களுக்கு உடுத்துவிப்பது அதிக நிச்சயமல்லவா? ³¹ ஆகவே, என்னத்தை உண்போம், என்னத்தைக் குடிப்போம், என்னத்தை உடுப்போம் என்று கவலைப்படாமல் இருங்கள். ³² இவைகளையெல்லாம் தேவனை அறியாதவர் நாடித்தேடுகிறார்கள்; இவைகளெல்லாம் உங்களுக்கு வேண்டியவைகள் என்று உங்களுடைய பரமபிதா அறிந்திருக்கிறார். ³³ முதலாவது தேவனுடைய ராஜ்யத்தையும் அவருடைய நீதியையும் தேடுங்கள், அப்பொழுது இவைகளெல்லாம் உங்களுக்கு சேர்த்துக்கொடுக்கப்படும். ³⁴ ஆகவே, நாளைக்காகக் கவலைப்படாமல் இருங்கள்; நாளையதினம் தன்னுடையவைகளுக்காகக் கவலைப்படும்; அந்தந்த நாளுக்கு அதினதின் பாடுபோதும்.

அத்தியாயம்- 7

¹ நீங்கள் குற்றவாளிகளென்று தீர்க்கப்படாதபடிக்கு மற்றவர்களைக் குற்றவாளிகளென்று தீர்க்காமலிருங்கள். ² ஏனென்றால், நீங்கள் மற்றவர்களைத் தீர்க்கிற தீர்ப்பின்படியே நீங்களும் தீர்க்கப்படுவீர்கள்; நீங்கள் மற்றவர்களுக்கு அளக்கிற அளவின்படியே உங்களுக்கும் அளக்கப்படும். ³ நீ உன் கண்ணிலிருக்கிற பெரிய மரத்துண்டை உணராமல், உன் சகோதரன் கண்ணிலிருக்கிற சிறிய துரும்பைப் பார்க்கிறதென்ன? ⁴ இதோ, உன் கண்ணில் பெரிய மரத்துண்டு இருக்கும்போது உன் சகோதரனைப் பார்த்து: நான் உன் கண்ணிலிருக்கும் சிறிய துரும்பை எடுத்துப்போட்டும் என்று நீ சொல்வதெப்படி? ⁵ மாயக்காரனே! முன்பு உன் கண்ணிலிருக்கிற பெரிய மரத்துண்டை எடுத்துப்போடு; பின்பு உன் சகோதரனுடைய கண்ணிலிருக்கிற சிறிய துரும்பை எடுத்துப்போடுவதற்கு உனக்கு தெளிவாகத் தெரியும். ⁶ பரிசுத்தமானதை நாய்களுக்குக் கொடுக்காதீர்கள்; உங்களுடைய முத்துக்களைப் பன்றிகள்முன் போடாதீர்கள்; போட்டால் தங்களுடைய கால்களால் அவைகளை மிதித்து, திரும்பிக்கொண்டு உங்களைப் பீறிப்போடும்.

⁷ கேளுங்கள், அப்பொழுது உங்களுக்குக் கொடுக்கப்படும்; தேடுங்கள், அப்பொழுது கண்டடைவீர்கள்; தட்டுங்கள், அப்பொழுது உங்களுக்குத் திறக்கப்படும்; ⁸ ஏனென்றால், கேட்கிறவன் எவனும் பெற்றுக்கொள்ளுகிறான்; தேடுகிறவன் கண்டடைகிறான்; தட்டுகிறவனுக்குத் திறக்கப்படும். ⁹ உங்களில் எந்த மனிதனானாலும் தன்னிடத்தில் அப்பத்தைக் கேட்கிற தன் மகனுக்குக் கல்லைக் கொடுப்பானா? ¹⁰ மீனைக்கேட்டால் அவனுக்குப் பாம்பைக் கொடுப்பானா? ¹¹ ஆகவே, பொல்லாதவர்களாகிய நீங்கள் உங்களுடைய பிள்ளைகளுக்கு நல்ல பரிசுகளைக் கொடுக்க அறிந்திருக்கும்போது, பரலோகத்திலிருக்கிற உங்களுடைய பிதா தம்மிடத்தில் வேண்டிக்கொள்ளுகிறவர்களுக்கு நன்மையானவைகளைக் கொடுப்பது அதிக நிச்சயம் அல்லவா? ¹² ஆதலால், மனிதர்கள் உங்களுக்கு எவைகளைச் செய்யவிரும்புகிறீர்களோ, அவைகளை நீங்களும் அவர்களுக்குச் செய்யுங்கள்; இதுவே நியாயப்பிரமாணமும் தீர்க்கதரிசனங்களுமாம்.

¹³ குறுகின வாசல்வழியாக உள்ளே பிரவேசியுங்கள்; அழிவிற்குப்போகிற வாசல் அகலமும், வழி விசாலமுமாக இருக்கிறது; அதின்வழியாக பிரவேசிக்கிறவர்கள் அநேகர். ¹⁴ ஜீவனுக்குப்போகிற வாசல் குறுகினதும், வழி நெருக்கமுமாக இருக்கிறது; அதைக் கண்டுபிடிக்கிறவர்கள் சிலர்.

¹⁵ கள்ளத்தீர்க்கதரிசிகளுக்கு எச்சரிக்கையாக இருங்கள்; அவர்கள் ஆட்டுத்தோலைப் போர்த்துக்கொண்டு உங்களிடம் வருவார்கள்; உள்ளத்திலோ அவர்கள் பேராசையுள்ள ஓநாய்கள். ¹⁶ அவர்களுடைய செயல்களினாலே அவர்களை அறிவீர்கள்; முட்செடிகளில் திராட்சைப் பழங்களையும், முட்டூண்டுகளில் அத்திப்பழங்களையும் பறிக்கிறார்களா? ¹⁷ அப்படியே நல்லமரமெல்லாம் நல்லகனிகளைக் கொடுக்கும்; கெட்டமரமோ கெட்டகனிகளைக் கொடுக்கும். ¹⁸ நல்லமரம் கெட்டகனிகளைக் கொடுக்கமாட்டாது; கெட்டமரம் நல்லகனிகளைக் கொடுக்கமாட்டாது. ¹⁹ நல்ல கனிகொடாத மரமெல்லாம் வெட்டுண்டு, நெருப்பிலே போடப்படும். ²⁰ ஆதலால், அவர்களுடைய கனிகளினாலே அவர்களை அறிவீர்கள். ²¹ பரலோகத்திலிருக்கிற என் பிதாவின் விருப்பத்தின்படி செய்கிறவனே பரலோகராஜ்யத்தில் பிரவேசிப்பானேயல்லாமல், என்னைப் பார்த்து: கர்த்தாவே! கர்த்தாவே! என்று சொல்லுகிறவன் அதில் பிரவேசிப்பதில்லை. ²² அந்த நாளில் அநேகர் என்னைப் பார்த்து: கர்த்தாவே! கர்த்தாவே! உமது நாமத்தினாலே தீர்க்கதரிசனம் சொன்னோம் அல்லவா? உமது நாமத்தினாலே பிசாசுகளைத் துரத்தினோம் அல்லவா? உமது நாமத்தினாலே அநேக அற்புதங்களைச் செய்தோம் அல்லவா? என்பார்கள். ²³ அப்பொழுது, நான் ஒருபோதும் உங்களை அறியவில்லை; அக்கிரமச்செய்கைக்காரர்களே, என்னைவிட்டு அகன்றுபோங்கள் என்று அவர்களுக்குச் சொல்லுவேன்.

²⁴ ஆகவே, நான் சொல்லிய இந்த வார்த்தைகளைக்கேட்டு, இவைகளின்படி செய்கிறவன் எவனோ, அவனைக் கன்மலையின்மேல் தன் வீட்டைக் கட்டின புத்தியுள்ள மனிதனுக்கு ஒப்பிடுவேன். ²⁵ பெருமழை பெய்து, பெருவெள்ளம் வந்து, காற்று அடித்து, அந்த வீட்டின்மேல் மோதியும், அது விழவில்லை; ஏனென்றால், அது கன்மலையின்மேல் அஸ்திபாரம் போடப்பட்டிருந்தது. ²⁶ நான் சொல்லிய இந்த வார்த்தைகளைக்கேட்டு, இவைகளின்படி செய்யாதிருக்கிறவன் எவனோ, அவன் தன் வீட்டை மணலின்மேல் கட்டின புத்தியில்லாத மனிதனுக்கு ஒப்பிடப்படுவான். ²⁷ பெருமழை பெய்து, பெருவெள்ளம் வந்து, காற்று அடித்து, அந்த வீட்டின்மேல் மோதினபோது அது விழுந்தது; விழுந்து முழுவதும் அழிந்தது என்றார். ²⁸ இயேசு இந்த வார்த்தைகளைச் சொல்லிமுடித்தபோது, அவர் வேதபண்டிதர்களைப்போல போதிக்காமல், அதிகாரமுடையவராக அவர்களுக்குப் போதித்ததினால், ²⁹ மக்கள் அவருடைய போதனையைக்குறித்து ஆச்சரியப்பட்டார்கள்.

அத்தியாயம்- 8

¹ இயேசு மலையிலிருந்து இறங்கினபோது, திரளான மக்கள் அவருக்குப் பின்னே சென்றார்கள். ² அப்பொழுது குஷ்டரோகி ஒருவன் வந்து அவரைப் பணிந்து: ஆண்டவரே! உமக்கு விருப்பமானால், என்னை சுகப்படுத்த உம்மால் முடியும் என்றான். ³ இயேசு தமது கையை நீட்டி அவனைத் தொட்டு: எனக்கு விருப்பமுண்டு, சுத்தமாகு என்றார். உடனே குஷ்டரோகம் நீங்கி அவன் சுத்தமானான். ⁴ இயேசு அவனைப் பார்த்து: இதை நீ ஒருவருக்கும் சொல்லாதபடி எச்சரிக்கையாக இரு; ஆனாலும், அவர்களுக்குச் சாட்சியாக நீ போய் ஆசாரியனுக்கு உன்னைக் காண்பித்து, மோசே கட்டளையிட்ட காணிக்கையைச் செலுத்து என்றார்.

⁵ இயேசு கப்பர்நசூமில் நுழைந்தபோது, நூறு படைவீரர்களுக்குத் தலைவனாகிய ஒருவன் அவரிடத்தில் வந்து: ⁶ ஆண்டவரே! என் வேலைக்காரன் வீட்டிலே பக்கவாதமாகக் கிடந்து மிகவும் வேதனைப்படுகிறான் என்று அவரை வேண்டிக்கொண்டான். ⁷ அதற்கு இயேசு: நான் வந்து அவனைச் சுகமாக்குவேன் என்றார். ⁸ அந்தத் தலைவன் மறுமொழியாக: ஆண்டவரே! நீர் என் வீட்டிற்குள் பிரவேசிக்க நான் தகுதியானவன் இல்லை; ஒரு வார்த்தைமட்டும் சொல்லும்; அப்பொழுது என் வேலைக்காரன் சுகமாவான். ⁹ நான் அதிகாரத்திற்குக் கீழ்ப்பட்டவனாக இருந்தும், எனக்குக் கீழ்ப்பட்டிருக்கிற போர்வீரர்களும் உண்டு; நான் ஒருவனைப் போ என்றால் போகிறான், மற்றொருவனை வா என்றால் வருகிறான், என் வேலைக்காரனை, இதைச் செய் என்றால் செய்கிறான் என்றான். ¹⁰ இயேசு இதைக்கேட்டு ஆச்சரியப்பட்டு, தமக்குப்பின்னே வருகிறவர்களைப் பார்த்து: இஸ்ரவேலருக்குள்ளும் நான் இப்படிப்பட்ட விசுவாசத்தைக் காணவில்லை என்று, உண்மையாகவே உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன். ¹¹ அநேகர் கிழக்கிலும் மேற்கிலிருந்து வந்து, பரலோகராஜ்யத்தில் ஆபிரகாம் ஈசாக்கு யாக்கோபு என்பவர்களோடு பந்தியிருப்பார்கள். ¹² ராஜ்யத்தின் பிள்ளைகளோ, வெளியில் உள்ள இருளிலே தள்ளப்படுவார்கள்; அங்கே அழுகையும் பற்கடிப்பும் உண்டாயிருக்குமென்று உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன் என்றார். ¹³ பின்பு இயேசு அந்தத் தலைவனைப் பார்த்து: நீ போகலாம், நீ விசுவாசித்தபடியே உனக்கு ஆகக்கடவது என்றார். அதே மணிநேரத்திலே அவனுடைய வேலைக்காரன் சுகமானான்.

¹⁴ இயேசு பேதுருவின் வீட்டிற்கு வந்து, அவனுடைய மாமியார் ஜூரிமாகப் படுத்திருந்ததைக் கண்டார். ¹⁵ அவர் அவளுடைய கையைத் தொட்டவுடனே ஜூரம் அவளைவிட்டு நீங்கியது; அவள் எழுந்திருந்து, அவர்களுக்குப் பணிவிடைசெய்தாள். ¹⁶ மாலைநேரமானபோது, பிசாசு பிடித்திருந்த அநேகரை அவரிடத்தில் கொண்டுவந்தார்கள்; அவர் அந்த ஆவிகளைத் தமது வார்த்தையினாலே துரத்தி, வியாதியஸ்தர்கள் எல்லோரையும் சுகமாக்கினார். ¹⁷ அவர்தாமே நம்முடைய பெலனீனங்களை ஏற்றுக்கொண்டு, நம்முடைய நோய்களைச் சுமந்தார் என்று, ஏசாயா தீர்க்கதரிசியினால் சொல்லப்பட்டது நிறைவேறும்படி இப்படி நடந்தது.

¹⁸ பின்பு, திரளான மக்கள் தம்மைச் சுற்றியிருக்கிறதை இயேசு கண்டு, அக்கரைக்குப் போகக் கட்டளையிட்டார். ¹⁹ அப்பொழுது, வேதபண்டிதன் ஒருவன் வந்து: போதகரே! நீர் எங்கே போனாலும் உம்மைப் பின்பற்றி வருவேன் என்றான். ²⁰ அதற்கு இயேசு: நரிகளுக்குக் குழிகளும் வானத்துப் பறவைகளுக்குக் கூடுகளும் உண்டு; மனிதகுமாரனுக்கோ தலைசாய்க்க இடமில்லை என்றார். ²¹ அவருடைய சீடர்களில் வேறொருவன் அவரைப் பார்த்து: ஆண்டவரே! முன்பு நான் போய், என் தகப்பனை அடக்கம்செய்ய எனக்கு அனுமதி கொடுக்கவேண்டும் என்றான். ²² அதற்கு இயேசு: மரித்தோர் தங்களுடைய மரித்தோரை அடக்கம் செய்யட்டும், நீ என்னைப் பின்பற்றிவா என்றார்.

²³ அவர் படகில் ஏறினபோது அவருடைய சீடர்கள் அவருக்குப் பின்னேசென்று ஏறினார்கள். ²⁴ அப்பொழுது படகு அலைகளினால் மூடப்படத்தக்கதாகக் கடலில் பெருங்காற்று உண்டானது. அவரோ தூங்கிக்கொண்டிருந்தார். ²⁵ அப்பொழுது, அவருடைய சீடர்கள் வந்து, அவரை எழுப்பி: ஆண்டவரே! எங்களைக் காப்பாற்றும், மரித்துப்போகிறோம் என்றார்கள். ²⁶ அதற்கு அவர்: விசுவாசக்குறைவுள்ளவர்களே! ஏன் பயப்படுகிறீர்கள் என்று சொல்லி; எழுந்து, காற்றையும் கடலையும் அதட்டினார், உடனே, மிகுந்த அமைதல் உண்டானது. ²⁷ அந்த மனிதர்கள் ஆச்சரியப்பட்டு: இவர் எப்படிப்பட்டவரோ, காற்றும் கடலும் இவருக்குக் கீழ்ப்படிகிறதே என்றார்கள்.

²⁸ அவர் அக்கரையிலே கெர்கெசேனர் நாட்டிற்கு வந்தபோது, பிசாசுகள் பிடித்திருந்த இரண்டுபேர் கல்லறைகளிலிருந்து புறப்பட்டு, அவருக்கு எதிராக வந்தார்கள்; அவர்கள் மிகவும் கொடியவர்களாக இருந்தபடியால், அந்தவழியாக ஒருவனும் நடக்கக்கூடாமலிருந்தது. ²⁹ அவர்கள் அவரைப் பார்த்து: இயேசுவே, தேவனுடைய குமாரனே, எங்களுக்கு உமக்கும் என்ன? காலம் வருமுன்னே எங்களை வேதனைப்படுத்த இங்கே வந்தீரோ என்று சத்தமிட்டார்கள். ³⁰ அவர்களுக்கு சிறிது தூரத்தில் அநேகம்

பன்றிகள் கூட்டமாக மேய்ந்துகொண்டிருந்தன. ³¹ அப்பொழுது, பிசாசுகள்: நீர் எங்களைத் துரத்துவீரானால், நாங்கள் அந்தப் பன்றிகளுக்குள் போகும்படி அனுமதிக்கொடும் என்று அவரை வேண்டிக்கொண்டன. ³² அதற்கு அவர்: போங்கள் என்றார். அவைகள் புறப்பட்டு, பன்றிகளுக்குள் சென்றன; அப்பொழுது, பன்றிக்கூட்டமெல்லாம் உயர்ந்த மேட்டிலிருந்து கடலிலே பாய்ந்து தண்ணீரில் இறந்துபோயின. ³³ அவைகளை மேய்த்தவர்கள் ஓடி, பட்டணத்தில் சென்று, இந்தச் செய்திகள் எல்லாவற்றையும், பிசாசு பிடித்திருந்தவர்களுக்கு நடந்தவைகளையும் அறிவித்தார்கள். ³⁴ அப்பொழுது, அந்தப் பட்டணத்தார் அனைவரும் இயேசுவிற்கு எதிர்கொண்டுவந்து, அவரைக்கண்டு, தங்களுடைய எல்லைகளைவிட்டுப்போகும்படி அவரை வேண்டிக்கொண்டார்கள்.

அத்தியாயம்- 9

¹ அப்பொழுது, அவர் படகில் ஏறி, இக்கரையில் உள்ள தம்முடைய பட்டணத்திற்கு வந்தார். ² அங்கே படுக்கையிலே கிடந்த ஒரு பக்கவாதக்காரனை அவரிடத்தில் கொண்டுவந்தார்கள். இயேசு அவர்களுடைய விசுவாசத்தைக் கண்டு, பக்கவாதக்காரனைப் பார்த்து: மகனே, திடன்கொள், உன் பாவங்கள் உனக்கு மன்னிக்கப்பட்டது என்றார். ³ அப்பொழுது, வேதபண்டிதர்களில் சிலர்: இவன் தேவனை அவமதித்துப் பேசுகிறான் என்று தங்களுடைய உள்ளத்தில் சொல்லிக்கொண்டார்கள். ⁴ இயேசு அவர்கள் நினைவுகளை அறிந்து: நீங்கள் உங்களுடைய இருதயங்களில் பொல்லாதவைகளைச் சிந்திக்கிறதென்ன? ⁵ உன் பாவங்கள் மன்னிக்கப்பட்டது என்று சொல்வதோ, எழுந்து நட என்று சொல்வதோ, எது எளிது? ⁶ பூமியிலே பாவங்களை மன்னிக்க மனிதகுமாரனுக்கு அதிகாரம் உண்டு என்பதை நீங்கள் அறியவேண்டும் என்று சொல்லி, பக்கவாதக்காரனைப் பார்த்து: நீ எழுந்து, உன் படுக்கையை எடுத்துக்கொண்டு, உன் வீட்டிற்குப் போ என்றார். ⁷ உடனே அவன் எழுந்து, தன் வீட்டிற்குப்போனான். ⁸ மக்கள் அதைக் கண்டு ஆச்சரியப்பட்டு, மனிதர்களுக்கு இப்படிப்பட்ட அதிகாரத்தைக் கொடுத்தவராகிய தேவனை மகிமைப்படுத்தினார்கள்.

⁹ இயேசு அந்த இடத்தைவிட்டுப் புறப்பட்டுப்போகும்போது, வரிவசூல் மையத்தில் உட்கார்ந்திருந்த மத்தேயு என்னும் ஒரு மனிதனைக் கண்டு: எனக்குப் பின்னே வா என்றார்; அவன் எழுந்து, அவருக்குப் பின்னேசென்றான். ¹⁰ பின்பு அவர் வீட்டிலே உணவுப் பந்தியிருக்கும்போது, அநேக வரி வசூலிப்பவர்களும் பாவிர்களும் வந்து, இயேசுவோடும் அவருடைய சீடர்களோடும் பந்தியில் இருந்தார்கள்.

¹¹ பரிசேயர்கள் அதைக் கண்டு, அவருடைய சீடர்களைப் பார்த்து: உங்களுடைய போதகர் வரி வசூலிப்பவர்களோடும் பாவிகளோடும் உணவு சாப்பிடுகிறது ஏன் என்று கேட்டார்கள். ¹² இயேசு அதைக்கேட்டு: நோயாளிகளுக்குத்தான் வைத்தியன் தேவையேதவிர சுகமுள்ளவர்களுக்கு வேண்டியதில்லை. ¹³ பலியையல்ல, இரக்கத்தையே விரும்புகிறேன் என்பதின் கருத்து இன்னதென்று போய்க் கற்றுக்கொள்ளுங்கள்; நீதிமான்களையல்ல, பாவிகளையே மனந்திரும்புகிறதற்கு அழைக்கவந்தேன் என்றார்.

¹⁴ அப்பொழுது, யோவானுடைய சீடர்கள் அவரிடம் வந்து: நாங்களும் பரிசேயர்களும் அநேகமுறை உபவாசிக்கிறோமே; உம்முடைய சீடர்கள் உபவாசிக்காமல் இருக்கிறது ஏன் என்று கேட்டார்கள். ¹⁵ அதற்கு இயேசு: மணவாளன் தங்களோடு இருக்கும்போது மணவாளனுடைய தோழர்கள் துயரப்படுவார்களா? மணவாளன் அவர்களைவிட்டுப் போகும் நாட்கள் வரும், அப்பொழுது உபவாசிப்பார்கள். ¹⁶ ஒருவனும் புதிய துணியை பழைய ஆடையோடு இணைக்கமாட்டான்; இணைத்தால், அதினோடு இணைத்த பழைய ஆடையை அது அதிகமாகக் கிழிக்கும், கீறலும் அதிகமாகும். ¹⁷ புதிய திராட்சைரசத்தைப் பழைய தோல் பைகளில் ஊற்றிவைக்கிறது இல்லை; ஊற்றிவைத்தால், தோல் பைகள் கிழிந்துபோகும், இரசமும் சிந்திப்போகும், தோல் பைகளும் கெட்டுப்போகும்; புதிய இரசத்தைப் புதிய தோல் பைகளில் ஊற்றிவைப்பார்கள், அப்பொழுது இரண்டும் பத்திரப்பட்டிருக்கும் என்றார்.

¹⁸ அவர் இவைகளை அவர்களுக்குச் சொல்லிக்கொண்டிருக்கும்போது, தலைவன் ஒருவன் வந்து அவரை வணங்கி: என் மகள் இப்பொழுதுதான் இறந்துபோனாள்; ஆனாலும், நீர் வந்து அவள்மேல் உமது கையை வையும், அப்பொழுது பிழைப்பாள் என்றான். ¹⁹ இயேசு எழுந்து, தம்முடைய சீடர்களோடுகூட அவன் பின்னே போனார். ²⁰ அப்பொழுது, பன்னிரண்டு வருடங்களாக இரத்தப்போக்கினாலே கஷ்டப்படும் ஒரு பெண்: ²¹ நான் அவருடைய ஆடையையாவது தொட்டால் சுகமாவேன் என்று தன் உள்ளத்தில் எண்ணிக்கொண்டு, அவர் பின்னாலே வந்து, அவருடைய ஆடையின் ஓரத்தைத் தொட்டாள். ²² இயேசு திரும்பி, அவளைப் பார்த்து: மகனே, திடன்கொள், உன் விசுவாசம் உன்னை இரட்சித்தது என்றார். அந்தநேரத்திலேயே அந்தப் பெண் சுகமானாள். ²³ இயேசுவானவர் அந்தத் தலைவனுடைய வீட்டிற்கு வந்து, சங்கு ஊதுகிறவர்களையும், ஒப்பாரி வைக்கிற மக்களையும் கண்டு: ²⁴ விலகுங்கள், இந்த சிறுபெண் இறக்கவில்லை, தூங்கிக்கொண்டிருக்கிறாள் என்றார். அதற்காக அவரைப் பார்த்து ஏளனம் செய்தார்கள். ²⁵ மக்கள் வெளியே அனுப்பப்பட்டப்பின்பு, அவர் உள்ளே பிரவேசித்து, அந்தச் சிறுபெண்ணின் கையைப் பிடித்தார்; உடனே அவள் எழுந்திருந்தாள். ²⁶ இந்தச் செய்தி அந்த நாடெங்கும் பிரசித்தமானது.

²⁷ இயேசு அந்த இடத்தைவிட்டுப் போகும்போது, இரண்டு குருடர்கள் அவருக்குப் பின்னேசென்று: தாவீதின் குமாரனே, எங்களுக்கு இரங்கும் என்று கூப்பிட்டார்கள். ²⁸ அவர் வீட்டிற்கு வந்தபின்பு, அந்தக் குருடர்கள் அவரிடத்தில் வந்தார்கள். இயேசு அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: இதைச்செய்ய எனக்கு வல்லமை உண்டு என்று விசுவாசிக்கிறீர்களா என்று கேட்டார். அதற்கு அவர்கள்: ஆம் விசுவாசிக்கிறோம்

ஆண்டவரே! என்றார்கள். ²⁹ அப்பொழுது, அவர்களுடைய கண்களை அவர் தொட்டு: உங்களுடைய விசுவாசத்தின்படி உங்களுக்கு ஆகக்கடவது என்றார். ³⁰ உடனே அவர்களுடைய கண்கள் திறக்கப்பட்டது. இதை ஒருவரும் அறியாதபடிக்கு எச்சரிக்கையாக இருங்கள் என்று இயேசு அவர்களுக்குக் கண்டிப்பாய்க் கட்டளையிட்டார். ³¹ அவர்களோ புறப்பட்டு, அந்த நாடெங்கும் அவருடைய புகழைப் பிரசித்தப்படுத்தினார்கள். ³² அவர்கள் புறப்பட்டுப்போகும்போது, பிசாசு பிடித்த ஊமையான ஒரு மனிதனை அவரிடம் கொண்டுவந்தார்கள். ³³ பிசாசு துரத்தப்பட்டப்பின்பு ஊமையன் பேசினான். மக்கள் ஆச்சரியப்பட்டு: இஸ்ரவேலில் இப்படி ஒருபோதும் காணப்படவில்லை என்றார்கள். ³⁴ பரிசேயர்களோ: இவன் பிசாசுகளின் தலைவனாலே பிசாசுகளைத் துரத்துகிறான் என்றார்கள்.

³⁵ பின்பு, இயேசு எல்லாப் பட்டணங்களையும் கிராமங்களையும் சுற்றி நடந்து, ஜெப ஆலயங்களில் உபதேசித்து, ராஜ்யத்தின் நற்செய்தியைப் பிரசங்கித்து, மக்களுக்கு உண்டாயிருந்த எல்லா வியாதிகளையும் எல்லா நோய்களையும் நீக்கி, அவர்களைச் சுகமாக்கினார். ³⁶ அவர் திரளான மக்களைக் கண்டபொழுது, அவர்கள் மேய்ப்பனில்லாத ஆடுகளைப்போல சோர்ந்துபோனவர்களும் திக்கற்றவர்களுமாக இருந்தபடியால், அவர்கள்மேல் மனதுருகி, ³⁷ தம்முடைய சீடர்களைப் பார்த்து: அறுப்பு மிகுதி, வேலையாட்களோ கொஞ்சம்; ³⁸ ஆதலால், அறுப்புக்கு எஜமான் தமது வேலையாட்களை அனுப்பும்படி அவரை வேண்டிக்கொள்ளுங்கள் என்றார்.

அத்தியாயம்- 10

¹ அப்பொழுது, இயேசு தம்முடைய பன்னிரண்டு சீடர்களையும் தம்மிடத்தில் வரவழைத்து, அசுத்தஆவிகளைத் துரத்தவும், எல்லா வியாதிகளையும் எல்லா நோய்களையும் நீக்கவும் அவர்களுக்கு அதிகாரம் கொடுத்தார். ² அந்தப் பன்னிரண்டு அப்போஸ்தலர்களுடைய பெயர்களாவன: முந்தினவன் பேதுரு என்னப்பட்ட சீமோன், அவன் சகோதரன் அந்திரேயா, செபெதேயுவின் குமாரன் யாக்கோபு, அவன் சகோதரன் யோவான், ³ பிலிப்பு, பர்தொலொமேயு, தோமா, வரி வசூலிப்பவனாகிய மத்தேயு, அல்பேயுவின் குமாரன் யாக்கோபு, ததேயு என்னும் மறுபெயருள்ள லெபேயு, ⁴ கானானியனாகிய சீமோன், அவரைக் காட்டிக்கொடுத்த யூதாஸ்காரியோத்து என்பவைகளே. ⁵ இந்தப் பன்னிரண்டுபேரையும் இயேசு அனுப்பும்போது, அவர்களுக்குக் கட்டளையிட்டுச் சொன்னது என்னவென்றால்: நீங்கள் யூதரல்லாதவர்களுடைய நாடுகளுக்குப் போகாமலும், சமாரியருடைய பட்டணங்களில் பிரவேசிக்காமலும், ⁶ காணாமற்போன ஆடுகளாகிய இஸ்ரவேல் குடும்பத்தாரிடத்திற்குப் போங்கள். ⁷ போகும்போது, பரலோகராஜ்யம் சமீபமாக இருக்கிறது என்று பிரசங்கியுங்கள். ⁸ வியாதியுள்ளவர்களைச் சுகமாக்குங்கள், குஷ்டரோகிகளைச் சுகப்படுத்துங்கள், மரித்தோரை உயிரோடு எழுப்புங்கள், பிசாசுகளைத் துரத்துங்கள்; இலவசமாகப் பெற்றீர்கள், இலவசமாகக் கொடுங்கள். ⁹ உங்களுடைய பைகளில் பொன்னையாவது, வெள்ளியையாவது, செம்பையாவது, ¹⁰ வழிக்காகப் பையையாவது, இரண்டு அங்கிகளையாவது, பாதணிகளையாவது, தடியையாவது எடுத்துவைக்கவேண்டாம்; வேலையாள் தன் ஆகாரத்திற்குத் தகுதியுள்ளவனாக இருக்கிறான். ¹¹ எந்தப் பட்டணத்திலாவது கிராமத்திலாவது நீங்கள் பிரவேசிக்கும்போது, அதிலே தகுதியானவன் யாரென்று விசாரித்து, நீங்கள் புறப்படும்வரைக்கும் அவனிடத்தில் தங்கியிருங்கள். ¹² ஒரு வீட்டிற்குள் பிரவேசிக்கும்போது அதை வாழ்த்துங்கள். ¹³ அந்த வீடு தகுதியாக இருந்தால், நீங்கள் சொன்ன சமாதானம் அவர்கள்மேல் வரக்கடவது; தகுதியற்றவர்களாக இருந்தால், நீங்கள் சொன்ன சமாதானம் உங்களிடத்திற்குத் திரும்பக்கடவது. ¹⁴ எவனாவது உங்களை ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளாமலும், உங்களுடைய வார்த்தைகளைக் கேளாமலும்போனால், அந்த வீட்டையாவது பட்டணத்தையாவதுவிட்டுப் புறப்படும்போது, உங்களுடைய கால்களில் படிந்த தூசியை உதறிப்போடுங்கள். ¹⁵ நியாயத்தீர்ப்புநாளிலே அந்தப் பட்டணத்திற்கு சம்பவிப்பதைவிட சோதோம் கொமோரா பட்டணங்களுக்கு சம்பவிப்பது இலகுவாக இருக்கும் என்று உண்மையாகவே உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன். ¹⁶ ஆடுகளை ஓநாய்களுக்குள்ளே அனுப்புகிறதுபோல, இதோ, நான் உங்களை அனுப்புகிறேன்; ஆகவே, பாம்புகளைப்போல வினாவுள்ளவர்களும் புறாக்களைப்போல வஞ்சகமற்றவர்களும்போல இருங்கள். ¹⁷ மனிதர்களைக்குறித்து எச்சரிக்கையாக இருங்கள்; அவர்கள் உங்களை ஆலோசனைச் சங்கங்களுக்கு ஒப்புக்கொடுத்து, தங்களுடைய ஜெப ஆலயங்களில் உங்களைச் சாட்டையினால் அடிப்பார்கள். ¹⁸ அவர்களுக்கும் யூதரல்லாதவர்களுக்கும் சாட்சியாக என்னிமித்தம் அதிபதிகளுக்கு முன்பாகவும், ராஜாக்களுக்கு முன்பாகவும் கொண்டுபோகப்படுவீர்கள். ¹⁹ அவர்கள் உங்களை ஒப்புக்கொடுக்கும்போது: எப்படிப் பேசுவோம் என்றும், என்னத்தைப் பேசுவோம் என்றும் கவலைப்படாமலிருங்கள்; நீங்கள் பேசவேண்டியது அந்தநேரத்தில் உங்களுக்குக் கொடுக்கப்படும். ²⁰ பேசுகிறவர்கள் நீங்கள் இல்லை, உங்களுடைய பிதாவின் ஆவியானவரே உங்களிலிருந்து பேசுகிறவர். ²¹ சகோதரன் தன் சகோதரனையும், தகப்பன் தன் பிள்ளையையும், மரணத்திற்கு ஒப்புக்கொடுப்பார்கள்; பெற்றோருக்கு விரோதமாகப் பிள்ளைகள் எழும்பி அவர்களைக் கொலைசெய்ய ஒப்புக்கொடுப்பார்கள். ²² என் நாமத்தினாலே நீங்கள் எல்லோராலும் பகைக்கப்படுவீர்கள்; இறுதிவரைக்கும் நிலைத்திருப்பவனே இரட்சிக்கப்படுவான். ²³ ஒரு பட்டணத்தில் உங்களைத் துன்பப்படுத்தினால் வேறொரு பட்டணத்திற்கு ஓடிப்போங்கள்; மனிதகுமாரன் வருவதற்குள்ளாக நீங்கள் இஸ்ரவேலருடைய பட்டணங்களையெல்லாம் சுற்றிவரமுடியாதென்று, உண்மையாகவே உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன். ²⁴ சீடன் தன் போதகனைவிடவும், வேலைக்காரன் தன் எஜமானைவிடவும் மேலானவன் இல்லை. ²⁵ சீடன் தன் போதகனைப்போலவும், வேலைக்காரன் தன் எஜமானைப்போலவும் இருப்பதுபோதும். வீட்டு எஜமானையே பெயெல்செபூல் என்று சொன்னார்களென்றால், அவன் குடும்பத்தினரை இன்னும் அதிகமாகச் சொல்வது அதிக நிச்சயமல்லவா?

²⁶ அவர்களுக்குப் பயப்படாமலிருங்கள்; வெளியாக்கப்படாத மறைபொருளும் இல்லை; அறியப்படாத இரகசியமும் இல்லை. ²⁷ நான் உங்களுக்கு இருளிலே சொல்லுகிறதை நீங்கள் வெளிச்சத்திலே சொல்லுங்கள்; காதிலே கேட்கிறதை நீங்கள் வீடுகளின்மேல் பிரசித்தம்பண்ணுங்கள். ²⁸ ஆத்துமாவைக் கொல்ல வல்லவர்களாக இல்லாமல், சரீரத்தைமட்டும் கொல்லுகிறவர்களுக்கு நீங்கள் பயப்படவேண்டாம்; ஆத்துமாவையும் சரீரத்தையும் நரகத்திலே அழிக்க வல்லவருக்கே பயப்படுங்கள். ²⁹ ஒரு காசுக்கு இரண்டு அடைக்கலான் குருவிகளை விற்கிறார்கள் அல்லவா? ஆனாலும் உங்களுடைய பிதாவின் விருப்பமில்லாமல், அவைகளில் ஒன்றாவது தரையிலே விழாது. ³⁰ உங்களுடைய தலையிலுள்ள

முடிகளெல்லாம் எண்ணப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. ³¹ ஆதலால், பயப்படாமலிருங்கள்; அநேகம் அடைக்கலான் குருவிகளைவிட நீங்கள் விசேஷித்தவர்களாக இருக்கிறீர்கள். ³² மனிதர்கள் முன்பாக என்னை அறிக்கைசெய்கிறவன் எவனோ, அவனை நானும் பரலோகத்திலிருக்கிற என் பிதாவின் முன்பாக அறிக்கைசெய்வேன். ³³ மனிதர்கள் முன்பாக என்னை மறுதலிக்கிறவன் எவனோ, அவனை நானும் பரலோகத்திலிருக்கிற என் பிதாவின் முன்பாக மறுதலிப்பேன். ³⁴ பூமியின்மேல் சமாதானத்தை அனுப்பவந்தேன் என்று எண்ணாதிருங்கள்; சமாதானத்தையல்ல, பிரிவினையையே அனுப்பவந்தேன். ³⁵ எப்படியென்றால், மகனுக்கும் தகப்பனுக்கும், மகளுக்கும் தாய்க்கும், மருமகளுக்கும் மாமியாருக்கும் பிரிவினையுண்டாக்க வந்தேன். ³⁶ ஒரு மனிதனுக்கு விரோதிகள் அவன் குடும்பத்தாரே. ³⁷ தகப்பனையாவது தாயையாவது என்னைவிட அதிகமாக நேசிக்கிறவன் எனக்கு தகுதியானவன் இல்லை; மகனையாவது மகளையாவது என்னைவிட அதிகமாக நேசிக்கிறவன் எனக்கு தகுதியானவன் இல்லை. ³⁸ தன் சிலுவையை எடுத்துக்கொண்டு என்னைப் பின்பற்றாதவன் எனக்கு தகுதியானவன் இல்லை. ³⁹ தன் ஜீவனைக் காக்கிறவன் அதை இழந்துபோவான்; என்னிமித்தம் தன் ஜீவனை இழந்துபோகிறவன் அதைக் காப்பான். ⁴⁰ உங்களை ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளுகிறவன் என்னை ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளுகிறான்; என்னை ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளுகிறவன் என்னை அனுப்பினவரை ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளுகிறான். ⁴¹ தீர்க்கதரிசி என்னும் பெயரினிமித்தம் தீர்க்கதரிசியை ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளுகிறவன் தீர்க்கதரிசிக்குரிய பலனை அடைவான்; நீதிமான் என்னும் பெயரினிமித்தம் நீதிமானை ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளுகிறவன் நீதிமானுக்குரிய பலனை அடைவான். ⁴² சீடன் என்னும் பெயரினிமித்தம் இந்தச் சிறியவர்களில் ஒருவனுக்கு ஒரு கிண்ணம் தண்ணீர்மட்டும் குடிக்கக் கொடுக்கிறவனும் தன் பலனைப் பெறாமல் போகமாட்டான் என்று, உண்மையாகவே உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன் என்றார்.

அத்தியாயம்- 11

¹ இயேசு தம்முடைய பன்னிரண்டு சீடர்களுக்கும் கட்டளைக் கொடுத்துமுடித்தபின்பு, அவர்களுடைய பட்டணங்களில் உபதேசிக்கவும் பிரசங்கிக்கவும் அந்த இடத்தைவிட்டுப் போனார். ² அந்தநேரத்தில் காவலிலிருந்த யோவான் கிறிஸ்துவின் செயல்களைக்குறித்துக் கேள்விப்பட்டு, தன் சீடர்களில் இரண்டுபேரை அழைத்து: ³ வருகிறவர் நீர்தானா, அல்லது வேறொருவர் வருவதற்காக நாங்கள் காத்திருக்கவேண்டுமா? என்று அவரிடத்தில் கேட்கும்படி அனுப்பினான். ⁴ இயேசு அவர்களுக்கு மறுமொழியாக: நீங்கள் கேட்கிறதையும் காண்கிறதையும் யோவானிடம்போய் அறிவியுங்கள்; ⁵ குருடர்கள் பார்வையடைகிறார்கள், முடவர்கள் நடக்கிறார்கள், குஷ்டரோகிகள் சுகமாகிறார்கள், செவிடர்கள் கேட்கிறார்கள், மரித்தோர் உயிரோடு எழுந்திருக்கிறார்கள், தரித்திரர்களுக்கு நற்செய்தி பிரசங்கிக்கப்படுகிறது. ⁶ என்னிடத்தில் இடறலடையாமலிருக்கிறவன் எவனோ அவன் பாக்கியவான் என்றார். ⁷ அவர்கள் போனபின்பு, இயேசு யோவானைக்குறித்து மக்களுக்குச் சொன்னது என்னவென்றால்: எதைப்பார்க்க வனாந்திரத்திற்குப் போனீர்கள்? காற்றினால் அசையும் நாணலையோ? ⁸ இல்லையென்றால், எதைப்பார்க்கப் போனீர்கள்? மெல்லிய உடை அணிந்திருந்த மனிதனையோ? மெல்லிய உடை அணிந்திருக்கிறவர்கள் அரசர் மாளிகைகளில் இருக்கிறார்கள். ⁹ இல்லையென்றால், எதைப்பார்க்கப் போனீர்கள்? தீர்க்கதரிசியையோ? ஆம், தீர்க்கதரிசியைவிட மேன்மையுள்ளவனையே என்று உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன். ¹⁰ அதெப்படியெனில்: இதோ, நான் என் தூதுவனை உமக்கு முன்பாக அனுப்புகிறேன்; அவன் உமக்குமுன்னேபோய், உமது வழியை ஆயத்தம் செய்வான் என்று வேதத்தில் எழுதப்பட்டவன் இவன்தான். ¹¹ பெண்களிடத்திலே பிறந்தவர்களில் யோவான்ஸ்நானனைவிட பெரியவன் ஒருவனும் எழும்பினதில்லை; ஆனாலும், பரலோகராஜ்யத்தில் சிறியவனாக இருக்கிறவன் அவனைவிட பெரியவனாக இருக்கிறானென்று உங்களுக்கு உண்மையாகவே சொல்லுகிறேன். ¹² யோவான்ஸ்நானன் காலமுதல் இதுவரைக்கும் பரலோகராஜ்யம் பலவந்தம் செய்யப்படுகிறது; பலவந்தம் செய்கிறவர்கள் அதைப் பிடித்துக்கொள்ளுகிறார்கள். ¹³ நியாயப்பிரமாணமும் தீர்க்கதரிசிகள் அனைவரும் யோவான்வரைக்கும் தீர்க்கதரிசனம் சொன்னதுண்டு. ¹⁴ நீங்கள் ஏற்றுக்கொள்ள மனதாயிருந்தால், வருகிறவனாகிய எலியா இவன்தான். ¹⁵ கேட்கிறதற்குக் காதுள்ளவன் கேட்கவேண்டும். ¹⁶ இந்தச் சந்ததியை யாருக்கு ஒப்பிடுவேன்? சந்தைவெளிகளில் உட்கார்ந்து, தங்களுடைய தோழரைப் பார்த்து: ¹⁷ உங்களுக்காகக் குழல் ஊதினோம், நீங்கள் நடனமாடவில்லை; உங்களுக்காகப் புலம்பினோம், நீங்கள் மாரடிக்கவில்லை என்று குறைசொல்லுகிற பிள்ளைகளுக்கு ஒப்பாக இருக்கிறது. ¹⁸ எப்படியென்றால், யோவான் உபவாசிக்கிறவனாகவும் திராட்சைரசம் குடிக்காதவனாகவும் வந்தான்; அதற்கு அவர்கள்: அவன் பிசாசு பிடித்திருக்கிறவன் என்றார்கள். ¹⁹ மனிதகுமாரன் உண்கிறவராகவும் குடிக்கிறவராகவும் வந்தார்; அதற்கு அவர்கள்: இதோ, உணவுப்பிரியனும் மதுபானப்பிரியனுமான மனிதன், வரி வசூலிப்பவர்களுக்கும் பாவிகளுக்கும் நண்பன் என்கிறார்கள். ஆனாலும், ஞானமானது அதன் பிள்ளைகளால் நீதியுள்ளதென்று ஒப்புக்கொள்ளப்படும் என்றார்.

²⁰ அப்பொழுது, தமது பலத்த செய்கைகளில், அதிகமானவைகளைச் செய்யக்கண்ட பட்டணங்கள் மனந்திரும்பாமற்போனபடியினால் அவைகளை அவர் கடிந்துகொள்ளத் தொடங்கினார்: ²¹ கோராசினே! உனக்கு ஐயோ, பெத்சாயிதாவே! உனக்கு ஐயோ, உங்களில் செய்யப்பட்ட பலத்த செய்கைகள் தீருவிலும் சீதோனிலும் செய்யப்பட்டிருந்ததானால், அப்பொழுதே இரட்டுடுத்திச் சாம்பலில் உட்கார்ந்து மனந்திரும்பியிருப்பார்கள். ²² நியாயத்தீர்ப்புநாளிலே உங்களுக்குச் சம்பவிப்பதைவிட, தீருவிற்கும் சீதோனுக்கும் சம்பவிப்பது இலகுவாக இருக்கும் என்று உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன். ²³ வானம்வரை உயர்த்தப்பட்ட கப்பர்நகூமே, நீ பாதாளம்வரை தாழ்த்தப்படுவாய்; உன்னில் செய்யப்பட்ட பலத்த செய்கைகள் சோதோமிலே செய்யப்பட்டிருந்ததானால், அது இந்தநாள்வரை நிலைத்திருக்கும். ²⁴ நியாயத்தீர்ப்புநாளிலே உனக்குச் சம்பவிப்பதைவிட, சோதோம் நாட்டிற்குச் சம்பவிப்பது இலகுவாக இருக்கும் என்று உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன் என்றார்.

²⁵ அந்தச் சமயத்திலே இயேசு சொன்னது: பிதாவே! பரலோகத்திற்கும் பூமிக்கும் ஆண்டவரே! இவைகளை ஞானிகளுக்கும் கல்விமான்களுக்கும் மறைத்து, சிறுவர்களுக்கு வெளிப்படுத்தினபடியால் உம்மை ஸ்தோத்திரிக்கிறேன். ²⁶ ஆம், பிதாவே! இப்படிச்செய்வது உம்முடைய உயர்ந்த உள்ளத்திற்குப் பிரியமாக இருந்தது. ²⁷ எல்லாம் என் பிதாவினால் எனக்கு ஒப்புக்கொடுக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது; பிதாவைத்தவிர வேறொருவனும் குமாரனை அறியான்; குமாரனும், குமாரன் எவனுக்குப் பிதாவை வெளிப்படுத்த விரும்பமாக இருக்கிறாரோ அவனைத்தவிர, வேறொருவனும் பிதாவை அறியமாட்டான். ²⁸ வருத்தப்பட்டுப் பாரஞ்சுமக்கிறவர்களே! நீங்கள் எல்லோரும் என்னிடத்தில் வாருங்கள்; நான் உங்களுக்கு இளைப்பாறுதல் தருவேன். ²⁹ நான் சாந்தமும் மனத்தாழ்மையுமாக இருக்கிறேன்; என் நுகத்தை

உங்கள்மேல் ஏற்றுக்கொண்டு, என்னிடத்தில் கற்றுக்கொள்ளுங்கள்; அப்பொழுது உங்களுடைய ஆத்துமாக்களுக்கு இளைப்பாறுதல் கிடைக்கும்.³⁰ என் நுகம் எளிதாகவும், என் சுமை இலகுவாகவும் இருக்கிறது என்றார்.

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¹ அக்காலத்திலே, இயேசு ஓய்வுநாளில் வயல்வழியே போனார்; அவருடைய சீடர்கள் பசியாக இருந்து, கதிர்களைப் பறித்து, சாப்பிடத் தொடங்கினார்கள். ² பரிசேயர்கள் அதைக் கண்டு, அவரைப் பார்த்து: இதோ, ஓய்வுநாளில் செய்யக்கூடாததை உம்முடைய சீடர்கள் செய்கிறார்களே என்றார்கள். ³ அதற்கு அவர்: தாவீதும் அவனோடு இருந்தவர்களும் பசியாக இருந்தபோது செய்ததை நீங்கள் வாசிக்கவில்லையா? ⁴ அவன் தேவனுடைய வீட்டில் பிரவேசித்து, ஆசாரியர்கள்தவிர வேறு ஒருவரும் புசிக்கக்கூடாத தேவ சமூகத்து அப்பங்களைத் தானும் தன்னோடு இருந்தவர்களும் புசித்தார்களே. ⁵ அன்றியும், ஓய்வுநாட்களில் ஆசாரியர்கள் தேவாலயத்தில் ஓய்ந்திராமல், ஓய்வுநாளை வேலைநாளாக்கினாலும் குற்றமில்லாமல் இருக்கிறார்கள் என்று நீங்கள் வேதத்தில் வாசிக்கவில்லையா? ⁶ தேவாலயத்திலும் பெரியவர் இங்கே இருக்கிறார் என்று உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன். ⁷ பலியை அல்ல இரக்கத்தையே விரும்புகிறேன் என்பதின் கருத்து இன்னதென்று அறிந்தீர்களானால், குற்றமில்லாதவர்களை நீங்கள் குற்றப்படுத்தமாட்டீர்கள். ⁸ மனிதகுமாரன் ஓய்வுநாளுக்கும் ஆண்டவராக இருக்கிறார் என்றார். ⁹ அவர் அந்த இடத்தைவிட்டுப்போய், அவர்களுடைய ஜெப ஆலயத்திற்கு வந்தார். ¹⁰ அங்கே சும்பின் கையையுடைய மனிதன் ஒருவன் இருந்தான். அப்பொழுது, அவர்மேல் குற்றஞ்சாட்டும்படிக்கு: ஓய்வுநாளில் சுகமாக்குகிறது நியாயமா என்று கேட்டார்கள். ¹¹ அதற்கு அவர்: உங்களில் எந்த மனிதனுக்காவது ஒரு ஆடு இருந்து, அது ஓய்வுநாளில் குழியிலே விழுந்தால், அதைப் பிடித்துத் தூக்கிவிடமாட்டானோ? ¹² ஆட்டைவிட மனிதனானவன் எவ்வளவோ விசேஷித்திருக்கிறான்! ஆதலால், ஓய்வுநாளிலே நன்மை செய்வது நியாயம்தான் என்று சொன்னார். ¹³ பின்பு அந்த மனிதனைப் பார்த்து: உன் கையை நீட்டு என்றார். அவன் நீட்டினான்; அது மறுகையைப்போல சுகமானது. ¹⁴ அப்பொழுது, பரிசேயர்கள் வெளியேபோய், அவரைக் கொலைசெய்யும்படி அவருக்கு விரோதமாக ஆலோசனை செய்தார்கள்.

¹⁵ இயேசு அதை அறிந்து, அந்த இடத்தைவிட்டு விலகிப்போனார். திரளான மக்கள் அவருக்குப் பின்னே சென்றார்கள்; அவர்களெல்லோரையும் அவர் சுகமாக்கி, ¹⁶ தம்மைப் பிரசித்தப்படுத்தாதபடி அவர்களுக்குக் கண்டிப்பாகக் கட்டளையிட்டார். ¹⁷ ஏசாயா தீர்க்கதரிசியால் சொல்லப்பட்டது நிறைவேறும்படி இப்படி நடந்தது. அவன் சொன்னதாவது: ¹⁸ இதோ, நான் தெரிந்துகொண்ட என்னுடைய தாசன், என் ஆத்துமாவிற்குப் பிரியமாக இருக்கிற என்னுடைய நேசன்; என் ஆவியை அவர்மேல் அமரச் செய்வேன், அவர் யூதரல்லாதவர்களுக்கு நியாயத்தை அறிவிப்பார். ¹⁹ வாக்குவாதம் செய்யவும் மாட்டார், சத்தமிடவும் மாட்டார்; அவருடைய சத்தத்தை ஒருவனும் வீதிகளில் கேட்பதுமில்லை. ²⁰ அவர் நியாயத்திற்கு ஜெயம் கிடைக்கச்செய்கிறவரைக்கும், நெரிந்த நாணலை முறிக்காமலும், மங்கியெரிகிற திரியை அணைக்காமலும் இருப்பார். ²¹ அவருடைய நாமத்தின்மேல் உலகிலுள்ளோர் நம்பிக்கையாக இருப்பார்கள் என்பதே.

²² அப்பொழுது, பிசாசு பிடித்த குருடும் ஊமையுமான ஒருவன் அவரிடத்தில் கொண்டுவரப்பட்டான்; குருடும் ஊமையுமானவன் பேசவும் பார்க்கவுந்தக்கதாக அவனைச் சுகமாக்கினார். ²³ மக்களெல்லோரும் ஆச்சரியப்பட்டு: தாவீதின் குமாரன் இவர்தானோ? என்றார்கள். ²⁴ பரிசேயர்கள் அதைக்கேட்டு: இவன் பிசாசுகளின் தலைவனாகிய பெயெல்செபுலினாலே பிசாசுகளைத் துரத்துகிறானேயல்லாமல் மற்றபடியல்ல என்றார்கள். ²⁵ இயேசு அவர்கள் யோசனைகளை அறிந்து, அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: தனக்குத்தானே விரோதமாகப் பிரிந்திருக்கிற எந்த ராஜ்யமும் பாழாகப்போகும்; தனக்குத்தானே விரோதமாகப் பிரிந்திருக்கிற எந்தப் பட்டணமும் எந்த வீடும் நிலைநிற்கமாட்டாது. ²⁶ சாத்தானைச் சாத்தான் துரத்தினால் தனக்கு விரோதமாகத் தானே பிரிவினை செய்கிறதாயிருக்குமே; அப்படிச் செய்தால் அவன் ராஜ்யம் எப்படி நிலைநிற்கும்? ²⁷ நான் பெயெல்செபுலினாலே பிசாசுகளைத் துரத்தினால், உங்களுடைய பிள்ளைகள் அவைகளை யாராலே துரத்துகிறார்கள்? ஆகவே, அவர்களே உங்களை நியாயந்தீர்க்கிறவர்களாக இருப்பார்கள். ²⁸ நான் தேவனுடைய ஆவியானவராலே பிசாசுகளைத் துரத்துகிறபடியால், தேவனுடைய ராஜ்யம் உங்களிடம் வந்திருக்கிறதே. ²⁹ அன்றியும், பலவாளை முந்திக் கட்டினாலொழிய பலவானுடைய வீட்டிற்குள் ஒருவன் புகுந்து, அவன் உடைமைகளை எப்படிக் கொள்ளையிடமுடியும்? கட்டினானேயாகில், அவன் வீட்டைக் கொள்ளையிடலாம். ³⁰ என்னோடு இராதவன் எனக்கு விரோதியாக இருக்கிறான்; என்னோடு சேர்க்காதவன் சிதறடிக்கிறான். ³¹ ஆதலால், நான் உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன்: எந்தப் பாவமும் எந்த நிந்தனையும் மனிதர்களுக்கு மன்னிக்கப்படும்; ஆவியானவருக்கு விரோதமான நிந்தனையோ மனிதர்களுக்கு மன்னிக்கப்படுவதில்லை. ³² எவனாவது மனிதகுமாரனுக்கு விரோதமாக வார்த்தை சொன்னால் அது

அவனுக்கு மன்னிக்கப்படும்; எவனாவது பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவருக்கு விரோதமாகப் பேசினால் அது இம்மையிலும் மறுமையிலும் அவனுக்கு மன்னிக்கப்படுவதில்லை.

³³ மரம் நல்லதென்றால், அதின் கனியும் நல்லதென்று சொல்லுங்கள்; மரம் கெட்டதென்றால், அதின் கனியும் கெட்டதென்று சொல்லுங்கள்; மரமானது அதின் கனியினால் அறியப்படும். ³⁴ விரியன்பாம்புக் குட்டிகளே, நீங்கள் பொல்லாதவர்களாக இருக்க, நலமானவைகளை எப்படிப் பேசுவீர்கள்? இருதயத்தின் நிறைவினால் வாய் பேசும். ³⁵ நல்ல மனிதன் இருதயமாகிய நல்ல பொக்கிஷத்திலிருந்து நல்லவைகளை எடுத்துக்காட்டுகிறான், பொல்லாத மனிதன் பொல்லாத பொக்கிஷத்திலிருந்து பொல்லாதவைகளை எடுத்துக்காட்டுகிறான். ³⁶ மனிதர்கள் பேசும் வீணான வார்த்தைகள் யாவையும் குறித்து நியாயத்தீர்ப்புநாளிலே கணக்கு ஒப்புவிக்கவேண்டும் என்று உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன். ³⁷ ஏனென்றால், உன் வார்த்தைகளினாலே நீதிமான் என்று தீர்க்கப்படுவாய்; அல்லது உன் வார்த்தைகளினாலே குற்றவாளி என்று தீர்க்கப்படுவாய் என்றார்.

³⁸ அப்பொழுது, வேதபண்டிதர்களிலும் பரிசேயர்களிலும் சிலர் அவரைப் பார்த்து: போதகரே, உம்மால் ஒரு அடையாளத்தைக் காணவிரும்புகிறோம் என்றார்கள். ³⁹ அவர்களுக்கு அவர் மறுமொழியாக: இந்தப் பொல்லாத விபசாரச் சந்ததியார் அடையாளத்தைத் தேடுகிறார்கள்; ஆனாலும் யோனா தீர்க்கதரிசியின் அடையாளத்தைத் தவிர வேறு அடையாளம் இவர்களுக்குக் கொடுக்கப்படுவதில்லை. ⁴⁰ யோனா இரவும் பகலும் மூன்று நாட்கள் ஒரு பெரிய மீனின் வயிற்றில் இருந்ததுபோல, மனிதகுமாரனும் இரவும் பகலும் மூன்று நாட்கள் பூமியின் இருதயத்தில் இருப்பார். ⁴¹ யோனாவின் பிரசங்கத்தைக் கேட்டு நினைவே பட்டணத்தார் மனந்திரும்பினார்கள். இதோ, யோனாவிலும் பெரியவர் இங்கே இருக்கிறார். ஆதலால் நியாயத்தீர்ப்புநாளிலே நினைவே பட்டணத்தார் இந்தச் சந்ததியாரோடு எழுந்து நின்று இவர்கள்மேல் குற்றஞ்சுமத்துவார்கள். ⁴² தென்தேசத்து ராணி பூமியின் எல்லைகளிலிருந்து சாலொமோனுடைய ஞானத்தைக் கேட்க வந்தாள். இதோ, சாலொமோனைவிட பெரியவர் இங்கே இருக்கிறார். ஆதலால் நியாயத்தீர்ப்புநாளிலே அந்த ராணி இந்தச் சந்ததியாரோடு எழுந்து நின்று இவர்கள்மேல் குற்றஞ்சுமத்துவாள். ⁴³ அசுத்தஆவி ஒரு மனிதனைவிட்டுப் புறப்படும்போது, வறண்ட இடங்களில் அலைந்து, இளைப்பாறுதல் தேடியும் கண்டடையாமல்: ⁴⁴ நான் விட்டுவந்த என் வீட்டிற்குத் திரும்பிப்போவேன் என்று சொல்லி; அங்கே வந்து, அந்த வீடு வெறுமையாகவும், பெருக்கி, அலங்கரிக்கப்பட்டதாகவும் இருப்பதைப் பார்த்து, ⁴⁵ திரும்பிப்போய், தன்னைவிடப் பொல்லாத வேறு ஏழு ஆவிகளைத் தன்னோடு அழைத்துக்கொண்டுவந்து, உள்ளே நுழைந்து, அங்கே குடியிருக்கும்; அப்பொழுது, அந்த மனிதனுடைய முன்னிலைமையைவிட அவனுடைய பின்னிலைமை மிகவும் மோசமானதாக இருக்கும்; அப்படியே இந்தப் பொல்லாத சந்ததியார்களுக்கும் நடக்கும் என்றார்.

⁴⁶ இப்படி அவர் மக்களோடு பேசிக்கொண்டிருக்கும்போது, அவருடைய தாயாரும் சகோதரர்களும் அவரிடத்தில் பேசவேண்டுமென்று வெளியே நின்றார்கள். ⁴⁷ அப்பொழுது, ஒருவன் அவரைப் பார்த்து: உம்முடைய தாயாரும் உம்முடைய சகோதரர்களும் உம்மோடு பேசவேண்டுமென்று வெளியே நிற்கிறார்கள் என்றான். ⁴⁸ தம்மிடத்தில் இப்படிச் சொன்னவனுக்கு அவர் மறுமொழியாக: என் தாயார் யார்? என் சகோதரர்கள் யார்? என்று சொல்லி, ⁴⁹ தம்முடைய கையைத் தமது சீடர்களுக்கு நேராக நீட்டி; இதோ, என் தாயும் என் சகோதரர்களும் இவர்களே! ⁵⁰ பரலோகத்திலிருக்கிற என் பிதாவின் விருப்பத்தின்படி செய்கிறவன் எவனோ, அவனே எனக்கு சகோதரனும், சகோதரியும், தாயுமாகவும் இருக்கிறான் என்றார்.

அத்தியாயம்- 13

¹ இயேசு அன்றைய தினமே வீட்டிலிருந்து புறப்பட்டுப்போய், கடலோரத்திலே உட்கார்ந்தார். ² திரளான மக்கள் அவரிடத்தில் கூடிவந்தபடியால், அவர் படகில் ஏறி உட்கார்ந்தார்; மக்களெல்லோரும் கரையிலே நின்றார்கள். ³ அவர் அநேக காரியங்களை உவமைகளாக அவர்களுக்குச் சொன்னார்: கேளுங்கள், விதைக்கிறவன் ஒருவன் விதைக்கப் புறப்பட்டான். ⁴ அவன் விதைக்கும்போது, சில விதைகள் வழியருகே விழுந்தன; பறவைகள் வந்து அவைகளைச் சாப்பிட்டன. ⁵ சில விதைகள் அதிக மண்ணில்லாத கற்பாறை இடங்களில் விழுந்தன; மண் ஆழமாக இல்லாததினாலே அவைகள் சீக்கிரமாக முளைத்தன. ⁶ வெயில் ஏறினபோதோ, கருகிப்போய், வேரில்லாமையால் உலர்ந்துபோயின. ⁷ சில விதைகள் முள்ளுள்ள இடங்களில் விழுந்தன; முள் வளர்ந்து அவைகளை நெருக்கிப்போட்டது. ⁸ சில விதைகளோ நல்ல நிலத்தில் விழுந்தன, சில விதைகள் நூறாகவும், சில விதைகள் அறுபதாகவும், சில விதைகள் முப்பதாகவும் பலன் தந்தன. ⁹ கேட்கிறதற்குக் காதுள்ளவன் கேட்கவேண்டும் என்றார். ¹⁰ அப்பொழுது, சீடர்கள் அவரிடத்தில் வந்து: ஏன் அவர்களோடு உவமைகளாக பேசுகிறீர் என்று கேட்டார்கள். ¹¹ அவர்களுக்கு அவர் மறுமொழியாக: பரலோகராஜ்யத்தின் இரகசியங்களை அறியும்படி உங்களுக்கு அருளப்பட்டது, அவர்களுக்கோ அருளப்படவில்லை. ¹² உள்ளவன் எவனோ அவனுக்குக் கொடுக்கப்படும், பரிபூரணமும் அடைவான்; இல்லாதவன் எவனோ அவனிடத்தில் உள்ளதும் எடுத்துக்கொள்ளப்படும். ¹³ அவர்கள் கண்டும் காணாதவர்களாகவும், கேட்டும் கேளாதவர்களாகவும், உணர்ந்துகொள்ளாதவர்களாகவும் இருக்கிறபடியினால், நான் உவமைகளாக அவர்களோடு பேசுகிறேன். ¹⁴ ஏசாயாவின் தீர்க்கதரிசனம் அவர்களிடத்தில் நிறைவேறுகிறது; அதாவது: காதாரக்கேட்டும் உணராதிருப்பீர்கள்; கண்ணாரக்கண்டும் அறியாதிருப்பீர்கள். ¹⁵ இந்த மக்கள் கண்களினால் காணாமலும், காதுகளினால் கேளாமலும், இருதயத்தினால் உணர்ந்து மனந்திரும்பாமலும், நான் அவர்களை ஆரோக்கியமாக்காமலும் இருக்கும்படியாக, அவர்கள் இருதயம் கொழுத்திருக்கிறது; காதால் மந்தமாகக் கேட்டு, தங்களுடைய கண்களை மூடிக்கொண்டார்கள் என்பதே. ¹⁶ உங்களுடைய கண்கள் காண்கிறதினாலும், உங்களுடைய காதுகள் கேட்கிறதினாலும், அவைகள் பாக்கியமுள்ளவைகள். ¹⁷ அநேக தீர்க்கதரிசிகளும் நீதிமான்களும் நீங்கள் காண்கிறவைகளைக் காணவும், நீங்கள் கேட்கிறவைகளைக் கேட்கவும் விரும்பியும், காணாமலும் கேளாமலும் போனார்களென்று, உண்மையாகவே உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன். ¹⁸ ஆகவே, விதைக்கிறவனைப்பற்றிய உவமையைக் கேளுங்கள். ¹⁹ ஒருவன், ராஜ்யத்தின் வசனத்தைக் கேட்டும் உணராதிருக்கும்போது, சாத்தான் வந்து, அவன் இருதயத்தில் விதைக்கப்பட்டதைப் பறித்துக்கொள்ளுகிறான்; அவனே வழியருகே விதைக்கப்பட்டவன். ²⁰ கற்பாறை இடங்களில் விதைக்கப்பட்டவன், வசனத்தைக்கேட்டு, உடனே அதை மகிழ்ச்சியோடு ஏற்றுக்கொள்கிறவன்; ²¹ ஆனாலும் தனக்குள்ளே வேரில்லாதவனாக, கொஞ்சக்காலம்மட்டும் நிலைத்திருப்பான்; வசனத்தினிமித்தம் உபத்திரவமும் துன்பமும் உண்டானவுடனே இடறலடைவான். ²² முள்ளுள்ள இடங்களில் விதைக்கப்பட்டவன், வசனத்தைக் கேட்கிறவனாக இருந்து, உலகத்தின் கவலையும் செல்வத்தின் மயக்கமும் வசனத்தை நெருக்கிப்போடுகிறதினால், அவனும் பலனற்றுப்போவான். ²³ நல்ல நிலத்தில் விதைக்கப்பட்டவனோ, வசனத்தைக் கேட்கிறவனும் உணருகிறவனுமாக இருந்து, நூறுமடங்காகவும் அறுபதுமடங்காகவும் முப்பதுமடங்காகவும் பலன் தருவான் என்றார்.

²⁴ வேறொரு உவமையை அவர்களுக்குச் சொன்னார்: பரலோகராஜ்யம் தன் நிலத்தில் நல்ல விதையை விதைத்த மனிதனுக்கு ஒப்பாக இருக்கிறது. ²⁵ மனிதர்கள் தூங்கும்போது அவனுடைய சத்துரு வந்து, கோதுமைக்குள் களைகளை விதைத்துவிட்டுப்போனான். ²⁶ பயிரானது வளர்ந்து கதிர்விட்டபோது, களைகளும் காணப்பட்டது. ²⁷ வீட்டெஜமானுடைய வேலைக்காரர்கள் அவனிடத்தில் வந்து: ஆண்டவனே, நீர் உமது நிலத்தில் நல்ல விதையை விதைத்தீர் அல்லவா? பின்னே அதில் களைகள் எப்படி உண்டானது என்றார்கள். ²⁸ அதற்கு அவன்: சத்துரு அதைச் செய்தான் என்றான். அப்பொழுது வேலைக்காரர்கள்: நாங்கள்போய் அவைகளைப் பிடுங்கிப்போட உமக்கு விருப்பமா? என்று கேட்டார்கள். ²⁹ அதற்கு அவன்: வேண்டாம், களைகளைப் பிடுங்கும்போது நீங்கள் கோதுமையையும்சேர்த்து வேரோடு பிடுங்காதபடிக்கு, இரண்டையும் அறுப்புமட்டும் வளரவிடுங்கள். ³⁰ அறுப்புக்காலத்தில் நான் அறுக்கிறவர்களைப் பார்த்து: முதலாவது, களைகளைப் பிடுங்கி, அவைகளைச் சுட்டெரிக்கிறதற்குக் கட்டுகளாகக் கட்டுங்கள்; கோதுமையையோ என் களஞ்சியத்தில் சேர்த்துவையுங்கள் என்பேன் என்று சொன்னான் என்றார்.

³¹ வேறொரு உவமையை அவர்களுக்குச் சொன்னார்: பரலோகராஜ்யம் கடுகுவிதைக்கு ஒப்பாக இருக்கிறது; அதை ஒரு மனிதன் எடுத்துத் தன் நிலத்தில் விதைத்தான். ³² அது எல்லாவிதைகளிலும் சிறியதாயிருந்தும், வளரும்போது, எல்லாச் செடிகளிலும் பெரியதாகி, ஆகாயத்துப் பறவைகள் அதின்

கிளைகளில் வந்து அடையத்தக்க மரமாகும் என்றார். ³³ வேறொரு உவமையை அவர்களுக்குச் சொன்னார்: பரலோகராஜ்யம் புளித்த மாவிற்கு ஒப்பாக இருக்கிறது; அதை ஒரு பெண் எடுத்து, முழுவதும் புளிக்கும்வரைக்கும், மூன்றுபடி மாவிலே பிசைந்துவைத்தாள் என்றார். ³⁴ இவைகளையெல்லாம் இயேசு மக்களோடு உவமைகளாகப் பேசினார்; உவமைகளில்லாமல், அவர்களோடு பேசவில்லை. ³⁵ என் வாயை உவமைகளினால் திறப்பேன்; உலகத்தோற்றமுதல் மறைபொருளானவைகளை வெளிப்படுத்துவேன் என்று தீர்க்கதரிசியால் சொல்லப்பட்டது நிறைவேறும்படி இப்படி நடந்தது.

³⁶ அப்பொழுது இயேசு மக்களை அனுப்பிவிட்டு வீட்டிற்குப் போனார். அவருடைய சீடர்கள் அவரிடத்தில் வந்து: நிலத்தின் களைகளைப்பற்றிய உவமையை எங்களுக்கு விளக்கிச்சொல்லவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டார்கள். ³⁷ அவர் மறுமொழியாக: நல்ல விதையை விதைக்கிறவன் மனிதகுமாரன்; ³⁸ நிலம் உலகம்; நல்ல விதை ராஜ்யத்தின் பிள்ளைகள்; களைகள் சாத்தானுடைய பிள்ளைகள்; ³⁹ அவைகளை விதைக்கிற சத்துரு பிசாசு; அறுவடை உலகத்தின் முடிவு; அறுக்கிறவர்கள் தேவதூதர்கள். ⁴⁰ ஆதலால், களைகளைச் சேர்த்து அக்கினியால் சுட்டெரிக்கிறதுபோல, இந்த உலகத்தின் முடிவிலே நடக்கும். ⁴¹ மனிதகுமாரன் தம்முடைய தூதர்களை அனுப்புவார்; அவர்கள் அவருடைய ராஜ்யத்தில் இருக்கிற எல்லா இடறல்களையும் அக்கிரமம் செய்கிறவர்களையும் சேர்த்து, ⁴² அவர்களை அக்கினிக்குளையிலே போடுவார்கள்; அங்கே அழுகையும் பற்கடிப்பும் உண்டாயிருக்கும். ⁴³ அப்பொழுது, நீதிமான்கள் தங்களுடைய பிதாவின் ராஜ்யத்திலே சூரியனைப்போலப் பிரகாசிப்பார்கள். கேட்கிறதற்குக் காதுள்ளவன் கேட்கவேண்டும்.

⁴⁴ அன்றியும், பரலோகராஜ்யம் நிலத்தில் புதைத்திருக்கிற புதையலுக்கு ஒப்பாக இருக்கிறது; அதை ஒரு மனிதன் பார்த்து, மறைத்து, அதைப்பற்றிய மகிழ்ச்சியினாலேபோய், தனக்கு உண்டான எல்லாவற்றையும் விற்று, அந்த நிலத்தை வாங்குகிறான். ⁴⁵ மேலும், பரலோகராஜ்யம் நல்ல முத்துக்களைத்தேடுகிற வியாபாரிக்கு ஒப்பாக இருக்கிறது. ⁴⁶ அவன் விலையுயர்ந்த ஒரு முத்தைப் பார்த்து, போய், தனக்குண்டான எல்லாவற்றையும் விற்று, அதை வாங்குகிறான்.

⁴⁷ அன்றியும், பரலோகராஜ்யம் கடலிலே போடப்பட்டு, எல்லாவிதமான மீன்களையும் சேர்த்து வாரிக்கொள்ளும் வலைக்கு ஒப்பாக இருக்கிறது. ⁴⁸ அது நிறைந்தபோது, மீனவர்கள் அதைக் கரைக்கு இழுத்து, உட்கார்ந்து, நல்லவைகளைக் கூடைகளில் சேர்த்து, ஆகாதவைகளை எறிந்துவிடுவார்கள். ⁴⁹ இப்படியே உலகத்தின் முடிவிலே நடக்கும். தேவதூதர்கள் புறப்பட்டு, நீதிமான்களின் நடுவிலிருந்து பொல்லாதவர்களைப் பிரித்து, ⁵⁰ அவர்களை அக்கினிக்குளையிலே போடுவார்கள்; அங்கே அழுகையும் பற்கடிப்பும் உண்டாயிருக்கும் என்றார். ⁵¹ பின்பு, இயேசு அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: இவைகளையெல்லாம் அறிந்துகொண்டீர்களா என்று கேட்டார். அதற்கு அவர்கள்: ஆம், அறிந்துகொண்டோம் ஆண்டவரே, என்றார்கள். ⁵² அப்பொழுது அவர் அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: இப்படி இருக்கிறபடியால், பரலோகராஜ்யத்திற்கு அடுத்தவைகளில் உபதேசிக்கப்பட்டுத் தேறின வேதபண்டிதன் எவனும் தன் பொக்கிஷத்திலிருந்து புதியவைகளையும் பழையவைகளையும் எடுத்துக்கொடுக்கிற வீட்டெஜமானாகிய மனிதனுக்கு ஒப்பாக இருக்கிறான் என்றார்.

⁵³ இயேசு இந்த உவமைகளைச் சொல்லிமுடித்தபின்பு, அந்த இடத்தைவிட்டு, ⁵⁴ தாம் வளர்ந்த ஊருக்கு வந்து, அவர்களுடைய ஜெப ஆலயத்திலே அவர்களுக்கு உபதேசம் செய்தார். அவர்கள் ஆச்சரியப்பட்டு: இவனுக்கு இந்த ஞானமும் பலத்த செய்கைகளும் எப்படி வந்தது? ⁵⁵ இவன் தச்சனுடைய குமாரன் அல்லவா? இவன் தாய் மரியாள் என்பவள் அல்லவா? யாக்கோபு, யோசே, சீமோன், யூதா என்பவர்கள் இவனுக்குச் சகோதரர்கள் அல்லவா? ⁵⁶ இவன் சகோதரிகளெல்லோரும் நம்மிடத்தில் இருக்கிறார்கள் அல்லவா? இப்படியிருக்க, இதெல்லாம் இவனுக்கு எப்படி வந்தது? என்று சொல்லி, ⁵⁷ அவரைக்குறித்து இடறலடைந்தார்கள். இயேசு அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: தீர்க்கதரிசி ஒருவன் தன் ஊரிலும் தன் வீட்டிலுமேயன்றி வேறெங்கும் அவமதிக்கப்படமாட்டான் என்றார். ⁵⁸ அவர்களுக்கு விசுவாசம் இல்லாததினால், அவர் அங்கே அதிக அற்புதங்களைச் செய்யவில்லை.

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¹ அக்காலத்தில், காற்பங்கு தேசாதிபதியாகிய ஏரோது இயேசுவின் புகழைக் கேள்விப்பட்டு, ² தன் வேலைக்காரர்களைப் பார்த்து: இவன் யோவான்ஸ்நானன்; இவன் மரித்தோரிலிருந்து உயிரோடு எழுந்தான்; ஆகவே, இவனிடத்தில் பலத்த செய்கைகள் விளங்குகிறது என்றான். ³ ஏரோது தன் சகோதரனாகிய பிலிப்புவின் மனைவி ஏரோதியாளினிமித்தம் யோவானைப் பிடித்துக் கட்டி சிறைச்சாலையில் வைத்திருந்தான். ⁴ ஏனென்றால்: நீர் அவளை உன் மனைவியாக வைத்துக்கொள்வது நியாயமில்லை என்று யோவான் அவனுக்குச் சொல்லியிருந்தான். ⁵ ஏரோது அவனைக் கொலைசெய்ய மனதாயிருந்தும், மக்கள் அவனைத் தீர்க்கதரிசியென்று எண்ணினபடியால் அவர்களுக்குப் பயந்திருந்தான். ⁶ அப்படியிருக்க, ஏரோதின் பிறந்தநாள் கொண்டாடப்படுகிறபோது, ஏரோதியாளின் மகள் அவர்கள் நடுவே நடனம்பண்ணி ஏரோதைச் சந்தோஷப்படுத்தினாள். ⁷ அதினிமித்தம் ஏரோது: நீ எதைக்கேட்டாலும் தருவேன் என்று அவளுக்கு ஆணையிட்டு வாக்குக்கொடுத்தான். ⁸ அவள் தன் தாயினால் சொல்லப்பட்டபடியே: யோவான்ஸ்நானனுடைய தலையை இங்கே ஒரு தட்டிலே வைத்து எனக்குத் தரவேண்டும் என்று கேட்டாள். ⁹ ராஜா துக்கமடைந்தான். ஆனாலும், ஆணையினிமித்தமும், பந்தியில் கூட இருந்தவர்களினிமித்தமும், அதைக் கொடுக்கக்கட்டளையிட்டு, ¹⁰ ஆள் அனுப்பி, சிறைச்சாலையிலே யோவானின் தலையை வெட்டிச்செய்தான். ¹¹ அவனுடைய தலையை ஒரு தட்டிலே கொண்டுவந்து, சிறு பெண்ணுக்குக் கொடுத்தார்கள்; அவள் அதைத் தன் தாயினிடத்தில் கொண்டுபோனாள். ¹² அவனுடைய சீடர்கள் வந்து சரீரத்தை எடுத்து அடக்கம்செய்து, பின்புபோய் அந்தச் செய்தியை இயேசுவிற்கு அறிவித்தார்கள்.

¹³ இயேசு அதைக்கேட்டு, அந்த இடத்தைவிட்டு, படகில் ஏறி, வனாந்திரமான ஒரு இடத்திற்குத் தனியே போனார். மக்கள் அதைக் கேள்விப்பட்டு, பட்டணங்களிலிருந்து கால்நடையாக அவரிடத்திற்குப் போனார்கள். ¹⁴ இயேசு வந்து, திரளான மக்களைக் கண்டு, அவர்கள்மேல் மனதுருகி, அவர்களில் வியாதியுள்ளவர்களைச் சுகமாக்கினார். ¹⁵ மாலைநேரமானபோது, அவருடைய சீடர்கள் அவரிடத்தில் வந்து: இது வனாந்திரமான இடம், நேரமுமானது; மக்கள் கிராமங்களுக்குப்போய்த் தங்களுக்கு உணவு பதார்த்தங்களை வாங்கும்படி அவர்களை அனுப்பிவிடவேண்டும் என்றார்கள். ¹⁶ இயேசு அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: அவர்கள் போகவேண்டியதில்லை; நீங்களே அவர்களுக்கு உணவுகொடுங்கள் என்றார். ¹⁷ அதற்கு அவர்கள்: இங்கே எங்களிடம் ஐந்து அப்பங்களும் இரண்டு மீன்களுமேயல்லாமல், வேறொன்றும் இல்லை என்றார்கள். ¹⁸ அவைகளை என்னிடத்தில் கொண்டுவாருங்கள் என்றார். ¹⁹ அப்பொழுது, அவர் மக்களைப் புல்லின்மேல் பந்தியிருக்கக் கட்டளையிட்டு, அந்த ஐந்து அப்பங்களையும், அந்த இரண்டு மீன்களையும் எடுத்து, வானத்தை அண்ணாந்துபார்த்து, ஆசீர்வதித்து, அப்பங்களைப் பிட்டு சீடர்களிடத்தில் கொடுத்தார்; சீடர்கள் மக்களுக்குக் கொடுத்தார்கள். ²⁰ எல்லோரும் சாப்பிட்டுத் திருப்தியடைந்தார்கள்; மீதியான அப்பத்துணிக்கைகளைப் பன்னிரண்டு கூடைகள்நிறைய எடுத்தார்கள். ²¹ பெண்களும் பிள்ளைகளும்தவிர, சாப்பிட்ட ஆண்கள் ஏறக்குறைய ஐயாயிரம்பேராக இருந்தார்கள்.

²² இயேசு மக்களை அனுப்பிவிடும்போது, தம்முடைய சீடர்கள் படகில் ஏறி, தமக்கு முன்னே அக்கரைக்குப் போகும்படி அவர்களைத் துரிதப்படுத்தினார். ²³ அவர் மக்களை அனுப்பிவிட்டப்பின்பு, தனித்து ஜெபம்செய்ய ஒரு மலையின்மேல் ஏறி, மாலைநேரமானபோது அங்கே தனிமையாக இருந்தார். ²⁴ அதற்குள்ளாகப் படகு நடுக்கடலிலே சேர்ந்து, எதிர்க்காற்றாயிருந்தபடியால் அலைகளினால் தள்ளாடியது. ²⁵ அதிகாலையிலே, இயேசு கடலின்மேல் நடந்து, அவர்களிடத்திற்கு வந்தார். ²⁶ அவர் கடலின்மேல் நடக்கிறதை சீடர்கள் கண்டு, கலக்கமடைந்து, பிசாசு என்று சொல்லி, பயத்தினால் அலறினார்கள். ²⁷ உடனே இயேசு அவர்களோடு பேசி: திடன்கொள்ளுங்கள், நான்தான், பயப்படாமலிருங்கள் என்றார். ²⁸ பேதுரு அவரைப் பார்த்து: ஆண்டவரே! நீரேயானால் நான் தண்ணீரின்மேல் நடந்து உம்மிடத்தில் வரக் கட்டளையிடும் என்றான். ²⁹ அதற்கு அவர்: வா என்றார். அப்பொழுது, பேதுரு படகைவிட்டு இறங்கி, இயேசுவினிடத்தில் போகத் தண்ணீரின்மேல் நடந்தான். ³⁰ காற்று பலமாக இருக்கிறதைக் கண்டு, பயந்து, மூழ்கும்போது: ஆண்டவரே, என்னை இரட்சியும் என்று கூப்பிட்டான். ³¹ உடனே இயேசு கையை நீட்டி அவனைப் பிடித்து: விசுவாசக் குறைவுள்ளவனே, ஏன் சந்தேகப்பட்டாய் என்றார். ³² அவர்கள் படகில் ஏறினவுடனே காற்று அமர்ந்தது. ³³ அப்பொழுது, படகில் உள்ளவர்கள் வந்து: உண்மையாகவே நீர் தேவனுடைய குமாரன் என்று சொல்லி, அவரைப் பணிந்துகொண்டார்கள். ³⁴ பின்பு, அவர்கள் கடலைக்கடந்து, கெனேசரேத்து நாட்டிற்கு வந்தார்கள். ³⁵ அந்த இடத்து மனிதர்கள் அவரை யார் என்று அறிந்து, சுற்றுப்புறமெங்கும் செய்தி அனுப்பி, வியாதியுள்ளவர்கள் எல்லோரையும் அவரிடத்தில் கொண்டுவந்து, ³⁶ அவருடைய ஆடையின் ஓரத்தையாவது அவர்கள் தொடுவதற்கு அனுமதிக்கவேண்டுமென்று அவரை வேண்டிக்கொண்டார்கள்; தொட்ட எல்லோரும் குணமானார்கள்.

அத்தியாயம்- 15

¹ அப்பொழுது, எருசலேமிலிருந்து வந்த வேதபண்டிதர்களும் பரிசேயர்களும் இயேசுவினிடத்தில் வந்து: ² உம்முடைய சீடர்கள் முன்னோர்களின் பாரம்பரியத்தை ஏன் மீறி நடக்கிறார்கள்? கைகழுவாமல் சாப்பிடுகிறார்களே! என்றார்கள். ³ அவர்களுக்கு அவர் மறுமொழியாக: நீங்கள் உங்களுடைய பாரம்பரியத்தினாலே தேவனுடைய கட்டளையை ஏன் மீறி நடக்கிறீர்கள்? ⁴ உன் தகப்பனையும் உன் தாயையும் மதித்து நடப்பாயாக என்றும்; தகப்பனையாவது தாயையாவது நிந்திக்கிறவன் கொல்லப்படவேண்டும் என்றும், தேவன் கட்டளை கொடுத்திருக்கிறாரே. ⁵ நீங்களோ, எவனாவது தகப்பனையாவது தாயையாவது பார்த்து உனக்கு நான் செய்யவேண்டிய உதவி எதுவோ, அதை தேவனுக்குக் காணிக்கையாகக் கொடுக்கிறேன் என்று சொல்லி, தன் தகப்பனையாவது தன் தாயையாவது மதிக்காமற்போனாலும், அவனுடைய கடமை முடிந்ததென்று போதித்து, ⁶ உங்களுடைய பாரம்பரியத்தினாலே தேவனுடைய கட்டளையை அவமாக்கிவருகிறீர்கள். ⁷ மாயக்காரர்களே, உங்களைக்குறித்து: ⁸ இந்த மக்கள் தங்களுடைய உதட்டளவில் என்னிடத்தில் சேர்ந்து, தங்களுடைய உதடுகளினால் என்னை மதிக்கிறார்கள்; அவர்கள் இருதயமோ என்னைவிட்டு தூரமாக விலகியிருக்கிறது; ⁹ மனிதர்களுடைய கட்டளைகளை உபதேசங்களாகப் போதித்து, வீணாக எனக்கு ஆராதனை செய்கிறார்கள் என்று ஏசாயா தீர்க்கதரிசி நன்றாகச் சொல்லியிருக்கிறான் என்றார். ¹⁰ பின்பு அவர் மக்களை வரவழைத்து, அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: நீங்கள் கேட்டு உணருங்கள். ¹¹ வாய்க்குள்ளே போகிறது மனிதனைத் தீட்டுப்படுத்தாது, வாயிலிருந்து புறப்படுகிறதே மனிதனைத் தீட்டுப்படுத்தும் என்றார். ¹² அப்பொழுது, அவருடைய சீடர்கள் அவரிடத்தில் வந்து: பரிசேயர்கள் இந்த வசனத்தைக்கேட்டு இடறலடைந்தார்கள் என்று அறிவீரா என்றார்கள். ¹³ அவர் மறுமொழியாக: என் பரமபிதா நடாத நாற்றெல்லாம் வேரோடு பிடுங்கப்படும். ¹⁴ அவர்களை விட்டுவிடுங்கள், அவர்கள் குருடர்களுக்கு வழிகாட்டுகிற குருடர்களாக இருக்கிறார்கள்; குருடனுக்குக் குருடன் வழிகாட்டினால் இருவரும் குழியிலே விழுவார்களே என்றார். ¹⁵ அப்பொழுது, பேதுரு அவரைப் பார்த்து: இந்த உவமையை எங்களுக்கு விளக்கிச்சொல்லவேண்டும் என்றான். ¹⁶ அதற்கு இயேசு: நீங்களும் இன்னும் உணர்வில்லாதவர்களாக இருக்கிறீர்களா? ¹⁷ வாய்க்குள்ளே போகிறதெல்லாம் வயிற்றுக்குள் சென்று ஆசனவழியாகக் கழிந்துபோகும் என்பதை நீங்கள் இன்னும் அறியவில்லையா? ¹⁸ வாயிலிருந்து புறப்படுகிறவைகள் இருதயத்திலிருந்து புறப்பட்டுவரும்; அவைகளே மனிதனைத் தீட்டுப்படுத்தும். ¹⁹ எப்படியென்றால், இருதயத்திலிருந்து பொல்லாத சிந்தனைகளும், கொலைபாதகங்களும், விபசாரங்களும், வேசித்தனங்களும், களவுகளும், பொய்ச்சாட்சிகளும், அவதூறுகளும் புறப்பட்டுவரும். ²⁰ இவைகளே மனிதனைத் தீட்டுப்படுத்தும்; கைகளைக் கழுவாமல் சாப்பிடுகிறது மனிதனைத் தீட்டுப்படுத்தாது என்றார்.

²¹ பின்பு, இயேசு அந்த இடத்தைவிட்டுப் புறப்பட்டு, தீரு சீதோன் பட்டணங்களின் திசைகளுக்குப் போனார். ²² அப்பொழுது, அந்தத் திசைகளில் குடியிருக்கிற கானானியப் பெண் ஒருத்தி அவரிடத்தில் வந்து: ஆண்டவரே, தாவீதின் குமாரனே, எனக்கு இரங்கும், என் மகள் பிசாசினால் கொடிய வேதனைப்படுகிறாள் என்று சொல்லிக் கூப்பிட்டாள். ²³ அவளுக்கு மறுமொழியாக அவர் ஒரு வார்த்தையும் சொல்லவில்லை. அப்பொழுது அவருடைய சீடர்கள் வந்து: இவள் நம்மைப் பின்தொடர்ந்து கூப்பிடுகிறாளே, இவளை அனுப்பிவிடும் என்று அவரை வேண்டிக்கொண்டார்கள். ²⁴ அதற்கு அவர்: காணாமற்போன ஆடுகளாகிய இஸ்ரவேல் குடும்பத்தாரிடத்திற்கு அனுப்பப்பட்டேனேதவிர, மற்றவர்களுக்கல்ல என்றார். ²⁵ அவள் வந்து: ஆண்டவரே, எனக்கு உதவிசெய்யும் என்று அவரைப் பணிந்துகொண்டாள். ²⁶ அவர் அவளைப் பார்த்து: பிள்ளைகளின் அப்பத்தை எடுத்து, நாய்க்குட்டிகளுக்குப் போடுகிறது நல்லதல்ல என்றார். ²⁷ அதற்கு அவள்: உண்மைதான் ஆண்டவரே, ஆனாலும் நாய்க்குட்டிகள் தங்களுடைய எஜமான்களின் மேஜையிலிருந்து விழும் அப்பத்துணிக்கைகளைச் சாப்பிடுமே என்றான். ²⁸ இயேசு அவளுக்கு மறுமொழியாக: பெண்ணே, உன் விசுவாசம் பெரியது; நீ விரும்புகிறபடி உனக்கு ஆக்ககடவது என்றார். அந்த நேரமே அவளுடைய மகள் ஆரோக்கியமானாள்.

²⁹ இயேசு அந்த இடத்தைவிட்டுப் புறப்பட்டு, கலிலேயாக் கடலருகே வந்து, ஒரு மலையின்மேல் ஏறி, அங்கே உட்கார்ந்தார். ³⁰ அப்பொழுது, முடவர்கள், குருடர்கள், ஊமையர்கள், ஊனர்கள் முதலிய அநேகரை திரளான மக்கள் இயேசுவினிடத்தில் அழைத்துவந்து, அவர்களை அவர் பாதத்திலே வைத்தார்கள்; அவர்களை அவர் குணப்படுத்தினார். ³¹ ஊமையர் பேசுகிறதையும், ஊனர்கள் குணமடைகிறதையும், கைகால்கள் முடங்கியவர்கள் நடக்கிறதையும், குருடர்கள் பார்க்கிறதையும் மக்கள் கண்டு, ஆச்சரியப்பட்டு, இஸ்ரவேலின் தேவனை மகிமைப்படுத்தினார்கள். ³² பின்பு, இயேசு தம்முடைய சீடர்களை அழைத்து: மக்களுக்காக மனதுருகுகிறேன், இவர்கள் என்னிடத்தில் மூன்று நாட்கள் தங்கியிருந்து சாப்பிட ஒன்றுமில்லாதிருக்கிறார்கள்; இவர்களைப் பட்டினியாக அனுப்பிவிட எனக்கு

மனதில்லை, வழியிலே சோர்ந்துபோவார்களே என்றார். ³³ அதற்கு அவருடைய சீடர்கள்: இவ்வளவு திரளான மக்களுக்குத் திருப்தியுண்டாகும்படி தேவையான அப்பங்கள் இந்த வனாந்திரத்திலே நமக்கு எப்படி கிடைக்கும் என்றார்கள். ³⁴ அதற்கு இயேசு: உங்களிடம் எத்தனை அப்பங்கள் உண்டு என்று கேட்டார். அவர்கள்: ஏழு அப்பங்களும் சில சிறு மீன்களும் உண்டு என்றார்கள். ³⁵ அப்பொழுது அவர் மக்களைத் தரையில் பந்தியிருக்கக் கட்டளையிட்டு, ³⁶ அந்த ஏழு அப்பங்களையும் அந்த மீன்களையும் எடுத்து, நன்றிசெலுத்தி, பிட்டுத் தம்முடைய சீடர்களிடத்தில் கொடுத்தார்; சீடர்கள் மக்களுக்குப் பரிமாறினார்கள். ³⁷ எல்லோரும் சாப்பிட்டுத் திருப்தியடைந்தார்கள்; மீதியான அப்பத்துணிகளை ஏழு கூடைகள்நிறைய எடுத்தார்கள். ³⁸ பெண்களும் பிள்ளைகளும் தவிர, சாப்பிட்ட ஆண்கள் நான்காயிரம்பேராக இருந்தார்கள். ³⁹ அவர் மக்களை அனுப்பிவிட்டு படகில் ஏறி, மக்தலாவின் எல்லைகளுக்கு வந்தார்.

அத்தியாயம்- 16

¹ பரிசேயர்களும், சதுசேயர்களும் அவரைச் சோதிக்கும்படி அவரிடத்தில் வந்து: வானத்திலிருந்து ஒரு அடையாளத்தைத் தங்களுக்குக் காண்பிக்கவேண்டும் என்று கேட்டார்கள். ² அவர்களுக்கு அவர் மறுமொழியாக: மாலைநேரமாகிறபோது செவ்வானமிட்டிருக்கிறது, அதினால் அமைதியாக இருக்கும் என்று சொல்லுகிறீர்கள். ³ உதயமாகிறபோது, செவ்வானமும் மந்தாரமுமாக இருக்கிறது, அதினால் இன்றைக்குக் காற்றும் மழையும் உண்டாகும் என்று சொல்லுகிறீர்கள். மாயக்காரர்களே, வானத்தின் தோற்றத்தை நிதானிக்க உங்களுக்குத் தெரியுமே, காலங்களின் அடையாளங்களை நிதானிக்க உங்களால் கூடாதா? ⁴ இந்தப் பொல்லாத விபசார சந்ததியார் அடையாளம் தேடுகிறார்கள்; யோனா தீர்க்கதரிசியின் அடையாளமேதவிர வேறு அடையாளம் இவர்களுக்குக் கொடுக்கப்படுவதில்லை என்று சொல்லி, அவர்களைவிட்டுப் புறப்பட்டுப்போனார்.

⁵ அவருடைய சீடர்கள் அக்கரையைச் சேர்ந்தபோது, அப்பங்களைக் கொண்டுவர மறந்துபோனார்கள். ⁶ இயேசு அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: பரிசேயர்கள் சதுசேயர்கள் என்பவர்களின் புளித்த மாவைக்குறித்து எச்சரிக்கையாக இருங்கள் என்றார். ⁷ நாம் அப்பங்களைக் கொண்டுவராததினால் இப்படிச் சொல்லுகிறார் என்று அவர்கள் தங்களுக்குள்ளே யோசனைபண்ணிக்கொண்டார்கள். ⁸ இயேசு அதை அறிந்து: விசுவாசக்குறைவுள்ளவர்களே, அப்பங்களைக் கொண்டுவராததைக்குறித்து நீங்கள் உங்களுக்குள்ளே யோசனைபண்ணுகிறதென்ன? ⁹ இன்னும் நீங்கள் உணரவில்லையா? ஐந்து அப்பங்களை ஐயாயிரம்பேருக்குப் பகிர்ந்ததையும், மீதியானதை எத்தனைக் கூடைகள்நிறைய எடுத்தீர்கள் என்பதையும்; ¹⁰ ஏழு அப்பங்களை நாலாயிரம் பேருக்குப் பகிர்ந்ததையும், மீதியானதை எத்தனை கூடைகள்நிறைய எடுத்தீர்கள் என்பதையும் நீங்கள் நினைவுகூராமலிருக்கிறீர்களா? ¹¹ பரிசேயர்கள் சதுசேயர்கள் என்பவர்களின் புளித்த மாவிற்கு எச்சரிக்கையாக இருக்கவேண்டும் என்று நான் சொன்னது அப்பத்தைக்குறித்துச் சொல்லவில்லை என்று நீங்கள் உணராதிருக்கிறது எப்படி என்றார். ¹² அப்பொழுது, அவர் அப்பத்தின் புளித்த மாவைக்குறித்து எச்சரிக்கையாக இருக்கவேண்டுமென்று சொல்லாமல், பரிசேயர்கள் சதுசேயர்கள் என்பவர்களின் உபதேசத்தைக்குறித்தே அப்படிச் சொன்னார் என்று அறிந்துகொண்டார்கள்.

¹³ பின்பு, இயேசு பிலிப்பு செசரியாவின் பட்டணத்திற்கு வந்தபோது, தம்முடைய சீடர்களைப் பார்த்து: மனிதகுமாரனாகிய என்னை மக்கள் யார் என்று சொல்லுகிறார்கள் என்று கேட்டார். ¹⁴ அதற்கு அவர்கள்: சிலர் உம்மை யோவான்ஸ்நானன் என்றும், சிலர் எலியா என்றும்; வேறுசிலர் எரேமியா அல்லது தீர்க்கதரிசிகளில் ஒருவர் என்றும் சொல்லுகிறார்கள் என்றார்கள். ¹⁵ அப்பொழுது அவர்: நீங்கள் என்னை யார் என்று சொல்லுகிறீர்கள் என்று கேட்டார். ¹⁶ சீமோன்பேதுரு மறுமொழியாக: நீர் ஜீவனுள்ள தேவனுடைய குமாரனாகிய கிறிஸ்து என்றான். ¹⁷ இயேசு அவனைப் பார்த்து: யோனாவின் குமாரனாகிய சீமோனே, நீ பாக்கியவான்; மாம்சமும் இரத்தமும் இதை உனக்கு வெளிப்படுத்தவில்லை, பரலோகத்திலிருக்கிற என் பிதா இதை உனக்கு வெளிப்படுத்தினார். ¹⁸ மேலும், நான் உனக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன், நீ பேதுருவாய் இருக்கிறாய், இந்தக் கல்லின்மேல் என் சபையைக் கட்டுவேன்; பாதாளத்தின் வாசல்கள் அதை மேற்கொள்வதில்லை. ¹⁹ பரலோகராஜ்யத்தின் திறவுகோல்களை நான் உனக்குத் தருவேன்; பூலோகத்திலே நீ கட்டுகிறது எதுவோ அது பரலோகத்திலும் கட்டப்பட்டிருக்கும், பூலோகத்திலே நீ கட்டவிழ்ப்பது எதுவோ அது பரலோகத்திலும் கட்டவிழ்க்கப்பட்டிருக்கும் என்றார். ²⁰ அப்பொழுது, தாம் கிறிஸ்துவாகிய இயேசு என்று ஒருவருக்கும் சொல்லாதபடிக்குத் தம்முடைய சீடர்களுக்குக் கட்டளையிட்டார்.

²¹ அதுமுதல் இயேசு, தாம் எருசலேமுக்குப்போய், மூப்பர்களாலும் பிரதான ஆசாரியர்களாலும், வேதபண்டிதர்களாலும் பல பாடுகள்பட்டு, கொலையுண்டு, மூன்றாம்நாளில் உயிரோடு எழுந்திருக்கவேண்டும் என்பதைத் தம்முடைய சீடர்களுக்குச் சொல்லத்தொடங்கினார். ²² அப்பொழுது, பேதுரு அவரைத் தனியே அழைத்துக்கொண்டுபோய்: ஆண்டவரே, இது உமக்கு சம்பவிக்கக்கூடாதே, இது உமக்குச் சம்பவிப்பதில்லை என்று அவரைக் கடிந்துகொள்ளத்தொடங்கினான். ²³ அவரோ திரும்பி, பேதுருவைப் பார்த்து: எனக்குப் பின்னாகப்போ, சாத்தானே, நீ எனக்கு இடறலாக இருக்கிறாய்; தேவனுக்குரியவைகளைச் சிந்திக்காமல் மனிதர்களுக்குரியவைகளைச் சிந்திக்கிறாய் என்றார். ²⁴ அப்பொழுது, இயேசு தம்முடைய சீடர்களைப் பார்த்து: ஒருவன் என்னைப் பின்பற்றிவரவிரும்பினால், அவன் தன்னைத்தான் வெறுத்து, தன் சிலுவையை எடுத்துக்கொண்டு என்னைப் பின்பற்றவேண்டும். ²⁵ தன் ஜீவனை இரட்சிக்க விரும்புகிறவன் அதை இழந்துபோவான்; என்னிமித்தமாகத் தன் ஜீவனை இழந்துபோகிறவன் அதைக் கண்டடைவான். ²⁶ மனிதன் உலகம் முழுவதையும் ஆதாயப்படுத்திக்கொண்டாலும், தன் ஜீவனை நஷ்டப்படுத்தினால் அவனுக்கு லாபம் என்ன? மனிதன்

தன் ஜீவனுக்கு இணையாக என்னத்தைக் கொடுப்பான்? ²⁷ மனிதகுமாரன் தம்முடைய பிதாவின் மகிமை பொருந்தினவராகத் தம்முடைய தூதர்களோடு வருவார்; அப்பொழுது, அவனவன் செயல்களுக்குத்தக்கதாக அவனவனுக்குப் பலனளிப்பார். ²⁸ இங்கே நிற்கிறவர்களில் சிலர் மனிதகுமாரன் தம்முடைய ராஜ்யத்தில் வருவதைக் காண்பதற்குமுன், மரணத்தைக் காண்பதில்லை என்று, உண்மையாகவே உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன் என்றார்.

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¹ ஆறு நாட்களுக்குப்பின்பு, இயேசு பேதுருவையும் யாக்கோபையும் அவனுடைய சகோதரனாகிய யோவானையும் கூட்டிக்கொண்டு தனித்திருக்கும்படி உயர்ந்த மலையின்மேல்போய், ² அவர்களுக்கு முன்பாக மறுருபமடைந்தார்; அவருடைய முகம் சூரியனைப்போலப் பிரகாசித்தது, அவருடைய உடை ஒளியைப்போல வெண்மையானது. ³ அப்பொழுது மோசேயும் எலியாவும் அவரோடு பேசுகிறவர்களாக அவர்களுக்குக் காணப்பட்டார்கள். ⁴ அப்பொழுது பேதுரு இயேசுவைப் பார்த்து: ஆண்டவரே, நாம் இங்கே இருக்கிறது நல்லது; உமக்கு விருப்பமானால், இங்கே உமக்கு ஒரு கூடாரமும், மோசேக்கு ஒரு கூடாரமும், எலியாவிற்கு ஒரு கூடாரமுமாக, மூன்று கூடாரங்களைப் போடுவோம் என்றான். ⁵ அவன் பேசும்போது, இதோ, ஒளியுள்ள ஒரு மேகம் அவர்கள்மேல் நிழலிட்டது. இவர் என்னுடைய நேசகுமாரன், இவரில் பிரியமாக இருக்கிறேன், இவருக்குச் செவிகொடுங்கள் என்று அந்த மேகத்திலிருந்து ஒரு சத்தம் உண்டானது. ⁶ சீடர்கள் அதைக்கேட்டு, முகங்குப்புற விழுந்து, மிகவும் பயந்தார்கள். ⁷ அப்பொழுது, இயேசு வந்து, அவர்களைத் தொட்டு: எழுந்திருங்கள், பயப்படாமலிருங்கள் என்றார். ⁸ அவர்கள் தங்களுடைய கண்களை ஏறெடுத்துப் பார்க்கும்போது இயேசுவைத்தவிர வேறொருவரையும் காணவில்லை. ⁹ அவர்கள் மலையிலிருந்து இறங்குகிறபோது, இயேசு அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: மனிதகுமாரன் மரித்தோரிலிருந்து உயிரோடு எழுந்திருக்கும்வரைக்கும் இந்தத் தரிசனத்தை ஒருவருக்கும் சொல்லவேண்டாம் என்று கட்டளையிட்டார். ¹⁰ அப்பொழுது, அவருடைய சீடர்கள் அவரைப் பார்த்து: அப்படியானால் எலியா முந்தி வரவேண்டும் என்று வேதபண்டிதர்கள் சொல்லுகிறார்களே, அது எப்படியென்று கேட்டார்கள். ¹¹ இயேசு அவர்களுக்கு மறுமொழியாக: எலியா முந்திவந்து எல்லாவற்றையும் ஒழுங்குபடுத்துவது உண்மைதான். ¹² ஆனாலும், எலியா வந்தாயிற்று என்று உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன்; அவனை அறியாமல் தங்களுடைய விருப்பப்படி அவனுக்குச் செய்தார்கள்; இவ்விதமாக மனிதகுமாரனும் அவர்களால் பாடுகப்படுவார் என்றார். ¹³ அவர் யோவான்ஸ்நானனைக்குறித்துத் தங்களுக்குச் சொன்னார் என்று சீடர்கள் அப்பொழுது அறிந்துகொண்டார்கள்.

¹⁴ அவர்கள் மக்களிடத்தில் வந்தபோது, ஒரு மனிதன் அவரிடத்தில் வந்து, அவர் முன்பாக முழங்கால்படியிட்டு: ¹⁵ ஆண்டவரே, என் மகனுக்கு இரங்கும், அவன் வலிப்பு வியாதியினால் கொடிய வேதனைப்படுகிறான்; அடிக்கடி தீயிலும், அடிக்கடி தண்ணீரிலும் விழுகிறான். ¹⁶ அவனை உம்முடைய சீடர்களிடம் கொண்டுவந்தேன்; அவனை குணமாக்க அவர்களால் முடியாமற்போனது என்றான். ¹⁷ இயேசு மறுமொழியாக: விசுவாசமில்லாத மாறுபாடுள்ள சந்ததியே, எதுவரைக்கும் நான் உங்களோடு இருப்பேன்? எதுவரைக்கும் உங்களிடம் பொறுமையாக இருப்பேன்? அவனை என்னிடத்தில் கொண்டுவாருங்கள் என்றார். ¹⁸ இயேசு பிசாசை அதட்டினார்; உடனே அது அவனைவிட்டுப் வெளியேபோனது; அந்த நேரமே அந்த இளைஞன் குணமானான். ¹⁹ அப்பொழுது, சீடர்கள் இயேசுவினிடத்தில் தனிமையில் வந்து: அதைத் துரத்திவிட எங்களால் ஏன் முடியாமற்போனது என்று கேட்டார்கள். ²⁰ அதற்கு இயேசு: உங்களுடைய விசுவாசக்குறைவினாலேதான்; கடுகுவிதையளவு விசுவாசம் உங்களுக்கு இருந்தால் நீங்கள் இந்த மலையைப் பார்த்து, இந்த இடத்தைவிட்டு அப்புறம் போ என்று சொல்ல அது அப்புறம் போகும்; உங்களால் செய்யமுடியாத காரியம் ஒன்றுமிராது என்று உண்மையாகவே உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன். ²¹ இந்த வகைப் பிசாசு ஜெபத்தினாலும் உபவாசத்தினாலுமேதவிர மற்ற எவ்விதத்தினாலும் புறப்பட்டுப்போகாது என்றார். ²² அவர்கள் கலிலேயாவிலே வாழ்ந்தபோது, இயேசு அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: மனிதகுமாரன் மனிதர்களுடைய கைகளில் ஒப்புக்கொடுக்கப்படுவார். ²³ அவர்கள் அவரைக் கொலைசெய்வார்கள்; ஆனாலும் மூன்றாம்நாளிலே உயிரோடு எழுந்திருப்பார் என்றார். அவர்கள் மிகுந்த துக்கமடைந்தார்கள்.

²⁴ அவர்கள் கப்பர்நசூமில் வந்தபோது, வரிப்பணம் வாங்குகிறவர்கள் பேதுருவினிடத்தில் வந்து: உங்களுடைய போதகர் வரிப்பணம் செலுத்துகிறதில்லையா என்று கேட்டார்கள்; செலுத்துகிறார் என்றான். ²⁵ அவன் வீட்டிற்குள் வந்தபோது, அவன் பேசுகிறதற்கு முன்னமே இயேசு அவனைப் பார்த்து: சீமோனே, உனக்கு எப்படித் தோன்றுகிறது? பூமியின் ராஜாக்கள் வருமானவரியையும் மற்ற வரியையும் தங்களுடைய பிள்ளைகளிடத்திலோ, அந்நியர்களிடத்திலோ, யாரிடத்தில் வாங்குகிறார்கள் என்று கேட்டார். ²⁶ அதற்குப் பேதுரு: அந்நியர்களிடத்தில் வாங்குகிறார்கள் என்றான். இயேசு அவனைப் பார்த்து: அப்படியானால் பிள்ளைகள் அதைச் செலுத்தவேண்டியதில்லையே. ²⁷ ஆனாலும், நாம் அவர்களுக்கு இடறலாக இல்லாதபடிக்கு, நீ கடலுக்குப்போய், தூண்டில்போட்டு, முதலாவது அகப்படுகிற மீனைப் பிடித்து, அதின் வாயைத் திறந்துபார்; ஒரு வெள்ளிக்காசைக் காண்பாய்; அதை எடுத்து எனக்காகவும் உனக்காகவும் அவர்களிடம் கொடு என்றார்.

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¹ அந்த நேரத்திலே சீடர்கள் இயேசுவினிடத்தில் வந்து: பரலோகராஜ்யத்தில் எவன் பெரியவனாக இருப்பான் என்று கேட்டார்கள். ² இயேசு ஒரு பிள்ளையைத் தம்மிடத்தில் அழைத்து, அதை அவர்கள் நடுவே நிறுத்தி: ³ நீங்கள் மனந்திரும்பிப் பிள்ளைகளைப்போல மாறாவிட்டால், பரலோகராஜ்யத்தில் பிரவேசிக்கமாட்டீர்கள் என்று, உண்மையாகவே உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன். ⁴ ஆகவே, இந்தப் பிள்ளையைப்போலத் தன்னைத் தாழ்த்துகிறவன் எவனோ, அவனே பரலோகராஜ்யத்தில் பெரியவனாக இருப்பான். ⁵ இப்படிப்பட்ட ஒரு பிள்ளையை என் நாமத்தினிமித்தம் ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளுகிறவன் என்னை ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளுகிறான். ⁶ என்னிடத்தில் விசுவாசமாக இருக்கிற இந்தச் சிறியவர்களில் ஒருவனுக்கு இடறல் உண்டாக்குகிறவன் எவனோ, அவனுடைய கழுத்தில் மாவரைக்கும் கல்லைக் கட்டி, கடலின் ஆழத்திலே அவனை அமிழ்த்துகிறது அவனுக்கு நலமாக இருக்கும். ⁷ இடறல்களினிமித்தம் உலகத்திற்கு ஐயோ, இடறல்கள் வருவது அவசியம், ஆனாலும் எந்த மனிதனால் இடறல் வருகிறதோ, அவனுக்கு ஐயோ! ⁸ உன் கையாவது உன் காலாவது உனக்கு இடறல் உண்டாக்கினால், அதை வெட்டி எறிந்துபோடு; நீ இரண்டு கையுடையவனாக, அல்லது இரண்டு காலுடையவனாக நித்திய அக்கினியிலே தள்ளப்படுவதைவிட, முடவனாக, அல்லது ஊனனாக, நித்தியஜீவனுக்குள் பிரவேசிப்பது உனக்கு நலமாக இருக்கும். ⁹ உன் கண் உனக்கு இடறல் உண்டாக்கினால், அதைப் பிடுங்கி எறிந்துபோடு; இரண்டு கண்ணுடையவனாக எரிநரகத்தில் தள்ளப்படுவதைவிட, ஒற்றைக் கண்ணனாக நித்தியஜீவனுக்குள் பிரவேசிப்பது உனக்கு நலமாக இருக்கும்.

¹⁰ இந்தச் சிறியவர்களில் ஒருவனையும் அற்பமாக எண்ணாதபடிக்கு எச்சரிக்கையாக இருங்கள்; அவர்களுக்குரிய தேவதூதர்கள் பரலோகத்திலே என் பரமபிதாவின் சமூகத்தை எப்போதும் தரிசிக்கிறார்கள் என்று உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன். ¹¹ மனிதகுமாரன் இழந்துபோனதை இரட்சிக்க வந்தார். ¹² உங்களுக்கு எப்படித் தோன்றுகிறது? ஒரு மனிதனுக்கு நூறு ஆடுகளிருக்க, அவைகளில் ஒன்று காணாமற்போனால், அவன் மற்றத் தொண்ணூற்றொன்பது ஆடுகளையும் மலைகளில் விட்டுப்போய் காணாமற்போனதைத் தேடாமலிருப்பானோ? ¹³ அவன் அதைக் கண்டுபிடித்தால், காணாமல்போகாத தொண்ணூற்றொன்பது ஆடுகளைக்குறித்து மகிழ்ச்சியாக இருக்கிறதைவிட, அந்த ஒன்றைக்குறித்து அதிக மகிழ்ச்சியாக இருப்பான் என்று உண்மையாகவே உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன். ¹⁴ இவ்விதமாக, இந்தச் சிறியவரில் ஒருவன் கூட, அழிந்துபோவது பரலோகத்திலிருக்கிற உங்களுடைய பிதாவின் விருப்பமல்ல.

¹⁵ உன் சகோதரன் உனக்கு விரோதமாகக் குற்றம் செய்தால், அவனிடத்தில் போய், நீயும் அவனும் தனிமையாக இருக்கும்போது, அவன் குற்றத்தை அவனுக்கு உணர்த்து; அவன் உனக்குச் செவிகொடுத்தால், உன் சகோதரனை ஆதாயப்படுத்திக்கொண்டாய். ¹⁶ அவன் செவிகொடுக்காமற்போனால், இரண்டு மூன்று சாட்சிகளுடைய ஒப்புதல்களினாலே காரியங்களெல்லாம் உறுதிப்படும்படி இரண்டொருவரை உன்னுடனே அழைத்துக்கொண்டு போ. ¹⁷ அவர்களுக்கும் அவன் செவிகொடுக்காமற்போனால், அதை சபைக்குத் தெரியப்படுத்து; சபைக்கும் செவிகொடுக்காமற்போனால், அவன் உனக்கு வேறுமார்க்கத்தான் போலவும் வரி வசூலிப்பவனைப்போலவும் இருப்பானாக. ¹⁸ உலகத்திலே நீங்கள் எவைகளைக் கட்டுவீர்களோ அவைகள் பரலோகத்திலும் கட்டப்பட்டிருக்கும்; உலகத்திலே நீங்கள் எவைகளைக் கட்டவில்லைப்பீர்களோ அவைகள் பரலோகத்திலும் கட்டவில்லைக்கப்பட்டிருக்கும் என்று உண்மையாகவே உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன். ¹⁹ அல்லாமலும், உங்களில் இரண்டுபேர் தாங்கள் வேண்டிக்கொள்ளப்போகிற எந்தக் காரியத்தைக்குறித்தாவது பூமியிலே ஒருமனப்பட்டிருந்தால், பரலோகத்தில் இருக்கிற என் பிதாவினால் அது அவர்களுக்கு உண்டாகும் என்று உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன். ²⁰ ஏனென்றால், இரண்டுபேராவது மூன்றுபேராவது என் நாமத்தினாலே எங்கே கூடியிருக்கிறார்களோ, அங்கே அவர்கள் நடுவிலே இருக்கிறேன் என்றார்.

²¹ அப்பொழுது, பேதுரு அவரிடத்தில் வந்து: ஆண்டவரே, என் சகோதரன் எனக்கு விரோதமாகக் குற்றம் செய்துவந்தால், நான் எத்தனைமுறை மன்னிக்கவேண்டும்? ஏழுமுறை மட்டுமோ என்று கேட்டான். ²² அதற்கு இயேசு: ஏழுமுறை மாத்திரமல்ல, ஏழுமுறைமுறைமட்டும் என்று உனக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன். ²³ எப்படியென்றால், பரலோகராஜ்யம் தன் வேலைக்காரர்களிடத்தில் கணக்குப்பார்க்கவேண்டுமென்றிருந்த ஒரு ராஜாவிற்கு ஒப்பாக இருக்கிறது. ²⁴ அவன் கணக்குப்பார்க்கத் தொடங்கினபோது, பத்தாயிரம் வெள்ளிப்பணம் கடன்பட்டவன் ஒருவனை அவனுக்கு முன்பாகக் கொண்டுவந்தார்கள். ²⁵ கடனைத்தீர்க்க அவனால் முடியாதபடியால், அவனுடைய எஜமான் அவனையும் அவனுடைய மனைவியையும் பிள்ளைகளையும், அவனுக்கு இருந்த எல்லாவற்றையும் விற்று, கடனைத்தீர்க்கும்படி கட்டளையிட்டான்.

²⁶ அப்பொழுது, அந்த வேலைக்காரன் காலில் விழுந்து வணங்கி: எஜமானே! என்னிடத்தில் பொறுமையாக இரும், எல்லாவற்றையும் உமக்குக் கொடுத்துத் தீர்க்கிறேன் என்றான். ²⁷ அந்த வேலைக்காரனுடைய எஜமான் மனமிரங்கி, அவனை விடுதலைசெய்து, கடனையும் அவனுக்கு மன்னித்துவிட்டான். ²⁸ அப்படியிருக்க, அந்த வேலைக்காரன் புறப்பட்டுப்போகும்போது, தன்னிடத்தில் நூறு வெள்ளிக்காசுகள் கடன்பட்டிருந்தவனாகிய தன்னுடைய உடன்வேலைக்காரர்களில் ஒருவனைப் பார்த்து, அவனைப் பிடித்து, கழுத்தை நெரித்து: நீ வாங்கின கடனை எனக்குக் கொடுத்துத் தீர்க்கவேண்டும் என்றான். ²⁹ அப்பொழுது அவனுடைய உடன்வேலைக்காரன் அவன் காலிலே விழுந்து: என்னிடத்தில் பொறுமையாக இரும், எல்லாவற்றையும் உமக்குக் கொடுத்துத் தீர்க்கிறேன் என்று, அவனை வேண்டிக்கொண்டான். ³⁰ அவனோ சம்மதிக்காமல், போய், அவன் வாங்கின கடனைக் கொடுத்துத் தீர்க்கும்வரைக்கும் அவனைச் சிறைச்சாலையில் வைத்தான். ³¹ நடந்ததை அவனுடைய உடன்வேலைக்காரர்கள் பார்த்து, மிகவும் துக்கப்பட்டு, எஜமானிடத்தில் வந்து, நடந்ததையெல்லாம் அறிவித்தார்கள். ³² அப்பொழுது அவனுடைய எஜமான் அவனை அழைப்பித்து: பொல்லாத வேலைக்காரனே, நீ என்னை வேண்டிக்கொண்டபடியினால் அந்தக் கடன் முழுவதையும் உனக்கு மன்னித்துவிட்டேன். ³³ நான் உனக்கு இரங்கினதுபோல, நீயும் உன் உடன்வேலைக்காரனுக்கு இரங்கவேண்டாமோ என்று சொல்லி, ³⁴ அவனுடைய எஜமான் கோபமடைந்து, அவன் வாங்கின கடனையெல்லாம் தனக்குக் கொடுத்துத் தீர்க்கும்வரைக்கும் தண்டிக்கிறவர்களிடத்தில் அவனை ஒப்புக்கொடுத்தான். ³⁵ நீங்களும் அவனவன் தன்தன் சகோதரன் செய்த தப்பிதங்களை மனப்பூர்வமாக மன்னிக்காமற்போனால், என் பரமபிதாவும் உங்களுக்கு இப்படியே செய்வார் என்றார்.

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¹ இயேசு இந்த வசனங்களைச் சொல்லிமுடித்தபின்பு, அவர் கலிலேயாவைவிட்டு யோர்தானுக்கு அக்கரையான யூதேயாவிற்கு வந்தார். ² திரளான மக்கள் அவருக்குப் பின்னே சென்றார்கள்; அந்த இடத்தில் அவர்களை குணமாக்கினார். ³ அப்பொழுது, பரிசேயர்கள் அவரைச் சோதிக்கவேண்டுமென்று அவரிடத்தில் வந்து: கணவனானவன் தன் மனைவியை எந்தக்காரணத்தினாலாவது விவாகரத்து செய்வது நியாயமா என்று கேட்டார்கள். ⁴ அவர்களுக்கு அவர் மறுமொழியாக: ஆரம்பத்திலே மனிதர்களை உண்டாக்கினவர் அவர்களை ஆணும் பெண்ணுமாக உண்டாக்கினார் என்பதையும், ⁵ இதினிமித்தம் கணவனானவன் தன் தகப்பனையும் தாயையும்விட்டுத் தன் மனைவியோடு இணைந்திருப்பான்; அவர்கள் இருவரும் ஒரே சரீரமாக இருப்பார்கள் என்று அவர் சொன்னதையும், நீங்கள் வாசிக்கவில்லையா? ⁶ இப்படி இருக்கிறபடியினால், அவர்கள் இருவர்களாக இல்லாமல், ஒரே சரீரமாக இருக்கிறார்கள்; ஆகவே, தேவன் இணைத்ததை மனிதன் பிரிக்காதிருக்கவேண்டும் என்றார். ⁷ அதற்கு அவர்கள்: அப்படியானால், விடுதலைப்பத்திரம் கொடுத்து, அவளை விவாகரத்து செய்யலாம் என்று மோசே ஏன் கட்டளையிட்டார் என்றார்கள். ⁸ அதற்கு அவர்: உங்களுடைய மனைவிகளை விவாகரத்து செய்யலாம் என்று உங்களுடைய இருதயக்கடினத்தினிமித்தம் மோசே உங்களுக்கு இடங்கொடுத்தார்; ஆரம்பமுதலாய் அப்படியிருக்கவில்லை. ⁹ ஆதலால், எவனாவது தன் மனைவி வேசித்தனம் செய்ததினிமித்தமேயன்றி, அவளை விவாகரத்து செய்துவிட்டு வேறொரு பெண்ணைத் திருமணம்செய்தால், அவன் விபசாரம் செய்கிறவனாக இருப்பான்; விவாகரத்து செய்யப்பட்டவளைத் திருமணம் செய்கிறவனும் விபசாரம் செய்கிறவனாக இருப்பான் என்று உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன் என்றார். ¹⁰ அவருடைய சீடர்கள் அவரைப் பார்த்து: மனைவியைப்பற்றி கணவனுடைய காரியம் இப்படியிருந்தால், திருமணம்செய்கிறது நல்லதல்ல என்றார்கள். ¹¹ அதற்கு அவர்: வரம்பெற்றவர்களேதவிர மற்றவர்கள் இந்த வார்த்தையை ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளமாட்டார்கள். ¹² தாயின் வயிற்றிலிருந்து அண்ணகர்களாகப் பிறந்தவர்களும் உண்டு; மனிதர்களால் அண்ணகர்களாக்கப்பட்டவர்களும் உண்டு; பரலோக ராஜ்யத்தினிமித்தம் தங்களை அண்ணகர்களாக்கிக்கொண்டவர்களும் உண்டு; இதை ஏற்றுக்கொள்ள வல்லவன் ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளவேண்டும் என்றார்.

¹³ அப்பொழுது, சிறு பிள்ளைகளின்மேல் அவர் கரங்களை வைத்து ஜெபம்செய்யும்படிக்கு அவர்களை அவரிடத்தில் கொண்டுவந்தார்கள்; கொண்டுவந்தவர்களைச் சீடர்கள் அதட்டினார்கள். ¹⁴ இயேசுவோ: சிறு பிள்ளைகள் என்னிடத்தில் வருகிறதற்கு இடங்கொடுங்கள்; அவர்களைத் தடைசெய்யாமலிருங்கள்; பரலோகராஜ்யம் அப்படிப்பட்டவர்களுடையது என்று சொல்லி, ¹⁵ அவர்கள்மேல் கரங்களை வைத்து, பின்பு அந்த இடத்தைவிட்டுப் புறப்பட்டுப்போனார்.

¹⁶ அப்பொழுது ஒருவன் வந்து, அவரைப் பார்த்து: நல்ல போதகரே, நித்தியஜீவனை அடைவதற்கு நான் எந்த நன்மையைச் செய்யவேண்டும் என்று கேட்டான். ¹⁷ அதற்கு அவர்: நீ என்னை நல்லவன் என்று சொல்வானேன்? தேவன் ஒருவர்தவிர நல்லவன் ஒருவனும் இல்லையே; நீ ஜீவனில் பிரவேசிக்க விரும்பினால் கட்டளைகளைக் கைக்கொள் என்றார். ¹⁸ அவன் அவரைப் பார்த்து: எவைகளை என்று கேட்டான். அதற்கு இயேசு: கொலை செய்யாதிருப்பாயாக, விபசாரம் செய்யாதிருப்பாயாக, களவு செய்யாதிருப்பாயாக, பொய்ச்சாட்சி சொல்லாதிருப்பாயாக; ¹⁹ உன் தகப்பனையும் உன் தாயையும் மதிப்பாயாக; உன்னிடத்தில் நீ அன்புசெலுத்துவதுபோல மற்றவனிடத்திலும் அன்புசெலுத்துவாயாக என்பவைகளையே என்றார். ²⁰ அந்த வாலிபன் அவரைப் பார்த்து: இவைகளையெல்லாம் என் சிறுவயதுமுதல் கைக்கொண்டிருக்கிறேன்; இன்னும் என்னிடத்தில் குறைவு என்ன என்றான். ²¹ அதற்கு இயேசு: நீ தேவனுக்கு பூரண சற்குணனாக இருக்கவிரும்பினால், போய், உனக்கு உண்டானவைகளை விற்று, தரித்திரர்களுக்குக் கொடு, அப்பொழுது பரலோகத்தில் உனக்குச் செல்வம் உண்டாயிருக்கும்; பின்பு என்னைப் பின்பற்றிவா என்றார். ²² அந்த வாலிபன் மிகுந்த ஆஸ்தியுள்ளவனாக இருந்தபடியால், இயேசு சொன்னவைகளைக் கேட்டபொழுது, துக்கமடைந்தவனாகப் போய்விட்டான். ²³ அப்பொழுது, இயேசு தம்முடைய சீடர்களைப் பார்த்து: செல்வந்தன் பரலோகராஜ்யத்தில் பிரவேசிப்பது சுலபமல்லவென்று, உண்மையாகவே உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன். ²⁴ மேலும் செல்வந்தன் தேவனுடைய ராஜ்யத்தில் பிரவேசிப்பதைவிட, ஒட்டகமானது ஊசியின் காதிலே நுழைவது சுலபமாக இருக்கும் என்று உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன் என்றார். ²⁵ அவருடைய சீடர்கள் அதைக்கேட்டு மிகவும் ஆச்சரியப்பட்டு: அப்படியானால், யார் இரட்சிக்கப்படமுடியும் என்றார்கள். ²⁶ இயேசு, அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: மனிதர்களால் இது முடியாததுதான்; தேவனாலே எல்லாம் முடியும் என்றார். ²⁷ அப்பொழுது, பேதுரு அவரைப் பார்த்து: இதோ, நாங்கள் எல்லாவற்றையும்விட்டு, உம்மைப் பின்பற்றினோமே; எங்களுக்கு என்ன கிடைக்கும் என்றான். ²⁸ அதற்கு இயேசு: மறுபிறப்பின் காலத்திலே மனிதகுமாரன் தம்முடைய

மகிமையுள்ள சிங்காசனத்தின்மேல் உட்கார்ந்திருக்கும்போது, என்னைப் பின்பற்றின நீங்களும், இஸ்ரவேலின் பன்னிரண்டு கோத்திரங்களையும் நியாயந்தீர்க்கிறவர்களாகப் பன்னிரண்டு சிங்காசனங்களின்மேல் உட்கார்ந்திருப்பீர்கள் என்று, உண்மையாகவே உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன். ²⁹ என் நாமத்தினிமித்தம் வீட்டையாவது, சகோதரர்களையாவது, சகோதரிகளையாவது, தகப்பனையாவது, தாயையாவது, மனைவியையாவது, பிள்ளைகளையாவது, நிலங்களையாவது இழந்தவன் எவனோ, அவன் நூறுமடங்காகப் பெற்று, நித்தியஜீவனையும் சுதந்தரித்துக்கொள்ளுவான்; ³⁰ ஆனாலும், முந்தினோர் அநேகர் பிந்தினோராகவும், பிந்தினோர் அநேகர் முந்தினோராகவும் இருப்பார்கள் என்றார்.

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¹ பரலோகராஜ்யம் வீட்டெஜமானாகிய ஒரு மனிதனுக்கு ஒப்பாக இருக்கிறது; அவன் தன் திராட்சைத்தோட்டத்திற்கு வேலையாட்களை அமர்த்த அதிகாலையிலே புறப்பட்டான். ² வேலையாட்களுடன் நாளொன்றுக்கு ஒரு வெள்ளிக்காசு கூலிபேசி, அவர்களைத் தன் திராட்சைத்தோட்டத்திற்கு அனுப்பினான். ³ காலை ஒன்பதுமணியளவில் அவன் புறப்பட்டுப்போய், கடைத்தெருவிலே சும்மா நிற்கிற வேறு சிலரைப் பார்த்து: ⁴ நீங்களும் திராட்சைத்தோட்டத்திற்குப் போங்கள், நியாயமானபடி உங்களுக்குக் கூலி கொடுப்பேன் என்றான்; அவர்களும் போனார்கள். ⁵ மறுபடியும், நண்பகல் பன்னிரண்டுமணிக்கும், மூன்றுமணிக்கும் அவன்போய் அப்படியே செய்தான். ⁶ ஐந்துமணியளவிலும் அவன்போய், சும்மா நிற்கிற வேறு சிலரைப் பார்த்து: நீங்கள் பகல் முழுவதும் இங்கே சும்மா நிற்கிறதென்ன என்று கேட்டான். ⁷ அதற்கு அவர்கள்: ஒருவரும் எங்களுக்கு வேலை கொடுக்கவில்லை என்றார்கள். அவன் அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: நீங்களும் திராட்சைத்தோட்டத்திற்குப் போங்கள், நியாயமானபடி கூலி பெற்றுக்கொள்வீர்கள் என்றான். ⁸ மாலைநேரத்தில், திராட்சைத்தோட்டத்தின் எஜமான் தன் நிர்வாகியைப் பார்த்து: நீ வேலையாட்களை அழைத்து, பிந்தி வந்தவர்கள் தொடங்கி முதலில் வந்தவர்கள்வரைக்கும் அவர்களுக்குக் கூலிகொடு என்றான். ⁹ அப்பொழுது ஐந்துமணியளவில் சேர்க்கப்பட்டவர்கள் வந்து ஆளுக்கு ஒவ்வொரு வெள்ளிக்காசு வாங்கினார்கள். ¹⁰ முந்தி சேர்க்கப்பட்டவர்கள் வந்து, தங்களுக்கு அதிக கூலி கிடைக்கும் என்று நினைத்தார்கள், அவர்களும் ஆளுக்கு ஒவ்வொரு வெள்ளிக்காசு வாங்கினார்கள். ¹¹ வாங்கிக்கொண்டு, வீட்டெஜமானைப் பார்த்து: ¹² பிந்திவந்தவர்களாகிய இவர்கள் ஒருமணிநேரம்மட்டும் வேலைசெய்தார்கள்; பகலின் பாடுகளையும் வெயிலின் வெப்பத்தையும் சகித்த எங்களுக்கு இவர்களைச் சமமாக்கினீர் என்று முறுமுறுத்தார்கள். ¹³ அவர்களில் ஒருவனுக்கு அவன் மறுமொழியாக: நண்பனே, நான் உனக்கு அநியாயம் செய்யவில்லை; நீ என்னிடத்தில் ஒரு வெள்ளிக்காசுக்குச் சம்மதிக்கவில்லையா? ¹⁴ உன்னுடையதை நீ வாங்கிக்கொண்டு போ, உனக்குக் கொடுத்ததுபோல பிந்திவந்தவனாகிய இவனுக்கும் கொடுப்பது என்னுடைய விருப்பம். ¹⁵ என்னுடையதை என் விருப்பப்படிச்செய்ய எனக்கு அதிகாரமில்லையா? நான் தாராளமனமுடையனாக இருக்கிறபடியால், நீ பொறாமைகொள்ளலாமா என்றான். ¹⁶ இவ்விதமாக, பிந்தினோர் முந்தினோராகவும், முந்தினோர் பிந்தினோராகவும் இருப்பார்கள்; அழைக்கப்பட்டவர்கள் அநேகர், தெரிந்துகொள்ளப்பட்டவர்களோ சிலர் என்றார்.

¹⁷ இயேசு எருசலேமுக்குப் போகும்போது, வழியிலே பன்னிரண்டு சீடர்களையும் தனியே அழைத்து: ¹⁸ இதோ, எருசலேமுக்குப் போகிறோம்; மனிதகுமாரன் பிரதான ஆசாரியர்களிடத்திலும் வேதபண்டிதரிடத்திலும் ஒப்புக்கொடுக்கப்படுவார்; அவர்கள் அவரை மரணதண்டனைக்குள்ளாகத் தீர்த்து, ¹⁹ அவரைப் பரிகாசம்பண்ணவும், சாட்டையினால் அடிக்கவும், சிலுவையில் அறையவும் யூதரல்லாதவரிடத்தில் ஒப்புக்கொடுப்பார்கள்; ஆனாலும் மூன்றாம்நாளிலே அவர் உயிரோடு எழுந்திருப்பார் என்றார்.

²⁰ அப்பொழுது, செபெதேயுவின் குமாரர்களுடைய தாய் தன் குமாரர்களோடுகூட அவரிடத்தில் வந்து, அவரைப் பணிந்துகொண்டு: உம்மிடத்தில் ஒரு விண்ணப்பம் செய்யவேண்டும் என்றாள். ²¹ அவர் அவளைப் பார்த்து: உனக்கு என்ன வேண்டும் என்று கேட்டார். அதற்கு அவள்: உம்முடைய ராஜ்யத்திலே என் குமாரர்களாகிய இவ்விரண்டுபேரில் ஒருவன் உமது வலதுபக்கத்திலும், ஒருவன் உமது இடதுபக்கத்திலும் உட்காரும்படி அருள்செய்யவேண்டும் என்றாள். ²² இயேசு மறுமொழியாக: நீங்கள் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறது இன்னது என்று உங்களுக்குத் தெரியவில்லை. நான் குடிக்கும் பாத்திரத்தில் நீங்கள் குடிக்கவும், நான் பெறும் இடத்தை நீங்கள் பெறவும் உங்களால் கூடுமா என்றார். அதற்கு அவர்கள்: கூடும் என்றார்கள். ²³ அவர் அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: என் பாத்திரத்தில் நீங்கள் குடிப்பீர்கள், நான் பெறும் இடத்தையும் நீங்கள் பெறுவீர்கள்; ஆனாலும், என் வலதுபக்கத்திலும் என் இடதுபக்கத்திலும் உட்காரும்படி என் பிதாவினால் எவர்களுக்கு ஆயத்தம்செய்யப்பட்டிருக்கிறதோ அவர்களுக்கேயல்லாமல், மற்றொருவருக்கும் அதை அருளுவது என் காரியமல்ல என்றார். ²⁴ மற்றப் பத்துப்பேரும் அதைக்கேட்டு, அந்த இரண்டு சகோதரர்கள்மேல் கோபமடைந்தார்கள். ²⁵ அப்பொழுது, இயேசு அவர்களைக் கிட்டவரச்செய்து: யூதரல்லாதவர்களுடைய தலைவர்கள் அவர்களை இறுமாப்பாக ஆளுகிறார்கள் என்றும், அதிகாரமுடைய மனிதர்கள் அவர்கள்மேல் கடினமாக அதிகாரம் செலுத்துகிறார்கள் என்றும், நீங்கள் அறிந்திருக்கிறீர்கள். ²⁶ உங்களுக்குள்ளே அப்படி இருக்கலாகாது; உங்களில் எவனாவது பெரியவனாக இருக்கவிரும்பினால், அவன் உங்களுக்குப் பணிவிடைசெய்கிறவனாக இருக்கவேண்டும். ²⁷ உங்களில் எவனாவது முதன்மையானவனாக இருக்கவிரும்பினால், அவன் உங்களுக்குப் பணிவிடைசெய்கிறவனாக இருக்கவேண்டும். ²⁸ அப்படியே, மனிதகுமாரனும் பணிவிடை பெரும்படி

வராமல், பணிவிடைசெய்யவும், அநேகரை மீட்கும் பொருளாகத் தம்முடைய ஜீவனைக் கொடுக்கவும் வந்தார் என்றார்.

²⁹ அவர்கள் எரிகோவிலிருந்து புறப்பட்டுப்போகும்போது, திரளான மக்கள் அவருக்குப் பின் சென்றார்கள்.

³⁰ அப்பொழுது வழியருகே உட்கார்ந்திருந்த இரண்டு குருடர்கள், இயேசு அவ்வழியே வருகிறார் என்று கேள்விப்பட்டு: ஆண்டவரே, தாவீதின் குமாரனே, எங்களுக்கு இரங்கும் என்று கூப்பிட்டார்கள். ³¹ அவர்கள் பேசாதிருக்கும்படி மக்கள் அவர்களை அதட்டினார்கள். அவர்களோ: ஆண்டவரே, தாவீதின் குமாரனே, எங்களுக்கு இரங்கும் என்று அதிகமாகக் கூப்பிட்டார்கள். ³² இயேசு நின்று, அவர்களைத் தம்மிடத்தில் அழைத்து: நான் உங்களுக்கு என்னசெய்யவேண்டும் என்றிருக்கிறீர்கள் என்றார். ³³ அதற்கு அவர்கள்: ஆண்டவரே, எங்களுடைய கண்களைத் திறக்கவேண்டும் என்றார்கள். ³⁴ இயேசு மனதுருகி, அவர்கள் கண்களைத் தொட்டார்; உடனே அவர்கள் பார்வையடைந்து, அவருக்குப் பின்னே சென்றார்கள்.

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¹ அவர்கள் எருசலேமுக்கு அருகாமையில் சேர்ந்து, ஒலிவமலைக்கு அருகான பெத்பகேயுக்கு வந்தபோது, இயேசுவானவர் சீடர்களில் இரண்டுபேரைப் பார்த்து: ² உங்களுக்கு எதிரே இருக்கிற கிராமத்திற்குப் போங்கள்; போனவுடனே, அங்கே ஒரு கழுதையையும் அதனோடு ஒரு குட்டியையும் கட்டியிருக்கக் காண்பீர்கள்; அவைகளை அவிழ்த்து என்னிடத்தில் கொண்டுவாருங்கள். ³ ஒருவன் உங்களுக்கு ஏதாவது சொன்னால்: இவைகள் ஆண்டவருக்கு வேண்டுமென்று சொல்லுங்கள்; உடனே அவைகளை அனுப்பிவிடுவான் என்று சொல்லி, அவர்களை அனுப்பினார். ⁴ இதோ, உன் ராஜா சாந்தகுணமுள்ளவராக, கழுதையின்மேலும் கழுதைக்குட்டியாகிய மறியின்மேலும் ஏறிக்கொண்டு, உன்னிடத்தில் வருகிறார் என்று சீயோன் குமாரத்திக்குச் சொல்லுங்கள் என்று, ⁵ தீர்க்கதரிசியினால் சொல்லப்பட்டது நிறைவேறும்படி இதெல்லாம் நடந்தது. ⁶ சீடர்கள்போய், இயேசு தங்களுக்குக் கட்டளையிட்டபடியே செய்து, ⁷ கழுதையையும் குட்டியையும் கொண்டுவந்து, அவைகள்மேல் தங்களுடைய ஆடைகளைப் போட்டு, அவரை ஏற்றினார்கள். ⁸ திரளான மக்கள் தங்களுடைய ஆடைகளை வழியிலே விரித்தார்கள்; வேறுசிலர் மரக்கிளைகளை வெட்டி வழியிலே பரப்பினார்கள். ⁹ முன்னே நடப்பவர்களும் பின்னே நடப்பவர்களும் திரளான மக்கள்: தாவீதின் குமாரனுக்கு ஓசன்னா! கர்த்தரின் நாமத்தினாலே வருகிறவர் போற்றப்படத்தக்கவர், உன்னதத்திலே ஓசன்னா என்று சொல்லி ஆர்ப்பரித்தார்கள். ¹⁰ அவர் எருசலேமுக்குள் பிரவேசிக்கும்போது, நகரத்தார் அனைவரும் ஆச்சரியப்பட்டு, இவர் யார்? என்று விசாரித்தார்கள். ¹¹ அதற்கு மக்கள்: இவர் கலிலேயாவிலுள்ள நாசரேத்திலிருந்து வந்த தீர்க்கதரிசியாகிய இயேசு என்றார்கள்.

¹² இயேசு தேவாலயத்தில் பிரவேசித்து, ஆலயத்திலே விற்கிறவர்களும் வாங்குகிறவர்களும் திரளான மக்களையும் வெளியே தூரத்தி, காசக்காரர்களுடைய பலகைகளையும் புறா விற்கிறவர்களின் இருக்கைகளையும் கவிழ்த்து: ¹³ என்னுடைய வீடு ஜெபவீடு எனப்படும் என்று எழுதியிருக்கிறது; நீங்களோ அதைக் திருடர்களுடைய குகையாக்கினீர்கள் என்றார். ¹⁴ அப்பொழுது, குருடர்களும் முடவர்களும் தேவாலயத்திலே அவரிடத்திற்கு வந்தார்கள், அவர்களை குணமாக்கினார். ¹⁵ அவர் செய்த அதிசயங்களையும், தாவீதின் குமாரனுக்கு ஓசன்னா! என்று தேவாலயத்திலே ஆர்ப்பரிக்கிற பிள்ளைகளையும், பிரதான ஆசாரியர்களும் வேதபண்டிதர்களும் பார்த்து, கோபமடைந்து, ¹⁶ அவரைப் பார்த்து: இவர்கள் சொல்லுகிறதைக் கேட்கிறீரோ என்றார்கள். அதற்கு இயேசு: ஆம், கேட்கிறேன். குழந்தைகளுடைய வாயினாலும் சிறுவர்களுடைய வாயினாலும் துதி உண்டாகும்படிச் செய்தீர் என்பதை நீங்கள் ஒருபோதும் வாசிக்கவில்லையா என்றார். ¹⁷ அவர்களைவிட்டு நகரத்திலிருந்து புறப்பட்டு, பெத்தானியாவிற்குப்போய், அங்கே இரவில் தங்கினார்.

¹⁸ காலையிலே அவர் நகரத்திற்குத் திரும்பிவரும்போது, அவருக்குப் பசியுண்டானது. ¹⁹ அப்பொழுது வழியருகே ஒரு அத்திமரத்தைப் பார்த்து, அதினிடத்திற்குப்போய், அதிலே இலைகளையன்றி வேறொன்றையும் காணாமல்: இனி ஒருபோதும் உன்னிடத்தில் கனி உண்டாகாதிருக்கக்கடவது என்றார்; உடனே அத்திமரம் பட்டுப்போனது. ²⁰ சீடர்கள் அதைப் பார்த்து: இந்த அத்திமரம் எத்தனை சீக்கிரமாகப் பட்டுப்போனது! என்று சொல்லி ஆச்சரியப்பட்டார்கள். ²¹ இயேசு அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: நீங்கள் சந்தேகப்படாமல் விசுவாசமுள்ளவர்களாக இருந்தால், இந்த அத்திமரத்திற்குச் செய்ததை நீங்கள் செய்வதுமல்லாமல், இந்த மலையைப் பார்த்து: நீ பெயர்ந்து கடலிலே தள்ளுண்டுபோ என்று சொன்னாலும் அப்படியாகும் என்று உண்மையாகவே உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன். ²² மேலும், நீங்கள் விசுவாசமுள்ளவர்களாக ஜெபத்திலே எவைகளைக் கேட்பீர்களோ அவைகளையெல்லாம் பெறுவீர்கள் என்றார்.

²³ அவர் தேவாலயத்தில் வந்து, உபதேசம்பண்ணும்போது, பிரதான ஆசாரியர்களும் மக்களின் மூப்பர்களும் அவரிடத்தில் வந்து: நீர் எந்த அதிகாரத்தினால் இவைகளைச் செய்கிறீர்? இந்த அதிகாரத்தை உமக்குக் கொடுத்தவர் யார்? என்று கேட்டார்கள். ²⁴ இயேசு மறுமொழியாக: நானும் உங்களிடம் ஒரு காரியத்தைக் கேட்கிறேன், அதை எனக்குச் சொல்லுவீர்களானால், நானும் எந்த அதிகாரத்தினாலே இவைகளைச் செய்கிறேனென்று உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுவேன். ²⁵ யோவான் கொடுத்த ஞானஸ்நானம் தேவனால் உண்டாயிற்றோ? மனிதர்களால் உண்டாயிற்றோ? யாரால் உண்டானது? என்று கேட்டார். அதற்கு அவர்கள்: தேவனால் உண்டாயிற்றென்று சொல்வோமானால், பின்னே ஏன் அவனை விசுவாசிக்கவில்லை என்று நம்மைக் கேட்பார்; ²⁶ மனிதர்களால் உண்டாயிற்றென்று சொல்வோமானால், மக்களுக்குப் பயப்படுகிறோம், எல்லோரும் யோவானைத் தீர்க்கதரிசியென்று எண்ணுகிறார்களே என்று, தங்களுக்குள்ளே ஆலோசனைசெய்து, ²⁷ இயேசுவிற்கு மறுமொழியாக: எங்களுக்குத் தெரியாது

என்றார்கள். அப்பொழுது, அவர்: நானும் எந்த அதிகாரத்தினால் இவைகளைச் செய்கிறேனென்று உங்களுக்குச் சொல்வதில்லை என்றார்.

²⁸ ஆனாலும், உங்களுக்கு எப்படித் தோன்றுகிறது? ஒரு மனிதனுக்கு இரண்டு குமார்கள் இருந்தார்கள்; மூத்தவனிடத்தில் அவன் வந்து: மகனே, நீ போய் இன்றைக்கு என் திராட்சைத்தோட்டத்தில் வேலைசெய் என்றான். ²⁹ அதற்கு அவன்: மாட்டேன் என்றான்; ஆனாலும், பின்பு அவன் மனஸ்தாபப்பட்டுப்போனான். ³⁰ இளையவனிடத்திலும் அவன் வந்து, அப்படியே சொன்னான்; அதற்கு அவன்: போகிறேன் ஐயா, என்று சொல்லியும், போகவில்லை. ³¹ இவ்விருவரில் எவன் தகப்பனுடைய விருப்பத்தின்படி செய்தவன் என்று கேட்டார்; அதற்கு அவர்கள்: மூத்தவன்தான் என்றார்கள். அப்பொழுது, இயேசு அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: வரி வசூலிப்பவர்களும் வேசிகளும் உங்களுக்கு முன்னே தேவனுடைய ராஜ்யத்தில் பிரவேசிக்கிறார்கள் என்று, உண்மையாகவே உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன். ³² ஏனென்றால், யோவான் நீதிமார்க்கமாக உங்களிடம் வந்திருந்தும், நீங்கள் அவனை விசுவாசிக்கவில்லை; வரி வசூலிப்பவர்களும் வேசிகளுமோ அவனை விசுவாசித்தார்கள்; அதை நீங்கள் கண்டும், அவனை விசுவாசிக்கும்படியாகப் பின்பாவது மனஸ்தாபப்படவில்லை என்றார்.

³³ வேறொரு உவமையைக் கேளுங்கள்: வீட்டெஜமானாகிய ஒரு மனிதன் இருந்தான், அவன் ஒரு திராட்சைத்தோட்டத்தை உண்டாக்கி, அதைச் சுற்றிலும் வேலியடைத்து, அதில் ஒரு ஆலையை உருவாக்கி, கோபுரத்தையும் கட்டி, தோட்டக்காரர்களுக்கு அதைக் குத்தகைக்கு விட்டு, வெளிதேசத்திற்குச் சென்றிருந்தான். ³⁴ அறுவடைக்காலம் நெருங்கியபோது, அதின் கனிகளை வாங்கிக்கொண்டுவரும்படி தன் வேலைக்காரர்களைத் தோட்டக்காரர்களிடத்தில் அனுப்பினான். ³⁵ தோட்டக்காரர்கள் அந்த வேலைக்காரர்களைப்பிடித்து, ஒருவனை அடித்து, ஒருவனைக் கொலைசெய்து, ஒருவனைக் கல்லெறிந்து கொன்றார்கள். ³⁶ பின்னும் அவன் முந்தினவர்களிலும் அதிகமான வேறு வேலைக்காரர்களை அனுப்பினான்; அவர்களையும் அப்படியே செய்தார்கள். ³⁷ கடைசியிலே அவன்: என் குமாரனுக்கு பயப்படுவார்கள் என்று சொல்லி, தன் குமாரனை அவர்களிடத்தில் அனுப்பினான். ³⁸ தோட்டக்காரர்கள் குமாரனைக் கண்டபோது: இவனே வாரிசு; இவனைக் கொன்று, இவனுடைய சொத்தை எடுத்துக்கொள்ளுவோம் வாருங்கள் என்று ஒருவரோடொருவர் சொல்லிக்கொண்டு; ³⁹ அவனைப் பிடித்துத் திராட்சைத்தோட்டத்திற்கு வெளியே தள்ளிக் கொலைசெய்தார்கள். ⁴⁰ அப்படியிருக்க, திராட்சைத்தோட்டத்தின் எஜமான் வரும்போது, அந்தத் தோட்டக்காரர்களை என்ன செய்வான் என்று கேட்டார். ⁴¹ அதற்கு அவர்கள்: அந்தக் கொடியவர்களைக் கொடுமையாக அழித்து, ஏற்றக் காலங்களில் தனக்குக் கனிகளைக் கொடுக்கக்கூடிய வேறு தோட்டக்காரர்களிடத்தில் திராட்சைத்தோட்டத்தைக் குத்தகைக்குக் கொடுப்பான் என்றார்கள். ⁴² இயேசு அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: வீடுகட்டுகிறவர்கள் ஆகாதென்று தள்ளின கல்லே மூலைக்குத் தலைக்கல்லானது, அது கர்த்தராலே ஆனது, அது நம்முடைய கண்களுக்கு ஆச்சரியமாக இருக்கிறது என்று நீங்கள் வேதத்தில் ஒருபோதும் வாசிக்கவில்லையா? ⁴³ ஆகவே, தேவனுடைய ராஜ்யம் உங்களிடமிருந்து நீக்கப்பட்டு, அதற்கேற்ற கனிகளைத் தருகின்ற மக்களுக்குக் கொடுக்கப்படும். ⁴⁴ இந்தக் கல்லின்மேல் விழுகிறவன் நொறுங்கிப்போவான்; இது எவன்மேல் விழுமோ அவனை நசுக்கிப்போடும் என்று நான் உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன் என்றார். ⁴⁵ பிரதான ஆசாரியர்களும் பரிசேயர்களும் அவருடைய உவமைகளைக் கேட்டு, தங்களைக்குறித்துச் சொல்லுகிறார் என்று அறிந்து, ⁴⁶ அவரைப் பிடிக்க வகைதேடினார்கள்; ஆனாலும் மக்கள் அவரைத் தீர்க்கதரிசியென்று நினைத்தபடியினால் அவர்களுக்குப் பயந்திருந்தார்கள்.

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¹ இயேசு மறுபடியும் அவர்களோடு உவமைகளாகப் பேசிச் சொன்னது என்னவென்றால்: ² பரலோகராஜ்யம் தன் குமாரனுக்கு திருமணம் செய்த ஒரு ராஜாவிற்கு ஒப்பாக இருக்கிறது. ³ அழைக்கப்பட்டவர்களைத் திருமணத்திற்கு வரச்சொல்லும்படி அவன் தன் வேலைக்காரர்களை அனுப்பினான்; அவர்களோ வர விருப்பமில்லாதிருந்தார்கள். ⁴ அப்பொழுது அவன் வேறு வேலைக்காரர்களை அழைத்து: நீங்கள் போய், இதோ, என் விருந்தை ஆயத்தம் செய்தேன், என் எருதுகளும், கொழுத்த கன்றுக்குட்டிகளும் அடிக்கப்பட்டது, எல்லாம் ஆயத்தமாக இருக்கிறது; திருமணத்திற்கு வாருங்கள் என்று அழைக்கப்பட்டவர்களுக்குச் சொல்லுங்களென்று அனுப்பினான். ⁵ அழைக்கப்பட்டவர்களோ அதை அசட்டைசெய்து, ஒருவன் தன் வயலுக்கும், ஒருவன் தன் வியாபாரத்திற்கும் போய்விட்டார்கள். ⁶ மற்றவர்கள் அவனுடைய வேலைக்காரர்களைப்பிடித்து, அவமானப்படுத்தி, கொலைசெய்தார்கள். ⁷ ராஜா அதைக் கேள்விப்பட்டு, கோபமடைந்து, தன் படைகளை அனுப்பி, அந்தக் கொலைபாதகர்களை அழித்து, அவர்கள் பட்டணத்தையும் சுட்டெரித்தான். ⁸ அப்பொழுது, அவன் தன் வேலைக்காரர்களைப் பார்த்து: திருமணவிருந்து ஆயத்தமாக இருக்கிறது, அழைக்கப்பட்டவர்களோ அதற்கு தகுதியற்றவர்களாக போனார்கள். ⁹ ஆகவே, நீங்கள் வீதிகளிலேபோய், காணப்படுகிற அனைவரையும் திருமணத்திற்கு அழைத்துக்கொண்டு வாருங்கள் என்றான். ¹⁰ அந்த வேலைக்காரர்கள் புறப்பட்டு, வழிகளிலேபோய், தாங்கள் கண்ட நல்லவர்கள் பொல்லாதவர்கள் அனைவரையும் அழைத்துக்கொண்டுவந்தார்கள்; திருமண மண்டபம் விருந்தாளிகளால் நிறைந்திருந்தது. ¹¹ விருந்தாளிகளைப் பார்க்கும்படி ராஜா உள்ளே நுழைந்தபோது, திருமணஆடை அணிந்திராத ஒரு மனிதனை அங்கே பார்த்து: ¹² நண்பனே, நீ திருமணஆடை இல்லாதவனாக இங்கே எப்படி வந்தாய் என்று கேட்டான்; அதற்கு அவன் பேசாமலிருந்தான். ¹³ அப்பொழுது, ராஜா பணிவிடைக்காரர்களைப் பார்த்து: இவனுடைய கையையும் காலையும் கட்டிக் கொண்டுபோய், அழுகையும் பற்கடிப்பும் உண்டாயிருக்கிற புறம்பான இருளிலே போடுங்கள் என்றான். ¹⁴ அந்தப்படியே, அழைக்கப்பட்டவர்கள் அநேகர், தெரிந்துகொள்ளப்பட்டவர்களோ சிலர் என்றார்.

¹⁵ அப்பொழுது, பரிசேயர்கள்போய், பேச்சிலே அவரை அகப்படுத்தும்படி யோசனைசெய்து, ¹⁶ தங்களுடைய சீடர்களையும் ஏரோதியர்களையும் அவரிடத்தில் அனுப்பினார்கள். அவர்கள் வந்து: போதகரே, நீர் உண்மையுள்ளவரென்றும், தேவனுடைய வழியை உண்மையாக போதிக்கிறவரென்றும், நீர் பச்சபாதமில்லாதவராக இருப்பதால் எவனைக்குறித்தும் உமக்குக் கவலை இல்லையென்றும் அறிந்திருக்கிறோம். ¹⁷ ஆதலால், உமக்கு எப்படித் தோன்றுகிறது? இராயனுக்கு வரிகொடுக்கிறது நியாயமோ, அல்லவோ? அதை எங்களுக்குச் சொல்லும் என்று கேட்டார்கள். ¹⁸ இயேசு, அவர்களுடைய தீயகுணத்தை அறிந்து: மாயக்காரர்களே, நீங்கள் என்னை ஏன் சோதிக்கிறீர்கள்? ¹⁹ வரிப்பணத்தை எனக்குக் காண்பியுங்கள் என்றார்; அவர்கள் ஒரு பணத்தை அவரிடத்தில் கொண்டுவந்தார்கள். ²⁰ அப்பொழுது அவர்: இந்த உருவமும் மேலெழுத்தும் யாருடையது என்று கேட்டார். ²¹ இராயனுடையது என்றார்கள். அதற்கு அவர்: அப்படியானால், இராயனுடையதை இராயனுக்கும், தேவனுடையதை தேவனுக்கும் செலுத்துங்கள் என்றார். ²² அவர்கள் அதைக்கேட்டு ஆச்சரியப்பட்டு அவரைவிட்டுப் போய்விட்டார்கள்.

²³ உயிர்த்தெழுதல் இல்லை என்று சாதிக்கிற சதுசேயர்கள் அன்றையதினம் அவரிடம் வந்து: ²⁴ போதகரே, ஒருவன் வாரிசு இல்லாமல் மரித்துப்போனால், அவனுடைய சகோதரன் அவன் மனைவியை திருமணம்செய்து, தன் சகோதரனுக்கு வாரிசு உண்டாக்கவேண்டும் என்று மோசே சொன்னாரே. ²⁵ எங்களுக்குள்ளே சகோதரர்கள் ஏழுபேர் இருந்தார்கள்; மூத்தவன் திருமணம்செய்து, மரித்து, வாரிசு இல்லாததினால் தன் மனைவியைத் தன் சகோதரனுக்கு விட்டுப்போனான். ²⁶ அப்படியே இரண்டாம் மூன்றாம் சகோதரன்முதல் ஏழாம் சகோதரன்வரைக்கும் செய்தார்கள். ²⁷ எல்லோருக்கும்பின்பு அந்த பெண்ணும் மரித்துப்போனாள். ²⁸ ஆகவே, உயிர்த்தெழுதலில் அந்த ஏழுபேரில் எவனுக்கு அவள் மனைவியாக இருப்பாள்? அவர்கள் எல்லோரும் அவளைத் திருமணம் செய்திருந்தார்களே என்று கேட்டார்கள். ²⁹ இயேசு அவர்களுக்கு மறுமொழியாக: நீங்கள் வேதவாக்கியங்களையும், தேவனுடைய வல்லமையையும் அறியாமல் தவறாகப் புரிந்துகொள்ளுகிறீர்கள். ³⁰ உயிர்த்தெழுதலில் பெண் எடுப்பதும் இல்லை, கொடுப்பதும் இல்லை; அவர்கள் பரலோகத்திலே தேவதூதர்களைப்போல இருப்பார்கள்; ³¹ மேலும் மரித்தோர் உயிர்த்தெழுதலைப்பற்றி: நான் ஆபிரகாமின் தேவனும், ஈசாக்கின் தேவனும், யாக்கோபின் தேவனுமாக இருக்கிறேன் என்று தேவனால் உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லப்பட்டிருக்கிறதை நீங்கள் வாசிக்கவில்லையா? ³² தேவன் மரித்தோருக்கு தேவனாக இல்லாமல், ஜீவனுள்ளோருக்கு

தேவனாக இருக்கிறார் என்றார். ³³ மக்கள் இதைக்கேட்டு, அவருடைய போதகத்தைக்குறித்து ஆச்சரியப்பட்டார்கள்.

³⁴ அவர் சதுசேயர்களைப் பேசவிடாமல் வாயடைத்தார் என்று பரிசேயர்கள் கேள்விப்பட்டு, அவரிடத்தில் கூடிவந்தார்கள். ³⁵ அவர்களில் நியாயப்பண்டிதன் ஒருவன் அவரைச் சோதிக்கும்படி: ³⁶ போதகரே, நியாயப்பிரமாணத்திலே எந்தக் கட்டளை முதன்மையானது என்று கேட்டான். ³⁷ இயேசு அவனைப் பார்த்து: உன் தேவனாகிய கர்த்தரிடத்தில் உன் முழு இருதயத்தோடும் உன் முழு ஆத்துமாவோடும் உன் முழு மனதோடும் அன்புசெலுத்துவாயாக; ³⁸ இது முதலாம் பெரிய கட்டளை. ³⁹ இதற்கு இணையாக இருக்கிற இரண்டாம் கட்டளை என்னவென்றால், உன்னிடத்தில் நீ அன்புசெலுத்துவதுபோல மற்றவனிடத்திலும் அன்புசெலுத்துவாயாக என்பதே. ⁴⁰ இவ்விரண்டு கட்டளைகளிலும் நியாயப்பிரமாணம் முழுவதும், தீர்க்கதரிசனங்களும் அடங்கியிருக்கிறது என்றார்.

⁴¹ பரிசேயர்கள் கூடியிருக்கும்போது, இயேசு அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: ⁴² கிறிஸ்துவைக்குறித்து நீங்கள் என்ன நினைக்கிறீர்கள், அவர் யாருடைய குமாரன்? என்று கேட்டார். அவர் தாவீதின் குமாரன் என்றார்கள்.

⁴³ அதற்கு அவர்: அப்படியானால், தாவீது பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவராலே அவரை ஆண்டவர் என்று சொல்லியிருக்கிறது எப்படி? ⁴⁴ நான் உம்முடைய விரோதிகளை உமக்குப் பாதபடியாக்கிப்போடும்வரைக்கும் நீர் என்னுடைய வலதுபக்கத்தில் உட்காரும் என்று கர்த்தர் என் ஆண்டவரிடம் சொன்னார் என்று சொல்லியிருக்கிறானே. ⁴⁵ தாவீது அவரை ஆண்டவர் என்று சொல்லியிருக்க, அவனுக்கு அவர் குமாரனாக இருப்பது எப்படி என்றார். ⁴⁶ அதற்கு மறுமொழியாக ஒருவனும் அவருக்கு ஒரு வார்த்தையும் சொல்லமுடியாதிருந்தது. அன்றுமுதல் ஒருவனும் அவரிடத்தில் கேள்விகேட்கத் துணியவில்லை.

அத்தியாயம்- 23

¹ பின்பு இயேசு மக்களையும் தம்முடைய சீடர்களையும் பார்த்து: ² வேதபண்டிதர்களும் பரிசேயர்களும் மோசேயினுடைய இருக்கையில் உட்கார்ந்திருக்கிறார்கள்; ³ ஆகவே, நீங்கள் கைக்கொள்ளும்படி அவர்கள் உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிற எல்லாவற்றையும் கைக்கொண்டு செய்யுங்கள்; அவர்களுடைய செய்கையின்படி செய்யாமலிருங்கள்; ஏனென்றால், அவர்கள் சொல்லுகிறார்கள், சொல்லியும் செய்யாதிருக்கிறார்கள். ⁴ சுமக்கமுடியாத பாரமான சுமைகளைக் கட்டி மனிதர்களுடைய தோள்களின்மேல் சுமத்துகிறார்கள்; தாங்களோ ஒரு விரலினாலும் அவைகளைத் தொடமாட்டார்கள். ⁵ தங்களுடைய செயல்களையெல்லாம் மனிதர்கள் காணவேண்டுமென்று செய்கிறார்கள்; தங்களுடைய காப்புநாடாக்களை அகலமாக்கி, தங்களுடைய ஆடைகளின் தொங்கல்களைப் பெரிதாக்கி, ⁶ விருந்துகளில் முதன்மையான இடங்களையும், ஜெப ஆலயங்களில் முதன்மையான இருக்கைகளையும், ⁷ சந்தைவெளிகளில் வணக்கங்களையும், மனிதர்களால் ரபீ, ரபீ, என்று அழைக்கப்படுவதையும் விரும்புகிறார்கள். ⁸ நீங்களோ ரபீ என்று அழைக்கப்படாமலிருங்கள்; கிறிஸ்து ஒருவரே உங்களுக்குப் போதகராக இருக்கிறார், நீங்கள் எல்லோரும் சகோதரர்களாக இருக்கிறீர்கள். ⁹ பூமியிலே ஒருவனையும் உங்களுடைய பிதா என்று சொல்லாதிருங்கள்; பரலோகத்திலிருக்கிற ஒருவரே உங்களுக்குப் பிதாவாக இருக்கிறார். ¹⁰ நீங்கள் போதகர் என்றும் அழைக்கப்படாமலிருங்கள்; கிறிஸ்து ஒருவரே உங்களுக்குப் போதகராக இருக்கிறார். ¹¹ உங்களில் பெரியவனாக இருக்கிறவன் உங்களுக்கு வேலைக்காரனாக இருக்கவேண்டும். ¹² தன்னை உயர்த்துகிறவன் தாழ்த்தப்படுவான், தன்னைத் தாழ்த்துகிறவன் உயர்த்தப்படுவான். ¹³ மாயக்காரர்களாகிய வேதபண்டிதர்களே! பரிசேயர்களே! உங்களுக்கு ஐயோ, மனிதர்கள் பிரவேசிக்கமுடியாதபடி பரலோகராஜ்யத்தைப் பூட்டிப்போடுகிறீர்கள்; நீங்கள் அதில் பிரவேசிக்கிறதில்லை, பிரவேசிக்கப்போகிறவர்களை பிரவேசிக்கவிடுகிறதில்லை. ¹⁴ மாயக்காரர்களாகிய வேதபண்டிதர்களே! பரிசேயர்களே! உங்களுக்கு ஐயோ, பார்வைக்காக நீண்ட ஜெபம்செய்து, விதவைகளின் வீடுகளை அழித்துப்போடுகிறீர்கள்; இதினிமித்தம் அதிக தண்டனையை அடைவீர்கள். ¹⁵ மாயக்காரர்களாகிய வேதபண்டிதர்களே! பரிசேயர்களே! உங்களுக்கு ஐயோ, ஒருவனை உங்களுடைய மதத்தானாக்கும்படி கடலையும் பூமியையும் சுற்றித்திரிகிறீர்கள்; அவன் உங்களுடைய மதத்தானானபோது அவனை உங்களிலும் இரட்டிப்பாக நரகத்தின் மகனாக்குகிறீர்கள். ¹⁶ குருடர்களான வழிகாட்டிகளே! உங்களுக்கு ஐயோ, எவனாவது தேவாலயத்தின்பேரில் சத்தியம்செய்தால் அதினால் ஒன்றுமில்லையென்றும், எவனாவது தேவாலயத்தின் பொன்னின்பேரில் சத்தியம்செய்தால் அவன் கடனாளியென்றும் சொல்லுகிறீர்கள். ¹⁷ மதிகேடர்களே, குருடர்களே! எது முக்கியம்? பொன்னோ, பொன்னைப் பரிசுத்தமாக்குகிற தேவாலயமோ? ¹⁸ மேலும், எவனாவது பலிபீடத்தின்பேரில் சத்தியம்செய்தால் அதினால் ஒன்றுமில்லையென்றும், எவனாவது அதின்மேல் இருக்கிற காணிக்கையின்பேரில் சத்தியம்செய்தால், அவன் கடனாளியென்றும் சொல்லுகிறீர்கள். ¹⁹ மதிகேடர்களே, குருடர்களே! எது முக்கியம்? காணிக்கையோ, காணிக்கையைப் பரிசுத்தமாக்குகிற பலிபீடமோ? ²⁰ ஆகவே, பலிபீடத்தின்பேரில் சத்தியம்செய்கிறவன் அதின்பேரிலும் அதின்மேலுள்ள எல்லாவற்றின்பேரிலும் சத்தியம்செய்கிறான். ²¹ தேவாலயத்தின்பேரில் சத்தியம்செய்கிறவன் அதின்பேரிலும் அதில் வாசமாயிருக்கிறவர்பேரிலும் சத்தியம்செய்கிறான். ²² பரலோகத்தின்பேரில் சத்தியம்செய்கிறவன் தேவனுடைய சிங்காசனத்தின்பேரிலும் அதில் வீற்றிருக்கிறவர்பேரிலும் சத்தியம்செய்கிறான். ²³ மாயக்காரர்களாகிய வேதபண்டிதர்களே! பரிசேயர்களே! உங்களுக்கு ஐயோ, நீங்கள் புதினாவிலும் வெந்தயத்திலும் சீரகத்திலும் தசம்பாகம் செலுத்தி, நியாயப்பிரமாணத்தில் கற்பித்திருக்கிற விசேஷித்தவைகளாகிய நீதியையும் இரக்கத்தையும் விசுவாசத்தையும் விட்டுவிட்டீர்கள், இவைகளையும் செய்யவேண்டும், அவைகளையும் விடாமலிருக்கவேண்டுமே. ²⁴ குருடர்களான வழிகாட்டிகளே, கொசு இல்லாதபடி வடிகட்டி, ஒட்டகத்தை விழுங்குகிறவர்களாக இருக்கிறீர்கள். ²⁵ மாயக்காரர்களாகிய வேதபண்டிதர்களே! பரிசேயர்களே! உங்களுக்கு ஐயோ, உணவு மற்றும் தண்ணீர் பாத்திரங்களின் வெளிப்புறத்தைச் சுத்தமாக்குகிறீர்கள்; உட்புறத்திலோ அவைகள் கொள்ளையினாலும் அநீதத்தினாலும் நிறைந்திருக்கிறது. ²⁶ குருடனான பரிசேயனே! உணவு மற்றும் தண்ணீர் பாத்திரங்களின் வெளிப்புறம் சுத்தமாகும்படி அவைகளின் உட்புறத்தை முதலாவது சுத்தமாக்கு. ²⁷ மாயக்காரர்களாகிய வேதபண்டிதர்களே! பரிசேயர்களே! உங்களுக்கு ஐயோ, வெள்ளையடிக்கப்பட்ட கல்லறைகளுக்கு ஒப்பாக இருக்கிறீர்கள், அவைகள் வெளியே அலங்காரமாகக் காணப்படும், உள்ளேயோ மரித்தவர்களின் எலும்புகளினாலும் எல்லா அசுத்தத்தினாலும் நிறைந்திருக்கும். ²⁸ அப்படியே நீங்களும் வெளியே மனிதர்களுக்கு நீதிமான்களாகக் காணப்படுகிறீர்கள்; உள்ளத்திலோ மாயத்தினாலும் அக்கிரமத்தினாலும் நிறைந்திருக்கிறீர்கள். ²⁹ மாயக்காரர்களாகிய வேதபண்டிதர்களே! பரிசேயர்களே! உங்களுக்கு ஐயோ, நீங்கள் தீர்க்கதரிசிகளின் கல்லறைகளைக் கட்டி, நீதிமான்களின் சமாதிகளை அலங்கரித்து: ³⁰ எங்களுடைய பிதாக்களின் நாட்களில் இருந்திருந்தோமானால், அவர்களோடு நாங்கள்

தீர்க்கதரிசிகளின் இரத்தப்பழிக்கு உடன்பட்டிருக்கமாட்டோம் என்கிறீர்கள். ³¹ ஆகவே, தீர்க்கதரிசிகளைக் கொலைசெய்தவர்களுக்குப் பிள்ளைகளாக இருக்கிறீர்கள் என்று உங்களைக்குறித்து நீங்களே சாட்சிகளாக இருக்கிறீர்கள். ³² நீங்களும் உங்களுடைய பிதாக்களின் அக்கிரமத்தின் அளவை நிறைவாக்குங்கள். ³³ சர்ப்பங்களே, விரியன்பாம்பு குட்டிகளே! நரக ஆக்கினைக்கு எப்படித் தப்பித்துக்கொள்ளுவீர்கள்? ³⁴ ஆகவே, இதோ, தீர்க்கதரிசிகளையும் ஞானிகளையும் வேதபண்டிதர்களையும் உங்களிடம் அனுப்புகிறேன்; அவர்களில் சிலரைக் கொன்று சிலுவைகளில் அறைவீர்கள், சிலரை உங்களுடைய ஜெப ஆலயங்களில் சாட்டையினால் அடித்து, ஊருக்கு ஊர் துன்பப்படுத்துவீர்கள்; ³⁵ நீதிமானாகிய ஆபேலின் இரத்தம் முதல் தேவாலயத்திற்கும் பலிபீடத்திற்கும் நடுவே நீங்கள் கொலைசெய்த பரகியாவின் குமாரனாகிய சகரியாவின் இரத்தம்வரைக்கும், பூமியின்மேல் சிந்தப்பட்ட நீதிமான்களின் இரத்தப்பழியெல்லாம் உங்கள்மேல் வரும்படியாக இப்படிச் செய்வீர்கள். ³⁶ இவைகளெல்லாம் இந்தச் சந்ததியின்மேல் வருமென்று, உண்மையாகவே உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன்.

³⁷ எருசலேமே, எருசலேமே, தீர்க்கதரிசிகளைக் கொலைசெய்து, உன்னிடத்தில் அனுப்பப்பட்டவர்களைக் கல்லெறிகிறவளே! கோழி தன் குஞ்சுகளைத் தன் சிறகுகளின்கீழே கூட்டிச்சேர்த்துக்கொள்ளுவதுபோல நான் எத்தனைமுறையோ உன் பிள்ளைகளைக் கூட்டிச்சேர்த்துக்கொள்ள விருப்பமாக இருந்தேன்; உங்களுக்கோ விருப்பமில்லாமல்போனது. ³⁸ இதோ, உங்களுடைய வீடு உங்களுக்குப் பாழாக்கிவிடப்படும். ³⁹ கர்த்தருடைய நாமத்தினாலே வருகிறவர் போற்றப்பட்டவர் என்று நீங்கள் சொல்லும்வரை, இதுமுதல் என்னைக் காணாதிருப்பீர்கள் என்று உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன் என்றார்.

அத்தியாயம்- 24

¹ இயேசு தேவாலயத்தைவிட்டுப் புறப்பட்டுப்போகும்போது, அவருடைய சீடர்கள் தேவாலயத்தின் கட்டிடங்களை அவருக்குக் காண்பிக்க அவரிடத்தில் வந்தார்கள். ² இயேசு அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: இவைகளையெல்லாம் பார்க்கிறீர்களே, இந்த இடத்தில் ஒரு கல்லின்மேல் ஒரு கல் இல்லாதபடிக்கு எல்லாம் இடிக்கப்பட்டுப்போகும் என்று உண்மையாகவே உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன் என்றார். ³ பின்பு, அவர் ஒலிவமலையின்மேல் உட்கார்ந்திருக்கும்போது, சீடர்கள் அவரிடத்தில் தனிமையில் வந்து: இவைகள் எப்பொழுது நடக்கும்? உம்முடைய வருகைக்கும், உலகத்தின் முடிவிற்கும் அடையாளம் என்ன? எங்களுக்குச் சொல்லவேண்டும் என்றார்கள். ⁴ இயேசு அவர்களுக்கு மறுமொழியாக: ஒருவனும் உங்களை ஏமாற்றாதபடிக்கு எச்சரிக்கையாக இருங்கள்; ⁵ ஏனென்றால், அநேகர் வந்து, என் நாமத்தை வைத்துக்கொண்டு: நானே கிறிஸ்து என்று சொல்லி, அநேகரை ஏமாற்றுவார்கள். ⁶ யுத்தங்களையும் யுத்தங்களின் செய்திகளையும் கேள்விப்படுவீர்கள்; கலங்காதபடி எச்சரிக்கையாக இருங்கள்; இவைகளெல்லாம் நடக்கவேண்டியதே; ஆனாலும், முடிவு உடனே வராது. ⁷ மக்களுக்கு விரோதமாக மக்களும், ராஜ்யத்திற்கு விரோதமாக ராஜ்யமும் எழும்பும்; பஞ்சங்களும், கொள்ளைநோய்களும், பூமியதிரச்சிகளும் பல இடங்களில் உண்டாகும். ⁸ இவைகளெல்லாம் வேதனைகளுக்கு ஆரம்பம். ⁹ அப்பொழுது, உங்களை உபத்திரவங்களுக்கு ஒப்புக்கொடுத்து, உங்களைக் கொலைசெய்வார்கள்: என் நாமத்தினிமித்தம் நீங்கள் எல்லா மக்களாலும் பகைக்கப்படுவீர்கள். ¹⁰ அப்பொழுது, அநேகர் இடறலடைந்து, ஒருவரையொருவர் காட்டிக்கொடுத்து, ஒருவரையொருவர் பகைப்பார்கள். ¹¹ அநேகக் கள்ளத்தீர்க்கதரிசிகளும் எழும்பி, அநேகரை ஏமாற்றுவார்கள். ¹² அக்கிரமம் பெருகுவதினால் அநேகருடைய அன்பு தணிந்துபோகும். ¹³ இறுதிவரை நிலைநிற்பவனே இரட்சிக்கப்படுவான். ¹⁴ ராஜ்யத்தினுடைய இந்த நற்செய்தி பூலோகமெங்கும் உள்ள எல்லா மக்களுக்கும் சாட்சியாகப் பிரசங்கிக்கப்படும், அப்போது முடிவு வரும். ¹⁵ மேலும், பாழாக்குகிற அருவருப்பைக்குறித்து தானியேல் தீர்க்கதரிசி சொல்லியிருக்கிறானே, வாசிக்கிறவன் சிந்திக்கவேண்டும். நீங்கள் அதைப் பரிசுத்த இடத்தில் நிற்பதைப் பார்க்கும்போது, ¹⁶ யூதேயாவில் இருக்கிறவர்கள் மலைகளுக்கு ஓடிப்போகவேண்டும். ¹⁷ வீட்டின்மேல் இருக்கிறவன் தன் வீட்டிலே எதையாவது எடுப்பதற்கு இறங்காமலிருக்கவேண்டும். ¹⁸ வயலில் இருக்கிறவன் தன் ஆடைகளை எடுப்பதற்குத் திரும்பாமலிருக்கவேண்டும். ¹⁹ அந்த நாட்களிலே கர்ப்பவதிகளுக்கும் பால்கொடுக்கிறவர்களுக்கும் ஐயோ. ²⁰ நீங்கள் ஓடிப்போவது மழைக் காலத்திலாவது, ஓய்வுநாளிலாவது, நடக்காதபடிக்கு வேண்டிக்கொள்ளுங்கள். ²¹ ஏனென்றால், உலகம் உண்டானதுமுதல் இதுவரைக்கும் நடக்காததும், இனிமேலும் நடைபெறாததுமான மிகுந்த உபத்திரவம் அப்பொழுது உண்டாயிருக்கும். ²² அந்த நாட்கள் குறைக்கப்படாமலிருந்தால், ஒருவன் கூட தப்பிப்போவதில்லை; தெரிந்துகொள்ளப்பட்டவர்களினிமித்தம் அந்த நாட்கள் குறைக்கப்படும். ²³ அப்பொழுது, இதோ, கிறிஸ்து இங்கே இருக்கிறார், அதோ, அங்கே இருக்கிறார் என்று எவனாவது சொன்னால் நம்பாதீர்கள். ²⁴ ஏனென்றால், கள்ளக்கிறிஸ்துக்களும் கள்ளத்தீர்க்கதரிசிகளும் எழும்பி, கூடுமானால் தெரிந்துகொள்ளப்பட்டவர்களையும் வஞ்சிக்கத்தக்கதாகப் பெரிய அடையாளங்களையும் அற்புதங்களையும் செய்வார்கள். ²⁵ இதோ, முன்னதாக உங்களுக்கு அறிவித்திருக்கிறேன். ²⁶ ஆகவே: அதோ, வனாந்திரத்தில் இருக்கிறார் என்று சொல்வார்களானால், புறப்படாமலிருங்கள்; இதோ, அறைவீட்டிற்குள் இருக்கிறார் என்று சொல்வார்களானால் நம்பாதீர்கள். ²⁷ மின்னல் கிழக்கிலிருந்து தோன்றி மேற்குவரைக்கும் பிரகாசிக்கிறதுபோல, மனிதகுமாரனுடைய வருகையும் இருக்கும். ²⁸ பிணம் எங்கேயோ அங்கே கழுகுகள் வந்து கூடும். ²⁹ அந்தநாட்களின் உபத்திரவம் முடிந்தவுடனே, சூரியன் இருளடையும், சந்திரன் ஒளியைக் கொடுக்காமல் இருக்கும், நட்சத்திரங்கள் வானத்திலிருந்து விழும், வானத்தின் வல்லமைகள் அசைக்கப்படும். ³⁰ அப்பொழுது மனிதகுமாரனுடைய அடையாளம் வானத்தில் காணப்படும். அப்பொழுது, மனிதகுமாரன் வல்லமையோடும் மிகுந்த மகிமையோடும் வானத்தின் மேகங்கள்மேல் வருகிறதை பூமியிலுள்ள எல்லாக் கோத்திரத்தார்களும் கண்டு புலம்புவார்கள். ³¹ வலுவாகத் தொனிக்கும் எக்காளசத்தத்தோடு அவர் தமது தூதர்களை அனுப்புவார்; அவர்கள் அவரால் தெரிந்துகொள்ளப்பட்டவர்களை வானத்தின் ஒருமுனைமுதல் மறுமுனைவரைக்கும் நாலு திசைகளிலுமிருந்து கூட்டிச்சேர்ப்பார்கள். ³² அத்திமரத்தினால் ஒரு உவமையைக் கற்றுக்கொள்ளுங்கள்; அதிலே இளங்கிளை தோன்றி, துளிர்விடும்போது, வசந்தகாலம் நெருங்கிவிட்டது என்று அறிவீர்கள். ³³ அப்படியே இவைகளையெல்லாம் நீங்கள் பார்க்கும்போது அவர் நெருக்கமாக வாசலின் அருகே வந்திருக்கிறார் என்று தெரிந்துகொள்ளுங்கள். ³⁴ இவைகளெல்லாம் சம்பவிக்கும் முன்னே இந்தச் சந்ததி ஒழிந்துபோகாது என்று, உண்மையாகவே உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன். ³⁵ வானமும் பூமியும் ஒழிந்துபோகும், என் வார்த்தைகளோ ஒழிந்துபோவதில்லை.

³⁶ அந்த நாளையும் அந்த நேரத்தையும் என் பிதா ஒருவர்தவிர மற்றொருவனும் அறியான்; பரலோகத்திலுள்ள தூதர்களும் அறியார்கள். ³⁷ நோவாவின் காலத்தில் எப்படி நடந்ததோ, அப்படியே மனிதகுமாரன் வரும்காலத்திலும் நடக்கும். ³⁸ எப்படியென்றால், பெருவெள்ளத்திற்கு முன்னான காலத்திலே நோவா கப்பலுக்குள் பிரவேசிக்கும் நாள்வரை, மக்கள் புசித்தும் குடித்தும், பெண் எடுத்தும் பெண் கொடுத்தும், ³⁹ பெருவெள்ளம் வந்து அனைவரையும் வாரிக்கொண்டுபோகும்வரை உணராமல் இருந்தார்கள்; அப்படியே மனிதகுமாரன் வரும்காலத்திலும் நடக்கும். ⁴⁰ அப்பொழுது, இரண்டுபேர் வயலில் இருப்பார்கள்; ஒருவன் ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளப்படுவான், ஒருவன் கைவிடப்படுவான். ⁴¹ இரண்டு பெண்கள் மாவு அரைத்துக்கொண்டிருப்பார்கள்; ஒருத்தி ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளப்படுவாள், ஒருத்தி கைவிடப்படுவாள். ⁴² உங்களுடைய ஆண்டவர் எந்த நேரத்திலே வருவாரென்று நீங்கள் அறியாதிருக்கிறபடியினால் விழித்திருங்கள். ⁴³ திருடன் இரவிலே எந்த நேரத்திலே வருவானென்று வீட்டெஜமான் அறிந்திருந்தால், அவன் விழித்திருந்து, தன் வீட்டைக் கொள்ளையடிக்கவிடமாட்டான் என்று அறிவீர்கள். ⁴⁴ நீங்கள் நினைக்காத நேரத்திலே மனிதகுமாரன் வருவார்; ஆதலால், நீங்களும் ஆயத்தமாக இருங்கள். ⁴⁵ ஏற்ற நேரத்திலே தன் வேலைக்காரர்களுக்கு ஆகாரங்கொடுத்து அவர்களை விசாரிக்கும்படி எஜமான் வைத்த உண்மையும் விவேகமுமுள்ள வேலைக்காரன் யார்? ⁴⁶ எஜமான் வரும்போது அப்படிச் செய்கிறவனாகக் காணப்படுகிற வேலைக்காரனே பாக்கியவான். ⁴⁷ தன் ஆஸ்திகள் எல்லாவற்றின்மேலும் அவனை விசாரணைக்காரனாக வைப்பான் என்று உண்மையாகவே உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன். ⁴⁸ அந்த வேலைக்காரனோ பொல்லாதவனாக இருந்து: என் எஜமான் வர நாளாகும் என்று தன் உள்ளத்திலே சொல்லிக்கொண்டு, ⁴⁹ தன் உடன்வேலைக்காரர்களை அடிக்கவும், குடிகாரர்களோடு புசிக்கவும் குடிக்கவும் தொடங்கினால், ⁵⁰ அந்த வேலைக்காரன் நினைக்காத நாளிலும், அறியாத நேரத்திலும், அவனுடைய எஜமான் வந்து, ⁵¹ அவனைக் கடினமாகத் தண்டித்து, மாயக்காரர்களோடு அவனுக்குப் பங்கை நியமிப்பான்; அங்கே அழுகையும் பற்கடிப்பும் உண்டாயிருக்கும்.

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¹ அப்பொழுது பரலோகராஜ்யம் தங்களுடைய எண்ணெய் விளக்குகளைப் பிடித்துக்கொண்டு, மணவாளனுக்கு எதிர்கொண்டுபோகப் புறப்பட்ட பத்துக் கன்னிகைகளுக்கு ஒப்பாக இருக்கும். ² அவர்களில் ஐந்துபேர் புத்தியுள்ளவர்களும், ஐந்துபேர் புத்தியில்லாதவர்களுமாக இருந்தார்கள். ³ புத்தியில்லாதவர்கள் தங்களுடைய விளக்குகளை எடுத்துக்கொண்டுபோனார்கள், எண்ணெயையோ கூடக்கொண்டுபோகவில்லை. ⁴ புத்தியுள்ளவர்கள் தங்களுடைய விளக்குகளோடுகூடத் தங்களுடைய பாத்திரங்களில் எண்ணெயையும் கொண்டுபோனார்கள். ⁵ மணவாளன் வரத் தாமதமானபோது, அவர்கள் எல்லோரும் தூக்கமயக்கமடைந்து தூங்கிவிட்டார்கள். ⁶ நடு இரவிலே: இதோ, மணவாளன் வருகிறார், அவருக்கு எதிர்கொண்டுபோகப் புறப்படுங்கள் என்கிற சத்தம் உண்டானது. ⁷ அப்பொழுது, அந்தக் கன்னிகைகள் எல்லோரும் எழுந்திருந்து, தங்களுடைய விளக்குகளை ஆயத்தப்படுத்தினார்கள். ⁸ புத்தியில்லாதவர்கள் புத்தியுள்ளவர்களைப் பார்த்து: உங்களுடைய எண்ணெயில் எங்களுக்குக் கொஞ்சம் கொடுங்கள், எங்களுடைய விளக்குகள் அணைந்துபோகிறதே என்றார்கள். ⁹ புத்தியுள்ளவர்கள் மறுமொழியாக: அப்படியல்ல, எங்களுக்கும் உங்களுக்கும் போதுமானதாக இல்லாதபடி, நீங்கள் விற்கிறவர்களிடத்திற்குப்போய், உங்களுக்காக வாங்கிக்கொள்ளுங்கள் என்றார்கள். ¹⁰ அப்படியே அவர்கள் வாங்கப்போனபோது மணவாளன் வந்துவிட்டார்; ஆயத்தமாக இருந்தவர்கள் அவரோடுகூடத் திருமணவீட்டிற்குள் பிரவேசித்தார்கள்; கதவும் அடைக்கப்பட்டது. ¹¹ பின்பு, மற்றக் கன்னிகைகளும் வந்து: ஆண்டவரே, ஆண்டவரே, எங்களுக்குத் திறக்கவேண்டும் என்றார்கள். ¹² அதற்கு அவர்: உங்களை யாரென்று எனக்குத் தெரியாது என்று, உண்மையாகவே உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன் என்றார். ¹³ மனிதகுமாரன் வரும் நாளையாவது நேரத்தையாவது நீங்கள் அறியாதிருக்கிறபடியால் விழித்திருங்கள்.

¹⁴ அன்றியும், பரலோகராஜ்யம் வெளிதேசத்திற்குப் பயணமாகப் போகிற ஒரு மனிதன், தன் வேலைக்காரர்களை அழைத்து, தன் சொத்துக்களை அவர்களிடத்தில் ஒப்புக்கொடுத்ததுபோல இருக்கிறது. ¹⁵ அவனவனுடைய திறமைக்குத்தக்கதாக, ஒருவனிடத்தில் ஐந்து வெள்ளிப்பணமும், ஒருவனிடத்தில் இரண்டு வெள்ளிப்பணமும், ஒருவனிடத்தில் ஒரு வெள்ளிப்பணமுமாகக் கொடுத்து, உடனே பயணப்பட்டுப்போனான். ¹⁶ ஐந்து வெள்ளிப்பணத்தை வாங்கினவன்போய், அவைகளைக்கொண்டு வியாபாரம் செய்து, வேறு ஐந்து வெள்ளிப்பணத்தைச் சம்பாதித்தான். ¹⁷ அப்படியே இரண்டு வெள்ளிப்பணத்தை வாங்கினவனும், வேறு இரண்டு வெள்ளிப்பணத்தைச் சம்பாதித்தான். ¹⁸ ஒரு வெள்ளிப்பணத்தை வாங்கினவனோ, போய், நிலத்தைத் தோண்டி, தன் எஜமானுடைய பணத்தைப் புதைத்துவைத்தான். ¹⁹ அநேக நாட்களானபின்பு அந்த வேலைக்காரர்களுடைய எஜமான் திரும்பிவந்து, அவர்களிடத்தில் கணக்குக் கேட்டான். ²⁰ அப்பொழுது, ஐந்து வெள்ளிப்பணத்தை வாங்கினவன், வேறு ஐந்து வெள்ளிப்பணத்தைக் கொண்டுவந்து: ஆண்டவனே, ஐந்து வெள்ளிப்பணத்தை என்னிடத்தில் ஒப்புவித்தீரே; அவைகளைக்கொண்டு, இதோ, வேறு ஐந்து வெள்ளிப்பணத்தைச் சம்பாதித்தேன் என்றான். ²¹ அவனுடைய எஜமான் அவனைப் பார்த்து: நல்லது, உத்தமமும் உண்மையுமுள்ள வேலைக்காரனே, கொஞ்சத்திலே உண்மையாக இருந்தாய், அநேகத்தின்மேல் உன்னை அதிகாரியாக வைப்பேன், உன் எஜமானுடைய சந்தோஷத்திற்குள் பிரவேசி என்றான். ²² இரண்டு வெள்ளிப்பணத்தை வாங்கினவனும் வந்து: ஆண்டவனே, இரண்டு வெள்ளிப்பணத்தை என்னிடத்தில் ஒப்புவித்தீரே; அவைகளைக்கொண்டு, இதோ, வேறு இரண்டு வெள்ளிப்பணத்தைச் சம்பாதித்தேன் என்றான். ²³ அவனுடைய எஜமான் அவனைப் பார்த்து: நல்லது, உத்தமமும் உண்மையுமுள்ள வேலைக்காரனே, கொஞ்சத்திலே உண்மையாக இருந்தாய், அநேகத்தின்மேல் உன்னை அதிகாரியாக வைப்பேன்; உன் எஜமானுடைய சந்தோஷத்திற்குள் பிரவேசி என்றான். ²⁴ ஒரு வெள்ளிப்பணத்தை வாங்கினவன் வந்து: ஆண்டவனே, நீர் விதைக்காத இடத்தில் அறுக்கிறவரும், தெளிக்காத இடத்தில் சேர்க்கிறவருமான கடினமுள்ள மனிதன் என்று அறிவேன். ²⁵ ஆகவே, நான் பயந்துபோய், உமது வெள்ளிப்பணத்தை நிலத்தில் புதைத்து வைத்தேன்; இதோ, உம்முடையதை வாங்கிக்கொள்ளும் என்றான். ²⁶ அவனுடைய எஜமான் மறுமொழியாக: பொல்லாதவனும் சோம்பலுமான வேலைக்காரனே, நான் விதைக்காத இடத்தில் அறுக்கிறவனென்றும் தெளிக்காத இடத்தில் சேர்க்கிறவனென்றும் அறிந்திருந்தாயே. ²⁷ அப்படியானால், நீ என் பணத்தை வங்கியிலே போட்டுவைத்திருக்கலாமே; அப்பொழுது, நான் வந்து என்னுடையதை வட்டியோடு வாங்கிக்கொள்ளுவேனே, என்று சொல்லி, ²⁸ அவனிடத்திலிருக்கிற வெள்ளிப்பணத்தை எடுத்து, பத்து வெள்ளிப்பணத்தை உடையவனுக்குக் கொடுங்கள். ²⁹ உள்ளவனெனவனோ அவனுக்குக் கொடுக்கப்படும், பரிபூரணமும் அடைவான்; இல்லாதவனிடத்திலிருந்து உள்ளதும் எடுத்துக்கொள்ளப்படும். ³⁰ பிரயோஜனமில்லாத வேலைக்காரனாகிய இவனைப் புறம்பான இருளிலே தள்ளிப்போடுங்கள்; அங்கே அழுகையும் பற்கடிப்பும் உண்டாயிருக்கும் என்றான்.

³¹ அன்றியும் மனிதகுமாரன் தமது மகிமை பொருந்தினவராக அனைத்து பரிசுத்த தூதர்களோடு கூட வரும்போது, தமது மகிமையுள்ள சிங்காசனத்தின்மேல் வீற்றிருப்பார். ³² அப்பொழுது, எல்லா மக்களும் அவருக்கு முன்பாகச் சேர்க்கப்படுவார்கள். மேய்ப்பனானவன் செம்மறியாடுகளையும் வெள்ளாடுகளையும் தனித்தனியாகப் பிரிக்கிறதுபோல அவர்களை அவர் பிரித்து, ³³ செம்மறியாடுகளைத் தமது வலதுபக்கத்திலும், வெள்ளாடுகளைத் தமது இடதுபக்கத்திலும் நிறுத்துவார். ³⁴ அப்பொழுது, ராஜா தமது வலதுபக்கத்தில் நிற்பவர்களைப் பார்த்து: வாருங்கள் என் பிதாவினால் ஆசீர்வதிக்கப்பட்டவர்களே, உலகம் உண்டானதுமுதல் உங்களுக்காக ஆயத்தம் செய்யப்பட்டிருக்கிற ராஜ்யத்தைச் சுதந்தரித்துக்கொள்ளுங்கள். ³⁵ பசியாக இருந்தேன், எனக்கு உணவு கொடுத்தீர்கள்; தாகமாக இருந்தேன், என் தாகத்தைத் தணித்தீர்கள்; அந்நியனாக இருந்தேன், என்னைச் சேர்த்துக்கொண்டீர்கள்; ³⁶ ஆடை இல்லாதிருந்தேன், எனக்கு ஆடை கொடுத்தீர்கள்; வியாதியாக இருந்தேன், என்னை விசாரிக்க வந்தீர்கள்; சிறைப்பட்டிருந்தேன், என்னைப் பார்க்க வந்தீர்கள் என்பார். ³⁷ அப்பொழுது, நீதிமான்கள் அவருக்கு மறுமொழியாக: ஆண்டவரே, நாங்கள் எப்பொழுது உம்மைப் பசியுள்ளவராகக் கண்டு உமக்கு உணவு கொடுத்தோம்? எப்பொழுது உம்மைத் தாகமுள்ளவராகக் கண்டு உம்முடைய தாகத்தைத் தணித்தோம்? ³⁸ எப்பொழுது உம்மை அந்நியராகக் கண்டு உம்மைச் சேர்த்துக்கொண்டோம்? எப்பொழுது உம்மை ஆடையில்லாதவராகக் கண்டு உமக்கு ஆடை கொடுத்தோம்? ³⁹ எப்பொழுது உம்மை வியாதியுள்ளவராகவும் சிறையிலிருக்கிறவராகவும் கண்டு, உம்மிடத்தில் வந்தோம் என்பார்கள். ⁴⁰ அதற்கு ராஜா மறுமொழியாக: மிகவும் எளியவராகிய என் சகோதரர்களான இவர்களில் ஒருவனுக்கு நீங்கள் எதைச் செய்தீர்களோ, அதை எனக்கே செய்தீர்கள் என்று உண்மையாகவே உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன் என்பார். ⁴¹ அப்பொழுது, இடதுபக்கத்தில் நிற்பவர்களைப் பார்த்து அவர்: சபிக்கப்பட்டவர்களே, என்னைவிட்டு, பிசாசுக்காகவும், அவன் தூதர்களுக்காகவும் ஆயத்தம் செய்யப்பட்டிருக்கிற நித்திய அக்கினியிலே போங்கள். ⁴² பசியாக இருந்தேன், நீங்கள் எனக்கு ஆகாரம் கொடுக்கவில்லை; தாகமாக இருந்தேன், நீங்கள் என் தாகத்தைத் தணிக்கவில்லை; ⁴³ அந்நியனாக இருந்தேன், நீங்கள் என்னைச் சேர்த்துக்கொள்ளவில்லை; ஆடையில்லாதிருந்தேன், நீங்கள் எனக்கு ஆடை கொடுக்கவில்லை; வியாதியுள்ளவனாகவும் சிறையில் அடைக்கப்பட்டவனாகவும் இருந்தேன், நீங்கள் என்னை விசாரிக்க வரவில்லை என்பார். ⁴⁴ அப்பொழுது, அவர்களும் அவருக்கு மறுமொழியாக: ஆண்டவரே, உம்மைப் பசியுள்ளவராகவும், தாகமுள்ளவராகவும், அந்நியராகவும், ஆடையில்லாதவராகவும், வியாதிப்பட்டவராகவும், சிறையில் அடைக்கப்பட்டவராகவும் நாங்கள் எப்பொழுது கண்டு, உமக்கு உதவி செய்யாதிருந்தோம் என்பார்கள். ⁴⁵ அப்பொழுது, அவர் அவர்களுக்கு மறுமொழியாக: மிகவும் எளியவர்களாகிய இவர்களில் ஒருவனுக்கு நீங்கள் எதைச் செய்யாதிருந்தீர்களோ, அதை எனக்கே செய்யாதிருந்தீர்கள் என்று உண்மையாகவே உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன் என்பார். ⁴⁶ அந்தப்படி, இவர்கள் நித்திய தண்டனையை அடையவும், நீதிமான்களோ நித்தியஜீவனை அடைவார்கள் என்றார்.

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¹ இயேசு இந்த வசனங்களையெல்லாம் சொல்லிமுடித்தபின்பு, அவர் தம்முடைய சீடர்களைப் பார்த்து: ² இரண்டு நாட்களுக்குப்பின்பு பஸ்காபண்டிகை வருமென்று அறிவீர்கள்; அப்பொழுது, மனிதகுமாரன் சிலுவையில் அறையப்படுவதற்கு ஒப்புக்கொடுக்கப்படுவார் என்றார். ³ அப்பொழுது, பிரதான ஆசாரியர்களும் வேதபண்டிதர்களும் மக்களின் மூப்பர்களும், காய்பா என்னப்பட்ட தலைமை ஆசாரியனுடைய அரண்மனையிலே கூடிவந்து, ⁴ இயேசுவைத் தந்திரமாகப் பிடித்துக் கொலைசெய்யும்படி ஆலோசனை செய்தார்கள். ⁵ ஆனாலும் மக்களுக்குள்ளே கலகமுண்டாகாதபடிக்குப் பண்டிகையிலே அப்படிச் செய்யக்கூடாது என்றார்கள்.

⁶ இயேசு பெத்தானியாவில் குஷ்டரோகியாக இருந்த சீமோன் வீட்டில் இருக்கும்போது, ⁷ ஒரு பெண் விலையேறப்பெற்ற பரிமள தைலமுள்ள வெள்ளைக்கல் ஜாடியைக் கொண்டுவிந்து, அவர் உணவு பந்தியிலிருக்கும்போது, அந்தத் தைலத்தை அவர் தலையின்மேல் ஊற்றினாள். ⁸ அவருடைய சீடர்கள் அதைக் கண்டு கோபமடைந்து: இந்த வீண் செலவு என்னத்திற்கு? ⁹ இந்தத் தைலத்தை அதிக விலைக்கு விற்று, தரித்திரர்களுக்குக் கொடுக்கலாமே என்றார்கள். ¹⁰ இயேசு அதை அறிந்து, அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: நீங்கள் இந்தப் பெண்ணை ஏன் தொந்தரவு படுத்துகிறீர்கள்? என்னிடத்தில் நற்செயலைச் செய்திருக்கிறாள். ¹¹ தரித்திரர்கள் எப்போதும் உங்களிடம் இருக்கிறார்கள்; நானோ எப்போதும் உங்களிடம் இருக்கமாட்டேன். ¹² இவள் இந்தத் தைலத்தை என் சரீரத்தின்மேல் ஊற்றினது என்னை அடக்கம் செய்வதற்கு சமமான செய்கையாக இருக்கிறது. ¹³ இந்த நற்செய்தி உலகத்தில் எங்கெங்கே பிரசங்கிக்கப்படுமோ அங்கங்கே இவளை நினைப்பதற்காக இவள் செய்ததும் சொல்லப்படும் என்று உண்மையாகவே உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன் என்றார்.

¹⁴ அப்பொழுது, பன்னிரண்டுபேரில் ஒருவனாகிய யூதாஸ்காரியோத்து என்பவன் பிரதான ஆசாரியர்களிடத்திற்குப்போய்: ¹⁵ நான் அவரை உங்களுக்குக் காட்டிக்கொடுக்கிறேன், நீங்கள் எனக்கு என்ன கொடுக்கிறீர்கள் என்றான். அவர்கள் அவனுக்கு முப்பது வெள்ளிக்காசைக் கொடுக்க ஒத்துக்கொண்டார்கள். ¹⁶ அதுமுதல் அவன் அவரைக் காட்டிக்கொடுப்பதற்கு நேரம் பார்த்துக்கொண்டிருந்தான்.

¹⁷ புனிப்பில்லாத அப்பப்பண்டிகையின் முதல்நாளிலே, சீடர்கள் இயேசுவினிடத்தில் வந்து: பஸ்காவைப் புசிப்பதற்கு நாங்கள் எங்கே உமக்கு ஆயத்தம்செய்ய விருப்பமாக இருக்கிறீர் என்று கேட்டார்கள். ¹⁸ அதற்கு அவர்: நீங்கள் நகரத்திலே இன்னானிடத்திற்குப்போய்: என் வேளை சமீபமாக இருக்கிறது, உன் வீட்டிலே என் சீடர்களோடுகூட பஸ்காவை ஆசரிப்பேன் என்று போதகர் சொல்லுகிறார் என்று அவனுக்குச் சொல்லுங்கள் என்றார். ¹⁹ இயேசு கற்பித்தபடி சீடர்கள்போய், பஸ்காவை ஆயத்தம் செய்தார்கள். ²⁰ மாலைநேரமானபோது, பன்னிரண்டுபேரோடும் அவர் பந்தியிருந்தார். ²¹ அவர்கள் உணவு உண்ணும்போது, அவர்: உங்களிலொருவன் என்னைக் காட்டிக்கொடுப்பான் என்று உண்மையாகவே உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன் என்றார். ²² அப்பொழுது, அவர்கள் மிகவும் துக்கமடைந்து, அவரைப் பார்த்து: ஆண்டவரே, நானோ, நானோ? என்று ஒவ்வொருவராகக் கேட்கத்தொடங்கினார்கள். ²³ அவர் மறுமொழியாக: என்னோடுகூடத் தட்டில் கையிடுகிறவனே என்னைக் காட்டிக்கொடுப்பான். ²⁴ மனிதகுமாரன் தம்மைக்குறித்து எழுதியிருக்கிறபடியே போகிறார்; ஆனாலும், எந்த மனிதனால் மனிதகுமாரன் காட்டிக்கொடுக்கப்படுகிறாரோ, அந்த மனிதனுக்கு ஐயோ; அந்த மனிதன் பிறக்காதிருந்தானானால் அவனுக்கு நலமாக இருக்கும் என்றார். ²⁵ அவரைக் காட்டிக்கொடுத்த யூதாசும் அவரைப் பார்த்து: ரபீ, நானோ? என்றான்; அதற்கு அவர்: நீ சொன்னபடிதான் என்றார். ²⁶ அவர்கள் உணவு உண்ணும்போது, இயேசு அப்பத்தை எடுத்து, ஆசீர்வதித்து, அதைப் பிட்டு, சீடர்களுக்குக் கொடுத்து: நீங்கள் வாங்கிச்சாப்பிடுங்கள், இது என்னுடைய சரீரமாக இருக்கிறது என்றார். ²⁷ பின்பு, பாத்திரத்தையும் எடுத்து, நன்றிசெலுத்தி, அவர்களுக்குக் கொடுத்து: நீங்கள் எல்லோரும் இதிலே பானம்பண்ணுங்கள்; ²⁸ இது பாவமன்னிப்புண்டாகும்படி அநேகருக்காகச் சிந்தப்படுகிற புதிய ஒப்பந்தத்திற்குரிய என்னுடைய இரத்தமாக இருக்கிறது. ²⁹ இதுமுதல் இந்தத் திராட்சைப்பழரசத்தை புதிதானதாக உங்களோடுகூட என் பிதாவின் ராஜ்யத்திலே நான் பானம்பண்ணும் நான்வரை இதைப் பானம்பண்ணுவதில்லையென்று உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன் என்றார். ³⁰ அவர்கள் துதிப்பாட்டைப் பாடினபின்பு, ஒலிவமலைக்குப் புறப்பட்டுப்போனார்கள்.

³¹ அப்பொழுது, இயேசு அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: மேய்ப்பனை வெட்டுவேன்; மந்தையின் ஆடுகள் சிதறடிக்கப்படும் என்று எழுதியிருக்கிறபடி, இந்த இரவிலே நீங்கள் எல்லோரும் என்னிமித்தம் இடறலடைவீர்கள். ³² ஆனாலும் நான் உயிர்த்தெழுந்தபின்பு, உங்களுக்கு முன்னே கலிலேயாவிற்குப்

போவேன் என்றார். ³³ பேதுரு அவருக்கு மறுமொழியாக: உமதுநிமித்தம் எல்லோரும் இடறலடைந்தாலும், நான் ஒருபோதும் இடறலடையமாட்டேன் என்றான். ³⁴ இயேசு அவனைப் பார்த்து: இந்த இரவிலே சேவல் கூவுகிறதற்கு முன்னே, நீ என்னை மூன்றுமுறை மறுதலிப்பாய் என்று, உண்மையாகவே உனக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன் என்றார். ³⁵ அதற்குப் பேதுரு: நான் உம்மோடே மரிக்கவேண்டியதாயிருந்தாலும் உம்மை மறுதலிக்கமாட்டேன் என்றான்; சீடர்கள் எல்லோரும் அப்படியே சொன்னார்கள்.

³⁶ அப்பொழுது, இயேசு அவர்களோடு கெத்செமனே என்னப்பட்ட இடத்திற்கு வந்து, சீடர்களைப் பார்த்து: நான் அங்கே போய் ஜெபம்செய்யும்வரை நீங்கள் இங்கே உட்கார்ந்திருங்கள் என்று சொல்லி; ³⁷ பேதுருவையும் செபெதேயுவின் குமாரர்கள் இருவரையும் அழைத்துக்கொண்டுபோய், துக்கமடையவும் வியாகுலப்படவும் தொடங்கினார். ³⁸ அப்பொழுது, அவர்: என் ஆத்துமா மரணத்திற்குரிய துக்கங்கொண்டிருக்கிறது; நீங்கள் இங்கே தங்கி, என்னோடுகூட விழித்திருங்கள் என்று சொல்லி, ³⁹ சிறிது விலகிப்போய், முகங்குப்புறவிழுந்து: என் பிதாவே, இந்தப் பாத்திரம் என்னைவிட்டு நீங்கக்கூடுமானால் நீங்கும்படிச் செய்யும்; ஆனாலும் என் விருப்பத்தின்படியல்ல, உம்முடைய விருப்பத்தின்படியே ஆகக்கடவது என்று ஜெபம்செய்தார். ⁴⁰ பின்பு, அவர் சீடர்களிடத்தில் வந்து, அவர்கள் நித்திரைபண்ணுகிறதைக் கண்டு, பேதுருவைப் பார்த்து: நீங்கள் ஒருமணி நேரமாவது என்னோடுகூட விழித்திருக்கக்கூடாதா? ⁴¹ நீங்கள் சோதனைக்குட்படாதபடிக்கு விழித்திருந்து ஜெபம்செய்யுங்கள்; ஆவி உற்சாகமுள்ளதுதான், மாம்சமோ பலவீனமுள்ளது என்றார். ⁴² அவர் மறுபடியும் இரண்டாம்முறை போய்: என் பிதாவே, இந்தப் பாத்திரத்தில் நான் பானம்பண்ணினாலொழிய இது என்னைவிட்டு நீங்கக்கூடாதாகில், உம்முடைய விருப்பத்தின்படி ஆகக்கடவது என்று ஜெபம்செய்தார். ⁴³ அவர் திரும்ப வந்தபோது, அவர்கள் மறுபடியும் நித்திரைபண்ணுகிறதைக் கண்டார்; அவர்களுடைய கண்கள் மிகுந்த நித்திரைமயக்கம் அடைந்திருந்தது. ⁴⁴ அவர் மறுபடியும் அவர்களைவிட்டுப்போய், மூன்றாம்முறையும் அந்த வார்த்தைகளையே சொல்லி ஜெபம்செய்தார். ⁴⁵ பின்பு அவர் தம்முடைய சீடர்களிடத்தில் வந்து: இன்னும் நித்திரைபண்ணி இளைப்பாறுகிறீர்களா? இதோ, மனிதகுமாரன் பாவிதருடைய கைகளில் ஒப்புக்கொடுக்கப்படுகிற நேரம்வந்தது. ⁴⁶ என்னைக் காட்டிக்கொடுக்கிறவன், இதோ, வந்துவிட்டான், எழுந்திருங்கள், போவோம் என்றார்.

⁴⁷ அவர் இப்படிப் பேசும்போது, பன்னிரண்டுபேரில் ஒருவனாகிய யூதாஸ் வந்தான்; அவனோடுகூட பிரதான ஆசாரியர்களும் மக்களின் மூப்பர்களும் அனுப்பின திரளான மக்கள் பட்டயங்களையும் தடிகளையும் பிடித்துக்கொண்டுவந்தார்கள். ⁴⁸ அவரைக் காட்டிக்கொடுக்கிறவன்: நான் எவனை முத்தம்செய்வேனோ அவன்தான், அவனைப் பிடித்துக்கொள்ளுங்கள் என்று அவர்களுக்கு அடையாளம் சொல்லியிருந்தான். ⁴⁹ உடனே, அவன் இயேசுவினிடத்தில் வந்து: ரபீ, வாழ்க என்று சொல்லி, அவரை முத்தம்செய்தான். ⁵⁰ இயேசு அவனைப் பார்த்து: நண்பனே, எதற்காக வந்திருக்கிறாய் என்றார். அப்பொழுது, அவர்கள் கிட்டவந்து, இயேசுவைப் பிடித்தார்கள். ⁵¹ அப்பொழுது இயேசுவோடிருந்தவர்களில் ஒருவன் கையை நீட்டித் தன் பட்டயத்தை உருவி, பிரதான ஆசாரியனுடைய வேலைக்காரனின் காது அறுந்துபோக வெட்டினான். ⁵² அப்பொழுது, இயேசு அவனைப் பார்த்து: உன் பட்டயத்தைத் திரும்ப அதின் உறையிலே போடு; பட்டயத்தை எடுக்கிற அனைவரும் பட்டயத்தால் அழிந்துபோவார்கள். ⁵³ நான் இப்பொழுது என் பிதாவை வேண்டிக்கொண்டால், அவர் பன்னிரண்டு லேகியோனுக்கு அதிகமான தூதர்களை என்னிடத்தில் அனுப்பமாட்டாரென்று நினைக்கிறாயா? ⁵⁴ அப்படிச் செய்வேனானால், இவ்விதமாக நடைபெறவேண்டும் என்கிற வேதவாக்கியங்கள் எப்படி நிறைவேறும் என்றார். ⁵⁵ அந்த நேரத்திலே இயேசு மக்களைப் பார்த்து: திருடனைப்பிடிக்கப் புறப்படுகிறதுபோல, நீங்கள் பட்டயங்களையும் தடிகளையும் எடுத்துக்கொண்டு என்னைப் பிடிக்கவந்தீர்கள்; நான் தினந்தோறும் உங்கள் நடுவிலே உட்கார்ந்து தேவாலயத்தில் உபதேசம் செய்துகொண்டிருந்தேன்; அப்பொழுது, நீங்கள் என்னைப் பிடிக்கவில்லையே. ⁵⁶ ஆனாலும் தீர்க்கதரிசிகள் எழுதியிருக்கிற வசனங்கள் நிறைவேறும்படி இவைகளெல்லாம் நடைபெறுகிறது என்றார். அப்பொழுது, சீடர்களெல்லோரும் அவரைவிட்டு ஓடிப்போனார்கள்.

⁵⁷ இயேசுவைப் பிடித்தவர்கள் அவரைப் பிரதான ஆசாரியனாகிய காய்பாவினிடத்திற்குக் கொண்டுபோனார்கள்; அங்கே வேதபண்டிதர்களும் மூப்பர்களும் கூடிவந்திருந்தார்கள். ⁵⁸ பேதுரு, தூரத்திலே அவருக்குப் பின்னேசென்று, பிரதான ஆசாரியனுடைய அரண்மனை வரைக்கும் வந்து, உள்ளே நுழைந்து, முடிவைப் பார்க்கும்படி காவலாளிகளோடு உட்கார்ந்தான். ⁵⁹ பிரதான ஆசாரியர்களும் மூப்பர்களும் சங்கத்தினர்கள் அனைவரும் இயேசுவைக் கொலைசெய்யும்படி அவருக்கு விரோதமாகப் பொய்ச்சாட்சி தேடினார்கள்; ⁶⁰ ஒருவரும் கிடைக்கவில்லை; அநேகர் வந்து பொய்ச்சாட்சி சொல்லியும் அவர்கள் சாட்சி ஏற்புடையதாயில்லை; கடைசியிலே இரண்டு பொய்ச்சாட்சிகள் வந்து: ⁶¹ தேவனுடைய ஆலயத்தை இடித்துப்போடவும், மூன்று நாட்களுக்குள்ளே அதைக் கட்டவும் என்னாலே ஆகும் என்று இவன் சொன்னான் என்றார்கள். ⁶² அப்பொழுது, பிரதான ஆசாரியன் எழுந்திருந்து, அவரைப் பார்த்து: இவர்கள்

உனக்கு விரோதமாக சாட்சி சொல்லுகிறதைக்குறித்து நீ ஒன்றும் சொல்லுகிறதில்லையா என்றான். ⁶³ இயேசுவோ பேசாமலிருந்தார். அப்பொழுது, பிரதான ஆசாரியன் அவரைப் பார்த்து: நீ தேவனுடைய குமாரனாகிய கிறிஸ்துதானா? அதை எங்களுக்குச் சொல்லும்படி ஜீவனுள்ள தேவன்பேரில் உன்னை ஆணையிட்டுக் கேட்கிறேன் என்றான். ⁶⁴ அதற்கு இயேசு: நீர் சொன்னபடிதான்; அன்றியும், மனிதகுமாரன் சர்வவல்லவருடைய வலதுபக்கத்தில் வீற்றிருப்பதையும் வானத்தின் மேகங்கள்மேல் வருவதையும் இதுமுதல் காண்பீர்களென்று, உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன் என்றார். ⁶⁵ அப்பொழுது பிரதான ஆசாரியன் தன் ஆடைகளைக் கிழித்துக்கொண்டு: இவன் தேவனை நிந்தித்தான்; இனி சாட்சிகள் நமக்கு வேண்டியதென்ன? இதோ, இவன் நிந்தித்ததை இப்பொழுது கேட்டீர்களே. ⁶⁶ உங்களுக்கு எப்படித் தோன்றுகிறது என்று கேட்டான். அதற்கு அவர்கள்: மரணத்திற்குப் பாத்திரனாக இருக்கிறான் என்றார்கள். ⁶⁷ அப்பொழுது, அவருடைய முகத்தில் துப்பி, அவரைக் குட்டினார்கள்; சிலர் அவரைக் கன்னத்தில் அறைந்து: ⁶⁸ கிறிஸ்துவே, உம்மை அடித்தவன் யார்? அதை ஞான தரிசனத்தினால் எங்களுக்குச் சொல்லும் என்றார்கள்.

⁶⁹ அந்தநேரத்தில் பேதுரு வெளியே வந்து அரண்மனை முற்றத்தில் உட்கார்ந்திருந்தான். அப்பொழுது, வேலைக்காரி ஒருத்தி அவனிடத்தில் வந்து: நீயும் கலிலேயனாகிய இயேசுவோடுகூட இருந்தாய் என்றாள். ⁷⁰ அதற்கு அவன்: நீ சொல்லுகிறது எனக்குத் தெரியாது என்று எல்லோருக்கும் முன்பாக மறுதலித்தான். ⁷¹ அவன், வாசல் மண்டபத்திற்குப்போனபொழுது வேறொருத்தி அவனைக் கண்டு: இவனும் நசரேயனாகிய இயேசுவோடுகூட இருந்தான் என்று அங்கே இருந்தவர்களுக்குச் சொன்னாள். ⁷² அவனோ: அந்த மனிதனை நான் அறியேன் என்று சத்தியம் செய்து, மறுபடியும் மறுதலித்தான். ⁷³ சிறிதுநேரத்திற்குப்பின்பு அங்கே நின்றவர்கள் பேதுருவினிடத்தில் வந்து: உண்மையாகவே நீயும் அவர்களில் ஒருவன்; உன் பேச்சு உன்னை காட்டிக்கொடுக்கிறது என்றார்கள். ⁷⁴ அப்பொழுது அவன்: அந்த மனிதனைத் தெரியாது என்று சொல்லி, சபிக்கவும் சத்தியம் செய்யவும் தொடங்கினான். உடனே சேவல் கூவியது. ⁷⁵ அப்பொழுது பேதுரு: சேவல் கூவுகிறதற்கு முன்னே நீ என்னை மூன்றுமுறை மறுதலிப்பாய் என்று இயேசு தன்னிடத்தில் சொன்ன வார்த்தையை நினைத்துக்கொண்டு, வெளியேபோய், மனங்கசந்து அழுதான்.

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¹ விடியற்காலமானபோது, எல்லாப் பிரதான ஆசாரியர்களும் மக்களின் மூப்பர்களும், இயேசுவைக் கொலைசெய்யும்படி, அவருக்கு விரோதமாக ஆலோசனைசெய்து, ² அவரைக் கட்டி, கொண்டுபோய், தேசாதிபதியாகிய பொந்தியுபிலாத்துவினிடத்தில் ஒப்புக்கொடுத்தார்கள். ³ அப்பொழுது, அவரைக் காட்டிக்கொடுத்த யூதாஸ், அவர் மரணதண்டனைக்குள்ளாகத் தீர்க்கப்பட்டதைப் பார்த்து, மனஸ்தாபப்பட்டு, அந்த முப்பது வெள்ளிக்காசை பிரதான ஆசாரியர்களிடத்திற்கும் மூப்பர்களிடத்திற்கும் திரும்பக் கொண்டுவந்து: ⁴ குற்றமில்லாத இரத்தத்தை நான் காட்டிக்கொடுத்ததினால் பாவம் செய்தேன் என்றான். அதற்கு அவர்கள்: எங்களுக்கென்ன, அது உன்னுடைய பாடு என்றார்கள். ⁵ அப்பொழுது, அவன் அந்த வெள்ளிக்காசை தேவாலயத்திலே தூக்கி எரிந்துவிட்டு, புறப்பட்டுப்போய், நான்கொண்டு செத்தான். ⁶ பிரதான ஆசாரியர்கள் அந்த வெள்ளிக்காசை எடுத்து: இது இரத்தத்தின் விலையென்பதால், காணிக்கைப்பெட்டியிலே இதைப் போடுவது நியாயமில்லையென்று சொல்லி, ⁷ ஆலோசனை செய்தபின்பு, அந்நியர்களை அடக்கம் செய்வதற்குக் குயவனுடைய நிலத்தை அதினாலே வாங்கினார்கள். ⁸ இதினிமித்தம் அந்த நிலம் இந்தநாள்வரை இரத்தநிலம் எனப்படுகிறது. ⁹ இஸ்ரவேல் பிள்ளைகளால் மதிக்கப்பட்டவருக்குக் விலையாக முப்பது வெள்ளிக்காசை அவர்கள் எடுத்து, ¹⁰ கர்த்தர் எனக்குக் கற்பித்தபடி குயவனுடைய நிலத்திற்காக அதைக் கொடுத்தார்கள் என்று எரேமியா தீர்க்கதரிசியால் சொல்லப்பட்டது அப்பொழுது நிறைவேறியது.

¹¹ இயேசு தேசாதிபதிக்கு முன்பாக நின்றார்; தேசாதிபதி அவரைப் பார்த்து: நீ யூதர்களுடைய ராஜாவா என்று கேட்டான். அதற்கு இயேசு: நீர் சொல்லுகிறபடிதான் என்றார். ¹² பிரதான ஆசாரியர்களும் மூப்பர்களும் அவர்மேல் குற்றஞ்சாட்டும்போது, அவர் பதில் ஒன்றும் சொல்லவில்லை. ¹³ அப்பொழுது, பிலாத்து அவரைப் பார்த்து: இவர்கள் உன்மேல் எத்தனையோ குற்றங்களைச் சுமத்துகிறார்களே, நீ அவைகளைக் கேட்கவில்லையா என்றான். ¹⁴ அவரோ ஒரு வார்த்தையும் பதில் சொல்லவில்லை; அதனால் தேசாதிபதி மிகவும் ஆச்சரியப்பட்டான். ¹⁵ காவல்செய்யப்பட்டவர்களில் எவனை விடுதலையாக்க வேண்டுமென்று மக்கள் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுவார்களோ, அவனை அவர்களுக்காக விடுதலையாக்குவது பண்டிகைதோறும் தேசாதிபதிக்கு வழக்கமாக இருந்தது. ¹⁶ அப்பொழுது காவல்செய்யப்பட்டவர்களில் பரபாஸ் என்னப்பட்ட பேர்போன ஒருவன் இருந்தான். ¹⁷ பொறாமையினாலே அவரை ஒப்புக்கொடுத்தார்கள் என்று பிலாத்து அறிந்து, ¹⁸ அவர்கள் கூடியிருக்கும்போது, அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: எவனை நான் உங்களுக்கு விடுதலையாக்க வேண்டுமென்றிருக்கிறீர்கள்? பரபாசையோ? கிறிஸ்து எனப்படுகிற இயேசுவையோ? என்று கேட்டான். ¹⁹ அவன் நியாயாசனத்தில் உட்கார்ந்திருக்கும்போது, அவனுடைய மனைவி அவனிடத்தில் ஆள் அனுப்பி: நீர் அந்த நீதிமானை ஒன்றும் செய்யவேண்டாம்; அவர்நிமித்தம் இன்றைக்கு கனவில் வெகு பாடுபட்டேன் என்று சொல்லச் சொன்னாள். ²⁰ பரபாசை விட்டு விடக் கேட்டுக் கொள்ளவும், இயேசுவைக் கொலை செய்யவும் பிரதான ஆசாரியர்களும் மூப்பர்களும் மக்களைத் தூண்டிவிட்டார்கள். ²¹ தேசாதிபதி மக்களைப் பார்த்து: இவ்விருவரில் எவனை நான் உங்களுக்கு விடுதலையாக்கவேண்டும் என்று கேட்டான். அதற்கு அவர்கள்: பரபாசை என்றார்கள். ²² பிலாத்து அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: அப்படியானால், கிறிஸ்து என்னப்பட்ட இயேசுவை நான் என்னசெய்யவேண்டும் என்று கேட்டான். அவனைச் சிலுவையில் அறையவேண்டும் என்று எல்லோரும் சொன்னார்கள். ²³ தேசாதிபதியோ: ஏன், என்ன பொல்லாப்புச் செய்தான் என்றான். அதற்கு அவர்கள்: அவனைச் சிலுவையில் அறையவேண்டும் என்று அதிகமதிகமாக சத்தமிட்டுச் சொன்னார்கள். ²⁴ கலவரம் அதிகமாகிறதேயல்லாமல் தன் முயற்சியினாலே பலன் இல்லையென்று பிலாத்து பார்த்து, தண்ணீரை அள்ளி, மக்களுக்கு முன்பாக கைகளைக் கழுவி: இந்த நீதிமானுடைய இரத்தப்பழிக்கு நான் குற்றமற்றவன், நீங்களே பார்த்துக்கொள்ளுங்கள் என்றான். ²⁵ அதற்கு மக்களெல்லோரும்: இவனுடைய இரத்தப்பழி எங்கள்மேலும் எங்களுடைய பிள்ளைகள்மேலும் இருப்பதாக என்று சொன்னார்கள். ²⁶ அப்பொழுது, அவன் பரபாசை அவர்களுக்கு விடுதலையாக்கி, இயேசுவையோ சாட்டையினால் அடித்து, சிலுவையில் அறைவதற்கு ஒப்புக்கொடுத்தான்.

²⁷ அப்பொழுது, தேசாதிபதியின் போர்வீரர்கள் இயேசுவைத் தேசாதிபதியின் அரண்மனையிலே கொண்டுபோய், போர்வீரர்களின் கூட்டம் முழுவதையும் அவரிடத்தில் கூடிவரச்செய்து, ²⁸ அவருடைய மேலாடைகளைக் கழற்றி, சிவப்பான மேலாடையை அவருக்கு உடுத்தி, ²⁹ முள்ளுகளால் ஒரு கிரீடத்தைச் செய்து, அவர் தலையின்மேல் வைத்து, அவருடைய வலது கையில் ஒரு கோலைக் கொடுத்து, அவர் முன்பாக முழங்காற்படியிட்டு: யூதர்களுடைய ராஜாவே, வாழ்க என்று அவரைக் கேலிசெய்தபின்பு, ³⁰ அவர்மேல் துப்பி, அந்தக் கோலை எடுத்து, அவரைத் தலையில் அடித்தார்கள். ³¹ அவரைக்

கேலிசெய்தபின்பு, அவருக்கு உடுத்தின மேலாடையைக் கழற்றி, அவருடைய ஆடைகளை அவருக்கு உடுத்தி, அவரைச் சிலுவையில் அறையும்படி கொண்டுபோனார்கள்.

³² போகும்போது, சிரேனே ஊரானாகிய சீமோன் என்னப்பட்ட ஒரு மனிதனை அவர்கள் பார்த்து, அவருடைய சிலுவையைச் சுமக்கும்படி அவனைப் பலவந்தம் செய்தார்கள். ³³ கபாலஸ்தலம் என்று அர்த்தங்கொள்ளும் கொல்கொதா என்னும் இடத்திற்கு அவர்கள் வந்தபோது, ³⁴ கசப்புக்கலந்த காடியை அவருக்குக் குடிக்கக் கொடுத்தார்கள்; அவர் அதை ருசிபார்த்து, குடிக்க மனதில்லாதிருந்தார். ³⁵ அவரை சிலுவையில் அறைந்தபின்பு, அவர்கள் சீட்டுப்போட்டு அவருடைய ஆடைகளைப் பங்கிட்டுக் கொண்டார்கள். என் ஆடைகளைத் தங்களுக்குள்ளே பங்கிட்டு, என் உடையின் பேரில் சீட்டுப்போட்டார்கள் என்று தீர்க்கதரிசியால் சொல்லப்பட்டது நிறைவேறும்படி இப்படி நடந்தது. ³⁶ அவர்கள் அங்கே உட்கார்ந்து, அவரைக் காவல்காத்துக்கொண்டிருந்தார்கள். ³⁷ அன்றியும் அவர் அடைந்த தண்டனையின் காரணத்தைக் காண்பிக்கும்படியாக, இவன் யூதர்களுடைய ராஜாவாகிய இயேசு என்று எழுதி, அவர் தலைக்கு மேலாக வைத்தார்கள். ³⁸ அப்பொழுது, அவருடைய வலதுபக்கத்தில் ஒருவனும் அவருடைய இடதுபக்கத்தில் ஒருவனுமாக இரண்டு திருடர்கள் அவரோடுகூட சிலுவைகளில் அறையப்பட்டார்கள். ³⁹ அந்தவழியாக நடந்துபோகிறவர்கள் தங்களுடைய தலைகளைத் துலுக்கி: ⁴⁰ தேவாலயத்தை இடித்து, மூன்று நாட்களுக்குள்ளே கட்டுகிறவனே, உன்னைநீயே இரட்சித்துக்கொள்; நீ தேவனுடைய குமாரனானால் சிலுவையிலிருந்து இறங்கிவா என்று அவரைப் பழித்தார்கள். ⁴¹ அப்படியே பிரதான ஆசாரியர்களும் வேதபண்டிதர்களும் மூப்பர்களும் கேலிசெய்து: ⁴² மற்றவர்களை இரட்சித்தான்; தன்னைத்தான் இரட்சித்துக்கொள்ளத் திராணியில்லை; இவன் இஸ்ரவேலின் ராஜாவானால் இப்பொழுது சிலுவையிலிருந்து இறங்கிவரட்டும், அப்பொழுது இவனை விசுவாசிப்போம். ⁴³ தன்னைத் தேவனுடைய குமாரன் என்று சொல்லி, தேவன்மேல் நம்பிக்கையாக இருந்தானே; அவர் இவன்மேல் பிரியமாக இருந்தால் இப்பொழுது இவனை இரட்சிக்கட்டும் என்றார்கள். ⁴⁴ அவரோடுகூட சிலுவைகளில் அறையப்பட்டத் திருடர்களும் அந்தப்படியே அவரை நிந்தித்தார்கள்.

⁴⁵ நண்பகல் பன்னிரண்டு மணிமுதல் மதியம் மூன்று மணிவரைக்கும் பூமியெங்கும் அந்தகாரம் உண்டானது. ⁴⁶ மூன்று மணியளவில் இயேசு: ஏலீ! ஏலீ! லாமா சபக்தானி, என்று மிகுந்த சத்தமிட்டுக் கூப்பிட்டார்; அதற்கு என் தேவனே! என் தேவனே! ஏன் என்னைக் கைவிட்டீர் என்று அர்த்தமாம். ⁴⁷ அங்கே நின்றவர்களில் சிலர் அதைக் கேட்டபொழுது: இவன் எலியாவைக் கூப்பிடுகிறான் என்றார்கள். ⁴⁸ உடனே அவர்களில் ஒருவன் ஓடி, கடற்பஞ்சை எடுத்து, காடியில் தோய்த்து, அதை ஒரு கோலில் மாட்டி. அவருக்குக் குடிக்கக்கொடுத்தான். ⁴⁹ மற்றவர்களோ: பொறு, எலியா இவனை இரட்சிக்க வருவானோ, பார்ப்போம் என்றார்கள். ⁵⁰ இயேசு, மறுபடியும் மகா சத்தமாகக் கூப்பிட்டு, ஆவியை விட்டார். ⁵¹ அப்பொழுது, தேவாலயத்தின் திரைத்துணி மேல்தொடங்கிக் கீழ்வரைக்கும் இரண்டாகக் கிழிந்தது, பூமியும் அதிர்ந்தது, கன்மலைகளும் பிளந்தது. ⁵² கல்லறைகளும் திறந்தது, மரித்திருந்த அநேக பரிசுத்தவான்களுடைய சரீரங்களும் எழுந்திருந்தது. ⁵³ அவர் உயிர்த்தெழுந்தபின்பு, இவர்கள் கல்லறைகளைவிட்டுப் புறப்பட்டு, பரிசுத்த நகரத்தில் பிரவேசித்து, அநேகருக்குக் காணப்பட்டார்கள். ⁵⁴ நூறு போர்வீரர்களுக்குத் தலைவனும், அவனோடுகூட இயேசுவைக் காவல் காத்திருந்தவர்களும், பூமியதிர்ச்சியையும் நடந்த காரியங்களையும் பார்த்து, மிகவும் பயந்து: உண்மையாகவே இவர் தேவனுடைய குமாரன் என்றார்கள். ⁵⁵ மேலும், இயேசுவிற்கு பணிவிடைசெய்யும்படி கலிலேயாவிலிருந்து அவரோடு வந்திருந்த அநேக பெண்கள் அங்கே தூரத்திலே நின்று பார்த்துக்கொண்டிருந்தார்கள். ⁵⁶ அவர்களுக்குள்ளே மகதலேனா மரியாளும், யாக்கோபுக்கும், யோசேக்கும் தாயாகிய மரியாளும், செபெதேயுவின் குமாரர்களுடைய தாயும் இருந்தார்கள்.

⁵⁷ மாலைநேரமானபோது, இயேசுவிற்குச் சீடனும் செல்வந்தனுமாகவும் இருந்த யோசேப்பு என்னும் பேருடைய அரிமத்தியா ஊரானாகிய ஒரு மனிதன் வந்து, ⁵⁸ பிலாத்துவினிடத்தில்போய், இயேசுவின் சரீரத்தைக் கேட்டான். அப்பொழுது, சரீரத்தைக் கொடுக்கும்படி பிலாத்து கட்டளையிட்டான். ⁵⁹ யோசேப்பு அந்த சரீரத்தை எடுத்து, தூய்மையான மெல்லிய துப்பட்டியிலே சுற்றி, ⁶⁰ தான் கன்மலையில் வெட்டியிருந்த தன்னுடைய புதிய கல்லறையிலே அதை வைத்து, கல்லறையின் வாசலில் ஒரு பெரிய கல்லைப் புரட்டி வைத்துப்போனான். ⁶¹ அங்கே மகதலேனா மரியாளும் மற்ற மரியாளும் கல்லறைக்கு எதிராக உட்கார்ந்திருந்தார்கள்.

⁶² ஆயத்தநாளுக்கு அடுத்த மறுநாளிலே பிரதான ஆசாரியர்களும் பரிசேயர்களும் பிலாத்துவினிடத்தில் கூடிவந்து: ⁶³ ஆண்டவனே, அந்த ஏமாற்றுக்காரன் உயிரோடிருக்கும்போது, மூன்று நாட்களுக்குப்பின்பு உயிரோடு எழுந்திருப்பேன் என்று சொன்னது எங்களுக்கு ஞாபகம் இருக்கிறது. ⁶⁴ ஆகவே, அவனுடைய சீடர்கள் இரவிலே வந்து, அவனைத் தந்திரமாகக் கொண்டுபோய், மரித்தோரிலிருந்து உயிரோடு எழுந்தானென்று மக்களுக்குச் சொல்லாதபடிக்கும், முந்தின வஞ்சனையைவிட பிந்தின வஞ்சனை

கொடிதாகாதபடிக்கும், நீர் மூன்று நாட்கள்வரை கல்லறையைப் பாதுகாக்கும்படி கட்டளையிடவேண்டும் என்றார்கள். ⁶⁵ அதற்குப் பிலாத்து: உங்களுக்குக் காவல் வீரர்கள் உண்டே; போய், உங்களால் முடிந்தவரைப் பாதுகாத்துக்கொள்ளுங்கள் என்றான். ⁶⁶ அவர்கள்போய்க் கல்லுக்கு முத்திரைபோட்டு, காவல்வைத்து, கல்லறையைப் பாதுகாத்தார்கள்.

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¹ ஓய்வுநாள் முடிந்து, வாரத்தின் முதலாம் நாள் பொழுதுவிடிந்தபோது, மகதலேனா மரியாளும் மற்ற மரியாளும் கல்லறையைப் பார்க்க வந்தார்கள். ² அப்பொழுது, பூமி மிகவும் அதிரும்படி, கர்த்தருடைய தூதன் வானத்திலிருந்து இறங்கிவந்து, வாசலிலிருந்த கல்லைப் புரட்டித் தள்ளி, அதின்மேல் உட்கார்ந்தான். ³ அவனுடைய தோற்றம் மின்னல்போலவும், அவனுடைய உடை உறைந்த மழையைப்போல வெண்மையாகவும் இருந்தது. ⁴ காவலாளர் அவனுக்குப் பயந்ததினால் திடுக்கிட்டுச் செத்தவர்கள்போலானார்கள். ⁵ தூதன் அந்தப் பெண்களைப் பார்த்து: நீங்கள் பயப்படாமலிருங்கள்; சிலுவையில் அறையப்பட்ட இயேசுவைத் தேடுகிறீர்கள் என்று அறிவேன். ⁶ அவர் இங்கே இல்லை; தாம் சொன்னபடியே உயிர்த்தெழுந்தார்; கர்த்தரை வைத்த இடத்தை வந்துபாருங்கள்; ⁷ சீக்கிரமாகப்போய், அவர் மரித்தோரிலிருந்து உயிரோடு எழுந்தார் என்று அவருடைய சீடர்களுக்குச் சொல்லுங்கள். அவர் உங்களுக்கு முன்னே கலிலேயாவிற்குப் போகிறார்; அங்கே அவரைக் காண்பீர்கள்; இதோ, உங்களுக்குச் சொன்னேன் என்றான். ⁸ அவர்கள் பயத்தோடும் மகா சந்தோஷத்தோடும் கல்லறையைவிட்டுச் சீக்கிரமாகப் புறப்பட்டு, அவருடைய சீடர்களுக்கு அறிவிக்க ஓடினார்கள். ⁹ அவர்கள் அவருடைய சீடர்களுக்கு அறிவிக்கப் போகிறபோது, இயேசு தாமே அவர்களுக்கு எதிர்ப்பட்டு: வாழ்க என்றார். அவர்கள் கிட்டவந்து, அவர் பாதங்களைத் தழுவி, அவரைப் பணிந்துகொண்டார்கள். ¹⁰ அப்பொழுது இயேசு அவர்களை நோக்கி: பயப்படாமலிருங்கள்; நீங்கள் போய், என் சகோதரர்கள் கலிலேயாவிற்குப் போகும்படி அவர்களுக்குச் சொல்லுங்கள்; அங்கே அவர்கள் என்னைக் காண்பார்கள் என்றார்.

¹¹ அவர்கள் போகும்போது, காவல்வீரர்களில் சிலர் நகரத்திற்குள்ளே வந்து, நடந்த யாவற்றையும் பிரதான ஆசாரியர்களுக்கு அறிவித்தார்கள். ¹² இவர்கள் மூப்பர்களோடு கூடிவந்து, ஆலோசனைசெய்து, வீரருக்கு வேண்டிய பணத்தைக் கொடுத்து: ¹³ நாங்கள் தூங்கும்போது, அவனுடைய சீடர்கள் இரவிலே வந்து, அவனைத் திருடிக்கொண்டு போய்விட்டார்கள் என்று சொல்லுங்கள். ¹⁴ இது தேசாதிபதிக்கு தெரியவந்தால், நாங்கள் அவரை இணங்கவைத்து, உங்களைத் தப்பிவிப்போம் என்றார்கள். ¹⁵ அவர்கள் பணத்தை வாங்கிக்கொண்டு, தங்களுக்குப் போதிக்கப்பட்டபடியே செய்தார்கள். இந்தப் பேச்சு யூதர்களுக்குள்ளே இந்தநாள்வரை பிரசித்தமாக இருக்கிறது.

¹⁶ பதினொரு சீடர்களும், கலிலேயாவிலே இயேசு தங்களுக்குக் குறித்திருந்த மலைக்குப் போனார்கள். ¹⁷ அங்கே அவர்கள் அவரைப் பார்த்து, பணிந்துகொண்டார்கள்; சிலரோ சந்தேகப்பட்டார்கள். ¹⁸ அப்பொழுது இயேசு அருகில் வந்து, அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: பரலோகத்திலும் பூமியிலும் எல்லா அதிகாரமும் எனக்குக் கொடுக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. ¹⁹ ஆகவே, நீங்கள் புறப்பட்டுப்போய், எல்லா தேசத்து மக்களையும் சீடராக்கி, பிதா குமாரன் பரிசுத்த ஆவியின் நாமத்தினாலே அவர்களுக்கு ஞானஸ்நானங்கொடுத்து, ²⁰ நான் உங்களுக்குக் கட்டளையிட்ட யாவையும் அவர்கள் கைக்கொள்ளும்படி அவர்களுக்கு உபதேசம் செய்யுங்கள். இதோ, உலகத்தின் இறுதிவரை எல்லா நாட்களிலும் நான் உங்களோடுகூட இருக்கிறேன் என்றார். ஆமென்.

Mark

அத்தியாயம்- 1

¹ தேவனுடைய குமாரனாகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவின் நற்செய்தியின் ஆரம்பம். ² இதோ, நான் என் தூதுவனை உமக்கு முன்பாக அனுப்புகிறேன், அவன் உமக்கு முன்பேபோய், உமக்கு வழியை ஆயத்தம்பண்ணுவான் என்றும்; ³ கர்த்தருக்கு வழியை ஆயத்தப்படுத்துங்கள், அவருக்குப் பாதைகளைச் செவ்வைப்பண்ணுங்கள் என்று வனாந்திரத்திலே கூப்பிடுகிறவனுடைய சத்தம் உண்டாகும் என்றும், தீர்க்கதரிசன புத்தகங்களில் எழுதியிருக்கிறபடி; ⁴ யோவான் வனாந்திரத்தில் ஞானஸ்நானம் கொடுத்து, பாவமன்னிப்புக்கென்று மனந்திரும்புதலுக்கான ஞானஸ்நானத்தைப்பற்றி பிரசங்கம்பண்ணிக்கொண்டிருந்தான். ⁵ அப்பொழுது யூதேயா தேசத்தார் மற்றும் எருசலேம் நகரத்தார் அனைவரும், யோவானிடம்போய், தங்களுடைய பாவங்களை அறிக்கைசெய்து, யோர்தான் நதியில் அவனால் ஞானஸ்நானம் பெற்றார்கள். ⁶ யோவான் ஒட்டகமயிர் ஆடையை அணிந்து, தன் இடுப்பில் தோல் கச்சையைக் கட்டிக்கொண்டு, வெட்டுக்கிளியையும் காட்டுத்தேனையும் சாப்பிடுகிறவனாகவும் இருந்தான். ⁷ அவன்: என்னைவிட வல்லவர் ஒருவர் எனக்குப்பின்பு வருகிறார், அவருடைய காலணிகளின் வாரைக் குனிந்து அவிழ்ப்பதற்குக்கூட நான் தகுதியானவன் இல்லை. ⁸ நான் தண்ணீரினால் உங்களுக்கு ஞானஸ்நானம் கொடுக்கிறேன்; அவரோ பரிசுத்த ஆவியினால் உங்களுக்கு ஞானஸ்நானம் கொடுப்பார் என்று பிரசங்கம்பண்ணினான்.

⁹ அந்த நாட்களில், இயேசு கலிலேயாவில் உள்ள நாசரேத்து என்னும் ஊரிலிருந்து வந்து, யோர்தான் நதியில் யோவானால் ஞானஸ்நானம் பெற்றார். ¹⁰ அவர் தண்ணீரில் இருந்து கரையேறின உடனே, வானம் திறக்கப்பட்டதையும், ஆவியானவர் புறாவைப்போல தம்மேல் இறங்குகிறதையும் பார்த்தார். ¹¹ அப்பொழுது, நீர் என்னுடைய நேசகுமாரன், உம்மிடம் பிரியமாக இருக்கிறேன் என்று, வானத்திலிருந்து ஒரு சத்தம் உண்டானது. ¹² உடனே ஆவியானவர் அவரை வனாந்திரத்திற்குப் போகும்படி ஏவினார். ¹³ அவர் வனாந்திரத்திலே நாற்பதுநாட்கள் இருந்து, சாத்தானால் சோதிக்கப்பட்டு, அங்கே காட்டுமிருகங்களின் நடுவிலே தங்கிக்கொண்டிருந்தார். தேவதூதர்கள் அவருக்குப் பணிவிடைசெய்தார்கள்.

¹⁴ யோவான் சிறைக்காவலில் வைக்கப்பட்டபின்பு, இயேசு கலிலேயாவிற்கு வந்து, தேவனுடைய ராஜ்யத்தின் நற்செய்தியைப் பிரசங்கம் செய்து: ¹⁵ காலம் நிறைவேறியது, தேவனுடைய ராஜ்யம் அருகில் இருக்கிறது; மனந்திரும்பி, நற்செய்தியை விசுவாசியுங்கள் என்றார். ¹⁶ அவர் கலிலேயா கடலின் ஓரமாக நடந்துபோகும்போது, மீனவர்களாக இருந்த சீமோனும், அவன் சகோதரன் அந்திரேயாவும் கடலில் வலையைப் போட்டுக்கொண்டிருக்கிறதைப் பார்த்தார். ¹⁷ இயேசு அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: என் பின்னே வாருங்கள், உங்களை மனிதர்களைப் பிடிக்கிறவர்களாக்குவேன் என்றார். ¹⁸ உடனே அவர்கள் தங்களுடைய வலைகளைவிட்டு, அவருக்குப் பின்னே சென்றார்கள். ¹⁹ அவர் அந்த இடத்தைவிட்டுச் சற்றுதூரம் சென்றபோது, செபெதேயுவின் குமாரன் யாக்கோபும் அவனுடைய சகோதரன் யோவானும் படகிலே வலைகளைப் பழுதுபார்த்துக்கொண்டிருந்ததைப் பார்த்து, ²⁰ உடனே அவர்களையும் அழைத்தார்; அப்பொழுது அவர்கள் தங்களுடைய தகப்பனாகிய செபெதேயுவை படகிலே கூலியாட்களோடு விட்டுவிட்டு, அவருக்குப் பின்னே சென்றார்கள்.

²¹ பின்பு அவர்கள் கப்பர்நசூமுக்குப் போனார்கள். உடனே அவர் ஓய்வுநாளிலே ஜெப ஆலயத்திற்குச் சென்று, போதனை பண்ணினார். ²² அவர் வேதபண்டிதர்களைப்போல போதிக்காமல், அதிகாரமுடையவராக அவர்களுக்குப் போதித்ததினால் அவருடைய போதனையைக்குறித்து மக்கள் ஆச்சரியப்பட்டார்கள். ²³ அவர்களுடைய ஜெப ஆலயத்திலே அசுத்தஆவி பிடித்திருந்த ஒரு மனிதன் இருந்தான். ²⁴ அவன்: ஐயோ! நசரேயனாகிய இயேசுவே, எங்களுக்கும் உமக்கும் என்ன? எங்களைக் கெடுக்கவா நீர் வந்தீர்? நீர் யார் என்று நான் அறிவேன், நீர் தேவனுடைய பரிசுத்தர் என்று சத்தமாகக் கத்தினான். ²⁵ அதற்கு இயேசு: நீ பேசாமல் இவனைவிட்டு வெளியே போ என்று அதை அதட்டினார். ²⁶ உடனே அந்த அசுத்தஆவி அவனை அலைக்கழித்து, அதிக சத்தம்போட்டு, அவனைவிட்டுப் போய்விட்டது. ²⁷ எல்லோரும் ஆச்சரியப்பட்டு: இது என்ன? இந்தப் புதிய உபதேசம் எப்படிப்பட்டது? இவர் அதிகாரத்தோடு அசுத்தஆவிகளுக்குக் கட்டளைக் கொடுக்கிறார், அவைகள் இவருக்குக் கீழ்ப்படிகிறதே என்று தங்களுக்குள்ளே ஒருவரோடொருவர் சொல்லிக்கொண்டார்கள். ²⁸ எனவே, அவரைப்பற்றின புகழ் கலிலேயா நாடு முழுவதும் பரவியது.

²⁹ உடனே அவர்கள் ஜெப ஆலயத்தைவிட்டுப் புறப்பட்டு, யாக்கோபு மற்றும் யோவானோடு, சீமோன் அந்திரேயா என்பவர்களுடைய வீட்டிற்குப் போனார்கள். ³⁰ அங்கே சீமோனுடைய மாமியார் ஜூரத்தோடு படுத்திருந்தாள்; உடனே அவர்கள் அவளைப்பற்றி அவருக்குச் சொன்னார்கள். ³¹ அவர் அருகில் சென்று, அவள் கையைப் பிடித்து, அவளைத் தூக்கிவிட்டார்; உடனே ஜூரம் அவளைவிட்டு நீங்கியது; அப்பொழுது அவள் அவர்களுக்குப் பணிவிடைசெய்தாள். ³² மாலைநேரத்தில் சூரியன் மறையும்போது, எல்லா நோயாளிகளையும், பிசாசு பிடித்தவர்களையும், இயேசுவிடம் கொண்டுவந்தார்கள். ³³ பட்டணத்து மக்கள் எல்லோரும் வீட்டுவாசலுக்கு முன்பாகக் கூடிவந்தார்கள். ³⁴ பலவிதமான வியாதிகளினால் கஷ்டப்பட்டுக் கொண்டிருந்த அநேக மக்களை அவர் சுகமாக்கி, அநேக பிசாசுகளையும் துரத்திவிட்டார்; அந்தப் பிசாசுகளுக்கு, அவர் யார் என்று தெரிந்திருந்ததால், அவைகள் பேசுகிறதற்கு அவர் அனுமதிக்கவில்லை.

³⁵ அவர் அதிகாலையில், இருட்டோடு எழுந்து புறப்பட்டு, வனாந்திரமான ஒரு இடத்திற்குப்போய், அங்கே ஜெபம்பண்ணினார். ³⁶ சீமோனும் அவனோடுகூட இருந்தவர்களும் அவரைப் பின்தொடர்ந்துபோய், ³⁷ அவரைப் பார்த்தபோது: எல்லோரும் உம்மைத் தேடுகிறார்கள் என்று சொன்னார்கள். ³⁸ அவர்களை அவர் பார்த்து: அடுத்த ஊர்களிலும் நான் பிரசங்கம் பண்ணவேண்டும், எனவே அந்த இடங்களுக்குப் போகலாம் வாருங்கள்; இதற்காகத்தான் புறப்பட்டுவந்தேன் என்று சொல்லி; ³⁹ கலிலேயா நாடு முழுவதும் அவர்களுடைய ஜெப ஆலயங்களில் அவர் பிரசங்கம்பண்ணிக்கொண்டும், பிசாசுகளைத் துரத்திக்கொண்டும் இருந்தார்.

⁴⁰ அப்பொழுது குஷ்டரோகி ஒருவன் அவரிடம் வந்து, அவர் முன்பாக முழங்கால்படியிட்டு: உமக்கு விருப்பமானால் என்னைச் சுகப்படுத்த உம்மால் முடியும் என்று அவரை வேண்டிக்கொண்டான். ⁴¹ இயேசு மனதுருகி, கையை நீட்டி, அவனைத் தொட்டு: எனக்கு விருப்பம் உண்டு, சுத்தமாகு என்றார். ⁴² இப்படி அவர் சொன்னவுடனே, குஷ்டரோகம் அவனைவிட்டு நீங்கியது, அவன் சுகம் பெற்றுக்கொண்டான். ⁴³ அப்பொழுது அவர் அவனைப் பார்த்து: நீ இதை யாருக்கும் சொல்லாமல் இருக்க எச்சரிக்கையாக இரு; ⁴⁴ ஆனாலும் நீ போய், ஆசாரியனுக்கு உன்னைக் காண்பித்து, நீ சுகமானதினால், மோசே கட்டளையிட்டபடி அவர்களுக்கு நீ சுகம் பெற்றதின் சாட்சியாக காணிக்கை செலுத்து என்று உறுதியாகச் சொல்லி, உடனே அவனை அனுப்பிவிட்டார். ⁴⁵ ஆனால், அவனோ புறப்பட்டுப்போய்; இந்த விஷயங்களை எல்லோருக்கும் சொல்லிப் பிரசித்தப்படுத்தினான். எனவே, அவர் வெளிப்படையாகப் பட்டணத்திற்குள் செல்லமுடியாமல், வெளியே வனாந்திரமான இடங்களில் தங்கியிருந்தார்; எல்லாப் பகுதிகளிலும் இருந்து மக்கள் அவரிடம் வந்தார்கள்.

அத்தியாயம்- 2

¹ சில நாட்களுக்குப்பின்பு அவர் மறுபடியும் கப்பர்நகருக்குப் போனார்; அவர் வீட்டில் இருக்கிறார் என்று மக்கள் கேள்விப்பட்டி; ² உடனே அநேக மக்கள் கூடிவந்தார்கள், வாசலுக்குமுன்பு நிற்க இடம் இல்லாமல்போனது; அவர்களுக்கு வசனத்தைப் போதித்தார். ³ அப்பொழுது நான்குபேர், பக்கவாதத்தினால் பாதிக்கப்பட்ட ஒருவனைச் சுமந்துகொண்டு அவரிடம் வந்தார்கள்; ⁴ மக்கள்கூட்டம் அதிகமாக இருந்ததால் இயேசுவின் அருகில் செல்லமுடியாமல், அவர் இருந்த வீட்டின் மேல்கூரையைப் பிரித்து, அந்தப் பக்கவாதக்காரனை படுக்கையோடு இறக்கினார்கள். ⁵ இயேசு அவர்கள் விசுவாசத்தைக் கண்டு, பக்கவாதக்காரனைப் பார்த்து: மகனே, உன் பாவங்கள் உனக்கு மன்னிக்கப்பட்டது என்றார். ⁶ அங்கே உட்கார்ந்திருந்த வேதபண்டிதர்களில் சிலர்: ⁷ இவன் இப்படித் தேவநிந்தனை சொல்லுகிறது என்ன? தேவன் ஒருவரைத்தவிர பாவங்களை மன்னிப்பவர் யார் என்று தங்களுடைய இருதயங்களில் சிந்தித்துக்கொண்டிருந்தார்கள். ⁸ அவர்கள் தங்களுடைய மனதில் இப்படிச் சிந்திக்கிறார்கள் என்று இயேசு உடனே தம்முடைய ஆவியில் அறிந்து, அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: நீங்கள் உங்களுடைய இருதயங்களில் இப்படிச் சிந்திக்கிறது என்ன? ⁹ உன் பாவங்கள் உனக்கு மன்னிக்கப்பட்டது என்று சொல்வதோ, அல்லது எழுந்து உன் படுக்கையை எடுத்துக்கொண்டு நட என்று சொல்வதோ, எது எளிது? ¹⁰ பூமியிலே பாவங்களை மன்னிக்க மனிதகுமாரனுக்கு அதிகாரம் உண்டு என்பதை நீங்கள் அறியவேண்டும் என்று சொல்லி, பக்கவாதக்காரனைப் பார்த்து: ¹¹ நீ எழுந்து, உன் படுக்கையை எடுத்துக்கொண்டு, உன் வீட்டிற்குப் போ என்று உனக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன் என்றார். ¹² உடனே, அவன் எழுந்து, தன் படுக்கையை எடுத்துக்கொண்டு எல்லோருக்கும் முன்பாக தன் வீட்டிற்குப்போனான். அப்பொழுது எல்லோரும் ஆச்சரியப்பட்டு: நாம் இதுவரை இப்படிப்பட்ட சம்பவத்தைப் பார்த்தது இல்லை என்று சொல்லி, தேவனை மகிமைப்படுத்தினார்கள்.

¹³ அவர் மீண்டும் புறப்பட்டுக் கடல் அருகே போனார்; அப்பொழுது மக்கள் எல்லோரும் அவரிடம் வந்தார்கள்; அவர்களுக்குப் போதனைப்பண்ணினார். ¹⁴ அப்பொழுது அவர் நடந்துபோகும்போது, அல்பேயுவின் குமாரனாகிய லேவி வரிவசூலிக்கும் மையத்தில் உட்கார்ந்திருப்பதைப் பார்த்து: என் பின்னே வா என்றார்; அவன் எழுந்து அவருக்குப் பின்னேசென்றான். ¹⁵ அப்பொழுது, அவனுடைய வீட்டிலே அவர் விருந்து சாப்பிடும்போது, அநேக வரி வசூலிப்பவர்களும் பாவினரும் அவரோடு வந்திருந்தபடியால், அவர்களும் இயேசுவோடும் அவருடைய சீடர்களோடும் பந்தியில் இருந்தார்கள். ¹⁶ இயேசு வரி வசூலிப்பவர்களோடும் பாவினர்களோடும் சாப்பிடுகிறதை வேதபண்டிதர்களும் பரிசேயர்களும் பார்த்து, அவருடைய சீடர்களை நோக்கி: அவர் வரி வசூலிப்பவர்களோடும் பாவினர்களோடும் சேர்ந்து சாப்பிடுவது ஏன் என்று கேட்டார்கள். ¹⁷ இயேசு அதைக்கேட்டு: நோயாளிகளுக்குத்தான் வைத்தியன் தேவை, சுகமாக இருப்பவர்களுக்கு தேவை இல்லை; நீதிமான்களையல்ல, பாவினளையே மனம்திரும்புகிறதற்கு அழைக்கவந்தேன் என்றார்.

¹⁸ யோவானுடைய சீடர்களும் பரிசேயர்களுடைய சீடர்களும் உபவாசம்பண்ணிவந்தார்கள். அவர்கள் இயேசுவிடம் வந்து: யோவானுடைய சீடர்களும் பரிசேயர்களுடைய சீடர்களும் உபவாசம்பண்ணுகிறார்களே, ஆனால் உம்முடைய சீடர்கள் உபவாசம்பண்ணாமல் இருப்பது ஏன் என்று கேட்டார்கள். ¹⁹ அதற்கு இயேசு: மணவாளன் தங்களோடு இருக்கும்போது மணவாளனுடைய தோழர்கள் உபவாசம்பண்ணுவார்களா? மணவாளன் தங்களோடு இருக்கும்வரை உபவாசம்பண்ணமாட்டார்களே. ²⁰ மணவாளன் அவர்களைவிட்டுப் போகும் நாட்கள் வரும், அந்த நாட்களிலே உபவாசிப்பார்கள். ²¹ ஒருவனும் புதிய ஆடையின் துண்டைப் பழைய ஆடையோடு இணைத்து தைக்கமாட்டான், தைத்தால், அதினோடு இணைத்த புதிய ஆடை பழைய ஆடையை அதிகமாகக் கிழிக்கும், கீறலும் அதிகமாகும். ²² ஒருவனும் புதிய திராட்சைரசத்தைப் பழைய தோல் பைகளில் ஊற்றி வைக்கமாட்டான்; ஊற்றிவைத்தால், புதிய இரசம் தோல் பைகளைக் கிழித்துப்போடும், இரசமும் சிந்திப்போகும், தோல் பைகளும் கெட்டுப்போகும்; புதிய இரசத்தைப் புதிய தோல் பைகளில் ஊற்றி வைக்கவேண்டும் என்றார்.

²³ பின்பு, அவர் ஓய்வுநாளில் வயல்வழியாக நடந்துபோனார்; அவருடைய சீடர்கள் அவரோடு நடந்துபோகும்போது, கதிர்களைச் சாப்பிட தொடங்கினார்கள். ²⁴ பரிசேயர்கள் அவரைப் பார்த்து: இதோ, ஓய்வுநாளில் செய்யக்கூடாததை இவர்கள் ஏன் செய்கிறார்கள் என்றார்கள். ²⁵ அதற்கு அவர்: தாவிதுக்கு உண்டான ஆபத்தில், தானும் தன்னோடு இருந்தவர்களும் பசியாக இருந்தபோது, ²⁶ அவன் அபியத்தார் என்னும் பிரதான ஆசாரியன் காலத்தில் செய்ததை நீங்கள் படித்தது இல்லையா? அவன் தேவனுடைய வீட்டிற்கு சென்று, ஆசாரியர்கள்தவிர வேறு ஒருவரும் சாப்பிடக்கூடாத தேவ சமூகத்தின் அப்பங்களைத் தானும் சாப்பிட்டுத் தன்னோடு இருந்தவர்களுக்கும் கொடுத்தானே என்றார். ²⁷ பின்பு அவர்களை

நோக்கி: மனிதன் ஓய்வுநாளுக்காக உண்டாக்கப்படவில்லை, ஓய்வுநாள் மனிதனுக்காக
உண்டாக்கப்பட்டது;²⁸ எனவே மனிதகுமாரன் ஓய்வுநாளுக்கும் ஆண்டவராக இருக்கிறார் என்றார்.

அத்தியாயம்- 3

¹ இயேசு மறுபடியும் ஜெப ஆலயத்திற்குச் சென்றார். அங்கே சும்பின் கையையுடைய ஒரு மனிதன் இருந்தான். ² அவர் ஓய்வுநாளில் அவனைச் சுகமாக்கினால் அவர்மேல் குற்றஞ்சாட்டலாம் என்று அவரைப் பார்த்துக்கொண்டிருந்தார்கள். ³ அப்பொழுது அவர் சும்பின் கையையுடைய மனிதனைப் பார்த்து: எழுந்து நடுவில் நில் என்று சொல்லி; ⁴ அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: ஓய்வுநாட்களில் நன்மை செய்வதோ அல்லது தீமை செய்வதோ, ஜீவனைக் காப்பாற்றுவதோ அல்லது அழிப்பதோ, எது நியாயம் என்றார். அதற்கு அவர்கள் மவுனமாக இருந்தார்கள். ⁵ அவர்களுடைய இருதயத்தின் கடினத்தினால் அவர் விசனப்பட்டு, கோபத்துடன் சுற்றிலும் இருந்தவர்களைப் பார்த்து, அந்த மனிதனைப் பார்த்து: உன் கையை நீட்டு என்றார்; அவன் நீட்டினான்; அவன் கை மற்றொரு கையைப்போல சுகமானது. ⁶ உடனே பரிசேயர்கள் புறப்பட்டுப்போய், அவரைக் கொலைசெய்யவேண்டும் என்று, அவருக்கு எதிராக ஏரோதியர்களோடு ஆலோசனைபண்ணினார்கள்.

⁷ இயேசு தம்முடைய சீடர்களோடு அந்த இடத்தைவிட்டுப் புறப்பட்டு கடலோரத்திற்குப் போனார். ⁸ கலிலேயாவிலும், யூதேயாவிலும், எருசலேமிலும், இதுமேயாவிலும், யோர்தானுக்கு அக்கரையிலுமிருந்து அநேக மக்கள் வந்து, அவருக்குப் பின்னே சென்றார்கள். அதோடு தீரு சீதோன் பட்டணங்களின் பகுதிகளிலும் இருந்து அநேக மக்கள் அவர் செய்த அற்புதங்களைப்பற்றிக் கேள்விப்பட்டு, அவரிடம் வந்தார்கள். ⁹ அவர் அநேகரைச் சுகமாக்கினார். நோயாளிகளெல்லோரும் அதை அறிந்து அவரைத் தொடவேண்டும் என்று அவரை நெருங்கிவந்தார்கள். ¹⁰ மக்கள்கூட்டம் அதிகமாக இருந்தபடியால் அவர்கள் தம்மை நெருக்காமல் இருப்பதற்காக, தமக்கு ஒரு படகை ஆயத்தம் பண்ணவேண்டும் என்று, தம்முடைய சீடர்களுக்குச் சொன்னார். ¹¹ அசுத்தஆவிகளும் இயேசுவைப் பார்த்தபோது, அவர் முன்பாக விழுந்து: நீர் தேவனுடைய குமாரன் என்று சத்தமிட்டன. ¹² தம்மைப் பிரசித்தம் பண்ணாமல் இருக்க அவைகளுக்கு உறுதியாகக் கட்டளையிட்டார்.

¹³ பின்பு அவர் ஒரு மலையின்மேல் ஏறி, தமக்கு விருப்பமானவர்களைத் தம்மிடம் வரவழைத்தார்; அவர்கள் அவரிடம் வந்தார்கள். ¹⁴ அப்பொழுது அவர் பன்னிரண்டு நபர்களைத் தெரிந்துகொண்டு, அவர்கள் தம்மோடு இருக்கவும், பிரசங்கம்பண்ணுவதற்காகத் தாம் அவர்களை அனுப்பவும், ¹⁵ வியாதிகளைக் குணமாக்கிப் பிசாசுகளைத் துரத்துவதற்கு அவர்கள் அதிகாரம் உள்ளவர்களாக இருக்கவும், அவர்களை ஏற்படுத்தினார். ¹⁶ அவர்கள் யாரென்றால், சீமோன், இவனுக்குப் பேதுரு என்று பெயரிட்டார். ¹⁷ செபெதேயுவின் குமாரனாகிய யாக்கோபு, யாக்கோபின் சகோதரனாகிய யோவான், இந்த இவருக்கும் இடிமுழக்க மக்கள் என்று அர்த்தம்கொண்ட பொவனெர்கேஸ் என்கிற பெயரிட்டார், ¹⁸ அந்திரேயா, பிலிப்பு, பர்தொலொமேயு, மத்தேயு, தோமா, அல்பேயுவின் குமாரன் யாக்கோபு, ததேயு, கானானியனாகிய சீமோன், ¹⁹ அவரைக் காட்டிக்கொடுத்த யூதாஸ்காரியோத்து என்பவர்களே.

²⁰ பின்பு வீட்டிற்குப் போனார்கள்; அங்கே அநேக மக்கள் மறுபடியும் கூடிவந்ததினால் அவர்கள் சாப்பிடுவதற்கும் நேரம் இல்லாமல்போனது. ²¹ அவருடைய குடும்பத்தார் இதைக்கேட்டபோது, அவர் மதியங்கியிருக்கிறார் என்று சொல்லி, அவரைப் பிடித்துக்கொள்ளும்படி வந்தார்கள். ²² எருசலேமிலிருந்து வந்த வேதபண்டிதர்கள்: இவன் பெயெல்செபூலை உடையவனாக இருக்கிறான், பிசாசுகளின் தலைவனாலே பிசாசுகளைத் துரத்துகிறான் என்றார்கள். ²³ அவர்களை அவர் அழைத்து, உவமைகளாக அவர்களுக்குச் சொன்னது என்னவென்றால்: சாத்தானைச் சாத்தான் துரத்துவது எப்படி? ²⁴ ஒரு ராஜ்யம் தனக்குத்தானே எதிராகப் பிரிந்து இருந்தால், அந்த ராஜ்யம் நிலைத்துநிற்காதே. ²⁵ ஒரு வீடு தனக்குத்தானே எதிராகப் பிரிந்து இருந்தால், அந்த வீடு நிலைத்துநிற்காதே. ²⁶ சாத்தான் தனக்குத்தானே எதிராக எழும்பிப் பிரிந்து இருந்தால், அவன் நிலைத்து நிற்கமுடியாமல், அழிந்துபோவானே. ²⁷ பலசாலியை முதலில் கட்டிப்போடாமல், யாரும் பலசாலியுடைய வீட்டிற்குள் புகுந்து, அவன் பொருட்களைக் கொள்ளையடிக்கமுடியாது; கட்டிப்போட்டால்மட்டுமே, அவனுடைய வீட்டைக் கொள்ளையடிக்கமுடியும். ²⁸ உண்மையாகவே நான் உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன்: மனிதர்கள் செய்யும் எல்லாப் பாவங்களும், அவர்கள் சொல்லும் எல்லாத் தூஷணமான வார்த்தைகளும், அவர்களுக்கு மன்னிக்கப்படும்; ²⁹ ஆனால் ஒருவன் பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவருக்கு எதிராக அவதூறான வார்த்தைகளைச் சொல்வானென்றால், அவன் எப்பொழுதும் மன்னிப்பு பெறாமல் நித்திய தண்டனைக்குரியவனாக இருப்பான் என்றார். ³⁰ இயேசு அசுத்தஆவியை உடையவனாக இருக்கிறான் என்று அவர்கள் சொன்னதினாலே அவர் இப்படிச் சொன்னார்.

³¹ அப்பொழுது அவருடைய சகோதரர்களும் தாயாரும் வந்து, வெளியே நின்று, அவரை அழைக்கும்படி அவரிடத்திற்கு ஆள் அனுப்பினார்கள். ³² அவரைச் சுற்றிலும் உட்கார்ந்திருந்த மக்கள் அவரைப் பார்த்து:

இதோ, உம்முடைய தாயாரும் உம்முடைய சகோதரர்களும் வெளியே நின்று உம்மைத் தேடுகிறார்கள் என்றார்கள். ³³ அவர்களுக்கு அவர் மறுமொழியாக: என் தாயார் யார்? என் சகோதரர்கள் யார்? என்று சொல்லி; ³⁴ தம்மைச் சுற்றிலும் உட்கார்ந்திருந்தவர்களைப் பார்த்து: இதோ, என் தாயும் என் சகோதரர்களும் இவர்களே! ³⁵ தேவனுடைய விருப்பத்தின்படி செய்கிறவன் எவனோ, அவனே எனக்குச் சகோதரனும், எனக்குச் சகோதரியும், எனக்குத் தாயுமாக இருக்கிறான் என்றார்.

அத்தியாயம்- 4

¹ இயேசு மறுபடியும் கடலோரத்திலே போதகம்பண்ணத் தொடங்கினார். அநேக மக்கள் அவரிடம் கூடிவந்ததினால், அவர் கடலிலே நின்ற ஒரு படகில் ஏறி உட்கார்ந்தார்; மக்களெல்லோரும் கடற்கரையில் நின்றார்கள். ² அவர் அநேக காரியங்களை உவமைகளாக அவர்களுக்குப் போதித்தார்; போதிக்கிறபொழுது அவர்களுக்குச் சொன்னது என்னவென்றால்: ³ கேளுங்கள், விதைக்கிறவன் ஒருவன் விதை விதைக்கப் புறப்பட்டான். ⁴ அவன் விதைக்கும்போது, சில விதைகள் வழியருகே விழுந்தன; வானத்துப் பறவைகள் வந்து அந்த விதைகளைத் தின்றுபோட்டது. ⁵ சில விதைகள் அதிக மண் இல்லாத கற்பாறை நிலத்தில் விழுந்தன; அதற்கு ஆழமான மண் இல்லாததினாலே சீக்கிரத்தில் முளைத்தது; ⁶ வெயில் ஏறினபோதோ, கருகிப்போய், வேர் இல்லாததினால் உலர்ந்துபோனது. ⁷ சில விதைகள் முள்ளுள்ள இடங்களில் விழுந்தது; முள் வளர்ந்து, விதை பலன் கொடுக்காதபடி, அதை நெருக்கிப்போட்டது. ⁸ சில விதைகள் நல்ல நிலத்தில் விழுந்து, உயர்ந்து வளருகிற பயிராகி, ஒன்று முப்பதுமடங்காகவும், ஒன்று அறுபதுமடங்காகவும், ஒன்று நூறுமடங்காகவும் பலன் தந்தது. ⁹ கேட்கிறதற்குக் காதுள்ளவன் கேட்கட்டும் என்று அவர்களுக்குச் சொன்னார். ¹⁰ அவர் தனிமையாக இருக்கிறபோது, பன்னிரண்டுபேரும், அவருக்கு நெருக்கமாக இருந்தவர்களும் இந்த உவமையைக்குறித்து அவரிடம் கேட்டார்கள். ¹¹ அதற்கு அவர்: தேவனுடைய ராஜ்யத்தின் இரகசியத்தைத் தெரிந்துகொள்ளும்படி உங்களுக்கு அருளப்பட்டது; வெளியே இருக்கிறவர்களுக்கோ இவைகள் எல்லாம் உவமைகளாகச் சொல்லப்படுகிறது. ¹² அவர்கள் குணமாகாதபடிக்கும், பாவங்கள் அவர்களுக்கு மன்னிக்கப்படாதபடிக்கும், அவர்கள் கண்டும் காணாதவர்களாகவும், கேட்டும் உணராதவர்களாகவும் இருக்கும்படி, இப்படிச் சொல்லப்படுகிறது என்றார். ¹³ பின்பு அவர் அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: இந்த உவமையை நீங்கள் புரிந்துகொள்ளவில்லையா? புரியாவிட்டால் மற்ற உவமைகளையெல்லாம் எப்படிப் புரிந்துகொள்வீர்கள்? ¹⁴ விதைக்கிறவன் வசனத்தை விதைக்கிறான். ¹⁵ வசனத்தைக் கேட்டவுடனே சாத்தான் வந்து, அவர்கள் இருதயங்களில் விதைக்கப்பட்ட வசனத்தை எடுத்துப்போடுகிறான்; இவர்களே வழியருகே விதைக்கப்பட்டவர்கள். ¹⁶ அப்படியே, வசனத்தைக் கேட்டவுடனே அதைச் சந்தோஷத்தோடு ஏற்றுக்கொண்டும், ¹⁷ தங்களுக்குள்ளே வேர்கொள்ளாதபடியால், கொஞ்சக்காலம்மட்டும் நிலைத்திருக்கிறார்கள், வசனத்தினால் உபத்திரவமும் துன்பமும் உண்டானவுடனே இடறலடைகிறார்கள்; இவர்களே கற்பாறை நிலத்தில் விதைக்கப்பட்டவர்கள். ¹⁸ வசனத்தைக் கேட்டும், உலகக் கவலைகளும், ஐசுவரியத்தின் மயக்கமும், மற்றவைகளைப்பற்றி உண்டாகிற ஆசைகளும் உள்ளே புகுந்து, வசனத்தை நெருக்கிப்போட, அதினால் பலன் இல்லாமல் போகிறார்கள். ¹⁹ இவர்களே முள்ளுள்ள இடங்களில் விதைக்கப்பட்டவர்கள். ²⁰ வசனத்தைக்கேட்டு, ஏற்றுக்கொண்டு, ஒன்று முப்பதுமடங்கும், ஒன்று அறுபதுமடங்கும், ஒன்று நூறுமடங்காகவும் பலன்கொடுக்கிறார்கள்; இவர்களே நல்ல நிலத்தில் விதைக்கப்பட்டவர்கள் என்றார்.

²¹ பின்னும் அவர் அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: விளக்கு விளக்குத்தண்டின்மேல் வைக்கிறதற்குத்தானேதவிர, பாத்திரத்தின் கீழோ, கட்டிலின் கீழோ, வைக்கிறதற்குக் கொண்டுவருவார்களா? ²² வெளியரங்கமாகாத அந்தரங்கமும் இல்லை, வெளிக்குவராத மறைபொருளும் இல்லை. ²³ கேட்கிறதற்கு ஒருவன் காதுள்ளவனாக இருந்தால் அவன் கேட்கட்டும் என்றார். ²⁴ பின்னும் அவர் அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: நீங்கள் கேட்கிறதைக் கவனியுங்கள். எந்த அளவினால் அளக்கிறீர்களோ, அந்த அளவினால் உங்களுக்கும் அளக்கப்படும்; கேட்கிற உங்களுக்கு அதிகம் கொடுக்கப்படும். ²⁵ உள்ளவன் எவனோ, அவனுக்குக் கொடுக்கப்படும்; இல்லாதவன் எவனோ, அவனிடம் உள்ளதும் எடுத்துக்கொள்ளப்படும் என்றார்.

²⁶ பின்னும் அவர் அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: தேவனுடைய ராஜ்யமானது, ஒரு மனிதன் நிலத்தில் விதையை விதைத்து; ²⁷ இரவில் தூங்கி, பகலில் விழிக்க, அவனுக்குத் தெரியாமலேயே, விதை முளைத்துப் பயிராவதற்கு ஒப்பாக இருக்கிறது. ²⁸ எப்படியென்றால், நிலமானது முதலில் முளையையும், பின்பு கதிரையும், கதிரிலே நிறைந்த தானியத்தையும் பலனாகத் தானாகக் கொடுக்கும். ²⁹ பயிர் விளைந்து அறுவடைக்காலம் வந்தவுடனே, அறுக்கிறதற்கு ஆட்களை அனுப்புகிறான் என்றார்.

³⁰ பின்னும் அவர் அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: தேவனுடைய ராஜ்யத்தை எதற்கு ஒப்பிடுவோம்? அல்லது எந்த உவமையினாலே அதை விளக்கிச் சொல்லமுடியும்? ³¹ அது ஒரு கடுகுவிதைக்கு ஒப்பாக இருக்கிறது; அது பூமியில் விதைக்கப்படும்போது பூமியில் உள்ள எல்லாவிதைகளையும்விட மிக சிறியதாக இருக்கிறது; ³² விதைக்கப்பட்ட பின்போ, அது வளர்ந்து, எல்லாப் பூண்டுகளையும்விட மிக பெரிதாக வளர்ந்து, ஆகாயத்துப் பறவைகள் அதின் நிழலின்கீழ் வந்து கூடுகளைக்கட்டத்தக்க பெரிய கிளைகளை விடும் என்றார். ³³ அவர்கள் கேட்டுப் புரிந்துகொள்வதற்கு ஏற்றபடி, அவர் இப்படிப்பட்ட அநேக

உவமைகளினாலே அவர்களுக்கு வசனத்தைச் சொன்னார். ³⁴ உவமைகள் இல்லாமல் அவர்களுக்கு அவர் ஒன்றும் சொல்லவில்லை; அவர் தம்முடைய சீடர்களோடு தனிமையாக இருக்கும்போது, அவர்களுக்கு எல்லாவற்றையும் விளக்கிச்சொன்னார்.

³⁵ அன்று மாலைநேரத்தில், அவர் அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: அக்கரைக்குப் போகலாம் வாருங்கள் என்றார். ³⁶ அவர்கள் மக்களை அனுப்பிவிட்டு, அவர் படகில் இருந்தபடியே அவரைக்கொண்டுபோனார்கள். வேறு படகுகளும் அவரோடு இருந்தது. ³⁷ அப்பொழுது பலத்த சுழல்காற்று உண்டாகி, படகு நிரம்பும் அளவிற்கு, அலைகள் படகின்மேல் மோதியது. ³⁸ இயேசு, கப்பலின் பின்பக்கத்தில் தலையணையை வைத்துத் தூங்கிக்கொண்டிருந்தார். அவர்கள் அவரை எழுப்பி: போதகரே, நாங்கள் மரித்துப்போவதைப்பற்றி உமக்குக் கவலை இல்லையா? என்றார்கள். ³⁹ அவர் எழுந்து, காற்றை அதட்டி, கடலைப்பார்த்து: சீராதே, அமைதியாக இரு என்றார். அப்பொழுது காற்று நின்றுபோய், மிகுந்த அமைதி உண்டானது. ⁴⁰ அவர் அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: ஏன் இப்படிப் பயப்பட்டீர்கள்? ஏன் உங்களுக்கு விசுவாசம் இல்லாமற்போனது என்றார். ⁴¹ அவர்கள் மிகவும் பயந்து: இவர் யாரோ? காற்றும் கடலும் இவருக்குக் கீழ்ப்படிகிறதே என்று, ஒருவரோடொருவர் சொல்லிக்கொண்டார்கள்.

அத்தியாயம்- 5

¹ பின்பு அவர்கள் கடலுக்கு அக்கரையில் உள்ள கதரேனருடைய நாட்டிற்கு வந்தார்கள். ² அவர் படகில் இருந்து இறங்கினவுடனே, அசுத்தஆவியுள்ள ஒரு மனிதன் கல்லறைகளில் இருந்து அவருக்கு எதிராகவந்தான். ³ அவன் கல்லறைகளிலே குடியிருந்து வந்தான்; அவனைச் சங்கிலிகளினால் கட்டவும் ஒருவனுக்கும் முடியவில்லை. ⁴ அவன் பலமுறை விலங்குகளினாலும் சங்கிலிகளினாலும் கட்டப்பட்டும், சங்கிலிகளைத் தகர்த்து, விலங்குகளை உடைத்துப்போடுவான்; அவனை அடக்க ஒருவனுக்கும் முடியவில்லை. ⁵ அவன் எப்பொழுதும் இரவும் பகலும், மலைகளிலும் கல்லறைகளிலும் இருந்து, சத்தம்போட்டு, கல்லுகளினால் தன்னைத்தானே காயப்படுத்திக்கொண்டிருந்தான். ⁶ அவன் இயேசுவைத் தூரத்திலே பார்த்தபோது, ஓடிவந்து, அவரைப் பணிந்துகொண்டு: ⁷ இயேசுவே, உன்னதமான தேவனுடைய குமாரனே, எனக்கும் உமக்கும் என்ன? என்னை வேதனைப்படுத்தவேண்டாம் என்று தேவனுடைய பெயரில் உம்மைக் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன் என்று அதிக சத்தமிட்டுச் சொன்னான். ⁸ ஏனென்றால், அவர் அவனைப் பார்த்து: அசுத்தஆவியே, இந்த மனிதனைவிட்டு வெளியே போ என்று சொல்லியிருந்தார். ⁹ அப்பொழுது அவர் அவனைப் பார்த்து: உன் பெயர் என்ன என்று கேட்டார். அதற்கு அவன்: நாங்கள் அநேகர் இருப்பதினால் என் பெயர் லேகியோன் என்று சொல்லி, ¹⁰ தங்களை அந்தத் திசையிலிருந்து தூரத்திலிடவேண்டாம் என்று அவரை அதிகமாக வேண்டிக்கொண்டான். ¹¹ அப்பொழுது, அந்த இடத்தில் மலையின் அருகில் அநேக பன்றிகள் கூட்டமாக மேய்ந்துகொண்டிருந்தது. ¹² அந்தப் பிசாசுகள் அவரைப் பார்த்து: பன்றிகளுக்குள்ளே போக, அவைகளுக்குள் எங்களை அனுப்பும் என்று அவரை வேண்டிக்கொண்டன. ¹³ இயேசு அவைகளுக்கு உத்தரவு கொடுத்தவுடனே, அசுத்தஆவிகள் புறப்பட்டுப் பன்றிகளுக்குள் போனது; உடனே ஏறக்குறைய இரண்டாயிரம் பன்றிகளுள்ள அந்தக்கூட்டம் உயர்ந்த மேட்டிலிருந்து ஓடி, கடலிலே பாய்ந்து, கடலில் அமிழ்ந்துபோனது. ¹⁴ பன்றிகளை மேய்த்தவர்கள் ஓடி, இதைப் பட்டணத்திலும் சுற்றுப்புறங்களிலும் அறிவித்தார்கள். அப்பொழுது நடந்தவைகளைப் பார்ப்பதற்காக மக்கள் புறப்பட்டு; ¹⁵ இயேசுவிடம் வந்து, லேகியோனாகிய பிசாசுகள் பிடித்திருந்தவன் புத்தி தெளிந்து, உடை அணிந்து, உட்கார்ந்திருப்பதைப் பார்த்து, பயந்தார்கள். ¹⁶ பிசாசுகள் பிடித்திருந்தவனுக்கும் பன்றிகளுக்கும் நடந்தவைகளைப் பார்த்தவர்களும் அவர்களுக்கு விளக்கமாகச் சொன்னார்கள். ¹⁷ அப்பொழுது தங்களுடைய எல்லைகளைவிட்டுப் போகவேண்டும் என்று அவரை வேண்டிக்கொண்டார்கள். ¹⁸ அப்படியே அவர் படகில் ஏறுப்பொழுது, பிசாசு பிடித்திருந்தவன், இயேசுவோடு வருவதற்கு தனக்கு அனுமதி கொடுக்கவேண்டும் என்று அவரை வேண்டிக்கொண்டான். ¹⁹ இயேசு அவனுக்கு அனுமதி கொடுக்காமல்: நீ உன் குடும்பத்தாரிடம் உன் வீட்டிற்குப்போய், கர்த்தர் உனக்கு மனமிருங்கி, உனக்குச் செய்தவைகளை எல்லாம் அவர்களுக்குச் சொல் என்று சொன்னார். ²⁰ அப்படியே அவன்போய், இயேசு தனக்குச் செய்தவைகளை எல்லாம் தெக்கப்போலி என்னும் நாட்டில் பிரசித்தப்படுத்தினான்; எல்லோரும் ஆச்சரியப்பட்டார்கள்.

²¹ இயேசு படகில் ஏறி மறுபடியும் இக்கரைக்கு வந்து, கடலோரத்தில் இருந்தபோது, அநேக மக்கள் அவரிடம் கூடிவந்தார்கள். ²² அப்பொழுது, ஜெப ஆலயத்தலைவரில் ஒருவனாகிய யவீரு என்பவன் வந்து, அவரைப் பார்த்தவுடனே, அவர் பாதத்தில் விழுந்து: ²³ என் மகள் மரணவேதனைப்படுகிறாள், அவள் சுகமடைய, நீர் வந்து, அவள்மேல் உமது கரங்களை வையும், அப்பொழுது பிழைப்பாள் என்று அவரை அதிகமாக வேண்டிக்கொண்டான். ²⁴ அவர் அவனோடுகூட போனார். அநேக மக்கள் அவருக்குப் பின்னேசென்று, அவரை நெருக்கினார்கள். ²⁵ அப்பொழுது பன்னிரண்டு வருடங்களாக இரத்தப்போக்கினாலே அவதிப்பட்ட ஒரு பெண், ²⁶ அநேக வைத்தியர்களால் அதிகமாக வருத்தப்பட்டு, தன்னிடம் இருந்த எல்லாவற்றையும் செலவு செய்தும், கொஞ்சம்கூட குணமாகாமல் அதிகமாக வருத்தப்படுகிறபொழுது, ²⁷ இயேசுவைப்பற்றிக் கேள்விப்பட்டி: நான் அவருடைய ஆடையையாவது தொட்டால் சுகம் பெறுவேன் என்று சொல்லி; ²⁸ மக்கள் கூட்டத்தின் உள்ளே அவருக்குப் பின்பக்கத்தில் வந்து, அவருடைய ஆடையைத் தொட்டாள். ²⁹ உடனே அவளுடைய இரத்தப்போக்கு நின்றுபோனது; அந்த வேதனை நீங்கி சுகம் பெற்றதை அவள் தன் சரீரத்தில் உணர்ந்தாள். ³⁰ உடனே இயேசு தம்மிடம் இருந்து வல்லமை புறப்பட்டுப் போனதைத் தமக்குள் அறிந்து, மக்கள்கூட்டத்தில் திரும்பி: என் ஆடைகளைத் தொட்டது யார் என்று கேட்டார். ³¹ அவருடைய சீடர்கள் அவரைப் பார்த்து: அநேக மக்கள் உம்மை நெருக்கிக்கொண்டிருக்கிறதை நீர் பார்த்தும், என்னைத் தொட்டது யார் என்று கேட்கிறீர் என்றார்கள். ³² இதைச் செய்தவளைப் பார்க்க அவர் சுற்றிலும் பார்த்தார். ³³ தன்னிடம் நடந்ததை அறிந்த அந்தப் பெண் பயந்து, நடுங்கி, அவர் முன்பாக வந்து விழுந்து, உண்மைகளை எல்லாம் அவருக்குச் சொன்னாள். ³⁴ அவர் அவளைப் பார்த்து: மகனே, உன் விசுவாசம் உன்னை இரட்சித்தது, நீ சமாதானத்தோடு போய், உன் வேதனை நீங்கி, சுகமாக இரு என்றார். ³⁵ அவர் இப்படிப் பேசிக்கொண்டிருக்கும்போது, ஜெப ஆலயத்தலைவனுடைய வீட்டிலிருந்து சிலர் வந்து: உம்முடைய மகள் மரித்துப்போனாள், இனி ஏன்

போதகரை வருத்தப்படுத்துகிறாய் என்றார்கள். ³⁶ அவர்கள் சொன்ன வார்த்தையை இயேசு கேட்டவுடனே, ஜெப ஆலயத்தலைவனைப் பார்த்து: பயப்படாதே, விசுவாசம் உள்ளவனாக இரு என்று சொல்லி; ³⁷ வேறுயாரையும் தம்மோடு சேர்த்துக்கொள்ளாமல், பேதுருவையும், யாக்கோபையும், யாக்கோபின் சகோதரன் யோவானையும் தம்மோடு கூட்டிக்கொண்டுபோனார்; ³⁸ ஜெப ஆலயத்தலைவனுடைய வீட்டிற்கு வந்து, அங்கே சத்தமிடுகிற மக்களையும் மிகவும் அழுது புலம்புகிறவர்களையும் கண்டு, ³⁹ உள்ளே சென்று: நீங்கள் சத்தமிட்டு அழுகிறது ஏன்? பிள்ளை மரிக்கவில்லை, தூங்கிக்கொண்டிருக்கிறாள் என்றார். ⁴⁰ அதற்காக அவரைப் பார்த்து சிரித்தார்கள். எல்லோரையும் அவர் வெளியே அனுப்பிவிட்டு, பிள்ளையின் தகப்பனையும் தாயையும் தம்மோடு வந்தவர்களையும் அழைத்துக்கொண்டு, பிள்ளை இருந்த அறைக்குள் சென்று, ⁴¹ பிள்ளையின் கையைப் பிடித்து: தலீத்தாகூமி என்றார்; அதற்கு; சிறுபெண்ணே எழுந்திரு என்று உனக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன் என்று அர்த்தம். ⁴² உடனே சிறுபெண் எழுந்து நடந்தாள்; அவள் பன்னிரண்டு வயதுள்ளவளாக இருந்தாள். அவர்கள் அனைவரும் மிகுந்த ஆச்சரியப்பட்டுப் பிரமித்தார்கள். ⁴³ அதை ஒருவருக்கும் சொல்லவேண்டாம் என்று அவர்களுக்கு உறுதியாகக் கட்டளையிட்டு, அவளுக்குச் சாப்பிடுவதற்கு ஏதாவது கொடுங்கள் என்று சொன்னார்.

அத்தியாயம்- 6

¹ இயேசு அந்த இடத்தைவிட்டுப் புறப்பட்டு, அவர் வளர்ந்த ஊருக்கு வந்தார்; அவருடைய சீடர்களும் அவரோடு வந்தார்கள். ² ஓய்வுநாளானபோது, ஜெப ஆலயத்தில் போதகம்பண்ணினார். அதைக் கேட்ட அனைவரும் ஆச்சரியப்பட்டு, இவைகள் இவனுக்கு எங்கிருந்து வந்தது? இவன் கைகளினால் இப்படிப்பட்ட பலத்த செய்கைகளைச் செய்ய இவனுக்குக் கொடுக்கப்பட்ட ஞானம் எப்படிப்பட்டது? ³ இவன் தச்சன் அல்லவா? மரியாளுடைய குமாரன் அல்லவா? யாக்கோபு, யோசே, யூதா, சீமோன் என்பவர்களுடைய சகோதரன் அல்லவா? இவன் சகோதரிகளும் இங்கே நம்மோடு இருக்கிறார்கள் அல்லவா? என்று சொல்லி, அவரைக்குறித்து இடறல் அடைந்தார்கள். ⁴ இயேசு அவர்களை நோக்கி: தீர்க்கதரிசி ஒருவன் தன் சொந்த ஊரிலும், தன் உறவினர்களிலும், தன் வீட்டிலும்தான் மதிக்கப்படமாட்டான். மற்ற எல்லா இடங்களிலும் மதிக்கப்படுவான் என்றார். ⁵ அங்கே அவர் சில நோயாளிகள்மேல்மட்டும் கரங்களை வைத்து, அவர்களைக் குணமாக்கினார், வேறு அற்புதங்கள் எதுவும் செய்யமுடியாமல்,

⁶ அவர்களுக்கு விசுவாசம் இல்லாததினால் அதைக்குறித்து ஆச்சரியப்பட்டு, மற்ற கிராமங்களுக்குச்சென்று, போதகம்பண்ணினார். ⁷ இயேசு பன்னிரண்டு சீடர்களையும் அழைத்து, அசுத்தஆவிகளைத் துரத்த அவர்களுக்கு அதிகாரம் கொடுத்து, ⁸ வழிக்குப் பையையோ, அப்பத்தையோ, இடுப்புக் கச்சையில் பணத்தையோ, எடுத்துக்கொண்டுபோகாமல், ஒரு தடியைமட்டும் எடுத்துக்கொண்டுபோகவும்; ⁹ காலணிகளைப் போட்டுக்கொண்டுபோகவும், இரண்டு அங்கிகளை அணிந்துகொள்ளாமலிருக்கவும் கட்டளையிட்டார். ¹⁰ பின்பு அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: நீங்கள் எங்கேயாவது ஒரு வீட்டிற்குச் சென்றால், அந்த இடத்தைவிட்டுப் புறப்படும்வரை அங்கேயே தங்கியிருங்கள். ¹¹ யாராவது உங்களை ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளாமலும், உங்களுடைய வசனங்களைக் கேட்காமலும் இருந்தால், நீங்கள் அந்த இடத்தைவிட்டுப் புறப்படும்போது, அவர்களுக்கு சாட்சியாக உங்களுடைய கால்களின் கீழே படிந்த தூசியை உதறிப்போடுங்கள். நியாயத்தீர்ப்புநாளிலே அந்தப் பட்டணத்திற்கு சம்பவிப்பதைவிட சோதோம் கொமோரா பட்டணத்திற்கு சம்பவிப்பது இலகுவாக இருக்கும் என்று உண்மையாகவே உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன் என்று சொல்லி, அவர்களை இரண்டு இரண்டுபேராக அனுப்பினார். ¹² அவர்கள் புறப்பட்டுப்போய்: மனந்திரும்புங்கள் என்று பிரசங்கித்து; ¹³ அநேக பிசாசுகளைத் துரத்தி, அநேக நோயாளிகளை எண்ணெய் பூசி சுகமாக்கினார்கள்.

¹⁴ இயேசுவினுடைய பெயர் பிரசித்தமானதினால், ஏரோதுராஜா அவரைக்குறித்துக் கேள்விப்பட்டு: மரித்துப்போன யோவான்ஸ்நானன் உயிரோடு எழுந்தான், எனவே அவனிடம் இப்படிப்பட்ட பலத்த செய்கைகள் வெளிப்படுகிறது என்றான். ¹⁵ சிலர்: அவர் எலியா என்றார்கள். வேறுசிலர்: அவர் ஒரு தீர்க்கதரிசி அல்லது பூர்வகாலத்துத் தீர்க்கதரிசிகளில் ஒருவனைப்போல இருக்கிறார் என்று சொன்னார்கள்.

¹⁶ ஏரோது அதைக் கேட்டபொழுது: அவன், நான் தலையை வெட்டிக்கொன்ற யோவான்தான்; அவன் உயிரோடு எழுந்தான் என்றான். ¹⁷ ஏரோது தன் சகோதரனாகிய பிலிப்புவின் மனைவி ஏரோதியாளைத் தனக்கு மனைவியாக்கி வைத்துக்கொண்டபோது, ¹⁸ யோவான் ஏரோதைப் பார்த்து: நீர் உம்முடைய சகோதரன் மனைவியை வைத்துக்கொள்ளுவது நியாயம் இல்லை என்று சொன்னதினால், ஏரோது போர்வீரர்களை அனுப்பி, யோவானைப் பிடித்துக் கட்டிக் காவலில் வைத்திருந்தான். ¹⁹ ஏரோதியாளும் அவனுக்குச் சதி நினைத்து, அவனைக் கொன்றுபோட மனதாயிருந்தான்; ஆனாலும், அவளால் முடியாமல்போனது. ²⁰ ஏனென்றால், யோவான் நீதியும் பரிசுத்தமும் உள்ளவன் என்று ஏரோது அறிந்து, அவனுக்குப் பயந்து, அவனைப் பாதுகாத்து, அவன் யோசனையின்படி அநேகக் காரியங்களைச் செய்து, விருப்பத்தோடு அவன் சொல்லைக் கேட்டுவந்தான். ²¹ ஏரோது தன்னுடைய பிறந்தநாளிலே தன்னுடைய பிரபுக்களுக்கும், படைத்தளபதிகளுக்கும், கலிலேயா நாட்டின் பிரதான மனிதர்களுக்கும் ஒரு விருந்துபண்ணினபோது, ²² ஏரோதியாளின் மகள் சபை நடுவே வந்து நடனம்பண்ணி, ஏரோதுவையும் அவனோடுகூட பந்தியில் இருந்தவர்களையும் சந்தோஷப்படுத்தினாள். அப்பொழுது, ராஜா சிறுபெண்ணை நோக்கி: உனக்கு வேண்டியதை என்னிடம் கேள், அதை உனக்குத் தருவேன் என்று சொல்லி; ²³ நீ என்னிடத்தில் எதைக்கேட்டாலும், அது என் ராஜ்யத்தில் பாதியானாலும், அதை உனக்குத் தருவேன் என்று அவளுக்கு வாக்குக்கொடுத்தான். ²⁴ அப்பொழுது, அவள் வெளியேபோய், நான் என்ன கேட்கவேண்டும் என்று தன் தாயிடம் கேட்டாள். அதற்கு அவள்: யோவான்ஸ்நானனுடைய தலையைக் கேள் என்றாள். ²⁵ உடனே அவள் ராஜாவிடம் சீக்கிரமாக வந்து: நீர் இப்பொழுதே ஒரு தட்டில் யோவான்ஸ்நானனுடைய தலையை வைத்து எனக்குத் தருவேண்டும் என்று கேட்டாள். ²⁶ அப்பொழுது ராஜா அதிக துக்கமடைந்தான்; ஆனாலும், வாக்குக் கொடுத்ததினாலும், அவனோடுகூட பந்தியில்

இருந்தவர்களுக்காகவும், அவள் கேட்டுக்கொண்டதை மறுக்க அவனுக்கு மனம் இல்லாமல்; ²⁷ உடனே யோவான்ஸ்நானுடைய தலையைக் கொண்டுவரும்படி போர்வீரனுக்குக் கட்டளைக் கொடுத்து அனுப்பினான். ²⁸ அப்படியே அவன்போய், காவல்கூடத்திலே அவனுடைய தலையை வெட்டி, அவன் தலையை ஒரு தட்டிலே கொண்டுவந்து, அதை அந்தச் சிறு பெண்ணுக்குக் கொடுத்தான்; அந்தச் சிறுபெண் அதைத் தன் தாயிடம் கொடுத்தாள். ²⁹ அவனுடைய சீடர்கள் அதைக் கேள்விப்பட்டு வந்து, அவன் சரீரத்தை எடுத்து, ஒரு கல்லறையில் வைத்தார்கள்.

³⁰ அப்பொழுது அப்போஸ்தலர்கள் இயேசுவிடம் கூடிவந்து, தாங்கள் செய்தவைகள் போதித்தவைகள் எல்லாவற்றையும் அவருக்கு அறிவித்தார்கள். ³¹ அவர் அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: வனாந்திரமான ஒரு இடத்திற்குச் சென்று தனிமையில் கொஞ்சம் ஓய்வெடுக்கலாம் வாருங்கள் என்றார்; ஏனென்றால், அநேக மக்கள் அவரிடம் வருகிறதும் போகிறதும் இருந்ததினால் அவர்களுக்கு சாப்பிட நேரமில்லாமல் இருந்தது. ³² அப்படியே அவர்கள் தனிமையாக ஒரு படகில் ஏறி வனாந்திரமான ஒரு இடத்திற்குப் போனார்கள். ³³ அவர்கள் புறப்பட்டுப் போகிறதை மக்கள் பார்த்தார்கள். அவரை அறிந்த மக்கள் எல்லாப் பட்டணங்களிலுமிருந்து கால்நடையாகவே அந்த இடத்திற்கு ஓடி, அவர்களுக்கு முன்பே அங்கு சென்றுசேர்ந்து, அவரிடம் கூடிவந்தார்கள். ³⁴ இயேசு கரையில் வந்து, அங்கே கூடிவந்த மக்களைப் பார்த்து, அவர்கள் மேய்ப்பன் இல்லாத ஆடுகளைப்போல இருந்ததினால், அவர்கள்மேல் மனதுருகி, அநேகக் காரியங்களை அவர்களுக்குப் போதிக்கத்தொடங்கினார். ³⁵ அதிகநேரம் ஆனபின்பு, அவருடைய சீடர்கள் அவரிடம் வந்து: இது வனாந்திரமான இடம், அதிகநேரமும் ஆனது; ³⁶ சாப்பிடுகிறதற்கும் இவர்களிடம் ஒன்றும் இல்லை; எனவே இவர்கள் சுற்றிலும் இருக்கிற கிராமங்களுக்கும் ஊர்களுக்கும்போய், அப்பங்களை வாங்கிக்கொள்ள இவர்களை அனுப்பிவிடவேண்டும் என்றார்கள். ³⁷ அவர் அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: நீங்களே அவர்களுக்கு உணவுகொடுங்கள் என்றார். அதற்கு அவர்கள்: நாங்கள்போய், இருநூறு வெள்ளிக்காசுகளுக்கு அப்பங்களை வாங்கி இவர்களுக்குச் சாப்பிடக் கொடுக்கலாமா? என்றார்கள். ³⁸ அதற்கு அவர்: உங்களிடம் எத்தனை அப்பங்கள் இருக்கிறது என்று போய்ப் பாருங்கள் என்றார். அவர்கள் பார்த்துவந்து: ஐந்து அப்பங்களும், இரண்டு மீன்களும் இருக்கிறது என்றார்கள். ³⁹ அப்பொழுது எல்லோரையும் பசும்புல்லின்மேல் பந்தி உட்காரவைக்கும்படி அவர்களுக்குக் கட்டளையிட்டார். ⁴⁰ அப்படியே வரிசை வரிசையாக, நூறுநூறுபேராகவும் ஐம்பதுஐம்பதுபேராகவும் உட்கார்ந்தார்கள். ⁴¹ அவர் அந்த ஐந்து அப்பங்களையும், அந்த இரண்டு மீன்களையும் எடுத்து, வானத்தை அண்ணாந்துபார்த்து, ஆசீர்வதித்து, அப்பங்களைப் பிட்டு, அவர்களுக்குப் பரிமாறத் தம்முடைய சீடர்களிடம் கொடுத்தார். அப்படியே இரண்டு மீன்களையும் எல்லோருக்கும் பங்கிட்டார். ⁴² எல்லோரும் சாப்பிட்டுத் திருப்தி அடைந்தார்கள். ⁴³ மேலும் அப்பங்களிலும் மீன்களிலும் மீதியான துண்டுகளைப் பன்னிரண்டு கூடை நிறைய எடுத்தார்கள். ⁴⁴ அப்பங்கள் சாப்பிட்ட ஆண்கள் ஏறக்குறைய ஐயாயிரம்பேராக இருந்தார்கள்.

⁴⁵ அவர் மக்களை அனுப்பிவிடும்போது, தம்முடைய சீடர்கள் படகில் ஏறி அக்கரையில் பெத்சாயிதாவிற்கு, தமக்கு முன்பே போகச்சொல்லி, அவர்களை துரிதப்படுத்தினார். ⁴⁶ அவர் மக்களை அனுப்பிவிட்டப்பின்பு, ஜெபம்பண்ணுவதற்காக ஒரு மலையின்மேல் ஏறினார். ⁴⁷ மாலைநேரமானபோது படகு நடுக்கடலில் இருந்தது; அவரோ கரையிலே தனிமையாக இருந்தார். ⁴⁸ அப்பொழுது எதிர்க்காற்று வீசிக்கொண்டிருந்ததால், அவர்கள் கஷ்டப்பட்டு துடுப்பு போடுகிறதை அவர் பார்த்து, அதிகாலையில் கடலின்மேல் நடந்து அவர்களிடம் வந்து, அவர்களைக் கடந்துபோகிறவர்போல காணப்பட்டார். ⁴⁹ அவர் கடலின்மேல் நடக்கிறதை அவர்கள் பார்த்து, அவரை பிசாசு என்று நினைத்து, சத்தமிட்டு அலறினார்கள். ⁵⁰ அவர்கள் எல்லோரும் அவரைப் பார்த்து கலக்கம் அடைந்தார்கள். உடனே அவர் அவர்களோடு பேசி: திடன்கொள்ளுங்கள், நான்தான், பயப்படாமல் இருங்கள் என்று சொல்லி. ⁵¹ அவர்கள் இருந்த படகில் ஏறினார். அப்பொழுது காற்று அமைதியானது; எனவே அவர்கள் தங்களுக்குள்ளே மிகவும் பிரமித்து ஆச்சரியப்பட்டார்கள். ⁵² அவர்களுடைய இருதயம் கடினமுள்ளதாக இருந்ததினால் அப்பங்களைக்குறித்து அவர்கள் உணராமல் போனார்கள். ⁵³ அவர்கள் கடலைக்கடந்து கெனேசரேத்து என்னும் நாட்டிற்கு வந்து, கரை ஏறினார்கள். ⁵⁴ அவர்கள் படகில் இருந்து இறங்கினவுடனே, மக்கள் அவரை அறிந்து, ⁵⁵ அந்தச் சுற்றுப்புறமெல்லாம் ஓடிச்சென்று, நோயாளிகளைப் படுக்கைகளில் படுக்கவைத்து, அவர் வந்திருக்கிறார் என்று கேள்விப்பட்ட இடங்களிலெல்லாம் சுமந்துகொண்டுவந்தார்கள்; ⁵⁶ இவைகள் இல்லாமல், அவர் சென்ற கிராமங்கள், பட்டணங்கள், நாடுகள் எல்லாவற்றிலும் சந்தைவெளிகளிலே நோயாளிகளைக் கொண்டுவந்து, அவருடைய ஆடையின் ஓரத்தையாவது அவர்கள் தொடுவதற்கு அனுமதிக்கவேண்டும் என்று அவரை வேண்டிக்கொண்டார்கள்; அவரைத் தொட்ட எல்லோரும் சுகம் பெற்றுக்கொண்டார்கள்.

அத்தியாயம்- 7

¹ எருசலேமில் இருந்து வந்த பரிசேயர்களும், வேதபண்டிதர்களில் சிலரும் அவரிடம் கூடிவந்தார்கள். ² அப்பொழுது அவருடைய சீடர்களில் சிலர் கைகளைக் கழுவாமல் சாப்பிடுகிறதை அவர்கள் பார்த்து குற்றஞ்சாட்டினார்கள். ³ ஏனென்றால், யூதர்கள் அனைவரும் முக்கியமாக பரிசேயர்கள் முன்னோர்களின் பாரம்பரியத்தைக் கடைபிடித்து, அடிக்கடி கைகளைக் கழுவினாலொழிய சாப்பிடமாட்டார்கள்; ⁴ கடைவீதிகளுக்குச் சென்று திரும்பி வரும்போதும் குளிக்காமல் சாப்பிடமாட்டார்கள். அப்படியே செம்புகளையும், கிண்ணங்களையும், செப்புக்குடங்களையும், இருக்கைகளையும் கழுவுகிறதோடு மட்டுமல்லாமல், வேறு அநேக சடங்குகளையும் கடைபிடித்துவருவார்கள். ⁵ அப்பொழுது, அந்தப் பரிசேயர்களும் வேதபண்டிதர்களும் அவரைப் பார்த்து: உம்முடைய சீடர்கள் முன்னோர்களின் பாரம்பரியத்தை மீறி, ஏன் கைகளைக் கழுவாமல் சாப்பிடுகிறார்கள் என்று கேட்டார்கள். ⁶ அவர்களுக்கு அவர் மறுமொழியாக: இந்த மக்கள் தங்களுடைய உதடுகளினால் என்னை கனம்பண்ணுகிறார்கள்; அவர்கள் இருதயமோ எனக்குத் தூரமாக விலகியிருக்கிறது என்றும், ⁷ மனிதர்களுடைய கட்டளைகளைப் போதனைகளாகப் போதித்து, வீணாக எனக்கு ஆராதனை செய்கிறார்கள் என்று எழுதியிருக்கிறபடி, மாயக்காரர்களாகிய உங்களைக்குறித்து, ஏசாயா நன்றாகத் தீர்க்கதரிசனம் சொல்லியிருக்கிறான். ⁸ நீங்கள் தேவனுடைய கட்டளைகளை ஒதுக்கிவிட்டு, மனிதர்களுடைய பாரம்பரியத்தைக் கடைபிடித்துவருகிறவர்களாக, கிண்ணங்களையும் செம்புகளையும் கழுவுகிறீர்கள்; மற்றும் இப்படிப்பட்ட அநேக சடங்குகளையும் கடைபிடித்துவருகிறீர்கள் என்றார். ⁹ பின்னும் அவர் அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: நீங்கள் உங்களுடைய பாரம்பரியத்தைக் கடைபிடிப்பதற்காக தேவனுடைய கட்டளைகளை நிராகரித்தது நன்றாக இருக்கிறது. ¹⁰ எப்படியென்றால், உன் தகப்பனையும் உன் தாயையும் கனம்பண்ணுவாயாக என்றும், தகப்பனையாவது தாயையாவது அவமதிக்கிறவன் கொல்லப்படவேண்டும் என்றும், மோசே சொல்லியிருக்கிறாரே. ¹¹ நீங்களோ, ஒருவன் தன் தகப்பனையாவது தாயையாவது பார்த்து: உனக்கு நான் செய்யவேண்டிய உதவி எதுவோ, அதைக் கொர்பான் என்னும் காணிக்கையாக தேவனுக்குக் கொடுக்கிறேன் என்று சொல்லிவிட்டால் அவனுடைய கடமை முடிந்தது என்று சொல்லி, ¹² அவனை இனி தன் தகப்பனுக்கோ தன் தாய்க்கோ எந்தவொரு உதவியும் செய்யவிடாமல்; ¹³ நீங்கள் போதித்த உங்களுடைய பாரம்பரியத்தினால் தேவவசனத்தை அவமதிக்கிறீர்கள். இதுபோலவே நீங்கள் மற்ற அநேக காரியங்களையும் செய்கிறீர்கள் என்று சொன்னார். ¹⁴ பின்பு அவர் மக்கள் எல்லோரையும் வரவழைத்து அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: நீங்கள் எல்லோரும் நான் சொல்வதைக்கேட்டுப் புரிந்துகொள்ளுங்கள். ¹⁵ மனிதனுக்கு வெளியிலிருந்து அவனுக்குள்ளே போகிறது அவனைத் தீட்டுப்படுத்தாது; அவன் மனதிலிருந்து புறப்படுகிறவைகளே அவனைத் தீட்டுப்படுத்தும். ¹⁶ கேட்கிறதற்கு ஒருவன் காதுள்ளவனாக இருந்தால் அவன் கேட்கட்டும் என்றார். ¹⁷ அவர் மக்களைவிட்டு வீட்டிற்குள் சென்றபோது, அவருடைய சீடர்கள் அவர் சொன்ன உவமையைக்குறித்து அவரிடத்தில் விசாரித்தார்கள். ¹⁸ அதற்கு அவர்: நீங்களும் இவ்வளவு புரிந்துகொள்ளாதவர்களா? வெளியிலிருந்து மனிதனுக்குள்ளே போகிற எதுவும் அவனைத் தீட்டுப்படுத்தாது என்று நீங்கள் அறிந்துகொள்ளவில்லையா? ¹⁹ அது அவன் இருதயத்திற்குள் போகாமல் வயிற்றுக்குள்ளே போகிறது; அதிலிருந்து எல்லா அசுத்தங்களும் ஆசனவழியாக வெளியேபோகும். ²⁰ மனிதனுக்குள்ளேயிருந்து புறப்படுகிறதே மனிதனைத் தீட்டுப்படுத்தும். ²¹ எப்படியென்றால், மனிதனுடைய இருதயத்திற்குள்ளிருந்து பொல்லாத சிந்தனைகளும், விபசாரங்களும், வேசித்தனங்களும், கொலைபாதகங்களும், ²² திருட்டும், பொருளாசைகளும், துஷ்டகுணங்களும், கபடும், காமமும், வன்கண்ணும், அவதூறும், பெருமையும், மதிக்கேடும் புறப்பட்டுவரும். ²³ பொல்லாதவைகளாகிய இவைகள் எல்லாம் மனதிலிருந்து புறப்பட்டு மனிதனைத் தீட்டுப்படுத்தும் என்றார்.

²⁴ பின்பு, அவர் எழுந்து அந்த இடத்தைவிட்டுப் புறப்பட்டு, தீரு சீதோன் பட்டணங்களின் எல்லைகளில்போய், ஒரு வீட்டிற்குள் சென்று, அவர் அங்கே இருப்பது ஒருவருக்கும் தெரியக்கூடாது என்று விரும்பியும், அவர் மறைவாக இருக்கமுடியாமல்போனது. ²⁵ அசுத்தஆவி பிடித்திருந்த ஒரு சிறுபெண்ணின் தாய், இயேசுவைப்பற்றிக் கேள்விப்பட்டு, வந்து அவர் பாதத்தில் விழுந்தாள். ²⁶ அந்தப் பெண் சீரோபேனிக்கியா தேசத்தைச் சேர்ந்த கிரேக்கப் பெண்ணாக இருந்தாள்; அவள் தன் மகளைப் பிடித்திருந்த பிசாசைத் துரத்திவிடவேண்டும் என்று அவரை வேண்டிக்கொண்டாள். ²⁷ இயேசு அவளைப் பார்த்து: முதலில் பிள்ளைகள் திருப்தியாகட்டும்; பிள்ளைகளின் அப்பத்தை எடுத்து நாய்க்குட்டிகளுக்குப் போடுகிறது நல்லது இல்லை என்றார். ²⁸ அதற்கு அவள்: உண்மைதான் ஆண்டவரே, ஆனாலும், மேஜையின்கீழே இருக்கும் நாய்க்குட்டிகள் பிள்ளைகள் சிந்துகிற துணிக்கைகளைத் தின்னுமே என்றாள். ²⁹ அப்பொழுது, அவர்: நீ சொன்ன அந்த வார்த்தையினிமித்தம் போகலாம், பிசாசு உன் மகளைவிட்டுப்

போனது என்றார். ³⁰ அவள் தன் வீட்டிற்கு வந்தபொழுது, பிசாசு போய்விட்டதையும், தன் மகள் கட்டிலில் படுத்திருக்கிறதையும் கண்டாள்.

³¹ மறுபடியும், அவர் தீரு சீதோன் பட்டணங்களின் எல்லைகளையிட்டுப் புறப்பட்டு, தெக்கப்போலியின் எல்லைகளின்வழியாகக் கலிலேயாக்கடலின் அருகே வந்தார். ³² அங்கே திக்குவாயுடைய ஒரு காதுகேளாதவனை அவரிடம் கொண்டுவந்து, அவர் தமது கையை அவன்மேல் வைக்கவேண்டும் என்று வேண்டிக்கொண்டார்கள். ³³ அப்பொழுது, அவர் அவனை மக்கள் கூட்டத்தைவிட்டுத் தனியே அழைத்துக்கொண்டுபோய், தம்முடைய விரல்களை அவன் காதுகளில் வைத்து, உமிழ்ந்து, அவனுடைய நாக்கைத் தொட்டு; ³⁴ வானத்தை அண்ணாந்துபார்த்து, பெருமூச்சுவிட்டு: எப்பத்தா என்றார்; அதற்குத் திறக்கப்படுவாயாக என்று அர்த்தம். ³⁵ உடனே அவனுடைய காதுகள் திறக்கப்பட்டு, அவனுடைய நாக்கின் கட்டும் அவிழ்ந்து, அவன் தெளிவாகப் பேசினான். ³⁶ அதை யாருக்கும் சொல்லவேண்டாம் என்று அவர்களுக்குக் கட்டளையிட்டார்; ஆனாலும் எவ்வளவு அதிகமாக அவர்களுக்குக் கட்டளையிட்டாரோ, அவ்வளவு அதிகமாக அவர்கள் அதைப் பிரசித்தப்படுத்தி, ³⁷ எல்லாவற்றையும் நன்றாகச் செய்தார்; காதுகேட்காதவர்களைக் கேட்கவும், ஊமையர்களைப் பேசவும்பண்ணுகிறார் என்று சொல்லி, மேலும் ஆச்சரியப்பட்டார்கள்.

அத்தியாயம்- 8

¹ அந்த நாட்களிலே அநேக மக்கள் கூடிவந்திருக்கும்போது, அவர்கள் சாப்பிடுகிறதற்கு ஒன்றுமில்லாததினால், இயேசு தம்முடைய சீடர்களை அழைத்து: ² மக்களுக்காகப் பரிதாப்படுகிறேன், இவர்கள் இப்பொழுது என்னிடம் தங்கியிருந்த மூன்றுநாட்களாகச் சாப்பிட ஒன்றுமில்லாமல் இருக்கிறார்கள். ³ இவர்களில் சிலர் தூரத்திலிருந்து வந்திருப்பதினால், நான் இவர்களைப் பட்டினியாக வீட்டிற்கு அனுப்பிவிட்டால், போகும் வழியில் சோர்ந்துபோவார்களே என்றார். ⁴ அதற்கு அவருடைய சீடர்கள்: இந்த வனாந்திரத்திலே ஒருவன் எங்கே இருந்து அப்பங்களைக் கொண்டுவந்து இத்தனை மக்களுக்குக் கொடுத்து திருப்தியாக்கமுடியும் என்றார்கள். ⁵ அதற்கு அவர்: உங்களிடம் எத்தனை அப்பங்கள் இருக்கிறது என்று கேட்டார். அவர்கள்: ஏழு அப்பங்கள் இருக்கிறது என்றார்கள். ⁶ அப்பொழுது அவர் மக்களைத் தரையிலே பந்தி உட்காரக் கட்டளையிட்டு, அந்த ஏழு அப்பங்களையும் எடுத்து, நன்றி செலுத்தி, அதைப் பிட்டு, அவர்களுக்குப் பரிமாற சீடர்களிடம் கொடுத்தார்; அவர்கள் மக்களுக்குப் பரிமாறினார்கள். ⁷ சில சிறிய மீன்களும் அவர்களிடம் இருந்தது; அவர் அவைகளையும் ஆசீர்வதித்து அவர்களுக்குப் பரிமாறச் சொன்னார். ⁸ அவர்கள் சாப்பிட்டுத் திருப்தியானார்கள்; மீதியான அப்பங்களை ஏழுகூடை நிறைய எடுத்தார்கள். ⁹ சாப்பிட்டவர்கள் ஏறக்குறைய நான்காயிரம்பேராக இருந்தார்கள். பின்பு அவர் அவர்களை அனுப்பிவிட்டார். ¹⁰ உடனே அவர் தம்முடைய சீடர்களோடு படகில் ஏறி, தல்மனூத்தாவின் எல்லைகளுக்கு வந்தார். ¹¹ அப்பொழுது பரிசேயர்கள் வந்து அவரோடு வாக்குவாதம் பண்ணத்தொடங்கி, அவரைச் சோதிப்பதற்காக, வானத்திலிருந்து ஒரு அடையாளத்தைக் காண்பிக்கவேண்டும் என்று கேட்டார்கள். ¹² அவர் தம்முடைய ஆவியில் பெருமூச்சுவிட்டு: இந்தச் சந்ததியார்கள் அடையாளம் தேடுகிறது ஏன்? இந்தச் சந்ததியார்களுக்கு ஒரு அடையாளமும் கொடுக்கப்படுவது இல்லை என்று உண்மையாகவே உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன் என்று சொல்லி, ¹³ அவர்களைவிட்டு மறுபடியும் படகில் ஏறி, அக்கரைக்குப் போனார்.

¹⁴ சீடர்கள் அப்பங்களைக் கொண்டுவர மறந்துபோனார்கள்; படகிலே அவர்களிடம் ஒரு அப்பம்மட்டுமே இருந்தது. ¹⁵ அவர் அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: நீங்கள் பரிசேயர்களுடைய புளித்த மாவைக்குறித்தும் ஏரோதின் புளித்த மாவைக்குறித்தும் எச்சரிக்கையாக இருங்கள் என்று கற்பித்தார். ¹⁶ அதற்கு அவர்கள்: நம்மிடம் அப்பங்கள் இல்லாததினால் இப்படிச் சொல்லுகிறார் என்று தங்களுக்குள்ளே யோசனைபண்ணிக்கொண்டார்கள். ¹⁷ இயேசு அதை அறிந்து, அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: உங்களிடம் அப்பங்கள் இல்லாததினால் நீங்கள் யோசனைபண்ணுகிறது ஏன்? இன்னும் சிந்திக்காமலும் உணராமலும் இருக்கிறீர்களா? இன்னும் உங்களுடைய இருதயம் கடினமாக இருக்கிறதா? ¹⁸ உங்களுக்குக் கண்கள் இருந்தும் பார்க்காமல் இருக்கிறீர்களா? காதுகள் இருந்தும் கேட்காமல் இருக்கிறீர்களா? நினைத்துப்பார்க்காமல் இருக்கிறீர்களா? ¹⁹ நான் ஐந்து அப்பங்களை ஐயாயிரம்பேருக்குப் பங்கிட்டுக்கொடுத்தபோது, மீதியான அப்பங்களை எத்தனை கூடைகள்நிறைய எடுத்தீர்கள் என்று கேட்டார், பன்னிரண்டு என்றார்கள். ²⁰ நான் ஏழு அப்பங்களை நான்காயிரம்பேருக்குப் பங்கிட்டுக்கொடுத்தபோது, மீதியான அப்பங்களை எத்தனை கூடைகள்நிறைய எடுத்தீர்கள் என்று கேட்டார். ஏழு என்றார்கள். ²¹ அப்படியானால், நீங்கள் புரிந்துகொள்ளாமல் இருப்பது எப்படி? என்றார்.

²² பின்பு அவர் பெத்சாயிதா ஊருக்கு வந்தார்; அப்பொழுது ஒரு குருடனை அவரிடம் கொண்டுவந்து, அவனைத் தொடவேண்டும் என்று அவரை வேண்டிக்கொண்டார்கள். ²³ அவர் குருடனுடைய கையைப் பிடித்து, அவனைக் கிராமத்திற்கு வெளியே அழைத்துக்கொண்டுபோய், அவன் கண்களில் உமிழ்ந்து, அவன்மேல் கரங்களை வைத்து: எதையாவது பார்க்கிறாயா? என்று கேட்டார். ²⁴ அவன் பார்த்து: மனிதர்களை நடக்கிற மரங்களைப்போலப் பார்க்கிறேன் என்றான். ²⁵ பின்பு அவர் மறுபடியும் அவன் கண்களின்மேல் கரங்களை வைத்து, அவனைப் பார்க்கும்படி செய்தார்; அப்பொழுது அவன் பார்வைப்பெற்று, எல்லோரையும் தெளிவாகப் பார்த்தான். ²⁶ பின்பு அவர் அவனைப் பார்த்து: நீ கிராமத்திற்குள் செல்லாமலும், கிராமத்தில் இதை ஒருவருக்கும் சொல்லாமலும் இரு என்று சொல்லி, அவனை வீட்டிற்கு அனுப்பிவிட்டார்.

²⁷ பின்பு, இயேசுவும் அவருடைய சீடர்களும் புறப்பட்டு, பிலிப்பு செசரியா நாட்டைச்சேர்ந்த கிராமங்களுக்குப் போனார்கள். வழியிலே அவர் தம்முடைய சீடர்களைப் பார்த்து: மக்கள் என்னை யார் என்று சொல்லுகிறார்கள் என்று கேட்டார். ²⁸ அதற்கு அவர்கள்: சிலர் உம்மை யோவான்ஸ்நானன் என்றும், சிலர் எலியா என்றும், வேறுசிலர் தீர்க்கதரிசிகளில் ஒருவர் என்றும் சொல்லுகிறார்கள் என்றார்கள். ²⁹ அப்பொழுது, அவர்: நீங்கள் என்னை யார் என்று சொல்லுகிறீர்கள் என்று கேட்டார்; பேதுரு மறுமொழியாக: நீர் கிறிஸ்து என்றான். ³⁰ அப்பொழுது தம்மைக்குறித்து ஒருவருக்கும் சொல்லவேண்டாம் என்று அவர்களுக்கு உறுதியாகக் கட்டளையிட்டார்.

³¹ அவைகள் அல்லாமல், மனிதகுமாரன் பல பாடுகள்பட்டு, மூப்பர்களாலும் பிரதான ஆசாரியர்களாலும் வேதபண்டிதர்களாலும் ஆகாதவன் என்று தள்ளப்பட்டு, கொல்லப்பட்டு, மூன்று நாட்களுக்குப்பின்பு உயிரோடு எழுந்திருக்கவேண்டும் என்று அவர்களுக்குப் போதிக்கத்தொடங்கினார். ³² இந்த வார்த்தையை அவர் தெளிவாகச் சொன்னார். அப்பொழுது, பேதுரு அவரைத் தனியே அழைத்துக்கொண்டுபோய், அவரைக் கடிந்துபேசத் தொடங்கினான். ³³ அவர் திரும்பித் தம்முடைய சீடர்களைப் பார்த்து, பின்பு பேதுருவைப் பார்த்து: எனக்குப் பின்னாகப்போ, சாத்தானே, நீ தேவனுக்குரிவைகளைச் சிந்திக்காமல் மனிதனுக்குரியவைகளைச் சிந்திக்கிறாய் என்று சொல்லி, அவனைக் கடிந்துபேசினார். ³⁴ பின்பு அவர் மக்களையும் தம்முடைய சீடர்களையும் தம்மிடம் அழைத்து: ஒருவன் என்னைப் பின்பற்றிவரவிரும்பினால், அவன் தன்னைத்தானே வெறுத்து, தன் சிலுவையை எடுத்துக்கொண்டு, என்னைப் பின்பற்றி வரவேண்டும். ³⁵ தன் வாழ்வைக் காப்பாற்றிக்கொள்ள விரும்புகிறவன் அதை இழந்துபோவான், எனக்காகவும், நற்செய்திக்காகவும் தன் வாழ்வை இழந்துபோகிறவன் அதைக் காப்பாற்றிக்கொள்ளுவான். ³⁶ மனிதன் உலகம் முழுவதையும் சம்பாதித்துக்கொண்டாலும், தன் ஆத்துமாவை நஷ்டப்படுத்தினால் அவனுக்கு லாபம் என்ன? ³⁷ மனிதன் தன் ஆத்துமாவிற்கு பதிலாக எதைக் கொடுப்பான்? ³⁸ எனவே விபசாரமும் பாவமும் உள்ள இந்தச் சந்ததியில் என்னைக்குறித்தும் என் வார்த்தைகளைக்குறித்தும் எவன் வெட்கப்படுகிறானோ, அவனைக்குறித்து மனிதகுமாரனும் தமது பிதாவின் மகிமையில் பரிசுத்த தூதர்களோடு வரும்போது வெட்கப்படுவார் என்றார்.

அத்தியாயம்- 9

¹ இயேசு அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: இங்கே நிற்கிறவர்களில் சிலர் தேவனுடைய ராஜ்யம் பலத்தோடு வருவதைப் பார்ப்பதற்குமுன்பு, மரிப்பதில்லை என்று, உண்மையாகவே உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன் என்றார்.

² ஆறு நாட்களுக்குப்பின்பு, இயேசு பேதுருவையும், யாக்கோபையும், யோவானையும் அழைத்து, உயர்ந்த மலையின்மேல் அவர்களைத் தனியே கூட்டிக்கொண்டுபோய், அவர்களுக்கு முன்பாக மறுபுறமடைந்தார்.

³ அவருடைய உடை உறைந்த மழையைப்போல பூமியிலே எந்தவொரு நபராலும் வெளுக்கக்கூடாத வெண்மையாகப் பிரகாசித்தது. ⁴ அப்பொழுது மோசேயும் எலியாவும் இயேசுவோடு பேசுகிறவர்களாக அவர்களுக்குக் காணப்பட்டார்கள். ⁵ அப்பொழுது பேதுரு இயேசுவைப் பார்த்து: ரபீ, நாம் இங்கே இருக்கிறது நல்லது; உமக்கு ஒரு கூடாரமும், மோசேக்கு ஒரு கூடாரமும், எலியாவிற்கு ஒரு கூடாரமுமாக, மூன்று கூடாரங்களைப் போடுவோம் என்றான். ⁶ அவர்கள் மிகவும் பயந்திருந்தபடியால், தான் பேசுகிறது என்ன என்று தெரியாமல் இப்படிச் சொன்னான். ⁷ அப்பொழுது, ஒரு மேகம் அவர்கள்மேல் நிழலிட்டது: இவர் என்னுடைய நேசகுமாரன், இவர் சொல்வதைக் கேளுங்கள் என்று அந்த மேகத்திலிருந்து ஒரு சத்தம் உண்டானது. ⁸ உடனே அவர்கள் சுற்றிலும் பார்த்தபோது, இயேசுவைத்தவிர வேறுயாரையும் பார்க்கவில்லை. ⁹ அவர்கள் மலையிலிருந்து இறங்குகிறபோது, இயேசு அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: மனிதகுமாரன் மரித்தோரிலிருந்து உயிரோடு எழுந்திருக்கும்வரைக்கும், நீங்கள் பார்த்தவைகளை ஒருவருக்கும் சொல்லவேண்டாம் என்று கட்டளையிட்டார். ¹⁰ மரித்தோரிலிருந்து உயிரோடு எழுந்திருப்பது என்னவென்று அவர்கள் ஒருவரோடொருவர் விசாரித்து, அந்த வார்த்தையைத் தங்களுக்குள்ளே அடக்கிக்கொண்டு: ¹¹ எலியா முந்தி வரவேண்டும் என்று வேதபண்டிதர்கள் சொல்லுகிறார்களே, அது எப்படி என்று அவரிடம் கேட்டார்கள். ¹² அவர் மறுமொழியாக: எலியா முதலில் வந்து எல்லாவற்றையும் சீர்ப்படுத்துவது உண்மைதான்; அல்லாமலும், மனிதகுமாரன் பல பாடுகள்பட்டு, அவமதிக்கப்படுவார் என்று, அவரைக்குறித்து எழுதியிருக்கிறதே அது எப்படி என்றார். ¹³ ஆனாலும் எலியா வந்துவிட்டான், அவனைக்குறித்து எழுதியிருக்கிறபடி தங்களுக்கு விருப்பமானபடி அவனுக்குச் செய்தார்கள் என்று, உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன் என்றார்.

¹⁴ பின்பு அவர் சீடர்களிடம் வந்தபோது, அவர்களைச் சுற்றி மக்கள்கூட்டம் நிற்கிறதையும், அவர்களோடு வேதபண்டிதர்கள் வாக்குவாதம்பண்ணுகிறதையும் பார்த்தார். ¹⁵ மக்கள்கூட்டத்தினர் அவரைப் பார்த்தவுடன் அதிக ஆச்சரியப்பட்டு, ஓடிவந்து, அவரை வாழ்த்தினார்கள். ¹⁶ அவர் வேதபண்டிதர்களைப் பார்த்து: நீங்கள் இவர்களோடு எதைக்குறித்து வாக்குவாதம்பண்ணுகிறீர்கள் என்று கேட்டார். ¹⁷ அப்பொழுது மக்கள்கூட்டத்தில் ஒருவன் அவரைப் பார்த்து: போதகரே, ஊமையான ஒரு ஆவி பிடித்த என் மகனை உம்மிடத்தில் கொண்டுவந்தேன். ¹⁸ அது அவனை எங்கே பிடித்தாலும் அங்கே அவனை அலைக்கழிக்கிறது; அப்பொழுது அவன் நுரைதள்ளி, பல்லைக்கடித்து, சோர்ந்துபோகிறான். அதைத் துரத்திவிடும்படி உம்முடைய சீடர்களிடம் கேட்டேன்; அவர்களால் முடியவில்லை என்றான். ¹⁹ அவர் மறுமொழியாக: விசுவாசமில்லாத சந்ததியே, எதுவரைக்கும் நான் உங்களோடு இருப்பேன்? எதுவரைக்கும் உங்களிடம் பொறுமையாக இருப்பேன்? அவனை என்னிடம் கொண்டுவாருங்கள் என்றார்.

²⁰ அவனை அவரிடம் கொண்டுவந்தார்கள். அவரைப் பார்த்தவுடனே, அந்த ஆவி அவனை அலைக்கழித்தது; அவன் தரையிலே விழுந்து, நுரைதள்ளிப் புரண்டான். ²¹ இயேசு அவனுடைய தகப்பனைப் பார்த்து: எவ்வளவு காலங்களாக இப்படி இருக்கிறது? என்று கேட்டார். அதற்கு அவன்: சிறுவயதிலிருந்தே இப்படி இருக்கிறது; ²² இவனைக் கொல்லுவதற்காக அந்த ஆவி அடிக்கடி தீயிலும் தண்ணீரிலும் தள்ளியது. நீர் ஏதாவது செய்யமுடியுமானால், எங்கள்மேல் மனமிறங்கி, எங்களுக்கு உதவிசெய்யவேண்டும் என்றான். ²³ இயேசு அவனைப் பார்த்து: நீ விசுவாசித்தால் நடக்கும், விசுவாசிக்கிறவனுக்கு எல்லாம் சாத்தியமாகும் என்றார். ²⁴ உடனே பிள்ளையின் தகப்பன்: விசுவாசிக்கிறேன் ஆண்டவரே, என் அவிசுவாசம் நீங்கும்படி உதவிசெய்யும் என்று கண்ணீரோடு சத்தமிட்டுச் சொன்னான். ²⁵ அப்பொழுது மக்கள் கூட்டமாக ஓடிவருகிறதை இயேசு பார்த்து, அந்த அசுத்தஆவியை நோக்கி: ஊமையும் செவிடுமான ஆவியே, இவனைவிட்டு வெளியே போ, இனி இவனுக்குள் மீண்டும் போகக்கூடாது என்று நான் உனக்குக் கட்டளையிடுகிறேன் என்று அதை அதட்டினார். ²⁶ அப்பொழுது அந்த ஆவி சத்தமிட்டு, அவனை அதிகமாக அலைக்கழித்து வெளியேபோனது. அவன் மரித்துப்போனான் என்று மக்கள் சொல்லத்தக்கதாக மரித்தவன்போல கிடந்தான். ²⁷ இயேசு அவன் கையைப் பிடித்து, அவனைத் தூக்கினார்; உடனே அவன் எழுந்திருந்தான். ²⁸ அவர் வீட்டிற்கு வந்தபொழுது, அவருடைய சீடர்கள்: அந்த ஆவியைத் துரத்திவிட எங்களால் ஏன் முடியவில்லை என்று அவரிடம் கேட்டார்கள். ²⁹ அதற்கு அவர்: இந்தவகைப் பிசாசை ஜெபத்தினாலும் உபவாசத்தினாலும்தவிர மற்ற எந்தவிதத்திலும் துரத்தமுடியாது என்றார். ³⁰ பின்பு அந்த இடத்தைவிட்டுப்

புறப்பட்டு, கலிலேயாவைக் கடந்துபோனார்கள்; அது யாருக்கும் தெரியக்கூடாது என்று விரும்பினார். ³¹ ஏனென்றால், மனிதகுமாரன் மனிதர்கள் கைகளில் ஒப்புக்கொடுக்கப்படுவார் என்றும், அவர்கள் அவரைக் கொன்றுபோடுவார்கள் என்றும்; கொல்லப்பட்டு, மூன்றாம்நாளிலே உயிரோடு எழுந்திருப்பார் என்றும் அவர் தம்முடைய சீடர்களுக்குப் போதகம்பண்ணிச் சொல்லியிருந்தார். ³² அவர்களோ அந்த வார்த்தையைப் புரிந்துகொள்ளவில்லை, அதைக்குறித்து அவரிடத்தில் கேட்கவும் பயந்தார்கள்.

³³ அவர் கப்பர்நசூமுக்கு வந்து, வீட்டிலே இருக்கும்போது, அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: நீங்கள் வழியிலே எதைக்குறித்து உங்களுக்குள் வாக்குவாதம்பண்ணினீர்கள் என்று கேட்டார். ³⁴ அதற்கு அவர்கள் மவுனமாக இருந்தார்கள்; ஏனென்றால், அவர்கள் தங்களுக்குள் எவன் பெரியவன் என்று வழியில் வாக்குவாதம்பண்ணினார்கள். ³⁵ அப்பொழுது அவர் உட்கார்ந்து, பன்னிரண்டுபேரையும் அழைத்து: யாராவது முதல்வனாக இருக்கவிரும்பினால் அவன் எல்லோருக்கும் கீழானவனும், எல்லோருக்கும் ஊழியக்காரனுமாக இருக்கவேண்டும் என்று சொல்லி; ³⁶ ஒரு சிறுபிள்ளையை எடுத்து, அதை அவர்கள் நடுவிலே நிறுத்தி, அதை அணைத்துக்கொண்டு: ³⁷ இப்படிப்பட்ட சிறு பிள்ளைகளில் ஒன்றை என் நாமத்தினாலே ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளுகிறவன், என்னை ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளுகிறான்; என்னை ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளுகிறவன், என்னை அல்ல, என்னை அனுப்பினவரை ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளுகிறான் என்றார்.

³⁸ அப்பொழுது யோவான் அவரைப் பார்த்து: போதகரே, நம்மைப் பின்பற்றாதவன் ஒருவன் உமது நாமத்தினாலே பிசாசுகளைத் துரத்துகிறதைப் பார்த்தோம்; அவன் நம்மைப் பின்பற்றாதவன், எனவே நாங்கள் அவனைத் தடுத்தோம் என்றான். ³⁹ அதற்கு இயேசு: அவனைத் தடுக்கவேண்டாம்; என் நாமத்தினாலே அற்புதம் செய்கிறவன் எளிதாக என்னைக்குறித்துத் தீங்கு சொல்லமாட்டான். ⁴⁰ நமக்கு விரோதமாக இல்லாதவன் நம்மோடு இருக்கிறான். ⁴¹ நீங்கள் கிறிஸ்துவை உடையவர்களாக இருக்கிறதினாலே, என் நாமத்தினாலே உங்களுக்கு ஒரு கிண்ணம் தண்ணீர் குடிக்கக் கொடுக்கிறவன் தன் பலனை பெறாமல் போவதில்லை என்று உண்மையாகவே உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன்.

⁴² என்னிடம் விசுவாசமாக இருக்கிற இந்தச் சிறியவர்களில் ஒருவனுக்கு இடறல் உண்டாக்குகிறவன் எவனோ, அவனுடைய கழுத்தில் மாவரைக்கும் கல்லைக் கட்டி, கடலில் அவனைத் தள்ளிப்போடுகிறது அவனுக்கு நலமாக இருக்கும். ⁴³ உன் கை உனக்கு இடறல் உண்டாக்கினால், அதை வெட்டிப்போடு; நீ இரண்டு கைகள் உள்ளவனாக அணையாத அக்கினியுள்ள நரகத்திற்குப் போவதைவிட, ஊனமுள்ளவனாக ஜீவனுக்குள் போவது உனக்கு நலமாக இருக்கும். ⁴⁴ அங்கே அவர்கள் புழு சாகாமலும், அக்கினி அணையாமலும் இருக்கும். ⁴⁵ உன் கால் உனக்கு இடறல் உண்டாக்கினால் அதை வெட்டிப்போடு; நீ இரண்டு கால்கள் உள்ளவனாக அணையாத அக்கினியுள்ள நரகத்திலே தள்ளப்படுவதைவிட, கால்கள் நடக்கமுடியாதவனாக ஜீவனுக்குள் செல்வது உனக்கு நலமாக இருக்கும். ⁴⁶ அங்கே அவர்கள் புழு சாகாமலும், அக்கினி அணையாமலும் இருக்கும். ⁴⁷ உன் கண் உனக்கு இடறல் உண்டாக்கினால், அதைப் பிடுங்கிப்போடு; நீ இரண்டு கண்கள் உள்ளவனாக அணையாத அக்கினியுள்ள நரகத்திலே தள்ளப்படுவதைவிட, ஒற்றைக் கண்ணனாக தேவனுடைய ராஜ்யத்திற்குச் செல்வது உனக்கு நலமாக இருக்கும். ⁴⁸ அங்கே அவர்கள் புழு சாகாமலும், அக்கினி அணையாமலும் இருக்கும். ⁴⁹ எந்தப் பலியும் உப்பினால் உப்பிடப்படுவதுபோல, எந்த மனிதனும் அக்கினியினால் உப்பிடப்படுவான். ⁵⁰ உப்பு நல்லதுதான், உப்பு சாரமில்லாமல் போனால், அதை எதினாலே சாரமுண்டாக்குவீர்கள்? உங்களுக்குள்ளே உப்புடையவர்களாக இருங்கள், ஒருவரோடொருவர் சமாதானம் உள்ளவர்களாக இருங்கள் என்றார்.

அத்தியாயம்- 10

¹ இயேசு அந்த இடத்திலிருந்து, யோர்தான் நதிக்கு அக்கரையில் உள்ள தேசத்தின்வழியாக யூதேயாவின் எல்லைகளில் வந்தார். மக்கள் மீண்டும் அவரிடம் கூடிவந்தார்கள். அவர் தம்முடைய வழக்கத்தின்படியே மீண்டும் அவர்களுக்குப் போதகம்பண்ணினார். ² அப்பொழுது பரிசேயர்கள், அவரைச் சோதிக்கவேண்டும் என்று, அவரிடம் வந்து: கணவன் தன் மனைவியை விவாகரத்து செய்வது நியாயமா? என்று கேட்டார்கள். ³ அவர் மறுமொழியாக: மோசே உங்களுக்குக் கட்டளையிட்டிருக்கிறது என்ன என்று கேட்டார். ⁴ அதற்கு அவர்கள் விவாகரத்திற்குரிய விடுதலைப்பத்திரத்தை எழுதிக்கொடுத்து, அவளை விவாகரத்து செய்யலாம் என்று மோசே அனுமதி கொடுத்திருக்கிறார் என்றார்கள். ⁵ இயேசு அவர்களுக்கு மறுமொழியாக: உங்களுடைய இருதயக் கடினத்தினாலே இந்தக் கட்டளையை உங்களுக்கு எழுதிக்கொடுத்தான். ⁶ ஆனாலும், ஆரம்பத்திலே மனிதர்களைப் படைத்த தேவன் அவர்களை ஆணும் பெண்ணுமாக உண்டாக்கினார். ⁷ இதனால் கணவன் தன் தகப்பனையும் தாயையும்விட்டுத் தன் மனைவியோடு இணைந்திருப்பான்; ⁸ அவர்கள் இருவர்களும் ஒரே மாம்சமாக இருப்பார்கள்; இவ்விதமாக அவர்கள் இருவர்களாக இல்லாமல் ஒரே மாம்சமாக இருக்கிறார்கள். ⁹ எனவே, தேவன் இணைத்ததை மனிதன் பிரிக்காதிருக்கவேண்டும் என்றார். ¹⁰ பின்பு வீட்டில் இருக்கும்போது அவருடைய சீடர்கள் அந்தக் காரியத்தைக்குறித்து மீண்டும் அவரிடம் விசாரித்தார்கள். ¹¹ அப்பொழுது அவர்: யாராவது தன் மனைவியை விவாகரத்து செய்துவிட்டு, வேறொரு பெண்ணைத் திருமணம்செய்தால், அவன் அவளுக்கு விரோதமாக விபசாரம் செய்கிறவனாக இருப்பான். ¹² மனைவியும் தன் கணவனை விவாகரத்து செய்துவிட்டு, வேறொருவனை திருமணம்செய்தால், விபசாரம் செய்கிறவனாக இருப்பான் என்றார்.

¹³ அப்பொழுது, சிறு பிள்ளைகளை அவர் தொடுவதற்காக அவர்களை அவரிடம் கொண்டுவந்தார்கள்; கொண்டுவந்தவர்களைச் சீடர்கள் அதட்டினார்கள். ¹⁴ இயேசு அதைப் பார்த்து கோபப்பட்டு: சிறு பிள்ளைகள் என்னிடம் வருகிறதற்கு இடம்கொடுங்கள்; அவர்களைத் தடைப்பண்ணவேண்டாம்; தேவனுடைய ராஜ்யம் அப்படிப்பட்டவர்களுடையது. ¹⁵ யாராவது சிறு பிள்ளையைப்போல தேவனுடைய ராஜ்யத்தை ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளவில்லை என்றால், அவன் அதில் பிரவேசிப்பதில்லை என்று, உண்மையாகவே உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன் என்று சொல்லி, ¹⁶ அவர்களை அணைத்துக்கொண்டு, அவர்கள்மேல் கரங்களை வைத்து, அவர்களை ஆசீர்வதித்தார்.

¹⁷ பின்பு அவர் புறப்பட்டுப் போய்க்கொண்டிருக்கும்போது, ஒருவன் ஓடிவந்து, அவருக்கு முன்பாக முழங்கால்படியிட்டு: நல்ல போதகரே, நித்தியஜீவனைச் சுதந்தரித்துக்கொள்ள நான் என்னசெய்யவேண்டும் என்று கேட்டான். ¹⁸ அதற்கு இயேசு: நீ என்னை நல்லவன் என்று சொல்வது எதினால்? தேவன் ஒருவர்தவிர நல்லவன் ஒருவனும் இல்லை. ¹⁹ விபசாரம் செய்யாதே, கொலை செய்யாதே, திருடாதே, பொய்ச்சாட்சி சொல்லாதே, ஏமாற்றாதே, உன் தகப்பனையும், தாயையும் கணம்பண்ணு என்கிற கட்டளைகளைப்பற்றி தெரிந்திருக்கிறாயே என்றார். ²⁰ அதற்கு அவன்: போதகரே, இவைகளையெல்லாம் என் சிறிய வயதிலிருந்து கடைபிடித்து வருகிறேன் என்றான். ²¹ இயேசு அவனைப் பார்த்து, அவனிடம் அன்புகூர்ந்து: உன்னிடத்தில் ஒரு குறைவு உண்டு; நீ போய், உனக்கு உண்டானவைகளை எல்லாவற்றையும் விற்று, ஏழைகளுக்குக் கொடு; அப்பொழுது பரலோகத்திலே உனக்குப் பொக்கிஷம் உண்டாயிருக்கும்; பின்பு சிலுவையை எடுத்துக்கொண்டு, என்னைப் பின்பற்றிவா என்றார். ²² அவனுக்கு அதிக சொத்துக்கள் இருந்ததால், இந்த வார்த்தையைக் கேட்டு, சோர்ந்து, துக்கத்தோடு போய்விட்டான். ²³ அப்பொழுது இயேசு சுற்றிலும்பார்த்து, தம்முடைய சீடர்களைப் பார்த்து: செல்வந்தர்கள் தேவனுடைய ராஜ்யத்தில் பிரவேசிப்பது எவ்வளவு கடினமாக இருக்கிறது என்றார். ²⁴ சீடர்கள் அவருடைய வார்த்தைகளைக்குறித்து ஆச்சரியப்பட்டார்கள். இயேசு மீண்டும் அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: பிள்ளைகளே, செல்வத்தின்மேல் நம்பிக்கையாக இருக்கிறவர்கள் தேவனுடைய ராஜ்யத்தில் பிரவேசிப்பது எவ்வளவு கடினமாக இருக்கிறது! ²⁵ செல்வந்தர்கள் தேவனுடைய ராஜ்யத்தில் பிரவேசிப்பதைவிட, ஒட்டகமானது ஊசியின் காதிலே நுழைவது சுலபமாக இருக்கும் என்றார். ²⁶ அவர்கள் அதிகமாக ஆச்சரியப்பட்டு: அப்படியானால் யார் இரட்சிக்கப்படமுடியும் என்று தங்களுக்குள்ளே சொல்லிக்கொண்டார்கள். ²⁷ இயேசு அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: மனிதர்களால் இது முடியாது, தேவனால் இது முடியும்; தேவனாலே எல்லாம் முடியும் என்றார். ²⁸ அப்பொழுது பேதுரு அவரைப் பார்த்து: இதோ, நாங்கள் எல்லாவற்றையும்விட்டு, உம்மைப் பின்பற்றிவந்தோமே, என்று சொல்லத்தொடங்கினான். ²⁹ அதற்கு இயேசு மறுமொழியாக: எனக்காகவும், நற்செய்திப் பணிக்காகவும், வீட்டையாவது, சகோதரர்களையாவது, சகோதரிகளையாவது, தகப்பனையாவது, தாயையாவது, மனைவியையாவது, குழந்தைகளையாவது, நிலங்களையாவது விட்டு வந்தவன் எவனும், ³⁰ இப்பொழுது இம்மையிலே, துன்பங்களோடு நூறுமடங்காக வீடுகளையும், சகோதரர்களையும், சகோதரிகளையும், தாய்களையும், பிள்ளைகளையும்,

நிலங்களையும், மறுமையிலே நித்தியஜீவனையும் அடைவான் என்று உண்மையாகவே உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன். ³¹ ஆனாலும் முந்தினவர்கள் அநேகர் பிந்தினவர்களாகவும், பிந்தினவர்கள் அநேகர் முந்தினவர்களாகவும் இருப்பார்கள் என்றார்.

³² பின்பு அவர்கள் எருசலேமுக்குப் பயணமாகப் போகும்பொழுது, இயேசு அவர்களுக்கு முன்பே நடந்துபோனார்; அவர்கள் ஆச்சரியப்பட்டு, அவருக்குப் பின்னால் பயத்தோடு போனார்கள். அப்பொழுது அவர் பன்னிரண்டு சீடர்களையும் அழைத்து, தமக்கு நடக்கப்போகிறவைகளை அவர்களுக்கு மீண்டும் சொல்லத்தொடங்கினார்: ³³ இதோ, எருசலேமுக்குப் போகிறோம்; அங்கே மனிதகுமாரன் பிரதான ஆசாரியர்களிடத்திலும் வேதபண்டிதரிடத்திலும் ஒப்புக்கொடுக்கப்படுவார்; அவர்கள் அவரை மரணதண்டனைக்குள்ளாகத் தீர்த்து, யூதரல்லாதோர்களிடத்தில் ஒப்புக்கொடுப்பார்கள். ³⁴ அவர்கள் அவரைப் பரிகாசம்பண்ணி, அவரை சாட்டையினால் அடித்து, அவர்மேல் துப்பி, அவரைக் கொலைசெய்வார்கள்; ஆனாலும் மூன்றாம்நாளிலே அவர் உயிரோடு எழுந்திருப்பார் என்றார்.

³⁵ அப்பொழுது செபெதேயுவின் குமார்களாகிய யாக்கோபும் யோவானும் அவரிடம் வந்து: போதகரே, நாங்கள் எதைக்கேட்டாலும் அதை நீர் எங்களுக்குச் செய்யவேண்டும் என்று விரும்புகிறோம் என்றார்கள்.

³⁶ அவர் அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: நான் உங்களுக்கு என்னசெய்யவேண்டும் என்று விரும்புகிறீர்கள் என்று கேட்டார். ³⁷ அதற்கு அவர்கள்: உமது மகிமையிலே, எங்களில் ஒருவன் உமது வலதுபக்கத்திலும், ஒருவன் உமது இடதுபக்கத்திலும் உட்கார்ந்திருக்கும்படி எங்களுக்கு அருள்செய்யவேண்டும் என்றார்கள். ³⁸ இயேசு அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: நீங்கள் கேட்பது என்ன என்று உங்களுக்கே தெரியவில்லை. நான் குடிக்கும் பாத்திரத்தில் நீங்கள் குடிக்கவும், நான் பெறும் ஸ்நானத்தையும் நீங்கள் பெறவும் உங்களால் முடியுமா என்றார். ³⁹ அதற்கு அவர்கள்: முடியும் என்றார்கள். இயேசு அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: நான் குடிக்கும் பாத்திரத்தில் நீங்கள் குடிப்பீர்கள், நான் பெறும் ஸ்நானத்தையும் நீங்கள் பெறுவீர்கள். ⁴⁰ ஆனாலும் என் வலதுபக்கத்திலும் என் இடதுபக்கத்திலும் உட்கார்ந்திருக்கும்படி யாருக்கு ஆயத்தம்பண்ணப்பட்டிருக்கிறதோ அவர்களைத்தவிர, மற்றவர்களுக்கு அதை அருளுவது என் காரியமல்ல என்றார். ⁴¹ மற்ற பத்துப்பேரும் அதைக்கேட்டு, யாக்கோபின்மேலும் யோவானின் மேலும் எரிச்சலானார்கள். ⁴² அப்பொழுது, இயேசு அவர்களை அருகில் வரச்சொல்லி: யூதரல்லாதவர்களுக்கு அதிகாரிகளாக நியமிக்கப்பட்டவர்கள் அவர்களை ஆணவத்தோடு ஆளுகிறார்கள் என்றும், அவர்களில் பெரியவர்கள் அவர்கள்மேல் கடினமாக அதிகாரம் செலுத்துகிறார்கள் என்றும் நீங்கள் அறிந்திருக்கிறீர்கள். ⁴³ உங்களுக்குள்ளே அப்படி இருக்கக்கூடாது; உங்களில் யாராவது பெரியவனாக இருக்கவிரும்பினால், அவன் உங்களுக்குப் பணிவிடைக்காரனாக இருக்கவேண்டும். ⁴⁴ உங்களில் யாராவது முதன்மையானவனாக இருக்கவிரும்பினால், அவன் எல்லோருக்கும் ஊழியக்காரனாக இருக்கவேண்டும். ⁴⁵ அப்படியே, மனிதகுமாரனும் மற்றவர்களிடம் ஊழியம் பெற வராமல், ஊழியம் செய்யவும், அநேகரை மீட்கத் தம்முடைய ஜீவனைக் கொடுக்கவும் வந்தார் என்றார்.

⁴⁶ பின்பு அவர்கள் எரிகோவிற்கு வந்தார்கள். அவரும் அவருடைய சீடர்களும் மக்கள் கூட்டமும் எரிகோவைவிட்டுப் புறப்படுகிறபோது, திமேயுவின் பார்வையற்ற மகனாகிய பர்திமேயு, வழியருகில் உட்கார்ந்து, பிச்சை கேட்டுக்கொண்டிருந்தான். ⁴⁷ அவன் நசரேயனாகிய இயேசு வருகிறார் என்று கேள்விப்பட்டு: இயேசுவே, தாவீதின் குமாரனே, எனக்கு இரங்கும் என்று சத்தமிட்டு கூப்பிடத் தொடங்கினான். ⁴⁸ அவனை அமைதியாக இருக்கச்சொல்லி மக்கள் அவனை அதட்டினார்கள். அவனோ: தாவீதின் குமாரனே, எனக்கு இரங்கும் என்று முன்பைவிட அதிகமாக சத்தமிட்டு கூப்பிட்டான். ⁴⁹ இயேசு நின்று, அவனை அழைத்துவரச் சொன்னார். அவர்கள் அந்தப் பார்வையற்றவனை அழைத்து: திடன்கொள், எழுந்திரு, உன்னை அழைக்கிறார் என்றார்கள். ⁵⁰ உடனே அவன் தன் மேலாடையை கழற்றிவிட்டு, எழுந்து, இயேசுவிடம் வந்தான். ⁵¹ இயேசு அவனைப் பார்த்து: நான் உனக்கு என்னசெய்யவேண்டும் என்று விரும்புகிறாய் என்றார். அதற்கு அந்தப் பார்வையற்றவன்: ஆண்டவரே, நான் பார்வைபெறவேண்டும் என்றான். ⁵² இயேசு அவனைப் பார்த்து: நீ போகலாம், உன் விசுவாசம் உன்னை இரட்சித்தது என்றார். உடனே அவன் பார்வைபெற்று, வழியிலே இயேசுவைப் பின்பற்றி அவர்பின்னே சென்றான்.

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- ¹ இயேசுவும் அவருடைய சீடர்களும் எருசலேமுக்கு அருகில் வந்து, ஒலிவமலைக்கு அருகான பெத்தபகே பெத்தானியா என்னும் ஊர்களுக்குச் சென்றபோது, அவர் தம்முடைய சீடர்களில் இரண்டுபேரைப் பார்த்து: ² உங்களுக்கு எதிரே இருக்கிற கிராமத்திற்குப் போங்கள்; அங்கு சென்றவுடன், மனிதர்கள் ஒருவனும் ஒருநாளும் ஏறாத ஒரு கழுதைக்குட்டி கட்டியிருப்பதைப் பார்ப்பீர்கள், அதை அவிழ்த்துக்கொண்டுவாருங்கள். ³ ஏன் இப்படிச் செய்கிறீர்கள் என்று யாராவது உங்களிடம் கேட்டால்: இது ஆண்டவருக்கு வேண்டும் என்று சொல்லுங்கள்; உடனே அதை இந்த இடத்திற்கு அனுப்பிவிடுவான் என்று சொல்லி, அவர்களை அனுப்பினார். ⁴ அவர்கள்போய், வெளியே இருவழிச்சந்தியில் ஒரு வாசலருகே கட்டியிருந்த அந்தக் குட்டியைப் பார்த்து, அதை அவிழ்த்தார்கள். ⁵ அப்பொழுது அங்கே நின்றவர்களில் சிலர்: நீங்கள் இந்தக் குட்டியை எதற்கு அவிழ்க்கிறீர்கள் என்றுக் கேட்டார்கள். ⁶ இயேசு சொன்னபடியே அவர்களுக்குப் பதில் சொன்னார்கள். அப்பொழுது, அவர்களைப் போகவிட்டார்கள். ⁷ அவர்கள் அந்தக் குட்டியை இயேசுவிடம் கொண்டுவந்து, அதன்மேல் தங்களுடைய ஆடைகளைப் போட்டார்கள்; அவர் அதின்மேல் ஏறிப்போனார். ⁸ அநேகர் தங்களுடைய ஆடைகளை வழியிலே விரித்தார்கள்; வேறுசிலர் மரக்கிளைகளை வெட்டி சாலைகளில் போட்டார்கள். ⁹ முன்னே நடப்பவர்களும் பின்னே நடப்பவர்களும்: ஓசன்னா! கர்த்தரின் நாமத்தினாலே வருகிறவர் போற்றப்படத்தக்கவர்; ¹⁰ கர்த்தரின் நாமத்தினாலே வருகிற நம்முடைய பிதாவாகிய தாவீதின் ராஜ்யம் ஆசீர்வதிக்கப்படுவதாக; உன்னதத்திலே ஓசன்னா என்று சொல்லி ஆர்ப்பரித்தார்கள். ¹¹ அப்பொழுது, இயேசு எருசலேமுக்கு வந்து, தேவாலயத்திற்குச் சென்று, எல்லாவற்றையும் சுற்றிப்பார்த்து, மாலைநேரத்தில், பன்னிரண்டு சீடர்களுடன் பெத்தானியாவிற்குப் போனார்.
- ¹² அடுத்தநாளில் அவர்கள் பெத்தானியாவிலிருந்து திரும்பிவரும்போது, அவருக்குப் பசியுண்டானது. ¹³ அப்பொழுது இலைகள் உள்ள ஒரு அத்திமரத்தைத் தூரத்திலேப் பார்த்து, அதில் அத்திப்பழம் கிடைக்குமா? என்று பார்க்க வந்தார். அது அத்திப்பழக் காலமாக இல்லாததினால், அவர் மரத்தின் அருகில் வந்தபோது அதில் இலைகளைத்தவிர வேறொன்றையும் பார்க்கவில்லை. ¹⁴ அப்பொழுது இயேசு அதைப் பார்த்து: இனி எப்போதும் ஒருவனும் உன்னிடமிருந்து கனியைப் புசிக்கமாட்டான் என்றார்; அதை அவருடைய சீடர்கள் கேட்டார்கள். ¹⁵ அவர்கள் எருசலேமுக்கு வந்தார்கள். இயேசு தேவாலயத்திற்குச் சென்று, ஆலயத்தில் விற்கிறவர்களையும் வாங்குகிறவர்களையும் துரத்திவிட்டு, காசுக்காரர்களுடைய பலகைகளையும், புறா விற்கிறவர்களுடைய இருக்கைகளையும் கவிழ்த்து, ¹⁶ ஒருவனும் தேவாலயத்தின்வழியாக எந்தவொரு பொருளையும் கொண்டுபோகவிடாமல்: ¹⁷ என்னுடைய வீடு எல்லா மக்களுக்கும் ஜெபவீடு எனப்படும் என்று எழுதியிருக்கவில்லையா? நீங்களோ அதைக் கள்ளர்களின் குகையாக்கினீர்கள் என்று அவர்களுக்குச் சொல்லி உபதேசித்தார். ¹⁸ அதை வேதபண்டிதர்களும் பிரதான ஆசாரியர்களும் கேட்டு, அவரைக் கொலைசெய்ய வழிதேடினார்கள்; ஆனாலும் மக்களெல்லாரும் அவருடைய உபதேசத்தைக்குறித்து ஆச்சரியப்பட்டதினாலே அவருக்கு பயந்திருந்தார்கள். ¹⁹ மாலைநேரத்தில் இயேசுவும் அவருடைய சீடர்களும் நகரத்திலிருந்து புறப்பட்டு வெளியே போனார்கள்.
- ²⁰ அடுத்தநாள் காலையிலே அவர்கள் அந்தவழியாக போகும்போது, அந்த அத்திமரம் வேரோடு பட்டுப்போயிருந்ததைப் பார்த்தார்கள். ²¹ பேதுரு நினைத்துப்பார்த்து, இயேசுவிடம்: ரபீ, இதோ, நீர் சபித்த அத்திமரம் பட்டுப்போனது என்றான். ²² இயேசு அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: தேவனிடம் விசுவாசம் உள்ளவர்களாக இருங்கள். ²³ யாராவது இந்த மலையைப் பார்த்து: நீ பெயர்ந்து, கடலில் தள்ளுண்டுபோ என்று சொல்லி, தான் சொன்னபடியே நடக்கும் என்று தன் இருதயத்தில் சந்தேகப்படாமல் விசுவாசித்தால், அவன் சொன்னபடியே நடக்கும் என்று உண்மையாகவே உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன். ²⁴ எனவே, நீங்கள் ஜெபம்பண்ணும்போது எவைகளைக் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுவீர்களோ, அவைகளைப் பெற்றுக்கொள்வோம் என்று விசுவாசியுங்கள், அப்பொழுது அவைகள் உங்களுக்கு உண்டாகும் என்று சொல்லுகிறேன். ²⁵ நீங்கள் நின்று ஜெபம்பண்ணும்போது, ஒருவன்மேல் உங்களுக்கு ஏதாவது குறை உண்டாயிருக்கும் என்றால், பரலோகத்தில் இருக்கிற உங்களுடைய பிதா உங்களுடைய தவறுகளை உங்களுக்கு மன்னிப்பதற்காக, அந்தக் குறையை நீங்கள் அவனுக்கு மன்னியுங்கள். ²⁶ நீங்கள் மன்னிக்காமலிருந்தால், பரலோகத்தில் இருக்கிற உங்களுடைய பிதாவும் உங்களுடைய தவறுகளை மன்னிக்கமாட்டார் என்றார்.
- ²⁷ அவர்கள் மீண்டும் எருசலேமுக்கு வந்தார்கள். அவர் தேவாலயத்திலே உலாவிக்கொண்டிருக்கும்போது, பிரதான ஆசாரியர்களும் வேதபண்டிதர்களும் மூப்பர்களும் அவரிடம் வந்து: ²⁸ நீர் எந்த அதிகாரத்தினால் இவைகளைச் செய்கிறீர்? இவைகளைச் செய்கிறதற்கு அதிகாரத்தை உமக்குக் கொடுத்தவர் யார் என்று கேட்டார்கள். ²⁹ இயேசு மறுமொழியாக: நானும் உங்களிடம் ஒரு கேள்வியைக் கேட்கிறேன், நீங்கள்

எனக்கு பதில் சொல்லுங்கள், அப்பொழுது நானும் எந்த அதிகாரத்தினாலே இவைகளைச் செய்கிறேன் என்று உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுவேன். ³⁰ யோவான் கொடுத்த ஸ்நானம் தேவனால் உண்டானதா அல்லது மனிதர்களால் உண்டானதா என்று எனக்கு பதில் சொல்லுங்கள் என்றார். ³¹ அதற்கு அவர்கள்: தேவனால் உண்டானது என்று சொன்னால், பின்பு ஏன் அவனை விசுவாசிக்கவில்லை என்று கேட்பார். ³² எல்லோரும் யோவானை உண்மையான தீர்க்கதரிசி என்று நினைக்கிறார்கள். எனவே மக்களுக்குப் பயப்பட்டதினால், மனிதர்களால் உண்டானது என்று சொல்லமுடியாமல், தங்களுக்குள் ஆலோசனைபண்ணி; ³³ இயேசுவிற்கு மறுமொழியாக: எங்களுக்குத் தெரியாது என்றார்கள். அப்பொழுது இயேசு: நானும் எந்த அதிகாரத்தினால் இவைகளைச் செய்கிறேன் என்று உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லமாட்டேன் என்றார்.

அத்தியாயம்- 12

¹ பின்பு இயேசு உவமைகளாக அவர்களுக்குச் சொன்னது: ஒரு மனிதன் ஒரு திராட்சைத்தோட்டத்தை உண்டாக்கி, அதைச் சுற்றிலும் வேலி அடைத்து, திராட்சை ஆலையை உண்டுபண்ணி, கோபுரத்தையும் கட்டி, தோட்டக்காரர்களுக்கு அதைக் குத்தகைக்கு விட்டு, வேறு தேசத்திற்குச் சென்றிருந்தான். ² தோட்டக்காரர்களிடம் திராட்சைத்தோட்டத்துக் கனிகளில் தன் பங்கை வாங்கிக்கொண்டுவரும்படி, பருவகாலத்திலே அவர்களிடம் ஒரு வேலைக்காரனை அனுப்பினான். ³ அவர்கள் அவனைப் பிடித்து, அடித்து, வெறுமையாக அனுப்பிவிட்டார்கள். ⁴ பின்பு வேறொரு வேலைக்காரனை அவர்களிடம் அனுப்பினான்; அவர்கள் அவனைக் கல்லால் அடித்து, தலையைக் காயப்படுத்தி, அவமானப்படுத்தி, அனுப்பிவிட்டார்கள். ⁵ மீண்டும் வேறொருவனை அனுப்பினான்; அவனை அவர்கள் கொலைசெய்தார்கள். வேறு அநேகரையும் அனுப்பினான்; அவர்களில் சிலரை அடித்து, சிலரைக் கொன்றுபோட்டார்கள். ⁶ அவனுக்குப் பிரியமான ஒரே குமாரன் இருந்தான்; என் குமாரனை மதிப்பார்கள் என்று சொல்லி, அவனையும் கடைசியிலே அவர்களிடம் அனுப்பினான். ⁷ தோட்டக்காரர்களோ: இவனே சொத்திற்கு வாரிசு, இவனைக் கொலைசெய்வோம் வாருங்கள்; அப்பொழுது சொத்து நம்முடையதாகும் என்று ஒருவரோடொருவர் சொல்லிக்கொண்டு; ⁸ அவனைப் பிடித்துக் கொலைசெய்து, திராட்சைத்தோட்டத்திற்குப் வெளியே எறிந்துவிட்டார்கள். ⁹ அப்படியிருக்க, திராட்சைத்தோட்டத்திற்கு எஜமான் என்ன செய்வான்? அவன் வந்து அந்தத் தோட்டக்காரர்களைக் கொன்று, திராட்சைத்தோட்டத்தை மற்றவர்களுக்கு ஒப்புக்கொடுப்பான் அல்லவா? ¹⁰ வீடுகட்டுகிறவர்கள் வேண்டாம் என்று ஒதுக்கிய கல்லே மூலைக்குத் தலைக்கல்லானது; ¹¹ அது கர்த்தராலே நடந்தது, அது நம்முடைய கண்களுக்கு ஆச்சரியமாக இருக்கிறது என்று எழுதியிருக்கிற வாக்கியத்தை நீங்கள் வாசிக்கவில்லையா என்றார். ¹² இந்த உவமையைத் தங்களுக்குறித்துச் சொன்னார் என்று அவர்கள் அறிந்து, அவரைக் கைது செய்ய முயற்சிசெய்தார்கள்; ஆனாலும் மக்களுக்குப் பயந்து, அவரைவிட்டுப் போய்விட்டார்கள்.

¹³ அவர்கள், இயேசுவை அவரது பேச்சிலே சிக்கவைக்கும்படி, பரிசேயர்களிலும் ஏரோதியர்களிலும் சிலரை அவரிடம் அனுப்பினார்கள். ¹⁴ அவர்கள் வந்து: போதகரே, நீர் சத்தியமுள்ளவர் என்றும், எவனைக்குறித்தும் உமக்குக் கவலையில்லை என்றும் அறிந்திருக்கிறோம், நீர் முகதாட்சினியம் இல்லாதவராக தேவனுடைய வழிகளைச் சத்தியமாகப் போதிக்கிறீர், இராயனுக்கு வரிகொடுக்கிறது நியாயமோ, இல்லையோ? நாம் வரி கொடுக்கலாமா, வேண்டாமா? என்று கேட்டார்கள். ¹⁵ அவர்களுடைய தந்திரத்தை அவர் அறிந்து: நீங்கள் என்னை ஏன் சோதிக்கிறீர்கள்? நான் பார்ப்பதற்கு ஒரு பணத்தை என்னிடம் கொண்டுவருங்கள் என்றார். ¹⁶ அவர்கள் அதைக் கொண்டுவந்தார்கள். அப்பொழுது அவர்: இந்தப் படமும் மேலே உள்ள எழுத்தும் யாருடையது என்று கேட்டார்; ரோம அரசாங்கத்திற்கு உரியது என்றார்கள். ¹⁷ அதற்கு இயேசு: அரசாங்கத்திற்குரியதை அரசாங்கத்திற்கும், தேவனுக்குரியதை தேவனுக்கும் செலுத்துங்கள் என்றார். அவர்கள் அவரைக்குறித்து ஆச்சரியப்பட்டார்கள்.

¹⁸ உயிர்த்தெழுதல் இல்லை என்று சாதிக்கிற சதுசேயர்கள் அவரிடம் வந்து: ¹⁹ போதகரே, ஒருவனுடைய சகோதரன் வாரிசு இல்லாமல் தன் மனைவியைவிட்டு மரித்துப்போனால், அவனுடைய சகோதரன் அவன் மனைவியை திருமணம்செய்து, தன் சகோதரனுக்காக வாரிசை உண்டாக்கவேண்டும் என்று மோசே எங்களுக்கு எழுதிவைத்திருக்கிறாரே. ²⁰ இப்படியிருக்க, ஏழு சகோதரர்கள் இருந்தார்கள்; மூத்தவன் ஒரு பெண்ணைத் திருமணம்செய்து, குழந்தை இல்லாமல் மரித்துப்போனான். ²¹ இரண்டாம் சகோதரன் அவளை திருமணம்செய்து, அவனும் குழந்தை இல்லாமல் மரித்துப்போனான். மூன்றாம் சகோதரனுக்கும் அப்படியே நடந்தது. ²² ஏழுபேரும் அவளைத் திருமணம்செய்து, குழந்தை இல்லாமல் மரித்துப்போனார்கள். எல்லோருக்கும்பின்பு அந்தப் பெண்ணும் மரித்துப்போனான். ²³ எனவே, உயிர்த்தெழுதலில், அவர்கள் எழுந்திருக்கும்போது, அவர்களில் யாருக்கு அவள் மனைவியாக இருப்பாள்? ஏழுபேரும் அவளைத் திருமணம் செய்திருந்தார்களே என்று கேட்டார்கள். ²⁴ இயேசு அவர்களுக்கு மறுமொழியாக: நீங்கள் வேதவாக்கியங்களையும், தேவனுடைய வல்லமையையும் அறியாததினாலே தவறான எண்ணங்கொள்ளுகிறீர்கள். ²⁵ மரித்தவர்கள் உயிரோடு எழுந்திருக்கும்போது திருமணம் செய்வதும், திருமணம்செய்து கொடுப்பதும் இல்லை. அவர்கள் பரலோகத்தில் தேவதூதர்களைப்போல இருப்பார்கள். ²⁶ மரித்தவர்கள் உயிரோடு எழுந்திருப்பதைப்பற்றி: நான் ஆபிரகாமின் தேவனும், ஈசாக்கின் தேவனும், யாக்கோபின் தேவனுமாக இருக்கிறேன் என்று, தேவன் முன்செடியைக்குறித்துச் சொல்லிய இடத்தில், மோசேயின் புத்தகத்தில் அவனுக்குச் சொன்னதை நீங்கள் வாசிக்கவில்லையா? ²⁷ அவர் மரித்தவர்களுக்கு தேவனாக இல்லாமல், ஜீவனுள்ளவர்களுக்கு தேவனாக இருக்கிறார்; அதை நீங்கள் தவறாக புரிந்துகொள்ளுகிறீர்கள் என்றார்.

²⁸ வேதபண்டிதர்களில் ஒருவன் அவர்கள் வாக்குவாதம்பண்ணுகிறதைக்கேட்டு, அவர்களுக்கு நன்றாக பதில் சொன்னார் என்று அறிந்து, அவரிடம் வந்து: கட்டளைகளிலெல்லாம் பிரதான கட்டளை எது என்று கேட்டான். ²⁹ இயேசு அவனுக்கு மறுமொழியாக: கட்டளைகளிலெல்லாம் பிரதான கட்டளை எதுவென்றால்: இஸ்ரவேலே கேள், நம்முடைய தேவனாகிய கர்த்தர் ஒருவரே கர்த்தர். ³⁰ உன் தேவனாகிய கர்த்தரிடம் உன் முழு இருதயத்தோடும், உன் முழு ஆத்துமாவோடும், உன் முழு மனதோடும், உன் முழு பலத்தோடும் அன்புசெலுத்துவாயாக என்பதே பிரதான கட்டளை. ³¹ இதற்கு ஒப்பாக இருக்கிற இரண்டாம் கட்டளை என்னவென்றால்: உன்னிடத்தில் நீ அன்புசெலுத்துவதுபோல மற்றவனிடத்திலும் அன்புசெலுத்துவாயாக என்பதே; இவைகளைவிட பெரிய கட்டளை வேறொன்றும் இல்லை என்றார். ³² அதற்கு வேதபண்டிதன்: சரிதான் போதகரே, நீர் சொன்னது சத்தியம்; ஒரே தேவன் உண்டு, அவரைத்தவிர வேறொரு தேவன் இல்லை. ³³ முழு இருதயத்தோடும், முழு மனதோடும், முழு ஆத்துமாவோடும், முழுப் பலத்தோடும் அவரிடத்தில் அன்பு செலுத்துகிறதும், தன்னிடத்தில் அன்பு செலுத்துகிறதுபோல மற்றவனிடத்தில் அன்பு செலுத்துகிறதுதான் தகனபலிகளையும் மற்ற எல்லா பலிகளையும்விட முக்கியமாக இருக்கிறது என்றான். ³⁴ அவன் ஞானமாக பதில் சொன்னதை இயேசு பார்த்து: நீ தேவனுடைய ராஜ்யத்திற்குத் தூரமானவன் இல்லை என்றார். அதன்பின்பு ஒருவரும் அவரிடம் எந்தக் கேள்வியும் கேட்கத் துணியவில்லை.

³⁵ இயேசு தேவாலயத்தில் உபதேசம்பண்ணும்போது, அவர்: கிறிஸ்து தாவீதின் குமாரன் என்று வேதபண்டிதர்கள் எப்படிச் சொல்லுகிறார்கள்? ³⁶ நான் உம்முடைய எதிரிகளை உம்முடைய கால்களுக்குக் கீழே போடும்வரைக்கும் நீர் என்னுடைய வலதுபக்கத்தில் உட்காரும் என்று கர்த்தர் என் ஆண்டவரோடு சொன்னார் என்று தாவீது பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவராலே சொல்லியிருக்கிறானே. ³⁷ தாவீதே, அவரை ஆண்டவர் என்று சொல்லியிருக்கும்போது, அவனுக்கு அவர் குமாரனாக இருப்பது எப்படி என்றார். அநேக மக்கள் அவருடைய உபதேசத்தை விருப்பத்தோடு கேட்டார்கள். ³⁸ இயேசு உபதேசம்பண்ணும்போது அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: வேதபண்டிதர்கள் நீண்ட அங்கிகளை அணிந்துகொண்டு திரியவும், சந்தைவெளிகளில் வாழ்த்துக்களை விரும்பியும், ³⁹ ஜெப ஆலயங்களில் முதன்மையான இருக்கைகளில் உட்காரவும், விருந்துகளில் முதன்மையான இடங்களில் இருக்கவும் விரும்பி, ⁴⁰ விதவைகளின் வீடுகளையும், சொத்துக்களையும் ஏமாற்றி, பார்வைக்கு நீண்ட ஜெபம்பண்ணுகிற வேதபண்டிதர்களுக்குறித்து எச்சரிக்கையாக இருங்கள்; அவர்கள் அதிகத் தண்டனை அடைவார்கள் என்றார்.

⁴¹ இயேசு காணிக்கைப்பெட்டிக்கு எதிராக உட்கார்ந்து, மக்கள் காணிக்கைப் பெட்டியில் பணம் போடுகிறதைப் பார்த்துக்கொண்டிருந்தார்; செல்வந்தர்கள் அநேகர் அதிகமாகப் போட்டார்கள். ⁴² ஏழையான ஒரு விதவையும் வந்து, ஒரு நாணய மதிப்பிற்கு சரியான இரண்டு காசுகளைப் போட்டாள். ⁴³ அப்பொழுது அவர் தம்முடைய சீடர்களை அழைத்து, காணிக்கைப் பெட்டியில் பணம் போட்ட மற்ற எல்லோரையும்விட இந்த ஏழை விதவை அதிகமாகப் போட்டாள் என்று உண்மையாகவே உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன்; ⁴⁴ அவர்களெல்லோரும் தங்களுடைய பரிபூரணத்திலிருந்து எடுத்துப்போட்டார்கள்; இவளோ தன் வறுமையிலிருந்து தான் வாழ்வதற்காக வைத்திருந்த எல்லாவற்றையும் போட்டுவிட்டாள் என்றார்.

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¹ இயேசு தேவாலயத்தைவிட்டுப் புறப்படும்போது, அவருடைய சீடர்களில் ஒருவன் அவரைப் பார்த்து: போதகரே, இதோ, இந்தக் கற்கள் எப்படிப்பட்டது! இந்தக் கட்டிடங்கள் எப்படிப்பட்டது! பாருமென்றான். ² இயேசு அவனுக்கு மறுமொழியாக: இந்தப் பெரிய கட்டிடங்களைக் பார்க்கிறாயே, ஒரு கல்லின்மேல் ஒரு கல் இல்லாதபடி எல்லாம் இடிக்கப்பட்டுப்போகும் என்றார். ³ பின்பு, அவர் தேவாலயத்திற்கு எதிராக ஒலிவமலையின்மேல் உட்கார்ந்திருக்கும்போது, பேதுருவும் யாக்கோபும் யோவானும் அந்திரேயாவும் அவரிடம் தனிமையில் வந்து: ⁴ இவைகள் எப்பொழுது நடக்கும்? இவைகளெல்லாம் நிறைவேறும் காலங்களுக்கு அடையாளம் என்ன? எங்களுக்குச் சொல்லவேண்டும் என்றார்கள். ⁵ இயேசு அவர்களுக்கு மறுமொழியாக: ஒருவனும் உங்களை ஏமாற்றாதபடி எச்சரிக்கையாக இருங்கள். ⁶ ஏனென்றால், அநேகர் வந்து, என் நாமத்தைச் சொல்லி: நானே கிறிஸ்து என்று, அநேகரை ஏமாற்றுவார்கள். ⁷ யுத்தங்களையும், யுத்தங்களின் செய்திகளையும் கேள்விப்படும்போது கலங்காமல் இருங்கள்; இவைகள் நடக்கவேண்டியவைகள். ஆனாலும், முடிவு உடனே வராது. ⁸ மக்களுக்கு எதிராக மக்களும், ராஜ்யத்திற்கு எதிராக ராஜ்யமும் எழும்பும்; பூமி அதிர்ச்சிகளும் பல இடங்களில் உண்டாகும்; பஞ்சங்களும், கலகங்களும் உண்டாகும்; இவைகள் வேதனைகளுக்கு ஆரம்பம். ⁹ நீங்களோ எச்சரிக்கையாக இருங்கள், ஏனென்றால், உங்களை ஆலோசனைச் சங்கங்களுக்கு ஒப்புக்கொடுப்பார்கள், நீங்கள் ஜெப ஆலயங்களில் அடிக்கப்படுவீர்கள்; என்னிமித்தம் தேசாதிபதிகளுக்கும் ராஜாக்களுக்கும் சாட்சியாக அவர்களுக்கு முன்பாக நிறுத்தப்படுவீர்கள். ¹⁰ எல்லா தேசத்தின் மக்களுக்கும் நற்செய்தி முதலில் பிரசங்கிக்கப்படவேண்டும். ¹¹ அவர்கள் உங்களைக் கொண்டுபோய் ஒப்புக்கொடுக்கும்போது, நீங்கள் என்ன பேசவேண்டும் என்று கவலைப்படாமலும் சிந்திக்காமலும் இருங்கள்; அந்த நேரத்திலே உங்களுக்குக் கொடுக்கப்படுகிற வார்த்தைகளையே பேசுங்கள்; ஏனென்றால், பேசுகிறவர்கள் நீங்கள் இல்லை, பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவரே பேசுகிறவர். ¹² அன்றியும் சகோதரன் சகோதரனையும், தகப்பன் பிள்ளையையும் மரணத்திற்கு ஒப்புக்கொடுப்பார்கள்; பெற்றோருக்கு எதிராகப் பிள்ளைகள் எழும்பி, அவர்களைக் கொலைசெய்ய ஒப்புக்கொடுப்பார்கள். ¹³ என் நாமத்தினால் எல்லோராலும் பகைக்கப்படுவீர்கள். கடைசிவரைக்கும் நிலைத்து நிற்பவனே இரட்சிக்கப்படுவான். ¹⁴ மேலும் பாழாக்குகிற அருவருப்பைக்குறித்து தானியேல் தீர்க்கதரிசி சொல்லியிருக்கிறானே; வாசிக்கிறவன் சிந்திக்கவேண்டும்; அது நிற்கக்கூடாத இடத்திலே நிற்கிறதை நீங்கள் பார்க்கும்போது, யூதேயாவில் இருக்கிறவர்கள் மலைகளுக்கு ஒடிப்போகட்டும். ¹⁵ வீட்டின்மேல் இருக்கிறவன் தன் வீட்டிற்குள் இறங்காமலும், தன் வீட்டில் எதையாவது எடுத்துக்கொள்ள உள்னே போகாமலும் இருக்கவேண்டும். ¹⁶ வயலில் வேலைசெய்கிறவன் மாற்று உடையை எடுப்பதற்கு வீட்டிற்கு திரும்பிப் போகாமல் இருக்கவேண்டும். ¹⁷ அந்த நாட்களிலே கர்ப்பவதிகளுக்கும் பால்கொடுக்கிறவர்களுக்கும் ஐயோ! ¹⁸ இவைகள் மழைகாலத்திலே நடக்காதபடி வேண்டிக்கொள்ளுங்கள். ¹⁹ ஏனென்றால், தேவன் உலகத்தை படைத்தது முதல் இதுவரைக்கும் நடக்காததும், இனிமேலும் நடக்காததுமான உபத்திரவம் அந்த நாட்களில் உண்டாயிருக்கும். ²⁰ கர்த்தர் அந்த நாட்களைக் குறைத்திராவிட்டால், ஒருவன் கூட தப்பிப்போவதில்லை; தாம் தெரிந்துகொண்டவர்களினிமித்தம், அவர் அந்த நாட்களைக் குறைத்திருக்கிறார். ²¹ அப்பொழுது: இதோ, கிறிஸ்து இங்கே இருக்கிறார், அதோ, அங்கே இருக்கிறார் என்று யாராவது சொன்னால், நம்பவேண்டாம். ²² ஏனென்றால், கள்ளக்கிறிஸ்துக்களும் கள்ளத்தீர்க்கதரிசிகளும் எழும்பி, முடிந்தவரை தெரிந்துகொள்ளப்பட்டவர்களை ஏமாற்ற அடையாளங்களையும் அற்புதங்களையும் செய்வார்கள். ²³ நீங்களோ எச்சரிக்கையாக இருங்கள்; இதோ, எல்லாவற்றையும் முன்னதாக உங்களுக்கு அறிவித்திருக்கிறேன். ²⁴ அந்த நாட்களிலே, அந்த உபத்திரவத்திற்குப்பின்பு, சூரியன் இருள் அடையும், சந்திரன் ஒளியைக் கொடுக்காது; ²⁵ வானத்தின் நட்சத்திரங்கள் விழும், வானங்களில் உள்ள அதிகார வல்லமைகள் அசைக்கப்படும். ²⁶ அப்பொழுது மனிதகுமாரன் அதிக வல்லமையோடும் மகிமையோடும் மேகங்களின்மேல் வருகிறதைப் பார்ப்பார்கள். ²⁷ அப்பொழுது அவர் தம்முடைய தூதரை அனுப்பி, தாம் தெரிந்துகொண்டவர்களை பூமியின் கடைசிமுனையிலிருந்து, வானத்தின் கடைசிமுனை வரைக்கும் உள்ள நான்கு திசைகளிலும் இருந்து கூட்டிச் சேர்ப்பார். ²⁸ அத்திமரத்தினால் ஒரு உவமையைக் கற்றுக்கொள்ளுங்கள்; அதிலே இளங்கிளைத்தோன்றி, துளிர்விடும்போது, வசந்தகாலம் நெருங்கிவிட்டது என்று அறிவீர்கள். ²⁹ அப்படியே இவைகள் நடக்கிறதை நீங்கள் பார்க்கும்போது, அவர் அருகில் வாசலருகே வந்திருக்கிறார் என்று அறியுங்கள். ³⁰ இவைகளெல்லாம் நடக்கும்முன்பு இந்த சந்ததி ஒழிந்துபோகாது என்று, உண்மையாகவே உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன். ³¹ வானமும் பூமியும் ஒழிந்துபோகும், ஆனால், என் வார்த்தைகளோ ஒழிந்துபோவதில்லை.

³² அந்த நாளும் அந்த நேரமும் பிதா ஒருவர்தவிர வேறு ஒருவனுக்கும் தெரியாது, பரலோகத்தில் உள்ள தூதர்களுக்கும் தெரியாது, குமாரனுக்கும் தெரியாது. ³³ அந்தகாலத்தைப்பற்றி உங்களுக்குத்

தெரியாததினால் நீங்கள் எச்சரிக்கையாக இருங்கள், விழித்திருந்து ஜெபம்பண்ணுங்கள். ³⁴ ஒரு மனிதன் தன் வீட்டைவிட்டு, தூரதேசத்திற்கு பயணம் செய்யத் தீர்மானிக்கும்போது, தன் வேலைக்காரர்களுக்கு பொறுப்பைக் கொடுத்து, அவனவனுக்குத் தன்தன் வேலைகளையும் நியமித்து, விழித்திருக்கும்படி காவல்காக்கிறவனுக்குச் சொல்லுவான். ³⁵ அப்படியே நீங்களும் விழித்திருங்கள்; ஏனென்றால், வீட்டின் முதலாளி மாலைநேரத்திலோ, நடுராத்திரியிலோ, சேவல் கூவும் நேரத்திலோ, காலையிலோ, எப்பொழுது வருவான் என்று உங்களுக்குத் தெரியாது. ³⁶ நீங்கள் நினைக்காத நேரத்தில் அவன் வந்து, நீங்கள் தூங்குகிறதைக் கண்டுபிடிக்காதபடி விழித்திருங்கள். ³⁷ நான் உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறதை எல்லோருக்கும் சொல்லுகிறேன், விழித்திருங்கள் என்றார்.

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¹ இரண்டு நாட்களுக்குப்பின்பு புளிப்பில்லாத அப்பம் சாப்பிடுகிற பஸ்காபண்டிகை வந்தது. அப்பொழுது பிரதான ஆசாரியர்களும் வேதபண்டிதர்களும், அவரைத் தந்திரமாகப் பிடித்துக் கொலைசெய்யும்படி வழிதேடினார்கள். ² ஆனாலும் மக்களுக்குள்ளே கலவரம் உண்டாகாதபடி, பண்டிகையிலே அப்படிச் செய்யக்கூடாது என்றார்கள். ³ அவர் பெத்தானியாவில் குஷ்டரோகியாக இருந்த சீமோன் வீட்டிலே சாப்பிட்டுக்கொண்டிருக்கும்போது, ஒரு பெண் விலையுயர்ந்த நளதம் என்னும் சுத்தமான தைலத்தை ஒரு வெள்ளைக்கல் ஜாடியில் கொண்டுவந்து, அதை உடைத்து, அந்தத் தைலத்தை அவர் தலையின்மேல் ஊற்றினாள். ⁴ அப்பொழுது சிலர் தங்களுக்குள்ளே கோபப்பட்டு: இந்தத் தைலத்தை இப்படி வீணாகச் செலவழிப்பது ஏன்? ⁵ இதை முந்நாறு வெள்ளிக்காசுகளுக்கு அதிகமான விலைக்கு விற்று, ஏழைகளுக்குக் கொடுக்கலாமே என்று சொல்லி, அவளைப்பற்றி முறுமுறுத்தார்கள். ⁶ இயேசு அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: அவளை விட்டுவிடுங்கள்; ஏன் அவளைத் தொந்தரவு பண்ணுகிறீர்கள்? என்னிடம் நற்கிரியையைச் செய்திருக்கிறாள். ⁷ ஏழைகள் எப்பொழுதும் உங்களிடம் இருக்கிறார்கள், உங்களுக்கு விருப்பம் உண்டாகும்போதெல்லாம் அவர்களுக்கு நன்மை செய்யலாம், நானோ எப்பொழுதும் உங்களிடம் இருக்கமாட்டேன். ⁸ இவள் தன்னால் முடிந்ததைச் செய்தாள்; நான் அடக்கம்பண்ணப்படுவதற்கு அடையாளமாக, என் சரீரத்தில் தைலம் பூச முந்திக்கொண்டாள். ⁹ இந்த நற்செய்தி உலகத்தில் எங்கெல்லாம் பிரசங்கிக்கப்படுகிறதோ அங்கெல்லாம் இவளை நினைப்பதற்காக இவள் செய்ததும் சொல்லப்படும் என்று உண்மையாகவே உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன் என்றார். ¹⁰ அப்பொழுது, பன்னிரண்டுபேரில் ஒருவனாகிய யூதாஸ்காரியோத்து என்பவன் அவரைப் பிரதான ஆசாரியர்களுக்குக் காட்டிக்கொடுப்பதற்காக அவர்களிடம் போனான். ¹¹ அவர்கள் அதைக்கேட்டு, சந்தோஷப்பட்டு, அவனுக்குப் பணம் கொடுக்கிறோம் என்று வாக்குக்கொடுத்தார்கள்; அவன் அவரைக் காட்டிக்கொடுப்பதற்கு ஏற்ற நேரத்தைப் பார்த்துக்கொண்டிருந்தான்.

¹² பஸ்காவைப் பலியிடும் நாளாகிய புளிப்பில்லாத அப்பம் சாப்பிடுகிற முதலாம் நாளில், அவருடைய சீடர்கள் அவரிடம் வந்து: நீர் பஸ்காவைப் புசிப்பதற்கு நாங்கள் எங்குபோய் ஆயத்தம்பண்ண விருப்பமாக இருக்கிறீர் என்று கேட்டார்கள். ¹³ அவர் தம்முடைய சீடர்களில் இரண்டுபேரைப் பார்த்து: நீங்கள் நகரத்திற்குள்ளே போங்கள், அங்கே தண்ணீர் குடம் சுமந்துகொண்டு வருகிற ஒரு மனிதன் உங்களுக்கு எதிராக வருவான், அவன் பின்னே போங்கள்; ¹⁴ அவன் எந்த வீட்டிற்குள் செல்கிறானோ அந்த வீட்டு முதலாளியை நீங்கள் பார்த்து: நான் என் சீடர்களுடன் பஸ்காவைப் புசிக்கிறதற்குத் தகுதியான இடம் எங்கே என்று போதகர் கேட்கிறார் என்று சொல்லுங்கள். ¹⁵ அவன் கம்பளம் விரித்து ஆயத்தம்பண்ணப்பட்டிருக்கிற வசதியான மேல்வீட்டறையை உங்களுக்குக் காட்டுவான்; அங்கே நமக்காக பஸ்காவை ஆயத்தம்பண்ணுங்கள் என்று சொல்லி அனுப்பினார். ¹⁶ அப்படியே, அவருடைய சீடர்கள் புறப்பட்டு நகரத்திலேபோய், தங்களுக்கு அவர் சொன்னபடியே, பஸ்காவை ஆயத்தம்பண்ணினார்கள். ¹⁷ மாலைநேரத்தில், அவர் பன்னிரண்டுபேரோடு சேர்ந்து அந்த இடத்திற்கு வந்தார். ¹⁸ அவர்கள் பந்தி உட்கார்ந்து சாப்பிடும்போது, இயேசு அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: என்னோடு சாப்பிடுகிற உங்களில் ஒருவன் என்னைக் காட்டிக்கொடுப்பான் என்று, உண்மையாகவே உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன் என்றார். ¹⁹ அப்பொழுது அவர்கள் துக்கப்பட்டு: நானோ? நானோ? என்று ஒவ்வொருவரும், அவரிடம் கேட்கத்தொடங்கினார்கள். ²⁰ அவர் மறுமொழியாக: என்னோடு பாத்திரத்தில் கையைவிடுகிற பன்னிரண்டுபேர்களில் ஒருவனே என்று சொல்லி; ²¹ மனிதகுமாரன் தம்மைக்குறித்து எழுதியிருக்கிறபடியே போகிறார்; ஆனாலும், எந்த மனிதனால் மனிதகுமாரன் காட்டிக்கொடுக்கப்படுகிறாரோ, அந்த மனிதனுக்கு ஐயோ! அந்த மனிதன் பிறக்காமல் இருந்திருந்தால் அவனுக்கு நல்லதாக இருக்கும் என்றார். ²² அவர்கள் சாப்பிடும்போது, இயேசு அப்பத்தை எடுத்து ஆசீர்வதித்து, அதைப் பிட்டு, அவர்களுக்குக் கொடுத்து: நீங்கள் வாங்கிப் புசியுங்கள், இது என்னுடைய சரீரமாக இருக்கிறது என்றார். ²³ பின்பு, பாத்திரத்தையும் எடுத்து, ஸ்தோத்திரம்பண்ணி, அதை அவர்களுக்குக் கொடுத்தார். அவர்களெல்லோரும் அதிலே பானம்பண்ணினார்கள். ²⁴ அப்பொழுது அவர் அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: இது அநேகருக்காகச் சிந்தப்படுகிற புதிய உடன்படிக்கைக்குரிய என்னுடைய இரத்தமாக இருக்கிறது. ²⁵ நான் தேவனுடைய ராஜ்யத்தில் புதிய இரசத்தைப் பானம்பண்ணும் நாள்வரை திராட்சைப்பழரசத்தை இனி நான் பானம்பண்ணுவதில்லை என்று உண்மையாகவே உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன் என்றார். ²⁶ அவர்கள் ஸ்தோத்திரப்பாட்டைப் பாடினபின்பு, ஒலிவமலைக்குப் புறப்பட்டுப்போனார்கள்.

²⁷ அப்பொழுது, இயேசு அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: மேய்ப்பனை வெட்டுவேன், ஆடுகள் சிதறடிக்கப்படும், என்று எழுதியிருக்கிறபடி, இந்த இராத்திரியிலே நீங்களெல்லோரும் என்னால் இடறல் அடைவீர்கள். ²⁸ ஆனாலும் நான் உயிரோடு எழுந்தபின்பு, உங்களுக்கு முன்பாக கலிலேயாவிற்குப் போவேன் என்றார். ²⁹

அதற்கு பேதுரு: உமதுநிமித்தம் எல்லோரும் இடறல் அடைந்தாலும், நான் இடறல் அடையமாட்டேன் என்றான். ³⁰ இயேசு அவனைப் பார்த்து: இன்றைக்கு, இந்த இராத்திரியிலே, சேவல் இரண்டுமுறை கூவுகிறதற்கு முன்பு, நீ மூன்றுமுறை என்னை மறுதலிப்பாய் என்று உண்மையாகவே உனக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன் என்றார். ³¹ அதற்கு அவன்: நான் உம்மோடு மரித்துப்போவதாக இருந்தாலும் உம்மை மறுதலிக்கமாட்டேன் என்று உறுதியாகச் சொன்னான்; எல்லோரும் அப்படியே சொன்னார்கள்.

³² பின்பு கெத்ஸெமனே என்னப்பட்ட இடத்திற்கு வந்தார்கள். அப்பொழுது அவர் தம்முடைய சீடர்களைப் பார்த்து: நான் ஜெபம்பண்ணும்வரை இங்கே உட்கார்ந்திருங்கள் என்று சொல்லி; ³³ பேதுருவையும், யாக்கோபையும், யோவானையும் தம்மோடு கூட்டிக்கொண்டுபோய், கலக்கமடையவும், வியாகுலப்படவும் தொடங்கினார். ³⁴ அப்பொழுது அவர்: என் ஆத்துமா மரணத்திற்கான துக்கத்தில் உள்ளது. நீங்கள் இங்கே தங்கி, விழித்திருங்கள் என்று சொல்லி, ³⁵ சற்று தள்ளிப்போய், தரையிலே விழுந்து, அந்த நேரம் தம்மைவிட்டுக் கடந்துபோகக்கூடுமானால் அது கடந்துபோகவேண்டும் என்று வேண்டிக்கொண்டு: ³⁶ அப்பா பிதாவே, எல்லாம் உம்மாலே முடியும்; இந்தப் பாத்திரத்தை என்னிடத்திலிருந்து எடுத்துப்போடும், ஆனாலும் என்னுடைய விருப்பத்தின்படி அல்ல, உம்முடைய விருப்பத்தின்படியே நடக்கட்டும் என்றார். ³⁷ பின்பு அவர் வந்து, அவர்கள் தூங்குகிறதைப் பார்த்து, பேதுருவைப் பார்த்து: சீமோனே, தூங்குகிறாயா? ஒருமணிநேரம் நீ விழித்திருக்கக்கூடாதா? ³⁸ நீங்கள் சோதனையில் விழாமலிருக்க விழித்திருந்து ஜெபம்பண்ணுங்கள். ஆவி உற்சாகமுள்ளதுதான், சரீரமோ பலவீனமுள்ளது என்றார். ³⁹ அவர் மீண்டும்போய் அந்த வார்த்தைகளையே சொல்லி ஜெபம்பண்ணினார். ⁴⁰ அவர் திரும்ப வந்தபோது, அவர்கள் மீண்டும் தூங்கிக்கொண்டிருப்பதைப் பார்த்தார்; அவர்களுடைய கண்கள் தூக்கமயக்கத்தில் இருந்ததால், தாங்கள் மறுமொழியாக அவருக்கு என்ன பதில் சொல்லுவது என்று தெரியாமல் இருந்தார்கள். ⁴¹ அவர் மூன்றாம்முறை வந்து: இன்னும் நித்திரைசெய்து இளைப்பாறுகிறீர்களா? போதும், நேரம்வந்தது, இதோ, மனிதகுமாரன் பாவிகளுடைய கைகளில் ஒப்புக்கொடுக்கப்படுகிறார். ⁴² என்னைக் காட்டிக்கொடுக்கிறவன், இதோ, வந்துவிட்டான், எழுந்திருங்கள், போகலாம் என்றார்.

⁴³ உடனே, அவர் இப்படிப் பேசிக்கொண்டிருக்கும்போது, பன்னிரண்டுபேரில் ஒருவனாகிய யூதாஸ் வந்தான்; அவனுடன் பிரதான ஆசாரியர்களும், வேதபண்டிதர்களும் மூப்பர்களும் அனுப்பின மக்கள்கூட்டத்தினர், பட்டயங்களையும் தடிகளையும் பிடித்துக்கொண்டுவந்தார்கள். ⁴⁴ அவரைக் காட்டிக்கொடுக்கிறவன்: நான் யாரை முத்தம் செய்கிறேனோ அவன்தான், அவனைப் பிடித்துக் கொண்டுபோங்கள் என்று அவர்களுக்கு அடையாளம் சொல்லியிருந்தான். ⁴⁵ அவன் வந்தவுடனே, இயேசுவின் அருகில் சென்று: ரபீ, ரபீ, என்று சொல்லி, அவரை முத்தம்செய்தான். ⁴⁶ அப்பொழுது மக்கள்கூட்டத்தினர் அவர்மேல் கைபோட்டு, அவரைப் பிடித்தார்கள். ⁴⁷ அப்பொழுது அருகில் நின்ற சீடன் ஒருவன் கத்தியை உருவி, பிரதான ஆசாரியனுடைய வேலைக்காரனின் காதை வெட்டினான். ⁴⁸ இயேசு அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: திருடனைப்பிடிக்கப் போகிறதைப்போல, நீங்கள் பட்டயங்களையும் தடிகளையும் எடுத்துக்கொண்டு என்னைப் பிடிக்கவந்தீர்கள்; ⁴⁹ நான் தினமும் உங்கள் நடுவிலே தேவாலயத்தில் உபதேசம்பண்ணிக்கொண்டிருந்தேன்; அப்பொழுது நீங்கள் என்னைப் பிடிக்கவில்லையே; ஆனாலும் வேதவாக்கியங்கள் நிறைவேற வேண்டியதாக இருக்கிறது என்றார். ⁵⁰ அப்பொழுது எல்லோரும் அவரைவிட்டு ஓடிப்போனார்கள். ⁵¹ ஒரு வாலிபன் ஒரு போர்வையைமட்டும் தன்மேல் போர்த்துக்கொண்டு அவர் பின்னால் போனான்; அவனைப் பிடித்தார்கள். ⁵² அவன் தன் போர்வையைப் போட்டுவிட்டு, நிர்வாணமாக அவர்களைவிட்டு ஓடிப்போனான்.

⁵³ இயேசுவை அவர்கள் பிரதான ஆசாரியனிடத்தில் கொண்டுபோனார்கள்; அங்கே பிரதான ஆசாரியர்கள், மூப்பர்கள், வேதபண்டிதர்கள் எல்லோரும் கூடிவந்திருந்தார்கள். ⁵⁴ பேதுரு தூரத்திலே அவருக்குப் பின்னேசென்று, பிரதான ஆசாரியனுடைய அரண்மனைக்குள் வந்து, காவலர்களுடன் உட்கார்ந்து, நெருப்பின் அருகில் குளிக்காய்ந்துகொண்டிருந்தான். ⁵⁵ அப்பொழுது பிரதான ஆசாரியர்களும் ஆலோசனை சங்கத்தினர்கள் அனைவரும் இயேசுவைக் கொலைசெய்கிறதற்கு அவருக்கு எதிராகச் சாட்சிகளைத் தேடினார்கள்; சாட்சிசொல்ல ஒருவரும் வரவில்லை. ⁵⁶ அநேகர் அவருக்கு எதிராகப் பொய்சாட்சி சொல்லியும், அந்தச் சாட்சிகள் ஒத்துபோகவில்லை. ⁵⁷ அப்பொழுது சிலர் எழுந்து, கைகளால் கட்டப்பட்ட இந்த தேவாலயத்தை நான் இடித்துப்போட்டு, கைகளால் கட்டப்படாத வேறொன்றை மூன்று நாட்களுக்குள் கட்டுவேன் என்று இவன் சொன்னதை நாங்கள் கேட்டோம் என்று, ⁵⁸ அவருக்கு எதிராகப் பொய்சாட்சி சொன்னார்கள். ⁵⁹ அப்படிச் சொல்லியும் அவர்களுடைய சாட்சிகள் ஒத்துபோகவில்லை. ⁶⁰ அப்பொழுது பிரதான ஆசாரியன் எழுந்து நடுவே நின்று, இயேசுவைப் பார்த்து: இவர்கள் உனக்கு எதிராகச் சொல்லுகிறதைக்குறித்து நீ ஒன்றும் சொல்லுகிறதில்லையா என்று கேட்டான். ⁶¹ அவரோ ஒரு பதிலும் சொல்லாமல் மவுனமாக இருந்தார். மீண்டும் பிரதான ஆசாரியன் அவரைப் பார்த்து: நீ ஸ்தோத்திரிக்கப்பட்ட தேவனுடைய குமாரனாகிய கிறிஸ்துதானா? என்று கேட்டான்.

⁶² அதற்கு இயேசு: நான் அவர்தான்; மனிதகுமாரன் சர்வவல்லவரின் வலதுபக்கத்தில் உட்கார்ந்து இருப்பதையும், வானத்தின் மேகங்கள்மேல் வருவதையும் நீங்கள் பார்ப்பீர்கள் என்றார். ⁶³ பிரதான ஆசாரியன் இதைக் கேட்டவுடனே, தன் உடைகளைக் கிழித்துக்கொண்டு: இதைவிட வேறுசாட்சிகள் நமக்கு வேண்டுமா? ⁶⁴ தேவனை அவமதிப்பதைக் கேட்டீர்களே, இதைப்பற்றி நீங்கள் என்ன நினைக்கிறீர்கள் என்றுக் கேட்டான். அதற்கு அவர்கள் எல்லோரும்: இவன் மரணத்திற்குத் தகுதியானவன் என்று தீர்மானம்பண்ணினார்கள். ⁶⁵ அப்பொழுது சிலர் அவர்மேல் துப்பவும், அவருடைய முகத்தை மூடவும், அவரை அடிக்கவும், தீர்க்கதரிசனம் சொல் என்று சொல்லவும் தொடங்கினார்கள்; வேலைக்காரர்களும் அவரைக் கன்னத்தில் அறைந்தார்கள்.

⁶⁶ அந்தநேரத்தில் பேதுரு கீழே உள்ள அரண்மனை முற்றத்தில் இருக்கும்போது, பிரதான ஆசாரியனுடைய வேலைக்காரிகளில் ஒரு பெண் வந்து, ⁶⁷ குளிர்க்காய்ந்துகொண்டிருந்த பேதுருவை உற்றுப்பார்த்து: நீயும் நசரேயனாகிய இயேசுவோடு இருந்தவன் என்றாள். ⁶⁸ அதற்கு அவன்: எனக்கு ஒன்றும் புரியவில்லை; நீ சொல்வது எனக்குத் தெரியாது என்று மறுதலித்து, வாசல் மண்டபத்திற்கு வெளியேப் போனான்; அப்பொழுது சேவல் கூவியது. ⁶⁹ வேலைக்காரி அவனை மீண்டும் பார்த்து: இவன் அவர்களில் ஒருவன் என்று அருகே நின்றவர்களுக்குச் சொன்னாள். ⁷⁰ அவன் மீண்டும் மறுதலித்தான். சிறிதுநேரத்திற்குப்பின்பு மீண்டும் அருகே நிற்கிறவர்கள் பேதுருவைப் பார்த்து: உண்மையாகவே நீ அவர்களில் ஒருவன், நீ கலிலேயன், உன் பேச்சு அதற்கு ஒத்திருக்கிறது என்றார்கள். ⁷¹ அதற்கு அவன்: நீங்கள் சொல்லுகிற மனிதனை எனக்குத் தெரியாது என்று சொல்லி, சபிக்கவும் சத்தியம் செய்யவும் தொடங்கினான். ⁷² உடனே சேவல் இரண்டாம்முறை கூவியது. சேவல் இரண்டுமுறை கூவுகிறதற்கு முன்பே நீ என்னை மூன்றுமுறை மறுதலிப்பாய் என்று இயேசு தனக்குச் சொன்ன வார்த்தையை பேதுரு நினைத்துப்பார்த்து, மிகவும் அழுதான்.

அத்தியாயம்- 15

¹ அதிகாலையிலே, பிரதான ஆசாரியர்களும் மூப்பர்களும் வேதபண்டிதர்களும் ஆலோசனைச் சங்கத்தினர்கள் அனைவரும் கூடி ஆலோசனைபண்ணி, காவலர்கள் இயேசுவின் கரங்களைக் கட்டிக் கொண்டுபோய், பிலாத்துவிடம் ஒப்புக்கொடுத்தார்கள். ² பிலாத்து அவரைப் பார்த்து: நீ யூதர்களுடைய ராஜாவா என்று கேட்டான். அதற்கு அவர்: நீர் சொல்லுகிறபடிதான் என்றார். ³ பிரதான ஆசாரியர்கள் இயேசுவின்மேல் அதிகமாகக் குற்றங்களைச் சுமத்தினார்கள். அவரோ அதற்கு பதில் ஒன்றும் சொல்லவில்லை. ⁴ அப்பொழுது பிலாத்து மீண்டும் அவரைப் பார்த்து: இதோ, இவர்கள் உன்மேல் எத்தனையோ குற்றங்களைச் சுமத்துகிறார்களே, அதற்கு நீ பதில் ஒன்றும் சொல்லுகிறதில்லையா என்று கேட்டான். ⁵ இயேசுவோ அப்பொழுதும் பதில் ஒன்றும் சொல்லவில்லை; அதினால் பிலாத்து ஆச்சரியப்பட்டான். ⁶ பண்டிகைநாட்களில், காவலில் உள்ள யாரை விடுதலையாக்கவேண்டும் என்று மக்கள் கேட்டுக் கொள்கிறார்களோ, அவனை அவர்களுக்காக விடுதலைபண்ணுவது பிலாத்துவிற்கு வழக்கமாக இருந்தது. ⁷ கலவரம்பண்ணி அந்தக் கலவரத்திலே கொலைசெய்து, அதற்காகக் காவலில் அடைக்கப்பட்டவர்களின் கூட்டத்தில் பரபாஸ் என்னப்பட்ட ஒருவன் இருந்தான். ⁸ மக்கள், வழக்கத்தின்படியே தங்களுக்கு ஒருவனை விடுதலையாக்கவேண்டும் என்று சத்தமிட்டுக் கேட்கத்தொடங்கினார்கள். ⁹ பொறாமையினாலே பிரதான ஆசாரியர்கள் அவரை ஒப்புக்கொடுத்தார்கள் என்று பிலாத்து அறிந்து. ¹⁰ அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: நான் யூதர்களுடைய ராஜாவை உங்களுக்கு விடுதலை செய்யவேண்டுமா? என்று கேட்டான். ¹¹ பரபாசைத் தங்களுக்காக விடுதலை செய்யவேண்டும் என்று கேட்கச்சொல்லி, பிரதான ஆசாரியர்கள் மக்களைத் தூண்டிவிட்டார்கள். ¹² பிலாத்து மீண்டும் அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: அப்படியானால், யூதர்களுடைய ராஜாவென்று நீங்கள் சொல்லுகிறவனை நான் என்னசெய்யவேண்டும் என்று கேட்டான். ¹³ அவனைச் சிலுவையில் அறையும் என்று மீண்டும் சத்தமிட்டுச் சொன்னார்கள். ¹⁴ அதற்கு பிலாத்து: ஏன்? இவன் என்னக் குற்றம் செய்தான் என்றான். அவர்களோ: அவனைச் சிலுவையில் அறையும் என்று அதிகமாகக் கூக்குரலிட்டுச் சொன்னார்கள். ¹⁵ அப்பொழுது பிலாத்து மக்களைப் பிரியப்படுத்த மனதுள்ளவனாக, பரபாசை அவர்களுக்காக விடுதலைசெய்து, இயேசுவை சாட்டையினால் அடித்து, சிலுவையில் அறையும்படிக்கு ஒப்புக்கொடுத்தான்.

¹⁶ அப்பொழுது போர்வீரர்கள் அவரைத் தேசாதிபதியின் அரண்மனையாகிய மாளிகையில் கொண்டுபோய், அந்த இடத்தில் போர்வீரர்களைக் கூடிவரச்செய்து, ¹⁷ சிவப்பான மேல் அங்கியை அவருக்கு உடுத்தி, முள்முடியைப் பின்னி அவருக்கு அணிவித்து: ¹⁸ யூதர்களுடைய ராஜாவே, வாழ்க என்று அவரை வாழ்த்தி, ¹⁹ அவர் தலையில் கோலால் அடித்து, அவர்மேல் துப்பி, முழங்கால்படியிட்டு அவரை வணங்கினார்கள். ²⁰ அவரைப் பரிகாசம்பண்ணினபின்பு, சிவப்பான அங்கியைக் கழற்றி, அவருடைய ஆடைகளை அவருக்கு உடுத்தி, அவரை சிலுவையில் அறையும்படி வெளியே கொண்டுபோனார்கள்.

²¹ சிரேனே ஊரானும், அலெக்சந்தருக்கும் ரூப்புக்கும் தகப்பனுமாகிய சீமோன் என்னப்பட்ட ஒருவன் நாட்டிலிருந்து அந்த வழியே வரும்போது, இயேசுவின் சிலுவையைச் சுமக்கும்படி அவனைக் கட்டாயப்படுத்தினார்கள். ²² கபாலஸ்தலம் என்று அர்த்தங்கொள்ளும் கொல்கொதா என்னும் இடத்திற்கு அவரைக் கொண்டுபோய், ²³ வெள்ளைப்போளம் கலந்த திராட்சைரசத்தை அவருக்குக் குடிக்கக் கொடுத்தார்கள்; அவர் அதை ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளவில்லை. ²⁴ அப்பொழுது அவரை சிலுவையில் அறைந்தார்கள். அதற்குப்பின்பு அவருடைய ஆடைகளைப் பங்கு போட்டு, ஒவ்வொருவனும் ஒவ்வொரு பங்கை எடுத்துக்கொள்ளச் சீட்டுப்போட்டார்கள். ²⁵ அவரைக் காலை ஒன்பது மணிக்குச் சிலுவையில் அறைந்தார்கள். ²⁶ அவரை சிலுவையில் அறைந்ததின் காரணத்தைக் காண்பிப்பதற்காக, யூதர்களுடைய ராஜா என்று எழுதி, சிலுவையில் இயேசுவின் தலைக்குமேலே கட்டினார்கள். ²⁷ இயேசுவோடு, அவருடைய வலதுபக்கத்தில் ஒருவனும், இடதுபக்கத்தில் ஒருவனுமாக, இரண்டு திருடர்களைச் சிலுவைகளில் அறைந்தார்கள். ²⁸ அக்கிரமம் செய்கிறவர்களில் ஒருவனாக எண்ணப்பட்டார் என்கிற வேதவாக்கியம் அதினால் நிறைவேறியது. ²⁹ அந்தவழியாக நடந்துபோகிறவர்கள் தங்களுடைய தலைகளைத் துலுக்கி: ஆ! ஆ! தேவாலயத்தை இடித்து, மூன்று நாட்களுக்குள்ளே கட்டுகிறவனே. ³⁰ உன்னை நீயே இரட்சித்துக்கொள்; சிலுவையிலிருந்து இறங்கிவா என்று அவரை அவமதித்தார்கள். ³¹ அப்படியே பிரதான ஆசாரியர்களும் வேதபண்டிதர்களும் தங்களுக்குள்ளே பரிகாசம்பண்ணி: இவன் மற்றவர்களை இரட்சித்தான், தன்னைத்தானே இரட்சித்துக்கொள்ள முடியவில்லை. ³² நாம் பார்த்து விசுவாசிக்க, இஸ்ரவேலுக்கு ராஜாவாகிய கிறிஸ்து இப்பொழுது சிலுவையில் இருந்து இறங்கிவரட்டும் என்று சொல்லிக்கொண்டார்கள். அவருடன் சிலுவைகளில் அறையப்பட்டவர்களும் அவரை அவமதித்தார்கள்.

³³ நண்பகல் தொடங்கி மாலை மூன்று மணிவரைக்கும் பூமியெங்கும் இருள் உண்டாயிருந்தது. ³⁴ மாலை மூன்று மணியளவில், இயேசு: எலோயீ! எலோயீ! லாமா சபக்தானி, என்று அதிகச் சத்தமிட்டுக் கூப்பிட்டார்; அதற்கு: என் தேவனே! என் தேவனே! ஏன் என்னைக் கைவிட்டீர் என்று அர்த்தம். ³⁵ அங்கே நின்றவர்களில் சிலர் அதைக் கேட்டபொழுது: இதோ, எலியாவைக் கூப்பிடுகிறான் என்றார்கள். ³⁶ ஒருவன் ஓடி, கடல் காளானைக் காடியிலே தோய்த்து, அதை ஒரு கோலில் மாட்டி, அவருக்குக் குடிக்கக்கொடுத்து: பொறுங்கள், எலியா இவனைக் கீழே இறக்க வருவானோ பார்க்கலாம் என்றான். ³⁷ இயேசு அதிக சத்தமாகக் கூப்பிட்டு ஜீவனை விட்டார். ³⁸ அப்பொழுது, தேவாலயத்தின் திரைச்சீலை மேலே இருந்து கீழே வரைக்கும் இரண்டாகக் கிழிந்தது. ³⁹ அவருக்கு எதிரே நின்ற நூற்றுக்கு அதிபதி அவர் இப்படிக் கூப்பிட்டு ஜீவனை விட்டதைப் பார்த்தபோது: உண்மையாகவே இந்த மனிதன் தேவனுடைய குமாரன் என்றான். ⁴⁰ சில பெண்களும் தூரத்திலிருந்து பார்த்துக்கொண்டிருந்தார்கள். அவர் கலிலேயாவில் இருந்தபோது அவரோடு சென்று, அவருக்கு ஊழியம் செய்த மகதலேனா மரியாளும், சின்ன யாக்கோபுக்கும் யோசேக்கும் தாயாகிய மரியாளும், சலோமே என்பவளும், ⁴¹ அவரோடு எருசலேமுக்கு வந்திருந்த மற்ற பெண்களும் அவர்களோடு இருந்தார்கள்.

⁴² ஓய்வுநாளுக்கு முந்தினநாள் ஆயத்தநாளாக இருந்தபடியால், மாலைநேரத்தில். ⁴³ மதிப்புமிக்கஆலோசனைக்காரனும் அரிமத்தியா ஊரைச்சேர்ந்தவனும் தேவனுடைய ராஜ்யத்தின் வருகைக்காக காத்திருந்த யோசேப்பு என்பவன் வந்து, பிலாத்துவினிடத்தில் துணிந்துபோய், இயேசுவின் சரீரத்தைக் கேட்டான். ⁴⁴ அவர் இவ்வளவு சீக்கிரமாக மரித்துவிட்டார் என்று பிலாத்து ஆச்சரியப்பட்டு, நூற்றுக்கு அதிபதியை அழைத்து: அவர் இவ்வளவு சீக்கிரத்தில் மரித்தது உண்மையா என்று கேட்டான். ⁴⁵ நூற்றுக்கு அதிபதியின் மூலம் அதைத் தெரிந்துகொண்டபின்பு, சரீரத்தை யோசேப்பிடம் கொடுத்தான். ⁴⁶ அவன்போய், மெல்லிய போர்வையை வாங்கிக்கொண்டுவந்து, அவரை இறக்கி, அந்தத் போர்வையிலே சுற்றி, கன்மலையில் வெட்டியிருந்த கல்லறையிலே அவரை வைத்து, கல்லறையின் வாசலில் ஒரு கல்லைப் புரட்டி வைத்தான். ⁴⁷ அவரை வைத்த இடத்தை மகதலேனா மரியாளும் யோசேயின் தாயாகிய மரியாளும் பார்த்தார்கள்.

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¹ ஓய்வுநாளாளுக்குப்பின்பு மகதலேனா மரியாளும், யாக்கோபின் தாயாகிய மரியாளும், சலோமே என்பவளும், அவருக்கு வாசனைத் திரவியங்களை வாங்கிக்கொண்டு. ² வாரத்தின் முதலாம்நாளின் அதிகாலையிலே சூரியன் உதிக்கிறபோது கல்லறைக்கு வந்து, ³ கல்லறையின் வாசலில் இருக்கிற கல்லை நமக்காக யார் புரட்டித்தள்ளுவான் என்று ஒருவரோடொருவர் சொல்லிக்கொண்டார்கள். ⁴ அந்தக் கல் மிகவும் பெரிதாக இருந்தது; அவர்கள் பார்த்தபோது, அந்தக் கல் தள்ளப்பட்டிருப்பதைப் பார்த்தார்கள். ⁵ அவர்கள் கல்லறைக்குள் சென்று, வெள்ளை அங்கி அணிந்த ஒரு வாலிபன் வலதுபக்கத்தில் உட்கார்ந்திருப்பதைப் பார்த்து பயந்தார்கள். ⁶ அவன் அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: பயப்படாமல் இருங்கள், சிலுவையில் அறையப்பட்ட நசரேயனாகிய இயேசுவைத் தேடுகிறீர்கள்; அவர் உயிரோடு எழுந்தார்; அவர் இங்கே இல்லை; இதோ, அவரை வைத்த இடம். ⁷ நீங்கள் அவருடைய சீடர்களிடமும் பேதுருவிடமும்போய்: உங்களுக்கு முன்னே அவர் கலிலேயாவிற்குப் போகிறார், அவர் உங்களுக்குச் சொன்னபடியே அங்கே அவரைப் பார்ப்பீர்கள் என்று, அவர்களுக்குச் சொல்லுங்கள் என்றான். ⁸ அவர்கள் பயந்து நடுங்கி, சீக்கிரமாக வெளியே வந்து, கல்லறையைவிட்டு ஓடினார்கள்; அவர்கள் பயந்திருந்தபடியால் ஒருவருக்கும் ஒன்றும் சொல்லாமல் போனார்கள். ⁹ வாரத்தின் முதலாம் நாள் அதிகாலையிலே இயேசு உயிரோடு எழுந்திருந்தபின்பு, மகதலேனா மரியாளாளுக்கு முதல்முதலாக தரிசனமானார். ¹⁰ அவளிடமிருந்து அவர் ஏழு பிசாசுகளைத் துரத்தியிருந்தார். அவள் புறப்பட்டுப்போய், இயேசுவுடன் இருந்தவர்கள் துக்கப்பட்டு அழுதுகொண்டிருக்கும்போது, அவர்களுக்கு அந்தச் செய்தியைச் சொன்னாள். ¹¹ அவர் உயிரோடு இருக்கிறார் என்றும் அவள் இயேசுவைப் பார்த்தாள் என்றும் அவள் சொன்னபோது, இவர்கள் நம்பவில்லை. ¹² அதற்குப்பின்பு அவர்களில் இரண்டுபேர் ஒரு கிராமத்திற்கு நடந்து போகிறபொழுது அவர்களுக்கு வேறு உருவத்தில் தரிசனமானார். ¹³ அவர்களும்போய், அதை மற்றவர்களுக்கு அறிவித்தார்கள்; அவர்களையும் அவர்கள் நம்பவில்லை. ¹⁴ அதற்குப்பின்பு பதினொருபேரும் சாப்பிடும்போது அவர்களுக்கு அவர் தரிசனமாகி, உயிரோடு எழுந்திருந்த அவரைப் பார்த்தவர்களை அவர்கள் நம்பாமல் போனதினால் அவர்களுடைய அவிசுவாசத்தைக்குறித்தும் இருதய கடினத்தைக்குறித்தும் அவர்களைக் கடிந்துகொண்டார். ¹⁵ பின்பு, அவர் அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: நீங்கள் உலகமெங்கும்போய், எல்லோருக்கும் நற்செய்தியைப் பிரசங்கம்பண்ணுங்கள். ¹⁶ விசுவாசித்து ஞானஸ்நானம் பெற்றவன் இரட்சிக்கப்படுவான்; விசுவாசிக்காதவனோ தண்டனைக்குள்ளாவான். ¹⁷ விசுவாசிக்கிறவர்களால் நடக்கும் அடையாளங்கள் என்னவென்றால்: என் நாமத்தினாலே பிசாசுகளைத் துரத்துவார்கள்; புதிய மொழிகளைப் பேசுவார்கள்; ¹⁸ சர்ப்பங்களை எடுப்பார்கள்; மரணத்திற்குரிய எதைக்குடித்தாலும் அது அவர்களைச் சேதப்படுத்தாது; நோயாளிகளின்மேல் கரங்களை வைப்பார்கள், அப்பொழுது அவர்கள் சுகமடைவார்கள் என்றார்.

¹⁹ இவ்விதமாக கர்த்தர் அவர்களோடு பேசினபின்பு, பரலோகத்திற்கு எடுத்துக்கொள்ளப்பட்டு, தேவனுடைய வலதுபக்கத்தில் உட்கார்ந்தார். ²⁰ சீடர்கள் புறப்பட்டுப்போய், எல்லா இடங்களிலும் பிரசங்கம்பண்ணினார்கள். கர்த்தர் அவர்கள் மூலம் கிரியைசெய்து, அவர்களால் நடந்த அற்புத அடையாளங்களினால் வசனத்தை உறுதிப்படுத்தினார். ஆமென்.

Luke

அத்தியாயம்- 1

¹ மகா கனம்பொருந்திய தேயோப்பிலுவே, நாங்கள் முழுநிச்சயமாக நம்புகிற காரியங்களை, ² ஆரம்பமுதல் கண்கூடாகப் பார்த்து வசனத்தைப் போதித்தவர்கள் எங்களுக்கு ஒப்புவித்தபடியே அவைகளைக்குறித்து சரித்திரம் எழுத அநேகம்பேர் முயற்சித்தனர். ³ ஆகவே, ஆரம்பமுதல் எல்லாவற்றையும் திட்டமாக விசாரித்து அறிந்த நானும் உமக்கு உபதேசிக்கப்பட்ட காரியங்களின் நிச்சயத்தை நீர் அறியவேண்டும் என்று, ⁴ அவைகளை சரியாக ஒழுங்குப்படுத்தி உமக்கு எழுதுவது எனக்கு நல்லதாகத் தோன்றியது.

⁵ யூதேயாதேசத்தின் ராஜாவாகிய ஏரோதின் நாட்களில், அபியா என்னும் ஆசாரிய வம்சத்தைச் சேர்ந்த சகரியா என்னும் பெயர்கொண்ட ஆசாரியன் ஒருவன் இருந்தான். அவனுடைய மனைவி ஆரோனுடைய சந்ததியில் ஒருத்தி, அவளுடைய பெயர் எலிசபெத்து. ⁶ அவர்கள் இருவரும் கர்த்தர் கொடுத்த எல்லாக் கட்டளைகளின்படியும் நியமங்களின்படியும் குற்றமற்றவர்களாக நடந்து, தேவனுக்குமுன்பாக நீதியுள்ளவர்களாக இருந்தார்கள். ⁷ எலிசபெத்து மலடியாக இருந்தபடியால், அவர்களுக்குப் பிள்ளையில்லாதிருந்தது; இருவரும் முதிர்வயதானவர்களாகவும் இருந்தார்கள். ⁸ அப்படியிருக்க, அவன் தன் ஆசாரிய முறைமைகளின்படி தேவசந்நிதியிலே ஆசாரிய ஊழியம் செய்துவருகிற காலத்தில், ⁹ ஆசாரிய ஊழிய முறைகளின்படி அவன் தேவாலயத்திற்குச் சென்று தூபம் காட்டுகிறதற்காகத் தேர்ந்தெடுக்கப்பட்டான். ¹⁰ தூபம் காட்டுகிற நேரத்திலே மக்களெல்லோரும் கூட்டமாக வெளியே ஜெபம்பண்ணிக்கொண்டிருந்தார்கள். ¹¹ அப்பொழுது கர்த்தருடைய தூதன் ஒருவன் தூப பீடத்தின் வலதுபக்கத்திலே நின்று அவனுக்குத் தரிசனமானான். ¹² சகரியா அவனைப் பார்த்து கலங்கி, பயமடைந்தான். ¹³ கர்த்தருடைய தூதன் அவனைப் பார்த்து: சகரியாவே, பயப்படாதே, உன் விண்ணப்பம் கேட்கப்பட்டது; உன் மனைவியாகிய எலிசபெத்து உனக்கு ஒரு குமாரனைப் பெற்றெடுப்பாள், அவனுக்கு யோவான் என்று பெயர் இடுவாயாக. ¹⁴ உனக்குச் சந்தோஷமும் மகிழ்ச்சியும் உண்டாகும், அவன் பிறப்பதினாலே அநேகர் சந்தோஷப்படுவார்கள். ¹⁵ அவன் கர்த்தருக்கு முன்பாகப் பெரியவனாக இருப்பான், திராட்சைரசமும் மதுபானமும் குடிக்கமாட்டான், அவன் எலிசபெத்தின் கர்ப்பத்தில் இருக்கும்போதே பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவரால் நிரப்பப்பட்டிருப்பான். ¹⁶ அவன் இஸ்ரவேல் வம்சத்தாரில் அநேகரைப் பாவங்களைவிட்டு, அவர்களுடைய தேவனாகிய கர்த்தரிடத்திற்குத் திருப்புவான். ¹⁷ பிதாக்களுடைய இருதயங்களைப் பிள்ளைகளிடத்திற்கும், கீழ்ப்படியாதவர்களை நீதிமாண்களுடைய ஞானத்திற்கும் திருப்பி, உத்தமமான மக்களை கர்த்தருக்கு ஆயத்தப்படுத்த, அவன் எலியாவின் ஆவியும் பலமும் உள்ளவனாக கர்த்தருக்கு முன்னே நடப்பான் என்றான். ¹⁸ அப்பொழுது சகரியா தேவதூதனை நோக்கி: இதை நான் எப்படி அறிவேன்; நான் முதிர்வயதானவனாக இருக்கிறேன், என் மனைவியும் வயதானவளாக இருக்கிறாளே என்றான். ¹⁹ தேவதூதன் அவனுக்கு மறுமொழியாக: நான் தேவ சந்நிதானத்தில் நிற்கிற காபிரியேல் என்பவன்; உன்னுடனே பேசவும், உனக்கு இந்த நற்செய்தியை அறிவிக்கவும் அனுப்பப்பட்டு வந்தேன்; ²⁰ இதோ, குறித்த காலத்திலே நிறைவேறப்போகிற என் வார்த்தைகளை நீ விசுவாசிக்காதபடியால் இவைகள் நிறைவேறும் நாள்வரை நீ பேசமுடியாமல் ஊமையாக இருப்பாய் என்றான். ²¹ மக்கள் சகரியாவுக்காக நீண்டநேரம் காத்திருந்து, அவன் தேவாலயத்தில் இருந்து வெளியே வர தாமதம் செய்ததினால் ஆச்சரியப்பட்டார்கள். ²² அவன் வெளியே வந்தபோது மக்களிடத்தில் பேச முடியாமலிருந்தான்; எனவே தேவாலயத்தில் அவன் ஒரு தரிசனத்தைப் பார்த்தான் என்று அறிந்துகொண்டார்கள். அவன் ஊமையாக இருந்தபடியால் அவர்களுக்கு சைகைகாட்டினான். ²³ அவனுடைய ஊழியத்தின் நாட்கள் நிறைவேறினவுடனே தன் வீட்டிற்குப்போனான். ²⁴ அதற்குப்பின்பு, அவன் மனைவியாகிய எலிசபெத்து கர்ப்பந்தரித்து: மக்கள் மத்தியில் எனக்கு உண்டாயிருந்த அவமானத்தை நீக்கும்படியாகக் கர்த்தர் இந்த நாட்களில் என்மேல் இரக்கம் வைத்து, ²⁵ எனக்கு இப்படிச் செய்தார் என்று சொல்லி, ஐந்து மாதங்கள் வீட்டைவிட்டு வெளியே போகாமல் இருந்தாள்.

²⁶ எலிசபெத்தின் ஆறாம் மாதத்திலே காபிரியேல் என்னும் தூதன், கலிலேயாவிலுள்ள நாசரேத்து என்னும் ஊரில், ²⁷ தாவீதின் வம்சத்தை சேர்ந்த யோசேப்பு என்கிற பெயருள்ள மனிதனுக்கு நிச்சயிக்கப்பட்டிருந்த ஒரு கன்னிப் பெண்ணிடத்திற்கு தேவனாலே அனுப்பப்பட்டான்; அந்தக் கன்னிப் பெண்ணின் பெயர் மரியான். ²⁸ அவள் இருந்த வீட்டில் தேவதூதன் தோன்றி: கிருபை பெற்றவளே, வாழ்க, கர்த்தர் உன்னுடனே இருக்கிறார், பெண்களுக்குள்ளே நீ ஆசீர்வதிக்கப்பட்டவள் என்றான். ²⁹ அவளோ அவனைப் பார்த்து, அவன் வார்த்தையினால் கலங்கி, இந்த வாழ்த்துக்கள் எப்படிப்பட்டதோ என்று சிந்தித்துக்கொண்டிருந்தாள். ³⁰ தேவதூதன் அவளை நோக்கி: மரியாளே, பயப்படாதே; நீ

தேவனிடமிருந்து கிருபைபெற்றாய். ³¹ இதோ, நீ கர்ப்பம் தரித்து ஒரு குமாரனைப் பெற்றெடுப்பாய், அவருக்கு இயேசு என்று பெயரிடுவாயாக. ³² அவர் பெரியவராக இருப்பார், உன்னதமானவருடைய குமாரன் எனப்படுவார்; கர்த்தராகிய தேவன் அவருடைய பிதாவாகிய தாவீதின் சிங்காசனத்தை அவருக்குக் கொடுப்பார். ³³ அவர் யாக்கோபின் குடும்பத்தாரை என்றென்றைக்கும் அரசாளுவார்; அவருடைய இராஜ்யத்திற்கு முடிவு இல்லை என்றான். ³⁴ அதற்கு மரியாள் தேவதூதனை நோக்கி: நான் கன்னிப்பெண்ணாய் இருக்கிறேனே, இது எப்படி நடக்கும்? என்றாள். ³⁵ தேவதூதன் அவளுக்கு மறுமொழியாக; பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவர் உன்மேல் வருவார்; உன்னதமானவருடைய பலம் உன்னை மூடும்; எனவே உன் கர்ப்பத்தில் பிறக்கும் இந்தப் பரிசுத்தக் குழந்தை, தேவனுடைய குமாரன் என்று அழைக்கப்படும். ³⁶ இதோ, உன் இனத்தைச் சேர்ந்த எலிசபெத்தும் தன்னுடைய முதிர்வயதிலே ஒரு குமாரனைக் கர்ப்பம் தரித்திருக்கிறாள்; குழந்தை இல்லாதவள் என்று சொல்லப்பட்ட அவளுக்கு இது ஆறாவது மாதம். ³⁷ தேவனாலே செய்யமுடியாத காரியம் ஒன்றும் இல்லை என்றான். ³⁸ அதற்கு மரியாள்: இதோ, நான் ஆண்டவருக்கு அடிமை, உம்முடைய வார்த்தையின்படி எனக்கு நடக்கட்டும் என்றாள். அப்பொழுது தேவதூதன் அவளைவிட்டுப் போய்விட்டான்.

³⁹ அந்த நாளில் மரியாள் எழுந்து, மலைநாடாகிய யூதேயாவில் உள்ள ஒரு பட்டணத்திற்கு சீக்கிரமாகப்போய், ⁴⁰ சகரியாவின் வீட்டிற்குச் சென்று, எலிசபெத்தை வாழ்த்தினாள். ⁴¹ எலிசபெத்து மரியாளுடைய வாழ்த்துக்களைக் கேட்டபொழுது, அவளுடைய கர்ப்பத்தில் இருந்த குழந்தை துள்ளியது; எலிசபெத்து பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவரால் நிரப்பப்பட்டு, ⁴² அதிக சத்தமாக: பெண்களுக்குள்ளே நீ ஆசீர்வதிக்கப்பட்டவள், உன் கர்ப்பத்தின் கனியும் ஆசீர்வதிக்கப்பட்டது. ⁴³ என் ஆண்டவருடைய தாயார் என்னிடம் வர நான் என்ன பாக்கியம் செய்தேன்! ⁴⁴ இதோ, நீ வாழ்த்தின சத்தம் என் காதில் விழுந்தவுடனே, என் கர்ப்பத்திலுள்ள குழந்தை மகிழ்ச்சியால் துள்ளியது. ⁴⁵ விசுவாசித்தவளே, நீ பாக்கியவதி, கர்த்தராலே உனக்குச் சொல்லப்பட்டவைகள் நிறைவேறும் என்றாள்.

⁴⁶ அப்பொழுது மரியாள்: என் ஆத்துமா கர்த்தரை மகிமைப்படுத்துகிறது. ⁴⁷ என் ஆவி என் இரட்சகராகிய தேவனிடம் மகிழ்ச்சியாக இருக்கிறது. ⁴⁸ தேவன் அடிமையாகிய என்னுடைய தாழ்மையை நோக்கிப்பார்த்தார்; இதோ, இனி எல்லா வம்சங்களும் என்னை பாக்கியம் பெற்றவள் என்பார்கள். ⁴⁹ வல்லமையுடைய தேவன் மகிமையான காரியங்களை எனக்குச் செய்தார்; அவருடைய நாமம் பரிசுத்தமானது. ⁵⁰ அவருடைய இரக்கம் அவருக்குப் பயந்து நடக்கிறவர்களுக்குத் தலைமுறை தலைமுறைக்கும் இருக்கும். ⁵¹ அவர் தம்முடைய கரங்களினாலே வல்லமையுள்ள காரியங்களைச் செய்தார்; இருதய சிந்தைகளில் பெருமையுள்ளவர்களைச் சிதறிப்போகப்பண்ணினார். ⁵² ராஜாக்களை பதவிகளிலிருந்து நீக்கி, தாழ்மையானவர்களை உயர்த்தினார். ⁵³ பசியுள்ளவர்களுக்கு நன்மையானதைக் கொடுத்து, செல்வந்தர்களுக்கு ஒன்றும் கொடுக்காமல் வெறுமையாக அனுப்பிவிட்டார். ⁵⁴ நம்முடைய முற்பிதாக்களுக்கு அவர் சொன்னபடியே, ஆபிரகாமுக்கும் அவன் வம்சத்திற்கும் எப்பொழுதும் இரக்கம் செய்ய நினைத்து, ⁵⁵ அவருடைய மக்களாகிய இஸ்ரவேல் தேசத்தினர்களுக்கு உதவி செய்தார் என்றான். ⁵⁶ மரியாள் ஏறக்குறைய மூன்று மாதங்கள் எலிசபெத்துடன் தங்கியிருந்து, பின்பு தன் வீட்டிற்குத் திரும்பிப்போனாள்.

⁵⁷ எலிசபெத்திற்குப் பிரசவநேரம் வந்தபோது அவள் ஒரு ஆண் குழந்தையைப் பெற்றெடுத்தாள். ⁵⁸ கர்த்தர் அவள்மேல் எவ்வளவு இரக்கமாக இருந்தார் என்று அவள் அருகில் வசிப்பவர்களும் சொந்தங்களும் கேள்விப்பட்டு, அவளோடு சேர்ந்து சந்தோஷப்பட்டார்கள். ⁵⁹ எட்டாவது நாளிலே குழந்தைக்கு விருத்தசேதனம்பண்ண அவர்கள் எல்லோரும் கூடிவந்து, குழந்தையின் தகப்பனுடைய பெயராகிய சகரியா என்ற பெயரையே குழந்தைக்கும் வைக்க விரும்பினார்கள். ⁶⁰ அப்பொழுது எலிசபெத்து: அப்படி வேண்டாம், குழந்தைக்கு யோவான் என்று பெயர் வைக்கவேண்டும் என்றாள். ⁶¹ அதற்கு அவர்கள்: உன் உறவினர்களில் இந்தப் பெயருள்ளவன் ஒருவனும் இல்லையே என்று சொல்லி, ⁶² சகரியாவைப் பார்த்து: குழந்தைக்கு என்ன பெயர் வைக்க விரும்புகிறீர் என்று சைகையினால் கேட்டார்கள். ⁶³ அவன் எழுத்துப் பலகையைக் கேட்டு வாங்கி, இவன் பெயர் யோவான் என்று எழுதினான்; எல்லோரும் ஆச்சரியப்பட்டார்கள். ⁶⁴ உடனே அவனுடைய வாய் திறக்கப்பட்டது, அவன் பேசி, தேவனை ஸ்தோத்திரித்துப் புகழ்ந்தான். ⁶⁵ அதினால் அவர்களைச் சுற்றி வாழ்ந்த அனைவருக்கும் பயம் உண்டானது. மேலும் யூதேயா மலைநாடு முழுவதும் இந்தச் செய்தி பரவி, இதைக்குறித்து அதிகமாகப் பேசப்பட்டது. ⁶⁶ இதைக் கேள்விப்பட்டவர்கள் எல்லோரும் தங்களுடைய மனதிலே நடந்தவைகளை நினைத்து, இந்தக் குழந்தை வளர்ந்து எப்படிப்பட்ட காரியங்களைச் செய்யுமோ என்றார்கள். கர்த்தருடைய கரம் அந்தக் குழந்தையோடு இருந்தது.

⁶⁷ அவனுடைய தகப்பனாகிய சகரியா பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவராலே நிரப்பப்பட்டு, தீர்க்கதரிசனமாக: ⁶⁸ இஸ்ரவேலின் தேவனாகிய கர்த்தருக்கு ஸ்தோத்திரம் உண்டாவதாக. ⁶⁹ அவர் நம்முடைய முற்பிதாக்களுக்கு வாக்குத்தத்தம்பண்ணின இரக்கத்தைச் செய்வதற்கும்; ⁷⁰ தம்முடைய பரிசுத்த உடன்படிக்கையை நினைத்தருளி: ⁷¹ உங்களுடைய சத்துருக்களின் கைகளில் இருந்து நீங்கள் விடுதலையாக்கப்பட்டு, உயிரோடிருக்கும் நாட்களெல்லாம் பயமில்லாமல் எனக்கு முன்பாகப் பரிசுத்தத்தோடும் நீதியோடும் எனக்கு ஊழியம் செய்யவும் கட்டளையிடுவேன் என்று, ⁷² அவர் நம்முடைய முற்பிதாவாகிய ஆபிரகாமுக்கு கொடுத்த ஆணையை நிறைவேற்றுவதற்கும்; ⁷³ ஆதிமுதல் கொண்டிருந்த தம்முடைய பரிசுத்த தீர்க்கதரிசிகளின் வாக்கினால் தேவன் சொன்னபடியே, ⁷⁴ தமது மக்களைச் சந்தித்து மீட்டுக்கொண்டு, நம்முடைய சத்துருக்களிடம் இருந்தும், நம்மைப் பகைக்கிற எல்லோருடைய கைகளில் இருந்தும், நம்மை இரட்சிப்பதற்காக, ⁷⁵ தம்முடைய தாசனாகிய தாவீதின் வம்சத்திலே நமக்கு ஒரு வல்லமையுள்ள இரட்சகரை அனுப்பினார். ⁷⁶ என் மகனே, நீ உன்னதமானவருடைய தீர்க்கதரிசி என்று அழைக்கப்படுவாய்; நீ கர்த்தருக்கு வழிகளை ஆயத்தம்பண்ணவும், ⁷⁷ நமது தேவனுடைய உருக்கமான இரக்கத்தினாலே அவருடைய மக்களுக்குப் பாவமன்னிப்பாகிய இரட்சிப்பைத் தெரியப்படுத்தவும், அவருக்கு முன்னே நடந்துபோவாய். ⁷⁸ இருளிலும், மரண பயத்திலும் உட்கார்ந்திருக்கிறவர்களுக்கு வெளிச்சம் கொடுக்கவும், ⁷⁹ நம்முடைய கால்களைச் சமாதானத்தின் வழியிலே நடத்தவும், அந்த இரக்கத்தினாலே உன்னதத்திலிருந்து தோன்றிய சூரியன் நம்மிடம் வந்திருக்கிறது என்றான். ⁸⁰ அந்தப் பிள்ளை வளர்ந்து, ஆவியிலே பெலனடைந்து, இஸ்ரவேல் மக்களுக்கு வெளிப்படையாக உபதேசிக்கும் நாள் வரும்வரைக்கும் வனாந்திரங்களிலே வாழ்ந்து வந்தான்.

அத்தியாயம்- 2

¹ அந்த நாட்களில் ரோம அரசாட்சிக்குட்பட்ட நாடெங்கும் மக்கள்தொகை கணக்கெடுப்பு எழுதப்படவேண்டும் என்று அகஸ்துராயனால் கட்டளையிடப்பட்டது. ² சீரியா நாட்டிலே சிரேனியு என்பவன் தேசத்தின் அதிபதியாக இருந்தபோது இந்த முதலாம் கணக்கெடுப்பு எடுக்கப்பட்டது. ³ எனவே மக்கள்தொகை கணக்கெடுப்பில் பதிவுசெய்ய எல்லோரும் தங்களுடைய சொந்த ஊர்களுக்குப் போனார்கள். ⁴ அப்பொழுது யோசேப்பு, தான் தாவீதின் வம்சத்தை சேர்ந்தவனாக இருந்தபடியால், பதிவு செய்வதற்காக, தனக்கு மனைவியாக நிச்சயிக்கப்பட்ட கர்ப்பமாக இருந்த மரியானைக் கூட்டிக்கொண்டு, ⁵ கலிலேயா நாட்டிலுள்ள நாசரேத்து என்னும் ஊரில் இருந்து யூதேயா நாட்டிலுள்ள பெத்லகேம் என்னும் தாவீதின் ஊருக்குப் போனான். ⁶ அங்கே அவர்கள் இருக்கும்போது, மரியாளுக்குப் பிரசவநேரம் வந்தது. ⁷ அவள் தன் தலைப்பிள்ளையான ஆண் குழந்தையைப் பெற்றெடுத்து, சத்திரத்திலே அவர்களுக்கு இடம் இல்லாததினால், குழந்தையைத் துணிகளில் சுற்றி, கால்நடைத் தீவனப்பெட்டியில் படுக்கவைத்தாள்.

⁸ அப்பொழுது அந்த நாட்டிலே மேய்ப்பர்கள் வயல்வெளியில் தங்கி, இராத்திரியிலே அவர்களுடைய ஆட்டுமந்தையைக் காவல்காத்துக்கொண்டிருந்தார்கள். ⁹ அந்த நேரத்திலே கர்த்தருடைய தூதன் அவர்களிடத்தில் வந்துநின்றான், கர்த்தருடைய மகிமை அவர்களைச் சுற்றிலும் பிரகாசித்தது; அவர்கள் மிகவும் பயந்தார்கள். ¹⁰ தேவதூதன் அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: பயப்படாமலிருங்கள்; இதோ, எல்லா மக்களுக்கும் மிகவும் சந்தோஷத்தை உண்டாக்கும் நற்செய்தியை உங்களுக்கு அறிவிக்கிறேன். ¹¹ இன்று கர்த்தராகிய கிறிஸ்து என்னும் இரட்சகர் உங்களுக்காக தாவீதின் ஊரிலே பிறந்திருக்கிறார். ¹² குழந்தையைத் துணிகளில் சுற்றி, கால்நடைத் தீவனப்பெட்டியில் படுக்கவைத்திருப்பதைப் பார்ப்பீர்கள்; இதுவே உங்களுக்கு அடையாளம் என்றான். ¹³ உடனே பரலோக தூதர்சேனையின் கூட்டம் தோன்றி, அந்தத் தூதனோடு சேர்ந்து: ¹⁴ உன்னத்திலிருக்கிற தேவனுக்கு மகிமையும், பூமியிலே சமாதானமும், மனிதர்கள்மேல் பிரியமும் உண்டாவதாக என்று சொல்லி, தேவனைத் துதித்தார்கள். ¹⁵ தேவதூதர்கள் அவர்களைவிட்டுப் பரலோகத்திற்குப் போனபின்பு, மேய்ப்பர்கள் ஒருவரையொருவர் பார்த்து: நாம் பெத்லகேம் ஊருக்குப்போய், நடந்ததாகக் கர்த்தரால் நமக்கு சொல்லப்பட்ட இந்தக் காரியத்தைப் பார்ப்போம் வாருங்கள் என்று சொல்லி, ¹⁶ வேகமாக வந்து, மரியாளையும் யோசேப்பையும், கால்நடைத் தீவனப்பெட்டியில் வைக்கப்பட்டிருந்த குழந்தையையும் பார்த்தார்கள். ¹⁷ பார்த்து, அந்தக் குழந்தையைப்பற்றி அவர்களுக்குச் சொல்லப்பட்ட விஷயங்களை எல்லா மக்களுக்கும் சொன்னார்கள். ¹⁸ மேய்ப்பராலே தங்களுக்குச் சொல்லப்பட்டதைக் கேட்ட அனைவரும் அவைகளைக்குறித்து ஆச்சரியப்பட்டார்கள். ¹⁹ மரியாளோ அந்தக் காரியங்களையெல்லாம் தன் இருதயத்திலே வைத்து, சிந்தனைபண்ணினாள். ²⁰ மேய்ப்பர்களும் தங்களுக்கு தூதர்களால் சொல்லப்பட்டதையும், சொல்லப்பட்டவைகள் எல்லாம் அப்படியே நடந்ததையும் பார்த்து தேவனை மகிமைப்படுத்தி, துதித்துக்கொண்டு திரும்பிப்போனார்கள்.

²¹ குழந்தைக்கு விருத்தசேதனம்பண்ணவேண்டிய எட்டாவது நாளிலே, அது கர்ப்பத்தில் உருவாவதற்கு முன்பே தேவதூதனால் சொல்லப்பட்டபடியே, குழந்தைக்கு இயேசு என்று பெயர் வைத்தார்கள். ²² மோசேயின் நியாயப்பிரமாணத்தின்படியே அவர்களுடைய சுத்திகரிப்பு நாட்கள் முடிந்தபின்பு, ²³ முதலில் பிறக்கும் ஆண்பிள்ளை கர்த்தருக்குப் பரிசுத்தமானது என்று கர்த்தருடைய நியாயப்பிரமாணத்தில் எழுதியிருக்கிறபடி குழந்தையைக் கர்த்தருக்கென்று ஒப்புக்கொடுப்பதற்காகவும், ²⁴ கர்த்தருடைய நியாயப்பிரமாணத்தில் சொல்லியிருக்கிறபடி, மரியாளுடைய சுத்திகரிப்புக்கென்று ஒரு ஜோடி காட்டுப்புறாக்களை அல்லது இரண்டு புறாக்குஞ்சுகளை பலியாகச் செலுத்துவதற்காகவும், குழந்தையோடு எருசலேமுக்குப் போனார்கள். ²⁵ அப்பொழுது சிமியோன் என்னும் பெயர்கொண்ட ஒரு மனிதன் எருசலேமில் இருந்தான்; அவன் நீதியும் தேவபக்தியும் உள்ளவனாகவும், இஸ்ரவேல் மக்களுக்கு ஆறுதல் கொடுப்பவர் வருவார் என்று எதிர்பார்த்துக்கொண்டும் இருந்தான்; பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவர் அவனோடுகூட இருந்தார். ²⁶ கர்த்தருடைய கிறிஸ்துவை நீ காண்பதற்கு முன்பே மரணமடையமாட்டாய் என்று பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவராலே அவனுக்கு அறிவிக்கப்பட்டும் இருந்தது. ²⁷ சிமியோன் பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவரின் ஏவுதலினால் தேவாலயத்திற்கு வந்தான். இயேசு என்னும் குழந்தைக்காக நியாயப்பிரமாண முறையின்படி செய்ய அவருடைய பெற்றோர் அவரை உள்ளே கொண்டுவரும்போது, ²⁸ சிமியோன் இயேசுவைத் தன் கைகளில் ஏந்திக்கொண்டு, தேவனை ஸ்தோத்திரித்து: ²⁹ ஆண்டவரே, உமது வார்த்தையின்படி நான் இப்பொழுது சமாதானத்தோடு உயிரை விடுவேன்; ³⁰ யூதரல்லாதவர்களுக்குப் பிரகாசிக்கிற ஒளியாகவும், உம்முடைய மக்களாகிய இஸ்ரவேலுக்கு மகிமையாகவும், ³¹ தேவரீர் எல்லா மக்களுக்கும் முன்பாக நீர் ஆயத்தம்பண்ணி, ³² அனுப்பின இரட்சகரை என் கண்களால் பார்த்தேன் என்றான். ³³ இயேசுவைக்குறித்துச் சொல்லப்பட்டவைகளுக்காக யோசேபும்

மரியாளும் ஆச்சரியப்பட்டார்கள். ³⁴ பின்பு சிமியோன் அவர்களை ஆசீர்வதித்து, அவருடைய தாயாகிய மரியாளைப் பார்த்து: இதோ, இந்தக் குழந்தையினாலே, இஸ்ரவேலில் அநேகர் தேவனைவிட்டு விலகுவதற்கும், தேவனிடத்தில் வருவதற்கும், மக்களால் விரோதமாகப் பேசப்படும் அவர்களை எச்சரிக்கும் ஒரு அடையாளமாகவும், இவர் நியமிக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறார். ³⁵ முடிவிலே, தேவனைப்பற்றி அநேக இருதயங்களின் சிந்தனைகள் வெளிப்படும். உன் இருதயம் பட்டயத்தினால் குத்தப்பட்டதுபோல வேதனைப்படும் என்றான். ³⁶ ஆசேருடைய கோத்திரத்தைச் சேர்ந்த, பானுவேலின் மகளாகிய அன்னாள் என்ற பெயர்கொண்ட வயதான ஒரு தீர்க்கதரிசி இருந்தாள்; அவள் திருமணம்செய்து ஏழுவருடங்கள்மட்டுமே புருஷனோடு வாழ்ந்தாள். ³⁷ எண்பத்து நான்கு வயதுள்ள அந்த விதவை தேவாலயத்தைவிட்டுப் போகாமல், இரவும் பகலும் உபவாசித்து, ஜெபம்பண்ணி, ஆராதனை செய்துகொண்டிருந்தாள். ³⁸ அவளும் அந்த நேரத்திலே வந்து, கர்த்தரைப் புகழ்ந்து, எருசலேமின் மீட்புக்காகக் காத்திருந்த எல்லோருக்கும் இயேசுவைக்குறித்துப் பேசினாள். ³⁹ கர்த்தருடைய நியாயப்பிரமாணத்தின்படி எல்லாவற்றையும் அவர்கள் செய்துமுடித்தபின்பு, கலிலேயா நாட்டிலுள்ள தங்களுடைய சொந்த ஊரான நாசரேத்திற்குத் திரும்பிப்போனார்கள். ⁴⁰ அந்தப் பிள்ளை வளர்ந்து, பெலன்கொண்டு, ஞானத்தினால் நிறைந்தது. தேவனுடைய கிருபையும் அவர்மேல் இருந்தது.

⁴¹ இயேசுவின் பெற்றோர் ஒவ்வொரு வருடமும் பஸ்கா பண்டிகைக் கொண்டாட எருசலேமுக்குப் போவார்கள். ⁴² இயேசுவிற்குப் பன்னிரண்டு வயதானபோது, அவர்கள் அந்தப் பண்டிகைமுறைமையின்படி எருசலேமுக்குப் போனார்கள். ⁴³ பண்டிகைநாட்கள் முடிந்து, திரும்பிவருகிறபோது, பிள்ளையாகிய இயேசு எருசலேமிலே இருந்துவிட்டார்; இது அவருடைய பெற்றோருக்குத் தெரியாமல் இருந்தது. ⁴⁴ இயேசு பயணம் செய்கிறவர்களின் கூட்டத்தோடு இருப்பார் என்று அவர்கள் நினைத்துக்கொண்டார்கள், ஒருநாள் பயணம் சென்றபின்பு, உறவினர்கள் மற்றும் நண்பர்களிடம் இயேசுவைத் தேடினார்கள். ⁴⁵ அவர் அங்கே இல்லாததினால் அவரைத் தேடிக்கொண்டே எருசலேமுக்குத் திரும்பிப்போனார்கள். ⁴⁶ மூன்று நாட்களுக்குப்பின்பு, அவர் தேவாலயத்தில் போதகர்கள் நடுவில் உட்கார்ந்திருப்பதையும், அவர்கள் பேசுகிறதைக் கவனிப்பதையும், அவர்களிடம் கேள்விகளைக் கேட்பதையும் பார்த்தார்கள். ⁴⁷ இயேசு பேசுவதைக்கேட்ட எல்லோரும் அவருடைய புத்தியையும் அவர் போதகர்களுடைய கேள்விகளுக்கு சொன்ன பதில்களையும் குறித்து ஆச்சரியப்பட்டார்கள். ⁴⁸ இயேசுவின் பெற்றோரும் அவரைக்கண்டு ஆச்சரியப்பட்டார்கள். அப்பொழுது அவருடைய தாயார் அவரை நோக்கி: மகனே! ஏன் எங்களுக்கு இப்படிச் செய்தாய்? இதோ, உன் தகப்பனும் நானும் மிகுந்த கவலையோடு உன்னைத் தேடினோம் என்றாள். ⁴⁹ அதற்கு அவர்: நீங்கள் ஏன் என்னைத் தேடினீர்கள்? நான் என் பிதாவின் காரியங்களை செய்யவேண்டும் என்பது உங்களுக்குத் தெரியாதா? என்றார். ⁵⁰ ஆனால், அவர் சொன்ன வார்த்தைகளை அவர்கள் புரிந்துகொள்ளவில்லை. ⁵¹ பின்பு அவர் அவர்களோடுபோய், நாசரேத்தாருக்குச் சென்று, அவர்களுக்குக் கீழ்ப்படிந்து நடந்தார். அவருடைய தாயார் இந்த விஷயங்களையெல்லாம் தன் இருதயத்திலே வைத்துக்கொண்டாள். ⁵² இயேசுவானவர் ஞானத்திலும், வளர்ச்சியிலும், தேவகிருபையிலும், மனிதர்கள் தயவிலும் அதிகமாக வளர்ந்தார்.

அத்தியாயம்- 3

¹ திபேரியு பேரரசர் அரசாண்ட பதினைந்தாம் வருடத்தில், பொந்தியுபிலாத்து யூதேயா நாட்டிற்கு அதிபதியாகவும், ஏரோது கலிலேயாவிற்கு அதிபதியாகவும், அவன் சகோதரனாகிய பிலிப்பு இத்துரேயா மற்றும் திராகொனித்தி நாட்டிற்கும் அதிபதியாகவும், லிசானியா அபிலேனேக்கு அதிபதியாகவும், ² அன்னாவும் காய்பாவும் பிரதான ஆசாரியர்களாகவும் இருந்தகாலத்தில் வனாந்திரத்திலே சகரியாவின் குமாரனாகிய யோவானுக்கு தேவனுடைய வார்த்தை உண்டானது. ³ அப்பொழுது: கர்த்தருக்கு வழியை ஆயத்தப்படுத்துங்கள், அவருக்குப் பாதைகளைச் செவ்வைப்படுத்துங்கள் என்றும், ⁴ பள்ளங்களெல்லாம் நிரப்பப்படும், எல்லா மலைகளும் குன்றுகளும் தாழ்த்தப்படும், கோணலானவைகள் நேராகும், கரடானவைகள் சமமாகும் என்றும், ⁵ மாம்சமான எல்லோரும் தேவனுடைய இரட்சிப்பைக் காண்பார்கள் என்றும், வனாந்திரத்திலே கூப்பிடுகிறவனுடைய சத்தம் உண்டாகும் என்று ஏசாயா தீர்க்கதரிசியின் புத்தகத்தில் எழுதியிருக்கிறபடி, ⁶ அவன் யோர்தான் நதிக்கு அருகில் உள்ள தேசத்திற்குப்போய், பாவமன்னிப்புக்கென்று மனந்திரும்புதலுக்கான ஞானஸ்நானத்தைக்குறித்துப் பிரசங்கித்தான். ⁷ அவன், தன்னிடத்தில் ஞானஸ்நானம் பெறுவதற்கு வந்த மக்கள் கூட்டத்தை நோக்கி: விரியன்பாம்புக் குட்டிகளே! வருங்கோபத்திற்குத் தப்பித்துக்கொள்ள உங்களுக்கு வழிகாட்டினவன் யார்? ⁸ மனந்திரும்புதலுக்கு தகுந்த கனிகளைக் கொடுங்கள்; ஆபிரகாம் எங்களுடைய தகப்பன் என்று உங்களுக்குள்ளேசொல்லாதிருங்கள்; தேவன் இந்தக் கல்லுகளினால் ஆபிரகாமுக்குப் பிள்ளைகளை உண்டுபண்ண வல்லவராக இருக்கிறார் என்று உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன். ⁹ இப்பொழுதே கோடரியானது மரங்களின் வேர் அருகே வைக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது; எனவே நல்ல கனிகொடுக்காத மரங்களெல்லாம் வெட்டப்பட்டு நெருப்பிலே போடப்படும் என்றான். ¹⁰ அப்பொழுது மக்கள் அவனை நோக்கி: அப்படியானால் நாங்கள் என்னசெய்யவேண்டும் என்று கேட்டார்கள். ¹¹ அவர்களுக்கு அவன் மறுமொழியாக: இரண்டு மேலாடையை வைத்திருக்கிறவன், ஒன்றும் இல்லாதவனுக்கு அதில் ஒன்றைக் கொடுக்கவேண்டும்; உணவு வைத்திருப்பவனும் அப்படியே செய்யவேண்டும் என்றான். ¹² வரி வசூலிப்பவர்களும் ஞானஸ்நானம் பெறுவதற்கு வந்து, அவனை நோக்கி: போதகரே, நாங்கள் என்னசெய்யவேண்டும் என்று கேட்டார்கள். ¹³ அதற்கு அவன்: உங்களுக்குக் கட்டளையிடப்பட்டதற்குமேல் அதிகமாக ஒன்றும் வாங்காதிருங்கள் என்றான். ¹⁴ போர்வீரர்களும் அவனை நோக்கி: நாங்கள் என்னசெய்யவேண்டும் என்று கேட்டார்கள். அதற்கு அவன்: நீங்கள் யாரிடமும் கட்டாயப்படுத்தி பணம் வாங்காமலும், ஒருவன் மேலும் பொய்யாக குற்றஞ்சாட்டாமலும், உங்களுடைய சம்பளமே போதும் என்று இருங்கள் என்றான். ¹⁵ யோவானைப்பற்றி: இவன்தான் கிறிஸ்துவோ என்று மக்களெல்லோரும் நினைத்துக்கொண்டு, தங்களுடைய இருதயங்களில் யோசித்துக்கொண்டிருக்கும்போது, ¹⁶ யோவான் எல்லோருக்கும் மறுமொழியாக: நான் தண்ணீரினால் உங்களுக்கு ஞானஸ்நானம் கொடுக்கிறேன், என்னைவிட வல்லவர் ஒருவர் வருகிறார், அவருடைய காலணிகளின் வாரை அவிழ்ப்பதற்குக்கூட நான் தகுதியானவன் இல்லை, அவர் பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவராலும் அக்கினியினாலும் உங்களுக்கு ஞானஸ்நானம் கொடுப்பார். ¹⁷ தூற்றுக்கூடை அவருடைய கையில் இருக்கிறது, அவர் தமது களத்தை நன்றாக சுத்தம்செய்து, தமது கோதுமையைக் களஞ்சியத்தில் சேர்ப்பார்; பதரையோ அணையாத அக்கினியினால் சுட்டெரிப்பார் என்றான். ¹⁸ வேறு அநேக புத்திமதிகளையும் அவன் மக்களுக்குச் சொல்லிப் பிரசங்கித்தான். ¹⁹ தேசத்தின் அதிபதியாகிய ஏரோது, அவன் சகோதரன் பிலிப்புவின் மனைவியாகிய ஏரோதியானைத் திருமணம் செய்ததாலும், அவன் செய்த மற்றப் பொல்லாங்குகளுக்காகவும், யோவானாலே கடிந்துகொள்ளப்பட்டபோது, ²⁰ ஏரோது தான் செய்த மற்ற எல்லாப் பொல்லாங்குகளும் போதாதென்று, யோவானைப் பிடித்து சிறையில் அடைத்துவைத்தான்.

²¹ மக்களெல்லோரும் ஞானஸ்நானம் பெற்றபோது, இயேசுவும் ஞானஸ்நானம் பெற்று, ஜெபம்பண்ணும்போது, வானம் திறக்கப்பட்டது; ²² பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவர் புறாவைப்போல அவர்மேல் இறங்கினார். வானத்திலிருந்து ஒரு சத்தம் உண்டாகி: நீர் என்னுடைய நேசகுமாரன், உம்மிடம் பிரியமாக இருக்கிறேன் என்று உரைத்தது. ²³ அப்பொழுது இயேசு ஏறக்குறைய முப்பது வயதுள்ளவராக இருந்தார். அவர் யோசேப்பின் குமாரனென்று எண்ணப்பட்டார். அந்த யோசேப்பு ஏலியின் குமாரன்; ²⁴ ஏலி மாத்தாத்தின் குமாரன்; மாத்தாத் லேவியின் குமாரன்; லேவி மெல்கியின் குமாரன்; மெல்கி யன்னாவின் குமாரன்; யன்னா யோசேப்பின் குமாரன்; ²⁵ யோசேப்பு மத்தத்தியாவின் குமாரன்; மத்தத்தியா ஆமோசின் குமாரன்; ஆமோஸ் நாசூமின் குமாரன்; நாசூம் எஸ்லியின் குமாரன்; எஸ்லி நங்காயின் குமாரன். ²⁶ நங்காய் மாகாத்தின் குமாரன்; மாகாத் மத்தத்தியாவின் குமாரன்; மத்தத்தியா சேமேயின் குமாரன்; சேமேய் யோசேப்பின் குமாரன்; யோசேப்பு யூதாவின் குமாரன்; யூதா யோவன்னாவின் குமாரன். ²⁷ யோவன்னா ரேசாவின் குமாரன்; ரேசா சொரொபாபேலின் குமாரன்; சொரொபாபேல் சலாத்தியேலின் குமாரன்; சலாத்தியேல் நேரியின் குமாரன். ²⁸ நேரி மெல்கியின் குமாரன்; மெல்கி அத்தியின் குமாரன்; அத்தி கோசாமின் குமாரன்; கோசாம் எல்மோதாமின் குமாரன்; எல்மோதாம் ஏரின் குமாரன்; ஏர்

யோசேயின் குமாரன். ²⁹ யோசே எலியேசரின் குமாரன்; எலியேசர் யோரீமின் குமாரன்; யோரீம் மாத்தாத்தின் குமாரன்; மாத்தாத் லேவியின் குமாரன். ³⁰ லேவி சிமியோனின் குமாரன்; சிமியோன் யூதாவின் குமாரன்; யூதா யோசேப்பின் குமாரன்; யோசேப்பு யோனானின் குமாரன்; யோனான் எலியாக்கீமின் குமாரன். ³¹ எலியாக்கீம் மெலெயாவின் குமாரன்; மெலெயா மயினானின் குமாரன்; மயினான் மாத்தாத்தாவின் குமாரன்; மாத்தாத்தா நாத்தானின் குமாரன்; நாத்தான் தாவீதின் குமாரன். ³² தாவீது ஈசாயின் குமாரன்; ஈசாய் ஓபேத்தின் குமாரன்; ஓபேத் போவாசின் குமாரன்; போவாஸ் சல்மோனின் குமாரன்; சல்மோன் நகசோனின் குமாரன். ³³ நகசோன் அம்மினதாபின் குமாரன்; அம்மினதாப் ஆராமின் குமாரன்; ஆராம் எஸ்ரோமின் குமாரன்; எஸ்ரோம் பாரேசின் குமாரன்; பாரேஸ் யூதாவின் குமாரன்; யூதா யாக்கோபின் குமாரன். ³⁴ யாக்கோபு ஈசாக்கின் குமாரன்; ஈசாக்கு ஆபிரகாமின் குமாரன்; ஆபிரகாம் தேராவின் குமாரன்; தேரா நாகோரின் குமாரன். ³⁵ நாகோர் சேருக்கின் குமாரன்; சேருக் ரெகூவின் குமாரன்; ரெகூ பேலேக்கின் குமாரன்; பேலேக் ஏபேரின் குமாரன்; ஏபேர் சாலாவின் குமாரன். ³⁶ சாலா காயினானின் குமாரன்; காயினான் அர்ப்பகசாத்தின் குமாரன்; அர்ப்பகசாத் சேமின் குமாரன்; சேம் நோவாவின் குமாரன்; நோவா லாமேக்கின் குமாரன். ³⁷ லாமேக்கு மெத்தூசலாவின் குமாரன்; மெத்தூசலா ஏனோக்கின் குமாரன்; ஏனோக்கு யாரேத்தின் குமாரன்; யாரேத் மகலாலெயேலின் குமாரன்; மகலாலெயேல் கேனானின் குமாரன்; கேனான் ஏனோசின் குமாரன். ³⁸ ஏனோஸ் சேத்தின் குமாரன்; சேத் ஆதாமின் குமாரன்; ஆதாம் தேவனால் உண்டானவன்.

அத்தியாயம்- 4

¹ இயேசு பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவராலே நிறைந்தவராக யோர்தானைவிட்டுத் திரும்பி, பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவராலே வனாந்திரத்திற்குக் கொண்டுபோகப்பட்டு, ² நாற்பதுநாட்கள் சாத்தானால் சோதிக்கப்பட்டார். அந்த நாட்களில் அவர் ஒன்றும் சாப்பிடாமல் இருந்தார்; அந்த நாட்கள் முடிந்தபின்பு அவருக்குப் பசி உண்டானது. ³ அப்பொழுது சாத்தான் அவரை நோக்கி: நீர் தேவனுடைய குமாரனென்றால், இந்தக் கல் அப்பமாக மாறும்படிச் சொல்லும் என்றான். ⁴ அவர் மறுமொழியாக: மனிதன் அப்பத்தினால் மட்டுமில்லை, தேவனுடைய ஒவ்வொரு வார்த்தையினாலும் பிழைப்பான் என்று எழுதியிருக்கிறதே என்றார். ⁵ பின்பு சாத்தான் அவரை உயர்ந்த மலையின்மேல் கொண்டுபோய், உலகத்தின் எல்லா ராஜ்யங்களையும் ஒரு நிமிஷத்திலே அவருக்குக் காண்பித்து: ⁶ இவைகள் எல்லாவற்றின்மேலும் உமக்கு அதிகாரத்தையும் இவைகளின் மகிமையையும் உமக்குத் தருவேன், இவைகள் என்னுடைய பொறுப்பில் ஒப்புக்கொடுக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது; எனக்கு இஷ்டமானவனுக்கு இவைகளைக் கொடுப்பேன். ⁷ நீர் என்முன் பணிந்து தொழுதுகொண்டால் இவைகளையெல்லாம் உமக்குத் தருவேன் என்று சொன்னான். ⁸ இயேசு அவனுக்கு மறுமொழியாக: எனக்குப் பின்னாகப்போ சாத்தானே, உன் தேவனாகிய கர்த்தரைமட்டும் பணிந்துகொண்டு, அவர் ஒருவருக்குமட்டும் ஆராதனைசெய் என்று எழுதியிருக்கிறது என்றார். ⁹ அப்பொழுது அவன் அவரை எருசலேமுக்குக் கொண்டுபோய், தேவாலயத்தின் உச்சியில் அவரை நிறுத்தி: நீர் தேவனுடைய குமாரனென்றால், இங்கேயிருந்து கீழே குதியும். ¹⁰ ஏனென்றால், உம்மைப் பாதுகாக்க தேவன் தம்முடைய தூதர்களுக்குக் கட்டளையிடுவார் என்றும், ¹¹ உமது பாதம் கல்லில் மோதாதபடி, அவர்கள் உம்மை தங்களுடைய கைகளில் ஏந்திக்கொண்டுபோவார்கள் என்றும் எழுதியிருக்கிறது என்று சொன்னான். ¹² அதற்கு இயேசு: உன் தேவனாகிய கர்த்தரை சோதித்துப்பார்க்காதிருப்பாயாக என்றும் சொல்லியிருக்கிறதே என்றார். ¹³ சாத்தான், இயேசுவை பலவிதங்களில் சோதித்துமுடித்தபின்பு சிலகாலம் அவரைவிட்டு விலகிப்போனான்.

¹⁴ பின்பு இயேசு பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவருடைய பலத்தினாலே கலிலேயாவிற்குத் திரும்பிப்போனார். அவரைப்பற்றிய செய்தி சுற்றிலும் இருக்கிற தேசங்களெல்லாம் பரவியது. ¹⁵ அவர்களுடைய ஜெப ஆலயங்களில் அவர் உபதேசித்து, எல்லோராலும் புகழப்பட்டார். ¹⁶ ஒரு நாள் இயேசு தாம் வளர்ந்த ஊராகிய நாசரேத்திற்கு வந்து, தம்முடைய வழக்கத்தின்படியே ஓய்வுநாளில் ஜெப ஆலயத்திற்குச் சென்று, வேதத்தை வாசிக்க எழுந்து நின்றார். ¹⁷ அப்பொழுது ஏசாயா தீர்க்கதரிசியின் புத்தகம் அவரிடத்தில் கொடுக்கப்பட்டது. அவர் புத்தகத்தை விரித்தபோது: ¹⁸ கர்த்தருடைய ஆவியானவர் என்மேல் இருக்கிறார்; எளியவர்களுக்கு நற்செய்தியைப் பிரசங்கிப்பதற்காக என்னை அபிஷேகம்பண்ணினார்; இருதயம் காயப்பட்டவர்களைக் குணமாக்கவும், சிறைப்பட்டவர்களுக்கு விடுதலையையும், பார்வை இல்லாதவர்களுக்குப் பார்வையையும், ஒடுக்கப்பட்டவர்களை விடுதலையாக்கவும், ¹⁹ இந்த வருடம் கர்த்தருடைய கிருபையின் வருடம் என்பதைச் சொல்லவும், என்னை அனுப்பினார், என்று எழுதியிருக்கிறதை அவர் பார்த்து, ²⁰ அதை வாசித்து, பின்பு புத்தகத்தைச் சுருட்டி, பணிவிடை செய்பவனிடம் கொடுத்து உட்கார்ந்தார். ஜெப ஆலயத்திலுள்ள எல்லோரும் அவரை உற்றுப் பார்த்துக்கொண்டிருந்தார்கள். ²¹ அப்பொழுது அவர் அவர்களோடு பேசத்தொடங்கி: நீங்கள் கேட்ட இந்த வேதவாக்கியம் இன்று நிறைவேறியது என்றார். ²² எல்லோரும் அவருக்கு நற்சாட்சிக் கொடுத்து, அவர் பேசின கிருபையுள்ள வார்த்தைகளைக்குறித்து ஆச்சரியப்பட்டார்கள்: ஆனால், அவர்களில் சிலர்: இவன் யோசேப்பின் குமாரன் அல்லவா என்றார்கள். ²³ அவர் அவர்களை நோக்கி: நீங்கள் என்னிடம், வைத்தியனே, உன்னைநீயே குணமாக்கிக்கொள் என்கிற பழமொழியைச் சொல்லி, நாங்கள் கேள்விப்பட்டபடி கப்பர்நகூமில் நீ செய்த செயல்களையெல்லாம் உன் சொந்த ஊராகிய இங்கேயும் செய் என்று சொல்லுவீர்கள் என்பது நிச்சயம். ²⁴ ஆனாலும் ஒரு தீர்க்கதரிசியை அவனுடைய சொந்த ஊரிலே ஒருவனும் அங்கீகரிக்கமாட்டான் என்று நிச்சயமாகவே உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன். ²⁵ அன்றியும் எலியா தீர்க்கதரிசி வாழ்ந்த நாட்களிலே மூன்று வருடங்களும் ஆறு மாதங்களும் வானம் அடைக்கப்பட்டு மழை இல்லாமல், தேசமெங்கும் கொடிய பஞ்சம் உண்டாயிருந்தபோது, இஸ்ரவேலில் அநேக விதவைகள் இருந்தார்கள். ²⁶ இருந்தாலும், எலியா தீர்க்கதரிசி, இவர்களில் எந்தவொரு யூதவிதவையிடமும் அனுப்பப்படாமல், சீதோன் நாட்டிலுள்ள சரெப்தா என்னும் ஊரில் இருந்த ஒரு விதவையிடம் அனுப்பப்பட்டான். ²⁷ அல்லாமலும் எலிசா தீர்க்கதரிசியின் காலத்திலே இஸ்ரவேலில் அநேக குஷ்டரோகிகள் இருந்தார்கள்; இருந்தாலும் சீரியா தேசத்தைச் சேர்ந்த நாகமானத்தவிர அவர்களில் வேறு ஒருவனையும் எலிசா சுத்தமாக்கவில்லை என்று சத்தியத்தின்படி உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன் என்றார். ²⁸ ஜெப ஆலயத்திலிருந்த எல்லோரும், இவைகளைக் கேட்டபொழுது, கடும்கோபமடைந்து, ²⁹ எழுந்திருந்து, அவரை ஊருக்கு வெளியே தள்ளி, தங்களுடைய ஊர் கட்டப்பட்டிருந்த செங்குத்தான

மலையின் உச்சியிலிருந்து அவரைத் தலைகீழாகத் தள்ளிவிடுவதற்காக அந்த இடத்திற்குக் கொண்டுபோனார்கள். ³⁰ ஆனால், அவர் அவர்கள் நடுவில் இருந்து கடந்துபோய்விட்டார்.

³¹ பின்பு அவர் கலிலேயாவிலுள்ள கப்பர்நசூம் என்னும் பட்டணத்திற்கு வந்து, ஓய்வுநாட்களில் மக்களுக்குப் போதனை பண்ணினார். ³² அவருடைய வசனம் அதிகாரமுள்ளதாக இருந்தபடியால் அவருடைய போதனையைக்குறித்து அவர்கள் ஆச்சரியப்பட்டார்கள். ³³ ஜெப ஆலயத்திலே அசுத்தஆவி பிடித்திருந்த ஒரு மனிதன் இருந்தான். ³⁴ அவன்: ஐயோ! நசரேயனாகிய இயேசுவே, எங்களுக்கும் உமக்கும் என்ன? எங்களைக் கெடுக்கவா வந்தீர்? நீர் யார் என்று நான் அறிவேன்; நீர் தேவனுடைய பரிசுத்தர் என்று அதிக சத்தமிட்டுச் சொன்னான். ³⁵ அதற்கு இயேசு: நீ பேசாமல் இவனைவிட்டு வெளியே போ என்று அதை அதட்டினார்; அப்பொழுது பிசாசு அவனை மக்களின் நடுவே கீழேத் தள்ளி, அவனுக்கு ஒரு தீங்கும் செய்யாமல், அவனைவிட்டுப் போய்விட்டது. ³⁶ எல்லோரும் ஆச்சரியப்பட்டு: இது என்ன வார்த்தையோ! அதிகாரத்தோடும் வல்லமையோடும் அசுத்தஆவிகளுக்குக் கட்டளையிடுகிறார், அவைகள் புறப்பட்டுப் போகிறதே என்று ஒருவரோடொருவர் பேசிக்கொண்டார்கள். ³⁷ அவரைப்பற்றின புகழ் சுற்றிலுமிருந்த இடங்களிலெல்லாம் பரவியது.

³⁸ பின்பு அவர் ஜெப ஆலயத்தைவிட்டுப் புறப்பட்டு, சீமோன் வீட்டிற்குப் போனார். அங்கு சீமோனுடைய மாமியார் கடும் ஜூரத்தோடு படுத்திருந்தாள். அவளை குணமாக்கவேண்டுமென்று அவளுக்காக அவரை வேண்டிக்கொண்டார்கள். ³⁹ அவர் அவளிடம் குனிந்து நின்று, ஜூரம் நீங்கும்படி கட்டளையிட்டார், உடனே ஜூரம் அவளைவிட்டு நீங்கியது, அவள் எழுந்து அவர்களுக்குப் பணிவிடைசெய்தாள். ⁴⁰ சூரியன் அஸ்தமித்தபோது, மக்களெல்லோரும் பலவிதமான வியாதிகளால் கஷ்டப்பட்டவர்களை அவரிடத்தில் கொண்டுவந்தார்கள். அவர்கள் ஒவ்வொருவர்மேலும் அவர் தம்முடைய கரங்களை வைத்து, அவர்களை சுகமாக்கினார். ⁴¹ பிசாசுகளும்: நீர் தேவனுடைய குமாரனாகிய கிறிஸ்து என்று சத்தமிட்டு அநேகரைவிட்டுப் புறப்பட்டுப்போனது. அவர் கிறிஸ்து என்று பிசாசுகளுக்கு தெரிந்திருந்தபடியால் அவர் அவைகளைப் பேசவிடாமல் அதட்டினார். ⁴² சூரியன் உதயமானபோது அவர் புறப்பட்டு, வனாந்திரமான ஒரு இடத்திற்குப் போனார். அநேக மக்கள் அவரைத் தேடி அவரிடம் வந்து, அவர்களைவிட்டுப் போகவேண்டாம் என்று அவரைத் தடுத்து நிறுத்தப்பார்த்தனர். ⁴³ அவரோ அவர்களை நோக்கி: நான் மற்ற ஊர்களிலும் தேவனுடைய ராஜ்யத்தைக்குறித்துப் பிரசங்கம் பண்ணவேண்டும், இதற்காகத்தான் அனுப்பப்பட்டேன் என்றார். ⁴⁴ அப்படியே கலிலேயா நாட்டிலுள்ள ஜெப ஆலயங்களில் பிரசங்கம்பண்ணிக்கொண்டுவந்தார்.

அத்தியாயம்- 5

¹ பின்பு அவர் கெனேசரேத்துக் கடலின் அருகே நின்றபோது, மக்கள்கூட்டம் தேவவசனத்தைக் கேட்பதற்காக அவரிடம் நெருங்கிவந்தார்கள். ² அப்பொழுது கடற்கரையிலே நிற்கொண்டிருந்த இரண்டு படகுகளைக் கண்டார். மீன்பிடிக்கிறவர்கள் படகுகளைவிட்டு இறங்கி வலைகளை அலசிக்கொண்டிருந்தார்கள். ³ அப்பொழுது அவர் ஒரு படகில் ஏறினார், அது சீமோனுடைய படகாக இருந்தது; அதைக் கரையிலிருந்து கொஞ்சம் தள்ளும்படி அவனைக் கேட்டுக்கொண்டு, அந்தப் படகில் உட்கார்ந்து, மக்களுக்குப் போதகம்பண்ணினார். ⁴ அவர் போதகம்பண்ணி முடித்தபின்பு சீமோனை நோக்கி: ஆழத்திற்குத் தள்ளிக்கொண்டுபோய், மீன்பிடிக்க உங்களுடைய வலைகளைப் போடுங்கள் என்றார். ⁵ அதற்குச் சீமோன்: ஐயா, இரவு முழுவதும் நாங்கள் முயற்சிசெய்தும் ஒன்றும் கிடைக்கவில்லை; இருப்பினும் உம்முடைய வார்த்தையின்படி நான் வலைகளைப் போடுகிறேன் என்றான். ⁶ அப்படியே அவர்கள் வலைகளைப் போட்டு, அவர்கள் வலைகள் கிழிந்துபோகும் அளவிற்கு அதிகமான மீன்களைப் பிடித்தார்கள். ⁷ அப்பொழுது மற்றப் படகில் இருந்த கூட்டாளிகள் வந்து தங்களுக்கு உதவிசெய்யவேண்டும் என்று அவர்களுக்கு சைகை காட்டினார்கள்; அவர்கள் வந்து, இரண்டு படகுகளும் அமிழ்ந்துபோகும் அளவிற்கு நிரப்பினார்கள். ⁸ சீமோன்பேதுரு அதைக் கண்டு, இயேசுவின் பாதத்தில் விழுந்து: ஆண்டவரே, நான் பாவியான மனிதன், நீர் என்னைவிட்டுப் போகவேண்டும் என்றான். ⁹ அவர்கள் அதிகமான மீன்களைப் பிடித்ததினால், அவனுக்கும் அவனோடுகூட இருந்த எல்லோருக்கும் பிரமிப்பாக இருந்ததால் அப்படிச் சொன்னான். ¹⁰ சீமோனுக்குக் கூட்டாளிகளான செபெதேயுவின் குமாரர்களாகிய யாக்கோபும் யோவானும் அப்படியே பிரமித்தார்கள். அப்பொழுது இயேசு சீமோனை நோக்கி: பயப்படாதே, இனி நீ மனிதர்களைப் பிடிக்கிறவனாக இருப்பாய் என்றார். ¹¹ அவர்கள் படகுகளைக் கரையிலே கொண்டுபோய் நிறுத்தி, எல்லாவற்றையும்விட்டு, அவருக்குப் பின்னே சென்றார்கள்.

¹² பின்பு அவர் ஒரு பட்டணத்தில் இருக்கும்போது, குஷ்டரோகம் நிறைந்த ஒரு மனிதன் இயேசுவைக் கண்டு, முகங்குப்புறவிழுந்து: ஆண்டவரே, உமக்கு விருப்பமானால், என்னைச் சுகப்படுத்த உம்மால் முடியும் என்று அவரை வேண்டிக்கொண்டான். ¹³ அவர் தமது கையை நீட்டி, அவனைத் தொட்டு: எனக்கு விருப்பமுண்டு, சுத்தமாகு என்றார்; உடனே குஷ்டரோகம் அவனைவிட்டு நீங்கியது. ¹⁴ அவர் அவனை நோக்கி: நீ இதை யாருக்கும் உடனே சொல்லாமல், நீ எருசலேமுக்குப்போய், உன்னை ஆசாரியனுக்குக் காண்பித்து, நீ சுத்தமானதினால், மோசே கட்டளையிட்டபடி, அவர்களுக்குச் சாட்சியாகப் பலிசெலுத்து என்று கட்டளையிட்டார். ¹⁵ அப்படியிருந்தும் அவரைப்பற்றிய செய்தி அதிகமாகப் பரவியது. அநேக மக்கள் அவருடைய உபதேசத்தைக் கேட்பதற்கும் அவராலே தங்களுடைய நோய்கள் நீங்கி சுகமடைவதற்கும் கூடிவந்தார்கள். ¹⁶ அவரோ வனாந்திரத்தில் தனிமையாகச்சென்று, ஜெபம்பண்ணிக்கொண்டிருந்தார்.

¹⁷ பின்பு ஒருநாள் அவர் உபதேசித்துக்கொண்டிருக்கிறபோது, கலிலேயா யூதேயா நாடுகளிலுள்ள எல்லா கிராமங்களிலும், எருசலேம் நகரத்திலுமிருந்து வந்த பரிசேயர்களும் வேதபண்டிதர்களும் உட்கார்ந்திருந்தார்கள்; நோயாளிகளைக் குணமாக்கத்தக்க கர்த்தருடைய வல்லமை அவரிடம் இருந்தது. ¹⁸ அப்பொழுது சில மனிதர்கள் பக்கவாதக்காரன் ஒருவனைப் படுக்கையோடு எடுத்துக்கொண்டுவந்து, அவனை உள்ளே கொண்டுபோகவும் அவருக்கு முன்பாக வைக்கவும் முயற்சித்தார்கள். ¹⁹ மக்கள்கூட்டம் அதிகமாக இருந்தபடியால் அவனை உள்ளே கொண்டுபோக முடியாமல், வீட்டின்மேல் ஏறி, தட்டோடுகள்வழியாக மக்களின் மத்தியில் இயேசுவிற்கு முன்பாக அவனைப் படுக்கையோடு இறக்கினார்கள். ²⁰ அவர்களுடைய விசுவாசத்தை அவர் கண்டு, பக்கவாதக்காரனை நோக்கி: மனிதனே, உன் பாவங்கள் உனக்கு மன்னிக்கப்பட்டது என்றார். ²¹ அப்பொழுது வேதபண்டிதர்களும் பரிசேயர்களும் யோசனைபண்ணி, தேவநிந்தனை சொல்லுகிற இவன் யார்? தேவன் ஒருவரேயன்றி பாவங்களை மன்னிக்கத்தக்கவர் யார்? என்றார்கள். ²² இயேசு அவர்கள் சிந்தனைகளை அறிந்து, அவர்களை நோக்கி: உங்களுடைய இருதயங்களில் நீங்கள் சிந்திக்கிறது என்ன? ²³ உன் பாவங்கள் உனக்கு மன்னிக்கப்பட்டது என்று சொல்வதோ அல்லது எழுந்து நட என்று சொல்வதோ, எது எளிது? ²⁴ பூமியிலே பாவங்களை மன்னிக்க மனிதகுமாரனுக்கு அதிகாரம் உண்டு என்பதை நீங்கள் அறியவேண்டும் என்று சொல்லி, பக்கவாதக்காரனை நோக்கி: நீ எழுந்து, உன் படுக்கையை எடுத்துக்கொண்டு, உன் வீட்டிற்குப் போ என்று உனக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன் என்றார். ²⁵ உடனே அவன் அவர்களுக்கு முன்பாக எழுந்து, தன் படுக்கையை எடுத்துக்கொண்டு, தேவனை மகிமைப்படுத்தி, தன் வீட்டிற்குப்போனான். ²⁶ அதினாலே எல்லோரும் ஆச்சரியப்பட்டு, தேவனை மகிமைப்படுத்தினார்கள்; அல்லாமலும், அவர்கள் பயம் நிறைந்தவர்களாகி, அதிசயமான காரியங்களை இன்று கண்டோம் என்றார்கள்.

²⁷ இவைகளுக்குப் பின்பு அவர் புறப்பட்டு, வரிவசூலிக்கும் மையத்தில் உட்கார்ந்திருந்த லேவி என்னும் பெயருடைய வரிவசூலிக்கும் ஒருவனைக் கண்டு: என்னைப் பின்பற்றிவா என்றார். ²⁸ அவன்

எல்லாவற்றையும்விட்டு, எழுந்து, அவருக்குப் பின்னேசென்றான். ²⁹ அந்த லேவி என்பவன் தன் வீட்டிலே அவருக்குப் பெரிய விருந்துபண்ணினான். அநேக வரி வசூலிப்பவர்களும் மற்றவர்களும் அவர்களோடு பந்தியில் இருந்தார்கள். ³⁰ வேதபண்டிதர்களும் பரிசேயர்களும் அவருடைய சீடர்களுக்கு எதிராக முறுமுறுத்து: நீங்கள் வரி வசூலிப்பவர்களோடும் பாவிக்களோடும் உட்கார்ந்து சாப்பிடுகிறதும் குடிக்கிறதும் ஏன்? என்று கேட்டார்கள். ³¹ இயேசு அவர்களுக்கு மறுமொழியாக: நோயாளிகளுக்குத்தான் வைத்தியன் தேவையேதவிர சுகமாக உள்ளவர்களுக்குத் தேவையில்லை. ³² நீதிமான்களையல்ல, பாவிக்களையே மனந்திரும்புகிறதற்கு அழைக்கவந்தேன் என்றார்.

³³ பின்பு அவர்கள் அவரை நோக்கி: யோவானுடைய சீடர்கள் அநேகந்தரம் உபவாசித்து ஜெபம் செய்துவருகிறார்கள், பரிசேயர்களுடைய சீடர்களும் அப்படியே செய்கிறார்கள், உம்முடைய சீடர்கள் சாப்பிடவும் குடிக்கவும் செய்கிறார்களே, அது எப்படி என்று கேட்டார்கள். ³⁴ அதற்கு அவர்: மணவாளன் தங்களோடு இருக்கும்போது மணவாளனுடைய தோழர்களை நீங்கள் உபவாசிக்கச் சொல்லமுடியுமா? ³⁵ மணவாளன் அவர்களைவிட்டுப் போகும் நாட்கள் வரும், அந்த நாட்களிலே உபவாசிப்பார்கள் என்றார். ³⁶ அவர்களுக்கு ஒரு உவமையையும் சொன்னார்: ஒருவனும் புதிய ஆடையின் துண்டைப் பழைய ஆடையோடு வைத்து இணைக்கமாட்டான், இணைத்தால் புதியது பழையதைக் கிழிக்கும்; புதிய ஆடை பழைய ஆடைக்குப் பொருத்தமாக இருக்காது. ³⁷ ஒருவனும் புதிய திராட்சைரசத்தைப் பழைய தோல் பைகளில் ஊற்றி வைக்கமாட்டான்; ஊற்றிவைத்தால் புதிய திராட்சைரசம் தோல் பைகளைக் கிழித்துப்போடும், திராட்சைரசமும் சிந்திப்போகும், தோல் பைகளும் கெட்டுப்போகும். ³⁸ புதிய திராட்சைரசத்தைப் புதிய தோல் பைகளில் ஊற்றி வைக்கவேண்டும், அப்பொழுது இரண்டும் பத்திரமாக இருக்கும். ³⁹ அன்றியும் ஒருவனும் பழைய திராட்சைரசத்தைக் குடித்தவுடனே புதிய திராட்சைரசத்தை விரும்பமாட்டான், பழைய திராட்சைரசமே நல்லதென்று சொல்லுவான் என்றார்.

அத்தியாயம்- 6

¹ பஸ்கா பண்டிகையின் இரண்டாம் நாளைக்குப் பின்வந்த முதலாம் ஓய்வுநாளிலே, இயேசு வயல்வெளியில் நடந்துபோகும்போது, அவருடைய சீடர்கள் கதிர்களைக் கொய்து, கைகளினால் நிமிட்டித்தின்றார்கள். ² பரிசேயர்களில் சிலர் அவர்களை நோக்கி: ஓய்வுநாளில் செய்யக்கூடாததை நீங்கள் ஏன் செய்கிறீர்கள் என்று கேட்டார்கள். ³ இயேசு அவர்களுக்கு மறுமொழியாக: தாவீதும் அவனோடுகூட இருந்தவர்களும் பசியாக இருந்தபோது செய்ததை நீங்கள் வாசிக்கவில்லையா? அவன் தேவனுடைய வீட்டிற்கு சென்று, ஆசாரியர்கள்தவிர வேறுயாரும் சாப்பிடக்கூடாத தேவசமூகத்தின் அப்பங்களைக் கேட்டு வாங்கி, ⁴ தான் சாப்பிட்டதுமல்லாமல், தன்னோடு இருந்தவர்களுக்கும் கொடுத்தானே என்று சொன்னார். ⁵ மேலும் மனிதகுமாரன் ஓய்வுநாளுக்கும் ஆண்டவராக இருக்கிறார் என்றார். ⁶ வேறொரு ஓய்வுநாளிலே, அவர் ஜெப ஆலயத்திற்குச் சென்று உபதேசித்தார். அங்கே வலது கை சூம்பின ஒரு மனிதன் இருந்தான். ⁷ அப்பொழுது வேதபண்டிதர்களும் பரிசேயர்களும் அவரிடத்தில் குற்றம் கண்டுபிடிக்கும்படி, ஓய்வுநாளில் சுகமாக்குவாரோ என்று அவரை கவனித்துக்கொண்டிருந்தார்கள். ⁸ அவர்களுடைய சிந்தனைகளை அவர் அறிந்து, சூம்பின கையையுடைய மனிதனை நோக்கி: நீ எழுந்து நடுவில் நில் என்றார். அவன் எழுந்து நின்றான். ⁹ அப்பொழுது இயேசு அவர்களை நோக்கி: நான் உங்களிடம் ஒன்று கேட்கிறேன்; ஓய்வுநாட்களில் நன்மை செய்வதோ, தீமை செய்வதோ? அல்லது ஜீவனைக் காப்பதோ, அழிப்பதோ? எது நியாயம் என்று கேட்டு, ¹⁰ அவர்களெல்லோரையும் சுற்றிப்பார்த்து, அந்த மனிதனை நோக்கி: உன் கையை நீட்டு என்றார். அப்படியே அவன் தன் கையை நீட்டினான், உடனே அவன் கை மறுகையைப்போல குணமானது. ¹¹ அவர்களோ அதிக கோபம் கொண்டு, இயேசுவை என்ன செய்யலாம் என்று ஒருவருக்கொருவர் ஆலோசனைபண்ணினார்கள்.

¹² அந்த நாட்களிலே, அவர் ஜெபப்பண்ணும்படி ஒரு மலையின்மேல் ஏறி, இரவு முழுவதும் தேவனை நோக்கி ஜெபப்பண்ணிக்கொண்டிருந்தார். ¹³ பொழுதுவிடிந்தபோது, அவர் தம்முடைய சீடர்களை வரவழைத்து, அவர்களில் பன்னிரண்டுபேரைத் தெரிந்துகொண்டு, அவர்களுக்கு அப்போஸ்தலர்கள் என்று பெயரிட்டார். ¹⁴ அவர்கள் யாரென்றால், பேதுரு என்று தாம் பெயரிட்ட சீமோன், அவனுடைய சகோதரனாகிய அந்திரேயா, யாக்கோபு, யோவான், பிலிப்பு, பர்தொலொமேயு, ¹⁵ மத்தேயு, தோமா, அல்பேயுவின் குமாரனாகிய யாக்கோபு, செலோத்தே எனப்பட்ட சீமோன், ¹⁶ யாக்கோபின் சகோதரனாகிய யூதா, துரோகியான யூதாஸ்காரியோத்து என்பவர்களே.

¹⁷ பின்பு அவர் அவர்களுடன் இறங்கி, சமமான ஒரு இடத்திலே நின்றார். அங்கே அவருடைய சீடர்கள் அநேகரும், அவருடைய உபதேசத்தைக் கேட்பதற்காகவும், தங்களுடைய வியாதிகளிலிருந்து குணமாக்கப்படுவதற்காகவும், யூதேயா மற்றும் எருசலேம் நகரங்களில் இருந்தும், தீரு சீதோன் பட்டணங்கள் இருக்கிற கடலோரத்தில் இருந்தும் அநேக மக்கள் வந்திருந்தார்கள். ¹⁸ அசுத்தஆவிகளால் வாதிக்கப்பட்டவர்களும் வந்து, ஆரோக்கியமடைந்தார்கள். ¹⁹ அவரிடத்திலிருந்து வல்லமை புறப்பட்டு எல்லோரையும் குணமாக்கினபடியினாலே, மக்கள் எல்லோரும் அவரைத் தொடுவதற்காக முயற்சிசெய்தார்கள். ²⁰ அப்பொழுது அவர் தம்முடைய சீடர்களை நோக்கிப்பார்த்து: தரித்திரர்களாகிய நீங்கள் பாக்கியவான்கள்; தேவனுடைய இராஜ்யம் உங்களுடையது. ²¹ இப்பொழுது பசியாக இருக்கிற நீங்கள் பாக்கியவான்கள்; திருப்தியடைவீர்கள். இப்பொழுது அழுகிற நீங்கள் பாக்கியவான்கள்; இனி சிரிப்பீர்கள். ²² மனிதகுமாரனைப் பின்பற்றுவதால் மக்கள் உங்களைப் பகைத்து, உங்களை நிராகரித்து, உங்களை அவமதித்து, உங்களுடைய பெயரைப் பொல்லாததென்று சொல்லி உங்களைத் தள்ளிவிடும்போது நீங்கள் பாக்கியவான்களாக இருப்பீர்கள். ²³ அந்த நாளிலே நீங்கள் சந்தோஷப்பட்டு மகிழ்ந்திருங்கள்; பரலோகத்தில் உங்களுடைய பலன் அதிகமாக இருக்கும்; அவர்களுடைய முற்பிதாக்கள் தீர்க்கதரிசிகளுக்கும் அப்படித்தான் செய்தார்கள். ²⁴ செல்வந்தர்களாகிய உங்களுக்கு ஐயோ; உங்களுடைய ஆறுதலை நீங்கள் அடைந்து விட்டீர்கள். ²⁵ திருப்தியுள்ளவர்களாக இருக்கிற உங்களுக்கு ஐயோ; நீங்கள் பசியாக இருப்பீர்கள். இப்பொழுது சிரிக்கிற உங்களுக்கு ஐயோ; இனித் துக்கப்பட்டு அழுவிீர்கள். ²⁶ எல்லா மனிதர்களும் உங்களைக்குறித்துப் புகழ்ச்சியாகப் பேசும்போது உங்களுக்கு ஐயோ; அவர்களுடைய முற்பிதாக்கள் கள்ளத்தீர்க்கதரிசிகளைக்குறித்தும் அப்படித்தான் பேசினார்கள்.

²⁷ என் வார்த்தைகளைக் கேட்கிற உங்களுக்கு நான் சொல்லுகிறேன்: உங்களுடைய பகைவர்களை நேசியுங்கள்; உங்களைப் பகைக்கிறவர்களுக்கு நன்மை செய்யுங்கள். ²⁸ உங்களைச் சபிக்கிறவர்களை ஆசீர்வதியுங்கள்; உங்களை அவமதிக்கிறவர்களுக்காக ஜெபப்பண்ணுங்கள். ²⁹ உன்னை ஒரு கன்னத்தில் அறைகிறவனுக்கு மறு கன்னத்தையும் காட்டு; உன் மேலாடையை எடுத்துக்கொள்ளுகிறவன் உன் ஆடையையும் எடுத்துக்கொள்ளத் தடைபண்ணாதே. ³⁰ உன்னிடத்தில் கேட்கிற எவனுக்கும் கொடு;

உன்னுடையதை எடுத்துக்கொள்ளுகிறவனிடத்தில் அதைத் திரும்பக் கேட்காதே. ³¹ மனிதர்கள் உங்களுக்கு எப்படிச் செய்யவேண்டுமென்று விரும்புகிறீர்களோ, அப்படியே நீங்களும் அவர்களுக்குச் செய்யுங்கள். ³² உங்களை நேசிக்கிறவர்களையே நீங்களும் நேசித்தால், உங்களுக்குப் பலன் என்ன? பாவிகளும் தங்களை நேசிக்கிறவர்களை நேசிக்கிறார்களே. ³³ உங்களுக்கு நன்மைசெய்கிறவர்களுக்கே நீங்களும் நன்மைசெய்தால், உங்களுக்குப் பலன் என்ன? பாவிகளும் அப்படிச் செய்கிறார்களே. ³⁴ திரும்பக் கொடுப்பார்கள் என்று நம்பி நீங்கள் கடன்கொடுத்தால் உங்களுக்குப் பலன் என்ன? திரும்பத் தங்களுக்குக் கொடுக்கப்படும் என்று பாவிகளும் பாவிகளுக்குக் கடன் கொடுக்கிறார்களே. ³⁵ உங்களுடைய பகைவர்களை நேசியுங்கள், நன்மை செய்யுங்கள், பிரதிபலன் எதிர்பார்க்காமல் கடன் கொடுங்கள்; அப்பொழுது உங்களுடைய பலன் அதிகமாக இருக்கும், உன்னதமானவருக்கு நீங்கள் பிள்ளைகளாக இருப்பீர்கள்; அவர் நன்றியறியாதவர்களுக்கும் துரோகிகளுக்கும் நன்மை செய்கிறாரே. ³⁶ எனவே உங்களுடைய பிதா இரக்கமுள்ளவராக இருக்கிறதுபோல, நீங்களும் இரக்கமுள்ளவர்களாக இருங்கள்.

³⁷ மற்றவர்களைக் குற்றவாளிகள் என்று சொல்லாதிருங்கள்; அப்பொழுது நீங்களும் குற்றவாளிகள் என்று சொல்லப்படாமலிருப்பீர்கள்; மற்றவர்களை தண்டனைக்குள்ளாகும்படி தீர்க்காதிருங்கள், அப்பொழுது நீங்களும் தண்டனைக்குள்ளாகத் தீர்க்கப்படாமலிருப்பீர்கள்; விடுதலைபண்ணுங்கள், அப்பொழுது நீங்களும் விடுதலைபண்ணப்படுவீர்கள். ³⁸ கொடுங்கள், அப்பொழுது உங்களுக்கும் கொடுக்கப்படும்; அமுக்கிக் குலுக்கிச் சரிந்து விழும்படி நன்றாக அளந்து, உங்களுடைய மடியிலே போடுவார்கள்; நீங்கள் எந்த அளவினால் அளக்கிறீர்களோ அந்த அளவினால் உங்களுக்கும் அளக்கப்படும் என்றார். ³⁹ பின்னும் அவர் ஒரு உவமையை அவர்களுக்குச் சொன்னார்: பார்வையற்றவனுக்கு பார்வையற்றவன் வழிகாட்ட முடியுமோ? இருவரும் பள்ளத்தில் விழுவார்கள் அல்லவா? ⁴⁰ சீடன் தன் குருவிற்கு மேலானவன் இல்லை, பயிற்சியில் முழுமையாக தேறினவன் தன் குருவைப்போல இருப்பான். ⁴¹ நீ உன் கண்ணில் இருக்கிற மரத்தைப் பார்க்காமல், உன் சகோதரன் கண்ணில் இருக்கிற துரும்பைப் பார்க்கிறது என்ன? ⁴² அல்லது நீ உன் கண்ணில் இருக்கிற மரத்தைப் பார்க்காமல், உன் சகோதரனை நோக்கி: சகோதரனே, நான் உன் கண்ணில் இருக்கிற துரும்பை எடுத்துப்போடுகிறேன் என்று நீ சொல்வது எப்படி? மாயக்காரனே! முன்பு உன் கண்ணில் இருக்கிற மரத்தை எடுத்துப்போடு, பின்பு உன் சகோதரன் கண்ணில் இருக்கிற துரும்பை எடுத்துப்போடும் வழியைப் பார்ப்பாய்.

⁴³ நல்ல மரமானது கெட்ட கனியைக் கொடுக்காது, கெட்ட மரமானது நல்ல கனியைக் கொடுக்காது. ⁴⁴ ஒவ்வொரு மரமும் அதின் கனியினால் அறியப்படும்; முட்செடிகளில் அத்திப்பழங்களைப் பறிக்கிறதில்லை, நெருஞ்சிச்செடியில் திராட்சைப்பழங்களைப் பறிக்கிறதில்லை. ⁴⁵ நல்ல மனிதன் தன் இருதயமாகிய நல்ல பொக்கிஷத்திலிருந்து நல்லதை எடுத்துக்காட்டுகிறான்; பொல்லாத மனிதன் தன் இருதயமாகிய பொல்லாத பொக்கிஷத்திலிருந்து பொல்லாததை எடுத்துக்காட்டுகிறான்; இருதயத்தின் நிறைவினால் அவனவனுடைய வாய் பேசும்.

⁴⁶ என்னை ஆண்டவரே! ஆண்டவரே! என்று நீங்கள் சொல்லியும், நான் சொல்லுகிறபடி நீங்கள் செய்யாமல் போகிறதென்ன? ⁴⁷ என்னிடத்தில் வந்து, என் வார்த்தைகளைக்கேட்டு, அதின்படி செய்கிறவன் யாருக்கு ஒப்பாக இருக்கிறான் என்று உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுவேன். ⁴⁸ ஆழமாகத் தோண்டி, கற்பாறையின்மேல் அஸ்திபாரம்போட்டு, வீடுகட்டுகிற மனிதனுக்கு ஒப்பாக இருக்கிறான்; பெருவெள்ளம் வந்து, நீரோட்டம் அந்த வீட்டின்மேல் மோதியும், அதை அசைக்க முடியாமல்போனது; ஏனென்றால், அது கன்மலையின்மேல் அஸ்திபாரம் போடப்பட்டிருந்தது. ⁴⁹ என் வார்த்தைகளைக் கேட்டும் அதின்படி செய்யாதவன் எவனோ, அவன் அஸ்திபாரமில்லாமல் மண்ணின்மேல் வீடுகட்டினவனுக்கு ஒப்பாக இருக்கிறான்; நீரோட்டம் அந்த வீட்டின்மேல் மோதினவுடனே அது விழுந்து முழுவதும் அழிந்துபோனது என்றார்.

அத்தியாயம்- 7

¹ இயேசு தம்முடைய வார்த்தையையெல்லாம் மக்கள் கேட்கும்படி சொல்லிமுடித்தபின்பு, கப்பர்நகருக்குப் போனார். ² அங்கே நூறுபேர்கொண்ட படைப்பிரிவின் அதிபதி ஒருவனுக்குப் பிரியமான வேலைக்காரன் வியாதியால் மரணவேதனைப்பட்டான். ³ அவன் இயேசுவைக்குறித்துக் கேள்விப்பட்டபோது, அவர் வந்து தன் வேலைக்காரனைக் குணமாக்கவேண்டும் என்று, அவரைக் கேட்டுக்கொள்ள யூதர்களுடைய ஆலய மூப்பர்களை அவரிடத்தில் அனுப்பினான். ⁴ அவர்கள் இயேசுவினிடத்தில் வந்து, அவரைத் தாழ்மையாக வேண்டிக்கொண்டு: நீர் அவனுக்கு இந்த தயவுசெய்கிறதற்கு அவன் தகுதி உடையவனாக இருக்கிறான். ⁵ அவன் நம்முடைய மக்களை நேசித்து, நமக்கு ஒரு ஜெப ஆலயத்தையும் கட்டினான் என்றார்கள். ⁶ அப்பொழுது இயேசு அவர்களோடு போனார். வீட்டிற்கு அருகில் சென்றபோது, அந்த படைஅதிபதி தன் நண்பரை நோக்கி: நீங்கள் இயேசுவிடம்போய், ஆண்டவரே! நீர் வருத்தப்படவேண்டாம்; நீர் என் வீட்டிற்குள் பிரவேசிக்க நான் தகுதியானவன் இல்லை; ⁷ உம்மிடத்திற்கு வர நான் என்னைத் தகுதியானவனாக நினைக்கவில்லை; ஒரு வார்த்தைமட்டும் சொல்லும், அப்பொழுது என் வேலைக்காரன் சுகம் பெறுவான். ⁸ நான் அதிகாரத்திற்குக் கீழ்ப்பட்டவனாக இருந்தாலும், எனக்குக் கீழ்ப்படிந்து நடக்கிற போர்வீரர்களும் உண்டு; நான் ஒருவனைப் போ என்றால் போகிறான், மற்றொருவனை வா என்றால் வருகிறான், என் வேலைக்காரனை, இதைச் செய் என்றால் செய்கிறான் என்று நான் சொன்னதாகச் சொல்லுங்கள் என்று அவர்களை அனுப்பினான். ⁹ இயேசு இவைகளைக் கேட்டு அவனைக்குறித்து ஆச்சரியப்பட்டு, அவருக்குப் பின்னே வருகிற மக்களைப் பார்த்து: இஸ்ரவேலரிடத்தில் இப்படிப்பட்ட விசுவாசத்தை நான் இதுவரை கண்டதில்லை என்று உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன் என்றார். ¹⁰ அனுப்பப்பட்டவர்கள் வீட்டிற்குத் திரும்பிவந்தபோது, வியாதியாகக்கிடந்த வேலைக்காரன் சுகம் பெற்றிருந்ததைக் கண்டார்கள்.

¹¹ மறுநாளிலே இயேசு நாயீன் என்னும் ஊருக்குப் போனார்; அவருடைய சீடர்களும் திரளான மக்களும் அவரோடு போனார்கள். ¹² அவர், அந்த ஊரின் தலைவாசலுக்கு அருகில் வந்தபோது, மரித்துப்போன ஒருவனை அடக்கம்பண்ணுவதற்காக கொண்டுவந்தார்கள்; அவன் தன் விதவைத் தாய்க்கு ஒரே மகனாக இருந்தான்; அந்த ஊரில் உள்ள அநேக மக்கள் அவளோடு வந்தார்கள். ¹³ இயேசு அவளைப் பார்த்து, அவள்மேல் மனமிரங்கி: அழவேண்டாம் என்று சொல்லி, ¹⁴ அருகில் வந்து, பாடையைத் தொட்டார்; அதைச் சுமந்துகொண்டுவந்தவர்கள் நின்றார்கள்; அப்பொழுது அவர்: வாலிபனே, எழுந்திரு என்று உனக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன் என்றார். ¹⁵ மரித்தவன் உயிரோடு எழுந்து உட்கார்ந்து, பேசத்தொடங்கினான். அவனை அவன் தாயாரிடம் ஒப்படைத்தார். ¹⁶ எல்லோரும் பயந்து: மகா தீர்க்கதரிசியானவர் நமக்குள்ளே தோன்றியிருக்கிறார் என்றும், தேவன் தமது மக்களைச் சந்தித்தார் என்றும் சொல்லி, தேவனை மகிமைப்படுத்தினார்கள். ¹⁷ இந்தச் செய்தி யூதேயா நாடு முழுவதும் சுற்றியிருக்கிற பகுதிகள் எல்லாவற்றிலும் பிரசித்தமானது.

¹⁸ இவைகளையெல்லாம் யோவானுடைய சீடர்கள் அவனுக்கு அறிவித்தார்கள். அப்பொழுது யோவான் தன் சீடர்களில் இரண்டுபேரை அழைத்து, ¹⁹ நீங்கள் இயேசுவினிடத்திற்குப்போய்: வருகிறவர் நீர்தானா? அல்லது வேறொருவர் வர நாங்கள் காத்திருக்கவேண்டுமா? என்று கேளுங்கள் என்று சொல்லி அனுப்பினான். ²⁰ அப்படியே அவர்கள் இயேசுவிடம் வந்து: வருகிறவர் நீர்தானா? அல்லது வேறொருவர் வர நாங்கள் காத்திருக்கவேண்டுமா? என்று கேட்கும்படி யோவான்ஸ்நானன் எங்களை உம்மிடம் அனுப்பினார் என்றார்கள். ²¹ அந்த நேரத்திலே நோய்களையும் கொடிய வியாதிகளையும் பொல்லாத ஆவிகளையும் கொண்டிருந்த அநேகரை அவர் குணமாக்கி, அநேக குருடர்களுக்குப் பார்வையளித்தார். ²² இயேசு அவர்களுக்கு மறுமொழியாக: நீங்கள் போய், பார்த்தவைகளையும் கேட்டவைகளையும் யோவானுக்கு சொல்லுங்கள்; பார்வையற்றோர் பார்வையடைகிறார்கள், சப்பாணிகள் நடக்கிறார்கள், குஷ்டரோகிகள் சுத்தமாகிறார்கள், காதுகளோதோர் கேட்கிறார்கள், மரித்தோர் உயிரோடு எழுந்திருக்கிறார்கள், தரித்திரர்களுக்கு நற்செய்தி பிரசங்கிக்கப்படுகிறது. ²³ என்னிடத்தில் என் செயல்களைக்குறித்து சந்தேகமில்லாமல் விசுவாசிக்கிறவன் எவனோ அவன் பாக்கியவான் என்றார். ²⁴ யோவானால் அனுப்பப்பட்டவர்கள் போனபின்பு அவர் யோவானைப்பற்றி மக்களுக்குச் சொன்னது என்னவென்றால்: எதைப்பார்க்க வனாந்திரத்திற்குப் போனீர்கள்? காற்றினால் அசைகின்ற புல்லையோ? ²⁵ இல்லையென்றால், எதைப்பார்க்கப் போனீர்கள்? விலையுயர்ந்த ஆடை அணிந்த மனிதனையோ? அலங்கார ஆடை அணிந்து சுகபோகமாக வாழ்கிறவர்கள் அரசருடைய மாளிகைகளிலே இருக்கிறார்கள். ²⁶ இல்லையென்றால், எதைப்பார்க்கப் போனீர்கள்? தீர்க்கதரிசியையோ? ஆம், தீர்க்கதரிசியைவிட உயர்ந்தவனையே என்று உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன். ²⁷ இதோ, நான் என் தூதுவனை உமக்கு முன்பாக அனுப்புகிறேன்; அவன் உமக்குமுன்னேபோய், உமது வழியை ஆயத்தம்பண்ணுவான் என்று எழுதிய வாக்கியத்தில் சொல்லப்பட்டவன் இவன்தான். ²⁸ பெண்களிடத்திலே பிறந்தவர்களில்

யோவான்ஸ்நானைவிட பெரிய தீர்க்கதரிசி ஒருவனும் இல்லை; ஆனாலும், தேவனுடைய ராஜ்யத்தில் சிறியவனாக இருக்கிறவன் அவனைவிட பெரியவனாக இருக்கிறான் என்று உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன் என்றார். ²⁹ யோவானுடைய உபதேசத்தைக் கேட்ட வரி வசூலிப்பவர்களும், மக்களும் அவனிடம் ஞானஸ்நானம் பெற்று, தேவன் நீதியுள்ளவர் என்று அறிக்கை செய்தார்கள். ³⁰ ஆனால், பரிசேயர்களும் நியாயப்பண்டிதர்களும் அவனிடம் ஞானஸ்நானம் பெறாமல் தேவனுடைய ஆலோசனையைத் தள்ளிவிட்டார்கள். ³¹ மறுபடியும் கர்த்தர் சொன்னது: இந்த வம்சத்தை யாருக்கு ஒப்பிடுவேன்? இவர்கள் யாருக்கு ஒப்பாக இருக்கிறார்கள்? ³² சந்தைகளில் உட்கார்ந்து, ஒருவரையொருவர் பார்த்து: உங்களுக்காக புல்லாங்குழல் ஊதினோம், நீங்கள் கூத்தாடவில்லை; உங்களுக்காகப் புலம்பினோம், நீங்கள் அழவில்லை என்று குறைசொல்லுகிற குழந்தைகளுக்கு ஒப்பாக இருக்கிறார்கள். ³³ எப்படியென்றால், யோவான்ஸ்நானன் அப்பம் புசியாதவனும் திராட்சைரசம் குடிக்காதவனுமாக வந்தான்; அதற்கு நீங்கள்: அவன் பிசாசு பிடித்திருக்கிறவன் என்கிறீர்கள். ³⁴ மனிதகுமாரன் சாப்பிட வந்தார்; அதற்கு நீங்கள்: இதோ, சாப்பாட்டுப்பிரியனும் மதுபானப்பிரியனுமான மனிதன், வரி வசூலிப்பவர்களுக்கும் பாவிசைகளுக்கும் சிநேகிதன் என்கிறீர்கள். ³⁵ ஆனாலும் ஞானமானது அதின் குழந்தைகளால் நீதியுள்ளதென்று நிரூபிக்கப்படும் என்றார்.

³⁶ பரிசேயர்களில் ஒருவன் தன்னுடனே சாப்பிடவேண்டுமென்று அவரை வேண்டிக்கொண்டான்; அவர் அந்தப் பரிசேயனுடைய வீட்டிற்குச் சென்று சாப்பிட உட்கார்ந்தார். ³⁷ அப்பொழுது அந்த ஊரிலிருந்த பாவியாகிய ஒரு பெண் அவர் பரிசேயன் வீட்டிலே உண்பதை அறிந்து, ஒரு பாத்திரத்தில் பரிமளத்தைலம் கொண்டுவந்து, ³⁸ அவருடைய பாதங்களின் அருகே நின்று அழுதுகொண்டு, அவருடைய பாதங்களைத் தன் கண்ணீரினால் நனைத்து, தன் தலைமயிரினால் துடைத்து, அவருடைய பாதங்களை முத்தம் செய்து, பரிமளத்தைலத்தைப் பூசினாள். ³⁹ அவரை அழைத்த பரிசேயன் அதை பார்த்தபோது, இவர் தீர்க்கதரிசியாக இருந்தால் தம்மைத் தொடுகிற பெண் எப்படிப்பட்டவள் என்று அறிந்திருப்பார்; இவள் பாவியாக இருக்கிறாளே என்று தனக்குள்ளே சொல்லிக்கொண்டான். ⁴⁰ இயேசு அவனை நோக்கி: சீமோனே, உனக்கு நான் ஒரு விஷயம் சொல்லவேண்டும் என்றார் அதற்கு அவன்: போதகரே, சொல்லும் என்றான். ⁴¹ அப்பொழுது அவர்: ஒருவனிடத்தில் இரண்டுபேர் கடன்பட்டிருந்தார்கள்; ஒருவன் ஐந்துநூறு வெள்ளிக்காசும், மற்றவன் ஐம்பது வெள்ளிக்காசும் கொடுக்கவேண்டியதாயிருந்தது. ⁴² வாங்கிய கடனை திரும்பக்கொடுக்க அவர்களுக்கு முடியாததால், இருவருடைய கடன்களையும் மன்னித்துவிட்டான். இப்படியிருக்க, அவர்களில் எவன் அவனிடத்தில் அதிக அன்பாக இருப்பான்? அதைச் சொல் என்றார். ⁴³ சீமோன் மறுமொழியாக: எவனுக்கு அதிகமாக மன்னித்துவிட்டானோ அவனே அதிக அன்பாக இருப்பான் என்று நினைக்கிறேன் என்றான்; அதற்கு அவர்: சரியாக நினைத்தாய் என்று சொல்லி, ⁴⁴ பெண்ணின் பக்கம் அவர் திரும்பி, சீமோனை நோக்கி: இந்தப் பெண்ணைப் பார்க்கிறாயே; நான் உன் வீட்டிற்கு வந்தேன், நீ என் கால்களைக் கழுவத் தண்ணீர் தரவில்லை, இவளோ, கண்ணீரினால் என் கால்களை நனைத்து, தன் தலைமயிரினால் அவைகளைத் துடைத்தாள். ⁴⁵ நீ என்னை முத்தம் செய்யவில்லை, இவளோ, நான் இங்கு வந்தது முதல், என் பாதங்களை ஓயாமல் முத்தம் செய்தாள். ⁴⁶ நீ என் தலையில் எண்ணெய் பூசவில்லை, இவளோ என் பாதங்களில் பரிமளத்தைலம் பூசினாள். ⁴⁷ ஆதலால் நான் உனக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன்: இவள் செய்த அநேக பாவங்கள் மன்னிக்கப்பட்டது; இவள் மிகவும் அன்புசூர்ந்தாளே. எவனுக்குக் கொஞ்சம் மன்னிக்கப்படுகிறதோ, அவன் கொஞ்சமாக அன்பு செலுத்துவான் என்று சொல்லி; ⁴⁸ அவளை நோக்கி: உன் பாவங்கள் மன்னிக்கப்பட்டது என்றார். ⁴⁹ அப்பொழுது அவரோடு சாப்பிட்டுக்கொண்டிருந்தவர்கள்: பாவங்களை மன்னிக்கிற இவன் யார் என்று தங்களுக்குள்ளே சொல்லிக்கொண்டார்கள். ⁵⁰ இயேசு அந்தப் பெண்ணைப் பார்த்து: உன் விசுவாசம் உன்னை இரட்சித்தது, சமாதானத்தோடு போ என்றார்.

அத்தியாயம்- 8

¹ பின்பு, இயேசு பட்டணங்கள்தோறும் கிராமங்கள்தோறும் பயணம்செய்து, தேவனுடைய ராஜ்யத்திற்குரிய நற்செய்தியைச் சொல்லி பிரசங்கித்து வந்தார். பன்னிரண்டு சீடர்களும் அவரோடு இருந்தார்கள். ² பொல்லாத ஆவிகளிலிருந்தும் வியாதிகளிலிருந்தும் விடுவித்து சுகமாக்கப்பட்ட சில பெண்களும், ஏழு பிசாசுகளின் தொல்லையிலிருந்து விடுதலைபெற்ற மகதலேனாள் என்னப்பட்ட மரியாளும், ³ ஏரோதின் மேலாளரான கூசாவின் மனைவியாகிய யோவன்னாளும், சூசன்னாளும், தங்களுடைய ஆஸ்திகளால் அவருக்கு ஊழியம் செய்துகொண்டுவந்த பல பெண்கள் அவரோடு இருந்தார்கள். ⁴ எல்லாப் பட்டணங்களிலுமிருந்து மக்கள்கூட்டம் அவரிடத்தில் வந்தவுடன், அவர் உவமையாகச் சொன்னது: ⁵ விதைக்கிறவன் ஒருவன் விதையை விதைக்கப் புறப்பட்டான்; அவன் விதைக்கும்போது சில விதைகள் வழியருகே விழுந்து மிதியுண்டது, ஆகாயத்துப் பறவைகள் வந்து அதைச் சாப்பிட்டுச் சென்றன. ⁶ சில விதைகள் கற்பாறையின்மேல் விழுந்தது; அது முளைத்தபின் அதற்கு ஈரமில்லாததினால் உலர்ந்துபோனது. ⁷ சில விதைகள் முள்ளுள்ள இடங்களில் விழுந்தது; முள் கூடவளர்ந்து, அதை நெருக்கிப்போட்டது. ⁸ சில விதைகள் நல்ல நிலத்தில் விழுந்தது, அது முளைத்து, ஒன்று நூறாகப் பலன் கொடுத்தது என்றார். இவைகளைச் சொல்லி, கேட்கிறதற்குக் காதுள்ளவன் கேட்கவேண்டும் என்று சத்தமிட்டுக் கூறினார். ⁹ அப்பொழுது அவருடைய சீடர்கள், இந்த உவமையின் கருத்து என்னவென்று அவரிடத்தில் கேட்டார்கள். ¹⁰ அதற்கு அவர்: தேவனுடைய ராஜ்யத்தின் இரகசியங்களை அறியும்படி உங்களுக்கு அருளப்பட்டது; மற்றவர்களுக்கோ, அவர்கள் கண்டும் காணாதவர்களாகவும், கேட்டும் உணராதவர்களாகவும் இருக்கத்தக்கதாக, அவைகள் உவமைகளாகச் சொல்லப்படுகிறது. ¹¹ அந்த உவமையின் கருத்தாவது: விதை தேவனுடைய வசனம். ¹² வழியருகே விதைக்கப்பட்டவர்கள் வசனத்தைக் கேட்கிறவர்களாக இருக்கிறார்கள்; அவர்கள் விசுவாசித்து இரட்சிக்கப்படாதபடிக்குப் பிசாசானவன் வந்து, அவ்வசனத்தை அவர்கள் இருதயத்திலிருந்து எடுத்துப்போடுகிறான். ¹³ கற்பாறையின்மேல் விதைக்கப்பட்டவர்கள் கேட்கும்போது, சந்தோஷத்துடனே வசனத்தை ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளுகிறார்கள்; ஆனாலும் தங்களுக்குள்ளே வேர்கொள்ளாதபடியினாலே, கொஞ்சக்காலமட்டும் விசுவாசித்து, சோதனைகாலத்தில் பின்வாங்கிப்போகிறார்கள். ¹⁴ முள்ளுள்ள இடங்களில் விதைக்கப்பட்டவர்கள் வசனத்தைக் கேட்கிறவர்களாக இருக்கிறார்கள்; கேட்டவுடனே போய், உலகத்திற்குரிய கவலைகளினாலும் செல்வத்தினாலும் சிற்றின்பங்களினாலும் நெருக்கப்பட்டு, பலன்கொடுக்காமல் இருக்கிறார்கள். ¹⁵ நல்ல நிலத்தில் விதைக்கப்பட்டவர்கள் வசனத்தைக்கேட்டு, அதை உண்மையும் நன்மையுமான இருதயத்திலே காத்துப் பொறுமையுடனே பலன்கொடுக்கிறவர்களாக இருக்கிறார்கள்.

¹⁶ ஒருவனும் விளக்கைக் கொளுத்தி, அதை ஒரு பாத்திரத்தினாலே மூடிவைக்கமாட்டான், கட்டிலின்கீழே வைக்கவும் மாட்டான்; உள்ளே நுழைகிறவர்கள் அதின் வெளிச்சத்தைக் காணும்படிக்கு அதை விளக்குத்தண்டின்மேல் வைப்பான். ¹⁷ வெளியரங்கமாகாத இரகசியமுமில்லை, அறியப்பட்டு வெளியேவராத மறைபொருளுமில்லை. ¹⁸ ஆதலால் நீங்கள் கேட்கிற விதத்தைக்குறித்துக் கவனியுங்கள்; உள்ளவனெவனோ அவனுக்குக் கொடுக்கப்படும்; இல்லாதவனெவனோ அவன் தனக்குண்டென்று நினைக்கிறதும் அவனிடத்திலிருந்து எடுத்துக்கொள்ளப்படும் என்றார்.

¹⁹ அப்பொழுது அவருடைய தாயாரும் சகோதரர்களும் அவரிடத்தில் வந்தார்கள் மக்கள்கூட்டம் அதிகமாக இருந்தது, ஆதலால் அவர் அருகில் செல்லமுடியாமல் இருந்தது. ²⁰ அப்பொழுது: உம்முடைய தாயாரும் உம்முடைய சகோதரர்களும் உம்மைப் பார்க்கவேண்டுமென்று வெளியே நிற்கிறார்கள் என்று அவருக்கு அறிவித்தார்கள். ²¹ அதற்கு அவர்: தேவனுடைய வசனத்தைக்கேட்டு, அதின்படி செய்கிறவர்களே எனக்குத் தாயும் எனக்குச் சகோதரர்களாக இருக்கிறார்கள் என்றார்.

²² பின்பு ஒருநாள் அவர் தமது சீடர்களோடு படகில் ஏறி: கடலின் அக்கரைக்குப் போவோம் வாருங்கள் என்றார்; அப்படியே புறப்பட்டுப்போனார்கள். ²³ படகில் பயணம்செய்துகொண்டு இருக்கும்போது இயேசு தூங்கிவிட்டார். அப்பொழுது கடலிலே சுழல் காற்றாண்டானதால், அவர்களுடைய படகு தண்ணீரினால் நிறைந்து ஆபத்து ஏற்பட்டது. ²⁴ அவர்கள் அவரிடத்தில் வந்து, ஐயரே, ஐயரே, சாகப்போகிறோம் என்று அவரை எழுப்பினார்கள்; அவர் எழுந்து, காற்றையும் தண்ணீரின் கொந்தளிப்பையும் அதட்டினார்; உடனே அவைகள் நின்றுபோய், அமைதலுண்டானது. ²⁵ அவர் அவர்களை நோக்கி: உங்களுடைய விசுவாசம் எங்கே என்றார். அவர்கள் பயந்து ஆச்சரியப்பட்டு: இவர் யாரோ, காற்றுக்கும் கடலுக்கும் கட்டளையிடுகிறார், அவைகளும் இவருக்குக் கீழ்ப்படிகிறதே என்று ஒருவரோடொருவர் சொல்லிக்கொண்டார்கள்.

26 பின்பு கலிலேயாவிற்கு எதிரான கதரேனருடைய நாட்டைச் சேர்ந்தார்கள். 27 அவர் கரையிலிறங்கினபோது, நெடுநாளாகப் பிசாசுகள் பிடித்தவனும், ஆடையணியாதவனும், வீட்டில் தங்காமல் கல்லறைகளிலே தங்கினவனுமாக இருந்த அந்தப் பட்டணத்து மனிதன் ஒருவன் அவருக்கு எதிராகவந்தான். 28 அவன் இயேசுவைக் கண்டபோது கூக்குரலிட்டு, அவருக்கு முன்பாக விழுந்து: இயேசுவே, உன்னதமான தேவனுடைய குமாரனே, எனக்கும் உமக்கும் என்ன? என்னை வேதனைப்படுத்தாதபடிக்கு உம்மை வேண்டிக்கொள்ளுகிறேன் என்று மகா சத்தமாகச் சொன்னான். 29 அந்த அசுத்தஆவி அவனைவிட்டுப்போகும்படி இயேசு கட்டளையிட்டபடியினாலே அப்படிச் சொன்னான். அந்த அசுத்தஆவி பலகாலமாக அவனைப் பிடித்திருந்தது; அவன் சங்கிலிகளினாலும் விலங்குகளினாலும் கட்டுண்டு காவல்பண்ணப்பட்டிருந்தும் கட்டுகளை முறித்துப்போட்டுப் பிசாசினால் வனாந்திரங்களுக்குத் துரத்தப்பட்டிருந்தான். 30 இயேசு அவனை நோக்கி: உன் பெயர் என்னவென்று கேட்டார்; அதற்கு அவன்: லேகியோன் என்றான்; அநேகம் பிசாசுகள் அவனுக்குள் புகுந்திருந்தபடியால் அந்தப் பெயரைச் சொன்னான். 31 தங்களைப் பாதாளத்திலே போகக் கட்டளையிடாதபடிக்கு அவைகள் அவரை வேண்டிக்கொண்டன. 32 அந்த இடத்தில் அநேகம் பன்றிகள் கூட்டமாக மலையிலே மேய்ந்துகொண்டிருந்தது. அந்தப் பன்றிகளுக்குள் போகும்படி தங்களுக்கு உத்தரவு கொடுக்கவேண்டும் என்று அவரை வேண்டிக்கொண்டன; அவைகளுக்கு உத்தரவு கொடுத்தார். 33 அப்படியே பிசாசுகள் அந்த மனிதனைவிட்டு நீங்கி பன்றிகளுக்குள் புகுந்தன; அப்பொழுது அந்தப் பன்றிக்கூட்டம் உயர்ந்த மேட்டிலிருந்து கடலிலே பாய்ந்து, அமிழ்ந்து மரித்தன. 34 அவைகளை மேய்த்தவர்கள் சம்பவித்ததைக் கண்டு, ஓடிப்போய், பட்டணத்திலும் சுற்றுப்புறங்களிலும் அறிவித்தார்கள். 35 அப்பொழுது சம்பவித்ததைப் பார்க்கும்படி மக்கள் புறப்பட்டு, இயேசுவினிடத்தில் வந்து, பிசாசுகள் விட்டுப்போன மனிதன் ஆடை அணிந்து இயேசுவின் பாதத்தருகே உட்கார்ந்து புத்திதெளிந்திருக்கிறதைக் கண்டு, பயந்தார்கள். 36 பிசாசுகள் பிடித்திருந்தவன் சுகமாக்கப்பட்டதைக் கண்டவர்களும் அதை அவர்களுக்கு அறிவித்தார்கள். 37 அப்பொழுது கதரேனருடைய சுற்றுப்புறத்திலுள்ள மக்கள் எல்லோரும் மிகவும் பயமடைந்தபடியினாலே, தங்களைவிட்டுப்போகும்படி அவரை வேண்டிக்கொண்டார்கள். அந்தப்படி அவர் படகில் ஏறி, திரும்பிப்போனார். 38 பிசாசுகள் நீங்கின மனிதன் அவரோடுகூட இருக்கும்படி உத்தரவு கேட்டான். 39 இயேசு அவனை நோக்கி: நீ உன் வீட்டிற்குத் திரும்பிப்போய், தேவன் உனக்குச் செய்தவைகளையெல்லாம் சொல் என்று சொல்லி, அவனை அனுப்பிவிட்டார். அந்தப்படி அவன்போய், இயேசு தனக்குச் செய்தவைகளையெல்லாம் பட்டணத்தில் எங்கும் சொல்லிப் பிரசித்தப்படுத்தினான்.

40 இயேசு திரும்பிவந்தபோது மக்களெல்லோரும் அவருக்காகக் காத்திருந்தபடியால் அவரை சந்தோஷமாக ஏற்றுக்கொண்டார்கள். 41 அப்பொழுது ஜெப ஆலயத்தலைவனாகிய யவீரு என்னும் பெயருள்ள ஒருவன் இயேசுவின் பாதத்தில் விழுந்து, பன்னிரண்டு வயதுள்ள தன்னுடைய ஒரே மகள் மரணவேதனையில் இருந்தபடியால், 42 தன் வீட்டிற்கு வரும்படி அவரை வேண்டிக்கொண்டான். அவர் போகும்பொழுது மக்கள்கூட்டம் அவரை நெருக்கினார்கள். 43 அப்பொழுது பன்னிரண்டு வருடமாக இரத்தப்போக்கினால் அவதிப்பட்டு, தன் சொத்துக்களையெல்லாம் வைத்தியர்களுக்குச் செலவழித்தும், ஒருவனாலும் சுகமாக்கப்படாமலிருந்த ஒரு பெண், 44 அவருக்குப் பின்னாக வந்து, அவருடைய ஆடையின் ஓரத்தைத் தொட்டாள்; உடனே அவளுடைய இரத்தப்போக்கு நின்றுபோனது. 45 அப்பொழுது இயேசு: என்னைத் தொட்டது யார் என்று கேட்டார். எங்களுக்குத் தெரியாதென்று எல்லோரும் சொன்னபோது, பேதுருவும் அவனுடனேகூட இருந்தவர்களும்: ஐயரே, மக்கள்கூட்டம் உம்மைச் சூழ்ந்து நெருக்கிக்கொண்டிருக்கிறார்களே, என்னைத் தொட்டது யார் என்று எப்படிக் கேட்கிறீர் என்றார்கள். 46 அதற்கு இயேசு: என்னிலிருந்து வல்லமை புறப்பட்டதை அறிந்திருக்கிறேன்; ஆதலால் ஒருவர் என்னைத் தொட்டதுண்டு என்றார். 47 அப்பொழுது அந்த பெண் தான் மறைந்திருக்கவில்லை என்று கண்டு, நடுங்கிவந்து, அவர் முன்பாக விழுந்து, தான் அவரைத் தொட்ட காரணத்தையும் உடனே தான் சுகமானதையும் எல்லா மக்களுக்கும் முன்பாக அவருக்கு அறிவித்தாள். 48 அவர் அவளைப் பார்த்து: மகளே, திடன்கொள், உன் விசுவாசம் உன்னை இரட்சித்தது, சமாதானத்தோடு போ என்றார். 49 அவர் இப்படிப் பேசிக்கொண்டிருக்கும்போது, ஜெப ஆலயத்தலைவனுடைய வீட்டிலிருந்து ஒருவன் வந்து, அவனை நோக்கி: உம்முடைய மகள் மரித்துப்போனாள், போதகரை வருத்தப்படுத்தவேண்டாம் என்றான். 50 இயேசு அதைக்கேட்டு: பயப்படாதே; விசுவாசமுள்ளவனாக இரு, அப்பொழுது அவள் இரட்சிக்கப்படுவாள் என்றார். 51 அவர் வீட்டில் வந்தபோது, பேதுருவையும் யாக்கோபையும் யோவானையும் பெண்ணின் தகப்பனையும் தாயையும்தவிர வேறொருவரையும் உள்ளே வர அனுமதிக்காமல், 52 எல்லோரும் அழுது அவளைக்குறித்துத் துக்கப்படுகிறதைக் கண்டு: அழாதேயுங்கள், அவள் மரித்துப்போகவில்லை, தூங்கிக்கொண்டு இருக்கிறாள் என்றார். 53 அவள் மரித்துப்போனாளென்று அவர்களுக்கு தெரிந்ததினால், அவரைப் பார்த்து நகைத்தார்கள். 54 எல்லோரையும் அவர் வெளியே அனுப்பிவிட்டு, அவளுடைய கையைப் பிடித்து: பிள்ளையே எழுந்திரு என்றார். 55 அப்பொழுது அவள் உயிர் திரும்பவந்தது; உடனே அவள் எழுந்திருந்தாள்; அவளுக்கு ஆகாரம்

கொடுங்கள் என்றார். ⁵⁶ அவளுடைய தாயும் தகப்பனும் ஆச்சரியப்பட்டார்கள். அப்பொழுது நடந்ததை ஒருவருக்கும் சொல்லவேண்டாம் என்று அவர்களுக்குக் கட்டளையிட்டார்.

அத்தியாயம்- 9

¹ அவர் தம்முடைய பன்னிரண்டு சீடர்களையும் வரவழைத்து, எல்லாப் பிசாசுகளைத் துரத்தவும், வியாதியுள்ளவர்களைக் குணமாக்கவும், அவர்களுக்கு வல்லமையும் அதிகாரமும் கொடுத்து, ² தேவனுடைய ராஜ்யத்தைக்குறித்துப் பிரசங்கிக்கவும், நோயாளிகளை குணமாக்கவும் அவர்களை அனுப்பினார். ³ அப்பொழுது அவர் அவர்களை நோக்கி: பயணத்தின்போது தடியையோ பையையோ அப்பத்தையோ பணத்தையோ எடுத்துக்கொண்டு போகவேண்டாம்; இரண்டு உடைகளைக் கொண்டுபோகவும் வேண்டாம் என்றார். ⁴ எந்த வீட்டிற்கு சென்றாலும், அங்கிருந்து புறப்படும்வரை அங்கே தங்கியிருங்கள். ⁵ உங்களை ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளாதவர்களுடைய ஊரைவிட்டு நீங்கள் புறப்படும்போது, அவர்கள் உங்களை ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளாததற்கு சாட்சியாக உங்களுடைய கால்களில் படிந்துள்ள தூசியை உதறிப்போடுங்கள் என்றார். ⁶ அவர்கள் புறப்பட்டுப்போய், கிராமம் கிராமமாகச் சென்று நற்செய்தியைப் பிரசங்கித்து, நோயாளிகளைக் குணமாக்கினார்கள். ⁷ அப்பொழுது காற்பங்கு தேசாதிபதியாகிய ஏரோது அவரால் செய்யப்பட்ட எல்லாவற்றையும் கேள்விப்பட்டதுமட்டுமல்லாமல்; சிலர் யோவான் மரித்தோரிலிருந்து உயிரோடு எழுந்தான் என்றும், ⁸ சிலர் எலியா தோன்றினான் என்றும், வேறுசிலர் பூர்வகாலத்துத் தீர்க்கதரிசிகளில் ஒருவன் உயிர்த்தெழுந்தான் என்றும் சொல்லிக்கொண்டபடியால், கலக்கமடைந்து: ⁹ யோவானை நான் சிரச்சேதம்பண்ணினேன், இவன் இப்படிப்பட்டவைகளைச் செய்கிறான் என்று கேள்விப்படுகிறேனே! இவன் யார்? என்று ஏரோது சொல்லி, அவரைப் பார்க்க விரும்பினான்.

¹⁰ அப்போஸ்தலர்கள் திரும்பிவந்து, தாங்கள் செய்த எல்லாவற்றையும் அவருக்கு விளக்கிச் சொன்னார்கள். அப்பொழுது அவர் அவர்களைக் கூட்டிக்கொண்டு, தனிமையாக இருக்கும்படி பெத்சாயிதா என்னும் பட்டணத்தின் வனாந்திரமான ஒரு இடத்திற்குப் போனார். ¹¹ மக்கள் அதை அறிந்து, அவர் பின்னால் போனார்கள்; அவர்களை அவர் ஏற்றுக்கொண்டு, தேவனுடைய இராஜ்யத்தைக்குறித்து அவர்களோடு பேசி, சுகமடையவேண்டும் என்றிருந்தவர்களைச் சுகப்படுத்தினார். ¹² மாலைநேரத்தில், பன்னிரண்டுபேரும், அவரை நோக்கி: நாம் இருக்கிற இடம் வனாந்திரமாக இருப்பதினால், மக்கள், சுற்றியிருக்கிற ஊர்களிலும் கிராமங்களிலும்போய்த் தங்குவதற்கும், உணவுப்பொருள்களை வாங்கிக்கொள்வதற்கும் அவர்களை அனுப்பிவிடவேண்டும் என்றார்கள். ¹³ இயேசு, அவர்களை நோக்கி: நீங்களே அவர்களுக்கு உணவைக் கொடுங்கள் என்றார். அதற்கு அவர்கள்: எங்களிடம் ஐந்து அப்பங்களும் இரண்டு மீன்கள்மட்டுமே இருக்கிறது, இந்த மக்கள் எல்லோருக்கும் உணவு கொடுக்கவேண்டுமானால், நாங்கள்போய் வாங்கிக்கொண்டு வரவேண்டும் என்றார்கள். ¹⁴ அங்கு ஏறக்குறைய ஐயாயிரம் ஆண்கள் இருந்தார்கள். அவர்களைப் பந்திக்கு ஜம்பது ஜம்பதுபேராக உட்காரும்படிச் சொல்லுங்கள் என்று தம்முடைய சீடர்களுக்குச் சொன்னார். ¹⁵ அவர்கள் அப்படியே எல்லோரையும் உட்காரும்படிச் செய்தார்கள். ¹⁶ அப்பொழுது அவர் அந்த ஐந்து அப்பங்களையும் அந்த இரண்டு மீன்களையும் எடுத்து, வானத்தை அண்ணாந்துபார்த்து, அவைகளை ஆசீர்வதித்து, பிட்டு, மக்களுக்கு பகிர்ந்துகொடுக்கும்படி சீடர்களிடத்தில் கொடுத்தார். ¹⁷ எல்லோரும் சாப்பிட்டுத் திருப்தியடைந்தார்கள். மீதியான உணவுப்பொருட்கள் பன்னிரண்டு கூடைகள்நிறைய எடுக்கப்பட்டது.

¹⁸ பின்பு அவர் தமது சீடர்களோடு தனித்து ஜெபம்பண்ணிக்கொண்டிருக்கும்போது, அவர்களை நோக்கி: மக்கள் என்னை யார் என்று சொல்லுகிறார்கள் என்று கேட்டார். ¹⁹ அதற்கு அவர்கள்: சிலர் உம்மை யோவான்ஸ்நானன் என்றும், சிலர் எலியா என்றும், வேறுசிலர் பூர்வகாலத்துத் தீர்க்கதரிசிகளில் ஒருவர் உயிர்த்தெழுந்துள்ளார் என்றும் சொல்லுகிறார்கள் என்றார்கள். ²⁰ அப்பொழுது அவர்: நீங்கள் என்னை யார் என்று சொல்லுகிறீர்கள் என்று கேட்டார்; பேதுரு மறுமொழியாக: நீர் தேவனுடைய கிறிஸ்து என்றான். ²¹ அப்பொழுது அவர், நீங்கள் இதை ஒருவருக்கும் சொல்லவேண்டாம் என்று உறுதியாகக் கட்டளையிட்டார். ²² மேலும் மனிதகுமாரன் பல பாடுகள் படவும், மூப்பர்களாலும் பிரதான ஆசாரியர்களாலும் வேதபண்டிதர்களாலும் ஆகாதவன் என்று தள்ளப்படவும், கொல்லப்படவும், மூன்றாம்நாளில் உயிரோடு எழுந்திருக்கவும் வேண்டும் என்று சொன்னார். ²³ பின்பு அவர் எல்லோரையும் நோக்கி: ஒருவன் என்னைப் பின்பற்றிவரவிரும்பினால் அவன் தன்னைத்தானே வெறுத்து, தன் சிலுவையை அநுதினமும் எடுத்துக்கொண்டு, என்னைப் பின்பற்றவேண்டும். ²⁴ தன் ஜீவனை இரட்சிக்க விரும்புகிறவன் அதை இழந்துபோவான்; எனக்காகத் தன் ஜீவனை இழந்துபோகிறவன் அதை இரட்சித்துக்கொள்ளுவான். ²⁵ மனிதன் உலகம் முழுவதையும் ஆதாயப்படுத்திக்கொண்டாலும், தன்னைத்தானே கெடுத்து நஷ்டப்படுத்திக்கொண்டால் அவனுக்கு லாபம் என்ன? ²⁶ என்னைக்குறித்தும் என் வார்த்தைகளைக்குறித்தும் எவன் வெட்கப்படுகிறானோ, அவனைக்குறித்து மனிதகுமாரனும் தம்முடைய மகிமையோடும் பிதாவின் மகிமையோடும் பரிசுத்த தூதர்களின் மகிமையோடும் வரும்போது

வெட்கப்படுவார். ²⁷ இங்கே நிற்கிறவர்களில் சிலர் தேவனுடைய ராஜ்யத்தைக் காணும் முன்னே, மரணத்தை ருசிபார்ப்பதில்லை என்று நிச்சயமாகவே உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன் என்றார்.

²⁸ இந்த வார்த்தைகளை அவர் சொல்லி ஏறக்குறைய எட்டு நாட்களுக்குப்பின்பு, அவர் பேதுருவையும் யோவானையும் யாக்கோபையும் கூட்டிக்கொண்டு, ஜெபம்பண்ணுகிறதற்கு ஒரு மலையின்மேல் ஏறினார். ²⁹ அவர் ஜெபம்பண்ணும்போது அவருடைய முகத்தின் ரூபம் மாறியது, அவருடைய ஆடை வெண்மையாகப் பிரகாசித்தது. ³⁰ அன்றியும் மோசே எலியா ஆகிய இரண்டுபேரும் மகிமையோடு காணப்பட்டு, அவரோடு பேசிக்கொண்டிருந்தார்கள், ³¹ அவர்கள் எருசலேமில் நிறைவேற்றப்போகிற அவருடைய மரணத்தைக்குறித்துப் பேசிக்கொண்டிருந்தார்கள். ³² பேதுருவும் அவனோடிருந்தவர்களும் தூக்கமயக்கமாக இருந்தார்கள். ஆனாலும் அவர்கள் விழித்து அவருடைய மகிமையையும் அவரோடு நின்ற அவ்விரண்டு பேரையும் கண்டார்கள். ³³ அவ்விருவரும் அவரைவிட்டுப் பிரிந்து போகும்போது, பேதுரு இயேசுவை நோக்கி: ஐயரே, நாம் இங்கே இருக்கிறது நல்லது, உமக்கு ஒரு கூடாரமும், மோசேக்கு ஒரு கூடாரமும், எலியாவிற்கு ஒரு கூடாரமுமாக, மூன்று கூடாரங்களைப் போடுவோம் என்று, தான் சொல்லுகிறது என்னவென்று தெரியாமல் சொன்னான். ³⁴ இப்படி அவன் பேசும்போது, ஒரு மேகம் வந்து அவர்களை மூடினது; எனவே அவருடைய சீடர்கள் பயந்தார்கள். ³⁵ அப்பொழுது: இவர் நான் தெரிந்துகொண்ட என்னுடைய நேசகுமாரன், இவருக்குச் செவிகொடுங்கள் என்று மேகத்திலிருந்து ஒரு சத்தம் உண்டானது. ³⁶ அந்தச் சத்தம் உண்டானபோது இயேசு ஒருவரே காணப்பட்டார். தாங்கள் கண்டவைகளில் ஒன்றையும் அவர்கள் ஒருவருக்கும் சொல்லாமல் இருந்தார்கள்.

³⁷ மறுநாளில் அவர்கள் மலையிலிருந்து இறங்கினபோது, மக்கள்கூட்டம் அவரை சந்திக்க அவரிடம் வந்தார்கள். ³⁸ அவர்களில் ஒருவன் சத்தமிட்டு: போதகரே, என் மகனுக்கு உதவி செய்யவேண்டுமென்று உம்மை வேண்டிக்கொள்ளுகிறேன், அவன் எனக்கு ஒரே பிள்ளையாக இருக்கிறான். ³⁹ சில நேரங்களில், ஒரு அசுத்தஆவி அவனை அலைக்கழிப்பதினால், அவன் அலறி வாயில் நுரைதள்ளுகிறான். அது அவனைக் காயப்படுத்தி, அதிக போராட்டத்திற்குப்பின்பு அவனைவிட்டு நீங்குகிறது. ⁴⁰ அதைத் துரத்திவிடும்படி உம்முடைய சீடர்களை வேண்டிக்கொண்டேன், அவர்களால் முடியவில்லை என்றான். ⁴¹ இயேசு மறுமொழியாக: விசுவாசமில்லாத மாறுபாடான வம்சமே, எதுவரைக்கும் நான் உங்களோடிருந்து, உங்களிடம் பொறுமையாக இருப்பேன்? உன் மகனை இங்கே கொண்டுவா என்றார். ⁴² அவன் அருகில் வரும்போது, பிசாசு அவனைக் கீழேத் தள்ளி, அலைக்கழித்தது. இயேசு அந்த அசுத்தஆவியை அதட்டி, இளைஞனைக் குணமாக்கி, அவன் தகப்பனிடத்தில் அவனை ஒப்புக்கொடுத்தார். ⁴³ அப்பொழுது எல்லோரும் தேவனுடைய மகத்துவத்தைக்குறித்து ஆச்சரியப்பட்டார்கள். இயேசு செய்த எல்லாவற்றையும்குறித்து அனைவரும் ஆச்சரியப்படும்போது அவர் தம்முடைய சீடர்களை நோக்கி: ⁴⁴ நீங்கள் இந்த வார்த்தைகளைக் கவனமாகக் கேளுங்கள்; மனிதகுமாரன் மனிதர்கள் கைகளில் ஒப்புக்கொடுக்கப்படப்போகிறார் என்றார். ⁴⁵ அவர்கள் அந்த வார்த்தையின் கருத்தை புரிந்துகொள்ளவில்லை; அது அவர்களுக்கு மறைபொருளாக இருந்தது; அந்த வார்த்தையைக்குறித்து அவரிடத்தில் விசாரிக்கவும் அவர்கள் பயந்தார்கள்.

⁴⁶ பின்பு தங்களுக்குள் யார் பெரியவனாக இருப்பான் என்கிற வாக்குவாதம் அவர்களுக்குள் உண்டானது.

⁴⁷ இயேசு அவர்கள் இருதயத்தின் யோசனையை அறிந்து, ஒரு சிறுபிள்ளையை எடுத்து, அதைத் தம் அருகில் நிறுத்தி, ⁴⁸ அவர்களை நோக்கி: இந்தச் சிறுபிள்ளையை என் நாமத்தினாலே ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளுகிறவன் என்னை ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளுகிறான்; என்னை ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளுகிறவன் என்னை அனுப்பினவரை ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளுகிறான்; உங்கள் எல்லோருக்குள்ளும் எவன் சிறியவனாக இருக்கிறானோ அவனே பெரியவனாக இருப்பான் என்றார். ⁴⁹ அப்பொழுது யோவான் அவரை நோக்கி: ஐயரே, ஒருவன் உம்முடைய நாமத்தினாலே பிசாசுகளைத் துரத்துகிறதை நாங்கள் கண்டு, அவன் எங்களோடுகூட உம்மைப் பின்பற்றாததினால், அவனைத் தடுத்தோம் என்றான். ⁵⁰ அதற்கு இயேசு: தடுக்கவேண்டாம்; நமக்கு விரோதியாக இல்லாதவன் நமது பட்சத்தில் இருக்கிறான் என்றார்.

⁵¹ பின்பு, அவர் பரலோகத்திற்கு எடுத்துக்கொள்ளப்படும் நாட்கள் நெருங்கி வந்தபோது, அவர் எருசலேமுக்குப் போகப்பார்த்து, ⁵² தமக்கு முன்னாகத் தூதுவர்களை அனுப்பினார். அவர்கள்போய், அவருக்கு இடத்தை ஆயத்தம்பண்ணும்படி சமாரியருடைய ஒரு கிராமத்திலே பிரவேசித்தார்கள். ⁵³ அவர் எருசலேமுக்குப்போக விரும்பினபடியால் அந்த கிராமத்து மக்கள் அவரை ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளவில்லை. ⁵⁴ அவருடைய சீடர்களாகிய யாக்கோபும் யோவானும் அதைக் கண்டபோது: ஆண்டவரே, எலியா செய்ததுபோல, வானத்திலிருந்து அக்கினி இறங்கி இவர்களை அழிக்கும்படி நாங்கள் கட்டளையிட உமக்கு விருப்பமா? என்று கேட்டார்கள். ⁵⁵ அவர் திரும்பிப்பார்த்து: அவர்களைக் கடிந்துகொண்டு, ⁵⁶ மனிதகுமாரன் மனிதர்களுடைய ஜீவனை அழிப்பதற்காக அல்ல, இரட்சிப்பதற்காகவே வந்தார் என்றார். அதன்பின்பு அவர்கள் வேறொரு கிராமத்திற்குப் போனார்கள்.

⁵⁷ அவர்கள் வழியிலே போகும்போது ஒருவன் அவரை நோக்கி: ஆண்டவரே, நீர் எங்கே போனாலும் நான் உம்மைப் பின்பற்றி வருவேன் என்றான். ⁵⁸ அதற்கு இயேசு: நரிகளுக்குக் குழிகளும் ஆகாயத்துப் பறவைகளுக்குக் கூடுகளும் உண்டு, மனிதகுமாரனுக்கோ தலை சாய்க்கவும் இடமில்லை என்றார். ⁵⁹ வேறொருவனை அவர் நோக்கி: என்னைப் பின்பற்றிவா என்றார். அதற்கு அவன்: ஆண்டவரே, முதலில் நான் போய் என் தகப்பனை அடக்கம்பண்ண என்னை அனுப்பவேண்டும் என்றான். ⁶⁰ அதற்கு இயேசு: மரித்தோர் தங்களுடைய மரித்தோரை அடக்கம்பண்ணட்டும்; நீ போய், தேவனுடைய ராஜ்யத்தைக்குறித்துப் பிரசங்கம்பண்ணு என்றார். ⁶¹ பின்பு வேறு ஒருவன் அவரை நோக்கி: ஆண்டவரே, உம்மைப் பின்பற்றுவேன், ஆனாலும் முதலில் நான் போய் வீட்டில் உள்ளவர்களிடம் சொல்லிவிட்டு வரும்படி என்னை அனுமதிக்கவேண்டும் என்றான். ⁶² அதற்கு இயேசு: கலப்பையின்மேல் தன் கையை வைத்துவிட்டு பின்னோக்கிப் பார்க்கிற எவனும் தேவனுடைய ராஜ்யத்திற்குத் தகுதியுள்ளவன் இல்லை என்றார்.

அத்தியாயம்- 10

¹ இவைகளுக்குப் பின்பு கர்த்தர் வேறு எழுபதுபேரை நியமித்து, தாம் போகும் எல்லாப் பட்டணங்களுக்கும் இடங்களுக்கும் அவர்களைத் தமக்குமுன்பாக இரண்டு இரண்டுபேராக அனுப்பினார். ² அப்பொழுது அவர் அவர்களை நோக்கி: அறுப்பு மிகுதி, வேலையாட்களோ குறைவு; ஆகவே, அறுப்புக்கு எஜமான் தமது வேலையாட்களை அனுப்பும்படி அவரை வேண்டிக்கொள்ளுங்கள். ³ புறப்பட்டுப்போங்கள்; ஆட்டுக்குட்டிகளை ஓநாய்களுக்குள்ளே அனுப்புகிறதுபோல, இதோ, நான் உங்களை அனுப்புகிறேன். ⁴ பண்ப்பையையும் பயண்ப்பையையும் காலணிகளையும் கொண்டுபோக வேண்டாம்; வழியிலே ஒருவரையும் வாழ்த்திப் பேசவும் வேண்டாம். ⁵ ஒரு வீட்டில் பிரவேசிக்கும்போது: இந்த வீட்டிற்குச் சமாதானம் உண்டாவதாக என்று முதலாவது சொல்லுங்கள். ⁶ சமாதானத்திற்கு தகுதியானவன் அங்கே இருந்தால், நீங்கள் கூறின சமாதானம் அவனிடத்தில் தங்கும், இல்லாதிருந்தால் அது உங்களிடத்திற்குத் திரும்பிவரும். ⁷ அந்த வீட்டிலேதானே நீங்கள் தங்கியிருந்து, அவர்கள் கொடுக்கிறவைகளைச் சாப்பிட்டுக் குடியுங்கள்; வேலையாள் தன் கூலிக்கு தகுதியுடையவனாக இருக்கிறான். வீட்டிற்குவீடு போகாதீர்கள். ⁸ ஒரு பட்டணத்தில் நீங்கள் பிரவேசிக்கும்போது, மக்கள் உங்களை ஏற்றுக்கொண்டால் அவர்கள் உங்கள்முன் வைக்கிறவைகளை நீங்கள் சாப்பிட்டு, ⁹ அந்த இடத்திலுள்ள நோயாளிகளைச் சுகமாக்கி: தேவனுடைய ராஜ்யம் உங்களுக்கு அருகில் வந்திருக்கிறது என்று அவர்களுக்குச் சொல்லுங்கள். ¹⁰ எந்தவொரு பட்டணத்திலும் நீங்கள் பிரவேசிக்கும்போது, மக்கள் உங்களை ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளாவிட்டால் அதின் வீதிகளிலே நீங்கள் போய்: ¹¹ எங்களின் பாதத்தில் ஒட்டியுள்ள உங்களுடைய பட்டணத்தின் தூசியையும் உங்களுக்கு விரோதமாகத் துடைத்துப்போடுகிறோம்; ஆனாலும் தேவனுடைய ராஜ்யம் உங்களுக்கு அருகில் வந்திருக்கிறதென்பதை அறிந்துகொள்வீர்களாக என்று சொல்லுங்கள். ¹² அந்தப் பட்டணத்திற்கு சம்பவிப்பதைவிட அந்த நாளிலே சோதோம் பட்டணத்திற்கு சம்பவிப்பது இலகுவாக இருக்கும் என்று உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன். ¹³ கோராசீன் பட்டணமே, உனக்கு ஐயோ, பெத்சாயிதா பட்டணமே, உனக்கு ஐயோ, உங்களில் செய்யப்பட்ட பலத்த செய்கைகள் தீருவிலும் சீதோனிலும் செய்யப்பட்டிருந்தால், அப்பொழுதே சணல் ஆடைகளை அணிந்து, சாம்பலில் உட்கார்ந்து, மனந்திரும்பியிருப்பார்கள். ¹⁴ நியாயத்தீர்ப்புநாளில் உங்களுக்கு சம்பவிப்பதைவிட, தீருவிற்கும் சீதோனுக்கும் சம்பவிப்பது இலகுவாக இருக்கும். ¹⁵ வானம்வரை உயர்த்தப்பட்ட கப்பர்நகூமே, நீ பாதாளம்வரை தாழ்த்தப்படுவாய் என்று சொல்லி, ¹⁶ சீடர்களை நோக்கி: உங்களுக்குச் செவிகொடுக்கிறவன் எனக்குச் செவிகொடுக்கிறான், உங்களை அசட்டைபண்ணுகிறவன் என்னை அசட்டைபண்ணுகிறான், என்னை அசட்டைபண்ணுகிறவன் என்னை அனுப்பினவரை அசட்டைப்பண்ணுகிறான் என்றார். ¹⁷ பின்பு அந்த எழுபதுபேரும் சந்தோஷத்தோடு திரும்பிவந்து: ஆண்டவரே, உம்முடைய நாமத்தினாலே பிசாசுகளும் எங்களுக்குக் கீழ்ப்படிகிறது என்றார்கள். ¹⁸ அவர்களை அவர் நோக்கி: சாத்தான் மின்னலைப்போல வானத்திலிருந்து விழுகிறதைக் கண்டேன். ¹⁹ இதோ, பாம்புகளையும், தேள்களையும் மிதிக்கவும், சத்துருவினுடைய எல்லா வல்லமையையும் மேற்கொள்ளவும் உங்களுக்கு அதிகாரம் கொடுக்கிறேன்; ஒன்றும் உங்களைச் சேதப்படுத்தாது. ²⁰ ஆனாலும் ஆவிகள் உங்களுக்குக் கீழ்ப்படிகிறதற்காக நீங்கள் சந்தோஷப்படாமல், உங்களுடைய பெயர்கள் பரலோகத்தில் எழுதியிருக்கிறதற்காகச் சந்தோஷப்படுங்கள் என்றார். ²¹ அந்தநேரத்தில் இயேசு ஆவியிலே களிகூர்ந்து: பிதாவே! வானத்திற்கும் பூமிக்கும் ஆண்டவரே! இவைகளை நீர் ஞானிகளுக்கும் கல்விமான்களுக்கும் மறைத்து, சிறுவர்களுக்கு வெளிப்படுத்தினபடியால் உம்மை ஸ்தோத்திரிக்கிறேன்; ஆம், பிதாவே! இப்படிச்செய்வது உம்முடைய உயர்ந்த உள்ளத்திற்குப் பிரியமாக இருந்தது. ²² சகலமும் என் பிதாவினால் எனக்கு ஒப்புக்கொடுக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது; பிதாவிர வேறொருவனும் குமாரன் இன்னாரென்று அறியான், குமாரனும், குமாரன் அவரை எவனுக்கு வெளிப்படுத்த விருப்பமாக இருக்கிறாரோ அவனைத்தவிர, வேறொருவனும் பிதா இன்னாரென்று அறியான் என்றார். ²³ பின்பு தமது சீடரிடத்தில் திரும்பி, தனித்து அவர்களை நோக்கி: நீங்கள் காண்கிறவைகளைக் காணும் கண்கள் பாக்கியமுள்ளவைகள். ²⁴ அநேக தீர்க்கதரிசிகளும் ராஜாக்களும் நீங்கள் காண்கிறவைகளைக் காணவும், நீங்கள் கேட்கிறவைகளைக் கேட்கவும் விரும்பியும், காணாமலும் கேளாமலும் போனார்கள் என்று உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன் என்றார்.

²⁵ அப்பொழுது நியாயப்பண்டிதன் ஒருவன் எழுந்திருந்து, அவரைச் சோதிக்கும்படி: போதகரே, நித்தியஜீவனைச் சுதந்தரித்துக்கொள்ளும்படிக்கு நான் என்னசெய்யவேண்டும் என்று கேட்டான். ²⁶ அதற்கு அவர்: நியாயப்பிரமாணத்தில் என்ன எழுதியிருக்கிறது? நீ வாசித்திருக்கிறது என்ன என்றார். ²⁷ அவன் மறுமொழியாக: உன் தேவனாகிய கர்த்தரிடத்தில் உன் முழு இருதயத்தோடும் உன் முழு ஆத்துமாவோடும் உன் முழு பலத்தோடும் உன் முழு சிந்தையோடும் அன்புகூர்ந்து, உன்னிடத்தில் அன்புசெலுத்துவதுபோல அயலகத்தானிடத்திலும் அன்புசெலுத்துவாயாக என்று எழுதியிருக்கிறது என்றான். ²⁸ அவர் அவனை நோக்கி: சரியாக பதில் சொன்னாய்; அப்படியே செய், அப்பொழுது

பிழைப்பாய் என்றார். ²⁹ அவன் தன்னை நீதிமான் என்று காண்பிக்க மனதாக இயேசுவை நோக்கி: எனக்கு அயலான் யார் என்று கேட்டான்.

³⁰ இயேசு மறுமொழியாக: ஒரு மனிதன் எருசலேமிலிருந்து எரிகோவிற்குப் போகும்போது கள்ளர்களுடைய கைகளில் அகப்பட்டான்; அவர்கள் அவனுடைய ஆடைகளை உரிந்துவிட்டு, அவனைக் காயப்படுத்தி குற்றயிராக விட்டுப்போனார்கள். ³¹ அப்பொழுது தற்செயலாக ஒரு ஆசாரியன் அந்த வழியே வந்து, அவனைப் பார்த்து, ஓரமாக விலகிப்போனான். ³² அந்தப்படியே ஒரு லேவியனும் அந்த இடத்திற்கு வந்து, அவனைப் பார்த்து, ஓரமாக விலகிப்போனான். ³³ பின்பு சமாரியன் ஒருவன் பயணமாக வரும்போது, அவனைக் கண்டு, மனதுருகி, ³⁴ அருகில் வந்து, அவனுடைய காயங்களில் எண்ணெயும் திராட்சைரசமும் பூசி, காயங்களைக் கட்டி, அவனைத் தன் சொந்த வாகனத்தில் ஏற்றி, சத்திரத்திற்குக் கொண்டுபோய், அவனைப் பராமரித்தான். ³⁵ மறுநாளிலே தான் புறப்படும்போது இரண்டு வெள்ளிக்காசுகளை எடுத்து, சத்திரத்தானுடைய கையில் கொடுத்து: நீ இவனை கவனித்துக்கொள், அதிகமாக ஏதாவது இவனுக்காகச் செலவழித்தால், நான் திரும்பிவரும்போது அதை உனக்குத் தருவேன் என்றான். ³⁶ இப்படியிருக்க, கள்ளர்கள் கைகளில் அகப்பட்டவனுக்கு இந்த மூன்றுபேரில் எவன் அயலாகத்தானாக இருந்தான்? உனக்கு எப்படித் தோன்றுகிறது என்றார். ³⁷ அதற்கு அவன்: அவனுக்கு இரக்கம் செய்தவனே என்றான். அப்பொழுது இயேசு அவனை நோக்கி: நீயும்போய் அந்தப்படியே செய் என்றார்;

³⁸ பின்பு, அவர்கள் பயணம்செய்யும்போது, அவர் ஒரு கிராமத்திற்குள் நுழைந்தார். அங்கே மார்த்தாள் என்னும் பெயருள்ள ஒரு பெண் அவரைத் தன் வீட்டிலே ஏற்றுக்கொண்டாள். ³⁹ அவளுக்கு மரியாள் என்னப்பட்ட ஒரு சகோதரி இருந்தாள்; அவள் இயேசுவின் பாதத்தருகே உட்கார்ந்து, அவருடைய வசனத்தைக் கேட்டுக்கொண்டிருந்தாள். ⁴⁰ மார்த்தாளோ பற்பல வேலைகளைச் செய்வதில் மிகவும் வருத்தமடைந்து, அவரிடத்தில் வந்து: ஆண்டவரே, நான் தனியே வேலைசெய்யும்படி என் சகோதரி என்னை விட்டுவந்திருக்கிறதைக்குறித்து உமக்குக் கவலையில்லையா? எனக்கு உதவிசெய்யும்படி அவளுக்குச் சொல்லும் என்றாள். ⁴¹ இயேசு அவளுக்கு மறுமொழியாக: மார்த்தாளே, மார்த்தாளே, நீ அநேக காரியங்களைக்குறித்துக் கவலைப்பட்டுக் கலங்குகிறாய். ⁴² தேவையானது ஒன்றே, மரியாள் தன்னைவிட்டு எடுத்துக்கொள்ளப்படாத நல்ல பங்கைத் தெரிந்துகொண்டாள் என்றார்.

அத்தியாயம்- 11

¹ அவர் ஒரு இடத்தில் ஜெபம்பண்ணி முடித்தபின்பு, அவருடைய சீடர்களில் ஒருவன் அவரை நோக்கி: ஆண்டவரே, யோவான் தன் சீடருக்கு ஜெபம்பண்ணப் போதித்ததுபோல, நீங்களும் எங்களுக்குப் போதிக்கவேண்டும் என்றான். ² அதற்கு அவர்: நீங்கள் ஜெபம்பண்ணும்போது: பரமண்டலங்களிலிருக்கிற எங்களுடைய பிதாவே, உம்முடைய நாமம் பரிசுத்தப்படுவதாக; உம்முடைய ராஜ்யம் வருவதாக; உம்முடைய சித்தம் பரமண்டலத்திலே செய்யப்படுகிறதுபோல பூமியிலேயும் செய்யப்படுவதாக; ³ எங்களுக்கு வேண்டிய ஆகாரத்தை அன்றன்று எங்களுக்குத் தாரும்; ⁴ எங்களுடைய பாவங்களை எங்களுக்கு மன்னியும்; நாங்களும் எங்களிடம் கடன்பட்ட எவனுக்கும் மன்னிக்கிறோமே; எங்களைச் சோதனைக்குட்படப்பண்ணாமல், தீமையிலிருந்து எங்களை இரட்சித்துக்கொள்ளும், என்று சொல்லுங்கள் என்றார். ⁵ பின்பு அவர் அவர்களை நோக்கி: உங்களில் ஒருவன் தனக்கு நண்பனாக இருக்கிறவனிடம் நடுராத்திரியிலேபோய்: நண்பனே, ⁶ என் நண்பன் ஒருவன் பயணத்தில் என் வீட்டிற்கு வந்திருக்கிறான், அவனுக்கு சாப்பிடக்கொடுக்க என்னிடத்தில் ஒன்றுமில்லை, நீ மூன்று அப்பங்களை எனக்குக் கடனாகத் தரவேண்டும் என்று கேட்டுக்கொண்டான். ⁷ வீட்டிற்குள் இருக்கிறவன் மறுமொழியாக: என்னைத் தொந்தரவு செய்யாதே, கதவை பூட்டிவிட்டோம், என் பிள்ளைகள் என்னோடு தூங்கிக்கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள், நான் எழுந்திருந்து, உனக்கு அப்பம் தரமுடியாத நிலையில் இருக்கிறேன் என்று சொன்னான். ⁸ பின்பு, தனக்கு அவன் நண்பனாக இருப்பதினால் எழுந்து அவனுக்கு அப்பம் கொடுக்கவில்லை என்றாலும், தன்னிடத்தில் அவன் வருந்திக் கேட்கிறதினாலே எழுந்திருந்து, அவனுக்குத் தேவையானதைக் கொடுப்பான் என்று உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன். ⁹ மேலும் நான் உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறதாவது: கேளுங்கள், அப்பொழுது உங்களுக்குக் கொடுக்கப்படும்; தேடுங்கள், அப்பொழுது கண்டடைவீர்கள்; தட்டுங்கள், அப்பொழுது உங்களுக்குத் திறக்கப்படும். ¹⁰ ஏனென்றால், கேட்கிறவன் எவனும் பெற்றுக்கொள்ளுகிறான்; தேடுகிறவன் கண்டடைகிறான்; தட்டுகிறவனுக்குத் திறக்கப்படும். ¹¹ உங்களில் தகப்பனாக இருக்கிற ஒருவனிடத்தில் மகன் அப்பம் கேட்டால், அவனுக்குக் கல்லைக் கொடுப்பானா? மீனைக்கேட்டால் மீனுக்குப் பதிலாகப் பாம்பைக் கொடுப்பானா? ¹² அல்லது முட்டையைக் கேட்டால், அவனுக்குத் தேளைக் கொடுப்பானா? ¹³ பொல்லாதவர்களாகிய நீங்களே உங்களுடைய பிள்ளைகளுக்கு நல்ல பரிசுகளைக் கொடுக்க அறிந்திருக்கும்போது, பரமபிதாவானவர் அவரிடத்தில் வேண்டிக்கொள்ளுகிறவர்களுக்குப் பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவரைக் கொடுப்பது அதிக நிச்சயம் அல்லவா என்றார்.

¹⁴ பின்பு இயேசு ஊமையாக இருந்தவனிடத்திலிருந்த ஒரு பிசாசைத் துரத்தினார். பிசாசு புறப்பட்டுப்போனபின்பு ஊமையன் பேசினான்; மக்கள் ஆச்சரியப்பட்டார்கள். ¹⁵ அவர்களில் சிலர்: இவன் பிசாசுகளின் தலைவனாகிய பெயெல்செபூலைக்கொண்டு பிசாசுகளைத் துரத்துகிறான் என்றார்கள். ¹⁶ வேறுசிலர் இயேசுவை சோதிப்பதற்காக வானத்திலிருந்து ஒரு அடையாளத்தைக் காட்டவேண்டுமென்று அவரிடத்தில் கேட்டார்கள். ¹⁷ அவர்களுடைய சிந்தனைகளை அவர் அறிந்து, அவர்களை நோக்கி: தனக்குத்தானே விரோதமாகப் பிரிந்திருக்கிற எந்த ராஜ்யமும் அழிந்துபோகும்; தனக்குத்தானே விரோதமாகப் பிரிந்திருக்கிற எந்தக் குடும்பமும் நிலைத்திருக்காது. ¹⁸ சாத்தானும் தனக்குத்தானே விரோதமாகப் பிரிந்திருந்தால் அவன் ராஜ்யம் எப்படி நிலைநிற்கும்? இப்படியிருக்கும்போது, பெயெல்செபூலைக்கொண்டு நான் பிசாசுகளைத் துரத்துகிறேன் என்கிறீர்களே. ¹⁹ நான் பெயெல்செபூலினாலே பிசாசுகளைத் துரத்தினால், உங்களுடைய பிள்ளைகள் அவைகளை யாராலே துரத்துகிறார்கள்? ஆகவே, அவர்களே உங்களை நியாயந்தீர்க்கிறவர்களாக இருப்பார்கள். ²⁰ நான் தேவனுடைய வல்லமையினால் பிசாசுகளைத் துரத்துகிறபடியால், தேவனுடைய ராஜ்யம் உங்களிடம் வந்திருக்கிறதே. ²¹ ஆயுதம் அணிந்த பலசாலி தன் அரண்மனையை காவல்காக்கும்போது, அவனுடைய பொருள்கள் பாதுகாப்பாக இருக்கும். ²² அவனைவிட பலசாலி வந்து, அவனைத் தோற்கடித்து, அவன் நம்பியிருந்த எல்லா ஆயுதங்களையும் பறித்துக்கொண்டு, அவனுடைய பொருட்களை கொள்ளையிடுவான். ²³ என்னோடு இல்லாதவன் எனக்கு பகைவனாக இருக்கிறான், மக்களை என்னிடம் சேர்க்காதவன், அவர்களை சிதறடிக்கிறான். ²⁴ அசுத்தஆவி ஒரு மனிதனைவிட்டுப் போகும்போது, வறண்ட இடங்களில் அலைந்து, இளைப்பாற இடம் தேடியும் கிடைக்காமல்: நான் விட்டுவந்த என் வீட்டிற்குத் திரும்பிப்போவேன் என்று சொல்லி, ²⁵ திரும்பிவரும்போது, அது சுத்தப்படுத்தி ஜோடிக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறதைக் கண்டு, ²⁶ திரும்பிப்போய், தன்னைவிட பொல்லாத மற்ற ஏழு ஆவிகளைக் கூட்டிக்கொண்டுவந்து, உள்ளே புகுந்து, அங்கே குடியிருக்கும்; அப்பொழுது அந்த மனிதனுடைய முன் நிலைமையை விட அவனுடைய பின் நிலைமை மிகவும் மோசமாக இருக்கும் என்றார். ²⁷ இயேசு இவைகளைச் சொல்லும்பொழுது, மக்கள் கூட்டத்திலிருந்த ஒரு பெண் அவரை நோக்கி: உம்மைச் சுமந்த கர்ப்பமும் நீர் பாலுண்ட மார்பகங்களும் பாக்கியமுள்ளவைகள் என்று சத்தமிட்டுச் சொன்னாள். ²⁸ அதற்கு

அவர்: அதைவிட, தேவனுடைய வார்த்தையைக் கேட்டு, அதைக் கடைபிடிப்பவர்களே அதிக பாக்கியவான்கள் என்றார்.

²⁹ மக்கள் கூட்டமாக கூடிவந்திருக்கிறபொழுது அவர்: இந்த வம்சத்தார் பொல்லாதவர்களாக இருக்கிறார்கள், அடையாளத்தைத் தேடுகிறார்கள்; ஆனாலும் யோனா தீர்க்கதரிசியின் அடையாளம்தவிர வேறு எந்த அடையாளமும் இவர்களுக்குக் கொடுக்கப்படுவதில்லை. ³⁰ யோனா நினைவே பட்டணத்தார்களுக்கு அடையாளமாக இருந்ததுபோல, மனிதகுமாரனும் இந்த வம்சத்திற்கு அடையாளமாக இருப்பார். ³¹ தெற்கு தேசத்து ராணி சாலொமோனுடைய ஞானத்தைக் கேட்க பூமியின் எல்லையிலிருந்து வந்தாள்; இதோ, சாலொமோனைவிட பெரியவர் இங்கே இருக்கிறார்; ஆதலால் நியாயத்தீர்ப்புநாளிலே அந்த ராணி இந்த வம்சத்தாரோடு எழுந்து நின்று, இவர்கள்மேல் குற்றஞ்சுமத்துவாள். ³² யோனாவின் பிரசங்கத்தைக் கேட்டு நினைவே பட்டணத்தார் மனம் மாறினார்கள்; இதோ, யோனாவைவிட பெரியவர் இங்கே இருக்கிறார்; ஆதலால் நியாயத்தீர்ப்புநாளில் நினைவே பட்டணத்தார் இந்த வம்சத்தாரோடு எழுந்து நின்று, இவர்கள்மேல் குற்றஞ்சுமத்துவார்கள்.

³³ ஒருவனும் விளக்கைக் கொளுத்தி, மறைவாகவோ, பாத்திரத்தின் கீழேயோ வைக்காமல், உள்ளே வருகிறவர்கள் வெளிச்சம்காணும்படி, அதை விளக்குத்தண்டின்மேல் வைப்பான். ³⁴ கண்ணானது சரீரத்திற்கு விளக்காக இருக்கிறது; உன் கண் தெளிவாக இருந்தால், உன் சரீரம் முழுவதும் வெளிச்சமாக இருக்கும்; உன் கண் கெட்டதாக இருந்தால் உன் சரீரம் முழுவதும் இருளாக இருக்கும். ³⁵ எனவே உனக்குள் உள்ள வெளிச்சம் இருளாகாதபடி எச்சரிக்கையாக இரு. ³⁶ உன் சரீரத்தின் எந்தவொரு பகுதியும் இருளடையாமல், சரீரம் முழுவதும் வெளிச்சமாக இருந்தால், ஒரு விளக்கு தன் பிரகாசத்தினாலே உனக்கு வெளிச்சம் கொடுக்கிறதுபோல உன் சரீரம் முழுவதும் வெளிச்சமாக இருக்கும் என்றார்.

³⁷ இயேசு இப்படிப் பேசிக்கொண்டிருக்கும்போது, பரிசேயன் ஒருவன், அவர் தன்னோடு உணவு உண்ணவேண்டும் என்று அவரை வேண்டிக்கொண்டான்; அவர் போய் அவனோடுகூட பந்தி உட்கார்ந்தார். ³⁸ அவர் உணவு உண்பதற்கு முன்பு கைகழுவாமல் இருந்ததைப் பரிசேயன் பார்த்து, ஆச்சரியப்பட்டான். ³⁹ கர்த்தர் அவனை நோக்கி: பரிசேயர்களாகிய நீங்கள் உணவுப் பாத்திரங்களின் வெளிப்புறத்தைச் சுத்தமாக்குகிறீர்கள், உங்களுடைய உள்ளங்களோ கொள்ளையினாலும் பொல்லாப்பினாலும் நிறைந்திருக்கிறது. ⁴⁰ மதிகெட்டவர்களே, வெளிப்புறத்தை உண்டாக்கினவர் உள்புறத்தையும் உண்டாக்கவில்லையா? ⁴¹ உங்களிடம் இருப்பதை ஏழைகளுக்குக் கொடுங்கள், அப்பொழுது உங்களுக்குள் எல்லாம் சுத்தமாக இருக்கும். ⁴² பரிசேயர்களே, உங்களுக்கு ஐயோ, நீங்கள் புதினா, மறிகொழுந்து ஆகிய எல்லாவித பூண்டுகளிலும் தசம்பாகம் கொடுத்து, நியாயத்தையும் தேவ அன்பையும் விட்டுவிடுகிறீர்கள்; இவைகளையும் செய்யவேண்டும், அவைகளையும் விட்டுவிடாமல் இருக்கவேண்டும். ⁴³ பரிசேயர்களே, உங்களுக்கு ஐயோ, ஜெப ஆலயங்களில் முதன்மையான இருக்கைகளையும், சந்தைகளில் வணக்கங்களையும் விரும்புகிறீர்கள். ⁴⁴ வேதபண்டிதர்களே, பரிசேயர்களே, உங்களுக்கு ஐயோ, மறைந்திருக்கிற சவக்குழிகளைப்போல இருக்கிறீர்கள், அதின்மேல் நடக்கிற மனிதர்களுக்கு அவைகள் தெரியாதிருக்கிறது. ⁴⁵ அப்பொழுது நியாயப்பண்டிதர்களில் ஒருவன் அவரை நோக்கி: போதகரே, நீர் இப்படிச் சொல்லுகிறதினால் எங்களையும் அவமதிக்கிறீர் என்றான். ⁴⁶ அதற்கு இயேசு: நியாயப்பண்டிதர்களே, உங்களுக்கு ஐயோ, சுமக்க இயலாத சுமைகளை மனிதர்கள்மேல் சுமத்துகிறீர்கள்; ஆனால், நீங்களோ உங்களுடைய விரல்களினால்கூட அந்தச் சுமைகளைத் தொடவும்மாட்டீர்கள். ⁴⁷ உங்களுக்கு ஐயோ, உங்களுடைய முற்பிதாக்கள் கொலைசெய்த தீர்க்கதரிசிகளுக்குக் கல்லறைகளைக் கட்டுகிறீர்கள். ⁴⁸ ஆகவே, உங்களுடைய முற்பிதாக்களுடைய செயல்களுக்கு நீங்களும் உடன்பட்டவர்கள் என்று சாட்சியிடுகிறீர்கள்; எப்படியென்றால், உங்களுடைய முற்பிதாக்கள் அவர்களைக் கொலைசெய்தார்கள், நீங்களோ அவர்களுக்குக் கல்லறைகளைக் கட்டுகிறீர்கள். ⁴⁹ ஆதலால் தேவஞானமானது: நான் தீர்க்கதரிசிகளையும் அப்போஸ்தலர்களையும் அவர்களிடத்தில் அனுப்புவேன்; அவர்களில் சிலரைக் கொலைசெய்து, சிலரைத் துன்பப்படுத்துவார்கள்; ⁵⁰ ஆபேலின் இரத்தத்திலிருந்து பலிபீடத்திற்கும் தேவ ஆலயத்திற்கும் நடுவே கொலை செய்யப்பட்ட சகரியாவின் இரத்தம்வரைக்கும், உலகத்தோற்றத்திலிருந்து சிந்தப்பட்ட எல்லா தீர்க்கதரிசிகளுடைய இரத்தப்பழியும் இந்த வம்சத்தாரிடம் கேட்கப்படுவதற்காக அப்படிச் செய்வார்கள் என்று சொல்லுகிறது. ⁵¹ நிச்சயமாகவே இந்த வம்சத்தாரிடம் அது கேட்கப்படும் என்று உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன். ⁵² நியாயப்பண்டிதர்களே, உங்களுக்கு ஐயோ, அறிவாகிய திறவுகோலை எடுத்துக்கொண்டீர்கள், நீங்களும் உள்ளே செல்வதில்லை, உள்ளே செல்கிறவர்களையும் தடைபண்ணுகிறீர்கள் என்றார். ⁵³ இவைகளை இயேசு அவர்களுக்குச் சொல்லும்போது, வேதபண்டிதர்களும் பரிசேயர்களும் அவர்மேல் குற்றஞ்சாட்டுவதற்காக, அவர் வார்த்தைகளில் ஏதாவது பிழை கண்டுபிடிக்கவேண்டும் என்று முயற்சிசெய்து அவரை மிகவும் நெருக்கவும், ⁵⁴ அநேக விஷயங்களைக்குறித்துப் பேச அவரைத் தூண்டவும் தொடங்கினார்கள்.

அத்தியாயம்- 12

¹ அந்தநேரத்தில் பல ஆயிரக்கணக்கான மக்கள் இயேசுவிடம் கூடிவந்திருக்கும்போது, அவர் முதலாவது தம்முடைய சீடர்களை நோக்கி: நீங்கள் மாயக்காரர்களாகிய பரிசேயர்களுடைய புளித்த மாவைக்குறித்து எச்சரிக்கையாக இருங்கள். ² வெளியாக்கப்படாத மறைபொருளுமில்லை, அறியப்படாத இரகசியமுமில்லை. ³ ஆதலால், நீங்கள் இருளில் பேசியது எதுவோ, அது வெளிச்சத்திலே கேட்கப்படும்; நீங்கள் வீட்டின் உள் அறைகளில் காதில் சொன்னது எதுவோ, அது வீட்டின் கூரையின்மேலிருந்து சத்தம்போட்டதுபோல இருக்கும். ⁴ என் நண்பர்களாகிய உங்களுக்கு நான் சொல்லுகிறேன்: சரீரத்தைக் கொலைசெய்து, அதன்பின்பு அதிகமாக ஒன்றும் செய்ய முடியாதவர்களுக்குப் பயப்படாமலிருங்கள். ⁵ நீங்கள் யாருக்கு பயப்படவேண்டும் என்று உங்களுக்குக் காண்பிக்கிறேன்: கொலைசெய்தபின்பு நரகத்திலே தள்ள வல்லமையுள்ளவருக்கு பயப்படுங்கள்; ஆம், அவருக்கே பயப்படுங்கள் என்று உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன். ⁶ இரண்டு காசுகளுக்கு ஐந்து அடைக்கலான் குருவிகளை விற்கிறார்களல்லவா? அவைகளில் ஒன்றாவது தேவனால் மறக்கப்படுவதில்லை. ⁷ உங்களுடைய தலையிலுள்ள முடிகள் எல்லாம் எண்ணப்பட்டிருக்கிறது, ஆகவே, பயப்படாமலிருங்கள், அநேகம் அடைக்கலான் குருவிகளைவிட, நீங்கள் விசேஷித்தவர்களாக இருக்கிறீர்கள். ⁸ அன்றியும் நான் உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன்: மனிதர்களுக்கு முன்பாக என்னை அறிக்கைப்பண்ணுகிறவன் எவனோ, அவனை மனிதகுமாரனும் தேவதூதர்களுக்கு முன்பாக அறிக்கைப்பண்ணுவார். ⁹ மனிதர்கள் முன்பாக என்னை மறுதலிக்கிறவன் தேவதூதர்களுக்கு முன்பாக மறுதலிக்கப்படுவான். ¹⁰ எவனாவது மனிதகுமாரனுக்கு விரோதமாக விசேஷத்தைச் சொன்னால் அது அவனுக்கு மன்னிக்கப்படும்; பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவருக்கு விரோதமாகத் தூஷணமான வார்த்தையைச் சொல்லுகிறவனுக்கோ மன்னிக்கப்படுவதில்லை. ¹¹ அன்றியும், ஜெப ஆலயத்தலைவர்களுக்கும், ஆட்சியில் அதிகாரமுள்ளவர்களுக்கும் முன்பாக உங்களை விசாரணைசெய்ய கொண்டுவரப் நிறுத்தும்போது: அவர்களுடைய கேள்விகளுக்கு எப்படி பதில்கள் சொல்வது என்றும், எதைப் பேசவேண்டும் என்பதைக்குறித்தும் கவலைப்படாமலிருங்கள். ¹² நீங்கள் பேசவேண்டியவைகளைப் பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவர் அந்த நேரத்திலே உங்களுக்குப் போதிப்பார் என்றார்.

¹³ அப்பொழுது மக்கள்கூட்டத்திலிருந்து ஒருவன் அவரை நோக்கி: போதகரே, என் தகப்பனுடைய சொத்தை பாகம் பிரித்து என்னுடைய பங்கை எனக்குத் தரும்படி என் சகோதரனுக்குக் கட்டளையிடவேண்டும் என்று கேட்டுக்கொண்டான். ¹⁴ அதற்கு அவர்: மனிதனே, என்னை உங்களுக்கு நியாயாதிபதியாகவும் சொத்தை பங்கிடுகிறவனாகவும் வைத்தவன் யார் என்றார். ¹⁵ பின்பு அவர் அவர்களை நோக்கி: பொருளாசையைக்குறித்து எச்சரிக்கையாக இருங்கள்; ஏனென்றால், ஒருவனுக்கு எவ்வளவு அதிக சொத்துக்கள் இருந்தாலும் அது அவனுக்கு ஜீவன் அல்ல என்றார். ¹⁶ அல்லாமலும், இயேசு ஒரு உவமையை அவர்களுக்குச் சொன்னார்: செல்வந்தரான ஒருவனுடைய நிலம் நன்றாக விளைந்திருந்தது. ¹⁷ அப்பொழுது அவன்: நான் என்ன செய்வேன்? என் தானியங்களைச் சேர்த்து வைக்கிறதற்கு இடமில்லையே; ¹⁸ நான் ஒன்று செய்வேன், என் களஞ்சியங்களை இடித்து, பெரிதாகக் கட்டி, எனக்கு விளைந்த தானியத்தையும் என் பொருள்களையும் அங்கே சேர்த்துவைத்து, ¹⁹ பின்பு: ஆத்துமாவே, உனக்காக அநேக வருடங்களுக்கு அநேகம் பொருள்கள் சேர்த்து வைக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது; நீ இளைப்பாறி, சாப்பிட்டுக் குடித்து, மகிழ்ச்சியாக இரு என்று என் ஆத்துமாவிடம் சொல்லுவேன் என்று தனக்குள்ளே சிந்தித்துச் சொல்லிக்கொண்டான். ²⁰ தேவன் அவனை நோக்கி: மூடனே, உன் ஆத்துமா உன்னிடத்திலிருந்து இந்த இராத்திரியிலே எடுத்துக்கொள்ளப்படும், அப்பொழுது நீ சேகரித்தவைகள் யாருக்குச் சொந்தமாகும் என்றார். ²¹ தேவனிடத்தில் செல்வந்தராக இருக்காமல், தனக்காகவே பொக்கிஷங்களைச் சேர்த்துவைக்கிறவன் இப்படியே இருக்கிறான் என்றார்.

²² பின்பு அவர் தம்முடைய சீடர்களை நோக்கி: ஆகவே, என்னத்தை உண்போம் என்று உங்களுடைய ஜீவனுக்காகவும், என்னத்தை உடுப்போம் என்று உங்களுடைய சரீரத்திற்காகவும் கவலைப்படாமலிருங்கள் என்று உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன். ²³ உணவைவிட ஜீவனும், உடையைவிட சரீரமும் விசேஷித்தவைகளாக இருக்கிறது. ²⁴ காகங்களைக் கவனித்துப்பாருங்கள், அவைகள் விதைக்கிறதுமில்லை அறுக்கிறதுமில்லை, அவைகளுக்குப் பண்டசாலையுமில்லை, களஞ்சியமுமில்லை, இல்லாவிட்டாலும் அவைகளையும் தேவன் பிழைப்பூட்டுகிறார்; பறவைகளைவிட நீங்கள் எவ்வளவோ விசேஷித்தவர்களாக இருக்கிறீர்கள். ²⁵ கவலைப்படுகிறதினால் உங்களில் எவன் தன் சரீர் அளவோடு ஒரு முழத்தைக் கூட்டுவான். ²⁶ மிகவும் சிறிய விஷயங்களை உங்களால் செய்யமுடியாதிருக்கும்போது, மற்றவைகளுக்காக நீங்கள் கவலைப்படுகிறதென்ன? ²⁷ காட்டுப்புஷ்பங்கள் எப்படி வளருகிறதென்று கவனித்துப்பாருங்கள்; அவைகள் உழைக்கிறதுமில்லை, நூற்கிறதுமில்லை, என்றாலும் சாலொமோன் காலத்தில்இருந்து தன் சர்வமகிமையிலும் அவைகளில்

ஒன்றைப்போலாவது உடுத்தியிருந்ததில்லை என்று உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன். ²⁸ இப்படியிருக்க, அற்பவிசுவாசிகளே, இன்றைக்குக் காட்டிலிருந்து நாளைக்கு அடுப்பிலே போடப்படுகிற புல்லுக்கு தேவன் இவ்விதமாக உடுத்துவித்தால், உங்களுக்கு உடுத்துவிப்பது அதிக நிச்சயமல்லவா? ²⁹ ஆகவே, என்னத்தை உண்போம், என்னத்தைக் குடிப்போம் என்று, நீங்கள் கேளாமலும் சந்தேகப்படாமலும் இருங்கள். ³⁰ இவைகளையெல்லாம் உலகத்தார் நாடித்தேடுகிறார்கள்; இவைகள் உங்களுக்கு வேண்டியவைகள் என்று உங்களுடைய பிதாவானவர் அறிந்திருக்கிறார். ³¹ தேவனுடைய ராஜ்யத்தையே தேடுங்கள், அப்பொழுது இவைகளெல்லாம் உங்களுக்குக் கூடக் கொடுக்கப்படும். ³² பயப்படாதே சிறுமந்தையே, உங்களுக்கு ராஜ்யத்தைக் கொடுக்க உங்களுடைய பிதா பிரியமாக இருக்கிறார். ³³ உங்களுக்கு உள்ளவைகளை விற்று ஏழைகளுக்குக் கொடுங்கள், பழமையாகப் போகாத பண்பைகளையும் குறையாத பொக்கிஷத்தையும் பரலோகத்திலே உங்களுக்குச் சம்பாதித்து வையுங்கள், அங்கே திருடன் அணுகுகிறதில்லை, பூச்சி அரிக்கிறதில்லை. ³⁴ உங்களுடைய பொக்கிஷம் எங்கே இருக்கிறதோ அங்கே உங்களுடைய இருதயமும் இருக்கும்.

³⁵ உங்களுடைய உடைகளை உடுத்தி ஆயத்தமாகவும், உங்களுடைய விளக்குகள் எரிகிறதாகவும் இருக்கட்டும். ³⁶ தங்களுடைய எஜமான் திருமண விருந்துக்குச் சென்றுவந்து கதவைத் தட்டும்போது, உடனே அவருக்குக் கதவைத் திறக்கும்படி எப்பொழுது வருவார் என்று காத்திருக்கிற மனிதர்களுக்கு ஒப்பாகவும் இருங்கள். ³⁷ எஜமான் வரும்போது, விழித்திருக்கிறவர்களாகக் காணப்படுகிற ஊழியக்காரர்களே பாக்கியவான்கள். அவர் பணிசெய்யும் உடைகளை உடுத்தி, அவர்களைப் பந்தியிருக்கச் செய்து, அருகில் வந்து அவர்களுக்கு ஊழியம் செய்வார் என்று உண்மையாகவே உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன். ³⁸ அவர் நடுராத்திரியிலோ அதிகாலையிலோ வந்து, அவர்கள் அங்கேயே இருக்கக்கண்டால், அந்த ஊழியக்காரர்கள் பாக்கியவான்கள். ³⁹ திருடன் எந்தநேரத்தில் வருவான் என்று வீட்டெஜமானுக்குத் தெரிந்திருந்தால், அவன் விழித்திருந்து, தன் வீட்டைக் கொள்ளையடிக்க விட்டிருக்கமாட்டான் என்று அறிந்திருக்கிறீர்கள். ⁴⁰ அந்தப்படியே நீங்கள் நினைக்காத நேரத்தில் மனிதகுமாரன் வருவார், ஆகவே, நீங்களும் ஆயத்தமாக இருங்கள் என்றார். ⁴¹ அப்பொழுது பேதுரு அவரை நோக்கி: ஆண்டவரே, இந்த உவமையை எங்களுக்குமட்டும் சொல்லுகிறீரோ, எல்லோருக்கும் சொல்லுகிறீரோ என்று கேட்டான். ⁴² அதற்குக் கர்த்தர்: பணிவிடைக்காரர்களுக்குத் தகுதியான காலத்திலே படிக்கொடுக்கும்படி எஜமான் அவர்கள்மேல் அதிகாரியாக வைக்கத்தக்க உண்மையும் விவேகமுமுள்ள விசாரணைக்காரன் யார்? ⁴³ எஜமான் வரும்போது அப்படியே செய்கிறவனாகக் காணப்படுகிற ஊழியக்காரன் பாக்கியவான். ⁴⁴ தனக்குரிய எல்லாவற்றின்மேலும் அவனை விசாரணைக்காரனாக வைப்பான் என்று மெய்யாகவே உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன். ⁴⁵ அந்த ஊழியக்காரனோ, என் எஜமான் வர நாளாகும் என்று தனக்குள்ளே சொல்லிக்கொண்டு, வேலைக்காரர்களையும் வேலைக்காரிகளையும் அடிக்கவும், சாப்பிடவும், குடித்து வெறிக்கவும் முற்பட்டால், ⁴⁶ அவன் நினைக்காத நாளிலும், அறியாத நேரத்திலும், அந்த ஊழியக்காரனுடைய எஜமான் வந்து, அவனைக் கடினமாகத் தண்டித்து, உண்மையில்லாதவர்களோடு அவனுக்குப் பங்கை நியமிப்பான். ⁴⁷ தன் எஜமானுடைய விருப்பத்தை அறிந்தும் ஆயத்தமாக இல்லாமலும் அவனுடைய விருப்பத்தின்படி செய்யாமலும் இருந்த ஊழியக்காரன் அநேக அடிகள் அடிக்கப்படுவான். ⁴⁸ அறியாதவனாக இருந்து, அடிகளுக்கு ஏதுவானவைகளைச் செய்தவனோ, சில அடிகள் அடிக்கப்படுவான். எவனிடத்தில் அதிகம் கொடுக்கப்படுகிறதோ அவனிடத்தில் அதிகம் கேட்கப்படும்; மனிதர்கள், எவனிடத்தில் அதிகமாக ஒப்புவிக்கிறார்களோ அவனிடத்தில் அதிகமாகக் கேட்பார்கள்.

⁴⁹ பூமியின்மேல் அக்கினியைப் போடவந்தேன், அது இப்பொழுதே பற்றியெரியவேண்டுமென்று விரும்புகிறேன். ⁵⁰ ஆனாலும் நான் முழுவேண்டிய ஒரு ஸ்நானமுண்டு, அது முடியும்வரை எவ்வளவோ நெருக்கப்படுகிறேன். ⁵¹ நான் பூமியிலே சமாதானத்தை உண்டாக்க வந்தேன் என்று நினைக்கிறீர்களோ? சமாதானத்தையல்ல, பிரிவினையையே உண்டாக்க வந்தேன் என்று உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன். ⁵² எப்படியென்றால், இதுமுதல் ஒரே வீட்டிலே ஐந்துபேர் பிரிந்திருப்பார்கள், இரண்டுபேருக்கு விரோதமாக மூன்றுபேரும், மூன்றுபேருக்கு விரோதமாக இரண்டுபேரும் பிரிந்திருப்பார்கள். ⁵³ தகப்பன் மகனுக்கும், மகன் தகப்பனுக்கும், தாய் மகளுக்கும், மகள் தாய்க்கும், மாமியார் மருமகளுக்கும், மருமகள் மாமியாருக்கும் விரோதமாகப் பிரிந்திருப்பார்கள் என்றார்.

⁵⁴ பின்பு அவர் மக்களை நோக்கி: மேற்கே மேகம் எழும்புகிறதை நீங்கள் காணும்போது, மழை வருமென்று சொல்லுகிறீர்கள்; அப்படியே நடக்கும். ⁵⁵ தென்றல் அடிக்கிறதை நீங்கள் காணும்போது வெப்பம் உண்டாகுமென்று சொல்லுகிறீர்கள், அப்படியே நடக்கும். ⁵⁶ மாயக்காரர்களே, பூமியின் தோற்றத்தையும் வானத்தின் தோற்றத்தையும் நிதானிக்க உங்களுக்குத் தெரியுமே, இந்தக் காலத்தையோ நீங்கள் நிதானிக்காமல் போகிறதென்ன? ⁵⁷ நியாயம் என்ன என்று நீங்களே தீர்மானிக்காமல் இருக்கிறது என்ன? ⁵⁸ உனக்கு எதிராளியானவன் உன்னை அதிகாரியினிடத்திற்குக் கொண்டுபோகிறபோது,

வழியிலேதானே அவனிடத்திலிருந்து விடுதலையாகும்படி பிரயாசப்படு, இல்லாவிட்டால், அவன் உன்னை நியாயாதிபதிக்கு முன்பாகக் கொண்டுபோவான், நியாயாதிபதி உன்னை அதிகாரியிடத்தில் ஒப்புக்கொடுப்பான், அதிகாரி உன்னைச் சிறைசாலையில் போடுவான். ⁵⁹ நீ உன்னிடத்தில் இருக்கும் கடைசிக் காசை செலவழித்துத்தீர்க்கும்வரைக்கும், அந்த இடத்திலிருந்து புறப்படமாட்டாய் என்று உனக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன் என்றார்.

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¹ அந்த நேரத்திலே அங்கே இருந்தவர்களில் சிலர் இயேசுவிடம் வந்து, பிலாத்து சில கலிலேயர்களுடைய இரத்தத்தை அவர்களுடைய பலிகளோடு கலந்தான் என்ற செய்தியை அவருக்கு அறிவித்தார்கள். ² இயேசு அவர்களுக்கு மறுமொழியாக: அந்தக் கலிலேயர்களுக்கு அப்படிப்பட்டவைகள் நடந்ததினாலே, மற்ற எல்லாக் கலிலேயர்களைவிட அவர்கள் பாவிகளாக இருந்தார்களென்று நினைக்கிறீர்களோ? ³ அப்படியல்லவென்று உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன்; நீங்கள் மனந்திரும்பாமற்போனால் எல்லோரும் அப்படியே அழிந்துபோவீர்கள். ⁴ சீலோவாமிலே கோபுரம் விழுந்து பதினெட்டுப்பேர் மரித்தார்களே; எருசலேமில் குடியிருக்கிற மனிதர்களெல்லோரிலும் அவர்கள் குற்றவாளிகளாக இருந்தார்களென்று நினைக்கிறீர்களோ? ⁵ அப்படியல்லவென்று உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன்; நீங்கள் மனந்திரும்பாமற்போனால் எல்லோரும் அப்படியே அழிந்துபோவீர்கள் என்றார். ⁶ அப்பொழுது அவர் ஒரு உவமையையும் சொன்னார்: ஒருவன் தன் திராட்சைத்தோட்டத்தில் ஒரு அத்திமரத்தை நட்பிருந்தான்; அவன் வந்து அதிலே கனியைத் தேடினபோது ஒன்றுங்காணவில்லை. ⁷ அப்பொழுது அவன் தோட்டக்காரனை நோக்கி: இதோ, மூன்று வருடங்களாக இந்த அத்திமரத்திலே கனியைத் தேடிவருகிறேன்; ஒன்றையுங்காணவில்லை, இதை வெட்டிப்போடு, இது நிலத்தையும் ஏன் கெடுக்கிறது என்றான். ⁸ அதற்கு அவன்: ஐயா, இது இந்த வருடமும் இருக்கட்டும்; நான் இதைச் சுற்றிலுங்கொத்தி, எருப்போடுவேன், ⁹ கனிகொடுத்தால் சரி, கொடாவிட்டால், இனிமேல் இதை வெட்டிப்போடலாம் என்று சொன்னான் என்றார்.

¹⁰ ஒரு ஓய்வுநாளில் அவர் ஜெப ஆலயத்தில் போதகம்பண்ணிக்கொண்டிருந்தார். ¹¹ அப்பொழுது பதினெட்டு வருடங்களாகப் பலவீனப்படுத்தும் ஆவியைக்கொண்ட ஒரு பெண் அங்கேயிருந்தாள். அவள் எவ்வளவும் நிமிரக்கூடாத கூனியாக இருந்தாள். ¹² இயேசு அவளைக் கண்டு, தம்மிடத்தில் அழைத்து: பெண்ணே, உன் பலவீனத்திலிருந்து விடுதலையாக்கப்பட்டாய் என்று சொல்லி, ¹³ அவள்மேல் தமது கரங்களை வைத்தார்; உடனே அவள் நிமிர்ந்து, தேவனை மகிமைப்படுத்தினாள். ¹⁴ இயேசு ஓய்வுநாளிலே சுகமாக்கினபடியால், ஜெப ஆலயத்தலைவன் கோபமடைந்து, மக்களை நோக்கி: வேலைசெய்கிறதற்கு ஆறு நாட்கள் உண்டே, அந்த நாட்களிலே நீங்கள் வந்து சுகமாக்கிக்கொள்ளுங்கள், ஓய்வுநாளிலே அப்படிச் செய்யலாகாது என்றான். ¹⁵ கர்த்தர் அவனுக்கு மறுமொழியாக மாயக்காரர்களே: உங்களில் எவனும் ஓய்வுநாளில் தன் எருதையாவது தன் கழுதையையாவது தொழுவத்திலிருந்து அவிழ்த்துக்கொண்டுபோய், அதற்குத் தண்ணீர் காட்டுகிறதில்லையா? ¹⁶ இதோ, சாத்தான் பதினெட்டு வருடங்களாகக் கட்டியிருந்த ஆபிரகாமின் மகளாகிய இவளை ஓய்வுநாளில் இந்தக் கட்டிலிருந்து அவிழ்த்துவிடவேண்டியதில்லையா என்றார். ¹⁷ அவர் அப்படிச் சொன்னபோது, அவரை விரோதித்திருந்த அனைவரும் வெட்கப்பட்டார்கள். மக்களெல்லோரும் அவரால் செய்யப்பட்ட சகல மகிமையான செய்கைகளுக்குறித்தும் மகிழ்ந்தார்கள்.

¹⁸ அவர் அவர்களை நோக்கி: தேவனுடைய ராஜ்யம் எதற்கொப்பாக இருக்கிறது; அதை எதற்கு ஒப்பிடுவேன்? ¹⁹ அது ஒரு கடுகுவிதைக்கு ஒப்பாக இருக்கிறது; அதை ஒரு மனிதன் எடுத்துத் தன் தோட்டத்திலே போட்டான்; அது வளர்ந்து, பெரிய மரமானது; ஆகாயத்துப் பறவைகள் வந்து, அதின் கிளைகளில் அடைந்தது என்றார். ²⁰ மேலும் அவர்: தேவனுடைய ராஜ்யத்தை நான் எதற்கு ஒப்பிடுவேன்? ²¹ அது புளித்த மாவிற்கு ஒப்பாக இருக்கிறது; அதை ஒரு பெண் எடுத்து முழுவதும் புளிக்கும்வரைக்கும் மூன்றுபடி மாவோடு பிசைந்து வைத்தாள் என்றார்.

²² அவர் எருசலேமுக்குப் பயணமாகப் போகும்போது, பட்டணங்கள்தோறும் கிராமங்கள்தோறும் உபதேசம் செய்துகொண்டே போனார். ²³ அப்பொழுது ஒருவன் அவரை நோக்கி: ஆண்டவரே, விடுதலையாக்கப்படுகிறவர்கள் சிலபேர்தானோ என்று கேட்டான்; அதற்கு அவர்: ²⁴ இடுக்கமான வாசல்வழியாக உள்ளே பிரவேசிக்கப் பிரயாசப்படுங்கள், அநேகர் உள்ளே பிரவேசிக்க வகைதேடினாலும் அவர்களாலே கூடாமற்போகும் என்று உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன். ²⁵ வீட்டெஜமான் எழுந்து, கதவைப் பூட்டினபின்பு, நீங்கள் வெளியே நின்று: ஆண்டவரே, ஆண்டவரே, எங்களுக்குத் திறக்கவேண்டுமென்று சொல்லிக் கதவைத் தட்டும்போது, அவர் மறுமொழியாக: நீங்கள் எவ்விடத்தாரோ, உங்களை அறியேன் என்று உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுவார். ²⁶ அப்பொழுது நீங்கள்: உம்முடைய சமூகத்தில் உணவு உண்டோமே, நீர் எங்களுடைய வீதிகளில் போதகம்பண்ணினீரே என்று சொல்லுவீர்கள். ²⁷ ஆனாலும் அவர்: நீங்கள் எவ்விடத்தாரோ, உங்களை அறியேன், அக்கிரமக்காரர்களாகிய நீங்களெல்லோரும் என்னைவிட்டு அகன்றுபோங்கள் என்று சொல்லுவார் என்று உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன். ²⁸ நீங்கள் ஆபிரகாமையும் ஈசாக்கையும் யாக்கோபையும் எல்லாத் தீர்க்கதரிசிகளையும் தேவனுடைய ராஜ்யத்திலிருக்கிறவர்களாகவும், உங்களையோ புறம்பே தள்ளப்பட்டவர்களாகவும் காணும்போது

உங்களுக்கு அழகையும் பற்கடிப்பும் அங்கே உண்டாயிருக்கும். ²⁹ கிழக்கிலும் மேற்கிலும் வடக்கிலும் தெற்கிலும் இருந்த மக்கள் வந்து, தேவனுடைய ராஜ்யத்தில் பந்தியிருப்பார்கள். ³⁰ அப்பொழுது முந்தினோர் பிந்தினோராவார்கள், பிந்தினோர் முந்தினோராவார்கள் என்றார்.

³¹ அந்த நாளிலே சில பரிசேயர்கள் அவரிடத்தில் வந்து: நீர் இந்த இடத்தைவிட்டுப்போய்விடும்; ஏரோது உம்மைக் கொலைசெய்ய மனதாக இருக்கிறான் என்றார்கள். ³² அதற்கு அவர்: நான் இன்றைக்கும் நாளைக்கும் பிசாசுகளைத் துரத்தி, வியாதியுள்ளவர்களை, சுகமாக்கி மூன்றாம்நாளில் நிறைவடைவேன். ³³ இன்றைக்கும் நாளைக்கும் மறுநாளைக்கும் நான் நடமாடவேண்டும்; எருசலேமுக்கு வெளியே ஒரு தீர்க்கதரிசியும் மடிந்துபோகிறதில்லையென்று நான் சொன்னதாக நீங்கள் போய் அந்த நரிக்குச் சொல்லுங்கள். ³⁴ எருசலேமே, எருசலேமே, தீர்க்கதரிசிகளைக் கொலைசெய்து, உன்னிடத்தில் அனுப்பப்பட்டவர்களைக் கல்லெறிகிறவளே! கோழி தன் குஞ்சுகளைத் தன் சிறகுகளின்கீழே கூட்டிச் சேர்த்துக்கொள்ளுவதைப்போல நான் எத்தனைதரமோ உன் பிள்ளைகளைக் கூட்டிச் சேர்த்துக்கொள்ள விருப்பமாக இருந்தேன்; உங்களுக்கோ விருப்பமில்லாமற்போனது. ³⁵ இதோ, உங்களுடைய வீடு உங்களுக்குப் பாழாக்கிவிடப்படும்; கர்த்தருடைய நாமத்தினாலே வருகிறவர் வாழ்த்தப்படத்தக்கவர் என்று நீங்கள் சொல்லும் காலம் வரும்வரைக்கும் என்னைக் காணாதிருப்பீர்கள் என்று மெய்யாகவே உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன் என்றார்.

அத்தியாயம்- 14

¹ ஒரு ஓய்வுநாளிலே பரிசேயர்களில் தலைவனாகிய ஒருவனுடைய வீட்டிலே அவர் உணவு உட்கொள்ளும்படிக்குச் சென்றிருந்தார். ² அப்பொழுது நீர்க்கோவை வியாதியுள்ள ஒரு மனிதன் அவருக்கு முன்பாக இருந்தான். அவனுக்கு என்ன செய்வாரோவென்று மக்கள் அவர்மேல் நோக்கமாக இருந்தார்கள். ³ இயேசு நியாயப்பண்டிதர்களையும் பரிசேயர்களையும் பார்த்து: ஓய்வுநாளிலே சுகமாக்குகிறது நியாயமா என்று கேட்டார். ⁴ அதற்கு அவர்கள் பேசாமலிருந்தார்கள். அப்பொழுது அவர் அவனை அழைத்து, சுகமாக்கி, அனுப்பிவிட்டு, ⁵ அவர்களை நோக்கி: உங்களில் ஒருவனுடைய கழுதையாவது எருதாவது ஓய்வுநாளில் கிணற்றில் விழுந்தால், அவன் அதை உடனே தூக்கிவிடமாட்டானா என்றார். ⁶ அதற்கு உத்தரவுசொல்ல அவர்களால் கூடாமற்போனது. ⁷ விருந்துக்கு அழைக்கப்பட்டவர்கள் பந்தியில் முதன்மையான இடங்களைத் தெரிந்துகொண்டதை அவர் பார்த்து, அவர்களுக்கு ஒரு உவமையைச் சொன்னார்: ⁸ ஒருவனால் திருமணவிருந்துக்கு நீ அழைக்கப்பட்டிருக்கும்போது, பந்தியில் முதன்மையான இடத்தில் உட்காராதே; உன்னைவிட மதிப்புக்குரியவன் ஒருவேளை அவனால் அழைக்கப்பட்டிருப்பான். ⁹ அப்பொழுது உன்னையும் அவனையும் அழைத்தவன் உன்னிடத்தில் வந்து: இவருக்கு இடங்கொடு என்பான்; அப்பொழுது நீ வெட்கத்தோடு கடைசி இடத்திற்குப் போகவேண்டியதாயிருக்கும். ¹⁰ நீ அழைக்கப்பட்டிருக்கும்போது, கடைசி இடத்திலேயே உட்காரு; அப்பொழுது உன்னை அழைத்தவன் வந்து: நண்பனே, உயர்ந்த இடத்தில் வாரும் என்று சொல்லும்போது, உன்னுடனே கூடப் பந்தியிருக்கிறவர்களுக்கு முன்பாக உனக்குப் பெருமையுண்டாகும். ¹¹ தன்னைத்தான் உயர்த்துகிறவனெவனும் தாழ்த்தப்படுவான், தன்னைத்தான் தாழ்த்துகிறவன் உயர்த்தப்படுவான் என்றார். ¹² அன்றியும் அவர் தம்மை விருந்துக்கு அழைத்தவனை நோக்கி: நீ பகல்விருந்தாவது இராவிருந்தாவது பண்ணும்போது, உன் நண்பர்களுையாவது உன் சகோதரர்களுையாவது, உன் உறவினர்களுையாவது, செல்வமுள்ள அண்டை வீட்டாரையாவது அழைக்கவேண்டாம்; அழைத்தால் அவர்களும் உன்னை அழைப்பார்கள், அப்பொழுது உனக்குப் பதிலுக்குப்பதில் செய்ததாகும். ¹³ நீ விருந்து பண்ணும்போது ஏழைகளையும் நடக்கமுடியாதவர்களையும், முடவர்களையும், பார்வையற்றவர்களையும் அழைப்பாயாக. ¹⁴ அப்பொழுது நீ பாக்கியவானாக இருப்பாய்; அவர்களால் உனக்குத் திரும்பச் செய்யமுடியாது; நீதிமான்களின் உயிர்த்தெழுதலில் உனக்கு திரும்பச்செய்யப்படும் என்றார்.

¹⁵ அவரோடுகூடப் பந்தியிருந்தவர்களில் ஒருவன் இவைகளைக் கேட்டபொழுது, அவரை நோக்கி: தேவனுடைய ராஜ்யத்தில் உணவு உட்கொள்ளுகிறவன் பாக்கியவான் என்றான். ¹⁶ அதற்கு அவர்: ஒரு மனிதன் பெரியவிருந்தை ஆயத்தம்பண்ணி, அநேகரை அழைப்பித்தான். ¹⁷ விருந்து நேரத்தில் தன் வேலைக்காரனை நோக்கி: நீ அழைக்கப்பட்டவர்களிடத்திலேயே, எல்லாம் ஆயத்தமாக இருக்கிறது வாருங்கள் என்று சொல்லென்று அவனை அனுப்பினான். ¹⁸ அவர்களெல்லோரும் சாக்குப்போக்குச்சொல்லத் தொடங்கினார்கள். ஒருவன்: ஒரு வயலை வாங்கியிருக்கிறேன், நான் கட்டாயமாகப்போய் அதைப் பார்க்கவேண்டும், என்னை மன்னிக்கும்படி வேண்டிக்கொள்ளுகிறேன் என்றான். ¹⁹ வேறொருவன்: ஐந்து ஏர்டாடுகள் வாங்கியிருக்கிறேன், அதை ஒட்டிப்பார்க்கப்போகிறேன், என்னை மன்னிக்கும்படி வேண்டிக்கொள்ளுகிறேன் என்றான். ²⁰ வேறொருவன்: எனக்கு இப்போதுதான் திருமணம் முடிந்திருக்கிறது, அதினால் நான் வரக்கூடாது என்றான். ²¹ அந்த வேலைக்காரன் வந்து, இவைகளைத் தன் எஜமானுக்கு அறிவித்தான். அப்பொழுது வீட்டெஜமான் கோபமடைந்து, தன் வேலைக்காரனை நோக்கி: நீ பட்டணத்தின் தெருக்களிலும் வீதிகளிலும் சீக்கிரமாகப்போய், ஏழைகளையும் நடக்கமுடியாதவர்களையும், முடவர்களையும், பார்வையற்றவர்களையும் இங்கே அழைத்துக்கொண்டுவா என்றான். ²² வேலைக்காரன் அப்படியே செய்து: ஆண்டவரே, நீர் கட்டளையிட்டபடி செய்தாயிற்று, இன்னும் இடம் இருக்கிறது என்றான். ²³ அப்பொழுது எஜமான் வேலைக்காரனை நோக்கி: நீ சாலையோரங்களிலும் குறுகியவழி அருகிலும்போய், என் வீடு நிறையும்படியாக மக்களை உள்ளே வரும்படி வற்புறுத்தி அழைத்துக்கொண்டுவா; ²⁴ அழைக்கப்பட்டிருந்த அந்த மனிதர்களில் ஒருவன்கூட என் விருந்தை ருசிபார்ப்பதில்லையென்று உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன் என்றான் என்று சொன்னார்.

²⁵ பின்பு அநேக மக்கள் அவரோடுகூடப் பயணமாகப் போகும்போது, அவர்களிடமாக அவர் திரும்பிப்பார்த்து: ²⁶ யாராவது ஒருவன் என்னிடத்தில் வந்து, தன் தகப்பனையும் தாயையும் மனைவியையும் பிள்ளைகளையும் சகோதரர்களையும் சகோதரிகளையும், தன் ஜீவனையும் வெறுக்காவிட்டால் எனக்குச் சீடனாக இருக்கமாட்டான். ²⁷ தன் சிலுவையைச் சுமந்துகொண்டு என் பின்னே வராதவன் எனக்குச் சீடனாக இருக்கமுடியாது. ²⁸ உங்களில் ஒருவன் ஒரு கோபுரத்தைக் கட்டவிருப்பதாக இருந்து, ²⁹ அஸ்திபாரம் போட்டப்பின்பு வேலையை முடிக்கமுடியாமற்போனால்,

பார்க்கிறவர்களெல்லோரும்: ³⁰ இந்த மனிதன் கட்டத்தொடங்கி, முடிக்க முடியாமற்போனான் என்று சொல்லி தன்னை ஏளனமாக பேசாதபடிக்கு, அதைக் கட்டிமுடிப்பதற்கு தனக்கு வேண்டிய பொருளாதாரம் உண்டோ இல்லையோ என்று முன்பு அவன் உட்கார்ந்து செலவாகும் தொகையைக் கணக்குப்பார்க்காமல் இருப்பானோ? ³¹ அன்றியும் ஒரு ராஜா மற்றொரு ராஜாவோடு போர்செய்யப்போகிறபோது, தன்மேல் இருபதாயிரம் போர்வீரர்களோடு வருகிற அவனைத் தான் பத்தாயிரம் போர்வீரர்களைக்கொண்டு எதிர்க்கக்கூடுமோ கூடாதோ என்று முன்னமே உட்கார்ந்து ஆலோசனை செய்யாமலிருப்பானோ? ³² கூடாதென்று கண்டால், மற்றவன் இன்னும் தூரத்திலிருக்கும்போதே, தூதுவரை அனுப்பி, சமாதானத்துக்கானவைகளைக் கேட்டுக்கொள்வானே. ³³ அப்படியே உங்களில் எவனாவது தனக்கு உண்டானவைகளையெல்லாம் வெறுத்துவிடாவிட்டால் அவன் எனக்குச் சீடனாக இருக்கமாட்டான். ³⁴ உப்பு நல்லதுதான், உப்பு சாரமற்றுப்போனால் எதினால் சாரமாக்கப்படும்? ³⁵ அது நிலத்துக்காவது எருவுக்காவது உதவாது, அதை வெளியே கொட்டிப்போடுவார்கள். கேட்கிறதற்குக் காதுள்ளவன் கேட்கவேண்டும் என்றார்.

அத்தியாயம்- 15

¹ எல்லா வரி வசூலிப்பவர்களும் பாவிதரும் அவருடைய வசனங்களைக் கேட்கும்படி அவரிடத்தில் வந்துசேர்ந்தார்கள். ² அப்பொழுது பரிசேயர்களும் வேதபண்டிதர்களும் முறுமுறுத்து: இவர் பாவிதனை ஏற்றுக்கொண்டு அவர்களோடு சாப்பிடுகிறார் என்றார்கள். ³ அவர்களுக்கு அவர் சொன்ன உவமையாவது: ⁴ உங்களில் ஒரு மனிதன் நூறு ஆடுகளை உடையவனாக இருந்து, அவைகளில் ஒன்று காணாமற்போனால், தொண்ணூற்றொன்பது ஆடுகளையும் வனாந்திரத்திலேவிட்டு, காணாமற்போன ஆட்டைக் கண்டுபிடிக்கும்வரை தேடித்திரியானோ? ⁵ கண்டுபிடித்தபின்பு, அவன் மகிழ்ச்சியோடு அதைத் தன் தோள்களின்மேல் போட்டுக்கொண்டு, ⁶ வீட்டிற்கு வந்து, நண்பர்களையும் அண்டைகுடும்பத்தாரையும் கூட வரவழைத்து: காணாமற்போன என் ஆட்டைக் கண்டுபிடித்தேன், என்னோடுகூட மகிழுங்கள் என்பான் அல்லவா? ⁷ அதுபோல, மனந்திரும்ப அவசியமில்லாத தொண்ணூற்றொன்பது நீதிமான்களைக்குறித்து மகிழ்ச்சி உண்டாகிறதைவிட மனந்திரும்புகிற ஒரே பாவியினிமித்தம் பரலோகத்தில் மிகுந்த மகிழ்ச்சி உண்டாயிருக்கும் என்று உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன்.

⁸ அன்றியும், ஒரு பெண் பத்து வெள்ளிக்காசுகளை உடையவனாக இருந்து, அதில் ஒரு வெள்ளிக்காசு காணாமற்போனால், விளக்கைக் கொளுத்தி, வீட்டைப் பெருக்கி, அதைக் கண்டுபிடிக்கிறவரைக்கும் அக்கறையோடு தேடாமலிருப்பாளா? ⁹ கண்டுபிடித்தபின்பு, தன் தோழிகளையும் அண்டை வீட்டுக்காரிகளையும் கூட வரவழைத்து: காணாமற்போன வெள்ளிக்காசைக் கண்டுபிடித்தேன், என்னோடுகூட மகிழ்ச்சியாக இருங்கள் என்பான் அல்லவா? ¹⁰ அதுபோல மனந்திரும்புகிற ஒரே பாவியினிமித்தம் தேவனுடைய தூதர்களுக்கு முன்பாக மகிழ்ச்சி உண்டாயிருக்கிறது என்று உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன் என்றார்.

¹¹ பின்னும் அவர் சொன்னது: ஒரு மனிதனுக்கு இரண்டு குமாரர்கள் இருந்தார்கள். ¹² அவர்களில் இளையவன் தகப்பனை நோக்கி: தகப்பனே, சொத்தில் எனக்கு வரும் பங்கை எனக்குத் தரவேண்டும் என்றான். அந்தப்படி அவன் அவர்களுக்குத் தன் சொத்தை பங்கிட்டுக்கொடுத்தான். ¹³ சில நாட்களுக்குப்பின்பு, இளையமகன் தன் சொத்தைவிற்பு பணத்தை திரட்டிக்கொண்டு, தூரதேசத்திற்குப் புறப்பட்டுப்போய், அங்கே துன்மார்க்கமாக வாழ்ந்து, தன் சொத்தை அழித்துப்போட்டான். ¹⁴ எல்லாவற்றையும் அவன் செலவழித்தபின்பு, அந்த தேசத்திலே கொடிய பஞ்சமுண்டானது. அப்பொழுது அவன் வறுமைக்குள்ளானான், ¹⁵ அந்த தேசத்துக் குடிகளில் ஒருவனிடத்தில்போய் வேலையில் சேர்ந்தான். அந்தக் குடியானவன் அவனைத் தன் வயல்களில் பன்றிகளை மேய்க்கும்படி அனுப்பினான். ¹⁶ அப்பொழுது பன்றிகள் தின்கிற தவிட்டினாலே தன் பசியைதீர்க்க ஆசையாக இருந்தான், ஒருவனும் அதை அவனுக்குக் கொடுக்கவில்லை. ¹⁷ அவனுக்குப் புத்தி தெளிந்தபோது, அவன்: என் தகப்பனுடைய வேலைக்காரர்கள் எத்தனையோ பேருக்கு நிறைவான உணவு இருக்கிறது, நானோ பசியினால் சாகிறேன். ¹⁸ நான் எழுந்து என் தகப்பனிடத்திற்குப்போய்: தகப்பனே, பரலோகத்திற்கு விரோதமாகவும் உமக்கு முன்பாகவும் பாவம் செய்தேன். ¹⁹ இனிமேல் உம்முடைய குமாரன் என்று சொல்லப்படுவதற்கு நான் தகுதியற்றவன், உம்முடைய வேலைக்காரர்களில் ஒருவனாக என்னை வைத்துக்கொள்ளும் என்பேன் என்று சொல்லி; ²⁰ எழுந்து புறப்பட்டு, தன் தகப்பனிடத்தில் வந்தான். அவன் தூரத்தில் வரும்போதே, அவனுடைய தகப்பன் அவனைக் கண்டு, மனதுருகி, ஓடி, அவன் கழுத்தைக் கட்டிக்கொண்டு, அவனை முத்தம்செய்தான். ²¹ குமாரன் தகப்பனை நோக்கி: தகப்பனே பரலோகத்திற்கு விரோதமாகவும், உமக்கு முன்பாகவும் பாவம் செய்தேன், இனிமேல் உம்முடைய குமாரன் என்று சொல்லப்படுவதற்கு நான் தகுதியற்றவன் என்று சொன்னான். ²² அப்பொழுது தகப்பன் தன் வேலைக்காரர்களை நோக்கி: நீங்கள் உயர்ந்த ஆடைகளை கொண்டுவந்து இவனுக்கு உடுத்தி இவன் கைக்கு மோதிரத்தையும் கால்களுக்குப் பாதரட்சைகளையும் போடுங்கள். ²³ கொழுத்தக் கன்றைக் கொண்டுவந்து அடியுங்கள். நாம் விருந்து கொண்டாடுவோம். ²⁴ என் குமாரனாகிய இவன் மரித்தான், திரும்பவும் உயிர்த்தான்; காணாமற்போனான், திரும்பவும் காணப்பட்டான் என்றான். அப்படியே அவர்கள் கொண்டாடத் தொடங்கினார்கள். ²⁵ அவனுடைய மூத்தகுமாரன் வயலில் இருந்தான். அவன் திரும்பி வீட்டிற்கு அருகில் வருகிறபோது, கீதவாத்தியத்தையும் நடனக்களிப்பையும் கேட்டு; ²⁶ வேலைக்காரர்களில் ஒருவனை அழைத்து: இதென்ன என்று விசாரித்தான். ²⁷ அதற்கு அவன்: உம்முடைய சகோதரன் வந்தார், அவர் மறுபடியும் சுகத்துடனே உம்முடைய தகப்பனிடத்தில் வந்து சேர்ந்தபடியினாலே அவருக்காகக் கொழுத்தக் கன்றை அடித்திருக்கிறார் என்றான். ²⁸ அப்பொழுது அவன் கோபமடைந்து உள்ளே போக விருப்பமில்லாதிருந்தான். தகப்பனோ வெளியே வந்து அவனை வருந்தி அழைத்தான். ²⁹ அவன் தகப்பனுக்கு மறுமொழியாக: இதோ, இத்தனை வருடகாலமாக நான் உமக்கு வேலைச்செய்து, எப்பொழுதுமே எல்லாவற்றிலும் உம்முடைய வார்த்தைகளுக்குக் கீழ்ப்படிந்திருந்தும், என் நண்பர்களோடு நான் மகிழ்ச்சியாக இருக்கும்படி நீர் ஒருபோதும் எனக்கு ஒரு ஆட்டுக்குட்டியையாவது கொடுக்கவில்லை.

³⁰ வேசிகளிடத்தில் உம்முடைய சொத்துக்களை அழித்துப்போட்ட உம்முடைய குமாரனாகிய இவன் வந்தவுடனே கொழுத்தக் கன்றை இவனுக்காக அடிப்பித்தீரே என்றான். ³¹ அதற்குத் தகப்பன்: மகனே, நீ எப்போதும் என்னோடு இருக்கிறாய், எனக்குள்ளதெல்லாம் உன்னுடையதாக இருக்கிறது. ³² உன் சகோதரனாகிய இவனோ மரித்தான், திரும்பவும் உயிர்த்தான்; காணாமற்போனான், திரும்பவும் காணப்பட்டான்; ஆனபடியினாலே, நாம் கொண்டாடி மகிழ்ச்சியாக இருக்கவேண்டுமே என்று சொன்னான் என்றார்.

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¹ பின்னும் அவர் தம்முடைய சீடர்களை நோக்கி: செல்வந்தனாகிய ஒரு மனிதனுக்கு நிர்வாகி ஒருவன் இருந்தான்; அவன் தன் எஜமானுடைய சொத்துக்களை அழித்துப்போடுகிறதாக எஜமானுக்கு அறிவிக்கப்பட்டது. ² அப்பொழுது எஜமான் அவனை வரவழைத்து: உன்னைக்குறித்து நான் இப்படிக்கேள்விப்படுகிறதென்ன? உன் நிர்வாகத்தின் கணக்கைக் கொடு, இனி நீ நிர்வாகியாக இருக்கக்கூடாது என்றான். ³ அப்பொழுது அந்த நிர்வாகி: நான் என்ன செய்வேன், என் எஜமான் நிர்வாக பொறுப்பிலிருந்து என்னை நீக்கிப்போடுகிறானே நிலத்தை பண்படுத்துவதற்கும்; எனக்குப் பெலனில்லை, பிச்சையெடுக்கவும் வெட்கப்படுகிறேன். ⁴ நிர்வாகப் பொறுப்பைவிட்டு நான் நீக்கப்படும்போது, என்னைத் தங்களுடைய வீடுகளில் ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளுவார் உண்டாகும்படி செய்யவேண்டியது இன்னதென்று எனக்குத் தெரியவந்தது, என்று தனக்குள்ளே சொல்லிக்கொண்டு; ⁵ தன் எஜமானிடத்தில் கடன்பட்டவர்களை ஒவ்வொருவனாக வரவழைத்து: முதலாவது வந்தவனை நோக்கி: நீ என் எஜமானிடத்தில் பட்ட கடன் எவ்வளவு என்றான். ⁶ அவன்: நூறுகுடம் எண்ணெய் என்றான். அப்பொழுது நிர்வாகி அவனை நோக்கி: நீ உன் சீட்டை வாங்கி, உட்கார்ந்து, ஐம்பது என்று சீக்கிரமாக எழுது என்றான். ⁷ பின்பு அவன் வேறொருவனை நோக்கி: நீ பட்ட கடன் எவ்வளவு என்றான். அவன்: நூறு மூட்டை கோதுமை என்றான். அப்பொழுது அவன்: நீ உன் சீட்டை வாங்கி, எண்பது என்று எழுது என்றான். ⁸ அநீதியுள்ள அந்த நிர்வாகி புத்தியாகச் செய்தான் என்று எஜமான் பார்த்து அவனை மெச்சிக்கொண்டான். இவ்விதமாக ஒளியின் மக்களைவிட இந்த உலகத்தின் மக்கள் தங்களுடைய சந்ததியில் அதிக புத்திமான்களாக இருக்கிறார்கள். ⁹ நான் உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன், நீங்கள் மரிக்கும்போது உங்களை நித்தியமான வீடுகளிலே ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளுவோர் உண்டாகும்படி, அநீதியான உலகப்பொருளால் உங்களுக்கு நண்பர்களைச் சம்பாதிப்பீர்கள். ¹⁰ கொஞ்சத்திலே உண்மையுள்ளவன் அநேகத்திலும் உண்மையுள்ளவனாக இருக்கிறான், கொஞ்சத்திலே அநீதியுள்ளவன் அநேகத்திலும் அநீதியுள்ளவனாக இருக்கிறான். ¹¹ அநீதியான உலகப்பொருளில் நீங்கள் உண்மையாக இல்லாவிட்டால், யார் உங்களை நம்பி உங்களிடம் நேர்மையான சொத்தை ஒப்புவிப்பார்கள்? ¹² வேறொருவனுடைய காரியத்தில் நீங்கள் உண்மையுள்ளவர்களாக இல்லாவிட்டால், உங்களுக்கு ஏதாவதொன்றைச் சொந்தமாகக் கொடுப்பவர் யார்? ¹³ எந்த வேலைக்காரனும் இரண்டு எஜமான்களுக்கு பணிவிடை செய்யமுடியாது; ஒருவனைப் பகைத்து மற்றவனை நேசிப்பான், அல்லது ஒருவனைப்பற்றிக்கொண்டு மற்றவனை அசட்டைபண்ணுவான். தேவனுக்கும் உலகப்பொருளுக்கும் வேலைசெய்ய உங்களாலே கூடாது என்றார். ¹⁴ இவைகளையெல்லாம் பொருளாசைக்காரர்களாகிய பரிசேயர்களும் கேட்டு, அவரைப் பரிகாசம்பண்ணினார்கள். ¹⁵ அவர் அவர்களை நோக்கி: நீங்கள் மனிதர்கள் முன்பாக உங்களை நீதிமான்களாகக் காட்டுகிறீர்கள், தேவனோ உங்களுடைய இருதயங்களை அறிந்திருக்கிறார்; மனிதர்களுக்குள்ளே மேன்மையாக எண்ணப்படுகிறது தேவனுக்குமுன்பாக அருவருப்பாக இருக்கிறது.

¹⁶ நியாயப்பிரமாணமும் தீர்க்கதரிசன வாக்கியங்களும் யோவான்வரைக்கும் இருந்தது; அதுமுதல் தேவனுடைய ராஜ்யம் நற்செய்தியாக அறிவிக்கப்பட்டுவருகிறது, அனைவரும் பலவந்தமாக அதில் பிரவேசிக்கிறார்கள். ¹⁷ வேதத்தில் ஒரு எழுத்தின் உறுப்பு ஒழிந்துபோவதைவிட, வானமும் பூமியும் ஒழிந்துபோவது எளிதாயிருக்கும். ¹⁸ தன் மனைவியைத் தள்ளிவிட்டு, வேறொரு பெண்ணைத் திருமணம் செய்கிறவன் விபசாரம் செய்கிறான், கணவனாலே விவாகரத்து செய்யப்பட்டவளைத் திருமணம் செய்கிறவனும் விபசாரம் செய்கிறான்.

¹⁹ செல்வந்தனாகிய ஒரு மனிதன் இருந்தான்; அவன் இரத்தாம்பரமும் விலையுயர்ந்த உடையும் அணிந்து, அநுதினமும் ஆடம்பரமாக வாழ்ந்துகொண்டிருந்தான். ²⁰ லாசரு என்னும் பெயர்கொண்ட ஒரு தரித்திரனும் இருந்தான்; அவன் சரீர முழுவதும் கொப்பளங்கள் நிறைந்தவனாக, அந்த செல்வந்தனுடைய வாசலின் அருகே தங்கி, ²¹ அவனுடைய மேஜையிலிருந்து விழுந்த துணிக்கைகளாலே தன் பசியை ஆற்ற ஆசையாக இருந்தான்; நாய்கள் வந்து அவன் கொப்பளங்களை நக்கிற்று. ²² பின்பு அந்த தரித்திரன் மரித்து, தேவதூதர்களால் ஆபிரகாமுடைய மடியிலே கொண்டுபோய் விடப்பட்டான்; செல்வந்தனும் மரித்து அடக்கம்பண்ணப்பட்டான். ²³ பாதாளத்திலே அவன் வேதனைப்படுகிறபோது, தன் கண்களை ஏறெடுத்து, தூரத்திலே ஆபிரகாமையும் அவன் மடியிலே லாசருவையும் கண்டான். ²⁴ அப்பொழுது அவன்: தகப்பனாகிய ஆபிரகாமே, நீர் எனக்கு இரங்கி, லாசரு தன் விரலின் நுனியைத் தண்ணீரில் தோய்த்து, என் நாக்கைக் குளிர்பண்ணும்படி அவனை அனுப்பவேண்டும்; இந்த அக்கினியில் வேதனைப்படுகிறேனே என்று கூப்பிட்டான். ²⁵ அதற்கு ஆபிரகாம்: மகனே, நீ பூமியிலே உயிரோடு இருக்கும் காலத்தில் உன் நன்மைகளை அனுபவித்தாய், லாசருவும் அப்படியே தீமைகளை அனுபவித்தான், அதை நினைத்துக்கொள்; இப்பொழுது அவன் தேற்றப்படுகிறான், நீயோ வேதனைப்படுகிறாய். ²⁶ அதுவுமல்லாமல், இந்த இடத்திலிருந்து உங்களிடத்திற்குக் கடந்துபோகவும்,

அந்த இடத்திலிருந்து எங்களிடத்திற்குக் கடந்துவரவும் மனதுள்ளவர்களுக்குக் கூடாதபடிக்கு, எங்களுக்கும் உங்களுக்கும் நடுவே பெரும்பிளவு உண்டாக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது என்றான். ²⁷ அப்பொழுது அவன்: அப்படியானால், தகப்பனே, எனக்கு ஐந்துபேர் சகோதரர்கள் உண்டு, அவர்களும் வேதனையுள்ள இந்த இடத்திற்கு வராதபடி, அவன்போய் அவர்களுக்கு சாட்சியாக அறிவிக்கும்படியாக, ²⁸ நீர் அவனை என் தகப்பன் வீட்டிற்கு அனுப்பும்படி உம்மை வேண்டிக்கொள்ளுகிறேன் என்றான். ²⁹ ஆபிரகாம் அவனை நோக்கி: அவர்களுக்கு மோசேயும் தீர்க்கதரிசிகளும் உண்டு, அவர்களுக்கு அவர்கள் செவிகொடுக்கட்டும் என்றான். ³⁰ அதற்கு அவன்: அப்படியல்ல, தகப்பனாகிய ஆபிரகாமே, மரித்தோரிலிருந்து ஒருவன் அவர்களிடத்திற்குப்போனால் மனந்திரும்புவார்கள் என்றான். ³¹ அதற்கு அவன்: அவர்கள் மோசேக்கும் தீர்க்கதரிசிகளுக்கும் செவிகொடாவிட்டால், மரித்தோரிலிருந்து ஒருவன் உயிரோடு எழுந்துபோனாலும், நம்பமாட்டார்கள் என்று சொன்னான் என்றார்.

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¹ பின்பு இயேசு தம்முடைய சீடர்களை நோக்கி: இடறல்கள் வராமல் இருக்கமுடியாது, ஆனாலும் அவைகள் எவனால் வருகிறதோ, அவனுக்கு ஐயோ! ² அவன் இந்தச் சிறுவரில் ஒருவனுக்கு இடறல் உண்டாக்குகிறதைவிட, அவனுடைய கழுத்தில் எந்திரக்கல் கட்டப்பட்டு, அவன் கடலில் தள்ளுண்டுபோவது அவனுக்கு நலமாக இருக்கும். ³ உங்களைக்குறித்து எச்சரிக்கையாக இருங்கள். உன் சகோதரன் உனக்கு விரோதமாகக் குற்றம் செய்தால், அவனைக் கடிந்துகொள்; அவன் மனம் வருந்தினால், அவனுக்கு மன்னிப்பாயாக. ⁴ அவன் ஒருநாளில் ஏழுதரம் உனக்கு விரோதமாகக் குற்றம் செய்து, ஏழுதரமும் உன்னிடத்தில் வந்து: நான் மனம் வருந்துகிறேன் என்று சொன்னால், அவனுக்கு மன்னிப்பாயாக என்றார். ⁵ அப்பொழுது அப்போஸ்தலர்கள் கர்த்தரை நோக்கி: எங்களுடைய விசுவாசத்தை பெருகப்பண்ணவேண்டும் என்றார்கள். ⁶ அதற்குக் கர்த்தர்: கடுகுவிதையளவு விசுவாசம் உங்களுக்கு உண்டாயிருந்தால், நீங்கள் இந்தக் காட்டத்திரத்தை நோக்கி: நீ வேரோடு பிடுங்குண்டு கடலிலே நடப்படுவாயாக என்று சொல்ல, அது உங்களுக்குக் கீழ்ப்படியும். ⁷ உங்களில் ஒருவனுடைய வேலைக்காரன் உழுது அல்லது மந்தையை மேய்த்து வயலிலிருந்து வரும்போது, எஜமான் அவனை நோக்கி: நீ முன்புபோய்ச் சாப்பிட்டுவா என்று அவனுக்குச் சொல்வானோ? ⁸ நீ எனக்குச் சாப்பாடு ஆயத்தம்பண்ணி, பரிமாறும் உடை அணிந்துக்கொண்டு, ஆகாரம் உட்கொள்ளும்வரை எனக்கு வேலைச்செய், அதற்குப்பின் நீ புசித்துக் குடிக்கலாம் என்று அவனுக்குச் சொல்லுவானல்லவா? ⁹ தான் கட்டளையிட்டவைகளை அந்த வேலைக்காரன் செய்ததற்காக அவனுக்கு நன்றி சொல்லுவானோ? அப்படிச் செய்யமாட்டானே. ¹⁰ அப்படியே நீங்களும் உங்களுக்குக் கட்டளையிடப்பட்ட யாவற்றையும் செய்தபின்பு: நாங்கள் பயனற்ற வேலைக்காரர்கள், செய்யவேண்டிய கடமையைமட்டும் செய்தோம் என்று சொல்லுங்கள் என்றார்.

¹¹ பின்பு அவர் எருசலேமுக்குப் பயணமாகபோகும்போது, அவர் சமாரியா கலிலேயா என்னும் நாடுகளின்வழியாக நடந்துபோனார். ¹² அவர் ஒரு கிராமத்திற்குள் நுழைந்தபோது, குஷ்டரோகமுள்ள மனிதர்கள் பத்துபேர் அவருக்கு எதிராக வந்து, தூரத்திலே நின்று: ¹³ இயேசு ஐயரே, எங்களுக்கு இரங்கும் என்று சத்தமிட்டார்கள். ¹⁴ அவர்களை அவர் பார்த்து: நீங்கள் போய், ஆசாரியர்களுக்கு உங்களைக் காண்பியுங்கள் என்றார். அந்தப்படி அவர்கள் போகும்போது சுகமானார்கள். ¹⁵ அவர்களில் ஒருவன் தான் ஆரோக்கியமானதைக் கண்டு, திரும்பிவந்து, உரத்த சத்தமாக தேவனை மகிமைப்படுத்தி, ¹⁶ அவருடைய பாதத்தருகே முகங்குப்புறிவிழுந்து, அவருக்கு நன்றி செலுத்தினான்; அவன் சமாரியனாக இருந்தான். ¹⁷ அப்பொழுது இயேசு: சுகமானவர்கள் பத்துப்பேர் அல்லவா, மற்ற ஒன்பதுபேர் எங்கே? ¹⁸ தேவனை மகிமைப்படுத்துகிறதற்கு, இந்த அந்நியனைத்தவிர மற்றொருவனும் திரும்பிவரக்காணாமே என்று சொல்லி, ¹⁹ அவனை நோக்கி: நீ எழுந்துபோ, உன் விசுவாசம் உன்னை இரட்சித்தது என்றார்.

²⁰ தேவனுடைய ராஜ்யம் எப்பொழுது வருமென்று, பரிசேயர்கள் அவரிடத்தில் கேட்டபொழுது, அவர்களுக்கு அவர் மறுமொழியாக: தேவனுடைய ராஜ்யம் கண்களுக்குத் தெரியும்படியாக வராது. ²¹ இதோ, இங்கே என்றும், அதோ, அங்கே என்றும் சொல்லப்படுகிறதற்கும் ஏதுவாக இருக்காது; இதோ, தேவனுடைய ராஜ்யம் உங்களுக்குள் இருக்கிறதே என்றார். ²² பின்பு அவர் சீடர்களை நோக்கி: மனிதகுமாரனுடைய நாட்களிலொன்றைக் காணவேண்டுமென்று நீங்கள் ஆசைப்படுங்காலம் வரும்; ஆனாலும் அதைக் காணமாட்டீர்கள். ²³ இதோ, இங்கே என்றும், அதோ, அங்கே என்றும், சிலர் உங்களிடம் சொல்லுவார்கள்; நீங்களோ போகாமலும் பின்தொடராமலும் இருங்கள். ²⁴ மின்னல் வானத்தின் ஒரு திசையில் தோன்றி மறுதிசைவரைக்கும் பிரகாசிக்கிறதுபோல மனிதகுமாரனும் தம்முடைய நாளிலே தோன்றுவார். ²⁵ அதற்கு முன்பு அவர் அநேகம் பாடுகள்பட்டு, இந்தச் சந்ததியினால் ஆகாதவனென்று தள்ளப்படவேண்டியதாக இருக்கிறது. ²⁶ நோவாவின் நாட்களில் நடந்ததுபோல மனிதகுமாரனுடைய நாட்களிலும் நடக்கும். ²⁷ நோவா பேழைக்குள் பிரவேசித்த நாள்வரை மக்கள் புசித்துக் குடித்தார்கள், பெண் எடுத்தும் பெண் கொடுத்தும் இருந்தார்கள்; பெருவெள்ளம் வந்து எல்லோரையும் அழித்துப்போட்டது. ²⁸ லோத்தினுடைய நாட்களில் நடந்ததுபோலவும் நடக்கும்; மக்கள் புசித்தார்கள், குடித்தார்கள், கொண்டார்கள், விற்றார்கள், நட்பார்கள், கட்டினார்கள். ²⁹ லோத்து சோதோமைவிட்டுப் புறப்பட்ட நாளிலே வானத்திலிருந்து அக்கினியும் கந்தகமும் பெய்து, எல்லோரையும் அழித்துப்போட்டது. ³⁰ மனிதகுமாரன் வெளிப்படும் நாளிலும் அப்படியே நடக்கும். ³¹ அந்த நாளிலே வீட்டின்மேலிருப்பவன் வீட்டிலுள்ள தன் பொருட்களை எடுத்துக்கொண்டுபோக இறங்காமல் இருக்கவேண்டும்; அப்படியே வயலிலிருக்கிறவன் பின்னிட்டுத் திரும்பாமலும் இருக்கவேண்டும். ³² லோத்தின் மனைவியை நினைத்துக்கொள்ளுங்கள். ³³ தன் ஜீவனை இரட்சிக்க வகைதேடுகிறவன் அதை இழந்துபோவான்; இழந்துபோகிறவன் அதை உயிர்ப்பித்துக்கொள்ளுவான். ³⁴ அந்த இரவில் ஒரே படுக்கையில்

படுத்திருக்கிற இரண்டுபேரில் ஒருவன் ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளப்படுவான், மற்றவன் கைவிடப்படுவான். ³⁵
மாவரைக்கிற இரண்டு பெண்களில் ஒருத்தி ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளப்படுவாள், மற்றவள் கைவிடப்படுவாள். ³⁶
வயலிலிருக்கிற இரண்டுபேரில் ஒருவன் ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளப்படுவான், மற்றவன் கைவிடப்படுவான் என்று
உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன் என்றார். ³⁷ அவர்கள் அவருக்கு மறுமொழியாக: எங்கே, ஆண்டவரே,
என்றார்கள். அதற்கு அவர்: பிணம் எங்கேயோ அங்கே கழுகுகள் வந்து கூடும் என்றார்.

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¹ சோர்ந்துபோகாமல் எப்பொழுதும் ஜெபம்பண்ணவேண்டும் என்பதைக்குறித்து அவர்களுக்கு அவர் ஒரு உவமையைச் சொன்னார். ² ஒரு பட்டணத்திலே ஒரு நியாயாதிபதி இருந்தான்; அவன் தேவனுக்குப் பயப்படாதவனும் மனிதர்களை மதிக்காதவனுமாக இருந்தான். ³ அந்தப் பட்டணத்திலே ஒரு விதவையும் இருந்தாள்; அவள் அவனிடத்தில் போய்: எனக்கும் என் எதிராளிக்கும் இருக்கிற காரியத்தில் எனக்கு நியாயஞ்செய்யவேண்டும் என்று விண்ணப்பம்பண்ணினாள். ⁴ வெகுநாட்கள்வரை அவனுக்கு மனதில்லாதிருந்தது. பின்பு அவன்: நான் தேவனுக்குப் பயப்படாமலும் மனிதர்களை மதிக்காமலும் இருந்தும், ⁵ இந்த விதவை என்னை எப்பொழுதும் தொந்தரவு செய்கிறபடியினால், இவள் அடிக்கடி வந்து என்னைத் தொந்தரவுசெய்யாதபடி இவளுக்கு நியாயஞ்செய்யவேண்டும் என்று தனக்குள்ளே சொல்லிக்கொண்டான் என்றார். ⁶ பின்னும் கர்த்தர் அவர்களை நோக்கி: அநீதியுள்ள அந்த நியாயாதிபதி சொன்னதைச் சிந்தித்துப்பாருங்கள். ⁷ அந்தப்படியே தேவன் தம்மை நோக்கி இரவும் பகலும் கூப்பிடுகிறவர்களாகிய தம்மால் தெரிந்துகொள்ளப்பட்டவர்களின் காரியத்தில் நீடிய பொறுமையுள்ளவராக இருந்து அவர்களுக்கு நியாயஞ்செய்யாமலிருப்பாரோ? ⁸ சீக்கிரத்திலே அவர்களுக்கு நியாயஞ்செய்வார் என்று உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன். ஆனாலும் மனிதகுமாரன் வரும்போது பூமியிலே விசுவாசத்தைக் காண்பாரோ என்றார்.

⁹ அன்றியும், தங்களை நீதிமான்களென்று நம்பி, மற்றவர்களை அற்பமாக எண்ணின சிலரைக்குறித்து, அவர் ஒரு உவமையைச் சொன்னார். ¹⁰ இரண்டு மனிதர்கள் ஜெபம்பண்ணும்படி தேவாலயத்திற்குப் போனார்கள்; ஒருவன் பரிசேயன், மற்றவன் வரி வசூலிப்பவன். ¹¹ பரிசேயன் நின்று: தேவனே! நான் கொள்ளைக்காரர்கள், அநியாயக்காரர்கள், விபசாரக்காரர்கள் ஆகிய மற்ற மனிதர்களைப்போலவும், இந்த வரி வசூலிப்பவனைப்போலவும் இராததினால் உமக்கு நன்றி செலுத்துகிறேன். ¹² வாரத்தில் இரண்டுமுறை உபவாசிக்கிறேன்; என் சம்பாத்தியத்திலெல்லாம் பத்தில் ஒரு பங்கு காணிக்கை செலுத்தி வருகிறேன் என்று, தனக்குள்ளே ஜெபம்பண்ணினான். ¹³ வரி வசூலிப்பவன் தூரத்திலே நின்று, தன் கண்களையும் வானத்திற்கு ஏறெடுக்கத் துணியாமல், தன் மார்பிலே அடித்துக்கொண்டு: தேவனே! பாவியாகிய என்மேல் கிருபையாக இரும் என்றான். ¹⁴ அவனல்ல, இவனே நீதிமானாக்கப்பட்டவனாகத் தன் வீட்டிற்குத் திரும்பிப்போனான் என்று உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன்; ஏனென்றால், தன்னை உயர்த்துகிறவனெவனும் தாழ்த்தப்படுவான், தன்னைத் தாழ்த்துகிறவன் உயர்த்தப்படுவான் என்றார்.

¹⁵ பின்பு குழந்தைகளை அவர் தொடும்படிக்கு அவர்களை அவரிடத்தில் கொண்டுவந்தார்கள். சீடர்கள் அதைக் கண்டு, கொண்டுவந்தவர்களை அதட்டினார்கள். ¹⁶ இயேசுவோ அவர்களைக் கொண்டுவரும்படி கட்டளையிட்டு: சிறு பிள்ளைகள் என்னிடத்தில் வருகிறதற்கு இடங்கொடுங்கள், அவர்களைத் தடைபண்ணாதிருங்கள்; தேவனுடைய ராஜ்யம் அப்படிப்பட்டவர்களுடையது. ¹⁷ எவனாவது சிறு பிள்ளையைப்போல தேவனுடைய ராஜ்யத்தை ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளாவிட்டால், அதில் பிரவேசிக்கமாட்டான் என்று உண்மையாகவே உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன் என்றார்.

¹⁸ அப்பொழுது தலைவன் ஒருவன் அவரை நோக்கி: நல்ல போதகரே, நித்தியஜீவனை பெற்றுக்கொள்வதற்கு நான் என்னசெய்யவேண்டும் என்று கேட்டான். ¹⁹ அதற்கு இயேசு: நீ என்னை நல்லவன் என்று சொல்லுவானேன்? தேவன் ஒருவர்தவிர நல்லவன் ஒருவனும் இல்லையே. ²⁰ விபசாரம் செய்யாதிருப்பாயாக, கொலை செய்யாதிருப்பாயாக, களவு செய்யாதிருப்பாயாக, பொய்ச்சாட்சி சொல்லாதிருப்பாயாக, உன் தகப்பனையும் உன் தாயையும் கணம்பண்ணுவாயாக என்கிற கட்டளைகளை நீ தெரிந்திருக்கிறாயே என்றார். ²¹ அதற்கு அவன்: இவைகளையெல்லாம் என் சிறுவயதுமுதல் கைக்கொண்டிருக்கிறேன் என்றான். ²² இயேசு அதைக்கேட்டு: இன்னும் உன்னிடத்தில் ஒரு குறைவு உண்டு; உனக்கு உண்டானவைகளையெல்லாம் விற்றுத் தரித்திரர்களுக்குக் கொடு, அப்பொழுது பரலோகத்திலே உனக்கு செல்வம் உண்டாயிருக்கும்; பின்பு என்னைப் பின்பற்றிவா என்றார். ²³ அவன் அதிக செல்வந்தனானபடியினால், இதைக் கேட்டபொழுது, மிகுந்த துக்கமடைந்தான். ²⁴ அவன் மிகுந்த துக்கமடைந்ததை இயேசு கண்டு: செல்வந்தர்கள் தேவனுடைய ராஜ்யத்தில் பிரவேசிப்பது எவ்வளவு அரிதாக இருக்கிறது. ²⁵ செல்வந்தன் தேவனுடைய ராஜ்யத்தில் பிரவேசிப்பதைவிட, ஒட்டகமானது ஊசியின் காதிலே நுழைவது சுலபமாக இருக்கும் என்றார். ²⁶ அதைக் கேட்டவர்கள்: அப்படியானால் யார் இரட்சிக்கப்படக்கூடும் என்றார்கள். ²⁷ அதற்கு அவர்: மனிதர்களால் கூடாதவைகள் தேவனால் கூடும் என்றார். ²⁸ அப்பொழுது பேதுரு அவரை நோக்கி: இதோ, நாங்கள் எல்லாவற்றையும்விட்டு, உம்மைப் பின்பற்றினோமே என்றான். ²⁹ அதற்கு அவர்: தேவனுடைய ராஜ்யத்தினிமித்தம் வீட்டையாவது, பெற்றோரையாவது, சகோதரர்களையாவது, மனைவியையாவது, பிள்ளைகளையாவது விட்டுவிட்ட

எவனும், ³⁰ இம்மையிலே அதிகமானவைகளையும், மறுமையிலே நித்தியஜீவனையும் அடையாமற்போவதில்லையென்று உண்மையாகவே உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன் என்றார்.

³¹ பின்பு அவர் பன்னிருவரையும் தம்மிடத்தில் அழைத்து: இதோ, எருசலேமுக்குப் போகிறோம், மனிதகுமாரனைக்குறித்துத் தீர்க்கதரிசிகளால் எழுதப்பட்டவைகளெல்லாம் நிறைவேறும். ³² எப்படியென்றால், அவர் யூதரல்லாதவரிடத்தில் ஒப்புக்கொடுக்கப்பட்டு, பரிகாசமும் நிந்தையும் அடைந்து, துப்பப்படுவார். ³³ அவரை சாட்டையினால் அடித்து, கொலைசெய்வார்கள்; மூன்றாம்நாளிலே அவர் உயிரோடு எழுந்திருப்பார் என்றார். ³⁴ இவைகளில் ஒன்றையும் அவர்கள் உணரவில்லை; அவைகளின் பொருள் அவர்களுக்கு மறைவாக இருந்தது, அவர் சொன்னவைகளை அவர்கள் அறிந்துகொள்ளவில்லை.

³⁵ பின்பு இயேசு எரிகோவிற்கு சமீபமாக வந்தபோது, ஒரு குருடன் வழியருகே உட்கார்ந்து பிச்சை கேட்டுக்கொண்டிருந்தான். ³⁶ மக்கள் நடக்கிற சத்தத்தை அவன் கேட்டு, இதென்ன என்று விசாரித்தான். ³⁷ நசரேயனாகிய இயேசு போகிறார் என்று அவனுக்கு அறிவித்தார்கள். அப்பொழுது அவன்: இயேசுவே, தாவீதின் குமாரனே, எனக்கு இரங்கும் என்று கூப்பிட்டான். ³⁸ முன் நடப்பவர்கள் அவன் பேசாமலிருக்கும்படி அவனை அதட்டினார்கள். அவனோ: தாவீதின் குமாரனே, எனக்கு இரங்கும் என்று மிகவும் அதிகமாகக் கூப்பிட்டான். ³⁹ இயேசு நின்று, அவனைத் தம்மிடத்தில் கொண்டுவரும்படி சொன்னார். ⁴⁰ அவன் அருகில் வந்தபோது, அவர் அவனை நோக்கி: ⁴¹ நான் உனக்கு என்னசெய்யவேண்டும் என்றிருக்கிறாய் என்று கேட்டார். அதற்கு அவன்: ஆண்டவரே, நான் பார்வையடையவேண்டும் என்றான். ⁴² இயேசு அவனை நோக்கி: நீ பார்வையடைவாயாக, உன் விசுவாசம் உன்னை இரட்சித்தது என்றார். ⁴³ உடனே அவன் பார்வையடைந்து, தேவனை மகிமைப்படுத்திக்கொண்டே, அவருக்குப் பின்னேசென்றான். மக்களெல்லோரும் அதைக் கண்டு, தேவனைப் புகழ்ந்தார்கள்.

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¹ இயேசு எரிகோவில் பிரவேசித்து, அதின்வழியாக நடந்துபோகும்போது, ² வரி வசூலிப்பவனும் செல்வந்தனுமாகவும் இருந்த சகேயு என்னப்பட்ட ஒரு மனிதன், ³ இயேசு எப்படிப்பட்டவரோ என்று அவரைப் பார்க்க வகைதேடினான். அவன் குள்ளனானபடியால், மக்கள்கூட்டத்தில் அவரைப் பார்க்கமுடியாமல், ⁴ அவர் போகும் வழியில் முன்னாக ஓடி, அவரைப் பார்க்கும்படி ஒரு காட்டத்தி் மரத்தில் ஏறினான். ⁵ இயேசு அந்த இடத்தில் வந்தபோது, அண்ணாந்துபார்த்து, அவனை நோக்கி: சகேயுவே, நீ சீக்கிரமாக இறங்கிவா, இன்றைக்கு நான் உன் வீட்டிலே தங்கவேண்டும் என்றார். ⁶ அவன் சீக்கிரமாக இறங்கி, சந்தோஷத்தோடு அவரை அழைத்துக்கொண்டுபோனான். ⁷ அதைக் கண்ட அனைவரும்: இவர் பாவியான மனிதனிடத்தில் தங்கும்படி போனார் என்று முறுமுறுத்தார்கள். ⁸ சகேயு நின்று, கர்த்தரைப் பார்த்து: ஆண்டவரே, என் சொத்துக்களில் பாதியை ஏழைகளுக்குக் கொடுக்கிறேன், நான் ஒருவனிடத்தில் எதையாவது அநியாயமாக வாங்கினதுண்டானால், நாலுமடங்காகத் திரும்பக் கொடுத்துவிடுகிறேன் என்றான். ⁹ இயேசு அவனைப் பார்த்து: இன்றைக்கு இந்த வீட்டிற்கு இரட்சிப்பு வந்தது; இவனும் ஆபிரகாமுக்குக் குமாரனாக இருக்கிறானே. ¹⁰ இழந்துபோனதைத் தேடவும் இரட்சிக்கவும் மனிதகுமாரன் வந்திருக்கிறார் என்றார்.

¹¹ அவர்கள் இவைகளைக் கேட்டுக்கொண்டிருக்கும்போது, அவர் எருசலேமுக்கு அருகிலிருந்தபடியினாலும், தேவனுடைய ராஜ்யம் சீக்கிரமாக வெளிப்படுமென்று அவர்கள் நினைத்தபடியினாலும், அவர் ஒரு உவமையைச் சொன்னார்: ¹² பிரபுவாகிய ஒருவன் ஒரு ராஜ்யத்தைப் பெற்றுக்கொண்டு திரும்பிவரும்படி தூரதேசத்திற்குப் போகப் புறப்பட்டான். ¹³ புறப்படும்போது, அவன் தன் வேலைக்காரர்களில் பத்துபேரை அழைத்து, அவர்களிடத்தில் பத்து பொற்காசுகளைக் கொடுத்து: நான் திரும்பிவரும் வரைக்கும் இதைக்கொண்டு வியாபாரம் செய்யுங்கள் என்று சொன்னான். ¹⁴ அவனுடைய ஊரார் அவனைப் பகைத்து, இவன் எங்கள்மேல் இராஜாவாக இருக்கிறது எங்களுக்கு விருப்பமில்லையென்று சொல்லும்படி அவன் பின்னே பிரதிநிதிகளை அனுப்பினார்கள். ¹⁵ அவன் ராஜ்யத்தைப் பெற்றுக்கொண்டு திரும்பிவந்தபோது, தன்னிடத்தில் பொற்காசுகளைவாங்கியிருந்த அந்த வேலைக்காரர்களில் அவனைவன் வியாபாரம் செய்து சம்பாதித்தது எவ்வளவென்று தெரிந்துகொள்ளும்படி, அவர்களைத் தன்னிடத்தில் அழைத்துவரச் சொன்னான். ¹⁶ அப்பொழுது முந்தினவன் வந்து: ஆண்டவனே, உம்முடைய பொற்காசுகளினால் பத்துபொற்காசுகள் லாபம் கிடைத்தது என்றான். ¹⁷ ஐமான் அவனைப் பார்த்து: நல்லது உத்தம வேலைக்காரனே, நீ கொஞ்சத்தில் உண்மையுள்ளவனாக இருந்தபடியால் பத்துப் பட்டணங்களுக்கு தலைவனாக இரு என்றான். ¹⁸ அப்படியே இரண்டாம் வேலைக்காரன் வந்து: ஆண்டவனே, உம்முடைய பொற்காசுகளினால் ஐந்துபொற்காசுகள் லாபம் கிடைத்தது என்றான். ¹⁹ அவனையும் அவன் பார்த்து: நீயும் ஐந்து பட்டணங்களுக்கு தலைவனாக இரு என்றான். ²⁰ பின்பு வேறொருவன் வந்து: ஆண்டவனே, இதோ, உம்முடைய பொற்காசு, இதை ஒரு துணியிலே வைத்திருந்தேன். ²¹ நீர் வைக்காததை எடுக்கிறவரும், விதைக்காததை அறுக்கிறவருமான கடினமுள்ள மனிதரென்று அறிந்து, உமக்குப் பயந்திருந்தேன் என்றான். ²² அதற்கு அவன்: பொல்லாத வேலைக்காரனே, உன் வாய்ச்சொல்லைக்கொண்டே உன்னை நியாயந்தீர்க்கிறேன். நான் வைக்காததை எடுக்கிறவனும், விதைக்காததை அறுக்கிறவனுமான கடினமுள்ள மனிதரென்று அறிந்தாயே, ²³ பின்னை ஏன் நீ என் பொற்காசை வங்கியிலே வைக்கவில்லை; வைத்திருந்தால் நான் வரும்போது, அதை வட்டியோடு பெற்றுக்கொள்ளவேனே என்று சொல்லி; ²⁴ அருகில் நிற்கிறவர்களைப் பார்த்து: அந்த பொற்காசை அவனுடைய கையிலிருந்து எடுத்து, பத்துபொற்காசுகள் உள்ளவனுக்குக் கொடுங்கள் என்றான். ²⁵ அதற்கு அவர்கள்: ஆண்டவனே, அவனுக்குப் பத்துபொற்காசுகள் இருக்கிறதே என்றார்கள். ²⁶ அதற்கு அவன்: உள்ளவன் எவனுக்கும் கொடுக்கப்படும், இல்லாதவனிடத்தில் உள்ளதும் எடுத்துக்கொள்ளப்படும் என்று உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன். ²⁷ அன்றியும் தங்கள்மேல் நான் ராஜாவாகிறதற்கு விருப்பமில்லாதிருந்தவர்களாகிய என்னுடைய விரோதிகளை இங்கே கொண்டுவந்து, எனக்கு முன்பாக வெட்டிப்போடுங்கள் என்று சொன்னான் என்றார்.

²⁸ இவைகளை அவர் சொன்னபின்பு எருசலேமுக்குப் புறப்பட்டு, முந்தி நடந்துபோனார். ²⁹ அவர் ஒலிவமலையென்னப்பட்ட மலையின் அருகிலிருந்த பெத்தபே பெத்தானியா என்னும் ஊர்களுக்குச் சமீபமாக வந்தபோது, தம்முடைய சீடர்களில் இரண்டுபேரைப் பார்த்து: ³⁰ உங்களுக்கு எதிரே இருக்கிற கிராமத்திற்குப் போங்கள், அதிலே நுழையும்போது மனிதர்களில் ஒருவனும் ஒருபோதும் ஏறியிராத கழுதைக்குட்டியைக் கட்டியிருக்கக் காண்பீர்கள்; அதை அவிழ்த்துக்கொண்டுவாருங்கள். ³¹ அதை ஏன் அவிழ்க்கிறீர்களென்று யாராவது உங்களிடம் கேட்டால், அது ஆண்டவருக்கு வேண்டுமென்று சொல்லுங்கள் என்றார். ³² அனுப்பப்பட்டவர்கள்போய், தங்களுக்கு அவர் சொன்னபடியே பார்த்தார்கள். ³³

கழுதைக்குட்டியை அவர்கள் அவிழ்க்கும்போது, அதன் உரிமையாளர்கள்: குட்டியை ஏன் அவிழ்க்கிறீர்கள் என்று கேட்டார்கள். ³⁴ அதற்கு அவர்கள்: அது ஆண்டவருக்கு வேண்டுமென்று சொல்லி, ³⁵ அதை இயேசுவினிடத்தில் கொண்டுவந்து, தங்களுடைய ஆடைகளை அதின்மேல் போட்டு, இயேசுவை அதின்மேல் ஏற்றினார்கள். ³⁶ அவர் போகும்போது, அவர்கள் தங்களுடைய ஆடைகளை வழியிலே விரித்தார்கள். ³⁷ அவர் ஒலிவமலையின் அடிவாரத்திற்கு அருகில் வந்தபோது திரளான கூட்டமாகிய சீடர்களெல்லோரும் தாங்கள் பார்த்த எல்லா அற்புதங்களையுங்குறித்து சந்தோஷப்பட்டு, ³⁸ கர்த்தரின் நாமத்தினாலே வருகிற ராஜா போற்றப்படத்தக்கவர், பரலோகத்திலே சமாதானமும் உன்னதத்திலே மகிமையும் உண்டாவதாக என்று மிகுந்த சத்தமாக தேவனைப் புகழ்ந்தார்கள். ³⁹ அப்பொழுது கூட்டத்திலிருந்த பரிசேயர்களில் சிலர் அவரைப் பார்த்து: போதகரே, உம்முடைய சீடர்களைக் கண்டியும் என்றார்கள். ⁴⁰ அவர்களுக்கு அவர் மறுமொழியாக: இவர்கள் பேசாமலிருந்தால் கல்லுகளே பேசும் என்று உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன் என்றார். ⁴¹ அவர் நெருங்கி வந்தபோது நகரத்தைப் பார்த்து, அதற்காகக் கண்ணீர்விட்டு அழுது, ⁴² உனக்குக் கிடைத்த இந்த நாளிலாவது உன் சமாதானத்திற்குரியவைகளை நீ அறிந்திருந்தாயானால் நலமாக இருக்கும், இப்பொழுதோ அவைகள் உன் கண்களுக்கு மறைவாக இருக்கிறது. ⁴³ உன்னைச் சந்திக்குங்காலத்தை நீ அறியாமற்போனபடியால், உன் விரோதிகள் உன்னைச் சுற்றிலும் மதில்போட்டு, உன்னை வளைந்துகொண்டு, எல்லாப் பக்கத்திலும் உன்னை நெருக்கி, ⁴⁴ உன்னையும் உன்னிலுள்ள உன் மக்களையும் தரைமட்டமாக்கிப்போட்டு, உன்னிடத்தில் ஒரு கல்லின்மேல் ஒரு கல்லிராதபடிக்குச் செய்யும் நாட்கள் உனக்கு வரும் என்றார்.

⁴⁵ பின்பு இயேசு தேவாலயத்தில் பிரவேசித்து, அதிலே விற்பனை செய்கிறவர்களையும் வாங்குகிறவர்களையும் வெளியே துரத்தத்தொடங்கி: ⁴⁶ என்னுடைய வீடு ஜெபவீடாயிருக்கிறதென்று எழுதியிருக்கிறது, நீங்களோ அதைத் திருடர்களுடைய குகையாக்கினீர்கள் என்றார். ⁴⁷ அவர் நாள்தோறும் தேவாலயத்தில் போதகம்செய்துகொண்டிருந்தார். பிரதான ஆசாரியர்களும் வேதபண்டிதர்களும் மக்களின் மூப்பர்களும் அவரைக் கொலைசெய்ய வகைதேடியும், ⁴⁸ மக்களெல்லோரும் அவருக்குச் செவிகொடுத்து அவரை சார்ந்துகொண்டிருந்தபடியால், அதை எப்படி செய்வதென்று தெரியாதிருந்தார்கள்.

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¹ அந்த நாட்களிலே, அவர் தேவாலயத்திலே மக்களுக்கு உபதேசித்து, நற்செய்தியைப் பிரசங்கித்தபோது, பிரதான ஆசாரியர்களும் வேதபண்டிதர்களும் மூப்பர்களும் அவரிடத்தில் கூடிவந்து: ² நீர் எந்த அதிகாரத்தினால் இவைகளைச் செய்கிறீர்? இந்த அதிகாரத்தை உமக்குக் கொடுத்தவர் யார்? அதை எங்களுக்குச் சொல்லும் என்றார்கள். ³ அவர்களுக்கு அவர் மறுமொழியாக: நானும் உங்களிடம் ஒரு காரியத்தைக் கேட்கிறேன், அதை எனக்குச் சொல்லுங்கள். ⁴ யோவான் கொடுத்த ஸ்நானம் தேவனால் உண்டாயிற்றோ? மனிதர்களால் உண்டாயிற்றோ? என்று கேட்டார். ⁵ அவர்கள் தங்களுக்குள்ளே யோசனைசெய்து: தேவனால் உண்டானது என்று சொல்வோமானால், பின்னை ஏன் அவனை நம்பவில்லை என்று கேட்பார். ⁶ மனிதர்களால் உண்டானது என்று சொல்வோமானால், மக்களெல்லோரும் யோவானைத் தீர்க்கதரிசியென்று எண்ணுகிறபடியினால் நம்மேல் கல்லெறிவார்கள் என்று சொல்லி: ⁷ அது யாரால் உண்டாயிற்றோ, எங்களுக்குத் தெரியாது என்று மறுமொழி சொன்னார்கள். ⁸ அப்பொழுது இயேசு: நானும் இன்ன அதிகாரத்தினால் இவைகளைச் செய்கிறேனென்று உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லமாட்டேன் என்றார்.

⁹ பின்பு அவர் மக்களுக்கு சொல்லத்தொடங்கின உவமையாவது: ஒரு மனிதன் ஒரு திராட்சைத்தோட்டத்தை உண்டாக்கி, அதைத் தோட்டக்காரர்களுக்குக் குத்தகையாக விட்டு, நீண்ட நாட்களாக வெளிதேசத்திற்குச் சென்றிருந்தான். ¹⁰ அந்தத் தோட்டக்காரர்கள் திராட்சைத்தோட்டத்தின் கனிகளில் தன் பங்கைக் கொடுத்தனுப்பும்படி, பருவகாலத்திலே அவர்களிடத்தில் ஒரு வேலைக்காரனை அனுப்பினான். அந்தத் தோட்டக்காரர்கள் அவனை அடித்து, ஒன்றும் கொடுக்காமல் அனுப்பிவிட்டார்கள். ¹¹ பின்பு அவன் வேறொரு வேலைக்காரனை அனுப்பினான்; அவனையும் அவர்கள் அடித்து, அவமானப்படுத்தி, ஒன்றும் கொடுக்காமல் அனுப்பிவிட்டார்கள். ¹² அவன் மூன்றாம்முறையும் ஒரு வேலைக்காரனை அனுப்பினான்; அவனையும் அவர்கள் காயப்படுத்தி துரத்திவிட்டார்கள். ¹³ அப்பொழுது திராட்சைத்தோட்டத்தின் எஜமான்: நான் என்ன செய்யலாம், எனக்குப் பிரியமான மகனை அனுப்பினால், அவனையாவது பார்த்து பயப்படுவார்கள் என்று நினைத்து, அவனை அனுப்பினான். ¹⁴ தோட்டக்காரர்கள் அவனைக் கண்டபோது: இவனே வாரிசு, சொத்தை நம்முடையதாக்கும்படிக்கு இவனைக் கொன்று போடுவோம் வாருங்கள் என்று ஒருவரோடொருவர் சொல்லிக்கொண்டு, ¹⁵ அவனைத் திராட்சைத்தோட்டத்திற்குப் வெளியே தள்ளி, கொன்றுபோட்டார்கள். இப்படியிருக்க, திராட்சைத்தோட்டத்தின் எஜமான் அவர்களை என்ன செய்வான்? ¹⁶ அவன் வந்து அந்தத் தோட்டக்காரர்களை அழித்து, திராட்சைத்தோட்டத்தை வேறு தோட்டக்காரர்களிடத்தில் கொடுப்பான் அல்லவா என்றார். அவர்கள் அதைக்கேட்டு, அப்படியாகாதிருப்பதாக என்றார்கள். ¹⁷ அப்பொழுது அவர் அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: வீடுகட்டுகிறவர்கள் ஆகாதென்று தள்ளின கல்லே, மூலைக்குத் தலைக்கல்லானது என்று எழுதியிருக்கிற வேதவாக்கியத்தின் பொருள் என்ன? ¹⁸ அந்தக் கல்லின்மேல் விழுகிறவன் எவனோ அவன் நொறுங்கிப்போவான், அது எவன்மேல் விழுமோ அவனை அழித்துப்போடும் என்றார். ¹⁹ பிரதான ஆசாரியர்களும் வேதபண்டிதர்களும் தங்களைக்குறித்து இந்த உதாரணத்தைச் சொன்னாரென்று அறிந்து, அந்த நேரத்திலே அவரைப் பிடிக்க வகைதேடியும் மக்களுக்குப் பயந்திருந்தார்கள்.

²⁰ அவர்கள் நேரம் பார்த்து, தேசாதிபதியின் ஆளுகைக்கும் அதிகாரத்திற்கும் அவரை ஒப்புக்கொடுக்கும்படி அவருடைய பேச்சிலே குற்றம் கண்டுபிடிக்கலாமென்று, தங்களை உண்மையுள்ளவர்களாக நடிக்கிற ஒற்றர்களை அவரிடத்தில் அனுப்பினார்கள். ²¹ அவர்கள் வந்து: போதகரே, நீர் நிதானமாகப் பேசி உபதேசிக்கிறீரென்றும், பட்சபாதமில்லாமல் தேவனுடைய வழிமுறைகளை உண்மையாகப் போதிக்கிறீரென்றும் அறிந்திருக்கிறோம். ²² இராயனுக்கு வரிகொடுக்கிறது நியாயமா இல்லையா, எங்களுக்குச் சொல்லும் என்று கேட்டார்கள். ²³ அவர்களுடைய தந்திரத்தை அவர் அறிந்து, நீங்கள் என்னை ஏன் சோதிக்கிறீர்கள்? ²⁴ ஒரு நாணயத்தை எனக்குக் காண்பியுங்கள். இதிலிருக்கிற உருவமும் எழுத்தும் யாருடையது என்று கேட்டார். அதற்கு அவர்கள்: இராயனுடையது என்றார்கள். ²⁵ அதற்கு அவர்: அப்படியானால், இராயனுக்குரியதை இராயனுக்கும், தேவனுக்குரியதை தேவனுக்கும் செலுத்துங்கள் என்றார். ²⁶ அவர்கள் அவரை மக்களுக்கு முன்பாகப் பேச்சிலே குற்றம்பிடிக்கக்கூடாமல், அவர் சொன்ன பதிலைக்குறித்து ஆச்சரியப்பட்டு, மவுனமாக இருந்தார்கள்.

²⁷ உயிர்த்தெழுதல் இல்லையென்று சாதிக்கிற சதுசேயர்களில் சிலர் அவரிடத்தில் வந்து: ²⁸ போதகரே, ஒருவன் மனைவியையுடையவனாக இருந்து சந்ததியில்லாமல் மரித்துப்போனால், அவனுடைய சகோதரன் அவன் மனைவியைத் திருமணம்செய்து, தன் சகோதரனுக்குச் சந்ததியுண்டாக்கவேண்டும்

என்று மோசே எங்களுக்கு எழுதிவைத்திருக்கிறாரே. ²⁹ சகோதரர்கள் ஏழுபேரிருந்தார்கள், அவர்களில் மூத்தவன் ஒரு பெண்ணைத் திருமணம்செய்து சந்ததியில்லாமல் மரித்துப்போனான். ³⁰ பின்பு இரண்டாம் சகோதரன் அவளைத் திருமணம்செய்து அவனும் சந்ததியில்லாமல் மரித்துப்போனான். ³¹ மூன்றாம் சகோதரனும் அவளை திருமணம் செய்தான். அப்படியே ஏழுபேரும் அவளைத் திருமணம்செய்து சந்ததியில்லாமல் மரித்துப்போனார்கள். ³² எல்லோருக்கும்பின்பு அந்த பெண்ணும் மரித்துப்போனாள். ³³ இவ்விதமாக ஏழுபேரும் அவளைத் திருமணம் செய்திருக்க, உயிர்த்தெழுதலில் அவர்களில் எவனுக்கு அவள் மனைவியாக இருப்பாள் என்று கேட்டார்கள். ³⁴ இயேசு அவர்களுக்குப் மறுமொழியாக: இந்த உலகத்தின் மக்கள் பெண் எடுத்தும் பெண் கொடுத்தும் வருகிறார்கள். ³⁵ மறுமையையும் மரித்தோரிலிருந்து உயிரோடு எழுந்திருக்குதலையும் அடைய தகுதியானவராக எண்ணப்படுகிறவர்களோ பெண் எடுப்பதுமில்லை பெண் கொடுப்பதுமில்லை. ³⁶ அவர்கள் இனி மரிக்கவும் மாட்டார்கள்; அவர்கள் உயிர்த்தெழுதலின் மக்களானபடியால் தேவதூதர்களுக்கு நிகரானவர்களுமாக, தேவனுடைய மக்களுமாக இருப்பார்கள். ³⁷ அல்லாமலும் மரித்தோர் உயிரோடு எழுந்திருப்பார்களென்பதை மோசேயும் முட்செடியைப்பற்றிய வாக்கியத்தில் காண்பித்திருக்கிறார். எப்படியென்றால், கர்த்தரை ஆபிரகாமின் தேவனென்றும் ஈசாக்கின் தேவனென்றும் யாக்கோபின் தேவனென்றும் சொல்லியிருக்கிறார். ³⁸ அவர் மரித்தோரின் தேவனாக இல்லாமல், ஜீவனுள்ளோரின் தேவனாக இருக்கிறார்; எல்லோரும் அவருக்குள் பிழைத்திருக்கிறார்களே என்றார். ³⁹ அப்பொழுது வேதபண்டிதர்களில் சிலர் அதைக்கேட்டு: போதகரே, நன்றாகச் சொன்னீர் என்றார்கள். ⁴⁰ அதன்பின்பு அவர்கள் அவரிடத்தில் வேறொன்றும் கேட்கத் துணியவில்லை.

⁴¹ அவர் அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: கிறிஸ்து தாவீதின் குமாரனென்று எப்படிச் சொல்லுகிறார்கள்? ⁴² நான் உம்முடைய விரோதிகளை உமக்குப் பாதபடியாக்கிப்போடும்வரைக்கும் நீர் என்னுடைய வலதுபக்கத்தில் உட்காரும் என்று, ⁴³ கர்த்தர் என் ஆண்டவருடனே சொன்னார் என்று தாவீது தானே சங்கீத புத்தகத்தில் சொல்லுகிறானே. ⁴⁴ தாவீது அவரை ஆண்டவரென்று சொல்லியிருக்க, அவனுக்கு அவர் குமாரனாக இருப்பது எப்படி என்றார். ⁴⁵ பின்பு மக்களெல்லோரும் கேட்கும்போது அவர் தம்முடைய சீடர்களைப் பார்த்து: ⁴⁶ நீண்ட அங்கிகளை அணிந்துகொண்டு திரியவும், சந்தைவெளிகளில் வணக்கங்களைப் பெறவும், ஜெப ஆலயங்களில் முதன்மையான இருக்கைகளில் உட்காரவும், விருந்துகளில் முதன்மையான இடங்களில் இருக்கவும் விரும்பி, ⁴⁷ விதவைகளின் வீடுகளைப் பட்சித்து, பார்வைக்கு நீண்ட ஜெபம்செய்கிற வேதபண்டிதர்களைக்குறித்து எச்சரிக்கையாக இருங்கள், அவர்கள் அதிக தண்டனையை அடைவார்கள் என்றார்.

அத்தியாயம்- 21

¹ அவர் கண்களை ஏறெடுத்துப் பார்த்தபோது, செல்வந்தர்கள் காணிக்கைப்பெட்டியிலே தங்களுடைய காணிக்கைகளைப் போடுகிறதைக் கண்டார். ² ஒரு ஏழை விதவை அதிலே இரண்டு காசைப் போடுகிறதையும் கண்டு: ³ இந்த ஏழை விதவை மற்றெல்லோரையும்விட அதிகமாகப் போட்டாள் என்று உண்மையாகவே உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன். ⁴ அவர்களெல்லோரும் தங்களுடைய நிறைவிலிருந்தெடுத்து தேவனுக்கென்று காணிக்கை போட்டார்கள்; இவளோ தன் வறுமையிலிருந்து தான் வாழ்வதற்காக வைத்திருந்த எல்லாவற்றையும் போட்டுவிட்டாள் என்றார்.

⁵ பின்பு, சிறந்த கற்களினாலும் காணிக்கைகளினாலும் தேவாலயம் அலங்கரிக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறதைக்குறித்து சிலர் சொன்னபோது, ⁶ அவர்: நீங்கள் பார்க்கிற இவைகளில் ஒரு கல் மற்றொரு கல்லின்மேலிராதபடிக்கு எல்லாம் இடிக்கப்படும் நாட்கள் வரும் என்றார். ⁷ அவர்கள் அவரைப் பார்த்து: போதகரே, இவைகள் எப்பொழுது நடக்கும், இவைகள் நடக்கும் காலத்திற்கு அடையாளம் என்ன என்று கேட்டார்கள். ⁸ அதற்கு அவர்: நீங்கள் ஏமாற்றப்படாதபடிக்கு கவனமாக இருங்கள்; ஏனென்றால், அநேகர் வந்து என் நாமத்தை வைத்துக்கொண்டு: நான்தான் கிறிஸ்து என்றும், காலம் நெருங்கிவிட்டது என்றும் சொல்லுவார்கள்; அவர்களைப் பின்பற்றாதிருங்கள். ⁹ சண்டைகளையும் கலவரங்களையுங்குறித்து நீங்கள் கேள்விப்படும்போது பயப்படாமலிருங்கள்; இவைகள் முன்னதாக நடக்கவேண்டியதே; ஆனாலும் முடிவு உடனே வராது என்றார். ¹⁰ அப்பொழுது அவர் அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: மக்களுக்கு எதிராக மக்களும், தேசத்திற்கு எதிராக தேசமும் எழும்பும். ¹¹ பல இடங்களில் மகா பூமியதிரச்சிகளும், பஞ்சங்களும், கொள்ளைநோய்களும் உண்டாகும்; வானத்திலிருந்து பயங்கரமான தோற்றங்களும் பெரிய அடையாளங்களும் உண்டாகும். ¹² இவைகளெல்லாம் நடப்பதற்கு முன்னே என் நாமத்தினிமித்தம், அவர்கள் உங்களைப் பிடித்து, ஜெப ஆலயங்களுக்கும் சிறைச்சாலைகளுக்கும் ஒப்புக்கொடுத்து, ராஜாக்கள் முன்பாகவும் ஆளுனர்கள் முன்பாகவும் உங்களைக் கொண்டுவந்து துன்பப்படுத்துவார்கள். ¹³ ஆனாலும் அது நீங்கள் சாட்சி சொல்வதற்கு ஏதுவாக இருக்கும். ¹⁴ ஆகவே, என்ன பதில் சொல்லுவோமென்று கவலைப்படாமலிருக்கும்படி உங்களுடைய மனதிலே தீர்மானம் செய்துகொள்ளுங்கள். ¹⁵ உங்களுக்கு எதிராக இருக்கிறவர்கள் ஒருவரும் எதிர்த்துப் பேசவும் எதிர்த்து நிற்கவும் முடியாத வார்த்தையையும் ஞானத்தையும் நான் உங்களுக்குக் கொடுப்பேன். ¹⁶ பெற்றோராலும், சகோதரராலும், சொந்த மக்களாலும், நண்பர்களாலும் காட்டிக்கொடுக்கப்படுவீர்கள்; உங்களில் சிலரைக் கொலைசெய்வார்கள். ¹⁷ என் நாமத்தினாலே எல்லோராலும் பகைக்கப்படுவீர்கள். ¹⁸ ஆனாலும் உங்களுடைய தலைமுடியில் ஒன்றாவது அழியாது. ¹⁹ உங்களுடைய பொறுமையினால் உங்களுடைய ஆத்துமாக்களைக் காத்துக்கொள்ளுங்கள். ²⁰ எருசலேம் படைவீரர்களால் முற்றுகையிட்டிருப்பதை நீங்கள் பார்க்கும்போது, அதின் அழிவு நெருங்கிவிட்டதென்று தெரிந்துகொள்ளுங்கள். ²¹ அப்பொழுது யூதேயாவிலிருக்கிறவர்கள் மலைகளுக்கு ஓடிப்போகவும், எருசலேமிலிருக்கிறவர்கள் வெளியே புறப்படவும், கிராமத்திலிருக்கிறவர்கள் நகரத்தில் நுழையாமலிருக்கவும் வேண்டும். ²² எழுதியிருக்கிற யாவும் நிறைவேறும்படி நீதியைச் சரிக்கட்டும் நாட்கள் அவைகளே. ²³ அந்த நாட்களிலே கர்ப்பவதிகளுக்கும் பால்கொடுக்கிறவர்களுக்கும் ஐயோ, பூமியின்மேல் மிகுந்த இக்கட்டும் இந்த மக்கள்மேல் தண்டனையும் உண்டாகும். ²⁴ வாளால் கொலை செய்யப்பட்டு விழுவார்கள், எல்லா நாடுகளுக்கும் சிறைபிடித்துக் கொண்டுபோகப்படுவார்கள்; யூதரல்லாதவர்களின் காலம் நிறைவேறும்வரைக்கும் எருசலேம் யூதரல்லாதவர்களால் மிதிக்கப்படும்.

²⁵ சூரியனிலும் சந்திரனிலும் நட்சத்திரங்களிலும் அடையாளங்கள் தோன்றும்; பூமியின்மேலுள்ள மக்களுக்குத் தத்தளிப்பும் இக்கட்டும் உண்டாகும்; கடலும் அலைகளும் முழக்கமாக இருக்கும். ²⁶ வானத்தின் கோள்கள் அசைக்கப்படும்; ஆதலால் பூமியின்மேல் வரும் ஆபத்துக்களுக்குப் பயந்து எதிர்பார்த்திருக்கிறதினால் மனிதர்களுடைய இருதயம் சோர்ந்துபோகும். ²⁷ அப்பொழுது மனிதகுமாரன் அதிக வல்லமையோடும் மகிமையோடும் மேகத்தின்மேல் வருகிறதைப் பார்ப்பார்கள். ²⁸ இவைகள் நடக்கத் தொடங்கும்போது, உங்களுடைய மீட்பு அருகிலிருப்பதால், நீங்கள் நிமிர்ந்துபார்த்து, உங்களுடைய தலைகளை உயர்த்துங்கள் என்றார். ²⁹ அன்றியும் அவர்களுக்கு ஒரு எடுத்துக்காட்டைச் சொன்னார்: அத்திமரத்தையும் மற்றெல்லா மரங்களையும் பாருங்கள். ³⁰ அவைகள் துளிர்க்கிறதை நீங்கள் பார்க்கும்போது வசந்தகாலம் நெருங்கிவிட்டது என்று அறிகிறீர்கள். ³¹ அப்படியே இவைகள் நடக்கிறதை நீங்கள் பார்க்கும்போது, தேவனுடைய ராஜ்யம் நெருங்கிவிட்டதென்று அறியுங்கள். ³² இவையெல்லாம் நடப்பதற்குமுன் இந்தச் சந்ததி அழிந்துபோகாதென்று மெய்யாகவே உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன். ³³ வானமும் பூமியும் ஒழிந்துபோகும், என் வார்த்தைகளோ ஒழிந்துபோவதில்லை. ³⁴ உங்களுடைய இருதயங்கள் சாப்பாட்டு பிரியத்தினாலும் குடிவெறியினாலும் உலகக் கவலைகளினாலும்

பாரமடையாதபடிக்கும், நீங்கள் நினைக்காத நேரத்தில் அந்த நாள் உங்கள்மேல் வராதபடிக்கும் கவனமாக இருங்கள். ³⁵ உலகமெங்கும் குடியிருக்கிற எல்லோர்மேலும் அது ஒரு கண்ணியைப்போல வரும். ³⁶ ஆகவே, இனி நடக்கப்போகிற இவைகளுக்கெல்லாம் நீங்கள் தப்பி, மனிதகுமாரனுக்குமுன்பாக நிற்கத் தகுதியுள்ளவர்களாக எண்ணப்படுவதற்கு, எப்பொழுதும் ஜெபம்செய்து விழித்திருங்கள் என்றார். ³⁷ அவர் பகல் நேரங்களில் தேவாலயத்திலே போதகம் செய்துகொண்டும், இரவு நேரங்களில் வெளியேபோய், ஒலிவமலை என்னப்பட்ட மலையிலே தங்கிவந்தார். ³⁸ மக்களெல்லோரும் அவருடைய போதகத்தைக் கேட்பதற்காக அதிகாலமே தேவாலயத்திற்கு வருவார்கள்.

அத்தியாயம்- 22

¹ பஸ்கா என்னப்பட்ட புளிப்பில்லாத அப்பப்பண்டிகை நெருங்கிற்று. ² அப்பொழுது பிரதான ஆசாரியர்களும் வேதபண்டிதர்களும் அவரைக் கொலைசெய்யும்படி யோசித்து, மக்களுக்குப் பயந்தபடியினால், எவ்விதமாக இதைச்செய்யலாமென்று வகைதேடினார்கள். ³ அப்பொழுது பன்னிரண்டுபேரில் ஒருவனாகிய ஸ்காரியோத்தென்னும் மறுபெயர்கொண்ட யூதாசுக்குள் சாத்தான் புகுந்தான். ⁴ அவன் பிரதான ஆசாரியர்களிடத்திலும் படைத்தலைவர்களிடத்திலும்போய், அவரைக் காட்டிக்கொடுக்கும் விதத்தைக்குறித்து அவர்களோடு ஆலோசனை செய்தான். ⁵ அவர்கள் சந்தோஷப்பட்டு, அவனுக்குப் பணங்கொடுக்க உடன்பட்டார்கள். ⁶ அதற்கு அவன் சம்மதித்து, மக்கள்கூட்டமில்லாத நேரத்தில் அவரை அவர்களுக்குக் காட்டிக்கொடுக்கும்படி சமயந்தேடினான்.

⁷ பஸ்கா ஆட்டைப் பலியிடவேண்டிய புளிப்பில்லாத அப்பப்பண்டிகை நாள் வந்தது. ⁸ அப்பொழுது அவர் பேதுருவையும் யோவானையும் அழைத்து: நாம் பஸ்காவைப் புசிப்பதற்கு நீங்கள் போய், அதை நமக்கு ஆயத்தம் செய்யுங்கள் என்றார். ⁹ அதற்கு அவர்கள்: நாங்கள் அதை எங்கே ஆயத்தம்செய்ய விருப்பமாக இருக்கிறீர் என்று கேட்டார்கள். ¹⁰ அதற்கு அவர்: நீங்கள் நகரத்தில் நுழையும்போது, தண்ணீர்க்குடம் சுமந்துவருகிற ஒரு மனிதன் உங்களுக்கு எதிர்ப்படுவான்; நீங்கள் அவனுக்குப் பின்னேசென்று, அவன் போகும் வீட்டிற்குள் நீங்களும்போய், ¹¹ அந்த வீட்டெஜமானைப் பார்த்து: நான் என் சீடர்களோடு பஸ்காவைப் புசிக்கிறதற்குத் தகுதியான இடம் எங்கே என்று போதகர் உம்மிடத்தில் கேட்கச்சொன்னார் என்று சொல்லுங்கள். ¹² அவன் கம்பளம் முதலானவைகள் விரித்திருக்கிற மாடிவீட்டிலுள்ள ஒரு பெரிய அறையை உங்களுக்குக் காண்பிப்பான்; அங்கே ஆயத்தம் செய்யுங்கள் என்று சொல்லி அனுப்பினார். ¹³ அவர்கள்போய், தங்களிடத்தில் அவர் சொன்னபடியே கண்டு, பஸ்காவை ஆயத்தம் செய்தார்கள். ¹⁴ நேரம் வந்தபோது, அவரும் அவருடனேகூடப் பன்னிரண்டு அப்போஸ்தலர்களும் பந்தியிருந்தார்கள். ¹⁵ அப்பொழுது அவர் அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: நான் பாடுபடுகிறதற்கு முன்னே உங்களோடுகூட இந்த பஸ்காவைப் புசிக்க மிகவும் ஆசையாக இருந்தேன். ¹⁶ தேவனுடைய ராஜ்யத்திலே இது நிறைவேறும்வரைக்கும் நான் இனி இதைப் புசிப்பதில்லையென்று உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன் என்று சொல்லி, ¹⁷ அவர் பாத்திரத்தை எடுத்து, ஸ்தோத்திரம்செய்து: நீங்கள் இதை வாங்கி, உங்களுக்குள்ளே பங்கிட்டுக் கொள்ளுங்கள்; ¹⁸ தேவனுடைய ராஜ்யம் வரும்வரைக்கும் நான் திராட்சைரசத்தைப் பருகுவதில்லையென்று உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன் என்றார். ¹⁹ பின்பு அவர் அப்பத்தை எடுத்து, ஸ்தோத்திரம்செய்து, அதைப் பிட்டு, அவர்களுக்குக் கொடுத்து: இது உங்களுக்காகக் கொடுக்கப்படுகிற என்னுடைய சரீரமாக இருக்கிறது; என்னை நினைவுகூரும்படி இதைச்செய்யுங்கள் என்றார். ²⁰ போஜனம்செய்தபின்பு அவர் அந்தப்படியே பாத்திரத்தையும் கொடுத்து: இந்தப் பாத்திரம் உங்களுக்காகச் சிந்தப்படுகிற என்னுடைய இரத்தத்தினாலாகிய புதிய ஒப்பந்தமாக இருக்கிறது என்றார். ²¹ பின்பு: இதோ, என்னைக் காட்டிக்கொடுக்கிறவனுடைய கை என்னுடனேகூடப் பந்தியிலிருக்கிறது. ²² தீர்மானிக்கப்பட்டபடியே மனிதகுமாரன் போகிறார், ஆனாலும் அவரைக் காட்டிக்கொடுக்கிற மனிதனுக்கு ஐயோ என்றார். ²³ அப்பொழுது அவர்கள் நம்மில் யார் அப்படிச் செய்வான் என்று தங்களுக்குள்ளே விசாரிக்கத் தொடங்கினார்கள். ²⁴ அன்றியும் தங்களில் எவன் பெரியவனாக இருப்பான் என்று அவர்களுக்குள்ளே வாக்குவாதம் உண்டானது. ²⁵ அவர் அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: யூதரல்லாத இனத்தாரின் ராஜாக்கள் அவர்களை ஆளுகிறார்கள்; அவர்கள்மேல் அதிகாரம் செலுத்துகிறவர்களும் நற்பணியாளர்கள் என்று எண்ணப்படுகிறார்கள். ²⁶ உங்களுக்குள்ளே அப்படியிருக்கக்கூடாது; உங்களில் பெரியவன் சிறியவனைப்போலவும், தலைவன் சேவைசெய்கிறவனைப்போலவும் இருக்கவேண்டும். ²⁷ பந்தியில் உட்கார்ந்திருக்கிறவனோ, சேவைசெய்கிறவனோ, எவன் பெரியவன்? பந்தியில் உட்கார்ந்திருக்கிறவன் அல்லவா? அப்படியிருந்தும், நான் உங்களுடைய நடுவிலே சேவைசெய்கிறவனைப்போல இருக்கிறேன். ²⁸ மேலும் எனக்கு ஏற்பட்ட சோதனைகளில் என்னோடுகூட நிலைத்திருந்தவர்கள் நீங்களே. ²⁹ ஆகவே, என் பிதா எனக்கு ஒரு ராஜ்யத்தை ஏற்படுத்தினதுபோல, நானும் உங்களுக்கு ஏற்படுத்துகிறேன். ³⁰ நீங்கள் என் ராஜ்யத்திலே என் பந்தியில் சாப்பிட்டுக் குடித்து, இஸ்ரவேலின் பன்னிரண்டு கோத்திரங்களையும் நியாயந்தீர்க்கிறவர்களாகச் சிங்காசனங்களின்மேல் அமருவீர்கள் என்றார். ³¹ பின்னும் கர்த்தர்: சீமோனே, சீமோனே, இதோ, கோதுமையை முறத்தினால் புடைக்கிறதுபோலச் சாத்தான் உங்களைப் புடைக்கிறதற்கு அனுமதி கேட்டுக்கொண்டான். ³² நானோ உன் நம்பிக்கை இழந்துபோகாதபடிக்கு உனக்காக வேண்டிக்கொண்டேன்; நீ குணப்பட்டபின்பு உன் சகோதரர்களைத் திடப்படுத்து என்றார். ³³ அதற்கு அவன்: ஆண்டவரே, காவலிலும் சாவிலும் உம்மைப் பின்பற்றிவர, ஆயத்தமாக இருக்கிறேன் என்றான். ³⁴ அவர் அவனைப் பார்த்து: பேதுருவே, இன்றைக்குச் சேவல் கூவுகிறதற்கு முன்னே நீ என்னை மூன்றுமுறை மறுதலிப்பாய் என்று உனக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன் என்றார். ³⁵ பின்னும் அவர் அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: நான் உங்களைப் பணப்பையும் சாமான் பையும்

காலணிகளும் இல்லாமல் அனுப்பினபோது, ஏதாவது உங்களுக்குக் குறைவாக இருந்ததா என்றார். அவர்கள், ஒன்றும் குறைவாக இருந்ததில்லை என்றார்கள். ³⁶ அதற்கு அவர்: இப்பொழுதோ பணப்பையும் சாமான் பையும் உடையவன் அவைகளை எடுத்துக்கொள்ளவேண்டும்; பட்டயம் இல்லாதவன் தன் ஆடையை விற்று ஒரு பட்டயத்தை வாங்கவேண்டும். ³⁷ அக்கிரமக்காரர்களில் ஒருவனாக எண்ணப்பட்டார் என்று எழுதியிருக்கிற வாக்கியம் என்னிடத்தில் நிறைவேற்றவேண்டியதென்று உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன். என்னைப்பற்றிய காரியங்கள் நிறைவேறும் காலம் வந்திருக்கிறது என்றார். ³⁸ அதற்கு அவர்கள்: ஆண்டவரே, இதோ, இங்கே இரண்டு பட்டயம் இருக்கிறது என்றார்கள். அவர்: போதும் என்றார்.

³⁹ பின்பு அவர் புறப்பட்டு, வழக்கத்தின்படியே ஒலிவமலைக்குப் போனார், அவருடைய சீடர்களும் அவரோடுகூடப்போனார்கள். ⁴⁰ அந்த இடத்தை அடைந்தபொழுது அவர் அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: நீங்கள் சோதனைக்குட்படாதபடிக்கு ஜெபம்செய்யுங்கள் என்று சொல்லி, ⁴¹ அவர்களைவிட்டுக் கல்லெறி தூரம் அப்புறம்போய், முழங்கால்படியிட்டு: ⁴² பிதாவே, உமக்கு விருப்பமானால் இந்தப் பாத்திரம் என்னைவிட்டு நீங்கும்படி செய்யும்; ஆனாலும் என்னுடைய விருப்பத்தின்படியல்ல, உம்முடைய விருப்பத்தின்படியே ஆகக்கடவது என்று ஜெபம்செய்தார். ⁴³ அப்பொழுது வானத்திலிருந்து ஒரு தூதன் தோன்றி, அவரை திடப்படுத்தினான். ⁴⁴ அவர் மிகவும் வேதனைப்பட்டு, அதிக ஊக்கத்தோடு ஜெபம்செய்தார். அவருடைய வேர்வை இரத்தத்தின் பெருந்துளிகளாகத் தரையிலே விழுந்தது. ⁴⁵ அவர் ஜெபம்செய்து முடித்து, எழுந்திருந்து, தம்முடைய சீடர்களிடத்தில் வந்து, அவர்கள் துக்கத்தினாலே தூங்குகிறதைக் கண்டு: ⁴⁶ நீங்கள் தூங்குகிறதென்ன? சோதனைக்குட்படாதபடிக்கு, எழுந்திருந்து ஜெபம்செய்யுங்கள் என்றார்.

⁴⁷ அவர் அப்படிப் பேசும்போது மக்கள் கூட்டமாக வந்தார்கள். அவர்களுக்கு முன்னே பன்னிரண்டுபேரில் ஒருவனாகிய யூதாஸ் என்பவனும் வந்து, இயேசுவை முத்தம் செய்வதற்காக அவரிடத்தில் நெருங்கினான். ⁴⁸ இயேசு அவனைப் பார்த்து: யூதாசே, முத்தத்தினாலேயா மனிதகுமாரனைக் காட்டிக்கொடுக்கிறாய் என்றார். ⁴⁹ அவரைச் சுற்றி நின்றவர்கள் நடக்கப்போகிறதைக் கண்டு: ஆண்டவரே, பட்டயத்தினாலே வெட்டுவோமா என்றார்கள். ⁵⁰ அந்தப்படியே அவர்களில் ஒருவன் பிரதான ஆசாரியனுடைய வேலைக்காரனை வலது காது அறுந்து விழும்படி வெட்டினான். ⁵¹ அப்பொழுது இயேசு: போதும் நிறுத்துங்கள் என்று சொல்லி, அவனுடைய காதைத்தொட்டு, அவனை சுகப்படுத்தினார். ⁵² பின்பு இயேசு தமக்கு விரோதமாக வந்த பிரதான ஆசாரியர்களையும் தேவாலயத்து படைத்தலைவர்களையும் மூப்பர்களையும் பார்த்து: ஒரு திருடனைப்பிடிக்கப் புறப்பட்டு வருகிறதுபோல, நீங்கள் பட்டயங்களையும் தடிகளையும் எடுத்துப் புறப்பட்டு வந்தீர்களே. ⁵³ நான் தினந்தோறும் தேவாலயத்தில் உங்களோடுகூட இருக்கும்போது நீங்கள் என்னைப் பிடிக்கக் முற்படவில்லை; இதுதான் உங்களுடைய நேரமும் இருளின் அதிகாரமுமாக இருக்கிறது என்றார்.

⁵⁴ அவர்கள் அவரைப் பிடித்தபின்பு, பிரதான ஆசாரியனுடைய வீட்டில் கொண்டுபோய்விட்டார்கள். பேதுருவும் தூரத்திலே பின்னேசென்றான். ⁵⁵ அவர்கள் முற்றத்தின் நடுவிலே நெருப்பை மூட்டி, அதைச் சுற்றி உட்கார்ந்தபோது, பேதுருவும் அவர்கள் நடுவிலே உட்கார்ந்தான். ⁵⁶ அப்பொழுது ஒரு வேலைக்காரி அவன் நெருப்பின் அருகிலே உட்கார்ந்திருக்கக்கண்டு, அவனை உற்றுப்பார்த்து: இவனும் அவனோடு இருந்தான் என்றான். ⁵⁷ அதற்கு அவன்: பெண்ணே, அவனை எனக்குத் தெரியாது என்று மறுதலித்தான். ⁵⁸ சிறிதுநேரத்திற்குப்பின்பு வேறொருவன் அவனைப் பார்த்து: நீயும் அவர்களில் ஒருவன் என்றான். அதற்குப் பேதுரு: மனிதனே, நான் இல்லை என்றான். ⁵⁹ ஏறக்குறைய ஒருமணி நேரத்திற்குப்பின்பு வேறொருவன் அவனைப் பார்த்து: உண்மையாகவே இவனும் அவனோடு இருந்தான், இவன் கலிலேயன்தான் என்று சாதித்தான். ⁶⁰ அதற்குப் பேதுரு: மனிதனே, நீ சொல்லுகிறதை அறியேன் என்றான். அவன் இப்படிச் சொன்னவுடனே சேவல் கூவியது. ⁶¹ அப்பொழுது கர்த்தர் திரும்பி, பேதுருவை நோக்கிப்பார்த்தார். சேவல் கூவுகிறதற்கு முன்னே நீ என்னை மூன்றுமுறை மறுதலிப்பாய் என்று கர்த்தர் தன்னிடத்தில் சொன்ன வார்த்தையை உடனே பேதுரு நினைத்து, ⁶² வெளியேபோய், மனங்கசந்து அழுதான்.

⁶³ இயேசுவைப் பிடித்துக்கொண்ட மனிதர்கள் அவரைக் கேலிசெய்து, அடித்து, ⁶⁴ அவருடைய கண்களைக் கட்டி, அவருடைய முகத்தில் அறைந்து: உன்னை அடித்தவன் யார், அதை தீர்க்கதரிசனத்தினால் சொல் என்று அவரைக் கேட்டதுமன்றி, ⁶⁵ மற்றும் அநேக அவதூறான வார்த்தைகளையும் அவருக்கு எதிராகப் பேசினார்கள்.

⁶⁶ விடியற்காலமானபோது மக்களின் மூப்பர்களும் பிரதான ஆசாரியர்களும் வேதபண்டிதர்களும் கூடிவந்து, தங்களுடைய ஆலோசனைச் சங்கத்தில் அவரைக் கொண்டுவந்து நிறுத்தி: ⁶⁷ நீ கிறிஸ்துவா? அதை எங்களுக்குச் சொல் என்றார்கள். அதற்கு அவர்: நான் உங்களுக்குச் சொன்னாலும் நம்பமாட்டீர்கள்.

⁶⁸ நான் உங்களிடம் கேள்வி கேட்டாலும் எனக்கு பதில் சொல்லமாட்டீர்கள், என்னை விடுதலையும்

செய்யமாட்டீர்கள். ⁶⁹ இதுமுதல் மனிதகுமாரன் சர்வவல்லமையுள்ள தேவனுடைய வலதுபக்கத்தில் வீற்றிருப்பார் என்றார். ⁷⁰ அதற்கு அவர்களெல்லோரும்: அப்படியானால், நீ தேவனுடைய குமாரனா என்று கேட்டார்கள். அதற்கு அவர்: நீங்கள் சொல்லுகிறபடியே நான் அவர்தான் என்றார். ⁷¹ அப்பொழுது அவர்கள்: இனி வேறு சாட்சி நமக்கு வேண்டுவதென்ன? நாமே இவனுடைய வாயினாலே கேட்டோமே என்றார்கள்.

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¹ அவர்களுடைய கூட்டத்தாரெல்லோரும் எழுந்திருந்து, அவரைப் பிலாத்துவினிடத்திற்குக் கொண்டுபோய்: ² இவன் தன்னைக் கிறிஸ்து என்னப்பட்ட ராஜாவென்றும், ராயருக்கு வரிகொடுக்க வேண்டியதில்லையென்றும் சொல்லி, மக்களைக் கலகப்படுத்தக் கண்டோம் என்று அவர்மேல் குற்றஞ்சுமத்தத் தொடங்கினார்கள். ³ பிலாத்து அவரைப் பார்த்து: நீ யூதர்களுடைய ராஜாவா என்று கேட்டான். அவர் அவனுக்கு மறுமொழியாக; நீர் சொல்லுகிறபடிதான் என்றார். ⁴ அப்பொழுது பிலாத்து பிரதான ஆசாரியர்களையும் மக்களையும் பார்த்து: இந்த மனிதனிடத்தில் நான் ஒரு குற்றத்தையும் காணவில்லை என்றான். ⁵ அதற்கு அவர்கள்: இவன் கலிலேயா நாடுதொடங்கி இந்த இடம்வரைக்கும் யூதேயா தேசமெங்கும் உபதேசம் செய்து, மக்களைக் கலகப்படுத்துகிறான் என்று வைராக்கியத்தோடு சொன்னார்கள். ⁶ கலிலேயா என்பதைப் பிலாத்து கேட்டபொழுது, இந்த மனிதன் கலிலேயனா என்று விசாரித்து, ⁷ அவர் ஏரோதின் அதிகாரத்திற்குள்ளானவர் என்று அறிந்து, அந்த நாட்களிலே எருசலேமிலே வந்திருந்த ஏரோதுவினிடத்திற்கு அவரை அனுப்பினான். ⁸ ஏரோது இயேசுவைக்குறித்து அநேக காரியங்களைக் கேள்விப்பட்டிருந்ததினாலும், அவரால் செய்யப்படும் அடையாளத்தைப் பார்க்கவேண்டுமென்று விரும்பியிருந்ததினாலும், அவரைக் காணும்படி வெகுநாளாக ஆசைகொண்டிருந்தான். அந்தப்படி அவரைப் பார்த்தபோது, மிகவும் சந்தோஷப்பட்டு, ⁹ அநேக காரியங்களைக்குறித்து, அவரிடத்தில் கேள்வி கேட்டான். அவர் மறுமொழியாக அவனுக்கு ஒன்றும் சொல்லவில்லை. ¹⁰ பிரதான ஆசாரியர்களும் வேதபண்டிதர்களும் அவர்மேல் பிடிவாதமாகக் குற்றஞ்சுமத்திக்கொண்டே நின்றார்கள். ¹¹ அப்பொழுது ஏரோது தன் போர் வீரர்களோடுகூட அவரை நிந்தித்து, கேலிசெய்து மினுக்கான ஆடையை அவருக்கு அணிந்து, அவரைத் திரும்பப் பிலாத்துவினிடத்திற்கு அனுப்பினான். ¹² முன்னே ஒருவருக்கொருவர் விரோதிகளாக இருந்த பிலாத்துவும் ஏரோதும் அன்றையதினம் நண்பர்களானார்கள். ¹³ பிலாத்து பிரதான ஆசாரியர்களையும் அதிகாரிகளையும் மக்களையும் கூடிவரச்செய்து, ¹⁴ அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: மக்களைக் கலகத்திற்குத் தூண்டிவிடுகிறவனாக இந்த மனிதனை என்னிடத்தில் கொண்டுவந்தீர்கள்; நான் உங்களுக்கு முன்பாக விசாரித்தபோது, இவன்மேல் நீங்கள் சாட்டுகிற குற்றங்களில் ஒன்றையும் நான் இவனிடத்தில் காணவில்லை. ¹⁵ உங்களை ஏரோதினிடத்திற்கும் அனுப்பினேன்; அவரும் இவனிடத்தில் குற்றம் காணவில்லை; மரணத்திற்கு ஏதுவாக இவன் ஒன்றும் செய்யவில்லையே. ¹⁶ எனவே இவனைத் தண்டித்து, விடுதலையாக்குவேன் என்றான். ¹⁷ பண்டிகைதோறும் அவர்களுக்கு ஒருவனை அவன் விடுதலையாக்குவது வழக்கமாக இருந்தபடியால் அப்படிச் சொன்னான். ¹⁸ மக்களெல்லோரும் அதைக்கேட்டு: இவனை அகற்றும், பரபாசை எங்களுக்கு விடுதலையாக்கும் என்று சத்தமிட்டுக்கேட்டார்கள். ¹⁹ அந்த பரபாஸ் என்பவன் நகரத்தில் நடந்த ஒரு கலவரத்தினிமித்தமும் கொலை குற்றத்தினிமித்தமும் காவலிலே வைக்கப்பட்டிருந்தான். ²⁰ பிலாத்து இயேசுவை விடுதலையாக்க விரும்பி, மறுபடியும் அவர்களிடத்தில் பேசினான். ²¹ அவர்களோ: அவனைச் சிலுவையில் அறையும், சிலுவையில் அறையும் என்று கூச்சலிட்டார்கள். ²² அவன் மூன்றாம்முறை அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: ஏன், இவன் என்ன குற்றம் செய்தான்? மரணத்திற்கு ஏதுவான குற்றம் ஒன்றும் இவனிடத்தில் நான் காணவில்லையே; ஆகவே, நான் இவனைத் தண்டித்து, விடுதலையாக்குவேன் என்றான். ²³ அப்படியிருந்தும் அவரை சிலுவையில் அறையவேண்டுமென்று அவர்கள் உரத்த சத்தத்தோடு கேட்டுக்கொண்டேயிருந்தார்கள். அவர்களும் பிரதான ஆசாரியர்களும் இட்ட சத்தம் மேற்கொண்டது. ²⁴ அப்பொழுது அவர்கள் கேட்டுக்கொண்டபடியே ஆகட்டும் என்று பிலாத்து தீர்ப்புசெய்து, ²⁵ கலவரத்தினிமித்தமும் கொலைக் குற்றத்தினிமித்தமும் காவலில் போடப்பட்டிருந்த பரபாசை அவர்கள் கேட்டுக்கொண்டபடியே விடுதலையாக்கி, இயேசுவையோ அவர்கள் விருப்பத்திற்கு ஒப்புக்கொடுத்தான்.

²⁶ அவர்கள் இயேசுவைக் கொண்டுபோகிறபோது, நாட்டிலிருந்து வருகிற சிரேனே ஊரானாகிய சீமோன் என்கிற ஒருவனைப் பிடித்து, சிலுவையை அவருக்குப் பின்னே சுமந்துகொண்டுவரும்படி அதை அவன்மேல் வைத்தார்கள். ²⁷ திரள்கூட்டமான மக்களும் அவருக்காகப் கதறி அழுகிற பெண்களும் அவருக்குப் பின்னே சென்றார்கள். ²⁸ இயேசு அவர்கள் பக்கமாகத் திரும்பி: எருசலேமின் குமாரத்திகளே, நீங்கள் எனக்காக அழாமல், உங்களுக்காகவும் உங்களுடைய பிள்ளைகளுக்காகவும் அழங்கள். ²⁹ இதோ, மலடிகள் பாக்கியவதிகளென்றும், பிள்ளைபெறாத கர்ப்பங்களும் பால்கொடாத மாற்பகங்களும் பாக்கியமுள்ளவைகளென்றும் சொல்லப்படும் நாட்கள் வரும். ³⁰ அப்பொழுது மலைகளைப் பார்த்து: எங்களின்மேல் விழுங்களென்றும், குன்றுகளைப் பார்த்து: எங்களை மறைத்துக்கொள்ளுங்களென்றும் சொல்லத்தொடங்குவார்கள். ³¹ பச்சைமரத்திற்கு இவைகளைச் செய்தால், பட்டமரத்திற்கு என்ன செய்யமாட்டார்கள் என்றார். ³² குற்றவாளிகளாகிய வேறு இரண்டுபேரும் அவரோடுகூடக் கொலைசெய்யப்படுவதற்குக் கொண்டுபோகப்பட்டார்கள். ³³ கபாலஸ்தலம் என்று சொல்லப்பட்ட

இடத்தில் அவர்கள் சேர்ந்தபொழுது, அங்கே அவரையும், அவருடைய வலதுபக்கத்தில் ஒரு குற்றவாளியையும், அவருடைய இடதுபக்கத்தில் ஒரு குற்றவாளியையும் சிலுவைகளில் அறைந்தார்கள். ³⁴ அப்பொழுது இயேசு: பிதாவே, இவர்களுக்கு மன்னியும், தாங்கள் செய்கிறது இன்னதென்று அறியாதிருக்கிறார்களே என்றார். அவருடைய ஆடைகளை அவர்கள் பங்கிட்டுச் சீட்டுப்போட்டார்கள். ³⁵ மக்கள் நின்று பார்த்துக்கொண்டிருந்தார்கள். அவர்களோடு அதிகாரிகளும் அவரை ஏளனம்செய்து: இவன் மற்றவர்களை இரட்சித்தான், இவன் தேவனால் தெரிந்துகொள்ளப்பட்ட கிறிஸ்துவானால், தன்னைத்தானே இரட்சித்துக்கொள்ளட்டும் என்றார்கள். ³⁶ போர்வீரர்களும் அவரிடத்தில் சேர்ந்து, அவருக்குக் காயைக் கொடுத்து: ³⁷ நீ யூதர்களின் ராஜாவானால், உன்னை இரட்சித்துக்கொள் என்று அவரைக் கேலிசெய்தார்கள். ³⁸ இவன் யூதர்களுடைய ராஜா என்று, கிரேக்கு, லத்தீன், எபிரெயு எழுத்துக்களில் எழுதி, அவருக்கு மேலாக வைக்கப்பட்டது. ³⁹ அன்றியும் சிலுவையில் அறையப்பட்டிருந்த குற்றவாளிகளில் ஒருவன்: நீ கிறிஸ்துவானால் உன்னையும் எங்களையும் இரட்சித்துக்கொள் என்று அவரை இழிவாகப் பேசினான். ⁴⁰ மற்றவன் அவனைப் பார்த்து: நீ இந்த தண்டனைக்குட்பட்டவனாக இருந்தும் தேவனுக்குப் பயப்படுகிறதில்லையா? ⁴¹ நாமோ நியாயப்படி தண்டிக்கப்படுகிறோம்; நாம் செய்தவைகளுக்குத் தக்க பலனை அடைகிறோம்; இவரோ தகாததொன்றையும் செய்யவில்லையே என்று அவனைக் கடிந்துகொண்டு, ⁴² இயேசுவைப் பார்த்து: ஆண்டவரே, நீர் உம்முடைய ராஜ்யத்தில் வரும்போது அடியேனை நினைத்தருளும் என்றான். ⁴³ இயேசு அவனைப் பார்த்து: இன்றைக்கு நீ என்னுடனே கூடப் பரதீசிலிருப்பாய் என்று உண்மையாகவே உனக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன் என்றார்.

⁴⁴ அப்பொழுது ஏறக்குறைய பகல் பன்னிரண்டு மணியாக இருந்தது; மூன்று மணிவரைக்கும் பூமியெங்கும் இருளுண்டானது. ⁴⁵ சூரியன் இருளடைந்தது, தேவாலயத்தின் திரைச்சீலை நடுவில் இரண்டாகக் கிழிந்தது. ⁴⁶ இயேசு: பிதாவே, உம்முடைய கைகளில் என் ஆவியை ஒப்புவிக்கிறேன் என்று மிகுந்த சத்தமிட்டுக் கூப்பிட்டுச் சொன்னார்; இப்படிச் சொல்லி, ஜீவனை விட்டார். ⁴⁷ நூற்றுக்கு அதிபதி சம்பவித்ததைக் கண்டு: மெய்யாகவே இந்த மனிதன் நீதிமானாக இருந்தான் என்று சொல்லி, தேவனை மகிமைப்படுத்தினான். ⁴⁸ இந்தக் காட்சியைப் பார்க்கும்படி கூடிவந்திருந்த மக்களெல்லோரும் சம்பவித்தவைகளைப் பார்த்தபொழுது, தங்களுடைய மார்பில் அடித்துக்கொண்டு திரும்பிப்போனார்கள். ⁴⁹ அவருக்கு அறிமுகமானவர்களெல்லோரும், கலிலேயாவிலிருந்து அவருக்குப் பின்னே சென்ற பெண்களும் தூரத்திலே நின்று இவைகளைப் பார்த்துக்கொண்டிருந்தார்கள்.

⁵⁰ யோசேப்பு என்னும் பெயர்கொண்ட ஒரு ஆலோசனைக்காரன் இருந்தான்; அவன் உத்தமனும் நீதிமானுமாக இருந்தான். ⁵¹ அவன் யூதர்களுடைய பட்டணங்களில் ஒன்றாகிய அரிமத்தியாவிலிருந்து வந்தவனும், தேவனுடைய ராஜ்யத்திற்குக் காத்திருந்தவனும், யூதர்களுடைய ஆலோசனைக்கும் செய்கைக்கும் சம்மதிக்காதவனுமாக இருந்தான். ⁵² அவன் பிலாத்துவினிடத்தில்போய், இயேசுவின் சரீரத்தைக் கேட்டு, ⁵³ அதை இறக்கி, மெல்லிய துணியிலே சுற்றி, கன்மலையில் வெட்டப்பட்டதும் ஒருபோதும் ஒருவனும் வைக்கப்படாததுமாக இருந்த ஒரு கல்லறையிலே வைத்தான். ⁵⁴ அந்த நாள் ஆயத்தநாளாக இருந்தது; ஓய்வுநாளும் ஆரம்பமானது. ⁵⁵ கலிலேயாவிலிருந்து அவருடன் வந்திருந்த பெண்களும் பின்னேசென்று, கல்லறையையும் அவருடைய சரீரம் வைக்கப்பட்ட விதத்தையும் பார்த்து, ⁵⁶ திரும்பிப்போய், கந்தவர்க்கங்களையும் பரிமளதைலங்களையும் ஆயத்தம்பண்ணி, கட்டளையின்படியே ஓய்வுநாளில் ஓய்ந்திருந்தார்கள்.

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¹ வாரத்தின் முதலாம் நாள் அதிகாலையிலே தாங்கள் ஆயத்தம்செய்த கந்தவர்க்கங்களை அந்த பெண்கள் எடுத்துக்கொண்டு வேறு சில பெண்களோடுகூடக் கல்லறைக்கு வந்தார்கள். ² கல்லறையை அடைத்திருந்த கல் புரட்டித் தள்ளப்பட்டிருக்கிறதைப் பார்த்து, ³ உள்ளே நுழைந்து, கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுவின் சரீரத்தைக் காணாமல், ⁴ அதைக்குறித்து மிகுந்த கலக்கமடைந்திருக்கும்போது, பிரகாசமுள்ள ஆடை அணிந்திருந்த இரண்டுபேர் அவர்கள் அருகே நின்றார்கள். ⁵ அந்த பெண்கள் பயப்பட்டு தலைகுனிந்து தரையைப் பார்த்து நிற்கும்போது, அந்த இரண்டுபேரும் அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: உயிரோடிருக்கிறவரை நீங்கள் மரித்தோரிடத்தில் தேடுகிறதென்ன? ⁶ அவர் இங்கே இல்லை, அவர் உயிர்த்தெழுந்தார். ⁷ மனிதகுமாரன் பாவிகளான மனிதர்கள் கைகளில் ஒப்புக்கொடுக்கப்படவும், சிலுவையில் அறையப்படவும், மூன்றாம்நாளில் உயிரோடு எழுந்திருக்கவும் வேண்டுமென்பதாக அவர் கலிலேயாவிலிருந்த காலத்தில் உங்களுக்குச் சொன்னதை நினைத்துப்பாருங்கள் என்றார்கள். ⁸ அப்பொழுது அவர்கள் அவருடைய வார்த்தைகளை ஞாபகப்படுத்தி, ⁹ கல்லறையைவிட்டுத் திரும்பிப்போய், இந்தச் செய்திகளெல்லாவற்றையும் பதினொரு பேருக்கும் மற்றெல்லோருக்கும் தெரிவித்தார்கள். ¹⁰ இவைகளை அப்போஸ்தலர்களுக்குச் சொன்னவர்கள் மகதலேனா மரியாளும், யோவன்னாளும், யாக்கோபின் தாயாகிய மரியாளும், இவர்களுடனேகூட இருந்த மற்ற பெண்களுமே. ¹¹ இவர்களுடைய வார்த்தைகள் அவர்களுக்கு வீண்பேச்சாகத் தோன்றினதினால், அவர்கள் இவர்களை நம்பவில்லை. ¹² பேதுருவோ எழுந்திருந்து, கல்லறையினிடத்திற்கு ஓடி, அதற்குள்ளே குனிந்துபார்க்கும்போது, துணிகளைத் தனியே வைத்திருக்கக்கண்டு, சம்பவித்ததைக்குறித்துத் தனக்குள்ளே ஆச்சரியப்பட்டுக்கொண்டுபோனான்.

¹³ அன்றைய தினமே அவர்களில் இரண்டுபேர் எருசலேமுக்கு ஏழு அல்லது எட்டுமைல் தொலைவிலுள்ள எம்மாவு என்னும் கிராமத்திற்குப் போனார்கள். ¹⁴ போகும்போது இந்தச் சம்பவங்கள் எல்லாவற்றையுங்குறித்து அவர்கள் ஒருவருக்கொருவர் பேசிக்கொண்டார்கள். ¹⁵ இப்படி அவர்கள் பேசி, உரையாடிக்கொண்டிருக்கும்போது, இயேசு தாமே சேர்ந்து அவர்களோடு நடந்துபோனார். ¹⁶ ஆனாலும் அவரை அறியாதபடிக்கு அவர்களுடைய கண்கள் மறைக்கப்பட்டிருந்தது. ¹⁷ அப்பொழுது அவர் அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: நீங்கள் துக்கமுகமுள்ளவர்களாக நடந்துகொண்டே, ஒருவருக்கொருவர் பேசிக்கொள்ளுகிற காரியங்கள் என்னவென்று கேட்டார். ¹⁸ அவர்களில் ஒருவனாகிய கிலேயோப்பா என்பவன் மறுமொழியாக: இந்நாட்களில் எருசலேமிலே நடந்தவைகளை அறியாதபடிக்கு நீர் அந்நியராக இருக்கிறீரோ என்றான். ¹⁹ அவர்: எவைகள் என்றார். அதற்கு அவர்கள்: நசரேயனாகிய இயேசுவைக்குறித்தவைகளே; அவர் தேவனுக்கு முன்பாகவும் மக்களெல்லோருக்கு முன்பாகவும் செயலிலும் சொல்லிலும் வல்லமையுள்ள தீர்க்கதரிசியாக இருந்தார். ²⁰ நம்முடைய பிரதான ஆசாரியர்களும் அதிகாரிகளும் அவரை மரணதண்டனைக்குட்படுத்தி, சிலுவையில் அறைந்தார்கள். ²¹ அவரே இஸ்ரவேலை மீட்டு இரட்சிப்பவர் என்று நாங்கள் நம்பியிருந்தோம். இவைகள் சம்பவித்து இன்று மூன்று நாட்களாகிறது. ²² ஆனாலும் எங்களுடைய கூட்டத்தைச் சேர்ந்த சில பெண்கள் அதிகாலமே கல்லறையினிடத்திற்குப்போய், ²³ அவருடைய சரீரத்தைக் காணாமல், திரும்பிவந்து, அவர் உயிரோடிருக்கிறார் என்று சொன்ன தேவதூதர்களைத் தரிசித்தோம் என்று சொல்லி, எங்களைப் பிரமிக்கச்செய்தார்கள். ²⁴ அப்பொழுது எங்களிலே சிலர் கல்லறையினிடத்திற்குப்போய், பெண்கள் சொன்னபடியே கண்டார்கள்; அவரையோ காணவில்லை என்றார்கள். ²⁵ அப்பொழுது அவர் அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: தீர்க்கதரிசிகள் சொன்ன யாவையும் நம்புகிறதற்குப் புத்தியில்லாத மந்த இருதயமுள்ளவர்களே, ²⁶ கிறிஸ்து இவ்விதமாகப் பாடுபடவும், தமது மகிமையில் பிரவேசிக்கவும் வேண்டியதில்லையா என்று சொல்லி, ²⁷ மோசே முதல் எல்லாத் தீர்க்கதரிசிகளும் எழுதின வேதவாக்கியங்கள் எல்லாவற்றிலும் தம்மைக்குறித்துச் சொல்லியவைகளை அவர்களுக்கு விவரித்துக் காண்பித்தார். ²⁸ அந்த சமயத்தில் தாங்கள் போகிற கிராமத்திற்கு அருகில் வந்தார்கள். அப்பொழுது அவர் தொடர்ந்து போகிறவர்போலக் காண்பித்தார். ²⁹ அவர்கள் அவரைப் பார்த்து: நீர் எங்களுடனே தங்கியிரும், மாலைநேரமானது, பொழுதும்போனது, என்று அவரை வருந்திக் கேட்டுக்கொண்டார்கள். அப்பொழுது அவர் அவர்களோடு தங்கும்படி உள்ளே போனார். ³⁰ அவர்களோடு அவர் உணவருந்தும்போது, அவர் அப்பத்தை எடுத்து, ஆசீர்வதித்து, அதைப் பிட்டு, அவர்களுக்குக் கொடுத்தார். ³¹ அப்பொழுது அவர்களுடைய கண்கள் திறக்கப்பட்டு, அவரை அறிந்தார்கள். உடனே அவர் அவர்களுக்கு மறைந்துபோனார். ³² அப்பொழுது அவர்கள் ஒருவரையொருவர் பார்த்து: வழியிலே அவர் நம்முடனே பேசி, வேதவாக்கியங்களை நமக்கு விளக்கிக்காட்டினபொழுது, நம்முடைய இருதயம் நமக்குள்ளே கொழுந்துவிட்டு எரியவில்லையா என்று சொல்லிக்கொண்டு, ³³ அந்த நேரமே எழுந்திருந்து, எருசலேமுக்குத் திரும்பிப்போய், பதினொருபேரும் அவர்களோடிருந்தவர்களும் கூடியிருக்கக்கண்டு: ³⁴ கர்த்தர் மெய்யாகவே உயிர்த்தெழுந்து சீமோனுக்குக்

காட்சியளித்தார் என்று அவர்கள் சொல்லக்கேட்டு, ³⁵ வழியில் நடந்தவைகளையும், அவர் அப்பத்தைப் பிட்டுமபோது தாங்கள் அவரை அறிந்துகொண்டதையும் விவரித்துச் சொன்னார்கள்.

³⁶ இவைகளைக்குறித்து அவர்கள் பேசிக்கொண்டிருக்கும்போது, இயேசு தாமே அவர்கள் நடுவிலே நின்று: உங்களுக்குச் சமாதானம் என்றார். ³⁷ அவர்கள் கலங்கி, பயந்து, ஒரு ஆவியைக் காண்கிறதாக நினைத்தார்கள். ³⁸ அவர் அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: நீங்கள் ஏன் கலங்குகிறீர்கள்; உங்களுடைய இருதயங்களில் சந்தேகங்கள் எழும்புகிறதென்ன? ³⁹ நான்தான் என்று அறியும்படி, என் கரங்களையும் என் கால்களையும் பாருங்கள், என்னைத் தொட்டுப்பாருங்கள்; நீங்கள் காண்கிறபடி, எனக்கு மாம்சமும், எலும்புகளும் உண்டாயிருக்கிறதுபோல ஒரு ஆவிக்கு இராதே என்று சொல்லி, ⁴⁰ தம்முடைய கரங்களையும் கால்களையும் அவர்களுக்குக் காண்பித்தார். ⁴¹ ஆனாலும் சந்தோஷத்தினால் அவர்கள் இன்னும் நம்பாமல் ஆச்சரியப்படுமபோது: சாப்பிடுவதற்கு ஏதாவது இங்கே உண்டா என்று அவர்களிடத்தில் கேட்டார். ⁴² அப்பொழுது பொரித்த மீன் துண்டையும் தேன்கூட்டுத் துணிக்கையையும் அவருக்குக் கொடுத்தார்கள். ⁴³ இவைகளை அவர் வாங்கி அவர்களுக்கு முன்பாக சாப்பிட்டார், ⁴⁴ அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: மோசேயின் நியாயப்பிரமாணத்திலும் தீர்க்கதரிசிகளின் புத்தகங்களிலும் சங்கீதங்களிலும் என்னைக்குறித்து எழுதியிருக்கிறவைகளெல்லாம் நிறைவேறவேண்டியதென்று, நான் உங்களோடிருந்தபோது உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லிக்கொண்டுவந்த செய்திகள் இவைகளே என்றார். ⁴⁵ அப்பொழுது வேதவாக்கியங்களை அறிந்துகொள்ளும்படி அவர்களுடைய மனதை அவர் திறந்து அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: ⁴⁶ எழுதியிருக்கிறபடி, கிறிஸ்து பாடுபடவும், மூன்றாம்நாளில் மரித்த நிலையிலிருந்து உயிரோடு எழுந்திருக்கவும் வேண்டியதாயிருந்தது; ⁴⁷ அன்றியும் மனந்திரும்புதலும் பாவமன்னிப்பும் எருசலேம் தொடங்கி எல்லாதேசத்தினர்களுக்கும் அவருடைய நாமத்தினாலே பிரசங்கிக்கப்படவும் வேண்டியது. ⁴⁸ நீங்கள் இவைகளுக்குச் சாட்சிகளாக இருக்கிறீர்கள். ⁴⁹ என் பிதா வாக்குத்தத்தம் செய்ததை, இதோ, நான் உங்களுக்கு அனுப்புகிறேன். நீங்களோ உன்னத்திலிருந்து வரும் பெலனால் நிரப்பப்படும்வரைக்கும் எருசலேம் நகரத்தில் இருங்கள் என்றார்.

⁵⁰ பின்பு அவர் பெத்தானியாவரைக்கும் அவர்களை அழைத்துக்கொண்டுபோய், தம்முடைய கரங்களை உயர்த்தி. அவர்களை ஆசீர்வதித்தார். ⁵¹ அவர்களை ஆசீர்வதிக்கும்போது, அவர்களைவிட்டுப் பிரிந்து, பரலோகத்திற்கு எடுத்துக்கொள்ளப்பட்டார். ⁵² அவர்கள் அவரைப் பணிந்துகொண்டு, மிகுந்த சந்தோஷத்தோடு எருசலேமுக்குத் திரும்பிவந்து, ⁵³ நாஸ்தோறும் தேவாலயத்திலே தேவனைப் புகழ்ந்து ஆராதித்துக்கொண்டிருந்தார்கள். ஆமென்.

John

அத்தியாயம்- 1

¹ ஆரம்பத்திலே வார்த்தை இருந்தது, அந்த வார்த்தை தேவனிடம் இருந்தது, அந்த வார்த்தை தேவனாக இருந்தது. ² அவர் ஆரம்பத்திலே தேவனோடு இருந்தார். ³ எல்லாமும் அவர் மூலமாக உண்டானது; உண்டானது ஒன்றும் அவர் இல்லாமல் உண்டாகவில்லை. ⁴ அவருக்குள் ஜீவன் இருந்தது, அந்த ஜீவன் மனிதனுக்கு ஒளியாக இருந்தது. ⁵ அந்த ஒளி இருளிலே பிரகாசிக்கிறது; இருளானது அதை மேற்கொள்ளவில்லை. ⁶ தேவனால் அனுப்பப்பட்ட ஒரு மனிதன் இருந்தான், அவன் பெயர் யோவான். ⁷ அவன் மூலமாக எல்லோரும் விசுவாசிக்கும்படி அந்த ஒளியைக்குறித்துச் சாட்சிகொடுக்க சாட்சியாக வந்தான். ⁸ அவன் அந்த ஒளியல்ல, அந்த ஒளியைக்குறித்துச் சாட்சிகொடுக்க வந்தவனாக இருந்தான். ⁹ உலகத்திலே வந்து எந்த மனிதனையும் பிரகாசிப்பிக்கிற ஒளியே அந்த மெய்யான ஒளி. ¹⁰ அவர் உலகத்தில் இருந்தார், உலகம் அவர் மூலமாக உண்டானது, உலகமோ அவரை அறியவில்லை. ¹¹ அவர் அவருக்குச் சொந்தமானதிலே வந்தார், அவருக்குச் சொந்தமானவர்களோ அவரை ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளவில்லை. ¹² அவருடைய நாமத்தின்மேல் விசுவாசம் உள்ளவர்களாக அவரை ஏற்றுக்கொண்டவர்கள் எத்தனை பேர்களோ, அத்தனை பேர்களும் தேவனுடைய பிள்ளைகளாகும்படி, அவர்களுக்கு அதிகாரம் கொடுத்தார். ¹³ அவர்கள், இரத்தத்தினாலாவது சரீரவிருப்பத்தினாலாவது கணவனுடைய விருப்பத்தினாலாவது பிறக்காமல், தேவனாலே பிறந்தவர்கள். ¹⁴ அந்த வார்த்தை சரீரமாகி, கிருபையினாலும் சத்தியத்தினாலும் நிறைந்தவராக, நம்மிடையே வாழ்ந்தார்; அவருடைய மகிமையைப் பார்த்தோம்; அது பிதாவிற்கு ஒரே பேறானவருடைய மகிமைக்கு ஏற்ற மகிமையாகவே இருந்தது. ¹⁵ யோவான் அவரைக்குறித்துச் சாட்சிகொடுத்து: எனக்குப்பின் வருகிறவர் எனக்கு முன்னிருந்தவர், ஆகவே, அவர் என்னைவிட மேன்மையுள்ளவர் என்று நான் சொல்லியிருந்தேனே, அவர் இவர்தான் என்று சத்தமிட்டு சொன்னான். ¹⁶ அவருடைய பரிபூரணத்தினால் நாம் எல்லோரும் கிருபையின்மேல் கிருபை பெற்றோம். ¹⁷ ஏனென்றால், நியாயப்பிரமாணம் மோசேயின் மூலமாக கொடுக்கப்பட்டது, கிருபையும் சத்தியமும் இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவின் மூலமாக வந்தது. ¹⁸ தேவனை ஒருவனும் ஒருநாளும் பார்த்ததில்லை, பிதாவின் மடியில் இருக்கிற ஒரேபேறான குமாரனே அவரை வெளிப்படுத்தினார்.

¹⁹ எருசலேமிலிருந்து யூதர்கள் ஆசாரியர்களையும், லேவியர்களையும் யோவானிடத்தில் அனுப்பி: நீர் யார் என்று கேட்டபொழுது, ²⁰ அவன் மறுக்காமல் அறிக்கை செய்ததும் இல்லாமல், நான் கிறிஸ்து இல்லை என்றும் அறிக்கை செய்தான். ²¹ அப்பொழுது அவர்கள்: பின்பு யார்? நீர் எலியாவா என்று கேட்டார்கள். அதற்கு: நான் அவன் இல்லை என்றான். நீர் தீர்க்கதரிசியா என்று கேட்டார்கள். அதற்கும்: இல்லை என்றான். ²² அவர்கள் பின்பும் அவனைப் பார்த்து: நீர் யார்? எங்களை அனுப்பினவர்களுக்கு நாங்கள் பதில் சொல்வதற்கு, உம்மைக்குறித்து என்ன சொல்லுகிறீர் என்று கேட்டார்கள். ²³ அதற்கு அவன்: கர்த்தருக்கு வழியை ஆயத்தப்படுத்துங்கள் என்று ஏசாயா தீர்க்கதரிசி சொன்னபடியே, நான் வனாந்திரத்திலே கூப்பிடுகிறவனுடைய சத்தமாக இருக்கிறேன் என்றான். ²⁴ அனுப்பப்பட்டவர்கள் பரிசேயர்களாக இருந்தார்கள். ²⁵ அவர்கள் அவனைப் பார்த்து: நீர் கிறிஸ்துவும் இல்லை, எலியாவும் இல்லை, தீர்க்கதரிசியானவரும் இல்லை என்றால், ஏன் ஞானஸ்நானம் கொடுக்கிறீர் என்று கேட்டார்கள். ²⁶ யோவான் அவர்களுக்கு மறுமொழியாக: நான் தண்ணீரினால் ஞானஸ்நானம் கொடுக்கிறேன்; நீங்கள் அறியாதிருக்கிற ஒருவர் உங்கள் நடுவிலே இருக்கிறார். ²⁷ அவர் எனக்குப்பின் வந்தும் என்னைவிட மேன்மையுள்ளவர்; அவருடைய காலணியின் வாரை அவிழ்ப்பதற்குக்கூட நான் தகுதியானவன் இல்லை என்றான். ²⁸ இவைகள் யோர்தானுக்கு அக்கரையில் யோவான் ஞானஸ்நானம் கொடுத்த பெத்தானியாவிலே நடந்தது.

²⁹ மறுநாளிலே யோவான் இயேசு தன்னிடத்தில் வருவதைப் பார்த்து: இதோ, உலகத்தின் பாவத்தைச் சுமந்து தீர்க்கிற தேவ ஆட்டுக்குட்டி. ³⁰ எனக்குப்பின் ஒருவர் வருகிறார், அவர் எனக்கு முன்பே இருந்தபடியால் என்னைவிட மேன்மையுள்ளவர் என்று நான் சொன்னேனே, அவர் இவர்தான். ³¹ நானும் இவரை அறியாதிருந்தேன்; இவர் இஸ்ரவேலுக்கு வெளிப்படுவதற்காகவே, நான் தண்ணீரினாலே ஞானஸ்நானம் கொடுக்கவந்தேன் என்றான். ³² பின்னும் யோவான் சாட்சியாகச் சொன்னது: ஆவியானவர் புறாவைப்போல வானத்திலிருந்து இறங்கி, இவர்மேல் இருக்கிறதைப் பார்த்தேன். ³³ நானும் இவரை அறியாதிருந்தேன்; ஆனாலும் தண்ணீரினால் ஞானஸ்நானம் கொடுக்கும்படி என்னை அனுப்பினவர்: ஆவியானவர் இறங்கி யார்மேல் இருப்பதை நீ பார்ப்பாயோ, அவரே பரிசுத்த

ஆவியானவரால் ஞானஸ்நானம் கொடுக்கிறவர் என்று எனக்குச் சொல்லியிருந்தார்.³⁴ அதன்படியே நான் பார்த்து, இவரே தேவனுடைய குமாரன் என்று சாட்சிகொடுத்து வருகிறேன் என்றான்.

³⁵ மறுநாளிலே யோவானும் அவனுடைய சீடர்களில் இரண்டுபேரும் நிற்கும்போது, ³⁶ இயேசு நடந்து போகிறதை அவன் பார்த்து: இதோ, தேவ ஆட்டுக்குட்டி என்றான். ³⁷ அவன் அப்படிச் சொன்னதை அந்த இரண்டு சீடர்களும் கேட்டு, இயேசுவிற்குப் பின் சென்றார்கள். ³⁸ இயேசு திரும்பி, அவர்கள் தனக்குப் பின்னே வருகிறதைப் பார்த்து: என்ன தேடுகிறீர்கள் என்றார். அதற்கு அவர்கள்: ரபீ, நீர் எங்கே தங்கியிருக்கிறீர் என்று கேட்டார்கள்; ரபீ என்பதற்கு போதகரே என்று அர்த்தம். ³⁹ அவர்: வந்துபாருங்கள் என்றார். அவர்கள் வந்து அவர் தங்கியிருந்த இடத்தைப் பார்த்து, அந்த நாளில் அவரிடத்தில் தங்கினார்கள். அப்பொழுது ஏறக்குறைய மாலை நான்கு மணி. ⁴⁰ யோவான் சொன்னதைக் கேட்டு, அவருக்குப் பின்னே சென்ற இரண்டுபேரில் ஒருவன் சீமோன் பேதுருவின் சகோதரனாகிய அந்திரேயா என்பவன். ⁴¹ அவன் முதலாவது தன் சகோதரனாகிய சீமோனைப் பார்த்து: மேசியாவைப் பார்த்தோம் என்று சொன்னான்; மேசியா என்பதற்கு கிறிஸ்து என்று அர்த்தம். ⁴² பின்பு, அவனை இயேசுவினிடத்தில் அழைத்துக்கொண்டுவந்தான். இயேசு அவனைப் பார்த்து: நீ யோனாவின் மகனாகிய சீமோன், நீ கேபா எனப்படுவாய் என்றார்; கேபா என்பதற்கு பேதுரு என்று அர்த்தம்.

⁴³ மறுநாளிலே இயேசு கலிலேயாவிற்குப் போக விருப்பமாக இருந்து, பிலிப்புவைப் பார்த்து: நீ என் பின்னே வா என்றார். ⁴⁴ பிலிப்பு என்பவன், அந்திரேயா பேதுரு என்பவர்களுடைய ஊராகிய பெத்சாயிதா ஊரைச் சேர்ந்தவன். ⁴⁵ பிலிப்பு நாத்தான்வேலைப் பார்த்து: நியாயப்பிரமாணத்திலே மோசேயும் தீர்க்கதரிசிகளும் எழுதி இருக்கிறவரைப் பார்த்தோம்; அவர் யோசேப்பின் குமாரனும் நாசரேத்து ஊரானுமாகிய இயேசுவே என்றான். ⁴⁶ அதற்கு நாத்தான்வேல்: நாசரேத்திலிருந்து எந்தவொரு நன்மை உண்டாகக் கூடுமா என்றான். அதற்குப் பிலிப்பு: வந்து பார் என்றான். ⁴⁷ இயேசு நாத்தான்வேல் தம்மிடத்தில் வருவதைப் பார்த்து அவனைக்குறித்து: இதோ, கபடம் இல்லாத உத்தம இஸ்ரவேலன் என்றார். ⁴⁸ அதற்கு நாத்தான்வேல்: நீர் என்னை எப்படி அறிவீர் என்றான். இயேசு அவனைப் பார்த்து: பிலிப்பு உன்னை அழைக்கிறதற்கு முன்னே, நீ அத்திமரத்தின் கீழிருக்கும்போது உன்னைப் பார்த்தேன் என்றார். ⁴⁹ அதற்கு நாத்தான்வேல்: ரபீ, நீர் தேவனுடைய குமாரன், நீர் இஸ்ரவேலின் ராஜா என்றான். ⁵⁰ இயேசு அவனுக்கு மறுமொழியாக: அத்திமரத்தின் கீழே உன்னைப் பார்த்தேன் என்று நான் உனக்குச் சொன்னதினாலேயா விசுவாசிக்கிறாய்; இதிலும் பெரிதானவைகளைப் பார்ப்பாய் என்றார். ⁵¹ பின்னும், அவர் அவனைப் பார்த்து: வானம் திறந்திருக்கிறதையும், தேவதூதர்கள் மனிதகுமாரன் இடத்திலிருந்து ஏறுகிறதையும், இறங்குகிறதையும் நீங்கள் இதுமுதல் பார்ப்பீர்கள் என்று உண்மையாகவே உண்மையாகவே உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன் என்றார்.

அத்தியாயம்- 2

¹ மூன்றாம்நாளில் கலிலேயாவில் உள்ள கானா ஊரில் ஒரு திருமணம் நடந்தது; இயேசுவின் தாயும் அங்கே இருந்தார்கள். ² இயேசுவும் அவருடைய சீடர்களும் அந்த திருமணத்திற்கு அழைக்கப்பட்டிருந்தார்கள். ³ திராட்சைரசம் குறைவுபட்டபோது, இயேசுவின் தாய் அவரைப் பார்த்து: அவர்களுக்குத் திராட்சைரசம் இல்லை என்றாள். ⁴ அதற்கு இயேசு: பெண்ணே, எனக்கும் உனக்கும் என்ன, என் நேரம் இன்னும் வரவில்லை என்றார். ⁵ அவருடைய தாய் வேலைக்காரர்களைப் பார்த்து: அவர் உங்களுக்கு என்ன சொல்லுகிறாரோ, அதின்படி செய்யுங்கள் என்றாள். ⁶ யூதர்கள் தங்களைச் சுத்திகரிக்கும் வழக்கத்தின்படியே, ஒவ்வொன்றும் இரண்டு மூன்று குடம் தண்ணீர் பிடிக்கத்தக்க ஆறு கற்சாடிகள் அங்கே வைத்திருந்தது. ⁷ இயேசு வேலைக்காரர்களைப் பார்த்து: ஜாடிகளிலே தண்ணீர் நிரப்புகள் என்றார்; அவர்கள் அவைகளை நிரப்பினார்கள். ⁸ அவர் அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: நீங்கள் இப்பொழுது எடுத்து, பந்தி மேற்பார்வைக்காரனிடத்தில் கொண்டுபோங்கள் என்றார்; அவர்கள் கொண்டுபோனார்கள். ⁹ அந்த திராட்சைரசம் எங்கேயிருந்து வந்தது என்று தண்ணீரை நிரப்பின வேலைக்காரர்களுக்கும்மட்டும் தெரியும் பந்தி மேற்பார்வைகாரனுக்குத் தெரியாததினால், அவன் திராட்சைரசமாக மாறின தண்ணீரை ருசி பார்த்தபோது, மணமகனை அழைத்து: ¹⁰ எந்த மனிதனும் முன்பு நல்ல திராட்சைரசத்தைக் கொடுத்து, மக்கள் திருப்தியடைந்தபின்பு, ருசி குறைந்ததைக் கொடுப்பான், நீரோ நல்ல ரசத்தை இதுவரைக்கும் வைத்திருந்தீரே என்றான். ¹¹ இவ்விதமாக இயேசு இந்த முதலாம் அற்புதத்தைக் கலிலேயாவிலுள்ள கானா ஊரில் செய்து, தம்முடைய மகிமையை வெளிப்படுத்தினார்; அவருடைய சீடர்கள் அவரிடத்தில் விசுவாசம் வைத்தார்கள்.

¹² அதன்பின்பு, அவரும் அவருடைய தாயாரும் அவருடைய சகோதரர்களும் அவருடைய சீடர்களும் கப்பர்நகூமுக்குப்போய், அங்கே சிலநாட்கள் தங்கினார்கள். ¹³ பின்பு யூதர்களுடைய பஸ்காபண்டிகை நெருங்கியிருந்தது; அப்பொழுது இயேசு எருசலேமுக்குப்போய், ¹⁴ தேவாலயத்திலே ஆடுகள், மாடுகள் புறாக்களாகிய இவைகளை விற்கிறவர்களையும், பணம் மாற்றுகிறவர்கள் உட்கார்ந்திருக்கிறதையும் பார்த்து, ¹⁵ கயிற்றினால் ஒரு சாட்டையை உண்டாக்கி, அவர்கள் அனைவரையும் ஆடுமாடுகளையும், தேவாலயத்திற்கு வெளியே துரத்திவிட்டு, பணம் மாற்றுக்காரர்களுடைய பணங்களைக் கொட்டி, மேசைகளைக் கவிழ்த்துப்போட்டு, ¹⁶ புறா விற்கிறவர்களைப் பார்த்து: இவைகளை இந்த இடத்திலிருந்து எடுத்துக்கொண்டுபோங்கள்; என் பிதாவின் வீட்டை வியாபார வீடாக்காதிருங்கள் என்றார். ¹⁷ அப்பொழுது: உம்முடைய வீட்டைக்குறித்து உண்டான பக்தியின் வைராக்கியம் தீயைப்போல என்னை எரித்தது என்று எழுதியிருக்கிறதை அவருடைய சீடர்கள் நினைவுகூர்ந்தார்கள். ¹⁸ அப்பொழுது யூதர்கள் அவரைப் பார்த்து: நீர் இவைகளைச் செய்கிறீரே, இதற்கு என்ன அடையாளத்தை எங்களுக்குக் காண்பிக்கிறீர் என்று கேட்டார்கள். ¹⁹ இயேசு அவர்களுக்குப் மறுமொழியாக: இந்த ஆலயத்தை இடித்துப்போடுங்கள்; மூன்று நாட்களுக்குள்ளே இதை கட்டி எழுப்புவேன் என்றார். ²⁰ அப்பொழுது யூதர்கள்: இந்த ஆலயத்தைக் கட்ட நாற்பத்தாறு வருடங்கள் ஆனதே, நீர் இதை மூன்று நாட்களுக்குள்ளே கட்டி எழுப்புவீரோ என்றார்கள். ²¹ அவரோ தம்முடைய சரீரமாகிய ஆலயத்தைக்குறித்துச் சொன்னார். ²² அவர் இப்படிச் சொன்னதை அவர் மரித்தோரிலிருந்து உயிரோடு எழுந்தபின்பு அவருடைய சீடர்கள் நினைவுகூர்ந்து, வேதவாக்கியத்தையும் இயேசு சொன்ன வசனத்தையும் விசுவாசித்தார்கள். ²³ பஸ்கா பண்டிகையிலே அவர் எருசலேமில் இருக்கும்போது, அவர் செய்த அற்புதங்களை அநேகர் பார்த்து, அவருடைய நாமத்தில் விசுவாசம் வைத்தார்கள். ²⁴ அப்படியிருந்தும், இயேசு எல்லோரையும் அறிந்திருந்தபடியால், அவர்களை நம்பவில்லை. ²⁵ மனிதர்கள் உள்ளத்தில் இருப்பதை அவர் அறிந்திருந்தபடியால், மனிதர்களைக்குறித்து ஒருவரும் அவருக்குச் சாட்சிகொடுக்க அவசியமாக இருக்கவில்லை.

அத்தியாயம்- 3

¹ யூதர்களுக்குள்ளே அதிகாரியான நிக்கொதேமு என்னப்பட்ட பரிசேயன் ஒருவன் இருந்தான். ² அவன் இரவு நேரத்தில் இயேசுவினிடம் வந்து: ரபீ, நீர் தேவனிடத்தில் இருந்து வந்த போதகர் என்று அறிந்திருக்கிறோம், ஏனென்றால், ஒருவனும் தன்னுடனே தேவன் இல்லாவிட்டால் நீர் செய்கிற இப்படிப்பட்ட அற்புதங்களைச் செய்யமாட்டான் என்றான். ³ இயேசு அவனுக்கு மறுமொழியாக: ஒருவன் மறுபடியும் பிறக்காவிட்டால் தேவனுடைய ராஜ்யத்தைப் பார்க்கமாட்டான் என்று உண்மையாகவே உண்மையாகவே உனக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன் என்றார். ⁴ அதற்கு நிக்கொதேமு: ஒருவன் வயதானபின்பு எப்படிப் பிறப்பான்? அவன் தன் தாயின் கர்ப்பத்தில் இரண்டாம்முறை நுழைந்து பிறக்கக்கூடுமோ என்றான். ⁵ இயேசு மறுமொழியாக: ஒருவன் தண்ணீரினாலும் ஆவியினாலும் பிறக்காவிட்டால் தேவனுடைய ராஜ்யத்தில் பிரவேசிக்கமாட்டான் என்று உண்மையாகவே உண்மையாகவே உனக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன். ⁶ சரீரத்தினால் பிறப்பது சரீரமாக இருக்கும், ஆவியினால் பிறப்பது ஆவியாக இருக்கும். ⁷ நீங்கள் மறுபடியும் பிறக்க வேண்டும் என்று நான் உனக்குச் சொன்னதைக்குறித்து ஆச்சரியப்படவேண்டாம்; ⁸ காற்றானது தனக்கு விருப்பமான இடத்திலே வீசுகிறது, அதின் சத்தத்தைக் கேட்கிறாய், ஆனாலும் அது இந்த இடத்திலிருந்து வருகிறது என்றும், இந்த இடத்திற்குப் போகிறது என்றும் உனக்குத் தெரியாது; ஆவியினால் பிறந்தவன் எவனோ அவனும் அப்படியே இருக்கிறான் என்றார். ⁹ அதற்கு நிக்கொதேமு: இவைகள் எப்படி ஆகும் என்றான். ¹⁰ இயேசு அவனைப் பார்த்து: நீ இஸ்ரவேலில் போதகனாக இருந்தும் இவைகளை அறியாமல் இருக்கிறாயா? ¹¹ உண்மையாகவே உண்மையாகவே நான் உனக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன், நாங்கள் அறிந்திருக்கிறதைச் சொல்லி, நாங்கள் பார்த்ததைக்குறித்துச் சாட்சி கொடுக்கிறோம்; நீங்களோ எங்களுடைய சாட்சியை ஏற்றுகொள்ளுகிறது இல்லை. ¹² யூமிக்கடுத்த காரியங்களை நான் உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லியும் நீங்கள் விசுவாசிக்கவில்லையே, பரலோக காரியங்களை உங்களுக்குச் சொன்னால் எப்படி விசுவாசிப்பீர்கள்? ¹³ பரலோகத்தில் இருந்து இறங்கினவரும் பரலோகத்தில் இருக்கிறவருமான மனிதகுமாரனே அல்லாமல் பரலோகத்திற்கு ஏறினவன் ஒருவனும் இல்லை. ¹⁴ பாம்பானது மோசேயினால் வனாந்திரத்திலே உயர்த்தப்பட்டதுபோல மனிதகுமாரனும், ¹⁵ தன்னை விசுவாசிக்கிறவன் எவனோ அவன் கெட்டுப்போகாமல் நித்தியஜீவனை பெறும்படிக்கு, உயர்த்தப்பட வேண்டும்.

¹⁶ தேவன், தம்முடைய ஒரேபேறான குமாரனை விசுவாசிக்கிறவன் எவனோ அவன் கெட்டுப்போகாமல் நித்தியஜீவனை பெறும்படிக்கு, அவரைக் கொடுத்து, இவ்வளவாய் உலகத்தில் அன்பு செலுத்தினார். ¹⁷ உலகத்தை தண்டனைக்குள்ளாகத் தீர்க்கும்படி தேவன் தம்முடைய குமாரனை உலகத்தில் அனுப்பாமல், அவராலே உலகம் இரட்சிக்கப்படுவதற்காகவே அவரை அனுப்பினார். ¹⁸ அவரை விசுவாசிக்கிறவன் தண்டனைக்குள்ளாகத் தீர்க்கப்படமாட்டான்; விசுவாசிக்காதவனோ, தேவனுடைய ஒரேபேறான குமாரனுடைய நாமத்தில் விசுவாசம் உள்ளவனாக இல்லாதபடியினால், அவன் தண்டனைத்தீர்ப்புக்கு உட்பட்டிருக்கிறான். ¹⁹ ஒளியானது உலகத்திலே வந்திருந்தும் மனிதர்களுடைய செயல்கள் தீமையானவைகளாக இருக்கிறபடியினால் அவர்கள் ஒளியைவிட இருளை விரும்புகிறதே அந்த தண்டனைத் தீர்ப்புக்குக் காரணமாக இருக்கிறது. ²⁰ தீங்கு செய்கிற எவனும் ஒளியைப் பகைக்கிறான், தன் செய்கைகள் சுட்டி காட்டப்படாதபடிக்கு, ஒளியினிடத்தில் வராதிருக்கிறான். ²¹ சத்தியத்தின்படி செய்கிறவனோ, தன் செய்கைகள் தேவனுக்குள்ளாக செய்யப்படுகிறது என்று வெளிப்படும்படிக்கு, ஒளியினிடத்தில் வருகிறான் என்றார்.

²² இவைகளுக்குப் பின்பு, இயேசுவும் அவருடைய சீடர்களும் யூதேயா நாட்டிற்கு வந்தார்கள்; அங்கே அவர் அவர்களோடு தங்கியிருந்து, ஞானஸ்நானம் கொடுத்து வந்தார். ²³ சாலிம் ஊருக்கு அருகாமையான அயினோன் என்னும் இடத்திலே தண்ணீர் அதிகமாக இருந்தபடியினால், யோவானும் அங்கே ஞானஸ்நானம் கொடுத்து வந்தான்; மக்கள் அவனிடத்தில் வந்து ஞானஸ்நானம் பெற்றார்கள். ²⁴ அக்காலத்தில் யோவான் காவலில் வைக்கப்படவில்லை. ²⁵ அப்பொழுது யோவானுடைய சீடர்களில் சிலருக்கும், யூதர்களுக்கும், சுத்திகரிப்பைக்குறித்து வாக்குவாதம் உண்டானது. ²⁶ அவர்கள் யோவானிடத்தில் வந்து: ரபீ, உம்முடனேகூட யோர்தானுக்கு அக்கரையில் ஒருவர் இருந்தாரே; அவரைக்குறித்து நீரும் சாட்சி கொடுத்தீரே, இதோ, அவர் ஞானஸ்நானம் கொடுக்கிறார், எல்லோரும் அவரிடத்தில் போகிறார்கள் என்றார்கள். ²⁷ யோவான் மறுமொழியாக: பரலோகத்தில் இருந்து ஒருவனுக்குக் கொடுக்கப்பட்டால் அன்றி, அவன் ஒன்றையும் பெற்றுக் கொள்ளமாட்டான். ²⁸ நான் கிறிஸ்துவல்ல, அவருக்கு முன்னாக அனுப்பப்பட்டவன் என்று நான் சொன்னதற்கு நீங்களே சாட்சிகள். ²⁹ மணமகளை உடையவனே மணமகன்; மணமகனுடைய தோழனோ, அருகே நின்று, அவருடைய சொல்லைக் கேட்டு மணமகனுடைய சத்தத்தைக்குறித்து மிகவும் சந்தோஷப்படுகிறான்; இந்தச் சந்தோஷம் இப்பொழுது எனக்குச் சம்பூரணமானது. ³⁰ அவர் பெருகவும் நான் சிறுகவும் வேண்டும். ³¹

உன்னதத்திலிருந்து வருகிறவர் எல்லோரையும்விட மேலானவர்; பூமியிலிருந்து உண்டானவன் பூமியின் தன்மை உள்ளவனாக இருந்து, பூமிக்குரிவைகளைப் பேசுகிறான்; பரலோகத்தில் இருந்து வருகிறவர் எல்லோரையும்விட மேலானவர். ³² தாம் பார்த்ததையும், கேட்டதையும் சாட்சியாகச் சொல்லுகிறார்; அவருடைய சாட்சியை ஒருவனும் ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளுகிறது இல்லை. ³³ அவருடைய சாட்சியை ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளுகிறவன் தேவன் சத்தியம் உள்ளவர் என்று முத்திரையிட்டு உறுதிப்படுத்துகிறான். ³⁴ தேவனால் அனுப்பப்பட்டவர் தேவனுடைய வார்த்தைகளைப் பேசுகிறார்; தேவன் அவருக்குத் தமது ஆவியை அளவில்லாமல் கொடுத்திருக்கிறார். ³⁵ பிதாவானவர் குமாரனில் அன்பாக இருந்து எல்லாவற்றையும் அவருடைய கையில் ஒப்புக்கொடுத்திருக்கிறார். ³⁶ குமாரனிடத்தில் விசுவாசமாக இருக்கிறவன் நித்தியஜீவனை உடையவனாக இருக்கிறான்; குமாரனை விசுவாசிக்காதவனோ ஜீவனைப் பார்ப்பதில்லை, தேவனுடைய கோபம் அவன்மேல் நிலைநிற்கும் என்றான்.

அத்தியாயம்- 4

¹ யோவானைவிட இயேசு அநேகம்பேரைச் சீடர்களாக்கி ஞானஸ்நானம் கொடுக்கிறார் என்று பரிசேயர்கள் கேள்விப்பட்டதை இயேசு அறிந்தபோது, ² யூதேயாவைவிட்டு மறுபடியும் கலிலேயாவிற்குப் போனார். ³ இயேசு ஞானஸ்நானம் கொடுக்கவில்லை, அவருடைய சீடர்கள் கொடுத்தார்கள். ⁴ அப்பொழுது அவர் சமாரியா நாட்டின்வழியாகப் போகவேண்டியதாக இருந்தபடியால், ⁵ யாக்கோபு தன் மகனாகிய யோசேப்புக்குக் கொடுத்த நிலத்திற்கு அருகே இருந்த சமாரியாவிலுள்ள சீகார் என்னப்பட்ட ஊருக்கு வந்தார். ⁶ அங்கே யாக்கோபுடைய கிணறு இருந்தது; இயேசு பயணத்தின் களைப்பினால் ஏறக்குறைய நண்பகல் நேரத்தில் சற்று ஓய்வெடுக்க அந்தக் கிணற்றின் அருகே உட்கார்ந்திருந்தார். ⁷ அவருடைய சீடர்கள் உணவு வாங்குவதற்கு ஊருக்குள்ளே சென்றிருந்தார்கள். ⁸ அப்பொழுது சமாரியா தேசத்தாளாகிய ஒரு பெண் தண்ணீர் எடுக்க வந்தாள். இயேசு அவளைப் பார்த்து: தாகத்திற்குத் தா என்றார். ⁹ யூதர்கள் சமாரியருடனே எந்தத் தொடர்பும் வைக்காதவர்களானபடியால், சமாரிய பெண் அவரைப் பார்த்து: நீர் யூதனாக இருக்க, சமாரிய பெண்ணாகிய என்னிடத்தில், தாகத்திற்குத் தா என்று எப்படிச் கேட்கலாம் என்றாள். ¹⁰ இயேசு அவளுக்கு மறுமொழியாக: நீ தேவனுடைய ஈவையும், தாகத்திற்குத் தா என்று உன்னிடத்தில் கேட்கிறவர் யார் என்பதையும் அறிந்திருந்தால், நீயே அவரிடத்தில் கேட்டிருப்பாய், அவர் உனக்கு ஜீவத்தண்ணீரைக் கொடுத்திருப்பார் என்றார். ¹¹ அதற்கு அந்த பெண்: ஆண்டவரே, எடுத்துக்கொள்ள உம்மிடத்தில் பாத்திரமில்லையே, கிணறும் ஆழமாக இருக்கிறதே, பின்னே எங்கே இருந்து உமக்கு ஜீவத்தண்ணீர் கிடைக்கும். ¹² இந்தக் கிணற்றை எங்களுக்குக் கொடுத்த நம்முடைய முற்பிதாவாகிய யாக்கோபைவிட நீர் பெரியவரோ? அவரும் அவருடைய பிள்ளைகளும், அவருடைய மிருகஜீவன்களும் இதிலே குடித்தது என்றாள். ¹³ இயேசு அவளுக்கு மறுமொழியாக: இந்தத் தண்ணீரைக் குடிக்கிறவனுக்கு மறுபடியும் தாகம் உண்டாகும். ¹⁴ நான் கொடுக்கும் தண்ணீரைக் குடிக்கிறவனுக்கோ ஒருபோதும் தாகம் உண்டாகாது; நான் அவனுக்குக் கொடுக்கும் தண்ணீர் அவனுக்குள்ளே நித்தியஜீவகாலமாக ஊறுகிற நீருற்றாய் இருக்கும் என்றார். ¹⁵ அந்த பெண் அவரைப் பார்த்து: ஆண்டவரே, எனக்குத் தாகம் உண்டாகாமலும், நான் இங்கே தண்ணீர் எடுக்க வராமலும் இருக்கும்படி அந்தத் தண்ணீரை எனக்குத் தரவேண்டும் என்றாள். ¹⁶ இயேசு அவளைப் பார்த்து: நீ போய், உன் கணவனை இங்கே அழைத்துக்கொண்டுவா என்றார். ¹⁷ அதற்கு அந்த பெண்: எனக்குப் கணவன் இல்லை என்றாள். இயேசு அவளைப் பார்த்து: எனக்குப் கணவன் இல்லை என்று நீ சொன்னது சரிதான். ¹⁸ எப்படியென்றால், ஐந்து கணவர்கள் உனக்கு இருந்தார்கள், இப்பொழுது உனக்கிருக்கிறவன் உனக்கு கணவன் இல்லை, இதை உள்ளபடி சொன்னாய் என்றார். ¹⁹ அப்பொழுது அந்த பெண் அவரைப் பார்த்து: ஆண்டவரே, நீர் தீர்க்கதரிசி என்று பார்க்கிறேன். ²⁰ எங்களுடைய முற்பிதாக்கள் இந்த மலையிலே ஆராதித்துவந்தார்கள்; நீங்கள் எருசலேமில்தான் ஆராதிக்கவேண்டும் என்கிறீர்களே என்றாள். ²¹ அதற்கு இயேசு: பெண்ணே, நான் சொல்லுகிறதை நம்பு. நீங்கள் இந்த மலையிலும் எருசலேமிலும் மாத்திரமல்ல, எங்கும் பிதாவை ஆராதிக்கும்காலம் வருகிறது. ²² நீங்கள் அறியாததை ஆராதிக்கிறீர்கள்; நாங்கள் அறிந்திருக்கிறதை ஆராதிக்கிறோம்; ஏனென்றால், இரட்சிப்பு யூதர்கள்வழியாக வருகிறது. ²³ உண்மையாக ஆராதிக்கிறவர்கள் பிதாவை ஆவியோடும் உண்மையோடும் ஆராதிக்கும்காலம் வரும், அது இப்பொழுதே வந்திருக்கிறது; தம்மைத் ஆராதிக்கிறவர்கள் இப்படிப்பட்டவர்களாக இருக்கும்படி பிதாவானவர் விரும்புகிறார். ²⁴ தேவன் ஆவியாக இருக்கிறார், அவரை ஆராதிக்கிறவர்கள் ஆவியோடும், உண்மையோடும் அவரை ஆராதிக்க வேண்டும் என்றார். ²⁵ அந்த பெண் அவரைப் பார்த்து: கிறிஸ்து எனப்படுகிற மேசியா வருகிறார் என்று அறிவேன், அவர் வரும்போது எல்லாவற்றையும் நமக்கு அறிவிப்பார் என்றாள். ²⁶ அதற்கு இயேசு: உன்னுடனே பேசுகிற நானே அவர் என்றார்.

²⁷ அந்தநேரத்தில் அவருடைய சீடர்கள் வந்து, அவர் பெண்ணுடனே பேசுகிறதைக் கண்டு ஆச்சரியப்பட்டார்கள். ஆனாலும் என்ன வேண்டும் என்றாவது, ஏன் அவளுடனே பேசுகிறீர் என்றாவது, ஒருவனும் கேட்கவில்லை. ²⁸ அப்பொழுது அந்த பெண், தன் குடத்தை வைத்துவிட்டு, ஊருக்குள்ளேப்போய், மக்களைப் பார்த்து: ²⁹ நான் செய்த எல்லாவற்றையும் ஒரு மனிதன் எனக்குச் சொன்னார்; அவரை வந்துபாருங்கள்; அவர் கிறிஸ்துதானோ என்றாள். ³⁰ அப்பொழுது அவர்கள் ஊரிலிருந்து புறப்பட்டு அவரிடத்தில் வந்தார்கள். ³¹ இப்படி நடக்கும்போது சீடர்கள் அவரைப் பார்த்து: ரபீ, சாப்பிடுங்கள் என்று கேட்டுக்கொண்டார்கள். ³² அதற்கு அவர்: நான் சாப்பிடுவதற்கு நீங்கள் அறியாத ஒரு உணவு எனக்கு இருக்கிறது என்றார். ³³ அப்பொழுது சீடர்கள் ஒருவரையொருவர் பார்த்து: யாராவது அவருக்கு உணவுகொண்டுவந்திருப்பானோ என்றார்கள். ³⁴ இயேசு அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: நான் என்னை அனுப்பினவருடைய விருப்பத்தின்படிசெய்து அவருடைய செயல்களை முடிப்பதே என்னுடைய உணவாக இருக்கிறது. ³⁵ அறுப்புக்காலம் வருகிறதற்கு இன்னும் நான்கு மாதங்கள் இருக்கின்றது என்று நீங்கள் சொல்லுகிறதில்லையா? இதோ, வயல் நிலங்கள் இப்பொழுதே அறுப்புக்கு விளைந்திருக்கிறது என்று

உங்களுடைய கண்களை ஏறெடுத்துப்பாருங்கள் என்று நான் உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன். ³⁶ விதைக்கிறவனும், அறுக்கிறவனுமாகிய இருவரும் ஒருமித்துச் சந்தோஷப்படத்தக்கதாக, அறுக்கிறவன் சம்பளத்தை வாங்கி, நித்தியஜீவனுக்காகப் பலனைச் சேர்த்துக்கொள்ளுகிறான். ³⁷ விதைக்கிறவன் ஒருவன் அறுக்கிறவன் ஒருவன் என்கிற உண்மையான வழக்கச்சொல் இதினாலே வெளிப்படுகிறது. ³⁸ நீங்கள் பாடுபட்டுப் பயிரிடாததை அறுக்க நான் உங்களை அனுப்பினேன், மற்றவர்கள் பாடுபட்டார்கள், அவர்கள் பாடுபட்டத்தின் பலனை நீங்கள் பெற்றீர்கள் என்றார்.

³⁹ நான் செய்த எல்லாவற்றையும் எனக்குச் சொன்னார் என்று சாட்சி சொன்ன அந்த பெண்ணின் வார்த்தையினிமித்தம் அந்த ஊரிலுள்ள சமாரியரில் அநேகர் அவர்மேல் விசுவாசம் உள்ளவர்களானார்கள். ⁴⁰ சமாரியர் அவரிடத்தில் வந்து, தங்களிடத்தில் தங்கவேண்டும் என்று அவரை வேண்டிக்கொண்டார்கள்; அவர் இரண்டு நாட்கள் அங்கே தங்கினார். ⁴¹ அப்பொழுது அவருடைய உபதேசத்தின் மூலம் இன்னும் அநேகம்பேர் விசுவாசித்து, ⁴² அந்த பெண்ணைப் பார்த்து: உன் வார்த்தையினாலே இல்லை, அவருடைய உபதேசத்தை நாங்களே கேட்டு, அவர் உண்மையாகவே கிறிஸ்துவாகிய உலக இரட்சகர் என்று அறிந்து விசுவாசிக்கிறோம் என்றார்கள்.

⁴³ இரண்டு நாட்களுக்குப்பின்பு அவர் அந்த இடத்தைவிட்டுப் புறப்பட்டு, கலிலேயாவிற்குப் போனார். ⁴⁴ ஒரு தீர்க்கதரிசிக்குத் தன் சொந்த ஊரிலே மரியாதை இல்லை என்று இயேசு தாமே சொல்லியிருந்தார். ⁴⁵ அவர் கலிலேயாவில் வந்தபோது, எருசலேமில் பண்டிகையிலே அவர் செய்த எல்லாவற்றையும் பார்த்திருந்த கலிலேயர் அவரை ஏற்றுக்கொண்டார்கள்; அவர்களும் பண்டிகைக்குச் சென்றிருந்தார்கள். ⁴⁶ பின்பு, இயேசு தாம் தண்ணீரைத் திராட்சைரசமாக்கின கலிலேயாவிலுள்ள கானா ஊருக்கு மறுபடியும் வந்தார்; அப்பொழுது கப்பர்நகூமிலே ராஜாவின் அதிகாரிகளில் ஒருவனுடைய மகன் வியாதியாக இருந்தான். ⁴⁷ இயேசு யூதேயாவிலிருந்து, கலிலேயாவிற்கு வந்தார் என்று அந்த மனிதன் கேள்விப்பட்டபோது, அவரிடத்திற்குப்போய், தன் மகன் மரணவேதனையில் இருக்கிறதினால், அவனைக் குணமாக்குவதற்கு வரவேண்டும் என்று அவரை வேண்டிக்கொண்டான். ⁴⁸ அப்பொழுது இயேசு அவனைப் பார்த்து: நீங்கள் அடையாளங்களையும், அற்புதங்களையும் பார்க்காவிட்டால் விசுவாசிக்கமாட்டீர்கள் என்றார். ⁴⁹ அதற்கு ராஜாவின் அதிகாரி: ஆண்டவரே, என் பிள்ளை இறப்பதற்குமுன்னே வரவேண்டும் என்றான். ⁵⁰ இயேசு அவனைப் பார்த்து: நீ போகலாம், உன் மகன் பிழைத்திருக்கிறான் என்றார். அந்த மனிதன், இயேசு சொன்ன வார்த்தையை நம்பிப்போனான். ⁵¹ அவன் போகும்போது, அவனுடைய வேலைக்காரர்கள் அவனுக்கு எதிர்கொண்டுவந்து, உம்முடைய மகன் பிழைத்திருக்கிறான் என்று அறிவித்தார்கள். ⁵² அப்பொழுது: எத்தனை மணிக்கு அவனுக்கு சுகம் உண்டானது என்று அவர்களிடத்தில் விசாரித்தான் அவர்கள்: நேற்று பிற்பகல் ஒருமணிக்கு காய்ச்சல் அவனை விட்டது என்றார்கள். ⁵³ உன் மகன் பிழைத்திருக்கிறான் என்று இயேசு தன்னுடனே சொன்னதும் அதே நேரம் என்று தகப்பன் அறிந்து, அவனும் அவன் குடும்பத்தார் அனைவரும் விசுவாசித்தார்கள். ⁵⁴ இயேசு யூதேயாவில் இருந்து கலிலேயாவிற்குத் திரும்பிவந்தபின்பு, இது அவர் செய்த இரண்டாவது அற்புதம்.

அத்தியாயம்- 5

¹ இவைகளுக்குப் பின்பு யூதர்களுடைய பண்டிகை ஒன்று வந்தது; அப்பொழுது இயேசு எருசலேமுக்குப் போனார். ² எபிரெய மொழியிலே பெதஸ்தா என்னப்பட்ட ஒரு குளம் எருசலேமில் ஆட்டு வாசலினருகே இருக்கிறது, அதற்கு ஐந்து மண்டபங்கள் உண்டு. ³ அவைகளிலே குருடர்கள், முடவர்கள், வாதநோய் உள்ளவர்கள் முதலான வியாதி உள்ளவர்கள் அநேகர் படுத்திருந்து, தண்ணீர் எப்பொழுது கலங்கும் என்று காத்துக்கொண்டிருப்பார்கள். ⁴ ஏனென்றால், சில நேரங்களிலே தேவதூதன் ஒருவன் அந்தக் குளத்தில் இறங்கி, தண்ணீரைக் கலக்குவான்; தண்ணீர் கலங்கினபின்பு யார் முதலில் அதில் இறங்குவானோ அவன் எப்படிப்பட்ட வியாதியுள்ளவனாக இருந்தாலும் சுகமாவான். ⁵ முப்பத்தெட்டு வருடங்கள் வியாதியாயிருந்த ஒரு மனிதன் அங்கே இருந்தான். ⁶ படுத்திருந்த அவனை இயேசு பார்த்து, அவன் அநேக நாளாக வியாதி உள்ளவன் என்று அறிந்து, அவனைப் பார்த்து: சுகமாகவேண்டும் என்று விரும்புகிறாயா என்று கேட்டார். ⁷ அதற்கு வியாதியுள்ளவன்: ஆண்டவரே, தண்ணீர் கலக்கப்படும்போது என்னைக் குளத்தில் கொண்டுபோய்விடுகிறதற்கு ஒருவரும் இல்லை, நான் போகிறதற்குமுன் வேறொருவன் எனக்கு முன்னே இறங்கிவிடுகிறான் என்றான். ⁸ இயேசு அவனைப் பார்த்து: எழுந்திரு, உன் படுக்கையை எடுத்துக்கொண்டு நட என்றார். ⁹ உடனே அந்த மனிதன் சுகமாகி, தன் படுக்கையை எடுத்துக்கொண்டு நடந்துபோனான். அந்த நாள் ஓய்வுநாளாக இருந்தது. ¹⁰ ஆதலால் யூதர்கள் சுகமாக்கப்பட்டவனைப் பார்த்து: இது ஓய்வுநாளாக இருக்கிறதே, படுக்கையை எடுத்துக்கொண்டு போகிறது உனக்கு நியாயமல்ல என்றார்கள். ¹¹ அவன் அவர்களுக்கு மறுமொழியாக: என்னைச் சுகமாக்கினவர், உன் படுக்கையை எடுத்துக்கொண்டு நட என்று எனக்குச் சொன்னார் என்றான். ¹² அதற்கு அவர்கள்: உன் படுக்கையை எடுத்துக்கொண்டு நட என்று உன்னுடனே சொன்ன மனிதன் யார் என்று அவனிடத்தில் கேட்டார்கள். ¹³ சுகமாக்கப்பட்டவனுக்கு அவர் யார் என்று தெரியவில்லை; அந்த இடத்தில் மக்கள் கூட்டமாக இருந்தபடியினால் இயேசு விலகியிருந்தார். ¹⁴ அதற்குப்பின்பு இயேசு அவனை தேவாலயத்தில் பார்த்து: இதோ, நீ சுகமடைந்தாய், அதிக தீமையானது ஒன்றும் உனக்கு வராதபடி இனிப் பாவம் செய்யாதே என்றார். ¹⁵ அந்த மனிதன்போய், தன்னைச் சுகமாக்கினவர் இயேசு என்று யூதர்களுக்கு அறிவித்தான்.

¹⁶ இயேசு இவைகளை ஓய்வுநாளில் செய்தபடியால், யூதர்கள் அவரைத் துன்பப்படுத்திக் கொலைசெய்ய வகைதேடினார்கள். ¹⁷ இயேசு அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: என் பிதா இதுவரைக்கும் செயல்களைச் செய்துவருகிறார், நானும் செயல்களைச் செய்துவருகிறேன் என்றார். ¹⁸ அவர் ஓய்வுநாள் கட்டளையை மீறினதும் அல்லாமல், தேவனைத் தம்முடைய சொந்தப் பிதா என்றும் சொல்லித் தம்மை தேவனுக்குச் சமமாக்கினபடியினாலே, யூதர்கள் அவரைக் கொலைசெய்யும்படி அதிகமாக வகைதேடினார்கள். ¹⁹ அப்பொழுது இயேசு அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: உண்மையாகவே உண்மையாகவே நான் உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன்: பிதாவானவர் செய்யக் குமாரன் பார்க்கிறது எதுவோ, அதையே அன்றி, வேறு ஒன்றையும் தாமாக செய்யமாட்டார்; அவர் எவைகளைச் செய்கிறாரோ, அவைகளைக் குமாரனும் அந்தப்படியே செய்கிறார். ²⁰ பிதாவானவர் குமாரனிடத்தில் அன்பாக இருந்து, தாம் செய்கிறவைகளை எல்லாம் அவருக்குக் காண்பிக்கிறார்; நீங்கள் ஆச்சரியப்படத்தக்கதாக இவைகளைவிட பெரிதான செயல்களையும் அவருக்குக் காண்பிப்பார். ²¹ பிதாவானவர் மரித்தோரை எழுப்பி உயிர்ப்பிக்கிறதுபோல, குமாரனும் தமக்கு விருப்பமானவர்களை உயிர்ப்பிக்கிறார். ²² அன்றியும் பிதாவைக் மதிப்பதுபோல எல்லோரும் குமாரனையும் மதிக்கும்படிக்கு, பிதாவானவர் தாமே ஒருவரையும் நியாயத்தீர்ப்புச் செய்யாமல், நியாயத்தீர்ப்புச் செய்யும் அதிகாரம் முழுவதையும் குமாரனுக்கு ஒப்புக்கொடுத்திருக்கிறார். ²³ குமாரனைக் மதிக்காதவன் அவரை அனுப்பின பிதாவையும் மதிக்காதவனாக இருக்கிறான். ²⁴ என் வசனத்தைக்கேட்டு, என்னை அனுப்பினவரை விசுவாசிக்கிறவனுக்கு நித்தியஜீவன் உண்டு; அவன் தண்டனைத் தீர்ப்புக்குள்ளாகாமல், மரணத்தைவிட்டு விலகி, ஜீவனுக்குள்ளாகிறான் என்று உண்மையாகவே உண்மையாகவே உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன். ²⁵ மரித்தோர் தேவகுமாரனுடைய சத்தத்தைக் கேட்கும் காலம் வரும், அது இப்பொழுதே வந்திருக்கிறது; அதைக் கேட்கிறவர்கள் பிழைப்பார்கள் என்று உண்மையாகவே உண்மையாகவே உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன். ²⁶ ஏனென்றால், பிதாவானவர் தம்மில் தாமே ஜீவனுடையவராக இருக்கிறதுபோல, குமாரனும் தம்மில் தாமே ஜீவனுடையவராக இருக்கும்படி அருள்செய்திருக்கிறார். ²⁷ அவர் மனிதகுமாரனாக இருக்கிறபடியால், நியாயத்தீர்ப்புச் செய்யும்படிக்கு அதிகாரத்தையும் அவருக்குக் கொடுத்திருக்கிறார். ²⁸ இதைக்குறித்து நீங்கள் ஆச்சரியப்படவேண்டாம்; ஏனென்றால், கல்லறைகளில் உள்ள அனைவரும் அவருடைய சத்தத்தைக் கேட்கும் காலம் வரும்; ²⁹ அப்பொழுது, நன்மை செய்தவர்கள் ஜீவனை அடையும்படி எழுந்திருக்கிறவர்களாகவும், தீமைசெய்தவர்கள் தண்டனையை அடையும்படி எழுந்திருக்கிறவர்களாகவும் புறப்படுவார்கள். ³⁰ நான் தானாக ஒன்றும் செய்கிறதில்லை; நான் கேட்கிறபடியே நியாயந்தீர்க்கிறேன்;

எனக்கு விருப்பமானதை நான் தேடாமல், என்னை அனுப்பின பிதாவிற்கு விருப்பமானதையே நான் தேடுகிறபடியால் என் தீர்ப்பு நீதியாக இருக்கிறது.

³¹ என்னைக்குறித்து நானே சாட்சிகொடுத்தால் என் சாட்சி உண்மையாக இருக்காது. ³² என்னைக்குறித்துச் சாட்சிகொடுக்கிறவர் வேறொருவர் இருக்கிறார், அவர் என்னைக்குறித்துக் கொடுக்கிற சாட்சி உண்மையான சாட்சி என்று அறிந்திருக்கிறேன். ³³ நீங்கள் யோவானிடத்தில் ஆளனுப்பி விசாரித்தீர்கள், அவன் சத்தியத்திற்கு சாட்சி கொடுத்தான். ³⁴ நான் ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளுகிற சாட்சி மனிதர்களுடைய சாட்சி இல்லை, நீங்கள் இரட்சிக்கப்படுவதற்காகவே இவைகளைச் சொல்லுகிறேன். ³⁵ அவன் எரிந்து பிரகாசிக்கிற விளக்காய் இருந்தான்; நீங்களும் சிலநேரம் அவன் வெளிச்சத்திலே மகிழ்ச்சியாக இருக்க விருப்பமாக இருந்தீர்கள். ³⁶ யோவானுடைய சாட்சியைவிட மேன்மையான சாட்சி எனக்கு உண்டு; அது என்னவென்றால், நான் நிறைவேற்றும்படிக்குப் பிதாவானவர் எனக்குக் கற்பித்ததும் நான் செய்துவருகிறதும் செயல்களே பிதா என்னை அனுப்பினார் என்று என்னைக்குறித்துச் சாட்சிகொடுக்கிறது. ³⁷ என்னை அனுப்பின பிதா தாமே என்னைக்குறித்துச் சாட்சிக் கொடுத்திருக்கிறார்; நீங்கள் ஒருபோதும் அவர் சத்தத்தைக் கேட்டதும் இல்லை, அவர் உருவத்தைப் பார்த்ததும் இல்லை. ³⁸ அவர் அனுப்பினவரை நீங்கள் விசுவாசிக்காதபடியால் அவருடைய வசனம் உங்களில் நிலைத்திருக்கிறதும் இல்லை. ³⁹ வேதவாக்கியங்களை ஆராய்ந்துபாருங்கள்; அவைகளால் உங்களுக்கு நித்தியஜீவன் உண்டென்று நினைக்கிறீர்களே, என்னைக்குறித்துச் சாட்சிகொடுக்கிறவைகளும் அவைகளே. ⁴⁰ அப்படி இருந்தும் உங்களுக்கு ஜீவன் உண்டாகும்படி என்னிடத்தில் வர உங்களுக்கு விருப்பம் இல்லை. ⁴¹ நான் மனிதர்களால் மகிமையை ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளுகிறதும் இல்லை. ⁴² உங்களில் தேவஅன்பு இல்லை என்று உங்களை அறிந்திருக்கிறேன். ⁴³ நான் என் பிதாவின் நாமத்தினாலே வந்திருந்தும் நீங்கள் என்னை ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளவில்லை, வேறொருவன் தன் சொந்த பெயரினாலே வந்தால் அவனை ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளு வீர்கள். ⁴⁴ தேவனாலேமட்டும் வருகிற மகிமையைத் தேடாமல், ஒருவருக்கு ஒருவர் மகிமையை ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளுகிற நீங்கள் எப்படி விசுவாசிப்பீர்கள்? ⁴⁵ பிதாவினிடத்தில் நான் உங்கள்மேல் குற்றஞ்சாட்டுவேன் என்று நினைக்காதிருங்கள்; நீங்கள் நம்புகிற மோசேயே உங்கள்மேல் குற்றஞ்சாட்டுவான். ⁴⁶ நீங்கள் மோசேயை விசுவாசித்தால், என்னையும் விசுவாசிப்பீர்கள்; அவன் என்னைக்குறித்து எழுதியிருக்கிறானே. ⁴⁷ அவன் எழுதின வாக்கியங்களை நீங்கள் விசுவாசியாமல் இருந்தால் நான் சொல்லுகிற வசனங்களை எப்படி விசுவாசிப்பீர்கள் என்றார்.

அத்தியாயம்- 6

¹ இவைகளுக்குப் பின்பு இயேசு திபேரியாக்கடல் என்னப்பட்ட கலிலேயாக் கடலின் அக்கரைக்குப் போனார். ² அவர் வியாதியாக இருந்தவர்களுக்கு செய்த அற்புதங்களைத் திரளான மக்கள் பார்த்தபடியால் அவருக்குப் பின் சென்றார்கள். ³ இயேசு மலையின்மேல் ஏறி, அங்கே தம்முடைய சீடர்களோடுகூட உட்கார்ந்தார். ⁴ அப்பொழுது யூதர்களுடைய பண்டிகையாகிய பஸ்கா நெருங்கியிருந்தது. ⁵ இயேசு தம்முடைய கண்களை ஏறெடுத்து, அநேக மக்கள் தம்மிடத்தில் வருகிறதைப் பார்த்து, பிலிப்புவினிடம்: இவர்கள் சாப்பிடத்தக்கதாக அப்பங்களை எங்கே வாங்கலாம் என்று கேட்டார். ⁶ தாம் செய்ய போகிறதை அறிந்திருந்தும், அவனைச் சோதிக்கும்படி இப்படிச் கேட்டார். ⁷ பிலிப்பு அவருக்கு மறுமொழியாக: இவர்களில் ஒவ்வொருவரும் கொஞ்சம், எடுத்துக்கொண்டாலும், இருநூறு பணத்திற்கு வாங்கும் அப்பங்களும் இவர்களுக்குப் போதுமானதாக இருக்காதே என்றான். ⁸ அப்பொழுது அவருடைய சீடர்களில் ஒருவனும், சீமோன் பேதுருவின் சகோதரனுமாகிய அந்திரேயா அவரைப் பார்த்து: ⁹ இங்கே ஒரு சிறுவன் இருக்கிறான், அவனுடைய கையில் ஐந்து வாற்கோதுமை அப்பங்களும் இரண்டு மீன்களும் இருக்கின்றது, ஆனாலும் அவைகள் இவ்வளவு மக்களுக்கு எப்படிப் போதும் என்றான். ¹⁰ இயேசு: மக்களை உட்காரவைப்பது என்றார். அந்த இடம் மிகுந்த புல்லுள்ளதாக இருந்தது. பந்தியிருந்த ஆண்கள் ஏறக்குறைய ஐந்தாயிரம் பேர் இருந்தார்கள். ¹¹ இயேசு அந்த அப்பங்களை எடுத்து, நன்றிசெலுத்தி, சீடர்களிடத்தில் கொடுத்தார்; சீடர்கள் பந்தி இருந்தவர்களுக்குக் கொடுத்தார்கள்; அப்படியே மீன்களையும் அவர் எடுத்து அவர்களுக்குத் தேவையானஅளவு கொடுத்தார். ¹² அவர்கள் திருப்தியடைந்தப்பின்பு, அவர் தம்முடைய சீடர்களைப் பார்த்து: ஒன்றும் வீணாகப் போகாதபடிக்கு மீதியான துண்டுகளைச் சேர்த்துவையுங்கள் என்றார். ¹³ அந்தப்படியே அவர்கள் சேர்த்து, வாற்கோதுமை அப்பங்கள் ஐந்தில் அவர்கள் சாப்பிட்டு மீதியான துண்டுகளினாலே பன்னிரண்டு கூடைகளை நிரப்பினார்கள். ¹⁴ இயேசு செய்த அற்புதத்தை அந்த மனிதர்கள் பார்த்து: உண்மையாகவே இவர் உலகத்தில் வருகிறவரான தீர்க்கதரிசி என்றார்கள். ¹⁵ ஆதலால் அவர்கள் வந்து, தம்மை ராஜாவாக்கும்படிப் பிடித்துக்கொண்டுபோக மனதாக இருக்கிறார்கள் என்று இயேசு அறிந்து, மறுபடியும் விலகி, தனியே மலையின்மேல் ஏறினார்.

¹⁶ மாலைநேரமானபோது அவருடைய சீடர்கள் கடற்கரைக்குப்போய், ¹⁷ படகில் ஏறி, கடலின் அக்கரையிலுள்ள கப்பர்நகூமுக்கு நேராக போனார்கள்; அப்பொழுது இருட்டாக இருந்தது, இயேசுவும் அவர்களிடத்தில் வராதிருந்தார். ¹⁸ பெருங்காற்று அடித்தபடியினாலே கடல் கொந்தளித்தது. ¹⁹ அவர்கள் ஏறக்குறைய மூன்று நாலு மைல்தூரம் படகில் போனபொழுது, இயேசு கடலின்மேல் நடந்து, படகின் அருகில் வருகிறதைப் பார்த்து பயந்தார்கள். ²⁰ அவர்களை அவர் பார்த்து: நான்தான், பயப்படாமலிருங்கள் என்றார். ²¹ அப்பொழுது அவரைப் படகில் ஏற்றிக்கொள்ள விருப்பமானார்கள்; உடனே படகு அவர்கள் போகிற கரையைப் பிடித்தது. ²² மறுநாளில் கடலின் அக்கரையிலே நின்ற மக்கள் அவருடைய சீடர்கள் ஏறின அந்த ஒரே படகைத்தவிர அங்கே வேறொரு படகும் இருந்ததில்லை என்றும், இயேசு தம்முடைய சீடர்களோடுகூடப் படகில் ஏறாமல் அவருடைய சீடர்கள்மட்டும் போனார்கள் என்றும் அறிந்தார்கள். ²³ கர்த்தர், நன்றி செலுத்தினபின்பு அவர்கள் அப்பம் சாப்பிட்ட இடத்திற்கு அருகில் திபேரியாவிலிருந்து வேறு படகுகள் வந்தது. ²⁴ அப்பொழுது இயேசுவும் அவருடைய சீடர்களும் அங்கே இல்லாததை மக்கள் பார்த்து, உடனே அந்தப் படகுகளில் ஏறி, இயேசுவைத் தேடிக்கொண்டு, கப்பர்நகூமுக்கு வந்தார்கள்.

²⁵ கடலின் அக்கரையிலே அவர்கள் அவரைப் பார்த்தபோது: ரபீ, நீர் எப்பொழுது இந்த இடத்திற்கு வந்தீர் என்று கேட்டார்கள். ²⁶ இயேசு அவர்களுக்கு மறுமொழியாக: நீங்கள் அற்புதங்களைப் பார்த்ததினால் அல்ல, நீங்கள் அப்பங்கள் புசித்துத் திருப்தியானதினால் தான் என்னைத் தேடுகிறீர்கள் என்று உண்மையாகவே உண்மையாகவே உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன். ²⁷ அழிந்துபோகிற உணவிற்காக இல்லை, நித்தியஜீவன் வரைக்கும் நிலைநிற்கிற உணவிற்காகவே செயல்களை நடப்பியுங்கள்; அதை மனிதகுமாரன் உங்களுக்குக் கொடுப்பார்; அவரைப் பிதாவாகிய தேவன் நிச்சயத்திருக்கிறார் என்றார். ²⁸ அப்பொழுது அவர்கள் அவரைப் பார்த்து: தேவனுக்குரிய செயல்களை நடப்பிக்கும்படி நாங்கள் என்னசெய்யவேண்டும் என்றார்கள். ²⁹ இயேசு அவர்களுக்கு மறுமொழியாக: அவர் அனுப்பினவரை நீங்கள் விசுவாசிப்பதே தேவனுக்குரிய செயல்களாக இருக்கிறது என்றார். ³⁰ அதற்கு அவர்கள்: அப்படியானால் உம்மை விசுவாசிக்கும்படி நாங்கள் பார்க்கத்தக்கதாக நீர் என்ன அடையாளத்தைக் காண்பிக்கிறீர்? என்ன காரியத்தை நடப்பிக்கிறீர்? ³¹ வானத்திலிருந்து அவர்களுக்கு அப்பத்தை சாப்பிடக் கொடுத்தார் என்று எழுதியிருக்கிறபடி, நம்முடைய முற்பிதாக்கள் வனாந்திரத்தில் மன்னாவைச் சாப்பிட்டார்களே என்றார்கள். ³² இயேசு அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: வானத்திலிருந்து வந்த அப்பத்தை மோசே

உங்களுக்குக் கொடுக்கவில்லை; என் பிதாவோ வானத்திலிருந்து வந்த மெய்யான அப்பத்தை உங்களுக்குக் கொடுக்கிறார் என்று, உண்மையாகவே உண்மையாகவே உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன். ³³ வானத்தில் இருந்து இறங்கி. உலகத்திற்கு ஜீவனைக் கொடுக்கிற அப்பமே, தேவன் தரும் அப்பம் என்றார். ³⁴ அப்பொழுது அவர்கள் அவரைப் பார்த்து: ஆண்டவரே, இந்த அப்பத்தை எப்பொழுதும் எங்களுக்கு கொடுக்கவேண்டும் என்றார்கள். ³⁵ இயேசு அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: ஜீவ அப்பம் நானே, என்னிடத்தில் வருகிறவன் ஒருபோதும் பசியடையான், என்னிடத்தில் விசுவாசமாக இருக்கிறவன் ஒருபோதும், தாகமடையான். ³⁶ நீங்கள் என்னைப் பார்த்திருந்தும் விசுவாசியாமல் இருக்கிறீர்கள் என்று உங்களுக்குச் சொன்னேன். ³⁷ பிதாவானவர் எனக்குக் கொடுக்கிறதெல்லாம் என்னிடத்தில் வரும்; என்னிடத்தில் வருகிறவனை நான் வெளியே தள்ளுவதில்லை. ³⁸ என் விருப்பத்தின்படியல்ல, என்னை அனுப்பினவருடைய விருப்பத்தின்படி செய்யவே, நான் வானத்திலிருந்து இறங்கி வந்தேன். ³⁹ அவர் எனக்குக் கொடுத்ததில் ஒன்றையும் நான் இழந்துபோகாமல், கடைசிநாளில் அவைகளை எழுப்புவதே என்னை அனுப்பின பிதாவின் விருப்பமாக இருக்கிறது. ⁴⁰ குமாரனைப் பார்த்து, அவரிடத்தில் விசுவாசமாக இருக்கிறவன் எவனோ, அவன் நித்தியஜீவனை அடைவதும், நான் அவனைக் கடைசிநாளில் எழுப்புவதும், என்னை அனுப்பினவருடைய விருப்பமாக இருக்கிறது என்றார். ⁴¹ நான் வானத்திலிருந்து வந்த அப்பம் என்று அவர் சொன்னதினிமித்தம் யூதர்கள் அவரைக்குறித்து முறுமுறுத்து: ⁴² இவன் யோசேப்பின் குமாரனாகிய இயேசு அல்லவா, இவனுடைய தகப்பனையும், தாயையும் அறிந்திருக்கிறோமே; அப்படி இருக்க, நான் வானத்திலிருந்து இறங்கி வந்தேன் என்று இவன் எப்படிச் சொல்லுகிறான் என்றார்கள். ⁴³ இயேசு அவர்களுக்கு மறுமொழியாக: உங்களுக்குள் முறுமுறுக்க வேண்டாம். ⁴⁴ என்னை அனுப்பின பிதா, ஒருவனை இழுத்துக்கொள்ளாவிட்டால் அவன் என்னிடத்தில் வரமாட்டான்; கடைசிநாளில் நான் அவனை எழுப்புவேன். ⁴⁵ எல்லோரும் தேவனாலே போதிக்கப்பட்டிருப்பார்கள் என்று தீர்க்கதரிசிகளின் புத்தகத்தில் எழுதியிருக்கிறதே; ஆகவே, பிதாவினிடத்தில் கேட்டுக் கற்றுக்கொள்ளுகிறவன் எவனும் என்னிடத்தில் வருகிறான். ⁴⁶ தேவனிடத்தில் இருந்து வந்தவரேதவிர வேறு ஒருவரும் பிதாவைப் பார்த்ததில்லை, இவரே பிதாவைப் பார்த்தவர். ⁴⁷ என்னிடத்தில் விசுவாசமாக இருக்கிறவனுக்கு நித்தியஜீவன் உண்டு என்று உண்மையாகவே உண்மையாகவே உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன். ⁴⁸ ஜீவ அப்பம் நானே. ⁴⁹ உங்களுடைய பிதாக்கள் வனாந்திரத்திலே மன்னாவைச் சாப்பிட்டிருந்தும் மரித்தார்கள். ⁵⁰ இதிலே சாப்பிடுகிறவன் மரிக்காமலும் இருக்கும்படி வானத்திலிருந்து இறங்கின அப்பம் இதுவே. ⁵¹ நானே வானத்திலிருந்து இறங்கின ஜீவ அப்பம்; இந்த அப்பத்தை சாப்பிடுகிறவன் என்றென்றைக்கும் பிழைப்பான்; நான் கொடுக்கும் அப்பம், உலக மக்களின் ஜீவனுக்காக நான் கொடுக்கும் என்னுடைய சரீரமே என்றார். ⁵² அப்பொழுது யூதர்கள்: இவன் தன்னுடைய சரீரத்தை எப்படி நமக்கு சாப்பிடக் கொடுப்பான் என்று தங்களுக்குள்ளே வாக்குவாதம் செய்தார்கள். ⁵³ அதற்கு இயேசு அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: நீங்கள் மனிதகுமாரனுடைய சரீரத்தைச் சாப்பிடாமலும், அவருடைய இரத்தத்தைக் குடிக்காமலும் இருந்தால் உங்களுக்குள்ளே ஜீவன் இல்லை என்று உண்மையாகவே உண்மையாகவே உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன். ⁵⁴ என் சரீரத்தைப் புசித்து, என் இரத்தத்தைக் குடிக்கிறவனுக்கு நித்தியஜீவன் உண்டு; நான் அவனைக் கடைசிநாளில் எழுப்புவேன். ⁵⁵ என் சரீரம் உண்மையான உணவாக இருக்கிறது, என் இரத்தம் உண்மையான பானமாக இருக்கிறது. ⁵⁶ என் சரீரத்தைப் புசித்து, என் இரத்தத்தைக் குடிக்கிறவன் என்னிலே நிலைத்திருக்கிறான், நானும் அவனிலே நிலைத்திருக்கிறேன். ⁵⁷ ஜீவனுள்ள பிதா என்னை அனுப்பினதுபோலவும், நான் பிதாவினால் பிழைத்திருக்கிறதுபோலவும், என்னைப் புசிக்கிறவனும் என்னாலே பிழைப்பான். ⁵⁸ வானத்திலிருந்து இறங்கின அப்பம் இதுவே; இது உங்களுடைய தகப்பன்மார்கள் புசித்த மன்னாவைப்போல அல்ல, அவர்கள் மரித்தார்களே; இந்த அப்பத்தைப் புசிக்கிறவனோ என்றென்றைக்கும் பிழைப்பான் என்றார். ⁵⁹ கப்பர்நகூமிலுள்ள ஜெப ஆலயத்திலே அவர் உபதேசிக்கும்போது இவைகளைச் சொன்னார்.

⁶⁰ அவருடைய சீடர்களில் அநேகர் இவைகளைக் கேட்டபொழுது, இது கடினமான உபதேசம், யார் இதை ஏற்றுக்கொள்வார்கள் என்றார்கள். ⁶¹ சீடர்கள் அதைக்குறித்து முறுமுறுக்கிறார்கள் என்று இயேசு தமக்குள்ளே அறிந்து, அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: இது உங்களுக்கு இடறலாக இருக்கிறதோ? ⁶² மனிதகுமாரன் தாம் முன்னிருந்த இடத்திற்கு ஏறிப்போகிறதை நீங்கள் பார்ப்பீர்களானால் எப்படி இருக்கும்? ⁶³ ஆவியே உயிர்ப்பிக்கிறது, சரீரமானது ஒன்றுக்கும் உதவாது; நான் உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிற வசனங்கள் ஆவியாகவும், ஜீவனாகவும் இருக்கிறது. ⁶⁴ ஆனாலும் உங்களில் விசுவாசிக்காதவர்கள் சிலர் இருக்கிறார்கள் என்றார்; விசுவாசிக்காதவர்கள் இவர்கள் என்றும், தம்மைக் காட்டிக்கொடுப்பவன் இவன்தான் என்றும் ஆரம்பமுதல் இயேசு அறிந்திருந்தபடியால், அவர் பின்னும்: ⁶⁵ ஒருவன் என் பிதாவின் அனுமதி பெறாவிட்டால் என்னிடத்திற்கு வரமாட்டான் என்று இதற்காகவே உங்களுக்குச் சொன்னேன் என்றார். ⁶⁶ அதுமுதல் அவருடைய சீடர்களில் அநேகர் அவருடனேகூட நடக்காமல் பின்வாங்கிப்போனார்கள். ⁶⁷ அப்பொழுது இயேசு பன்னிரண்டுபேரையும் பார்த்து: நீங்களும் போய்விட

விருப்பமாக இருக்கிறீர்களோ என்றார். ⁶⁸ சீமோன்பேதுரு அவருக்கு மறுமொழியாக: ஆண்டவரே, யாரிடத்தில் போவோம், நித்தியஜீவ வார்த்தைகள் உம்மிடத்தில் இருக்கிறது. ⁶⁹ நீர் ஜீவனுள்ள தேவனுடைய குமாரனாகிய கிறிஸ்து என்று நாங்கள் விசுவாசித்தும் அறிந்தும் இருக்கிறோம் என்றான். ⁷⁰ இயேசு அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: பன்னிருவராகிய உங்களை நான் தெரிந்துகொள்ளவில்லையா உங்களுக்குள்ளும் ஒருவன் பிசாசாக இருக்கிறான் என்றார். ⁷¹ சீமோனின் மகனாகிய யூதாஸ்காரியோத்து பன்னிருவரில் ஒருவனாக இருந்தும், தம்மைக் காட்டிக்கொடுக்கப்போகிறவனாக இருந்தபடியினால் அவனைக்குறித்து இப்படிச் சொன்னார்.

அத்தியாயம்- 7

¹ இவைகளுக்குப் பின்பு, யூதர்கள் இயேசுவைக் கொலைசெய்ய வகைதேடினதால், அவர் யூதேயாவிலே வசிப்பதற்கு விருப்பம் இல்லாமல் கலிலேயாவிலே வசித்து வந்தார். ² யூதர்களுடைய கூடாரப்பண்டிகை நெருங்கியிருந்தது. ³ அப்பொழுது அவருடைய சகோதரர்கள் அவரைப் பார்த்து: நீர் செய்கிற செயல்களை உம்முடைய சீடர்களும் பார்க்கும்படி, இந்த இடத்தைவிட்டு யூதேயாவிற்கு செல்லும். ⁴ பிரபலமாக இருக்கவிரும்புகிற எவனும் அந்தரங்கத்திலே ஒன்றையும் செய்யமாட்டான்; நீர் இப்படிப்பட்டவைகளைச் செய்வதால் உலகத்திற்கு உம்மை வெளிப்படுத்தும் என்றார்கள். ⁵ அவருடைய சகோதரர்களும் அவரை விசுவாசிக்காததினால் இப்படிச் சொன்னார்கள். ⁶ இயேசு அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: என் நேரம் இன்னும் வரவில்லை, உங்களுடைய நேரமோ எப்பொழுதும் ஆயத்தமாக இருக்கிறது. ⁷ உலகம் உங்களைப் பகைக்கமாட்டாது; அதின் செயல்கள் பொல்லாதவைகளாக இருக்கிறது என்று நான் சாட்சி கொடுக்கிறதினாலே அது என்னைப் பகைக்கிறது. ⁸ நீங்கள் இந்த பண்டிகைக்குப் போங்கள்; என் நேரம் இன்னும் வராததினால் நான் இந்தப் பண்டிகைக்கு இப்பொழுது போகிறதில்லை என்றார். ⁹ இவைகளை அவர்களிடம் சொல்லி, கலிலேயாவிலே தங்கிவிட்டார். ¹⁰ அவருடைய சகோதரர்கள் போனபின்பு, அவர் வெளிப்படையாகப் போகாமல் மறைவாக பண்டிகைக்குப் போனார். ¹¹ பண்டிகையிலே யூதர்கள் அவரைத் தேடி: அவர் எங்கே இருக்கிறார் என்றார்கள். ¹² மக்களுக்குள்ளே அவரைக்குறித்து முறுமுறுப்புண்டானது. சிலர்: அவர் நல்லவர் என்றார்கள். வேறுசிலர்: அப்படி இல்லை, அவன் மக்களை ஏமாற்றுகிறவன் என்று சொல்லிக்கொண்டார்கள். ¹³ ஆனாலும் யூதர்களுக்குப் பயந்திருந்ததினாலே, ஒருவனும் அவரைக்குறித்து வெளிப்படையாக பேசவில்லை.

¹⁴ பண்டிகையின் பாதிநாட்கள் முடிந்தபோது, இயேசு தேவாலயத்திற்குச் சென்று, போதனை செய்தார். ¹⁵ அப்பொழுது யூதர்கள்: இவர் படிக்காதவராக இருந்தும் வேத எழுத்துக்களை எப்படி அறிந்திருக்கிறார் என்று ஆச்சரியப்பட்டார்கள். ¹⁶ இயேசு அவர்களுக்கு மறுமொழியாக: என் உபதேசம் என்னுடையதாக இல்லாமல், என்னை அனுப்பினவருடையதாக இருக்கிறது. ¹⁷ அவருடைய விருப்பத்தின்படிசெய்ய மனதுள்ளவன் எவனோ அவன் இந்த உபதேசம் தேவனால் உண்டாயிருக்கிறதோ, நான் சொந்தமாக பேசுகிறேனோ என்று அறிந்துகொள்ளுவான். ¹⁸ சொந்தமாக பேசுகிறவன் தன் சொந்த மகிமையைத் தேடுகிறான், தன்னை அனுப்பினவரின் மகிமையைத் தேடுகிறவனோ உண்மை உள்ளவனாக இருக்கிறான், அவனிடத்தில் அநீதியில்லை. ¹⁹ மோசே நியாயப்பிரமாணத்தை உங்களுக்குக் கொடுக்கவில்லையா? அப்படியிருந்தும் உங்களில் ஒருவனும் அந்த நியாயப்பிரமாணத்தின்படி நடக்கிறதில்லை; நீங்கள் ஏன் என்னைக் கொலைசெய்யத் தேடுகிறீர்கள் என்றார். ²⁰ மக்கள் அவருக்கு மறுமொழியாக: நீ பிசாசு பிடித்தவன்; உன்னைக் கொலைசெய்யத் தேடுகிறவன் யார் என்றார்கள். ²¹ இயேசு அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: ஒரே செயலை செய்தேன், அதைக்குறித்து எல்லோரும் ஆச்சரியப்படுகிறீர்கள். ²² விருத்தசேதனம் மோசேயினால் உண்டாகாமல், முன்னோர்களால் உண்டானது; பின்பு மோசே அதை உங்களுக்கு நியமித்தான்; நீங்கள் ஓய்வுநாளிலும் மனிதனை விருத்தசேதனம்பண்ணுகிறீர்கள். ²³ மோசேயின் நியாயப்பிரமாணம் மீறாமல் இருக்கும்படி ஓய்வுநாளில் மனிதன் விருத்தசேதனம் பெறலாம் என்றால், நான் ஓய்வுநாளில் ஒரு மனிதனை முழுவதும் சுகமாக்கினதினாலே என்மேல் எரிச்சலாயிருக்கலாமா? ²⁴ தோற்றத்தின்படி தீர்ப்பு செய்யாமல், நீதியின்படி தீர்ப்பு செய்யுங்கள் என்றார்.

²⁵ அப்பொழுது எருசலேம் நகரத்தாரில் சிலர்: இவனைத்தானே கொலைசெய்யத் தேடுகிறார்கள்? ²⁶ இதோ, இவன் வெளிப்படையாக பேசுகிறானே, ஒருவரும் இவனுக்கு ஒன்றும் சொல்லுகிறதில்லையே, உண்மையாக இவன் கிறிஸ்து தான் என்று அதிகாரிகள் நிச்சயமாக அறிந்திருக்கிறார்களோ? ²⁷ இவன் இன்ன இடத்திலிருந்து வந்தவன் என்று நாம் அறிந்திருக்கிறோம், கிறிஸ்து வரும்போதோ, அவர் இன்ன இடத்திலிருந்து வருகிறவர் என்று ஒருவனும் அறியமாட்டானே என்றார்கள். ²⁸ அப்பொழுது இயேசு தேவாலயத்தில் உபதேசிக்கும்போது சத்தமிட்டு: நீங்கள் என்னை அறிவீர்கள், நான் எங்கே இருந்து வந்தேன் என்றும் அறிவீர்கள்; நான் நானாகவே வரவில்லை, என்னை அனுப்பினவர் சத்தியம் உள்ளவர், அவரை நீங்கள் அறியாதிருக்கிறீர்கள். ²⁹ நான் அவரால் வந்திருக்கிறதினாலும், அவர் என்னை அனுப்பி இருக்கிறதினாலும், நானே அவரை அறிந்திருக்கிறேன் என்றார். ³⁰ அப்பொழுது அவரைப் பிடிக்க வகைதேடினார்கள்; ஆனாலும் அவருடைய நேரம் இன்னும் வராததினால் ஒருவனும் அவரைத் தொடவில்லை. ³¹ மக்களில் அநேகர் அவரை விசுவாசித்து: கிறிஸ்து வரும்போது, இவர் செய்கிற அற்புதங்களைவிட அதிகமாகச் செய்வாரோ என்றார்கள். ³² மக்கள் அவரைக்குறித்து இப்படி முறுமுறுக்கிறதைப் பரிசேயர்கள் கேட்டபொழுது, அவரைப் பிடித்துக்கொண்டு வரும்படிக்குப் பரிசேயர்களும் பிரதான ஆசாரியர்களும் காவலர்களை அனுப்பினார்கள். ³³ அப்பொழுது இயேசு

அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: இன்னும் கொஞ்சக்காலம் நான் உங்களோடு கூட இருந்து, பின்பு என்னை அனுப்பினவர் இடத்திற்குப் போகிறேன். ³⁴ நீங்கள் என்னைத் தேடுவீர்கள், ஆனாலும் என்னைப் பார்க்கமாட்டீர்கள்; நான் இருக்கும் இடத்திற்கு நீங்கள் வரவும் கூடாது என்றார். ³⁵ அப்பொழுது யூதர்கள்: இவரை நாம் பார்க்காதபடிக்கு எங்கே போவார், கிரேக்கர்களுக்குள்ளே சிதறியிருக்கிற நமது மக்களிடம் போய், கிரேக்கர்களுக்கு உபதேசம் செய்வாரோ? ³⁶ நீங்கள் என்னைத் தேடுவீர்கள், ஆனாலும் என்னைப் பார்க்கமாட்டீர்கள் என்றும், நான் இருக்கும் இடத்திற்கு நீங்கள் வரக்கூடாது என்றும், இவர் சொன்ன வார்த்தையின் கருத்து என்ன என்று தங்களுக்குள்ளே சொல்லிக்கொண்டார்கள். ³⁷ பண்டிகையின் கடைசிநாளாகிய முக்கியமான நாளிலே இயேசு நின்று, சத்தமிட்டு: ஒருவன் தாகமாக இருந்தால் என்னிடத்தில் வந்து பானம்பண்ணட்டும். ³⁸ வேதவாக்கியம் சொல்லுகிறபடி என்னிடத்தில் விசுவாசமாக இருக்கிறவன் எவனோ, அவன் உள்ளத்திலிருந்து ஜீவத்தண்ணீருள்ள நதிகள் ஓடும் என்றார். ³⁹ தம்மை விசுவாசிக்கிறவர்கள் பெற்றுக்கொள்ளப்போகிற ஆவியானவரைக்குறித்து இப்படிச் சொன்னார். இயேசு இன்னும் மகிமைப்படாமல் இருந்ததினால் பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவர் இன்னும் கொடுக்கப்படவில்லை. ⁴⁰ மக்களில் அநேகர் இந்த வசனத்தைக் கேட்டபொழுது: உண்மையாகவே இவர் தீர்க்கதரிசியானவர் என்றார்கள். ⁴¹ வேறுசிலர்: இவர் கிறிஸ்து என்றார்கள். வேறுசிலர்: கிறிஸ்து கலிலேயாவிலிருந்தா வருவார்? ⁴² தாவீதின் சந்ததியிலும், தாவீது இருந்த பெத்லகேம் ஊரிலுமிருந்து கிறிஸ்து வருவார் என்று வேதவாக்கியம் சொல்லவில்லையா என்றார்கள். ⁴³ இவ்விதமாக அவரைக்குறித்து மக்களுக்குள்ளே பிரிவினை உண்டானது. ⁴⁴ அவர்களில் சிலர் அவரைப் பிடிக்க விருப்பமாக இருந்தார்கள்; ஆனாலும் ஒருவனும் அவரைத் தொடவில்லை.

⁴⁵ பின்பு அந்தக் காவலர்கள் பிரதான ஆசாரியர்களிடத்திற்கும் பரிசேயர்களிடத்திற்கும் திரும்பிவந்தார்கள்; இவர்கள் அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: நீங்கள் அவனை ஏன் அழைத்து வரவில்லை என்று கேட்டார்கள். ⁴⁶ காவலர்கள் மறுமொழியாக: அந்த மனிதன் பேசுகிறதுபோல ஒருவனும் ஒருபோதும் பேசினது இல்லை என்றார்கள். ⁴⁷ அப்பொழுது பரிசேயர்கள்: நீங்களும் ஏமாற்றப்பட்டீர்களா? ⁴⁸ அதிகாரிகளிலாவது பரிசேயர்களிலாவது யாரேனும் ஒருவர் அவனை விசுவாசித்ததுண்டா? ⁴⁹ வேதத்தை அறியாதவர்களாகிய இந்த மக்கள் சபிக்கப்பட்டவர்கள் என்றார்கள். ⁵⁰ இரவிலே அவரிடத்திற்கு வந்தவனும் அவர்களில் ஒருவனுமாகிய நிக்கொதேமு என்பவன் அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: ⁵¹ ஒரு மனிதன் சொல்வதைக் கேட்டு, அவன் செய்கைகளை அறிகிறதற்கு முன்னே, அவனைத் தண்டனைக்கு உட்படுத்தலாம் என்று நம்முடைய நியாயப்பிரமாணம் சொல்லுகிறதா என்றான். ⁵² அதற்கு அவர்கள்: நீரும் கலிலேயனோ? கலிலேயாவில் இருந்து ஒரு தீர்க்கதரிசியும் எழும்புகிறது இல்லை என்பதை ஆராய்ந்து பாரும் என்றார்கள். ⁵³ பின்பு அவரவர் தங்கள், தங்கள் வீட்டிற்குப் போனார்கள்.

அத்தியாயம்- 8

¹ இயேசு ஒலிவமலைக்குப் போனார். ² மறுநாள் காலையில் அவர் திரும்பி தேவாலயத்திற்கு வந்தபோது, மக்கள் எல்லோரும் அவரிடத்தில் வந்தார்கள். அவர் உட்கார்ந்து அவர்களுக்கு உபதேசம் செய்தார். ³ அப்பொழுது விபசாரத்திலே கண்டுபிடிக்கப்பட்ட ஒரு பெண்ணை வேதபண்டிதர்களும், பரிசேயர்களும் அவரிடத்தில் அழைத்துவந்து, அவளை நடுவே நிறுத்தி: ⁴ போதகரே, இந்த பெண் விபசாரத்தில் கையும் மெய்யுமாகப் பிடிக்கப்பட்டாள். ⁵ இப்படிப்பட்டவர்களைக் கல்லெறிந்து கொல்லவேண்டும் என்று மோசே நியாயப்பிரமாணத்தில் நமக்குக் கட்டளைக் கொடுத்திருக்கிறாரே, நீர் என்ன சொல்லுகிறீர் என்றார்கள். ⁶ அவர்மேல் குற்றஞ்சுமத்துவதற்கான காரணம் உண்டாக்குவதற்கு, அவரைச் சோதிக்கும்படி இப்படிச் சொன்னார்கள் இயேசுவோ குனிந்து, விரலினால் தரையிலே எழுதினார். ⁷ அவர்கள் தொடர்ந்து அவரைக் கேட்டுக்கொண்டிருக்கும்போது, அவர் நிமிர்ந்துபார்த்து: உங்களில் பாவமில்லாதவன் இவன்மீது முதலாவது கல்லெறியட்டும் என்று சொல்லி, ⁸ அவர் மறுபடியும் குனிந்து, தரையிலே எழுதினார். ⁹ அவர்கள் அதைக்கேட்டு, தங்களுடைய மனச்சாட்சியில் உணர்த்தப்பட்டு, பெரியோர் முதல் சிறியோர் வரைக்கும் ஒவ்வொருவராக போய்விட்டார்கள். இயேசு தனித்திருந்தார், அந்த பெண் நடுவே நின்றாள். ¹⁰ இயேசு நிமிர்ந்து அந்த பெண்ணைத்தவிர வேறொருவரையும் காணாமல்: பெண்ணே, உன்மேல் குற்றஞ்சுமத்தினவர்கள் எங்கே? ஒருவன்சுட உன்னைத் தண்டனைக்குள்ளாகத் தீர்க்கவில்லையா என்றார். ¹¹ அதற்கு அவள்: இல்லை, ஆண்டவரே, என்றாள். இயேசு அவளைப் பார்த்து: நானும் உன்னைத் தண்டனைக்குள்ளாகத் தீர்க்கிறதில்லை; நீ போ, இனிப் பாவம் செய்யாதே என்றார்.

¹² மறுபடியும் இயேசு மக்களைப் பார்த்து: நான் உலகத்திற்கு ஒளியாக இருக்கிறேன், என்னைப் பின்பற்றுகிறவன் இருளிலே நடக்காமல் ஜீவ ஒளியை அடைந்திருப்பான் என்றார். ¹³ அப்பொழுது பரிசேயர்கள் அவரைப் பார்த்து: உன்னைக்குறித்து நீயே சாட்சி கொடுக்கிறாய்; உன்னுடைய சாட்சி உண்மையானதல்ல என்றார்கள். ¹⁴ இயேசு அவர்களுக்கு மறுமொழியாக: என்னைக்குறித்து நானே சாட்சி கொடுத்தாலும், என் சாட்சி உண்மையாக இருக்கிறது; ஏனென்றால், நான் எங்கே இருந்து வந்தேன் என்றும், எங்கே போகிறேன் என்றும் அறிந்திருக்கிறேன்; நீங்களோ நான் எங்கே இருந்து வருகிறேன் என்றும், எங்கே போகிறேன் என்றும் உங்களுக்குத் தெரியாது. ¹⁵ நீங்கள் மனித வழக்கத்திற்கு ஏற்றபடி நியாயந்தீர்க்கிறீர்கள், நான் ஒருவனையும் நியாயந்தீர்க்கிறதில்லை; ¹⁶ நான் நியாயந்தீர்த்தால், என் தீர்ப்பு சத்தியத்தின்படி இருக்கும்; ஏனென்றால், நான் தனித்திருக்கவில்லை, நானும் என்னை அனுப்பின பிதாவுமாக இருக்கிறோம். ¹⁷ இரண்டு பேருடைய சாட்சி உண்மை என்று உங்களுடைய நியாயப்பிரமாணத்திலும் எழுதி இருக்கிறதே. ¹⁸ நான் என்னைக்குறித்துச் சாட்சி கொடுக்கிறவனாக இருக்கிறேன், என்னை அனுப்பின பிதாவும் என்னைக்குறித்துச் சாட்சிக் கொடுக்கிறார் என்றார். ¹⁹ அப்பொழுது அவர்கள்: உம்முடைய பிதா எங்கே என்றார்கள். இயேசு மறுமொழியாக: என்னையும் அறியீர்கள். என் பிதாவையும் அறியீர்கள்; நீங்கள் என்னை அறிந்தீர்களானால் என் பிதாவையும் அறிவீர்கள் என்றார். ²⁰ தேவாலயத்திலே இயேசு உபதேசம் செய்கிறபோது, காணிக்கைப்பெட்டி இருக்கும் இடத்தில் இந்த வசனங்களைச் சொன்னார். அவருடைய வேளை இன்னும் வராதபடியினால் ஒருவனும் அவரைப் பிடிக்கவில்லை. ²¹ இயேசு மறுபடியும் அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: நான் போகிறேன், நீங்கள் என்னைத் தேடி உங்களுடைய பாவங்களிலே மரித்துப்போவீர்கள்; நான் போகிற இடத்திற்கு உங்களால் வர முடியாது என்றார். ²² அப்பொழுது யூதர்கள்: நான் போகிற இடத்திற்கு உங்களால் வர முடியாது என்கிறானே, தன்னைத்தானே கொலைசெய்து கொள்ளுவானோ என்று பேசிக்கொண்டார்கள். ²³ அவர் அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: நீங்கள் கீழேயிருந்து உண்டானவர்கள், நான் மேலேயிருந்து உண்டானவன்; நீங்கள் இந்த உலகத்திலிருந்து உண்டானவர்கள், நான் இந்த உலகத்திலிருந்து உண்டானவன் இல்லை. ²⁴ ஆகவே, நீங்கள் உங்களுடைய பாவங்களில் மரித்துப்போவீர்கள் என்று உங்களுக்குச் சொன்னேன்; நானே அவர் என்று நீங்கள் விசுவாசிக்காவிட்டால் உங்களுடைய பாவங்களிலே மரித்துப்போவீர்கள் என்றார். ²⁵ அதற்கு அவர்கள்: நீர் யார் என்றார்கள். இயேசு அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: நான் ஆரம்ப முதலாக உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லியிருக்கிறவர் தான். ²⁶ உங்களைக்குறித்துப் பேசவும் நியாயந்தீர்க்கவும் எனக்கு அநேக காரியங்கள் இருக்கிறது; என்னை அனுப்பினவர் சத்தியமானவர்; நான் அவரிடத்தில் கேட்டவைகளை உலகத்திற்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன் என்றார். ²⁷ பிதாவைக்குறித்துப் பேசினார் என்று அவர்கள் அறியாதிருந்தார்கள். ²⁸ ஆதலால் இயேசு அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: நீங்கள் மனிதகுமாரனை உயர்த்தினபின்பு, நானே அவர் என்றும், நான் என் சொந்தமாக ஒன்றும் செய்யாமல், என் பிதா எனக்குப் போதித்தபடியே இவைகளைச் சொன்னேன் என்றும் அறிவீர்கள். ²⁹ என்னை அனுப்பினவர் என்னுடனே இருக்கிறார், பிதாவிற்குப் பிரியமானவைகளை நான் எப்பொழுதும் செய்கிறதினால் அவர் என்னைத் தனியே இருக்கவிடவில்லை என்றார். ³⁰ இவைகளை அவர் சொன்னபோது, அநேகர் அவரிடத்தில் விசுவாசம் வைத்தார்கள்.

³¹ இயேசு தம்மை விசுவாசித்த யூதர்களைப் பார்த்து: நீங்கள் என் உபதேசத்தில் நிலைத்திருந்தால் உண்மையாகவே என் சீடராக இருப்பீர்கள்; ³² சத்தியத்தையும் அறிவீர்கள், சத்தியம் உங்களை விடுதலையாக்கும் என்றார். ³³ அவர்கள் அவருக்கு மறுமொழியாக: நாங்கள் ஆபிரகாமின் சந்ததியாக இருக்கிறோம், நாங்கள் ஒருபோதும் ஒருவனுக்கும் அடிமைகளாக இருக்கவில்லை; விடுதலையாவீர்கள் என்று நீர் எப்படிச் சொல்லுகிறீர் என்றார்கள். ³⁴ இயேசு அவர்களுக்கு மறுமொழியாக: பாவம் செய்கிறவன் எவனும் பாவத்திற்கு அடிமையாக இருக்கிறான் என்று உண்மையாகவே உண்மையாகவே உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன். ³⁵ அடிமையானவன் என்றைக்கும் வீட்டிலே நிலைத்திரான்; குமாரன் என்றைக்கும் நிலைத்திருக்கிறார். ³⁶ ஆகவே, குமாரன் உங்களை விடுதலை ஆக்கினால் உண்மையாகவே விடுதலை ஆவீர்கள். ³⁷ நீங்கள் ஆபிரகாமின் சந்ததியார் என்று அறிவேன்; ஆனாலும் உங்களுக்குள்ளே என் உபதேசம் இடம் பெறாததினால், என்னைக் கொலைசெய்யத் தேடுகிறீர்கள். ³⁸ நான் என் பிதாவினிடத்தில் பார்த்ததைச் சொல்லுகிறேன், நீங்களும் உங்களுடைய பிதாவினிடத்தில் பார்த்ததைச் செய்கிறீர்கள் என்றார். ³⁹ அதற்கு அவர்கள்: ஆபிரகாமே எங்களுடைய பிதா என்றார்கள். இயேசு அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: நீங்கள் ஆபிரகாமின் பிள்ளைகளாக இருந்தால் ஆபிரகாமின் செயல்களைச் செய்வீர்களே. ⁴⁰ தேவனிடத்தில் கேட்டிருக்கிற சத்தியத்தை உங்களுக்குச் சொன்ன மனிதனாகிய என்னைக் கொல்லத் தேடுகிறீர்கள், ஆபிரகாம் இப்படிச் செய்யவில்லையே. ⁴¹ நீங்கள் உங்களுடைய பிதாவின் செயல்களைச் செய்கிறீர்கள் என்றார். அதற்கு அவர்கள்: நாங்கள் வேசித்தனத்தினால் பிறந்தவர்கள் இல்லை; ஒரே பிதா எங்களுக்கு இருக்கிறார், அவர் தேவன் என்றார்கள்.

⁴² இயேசு அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: தேவன் உங்களுடைய பிதாவாக இருந்தால் என்னிடத்தில் அன்பாக இருப்பீர்கள். ஏனென்றால், நான் தேவனிடத்தில் இருந்து வந்திருக்கிறேன்; நான் நானாக வரவில்லை, அவரே என்னை அனுப்பினார். ⁴³ என் வசனத்தை நீங்கள் ஏன் அறியாமல் இருக்கிறீர்கள்? என் உபதேசத்தைக் கேட்க மனதில்லாமல் இருக்கிறதினால் அல்லவா? ⁴⁴ நீங்கள் உங்களுடைய தகப்பனாகிய பிசாசானவனால் உண்டானவர்கள்; உங்களுடைய தகப்பனின் ஆசைகளின்படி செய்ய விருப்பமாக இருக்கிறீர்கள்; அவன் ஆரம்ப முதற்கொண்டு மனித கொலைபாதகனாக இருக்கிறான்; சத்தியம் அவனிடத்தில் இல்லாததினால் அவன் சத்தியத்திலே நிலை நிற்கவில்லை; அவன் பொய்யனும் பொய்க்குப் தகப்பனுமாக இருக்கிறதினால் அவன் பொய் பேசும்போது தன்னுடைய சுபாவத்தின்படி அப்படிப் பேசுகிறான். ⁴⁵ நான் உங்களுக்குச் சத்தியத்தைச் சொல்லுகிறதினால் நீங்கள் என்னை விசுவாசிக்கிறதில்லை. ⁴⁶ என்னிடத்தில் பாவம் உண்டென்று உங்களில் யார் என்னைக் குற்றப்படுத்தமுடியும்? நான் சத்தியத்தைச் சொல்லியிருந்தும், நீங்கள் ஏன் என்னை விசுவாசிக்கவில்லை. ⁴⁷ தேவனால் உண்டானவன் தேவனுடைய வசனங்களுக்குச் செவிகொடுக்கிறான்; நீங்கள் தேவனால் உண்டாகாததினால் செவிகொடுக்காமல் இருக்கிறீர்கள் என்றார்.

⁴⁸ அப்பொழுது யூதர்கள் அவருக்கு மறுமொழியாக: உன்னைச் சமாரியன் என்றும், பிசாசு பிடித்தவன் என்றும் நாங்கள் சொல்லுகிறது சரிதானே என்றார்கள். ⁴⁹ அதற்கு இயேசு: நான் பிசாசு பிடித்தவன் இல்லை, நான் என் பிதாவை மதிக்கிறேன், நீங்கள் என்னை மதிக்காமலிருக்கிறீர்கள். ⁵⁰ நான் எனக்கு மகிமையைத் தேடுகிறதில்லை; அதைத் தேடி, நியாயந்தீர்க்கிறவர் ஒருவர் இருக்கிறார். ⁵¹ ஒருவன் என் வார்த்தையைக் கடைபிடித்தால், அவன் என்றென்றைக்கும் மரணத்தைப் பார்ப்பதில்லை என்று உண்மையாகவே உண்மையாகவே உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன் என்றார். ⁵² அப்பொழுது யூதர்கள் அவரைப் பார்த்து: நீ பிசாசு பிடித்தவன் என்று இப்பொழுது அறிந்திருக்கிறோம்; ஆபிரகாமும் தீர்க்கதரிசிகளும் மரித்தார்கள். நீயோ: ஒருவன், என் வார்த்தையைக் கடைபிடித்தால் என்றென்றைக்கும் மரணத்தை ருசிபார்ப்பதில்லை என்கிறாய். ⁵³ எங்களுடைய பிதாவாகிய ஆபிரகாமிலும் நீ பெரியவனோ? அவர் மரித்தார், தீர்க்கதரிசிகளும் மரித்தார்கள்; உன்னை நீ யார் என்று நினைக்கிறாய் என்றார்கள். ⁵⁴ இயேசு மறுமொழியாக: என்னை நானே மகிமைப்படுத்தினால் அந்த மகிமை வீணாயிருக்கும், என் பிதா என்னை மகிமைப்படுத்துகிறவர், அவரை உங்களுடைய தேவன் என்று நீங்கள் சொல்லுகிறீர்கள். ⁵⁵ ஆனாலும் நீங்கள் அவரை அறியவில்லை, நான் அவரை அறிந்திருக்கிறேன்; அவரை அறியேன் என்று சொன்னால் உங்களைப்போல நானும் பொய்யனாக இருப்பேன்; அவரை நான் அறிந்து, அவருடைய வார்த்தையைக் கடைபிடிக்கிறேன். ⁵⁶ உங்களுடைய தகப்பனாகிய ஆபிரகாம் என்னுடைய நாளைக் காண ஆசையாக இருந்தான்; பார்த்து மகிழ்ந்தான் என்றார். ⁵⁷ அப்பொழுது யூதர்கள் அவரைப் பார்த்து: உனக்கு இன்னும் ஐம்பது வயதாகவில்லையே, நீ ஆபிரகாமைப் பார்த்தாயோ என்றார்கள். ⁵⁸ அதற்கு இயேசு: ஆபிரகாம் உண்டாவதற்கு முன்னமே நான் இருக்கிறேன் என்று உண்மையாகவே உண்மையாகவே உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன் என்றார். ⁵⁹ அப்பொழுது அவர்மேல் எறியும்படி கற்களை எடுத்துக்கொண்டார்கள். இயேசு மறைந்து, அவர்கள் நடுவே கடந்து, தேவாலயத்தைவிட்டுப்போனார்.

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¹ அவர் அப்புறம் போகும்போது பிறவிக் குருடனாகிய ஒரு மனிதனைப் பார்த்தார். ² அப்பொழுது அவருடைய சீடர்கள் அவரைப் பார்த்து: ரபீ, இவன் குருடனாக பிறந்தது யார் செய்த பாவம், இவன் செய்த பாவமோ, இவனைப் பெற்றவர்கள் செய்த பாவமோ என்று கேட்டார்கள். ³ இயேசு மறுமொழியாக: அது இவன் செய்த பாவமும் இல்லை, இவனைப் பெற்றவர்கள் செய்த பாவமும் இல்லை, தேவனுடைய செயல்கள் இவனிடத்தில் வெளிப்படுவதற்கு இப்படிப் பிறந்தான். ⁴ பகலாக இருக்கும்வரை நான் என்னை அனுப்பினவருடைய செயல்களைச் செய்யவேண்டும்; ஒருவனும் செயல்கள் செய்யக்கூடாத இரவு நேரம் வருகிறது.

⁵ நான் உலகத்தில் இருக்கும்போது உலகத்திற்கு ஒளியாக இருக்கிறேன் என்றார். ⁶ இவைகளைச் சொல்லி, அவர் தரையிலே உமிழ்ந்து, உமிழ்நீரினால் சேறுண்டாக்கி, அந்தச் சேற்றைக் குருடனுடைய கண்களின்மேல் பூசி: ⁷ நீ போய், சீலோவாம் குளத்திலே கழுவு என்றார். சீலோவாம் என்பதற்கு அனுப்பப்பட்டவன் என்று அர்த்தம். அப்படியே அவன்போய்க் கழுவி, பார்வை அடைந்தவனாக திரும்பி வந்தான். ⁸ அப்பொழுது அருகில் உள்ளவர்களும், அவன் குருடனாக இருக்கும்போது அவனைப் பார்த்திருந்தவர்களும்: இவன் உட்கார்ந்து பிச்சை கேட்டுக்கொண்டிருந்தவன் அல்லவா என்றார்கள். ⁹ சிலர்: அவன்தான் என்றார்கள். வேறுசிலர்: அவனைப்போல இருக்கிறான் என்றார்கள். அவனோ: நான்தான் அவன் என்றான். ¹⁰ அப்பொழுது அவர்கள் அவனைப் பார்த்து: உன் கண்கள் எப்படித் திறக்கப்பட்டது என்றார்கள். ¹¹ அவன் மறுமொழியாக: இயேசு என்னப்பட்ட ஒருவர் சேறுண்டாக்கி, என் கண்களின்மேல் பூசி, நீ போய் சீலோவாம் குளத்திலே கழுவு என்றார். அப்படியே நான் போய்க் கழுவி, பார்வை அடைந்தேன் என்றான். ¹² அப்பொழுது அவர்கள்: அவர் எங்கே என்றார்கள். அவன்: எனக்குத் தெரியாது என்றான்.

¹³ குருடனாக இருந்த அவனைப் பரிசேயர்களிடத்திற்குக் கொண்டுபோனார்கள். ¹⁴ இயேசு சேறுண்டாக்கி, அவன் கண்களைத் திறந்த நான் ஓய்வுநாளாக இருந்தது. ¹⁵ ஆகவே, பரிசேயர்களும் அவனைப் பார்த்து: நீ எப்படிப் பார்வை அடைந்தாய் என்று மீண்டும் கேட்டார்கள். அதற்கு அவன்: அவர் என் கண்களின்மேல் சேற்றைப் பூசினார், நான் கழுவினேன், பார்க்கிறேன் என்றான். ¹⁶ அப்பொழுது பரிசேயர்களில் சிலர்: அந்த மனிதன் ஓய்வுநாளாகக் கடைபிடிக்காததினால் அவன் தேவனிடத்தில் இருந்து வந்தவன் இல்லை என்றார்கள். வேறுசிலர்: பாவியாக இருக்கிற மனிதன் இப்படிப்பட்ட அற்புதங்களை எப்படிச் செய்வான் என்றார்கள். இந்தவிதமாக அவர்களுக்குள்ளே பிரிவினை ஏற்பட்டது. ¹⁷ மீண்டும் அவர்கள் குருடனைப் பார்த்து: உன் கண்களைத் திறந்தானே, அவனைக்குறித்து நீ என்ன சொல்லுகிறாய் என்றார்கள். அதற்கு அவன்: அவர் தீர்க்கதரிசி என்றான். ¹⁸ அவன் குருடனாக இருந்து பார்வை அடைந்ததை யூதர்கள் நம்பாமல், பார்வை அடைந்தவனுடைய பெற்றோரை அழைத்து, ¹⁹ அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: உங்களுடைய மகன் குருடனாகப் பிறந்தான் என்று சொல்லுகிறீர்களே, அவன் இவன்தானா? இவனானால், இப்பொழுது இவன் எப்படிப் பார்வையடைந்தான் என்று கேட்டார்கள். ²⁰ பெற்றோர் மறுமொழியாக: இவன் எங்களுடைய மகன்தான் என்றும், குருடனாகப் பிறந்தான் என்றும் எங்களுக்குத் தெரியும். ²¹ இப்பொழுது இவன் பார்வை அடைந்தது எப்படி என்று எங்களுக்குத் தெரியாது; இவனுடைய கண்களைத் திறந்தவன் யார் என்பதும் எங்களுக்குத் தெரியாது; இவன் வாலிபனாக இருக்கிறான், இவனையே கேளுங்கள், இவனே சொல்லுவான் என்றார்கள். ²² அவனுடைய பெற்றோர்கள் யூதர்களுக்குப் பயந்ததினால் இப்படிச் சொன்னார்கள். ஏனென்றால், இயேசுவைக் கிறிஸ்து என்று யாராவது அறிக்கை செய்தால் அவனை ஜெப ஆலயத்திற்குப் வெளியாக்க வேண்டும் என்று யூதர்கள் அதற்கு ஏற்கனவே முடிவு செய்திருந்தார்கள். ²³ அதினிமித்தம்: இவன் வாலிபனாக இருக்கிறான், இவனையே கேளுங்கள் என்று அவனுடைய பெற்றோர்கள் சொன்னார்கள். ²⁴ ஆதலால் அவர்கள் குருடனாக இருந்த மனிதனை இரண்டாம்முறை அழைத்து: நீ தேவனை மகிமைப்படுத்து; இந்த மனிதன் பாவி என்று நாங்கள் அறிந்திருக்கிறோம் என்றார்கள். ²⁵ அவன் மறுமொழியாக: அவர் பாவியா இல்லையா என்று எனக்குத் தெரியாது; நான் குருடனாக இருந்தேன், இப்பொழுது பார்க்கிறேன்; இது ஒன்றுதான் எனக்குத் தெரியும் என்றான். ²⁶ அவர்கள் மறுபடியும் அவனைப் பார்த்து: உனக்கு என்ன செய்தான், உன் கண்களை எப்படித் திறந்தான் என்றார்கள். ²⁷ அவன் மறுமொழியாக: ஏற்கனவே உங்களுக்குச் சொன்னேன், நீங்கள் கேட்காமல் போனீர்கள்; மறுபடியும் ஏன் கேட்கிறீர்கள்? அவருக்குச் சீடராக உங்களுக்கும் விருப்பம் இருக்கிறதா என்றான். ²⁸ அப்பொழுது அவர்கள் அவனைத் திட்டி: நீ அவனுடைய சீடன், நாங்கள் மோசேயினுடைய சீடர். ²⁹ மோசேயுடனே தேவன் பேசினார் என்று தெரியும், இவன் எங்கே இருந்து வந்தவன் என்று எங்களுக்குத் தெரியாது என்றார்கள். ³⁰ அதற்கு அந்த மனிதன்: அவர் என் கண்களைத் திறந்திருந்தும், அவர் எங்கிருந்து வந்தவர் என்று நீங்கள் தெரியாமல் இருப்பது ஆச்சரியமான காரியம். ³¹ பாவிகளுக்கு தேவன் செவிகொடுக்கிறது இல்லை என்று தெரிந்திருக்கிறோம்; ஒருவன் தேவபக்தி உள்ளவனாக இருந்து

அவருக்கு பிரியமானதைச் செய்தால் அவனுக்குச் செவிகொடுப்பார். ³² பிறவிக் குருடனுடைய கண்களை ஒருவன் திறந்தான் என்று உலகம் உண்டானதுமுதல் கேள்விப்பட்டது இல்லையே. ³³ அவர் தேவனிடத்தில் இருந்து வராமல் இருந்தால் ஒன்றும் செய்யமாட்டாரே என்றான். ³⁴ அவர்கள் அவனுக்கு மறுமொழியாக: முழுவதும் பாவத்தில் பிறந்த நீ எங்களுக்குப் போதிக்கிறாயோ என்று சொல்லி, அவனைப் வெளியே தள்ளிவிட்டார்கள்.

³⁵ அவனை அவர்கள் வெளியே தள்ளிவிட்டதை இயேசு கேள்விப்பட்டு, அவனைப் பார்த்தபோது: நீ தேவனுடைய குமாரனிடத்தில் விசுவாசமாக இருக்கிறாயா என்றார். ³⁶ அதற்கு அவன்: ஆண்டவரே, அவரிடத்தில் நான் விசுவாசமாக இருக்கும்படிக்கு அவர் யார் என்றான். ³⁷ இயேசு அவனைப் பார்த்து: நீ அவரைப் பார்த்திருக்கிறாய், உன்னுடனே பேசுகிறவர் அவர்தான் என்றார். ³⁸ உடனே அவன்: ஆண்டவரே, விசுவாசிக்கிறேன் என்று சொல்லி, அவரைப் பணிந்துகொண்டான். ³⁹ அப்பொழுது இயேசு: பார்க்காதவர்கள் பார்க்கும்படியாகவும், பார்க்கிறவர்கள் குருடராகும்படியாகவும் நியாயத்தீர்ப்புக்கு நான் இந்த உலகத்தில் வந்தேன் என்றார். ⁴⁰ அவரோடு இருந்த பரிசேயர்களில் சிலர் இவைகளைக் கேட்டபொழுது: நாங்களும் குருடரோ என்றார்கள். ⁴¹ இயேசு அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: நீங்கள் குருடராக இருந்தால் உங்களுக்குப் பாவம் இருக்காது; நீங்கள் பார்க்கிறோம் என்று சொல்லுகிறபடியினால் உங்களுடைய பாவம் நிலைநிற்கிறது என்றார்.

அத்தியாயம்- 10

¹ உண்மையாகவே உண்மையாகவே நான் உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன்; ஆட்டுத்தொழுவத்திற்குள் வாசல்வழியாக நுழையாமல், வேறுவழியாக ஏறுகிறவன் திருடனும், கொள்ளைக்காரனுமாக இருக்கிறான். ² வாசல்வழியாக நுழைகிறவனோ ஆடுகளின் மேய்ப்பனாக இருக்கிறான். ³ வாசலைக் காக்கிறவன் அவனுக்குத் திறக்கிறான்; ஆடுகளும் அவன் சத்தத்திற்குச் செவிகொடுக்கிறது. அவன் தன்னுடைய ஆடுகளைப் பெயர் சொல்லிக் அழைத்து, அவைகளை வெளியே நடத்திக்கொண்டுபோகிறான். ⁴ அவன் தன்னுடைய ஆடுகளை வெளியே விட்டபின்பு, அவைகளுக்கு முன்பாக நடந்துபோகிறான், ஆடுகள் அவன் சத்தத்தை அறிந்திருக்கிறதினால் அவனுக்குப் பின்னே செல்லுகிறது. ⁵ தெரியாதவர்களுடைய சத்தத்தை அறியாதபடியினால் அவைகள் தெரியாதவனுக்குப் பின்னே செல்லாமல், அவனைவிட்டு ஓடிப்போகும் என்றார். ⁶ இந்த உவமையை இயேசு அவர்களிடம் சொன்னார்; அவர்களோ அவர் சொன்னவைகளின் கருத்தை அறியவில்லை. ⁷ ஆதலால் இயேசு மீண்டும் அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: நானே ஆடுகளுக்கு வாசல் என்று உண்மையாகவே உண்மையாகவே உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன். ⁸ எனக்கு முன்பே வந்தவர்கள் எல்லோரும் திருடர்களும், கொள்ளைக்காரர்களாக இருக்கிறார்கள்; ஆடுகள் அவர்களுக்குச் செவிகொடுக்கவில்லை. ⁹ நானே வாசல், என்வழியாக ஒருவன் உள்ளே பிரவேசித்தால், அவன் இரட்சிக்கப்படுவான், அவன் உள்ளும், வெளியும் சென்று, மேய்ச்சலைக் கண்டடைவான். ¹⁰ திருடன், திருடவும், கொல்லவும், அழிக்கவும் வருகிறானே அன்றி வேறொன்றுக்கும் வரமாட்டான். நானோ அவைகளுக்கு ஜீவன் உண்டாயிருக்கவும், அது பரிபூரணப்படவும் வந்தேன். ¹¹ நானே நல்ல மேய்ப்பன்: நல்ல மேய்ப்பன் ஆடுகளுக்காகத் தன் ஜீவனைக் கொடுக்கிறான். ¹² மேய்ப்பனாக இல்லாதவனும், ஆடுகள் தனக்குச் சொந்தம் இல்லாதவனுமான கூலியாள் ஓநாய் வருகிறதைப் பார்த்து ஆடுகளைவிட்டு ஓடிப்போகிறான்; அப்பொழுது ஓநாய் ஆடுகளைப்பீறி, அவைகளைச் சிதறடிக்கும். ¹³ வேலையாள் கூலிக்காக வேலைசெய்கிறவன், ஆகவே, ஓடிப்போகிறான், ஆடுகளுக்காக அவன் கவலைப்படமாட்டான். ¹⁴ நானே நல்ல மேய்ப்பன்; பிதா என்னை அறிந்திருக்கிறதுபோலவும், நான் பிதாவை அறிந்திருக்கிறதுபோலவும், ¹⁵ நான் என்னுடையவைகளை அறிந்தும் என்னுடையவைகளால் அறியப்பட்டும் இருக்கிறேன்; ஆடுகளுக்காக என் ஜீவனையும் கொடுக்கிறேன். ¹⁶ இந்தத் தொழுவத்தில் உள்ளவைகள் அல்லாமல் வேறு ஆடுகளும் எனக்கு இருக்கிறது; அவைகளையும் நான் கொண்டுவரவேண்டும், அவைகள் என் சத்தத்திற்குச் செவிகொடுக்கும், அப்பொழுது ஒரே மந்தையும், ஒரே மேய்ப்பனுமாகும். ¹⁷ நான் என் ஜீவனை மீண்டும் பெற்றுக்கொள்ளும்படிக்கு அதைக் கொடுக்கிறபடியினால் பிதா என்னில் அன்பாக இருக்கிறார். ¹⁸ ஒருவனும் அதை என்னிடத்தில் இருந்து எடுத்துக்கொள்ளமாட்டான்; நானே அதைக் கொடுக்கிறேன், அதைக் கொடுக்கவும் எனக்கு அதிகாரம் இருக்கிறது, அதை மீண்டும் எடுத்துக்கொள்ளவும் எனக்கு அதிகாரம் இருக்கிறது. இந்தக் கட்டளையை என் பிதாவினிடத்தில் பெற்றுக்கொண்டேன் என்றார். ¹⁹ இந்த வசனங்களினால் யூதர்களுக்குள்ளே மீண்டும் பிரிவினை உண்டானது. ²⁰ அவர்களில் அநேகர்: இவன் பிசாசு பிடித்தவன், பைத்தியக்காரன்; ஏன் இவனுக்குச் செவி கொடுக்கிறீர்கள் என்றார்கள். ²¹ வேறுசிலர்: இவைகள் பிசாசு பிடித்தவனுடைய வசனங்கள் இல்லை. குருடருடைய கண்களைப் பிசாசு திறக்கக்கூடுமா என்றார்கள்.

²² பின்பு எருசலேமிலே தேவாலயப் பிரதிஷ்டை பண்டிகை வந்தது; குளிக்காலமுமாக இருந்தது. ²³ இயேசு தேவாலயத்தில் சாலொமோனுடைய மண்டபத்திலே நடந்துகொண்டிருந்தார். ²⁴ அப்பொழுது யூதர்கள் அவரை சூழ்ந்துகொண்டு: எவ்வளவு காலம்வரைக்கும் எங்களுடைய ஆத்துமாவிற்குச் சந்தேகம் உண்டாக்குகிறீர், நீர் கிறிஸ்துவானால் எங்களுக்குத் தெளிவாக சொல்லும் என்றார்கள். ²⁵ இயேசு அவர்களுக்கு மறுமொழியாக: அதை உங்களுக்குச் சொன்னேன், நீங்கள் விசுவாசிக்கவில்லை; என் பிதாவின் நாமத்தினாலே நான் செய்கிற செயல்களே என்னைக்குறித்துச் சாட்சிகொடுக்கிறது. ²⁶ ஆனாலும், நான் உங்களுக்குச் சொன்னபடியே, நீங்கள் என் மந்தையின் ஆடுகளாக இல்லாததினால் விசுவாசிக்காமல் இருக்கிறீர்கள். ²⁷ என் ஆடுகள் என் சத்தத்திற்குச் செவிகொடுக்கிறது; நான் அவைகளை அறிந்திருக்கிறேன், அவைகள் எனக்குப்பின் செல்லுகிறது. ²⁸ நான் அவைகளுக்கு நித்தியஜீவனைக் கொடுக்கிறேன்; அவைகள் ஒருபோதும் கெட்டுப்போவதில்லை, ஒருவனும் அவைகளை என் கையிலிருந்து பறித்துக்கொள்ளுவதும் இல்லை. ²⁹ அவைகளை எனக்குத் தந்த என் பிதா எல்லோரையும்விட பெரியவராக இருக்கிறார்; அவைகளை என் பிதாவின் கையிலிருந்து பறித்துக்கொள்ள ஒருவனாலும் கூடாது. ³⁰ நானும் பிதாவும் ஒன்றாக இருக்கிறோம் என்றார். ³¹ அப்பொழுது யூதர்கள் மீண்டும் அவர்மேல் கல்லெறியும்படி, கற்க்களை எடுத்துக்கொண்டார்கள். ³² இயேசு அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: நான் என் பிதாவினாலே அநேக நற்செயல்களை உங்களுக்குக் காட்டினேன், அவைகளில் எந்தச் செயலுக்காக என்மேல் கல்லெறிகிறீர்கள் என்றார். ³³ யூதர்கள் அவருக்கு

மறுமொழியாக: நற்செயலினால் நாங்கள் உன்மேல் கல்லெறிகிறதில்லை; நீ மனிதனாக இருக்க, உன்னை தேவன் என்று சொல்லி, இந்தவிதமாக தேவ அவமதிப்பு சொல்லுகிறதினால் உன்மேல் கல்லெறிகிறோம் என்றார்கள். ³⁴ இயேசு அவர்களுக்கு மறுமொழியாக: தேவர்களாக இருக்கிறீர்கள் என்று நான் சொன்னேன் என்பதாக உங்களுடைய வேதத்தில் எழுதவில்லையா? ³⁵ தேவவசனத்தைப் பெற்றுக் கொண்டவர்களைத் தேவர்கள் என்று அவர் சொல்லியிருக்க, வேதவாக்கியமும் ஒழிந்துபோகாததாக இருக்க, ³⁶ பிதாவினால் பரிசுத்தமாக்கப்பட்டும், உலகத்தில் அனுப்பப்பட்டும் இருக்கிற நான் என்னைத் தேவனுடைய குமாரன் என்று சொன்னதினாலே தேவ அவமதிப்பு சொன்னேன் என்று நீங்கள் சொல்லலாமா? ³⁷ என் பிதாவின் செயல்களை நான் செய்யாதிருந்தால், நீங்கள் என்னை விசுவாசிக்க வேண்டியதில்லை. ³⁸ அவைகளை செய்தால், நீங்கள் என்னை விசுவாசியாமல் இருந்தாலும், பிதா என்னிலும் நான் அவரிலும் இருக்கிறதை நீங்கள் அறிந்து விசுவாசிக்கும்படி அந்தச் செயல்களை விசுவாசியுங்கள் என்றார். ³⁹ இதனால் அவர்கள் மீண்டும் அவரைப் பிடிக்கத் தேடினார்கள், அவரோ அவர்கள் கைக்குத் தப்பி, ⁴⁰ யோர்தானுக்கு அக்கரையிலே முன்னே யோவான் ஞானஸ்நானம் கொடுத்துக்கொண்டிருந்த இடத்திற்குத் திரும்பிப்போய், அங்கே தங்கினார். ⁴¹ அநேகர் அவரிடத்தில் வந்து: யோவான் ஒரு அற்புதத்தையும் செய்யவில்லை; ஆனாலும் இவரைக்குறித்து யோவான் சொன்னது எல்லாம் உண்மையாக இருக்கிறது என்றார்கள். ⁴² அந்த இடத்தில் அநேகர் அவரிடத்தில் விசுவாசம் வைத்தார்கள்.

அத்தியாயம்- 11

¹ மரியாளும் அவள் சகோதரியாகிய மார்த்தாளும் இருந்த பெத்தானியா கிராமத்தைச் சேர்ந்த லாசரு என்பவன் வியாதிப்பட்டிருந்தான். ² கர்த்தருக்குப் பரிமளத்தைப் பூசி, தன் தலைமுடியால் அவருடைய பாதங்களைத் துடைத்தவன் அந்த மரியாளே; அவளுடைய சகோதரனாகிய லாசரு வியாதியாக இருந்தான். ³ அப்பொழுது அவனுடைய சகோதரிகள்: ஆண்டவரே, நீர் சிநேகிக்கிறவன் வியாதியாக இருக்கிறான் என்று சொல்ல, அவரிடத்திற்கு ஆள் அனுப்பினார்கள். ⁴ இயேசு அதைக் கேள்விப்பட்டபொழுது: இந்த வியாதி மரணம் ஏற்படுவதற்காக இல்லாமல் தேவனுடைய மகிமை விளங்குவதற்காக இருக்கிறது; தேவனுடைய குமாரனும் அதினால் மகிமைப்படுவார் என்றார். ⁵ இயேசு மார்த்தாளிடத்திலும் அவளுடைய சகோதரியினிடத்திலும் லாசருவினிடத்திலும் அன்பாக இருந்தார். ⁶ அவன் வியாதியாக இருக்கிறதாக அவர் கேள்விப்பட்டபொழுது, தாம் இருந்த இடத்திலே மீண்டும் இரண்டு நாட்கள் தங்கினார். ⁷ அதன்பின்பு அவர் தம்முடைய சீடர்களைப் பார்த்து: நாம் மீண்டும் யூதேயாவிற்குப் போவோம் வாருங்கள் என்றார். ⁸ அதற்குச் சீடர்கள்: ரபீ, இப்பொழுது தான் யூதர்கள் உம்மைக் கல்லெறியத் தேடினார்களே, மீண்டும் நீர் அந்த இடத்திற்குப் போகலாமா என்றார்கள். ⁹ இயேசு மறுமொழியாக: பகலுக்குப் பன்னிரண்டு மணிநேரம் இல்லையா? ஒருவன் பகலிலே நடந்தால் அவன் இந்த உலகத்தின் வெளிச்சத்தைக் காண்கிறபடியினால் இடறல் அடையமாட்டான். ¹⁰ ஒருவன் இரவிலே நடந்தால் தன்னிடத்தில் வெளிச்சம் இல்லாததினால் இடறுவான் என்றார். ¹¹ இவைகளை அவர் சொல்லியபின்பு அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: நம்முடைய சிநேகிதனாகிய லாசரு நித்திரை அடைந்திருக்கிறான், நான் அவனை உயிரோடு எழுப்பப்போகிறேன் என்றார். ¹² அதற்கு அவருடைய சீடர்கள்: ஆண்டவரே, நித்திரை அடைந்திருந்தால் சுகமடைவான் என்றார்கள். ¹³ இயேசுவானவர் அவனுடைய மரணத்தைக்குறித்து அப்படிச் சொன்னார்; அவர்களோ நித்திரைசெய்து இளைப்பாறுகிறதைக்குறித்துச் சொன்னார் என்று நினைத்தார்கள். ¹⁴ அப்பொழுது இயேசு அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: லாசரு மரித்துப்போனான் என்று வெளிப்படையாகச் சொல்லி; ¹⁵ நான் அங்கே இல்லாததினால் நீங்கள் விசுவாசம் உள்ளவர்களாகிறதற்கு ஏதுவுண்டென்று உங்களுக்காக சந்தோஷப்படுகிறேன்; இப்பொழுது அவனிடத்திற்குப் போவோம் வாருங்கள் என்றார். ¹⁶ அப்பொழுது திதிமு என்னப்பட்ட தோமா மற்றச் சீடர்களைப் பார்த்து: அவருடன் மரிப்பதற்கு நாமும் போவோம் வாருங்கள் என்றான்.

¹⁷ இயேசு வந்தபோது அவன் கல்லறையில் வைக்கப்பட்டு நான்கு நாட்கள் ஆனது என்று அறிந்தார். ¹⁸ பெத்தானியா ஊர் எருசலேமுக்கு அருகில் ஏறக்குறைய இரண்டு மைல் தூரத்திலிருந்தது. ¹⁹ யூதர்களில் அநேகர் மார்த்தாள் மரியாள் என்பவர்களுடைய சகோதரனைக்குறித்து அவர்களுக்கு ஆறுதல் சொல்லும்படி அவர்களிடத்தில் வந்திருந்தார்கள். ²⁰ இயேசு வருகிறார் என்று மார்த்தாள் கேள்விப்பட்டபோது, அவருக்கு எதிர்கொண்டு போனாள்; மரியாளோ வீட்டிலே இருந்தாள். ²¹ மார்த்தாள் இயேசுவினிடத்தில் வந்து: ஆண்டவரே, நீர் இங்கே இருந்தீரானால் என் சகோதரன் மரித்திருக்கமாட்டான். ²² இப்பொழுதும் நீர் தேவனிடத்தில் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுவது எதுவோ அதை தேவன் உமக்குத் தந்தருளுவார் என்று அறிந்திருக்கிறேன் என்றாள். ²³ இயேசு அவளைப் பார்த்து: உன் சகோதரன் உயிர்த்தெழுந்திருப்பான் என்றார். ²⁴ அதற்கு மார்த்தாள்: உயிர்த்தெழுதல் நடக்கும் கடைசி நாளிலே அவனும் உயிர்த்தெழுந்திருப்பான் என்று அறிந்திருக்கிறேன் என்றாள். ²⁵ இயேசு அவளைப் பார்த்து: நானே உயிர்த்தெழுதலும் ஜீவனுமாக இருக்கிறேன், என்னை விசுவாசிக்கிறவன் மரித்தாலும் பிழைப்பான்; ²⁶ உயிரோடிருந்து என்னை விசுவாசிக்கிறன் எவனும் என்றென்றைக்கும் மரிக்காமலும் இருப்பான்; இதை விசுவாசிக்கிறாயா என்றார். ²⁷ அதற்கு அவள்: ஆம், ஆண்டவரே, நீர் உலகத்தில் வருகிறவரான தேவகுமாரனாகிய கிறிஸ்து என்று நான் விசுவாசிக்கிறேன் என்றாள். ²⁸ இவைகளைச் சொன்னபின்பு, அவள் போய், தன் சகோதரியாகிய மரியாளை இரகசியமாக அழைத்து: போதகர் வந்திருக்கிறார், உன்னை அழைக்கிறார் என்றாள். ²⁹ அவள் அதைக் கேட்டவுடனே, சீக்கிரமாக எழுந்து, அவரிடத்தில் வந்தாள். ³⁰ இயேசு இன்னும் கிராமத்திற்குள் வராமல், மார்த்தாள் தம்மைச் சந்தித்த இடத்திலே இருந்தார். ³¹ அப்பொழுது, வீட்டிலே அவளுடனே இருந்து அவளுக்கு ஆறுதல் சொல்லிக்கொண்டிருந்த யூதர்கள், மரியாள் சீக்கிரமாக எழுந்துபோகிறதைப் பார்த்து: அவள் கல்லறையினிடத்தில் அழுகிறதற்குப் போகிறாள் என்று சொல்லி, அவளுக்குப் பின்பாகப் போனார்கள். ³² இயேசு இருந்த இடத்தில் மரியாள் வந்து, அவரைப் பார்த்தவுடனே, அவர் பாதத்தில் விழுந்து: ஆண்டவரே, நீர் இங்கே இருந்தீரானால் என் சகோதரன் மரித்திருக்கமாட்டான் என்றாள். ³³ அவள் அழுகிறதையும் அவளோடு வந்த யூதர்கள் அழுகிறதையும் இயேசு பார்த்தபோது ஆவியிலே கலங்கித் துயரமடைந்து: ³⁴ அவனை எங்கே வைத்தீர்கள் என்றார். ஆண்டவரே, வந்து பாரும் என்றார்கள். ³⁵ இயேசு கண்ணீர் விட்டார். ³⁶ அப்பொழுது யூதர்கள்: இதோ, இவர் அவனை எவ்வளவாக நேசித்தார் என்றார்கள். ³⁷ அவர்களில் சிலர்:

குருடனுடைய கண்களைத் திறந்த இவர். இவனை மரித்துப் போகாமலிருக்கச் செய்யமுடியாதா என்றார்கள்.

³⁸ அப்பொழுது இயேசு மீண்டும் தமக்குள்ளே கலங்கிக் கல்லறையினிடத்திற்கு வந்தார். அது ஒரு குகையாக இருந்தது; அதின்மேல் ஒரு கல் வைக்கப்பட்டிருந்தது. ³⁹ இயேசு: கல்லை எடுத்து போடுங்கள் என்றார். மரித்தவனுடைய சகோதரியாகிய மார்த்தாள் அவரைப் பார்த்து: ஆண்டவரே, இப்பொழுது நாற்றம் எடுக்குமே, நான்கு நாட்கள் ஆனதே என்றாள். ⁴⁰ இயேசு அவளைப் பார்த்து: நீ விசுவாசித்தால் தேவனுடைய மகிமையைக் காண்பாய் என்று நான் உனக்குச் சொல்லவில்லையா என்றார். ⁴¹ அப்பொழுது மரித்தவன் வைக்கப்பட்ட இடத்திலிருந்த கல்லை எடுத்துப்போட்டார்கள். இயேசு தம்முடைய கண்களை ஏற்றெடுத்து: பிதாவே, நீர் எனக்குச் செவிகொடுத்தபடியினால் உமக்கு நன்றி செலுத்துகிறேன். ⁴² நீர் எப்பொழுதும் எனக்குச் செவிகொடுக்கிறீர் என்று நான் அறிந்திருக்கிறேன்; ஆனாலும் நீர் என்னை அனுப்பினதைச் சூழ்ந்து நிற்கும் மக்கள் விசுவாசிக்கும்படியாக அவர்களுக்காக இதைச் சொன்னேன் என்றார். ⁴³ இவைகளைச் சொன்னபின்பு: லாசருவே, வெளியே வா என்று, உரத்த சத்தமாகக் கூப்பிட்டார். ⁴⁴ அப்பொழுது, மரித்தவன் வெளியே வந்தான். அவன் கால்களும் கைகளும் பிரேதத் துணிகளினால் கட்டப்பட்டிருந்தது, அவன் முகமும் துணியால் சுற்றப்பட்டிருந்தது. இயேசு அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: இவனைக் கட்டவிழ்த்துவிடுங்கள் என்றார்.

⁴⁵ அப்பொழுது மரியாளிடத்தில் வந்து, இயேசு செய்தவைகளைப் பார்த்தவர்களாகிய யூதர்களில் அநேகர் அவரிடத்தில் விசுவாசம் வைத்தார்கள். ⁴⁶ அவர்களில் சிலர் பரிசேயர்களிடம்போய், இயேசு செய்தவைகளை அவர்களுக்கு அறிவித்தார்கள். ⁴⁷ அப்பொழுது பிரதான ஆசாரியர்களும் பரிசேயர்களும் ஆலோசனை சங்கத்தைக் கூடிவரச்செய்து, நாம் என்ன செய்கிறது? இந்த மனிதன் அநேக அற்புதங்களைச் செய்கிறானே. ⁴⁸ நாம் இவனை இப்படியே விட்டுவிட்டால், எல்லோரும் இவனை விசுவாசிப்பார்கள்; அப்பொழுது ரோமர்கள் வந்து நம்முடைய இடத்தையும் மக்களையும் அழித்துப்போடுவார்களே என்றார்கள். ⁴⁹ அப்பொழுது அவர்களில் ஒருவனும், அந்த வருடத்துப் பிரதான ஆசாரியனுமாகிய காய்பா என்பவன் அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: உங்களுக்கு ஒன்றும் தெரியாது; ⁵⁰ மக்கள் எல்லோரும் கெட்டுப்போகாதபடிக்கு ஒரே மனிதன் மக்களுக்காக மரிப்பது நமக்கு நலமாக இருக்கும் என்று நீங்கள் சிந்திக்காமல் இருக்கிறீர்கள் என்றான். ⁵¹ இதை அவன் தானாகச் சொல்லாமல், அந்த வருடத்துப் பிரதான ஆசாரியனானபடியினாலே இயேசு யூதமக்களுக்காக மரிக்கப்போகிறார் என்றும், ⁵² அந்த மக்களுக்காக மாத்திரமல்ல, சிதறியிருக்கிற தேவனுடைய பிள்ளைகளை ஒன்றாகச் சேர்க்கிறதற்காகவும் மரிக்கப்போகிறார் என்றும் தீர்க்கதரிசனமாக சொன்னான். ⁵³ அந்தநாள்முதல் அவரைக் கொலைசெய்யும்படிக்கு ஆலோசனை செய்தார்கள். ⁵⁴ ஆகவே, இயேசு அதன்பின்பு வெளியரங்கமாக யூதர்களுக்குள்ளே தங்காமல், அந்த இடத்தைவிட்டு வனாந்திரத்திற்கு அருகான இடமாகிய எப்பிராயீம் என்னப்பட்ட ஊருக்குப்போய், அங்கே தம்முடைய சீடர்களோடு தங்கியிருந்தார். ⁵⁵ யூதர்களுடைய பஸ்காபண்டிகை நெருங்கியிருந்தது. அதற்கு முன்னே அநேகர் தங்களைச் சுத்திகரித்துக்கொள்வதற்கு தங்களுடைய நாட்டிலிருந்து எருசலேமுக்குப் போனார்கள். ⁵⁶ அங்கே அவர்கள் இயேசுவைத் தேடிக்கொண்டு தேவாலயத்தில் நிற்கும்போது, ஒருவரையொருவர் பார்த்து: உங்களுக்கு எப்படித் தோன்றுகிறது, அவர் பண்டிகைக்கு வரமாட்டாரோ என்று பேசிக்கொண்டார்கள். ⁵⁷ பிரதான ஆசாரியர்களும் பரிசேயர்களும் அவரைப் பிடிக்கும்படி யோசித்து, அவர் இருக்கிற இடத்தை எவனுக்காவது தெரிந்திருந்தால், அதை அறிவிக்கவேண்டும் என்று கட்டளையிட்டிருந்தார்கள்.

அத்தியாயம்- 12

¹ பஸ்காபண்டிகை வருவதற்கு ஆறு நாட்களுக்கு முன்னே இயேசு தாம் மரணத்திலிருந்து உயிரோடு எழுப்பின லாசரு இருந்த பெத்தானியாவிற்கு வந்தார். ² அங்கே அவருக்கு இரவு விருந்து கொடுத்தார்கள்; மார்த்தாள் பணிவிடைசெய்தாள்; லாசருவும் அவருடனே பந்தியிருந்தவர்களில் ஒருவனாக இருந்தான். ³ அப்பொழுது மரியாள் விலையேறப்பெற்ற களங்கமில்லாத நளதம் என்னும் தைலத்தில் ஒரு இரர்த்தல் (அரை லிட்டர்) கொண்டு வந்து, அதை இயேசுவின் பாதங்களில் பூசி, தன் தலைமுடியால் அவருடைய பாதங்களைத் துடைத்தாள்; அந்த வீடு முழுவதும் தைலத்தின் நல்ல வாசனையினால் நிறைந்திருந்தது. ⁴ அப்பொழுது அவருடைய சீடர்களில் ஒருவனும் அவரைக் காட்டிக்கொடுக்கப்போகிறவனுமாகிய சீமோனுடைய குமாரனான யூதாஸ்காரியோத்து: ⁵ இந்தத் தைலத்தை முந்நாறு வெள்ளிப் பணத்திற்கு விற்று, தரித்திரர்களுக்குக் கொடுக்காமல்போனது என்ன என்றான். ⁶ அவன் ஏழைகளைக் குறித்துக் கவலைப்பட்டு இப்படிச் சொல்லாமல், அவன் திருடனாக இருந்ததினாலும், பணப்பையை வைத்துக்கொண்டு அதிலே போடப்பட்டதைச் சுமக்கிறவனாக இருந்ததினாலும் இப்படிச் சொன்னான். ⁷ அப்பொழுது இயேசு: இவளை விட்டுவிடு, என்னை அடக்கம் செய்யும் நாளுக்காக இதை வைத்திருந்தாள். ⁸ ஏழைகள் எப்பொழுதும் உங்களிடம் இருக்கிறார்கள்; நான் எப்பொழுதும் உங்களிடம் இருக்கமாட்டேன் என்றார். ⁹ அப்பொழுது யூதர்களில் திரளான மக்கள் அவர் அங்கே இருக்கிறதை அறிந்து, இயேசுவைப் பார்ப்பதற்கு மட்டுமல்ல, அவர் மரித்தோரிலிருந்து உயிரோடு எழுப்பின லாசருவைப் பார்க்கும்படியாகவும் வந்தார்கள். ¹⁰ லாசருவினால் யூதர்களில் அநேகர்போய், இயேசுவினிடத்தில் விசுவாசம் வைத்ததினால், ¹¹ பிரதான ஆசாரியர்கள் லாசருவையும் கொலைசெய்ய ஆலோசனை செய்தார்கள்.

¹² அடுத்தநாளிலே இயேசு எருசலேமுக்கு வருகிறார் என்று பண்டிகைக்கு வந்த திரளான மக்கள் கேள்விப்பட்டு, ¹³ குருத்தோலைகளைப் பிடித்துக்கொண்டு, அவருக்கு எதிர்கொண்டு போகும்படி புறப்பட்டு: ஓசன்னா, கர்த்தருடைய நாமத்தினாலே வருகிற இஸ்ரவேலின் ராஜா போற்றப்படத்தக்கவர் என்று ஆர்ப்பரித்தார்கள். ¹⁴ அல்லாமலும்: சீயோன் குமாரத்தியே, பயப்படாதே, உன் ராஜா கழுதைக் குட்டியின்மேல் ஏறிவருகிறார் என்று எழுதியிருக்கிறபடி, ¹⁵ இயேசு ஒரு கழுதைக்குட்டியைப் பார்த்து அதின்மேல் ஏறிப்போனார். ¹⁶ இவைகளை அவருடைய சீடர்கள் துவக்கத்திலே அறியவில்லை. இயேசு மகிமையடைந்தபின்பு, இப்படி அவரைக்குறித்து எழுதியிருக்கிறதையும், தாங்கள் இப்படி அவருக்குச் செய்ததையும் நினைவுகூர்ந்தார்கள். ¹⁷ அன்றியும் அவருடன் இருந்த மக்கள் அவர் லாசருவைக் கல்லறையிலிருந்து வெளியே வரவழைத்து, அவனை உயிரோடு எழுப்பினார் என்று சாட்சிகொடுத்தார்கள். ¹⁸ அப்படிப்பட்ட அற்புதத்தை அவர் செய்தார் என்று மக்கள் கேள்விப்பட்டதினால் அவர்கள் அவருக்கு எதிர்கொண்டு போனார்கள். ¹⁹ அப்பொழுது பரிசேயர்கள் ஒருவரையொருவர் பார்த்து: நீங்கள் செய்கிறதெல்லாம் வீணென்று அறிகிறதில்லையா? இதோ, உலக மக்கள் அனைவரும் அவருக்குப் பின்னே சென்றனர் என்றார்கள்.

²⁰ பண்டிகையில் ஆராதனைசெய்ய வந்தவர்களில் கிரேக்கர்கள் சிலர் இருந்தனர். ²¹ அவர்கள் கலிலேயா நாட்டுப் பெத்தாயிதா ஊரானாகிய பிலிப்புவினிடத்தில் வந்து: ஐயா, இயேசுவைப் பார்க்க விரும்புகிறோம் என்று அவனைக் கேட்டுக்கொண்டார்கள். ²² பிலிப்பு வந்து, அதை அந்திரேயாவிற்கு அறிவித்தான்; பின்பு அந்திரேயாவும் பிலிப்பும் அதை இயேசுவிற்கு அறிவித்தார்கள். ²³ அப்பொழுது இயேசு அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: மனிதகுமாரன் மகிமைப்படும்படியான வேளை வந்தது. ²⁴ உண்மையாகவே உண்மையாகவே நான் உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன், கோதுமை மணியானது நிலத்தில் விழுந்து சாகாவிட்டால் தனித்திருக்கும், செத்ததேயானால் மிகுந்த பலனைக் கொடுக்கும். ²⁵ தன் ஜீவனை சிநேகிக்கிறவன் அதை இழந்துபோவான்; இந்த உலகத்தில் தன் ஜீவனை வெறுக்கிறவனோ அவன் அதை நித்தியஜீவகாலமாகக் காத்துக்கொள்ளுவான். ²⁶ ஒருவன் எனக்கு ஊழியம் செய்கிறவனானால் என்னைப் பின்பற்றட்டும், நான் எங்கே இருக்கிறேனோ அங்கே என் ஊழியக்காரனும் இருப்பான்; ஒருவன் எனக்கு ஊழியம் செய்தால் அவனைப் பிதாவானவர் கனம்பண்ணுவார். ²⁷ இப்பொழுது என் ஆத்துமா கலங்குகிறது, நான் என்ன சொல்லவேன். பிதாவே, இந்த நேரத்திலிருந்து என்னை இரட்சியும் என்று சொல்வேனோ; ஆனாலும், இதற்காகவே இந்த நேரத்திற்குள் வந்தேன். ²⁸ பிதாவே, உமது நாமத்தை மகிமைப்படுத்தும் என்றார். அப்பொழுது: மகிமைப்படுத்தினேன், இன்னமும் மகிமைப்படுத்துவேன் என்கிற சத்தம் வானத்திலிருந்து உண்டானது. ²⁹ அங்கே நின்று கொண்டிருந்து, அதைக் கேட்ட மக்கள்: இடிமுழக்கம் உண்டானது என்றார்கள். வேறுசிலர்: தேவதூதன் அவருடனே பேசினான் என்றார்கள். ³⁰ இயேசு அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: இந்தச் சத்தம் எனக்காக உண்டாகாமல் உங்களுக்காக உண்டானது. ³¹ இப்பொழுதே இந்த உலகத்திற்கு நியாயத்தீர்ப்பு உண்டாகிறது; இப்பொழுதே இந்த உலகத்தின் அதிபதி புறம்பாகத் தள்ளப்படுவான். ³² நான் பூமியிலிருந்து உயர்த்தப்பட்டு இருக்கும்போது, எல்லோரையும்

என்னிடத்தில் சேர்த்துக்கொள்ளுவேன் என்றார். ³³ இயேசு தாம் எவ்விதமாக மரிக்கப்போகிறார் என்பதைக் குறிக்கும்படி இப்படிச் சொன்னார். ³⁴ மக்கள் அவரைப் பார்த்து: கிறிஸ்து என்றென்றைக்கும் இருக்கிறார் என்று வேதத்தில் சொல்லியதை நாங்கள் கேட்டிருக்கிறோம், அப்படியிருக்க மனிதகுமாரன் உயர்த்தப்படவேண்டியது என்று எப்படிச் சொல்லுகிறீர்; இந்த மனிதகுமாரன் யார் என்றார்கள். ³⁵ அதற்கு இயேசு: இன்னும் கொஞ்சக்காலம் ஒளி உங்களிடம் இருக்கும்; இருளில் நீங்கள் சிக்கிக்கொள்ளாதபடி ஒளி உங்களோடு இருக்கும்போது நடவுங்கள்; இருளில் நடக்கிறவன் தான் போகிற இடம் எங்கே என்று தெரியாமல் இருக்கிறான். ³⁶ ஒளி உங்களோடு இருக்கும்போது நீங்கள் ஒளியின் பிள்ளைகளாவதற்கு, ஒளியிடம் விசுவாசமாக இருங்கள் என்றார். இவைகளை இயேசு சொல்லி, அவர்களைவிட்டு மறைந்தார்.

³⁷ அவர் இத்தனை அற்புதங்களை அவர்களுக்கு முன்பாகச் செய்திருந்தும், அவர்கள் அவரை விசுவாசிக்கவில்லை. ³⁸ கர்த்தாவே, எங்கள் மூலமாகக் கேள்விப்பட்டதை விசுவாசித்தவன் யார்? கர்த்தருடையக் கரம் யாருக்கு வெளிப்பட்டது என்று ஏசாயா தீர்க்கதரிசி சொன்ன வசனம் நிறைவேறும்படி இப்படி நடந்தது. ³⁹ ஆகவே, அவர்கள் விசுவாசிக்காமல் போனார்கள். ஏனென்றால், ஏசாயா பின்னும்: ⁴⁰ அவர்கள் கண்களினால் பார்க்காமலும், இருதயத்தினால் உணராமலும், குணப்படாமலும் இருப்பதற்கும், நான் அவர்களைச் சுகமாக்காமல் இருப்பதற்கும், அவர்களுடைய கண்களை அவர் குருடாக்கி, அவர்கள் இருதயத்தைக் கடினமாக்கினார் என்றான். ⁴¹ ஏசாயா அவருடைய மகிமையைப் பார்த்து, அவரைக்குறித்துப் பேசுகிறபோது இவைகளைச் சொன்னான். ⁴² ஆனாலும் அதிகாரிகளிலும் அநேகர் அவரிடம் விசுவாசம் வைத்தார்கள். அப்படியிருந்தும் ஜெப ஆலயத்தைவிட்டு வெளியேற்றப்படாமல் இருக்க, பரிசேயர்களுக்கு பயந்து அதை அறிக்கையெய்யாமலும் இருந்தார்கள். ⁴³ அவர்கள் தேவனால் வருகிற மகிமையைவிட மனிதர்களால் வருகிற மகிமையை அதிகமாக விரும்பினார்கள். ⁴⁴ அப்பொழுது இயேசு சத்தமாக: என்மேல் விசுவாசமாக இருக்கிறவன் என்னிடத்தில் அல்ல, என்னை அனுப்பினவரிடம் விசுவாசமாக இருக்கிறான். ⁴⁵ என்னைப் பார்க்கிறவன் என்னை அனுப்பினவரைப் பார்க்கிறான். ⁴⁶ என்னிடம் விசுவாசமாக இருக்கிறவனெவனும் இருளில் இல்லாதபடி, நான் உலகத்திற்கு ஒளியாக வந்தேன். ⁴⁷ ஒருவன் என் வார்த்தைகளைக் கேட்டும் விசுவாசிக்காமல்போனால், அவனை நான் நியாயந்தீர்ப்பதில்லை; நான் உலகத்தை நியாயந்தீர்க்க வராமல், உலகத்தை இரட்சிக்க வந்தேன். ⁴⁸ என்னைத் தள்ளி என் வார்த்தைகளை ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளாதவனை நியாயந்தீர்க்கிற ஒன்று இருக்கிறது; நான் சொன்ன வசனமே அவனைக் கடைசினாளில் நியாயந்தீர்க்கும். ⁴⁹ நான் சுயமாகப் பேசவில்லை, நான் பேசவேண்டியது என்ன என்றும் உபதேசிக்கவேண்டியது என்ன என்றும் என்னை அனுப்பின பிதாவே எனக்குக் கட்டளையிட்டார். ⁵⁰ அவருடைய கட்டளை நித்தியஜீவனாக இருக்கிறது என்று அறிவேன்; ஆகவே, நான் பேசுகிறவைகளைப் பிதா எனக்குச் சொன்னபடியே பேசுகிறேன் என்றார்.

அத்தியாயம்- 13

¹ பஸ்காபண்டிகைக்கு முன்பே, இயேசு இந்த உலகத்தைவிட்டுப் பிதாவினிடத்திற்குப் போகும்படியான தம்முடைய வேளை வந்ததென்று அறிந்து, தாம் இந்த உலகத்தில் இருக்கிற தம்முடையவர்களிடத்தில் அன்புவைத்தபடியே, முடிவுவரைக்கும் அவர்களிடத்தில் அன்புவைத்தார். ² சீமோனின் மகனாகிய யூதாஸ்காரியோத்து அவரைக் காட்டிக்கொடுக்கும்படி பிசாசானவன் அவன் இருதயத்தைத் தூண்டினபின்பு, அவர்கள் மாலை உணவு சாப்பிடும்போது; ³ தம்முடைய கையில் பிதா எல்லாவற்றையும் ஒப்புக்கொடுத்தார் என்பதையும், தாம் தேவனிடத்திலிருந்து வந்ததையும், தேவனிடத்திற்குப் போகிறதையும் இயேசு அறிந்து; ⁴ பந்தியிலிருந்து எழுந்து, தம்முடைய மேலுடையைக் கழற்றி வைத்துவிட்டு, ஒரு துண்டை எடுத்து, இடுப்பிலே கட்டிக்கொண்டு, ⁵ பின்பு பாத்திரத்தில் தண்ணீர் ஊற்றி, சீடர்களுடைய கால்களைக் கழுவவும், தாம் கட்டிக்கொண்டிருந்த துண்டால் துடைக்கவும் தொடங்கினார்.

⁶ அவர் சீமோன் பேதுருவினிடத்தில் வந்தபோது, அவன் அவரைப் பார்த்து: ஆண்டவரே, நீர் என் கால்களைக் கழுவப்போகிறீரா? என்றான். ⁷ இயேசு அவனுக்கு மறுமொழியாக: நான் செய்கிறது என்னவென்று இப்பொழுது உனக்கு தெரியாது, இனிமேல் தெரியும் என்றார். ⁸ பேதுரு அவரைப் பார்த்து: நீர் ஒருபோதும் என் கால்களைக் கழுவகூடாது என்றான். இயேசு அவனுக்கு மறுமொழியாக: நான் உன்னைக் கழுவாவிட்டால் என்னிடத்தில் உனக்குப் பங்கில்லை என்றார். ⁹ அதற்குச் சீமோன்பேதுரு: ஆண்டவரே, என் கால்களை மட்டுமல்ல, என் கைகளையும் என் தலையையும்கூட கழுவவேண்டும் என்றான். ¹⁰ இயேசு அவனைப் பார்த்து: குளித்தவன் தன் கால்களைமட்டும் கழுவவேண்டியதாக இருக்கும், மற்றப்படி அவன் முழுவதும் சுத்தமாக இருக்கிறான்; நீங்களும் சுத்தமாக இருக்கிறீர்கள்; ஆனாலும் எல்லோரும் அல்ல என்றார். ¹¹ தம்மைக் காட்டிக் கொடுக்கிறவனை அவர் அறிந்திருந்தபடியினால் நீங்கள் எல்லோரும் சுத்தமுள்ளவர்கள் இல்லை என்றார்.

¹² அவர்களுடைய கால்களை அவர் கழுவினபின்பு, தம்முடைய ஆடைகளை அணிந்துகொண்டு, திரும்ப உட்கார்ந்து, அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: நான் உங்களுக்குச் செய்ததை அறிந்திருக்கிறீர்களா? ¹³ நீங்கள் என்னைப் போதகர் என்றும், ஆண்டவர் என்றும் சொல்லுகிறீர்கள், நீங்கள் சொல்லுகிறது சரியே, நான் அவர்தான். ¹⁴ ஆண்டவரும் போதகருமாகிய நானே உங்களுடைய கால்களைக் கழுவினேன் என்றால், நீங்களும் ஒருவருடைய கால்களை ஒருவர் கழுவவேண்டும். ¹⁵ நான் உங்களுக்குச் செய்ததுபோல நீங்களும் செய்யும்படி உங்களுக்கு மாதிரியைக் காண்பித்தேன். ¹⁶ உண்மையாகவே உண்மையாகவே நான் உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன், ஊழியக்காரன் தன் எஜமானைவிட பெரியவனல்ல, அனுப்பப்பட்டவன் தன்னை அனுப்பினவரைவிட பெரியவனல்ல. ¹⁷ நீங்கள் இவைகளை அறிந்திருக்கிறபடியினால், இவைகளைச் செய்வீர்களானால், பாக்கியவான்களாக இருப்பீர்கள்.

¹⁸ உங்கள் எல்லோரையும் குறித்து நான் பேசவில்லை, நான் தெரிந்துகொண்டவர்களை அறிவேன்; ஆனாலும் வேதவாக்கியம் நிறைவேறத்தக்கதாக, என்னுடனே அப்பத்தை சாப்பிடுகிறவன் என்மேல் தன் குதிகாலைத் தூக்கினான். ¹⁹ அது நடக்கும்போது நானே அவர் என்று நீங்கள் விசுவாசிப்பதற்கு, இப்பொழுது அது நடப்பதற்கு முன்னமே அதை உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன். ²⁰ நான் அனுப்புகிறவனை ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளுகிறவன் என்னை ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளுகிறான், என்னை ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளுகிறவன் என்னை அனுப்பினவரை ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளுகிறான் என்று உண்மையாகவே உண்மையாகவே உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன் என்றார். ²¹ இயேசு இவைகளைச் சொன்னபின்பு ஆவியிலே கலங்கி: உங்களில் ஒருவன் என்னைக் காட்டிக்கொடுப்பான் என்று உண்மையாகவே உண்மையாகவே உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன் என்று சாட்சியாகச் சொன்னார். ²² அப்பொழுது யாரைக்குறித்துப் பேசுகிறாரோ என்று சீடர்கள் சந்தேகப்பட்டு, ஒருவரையொருவர் பார்த்தார்கள். ²³ அந்தச் நேரத்தில் அவருடைய சீடர்களில் இயேசுவிற்கு அன்பானவனாக இருந்த ஒருவன் இயேசுவின் மார்பிலே சாய்ந்துகொண்டிருந்தான். ²⁴ யாரைக்குறித்துச் சொல்லுகிறார் என்று விசாரிக்கும்படி சீமோன்பேதுரு அவனுக்குச் சைகைகாட்டினான். ²⁵ அப்பொழுது அவன் இயேசுவின் மார்பிலே சாய்ந்துகொண்டு: ஆண்டவரே, அவன் யார் என்றான். ²⁶ இயேசு மறுமொழியாக: நான் இந்த அப்பத்துண்டைத் தோய்த்து எவனுக்குக் கொடுப்பேனோ, அவன்தான் என்று சொல்லி, துண்டைத் தோய்த்து, சீமோன் மகனாகிய யூதாஸ்காரியோத்திற்குக் கொடுத்தார். ²⁷ அந்த அப்பத் துண்டை அவன் வாங்கினபின்பு, சாத்தான் அவனுக்குள் புகுந்தான். அப்பொழுது இயேசு அவனைப் பார்த்து: நீ செய்கிறதைச் சீக்கிரமாகச் செய் என்றார். ²⁸ அவர் இப்படி அவனுடனே சொன்னதின் கருத்தைப் பந்தியிருந்தவர்களில் யாருக்கும் புரியவில்லை. ²⁹ யூதாஸ் பணப்பையை வைத்துக் கொண்டிருந்தபடியினால், அவன்போய், பண்டிகைக்குத் தேவையானவைகளைக் வாங்குவதற்காவது, ஏழைகளுக்கு ஏதாவது கொடுப்பதற்காவது, இயேசு அவனுடனே சொல்லியிருப்பார்

என்று சிலர் நினைத்தார்கள். ³⁰ அவன் அந்த அப்பத் துண்டை வாங்கினவுடனே புறப்பட்டுப்போனான்; அப்பொழுது இரவு நேரமாக இருந்தது.

³¹ அவன் புறப்பட்டுப்போனபின்பு இயேசு: இப்பொழுது மனிதகுமாரன் மகிமைப்படுகிறார், தேவனும் அவரில் மகிமைப்படுகிறார். ³² தேவன் அவரில் மகிமைப்பட்டிருந்தால், தேவன் அவரைத் தம்மில் மகிமைப்படுத்துவார், சீக்கிரமாக அவரை மகிமைப்படுத்துவார். ³³ பிள்ளைகளே, இன்னும் கொஞ்சக்காலம் நான் உங்களோடு இருப்பேன்; நீங்கள் என்னைத் தேடுவீர்கள்; ஆனாலும் நான் போகிற இடத்திற்கு நீங்கள் வரக்கூடாது என்று நான் யூதர்களிடம் சொன்னதுபோல இப்பொழுது உங்களோடும் சொல்லுகிறேன்.

³⁴ நீங்கள் ஒருவரிலொருவர் அன்பாக இருங்கள்; நான் உங்களில் அன்பாக இருந்ததுபோல நீங்களும் ஒருவரிலொருவர் அன்பாக இருங்கள் என்கிற புதிய கட்டளையை உங்களுக்குக் கொடுக்கிறேன். ³⁵ நீங்கள் ஒருவரிலொருவர் அன்பு உள்ளவர்களாக இருந்தால், அதினால் நீங்கள் என்னுடைய சீடர்கள் என்று எல்லோரும் அறிந்துகொள்வார்கள் என்றார். ³⁶ சீமோன்பேதுரு அவரைப் பார்த்து: ஆண்டவரே, நீர் எங்கே போகிறீர் என்றான். இயேசு அவனுக்கு மறுமொழியாக: நான் போகிற இடத்திற்கு இப்பொழுது நீ என் பின்னே வரக்கூடாது, பிற்பாடு என் பின்னே வருவாய் என்றார். ³⁷ பேதுரு அவரைப் பார்த்து: ஆண்டவரே, நான் இப்பொழுது உமக்குப்பின்னே ஏன் வரக்கூடாது? உமக்காக என் ஜீவனையும் கொடுப்பேன் என்றான். ³⁸ இயேசு அவனுக்கு மறுமொழியாக: எனக்காக உன் ஜீவனைக் கொடுப்பாயோ? சேவல் கூவுகிறதற்கு முன்பே நீ என்னை மூன்றுமுறை மறுதலிப்பாய் என்று, உண்மையாகவே உண்மையாகவே உனக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன் என்றார்.

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¹ உங்களுடைய இருதயம் கலங்காமல் இருப்பதாக; தேவனிடத்தில் விசுவாசமாக இருங்கள், என்னிடத்திலும் விசுவாசமாக இருங்கள். ² என் பிதாவின் வீட்டில் அநேக தங்கும் இடங்கள் இருக்கின்றன; அப்படி இல்லாமலிருந்தால், நான் உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லியிருப்பேன்; ஒரு இடத்தை உங்களுக்காக ஆயத்தம் செய்யப்போகிறேன். ³ நான் போய் உங்களுக்காக இடத்தை ஆயத்தம்செய்தபின்பு, நான் இருக்கிற இடத்திலே நீங்களும் இருக்கும்படி, நான் மறுபடியும் வந்து உங்களை என்னிடத்தில் சேர்த்துக்கொள்ளுவேன். ⁴ நான் போகிற இடத்தை அறிந்திருக்கிறீர்கள், வழியையும் அறிந்திருக்கிறீர்கள் என்றார்.

⁵ தோமா அவரைப் பார்த்து: ஆண்டவரே, நீர் போகிற இடத்தை அறியோமே, வழியை நாங்கள் எப்படி அறிவோம் என்றான். ⁶ அதற்கு இயேசு: நானே வழியும் சத்தியமும் ஜீவனுமாக இருக்கிறேன்; என்னாலே அல்லாமல் ஒருவனும் பிதாவினிடத்தில் வரான். ⁷ என்னை அறிந்தீர்களானால் என் பிதாவையும் அறிந்திருப்பீர்கள்; இதுமுதல் நீங்கள் அவரை அறிந்தும் அவரைப் பார்த்தும் இருக்கிறீர்கள் என்றார்.

⁸ பிலிப்பு அவரைப் பார்த்து: ஆண்டவரே, பிதாவை எங்களுக்குக் காண்பியும், அது எங்களுக்குப் போதும் என்றான். ⁹ அதற்கு இயேசு: பிலிப்புவே, இவ்வளவு காலம் நான் உங்களோடு இருந்தும் நீ என்னை அறியவில்லையா? என்னைப் பார்த்தவன் பிதாவைப் பார்த்தான்; அப்படி இருக்க, பிதாவை எங்களுக்குக் காண்பியும் என்று நீ எப்படிச் சொல்லுகிறாய்? ¹⁰ நான் பிதாவிலும், பிதா என்னிலும் இருக்கிறதை நீ விசுவாசிக்கிறதில்லையா? நான் உங்களோடு சொல்லுகிற வசனங்களை நானாகவே சொல்லவில்லை; எனக்குள் வாழ்கிற பிதாவானவரே இந்த செயல்களைச் செய்து வருகிறார். ¹¹ நான் பிதாவிலும், பிதா என்னிலும் இருக்கிறதை நம்புங்கள்; அப்படி இல்லாவிட்டாலும் என்னுடைய செயல்களினாலாவது என்னை நம்புங்கள். ¹² உண்மையாகவே உண்மையாகவே, நான் உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன்; நான் என் பிதாவினிடத்திற்குப் போகிறபடியினால், என்னை விசுவாசிக்கிறவன் நான் செய்கிற செயல்களைத் தானும் செய்வான், இவைகளைவிடப் பெரிய செயல்களையும் செய்வான். ¹³ நீங்கள் என் நாமத்தினாலே எதைக் கேட்பீர்களோ, குமாரனில் பிதா மகிமைப்படுமபடி அதைச் செய்வேன். ¹⁴ என் நாமத்தினாலே நீங்கள் எதைக்கேட்டாலும் அதை நான் செய்வேன்.

¹⁵ நீங்கள் என்னிடத்தில் அன்பாக இருந்தால் என் கட்டளைகளைக் கடைபிடியுங்கள். ¹⁶ நான் பிதாவை கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுவேன், அப்பொழுது என்றென்றைக்கும் உங்களோடு இருக்கும்படி சத்திய ஆவியானவராகிய வேறொரு தேற்றரவாளனை அவர் உங்களுக்குத் தருவார். ¹⁷ உலகம் அந்தச் சத்திய ஆவியானவரைப் பார்க்காமலும், அறியாமலும் இருக்கிறபடியால் அவரைப் பெற்றுக்கொள்ளமாட்டாது; அவர் உங்களோடு தங்கி உங்களுக்குள்ளே இருப்பதால், நீங்கள் அவரை அறிவீர்கள். ¹⁸ நான் உங்களைத் திக்கற்றவர்களாக விடமாட்டேன், உங்களிடம் வருவேன். ¹⁹ இன்னும் கொஞ்சக்காலத்தில் உலகம் என்னைப் பார்க்காது, நீங்களோ என்னைப் பார்ப்பீர்கள்; நான் பிழைக்கிறபடி நீங்களும் பிழைப்பீர்கள். ²⁰ நான் என் பிதாவிலும், நீங்கள் என்னிலும், நான் உங்களிலும் இருக்கிறதை அந்த நாளிலே நீங்கள் அறிவீர்கள். ²¹ என் கட்டளைகளை ஏற்றுக்கொண்டு அவைகளைக் கடைபிடிக்கிறவனே என்னிடத்தில் அன்பாக இருக்கிறான், என்னிடத்தில் அன்பாக இருக்கிறவன்மேல் என் பிதா அன்பாக இருப்பார்; நானும் அவன்மேல் அன்பாக இருந்து, அவனுக்கு என்னை வெளிப்படுத்துவேன் என்றார். ²² ஸ்காரியோத்தல்லாத யூதா என்பவன் அவரைப் பார்த்து: ஆண்டவரே, நீர் உலகத்திற்கு உம்மை வெளிப்படுத்தாமல் எங்களுக்கு உம்மை வெளிப்படுத்தப்போகிற காரணம் என்ன என்றான். ²³ இயேசு அவனுக்கு மறுமொழியாக: ஒருவன் என்னில் அன்பாக இருந்தால் அவன் என் வார்த்தையைக் கடைப்பிடிப்பான், அவனில் என் பிதா அன்பாக இருப்பார்; நாங்கள் அவனிடத்தில் வந்து அவனுடன் குடிகொள்ளுவோம். ²⁴ என்னில் அன்பாக இல்லாதவன் என் வார்த்தைகளைக் கடைப்பிடிக்கமாட்டான். நீங்கள் கேட்கிற வார்த்தை என்னுடையதாக இல்லாமல் என்னை அனுப்பின பிதாவினுடையதாக இருக்கிறது. ²⁵ நான் உங்களோடு தங்கியிருக்கும்போது இவைகளை உங்களுக்குச் சொன்னேன். ²⁶ என் நாமத்தினாலே பிதா அனுப்பப்போகிற பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவராகிய தேற்றரவாளன் எல்லாவற்றையும் உங்களுக்குப் போதித்து, நான் உங்களுக்குச் சொன்ன எல்லாவற்றையும் உங்களுக்கு நினைவுபடுத்துவார். ²⁷ சமாதானத்தை உங்களுக்கு வைத்துப் போகிறேன், என்னுடைய சாமாதானத்தையே உங்களுக்குக் கொடுக்கிறேன்; உலகம் கொடுக்கிறபடி நான் உங்களுக்குக் கொடுக்கிறதில்லை. உங்களுடைய இருதயம் கலங்காமலும், பயப்படாமலும் இருப்பதாக. ²⁸ நான் போவேன் என்றும், திரும்பி உங்களிடம் வருவேன் என்றும் நான் உங்களுக்குச் சொன்னதைக் கேட்டீர்களே. நீங்கள் என்னில் அன்புள்ளவர்களாக இருந்தால் பிதாவினிடத்திற்குப் போகிறேன் என்று நான் சொன்னதைக்குறித்துச் சந்தோஷப்படுவீர்கள், ஏனென்றால், என் பிதா என்னைவிட பெரியவராக இருக்கிறார். ²⁹ இது நடக்கும்போது நீங்கள்

விசுவாசிக்கும்படியாக, நடப்பதற்கு முன்னமே இதை உங்களுக்குச் சொன்னேன். ³⁰ இனி நான் உங்களோடு அதிகமாக பேசுவதில்லை. இந்த உலகத்தின் தலைவன் வருகிறான், அவனுக்கு என்னிடத்தில் ஒன்றுமில்லை. ³¹ நான் பிதாவில் அன்பாக இருக்கிறேன் என்றும், பிதா எனக்குக் கட்டளையிட்டபடியே செய்கிறேன் என்றும், உலகம் அறியும்படிக்கு இப்படி நடக்கும். எழுந்திருங்கள், இந்த இடத்தைவிட்டுப் போவோம் வாருங்கள் என்றார்.

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¹ நான் உண்மையான திராட்சைச்செடி, என் பிதா திராட்சைத்தோட்டக்காரர். ² என்னில் கனிகொடுக்காதிருக்கிற கொடி எதுவோ அதை அவர் அறுத்துப்போடுகிறார்; கனிகொடுக்கிற கொடி எதுவோ, அது அதிக கனிகளைக் கொடுக்கும்படி, அதைச் சுத்தம்செய்கிறார். ³ நான் உங்களுக்குச் சொன்ன உபதேசத்தினாலே நீங்கள் இப்பொழுதே சுத்தமாக இருக்கிறீர்கள். ⁴ என்னில் நிலைத்திருங்கள், நானும் உங்களில் நிலைத்திருப்பேன்; கொடியானது திராட்சைச்செடியில் நிலைத்திராவிட்டால் அது தானாக கனிகொடுக்காதுபோல, நீங்களும் என்னில் நிலைத்திராவிட்டால், கனிகொடுக்கமாட்டீர்கள். ⁵ நானே திராட்சைச்செடி, நீங்கள் கொடிகள். ஒருவன் என்னிலும் நான் அவனிலும் நிலைத்திருந்தால், அவன் மிகுந்த கனிகளைக் கொடுப்பான்; என்னை அல்லாமல் உங்களால் ஒன்றும் செய்யமுடியாது. ⁶ ஒருவன் என்னில் நிலைத்திராவிட்டால், வெளியே எரியப்பட்ட கொடியைப்போல அவன் எரியப்பட்டு உலர்ந்துபோவான்; அப்படிப்பட்டவைகளைச் சேர்த்து, அக்கினியிலே போடுகிறார்கள்; அவைகள் எரிந்துபோகும். ⁷ நீங்கள் என்னிலும், என் வார்த்தைகள் உங்களிலும் நிலைத்திருந்தால், நீங்கள் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுவது எதுவோ அது உங்களுக்குச் செய்யப்படும். ⁸ நீங்கள் மிகுந்த கனிகளைக் கொடுப்பதினால் என் பிதா மகிமைப்படுவார், எனக்கும் சீடராக இருப்பீர்கள். ⁹ பிதா என்னில் அன்பாக இருக்கிறதுபோல நானும் உங்களில் அன்பாக இருக்கிறேன்; என்னுடைய அன்பிலே நிலைத்திருங்கள். ¹⁰ நான் என் பிதாவின் கட்டளைகளைக் கடைபிடித்து அவருடைய அன்பிலே நிலைத்திருக்கிறதுபோல, நீங்களும் என் கட்டளைகளைக் கடைபிடித்தால், என்னுடைய அன்பிலே நிலைத்திருப்பீர்கள். ¹¹ என்னுடைய சந்தோஷம் உங்களில் நிலைத்திருக்கும்படிக்கும், உங்களுடைய சந்தோஷம் நிறைவாக இருக்கும்படிக்கும், இவைகளை உங்களுக்குச் சொன்னேன். ¹² நான் உங்களில் அன்பாக இருக்கிறதுபோல நீங்களும் ஒருவரிலொருவர் அன்பாக இருக்கவேண்டும் என்பதே என்னுடைய கட்டளையாக இருக்கிறது. ¹³ ஒருவன் தன் நண்பனுக்காகத் தன் ஜீவனைக் கொடுக்கிற அன்பிலும் அதிகமான அன்பு ஒருவரிடத்திலும் இல்லை. ¹⁴ நான் உங்களுக்குக் கற்பிக்கிற யாவையும் நீங்கள் செய்வீர்களானால், என் நண்பர்களாக இருப்பீர்கள். ¹⁵ இனி நான் உங்களை வேலைக்காரர்கள் என்று சொல்லுகிறதில்லை, வேலைக்காரன் தன் எஜமான் செய்கிறதை அறியமாட்டான். நான் உங்களை நண்பர்கள் என்றேன், ஏனென்றால், என் பிதாவினிடத்தில் நான் கேள்விப்பட்ட எல்லாவற்றையும் உங்களுக்கு அறிவித்தேன். ¹⁶ நீங்கள் என்னைத் தெரிந்துகொள்ளவில்லை, நான் உங்களைத் தெரிந்துகொண்டேன்; நீங்கள் என் நாமத்தினாலே பிதாவைக் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுவது எதுவோ, அதை அவர் உங்களுக்குக் கொடுக்கும்படி நீங்கள் போய்க் கனி கொடுக்கும்படிக்கும், உங்களுடைய கனி நிலைத்திருக்கும்படிக்கும், நான் உங்களை ஏற்படுத்தினேன். ¹⁷ நீங்கள் ஒருவரிலொருவர் அன்பாக இருக்கவேண்டுமென்றே இவைகளை உங்களுக்குக் கட்டளையிடுகிறேன்.

¹⁸ உலகம் உங்களைப் பகைத்தால், அது உங்களைப் பகைக்கிறதற்குமுன்னே என்னைப் பகைத்ததென்று அறியுங்கள். ¹⁹ நீங்கள் உலகத்தாராக இருந்தால், உலகம் தன்னுடையதை நேசித்திருக்கும்; நீங்கள் உலகத்தாராக இல்லாதபடியினாலும், நான் உங்களை உலகத்திலிருந்து தெரிந்துகொண்டபடியினாலும், உலகம் உங்களைப் பகைக்கிறது. ²⁰ வேலைக்காரன் தன் எஜமானைவிட பெரியவன் இல்லை என்று நான் உங்களுக்குச் சொன்ன வார்த்தையை நினைத்துக்கொள்ளுங்கள். அவர்கள் என்னைத் துன்பப்படுத்தினது உண்டானால், உங்களையும், துன்பப்படுத்துவார்கள்; அவர்கள் என் வார்த்தையை கடைபிடித்தது உண்டானால், உங்களுடைய வார்த்தையையும் கடைப்பிடிப்பார்கள். ²¹ அவர்கள் என்னை அனுப்பினவரை அறியாதபடியினால் என் நாமத்தினிமித்தமே இவைகளையெல்லாம் உங்களுக்குச் செய்வார்கள். ²² நான் வந்து அவர்களோடு பேசாதிருந்தால் அவர்களுக்குப் பாவம் இருக்காது; இப்பொழுதோ தங்களுடைய பாவத்தைக்குறித்து சாக்குச்சொல்ல அவர்களுக்கு இடமில்லை. ²³ என்னைப் பகைக்கிறவன் என் பிதாவையும் பகைக்கிறான். ²⁴ வேறொருவரும் செய்யாத செயல்களை நான் அவர்களுக்குள்ளே செய்யாதிருந்தால், அவர்களுக்குப் பாவம் இருக்காது; இப்பொழுது அவர்கள் என்னையும் என் பிதாவையும் பார்த்தும், பகைத்தும் இருக்கிறார்கள். ²⁵ காரணம் இல்லாமல் என்னைப் பகைத்தார்கள் என்று அவர்களுடைய வேதத்தில் எழுதி இருக்கிற வாக்கியம் நிறைவேறும்படி இப்படியானது. ²⁶ பிதாவினிடத்திலிருந்து நான் உங்களுக்கு அனுப்பப்போகிறவரும், பிதாவினிடத்திலிருந்து புறப்படுகிறவருமாகிய சத்திய ஆவியான தேற்றரவானன் வரும்போது, அவர் என்னைக்குறித்துச் சாட்சி கொடுப்பார். ²⁷ நீங்களும் ஆரம்பமுதல் என்னுடனே இருந்தபடியால் எனக்குச் சாட்சிகளாக இருப்பீர்கள்.

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¹ நீங்கள் இடறல் அடையாதபடிக்கு இவைகளை உங்களுக்குச் சொன்னேன். ² அவர்கள் உங்களை ஜெப ஆலயங்களுக்கு புறம்பாக்குவார்கள்; மேலும் உங்களைக் கொலைசெய்கிறவன் தான் தேவனுக்கு ஊழியம் செய்கிறவன் என்று நினைக்கும் காலம் வரும். ³ அவர்கள் பிதாவையும், என்னையும் அறியாதபடியினால் இவைகளை உங்களுக்குச் செய்வார்கள். ⁴ அந்தக் காலம் வரும்போது நான் இவைகளை உங்களுக்குச் சொன்னேன் என்று நீங்கள் நினைக்கும்படி இவைகளை உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லி இருக்கிறேன்; நான் உங்களோடு இருந்ததினால் ஆரம்பத்திலே இவைகளை உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லவில்லை.

⁵ இப்பொழுது நான் என்னை அனுப்பினவர் இடத்திற்குப் போகிறேன்; எங்கே போகிறீர் என்று உங்களில் ஒருவனும் என்னைக் கேட்கவில்லை. ⁶ ஆனாலும் நான் இவைகளை உங்களுக்குச் சொன்னதினால் உங்களுடைய இருதயம் துக்கத்தால் நிறைந்திருக்கிறது. ⁷ நான் உங்களுக்கு உண்மையைச் சொல்லுகிறேன்; நான் போகிறது உங்களுக்கு நன்மையாக இருக்கும்; நான் போகாதிருந்தால் தேற்றரவாளன் உங்களிடம் வரமாட்டார்; நான் போனால் அவரை உங்களிடத்திற்கு அனுப்புவேன். ⁸ அவர் வந்து, பாவத்தைக்குறித்தும், நீதியைக்குறித்தும், நியாயத்தீர்ப்பைக்குறித்தும், உலகத்தைக் கண்டித்து உணர்த்துவார். ⁹ அவர்கள் என்னை விசுவாசிக்காதபடியினாலே பாவத்தைக்குறித்தும், ¹⁰ நீங்கள் இனி என்னைப் பார்க்காதபடிக்கு நான் என் பிதாவினிடத்திற்குப் போகிறபடியினாலே நீதியைக்குறித்தும், ¹¹ இந்த உலகத்தின் தலைவன் நியாயந்தீர்க்கப்பட்டதினாலே நியாயத்தீர்ப்பைக்குறித்தும், கண்டித்து உணர்த்துவார். ¹² இன்னும் அநேக காரியங்களை நான் உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லவேண்டியதாக இருக்கிறது, அவைகளை நீங்கள் இப்பொழுது தாங்கமாட்டீர்கள். ¹³ சத்திய ஆவியாகிய அவர் வரும்போது, எல்லா சத்தியத்திற்குள்ளும் உங்களை நடத்துவார்; அவர் தம்முடைய சொந்தமாக பேசாமல், தாம் கேள்விப்பட்டவைகள் எல்லாவற்றையும் சொல்லி, வரப்போகிற காரியங்களை உங்களுக்குத் தெரிவிப்பார். ¹⁴ அவர் என்னுடையதில் எடுத்து உங்களுக்கு அறிவிப்பதினால் என்னை மகிமைப்படுத்துவார். ¹⁵ பிதாவினுடையவைகள் அனைத்தும் என்னுடையவைகள்; அதினாலே அவர் என்னுடையதில் எடுத்து உங்களுக்குத் தெரிவிப்பார் என்றேன். ¹⁶ நான் பிதாவினிடத்திற்குப் போகிறபடியினால் கொஞ்சக்காலத்திலே என்னைக் காணாதிருப்பீர்கள், மீண்டும் கொஞ்சக்காலத்திலே என்னைக் காண்பீர்கள் என்றார்.

¹⁷ அப்பொழுது அவருடைய சீடர்களில் சிலர்: நான் பிதாவினிடத்திற்குப் போகிறபடியினால், கொஞ்சக்காலத்திலே என்னைக் காணாதிருப்பீர்கள் என்றும், மறுபடியும் கொஞ்சக்காலத்திலே என்னைக் காண்பீர்கள் என்றும் அவர் நம்முடனே சொல்லுகிறதின் கருத்து என்ன என்று தங்களுக்குள்ளே பேசிக்கொண்டதும் அல்லாமல்: ¹⁸ கொஞ்சக்காலம் என்கிறாரே, இதென்ன? அவர் சொல்லுகிறது என்ன என்று நமக்குப் புரியவில்லையே என்றார்கள். ¹⁹ அதைக்குறித்துத் தம்மிடத்தில் கேட்கும்படி அவர்கள் விரும்புகிறதை இயேசு அறிந்து, அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: கொஞ்சக்காலத்திலே என்னைக் காணாதிருப்பீர்கள், மறுபடியும் கொஞ்சக்காலத்திலே என்னைக் காண்பீர்கள் என்று நான் சொன்னதைக்குறித்து நீங்கள் உங்களுக்குள்ளே விசாரிக்கிறீர்களோ? ²⁰ உண்மையாகவே உண்மையாகவே நான் உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன்: நீங்கள் அழுது புலம்புவீர்கள், உலகமோ சந்தோஷப்படும்; நீங்கள் துக்கப்படுவீர்கள், ஆனாலும் உங்களுடைய துக்கம் சந்தோஷமாக மாறும். ²¹ பெண்ணானவளுக்குப் பிரசவநேரம் வரும்போது அவள் துக்கமடைகிறாள்; பிள்ளை பெற்றவுடனே ஒரு மனிதன் உலகத்தில் பிறந்தான் என்கிற சந்தோஷத்தினால் பின்பு உபத்திரவத்தை நினைக்கமாட்டான். ²² அதுபோல நீங்களும் இப்பொழுது துக்கமடைந்து இருக்கிறீர்கள். நான் மீண்டும் உங்களைக் காண்பேன், அப்பொழுது உங்களுடைய இருதயம் சந்தோஷப்படும், உங்களுடைய சந்தோஷத்தை ஒருவனும் உங்களிடமிருந்து எடுத்துப்போடுவதில்லை. ²³ அந்த நாளிலே நீங்கள் என்னிடத்தில் ஒன்றும் கேட்கமாட்டீர்கள். உண்மையாகவே உண்மையாகவே நான் உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன், நீங்கள் என் நாமத்தினாலே பிதாவினிடத்தில் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுவது எதுவோ அதை அவர் உங்களுக்குத் தருவார். ²⁴ இதுவரைக்கும் நீங்கள் என் நாமத்தினாலே ஒன்றும் கேட்கவில்லை; கேளுங்கள், அப்பொழுது உங்களுடைய சந்தோஷம் நிறைவாக இருக்கும்படி பெற்றுக்கொள்ளுவீர்கள். ²⁵ இவைகளை நான் உவமைகளாக உங்களோடு பேசுகிறேன்; காலம் வரும், அப்பொழுது நான் உவமைகளாக உங்களோடு பேசாமல், பிதாவைக்குறித்து வெளிப்படையாக உங்களுக்கு அறிவிப்பேன். ²⁶ அந்த நாளில் நீங்கள் என் நாமத்தினாலே கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுவீர்கள். உங்களுக்காகப் பிதாவை நான் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுவேன் என்று உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லவேண்டியதில்லை. ²⁷ நீங்கள் என்னை நேசித்தத்தினால், நான் தேவனிடத்திலிருந்து புறப்பட்டுவந்தேன் என்று விசுவாசிக்கிறபடியினால் பிதா தாமே உங்களை நேசிக்கிறார். ²⁸ நான் பிதாவினிடத்திலிருந்து புறப்பட்டு உலகத்திலே வந்தேன்; மறுபடியும்

உலகத்தைவிட்டுப் பிதாவினிடத்திற்குப் போகிறேன் என்றார்.²⁹ அவருடைய சீடர்கள் அவரைப் பார்த்து: இதோ, இப்பொழுது நீர் உவமையாகப் பேசாமல், வெளிப்படையாக பேசுகிறீர்.³⁰ நீர் எல்லாவற்றையும் அறிந்திருக்கிறீர் என்றும், ஒருவன் உம்மை கேள்வி கேட்க தேவை இல்லை என்றும், இப்பொழுது அறிந்திருக்கிறோம்; இதினாலே நீர் தேவனிடத்திலிருந்து வந்தீர் என்று விசுவாசிக்கிறோம் என்றார்கள்.³¹ இயேசு அவர்களுக்கு மறுமொழியாக: இப்பொழுது நீங்கள் விசுவாசிக்கிறீர்கள்.³² இதோ, நீங்கள் சிதறுண்டு, அவனவன் தன்தன் இடத்திற்குப்போய், என்னைத் தனியே விட்டு விடும் காலம் வரும்; அது இப்பொழுது வந்திருக்கிறது; ஆனாலும் நான் தனிமையாக இருக்கமாட்டேன், பிதா என்னோடு இருக்கிறார்.³³ என்னிடத்தில் உங்களுக்குச் சமாதானம் உண்டாகும்படி இவைகளை உங்களுக்குச் சொன்னேன். உலகத்தில் உங்களுக்கு உபத்திரவம் உண்டு, ஆனாலும் திடன்கொள்ளுங்கள்; நான் உலகத்தை ஜெயித்துவிட்டேன் என்றார்.

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¹ இயேசு இவைகளைச் சொன்னபின்பு தம்முடைய கண்களை வானத்திற்கு ஏறெடுத்து: ² பிதாவே, வேளை வந்தது, நீர் உம்முடைய குமாரனிடம் ஒப்படைக்கப்பட்ட அனைவருக்கும் அவர் நித்தியஜீவனைக் கொடுக்கும்படி மாம்சமான யாவர்மேலும் நீர் அவருக்கு அதிகாரம் கொடுத்தபடியே, உம்முடைய குமாரன் உம்மை மகிமைப்படுத்தும்படி நீர் உம்முடைய குமாரனை மகிமைப்படுத்தும். ³ ஒன்றான உண்மை தேவனாகிய உம்மையும் நீர் அனுப்பினவராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவையும் அறிவதே நித்தியஜீவன். ⁴ பூமியிலே நான் உம்மை மகிமைப்படுத்தினேன்; நான் செய்யும்படி நீர் எனக்குக் கொடுத்த செயல்களைச் செய்துமுடித்தேன். ⁵ பிதாவே, உலகம் உண்டாகிறதற்கு முன்னே உம்மிடத்தில் எனக்கு உண்டாயிருந்த மகிமையினால் இப்பொழுது நீர் என்னை உம்மிடத்திலே மகிமைப்படுத்தும்.

⁶ நீர் உலகத்தில் தெரிந்தெடுத்து எனக்குத் தந்த மனிதர்களுக்கு உம்முடைய நாமத்தை வெளிப்படுத்தினேன். அவர்கள் உம்முடையவர்களாக இருந்தார்கள், அவர்களை எனக்குக் கொடுத்தீர், அவர்கள் உம்முடைய வார்த்தையை கடைபிடித்திருக்கிறார்கள். ⁷ நீர் எனக்குக் கொடுத்ததெல்லாம் உம்மாலே உண்டானது என்று இப்பொழுது அறிந்திருக்கிறார்கள். ⁸ நீர் எனக்குக் கொடுத்த வார்த்தைகளை நான் அவர்களுக்குக் கொடுத்தேன்; அவர்கள் அவைகளை ஏற்றுக்கொண்டு, நான் உம்மிடத்திலிருந்து புறப்பட்டுவந்தேன் என்று நிச்சயமாக அறிந்து, நீர் என்னை அனுப்பினீர் என்று விசுவாசித்திருக்கிறார்கள். ⁹ நான் அவர்களுக்காக வேண்டிக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்; உலகத்துக்காக வேண்டிக்கொள்ளாமல், நீர் எனக்குத் தந்தவர்களுக்காக வேண்டிக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்; அவர்கள் உம்முடையவர்களாக இருக்கிறார்களே. ¹⁰ என்னுடையவைகள் யாவும் உம்முடையவைகள், உம்முடையவைகள் என்னுடையவைகள்; அவர்களில் நான் மகிமைப்பட்டிருக்கிறேன். ¹¹ நான் இனி உலகத்தில் இருக்கப்போவதில்லை, இவர்கள் உலகத்தில் இருக்கிறார்கள்; நான் உம்மிடத்திற்கு வருகிறேன். பரிசுத்த பிதாவே, நீர் எனக்குத் தந்தவர்கள் நம்மைப்போல ஒன்றாக இருக்கும்படிக்கு, நீர் அவர்களை உம்முடைய நாமத்தினாலே காத்துக்கொள்ளும். ¹² நான் அவர்களோடு உலகத்தில் இருக்கும்போது அவர்களை உம்முடைய நாமத்தினாலே காத்துக்கொண்டேன்; நீர் எனக்குத் தந்தவர்களைக் காத்துக்கொண்டுவந்தேன்; வேதவாக்கியம் நிறைவேற்றத்தக்கதாக, அழிவின் மகன் கெட்டுப்போனானே அல்லாமல், அவர்களில் ஒருவனும் கெட்டுப்போகவில்லை. ¹³ இப்பொழுது நான் உம்மிடத்திற்கு வருகிறேன்; அவர்கள் என் சந்தோஷத்தை நிறைவாக அடையும்படி உலகத்தில் இருக்கும்போது இவைகளைச் சொல்லுகிறேன். ¹⁴ நான் உம்முடைய வார்த்தையை அவர்களுக்குக் கொடுத்தேன்; நான் உலகத்தான் இல்லாததுபோல அவர்களும் உலகத்தார் இல்லை; ஆதலால் உலகம் அவர்களைப் பகைத்தது. ¹⁵ நீர் அவர்களை உலகத்திலிருந்து எடுத்துக்கொள்ளும்படி நான் வேண்டிக்கொள்ளாமல், நீர் அவர்களைத் தீமையில் இருந்து காக்கும்படி வேண்டிக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். ¹⁶ நான் உலகத்தான் இல்லாததுபோல, அவர்களும் உலகத்தார் இல்லை. ¹⁷ உம்முடைய சத்தியத்தினாலே அவர்களைப் பரிசுத்தமாக்கும்; உம்முடைய வசனமே சத்தியம். ¹⁸ நீர் என்னை உலகத்தில் அனுப்பினதுபோல, நானும் அவர்களை உலகத்தில் அனுப்புகிறேன். ¹⁹ அவர்களும் சத்தியத்தினாலே பரிசுத்தம் ஆக்கப்பட்டவர்களாக ஆகும்படி, அவர்களுக்காக நான் என்னைத்தானே பரிசுத்தமாக்குகிறேன்.

²⁰ நான் இவர்களுக்காக வேண்டிக்கொள்ளுகிறதும் இல்லாமல், இவர்களுடைய வார்த்தையினால் என்னை விசுவாசிக்கிறவர்களுக்காகவும், வேண்டிக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். ²¹ அவர்கள் எல்லோரும் ஒன்றாக இருக்கவும், பிதாவே, நீர் என்னை அனுப்பினதை உலகம் விசுவாசிக்கிறதற்காக, நீர் என்னிலேயும் நான் உம்மிலேயும் இருக்கிறதுபோல அவர்கள் எல்லோரும் நம்மில் ஒன்றாக இருக்கவும் வேண்டிக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். ²² நாம் ஒன்றாக இருக்கிறதுபோல அவர்களும் ஒன்றாக இருக்கும்படி, நீர் எனக்குத் தந்த மகிமையை நான் அவர்களுக்குக் கொடுத்தேன். ²³ ஒருமைப்பாட்டில் அவர்கள் தேறினவர்களாக இருக்கும்படி, என்னை நீர் அனுப்பினதையும், நீர் என்னில் அன்பாக இருக்கிறதுபோல அவர்களிலும் அன்பாக இருக்கிறதையும் உலகம் அறியும்படி, நான் அவர்களிலும் நீர் என்னிலும் இருக்கும்படி வேண்டிக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். ²⁴ பிதாவே, உலகத்தோற்றத்திற்கு முன் நீர் என்னில் அன்பாக இருந்தபடியினால், நீர் எனக்குத் தந்த என்னுடைய மகிமையை நீர் எனக்குத் தந்தவர்கள் பார்க்கும்படியாக, நான் எங்கே இருக்கிறேனோ அங்கே அவர்களும் என்னுடனே இருக்கவிரும்புகிறேன். ²⁵ நீதியுள்ள பிதாவே, உலகம் உம்மை அறியவில்லை, நான் உம்மை அறிந்திருக்கிறேன்; நீர் என்னை அனுப்பினதை இவர்களும் அறிந்திருக்கிறார்கள். ²⁶ நீர் என்னிடத்தில் வைத்த அன்பு அவர்களிடத்தில் இருக்கும்படிக்கும், நானும் அவர்களில் இருக்கும்படிக்கும், உம்முடைய நாமத்தை அவர்களுக்குத் தெரியப்படுத்தினேன்; இன்னமும் தெரியப்படுத்துவேன் என்றார்.

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¹ இயேசு இவைகளைச் சொன்னபின்பு, தம்முடைய சீடர்களோடு கெதரோன் என்னும் ஆற்றுக்கு அந்தப்புறம் போனார்; அங்கே ஒரு தோட்டம் இருந்தது, அதிலே அவரும் அவருடைய சீடர்களும் நுழைந்தார்கள். ² இயேசு தம்முடைய சீடர்களோடு அடிக்கடி அங்கே சென்றிருந்தபடியினால், அவரைக் காட்டிக்கொடுக்கிற யூதாசும் அந்த இடத்தை அறிந்திருந்தான். ³ யூதாஸ் படைவீரர்கள் கூட்டத்தையும் பிரதான ஆசாரியர்கள், பரிசேயர்கள் என்பவர்களால் அனுப்பப்பட்ட அதிகாரிகளையும் அழைத்துக்கொண்டு, தீ பந்தங்களோடும், விளக்குகளோடும் ஆயுதங்களோடும், அந்த இடத்திற்கு வந்தான். ⁴ இயேசு தமக்கு சம்பவிக்கப்போகிற எல்லாவற்றையும் அறிந்து, எதிர்கொண்டுபோய், அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: யாரைத் தேடுகிறீர்கள் என்றார். ⁵ அவருக்கு அவர்கள் மறுமொழியாக: நசரேயனாகிய இயேசுவைத் தேடுகிறோம் என்றார்கள். அதற்கு இயேசு: நான்தான் என்றார். அவரைக் காட்டிக்கொடுத்த யூதாசும் அவர்களோடு நின்றான். ⁶ நான்தான் என்று அவர் அவர்களிடத்தில் சொன்னவுடனே, அவர்கள் பின்னிட்டுத் தரையிலே விழுந்தார்கள். ⁷ அவர் மறுபடியும் அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: யாரைத் தேடுகிறீர்கள் என்று கேட்டார். அவர்கள்: நசரேயனாகிய இயேசுவைத் தேடுகிறோம் என்றார்கள். ⁸ இயேசு மறுமொழியாக: நான்தான் என்று உங்களுக்குச் சொன்னேனே; என்னைத் தேடிவந்திருந்தால், இவர்களைப் போகவிடுங்கள் என்றார். ⁹ நீர் எனக்குத் தந்தவர்களில் ஒருவனையும் நான் இழந்து போகவில்லை என்று அவர் சொல்லிய வார்த்தை நிறைவேற்றத்தக்கதாக இப்படி நடந்தது. ¹⁰ அப்பொழுது சீமோன்பேதுரு, தன்னிடத்தில் இருந்த வாளை உருவி, பிரதான ஆசாரியனுடைய வேலைக்காரனின் வலதுகாலை வெட்டினான்; அந்த வேலைக்காரனுக்கு மல்குஸ் என்று பெயர். ¹¹ அப்பொழுது இயேசு பேதுருவைப் பார்த்து: உன் வாளை உறையிலே போடு; பிதா எனக்குக் கொடுத்த பாத்திரத்தில் நான் குடிக்காதிருப்பேனோ என்றார்.

¹² அப்பொழுது படைவீரர்களும், ஆயிரம் படைவீரர்களுக்குத் தலைவனும், யூதர்களுடைய அதிகாரிகளும் இயேசுவைப்பிடித்து, அவரைக் கட்டி, ¹³ முதலாவது அவரை அன்னா என்பவனிடத்திற்குக் கொண்டுபோனார்கள்; அவன் அந்த வருடத்துப் பிரதான ஆசாரியனாகிய காய்பாவிடற்கு மாமனாக இருந்தான். ¹⁴ மக்களுக்காக ஒரே மனிதன் மரிக்கிறது நலமாக இருக்கும் என்று யூதர்களுக்கு ஆலோசனை சொன்னவன் இந்தக் காய்பாவே.

¹⁵ சீமோன்பேதுருவும் வேறொரு சீடனும் இயேசுவிடமிருந்து பின்னே சென்றார்கள். அந்தச் சீடன் பிரதான ஆசாரியனுக்கு அறிமுகமானவனாக இருந்ததினால் இயேசுவுடன் பிரதான ஆசாரியனுடைய அரண்மனைக்குள் நுழைந்தான். ¹⁶ பேதுரு வாசலருகே வெளியே நின்றான். அப்பொழுது பிரதான ஆசாரியனுக்கு அறிமுகமானவனாக இருந்த மற்றச் சீடன் வெளியே வந்து, வாசல்காக்கிறவர்களுடனே பேசி, பேதுருவை உள்ளே அழைத்துக்கொண்டுபோனான். ¹⁷ அப்பொழுது வாசல்காக்கிற வேலைக்காரி பேதுருவைப் பார்த்து: நீயும் அந்த மனிதனுடைய சீடர்களில் ஒருவனல்லவா என்றான். அவன்: நான் இல்லை என்றான். ¹⁸ குளிக்காமலாக இருந்ததினாலே அதிகாரிகளும் காவலர்களும் கரிநெருப்புண்டாக்கி, நின்று, குளிக்காய்ந்துகொண்டிருந்தார்கள்; அவர்களோடு பேதுருவும் நின்று குளிக்காய்ந்துகொண்டிருந்தான்.

¹⁹ பிரதான ஆசாரியன் இயேசுவினிடத்தில் அவருடைய சீடர்களைக்குறித்தும் போதகத்தைக்குறித்தும் விசாரித்தான். ²⁰ இயேசு அவனுக்கு மறுமொழியாக: நான் வெளியரங்கமாக மக்களுடனே பேசினேன்; ஜெப ஆலயங்களிலேயும், யூதர்கள் எல்லோரும் கூடிவருகிற தேவாலயத்திலேயும் எப்பொழுதும் போதித்தேன்; அந்தரங்கத்திலே நான் ஒன்றும் பேசவில்லை. ²¹ நீர் என்னிடத்தில் விசாரிக்க வேண்டியதென்ன? நான் சொன்னவைகளைக் கேட்டவர்களிடத்தில் விசாரியும்; நான் பேசினவைகளை அவர்கள் அறிந்திருக்கிறார்களே என்றார். ²² இப்படி அவர் சொன்னபொழுது, அருகில் நின்ற காவலர்களில் ஒருவன்: பிரதான ஆசாரியனுக்கு இப்படியா உத்தரவு சொல்லுகிறது என்று, இயேசுவை ஒரு அறை அறைந்தான். ²³ இயேசு அவனைப் பார்த்து: நான் பேசியது, தவறாக இருந்தால் எது தவறு என்று காட்டு; நான் பேசியது சரியானால், என்னை ஏன் அடிக்கிறாய் என்றார். ²⁴ பின்பு அன்னா என்பவன் பிரதான ஆசாரியனாகிய காய்பாவினிடத்திற்கு அவரைக் கட்டப்பட்டவராக அனுப்பினான்.

²⁵ சீமோன்பேதுரு நின்று குளிக்காய்ந்துகொண்டிருந்தான். அப்பொழுது சிலர் அவனைப் பார்த்து: நீயும் அவனுடைய சீடர்களில் ஒருவனல்லவா என்றார்கள். அவன்: நான் இல்லை என்று மறுதலித்தான். ²⁶ பிரதான ஆசாரியனுடைய வேலைக்காரர்களில் பேதுரு, காலை வெட்டினவனுக்கு உறவினனாகிய ஒருவன் அவனைப் பார்த்து: நான் உன்னை அவனுடனே தோட்டத்திலே பார்க்கவில்லையா என்றான். ²⁷ அப்பொழுது பேதுரு மீண்டும் மறுதலித்தான்; உடனே சேவல் கூவியது.

²⁸ அவர்கள் காய்பாவினிடத்திலிருந்து இயேசுவைத் தேசாதிபதியின் அரண்மனைக்குக் கொண்டுபோனார்கள்; அப்பொழுது விடியற்காலமாக இருந்தது. தீட்டுப்படாமல் பஸ்கா உணவை உண்பதற்காக அவர்கள் தேசாதிபதியின் அரண்மனைக்குள் நுழையாமலிருந்தார்கள். ²⁹ ஆதலால் பிலாத்து அவர்களிடத்தில் வெளியே வந்து: இந்த மனிதன்மேல் என்ன குற்றஞ்சுமத்துகிறீர்கள் என்றான். ³⁰ அவர்கள் அவனுக்கு மறுமொழியாக: இவன் குற்றவாளியாக இல்லாவிட்டால், இவனை உம்மிடத்தில் ஒப்புக்கொடுக்கமாட்டோம் என்றார்கள். ³¹ அப்பொழுது பிலாத்து அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: இவனை நீங்களே கொண்டுபோய், உங்களுடைய நியாயப்பிரமாணத்தின்படி தீர்ப்பு செய்யுங்கள் என்றான். அதற்கு யூதர்கள்: ஒருவனையும் மரணத்திற்கு ஒப்புக்கொடுக்க எங்களுக்கு அதிகாரமில்லை என்றார்கள். ³² தாம் எந்தவிதமாக மரிக்கப்போகிறார் என்பதைக்குறித்து இயேசு குறிப்பாய்ச் சொல்லியிருந்த வார்த்தை நிறைவேற்றத்தக்கதாக இப்படிச் சொன்னார்கள். ³³ அப்பொழுது பிலாத்து மறுபடியும் அரண்மனைக்குள் நுழைந்து, இயேசுவை அழைத்து: நீ யூதர்களுடைய ராஜாவா என்று கேட்டான். ³⁴ இயேசு அவனுக்கு மறுமொழியாக: நீராய் இப்படிச் சொல்லுகிறீரோ? அல்லது மற்றவர்கள் என்னைக்குறித்து இப்படி உமக்குச் சொன்னார்களோ என்றார். ³⁵ பிலாத்து மறுமொழியாக: நான் யூதனா? உன் மக்களும் பிரதான ஆசாரியர்களும் உன்னை என்னிடத்தில் ஒப்புக்கொடுத்தார்கள், நீ என்ன செய்தாய் என்றான். ³⁶ இயேசு மறுமொழியாக: என் ராஜ்யம் இந்த உலகத்திற்குரியதல்ல, என் ராஜ்யம் இந்த உலகத்திற்குரியதானால் நான் யூதர்களிடத்தில் ஒப்புக்கொடுக்கப்படாதபடிக்கு என் வேலைக்காரர்கள் போராடியிருப்பார்களே; இப்படியிருக்க என் ராஜ்யம் இந்த இடத்திற்குரியதல்ல என்றார். ³⁷ அப்பொழுது பிலாத்து அவரைப் பார்த்து: அப்படியானால் நீ ராஜாவோ என்றான். இயேசு மறுமொழியாக: நீர் சொல்லுகிறபடி நான் ராஜாதான்; சத்தியத்தைக்குறித்துச் சாட்சிகொடுக்கவே நான் பிறந்தேன், இதற்காகவே இந்த உலகத்தில் வந்தேன்; சத்தியவான் எவனும் என் சத்தம் கேட்கிறான் என்றார். ³⁸ அதற்குப் பிலாத்து: சத்தியம் என்றால் என்ன என்றான். மறுபடியும் அவன் யூதர்களிடத்தில் வெளியே வந்து: நான் அவனிடத்தில் ஒரு குற்றமும் காணவில்லை. ³⁹ பஸ்கா பண்டிகையில் நான் உங்களுக்கு ஒருவனை விடுதலை செய்கிற வழக்கம் இருக்கிறது; ஆகவே, யூதர்களுடைய ராஜாவை நான் உங்களுக்காக விடுதலை செய்ய உங்களுக்கு விருப்பம் இருக்கிறதா என்றான். ⁴⁰ அப்பொழுது: அவர்கள் எல்லோரும் இவனை அல்ல, பரபாசை விடுதலை செய்யவேண்டும் என்று மீண்டும் சத்தமிட்டார்கள்; அந்தப் பரபாஸ் என்பவன் திருடனாக இருந்தான்.

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¹ அப்பொழுது பிலாத்து இயேசுவைப்பிடித்து சாட்டையினால் அடிக்கச்செய்தான். ² படைவீரர்கள் முள்ளுகளினால் ஒரு முள்கிரீடத்தைப் பின்னி அவர் தலையின்மேல் வைத்து, சிவப்பான ஒரு மேலாடையை அவருக்கு உடுத்தி: ³ யூதர்களுடைய ராஜாவே, வாழ்க என்று சொல்லி, அவரைக் கையினால் அடித்தார்கள். ⁴ பிலாத்து மீண்டும் வெளியே வந்து: நான் இவனிடம் ஒரு குற்றத்தையும் பார்க்கவில்லை என்று நீங்கள் அறியும்படி, இதோ, உங்களிடம் இவனை வெளியே கொண்டு வருகிறேன் என்றான். ⁵ இயேசு, முள்கிரீடமும் சிவப்பு அங்கியும் அணிந்தவராக, வெளியே வந்தார். அப்பொழுது பிலாத்து அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: இதோ, இந்த மனிதன் என்றான். ⁶ பிரதான ஆசாரியர்களும் காவலர்களும் அவரைப் பார்த்தபோது: சிலுவையில் அறையும், சிலுவையில் அறையும் என்று சத்தமிட்டார்கள். அதற்குப் பிலாத்து: நீங்களே இவனைக் கொண்டுபோய்ச் சிலுவையில் அறையுங்கள், நான் இவனிடத்தில் ஒரு குற்றமும் பார்க்கவில்லை என்றான். ⁷ யூதர்கள் அவனுக்கு மறுமொழியாக: எங்களுக்கு ஒரு நியாயப்பிரமாணம் உண்டு, இவன் தன்னை தேவனுடைய குமாரன் என்று சொன்னபடியால், அந்த நியாயப்பிரமாணத்தின்படியே இவன் மரிக்க வேண்டும் என்றார்கள். ⁸ பிலாத்து இந்த வார்த்தையைக் கேட்டபொழுது அதிகமாக பயந்து, ⁹ மீண்டும் அரண்மனைக்குள்ளேபோய், இயேசுவைப் பார்த்து: நீ எங்கேயிருந்து வந்தவன் என்றான். அதற்கு இயேசு பதில் எதுவும் சொல்லவில்லை. ¹⁰ அப்பொழுது பிலாத்து: நீ என்னோடு பேசுகிறதில்லையா? உன்னைச் சிலுவையில் அறைய எனக்கு அதிகாரம் உண்டென்றும், உன்னை விடுதலை செய்ய எனக்கு அதிகாரம் உண்டென்றும் உனக்குத் தெரியாதா என்றான். ¹¹ இயேசு மறுமொழியாக: பரத்திலிருந்து உமக்குக் கொடுக்கப்படாமலிருந்தால், என்மேல் உமக்கு ஒரு அதிகாரமும் இருக்காது; ஆகவே, என்னை உம்மிடம் ஒப்புக்கொடுத்தவனுக்கு அதிக பாவம் உண்டு என்றார். ¹² அதுமுதல் பிலாத்து அவரை விடுதலை செய்ய வழி தேடினான். யூதர்கள் அவனைப் பார்த்து: இவனை விடுதலை செய்தால் நீர் இராயனுக்கு நண்பன் இல்லை; தன்னை ராஜா என்கிறவன் எவனோ அவன் இராயனுக்கு விரோதி என்று சத்தமிட்டார்கள். ¹³ பிலாத்து இந்த வார்த்தையைக் கேட்டபொழுது, இயேசுவை வெளியே அழைத்துவந்து, தளமிடப்பட்ட மேடையென்றும், எபிரெயு மொழியிலே கபத்தா என்றும் சொல்லப்பட்ட இடத்திலே, நீதியிருக்கை மீது உட்கார்ந்தான். ¹⁴ அந்த நான் பஸ்காவிற்கு ஆயத்த நாளும் ஏறக்குறைய நண்பகல் வேளையாக இருந்தது; அப்பொழுது அவன் யூதர்களைப் பார்த்து: இதோ, உங்களுடைய ராஜா என்றான். ¹⁵ அவர்கள்: இவனை அகற்றும், அகற்றும், சிலுவையில் அறையும் என்று சத்தமிட்டார்கள். அதற்குப் பிலாத்து: உங்களுடைய ராஜாவை நான் சிலுவையில் அறையலாமா என்றான். பிரதான ஆசாரியர்கள் மறுமொழியாக: இராயனே அல்லாமல் எங்களுக்கு வேறு ராஜா இல்லை என்றார்கள்.

¹⁶ அப்பொழுது அவரை சிலுவையில் அறையும்படிக்கு அவர்களிடத்தில் ஒப்புக்கொடுத்தான். அவர்கள் இயேசுவைப் பிடித்துக்கொண்டு போனார்கள். ¹⁷ அவர் தம்முடைய சிலுவையைச் சுமந்துகொண்டு, எபிரெயு மொழியிலே கொல்கொதா என்று சொல்லப்படும் கபாலஸ்தலம் என்கிற இடத்திற்குப் புறப்பட்டுப்போனார். ¹⁸ அங்கே அவரை சிலுவையில் அறைந்தார்கள்; அவரோடு வேறு இரண்டுபேரை இரண்டு பக்கங்களிலும் இயேசுவை நடுவிலுமாகச் சிலுவைகளில் அறைந்தார்கள். ¹⁹ பிலாத்து ஒரு மேல்விலாசத்தை எழுதி, சிலுவையின்மேல் பொறுத்தச்செய்தான். அதில் நசரேயனாகிய இயேசு யூதர்களுடைய ராஜா என்று எழுதியிருந்தது. ²⁰ இயேசு சிலுவையில் அறையப்பட்ட இடம் நகரத்திற்கு அருகில் இருந்தபடியால், யூதர்களில் அநேகர் அந்த மேல்விலாசத்தை வாசித்தார்கள்; அது எபிரெயு கிரேக்கு, லத்தீன் மொழிகளில் எழுதியிருந்தது. ²¹ அப்பொழுது யூதர்களுடைய பிரதான ஆசாரியர்கள் பிலாத்துவைப் பார்த்து: யூதர்களுடைய ராஜா என்று நீர் எழுதாமல், நான் யூதர்களுடைய ராஜா என்று அவன் சொன்னதாக எழுதும் என்றார்கள். ²² பிலாத்து மறுமொழியாக: நான் எழுதினது எழுதினதே என்றான். ²³ படைவீரர்கள் இயேசுவைச் சிலுவையில் அறைந்தபின்பு, அவருடைய ஆடைகளை எடுத்து, ஒவ்வொரு படைவீரனுக்கும் ஒவ்வொரு பாகமாக நான்கு பாகமாக்கினார்கள்; மேல் அங்கியையும் எடுத்தார்கள், அந்த மேல் அங்கி, தையலில்லாமல் மேலே தொடங்கி முழுவதும் நெய்யப்பட்டதாக இருந்தது. ²⁴ அவர்கள்: இதை நாம் கிழியாமல், யாருக்கு வருமோ என்று இதைக்குறித்துச் சீட்டுப்போடுவோம் என்று ஒருவரோடொருவர் பேசிக்கொண்டார்கள். என் ஆடைகளைத் தங்களுக்குள்ளே பங்கிட்டு, என் ஆடையின்மேல் சீட்டுப்போட்டார்கள் என்கிற வேதவாக்கியம் நிறைவேற்றத்தக்கதாகப் படைவீரர்கள் இப்படிச்செய்தார்கள். ²⁵ இயேசுவின் சிலுவையின் அருகே அவருடைய தாயும், அவருடைய தாயின் சகோதரி கிலெயோப்பா மரியாளும், மகதலேனா மரியாளும் நின்றுகொண்டிருந்தார்கள். ²⁶ அப்பொழுது இயேசு தம்முடைய தாயையும், அருகே நின்ற தமக்கு அன்பாக இருந்த சீடனையும் பார்த்து, தம்முடைய தாயிடம்: “பெண்ணே, அதோ, உன் மகன்” என்றார். ²⁷ பின்பு அந்த சீடனைப் பார்த்து அதோ, உன் தாய் என்றார். அந்தநேரமுதல் அந்தச் சீடன் அவளைத் தன்னிடமாக ஏற்றுக்கொண்டான்.

²⁸ அதன்பின்பு, எல்லாம் முடிந்தது என்று இயேசு அறிந்து, வேதவாக்கியம் நிறைவேற்றத்தக்கதாக: தாகமாக இருக்கிறேன் என்றார். ²⁹ காடி நிறைந்த பாத்திரம் அங்கே வைக்கப்பட்டிருந்தது; அவர்கள் கடற்காளானைக் காடியிலே தோய்த்து, ஈசோப்புத்தண்டில் மாட்டி, அவர் வாயினிடத்தில் நீட்டிக்கொடுத்தார்கள். ³⁰ இயேசு காடியை வாங்கினபின்பு, முடிந்தது என்று சொல்லி, தலையைச் சாய்த்து, ஆவியை ஒப்புக்கொடுத்தார். ³¹ அந்த நாள் பெரிய ஓய்வுநாளுக்கு ஆயத்தநாளாக இருந்தபடியினால், உடல்கள் அந்த ஓய்வுநாளிலே சிலுவைகளில் இல்லாதபடி, யூதர்கள் பிலாத்துவினிடத்தில்போய், அவர்களுடைய கால் எலும்புகளை முறிக்கும்படிக்கும், உடல்களை எடுத்துப்போடும்படிக்கும் உத்தரவு கேட்டுக்கொண்டார்கள். ³² அந்தப்படி படைவீரர்கள் வந்து, அவருடனே சிலுவையில் அறையப்பட்ட முந்தினவனுடைய கால் எலும்புகளையும் மற்றவனுடைய கால் எலும்புகளையும் முறித்தார்கள். ³³ அவர்கள் இயேசுவினிடத்தில் வந்து, அவர் மரித்திருக்கிறதைப் பார்த்து, அவருடைய கால் எலும்புகளை முறிக்கவில்லை. ³⁴ ஆனாலும் படைவீரர்களில் ஒருவன் ஈட்டியினாலே அவருடைய விலாவில் குத்தினான்; உடனே இரத்தமும் தண்ணீரும் வெளிவந்தது. ³⁵ அதைப் பார்த்தவன் சாட்சிகொடுக்கிறான், அவனுடைய சாட்சி உண்மையாக இருக்கிறது; நீங்கள் விசுவாசிக்கும்படி, தான் சொல்லுகிறது உண்மை என்று அவன் அறிந்திருக்கிறான். ³⁶ அவருடைய எலும்புகளில் ஒன்றும் முறிக்கப்படுவதில்லை என்கிற வேதவாக்கியம் நிறைவேறும்படி இவைகள் நடந்தது. ³⁷ அல்லாமலும் தாங்கள் குத்தினவரை பார்ப்பார்கள் என்று வேறொரு வேதவாக்கியம் சொல்லுகிறது.

³⁸ இவைகளுக்குப் பின்பு அரிமத்தியா ஊரானும், யூதர்களுக்குப் பயந்ததினால் இயேசுவிற்கு அந்தரங்க சீடனுமாகிய யோசேப்பு இயேசுவின் சரீரத்தை எடுத்துக்கொண்டு போகும்படி பிலாத்துவினிடத்தில் உத்தரவு கேட்டான்; பிலாத்து உத்தரவு கொடுத்தான். ஆகவே, அவன் வந்து, இயேசுவின் சரீரத்தை எடுத்துக்கொண்டு போனான். ³⁹ ஆரம்பத்திலே ஒரு இரவில் இயேசுவினிடத்தில் வந்திருந்த நிக்கொதேமு என்பவன் வெள்ளைப்போளமும், கரியபோளமும் கலந்து ஏறக்குறைய நூறு இராத்தல் (முப்பத்திலுன்று கிலோ கிராம்) கொண்டுவந்தான். ⁴⁰ அவர்கள் இயேசுவின் சரீரத்தை எடுத்து, யூதர்கள் அடக்கம் செய்யும் முறைமையின்படியே அதைச் சுகந்தவர்க்களுடனே துணிகளில் சுற்றிக் கட்டினார்கள். ⁴¹ அவர் சிலுவையில் அறையப்பட்ட இடத்தில் ஒரு தோட்டமும், அந்தத் தோட்டத்தில் ஒருபோதும் ஒருவனும் வைக்கப்பட்டிராத ஒரு புதிய கல்லறையும் இருந்தது. ⁴² யூதர்களுடைய ஆயத்தநாளாக இருந்தபடியினாலும், அந்தக் கல்லறை அருகில் இருந்தபடியினாலும், அந்த இடத்திலே இயேசுவை வைத்தார்கள்.

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¹ வாரத்தின் முதல்நாள் காலையில், அதிக இருட்டோடு, மகதலேனா மரியாள் கல்லறைக்கு வந்து கல்லறையை அடைத்திருந்த கல் எடுத்துப்போடப்பட்டிருப்பதைப் பார்த்தாள். ² உடனே அவள் ஓடி, சீமோன் பேதுருவிடமும் இயேசுவிற்கு அன்பாக இருந்த மற்ற சீடனிடமும்போய்: கர்த்தரைக் கல்லறையிலிருந்து எடுத்துக்கொண்டு போய்விட்டார்கள், அவரை வைத்த இடம் எங்களுக்குத் தெரியவில்லை என்றாள். ³ அப்பொழுது பேதுருவும் மற்ற சீடனும் கல்லறைக்குப் போவதற்காகப் புறப்பட்டு, இருவரும் ஒருமித்து ஓடினார்கள். ⁴ பேதுருவைவிட மற்ற சீடன் வேகமாக ஓடி, முதலில் கல்லறைக்கு வந்து, ⁵ அதற்குள்ளே குனிந்து பார்த்து, துணிகள் கிடக்கிறதைப் பார்த்தான்; ஆனாலும் அவன் உள்ளே போகவில்லை. ⁶ சீமோன்பேதுரு அவனுக்குப் பின்னே வந்து, கல்லறைக்குள்ளே நுழைந்து, ⁷ துணிகள் கிடக்கிறதையும், அவருடைய தலையில் சுற்றியிருந்த துணி மற்றத் துணிகளோடு வைக்காமல் தனியே ஒரு இடத்திலே சுருட்டி வைத்திருக்கிறதையும் பார்த்தான். ⁸ முதலில் கல்லறைக்கு வந்த மற்ற சீடனும் அப்பொழுது உள்ளே நுழைந்து, பார்த்து விசுவாசித்தான். ⁹ அவர் மரித்தோரிலிருந்து உயிரோடு எழுந்திருக்கவேண்டும் என்கிற வேதவாக்கியத்தை அவர்கள் இன்னும் அறியாமல் இருந்தார்கள்.

¹⁰ பின்பு அந்தச் சீடர்கள் தங்களுடைய இடத்திற்குத் திரும்பிப்போனார்கள். ¹¹ மரியாள் கல்லறையின் அருகே வெளியே நின்று அழுதுகொண்டிருந்தாள்; அப்படி அழுதுகொண்டிருக்கும்போது அவள் குனிந்து கல்லறைக்கு உள்ளே பார்த்து, ¹² இயேசுவின் சரீரம் வைக்கப்பட்டிருந்த இடத்திலே வெள்ளை உடை அணிந்தவர்களாக இரண்டு தூதர்கள், தலைபக்கம் ஒருவனும் கால்பக்கம் ஒருவனுமாக, உட்கார்ந்திருக்கிறதைப் பார்த்தாள். ¹³ அவர்கள் அவளைப் பார்த்து: பெண்ணே, ஏன் அழுகிறாய் என்றார்கள். அதற்கு அவள்: என் ஆண்டவரை எடுத்துக்கொண்டு போய்விட்டார்கள், அவரை வைத்த இடம் எனக்குத் தெரியவில்லை என்றாள். ¹⁴ இவைகளைச் சொல்லிப் பின்பக்கம் திரும்பி, இயேசு நிற்கிறதைப் பார்த்தாள்; ஆனாலும் அவரை இயேசு என்று அறியாமல் இருந்தாள். ¹⁵ இயேசு அவளைப் பார்த்து: பெண்ணே, ஏன் அழுகிறாய், யாரைத் தேடுகிறாய் என்றார். அவள், அவரைத் தோட்டக்காரன் என்று நினைத்து: ஐயா, நீர் அவரை எடுத்துக்கொண்டு போயிருந்தால், அவரை வைத்த இடத்தை எனக்குச் சொல்லும், நான் போய் அவரை எடுத்துக்கொள்வேன் என்றாள். ¹⁶ இயேசு அவளைப் பார்த்து: மரியாளே என்றார். அவள் திரும்பிப்பார்த்து: ரபுனி என்றாள்; அதற்குப் போதகரே என்று அர்த்தம். ¹⁷ இயேசு அவளைப் பார்த்து: என்னைத் தொடாதே, நான் இன்னும் என் பிதாவினிடம் திரும்பிப்போகவில்லை; நீ என் சகோதரர்களிடம்போய், நான் என் பிதாவினிடமும் உங்களுடைய பிதாவினிடமும், என் தேவனிடமும் உங்களுடைய தேவனிடமும் திரும்பிப்போகிறேன் என்று அவர்களுக்குச் சொல்லு என்றார். ¹⁸ மகதலேனா மரியாள் போய், தான் இயேசுவைப் பார்த்ததையும், அவர் தன்னிடம் சொன்னவைகளையும் சீடர்களுக்கு அறிவித்தாள்.

¹⁹ வாரத்தின் முதல்நாளாகிய அன்றையதினம் மாலைநேரத்திலே, சீடர்கள் கூடியிருந்த இடத்தில், யூதர்களுக்குப் பயந்ததினால் கதவுகள் பூட்டியிருக்கும்போது, இயேசு வந்து அவர்கள் நடுவில் நின்று: உங்களுக்குச் சமாதானம் என்றார். ²⁰ அவர் இப்படிச் சொல்லித் தம்முடைய கரங்களையும் விலாவையும் அவர்களுக்குக் காட்டினார். சீடர்கள் இயேசுவைப் பார்த்து சந்தோஷப்பட்டார்கள். ²¹ இயேசு மீண்டும் அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: உங்களுக்குச் சமாதானம் உண்டாவதாக; பிதா என்னை அனுப்பினதுபோல நானும் உங்களை அனுப்புகிறேன் என்று சொல்லி, ²² அவர்கள்மேல் ஊதி: பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவரைப் பெற்றுக்கொள்ளுங்கள்; ²³ எவர்களுடைய பாவங்களை மன்னிக்கிறீர்களோ அவைகள் அவர்களுக்கு மன்னிக்கப்படும், எவர்களுடைய பாவங்களை மன்னிக்காமல் இருக்கிறீர்களோ அவைகள் அவர்களுக்கு மன்னிக்கப்படாமல் இருக்கும் என்றார்.

²⁴ இயேசு வந்திருந்தபோது பன்னிரண்டுபேரில் ஒருவனாகிய திதிமு என்னப்பட்ட தோமா என்பவன் அவர்களோடு இருக்கவில்லை. ²⁵ மற்றச் சீடர்கள்: இயேசுவை பார்த்தோம் என்று அவனிடம் சொன்னார்கள். அதற்கு அவன்: அவருடைய கைகளில் ஆணிகளினால் உண்டான காயத்தை நான் பார்த்து, அந்தக் காயத்திலே என் விரலைவிட்டு, என் கையை அவருடைய விலாவிலே வைத்துப்பார்க்காமல் விசுவாசிக்கமாட்டேன் என்றான். ²⁶ மீண்டும் எட்டு நாட்களுக்குப்பின்பு அவருடைய சீடர்கள் வீட்டிற்குள்ளே இருந்தார்கள்; தோமாவும் அவர்களோடு இருந்தான்; கதவுகள் பூட்டப்பட்டிருந்தது. அப்பொழுது இயேசு வந்து அவர்கள் நடுவில் நின்று: உங்களுக்குச் சமாதானம் என்றார். ²⁷ பின்பு அவர் தோமாவைப் பார்த்து: நீ உன் விரலை இங்கே நீட்டி, என் கரங்களைப் பார், உன் கையை நீட்டி, என் விலாவிலே போடு, அவிசுவாசியாக இல்லாமல் விசுவாசியாக இரு என்றார். ²⁸ தோமா அவருக்கு மறுமொழியாக: என் ஆண்டவரே! என் தேவனே! என்றான். ²⁹ அதற்கு இயேசு: தோமாவே, நீ என்னைப் பார்த்ததினாலே விசுவாசித்தாய், பார்க்காமல் இருந்தும் விசுவாசிக்கிறவர்கள் பாக்கியவான்கள் என்றார்.

³⁰ இந்தப் புத்தகத்தில் எழுதப்படாத வேறு அநேக அற்புதங்களையும் இயேசு தமது சீடர்களுக்கு முன்பாகச் செய்தார். ³¹ இயேசு தேவனுடைய குமாரனாகிய கிறிஸ்து என்று நீங்கள் விசுவாசிப்பதற்காகவும், விசுவாசித்து அவருடைய நாமத்தினாலே நித்தியஜீவனைப் பெற்றுக்கொள்வதற்காகவும், இவைகள் எழுதப்பட்டிருக்கிறது.

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¹ இவைகளுக்குப் பின்பு இயேசு திபேரியா கடற்கரையிலே மீண்டும் சீடர்களுக்குத் தம்மை வெளிப்படுத்தினார்; வெளிப்படுத்தின விபரமாவது: ² சீமோன்பேதுருவும், திதிமு என்னப்பட்ட தோமாவும், கலிலேயா நாட்டில் உள்ள கானா ஊரைச்சேர்ந்த நாத்தான்வேலும், செபெதேயுவின் மகன்களும், அவருடைய சீடர்களில் வேறு இரண்டுபேரும் கூடியிருக்கும்போது, ³ சீமோன்பேதுரு மற்றவர்களைப் பார்த்து: மீன்பிடிக்கப் போகிறேன் என்றான். அதற்கு அவர்கள்: நாங்களும் உம்மோடு வருகிறோம் என்றார்கள். அவர்கள் புறப்பட்டுப்போய், உடனே படகில் ஏறினார்கள். அந்த இரவிலே அவர்கள் ஒன்றும் பிடிக்கவில்லை. ⁴ விடியற்காலமானபோது, இயேசு கரையிலே நின்றார்; அவரை இயேசு என்று சீடர்கள் அறியாமல் இருந்தார்கள். ⁵ இயேசு அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: பிள்ளைகளே, சாப்பிடுவதற்கு ஏதாவது உங்களிடம் இருக்கிறதா என்றார். அதற்கு அவர்கள்: ஒன்றும் இல்லை என்றார்கள். ⁶ அப்பொழுது அவர்: நீங்கள் படகுக்கு வலதுபுறமாக வலையைப் போடுங்கள், அப்பொழுது உங்களுக்கு மீன்கள் கிடைக்கும் என்றார். அப்படியே அவர்கள் வலைகளைப் போட்டு, அதிகமான மீன்கள் கிடைத்ததினால், வலையை இழுக்க முடியாமல் இருந்தார்கள். ⁷ ஆகவே, இயேசுவின்மேல் அன்பாக இருந்த சீடன் பேதுருவைப் பார்த்து: அவர் கர்த்தர் என்றான். அவர் கர்த்தர் என்று சீமோன்பேதுரு கேட்டவுடனே, தான் மேற்சட்டை அணியாதவனாக இருந்ததினால், தன் மேற்சட்டையை அணிந்துகொண்டு கடலிலே குதித்தான். ⁸ மற்றச் சீடர்கள் கரைக்கு ஏறக்குறைய இருநூறுமூத்த தூரத்தில் இருந்ததினால் படகில் இருந்துகொண்டே மீன்களுள்ள வலையை இழுத்துக்கொண்டு வந்தார்கள். ⁹ அவர்கள் கரையிலே வந்திறங்கினபோது, கரிநெருப்புப் போட்டிருக்கிறதையும், அதின்மேல் மீன் வைத்திருக்கிறதையும், அப்பத்தையும் பார்த்தார்கள். ¹⁰ இயேசு அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: நீங்கள் இப்பொழுது பிடித்த மீன்களில் சிலவற்றைக் கொண்டுவாருங்கள் என்றார். ¹¹ சீமோன்பேதுரு படகில் ஏறி, நூற்று ஐம்பத்துமூன்று பெரிய மீன்களால் நிறைந்த வலையைக் கரையில் இழுத்தான்; இத்தனை மீன்கள் இருந்தும் வலை கிழியவில்லை. ¹² இயேசு அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: வாருங்கள், சாப்பிடுங்கள் என்றார். அவர் இயேசு என்று சீடர்கள் அறிந்தபடியால் அவர்களில் ஒருவனும்: நீர் யார் என்று கேட்கத் துணியவில்லை. ¹³ அப்பொழுது இயேசு வந்து, அப்பத்தையும் மீனையும் எடுத்து, அவர்களுக்குக் கொடுத்தார். ¹⁴ இயேசு மரித்தோரிலிருந்து உயிரோடு எழுந்தபின்பு மூன்றாவது முறையாக தம்முடைய சீடர்களுக்கு இவ்வாறு வெளிப்படுத்தினார்.

¹⁵ அவர்கள் சாப்பிட்டபின்பு, இயேசு சீமோன்பேதுருவைப் பார்த்து: யோனாவின் மகனாகிய சீமோனே, இவர்களைவிட நீ அதிகமாக என்மேல் அன்பாக இருக்கிறாயா என்றார். அதற்கு அவன்: ஆம் ஆண்டவரே, உம்மை நேசிக்கிறேன் என்பதை நீர் அறிவீர் என்றான். அவர்: என் ஆட்டுக்குட்டிகளை மேய்ப்பாயாக என்றார். ¹⁶ இரண்டாவதுமுறை அவர் அவனைப் பார்த்து: யோனாவின் மகனாகிய சீமோனே, நீ என்மேல் அன்பாக இருக்கிறாயா என்றார். அதற்கு அவன்: ஆம் ஆண்டவரே, உம்மை நேசிக்கிறேன் என்பதை நீர் அறிவீர் என்றான். அவர்: என் ஆடுகளை மேய்ப்பாயாக என்றார். ¹⁷ மூன்றாவதுமுறை அவர் அவனைப் பார்த்து: யோனாவின் மகனாகிய சீமோனே, நீ என்னை நேசிக்கிறாயா என்றார். என்னை நேசிக்கிறாயா என்று அவர் மூன்றாவதுமுறை தன்னைக் கேட்டதினாலே, பேதுரு துக்கப்பட்டு: ஆண்டவரே, நீர் எல்லாவற்றையும் அறிந்திருக்கிறீர், நான் உம்மை நேசிக்கிறேன் என்பதையும் நீர் அறிவீர் என்றான். இயேசு: என் ஆடுகளை மேய்ப்பாயாக என்றார். ¹⁸ நீ சிறுவயதுள்ளவனாக இருந்தபோது நீயே ஆடை அணிந்துகொண்டு, உனக்கு இஷ்டமான இடங்களிலே நடந்து திரிந்தாய்; நீ முதிர்வயதுள்ளவனாக ஆகும்போது உன் கரங்களை நீட்டுவாய்; வேறொருவன் உனக்கு ஆடையை அணிவித்து, உனக்கு இஷ்டமில்லாத இடத்திற்கு உன்னைக் கொண்டுபோவான் என்று உண்மையாகவே உண்மையாகவே உனக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன் என்றார். ¹⁹ இந்தவிதமான மரணத்தினாலே அவன் தேவனை மகிமைப்படுத்தப்போகிறான் என்பதைக் குறிக்கும்படியாக இப்படிச் சொன்னார். அவர் இதைச் சொல்லியபின்பு, அவனைப் பார்த்து: என்னைப் பின்பற்றிவா என்றார். ²⁰ பேதுரு திரும்பிப்பார்த்து, இயேசுவிற்கு அன்பாக இருந்தவனும், இரவு உணவு சாப்பிடும்போது அவர் மாற்பிலே சாய்ந்து: ஆண்டவரே, உம்மைக் காட்டிக்கொடுக்கிறவன் யார் என்று கேட்ட சீடன் பின்னால் வருகிறதைப் பார்த்தான். ²¹ அவனைப் பார்த்து, பேதுரு இயேசுவிடம்: ஆண்டவரே, இவன் காரியம் என்ன என்றான். ²² அதற்கு இயேசு: நான் வரும்வரைக்கும் இவன் இருக்க எனக்கு விருப்பமானால், உனக்கென்ன, நீ என்னைப் பின்பற்றிவா என்றார். ²³ ஆகவே, அந்தச் சீடன் மரிப்பதில்லை என்கிற பேச்சு சகோதரர்களுக்குள்ளே பரவியது. ஆனாலும், அவன் மரிப்பதில்லை என்று இயேசு சொல்லாமல், நான் வரும்வரைக்கும் இவன் இருக்க எனக்கு விருப்பமானால் உனக்கென்ன என்று சொன்னார். ²⁴ அந்தச் சீடனே இவைகளைக்குறித்து சாட்சிகொடுத்து இவைகளை எழுதினவன்; அவனுடைய சாட்சி உண்மை என்று அறிந்திருக்கிறோம்.

²⁵ இயேசு செய்த வேறு அநேக காரியங்களும் உண்டு; அவைகளை ஒவ்வொன்றாக எழுதினால் எழுதப்படும் புத்தகங்கள் உலகம் கொள்ளாது என்று நினைக்கிறேன். ஆமென்.

Acts

அத்தியாயம்- 1

¹ தெயோப்பிலுவே, இயேசுவானவர் தாம் தெரிந்துகொண்ட அப்போஸ்தலர்களுக்குப் பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவராலே கட்டளையிட்டபின்பு, ² அவர் எடுத்துக்கொள்ளப்பட்ட நாள்வரை செய்தவைகள் மற்றும் போதித்தவைகள் எல்லாவற்றையும்குறித்து, முதலாம் புத்தகத்தை எழுதினேன். ³ அவர் சிலுவையில் பாடுபட்டபின்பு, நாற்பது நாட்கள்வரை அப்போஸ்தலர்களுக்குத் தரிசனமாகி, தேவனுடைய இராஜ்யத்திற்குரியவைகளை அவர்களோடு பேசி, அநேகம் தெளிவான ஆதாரங்களினாலே அவர்களுக்குத் தம்மை உயிரோடிருக்கிறவராகக் காண்பித்தார். ⁴ அன்றியும், அவர் அவர்களோடு கூடிவந்திருக்கும்போது, அவர்களை நோக்கி: யோவான் தண்ணீரினாலே ஞானஸ்நானம் கொடுத்தான்; நீங்கள் சில நாட்களுக்குள்ளே பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவராலே ஞானஸ்நானம் பெறுவீர்கள். ⁵ ஆகவே, நீங்கள் எருசலேமைவிட்டுப் போகாமல் என்னிடத்தில் கேள்விப்பட்ட பிதாவின் வாக்குத்தத்தம் நிறைவேறக் காத்திருங்கள் என்று கட்டளையிட்டார். ⁶ அப்பொழுது கூடிவந்திருந்தவர்கள் அவரை நோக்கி: ஆண்டவரே, இக்காலத்திலா ராஜ்யத்தை இஸ்ரவேலுக்குத் திரும்பக் கொடுப்பீர் என்று கேட்டார்கள். ⁷ அதற்கு அவர்: பிதாவானவர் தம்முடைய அதிகாரத்தில் வைத்திருக்கிற காலங்களையும் வேளைகளையும் அறிகிறது உங்களுக்கு அடுத்ததல்ல. ⁸ பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவர் உங்களிடம் வரும்போது நீங்கள் பெலனடைந்து, எருசலேமிலும், யூதேயா முழுவதிலும், சமாரியாவிலும், பூமியின் கடைசி எல்லைவரையிலும், எனக்குச் சாட்சிகளாக இருப்பீர்கள் என்றார். ⁹ இவைகளை அவர் சொன்னபின்பு, அவர்கள் பார்த்துக்கொண்டிருக்கும்போது, வானத்திற்குமேல் எடுத்துக்கொள்ளப்பட்டார்; அவர்களுடைய கண்களுக்கு மறைவாக ஒரு மேகம் அவரை எடுத்துக்கொண்டது. ¹⁰ அவர் போகிறபோது அவர்கள் வானத்தை அண்ணாந்து பார்த்துக்கொண்டிருக்கும்போது, இதோ, வெண்மையான உடையணிந்தவர்கள் இரண்டுபேர் அவர்கள் அருகே நின்று: ¹¹ கலிலேய மக்களே, நீங்கள் ஏன் வானத்தை அண்ணாந்துபார்த்து நிற்கிறீர்கள்? உங்களிடமிருந்து வானத்திற்கு எடுத்துக்கொள்ளப்பட்ட இந்த இயேசுவானவர் எப்படி உங்களுடைய கண்களுக்கு முன்பாக வானத்திற்கு எடுத்துக்கொள்ளப்பட்டாரோ, அப்படியே மறுபடியும் வருவார் என்றார்கள்.

¹² அப்பொழுது அவர்கள் எருசலேமுக்கு அருகில் ஒரு ஓய்வுநாள் பயணதூரத்திலிருக்கிற ஒலிவமலை என்னப்பட்ட மலையிலிருந்து எருசலேமுக்குத் திரும்பிப்போனார்கள். ¹³ அவர்கள் அங்கே வந்தபோது மேல்வீட்டில் ஏறினார்கள்; அதில் பேதுருவும், யாக்கோபும், யோவானும், அந்திரேயாவும், பிலிப்பும், தோமாவும், பர்த்தொலொமேயும், மத்தேயுவும், அல்பேயுவின் குமாரனாகிய யாக்கோபும், செலோத்தே என்னப்பட்ட சீமோனும், யாக்கோபின் சகோதரனாகிய யூதாவும் தங்கியிருந்தார்கள். ¹⁴ அங்கே இவர்களெல்லோரும், பெண்களோடும் இயேசுவின் தாயாகிய மரியாளோடும், அவருடைய சகோதரர்களோடுகூட ஒருமனப்பட்டு, ஜெபத்திலும் வேண்டுதலிலும் தரித்திருந்தார்கள். ¹⁵ அந்த நாட்களிலே, சீடர்கள் ஏறக்குறைய நூற்றிருபதுபேர் கூடியிருந்தபோது, அவர்கள் மத்தியிலே பேதுரு எழுந்து நின்று: ¹⁶ சகோதரர்களே, இயேசுவைப் பிடித்தவர்களுக்கு வழிகாட்டின யூதாசைக்குறித்துப் பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவர் தாவீதின் வாக்கினால் முன்சொன்ன வேதவாக்கியம் நிறைவேறவேண்டியதாயிருந்தது. ¹⁷ அவன் எங்களில் ஒருவனாக எண்ணப்பட்டு, இந்த ஊழியத்திலே பங்குபெற்றவனாக இருந்தான். ¹⁸ தவறான வழியின் வருமானத்தினால் அவன் ஒரு நிலத்தைச் சம்பாதித்து, தலைகீழாக விழுந்தான்; அவன் வயிறுவெடித்து, குடல்களெல்லாம் சரிந்துபோனது. ¹⁹ இது எருசலேமிலுள்ள குடிகள் அனைவருக்கும் தெரிந்திருக்கிறது. அதினாலே அந்த நிலம் அவர்களுடைய மொழியிலே இரத்தநிலம் என்று அர்த்தங்கொள்ளும் அக்கெல்தமா என அழைக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. ²⁰ சங்கீதபுத்தகத்திலே அவன் குடியிருக்கும் வீடு அழியக்கடவது, ஒருவனும் அதில் குடியில்லாதிருப்பானாக என்றும்; அவனுடைய தலைமைத்துவத்தை வேறொருவன் பெறவேண்டும் என்றும் எழுதியிருக்கிறது. ²¹ ஆதலால், யோவான் ஞானஸ்நானம் கொடுத்த நாள்முதற்கொண்டு, கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுவானவர் நம்மிடத்திலிருந்து உயர் எடுத்துக்கொள்ளப்பட்ட நாள்வரை, ²² அவர் நம்மிடத்தில் வாழ்ந்திருந்த காலங்களிலெல்லாம் எங்களோடு இருந்த மனிதர்களில் ஒருவன் அவர் உயிரோடெழுந்ததைக்குறித்து, எங்களுடனேகூடச் சாட்சியாக ஏற்படுத்தப்படவேண்டும் என்றான். ²³ அப்பொழுது அவர்கள் யூஸ்து என்னும் மறுபெயருள்ள பர்சபா என்னப்பட்ட யோசேப்பு, மத்தியா ஆகிய இவ்விரண்டுபேரையும் நிறுத்தி: ²⁴ எல்லோருடைய இருதயங்களையும் அறிந்திருக்கிற கர்த்தாவே, யூதாஸ் என்பவன் தனக்குரிய இடத்திற்குப் போகும்படி இழந்துபோன இந்த ஊழியத்திலும் இந்த அப்போஸ்தலப் பணியிலும் பங்குபெறுவதற்காக, ²⁵ இவ்விரண்டுபேரில் தேவரீர் தெரிந்துகொண்டவனை எங்களுக்குக் காண்பித்தருளும் என்று ஜெபம்பண்ணி; ²⁶ பின்பு, அவர்களைக்குறித்துச் சீட்டுப்போட்டார்கள்; சீட்டு

மத்தியாவின் பெயருக்கு விழுந்தது; அப்பொழுது அவன் பதினொரு அப்போஸ்தலர்களோடு
சேர்த்துக்கொள்ளப்பட்டான்.

அத்தியாயம்- 2

¹ பெந்தெகொஸ்தே என்னும் நாள் வந்தபோது, அவர்களெல்லோரும் ஒருமனப்பட்டு ஓரிடத்திலே கூடிவந்திருந்தார்கள். ² அப்பொழுது பலத்தக் காற்று அடிக்கிறதுபோல, வானத்திலிருந்து திடீரென ஒரு முழக்கமுண்டாகி, அவர்கள் உட்கார்ந்திருந்த வீடு முழுவதையும் நிரப்பிற்று. ³ அல்லாமலும் நெருப்புமயமான நாக்குகள்போல பிரிந்திருக்கும் நாக்குகள் அவர்களுக்குக் காணப்பட்டு, அவர்கள் ஒவ்வொருவர்மேலும் வந்து அமர்ந்தது. ⁴ அவர்களெல்லோரும் பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவராலே நிரப்பப்பட்டு, ஆவியானவர் தங்களுக்குத் தந்தருளின வரத்தின்படியே வெவ்வேறு மொழிகளிலே பேசத்தொடங்கினார்கள். ⁵ வானத்தின்கீழே இருக்கிற எல்லா தேசத்திலுமிருந்து வந்த தேவபக்தியுள்ள யூதர்கள் அப்பொழுது எருசலேமிலே தங்கியிருந்தார்கள். ⁶ அந்த சத்தம் உண்டானபோது, அநேக மக்கள் கூடிவந்து, தங்கள் தங்கள் மொழியிலே அவர்கள் பேசுகிறதை கேட்டபடியினாலே கலக்கமடைந்தார்கள். ⁷ எல்லோரும் பிரமித்து ஆச்சரியப்பட்டு, ஒருவரையொருவர் பார்த்து: இதோ, பேசுகிற இவர்களெல்லோரும் கலிலேயர்கள் அல்லவா? ⁸ அப்படியிருக்க, நம்மில் அவரவர்களுடைய தாய் மொழிகளிலே இவர்கள் பேசக்கேட்கிறோமே, இது எப்படி? ⁹ பார்த்தரும், மேதரும், ஏலாமீத்தரும், மெசொப்பொத்தாமியா, யூதேயா, கப்பத்தோக்கியா, பொந்து, ஆசியா, பிரிகியா, ¹⁰ பம்பிலியா, எகிப்து என்னும் தேசத்தார்களும், சிரேனே பட்டணத்தைச் சுற்றியிருக்கிற லீபியாவின் திசைகளிலே குடியிருக்கிறவர்களும், இங்கே வருகைதரும் ரோமாபுரியாரும், யூதர்களும், யூதமார்க்கத்தை பின்பற்றுகிறவர்களும், ¹¹ கிரேத்தரும், அரபியருமாகிய நாம் நம்முடைய மொழிகளிலே இவர்கள் தேவனுடைய மகத்துவங்களைப் பேசக்கேட்கிறோமே என்றார்கள். ¹² எல்லோரும் பிரமித்து சந்தேகப்பட்டு, இது என்னமாய் முடியுமோ என்று ஒருவரோடொருவர் சொல்லிக்கொண்டார்கள். ¹³ மற்றவர்களோ: இவர்கள் மதுபானம் அருந்தியிருக்கிறார்கள் என்று கேலிசெய்தார்கள்.

¹⁴ அப்பொழுது பேதுரு பதினொரு சீடர்களோடு நின்று, அவர்களை நோக்கி, உரத்த சத்தமாக: யூதர்களே, எருசலேமில் வசிக்கின்ற மக்களே, நீங்களெல்லோரும் அறிந்துகொள்வீர்களாக, என் வார்த்தைகளைக் கேளுங்கள். ¹⁵ நீங்கள் நினைக்கிறபடி இவர்கள் மது அருந்தியவர்கள் அல்ல, பொழுதுவிடிந்து ஒன்பது மணியாக இருக்கிறதே. ¹⁶ தீர்க்கதரிசியாகிய யோவேலினால் உரைக்கப்பட்டபடியே இது நிறைவேறுகிறது. ¹⁷ கடைசிநாட்களில் நான் மாம்சமான யாவர்மேலும் என் ஆவியைப் பொழிவேன், அப்பொழுது உங்களுடைய குமாரர்களும் உங்களுடைய குமாரத்திகளும் தீர்க்கதரிசனம் சொல்லுவார்கள்; உங்களுடைய வாலிபர்கள் தரிசனங்களைக் காண்பார்கள்; உங்களுடைய மூப்பர்கள் கனவுகளைக் காண்பார்கள்; ¹⁸ என்னுடைய ஊழியக்காரர்கள்மேலும், என்னுடைய ஊழியக்காரிகள்மேலும் அந்த நாட்களிலே என் ஆவியைப் பொழிவேன், அப்பொழுது அவர்கள் தீர்க்கதரிசனம் சொல்லுவார்கள். ¹⁹ அல்லாமலும் உயர் வானத்திலே அற்புதங்களையும், கீழே பூமியிலே இரத்தம், அக்கினி, புகைக்காடாகிய அதிசயங்களையும் காட்டுவேன். ²⁰ கர்த்தருடைய பெரிதும் பிரகாசமுமான நாள் வரும்முன்னே சூரியன் இருளாகவும், சந்திரன் இரத்தமாகவும் மாறும். ²¹ அப்பொழுது கர்த்தருடைய நாமத்தைத் தொழுதுகொள்ளுகிறவனெவனோ அவன் இரட்சிக்கப்படுவான் என்று தேவன் உரைத்திருக்கிறார். ²² இஸ்ரவேலர்களே, நான் சொல்லும் வார்த்தைகளைக் கேளுங்கள்; உங்களுக்கு தெரிந்திருக்கிறபடி நசரேயனாகிய இயேசுவைக்கொண்டு தேவன் உங்களுக்குள்ளே பலத்த கிரியைகளையும், அற்புதங்களையும், அதிசயங்களையும் நடப்பித்து, அவைகளினாலே அவரை உங்களுக்கு வெளிப்படுத்தினார். ²³ அப்படியிருந்தும், தேவன் நியமித்திருந்த ஆலோசனையின்படியேயும், அவருடைய முன்னறிவின்படியேயும் ஒப்புக்கொடுக்கப்பட்ட அந்த இயேசுவை நீங்கள் பிடித்து, அக்கிரமக்காரர்களுடைய கைகளினாலே சிலுவையில் ஆணியடித்துக் கொலைசெய்தீர்கள். ²⁴ தேவன் அவருடைய மரணவேதனைகளின் கட்டுகளை நீக்கி, அவரை உயிரோடு எழுப்பினார்; அவர் மரணத்தினால் கட்டப்பட்டிருக்கக்கூடாமலிருந்தது. ²⁵ அவரைக்குறித்து தாவீது: கர்த்தரை எப்பொழுதும் எனக்கு முன்பாக நிறுத்தி நோக்கிக்கொண்டிருக்கிறேன்; நான் அசைக்கப்படாதபடி அவர் என் வலதுபக்கத்திலே இருக்கிறார்; ²⁶ அதினாலே என் இருதயம் மகிழ்ந்தது, என் நாக்கு களிகூர்ந்தது, என் சரீரமும் நம்பிக்கையோடு தங்கியிருக்கும்; ²⁷ என் ஆத்துமாவைப் பாதாளத்தில் விடமாட்டீர், உம்முடைய பரிசுத்தர் அழிவைக் காணவிடமாட்டீர்; ²⁸ ஜீவவழிகளை எனக்குத் தெரியப்படுத்தினீர்; உம்முடைய சமூகத்திலே என்னைச் சந்தோஷத்தினால் நிரப்புவீர் என்று சொல்லுகிறான். ²⁹ சகோதரர்களே, கோத்திரத்தலைவனாகிய தாவீதைக்குறித்து நான் உங்களோடு தைரியமாகப் பேசுகிறதற்கு இடங்கொடுங்கள்; அவன் மரணமடைந்து அடக்கம்பண்ணப்பட்டான்; அவனுடைய கல்லறை இந்தநாள்வரை நம்மிடத்திலிருக்கிறது. ³⁰ அவன் தீர்க்கதரிசியாக இருந்து: உன் சிங்காசனத்தில் வீற்றிருக்க உன் வம்சத்திலே கிறிஸ்துவை எழும்பப்பண்ணுவேன் என்று தேவன் தனக்கு சத்தியம்பண்ணினதைத் தெரிந்தபடியால், ³¹ அவன் கிறிஸ்துவினுடைய ஆத்துமா பாதாளத்திலே

விடப்படுவதில்லையென்றும், அவருடைய சரீரம் அழிவைக் காண்பதில்லையென்றும் முன்பே அறிந்து, அவர் உயிர்த்தெழுதலைக்குறித்து இப்படிச் சொன்னான். ³² இந்த இயேசுவை தேவன் உயிரோடு எழுப்பினார்; இதற்கு நாங்கள் எல்லோரும் சாட்சிகளாக இருக்கிறோம். ³³ அவர் தேவனுடைய வலது கரத்தினாலே உயர்த்தப்பட்டு, பிதா அருளிய வாக்குத்தத்தத்தின்படி பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவரைப் பெற்று, நீங்கள் இப்பொழுது காண்கிறவைகளையும் கேட்கிறவைகளையும் பொழிந்தருளினார். ³⁴ தாவீது பரலோகத்திற்கு இன்னும் எழுந்துபோகவில்லையே. நான் உம்முடைய சத்துருக்களை உமது பாதத்தின் கீழே போடும்வரைக்கும், ³⁵ நீர் என் வலதுபக்கத்தில் உட்காரும் என்று கர்த்தர் என் ஆண்டவருடனே சொன்னார் என்று அவனே சொல்லியிருக்கிறான். ³⁶ ஆகவே, நீங்கள் சிலுவையில் அறைந்த இந்த இயேசுவையே தேவன் ஆண்டவரும் கிறிஸ்துவுமாக்கினாரென்று இஸ்ரவேல் குடும்பத்தார் அனைவரும் நிச்சயமாக அறிந்துகொள்ளுங்கள் என்றான். ³⁷ இதை அவர்கள் கேட்டபொழுது, இருதயத்திலே குத்தப்பட்டவர்களாகி, பேதுருவையும் மற்ற அப்போஸ்தலர்களையும் பார்த்து: சகோதரர்களே, நாங்கள் என்னசெய்யவேண்டும் என்றார்கள். ³⁸ பேதுரு அவர்களை நோக்கி: நீங்கள் மனம்திரும்பி, ஒவ்வொருவரும் பாவமன்னிப்புக்கென்று இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவின் நாமத்தினாலே ஞானஸ்நானம் பெற்றுக்கொள்ளுங்கள், அப்பொழுது பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவரின் வரத்தைப் பெறுவீர்கள். ³⁹ வாக்குத்தத்தமானது உங்களுக்கும், உங்களுடைய பிள்ளைகளுக்கும், நம்முடைய தேவனாகிய கர்த்தர் வரவழைக்கும் தூரத்திலுள்ள அனைவருக்கும் உண்டாயிருக்கிறது என்று சொல்லி; ⁴⁰ இன்னும் அநேக வார்த்தைகளாலும் சாட்சிகூறி, மாறுபாடுள்ள இந்த வம்சத்தை விட்டுவிலகி உங்களைக் காப்பாற்றிக்கொள்ளுங்கள் என்றும் புத்திசொன்னான். ⁴¹ அவனுடைய வார்த்தைகளை சந்தோஷமாக ஏற்றுக்கொண்டவர்கள் ஞானஸ்நானம் பெற்றார்கள். அன்றையதினம் ஏறக்குறைய மூவாயிரம்பேர் விசுவாசிகளின் கூட்டத்தில் சேர்த்துக்கொள்ளப்பட்டார்கள்.

⁴² அவர்கள் அப்போஸ்தலர்களுடைய போதனைகளிலும், ஐக்கியத்திலும், அப்பம் புசித்தலிலும், ஜெபம்பண்ணுதலிலும் உறுதியாகத் தரித்திருந்தார்கள். ⁴³ எல்லோருக்கும் பயமுண்டானது. அப்போஸ்தலர்களாலே அநேக அற்புதங்களும் அதிசயங்களும் செய்யப்பட்டது. ⁴⁴ விசுவாசிகள் எல்லோரும் ஒன்றாக இருந்து, எல்லாவற்றையும் பொதுவாய் வைத்து அனுபவித்தார்கள். ⁴⁵ நிலங்களையும் சொத்துக்களையும்விற்பு, ஒவ்வொருவனுக்கும் தேவைக்குத்தக்கதாக அவைகளில் எல்லோருக்கும் பகிர்ந்துகொடுத்தார்கள். ⁴⁶ அவர்கள் ஒருமனப்பட்டவர்களாக தேவாலயத்திலே அனுதினமும் தரித்திருந்து, வீடுகள்தோறும் அப்பம்புசித்து மகிழ்ச்சியோடும் கபடம் இல்லாத இருதயத்தோடும் சாப்பிட்டு, ⁴⁷ தேவனைத் துதித்து, மக்களெல்லோரிடத்திலும் தயவுபெற்றிருந்தார்கள். மீட்கப்படுகிறவர்களைக் கர்த்தர் அனுதினமும் சபையிலே சேர்த்துக்கொண்டுவந்தார்.

அத்தியாயம்- 3

¹ ஒருநாள், ஜெபவேளையாகிய பிற்பகல் மூன்று மணியளவில் பேதுருவும் யோவானும் ஆலயத்திற்குப் போனார்கள். ² அப்பொழுது பிறவியிலேயே சப்பாணியாகப் பிறந்த ஒரு மனிதனை சுமந்துகொண்டு வந்தார்கள்; ஆலயத்திற்குள் வருகிறவர்களிடத்தில் பிச்சை கேட்கும்படி, அனுதினமும் அவனை அலங்காரவாசல் என்னப்பட்ட தேவாலய வாசலருகில் வைப்பார்கள். ³ அவன் ஆலயத்திற்குள் பிரவேசிக்கிற பேதுருவையும், யோவானையும் பார்த்து பிச்சை கேட்டான். ⁴ பேதுருவும், யோவானும் அவனை உற்றுப்பார்த்து: எங்களை நோக்கிப்பார் என்றார்கள். ⁵ அவன் அவர்களிடத்தில் ஏதாவது கிடைக்கும் என்று நினைத்து, அவர்களை நோக்கிப்பார்த்தான். ⁶ அப்பொழுது பேதுரு: வெள்ளியும் பொன்னும் என்னிடத்தில் இல்லை; என்னிடத்தில் இருப்பதை உனக்குத் தருகிறேன்; நசரேயனாகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவின் நாமத்தினாலே நீ எழுந்து நட என்று சொல்லி, ⁷ தன் வலது கையினால் அவனைப் பிடித்துத் தூக்கிவிட்டான்; உடனே அவனுடைய கால்களும் கணுக்களும் பெலன் கொண்டது. ⁸ அவன் குதித்து, எழுந்து, நின்று, நடந்தான்; நடந்து, குதித்து, தேவனைப் புகழ்ந்துகொண்டு, அவர்களோடு தேவாலயத்திற்குள் போனான். ⁹ அவன் நடக்கிறதையும், தேவனைப் புகழ்கிறதையும், மக்களெல்லோரும் கண்டு: ¹⁰ ஆலயத்தின் அலங்கார வாசலருகில் பிச்சை கேட்க உட்கார்ந்திருந்தவன் இவன்தான் என்று அறிந்து, அவனுக்கு நடந்ததைக் குறித்து மிகவும் ஆச்சரியப்பட்டு பிரமித்தார்கள்.

¹¹ சுகமாக்கப்பட்ட சப்பாணி பேதுரு மற்றும் யோவானோடு இருக்கும்போது, மக்களெல்லோரும் திகைத்து, சாலொமோன் மண்டபம் என்னும் மண்டபத்திலே அவர்களிடத்திற்கு ஓடிவந்தார்கள். ¹² பேதுரு மக்களைப் பார்த்து: இஸ்ரவேலர்களே, இதைக்குறித்து நீங்கள் ஆச்சரியப்படுகிறதென்ன? நாங்கள் எங்களுடைய சுயசக்தியினாலாவது, சுயபக்தியினாலாவது, இவனை நடக்க செய்தோமென்று நீங்கள் எங்களை உற்றுப்பார்க்கிறதென்ன? ¹³ ஆபிரகாம் ஈசாக்கு யாக்கோபு என்பவர்களுடைய தேவனாகிய நம்முடைய பிதாக்களின் தேவன் தம்முடைய குமாரனாகிய இயேசுவை மகிமைப்படுத்தினார்; அவரை நீங்கள் ஒப்புக்கொடுத்தீர்கள்; லிலாத்து அவரை விடுதலை செய்ய தீர்மானித்தபோது, அவனுக்கு முன்பாக அவரை மறுதலித்தீர்கள். ¹⁴ பரிசுத்தமும் நீதியுமுள்ளவரை நீங்கள் மறுதலித்து, கொலைபாதகனை உங்களுக்காக விடுதலை செய்யவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டு, ¹⁵ ஜீவாதிபதியாகிய இயேசுவைக் கொலைசெய்தீர்கள்; தேவன் அவரை மரித்தோரிலிருந்து உயிரோடு எழுப்பினார்; அதற்கு நாங்கள் சாட்சிகளாக இருக்கிறோம். ¹⁶ அவருடைய நாமத்தில் வைத்திருக்கும் விசுவாசத்தினாலே அவருடைய நாமமே உங்களுக்கு அறிமுகமான இவனை பெலப்படுத்தினது; அவரால் உண்டாகிய நம்பிக்கை உங்களெல்லோருக்கும் முன்பாக, இவனுடைய முழுசரீரத்திற்கும் இந்த சுகத்தைக் கொடுத்தது. ¹⁷ சகோதரர்களே நீங்களும் உங்களுடைய அதிகாரிகளும் அறியாமையினாலே இதைச் செய்தீர்களென்று எனக்குத் தெரியும் ¹⁸ கிறிஸ்து பாடுபடவேண்டுமென்று தேவன் தம்முடைய தீர்க்கதரிசிகளெல்லோருடைய வார்த்தையினாலும் முன்னமே சொன்னவைகளை இவ்விதமாக நிறைவேற்றினார். ¹⁹ ஆகவே, கர்த்தருடைய சந்திதானத்திலிருந்து இளைப்பாறுதலின் நாட்கள் வரும்படிக்கும், முன்பே குறிக்கப்பட்ட இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவை அவர் உங்களிடம் அனுப்பவும், ²⁰ உங்களுடைய குற்றங்கள் மன்னிக்கப்படவும் நீங்கள் மனந்திரும்பி குணப்படுங்கள். ²¹ உலகம் உண்டானதுமுதல் தேவன் தம்முடைய பரிசுத்த தீர்க்கதரிசிகள் எல்லோருடைய வார்த்தையினாலும் முன்னமே சொன்ன எல்லாம் நிறைவேறிமுடியும் நாட்கள் வரும்வரை அவர் பரலோகத்தில் இருக்கவேண்டும். ²² மோசே முற்பிதாக்களைப்பார்த்து: உங்களுடைய தேவனாகிய கர்த்தர் என்னைப்போல ஒரு தீர்க்கதரிசியை உங்களுக்காக உங்களுடைய சகோதரர்களிலிருந்து எழுப்பப்பண்ணுவார்; அவர் உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லும் எல்லாவற்றிலும் அவருக்குச் செவிகொடுங்கள். ²³ அந்தத் தீர்க்கதரிசியின் சொல்லைக் கேளாதவன் எவனோ, அவன் மக்கள் மத்தியில் இல்லாதபடிக்கு அழிக்கப்படுவான் என்றான். ²⁴ சாமுவேல் முதற்கொண்டு, எத்தனைபேர் தீர்க்கதரிசனம் சொன்னார்களோ, அத்தனைபேரும் இந்த நாட்களை முன்னமே அறிவித்தார்கள். ²⁵ நீங்கள் அந்தத் தீர்க்கதரிசிகளுக்குப் பிள்ளைகளாக இருக்கிறீர்கள்; உன் சந்ததியினாலே பூமியிலுள்ள வம்சங்களெல்லாம் ஆசீர்வதிக்கப்படும் என்று தேவன் ஆபிரகாமுக்குச் சொல்லி, நம்முடைய முன்னோர்களோடு செய்த உடன்படிக்கைக்கும் பிள்ளைகளாக இருக்கிறீர்கள். ²⁶ அவர் உங்களெல்லோரையும் உங்களுடைய பொல்லாங்குகளிலிருந்து விலக்கி, உங்களை ஆசீர்வதிக்கும்படி தேவன் தம்முடைய குமாரனாகிய இயேசுவை எழுப்பி, முதலாவது உங்களிடத்திற்கே அவரை அனுப்பினார் என்றான்.

அத்தியாயம்- 4

¹ பேதுருவும் யோவானும் மக்களுடனே பேசிக்கொண்டிருக்கும்போது, ஆசாரியர்களும் தேவாலயத்துப் படைத்தலைவனும் சதுசேயர்களும் அவர்களிடத்தில் வந்து, ² அவர்கள் மக்களுக்கு போதிக்கிறதினாலும், இயேசுவை முன்வைத்து, மரித்தோரிலிருந்து உயிர்த்தெழுதலைப் பிரசங்கிக்கிறதினாலும், கோபமடைந்து, ³ அவர்களைப் பிடித்து, மாலைநேரமாக இருந்தபடியினால், மறுநாள்வரை காவலில் வைத்தார்கள். ⁴ வசனத்தைக் கேட்டவர்களில் அநேகர் விசுவாசித்தார்கள்; அவர்களுடைய தொகை ஏறக்குறைய ஐயாயிரமாக இருந்தது. ⁵ மறுநாளிலே மக்களுடைய அதிகாரிகளும் மூப்பர்களும் வேதபண்டிதர்களும், ⁶ பிரதான ஆசாரியனாகிய அன்னாவும், காய்பாவும், யோவானும், அலெக்சந்தரும், பிரதான ஆசாரியனுடைய குடும்பத்தார் அனைவரும் எருசலேமிலே கூடிவந்து, ⁷ அவர்களை நடுவே நிறுத்தி: நீங்கள் எந்த வல்லமையினாலே, எந்த நாமத்தினாலே, இதைச் செய்தீர்கள் என்று கேட்டார்கள். ⁸ அப்பொழுது பேதுரு பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவராலே நிறைந்து, அவர்களை நோக்கி: மக்களின் அதிகாரிகளே, இஸ்ரவேலின் மூப்பர்களே, ⁹ வியாதியாக இருந்த இந்த மனிதனுக்குச் செய்யப்பட்ட உபகாரத்தைக்குறித்து எதினாலே இவன் சுகமானான் என்று நீங்கள் இன்று எங்களிடம் விசாரித்துக்கேட்டால், ¹⁰ உங்களால் சிலுவையில் அறையப்பட்டவரும், தேவனால் மரித்தோரிலிருந்து உயிரோடு எழுப்பப்பட்டவருமாக இருக்கிற நசரேயனாகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவின் நாமத்தினாலேயே இவன் உங்களுக்கு முன்பாகச் சுகமாக்கப்பட்டவனாக நிற்கிறானென்று உங்களெல்லோருக்கும், இஸ்ரவேல் மக்களெல்லோருக்கும் தெரிந்திருக்கக்கடவது. ¹¹ வீடுகட்டுகிறவர்களாகிய உங்களால் அற்பமாக நினைக்கப்பட்ட அவரே அஸ்திபாரத்திற்கு முதற்கல்லானவர். ¹² அவரைத்தவிர வேறொருவராலும் இரட்சிப்பு இல்லை; நாம் இரட்சிக்கப்படும்படிக்கு வானத்தின் கீழெங்கும், மனிதர்களுக்குள்ளே அவருடைய நாமத்தவிர வேறொரு நாமம் கொடுக்கப்படவுமில்லை என்றான். ¹³ பேதுருவும் யோவானும் பேசுகிற தைரியத்தை அவர்கள் கண்டு, அவர்கள் படிப்பறியாதவர்களென்றும் பேதைகளென்றும் அறிந்து ஆச்சரியப்பட்டு, அவர்கள் இயேசுவோடுகூட இருந்தவர்களென்றும் தெரிந்துகொண்டார்கள். ¹⁴ சுகமாக்கப்பட்ட மனிதன் அவர்கள் அருகே நிற்கிறதைக் கண்டபடியால், எதிர்த்துபேச அவர்களுக்கு முடியாமற்போனது. ¹⁵ அப்பொழுது அவர்களை ஆலோசனைச் சங்கத்தைவிட்டு வெளியே போகும்படி கட்டளையிட்டு, தங்களுக்குள்ளே யோசனைபண்ணிக்கொண்டு: ¹⁶ இந்த மனிதர்களை நாம் என்ன செய்யலாம்? எருசலேமில் வசிக்கின்ற எல்லோருக்கும் தெரிந்திருக்கிறபடி வெளிப்படையான அற்புதம் இவர்களால் செய்யப்பட்டதே, அதை நாம் இல்லையென்று சொல்லக்கூடாது. ¹⁷ ஆனாலும் இது அதிகமாக மக்களுக்குள்ளே பரவாதபடிக்கு, இதுமுதல் ஒருவரோடும் இந்த நாமத்தைக்குறித்துப் பேசக்கூடாதென்று, அவர்களை உறுதியாக எச்சரிக்கவேண்டும் என்று சொல்லிக்கொண்டு, ¹⁸ அவர்களை அழைத்து: இயேசுவின் நாமத்தைக்குறித்து எதையும் பேசவும், போதிக்கவும் கூடாதென்று அவர்களுக்குக் கட்டளையிட்டார்கள். ¹⁹ பேதுருவும் யோவானும் அவர்களை நோக்கி: தேவனுக்குச் செவிகொடுக்கிறதைவிட உங்களுக்குச் செவிகொடுக்கிறது தேவனுக்குமுன்பாக நியாயமாக இருக்குமோ என்று நீங்களே யோசித்துப்பாருங்கள். ²⁰ நாங்கள் கண்டவைகளையும் கேட்டவைகளையும் பேசாமலிருக்கக்கூடாதே என்றார்கள். ²¹ நடந்த சம்பவங்களைக்குறித்து எல்லோரும் தேவனை மகிமைப்படுத்தினபடியால், மக்களுக்குப் பயந்து அவர்களைத் தண்டிக்க வழியொன்றும் இல்லாமல், அவர்களைப் பயமுறுத்தி விட்டுவிட்டார்கள். ²² அற்புதமாகச் சுகமாக்கப்பட்ட மனிதன் நாற்பது வயதுக்கு மேற்பட்டவனாக இருந்தான்.

²³ அவர்கள் விடுதலையாக்கப்பட்டபின்பு, தங்களைச் சேர்ந்தவர்களிடத்தில் வந்து, பிரதான ஆசாரியர்களும் மூப்பர்களும் தங்களுக்குச் சொன்ன எல்லாவற்றையும் அறிவித்தார்கள். ²⁴ அவர்கள் அதைக்கேட்டு, ஒருமனப்பட்டு தேவனை நோக்கிச் சத்தமிட்டு: கர்த்தாவே, நீர் வானத்தையும் பூமியையும் கடலையும் அவைகளிலுள்ள எல்லாவற்றையும் உண்டாக்கின தேவனாக இருக்கிறீர். ²⁵ யூதரல்லாதோர் கோபமடைந்து, மக்கள் வீணான காரியங்களைச் சிந்திப்பது ஏன் என்றும், ²⁶ கர்த்தருக்கு விரோதமாகவும் அவருடைய கிறிஸ்துவுக்கு விரோதமாகவும் பூமியின் ராஜாக்கள் எழும்பிநின்று, அதிகாரிகள் ஒன்றுகூடினார்கள் என்றும் தேவரீர் உம்முடைய அடியானாகிய தாவீதின் வாக்கினால் உரைத்தீரே. ²⁷ அந்தப்படி உம்முடைய கரமும் உம்முடைய ஆலோசனையும் முன்குறித்தவைகள் யாவையும் செய்யும்படி, ²⁸ ஏரோதும் பொந்தியுபிலாத்தும், யூதரல்லாதாரோடும் இஸ்ரவேல் மக்களோடுகூட, நீர் அபிஷேகம்பண்ணின உம்முடைய பரிசுத்த பிள்ளையாகிய இயேசுவிற்கு விரோதமாக, மெய்யாகவே கூட்டம் கூடினார்கள். ²⁹ இப்பொழுதும், கர்த்தாவே, அவர்கள் பயமுறுத்தல்களை தேவரீர் கவனித்து, ³⁰ உம்முடைய பரிசுத்த பிள்ளையாகிய இயேசுவின் நாமத்தினாலே அதிசயங்களும் அற்புதங்களும் நடக்கும்படிச் செய்து, நோயாளிகளைக் குணமாக்கும்படி உம்முடைய கரத்தை நீட்டி, உம்முடைய ஊழியக்காரர்கள் உம்முடைய வசனத்தை முழு தைரியத்தோடு சொல்லும்படி அவர்களுக்கு உதவி

செய்தருளும் என்றார்கள். ³¹ அவர்கள் ஜெபம்பண்ணினபோது, அவர்கள் கூடியிருந்த இடம் அசைந்தது. அவர்களெல்லோரும் பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவரால் நிரப்பப்பட்டு, தேவவார்த்தையைத் தைரியமாகச் சொன்னார்கள்.

³² திரளான விசுவாசக் கூட்டத்தார் ஒரே இருதயமும் ஒரே மனமுள்ளவர்களாக இருந்தார்கள். ஒருவனும் தனக்குள்ளவைகளில் ஒன்றையும் தன்னுடையதென்று சொல்லவில்லை; அனைத்தும் அவர்களுக்குப் பொதுவாக இருந்தது. ³³ கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுவின் உயிர்த்தெழுதலைக்குறித்து அப்போஸ்தலர்கள் மிகுந்த உறுதியாக சாட்சிகொடுத்தார்கள்; அவர்களெல்லோர்மேலும் பூரணகிருபை உண்டாயிருந்தது. ³⁴ நிலங்களையும் வீடுகளையும் உடையவர்கள் அவைகளை விற்று, விற்கப்பட்டவைகளின் தொகையைக் கொண்டுவந்து, ³⁵ அப்போஸ்தலர்களுடைய பாதத்திலே வைத்தார்கள். அவனவனுக்குத் தேவைக்குத்தக்கதாகப் பகிர்ந்துகொடுக்கப்பட்டது; அவர்களில் ஒருவனுக்கும் ஒன்றும் குறைவாக இருந்ததில்லை. ³⁶ சீப்புருதீவானும் லேவியனும் அப்போஸ்தலர்களாலே ஆறுதலின் மகன் என்று அர்த்தங்கொள்ளும் பர்னபா என்னும் மறுபெயர்பெற்றவனுமாகிய யோசே என்பவன், ³⁷ தனக்கு உண்டாயிருந்த நிலத்தை விற்று, அதின் தொகையைக் கொண்டுவந்து, அப்போஸ்தலர்களுடைய பாதத்திலே வைத்தான்.

அத்தியாயம்- 5

¹ அன்னியா என்னும் பேருள்ள ஒருவனும், அவனுடைய மனைவியாகிய சப்பீராளும் தங்களுடைய சொத்துக்களை விற்றார்கள். ² தன் மனைவியின் சம்மதத்தோடு அவன் விற்ற பணத்திலே ஒரு பங்கை மறைத்துவைத்து, ஒரு பங்கைக் கொண்டுவந்து, அப்போஸ்தலர்களுடைய பாதத்திலே வைத்தான். ³ பேதுரு அவனை நோக்கி: அன்னியாவே, சொத்தை விற்றதில் ஒரு பங்கை மறைத்துவைத்து, பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவரிடத்தில் பொய்சொல்லும்படி, சாத்தான் உன் இருதயத்தை நிரப்பினதென்ன? ⁴ அதை விற்கும் முன்னே அது உன்னுடையதாயிருக்கவில்லையோ? அதை விற்றப்பின்பும் அதின் கிரயப்பணம் உன்னிடத்திலிருக்கவில்லையோ? நீ உன் இருதயத்திலே இப்படிப்பட்ட எண்ணம் கொண்டதென்ன? நீ மனிதனிடத்தில் இல்லை, தேவனிடத்தில் பொய்சொன்னாய் என்றான். ⁵ அன்னியா இந்த வார்த்தைகளைக் கேட்டவுடனே, கீழே விழுந்து மரித்துப்போனான். இவைகளைக் கேள்விப்பட்ட எல்லோருக்கும் மிகுந்த பயமுண்டானது. ⁶ வாலிபர்கள் எழுந்து, அவனைத் துணியில் சுற்றி, வெளியே எடுத்துக்கொண்டுபோய், அடக்கம்பண்ணினார்கள். ⁷ ஏறக்குறைய மூன்று மணி நேரத்திற்குப்பின்பு, அவனுடைய மனைவி நடந்ததை அறியாமல், உள்ளே வந்தாள். ⁸ பேதுரு அவளை நோக்கி: நிலத்தை இவ்வளவிற்குத்தான் விற்றீர்களா என்று எனக்குச் சொல் என்றான். அவள்: ஆம், இவ்வளவிற்குத்தான் என்றாள். ⁹ பேதுரு அவளை நோக்கி: கர்த்தருடைய ஆவியைச் சோதிக்கிறதற்கு நீங்கள் ஒருமனப்பட்டுத்தென்ன? இதோ, உன் கணவனை அடக்கம்பண்ணினவர்களுடைய கால்கள் வாசற்படியிலே வந்திருக்கிறது, உன்னையும் வெளியே கொண்டுபோவார்கள் என்றான். ¹⁰ உடனே அவள் அவனுடைய பாதத்தில் விழுந்து மரித்துப்போனாள். வாலிபர்கள் உள்ளே வந்து, அவள் மரித்துப்போனதைக் கண்டு அவளை வெளியே எடுத்துக்கொண்டுபோய், அவளுடைய கணவனருகே அடக்கம்பண்ணினார்கள். ¹¹ சபையாரெல்லோருக்கும், இவைகளைக் கேள்விப்பட்ட மற்ற எல்லோருக்கும், மிகுந்த பயமுண்டானது.

¹² அப்போஸ்தலர்களுடைய கைகளினாலே அநேக அடையாளங்களும் அற்புதங்களும் மக்களுக்குள்ளே செய்யப்பட்டது. சபையாரெல்லோரும் ஒருமனப்பட்டு சாலொமோனுடைய மண்டபத்தில் கூடியிருந்தார்கள். ¹³ மற்றவர்களில் ஒருவரும் அவர்களோடு சேரத் துணியவில்லை. ஆனாலும் மக்கள் அவர்களைப் புகழ்ந்தார்கள். ¹⁴ அநேக ஆண்களும், பெண்களும் விசுவாசமுள்ளவர்களாகி கர்த்தரிடத்தில் அதிகமதிகமாகச் சேர்க்கப்பட்டார்கள். ¹⁵ சுகவீனமானவர்களைப் படுக்கைகளின்மேலும் கட்டில்களின்மேலும் கிடத்தி, பேதுரு நடந்துபோகும்போது அவனுடைய நிழலாவது அவர்களில் சிலர்மேல் படும்படிக்கு, அவர்களை வெளியே வீதிகளில் கொண்டுவிட்டு வைத்தார்கள். ¹⁶ சுற்றுப்பட்டணங்களிலுமிருந்து திரளான மக்கள் சுகவீனமானவர்களையும் அசுத்தஆவிகளால் துன்புறுத்தப்பட்டவர்களையும் எருசலேமுக்குக் கொண்டுவிந்தார்கள்; அவர்களெல்லோரும் குணமாக்கப்பட்டார்கள்.

¹⁷ அப்பொழுது பிரதான ஆசாரியனும் அவனுடனே இருந்த சதுசேய சமயத்தினர் அனைவரும் எழும்பி, பொறாமையினால் நிறைந்து, ¹⁸ அப்போஸ்தலர்களைப் பிடித்து, பொதுவான சிறைச்சாலையிலே வைத்தார்கள். ¹⁹ கர்த்தருடைய தூதன் இரவிலே சிறைச்சாலையின் கதவுகளைத் திறந்து, அவர்களை வெளியே கொண்டுவிட்டு: ²⁰ நீங்கள் போய், தேவாலயத்திலே நின்று, இந்த ஜீவனுள்ள வார்த்தைகள் எல்லாவற்றையும் மக்களுக்குச் சொல்லுங்கள் என்றான். ²¹ அவர்கள் அதைக்கேட்டு, அதிகாலமே தேவாலயத்தில் பிரவேசித்து போதகம்பண்ணினார்கள். பிரதான ஆசாரியனும் அவனுடனே இருந்தவர்களும் வந்து, ஆலோசனைச் சங்கத்தினரையும் இஸ்ரவேல் கோத்திரத்தின் மூப்பர்களெல்லோரையும் வரவழைத்து, அப்போஸ்தலர்களை அழைத்துவரும்படி சிறைச்சாலைக்கு அதிகாரிகளை அனுப்பினார்கள். ²² அதிகாரிகள் போய், சிறைச்சாலையிலே அவர்களைக் காணாமல், திரும்பிவந்து: ²³ சிறைச்சாலை மிகுந்த பத்திரமாகப் பூட்டப்பட்டிருக்கவும், காவல்காரர்கள் வெளியே கதவுகளுக்கு முன் நிற்கவும் கண்டோம்; திறந்தபொழுதோ உள்ளே ஒருவரையும் காணோம் என்று அறிவித்தார்கள். ²⁴ இந்தச் செய்தியை ஆசாரியனும் தேவாலயத்தைக் காக்கிற படைத்தலைவனும் பிரதான ஆசாரியர்களும் கேட்டபொழுது, இது என்னமாய் முடியுமோ என்று, அவர்களைக்குறித்துக் கலக்கமடைந்தார்கள். ²⁵ அப்பொழுது ஒருவன் வந்து: இதோ, நீங்கள் காவலில் வைத்த மனிதர்கள் தேவாலயத்திலே நின்று மக்களுக்குப் போதகம்பண்ணுகிறார்கள் என்று அவர்களுக்கு அறிவித்தான். ²⁶ உடனே படைத்தலைவன் அதிகாரிகளோடுகூடப்போய், மக்கள் கல்லெறிவார்களென்று பயந்ததினால், பலவந்தம்பண்ணாமல் அவர்களை அழைத்துக்கொண்டுவிந்தான். ²⁷ அப்படி அழைத்துக்கொண்டுவிந்து, ஆலோசனைச் சங்கத்திற்கு முன்பாக நிறுத்தினார்கள். அப்பொழுது பிரதான ஆசாரியன் அவர்களை நோக்கி: ²⁸ நீங்கள் இயேசுவின் நாமத்தைக்குறித்து போதகம்பண்ணக்கூடாது என்று நாங்கள் உங்களுக்கு உறுதியாகக் கட்டளையிடவில்லையா? அப்படியிருந்தும், இதோ, எருசலேமை உங்களுடைய போதகத்தினாலே நிரப்பி, அந்த மனிதனுடைய இரத்தப்பழியை எங்கள்மேல்

சுமத்தவேண்டுமென்றிருக்கிறீர்கள் என்று சொன்னான். ²⁹ அதற்கு பேதுருவும் மற்ற அப்போஸ்தலர்களும்: மனிதர்களுக்குக் கீழ்ப்படிகிறதைவிட தேவனுக்குக் கீழ்ப்படிகிறதே அவசியமாக இருக்கிறது. ³⁰ நீங்கள் சிலுவையில் அறைந்து கொலைசெய்த இயேசுவை நம்முடைய முற்பிதாக்களின் தேவன் எழுப்பி, ³¹ இஸ்ரவேலுக்கு மனந்திரும்புதலையும் பாவமன்னிப்பையும் கொடுப்பதற்காக, அவரை அதிபதியாகவும் இரட்சகராகவும் தமது வலது கரத்தினாலே உயர்த்தினார். ³² இந்தச் செய்திகளைக்குறித்து நாங்கள் அவருக்குச் சாட்சிகளாக இருக்கிறோம்; தேவன் தமக்குக் கீழ்ப்படிகிறவர்களுக்குக் கொடுத்த பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவரும் சாட்சி என்றார்கள். ³³ அதை அவர்கள் கேட்டபொழுது, மிகுந்த கோபமடைந்து, அவர்களைக் கொலைசெய்யும்படிக்கு யோசனைபண்ணினார்கள். ³⁴ அப்பொழுது அனைத்து மக்களாலும் கனம்பெற்ற வேதபண்டிதர் கமாலியேல் என்னும் பெயர்கொண்ட ஒரு பரிசேயன் ஆலோசனைச் சங்கத்தில் எழுந்திருந்து, அப்போஸ்தலர்களைக் கொஞ்சநேரம் வெளியே கொண்டுபோகச் சொல்லி, ³⁵ சங்கத்தினரை நோக்கி: இஸ்ரவேலர்களே, இந்த மனிதர்களுக்கு நீங்கள் செய்யப்போகிறதைக்குறித்து எச்சரிக்கையாக இருங்கள். ³⁶ ஏனென்றால், இந்த நாட்களுக்கு முன்னே தெயுதாஸ் என்பவன் எழுப்பி, தன்னை ஒரு பெரியவனாகப் பாராட்டினான்; ஏறக்குறைய நானூறுபேர் அவனிடத்தில் சேர்ந்தார்கள்; அவன் மரித்துப்போனான்; அவனை நம்பின அனைவரும் சிதறிப்போனார்கள். ³⁷ அவனுக்குப்பின்பு, மக்களைக் கணக்கெடுக்கும் நாட்களிலே, கலிலேயனாகிய யூதாஸ் என்பவன் எழுப்பி, தன்னைப் பின்பற்றும்படி அநேக மக்களை இழுத்தான்; அவனும் மரித்துப்போனான்; அவனை நம்பியிருந்த அனைவரும் சிதறிப்போனார்கள். ³⁸ இப்பொழுது நான் உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறது என்னவென்றால் இந்த மனிதர்களுக்கு ஒன்றும் செய்யாமல் இவர்களை விட்டுவிடுங்கள். இந்த யோசனையும் இந்தச் செயல்களும் மனிதர்களால் உண்டாயிருந்ததானால் அழிந்துபோகும்; ³⁹ தேவனால் உண்டாயிருந்ததேயானால், அதை அழித்துவிட உங்களால் முடியாது; தேவனோடு போர் செய்யாதவர்களாக இருக்கும்படிக்குப் பார்த்துக்கொள்ளுங்கள் என்றான். ⁴⁰ அப்பொழுது அவர்கள் அவனுடைய யோசனைக்கு உடன்பட்டு, அப்போஸ்தலர்களை வரவழைத்து, அடித்து, இயேசுவின் நாமத்தைக்குறித்துப் பேசக்கூடாதென்று கட்டளையிட்டு, அவர்களை விடுதலையாக்கினார்கள். ⁴¹ அவருடைய நாமத்துக்காக தாங்கள் அவமானமடைவதற்குத் தகுதியானவர்களாக எண்ணப்பட்டபடியினால், சந்தோஷமாக ஆலோசனைச் சங்கத்தைவிட்டுப் புறப்பட்டுப்போய், ⁴² தினந்தோறும் தேவாலயத்திலேயும் வீடுகளிலேயும் இடைவிடாமல் உபதேசம்பண்ணி இயேசுவே கிறிஸ்து என்று பிரசங்கித்தார்கள்.

அத்தியாயம்- 6

¹ அந்த நாட்களிலே, சீடர்களின் எண்ணிக்கை அதிகமானபோது, கிரேக்கர்களானவர்கள், தங்களுடைய விதவைகள் அன்றாட பராமரிப்பில் சரியாக பராமரிக்கப்படவில்லையென்று, எபிரெயர்களுக்கு விரோதமாக முறுமுறுத்தார்கள். ² அப்பொழுது பன்னிரண்டு சீடர்களும் மற்ற சீடர்கள் கூட்டத்தை வரவழைத்து: நாங்கள் தேவவசனத்தைப் போதிக்காமல், பந்திவிசாரிப்பு செய்வது தகுதியல்ல. ³ ஆதலால் சகோதரர்களே, பரிசுத்த ஆவியும், ஞானமும், நற்சாட்சியும் பெற்றிருக்கிற ஏழுபேரை உங்களில் தெரிந்துகொள்ளுங்கள்; அவர்களை இந்த வேலைக்காக நியமிப்போம். ⁴ நாங்களோ ஜெபம்பண்ணுவதிலும் தேவவசனத்தைப் போதிப்பதிலும் இடைவிடாமல் உறுதியாகத் தரித்திருப்போம் என்றார்கள். ⁵ இந்த யோசனை சபையாரெல்லோருக்கும் பிரியமாக இருந்தது. அப்பொழுது விசுவாசமும் பரிசுத்த ஆவியும் நிறைந்தவனாகிய ஸ்தேவானையும், பிலிப்பையும், பிரொகோரையும், நிக்கானோரையும், தீமோனையும், பர்மெனாவையும், யூத மதத்தைச் சேர்ந்தவனான அந்தியோகியா பட்டணத்தானாகிய நிக்கொலாவையும் தெரிந்துகொண்டு, ⁶ அவர்களை அப்போஸ்தலர்களுக்கு முன்பாக நிறுத்தினார்கள். இவர்கள் ஜெபம்பண்ணி, அவர்கள்மேல் கரங்களை வைத்தார்கள். ⁷ தேவவசனம் அதிகமாகப் பரவியது; சீடருடைய எண்ணிக்கை எருசலேமில் மிகவும் பெருகியது; ஆசாரியர்களில் அநேகர் விசுவாசத்திற்குக் கீழ்ப்படிந்தார்கள்.

⁸ ஸ்தேவான் விசுவாசத்தினாலும் வல்லமையினாலும் நிறைந்தவனாக மக்களுக்குள்ளே பெரிய அற்புதங்களையும் அடையாளங்களையும் செய்தான். ⁹ அப்பொழுது லிபர்த்தீனர் என்னப்பட்டவர்களின் ஆலயத்தைச் சேர்ந்தவர்களிலும், சிரேனே பட்டணத்தாரிலும், அலெக்சந்திரியா பட்டணத்தாரிலும், சிலிசியா நாட்டாரிலும், ஆசியா தேசத்தாரிலும் சிலர் எழும்பி, ஸ்தேவானோடு வாக்குவாதம்பண்ணினார்கள். ¹⁰ அவன் பேசின ஞானத்தையும் ஆவியையும் எதிர்த்துநிற்க அவர்களால் முடியாமல்போனது. ¹¹ அப்பொழுது அவர்கள்: மோசேக்கும் தேவனுக்கும் எதிராக இவன் அவதூறான வார்த்தைகளைப் பேசுவதைக் கேட்டோம் என்று சொல்லச்சொல்லி மனிதர்களைத் தூண்டிவிட்டு; ¹² மக்களையும் மூப்பர்களையும் வேதபண்டிதரையும் ஏவி; அவன்மேல் பாய்ந்து, அவனைப் பிடித்து, ஆலோசனைச் சங்கத்தினர்களுக்கு முன்பாக இழுத்துக்கொண்டுபோய்; ¹³ பொய்ச்சாட்சிகளையும் நிறுத்தினார்கள். இவர்கள்: இந்த மனிதன் இந்தப் பரிசுத்த இடத்திற்கும் வேதப்பிரமாணத்திற்கும் எதிராக அவதூறான வார்த்தைகளையே எப்பொழுதும் பேசுகிறான்; ¹⁴ எப்படியென்றால், நசரேயனாகிய அந்த இயேசு இந்த இடத்தை அழித்துப்போட்டு, மோசே நமக்குக் கொடுத்த வழக்கங்களை மாற்றுவானென்று இவன் சொல்வதைக் கேட்டோம் என்றார்கள். ¹⁵ ஆலோசனைச் சங்கத்தில் உட்கார்ந்திருந்த அனைவரும் அவனை உற்றுப்பார்த்து, அவனுடைய முகம் தேவதூதனுடைய முகத்தைப்போல இருப்பதைக் கண்டார்கள்.

அத்தியாயம்- 7

¹ பிரதான ஆசாரியன் அவனை நோக்கி: காரியம் இப்படியா இருக்கிறது என்று கேட்டான். ² அதற்கு அவன்: சகோதரர்களே, தகப்பன்மார்களே, கேளுங்கள். நம்முடைய முற்பிதாவாகிய ஆபிரகாம் காரானூரிலே குடியிருக்கிறதற்கு முன்பே மெசொப்பொத்தாமியா நாட்டிலே இருக்கும்போது மகிமையின் தேவன் அவனுக்குத் தரிசனமாகி: ³ நீ உன் தேசத்தையும் உன் இனத்தையும்விட்டுப் புறப்பட்டு, நான் உனக்குக் காண்பிக்கும் தேசத்திற்குப் போ என்றார். ⁴ அப்பொழுது அவன் கல்தேயர் தேசத்தைவிட்டுப் புறப்பட்டு, காரானூரிலே குடியிருந்தான். அவனுடைய தகப்பன் மரித்தபின்பு, அந்த இடத்தைவிட்டு நீங்கள் இப்பொழுது குடியிருக்கிற இந்த தேசத்திற்கு அவனை அழைத்துக்கொண்டுவந்து குடியிருக்கும்படி செய்தார். ⁵ இதிலே ஒரு அடி நிலத்தையாவது அவனுக்கு சொத்தாகக் கொடுக்காமல், அவனுக்குப் பிள்ளையில்லாதிருக்கும்போது: உனக்கும் உனக்குப் பின்வரும் உன் சந்ததிக்கும் இதை சொத்தாகத் தருவேன் என்று அவனுக்கு வாக்குத்தத்தம்பண்ணினார். ⁶ அப்படியே, தேவன் அவனை நோக்கி: உன் சந்ததியார் வேறு தேசத்தில் குடியிருப்பார்கள்; அந்த தேசத்தார் அவர்களை அடிமைகளாக்கி, நானூறு வருடங்கள் துன்பப்படுத்துவார்கள். ⁷ அவர்களை அடிமைப்படுத்தும் மக்களை நான் தண்டிப்பேன். அதற்குப்பின்பு அவர்கள் புறப்பட்டுவந்து இந்த இடத்திலே எனக்கு ஆராதனை செய்வார்கள் என்றார். ⁸ மேலும் விருத்தசேதன உடன்படிக்கையையும் அவனுக்கு ஏற்படுத்தினார். அந்தப்படியே அவன் ஈசாக்கைப் பெற்றபோது, எட்டாம் நாளிலே அவனுக்கு விருத்தசேதனம்பண்ணினான். ஈசாக்கு யாக்கோபையும், யாக்கோபு பன்னிரண்டு கோத்திரப்பிதாக்களையும் பெற்றார்கள். ⁹ அந்தக் கோத்திரப்பிதாக்கள் பொறாமைகொண்டு யோசேப்பை எகிப்துக்குக் கொண்டுபோகும்படியாக விற்றுப்போட்டார்கள். ¹⁰ தேவனோ அவனோடிருந்து, எல்லா உபத்திரவங்களில் இருந்தும் அவனை விடுவித்து, எகிப்தின் ராஜாவாகிய பார்வோனிடம் அவனுக்கு தயவையும் ஞானத்தையும் அருளினார்; அந்த ராஜா அவனை எகிப்துதேசத்திற்கும் தன் வீடு அனைத்திற்கும் அதிகாரியாக ஏற்படுத்தினான். ¹¹ பின்பு எகிப்து கானான் என்னும் தேசங்களிலெங்கும் பஞ்சமும் அதிக வருத்தமும் உண்டாகி, நம்முடைய முற்பிதாக்களுக்கு ஆகாரம் கிடைக்காமல்போனது. ¹² அப்பொழுது எகிப்திலே தானியம் உண்டு என்று யாக்கோபு கேள்விப்பட்டு, யோசேப்புடைய மூத்த சகோதரர்களை முதல்முறை அனுப்பினான். ¹³ இரண்டாம்முறை யோசேப்பு தன்னுடைய சகோதரர்களுக்குத் தன்னைத் தெரியப்படுத்தினான். யோசேப்புடைய வம்சமும் பார்வோனுக்குத் தெரியவந்தது. ¹⁴ பின்பு யோசேப்பு, தன்னுடைய தகப்பன் யாக்கோபையும் தன்னுடைய இனத்தார் எழுபத்தைந்துபேரையும் அழைத்துவரும்படி அனுப்பினான். ¹⁵ அந்தப்படி யாக்கோபு எகிப்துக்குப் போனான். அவனும் நம்முடைய முற்பிதாக்களும் மரித்து, ¹⁶ அங்கேயிருந்து சீகேமுக்குக் கொண்டுவரப்பட்டு, ஆபிரகாம் சீகேமின் தகப்பனாகிய ஏமோருடைய சந்ததியாரிடத்தில் விலைக்கு வாங்கியிருந்த கல்லறையில் வைக்கப்பட்டார்கள். ¹⁷ ஆபிரகாமுக்கு தேவன் ஆணையிட்டு அருளின வாக்குத்தத்தம் நிறைவேறும் நேரம் நெருங்கியபோது, ¹⁸ யோசேப்பைத் தெரியாத வேறொரு ராஜா தோன்றின காலம்வரையிலும், மக்கள் எகிப்திலே பலுகிப் பெருகினார்கள். ¹⁹ அவன் நம்முடைய மக்களை வஞ்சகமாக நடப்பித்து, நம்முடைய முற்பிதாக்களின் குழந்தைகள் உயிரோடிராதபடிக்கு அவர்கள் அவைகளை வெளியே போட்டுவிடும்படி செய்து, அவர்களை உபத்திரவப்படுத்தினான். ²⁰ அக்காலத்திலே மோசே பிறந்து, மிகுந்த அழகுள்ளவனாக இருந்து, மூன்று மாதங்கள் தன் தகப்பன் வீட்டிலே வளர்க்கப்பட்டான். ²¹ அவன் வீட்டிற்கு வெளியே போட்டுவிடப்பட்டபோது, பார்வோனுடைய மகள் அவனை எடுத்துத் தனக்குப் பிள்ளையாக வளர்த்தாள். ²² மோசே எகிப்தியருடைய எல்லா சாஸ்திரங்களிலும் கற்பிக்கப்பட்டு, வாக்கிலும் செய்கையிலும் வல்லவனானான். ²³ அவனுக்கு நாற்பது வயதானபோது, இஸ்ரவேலின் பிள்ளைகளாகிய தன்னுடைய சகோதரர்களைக் கண்டு சந்திக்கும்படி அவனுடைய இருதயத்தில் தோன்றியது. ²⁴ அப்பொழுது அவர்களில் ஒருவன் அநியாயமாக நடத்தப்படுகிறதை அவன் கண்டு, அவனுக்குத் துணையாக இருந்து, எகிப்தியனை வெட்டி, துன்பப்பட்டவனுக்கு நியாயம் செய்தான். ²⁵ தன்னுடைய கையினாலே தேவன் தங்களுக்கு விடுதலையைத் தருவார் என்பதைத் தன்னுடைய சகோதரர்கள் தெரிந்துகொள்வார்களென்று அவன் நினைத்தான்; அவர்களோ அதை தெரிந்துகொள்ளவில்லை. ²⁶ மறுநாளிலே சண்டைபண்ணிக்கொண்டிருக்கிற இரண்டுபேரை அவன் கண்டு: மனிதர்களே, நீங்கள் சகோதரர்களாக இருக்கிறீர்கள்; ஒருவருக்கொருவர் அநியாயம் செய்கிறது என்ன என்று, அவர்களைச் சமாதானப்படுத்தும்படி பேசினான். ²⁷ ஆனால் மற்றவனுக்கு அநியாயஞ்செய்தவன் அவனைப் பிடித்துத் தள்ளி: எங்கள்மேல் அதிகாரியாகவும், நியாயாதிபதியாகவும் உன்னை நியமித்தவன் யார்? ²⁸ நேற்று நீ அந்த எகிப்தியனைக் கொன்றதுபோல என்னையும் கொன்றுபோட நினைக்கிறாயோ என்றான். ²⁹ இந்த வார்த்தையினிமித்தம் மோசே ஓடிப்போய், மீதியான் தேசத்திலே வசித்து வந்தான்; அங்கே இருக்கும்போது அவனுக்கு இரண்டு குமாரர்கள் பிறந்தார்கள். ³⁰ நாற்பது வருடங்கள் முடிந்தபின்பு, சீனாய்மலையின் வனாந்திரத்திலே கர்த்தருடைய தூதன் முட்செடி எரிகிற அக்கினிஜ்வாலையிலே அவனுக்குத் தரிசனமானார். ³¹ மோசே அந்தத் தரிசனத்தைக் கண்டு,

அதிசயப்பட்டு, அதை உற்றுப்பார்க்கும்படி அருகில் வரும்போது: ³² நான் ஆபிரகாமின் தேவனும் ஈசாக்கின் தேவனும் யாக்கோபின் தேவனுமாகிய உன் முற்பிதாக்களுடைய தேவனாக இருக்கிறேன் என்று கர்த்தர் உரைத்த சத்தம் அவனுக்குக் கேட்டது. அப்பொழுது மோசே நடுக்கமடைந்து, உற்றுப்பார்க்கத் துணிச்சல் இல்லாமலிருந்தான். ³³ பின்னும் கர்த்தர் அவனை நோக்கி: உன் பாதங்களிலிருக்கிற காலணிகளைக் கழற்றிப்போடு; நீ நிற்கிற இடம் பரிசுத்த பூமியாக இருக்கிறது. ³⁴ எகிப்திலிருக்கிற என் மக்களின் உபத்திரவத்தை நான் கண்டு, அவர்கள் பெருமூச்சைக்கேட்டு, அவர்களை விடுவிக்கும்படி இறங்கினேன்; ஆகவே, நீ வா, நான் உன்னை எகிப்திற்கு அனுப்புவேன் என்றார். ³⁵ உன்னை அதிகாரியாகவும் நியாயாதிபதியாகவும் நியமித்தவன் யார் என்று சொல்லி அவர்கள் நிராகரித்த இந்த மோசேயைத்தான் தேவன், முட்செடியில் அவனுக்குத் தரிசனமான தூதனாலே தலைவனாகவும் மீட்பனாகவும் அனுப்பினார். ³⁶ இவனே அவர்களை அங்கேயிருந்து அழைத்துக்கொண்டுவந்து, எகிப்து தேசத்திலேயும் செங்கடலிலேயும், நாற்பது வருடகாலமாக வனாந்திரத்திலேயும், அற்புதங்களையும் அடையாளங்களையும் செய்தான். ³⁷ இஸ்ரவேல் மக்களை நோக்கி: உங்களுடைய தேவனாகிய கர்த்தர் உங்களுடைய சகோதரர்களிலிருந்து என்னைப்போல ஒரு தீர்க்கதரிசியை உங்களுக்காக ஏற்படுத்துவார், அவர் சொல்வதை கேட்பீர்களாக என்று சொன்னவனும் இந்த மோசேயே. ³⁸ சீனாய்மலையில் தன்னோடு பேசின தூதனோடும் நம்முடைய முற்பிதாக்களோடும் வனாந்திரத்தில் இருந்தவனும், நமக்குக் கொடுக்கும்படி ஜீவவார்த்தைகளைப் பெற்றவனும் இவனே. ³⁹ இவனுக்கு நம்முடைய முற்பிதாக்கள் கீழ்ப்படிய மனமில்லாமல், இவனைத் தள்ளிவிட்டு, தங்களுடைய இருதயங்களில் எகிப்துக்குத் திரும்பி, ⁴⁰ ஆரோனை நோக்கி: எகிப்துதேசத்திலிருந்து எங்களை அழைத்துக்கொண்டுவந்த அந்த மோசேக்கு என்ன ஆனதோ தெரியாது; ஆதலால் எங்களுக்கு முன்னேசெல்லும் தெய்வங்களை எங்களுக்கு உண்டுபண்ணும் என்று சொல்லி; ⁴¹ அந்த நாட்களில் ஒரு கன்றுக்குட்டியை உண்டுபண்ணி, அந்த விக்கிரகத்திற்குப் பலியிட்டு, தங்களுடைய கைவேலைகளில் மகிழ்ந்திருந்தார்கள். ⁴² அப்பொழுது தேவன் அவர்களைவிட்டு விலகி, வானத்தின் கோள்களுக்கு ஆராதனைசெய்ய அவர்களை ஒப்புக்கொடுத்தார். அதைக்குறித்து: இஸ்ரவேல் வம்சத்தாரே, நீங்கள் வனாந்திரத்திலிருந்த நாற்பது வருடங்கள்வரையில் காணிக்கைகளையும் பலிகளையும் எனக்குச் செலுத்தினீர்களோ என்றும், ⁴³ பணிந்துகொள்ளும்படி நீங்கள் உண்டாக்கின சொரூபங்களாகிய மோளோகினுடைய கூடாரத்தையும், உங்களுடைய தேவனாகிய ரெம்பான் என்னும் நட்சத்திர சொரூபத்தையும் சுமந்தீர்களே; ஆகவே, உங்களைப் பாபிலோனுக்கு அப்புறத்திலே குடிபோகப்பண்ணுவேன் என்றும் தீர்க்கதரிசிகளின் புத்தகத்தில் எழுதியிருக்கிறதே. ⁴⁴ மேலும் நீ பார்த்த மாதிரியின்படியே சாட்சியின் கூடாரத்தை உண்டுபண்ணு என்று மோசேயுடனே பேசினவர் கட்டளையிட்டபடி, அந்தக் கூடாரம் வனாந்திரத்திலே நம்முடைய முற்பிதாக்களோடு இருந்தது. ⁴⁵ மேலும், யோசுவாவோடுகூட நம்முடைய முற்பிதாக்கள் அதைப் பெற்றுக்கொண்டு, தேவன் அவர்களுக்கு முன்பாகத் துரத்திவிட்ட யூதரல்லாதவர்களுடைய தேசத்தை அவர்கள் கைப்பற்றிக்கொள்ளும்போது, அதை அந்த தேசத்திற்கு கொண்டுவந்து தாவீதின் நாள்வரை வைத்திருந்தார்கள். ⁴⁶ இவன் தேவனிடத்தில் தயவு பெற்றபடியினால், யாக்கோபின் தேவனுக்கு ஒரு ஆலயத்தைத் தான் கட்டவேண்டுமென்று விண்ணப்பம்பண்ணினான். ⁴⁷ சாலொமோனோ அவருக்கு ஆலயத்தைக் கட்டினான். ⁴⁸ ஆனாலும் உன்னதமானவர் கைகளினால் செய்யப்பட்ட ஆலயங்களில் வாசம்பண்ணுவதில்லை. ⁴⁹ வானம் எனக்குச் சிங்காசனமும் பூமி எனக்குப் பாதபடியுமாக இருக்கிறது; எனக்காக நீங்கள் எப்படிப்பட்ட வீட்டைக் கட்டுவீர்கள்; நான் தங்கியிருக்கத்தக்க இடம் எது; ⁵⁰ இவைகள் எல்லாவற்றையும் என்னுடைய கரம் உண்டாக்கவில்லையா என்று கர்த்தர் உரைக்கிறார் என்று தீர்க்கதரிசி சொல்லியிருக்கிறானே. ⁵¹ வணங்காக் கழுத்துள்ளவர்களே, இருதயத்திலும் காதுகளிலும் விருத்தசேதனம் பெறாதவர்களே, உங்களுடைய முற்பிதாக்களைப்போல நீங்களும் பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவருக்கு எப்பொழுதும் எதிர்த்துநிற்கிறீர்கள். ⁵² தீர்க்கதரிசிகளில் யாரை உங்களுடைய முற்பிதாக்கள் துன்பப்படுத்தாமல் இருந்தார்கள்? நீதிபரராகிய இயேசுவின் வருகையை முன்னறிவித்தவர்களையும் அவர்கள் கொலைசெய்தார்கள். இப்பொழுது நீங்கள் அவருக்குத் துரோகிகளும் அவரைக் கொலைசெய்த பாதகருமாக இருக்கிறீர்கள். ⁵³ தேவதூதர்களைக்கொண்டு நீங்கள் நியாயப்பிரமாணத்தைப் பெற்றிருந்தும், அதைக் கடைபிடிக்காமல்போனீர்கள் என்றான்.

⁵⁴ இவைகளை அவர்கள் கேட்டபொழுது மிகுந்த கோபமடைந்து, அவனைப் பார்த்துப் பல்லைக் கடித்தார்கள். ⁵⁵ அவன் பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவராலே நிறைந்தவனாக, வானத்தை அண்ணாந்துபார்த்து, தேவனுடைய மகிமையையும், தேவனுடைய வலதுபக்கத்தில் இயேசுவானவர் நிற்கிறதையும் பார்த்து: ⁵⁶ அதோ வானங்கள் திறந்திருக்கிறதையும், இயேசுவானவர் தேவனுடைய வலதுபக்கத்தில் நிற்கிறதையும் காண்கிறேன் என்றான். ⁵⁷ அப்பொழுது அவர்கள் உரத்த சத்தமாகக் கூக்குரலிட்டுத் தங்களுடைய காதுகளை அடைத்துக்கொண்டு, ஒன்றுசேர்ந்து அவன்மேல் பாய்ந்து, ⁵⁸ அவனை நகரத்திற்கு வெளியே தள்ளி, அவன் மீது கல்லெறிந்தார்கள். சாட்சிக்காரர்கள் தங்களுடைய ஆடைகளைக் கழற்றி, சவுல் என்னப்பட்ட ஒரு வாலிபனுடைய பாதத்தின் அருகே வைத்தார்கள். ⁵⁹ அப்பொழுது: கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுவே, என் ஆவியை ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளும் என்று ஸ்தேவான் தொழுதுகொள்ளும்போது, அவனைக்

கல்லெறிந்தார்கள். ⁶⁰ அவனோ, முழங்காற்படியிட்டு: ஆண்டவரே, இவர்கள்மேல் இந்தப்பாவத்தைச் சுமத்தாமல் இரும் என்று அதிக சத்தமிட்டுச் சொன்னான். இப்படிச் சொல்லி உயிரைவிட்டான்.

அத்தியாயம்- 8

¹ ஸ்தேவானைக் கொலைசெய்வதற்கு சவுலும் சம்மதித்திருந்தான். அந்த நாட்களிலே எருசலேமிலுள்ள சபைக்கு மிகுந்த துன்பம் உண்டானது. அப்போஸ்தலர்கள் தவிர, மற்ற எல்லோரும் யூதேயா சமாரியா நாடுகளில் சிதறப்பட்டுப்போனார்கள். ² தேவபக்தியுள்ள மனிதர்கள் ஸ்தேவானை எடுத்து அடக்கம்செய்து, அவனுக்காக மிகவும் துக்கம் அனுசரித்தார்கள். ³ சவுல் ஒவ்வொரு வீடாகப்புகுந்து, ஆண்களையும் பெண்களையும் இழுத்துக்கொண்டுபோய், சிறைப்பிடித்து சபையை அழித்துக்கொண்டிருந்தான்.

⁴ சிதறிப்போனவர்கள் எங்கும் சுற்றித்திரிந்து நற்செய்தியைப் போதித்துவந்தார்கள். ⁵ அப்பொழுது பிலிப்பு என்பவன் சமாரியாவிலுள்ள ஒரு பட்டணத்திற்குச் சென்று, அங்குள்ளவர்களுக்குக் கிறிஸ்துவைக்குறித்துப் போதித்தான். ⁶ பிலிப்பு செய்த அதிசயங்களை மக்கள் கேள்விப்பட்டு கண்டு, அவனால் சொல்லப்பட்டவைகளை ஒருமனப்பட்டு கவனித்தார்கள். ⁷ அநேகருக்குள் இருந்த அசுத்தஆவிகள் மிகுந்த சத்தமிட்டு அவர்களைவிட்டுப்போனது. அநேக கைகால்கள் செயலிலந்தவர்களும், நடக்க இயலாதவர்களும் சுகமாக்கப்பட்டார்கள். ⁸ அந்தப் பட்டணத்திலே மிகுந்த மகிழ்ச்சி உண்டானது.

⁹ சீமோன் என்ற ஒருவன் அந்தப் பட்டணத்திலே மாயவித்தை செய்து, தன்னை ஒரு பெரியவனென்று சொல்லி, சமாரியா நாட்டு மக்களைத் திகைக்கவைத்துக்கொண்டிருந்தான். ¹⁰ தெய்வத்தின் பெரிய சக்தி இவன்தான் என்று நினைத்து, சிறியோர் பெரியோர் எல்லோரும் அவனுடைய சொல்லைக்கேட்டு வந்தார்கள். ¹¹ அவன் நீண்ட நாட்களாக தன்னுடைய மாயவித்தைகளினாலே அவர்களைப் பிரமிக்கப்பண்ணினதினால் அவனை மதித்துவந்தார்கள். ¹² தேவனுடைய இராஜ்யத்திற்கும் இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவினுடைய நாமத்திற்கும் ஏற்றவைகளைக்குறித்து, பிலிப்பு போதித்ததை அவர்கள் விசுவாசித்தபோது, ஆண்களும் பெண்களும் ஞானஸ்நானம் பெற்றார்கள். ¹³ அப்பொழுது சீமோனும் விசுவாசித்து ஞானஸ்நானம் பெற்று, பிலிப்பைச் சேர்ந்துகொண்டு, அவனால் நடந்த அடையாளங்களையும் பெரிய அற்புதங்களையும் பார்த்து பிரமித்தான். ¹⁴ சமாரியர் தேவவசனத்தை ஏற்றுக்கொண்டதை எருசலேமிலுள்ள அப்போஸ்தலர்கள் கேள்விப்பட்டு, பேதுருவையும் யோவானையும் அவர்களிடத்திற்கு அனுப்பினார்கள். ¹⁵ இவர்கள் வந்தபொழுது அவர்களில் ஒருவரும் பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவரைப் பெறாமல் கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுவின் நாமத்தினாலே ஞானஸ்நானத்தைமட்டும் பெற்றிருந்தவர்களாகக் கண்டு, ¹⁶ அவர்கள் பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவரைப் பெற்றுக்கொள்ளும்படி அவர்களுக்காக ஜெபம்செய்து, ¹⁷ அவர்கள்மேல் கரங்களை வைத்தார்கள், அப்பொழுது அவர்கள் பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவரைப் பெற்றார்கள். ¹⁸ அப்போஸ்தலர்கள் தங்களுடைய கரங்களை அவர்கள்மேல் வைத்ததினால் பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவர் கொடுக்கப்படுகிறதை சீமோன் பார்த்தபோது, அவர்களிடத்தில் பணத்தைக் கொண்டுவந்து: ¹⁹ நான் எவன்மேல் என் கரங்களை வைக்கிறேனோ, அவனும் பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவரைப் பெறத்தக்கதாக எனக்கும் இந்த அதிகாரத்தைக் கொடுக்கவேண்டும் என்றான். ²⁰ பேதுரு அவனைப் பார்த்து: தேவனுடைய வரத்தை பணத்தினாலே சம்பாதித்துக்கொள்ளலாம் என்று நீ நினைத்தபடியால் உன் பணம் உன்னோடுகூட அழிந்து போகக்கடவது. ²¹ உன் இருதயம் தேவனுக்கு முன்பாகச் செம்மையாக இல்லாதபடியால், இந்த விஷயத்திலே உனக்குப் பங்குமில்லை பாகமுமில்லை. ²² ஆகவே, நீ உன் தீயகுணத்தைவிட்டு மனம்திரும்பி, தேவனை நோக்கி வேண்டிக்கொள்; ஒருவேளை உன் இருதயத்தின் எண்ணம் உனக்கு மன்னிக்கப்படலாம். ²³ நீ கசப்பான விஷத்திலும் பாவக்கட்டிலும் அகப்பட்டிருக்கிறதாகக் காண்கிறேன் என்றான். ²⁴ அதற்குச் சீமோன்: நீங்கள் சொன்ன காரியங்களில் ஒன்றும் எனக்கு சம்பவிக்காதபடிக்கு, எனக்காகக் கர்த்தரை வேண்டிக்கொள்ளுங்கள் என்றான். ²⁵ இவ்விதமாக அவர்கள் கர்த்தருடைய வார்த்தையைச் சாட்சியாக அறிவித்துச் சொன்னபின்பு, சமாரியருடைய அநேக கிராமங்களில் நற்செய்தியைப் போதித்து, எருசலேமுக்குத் திரும்பிவந்தார்கள்.

²⁶ பின்பு கர்த்தருடைய தூதன் பிலிப்பை நோக்கி: நீ எழுந்து, தெற்கு திசையாக எருசலேமிலிருந்து காசா பட்டணத்திற்குப் போகிற வனாந்திரப்பாதைவழியாகப் போ என்றான். ²⁷ அந்தப்படி அவன் எழுந்துபோனான். அப்பொழுது எத்தியோப்பியருடைய ராஜாத்தியாகிய கந்தாகே என்பவனுக்கு மந்திரியும் அவளுடைய பொக்கிஷமெல்லாவற்றிற்கும் தலைவனுமாக இருந்த எத்தியோப்பியனாகிய ஒருவன் தொழுதுகொள்ளும்படி எருசலேமுக்கு வந்திருந்து; ²⁸ ஊருக்குத் திரும்பிப்போகும்போது, தன் இரதத்திலே உட்கார்ந்து, ஏசாயா தீர்க்கதரிசியின் புத்தகத்தை வாசித்துக்கொண்டிருந்தான். ²⁹ ஆவியானவர்: நீ போய், அந்த இரதத்துடனே சேர்ந்துகொள் என்று பிலிப்புடனே சொன்னார். ³⁰ அப்பொழுது பிலிப்பு ஓடிப்போய்ச்சேர்ந்து, அவன் ஏசாயா தீர்க்கதரிசியின் புத்தகத்தை வாசிக்கிறதைக் கேட்டு: நீர் வாசிக்கிறவைகளின் கருத்து உமக்குப் புரிகிறதா என்றான். ³¹ அதற்கு அவன்: ஒருவன்

எனக்குப் புரியவைக்காவிட்டால் அது எனக்கு எப்படி புரியும் என்று சொல்லி; பிலிப்பை, தன்னுடனே ஏறி உட்காரும்படி வேண்டிக்கொண்டான். ³² அவன் வாசித்த வேதவாக்கியம் என்னவென்றால்: அவர் ஒரு ஆட்டைப்போல அடிக்கப்படுவதற்குக் கொண்டுபோகப்பட்டார்; மயிர் கத்தரிக்கிறவனுக்கு முன்பாகச் சத்தம்போடாத ஆட்டுக்குட்டியைப்போல அவர் தமது வாயைத் திறவாதிருந்தார். ³³ அவர் தம்மைத் தாழ்த்தினபோது அவருடைய நியாயம் எடுத்துப்போடப்பட்டது; அவருடைய ஜீவன் பூமியிலிருந்து எடுபட்டுப்போனது; அவருடைய வம்சத்தை யாராலே சொல்லிமுடியும் என்பதே. ³⁴ மந்திரி பிலிப்பை நோக்கி: தீர்க்கதரிசி யாரைக்குறித்து இதைச் சொல்லுகிறார்? தம்மைக்குறித்தோ, வேறொருவரைக்குறித்தோ? எனக்குச் சொல்லவேண்டும் என்று கேட்டுக்கொண்டான்.

³⁵ அப்பொழுது பிலிப்பு பேசத்தொடங்கி, இந்த வேதவாக்கியத்தை அடிப்படையாக வைத்து இயேசுவைக்குறித்து அவனுக்குப் போதித்தான். ³⁶ இவ்விதமாக அவர்கள் போய்க்கொண்டிருக்கும்போது, தண்ணீர் உள்ள ஒரு இடத்திற்கு வந்தார்கள். அப்பொழுது மந்திரி: இதோ, தண்ணீர் இருக்கிறதே, நான் ஞானஸ்நானம் பெறுகிறதற்குத் தடை என்ன என்றான். ³⁷ அதற்குப் பிலிப்பு: நீர் முழு இருதயத்தோடும் விசுவாசித்தால் தடையில்லை என்றான். அப்பொழுது அவன்: இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவை தேவனுடைய குமாரனென்று விசுவாசிக்கிறேன் என்று சொல்லி; ³⁸ இரதத்தை நிறுத்தச்சொன்னான். அப்பொழுது பிலிப்பும் மந்திரியும் தண்ணீரில் இறங்கினார்கள், பிலிப்பு அவனுக்கு ஞானஸ்நானம் கொடுத்தான். ³⁹ அவர்கள் தண்ணீரைவிட்டுக் கரையேறினபொழுது, கர்த்தருடைய ஆவியானவர் பிலிப்பைக் கொண்டுபோய்விட்டார். மந்திரி அதற்குப்பின்பு அவனைக் காணாமல், சந்தோஷத்தோடு தன் வழியே போனான். ⁴⁰ பிலிப்பு ஆசோத்திலே காணப்பட்டு, அந்த இடத்திலிருந்து பிரயாணம்பண்ணி, செசரியாவிற்கு வருகிறவரையில் அனைத்து பட்டணங்களிலும் நற்செய்தியைப் போதித்துக்கொண்டுவந்தான்.

அத்தியாயம்- 9

¹ சவுல் என்பவன் இன்னும் கர்த்தருடைய சீடர்களை பயமுறுத்திக் கொலைசெய்யும்படி பிரதான ஆசாரியனிடத்திற்குப்போய்; ² இந்த மார்க்கத்தாராகிய ஆண்களையாவது, பெண்களையாவது தான் கண்டுபிடித்தால், அவர்களைக் கட்டி எருசலேமுக்குக் கொண்டுவரும்படி, தமஸ்குவிலுள்ள ஜெப ஆலயங்களுக்கு உத்தரவுகளைக் கேட்டு வாங்கினான். ³ அவன் பயணமாகப்போய், தமஸ்குவிற்கு அருகில் வந்தபோது, திடீரென்று வானத்திலிருந்து ஒரு ஒளி அவனைச் சுற்றிப் பிரகாசித்தது; ⁴ அவன் தரையிலே விழுந்தான். அப்பொழுது: சவுலே, சவுலே, நீ என்னை ஏன் துன்பப்படுத்துகிறாய் என்று தன்னுடனே சொல்லுகிற ஒரு சத்தத்தைக் கேட்டான். ⁵ அதற்கு அவன்: ஆண்டவரே, நீர் யார்? என்றான். அதற்குக் கர்த்தர்: நீ துன்பப்படுத்துகிற இயேசு நானே; முள்ளில் உதைக்கிறது உனக்குக் கடினமாம் என்றார். ⁶ அவன் நடுங்கித் திகைத்து: ஆண்டவரே, நான் என்ன செய்ய பிரியமாக இருக்கிறீர் என்றான். அதற்குக் கர்த்தர்: நீ எழுந்து, பட்டணத்திற்குள்ளே போ, நீ செய்யவேண்டியது அங்கே உனக்குச் சொல்லப்படும் என்றார். ⁷ அவனுடனே கூடப் பயணம்பண்ணின மனிதர்கள் சத்தத்தைக் கேட்டும் ஒருவரையும் காணாமல் செய்வதறியாமல் பிரமித்து நின்றார்கள். ⁸ சவுல் தரையிலிருந்தெழுந்து, தன் கண்களைத் திறந்தபோது ஒருவரையும் காணவில்லை. அப்பொழுது கையைப் பிடித்து, அவனைத் தமஸ்குவிற்குக் கூட்டிக்கொண்டுபோனார்கள். ⁹ அவன் மூன்று நாட்கள் பார்வையில்லாதவனாக ஆகாரம் சாப்பிடாமலும், தண்ணீர் குடிக்காமலும் இருந்தான். ¹⁰ தமஸ்குவிலே அன்னியா என்னும் பேருள்ள ஒரு சீடன் இருந்தான். அவனுக்குக் கர்த்தர் தரிசனமாகி: அன்னியாவே, என்றார். அவன்: ஆண்டவரே, இதோ, அடியேன் என்றான். ¹¹ அப்பொழுது கர்த்தர்: நீ எழுந்து நேர்த்தெருவு என்னப்பட்ட தெருவிற்குப்போய், யூதாவின் வீட்டிலே தர்சுபட்டணத்தானாகிய சவுல் என்னும் பேருள்ள ஒருவனைத் தேடி; அவன் இப்பொழுது ஜெபம்பண்ணுகிறான்; ¹² அன்னியா என்னும் பேருள்ள ஒரு மனிதன் தன்னிடத்தில் வரவும், தான் பார்வையடையும்படி தன்மேல் கையை வைக்கவும் தரிசனம் கண்டான் என்றார். ¹³ அதற்கு அன்னியா: ஆண்டவரே, இந்த மனிதன் எருசலேமிலுள்ள உம்முடைய பரிசுத்தவான்களுக்கு எத்தனையோ தீங்குகளைச் செய்தானென்று அவனைக்குறித்து அநேகரால் கேள்விப்பட்டிருக்கிறேன். ¹⁴ இங்கேயும் உம்முடைய நாமத்தை ஆராதிக்கின்ற எல்லோரையும் கைதுசெய்யும்படி அவன் பிரதான ஆசாரியனிடத்தில் அதிகாரம் பெற்றிருக்கிறானே என்றான். ¹⁵ அதற்குக் கர்த்தர்: நீ போ; அவன் யூதரல்லாதவர்களுக்கும், ராஜாக்களுக்கும், இஸ்ரவேல் சந்ததிகளுக்கும் என்னுடைய நாமத்தை அறிவிக்கிறதற்காக நான் தெரிந்துகொண்ட நபராக இருக்கிறான். ¹⁶ அவன் என்னுடைய நாமத்தினிமித்தம் எவ்வளவு பாடுபடவேண்டுமென்பதை நான் அவனுக்குக் காண்பிப்பேன் என்றார். ¹⁷ அப்பொழுது அன்னியா போய், வீட்டிற்குள்ளே பிரவேசித்து, அவன்மேல் கையை வைத்து: சகோதரனாகிய சவுலே, நீ வந்த வழியிலே உனக்குத் தரிசனமான இயேசுவாகிய கர்த்தர், நீ பார்வையடையும்படிக்கும் பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவராலே நிரப்பப்படும்படிக்கும் என்னை அனுப்பினார் என்றான். ¹⁸ உடனே அவன் கண்களிலிருந்து மீன் செதில்கள் போன்றவைகள் விழுந்தது. அவன் பார்வையடைந்து, எழுந்திருந்து, ஞானஸ்நானம் பெற்றான்.

¹⁹ பின்பு அவன் உணவு சாப்பிட்டு பலப்பட்டான். சவுல் தமஸ்குவிலுள்ள சீடர்களுடனே சிலநாட்கள் இருந்து, ²⁰ தாமதமின்றி, கிறிஸ்து தேவனுடைய குமாரனென்று ஆலயங்களிலே போதித்தான். ²¹ கேட்டவர்களெல்லோரும் ஆச்சரியப்பட்டு: எருசலேமில் இயேசுவின் நாமத்தை ஆராதிக்கின்றவர்களை துன்புறுத்தி, இங்கேயும் அப்படிப்பட்டவர்களைக் கைதுசெய்து பிரதான ஆசாரியர்களிடத்தில் கொண்டுபோகும்படி வந்தவன் இவனல்லவா என்றார்கள். ²² சவுல் அதிகமாகத் திடீன்கொண்டு, இவரே கிறிஸ்துவென்று தொடர்ந்துப் பேசி, தமஸ்குவில் குடியிருக்கிற யூதர்களைக் கலங்கப்பண்ணினான். ²³ சிலநாட்கள் சென்றபின்பு, யூதர்கள் அவனைக் கொலைசெய்யும்படி ஆலோசனைபண்ணினார்கள். ²⁴ அவர்களுடைய யோசனை சவுலுக்குத் தெரியவந்தது. அவனைக் கொலைசெய்யும்படி அவர்கள் இரவும் பகலும் கோட்டைவாசல்களைக் காத்துக்கொண்டிருந்தார்கள். ²⁵ சீடர்கள் இராத்திரியிலே அவனைக் கூட்டிக்கொண்டுபோய், ஒரு கூடையிலே வைத்து, மதில்வழியாக இறக்கிவிட்டார்கள். ²⁶ சவுல் எருசலேமுக்கு வந்து, சீடர்களோடு சேர்ந்துகொள்ளப்பார்த்தான்; அவர்கள் அவனைச் சீடனென்று நம்பாமல் எல்லோரும் அவனுக்குப் பயந்திருந்தார்கள். ²⁷ அப்பொழுது பரன்பா என்பவன் அவனைச் சேர்த்துக்கொண்டு, அப்போஸ்தலர்களிடத்தில் அழைத்துக்கொண்டுபோய், வழியிலே அவன் கர்த்தரைக் கண்ட விதத்தையும், அவர் அவனுடனே பேசினதையும், தமஸ்குவில் அவன் இயேசுவின் நாமத்தினாலே தைரியமாகப் பிரசங்கித்ததையும் அவர்களுக்கு விவரித்துச்சொன்னான். ²⁸ அதன்பின்பு அவன் எருசலேமிலே அவர்களிடத்தில் போக்கும் வரத்துமாக இருந்து; ²⁹ கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுவின் நாமத்தினாலே தைரியமாகப் பிரசங்கித்து, கிரேக்கர்களுடனே பேசி விவாதித்தான்; அவர்களோ அவனைக் கொலைசெய்ய வகைதேடினார்கள். ³⁰ சகோதரர்கள் அதை அறிந்து, அவனைச் செசரியாவிற்கு

அழைத்துக்கொண்டுபோய், தர்சுவிற்கு அனுப்பிவிட்டார்கள். ³¹ அப்பொழுது யூதேயா கலிலேயா சமாரியா நாடுகளிலெங்கும் சபைகள் சமாதானம் பெற்று, பக்திவளர்ச்சியடைந்து, கர்த்தருக்குப் பயப்படுகிற பயத்தோடும், பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவரின் ஆறுதலோடும் வளர்ந்து பெருகின.

³² பேதுரு போய் எல்லோரையும் சந்தித்துவரும்போது, அவன் லித்தா ஊரிலே குடியிருக்கிற பரிசுத்தவான்களிடத்திற்கும் போனான். ³³ அங்கே எட்டு வருடங்களாக கட்டிலின்மேல் கை, கால்கள் செயலிழந்து கிடந்த ஐனேயா என்னும் பேருள்ள ஒரு மனிதனைக் கண்டான். ³⁴ பேதுரு அவனைப் பார்த்து: ஐனேயாவே, இயேசுகிறிஸ்து உன்னைக் குணமாக்குகிறார்; நீ எழுந்து, உன் படுக்கையை நீயே போட்டுக்கொள் என்றான். உடனே அவன் எழுந்திருந்தான். ³⁵ லித்தாவிலும் சாரோனிலும் குடியிருந்தவர்களெல்லோரும் அவனைக் கண்டு, கர்த்தரிடத்தில் திரும்பினார்கள். ³⁶ யோப்பா பட்டணத்தில் உள்ள சீடர்களில், கிரேக்கு மொழியிலே தொற்காள் என்று அர்த்தங்கொள்ளும் தபீத்தாள் என்னும் பெயருடைய ஒரு பெண் இருந்தாள்; அவள் நல்லகாரியங்களையும் தருமங்களையும் மிகுதியாகச் செய்துகொண்டுவந்தாள். ³⁷ அந்த நாட்களிலே அவள் வியாதிப்பட்டு மரித்துப்போனாள். அவளைக் குளிப்பாட்டி, மேல்வீட்டிலே கிடத்திவைத்தார்கள். ³⁸ யோப்பா பட்டணம் லித்தா ஊருக்கு அருகிலிருந்தபடியினாலே, பேதுரு அந்த இடத்தில் இருக்கிறானென்று சீடர்கள் கேள்விப்பட்டு, தாமதமில்லாமல் தங்களிடத்தில் வரவேண்டும் என்று சொல்லும்படி இரண்டு மனிதர்களை அவனிடத்திற்கு அனுப்பினார்கள். ³⁹ பேதுரு எழுந்து, அவர்களோடு போனான். அவன் போய்ச் சேர்ந்தபொழுது, அவர்கள் அவனை மேல்வீட்டிற்கு அழைத்துக்கொண்டுபோனார்கள். அப்பொழுது விதவைகளெல்லோரும் அழுது, தொற்காள் தங்களோடு இருந்தபோது செய்திருந்த அங்கிகளையும், மற்ற ஆடைகளையும் காண்பித்து, அவனைச் சூழ்ந்துநின்றார்கள். ⁴⁰ பேதுரு எல்லோரையும் வெளியே போகச்செய்து, முழங்காற்படியிட்டு ஜெபப்பண்ணி, சடலத்தின் பக்கமாக திரும்பி: தபீத்தாளே, எழுந்திரு என்றான். அப்பொழுது அவள் தன் கண்களைத் திறந்து, பேதுருவைப் பார்த்து உட்கார்ந்தாள். ⁴¹ அவன் அவளுக்குக் கைகொடுத்து, அவளை எழுந்திருக்கப்பண்ணி, பரிசுத்தவான்களையும், விதவைகளையும் அழைத்து, அவளை உயிருள்ளவளாக அவர்களுக்குமுன் நிறுத்தினான். ⁴² இது யோப்பா பட்டணம் எங்கும் தெரியவந்தது. அப்பொழுது அநேகர் கர்த்தரிடத்தில் விசுவாசமுள்ளவர்களானார்கள். ⁴³ பின்பு அவன் யோப்பா பட்டணத்திலே தோல்பதனிகிறவனாகிய சீமோன் என்னும் ஒருவனிடத்தில் அநேகநாட்கள் தங்கியிருந்தான்.

அத்தியாயம்- 10

¹ இத்தாலியா இராணுவத்தில் நூறுபேர்கொண்ட படைப்பிரிவிற்கு கொர்நேலியு என்னும் பெயர்கொண்ட ஒரு மனிதன் தலைவனாக இருந்தான். அவன் செசரியா பட்டணத்தில் வாழ்ந்து வந்தான். ² அவன் தேவபக்தியுள்ளவனும் தன் குடும்பத்தாரோடும் தேவனுக்குப் பயந்தவனுமாக இருந்து, மக்களுக்கு அதிக தருமங்களைச் செய்து, எப்பொழுதும் தேவனை நோக்கி ஜெபம்பண்ணிக்கொண்டிருந்தான். ³ பிற்பகலில் ஏறக்குறைய மூன்று மணியளவில் தேவனுடைய தூதன் அவனிடத்தில் வந்து, கொர்நேலியுவே! என்று அழைத்ததை தெளிவாய் தரிசனம் கண்டு, ⁴ அவனை உற்றுப்பார்த்து, பயந்து: ஆண்டவரே, என்ன என்றான். அப்பொழுது அவன்: உன் ஜெபங்களும் உன் தருமங்களும் தேவனுக்கு நினைப்பூட்டுதலாக அவர் சமூகத்தில் வந்து சேர்ந்திருக்கிறது. ⁵ இப்பொழுது நீ யோப்பா பட்டணத்திற்கு மனிதர்களை அனுப்பி, பேதுரு என்று மறுபெயர்கொண்ட சீமோனை கூப்பிடு. ⁶ அவன் தோல்பதனிகிறவனாகிய சீமோன் என்னும் ஒருவனிடத்தில் தங்கியிருக்கிறான்; அவனுடைய வீடு கடலோரத்திலிருக்கிறது. நீ செய்யவேண்டியதை அவன் உனக்குச் சொல்லுவான் என்றான். ⁷ கொர்நேலியு தன்னோடு பேசின தேவதூதன் போனபின்பு, தன் வீட்டு மனிதர்களில் இரண்டுபேரையும் தன்னிடத்தில் வேலைசெய்கிற இராணுவ வீரர்களில் தேவபக்தியுள்ள ஒருவனையும் அழைத்து, ⁸ எல்லாவற்றையும் அவர்களுக்கு விளக்கிச் சொல்லி, அவர்களை யோப்பா பட்டணத்திற்கு அனுப்பினான்.

⁹ மறுநாளிலே அவர்கள் பயணப்பட்டு, அந்தப் பட்டணத்திற்கு அருகில் வரும்போது, பேதுரு மதியம் பன்னிரண்டு மணியளவிலே ஜெபம்பண்ணும்படி மேல்வீட்டில் ஏறினான். ¹⁰ அவன் அதிக பசியடைந்து சாப்பிட விரும்பினான்; அதற்கு அவர்கள் ஆயத்தம்பண்ணும்போது, அவன் தரிசனத்தில், ¹¹ வானம் திறந்திருக்கிறதாகவும், நான்கு முனைகளும் கட்டப்பட்ட பெரிய விரிப்பு ஒருவிதமான கூடுபோல தன்னிடத்தில் இறங்கித் தரையில் விடப்பட்டிருக்கிறதாகவும், ¹² அதிலே பூமியிலுள்ள எல்லாவிதமான நான்குகால் ஜீவன்களும், காட்டுமிருகங்களும், ஊரும் பிராணிகளும், ஆகாயத்துப் பறவைகளும் இருக்கிறதாகவும் கண்டான். ¹³ அல்லாமலும்: பேதுருவே, எழுந்திரு, அடித்து சாப்பிடு என்று அவனுக்குச் சொல்லும் ஒரு சத்தம் கேட்டது. ¹⁴ அதற்குப் பேதுரு: அப்படியல்ல, ஆண்டவரே, தீட்டும் அசுத்தமுமாக இருக்கிற எதையும் நான் எப்போதும் சாப்பிட்டதில்லை என்றான். ¹⁵ அப்பொழுது: தேவன் சுத்தமாக்கினவைகளை நீ தீட்டாக நினைக்காதே என்று இரண்டாம்முறையும் அவனுக்கு சத்தம் கேட்டது. ¹⁶ மூன்றாம்முறையும் அப்படியே கேட்டது. பின்பு அந்தக் கூடு திரும்ப வானத்திற்கு எடுத்துக்கொள்ளப்பட்டது. ¹⁷ அப்பொழுது பேதுரு, தான் கண்ட தரிசனத்தைப்பற்றி தன் மனதில் சந்தேகப்படும்போது, இதோ, கொர்நேலியுவினால் அனுப்பப்பட்ட மனிதர்கள் சீமோனுடைய வீட்டை விசாரித்துக்கொண்டு வாசற்படியிலே வந்துநின்று: ¹⁸ பேதுரு என்று மறுபெயர்கொண்ட சீமோன் இங்கே தங்கியிருக்கிறாரா என்று கேட்டார்கள். ¹⁹ பேதுரு அந்தத் தரிசனத்தைக்குறித்து யோசனை செய்துகொண்டிருக்கும்போது, ஆவியானவர்: இதோ, மூன்று மனிதர்கள் உன்னைத் தேடுகிறார்கள். ²⁰ நீ எழுந்து, இறங்கி, எதைக்குறித்தும் சந்தேகப்படாமல், அவர்களோடு போ; நானே அவர்களை அனுப்பினேன் என்று அவனுக்குச் சொன்னார். ²¹ அப்பொழுது பேதுரு கொர்நேலியுவினால் தன்னிடத்தில் அனுப்பப்பட்ட மனிதர்களிடத்திற்கு இறங்கிப்போய்: இதோ, நீங்கள் தேடுகிறவன் நான்தான், நீங்கள் வந்திருக்கிற விஷயம் என்ன என்றான். ²² அதற்கு அவர்கள்: நீதிமானும், தேவனுக்குப் பயப்படுகிறவரும், யூதமக்களால் நல்லவரென்று சாட்சி பெற்றவருமாகிய கொர்நேலியு என்னும் நூறுபேர்கொண்ட படைப்பிரிவின் தலைவர் உம்மைத் தன்னுடைய வீட்டிற்கு அழைத்து, உம்மால் சொல்லப்படும் வார்த்தைகளைக் கேட்கும்படி தேவனுடைய பரிசுத்த தூதனாலே கட்டளை பெற்றார் என்றார்கள்.

²³ அப்பொழுது பேதுரு அவர்களை உள்ளே அழைத்து, தங்க வைத்து வேண்டிய உதவிகளைச் செய்தான். மறுநாளிலே அவர்களோடு புறப்பட்டான்; யோப்பா பட்டணத்து சகோதரர்களில் சிலரும் அவனோடுகூட போனார்கள். ²⁴ மறுநாளிலே செசரியா பட்டணத்திற்கு வந்துசேர்ந்தார்கள். கொர்நேலியு தன் உறவினரையும் தன்னுடைய நெருங்கிய நண்பர்களையும் வரவழைத்து, அவர்களுக்காகக் காத்திருந்தான். ²⁵ பேதுரு உள்ளே நுழையும்பொழுது, கொர்நேலியு அவனுக்கு எதிரேபோய், அவன் பாதத்தில் விழுந்து, பணிந்துகொண்டான். ²⁶ பேதுரு அவனைத் தூக்கியெடுத்து: எழுந்திரும், நானும் ஒரு மனிதன்தான் என்றான். ²⁷ அவனோடுகூட பேசிக்கொண்டு உள்ளேபோய், அநேக மக்கள் கூடிவந்திருக்கிறதைக் கண்டு, ²⁸ அவர்களை நோக்கி: யூதரல்லாதவனோடு கலந்து அவனிடத்தில் போக்கும் வரத்துமாக இருப்பது யூத சட்டத்திற்கு எதிரானது என்று நீங்கள் தெரிந்திருக்கிறீர்கள்; அப்படியிருந்தும், எந்த மனிதனையும் தீட்டுள்ளவன் என்றும் அசுத்தமுள்ளவன் என்றும் நான் சொல்லாதபடிக்கு தேவன் எனக்குத் தரிசனத்தில் காண்பித்திருக்கிறார். ²⁹ ஆகவே, நீங்கள் என்னை அழைத்தபோது நான் மறுப்பு சொல்லாமல் வந்தேன். இப்போதும் என்ன காரியத்துக்காக என்னை

அழைத்தீர்கள் என்று கேட்கிறேன் என்றான். ³⁰ அதற்குக் கொர்நேலியு: நான்கு நாட்களுக்கு முன்னே இந்நேரத்திலே நான் உபவாசித்து, பிற்பகல் மூன்று மணியளவில் என் வீட்டிலே ஜெபம்பண்ணிக்கொண்டிருந்தேன்; அப்பொழுது வெண்மையான ஆடை அணிந்த மனிதன் ஒருவன் எனக்கு முன்பாக நின்று: ³¹ கொர்நேலியுவே, உன் ஜெபம் கேட்கப்பட்டது, உன் தானதருமங்கள் தேவ சமுகத்தில் நினைக்கப்பட்டது. ³² யோப்பா பட்டணத்திற்கு ஆள் அனுப்பி, பேதுரு என்னும் மறுபெயர்கொண்ட சீமோனை வரவழைப்பாயாக, அவன் கடலோரத்திலே தோல்பதனிகிறவனாகிய சீமோனுடைய வீட்டிலே தங்கியிருக்கிறான்; அவன் வந்து உன்னிடத்தில் பேசுவான் என்றார். ³³ அந்தப்படியே நான் உடனே உம்மிடத்திற்கு ஆள் அனுப்பினேன்; நீர் வந்தது நல்லது; தேவனாலே உமக்குக் கட்டளையிடப்பட்ட எல்லாவற்றையும் கேட்க நாங்கள் எல்லோரும் இப்பொழுது இங்கே தேவனுடைய சமுகத்தில் கூடியிருக்கிறோம் என்றான். ³⁴ அப்பொழுது பேதுரு பேசத்தொடங்கி: தேவன் பட்சபாதமுள்ளவரல்ல என்றும், ³⁵ எந்த இனமாக இருந்தாலும் அவருக்குப் பயந்திருந்து நேர்மையானதைச் செய்கிறவன் எவனோ அவனே அவருக்குப் பிரியமானவன் என்றும் நிச்சயமாகத் தெரிந்திருக்கிறேன். ³⁶ எல்லோருக்கும் கர்த்தராக இருக்கிற இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவைக்கொண்டு அவர் சமாதானத்தை நற்செய்தியாகக் கூறி, இஸ்ரவேல் மக்களுக்கு அனுப்பின வார்த்தையை தெரிந்திருக்கிறீர்கள். ³⁷ யோவான் ஞானஸ்நானத்தைக்குறித்துப் போதித்தப்பின்பு, கலிலேயா தேசத்தில் துவங்கி யூதேயா தேசமெங்கும் நடந்த சம்பவங்கள் இவைகளே. ³⁸ நசரேயனாகிய இயேசுவை தேவன் பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவராலும் வல்லமையினாலும் அபிஷேகம்பண்ணினார்; தேவன் அவருடனேகூட இருந்தபடியினாலே அவர் நன்மைசெய்கிறவராகவும் பிசாசின் பிடியில் சிக்கின எல்லோரையும் குணமாக்குகிறவராகவும் சுற்றித்திரிந்தார். ³⁹ யூதர்களுடைய தேசத்திலும் எருசலேமிலும் அவர் செய்த எல்லாவற்றிற்கும் நாங்கள் சாட்சிகளாக இருக்கிறோம். அவரை மரத்திலே தூக்கிக் கொலைசெய்தார்கள். ⁴⁰ மூன்றாம்நாளிலே தேவன் அவரை உயிரோடு எழுப்பி நாம் அவரைக் காணும்படிச்செய்தார். ⁴¹ என்றாலும், எல்லா மக்களும் அவரைக் காணும்படிச்செய்யாமல், அவர் உயிரோடு எழுந்தபின்பு அவரோடு சாப்பிட்டு குடித்தவர்களும் தேவனால் நியமிக்கப்பட்ட சாட்சிகளாகிய நாங்கள் காணும்படிச்செய்தார். ⁴² அவரே உயிரோடுருக்கிறவர்களுக்கும் மரித்தோர்களுக்கும் தேவனால் நியமிக்கப்பட்ட நியாயாதிபதியென்று மக்களுக்குப் போதிக்கவும், சாட்சியாக அறிவிக்கவும், அவர் எங்களுக்குக் கட்டளையிட்டார். ⁴³ அவரை விசுவாசிக்கிறவன் எவனோ அவன் அவருடைய நாமத்தினாலே பாவமன்னிப்பைப் பெறுவான் என்று தீர்க்கதரிசிகள் எல்லோரும் அவரைக்குறித்தே சாட்சிகொடுக்கிறார்கள் என்றான். ⁴⁴ இந்த வார்த்தைகளைப் பேதுரு பேசிக்கொண்டிருக்கும்போது வசனத்தைக் கேட்ட எல்லோர்மேலும் பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவர் இறங்கினார். ⁴⁵ அவர்கள் பலவிதமான மொழிகளைப் பேசுகிறதையும், தேவனைப் புகழ்வதையும், ⁴⁶ பேதுருவுடன் வந்திருந்த விருத்தசேதனம்பண்ணப்பட்ட விசுவாசிகள் கேட்கும்போது, பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவரின் வரம் யூதரல்லாதவர்கள்மேலும், பொழிந்தருளப்பட்டதைக்குறித்து வியப்படைந்தார்கள். ⁴⁷ அப்பொழுது பேதுரு: நம்மைப்போல பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவரைப் பெற்ற இவர்களும் தண்ணீரில் ஞானஸ்நானம் பெறாதபடி இவர்களைத் தடைசெய்யலாமா? என்று சொல்லி, ⁴⁸ கர்த்தருடைய நாமத்தினாலே அவர்களுக்கு ஞானஸ்நானம் கொடுக்கும்படிக் கட்டளையிட்டான். அப்பொழுது சிலநாட்கள் அங்கே தங்கும்படி அவனைக் கேட்டுக்கொண்டார்கள்.

அத்தியாயம்- 11

¹ யூதரல்லாதவர்களும் தேவவசனத்தை ஏற்றுக்கொண்டார்களென்று யூதேயாவிலிருக்கிற அப்போஸ்தலர்களும் சகோதரர்களும் கேள்விப்பட்டார்கள். ² பேதுரு எருசலேமுக்குத் திரும்பிவந்தபோது, விருத்தசேதனமுள்ளவர்கள் அவனை நோக்கி: ³ விருத்தசேதனம்பண்ணப்படாத மனிதர்களிடத்தில் நீர் போய், அவர்களோடு சாப்பிட்டீர் என்று, அவனிடம் வாக்குவாதம்பண்ணினார்கள். ⁴ அதற்குப் பேதுரு காரியத்தை முதலிலிருந்து வரிசையாக அவர்களுக்கு விளக்கிச் சொல்லத்தொடங்கி: ⁵ நான் யோப்பா பட்டணத்தில் ஜெபம் செய்துகொண்டிருந்தபோது ஒரு தரிசனத்தைக் கண்டேன்; அது என்னவென்றால், நான்கு முனைகளும் கட்டப்பட்ட பெரிய விரிப்பு ஒருவிதமான கூடுபோல வானத்திலிருந்து என்னிடத்தில் இறங்கிவந்தது. ⁶ அதிலே நான் உற்று கவனித்தபோது, பூமியிலுள்ள நான்குகால் ஜீவன்களையும், காட்டுமிருகங்களையும், ஊரும் பிராணிகளையும், ஆகாயத்துப் பறவைகளையும் பார்த்தேன். ⁷ அப்பொழுது: பேதுருவே, எழுந்திரு, அடித்து சாப்பிடு! என்று சொல்லுகிற சத்தத்தையும் கேட்டேன். ⁸ அதற்கு நான்: ஆண்டவரே, அப்படியல்ல, தீட்டும் அசுத்தமுமாக இருக்கிற எதுவும் எப்போதும் என் வாய்க்குள்ளே போனதில்லை என்றேன். ⁹ இரண்டாவதுமுறையும் வானத்திலிருந்து சத்தம் உண்டாகி: தேவன் சுத்தமாக்கினவைகளை நீ தீட்டாக நினைக்கவேண்டாம் என்று சொல்லியது. ¹⁰ இப்படி மூன்றுமுறை நடந்தபின்பு, எல்லாம் வானத்திற்குத் திரும்ப எடுத்துக்கொள்ளப்பட்டது. ¹¹ உடனே செசரியாவிலிருந்து என்னிடத்திற்கு அனுப்பப்பட்ட மூன்று மனிதர்கள் நான் தங்கியிருந்த வீட்டிற்குமுன்னே வந்துநின்றார்கள். ¹² நான் ஒன்றுக்கும் சந்தேகப்படாமல் அவர்களோடு போகும்படி ஆவியானவர் எனக்குக் கட்டளையிட்டார். சகோதரர்களாகிய இந்த ஆறுபேரும் என்னோடு வந்தார்கள்; அந்த மனிதனுடைய வீட்டிற்குள் நுழைந்தோம். ¹³ அவனோ தன் வீட்டில் ஒரு தேவதூதன் நிற்கிறதைப் பார்த்ததாகவும், யோப்பா பட்டணத்திலிருக்கிற பேதுரு என்று மறுபெயர்கொண்ட சீமோனை அழைத்துவரும்படி மனிதர்களை அந்த இடத்திற்கு அனுப்பு; ¹⁴ நீயும் உன் குடும்பத்தாரும் இரட்சிக்கப்படுவதற்கான வார்த்தைகளை அவன் உனக்குச் சொல்லுவான் என்று அந்தத் தூதன் தனக்குச் சொன்னதாகவும் எங்களுக்குச் சொன்னான். ¹⁵ நான் பேசத்தொடங்கினபோது, பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவர் ஆரம்பத்திலே நம்மேல் இறங்கினதுபோலவே, அவர்கள்மேலும் இறங்கினார். ¹⁶ யோவான் தண்ணீரினால் ஞானஸ்நானம் கொடுத்தான், நீங்களோ பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவராலே ஞானஸ்நானம் பெறுவீர்கள் என்று கர்த்தர் சொன்ன வார்த்தையை அப்பொழுது நினைத்துப்பார்த்தேன். ¹⁷ எனவே கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவை விசுவாசித்திருக்கிற நமக்கு தேவன் வரத்தை கொடுத்ததுபோல அவர்களுக்கும் அந்த வரத்தையே கொடுத்திருக்கும்போது தேவனைத் தடுக்கிறதற்கு நான் யார்? என்றான். ¹⁸ இவைகளை அவர்கள் கேட்டபொழுது உட்கார்ந்திருந்து: அப்படியானால் ஜீவனுக்கேதுவான மனந்திரும்புதலை தேவன் யூதரல்லாதவர்களுக்கும் கொடுத்தார் என்று சொல்லி, தேவனை மகிமைப்படுத்தினார்கள்.

¹⁹ ஸ்தேவானுடைய மரணத்தினால் வந்த உபத்திரவத்தினாலே சிதறப்பட்டவர்கள் நற்செய்தி வசனத்தை யூதர்களுக்குமட்டும் அறிவித்து மற்றவர்களுக்கு அறிவிக்காமல், பெனிக்கே நாடு, சீப்பரு தீவு, அந்தியோகியா பட்டணம்வரைக்கும் சுற்றித்திரிந்தார்கள். ²⁰ அவர்களில் சீப்பருதீவாரும் சிரேனே பட்டணத்தாருமாகிய சிலர் அந்தியோகியா பட்டணத்திற்கு வந்து, கிரேக்கர்களுடனே பேசிக் கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுவைக்குறித்து போதித்தார்கள். ²¹ கர்த்தருடைய கரம் அவர்களோடு இருந்தது; அநேக மக்கள் விசுவாசித்து, கர்த்தரிடத்தில் வந்தார்கள். ²² எருசலேமிலுள்ள சபைமக்கள் இந்தக் காரியங்களைக்குறித்துக் கேள்விப்பட்டபோது, அந்தியோகியாவரைக்கும் போகும்படி பர்னபாவை அனுப்பினார்கள். ²³ அவன் போய்ச்சேர்ந்து, தேவனுடைய கிருபையைப் பார்த்தபோது, சந்தோஷப்பட்டு, கர்த்தரிடத்தில் மனஉறுதியாக நிலைத்திருக்கும்படி எல்லோருக்கும் புத்திசொன்னான். ²⁴ அவன் நல்லவனும், பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவராலும் விசுவாசத்தினாலும் நிறைந்தவனுமாக இருந்தான்; அநேக மக்கள் கர்த்தரிடம் சேர்க்கப்பட்டார்கள். ²⁵ பின்பு பர்னபா சவுலைத் தேடும்படி, தர்சலிற்குப் புறப்பட்டுப்போய், அவனைப் பார்த்து, அந்தியோகியாவிற்கு அழைத்துக்கொண்டுவந்தான். ²⁶ அவர்கள் ஒரு வருடம் சபைமக்களோடு இருந்து, அநேக மக்களுக்கு உபதேசம்பண்ணினார்கள். முதன்முதலில் அந்தியோகியாவிலே சீடர்களுக்குக் கிறிஸ்தவர்கள் என்கிற பெயர் உண்டானது. ²⁷ அந்த நாட்களிலே எருசலேமிலிருந்து சில தீர்க்கதரிசிகள் அந்தியோகியாவிற்கு வந்தார்கள். ²⁸ அவர்களில் ஒருவனாகிய அகபு என்பவன் எழுந்து, உலகமெங்கும் கொடிய பஞ்சம் உண்டாகும் என்று ஆவியானவராலே அறிவித்தான்; அது அப்படியே கிலவுதியு பேரரசனுடைய நாட்களிலே நடந்தது. ²⁹ அப்பொழுது சீடர்களில் அவரவர்கள் தங்கள் தங்கள் தகுதிக்கேற்ப யூதேயாவில் குடியிருக்கிற சகோதரர்களுக்கு உதவிசெய்ய பணம் சேகரித்து அனுப்பவேண்டுமென்று தீர்மானம்பண்ணினார்கள். ³⁰ அப்படியே அவர்கள் சேகரித்து, பர்னபா சவுல் என்பவர்களுடைய கையிலே கொடுத்து, மூப்பர்களிடத்திற்கு அனுப்பினார்கள்.

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¹ அக்காலத்திலே ஏரோதுராஜா சபையிலே சிலரைத் துன்பப்படுத்தத் தொடங்கி; ² யோவானுடைய சகோதரனாகிய யாக்கோபைப் பட்டயத்தினாலே கொலைசெய்தான். ³ அது யூதர்களுக்குப் பிரியமாக இருக்கிறதென்று அவன் அறிந்து, பேதுருவையும் பிடிக்கப் பின்தொடர்ந்தான். அப்பொழுது புளிப்பில்லாத அப்பப்பண்டிகை நாட்களாக இருந்தது. ⁴ அவனைப் பிடித்து சிறைச்சாலையிலே வைத்து, பஸ்காபண்டிகைக்குப்பின்பு மக்களுக்கு முன்பாக அவனை வெளியே கொண்டுவரலாம் என்று நினைத்து, அவனைக் காவல்காக்கும்படி நான்கு போர்வீரர்கள் அடங்கிய நான்கு படைக் குழுவினரிடம் ஒப்படைத்தான். ⁵ அப்படியே பேதுரு சிறைச்சாலையிலே காவலில் இருக்கும்போது, சபை மக்கள் அவனுக்காக தேவனை நோக்கி ஊக்கத்தோடு ஜெபம்பண்ணினார்கள். ⁶ ஏரோது அவனை வெளியே கொண்டுவரும்படி குறித்திருந்த நாளுக்கு முந்தினநாள் இராத்திரியிலே, பேதுரு இரண்டு சங்கிலிகளினாலே கட்டப்பட்டு, இரண்டு போர்வீரர்கள் நடுவே தூங்கிக் கொண்டிருந்தான்; காவற்காரர்களும் கதவிற்கு முன்னே இருந்து சிறைச்சாலையைக் காவல்காத்துக்கொண்டிருந்தார்கள். ⁷ அப்பொழுது கர்த்தருடைய தூதன் அங்கே வந்துநின்றான்; அறையிலே வெளிச்சம் பிரகாசித்தது. அவன் பேதுருவை விலாவினிலே தட்டி, சீக்கிரமாக எழுந்திரு என்று அவனை எழுப்பினான். உடனே சங்கிலிகள் அவன் கைகளிலிருந்து கழன்று கீழே விழுந்தது. ⁸ தூதன் அவனை நோக்கி: உன் ஆடையையும் காலணிகளையும் அணிந்துகொள் என்றான். அவன் அப்படியே செய்தான். தூதன் மறுபடியும் அவனை நோக்கி: உன் மேலாடையைப் போர்த்துக்கொண்டு என் பின்னே வா என்றான். ⁹ அப்படியே அவன் புறப்பட்டு அவனுக்குப் பின்னேசென்று தூதனால் செய்யப்பட்டது உண்மையென்று தெரியாமல், தான் ஒரு தரிசனம் பார்ப்பதாக நினைத்தான். ¹⁰ அவர்கள் முதலாம் மற்றும் இரண்டாம் காவல்களைக் கடந்து, நகரத்திற்குப்போகிற இரும்புக் கதவின் அருகே வந்தபோது அது தானாக அவர்களுக்குத் திறந்தது; அதன்வழியாக அவர்கள் புறப்பட்டு ஒரு வீதிவழியாக நடந்துபோனார்கள்; உடனே தூதன் அவனைவிட்டுப் போய்விட்டான். ¹¹ பேதுருவிற்குத் தெளிவு வந்தபோது: ஏரோதின் கைக்கும் யூதமக்களின் எண்ணங்களுக்கும் என்னை விடுதலையாக்கும்படி கர்த்தர் தம்முடைய தூதனை அனுப்பினாரென்று நான் இப்பொழுது உண்மையாக புரிந்துகொண்டேன் என்றான். ¹² அவன் இப்படி புரிந்துகொண்டபின்பு, மாற்கு என்னும் பெயர்கொண்ட யோவானுடைய தாயாகிய மரியாள் வீட்டிற்கு வந்தான்; அங்கே அநேகர் கூடி ஜெபம்பண்ணிக்கொண்டிருந்தார்கள். ¹³ பேதுரு வாசற்கதவைத் தட்டினபோது ரோதை என்னும் பெயர்கொண்ட ஒரு பெண் யாரென்று கேட்க வந்தான். ¹⁴ அவள் பேதுருவின் குரலை அறிந்து சந்தோஷத்தினால் கதவைத் திறக்காமல், திரும்ப உள்ளே ஓடிப்போய், பேதுரு வாசலுக்குமுன்னே நிற்கிறார் என்று சொன்னாள். ¹⁵ அவர்கள்: நீ உளறுகிறாய் என்றார்கள். அவளோ அவர்தான் என்று உறுதியாகச் சாதித்தாள். அப்பொழுது அவர்கள்: அது பேதுருவுடைய தூதனாக இருக்கலாம் என்றார்கள். ¹⁶ பேதுரு தொடர்ந்து கதவைத் தட்டிக்கொண்டிருந்தான். அவர்கள் கதவைத் திறந்தபோது அவனைப் பார்த்து ஆச்சரியப்பட்டார்கள். ¹⁷ அவர்கள் பேசாமலிருக்கும்படி அவன் அவர்களைப் பார்த்து கையசைத்து, கர்த்தர் தன்னைக் காவலிலிருந்து விடுதலையாக்கின விதத்தை அவர்களுக்கு விளக்கி, இந்தச் செய்தியை யாக்கோபுக்கும் சகோதரர்களுக்கும் அறிவியுங்கள் என்று சொல்லி புறப்பட்டு, வேறொரு இடத்திற்குப் போனான். ¹⁸ பொழுதுவிடிந்தபின்பு பேதுருவைக்குறித்துக் காவலர்களுக்குள்ளே உண்டான கலக்கம் கொஞ்சமல்ல.

¹⁹ ஏரோது அவனைத் தேடி, அவன் அங்கு இல்லை என்றபோது, காவல்காரர்களை விசாரணைசெய்து, அவர்களைக் கொலைசெய்யும்படி கட்டளையிட்டு, பின்பு யூதேயா நாட்டைவிட்டு செசரியா பட்டணத்திற்குப்போய், அங்கே தங்கியிருந்தான். ²⁰ அக்காலத்திலே ஏரோது தீரியர்மேலும் சீதோனியர்மேலும் மிகவும் கோபமாக இருந்தான். தங்களுடைய தேசம் ராஜாவின் தேசத்தினால் போஷிக்கப்பட்டபடியால், அவர்கள் ஒன்றுசேர்ந்து, அவனிடத்தில் வந்து, ராஜாவின் வீட்டு விசாரணைக்காரனாகிய பிலாஸ்துவைத் தங்கள் வசமாக்கி, அவன் மூலமாக சமாதானம் கேட்டுக்கொண்டார்கள். ²¹ குறிக்கப்பட்டநாளிலே: ஏரோது ராஜ உடை அணிந்துகொண்டு, சிங்காசனத்தின்மேல் உட்கார்ந்து, அவர்களுக்குப் பிரசங்கம்பண்ணினான். ²² அப்பொழுது அனைவரும் இது மனிதனுடைய சத்தமல்ல, இது தேவனுடைய சத்தம்! என்று ஆர்ப்பரித்தார்கள். ²³ அவன் தேவனுக்கு மகிமையைச் செலுத்தாதபடியினால் உடனே கர்த்தருடைய தூதன் அவனை அடித்தான்; அவன் புழுப்புழுத்து மரித்தான். ²⁴ தேவவசனம் வளர்ந்து பெருகியது. ²⁵ பர்னபாவும் சவுலும் தர்ம ஊழியத்தை முடித்தபின்பு மாற்கு என்னும் மறுபெயர்கொண்ட யோவானைக் கூட்டிக்கொண்டு எருசலேமைவிட்டுத் திரும்பிவந்தார்கள்.

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¹ அந்தியோகியா பட்டணத்திலுள்ள சபையிலே பர்னபாவும், நீகர் என்னப்பட்ட சிமியோனும், சிரேனே ஊரானாகிய லூகியும், காற்பங்கு தேசத்தின் அதிபதியாகிய ஏரோதுடன் வளர்க்கப்பட்ட மனாயீனும், சவுலும், தீர்க்கதரிசிகளாகவும் போதகர்களாகவும் இருந்தார்கள். ² அவர்கள் கர்த்தருக்கு ஆராதனைசெய்து, உபவாசித்துக்கொண்டிருக்கிறபோது: பர்னபாவையும் சவுலையும் நான் அழைத்த ஊழியத்துக்காக அவர்களைப் பிரித்துவிடுங்கள் என்று பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவர் உரைத்தார். ³ அப்பொழுது உபவாசித்து ஜெபம்பண்ணி, அவர்கள்மேல் கரங்களை வைத்து, அவர்களை அனுப்பினார்கள்.

⁴ அப்படியே அவர்கள் பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவரால் அனுப்பப்பட்டு செலூக்கியா பட்டணத்திற்கு வந்து, கப்பல் ஏறி, அங்கிருந்து சீப்பருநீவிற்குப் போனார்கள். ⁵ சாலமி பட்டணத்திற்கு வந்தபோது அவர்கள் யூதர்களுடைய ஜெப ஆலயங்களில் தேவவசனத்தைப் போதித்தார்கள். யோவானும் அவர்களுக்கு உதவிக்காரனாக இருந்தான். ⁶ அவர்கள் பாப்போ பட்டணம்வரைக்கும் தீவைக் கடந்துவந்தபோது, பர்யேசு என்னும் பெயர்கொண்ட மாயவித்தைக்காரனும் கள்ளத்தீர்க்கதரிசியுமான ஒரு யூதனைப் பார்த்தார்கள். ⁷ அவன் விவேகமுள்ள மனிதனாகிய செர்கியுபவுல் என்னும் அதிபதியோடு இருந்தான். அந்த அதிபதி பர்னபாவையும் சவுலையும் அழைத்து, அவர்களிடத்தில் தேவவசனத்தைக் கேட்க ஆசையாக இருந்தான். ⁸ மாயவித்தைக்காரன் என்று அர்த்தங்கொள்ளும் பெயரையுடைய எலிமா என்பவன், அதிபதியை இயேசுவை விசுவாசிக்காமல் திசைதிரும்பும்படி செய்ய, அவர்களோடு எதிர்த்து நின்றான். ⁹ அப்பொழுது பவுல் என்று சொல்லப்பட்ட சவுல் பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவரால் நிறைந்தவனாக அவனை உற்றுப்பார்த்து: ¹⁰ எல்லாக் கபடமும் அக்கிரமமும் நிறைந்தவனே, பிசாசின் மகனே, உண்மைக்கெல்லாம் பகைவனே, கர்த்தருடைய செம்மையான வழிகளைப் புரட்டுவதை நிறுத்தமாட்டாயோ? ¹¹ இதோ, இப்பொழுதே கர்த்தருடைய கை உன்மேல் வந்திருக்கிறது, கொஞ்சகாலம் நீ சூரியனைப் பார்க்காமல் குருடனாக இருப்பாய் என்றான். உடனே அவன் தன் கண்பார்வையை இழந்தான்; அவன் தடுமாறி, தனக்கு கை கொடுக்கிறவர்களைத் தேடினான். ¹² அப்பொழுது அதிபதி நடந்தவைகளைப் பார்த்து, கர்த்தருடைய உபதேசத்தைக்குறித்து அதிசயப்பட்டு, விசுவாசித்தான்.

¹³ பின்பு பவுலும் அவனைச் சேர்ந்தவர்களும் பாப்போ பட்டணத்தைவிட்டுக் கப்பல் ஏறிப் பம்பிலியாவில் இருக்கும் பெர்கே பட்டணத்திற்கு வந்தார்கள். யோவான் அவர்களைவிட்டுப் பிரிந்து, எருசலேமுக்குத் திரும்பிப்போனான். ¹⁴ அவர்கள் பெர்கே பட்டணத்தைவிட்டுப் புறப்பட்டு, பிசீதியா நாட்டிலுள்ள அந்தியோகியாவிற்கு வந்து, ஓய்வுநாளிலே ஜெப ஆலயத்திற்குச் சென்று, உட்கார்ந்தார்கள். ¹⁵ மோசேயின் நியாயப்பிரமாண புத்தகமும் தீர்க்கதரிசன் புத்தகமும் படித்துமுடிந்தபின்பு: சகோதரர்களே, நீங்கள் மக்களுக்குப் புத்திச்சொல்ல விரும்பினால் சொல்லுங்கள் என்று சொல்லச்சொல்லி ஜெப ஆலயத்தலைவர்கள் அவர்களுக்கு ஆள் அனுப்பினார்கள். ¹⁶ அப்பொழுது பவுல் எழுந்திருந்து, கையசைத்து: இஸ்ரவேலர்களே, தேவனுக்குப் பயந்து நடக்கிற மக்களே, கேளுங்கள். ¹⁷ இஸ்ரவேலராகிய இந்த மக்களுடைய தேவன் நம்முடைய முற்பிதாக்களைத் தெரிந்துகொண்டு எகிப்து தேசத்தில் அவர்கள் பரதேசிகளாக வாழ்ந்தபோது அவர்களை உயர்த்தி, தமது வல்லமையுள்ள கரத்தினால் அங்கிருந்து அவர்களைப் புறப்படப்பண்ணி, ¹⁸ நாற்பது வருடங்களாக வனாந்திரத்தில் அவர்களை ஆதரித்து, ¹⁹ கானான் தேசத்தில் ஏழு மக்கள் இனங்களை அழித்து, அவர்களுடைய தேசத்தை இவர்களுக்குச் சொந்தமாகப் பங்கிட்டுக் கொடுத்து, ²⁰ பின்பு ஏறக்குறைய நானூற்று ஐம்பது வருடங்களாக சாமுவேல் தீர்க்கதரிசிவரைக்கும் அவர்களுக்கு நியாயாதிபதிகளை நியமித்துவந்தார். ²¹ அதற்குப்பின்பு மக்கள் தங்களுக்கு ஒரு ராஜா வேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொண்டார்கள்; அப்படியே தேவன் பென்யமீன் கோத்திரத்தைச் சேர்ந்த கீசுடைய மகனான சவுலை நாற்பது வருடங்களாக அவர்களுக்குக் கொடுத்தார். ²² பின்பு தேவன் சவுலைத் தள்ளி, தாவீதை அவர்களுக்கு ராஜாவாக ஏற்படுத்தினார். ஈசாயின் மகனாகிய தாவீதை என் மனதிற்கு பிடித்தவனாகப் பார்த்தேன்; எனக்கு விருப்பமானவையெல்லாம் அவன் செய்வான் என்று அவனைக்குறித்து சாட்சியும் சொன்னார். ²³ அவனுடைய வம்சத்திலே தேவன் தமது வாக்குத்தத்தத்தின்படியே இஸ்ரவேலுக்கு இரட்சகராக இயேசுவை எழும்பப்பண்ணினார். ²⁴ இவர் வெளிப்படுவதற்குமுன்னே மனம்திரும்புவதற்கான ஞானஸ்நானத்தைப்பற்றி யோவான் இஸ்ரவேலர் எல்லோருக்கும் போதித்தான். ²⁵ யோவான் தன் பணிகளை முடிக்கிறபோது: நீங்கள் என்னை யார் என்று நினைக்கிறீர்கள்? நான் அவர் இல்லை, இதோ, எனக்குப்பின்பு ஒருவர் வருகிறார், அவருடைய காலணிகளை அவிழ்ப்பதற்குக்கூட நான் தகுதியானவன் இல்லை என்றான். ²⁶ சகோதரர்களே, ஆபிரகாமின் வம்சத்தில் பிறந்தவர்களே, தேவனுக்குப் பயந்து நடக்கிறவர்களே, இந்த மீட்பின் வசனம் உங்களுக்கு அனுப்பப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. ²⁷ எருசலேமில் குடியிருக்கிறவர்களும் அவர்கள் அதிகாரிகளும், அவரைத் தெரியாமலும், ஓய்வுநாட்களில் வாசிக்கப்படுகிற தீர்க்கதரிசிகளின் வாக்கியங்களைத் தெரியாமலும், அவரை தண்டனைக்குள்ளாக்கியதினால் அந்த வாக்கியங்களை நிறைவேற்றினார்கள். ²⁸

கொலை செய்யப்படுவதற்கான காரணங்கள் ஒன்றும் அவரிடத்தில் இல்லாதிருந்தும், அவரைக் கொலைசெய்யும்படிக்குப் பிலாத்துவை வேண்டிக்கொண்டார்கள். ²⁹ அவரைக்குறித்து எழுதியிருக்கிறவைகள் எல்லாவற்றையும் அவர்கள் நிறைவேற்றினபின்பு, அவரை மரத்திலிருந்து இறக்கி, கல்லறையிலே வைத்தார்கள். ³⁰ தேவனோ அவரை மரணத்திலிருந்து உயிரோடு எழுப்பினார். ³¹ இயேசு கலிலேயாவிலிருந்து எருசலேமுக்குத் தம்மோடு வந்தவர்களுக்கு அநேகநாட்கள் தரிசனமானார்; அவர்களே மக்களுக்கு முன்பாக அவருக்குச் சாட்சிகளாக இருக்கிறார்கள். ³² நீர் என்னுடைய மகன், இன்று நான் உம்மைப் பெற்றேன் என்று இரண்டாம் சங்கீதத்தில் எழுதியிருக்கிறபடியே, ³³ இயேசுவை உயிரோடு எழுப்பினதினாலே தேவன் நம்முடைய முற்பிதாக்களுக்கு அருளிய வாக்குத்தத்தத்தை அவர்களுடைய பிள்ளைகளாகிய நமக்கு நிறைவேற்றினார் என்று நாங்களும் உங்களுக்கு நற்செய்தியாக அறிவிக்கிறோம். ³⁴ அவர் இனி ஒருபோதும் அழிவுக்குட்படாதபடி தேவன் அவரை உயிரோடு எழுப்பினார் என்பதைக்குறித்து: தாவீதுக்கு அருளின நிச்சயமான கிருபைகளை உங்களுக்குக் கட்டளையிடுவேன் என்று உரைத்தார். ³⁵ அன்றியும், உம்முடைய பரிசுத்தர் அழிவைக் காணவிடமாட்டீர் என்று வேறொரு சங்கீதத்தில் சொல்லியிருக்கிறது. ³⁶ தாவீது தன் காலத்திலே தேவனுடைய விருப்பத்தின்படி அவருக்கு ஊழியம் செய்தபின்பு மரித்து, தன் முற்பிதாக்களிடத்திலே சேர்க்கப்பட்டு, அழிவைக் கண்டான். ³⁷ தேவனால் உயிரோடு எழுப்பப்பட்டவரோ அழிவைக் காணவில்லை. ³⁸ ஆதலால் சகோதரர்களே, இயேசுகிறிஸ்து மூலமாக உங்களுக்குப் பாவமன்னிப்பு உண்டாகும் என்று அறிவிக்கப்படுகிறதென்றும், ³⁹ மோசேயின் நியாயப்பிரமாணத்தினாலே நீங்கள் எவைகளில் இருந்து விடுதலையாகி நீதிமான்களாக்கப்பட முடியாமலிருந்ததோ, விசுவாசிக்கிற எவனும் அவைகளிலிருந்து இயேசுவாலே விடுதலையாகி நீதிமானாக்கப்படுகிறான் என்றும் உங்களுக்குத் தெரிந்திருப்பதாக. ⁴⁰ அன்றியும், தீர்க்கதரிசிகளின் புத்தகத்திலே: ⁴¹ அசட்டைப்பண்ணுகிறவர்களே, பாருங்கள், ஆச்சரியப்பட்டு அழிந்துபோங்கள்! உங்களுடைய நாட்களில் நான் ஒரு செயலைச் செய்திடுவேன், ஒருவன் அதை உங்களுக்கு விளக்கிச் சொன்னாலும் நீங்கள் நம்பமாட்டீர்கள் என்று சொல்லியிருக்கிறபடி, உங்களுக்கு நடக்காதபடிக்கு எச்சரிக்கையாக இருங்கள் என்றான். ⁴² அவர்கள் யூதர்களுடைய ஜெப ஆலயத்திலிருந்து புறப்படும்பொழுது, அடுத்த ஓய்வுநாளிலே இந்த வசனங்களைத் தங்களுக்குச் சொல்லவேண்டும் என்று யூதரல்லாதோர் கேட்டுக்கொண்டார்கள். ⁴³ ஜெப ஆலய கூட்டம் முடிந்தபின்பு, யூதர்களிலும் யூதமார்க்கத்தைப் பின்பற்றின பக்தியுள்ளவர்களில் அநேகர் பவுலையும் பர்னபாவையும் பின்பற்றினார்கள். அவர்களோடு இவர்கள் பேசி, தேவனுடைய கிருபையிலே நிலைத்திருக்கும்படி அவர்களுக்குப் புத்திசொன்னார்கள். ⁴⁴ அடுத்த ஓய்வுநாளிலே பட்டணத்தார் அனைவரும் தேவவசனத்தைக் கேட்பதற்காக கூடிவந்தார்கள். ⁴⁵ யூதர்கள் மக்கள் கூட்டங்களைப் பார்த்தபோது பொறாமைப்பட்டு, பவுலினால் சொல்லப்பட்டவைகளுக்கு எதிராகப் பேசி, அவர்களை அவமதித்தார்கள். ⁴⁶ அப்பொழுது பவுலும் பர்னபாவும் தைரியத்தோடு அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: முதலாவது உங்களுக்குத்தான் தேவவசனத்தைச் சொல்லவேண்டியதாயிருந்தது; ஆனால் நீங்களோ அதை வேண்டாம் என்று தள்ளி, உங்களை நீங்களே நித்தியஜீவனுக்கு தகுதியற்றவர்கள் என்று தீர்த்துக்கொள்ளுகிறபடியால், இதோ, நாங்கள் யூதரல்லாதோர்களிடத்திற்குப் போகிறோம். ⁴⁷ நீர் யூமியின் கடைசிவரை இரட்சிப்பாக இருப்பதற்கு உம்மை மக்களுக்கு ஒளியாக வைத்தேன் என்கிற வேதவாக்கியத்தின்படி கர்த்தர் எங்களுக்குக் கட்டளையிட்டிருக்கிறதினால் இப்படிச் செய்கிறோம் என்றார்கள். ⁴⁸ யூதரல்லாதோர் அதைக்கேட்டு சந்தோஷப்பட்டு, கர்த்தருடைய வசனத்தை மகிமைப்படுத்தினார்கள். நித்தியஜீவனுக்கு நியமிக்கப்பட்டவர்கள் எவர்களோ அவர்கள் விசுவாசித்தார்கள். ⁴⁹ கர்த்தருடைய வசனம் அந்த தேசம் முழுவதும் பிரசித்தமானது. ⁵⁰ யூதர்கள் பக்தியும் கனமும் பெற்ற பெண்களையும் பட்டணத்து முதலாளிகளையும் தூண்டிவிட்டு, பவுலையும் பர்னபாவையும் துன்பப்படுத்தும்படி செய்து, தங்களுடைய எல்லைகளுக்கு வெளியே அவர்களைத் துரத்திவிட்டார்கள். ⁵¹ இவர்கள் தங்களுடைய கால்களில் இருந்து தூசிகளை அவர்களுக்கு எதிராக உதறிப்போட்டு, இக்கோனியா பட்டணத்திற்குப் போனார்கள். ⁵² சீடர்கள் சந்தோஷத்தினாலும் பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவராலும் நிரப்பப்பட்டார்கள்.

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¹ இக்கோனியா பட்டணத்திலே அவர்கள் இருவரும் யூதர்களுடைய ஜெப ஆலயத்தின் உள்ளே பிரவேசித்து யூதர்களிலும் கிரேக்கர்களிலும் திரளான மக்கள் நம்பத்தக்கதாகப் பிரசங்கித்தார்கள். ² விசுவாசிக்காத யூதர்கள் சகோதரர்களுக்கு விரோதமாக யூதரல்லாதவர்களுடைய மனதைத் தூண்டிவிட்டு, பகையுண்டாக்கினார்கள். ³ அவர்கள் அங்கே அநேகநாட்கள் வாழ்ந்து கர்த்தரை முன்னிட்டுத் தைரியம் உள்ளவர்களாகப் போதகம்பண்ணினார்கள்; அவர் தமது கிருபையுள்ள வசனத்திற்கு சாட்சியாக அடையாளங்களும் அற்புதங்களும் அவர்கள் கைகளால் செய்யப்படும்படி தயவுபண்ணினார். ⁴ பட்டணத்து மக்கள் பிரிந்து, சிலர் யூதர்களையும் சிலர் அப்போஸ்தலர்களையும் சேர்ந்துகொண்டார்கள். ⁵ இவர்களை அவமானப்படுத்தவும் கல்லெறியவும் வேண்டும் என்று, யூதரல்லாதவர்களும், யூதர்களும் அவர்களுடைய அதிகாரிகளும் திட்டமிட்டபோது, ⁶ இவர்கள் அதை அறிந்து, லிக்கவோனியா நாட்டிலுள்ள பட்டணங்களாகிய லீஸ்திராவிற்கும் தெர்பைக்கும் அவைகளின் சுற்றுப் புறங்களுக்கும் ஓடிப்போய்; ⁷ அங்கே நற்செய்தியைப் பிரசங்கம்பண்ணினார்கள்.

⁸ லீஸ்திராவிலே ஒருவன் தன் தாயின் வயிற்றிலிருந்து பிறந்ததுமுதல் முடவனாக இருந்து, ஒருபோதும் நடக்காமல், கால்கள் செயலற்றவனாக உட்கார்ந்து, ⁹ பவுல் பேசுகிறதைக் கேட்டுக்கொண்டிருந்தான். அவனைப் பவுல் உற்றுப்பார்த்து, இரட்சிப்புக்கேற்ற விசுவாசம் அவனுக்கு உண்டென்று கண்டு, ¹⁰ நீ எழுந்து காலூன்றி நிமிர்ந்து நில் என்று உரத்த சத்தமாகச் சொன்னான். உடனே அவன் குதித்தெழுந்து நடந்தான். ¹¹ பவுல் செய்ததை மக்கள் கண்டு, தேவர்கள் மனித உருவமெடுத்து நம்மிடத்தில் இறங்கி வந்திருக்கிறார்கள் என்று லிக்கவோனியா மொழியிலே சத்தமிட்டுச் சொல்லி, ¹² பர்னபாவை யூப்பித்தர் என்றும், பவுல் பிரசங்கத்தை நடத்தினவனானபடியினால் அவனை மெர்க்குரி என்றும் சொன்னார்கள். ¹³ அல்லாமலும் பட்டணத்திற்கு முன்னே இருந்த யூப்பித்தருடைய முக்கியமான கோவிலின் மதகுரு எருதுகளையும் பூமாலைகளையும் வாசலண்டையிலே கொண்டுவந்து, மக்களோடுகூட அவர்களுக்குப் பலியிட மனதாயிருந்தான். ¹⁴ அப்போஸ்தலர்களாகிய பர்னபாவும் பவுலும் அதைக் கேட்டபொழுது, தங்களுடைய துணிகளைக் கிழித்துக்கொண்டு, கூட்டத்திற்குள்ளே ஓடி, உரத்த சத்தமாக: ¹⁵ மனிதர்களே, ஏன் இப்படிச் செய்கிறீர்கள்? நாங்களும் உங்களைப்போலப் பாடுள்ள மனிதர்கள் தானே; நீங்கள் இந்த வீணான தேவர்களைவிட்டு, வானத்தையும் பூமியையும் கடலையும் அவைகளிலுள்ள அனைத்தையும் உண்டாக்கின ஜீவனுள்ள தேவனிடத்திற்கு திரும்பவேண்டும் என்று உங்களுக்குப் பிரசங்கிக்கிறோம். ¹⁶ கடந்த காலங்களில் அவர் எல்லா மக்களையும் தங்கள் தங்கள் வழிகளிலே நடக்கவிட்டிருந்தும், ¹⁷ அவர் நன்மை செய்துவந்து, வானத்திலிருந்து மழைகளையும் செழிப்புள்ள காலங்களையும் நமக்குத் தந்து, ஆகாரத்தினாலும் சந்தோஷத்தினாலும் நம்முடைய இருதயங்களை நிரப்பி, இவ்விதமாக அவர் தம்மைக்குறித்துச் சாட்சி விளங்கப்பண்ணியிருக்கிறார் என்றார்கள். ¹⁸ இப்படி அவர்கள் சொல்லியும் தங்களுக்கு மக்கள் பலியிடாதபடிக்கு அவர்களை தடுத்து நிறுத்துவது கடினமாக இருந்தது. ¹⁹ பின்பு அந்தியோகியாவிலும் இக்கோனியாவிலுமிருந்து சில யூதர்கள் வந்து மக்களைத் தூண்டிவிட்டு, பவுலைக் கல்லெறிந்து, அவன் மரித்துப்போனான் என்று எண்ணி, அவனைப் பட்டணத்திற்கு வெளியிலே இழுத்துக்கொண்டுபோனார்கள். ²⁰ சீடர்கள் அவனைச் சூழ்ந்துநிற்கும்போது, அவன் எழுந்து, பட்டணத்திற்குள்ளே போனான். மறுநாளில் பர்னபாவுடனேகூடத் தெர்பைக்குப் புறப்பட்டுப்போனான்.

²¹ தெர்பை பட்டணத்தில் அவர்கள் நற்செய்தியைப் பிரசங்கித்து, அநேகரைச் சீடர்களாக்கினபின்பு, லீஸ்திராவிற்கும் இக்கோனியாவிற்கும் அந்தியோகியாவிற்கும் திரும்பிவந்து, ²² சீடர்களுடைய மனதைத் தைரியப்படுத்தி, விசுவாசத்திலே நிலைத்திருக்கும்படி அவர்களுக்குப் புத்திசொல்லி, நாம் அநேக உபத்திரவங்களின்வழியாக தேவனுடைய ராஜ்யத்தில் பிரவேசிக்கவேண்டும் என்று சொன்னார்கள். ²³ அல்லாமலும் அந்தந்த சபைகளில் அவர்களுக்கு மூப்பர்களை ஏற்படுத்தி வைத்து, உபவாசித்து ஜெபம்பண்ணி, அவர்கள் விசுவாசித்துப் பற்றிக்கொண்ட கர்த்தருக்கு அவர்களை ஒப்புவித்தார்கள். ²⁴ பின்பு பிசீதியா நாட்டைக் கடந்து, பம்பிலியா நாட்டிற்கு வந்து, ²⁵ பெர்கே ஊரில் வசனத்தைப் பிரசங்கித்து, அத்தலியா பட்டணத்திற்குப் போனார்கள். ²⁶ அங்கே கப்பல் ஏறி, தாங்கள் நிறைவேற்றின செயல்களுக்காக தேவனுடைய கிருபைக்கு ஒப்புவிக்கப்பட்டு, புறப்பட்டு அந்தியோகியாவிற்கு வந்தார்கள். ²⁷ அவர்கள் அங்கே சேர்ந்தபொழுது சபையைக் கூடிவரச்செய்து, தேவன் தங்களைக்கொண்டு செய்தவைகளையும், அவர் யூதரல்லாதவர்க்கும் விசுவாசத்தின் கதவைத் திறந்ததையும் அறிவித்து, ²⁸ அங்கே சீடர்களோடுகூட அநேகநாட்கள் தங்கியிருந்தார்கள்.

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¹ சிலர் யூதேயாவிலிருந்து வந்து: நீங்கள் மோசேயினுடைய கட்டளையின்படியே விருத்தசேதனம்பண்ணப்படாவிட்டால், இரட்சிக்கப்படமாட்டீர்கள் என்று சகோதரர்களுக்குப் போதகம்பண்ணினார்கள். ² அதனால் அவர்களுக்கும் பவுல் பர்னபா என்பவர்களுக்கும் வாக்குவாதம் உண்டானபோது, அந்த விஷயத்தினிமித்தம் பவுலும் பர்னபாவும் அவர்களோடு இருந்த வேறு சிலரும் எருசலேமிலிருக்கிற அப்போஸ்தலர்களிடத்திற்கும் மூப்பர்களிடத்திற்கும் போகவேண்டுமென்று தீர்மானித்தார்கள். ³ அப்படியே அவர்கள் சபை மக்களால் வழியனுப்பப்பட்டு, பெனிக்கே சமாரியா நாடுகளின்வழியாகப்போய், யூதரல்லாதோர் மனம் மாறிய செய்தியை அறிவித்து, சகோதரர்கள் எல்லோருக்கும் மிகுந்த சந்தோஷத்தை உண்டாக்கினார்கள். ⁴ அவர்கள் எருசலேமுக்கு வந்து, சபை மக்களாலும் அப்போஸ்தலர்களாலும் மூப்பர்களாலும் ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளப்பட்டபோது, தேவன் தங்கள் மூலமாக செய்தவைகளை எல்லாம் அறிவித்தார்கள். ⁵ அப்பொழுது பரிசேய சமயத்தாரில் விசுவாசிகளான சிலர் எழுந்து, அவர்களை விருத்தசேதனம்பண்ணுகிறதும் மோசேயின் நியாயப்பிரமாணத்தைக் கடைபிடிக்கும்படி அவர்களுக்குக் கற்பிக்கிறதும் அவசியம் என்றார்கள். ⁶ அப்போஸ்தலர்களும், சபை மூப்பர்களும் இந்தக் காரியத்தைக்குறித்து ஆலோசனைபண்ணும்படி கூடினார்கள். ⁷ மிகுந்த வாக்குவாதம் உண்டானபோது, பேதுரு எழுந்து, அவர்களை நோக்கி: சகோதரர்களே, உங்களுக்குத் தெரிந்திருக்கிறபடி யூதரல்லாதோர் என்னுடைய வாயினாலே நற்செய்தி வசனத்தைக்கேட்டு விசுவாசிக்கும்படி தேவன் அநேக நாட்களுக்கு முன்பே உங்களில் ஒருவனாகிய என்னைத் தெரிந்துகொண்டார். ⁸ இருதயங்களை அறிந்திருக்கிற தேவன் நமக்கு பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவரை அருளினதுபோல அவர்களுக்கும் அருளி, அவர்களைக்குறித்துச் சாட்சியளித்தார்; ⁹ விசுவாசத்தினாலே அவர்கள் இருதயங்களை அவர் சுத்தமாக்கி, நமக்கும் அவர்களுக்கும் எந்தவொரு வித்தியாசமும் இல்லாதபடி செய்தார். ¹⁰ இப்படியிருக்க, நம்முடைய முற்பிதாக்களாலும் நம்மாலும் சுமக்கமுடியாமல் இருந்த நுகத்தடியைச் சீடர்களின் கழுத்தின்மேல் வைப்பதினால், நீங்கள் தேவனை சோதிப்பது ஏன்? ¹¹ கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவின் கிருபையினாலே அவர்கள் இரட்சிக்கப்படுகிறது எப்படியோ, அப்படியே நாமும் இரட்சிக்கப்படுவோம் என்று நம்பியிருக்கிறோமே என்றான். ¹² அப்பொழுது கூடிவந்திருந்த எல்லோரும் அமைதியாக இருந்து, பர்னபாவும் பவுலும் தங்களைக்கொண்டு தேவன் யூதரல்லாதோர்களுக்குள்ளே செய்த அற்புதங்கள் அடையாளங்கள் யாவையும் விளக்கிச் சொல்லக் கேட்டார்கள். ¹³ அவர்கள் பேசி முடிந்தபின்பு, யாக்கோபு அவர்களை நோக்கி: சகோதரர்களே, நான் சொல்வதைக் கேளுங்கள். ¹⁴ தேவன் யூதரல்லாதோர் கூட்டத்தில் இருந்து தமது நாமத்திற்காக ஒரு மக்கள் கூட்டத்தைத் தெரிந்துகொள்ளும்படி முதன்முதலாக அவர்களுக்கு வெளிப்படுத்தின விதத்தை சிமியோன் விளக்கிச் சொன்னாரே. ¹⁵ அதற்குத் தீர்க்கதரிசிகளுடைய வார்த்தைகளும் ஒத்திருக்கிறது. ¹⁶ எப்படியென்றால், மற்ற மனிதர்களும், என்னுடைய நாமத்தினால் அழைக்கப்பட்ட எல்லா மக்களும், கர்த்தரைத் தேடும்படி, ¹⁷ நான் இதற்குப்பின்பு திரும்பிவந்து, விழுந்துபோன தாலீதின் கூடாரத்தை மறுபடியும் எடுத்து, அதில் பழுதானவைகளை மீண்டும் செவ்வையாக நிறுத்துவேன் என்று இவைகளையெல்லாம் செய்கிற கர்த்தர் சொல்லுகிறார் என்று எழுதியிருக்கிறது. ¹⁸ உலகம் உண்டானதுமுதல் தேவனுக்குத் தம்முடைய செயல்களெல்லாம் தெரிந்திருக்கிறது. ¹⁹ எனவே யூதரல்லாதோர்களில் தேவனிடத்தில் சேருகிறவர்களைத் தொந்தரவுபண்ணக்கூடாது என்றும், ²⁰ விக்கிரகங்களுக்குப் படைத்த அசுத்தமானவைகளை சாப்பிடாமலும், தகாத உறவு கொள்ளாமலும், கழுத்தை நசுக்கிக் கொல்லப்பட்ட மிருகம் மற்றும் இரத்தம் ஆகியவற்றை சாப்பிடாமலும் இருக்கும்படி அவர்களுக்கு நாம் எழுதவேண்டுமென்றும் நான் தீர்மானிக்கிறேன். ²¹ ஏனென்றால் மோசேயின் புத்தகங்கள் ஓய்வுநாள்தோறும் ஜெப ஆலயங்களில் வாசிக்கப்பட்டு வருகிறபடியால், ஆரம்ப காலம்முதல் எல்லாப் பட்டணங்களிலும் அந்த புத்தகங்களைப் போதிக்கிறவர்களும் உண்டு என்றான்.

²² அப்பொழுது தங்களில் சிலரைத் தெரிந்துகொண்டு பவுலோடும் பர்னபாவோடும் அந்தியோகியாவிற்கு அனுப்புகிறது அப்போஸ்தலர்கள், மூப்பர்கள் மற்றும் மக்கள் எல்லோருக்கும் நலமாகத் தோன்றியது. அவர்கள் யாரென்றால், சகோதரர்களில் விசேஷித்தவர்களாகிய பர்சபா என்னும் மறுபெயர்கொண்ட யூதாவும் சீலாவுமே. ²³ இவர்களுடைய கையில் அவர்கள் கொடுத்தனுப்பின கடிதமாவது: அப்போஸ்தலர்களும் மூப்பர்களும் சகோதரர்களுமாகிய நாங்கள் அந்தியோகியாவிலும் சீரியாவிலும் சிலிசியாவிலும் இருக்கும் யூதரல்லாத சகோதரர்களுக்கு வாழ்த்துதல் சொல்லி எழுதிய கடிதம் என்னவென்றால்: ²⁴ எங்களிடம் கட்டளைபெறாத சிலர் எங்களிடத்திலிருந்து புறப்பட்டு, நீங்கள் விருத்தசேதனம்பண்ணப்படவேண்டுமென்றும், நியாயப்பிரமாணத்தைக் கடைபிடிக்கவேண்டுமென்றும் சொல்லி, இப்படிப்பட்ட வார்த்தைகளால் உங்களைக் குழப்பி, உங்களுடைய மனதைக் கெடுத்தார்கள் என்று நாங்கள் கேள்விப்பட்டபடியால், ²⁵ நம்முடைய கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவின் நாமத்திற்காகத் தங்களுடைய உயிரையும் ஒப்புக்கொடுக்கத் துணிந்த எங்களுக்குப் பிரியமான பர்னபா மற்றும் பவுல்

என்பவர்களோடு, ²⁶ எங்களால் தெரிந்துகொள்ளப்பட்ட சில மனிதர்களை உங்களிடத்திற்கு அனுப்புவது எங்களுக்கு நலமாகத் தோன்றியது. ²⁷ அப்படியே யூதாவையும் சீலாவையும் அனுப்பியிருக்கிறோம். அவர்களும் இவைகளை வாய்வார்த்தையாக உங்களுக்கு அறிவிப்பார்கள். ²⁸ என்னவென்றால், விக்ரிகங்களுக்குப் படைத்த அசுத்தமானவைகளை சாப்பிடாமலும், தகாத உறவு கொள்ளாமலும், கழுத்தை நசுக்கிக் கொல்லப்பட்ட மிருகம் மற்றும் இரத்தம் ஆகியவற்றை சாப்பிடாமலும் இருக்கவேண்டுமென்பதே. ²⁹ அவசியமான இவைகளைத்தவிர வேறு பாரமான எந்தவொரு காரியத்தையும் உங்கள்மேல் சுமத்தாமல் இருப்பது பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவருக்கும் எங்களுக்கும் நலமாகத் தோன்றியது; இவைகளைச் செய்யாமல் நீங்கள் உங்களைக் காத்துக்கொள்ளுவது நலமாக இருக்கும். சுகமாக இருப்பீர்களாக என்று எழுதினார்கள். ³⁰ அவர்கள் அனுப்பிவிடப்பட்டு அந்தியோகியாவிற்கு வந்து, சபை மக்களைக் கூட்டிச்சேர்த்து, கடிதத்தை ஒப்படைத்தார்கள். ³¹ அதை அவர்கள் வாசித்து, அதினால் கிடைத்த ஆறுதலுக்காக சந்தோஷப்பட்டார்கள். ³² யூதா சீலா என்பவர்கள் தீர்க்கதரிசிகளாக இருந்தபடியால் அநேக வார்த்தைகளினால் சகோதரர்களுக்குப் புத்திச்சொல்லி, அவர்களைத் தைரியப்படுத்தி, ³³ சிலநாட்கள் அங்கே தங்கியிருந்து, பின்பு சகோதரர்களால் சமாதானத்தோடு அப்போஸ்தலர்களிடத்திற்கு அனுப்பிவிடப்பட்டார்கள். ³⁴ ஆனாலும் சீலாவிற்கு அங்கே தங்கியிருப்பது நலமாகத் தோன்றியது. ³⁵ பவுலும் பர்னபாவும் அந்தியோகியாவிலே தங்கியிருந்து, மற்ற மக்களுக்கும் கர்த்தருடைய வசனத்தை உபதேசித்துப் போதித்துக்கொண்டிருந்தார்கள்.

³⁶ சில நாட்களுக்குப்பின்பு பவுல் பர்னபாவை நோக்கி: நாம் கர்த்தருடைய வசனத்தை அறிவித்திருக்கிற எல்லாப் பட்டணங்களிலும் உள்ள சகோதரர்கள் எப்படி இருக்கிறார்கள் என்று சென்று பார்க்கலாம் வாரும் என்றான். ³⁷ அப்பொழுது பர்னபா என்பவன் மாற்கு என்னும் பெயர்கொண்ட யோவானையும் அழைத்துக்கொண்டு போகவேண்டும் என்றான். ³⁸ ஆனால் பவுல்: அவன் பம்பிலியா நாட்டிலே நம்மைவிட்டுப் பிரிந்து நம்மோடு ஊழியத்திற்கு வராததினாலே, அவனை அழைத்துக்கொண்டு போகக்கூடாது என்றான். ³⁹ இதைக்குறித்து அவர்களுக்குள்ளே கடுமையான விவாதம் உண்டானபடியினால் அவர்கள் ஒருவரையொருவர் விட்டுப் பிரிந்தார்கள். பர்னபா மாற்குவைக் கூட்டிக்கொண்டு கப்பல் ஏறிச் சீப்பருதீவிற்குப் போனான். ⁴⁰ பவுலோ சீலாவை அழைத்துக்கொண்டு, சகோதரர்களாலே தேவனுடைய கிருபைக்கு ஒப்புவிக்கப்பட்டு, புறப்பட்டு, ⁴¹ சீரியாவிலும் சிலிசியாவிலும் பயணம்செய்து, சபை மக்களைத் தைரியப்படுத்தினான்.

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¹ அதன்பின்பு அவன் தெர்ப்பைக்கும் லீஸ்திராவிற்கும் போனான். அங்கே தீமோத்தேயு என்னப்பட்ட ஒரு சீடன் இருந்தான்; அவன் தாய் விசுவாசமுள்ள யூதப்பெண், அவன் தகப்பன் கிரேக்கன். ² அவன் லீஸ்திராவிலும் இக்கோனியாவிலுமுள்ள சகோதரர்களாலே நற்சாட்சிப் பெற்றவனாக இருந்தான். ³ அவனைப் பவுல் தன்னோடுகூட கூட்டிக்கொண்டு போகவேண்டுமென்று விரும்பி, அவனுடைய தகப்பன் கிரேக்கன் என்று அங்கிருந்த யூதர்களெல்லோருக்கும் தெரிந்திருந்தபடியால், அவர்களின் பொருட்டு அவனுக்கு விருத்தசேதனம்பண்ணினான். ⁴ அவர்கள் பட்டணங்களுக்குப் போகும்போது, எருசலேமிலிருக்கும் அப்போஸ்தலர்களாலும் மூப்பர்களாலும் விதிக்கப்பட்ட சட்டங்களைக் கைக்கொண்டு நடக்கும்படி அவர்களுக்குச் சொன்னார்கள். ⁵ அதினாலே சபைகள் விசுவாசத்தில் உறுதிப்பட்டு, நாளுக்குநாள் பெருகின.

⁶ அவர்கள் பிரிகியா கலாத்தியா நாடுகளைக் கடந்துச்சென்றபோது, ஆசியாவிலே வசனத்தைச் சொல்லவேண்டாமென்று பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவராலே தடைசெய்யப்பட்டு, ⁷ மீசியா தேசம்வரை வந்து, பித்தினியா நாட்டிற்குப் போக விரும்பினார்கள்; ஆவியானவரோ அவர்களைப் போகவிடவில்லை. ⁸ அப்பொழுது அவர்கள் மீசியா பக்கமாகப்போய், துரோவாவிற்கு வந்தார்கள். ⁹ அங்கே இராத்திரியிலே பவுலுக்கு ஒரு தரிசனம் உண்டானது; அது என்னவென்றால், மக்கெதோனியா தேசத்தைச் சேர்ந்த ஒருவன் வந்துநின்று: நீர் மக்கெதோனியாவிற்கு வந்து எங்களுக்கு உதவிசெய்யவேண்டும் என்று பவுலை வேண்டிக்கொண்டதாக இருந்தது. ¹⁰ அந்த தரிசனத்தை அவன் கண்டபோது, அவர்களுக்கு நற்செய்தியைத் தெரிவிக்கும்படி கர்த்தர் எங்களை அழைத்தார் என்று நாங்கள் உறுதிப்படுத்திக்கொண்டு, உடனே மக்கெதோனியாவிற்குப் புறப்பட்டோம்.

¹¹ நாங்கள் துரோவாவில் கப்பல் ஏறி, சாமோத்திராக்கே தீவிற்கும், மறுநாளிலே நெயாப்போலி பட்டணத்திற்கும் சென்று, ¹² அங்கிருந்து மக்கெதோனியா தேசத்து நாடுகளில் ரோமர்கள் குடியேறின பிலிப்பி பட்டணத்திற்கு வந்து, அந்தப் பட்டணத்திலே சிலநாட்கள் தங்கியிருந்தோம். ¹³ ஓய்வுநாளில் நாங்கள் பட்டணத்திற்கு வெளியேபோய் ஆற்றின் அருகே வழக்கமாக ஜெபம்பண்ணுகிற இடத்தில் உட்கார்ந்து, அங்கே கூடிவந்த பெண்களுக்குப் போதித்தோம். ¹⁴ அப்பொழுது தியத்தீரா ஊரைச்சேர்ந்த விலையுயர்ந்த சிவப்பு கம்பளம் விற்கிறவளும் தேவனை வணங்குகிறவளுமாகிய லீதியாள் என்னும் பெயருள்ள ஒரு பெண் கேட்டுக்கொண்டிருந்தாள்; பவுல் சொன்னவைகளைக் கவனிப்பதற்காக கர்த்தர் அவள் இருதயத்தைத் திறந்தார். ¹⁵ அவளும் அவள் குடும்பத்தில் உள்ளவர்களும் ஞானஸ்நானம் பெற்றப்பின்பு, அவள் எங்களைப் பார்த்து: நான் கர்த்தரிடத்தில் விசுவாசமுள்ளவளென்று நீங்கள் நினைத்தால், என் வீட்டிலே வந்து தங்கியிருங்கள் என்று எங்களை மிகவும் வேண்டிக் கேட்டுக்கொண்டாள்.

¹⁶ நாங்கள் ஜெபம்பண்ணுகிற இடத்திற்குப் போகும்போது குறிசொல்லுகிற ஆவியினால், குறிசொல்லி தன் எஜமான்களுக்கு அதிக வருமானத்தை பெற்றுக்கொடுக்கும் ஒரு பெண் எங்களுக்கு எதிரே வந்தாள்.

¹⁷ அவள் பவுலையும் எங்களையும் பின்தொடர்ந்து வந்து: இந்த மனிதர்கள் உன்னதமான தேவனுடைய ஊழியக்காரர்கள், இரட்சிப்பின் வழியை நமக்குத் தெரிவிக்கிறவர்கள் என்று சத்தமாக சொன்னாள். ¹⁸ அவள் பல நாட்கள் இப்படியே செய்துவந்தாள். பவுல் கோபமடைந்து, திரும்பிப்பார்த்து: நீ இவளைவிட்டு வெளியே போ என்று இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவின் நாமத்தினாலே உனக்குக் கட்டளைக் கொடுக்கிறேன் என்று அந்த ஆவியுடனே சொன்னான்; அப்பொழுதே அந்த ஆவி அவளைவிட்டு வெளியேபோனது. ¹⁹ அவளுடைய எஜமான்கள் தங்களுடைய வருமானத்திற்கான நம்பிக்கை போய்விட்டதால், பவுலையும் சீலாவையும் பிடித்து, சந்தைவெளியிலுள்ள அதிகாரிகளிடத்தில் இழுத்துக்கொண்டுபோனார்கள். ²⁰ அவர்களை அதிகாரிகளிடத்தில் ஒப்படைத்து: யூதர்களாகிய இந்த மனிதர்கள் நம்முடைய பட்டணத்தில் குழப்பம் உண்டாக்கி, ²¹ ரோமராகிய நாம் ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளவும் கடைபிடிக்கவும் முடியாத தவறான பழக்கவழக்கங்களைப் போதிக்கிறார்கள் என்றனர். ²² அப்பொழுது மக்கள் கூட்டம்கூடி, அவர்களுக்கு விரோதமாக வந்தார்கள். அதிகாரிகள் அவர்களுடைய ஆடைகளைக் கிழிக்கவும், அவர்களை அடிக்கவும் சொல்லி; ²³ அவர்களை அதிகமாக அடித்தபின்பு, சிறைச்சாலையிலே வைத்து அவர்களைப் பத்திரமாகக் காவல்காக்கும்படி சிறைச்சாலைக்காரனுக்குக் கட்டளைக் கொடுத்தார்கள். ²⁴ அவன் இப்படிப்பட்டக் கட்டளையைப் பெற்றுக்கொண்டு, அவர்களை உள்காவல் அறையிலே அடைத்து, அவர்கள் கால்களை அசைக்க முடியாதபடிக்கு தொழுமரத்தின் ஓட்டைகளில் மாட்டிவைத்தான். ²⁵ நடுராத்திரியிலே பவுலும் சீலாவும் ஜெபம்பண்ணி, தேவனைத் துதித்துப்பாடினார்கள்; காவலில் வைக்கப்பட்டவர்கள் அதைக்கேட்டுக்கொண்டிருந்தார்கள். ²⁶ திடீரென்று சிறைச்சாலையின் அஸ்திபாரங்கள் அசையத்தக்கதாக பூமி மிகவும் அதிர்ந்தது; உடனே சிறைச்சாலை கதவுகளெல்லாம் திறந்தன; எல்லோருடைய கட்டுகளும் கழன்றுபோனது. ²⁷ சிறைச்சாலைக்காரன் தூக்கம் தெளிந்து,

சிறைச்சாலையின் கதவுகள் திறந்திருப்பதைப் பார்த்து, கட்டப்பட்டு இருந்தவர்கள் ஓடிப்போனார்கள் என்று நினைத்து, வாளை எடுத்து தற்கொலை செய்துகொள்ளப்போனான். ²⁸ அப்பொழுது, பவுல் சத்தமிட்டு: நீ உனக்கு எந்தத் தீங்கையும் செய்துகொள்ளாதே; நாங்கள் எல்லோரும் இங்குதான் இருக்கிறோம் என்றான். ²⁹ அப்பொழுது அவன் தீங்களைக் கொண்டுவரச்சொல்லி, உள்ளே ஓடிப்போய், நடுங்கி, பவுலுக்கும் சீலாவிற்கும் முன்பாக விழுந்து, ³⁰ அவர்களை வெளியே கூட்டிக்கொண்டுவந்து: ஆண்டவன்மாரே, இரட்சிக்கப்படுவதற்கு நான் என்னசெய்யவேண்டும் என்றான். ³¹ அதற்கு அவர்கள்: கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவை விசுவாசி, அப்பொழுது நீயும் உன் குடும்பத்தாரும் இரட்சிக்கப்படுவீர்கள் என்று சொல்லி, ³² அவனுக்கும் அவன் வீட்டிலிருந்த எல்லோருக்கும் கர்த்தருடைய வசனத்தைப் போதித்தார்கள். ³³ மேலும் அந்த இராத்திரி நேரத்திலே அவன் அவர்களை அழைத்துக்கொண்டுபோய், அவர்களுடைய காயங்களைக் கழுவினான். அவனும் அவனோடுகூட இருந்தவர்களும் உடனே ஞானஸ்நானம் பெற்றார்கள். ³⁴ பின்பு அவன் அவர்களைத் தன் வீட்டிற்குக் கூட்டிக்கொண்டுபோய், அவர்களுக்கு உணவுகொடுத்து, தன் குடும்பத்தார் அனைவரோடும் தேவனிடத்தில் விசுவாசம் வைத்து மனமகிழ்ச்சியாக இருந்தான். ³⁵ பொழுதுவிடிந்தபின்பு: அந்த மனிதர்களை விட்டுவிடுங்கள் என்று சொல்ல அதிகாரிகள் காவலர்களை அனுப்பினார்கள். ³⁶ சிறைச்சாலைக்காரன் பவுலுக்கு இந்த வார்த்தைகளை அறிவித்து: உங்களை விடுதலைசெய்யும்படி அதிகாரிகள் கட்டளைக் கொடுத்து அனுப்பியுள்ளார்கள்; எனவே நீங்கள் இப்பொழுது புறப்பட்டு சமாதானத்தோடு போங்கள் என்றான். ³⁷ அதற்குப் பவுல்: ரோமராகிய எங்களை அவர்கள் நியாயம் விசாரிக்காமல், வெளிப்படையாக அடித்து, சிறைச்சாலையிலே போட்டார்கள்; இப்பொழுது இரகசியமாக எங்களை விடுதலை செய்கிறார்களோ? அப்படியல்ல, அவர்களே வந்து, எங்களை விடுதலைசெய்து வெளியே அனுப்பிவிட்டும் என்றான். ³⁸ காவலர்கள் இந்த வார்த்தைகளைச் சிறைச்சாலை அதிகாரிகளுக்குத் தெரிவித்தார்கள். அவர்கள் ரோமர்கள் என்று அதிகாரிகள் கேட்டபொழுது பயந்துவந்து, ³⁹ அவர்களோடு தயவாகப்பேசி, அவர்களை வெளியே அழைத்துக்கொண்டுபோய், பட்டணத்தைவிட்டுப் புறப்பட்டுப்போகும்படி கேட்டுக்கொண்டார்கள். ⁴⁰ அப்படியே அவர்கள் சிறைச்சாலையிலிருந்து புறப்பட்டு லீதியாளின் வீட்டிற்குப்போய், சகோதரர்களைப் பார்த்து, அவர்களுக்கு ஆறுதல் சொல்லிவிட்டு புறப்பட்டுப்போனார்கள்.

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¹ அவர்கள் அம்பிபோலி பட்டணத்தையும் அப்பொலோனியா பட்டணத்தையும் கடந்து, தெசலோனிக்கே பட்டணத்திற்கு வந்தார்கள்; அங்கே யூதர்களுக்கு ஒரு ஜெப ஆலயம் இருந்தது. ² பவுல் தன் வழக்கத்தின்படியே அங்குபோய், மூன்று ஓய்வுநாட்களில் வேதவாக்கியங்களின் நியாயங்களை எடுத்து அவர்களோடு பேசி, ³ கிறிஸ்து பாடுபடவும் மரித்தோரிலிருந்து உயிரோடு எழுந்திருக்கவும் வேண்டுமென்றும், நான் உங்களுக்கு அறிவிக்கிற இந்த இயேசுவே கிறிஸ்து என்றும் வேதவாக்கியங்களிலிருந்து காண்பித்தான். ⁴ அவர்களில் சிலரும், பக்தியுள்ள கிரேக்கர்களில் அநேகரும், கனம்பெற்ற பெண்களில் அநேகரும் விசுவாசித்து, பவுல் சீலாவிடம் சேர்ந்துகொண்டார்கள். ⁵ விசுவாசிக்காத யூதர்கள் வைராக்கியத்தோடு பொல்லாத மனிதர்கள் சிலரைச் சேர்த்துக்கொண்டு, பட்டணத்தில் கலவரம் உண்டாக்கி, யாசோனுடைய வீட்டைச் சுற்றிவளைத்து, அவர்களைப் பட்டணத்து மக்களிடம் இழுத்துக்கொண்டுவரப் பார்த்தார்கள். ⁶ அவர்கள் அங்கு இல்லாததால், யாசோனையும் சில சகோதரர்களையும் பட்டணத்து அதிகாரிகளிடத்தில் இழுத்துக்கொண்டுவந்து: உலகத்தைக் கலக்குகிறவர்கள் இங்கேயும் வந்திருக்கிறார்கள். ⁷ இவர்களை யாசோன் தன் வீட்டில் சேர்த்துக்கொண்டான். இவர்கள் எல்லோரும் இயேசு என்னும் வேறு ஒருவனை ராஜா என்று சொல்லி, பேரரசனுடைய கட்டளைகளுக்கு எதிராக செயல்படுகிறார்கள் என்று சத்தமிட்டு, ⁸ இவைகளைக் கேட்டுக்கொண்டிருந்த மக்களையும் பட்டணத்து அதிகாரிகளையும் கலங்கப்பண்ணினார்கள். ⁹ பின்பு அவர்கள் யாசோனிடத்திலும் மற்றவர்களிடத்திலும் ஜாமீன் வாங்கிக்கொண்டு, அவர்களை விட்டுவிட்டார்கள்.

¹⁰ அன்று இரவிலே சகோதரர்கள் பவுலையும் சீலாவையும் பெரோயா பட்டணத்திற்கு அனுப்பிவிட்டார்கள்; அவர்கள் அங்கே சென்று, யூதர்களுடைய ஜெப ஆலயத்திற்குப் போனார்கள். ¹¹ அந்தப் பட்டணத்து மக்கள் வசனத்தை ஆர்வத்தோடு ஏற்றுக்கொண்டு, விஷயங்கள் இப்படியிருக்கிறதா என்று தினமும் வேதவாக்கியங்களை ஆராய்ந்துபார்த்ததினால், தெசலோனிக்கேயில் உள்ளவர்களைவிட நற்பண்பு உடையவர்களாக இருந்தார்கள். ¹² அதனால் அவர்களில் அநேகரும், கிரேக்கர்களில் கனம்பெற்ற அநேக ஆண்களும் பெண்களும் விசுவாசித்தார்கள். ¹³ பெரோயாவிலும் தேவவசனம் பவுலினால் அறிவிக்கப்படுகிறது என்று தெசலோனிக்கேயரான யூதர்களுக்கு தெரிந்தபோது, அங்கேயும் வந்து, மக்களைத் தூண்டிவிட்டார்கள். ¹⁴ உடனே சகோதரர்கள் பவுலைக் கடல்வழியாக அனுப்பிவிட்டார்கள். சீலாவும் தீமோத்தேயுவும் அங்கே தங்கியிருந்தார்கள். ¹⁵ பவுலைக் கூட்டிச்சென்றவர்கள் அவனை அத்தேனே பட்டணம்வரைக்கும் கூட்டிக்கொண்டுபோனார்கள். அங்கே பவுல், சீலாவையும் தீமோத்தேயுவையும் சீக்கிரமாக என்னிடம் வரச் சொல்லுங்கள் என்று அவர்களுக்குச் சொல்லி அனுப்பினான்.

¹⁶ அத்தேனே பட்டணத்தில் பவுல் அவர்களுக்காகக் காத்துக்கொண்டிருக்கும்போது, அந்தப் பட்டணம் விக்ரிசுங்களால் நிறைந்திருக்கிறதைப் பார்த்து, தன் மனதில் அதிக வைராக்கியம் கொண்டு, ¹⁷ ஜெப ஆலயத்தில் யூதர்களோடும், பக்தியுள்ளவர்களோடும், சந்தையில் பார்ப்பவர்களோடும் தினமும் பேசிக்கொண்டிருந்தான். ¹⁸ அப்பொழுது எப்பிக்கூரர்களும் ஸ்தோயிக்கர்களுமான ஞானிகளில் சிலர் அவனோடுகூட வாக்குவாதம்பண்ணினார்கள். சிலர்: இந்த வாயாடி என்ன பேசப்போகிறான் என்றார்கள். சிலர்: இவன் அந்நிய தேவதைகளை அறிவிக்கிறவனைப்போல இருக்கிறான் என்றார்கள். அவன் இயேசுவையும் உயிர்த்தெழுதலையும் அவர்களுக்குப் போதித்ததினால் அப்படிச் சொன்னார்கள். ¹⁹ அவர்கள் அவனை மார்ஸ் மேடைக்கு கூட்டிக்கொண்டுபோய்: நீ சொல்லுகிற இந்த புதிய உபதேசம் என்ன என்று நாங்கள் தெரிந்துகொள்ளலாமா? ²⁰ நீ சொன்ன அநேக வினோதமான காரியங்களை எங்களுடைய காதுகளில் கேட்டோம்; அதின் விளக்கம் என்ன என்று தெரிந்துகொள்ள ஆர்வமாக இருக்கிறோம் என்றார்கள். ²¹ அந்த அத்தேனே பட்டணத்து மக்கள், அங்கே தங்குகிற வெளிமக்கள் எல்லோரும், வினோதமான காரியங்களைச் சொல்லுவதிலும் கேட்பதிலுமே தங்களுடைய நேரத்தைச் செலவழித்தார்கள். ²² அப்பொழுது பவுல் மார்ஸ் மேடையின் நடுவிலே நின்று: அத்தேனே பட்டணத்தாரே, எல்லாக் காரியத்திலும் உங்களை அதிக பக்தியுள்ளவர்களாகப் பார்க்கிறேன். ²³ எப்படியென்றால், நான் சுற்றித்திரிந்து, உங்களுடைய ஆராதனைகளை கவனித்துப் பார்த்தபொழுது, “அறியப்படாத தேவனுக்கு” என்று எழுதியிருக்கிற ஒரு பலிபீடத்தைப் பார்த்தேன்; நீங்கள் அறியாமல் ஆராதனை செய்கிற அவரையே நான் உங்களுக்கு அறிவிக்கிறேன். ²⁴ உலகத்தையும் அதிலுள்ள எல்லாவற்றையும் உண்டாக்கின தேவனானவர் வானத்திற்கும் பூமிக்கும் ஆண்டவராக இருக்கிறபடியால், கைகளினால் கட்டப்பட்ட கோவில்களில் அவர் குடியிருப்பதில்லை. ²⁵ எல்லோருக்கும் ஜீவனையும் சுவாசத்தையும் எல்லாவற்றையும் கொடுக்கிற ஆண்டவர், தமக்கு ஏதாவது தேவையென்றால், மனிதர்கள் கைகளினால் பெற்றுக்கொள்வதில்லை. ²⁶ மனித இனமான எல்லா மக்களையும் அவர் ஒரே இரத்தத்தினாலே

உண்டாக்கி, பூமியெங்கும் குடியிருக்கச்செய்து, முன் தீர்மானிக்கப்பட்ட காலங்களையும் அவர்கள் குடியிருக்கும் எல்லைகளையும் குறித்திருக்கிறார்; ²⁷ கர்த்தராகிய அவரை மக்கள் தடவியாவது தேடிக் கண்டுபிடிக்கும்படி அப்படிச் செய்தார்; அவர் நம் ஒவ்வொருவருக்கும் அருகில் உள்ளார். ²⁸ ஏனென்றால், அவருக்குள் நாம் பிழைக்கிறோம், அசைகிறோம், இருக்கிறோம்; அப்படியே உங்களுடைய புலவர்களிலும் சிலர், நாம் அவருடைய வம்சத்தார் என்று சொல்லியிருக்கிறார்கள். ²⁹ நாம் தேவனுடைய வம்சமாக இருப்பதினால், மனிதனுடைய யோசனையினாலும் சித்திரவேலையினாலும் உருவாக்கின தங்கம், வெள்ளி, கல் ஆகியவற்றிக்கு தெய்வம் ஒப்பாவார் என்று நாம் நினைக்கக்கூடாது. ³⁰ மக்களின் அறியாமையின் நாட்களை தேவன் பார்க்காதவர்போல இருந்தார்; இப்பொழுது மனம் மாறவேண்டும் என்று எல்லா மனிதர்களுக்கும் கட்டளையிடுகிறார். ³¹ ஒரு நாளைக் குறித்திருக்கிறார்; அந்த நாளிலே அவர் தாம் நியமித்த மனிதனைக்கொண்டு, பூலோகத்தை நீதியாக நியாயந்தீர்ப்பார்; அந்த மனிதனை மரித்தோரிலிருந்து உயிரோடு எழுப்பினதினாலே அதின் நிச்சயத்தை எல்லோருக்கும் விளங்கப்பண்ணினார் என்றான். ³² மரித்தவர்களின் உயிர்த்தெழுதலைக்குறித்து பவுல் சொல்வதை அவர்கள் கேட்டபோது, சிலர் கேலிசெய்தார்கள். சிலர்: நீ சொல்லுகிறதை வேறொரு நாளில் கேட்போம் என்றார்கள். ³³ எனவே, பவுல் அவர்களைவிட்டுப் போய்விட்டான். ³⁴ சிலர் பவுலோடு சேர்ந்துகொண்டு, விசுவாசிகளானார்கள். அவர்களில் மார்ஸ் மேடையின் நியாயாதிபதிகளில் ஒருவனாகிய தியொனீசியு என்பவனும், தாமரி என்னும் பெயருள்ள ஒரு பெண்ணும், வேறு சிலரும் இருந்தார்கள்.

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¹ அதன்பின்பு பவுல் அத்தேனே பட்டணத்தைவிட்டு, கொரிந்து பட்டணத்திற்கு வந்து; ² யூதரெல்லோரும் ரோமாபுரியைவிட்டுப்போகும்படி கிலவுதியு பேரரசன் கட்டளையிட்டபடியினாலே, இத்தாலியாவிலிருந்து புதிதாக வந்திருந்த பொந்து தேசத்தைச் சேர்ந்த ஆக்கில்லா என்னும் பெயருள்ள ஒரு யூதனையும் அவன் மனைவியாகிய பிரிஸ்கில்லாளையும் அங்கே பார்த்து, அவர்களிடத்திற்குப் போனான். ³ அவர்கள் கூடாரம்பண்ணுகிற தொழிலாளிகளாக இருந்தார்கள்; தானும் அந்தத் தொழில் செய்கிறவனாக இருந்தபடியால் அவர்களோடு தங்கி, வேலை செய்துகொண்டு வந்தான். ⁴ ஓய்வு நாட்களிலே இவன் ஜெப ஆலயத்திலே, யூதர்களுக்கும் கிரேக்கர்களுக்கும் புத்திசொன்னான். ⁵ மக்கெதோனியாவிலிருந்து சீலாவும் தீமோத்தேயுவும் வந்தபோது, பவுல் வைராக்கியத்தோடு, இயேசுவே கிறிஸ்து என்று யூதர்களுக்கு நிரூபித்தான். ⁶ அவர்கள் எதிர்த்து நின்று பவுலுக்கு எதிராகப் பேசினபோது, அவன் தன் ஆடைகளை உதறி: உங்களுடைய இரத்தபழி உங்களுடைய தலையின்மேல் இருக்கும்; நான் சுத்தமாக இருக்கிறேன்; இனி நான் யூதர்களல்லாதவரிடத்திற்கு போவேன் என்று அவர்களுக்குச் சொல்லி, ⁷ அந்த இடத்தைவிட்டு, தேவனை வணங்குகிறவனாகிய யூஸ்து என்பவனுடைய வீட்டிற்கு வந்தான்; அவன் வீடு ஜெப ஆலயத்திற்கு அடுத்து இருந்தது. ⁸ ஜெப ஆலயத்தலைவனாகிய கிறிஸ்பு என்பவன் குடும்பமாக கர்த்தரிடத்தில் விசுவாசமுள்ளவனானான். கொரிந்தியரில் அநேக மக்கள் நற்செய்தியைக் கேட்டு, விசுவாசித்து, ஞானஸ்நானம் பெற்றார்கள். ⁹ இராத்திரியிலே கர்த்தர் பவுலுக்குத் தரிசனமாகி: நீ பயப்படாமல் பேசு, மவுனமாக இருக்காதே; ¹⁰ நான் உன்னோடுகூட இருக்கிறேன், ஒருவனும் உனக்குத் தீங்குசெய்யமுடியாது; இந்தப் பட்டணத்தில் எனக்கு அநேக மக்கள் உண்டு என்றார். ¹¹ அவன் ஒரு வருடம் ஆறுமாத காலங்கள் அங்கே தங்கி, தேவவசனத்தை அவர்களுக்கு உபதேசம்பண்ணிக்கொண்டுவந்தான். ¹² கல்லியோன் என்பவன் அகாயா நாட்டிற்கு அதிபதியானபோது, யூதர்கள் ஒன்றுசேர்ந்து, பவுலுக்கு எதிராக எழும்பி, அவனை நீதிமன்றத்திற்கு கொண்டுவந்தான். ¹³ இவன் வேதப்பிரமாணத்திற்கு முரண்பாடாக தேவனை வணங்கும்படி எல்லோருக்கும் போதிக்கிறான் என்றார்கள். ¹⁴ பவுல் பேச ஆரம்பிக்கும்போது, கல்லியோன் யூதரை நோக்கி: யூதர்களே, இது ஒரு அநியாயமாக அல்லது பொல்லாத செயலாக இருக்குமென்றால் நான் நீங்கள் சொல்வதை பொறுமையோடு கேட்பது நல்லது. ¹⁵ ஆனால் இது வார்த்தைகளுக்கும், நாமங்களுக்கும், உங்களுடைய வேதத்திற்கும் சம்பந்தப்பட்ட காரியமாக இருப்பதால், இவைகளைப்பற்றி, விசாரணைசெய்ய எனக்கு விருப்பமில்லை, நீங்களே பார்த்துக்கொள்ளுங்கள் என்று சொல்லி, ¹⁶ அவர்களை அங்கிருந்து துரத்திவிட்டான். ¹⁷ அப்பொழுது கிரேக்கரெல்லோரும் ஜெப ஆலயத்தலைவனாகிய சொஸ்தேனையைப் பிடித்து, நீதிமன்றத்திற்கு முன்பாக அடித்தார்கள். இவைகளைக்குறித்துக் கல்லியோன் கவலைப்படவில்லை.

¹⁸ பவுல் அநேகநாட்கள் அங்கே தங்கியிருந்து, சகோதரர்களிடம் விடைபெற்றுக்கொண்டு, தனக்கு ஒரு பிராத்தனை இருக்கிறபடியால் கெங்கிரேயா பட்டணத்தில் தலைச்சுவரம்பண்ணிக்கொண்டு, கப்பல் ஏறி சீரியா தேசத்திற்குப் போனான். பிரிஸ்கில்லாளும் ஆக்கில்லாவும் அவனோடுகூட போனார்கள். ¹⁹ அவன் எபேசு பட்டணத்திற்கு வந்தபோது, அங்கே அவர்களைவிட்டுப் பிரிந்து, ஜெப ஆலயத்திற்குச் சென்று, யூதர்களுடனே பேசிக்கொண்டிருந்தான். ²⁰ அவன் இன்னும் கொஞ்சநாட்கள் அவர்களோடு தங்கவேண்டுமென்று அவர்கள் கேட்டுக் கொண்டபோது அவன் சம்மதிக்காமல், ²¹ வருகிற பண்டிகையிலே, நான் எப்படியாவது எருசலேமில் இருக்கவேண்டும். தேவனுக்குச் சித்தமானால் திரும்பி உங்களிடம் வருவேன் என்று சொல்லி, அவர்களிடம் விடைபெற்றுக்கொண்டு, கப்பல் ஏறி எபேசுவைவிட்டுப் புறப்பட்டு, ²² செசரியா பட்டணத்திற்கு வந்து, எருசலேமுக்குப்போய், சபைமக்களைச் சந்தித்து, அந்தியோகியாவிற்குப் போனான். ²³ அங்கே சிலகாலம் தங்கியிருந்தபின்பு, அங்கிருந்து புறப்பட்டு, கலாத்தியா நாட்டிலேயும் பிரிகியா நாட்டிலேயும் சுற்றித்திரிந்து, சீடரெல்லோரையும் உற்சாகப்படுத்தினான்.

²⁴ அப்பொழுது அலெக்சந்திரியா பட்டணத்தில் பிறந்த பேச்சிலே வல்லவனும், வேதாகமங்களில் தேறினவனுமான அப்பொல்லோ என்னும் பெயர்கொண்ட ஒரு யூதன் எபேசு பட்டணத்திற்கு வந்தான். ²⁵ அவன் கர்த்தருடைய வழியிலே போதிக்கப்பட்டு, யோவான் கொடுத்த ஞானஸ்நானத்தைமட்டும் தெரிந்தவனாக இருந்து, ஆவியில் வைராக்கியள்ளவனாகக் கர்த்தருக்குரிய காரியங்களைத் தெளிவாய்ப் போதகம்பண்ணிக்கொண்டுவந்தான். ²⁶ அவன் ஜெப ஆலயத்தில் தைரியமாகப் பேசினபோது, ஆக்கில்லாவும், பிரிஸ்கில்லாளும் அவன் பேசுகிறதைக் கேட்டு, அவனைத் தங்களோடு சேர்த்துக்கொண்டு, தேவனுடைய வழிகளை அதிகத் தெளிவாக அவனுக்கு விளக்கிக் காண்பித்தார்கள். ²⁷ பின்பு அவன் அகாயா நாட்டிற்குப் போகவேண்டும் என்றபோது, சீடர்கள் அங்கே அவனை ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளும்படி சகோதரர்கள் அவர்களுக்கு கடிதம் எழுதினார்கள். ²⁸ அவன் அகாயா நாட்டிற்கு வந்து வெளிப்படையாக யூதர்களுடனே பலமாக வாதாடி, இயேசுவே கிறிஸ்து என்று

வேதவாக்கியங்களைக் கொண்டு விளக்கிபடியால், கிருபையினாலே விசுவாசிகளானவர்களுக்கு
மிகவும் உதவியாக இருந்தான்.

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¹ அப்பொல்லோ என்பவன் கொரிந்து பட்டணத்திலே இருக்கும்போது, பவுல் மேடான தேசங்கள்வழியாகப்போய், எபேசுவிற்கு வந்தான்; அங்கே சில சீடர்களைக் கண்டு: ² நீங்கள் விசுவாசிகளானபோது, பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவரைப் பெற்றீர்களா என்று கேட்டான். அதற்கு அவர்கள்: பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவர் உண்டென்பதை நாங்கள் கேள்விப்படவே இல்லை என்றார்கள். ³ அப்பொழுது அவன்: அப்படியானால் நீங்கள் எந்த ஞானஸ்நானம் பெற்றீர்கள் என்றான். அதற்கு அவர்கள்: யோவான் கொடுத்த ஞானஸ்நானம் பெற்றோம் என்றார்கள். ⁴ அப்பொழுது பவுல்: யோவான் தனக்குப்பின் வருகிறவராகிய கிறிஸ்து இயேசுவில் விசுவாசிகளாக இருக்கவேண்டும் என்று மக்களுக்குச் சொல்லி, மனந்திரும்புதலுக்கு ஏற்ற ஞானஸ்நானத்தைக் கொடுத்தானே என்றான். ⁵ அதைக் கேட்டபொழுது அவர்கள் கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுவின் நாமத்தினாலே ஞானஸ்நானம் பெற்றார்கள். ⁶ அல்லாமலும் பவுல் அவர்கள்மேல் கரங்களை வைத்தபோது, பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவர் அவர்கள்மேல் வந்தார்; அப்பொழுது அவர்கள் பிறமொழிகளைப் பேசி தீர்க்கதரிசனம் சொன்னார்கள். ⁷ அந்த மனிதர்கள் ஏறக்குறைய பன்னிரண்டுபேராக இருந்தார்கள். ⁸ பின்பு பவுல் ஜெப ஆலயத்தில் உள்ளே வந்து, தைரியமாகப் பிரசங்கித்து, மூன்று மாதங்கள்வரை தேவனுடைய ராஜ்யத்துக்கடுத்தவைகளைக்குறித்து கலந்துரையாடி, புத்திசொல்லிக்கொண்டு வந்தான். ⁹ சிலர் கடினப்பட்டு நம்பிக்கையற்றவர்களாகிக் கூட்டத்திற்கு முன்பாக இந்த மார்க்கத்தை இகழ்ந்து பேசியபோது, அவன் அவர்களைவிட்டு விலகி, சீடர்களை அவர்களிலிருந்து பிரித்துக்கொண்டு, திறன்னு என்னும் ஒருவனுடைய கல்விக்கூட்டத்திலே அநுதினமும் கலந்துரையாடிக்கொண்டிருந்தான். ¹⁰ இரண்டு வருடகாலம் இப்படி நடந்ததினாலே ஆசியாவில் குடியிருந்த யூதர்களும் கிரேக்கர்களும்மாறும் எல்லோரும் கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுவின் வசனத்தைக் கேட்டார்கள். ¹¹ பவுலின் கைகளினாலே தேவன் அரிய பெரிய அற்புதங்களைச் செய்துகாண்பித்தார். ¹² அவனுடைய சரீரத்திலிருந்து துண்டுகளையும், கைக்குட்டைகளையும் கொண்டுவந்து, வியாதிக்காரர்கள்மேல் போட வியாதிகள் அவர்களைவிட்டு நீங்கிப்போயின; பொல்லாத ஆவிகளும் அவர்களைவிட்டுப் புறப்பட்டன. ¹³ அப்பொழுது நாடோடிகளாகத் திரிகிற மந்திரவாதிகளாகிய யூதர்களில் சிலர் பொல்லாத ஆவிகள் பிடித்திருந்தவர்கள்மேல் கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுவின் நாமத்தைச் சொல்லத் துணிந்து: பவுல் பிரசங்கிக்கிற இயேசுவின்பேரில் ஆணையிட்டு உங்களுக்குக் கட்டளையிடுகிறோம் என்றார்கள். ¹⁴ பிரதான ஆசாரியனாகிய ஸ்கேவா என்னும் ஒரு யூதனுடைய குமாரர்கள் ஏழுபேர் இப்படிச்செய்தார்கள். ¹⁵ பொல்லாத ஆவி அவர்களை நோக்கி: இயேசுவை அறிவேன், பவுலையும் அறிவேன், நீங்கள் யார் என்று சொல்லி, ¹⁶ அசுத்தஆவியையுடைய மனிதன் அவர்கள்மேல் பாய்ந்து, பலவந்தம்பண்ணி, அவர்களை மேற்கொள்ள, அவர்கள் நிர்வாணிகளும் காயப்பட்டவர்களும்மாகி அந்த வீட்டைவிட்டு ஓடிப்போனார்கள். ¹⁷ இது எபேசுவிலே குடியிருந்த யூதர்கள் கிரேக்கர்கள் அனைவருக்கும் தெரியவந்தபோது, அவர்களெல்லோரும் பயமடைந்தார்கள்; கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுவின் நாமம் மகிமைப்பட்டது. ¹⁸ விசுவாசித்தவர்களில் அநேகர் வந்து, தங்களுடைய பொல்லாத வித்தைகளை வெளிப்படுத்தி அறிக்கையிட்டார்கள். ¹⁹ மாயவித்தைக்காரர்களாக இருந்தவர்களில் அநேகர் தங்களுடைய புத்தகங்களைக் கொண்டுவந்து, எல்லோருக்கும் முன்பாகச் சுட்டெரித்தார்கள்; அவைகளின் விலையைத் தொகைபார்த்து, ஐம்பதினாயிரம் வெள்ளிக்காசாகக் கண்டார்கள். ²⁰ இவ்வளவு வல்லமையாக கர்த்தருடைய வசனம் பரவியது. ²¹ இவைகள் முடிந்தபின்பு, பவுல் மக்கெதோனியா அகாயா என்னும் நாடுகளில் சுற்றி நடந்து, எருசலேமுக்குப் போகும்படி ஆவியில் தீர்மானம்பண்ணிக்கொண்டு: நான் அங்கே போனபின்பு ரோமாபுரியையும் பார்க்கவேண்டும் என்று சொல்லி, ²² தனக்கு உதவி செய்தவர்களில் இரண்டுபேராகிய தீமோத்தேயுவையும் எரஸ்துவையும் மக்கெதோனியாவிற்கு அனுப்பிவிட்டு; தான் பின்னும் சிலநாட்கள் ஆசியாவிலே தங்கினான்.

²³ அக்காலத்திலே இந்த மார்க்கத்தைக்குறித்துப் பெரிய கலகம் உண்டானது. ²⁴ எப்படியென்றால், தெமேத்திரியு என்னும் பெயர்கொண்ட ஒரு தட்டான் தியானாளின் கோவிலைப்போல வெள்ளியினால் சிறிய கோவில்களைச் செய்து, தொழிலாளிகளுக்கு மிகுந்த ஆதாயம் வருவித்துக்கொண்டிருந்தான். ²⁵ இவர்களையும் இப்படிப்பட்டத் தொழில்செய்கிற மற்ற வேலையாட்களையும் அவன் கூடிவரச்செய்து: மக்களே, இந்தத் தொழிலினால் நமக்கு நல்ல பிழைப்பு உண்டாயிருக்கிறதென்று அறிவீர்கள். ²⁶ இப்படியிருக்க, கைகளினால் செய்யப்பட்ட தேவர்கள் தேவர்களல்லவென்று இந்தப் பவுல் என்பவன் சொல்லி, எபேசுவிலே மாத்திரமல்ல, கொஞ்சங்குறைய ஆசியா எங்கும் அநேக மக்களுக்குப் போதித்து, அவர்களைத் தன் பக்கமாகச் சேர்த்துக்கொண்டான் என்று நீங்கள் கண்டும் கேட்டும் இருக்கிறீர்கள். ²⁷ இதனால் நம்முடைய தொழில் அற்றுப்போகும்படியான அபாயம் சம்பவித்திருக்கிறதும்ல்லாமல், மகா தேவியாகிய தியானாளுடைய கோவில் நினைவில்லாமல் போகிறதற்கும், ஆசியா முழுமையும் உலகமுழுவதும் சேவிக்கிற அவளுடைய மகத்துவம் அழிந்துபோகிறதற்கும் ஏதுவாக இருக்கிறது என்றான். ²⁸ அவர்கள் இதைக்கேட்டு, கோபத்தால் நிறைந்து: எபேசியருடைய தியானாளே பெரியவள்

என்று சத்தமிட்டார்கள். ²⁹ பட்டணம் முழுவதும் கலகத்தினால் நிறைந்தது. பவுலுக்கு வழித்துணையாக வந்த மக்கெதோனியர்களாகிய காயுவையும் அரிஸ்தர்க்குவையும் அவர்கள் இழுத்துக்கொண்டு, ஒருமனப்பட்டு மண்டபத்திற்கு பாய்ந்தோடினார்கள். ³⁰ பவுல் கூட்டத்திற்குள்ளே போக மனதாயிருந்தபோது, சீடர்கள் அவனைப் போகவிடவில்லை. ³¹ ஆசியாநாட்டுத் தலைவரில் அவனுக்கு நண்பர்களாக இருந்த சிலரும் அவனிடத்திற்கு ஆள் அனுப்பி, மண்டபத்திற்குள் போகவேண்டாம் என்று எச்சரித்தார்கள். ³² கூட்டத்தில் குழப்பமுண்டாகி, சிலர் இப்படியும் சிலர் அப்படியுமாகப் பேசினார்கள்; தாங்கள் கூடிவந்த காரணம் இன்னதென்று அநேகருக்குத் தெரியாதிருந்தது. ³³ அப்பொழுது யூதர்கள் அலெக்சந்தர் என்பவனை முன்னே நிற்கத் தள்ளும்போது, கூட்டத்திலே சிலர் அவனை முன்னே இழுத்துவிட்டார்கள். அலெக்சந்தர் கையால் சைகை காட்டி, மக்களுக்கு உத்தரவுசொல்ல மனதாயிருந்தான். ³⁴ அவன் யூதனென்று அவர்கள் அறிந்தபோது, எபேசியர்களுடைய தியானாளே பெரியவள் என்று இரண்டுமணி நேரம்வரை எல்லோரும் ஏகமாகச் சத்தமிட்டுக்கொண்டிருந்தார்கள். ³⁵ பட்டணத்து அவைத்தலைவன் மக்களை அமைதிப்படுத்தி: எபேசியர்களே, இந்த பட்டணம் மகா தேவியாகிய தியானாளின் கோவிலும் வானத்திலிருந்து விழுந்த சிலையையும் எபேசியரது நகரின் பாதுகாப்பில் இருக்கிறதென்று அறியாதவன் உண்டோ? ³⁶ இதை எவரும் மறுக்கமுடியாத காரியமாகையால், நீங்கள் பதற்றங்கொண்டு ஒன்றும் செய்யாமல் அமைதியாக இருக்கவேண்டும். ³⁷ இந்த மனிதர்களை இங்கே கொண்டுவந்தீர்கள்; இவர்கள் கோவில் கொள்ளைக்காரர்களும் அல்ல, உங்களுடைய தேவியை நிந்தித்துப் பேசுகிறவர்களும் அல்ல. ³⁸ தெமேத்திரியுவிற்கும் அவனைச் சேர்ந்த தொழிலாளிகளுக்கும் ஒருவன்மேல் ஒரு காரியம் உண்டாயிருந்தால், நியாயம் விசாரிக்கிற நாட்களுண்டு, ஆளுனர்கள் இருக்கிறார்கள்; ஒருவர் பேரிலொருவர் வழக்காடிக்கொள்ளட்டும். ³⁹ நீங்கள் வேறு எந்தவொரு காரியத்தைக்குறித்து விசாரிக்கவேண்டுமானால், அதை சட்டப்படி கூடுகின்ற சபையில் பேசித் தீர்த்துக்கொள்ளலாம். ⁴⁰ இன்றைக்கு உண்டான கலகத்தைக்குறித்து நாம் உத்தரவு சொல்லுகிறதற்கு எதுவும் இல்லாதபடியால், இந்தக் கலகத்தைக்குறித்து நாங்கள் விசாரிக்கப்படும்போது, குற்றவாளிகளாகிறதற்கு ஏதுவாக இருப்போமே என்று சொல்லி, ⁴¹ பின்பு கூட்டத்தை அனுப்பிவிட்டான்.

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¹ கலகம் முடிந்தபின்பு, பவுல் சீடர்களைத் தன்னிடத்திற்கு வரவழைத்து, உற்சாகப்படுத்தி, மக்கெதோனியாவிற்குப் புறப்பட்டுப்போனான் ² அவன் அந்த பகுதிகளுக்குச் சென்று சீடர்களுக்குப் புத்திச்சொல்லி, உற்சாகப்படுத்தி கிரேக்கு தேசத்திற்குச் சென்றான். ³ அங்கே அவன் மூன்று மாதங்கள் வசித்தபின்பு, அவன் கப்பல் ஏறி, சீரியா தேசத்திற்குப்போக நினைத்தபோது, யூதர்கள் அவனைக் கொலைசெய்யும்படி இரகசியமாக யோசனை செய்துகொண்டிருந்தபடியால், மக்கெதோனியா தேசத்தின்வழியாகத் திரும்பிப்போகத் தீர்மானம்பண்ணினான். ⁴ பெரோயா ஊரானாகிய சோபத்தரும், தெசலோனிக்கேயரில் அரிஸ்தர்க்கும், செக்குந்தும், தெர்பையானாகிய காயுவும், தீமோத்தேயும், ஆசியா நாட்டைச்சேர்ந்த தீகிக்கும் துரோப்பீமும், ஆசியா நாடுவரைக்கும் துணைக்கு வந்தார்கள். ⁵ இவர்கள் எங்களுக்கு முன்னால் சென்று, துரோவா பட்டணத்திலே எங்களுக்காகக் காத்திருந்தார்கள். ⁶ புளிப்பில்லாத அப்பப்பண்டிகை நாட்களுக்குப்பின்பு, நாங்கள் பிலிப்பி பட்டணத்திலிருந்து கப்பல் ஏறி ஐந்துநாட்கள் பயணத்திற்குப்பின்பு துரோவா பட்டணத்திற்கு வந்து அவர்களோடு ஏழுநாட்கள் தங்கியிருந்தோம்.

⁷ வாரத்தின் முதல்நாளில், அப்பம் புசிக்கும்படி சீடர்கள் கூடி வந்திருக்கும்பொழுது, பவுல் அடுத்தநாள் புறப்படவேண்டும் என்பதால், அவர்களோடு பேசி, நடுராத்திரிவரைக்கும் பிரசங்கித்தான். ⁸ அவர்கள் கூடியிருந்த மேல்வீட்டில் அநேக விளக்குகள் வைக்கப்பட்டிருந்தது. ⁹ அப்பொழுது ஐத்திகு என்னும் பெயருடைய ஒரு வாலிபன் ஜன்னலில் உட்கார்ந்திருந்தான். பவுல் தொடர்ந்து பிரசங்கம்பண்ணிக்கொண்டிருந்ததால், அவன் தூக்க மயக்கத்தினால் சாய்ந்து மூன்றாம் மாடியிலிருந்து கீழே விழுந்து, தூக்கியெடுத்தபோது மரித்திருந்தான். ¹⁰ உடனே பவுல் இறங்கிப்போய், அவனை எடுத்து, அணைத்துக்கொண்டு: கலங்காதிருங்கள், இவன் உயிரோடு இருக்கிறான் என்றான். ¹¹ பின்பு மேலே ஏறிப்போய், அப்பம்பிட்டு புசித்து, விடியற்காலையரை பேசிக்கொண்டிருந்து, பின்பு புறப்பட்டான். ¹² அந்த வாலிபனை அவர்கள் உயிருள்ளவனாகக் கூட்டிக்கொண்டு வந்ததைப் பார்த்து மிகுந்த ஆறுதலடைந்தார்கள்.

¹³ பவுல் ஆசோ பட்டணம்வரைக்கும் தரைவழியாகப் போகத் திட்டமிட்டிருந்தான். நாங்கள் கப்பல் ஏறி, பவுலுக்கு முன்னதாகவே ஆசோ பட்டணத்திற்குச் சென்றோம். அங்கிருந்து தம்மைக் கப்பலில் ஏற்றிச்செல்லவேண்டுமென்று அவன் திட்டம் செய்திருந்தார். ¹⁴ அவன் ஆசோ பட்டணத்திலே எங்களைப் பார்த்தபொழுது நாங்கள் அவனைக் கூட்டிக்கொண்டு மித்திலேனே பட்டணத்திற்கு வந்தோம். ¹⁵ அடுத்தநாளில் கீயு தீவிற்கு எதிரே உள்ள பகுதிக்கு வந்து, ¹⁶ பவுல் பெந்தெகொஸ்தே பண்டிகைநாளிலே எருசலேமில் இருக்கவேண்டுமென்று விரும்பியதால், தான் ஆசியாவிலே காலத்தை வீணாக்காமல், எபேசு பட்டணத்திலிருந்து கடந்துபோகவேண்டுமென்று அவசரப்படுத்தி, மறுநாளிலே சாமு தீவை அடைந்து, துரோகில்லியோன் ஊர்த்துறையிலே தங்கி, மறுநாள் மிலேத்து பட்டணத்திற்கு வந்தோம். ¹⁷ மிலேத்துவிலிருந்து அவன் எபேசுவிற்கு ஆள் அனுப்பி, சபையின் மூப்பர்களை வரவழைத்தான். ¹⁸ அவர்கள் தன்னிடத்தில் வந்தபொழுது, அவன் அவர்களை நோக்கி: நான் ஆசியா நாட்டிலிருந்து வந்த முதல்நாள் தொடங்கி எல்லாக் காலங்களிலும் உங்களோடு நான் எப்படி இருந்தேன் என்று நீங்கள் அறிந்திருக்கிறீர்கள். ¹⁹ நான் மிகுந்த தாழ்மையோடும், மிகுந்த கண்ணீரோடும், யூதர்களுடைய தீமையான யோசனையால் எனக்கு வந்த சோதனைகளோடும் கர்த்தருக்குப் பணி செய்தேன். ²⁰ பிரயோஜனமானவைகளில் ஒன்றையும் நான் உங்களுக்கு மறைத்துவைக்காமல், வெளியரங்கமாக வீடுகள்தோறும் உங்களுக்குப் பிரசங்கித்து, உபதேசம்பண்ணி, ²¹ தேவனிடத்திற்கு மனந்திரும்புவதைக்குறித்தும், நம்முடைய கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவை விசுவாசிப்பதைக்குறித்தும், நான் யூதர்களுக்கும் கிரேக்கர்களுக்கும் சாட்சியாக அறிவித்தேன். ²² இப்பொழுதும் நான் பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவரிலே கட்டுண்டவனாக எருசலேமுக்குப் போகிறேன்; அங்கே எனக்கு என்ன நடக்கும் என்று தெரியாது. ²³ தொடர்ச்சியான கட்டுகளும் உபத்திரவங்களும் எனக்கு உள்ளது என்று பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவர் பட்டணங்களெல்லாம் தெரிவிக்கிறதைமட்டும் அறிந்திருக்கிறேன். ²⁴ ஆனாலும் எதைக்குறித்தும் நான் கவலைப்படமாட்டேன். என் உயிரையும் பெரிதாக நினைக்கமாட்டேன்; என் ஓட்டத்தை சந்தோஷத்தோடு முடிக்கவும், தேவனுடைய கிருபையின் நற்செய்தியைப் பிரசங்கம்பண்ணும்படிக்கு நான் கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுவினிடத்தில் பெற்ற ஊழியத்தை நிறைவேற்றவுமே விரும்புகிறேன். ²⁵ இதோ, நான் உங்களோடு வசித்து, தேவனுடைய ராஜ்யத்தைக்குறித்து பிரசங்கம்பண்ணினதைக் கேட்டவர்களாகிய நீங்கள் எல்லோரும் இனி என் முகத்தைப் பார்க்கமாட்டீர்கள் என்று அறிந்திருக்கிறேன். ²⁶ தேவனுடைய ஆலோசனையில் ஒன்றையும் நான் மறைத்துவைக்காமல், எல்லாவற்றையும் உங்களுக்கு அறிவித்தபடியால், ²⁷ எல்லோருடைய இரத்தப்பழிக்கும் நீங்கி நான் சுத்தமாக இருக்கிறேன் என்பதற்கு உங்களை இன்று சாட்சிகளாக வைக்கிறேன். ²⁸ ஆகவே,

உங்களைக்குறித்தும் தேவன், தம்முடைய சொந்த இரத்தத்தினாலே சம்பாதித்துக்கொண்ட தமது சபையை மேய்ப்பதற்குப் பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவர் உங்களைக் கண்காணிகளாக வைத்த மந்தை எல்லாவற்றையும்குறித்தும், எச்சரிக்கையாக இருங்கள். ²⁹ நான் போனபின்பு மந்தையைத் தப்பவிடாத கொடிய ஓநாய்கள் உங்களுக்குள்ளே வரும். ³⁰ உங்களிலும் சிலர் எழும்பி, சீடர்களைத் தங்களிடத்தில் இழுத்துக்கொள்ளும்படி தவறானவைகளைப் போதிப்பார்கள் என்று அறிந்திருக்கிறேன். ³¹ எனவே, நான் மூன்று வருடங்கள் இரவும் பகலும் கண்ணீரோடு இடைவிடாமல் உங்கள் அனைவருக்கும் புத்திச் சொன்னதை நினைத்து விழித்திருங்கள். ³² இப்பொழுதும் சகோதரர்களே, உங்களுடைய பக்தி பெருகவும், பரிசுத்தமாக்கப்பட்ட அனைவருக்குள்ளும் உங்களுக்கு உரிமைப்பங்கைக் கொடுக்கவும் வல்லவராக இருக்கிற தேவனுக்கும் அவருடைய கிருபையுள்ள வசனத்திற்கும் உங்களை ஒப்புக்கொடுக்கிறேன். ³³ ஒருவனுடைய வெள்ளியையோ பொன்னையோ ஆடையையோ நான் இச்சிக்கவில்லை. ³⁴ நீங்கள் அறிந்திருக்கிறபடி, எனக்கும் என்னுடனே கூடி இருந்த மக்களுக்காகவும் இந்தக் கைகளே வேலைசெய்தது. ³⁵ இப்படிப் பிரயாசப்பட்டு, பலவீனரைத் தாங்கவும், வாங்குகிறதைவிட கொடுக்கிறதே பாக்கியம் என்று கர்த்தராகிய இயேசு சொன்ன வார்த்தைகளை நினைக்கவும் வேண்டுமென்று எல்லாவிதத்திலேயும் உங்களுக்குக் காண்பித்தேன் என்றான். ³⁶ இவைகளைச் சொன்னபின்பு, அவன் முழங்கால்படியிட்டு, அவர்கள் எல்லோரோடும் சேர்ந்து ஜெபம்பண்ணினான். ³⁷ அவர்கள் எல்லோரும் மிகவும் அழுது, என் முகத்தை நீங்கள் இனிப் பார்க்கமாட்டீர்கள் என்று அவன் சொன்ன வார்த்தையினால் அதிகமாகத் துக்கப்பட்டு, ³⁸ பவுலைக் கட்டித்தழுவி, அவனை முத்தம் செய்து, கப்பல்வரைக்கும் அவனோடுகூடச் சென்றார்கள்.

அத்தியாயம்- 21

¹ நாங்கள் அவர்களைவிட்டுப் பிரிந்து, எபேசு பட்டணத்திலிருந்து கப்பலேறி நேராக கோஸ் தீவையும், மறுநாளில் ரோது தீவையும் அடைந்து, அந்த இடத்தைவிட்டு பத்தாரா பட்டணத்திற்கு வந்து, ² அங்கே பெனிக்கே தேசத்திற்குப் போகிற ஒரு கப்பலைப் பார்த்து, அதிலே ஏறிப்போனோம். ³ சீப்புரு தீவைப் பார்த்து, அதற்கு தெற்கே இருக்கிற சீரியா நாட்டிற்குச் சென்று, தீருபட்டணத் துறைமுகத்தில் இறங்கினோம்; அங்கே கப்பலின் சரக்குகளை இறக்கவேண்டியதாக இருந்தது. ⁴ அந்த இடத்திலே வாழ்ந்துவந்த சீடர்களைக் கண்டுபிடித்து, அங்கே ஏழுநாட்கள் தங்கினோம். அவர்கள் பவுலைப் பார்த்து: நீர் எருசலேமுக்குப் போகவேண்டாம் என்று பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவரின் ஏவுதலினாலே சொன்னார்கள். ⁵ அந்த நாட்கள் முடிந்து, நாங்கள் புறப்பட்டுப்போகும்போது, அவர்கள் எல்லோரும் மனைவி மற்றும் பிள்ளைகளோடு பட்டணத்திற்கு வெளியே எங்களை வழியனுப்ப வந்தார்கள். அப்பொழுது கடற்கரையிலே நாங்கள் முழங்கால்படியிட்டு ஜெபம்பண்ணினோம். ⁶ அவர்களிடத்தில் விடைபெற்றுக்கொண்டபின்பு, நாங்கள் கப்பல் ஏறினோம்; அவர்கள் தங்களுடைய வீடுகளுக்குத் திரும்பிப்போனார்கள். ⁷ நாங்கள் கப்பல் பயணத்தை முடித்து, தீரு பட்டணத்தைவிட்டு பித்தொலோமாய் பட்டணத்திற்கு வந்து, சகோதரர்களைச் சந்தித்து, அவர்களை வாழ்த்தி அவர்களோடு ஒருநாள் தங்கினோம். ⁸ மறுநாளிலே பவுலைச் சேர்ந்தவர்களாகிய நாங்கள் புறப்பட்டு செசரியா பட்டணத்திற்கு வந்து, ஏழு நபர்களில் ஒருவனாகிய பிலிப்பு என்னும் நற்செய்தியாளர் வீட்டிற்கு சென்று அங்கு தங்கினோம். ⁹ தீர்க்கதரிசனம் சொல்லுகிற கன்னிப் பெண்களாகிய நான்கு குமாரத்திகள் அவனுக்கு இருந்தார்கள். ¹⁰ நாங்கள் பல நாட்கள் அங்கு தங்கியிருக்கும்போது, அகபு என்ற பெயர் உள்ள ஒரு தீர்க்கதரிசி யூதேயாவிலிருந்து வந்தான். ¹¹ அவன் எங்களிடம் வந்து, பவுலினுடைய இடுப்பில் கட்டியிருந்த கச்சையை உருவி தன் கைகளையும் கால்களையும் கட்டிக்கொண்டு: இந்தக் கச்சைக்கு சொந்தமானவனை எருசலேமிலுள்ள யூதர்கள் பிடித்து இதேபோல கட்டி யூதரல்லாதவர்களுடைய கைகளில் ஒப்புக்கொடுப்பார்கள் என்று பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவர் சொல்லுகிறார் என்றான். ¹² இதைக் கேட்டபொழுது, எருசலேமுக்குப் போகவேண்டாமென்று, நாங்களும் அங்கே இருந்தவர்களும் பவுலை வேண்டிக் கேட்டுக்கொண்டோம். ¹³ அதற்குப் பவுல்: நீங்கள் அழுது என் இருதயத்தை ஏன் சோர்ந்து போகப்பண்ணுகிறீர்கள்? எருசலேமில் நான் கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுவின் நாமத்திற்காகக் கட்டப்படுவதற்கு மட்டுமல்ல, இறப்பதற்கும் தயாராக இருக்கிறேன் என்றான். ¹⁴ அவன் சம்மதிக்காததினாலே, கர்த்தருடைய சித்தம் நடக்கட்டும் என்று விட்டுவிட்டோம். ¹⁵ அந்த நாட்களுக்குப்பின்பு நாங்கள் பயணத்திற்கான சாமான்களை ஆயத்தம்பண்ணிக்கொண்டு எருசலேமுக்குப் போனோம். ¹⁶ செசரியா பட்டணத்திலுள்ள சீடர்களில் சிலர் எங்களோடு வந்தார்கள். சீப்புரு தீவைச்சேர்ந்த மினாசோன் என்னும் ஒரு பழைய சீடனிடம் நாங்கள் தங்குவதற்காக அவனையும் அவர்களோடு கூட்டிக்கொண்டுவந்தார்கள்.

¹⁷ நாங்கள் எருசலேமுக்கு வந்தபோது, சகோதரர்கள் எங்களை சந்தோஷமாக வரவேற்றார்கள். ¹⁸ மறுநாளிலே பவுல் எங்களை யாக்கோபிடம் கூட்டிக் கொண்டுபோனான்; மூப்பர்களெல்லோரும் அங்கே கூடிவந்தார்கள். ¹⁹ பவுல் அவர்களை வாழ்த்தி, தன் ஊழியத்தினாலே தேவன் யூதரல்லாதோர்களிடம் செய்தவைகளையெல்லாம் ஒவ்வொன்றாக விளக்கிச்சொன்னான். ²⁰ யாக்கோபும் அங்கு இருந்தவர்களும் அதைக்கேட்டுக் கர்த்தரை மகிமைப்படுத்தினார்கள். பின்பு அவர்கள் பவுலைப் பார்த்து: சகோதரனே, யூதர்களில் ஆயிரக்கணக்கானோர் விசுவாசிகளாக இருப்பது உமக்குத் தெரியும், அவர்கள் எல்லோரும் மோசேயின் நியாயப்பிரமாணத்திற்கு கவனமாக கீழ்ப்படிகிறவர்களாக இருக்கிறார்கள். ²¹ யூதரல்லாதோர்களோடு இருக்கிற யூதர்களெல்லோரும் தங்களுடைய பிள்ளைகளுக்கு விருத்தசேதனம்பண்ணவும், மோசேயின் நியாயப்பிரமாணத்தின்படி நடக்கவும் வேண்டியதில்லை என்று நீர் சொல்லி, அவர்கள் மோசேயைவிட்டுப் பிரிந்துபோகும்படி போதனை செய்கிறீர் என்று இவர்கள் உம்மைப்பற்றி கேள்விப்பட்டிருக்கிறார்கள். ²² இப்பொழுது செய்யவேண்டியது என்ன? நீர் வந்திருக்கிறீர் என்று அவர்கள் கேள்விப்பட்டு, நிச்சயமாகக் கோபத்தோடு இங்கு வருவார்கள். எனவே உம்மைப்பற்றி அவர்கள் கேள்விப்பட்டது உண்மையில்லை என்பதைக் காட்ட நீ ஏதாவது ஒன்றைச் செய்யவேண்டும். ²³ ஆகவே, நாங்கள் உமக்குச் சொல்லுகிறதை நீர் செய்யவேண்டும்; அது என்னவென்றால், தேவனிடம் பொருத்தனை செய்துகொண்ட நான்குபேர் எங்களிடம் இருக்கிறார்கள். ²⁴ இவர்களை அழைத்துக்கொண்டு தேவாலயத்திற்கு போய், இவர்களோடு உம்மை சுத்திகரிப்புச் செய்துகொண்டு, இவர்கள் முடி வெட்டிக்கொள்வதற்கு வேண்டிய செலவையெல்லாம் நீரே செய்யும். அப்படிச் செய்தால் அவர்கள் உம்மைப்பற்றிக் கேள்விப்பட்ட விஷயங்கள் பொய் என்றும், நீ மோசேயின் நியாயப்பிரமாணத்தின்படி நடக்கிறவரென்றும் எல்லோரும் தெரிந்துகொள்வார்கள். ²⁵ விசுவாசிகளான யூதரல்லாதவர்கள் இப்படிப்பட்டவைகளைக் கைக்கொள்ளாமல், விக்கிரகங்களுக்குப் படைத்த அசுத்தமானவைகளை சாப்பிடாமலும், கழுத்தை நசுக்கி கொல்லப்பட்ட மிருகம் மற்றும் இரத்தம் ஆகியவற்றை சாப்பிடாமலும், தகாத உறவு கொள்ளாமலும் இருக்கவேண்டும் என்று நாங்கள்

தீர்மானம்பண்ணி, அவர்களுக்குக் கடிதம் எழுதி அனுப்பினோம் என்றார்கள். ²⁶ மறுநாளிலே பவுல் அந்த நான்கு மனிதர்களோடு சேர்ந்து தானும் சுத்திகரிப்புச் செய்துகொண்டு, தேவாலயத்தில் பிரவேசித்து, அவர்களில் ஒவ்வொருவனுக்காகவும் வேண்டிய பலியை செலுத்தி முடிக்கும்வரைக்கும் சுத்திகரிப்பு நாட்களை நிறைவேற்றுவேன் என்று அறிவித்தான்.

²⁷ அந்த ஏழு நாட்களும் நிறைவேறும்பொழுது ஆசியா நாட்டிலிருந்து வந்த யூதர்கள் அவனை தேவாலயத்திலே கண்டு, மக்களெல்லோரையும் தூண்டிவிட்டு, அவனைப் பிடித்து: ²⁸ இஸ்ரவேலர்களே, உதவிசெய்யுங்கள். நம்முடைய மக்களுக்கும் வேதப்பிரமாணத்திற்கும் இந்த இடத்திற்கும் எதிராக எல்லா இடத்திலும் எல்லோருக்கும் போதித்துவருகிறவன் இவன்தான்; இந்த தேவாலயத்திற்குள்ளே கிரேக்கரையும் கூட்டிக்கொண்டுவந்து, இந்த பரிசுத்த இடத்தைத் தீட்டுப்படுத்தினான் என்று சத்தமிட்டார்கள். ²⁹ எபேசு பட்டணத்தைச் சேர்ந்த துரோப்பீழ என்பவன் நகரத்தில் பவுலோடு இருக்கிறதை ஏற்கனவே பார்த்திருந்தபடியால், பவுல் அவனைத் தேவாலயத்திற்கு உள்ளேயும் கூட்டிக்கொண்டு வந்திருப்பான் என்று நினைத்தார்கள். ³⁰ அப்பொழுது நகரம் முழுவதும் கலக்கம் உண்டானது; மக்கள் கூட்டமாக ஓடிவந்து, பவுலைப் பிடித்து, அவனை தேவாலயத்திற்கு வெளியே இழுத்துக்கொண்டுபோனார்கள்; உடனே கதவுகள் பூட்டப்பட்டது. ³¹ அவர்கள் அவனைக் கொலைசெய்ய முயற்சி செய்யும்போது, எருசலேம் முழுவதும் கலக்கமாக இருக்கிறது என்று ரோம இராணுவ அதிபதிக்குச் செய்தி வந்தது. ³² உடனே அவன் போர்வீரர்களையும் அவர்களுடைய அதிபதிகளையும் கூட்டிக்கொண்டு, அங்கே ஓடினான்; ரோம அதிபதியையும் போர்வீரர்களையும் அவர்கள் பார்த்தவுடனே பவுலை அடிக்கிறதை நிறுத்திவிட்டார்கள். ³³ அப்பொழுது ரோம அதிபதி அருகில் வந்து அவனைப் பிடித்து, இரண்டு சங்கிலிகளினாலே அவனைக் கட்டும்படி சொல்லி: இவன் யார் என்றும், என்ன செய்தான் என்றும் விசாரித்தான். ³⁴ அதற்கு மக்கள் பல காரியங்களைச் சொல்லி அதிகமாகக் கூச்சல் போட்டார்கள்; அதிக சத்தத்தினாலே அதிபதிக்கு ஒன்றும் புரியாமல், அவனைக் கோட்டைக்குள்ளே கொண்டுபோகும்படி கட்டளையிட்டான். ³⁵ அவன் படிகளமேல் ஏறினபோது மக்கள்கூட்டம் அவனுக்கு பின்னேசென்று, ³⁶ இவனைக் கொல்லவேண்டும் என்று மிகுந்த கோபமாக சத்தம் போட்டதினாலே, போர்வீரர்கள் அவனைத் தூக்கிக்கொண்டு போகவேண்டியதாக இருந்தது.

³⁷ அவர்கள் பவுலைக் கோட்டைக்குள்ளே கொண்டுபோகிற நேரத்தில், அவன் ரோம அதிபதியை நோக்கி: நான் உம்முடனே ஒரு வார்த்தை பேசலாமா என்றான். அதற்கு அவன்: உனக்கு கிரேக்க மொழி தெரியுமா? ³⁸ பல நாட்களுக்கு முன்னே கலகம் உண்டாக்கி, நான்கு ஆயிரம் கொலைபாதகர்களை வனாந்திரத்திற்குக் கொண்டுபோன எகிப்தியன் நீதானே என்றான். ³⁹ அதற்குப் பவுல்: நான் சிலிசியா நாட்டிலுள்ள புகழ்பெற்ற தர்சு பட்டணத்தைச் சேர்ந்த யூதன்; மக்களுடனே பேசுவதற்கு எனக்கு அனுமதி தரவேண்டும் என்று உம்மை கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன் என்றான். ⁴⁰ அவன் அனுமதி அளித்தபோது, பவுல் படிகளின்மேல் நின்று மக்களைப் பார்த்து அமைதியாக இருக்கச்சொல்லி கையை அசைத்தான்; மிகுந்த அமைதி உண்டானது; அப்பொழுது அவன் எபிரெய மொழியிலே பேசத்தொடங்கினான்:

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¹ சகோதரர்களே, பெரியோர்களே, நான் இப்பொழுது உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லப்போகிற நியாயங்களை கவனித்துக் கேளுங்கள் என்றான். ² அவன் எபிரெய மொழியிலே தங்களோடு பேசுகிறதை அவர்கள் கேட்டபொழுது, மிகவும் அமைதியாக இருந்தார்கள். அப்பொழுது அவன்: ³ நான் யூதன், சிலிசியா நாட்டிலுள்ள தர்சு பட்டணத்திலே பிறந்து, இந்த நகரத்திலே கமாலியேலின் பாதத்தருகே வளர்ந்து, முன்னோர்களுடைய வேதபிரமாணத்தின்படியே திட்டமாக போதிக்கப்பட்டு, இன்றையதினம் நீங்களெல்லோரும் தேவனைக்குறித்து வைராக்கியம் உள்ளவர்களாக இருக்கிறதுபோல நானும் வைராக்கியம் உள்ளவனாக இருந்தேன். ⁴ நான் இந்த மார்க்கத்தைச் சார்ந்த ஆண்களையும் பெண்களையும் பிடித்து, சிறைச்சாலைகளில் ஒப்படைத்து, மரணம் ஏற்படும்வரை துன்பப்படுத்தினேன். ⁵ அதற்கு பிரதான ஆசாரியர்களும் மூப்பர்கள் அனைவரும் சாட்சிகொடுப்பார்கள்; அவர்கள் கையினாலே நான் சகோதரர்களுக்கு கடிதங்களை வாங்கிக்கொண்டு, தமஸ்குவில் இருக்கிறவர்களைத் தண்டிப்பதற்கு, அவர்களைக் கைதுசெய்து, எருசலேமுக்குக் கொண்டு வருவதற்காக அங்குப்போனேன். ⁶ அப்படி நான் புறப்பட்டுப் போகும் வழியில் தமஸ்குவிற்கு அருகில், மத்தியான நேரத்திலே, திடீரென்று வானத்திலிருந்து பெரிய வெளிச்சம் உண்டாகி, என்னைச் சுற்றிப் பிரகாசித்தது. ⁷ நான் தரையிலே விழுந்தேன். அந்தநேரத்தில்: சவுலே, சவுலே, நீ என்னை ஏன் துன்பப்படுத்துகிறாய் என்று என்னுடனே பேசுகிற ஒரு சத்தத்தைக் கேட்டேன். ⁸ அதற்கு நான்: ஆண்டவரே, நீர் யார் என்றேன். அவர்: நீ துன்பப்படுத்துகிற நசரேயனாகிய இயேசு நானே என்றார். ⁹ அச்சமயம் என்னுடனேகூட இருந்தவர்கள் அந்த வெளிச்சத்தைக் கண்டு, பயந்துவிட்டார்கள்; என்னுடனே பேசினவருடைய சத்தத்தையோ அவர்கள் கேட்கவில்லை. ¹⁰ அப்பொழுது நான்: ஆண்டவரே, நான் என்னசெய்யவேண்டும் என்றேன். அதற்குக் கர்த்தர்: நீ எழுந்து, தமஸ்குவிற்குப் போ; அங்கே நீ செய்யவேண்டியதெல்லாம் உனக்குச் சொல்லப்படும் என்றார். ¹¹ அந்த ஒளியின் மிகுதியினாலே நான் பார்வையை இழந்துபோனதினால், என்னோடிருந்தவர்களின் உதவியால் வழிநடத்தப்பட்டு தமஸ்குவிற்கு வந்தேன். ¹² அப்பொழுது வேதபிரமாணத்தின்படியே பக்தியுள்ளவனும், அங்கே குடியிருக்கிற எல்லா யூதர்களாலும் நல்லவனென்று பெயர்பெற்றவனுமாகிய அன்னியா என்பவன், ¹³ என்னிடத்தில் வந்துநின்று: சகோதரனாகிய சவுலே, பார்வையடைவாயாக என்றான்; உடனே நான் பார்வையடைந்து, அவனைப் பார்த்தேன். ¹⁴ அப்பொழுது அவன்: நம்முடைய முன்னோர்களின் தேவனின் சித்தத்தை நீ தெரிந்துகொள்ளவும், நீதியுள்ளவரை தரிசிக்கவும், அவருடைய உயர்வான வாய்மொழியைக் கேட்கவும், அவர் உன்னை முன்னமே தெரிந்துகொண்டார். ¹⁵ நீ பார்த்தவைகளையும் கேட்டவைகளையும்குறித்துச் எல்லா மனிதர்களுக்கு முன்பாக அவருக்குச் சாட்சியாக இருப்பாய். ¹⁶ இப்பொழுது நீ தாமதிக்கிறது என்ன? நீ எழுந்து கர்த்தருடைய நாமத்தைப் பணிந்துகொண்டு, ஞானஸ்நானம் பெற்று, உன் பாவங்கள் போகக் கழுவப்படு என்றான். ¹⁷ பின்பு நான் எருசலேமுக்குத் திரும்பிவந்து, தேவாலயத்திலே ஜெபம் செய்துகொண்டிருக்கும்போது, நான் தரிசனத்திலே அவரைப் பார்த்தேன். ¹⁸ அவர் என்னைப் பார்த்து: நீ என்னைக்குறித்துச் சொல்லும் சாட்சியை இவர்கள் ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளமாட்டார்கள்; ஆகவே, நீ தாமதம்பண்ணாமல் சீக்கிரமாக எருசலேமைவிட்டுப் புறப்பட்டுப்போ என்றார். ¹⁹ அதற்கு நான்: ஆண்டவரே, உம்மிடத்தில் விசுவாசமாக இருக்கிறவர்களை நான் காவலில் வைத்து ஜெப ஆலயங்களிலே அடித்ததையும், ²⁰ உம்முடைய சாட்சியாக வாழ்ந்த ஸ்தேவானுடைய இரத்தம் சிந்தப்படுகிறபோது, நானும் அருகே நின்று, அவனைக் கொலை செய்வதற்குச் சம்மதித்து, அவனைக் கொலைசெய்தவர்களின் உடைகளை பாதுகாத்துக் கொண்டிருந்ததையும், இவர்கள் அறிந்திருக்கிறார்களே என்றேன். ²¹ அதற்கு அவர்: நீ போ, நான் உன்னை தொலைவில் உள்ள யூதரல்லாதவர்களிடத்திலே அனுப்புவேன் என்று சொன்னார் என்றான்.

²² இந்த வார்த்தைவரைக்கும் அவன் சொல்லுவதை கேட்டார்கள். பின்பு: இப்படிப்பட்டவனை பூமியிலிருந்து அகற்றவேண்டும்; இவன் உயிரோடிருக்கிறது நியாயமல்ல என்று மிகுந்த சத்தமிட்டுச் சொன்னார்கள். ²³ இவ்விதமாக அவர்கள் கூக்குரலிட்டுத் தங்களுடைய மேலாடைகளை எறிந்துவிட்டு, ஆகாயத்திலே புழுதியைத் தூற்றிக்கொண்டிருக்கும்போது, ²⁴ ரோம அதிபதி அவனைக் கோட்டைக்குள்ளே கொண்டுவரும்படி ஆணையிட்டு, அவர்கள் அவனுக்கு விரோதமாக இப்படிச் கூக்குரலிடுகிறக் காரணத்தை தெரிந்துகொள்ளும்படிக்கு அவனை சாட்டையினால் அடித்து விசாரிக்கச் சொன்னான். ²⁵ அதன்படி அவர்கள் அவனைக் கயிற்றால் இருகக் கட்டும்போது, பவுல் அருகில் நின்ற நூற்றுக்கு அதிபதியைப் பார்த்து: ரோமனும் நியாயம் விசாரிக்கப்படாதவனுமாக இருக்கிற மனிதனை அடிக்கிறது உங்களுக்கு நியாயமா? என்றான். ²⁶ நூற்றுக்கு அதிபதி அதைக்கேட்டு, ரோம அதிபதியிடத்திலேபோய், அதை அறிவித்து: நீர் செய்யப்போகிறதைக்குறித்து எச்சரிக்கையாக இரும்; இந்த மனிதன் ரோமன் என்றான். ²⁷ இதை அறிந்த சேனாதிபதி பவுலிடத்தில் வந்து: நீ ரோமனா? எனக்குச் சொல் என்றான். அதற்கு அவன்: நான் ரோமன்தான் என்றான். ²⁸ ரோம அதிபதி அவனைப் பார்த்து: நான்

அதிக பணம் கொடுத்து இந்த ரோம உரிமையை சம்பாதித்தேன் என்றான். அதற்குப் பவுல்: நானோ ரோமக் குடிமகனாகப் பிறந்தேன் என்றான்.²⁹ அவனை அடித்து விசாரிக்கும்படி ஆயத்தமாக இருந்தவர்கள் உடனே அவனை விட்டுவிட்டார்கள். ரோம அதிபதி அவன் ரோமனென்று அறிந்து, அவனைக் கட்டியதற்காகப் பயந்தான்.

³⁰ பவுலின்மேல் யூதர்களாலே ஏற்படுத்தப்பட்ட குற்றம் இன்னதென்று நிச்சயமாக அறியவிரும்பி, அவன் அடுத்தநாளிலே அவனை விடுவித்து, பிரதான ஆசாரியர்களையும் ஆலோசனைச் சங்கத்தினர்கள் அனைவரையும் கூடிவரும்படி ஆணையிட்டு, அவனை அழைத்துக்கொண்டுபோய், அவர்களுக்கு முன்பாக நிறுத்தினான்.

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¹ பவுல் ஆலோசனைச் சங்கத்தினரை உற்றுப்பார்த்து: சகோதரர்களே, இந்தநாள்வரை எல்லா விஷயங்களிலும் நான் நல்மனச்சாட்சியோடு தேவனுக்குமுன்பாக நடந்துவந்தேன் என்று சொன்னான். ² அப்பொழுது பிரதான ஆசாரியனாகிய அன்னியா அவனுக்கு அருகில் நின்றவர்களைப் பார்த்து: இவன் வாயில் அடியுங்கள் என்று கட்டளையிட்டான். ³ அப்பொழுது பவுல் அவனைப் பார்த்து: வெள்ளையடிக்கப்பட்ட சுவரே, தேவன் உம்மை அடிப்பார்; நியாயப்பிரமாணத்தின்படி என்னை நியாயம் விசாரிக்க உட்கார்ந்திருக்கிற நீர் நியாயப்பிரமாணத்திற்கு விரோதமாக என்னை அடிக்கச்சொல்லலாமா என்றான். ⁴ அருகில் நின்றவர்கள்: தேவனுடைய பிரதான ஆசாரியரை அவமதித்துப் பேசலாமா என்றார்கள். ⁵ அதற்குப் பவுல்: சகோதரர்களே, இவர் பிரதான ஆசாரியரென்று எனக்குத் தெரியாது; உன் மக்களின் தலைவரை குற்றம் சொல்லாதே என்று எழுதியிருக்கிறதே என்றான். ⁶ பின்பு அவர்களில், சதுசேயர்கள் ஒரு பகுதியும் பரிசேயர்கள் ஒரு பகுதியுமாக இருக்கிறார்களென்று பவுல் அறிந்து: சகோதரர்களே, நான் பரிசேயனும் பரிசேயனுடைய மகனுமாக இருக்கிறேன். மரித்தவர்களுடைய உயிர்த்தெழுதலைப்பற்றிய நம்பிக்கையைக்குறித்து நான் நியாயம் விசாரிக்கப்படுகிறேன் என்று ஆலோசனைச் சங்கத்திலே சத்தமிட்டுச் சொன்னான். ⁷ அவன் இப்படிச் சொன்னபோது, பரிசேயர்களுக்கும் சதுசேயர்களுக்கும் வாக்குவாதமுண்டாகி; கூட்டம் இரண்டாகப் பிரிந்தது. ⁸ ஏனென்றால், சதுசேயர்கள் உயிர்த்தெழுதல் இல்லையென்றும், தேவதூதனும் ஆவியும் இல்லையென்றும் சொல்லுகிறார்கள். பரிசேயர்களோ அவ்விரண்டும் உண்டென்று ஒப்புக்கொள்ளுகிறார்கள். ⁹ இதனாலே மிகுந்த இரைச்சல் உண்டானது. பரிசேய சமயத்தாரான வேதபண்டிதர்களில் சிலர் எழுந்து: இந்த மனிதனிடத்தில் ஒரு தவறையும் காணவில்லை; ஒரு ஆவி அல்லது ஒரு தேவதூதன் இவனுடனே பேசினதுண்டானால், நாம் தேவனுடனே சண்டையிடுவது தகாது என்று வாதாடினார்கள். ¹⁰ அதிகமாக கலவரம் உண்டானபோது, பவுல் அவர்களால் பீறுண்டுபோவானென்று ரோம அதிபதி பயந்து, போர்வீரர்களையோ, அவனை அவர்கள் நடுவிலிருந்து அகற்றி கோட்டைக்குக் கொண்டுபோகும்படி கட்டளையிட்டான். ¹¹ அன்று இரவிலே கர்த்தர் பவுலின் அருகே நின்று: பவுலே, தைரியமாக இரு; நீ என்னைக்குறித்து எருசலேமிலே சாட்சிகொடுத்ததுபோல ரோமாவிலும் சாட்சி கொடுக்கவேண்டும் என்றார்.

¹² விடியற்காலமானபோது, யூதர்களில் சிலர் கூடி, தாங்கள் பவுலைக் கொலைசெய்யும்வரைக்கும் புசிப்பதும் குடிப்பதும்இல்லையென்று சபதம்பண்ணிக்கொண்டார்கள். ¹³ இப்படிச் சபதம்பண்ணிக்கொண்டவர்கள் நாற்பதுபேருக்கு அதிகமாக இருந்தார்கள். ¹⁴ அவர்கள் பிரதான ஆசாரியர்களிடத்திலும் மூப்பர்களிடத்திலும்போய்: நாங்கள் பவுலைக் கொலைசெய்யும்வரைக்கும் ஒன்றும் புசிப்பதில்இல்லையென்று உறுதியான சபதம் செய்துகொண்டோம். ¹⁵ ஆகவே, நீங்கள் ஆலோசனைச் சங்கத்தினரோடு கூடப்போய், அவனுடைய காரியத்தை மிக சரியாக விசாரிக்க விருப்பமுள்ளவர்கள்போல ரோம அதிபதிக்குக் காண்பித்து, அவர் நாளைக்கு அவனை உங்களிடம் அழைத்துக்கொண்டுவரும்படி அவரிடத்தில் கேட்பீர்களாக. அவன் அருகில் வருகிறதற்குள்ளே நாங்கள் அவனைக் கொலைசெய்ய ஆயத்தமாக இருப்போம் என்றார்கள். ¹⁶ இந்த சதித்திட்டத்தை பவுலினுடைய சகோதரியின் மகன் கேள்விப்பட்டு, கோட்டைக்குள்ளேபோய், பவுலுக்குத் தெரிவித்தான். ¹⁷ அப்பொழுது பவுல் நூற்றுக்கு அதிபதிகளில் ஒருவனை அழைத்து, இந்த வாலிபனை ரோம அதிபதியினிடத்திற்குக் கூட்டிக்கொண்டுபோய்; அவரிடத்தில் இவன் சொல்லவேண்டிய ஒரு செய்தி உண்டு என்றான். ¹⁸ அப்படியே அவன் இவனை ரோம அதிபதியினிடத்திற்குக் கூட்டிக்கொண்டுபோய்: காவலில் வைக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிற பவுல் என்னை அழைத்து, உமக்கொரு செய்தியைச் சொல்லவேண்டுமென்றிருக்கிற இந்த வாலிபனை உம்மிடத்திற்குக் கொண்டுபோகும்படி என்னைக் கேட்டுக்கொண்டான் என்றான். ¹⁹ அப்பொழுது ரோம அதிபதி அவனுடைய கையைப்பிடித்துத் தனியே அழைத்துக்கொண்டுபோய்: நீ என்னிடத்தில் சொல்லவேண்டிய செய்தி என்ன? என்று கேட்டான். ²⁰ அதற்கு அவன்: யூதர்கள் பவுலின் காரியத்தை மிகச் சரியாக விசாரிக்க விருப்பமுள்ளவர்கள்போல, நீர் நாளைக்கு அவனை ஆலோசனைச் சங்கத்தினரிடத்தில் கொண்டுவரும்படி உம்மை வேண்டிக்கொள்ள தீர்மானித்திருக்கிறார்கள். ²¹ நீர் அவர்களுக்குச் சம்மதிக்கவேண்டாம்; அவர்களில் நாற்பதுபேருக்கு அதிகமானவர்கள் அவனைக் கொலைசெய்யும்வரைக்கும் தாங்கள் உண்பதும் குடிப்பதும்இல்லையென்று சபதம்செய்துகொண்டு, உம்முடைய உத்தரவுக்காக இப்பொழுது காத்துக்கொண்டு ஆயத்தமாக இருக்கிறார்கள் என்றான். ²² அப்பொழுது ரோம அதிபதி: நீ இவைகளை எனக்குத் தெரிவித்ததாக ஒருவருக்கும் சொல்லாதே என்று கட்டளையிட்டு, வாலிபனை அனுப்பிவிட்டான்.

²³ பின்பு அவன் நூற்றுக்கு அதிபதிகளில் இரண்டுபேரை அழைத்து, செசரியா பட்டணத்திற்குப் போகும்படி இருநூறு காலாட்களையும், எழுபது குதிரை வீரரையும், இருநூறு ஈட்டிக்காரர்களையும், இரவில் மூன்று மணியளவிலே, ஆயத்தம் செய்யுங்கள் என்றும்; ²⁴ பவுலை ஏற்றி, தேசாதிபதியாகிய

பேலிக்ஸினிடத்திற்குப் பத்திரமாகக் கொண்டுபோகும்படிக்கு குதிரைகளை ஆயத்தப்படுத்துங்களென்றும் சொன்னதுமன்றி, ²⁵ ஒரு கடிதத்தையும் எழுதினான்; அதின் விபரமாவது: ²⁶ கனம்பொருந்திய தேசாதிபதியாகிய பேலிக்ஸ் என்பவருக்குக் கிலவுதியுலீசியா வாழ்த்துதல் சொல்லி தெரிவிப்பது என்னவென்றால்: ²⁷ இந்த மனிதனை யூதர்கள் பிடித்துக் கொலைசெய்யப்போகிற நேரத்தில், நான் போர்வீரர்களோடு கூடப்போய், இவன் ரோமனென்று அறிந்து, இவனை விடுவித்தேன். ²⁸ அவர்கள் இவன்மேல் சாட்டின குற்றத்தை நான் அறியவேண்டுமென்று இவனை அவர்கள் ஆலோசனைச் சங்கத்திற்குமுன் கொண்டுபோனேன். ²⁹ இவன் அவர்களுடைய வேதத்திற்கு அடுத்த காரியங்களைக்குறித்துக் குற்றஞ்சாட்டப்பட்டவனென்று அறிந்ததேயல்லாமல், மரணத்திற்காவது கைதுசெய்வதற்காவது ஏற்ற குற்றம் இவனிடத்தில் இல்லையென்று கண்டறிந்தேன். ³⁰ யூதர்கள் இவனுக்கு விரோதமாக சதியோசனை செய்கிறார்களென்று எனக்குத் தெரியவந்தபோது, உடனே இவனை உம்மிடத்திற்கு அனுப்பினேன்; குற்றஞ்சாட்டுகிறவர்களும் இவனுக்கு விரோதமாகச் சொல்லுகிற காரியங்களை உமக்கு முன்பாக வந்து சொல்லும்படி அவர்களுக்குக் கட்டளையிட்டேன். சுகமாக இருப்பீராக என்றெழுதினான். ³¹ போர்வீரர்கள் தங்களுக்குக் கட்டளையிட்டபடியே, பவுலை அழைத்துக்கொண்டு, இரவிலே அந்திப்பத்திரி ஊருக்குப்போய், ³² அடுத்தநாளில் குதிரைவீரர்களை அவனுடனேகூடப் போகும்படி அனுப்பிவிட்டு, தாங்கள் கோட்டைக்குத் திரும்பினார்கள். ³³ அவர்கள் செசரியா பட்டணத்தை அடைந்து, கடிதத்தை தேசாதிபதியினிடத்தில் கொடுத்து, பவுலையும் அவன் முன்பாக நிறுத்தினார்கள். ³⁴ தேசாதிபதி அதை வாசித்து: எந்த நாட்டானென்று கேட்டு, சிலிசியா நாட்டானென்று அறிந்தபோது: ³⁵ உன்மேல் குற்றஞ்சாட்டுகிறவர்களும் வரும்போது உன் காரியத்தைத் திட்டமாகக் கேட்பேன் என்று சொல்லி, ஏரோதின் அரண்மனையிலே அவனைக் காவல்பண்ணும்படி ஆணையிட்டான்.

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¹ ஐந்து நாட்களுக்குப்பின்பு பிரதான ஆசாரியனாகிய அன்னியா மூப்பர்களோடும் தெர்த்துல்லு என்னும் ஒரு வழக்கறிஞரோடும் கூடப்போனான், அவர்கள் பவுலுக்கு எதிராக தேசாதிபதியினிடத்தில் முறையீடு செய்தார்கள். ² அவன் அழைக்கப்பட்டபோது, தெர்த்துல்லு குற்றஞ்சாட்டத்தொடங்கி: ³ கணம்பொருந்திய பேலிக்ஸே, உம்மாலே நாங்கள் மிகுந்த சமாதான சுகத்தை அநுபவிக்கிறதையும், உம்முடைய பராமரிப்பினாலே இந்த தேசத்தினர்களுக்கு சிறந்த நன்மைகள் நடக்கிறதையும் நாங்கள் எப்பொழுதும் எங்கும் மிகுந்த நன்றியறிதலுடனே ஒப்புக்கொள்ளுகிறோம். ⁴ உம்மை நான் அதிக சொற்களினாலே வருத்தப்படுத்தாதபடிக்கு, நாங்கள் சுருக்கமாகச் சொல்வதை நீர் பொறுமையாகக் கேட்கவேண்டுமென்று வேண்டுகிறேன். ⁵ என்னவென்றால், இந்த மனிதன் கொள்ளைநோயாகவும், பூமியிலுள்ள அனைத்து யூதர்கள் நடுவில் கலகம் எழுப்புகிறவனாகவும், நசரேயருடைய மதகுழப்பத்திற்கு தலைவனாகவும் இருக்கிறானென்று கண்டறிந்தோம். ⁶ இவன் தேவாலயத்தையும் தீட்டுப்படுத்தப்பார்த்தான். நாங்கள் இவனைப்பிடித்து எங்களுடைய வேதபிரமாணத்தின்படியே நியாயம் விசாரிக்க விரும்பியிருந்தோம். ⁷ அப்பொழுது இராணுவ அதிபதி லீசியா வந்து, மிகவும் துணிகரமாக இவனை எங்களுடைய கைகளிலிருந்து இழுத்துக்கொண்டுபோய், ⁸ இவன்மேல் குற்றஞ்சுமத்துகிறவர்கள் உம்மிடத்தில் வரும்படி கட்டளையிட்டார். இவனிடத்தில் நீர் விசாரித்தால் நாங்கள் இவன்மேல் சுமத்துகிற குற்றங்கள் அனைத்தையும் அறிந்துகொள்ளலாம் என்றான். ⁹ யூதர்களும் அதற்கு சம்மதித்து, இவைகள் உண்மைதான் என்றார்கள். ¹⁰ பவுல் பேச தேசாதிபதி அனுமதித்தபோது, அவன் பதிலாக: நீர் அநேக வருடகாலமாக இந்த நாட்டாருக்கு நீதிபதியாக இருக்கிறீர் என்றறிந்து, நான் என் காரியங்களைக்குறித்து அதிக தைரியத்துடன் பதில் சொல்லுகிறேன். ¹¹ நான் தொழுதுகொள்ளும்படியாக எருசலேமுக்குப் போனதுமுதல் இதுவரைக்கும் பன்னிரண்டு நாட்கள்மட்டும் ஆனதென்று நீர் அறிந்துகொள்ளலாம். ¹² தேவாலயத்திலே நான் ஒருவரிடத்திலாவது தர்க்கம் செய்ததையும், நான் ஜெப ஆலயங்களிலாவது பட்டணத்திலாவது மக்களுக்குள்ளே கலகமெழுப்பினதையும், இவர்கள் பார்த்ததில்லை. ¹³ இப்பொழுது என்மேல் சுமத்துகிற குற்றங்களை இவர்கள் உம்மிடத்தில் நிரூபிக்கவும் முடியாது. ¹⁴ உம்மிடத்தில் ஒன்றை ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்; அது என்னவென்றால், இவர்கள் மதபேதம் என்று சொல்லுகிற வழியின்படியே எங்களுடைய முன்னோர்களின் தேவனுக்கு ஆராதனைசெய்து நியாயப்பிரமாணத்திலேயும் தீர்க்கதரிசிகள் புத்தகங்களிலேயும் எழுதியிருக்கிற எல்லாவற்றையும் நான் நம்பி, ¹⁵ நீதிமான்களும் அநீதிமான்களுமாகிய மரித்தோர் உயிர்த்தெழுந்திருப்பது உண்டென்று இவர்கள் தேவனிடத்தில் நம்பிக்கை வைத்திருக்கிறதுபோல, நானும் நம்பிக்கை வைத்திருக்கிறேன். ¹⁶ இதனால் நான் தேவனுக்கும் மனிதர்களுக்கும் முன்பாக எப்பொழுதும் குற்றமற்ற மனச்சாட்சியை உடையவனாக இருக்க முயற்சிக்கிறேன். ¹⁷ பல வருடங்களுக்குப்பின்பு நான் என் மக்களுக்கு நன்கொடைப் பணத்தைக் கொடுக்கவும், காணிக்கைகளைச் செலுத்தவும் வந்தேன். ¹⁸ அப்பொழுது கூட்டமில்லாமலும் ஆர்ப்பாட்டமில்லாமலும் தேவாலயத்திலே சுத்திகரிப்பு செய்துகொண்டவனாக இருந்தபோது, ஆசியா நாட்டாரான சில யூதர்கள் என்னைப் பார்த்தார்கள். ¹⁹ அவர்களுக்கு என்பேரில் விரோதமான காரியம் ஏதாவது இருந்தால், அவர்களே இங்கே வந்து, உமக்கு முன்பாகக் குற்றஞ்சுமத்தவேண்டும். ²⁰ நான் ஆலோசனைச் சங்கத்தினர்களுக்கு முன்பாக நின்றபோது அவர்கள் ஏதாவது அநியாயத்தை என்னிடத்தில் கண்டிருந்தால் இவர்களே அதைச் சொல்லட்டும். ²¹ நான் அவர்கள் நடுவில் நின்றபோது மரித்தோர் உயிர்த்தெழுந்திருப்பதைக்குறித்து, இன்று உங்களாலே நியாயந்தீர்க்கப்படுகிறேன் என்று நான் சொன்ன ஒரு சொல்லினிமித்தமேயன்றி வேறொன்றினிமித்தமும் குற்றம் காணப்படவில்லை என்றான். ²² இந்த மார்க்கத்தின் விஷயங்களை தெளிவாக அறிந்திருந்த பேலிக்ஸ் இவைகளைக் கேட்டபொழுது: இராணுவ அதிபதி லீசியா வரும்போது உங்களுடைய காரியங்களைக் கண்டிப்பாய் விசாரிப்பேன் என்று சொல்லி; ²³ பவுலைக் காவலில் வைக்கவும், கண்டிப்பில்லாமல் நடத்தவும், அவனுக்கு சேவைசெய்கிறதற்கும் அவனைக் கவனித்துக்கொள்ளுகிறதற்கும் வருகிற அவனுடைய மனிதர்களில் ஒருவரையும் தடைசெய்யாதிருக்கவும் நூறுபேருக்கு அதிபதியானவனுக்கு ஆணையிட்டு, அவர்களைக் காத்திருக்கும்படி செய்தான். ²⁴ சில நாட்களுக்குப்பின்பு பேலிக்ஸ் யூதப் பெண்ணாகிய தன் மனைவி துருசில்லாளுடனே வந்து, பவுலை அழைத்து வரச்செய்து, கிறிஸ்துவைப்பற்றும் விசுவாசத்தைக்குறித்து அவன் சொல்லக்கேட்டான். ²⁵ அவன், நீதியையும், இச்சையடக்கத்தையும், இனிவரும் நியாயத்தீர்ப்பைக்குறித்துப் பேசும்போது, பேலிக்ஸ் பயமடைந்து: இப்பொழுது நீ போகலாம், எனக்கு நேரம் கிடைக்கும்போது உன்னை வரவழைப்பேன் என்றான். ²⁶ மேலும், அவன் பவுலை விடுதலைசெய்யும்படி தனக்கு அவன் பணங்கொடுப்பானென்று நம்பிக்கையுள்ளவனாக இருந்தான்; அதினாலே அவன் அநேகமுறை அவனை அழைத்து, அவனுடனே பேசினான். ²⁷ இரண்டு வருடங்கள் சென்றபின்பு பேலிக்ஸ் என்பவனுக்குப் பதிலாக பொர்க்கியபெஸ்து தேசாதிபதியாக வந்தான்; அப்பொழுது பேலிக்ஸ் யூதர்களுக்கு நன்மைசெய்ய விரும்பி பவுலைக் காவலில் வைத்துவிட்டுப்போனான்.

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¹ பெஸ்து என்பவன் நாட்டிற்கு அதிபதியாக வந்து, மூன்று நாட்களானபின்பு, செசரியாவிலிருந்து எருசலேமுக்குப் போனான். ² அப்பொழுது பிரதான ஆசாரியனும் யூதர்களில் முதன்மையானவர்களும் அவனிடத்தில் வந்து, பவுலுக்கு விரோதமாக முறையீடுசெய்து, ³ அவனை வழியிலே கொண்டுபோடும்படி சதித்திட்டம் கொண்டவர்களாக, தங்கள்மேல் தயவுசெய்து, அவனை எருசலேமிற்கு அழைக்கவேண்டுமென்று வேண்டிக்கொண்டார்கள். ⁴ அதற்கு பெஸ்து பிரதியுத்தரமாக: பவுலை செசரியாவிலே காவல் செய்யப்பட்டிருக்கிறதே; நானும் சீக்கிரமாக அங்கே போகிறேன். ⁵ ஆகவே, உங்களில் முடிந்தவர்கள் கூடவந்து, அந்த மனிதனிடத்தில் குற்றம் ஏதாவது இருந்தால், அந்தக் குற்றத்தை அவன்மேல் சுமத்தட்டும் என்றான். ⁶ அவன் அவர்களிடத்திலே ஏறக்குறைய பத்துநாட்கள் தங்கியிருந்து, பின்பு செசரியாவிற்குப்போய், மறுநாளிலே நீதிமன்றத்தில் உட்கார்ந்து, பவுலை அழைத்துவரும்படி ஆணையிட்டான். ⁷ அவன் வந்தபோது, எருசலேமிலிருந்து வந்த யூதர்கள் அவனைச் சுற்றிநின்று, தங்களால் நிரூபிக்கக்கூடாத பல கடுமையான குற்றங்களை அவன்மேல் சுமத்தினார்கள். ⁸ அதற்கு அவன் பதிலாக: நான் யூதர்களுடைய வேதபிரமாணத்திற்கும், தேவாலயத்திற்கும், இராயருக்கும் விரோதமாக ஒரு குற்றமும் செய்யவில்லை என்று சொன்னான். ⁹ அப்பொழுது பெஸ்து யூதர்களுக்கு உதவிசெய்ய விரும்பி, பவுலைப் பார்த்து: நீ எருசலேமுக்குப்போய், அந்த இடத்திலே இந்தக் காரியங்களைக்குறித்து எனக்கு முன்பாக நீதி விசாரிக்கப்பட உனக்குச் சம்மதமா? என்றான். ¹⁰ அதற்குப் பவுல்: நான் இராயருடைய நீதிமன்றத்திற்கு முன்பாக நிற்கிறேன்; அதற்கு முன்பாக நான் நீதி விசாரிக்கப்படவேண்டியவன்; யூதர்களுக்கு நான் அநியாயம் ஒன்றும் செய்யவில்லை, அதை நீரும் நன்றாக அறிந்திருக்கிறீர். ¹¹ நான் அநியாயஞ்செய்து, மரணத்திற்கு ஏதுவாக ஏதாவது செய்ததுண்டானால், நான் சாகாதபடிக்கு முறையிடமாட்டேன். இவர்கள் என்மேல் சுமத்துகிற குற்றங்கள் முற்றிலும் பொய்யானதுமல்லாமல், அவர்களுக்குத் தயவுசெய்யும்படிக்கு ஒருவரும் என்னை அவர்களுக்கு ஒப்படைக்கக்கூடாது என்று இராயருக்கு மேல்முறையீடு செய்கிறேன் என்றான். ¹² அப்பொழுது பெஸ்து தன் ஆலோசனைக்காரர்களுடனே ஆலோசித்து: நீ இராயருக்கு மேல்முறையீடு செய்தாயே; இராயரிடத்திற்கே போகக்கடவாய் என்று பதில் சொன்னான்.

¹³ சிலநாட்கள் சென்றபின்பு, அகிரிப்பா ராஜாவும் பெர்னீக்கேயாளும் பெஸ்துவைப் பார்க்கும்படி செசரியாவிற்கு வந்தார்கள். ¹⁴ அவர்கள் அங்கே அநேகநாட்கள் தங்கியிருக்கும்போது, பெஸ்து பவுலின் சங்கதியை ராஜாவிற்குத் தெரிவித்து: பேலிக்ஸ் காவலில் வைத்துப்போன ஒரு மனிதன் இருக்கிறான். ¹⁵ நான் எருசலேமில் இருந்தபோது, பிரதான ஆசாரியர்களும் யூதர்களுடைய மூப்பர்களும் அவனைக்குறித்து என்னிடத்தில் முறையீடுசெய்து, அவனுக்கு எதிராகத் தீர்ப்புசெய்யவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொண்டார்கள். ¹⁶ அவர்களுக்கு நான் பிரதியுத்தரமாக: குற்றஞ்சுமத்தப்பட்ட மனிதன் குற்றஞ்சுமத்தினவர்களுக்கு நேராகநின்று, சுமத்தின் குற்றத்திற்குத் தனக்காக எதிர்வாதம் சொல்ல அவனுக்கு வாய்ப்பு கிடைப்பதற்கு முன்னே, குற்றஞ்சுமத்தினவர்கள் சாதகமாக அவனை மரணத்திற்கு ஒப்புக்கொடுக்கிறது ரோமருக்கு வழக்கமல்ல என்றேன். ¹⁷ ஆகவே, அவர்கள் இங்கே கூடிவந்தபோது, நான் சிறிதும் தாமதம் செய்யாமல், மறுநாள் நீதிமன்றத்தில் உட்கார்ந்து, அந்த மனிதனைக் கொண்டுவரும்படி ஆணையிட்டேன். ¹⁸ அப்பொழுது குற்றஞ்சுமத்தினவர்கள் வந்துநின்று, நான் எண்ணியிருந்த குற்றங்களில் ஒன்றையும் அவன்மேல் சுமத்தாமல், ¹⁹ தங்களுடைய மதத்தைக்குறித்தும், மரித்துப்போன இயேசு என்னும் ஒருவன் உயிரோடிருக்கிறானென்று பவுல் சாதித்ததைக்குறித்தும் சில விவாதத்திற்குரிய காரியங்களை அவனுக்கு விரோதமாகச் சொன்னார்கள். ²⁰ இப்படிப்பட்ட விவாதத்திற்குரிய காரியங்களைக்குறித்து எனக்குச் சந்தேகமிருந்தபடியினால்: நீ எருசலேமுக்குப்போய், அங்கே இவைகளைக்குறித்து நீதி விசாரிக்கப்பட உனக்குச் சம்மதமா என்று கேட்டேன். ²¹ அதற்குப் பவுல், தான் இராயருக்கு முன்பாக நீதி விசாரிக்கப்படும்படி நிறுத்தப்படவேண்டுமென்று முறையிட்டபோது, நான் அவனை இராயனிடத்திற்கு அனுப்பும்வரை காவல் செய்யும்படி ஆணையிட்டேன் என்றான். ²² அப்பொழுது அகிரிப்பா பெஸ்துவைப் பார்த்து: அந்த மனிதன் சொல்லுகிறதை நானும் கேட்க விருப்பமாக இருக்கிறேன் என்றான். அதற்கு அவன்: நாளைக்கு நீர் கேட்கலாம் என்றான்.

²³ மறுநாளிலே அகிரிப்பாவும் பெர்னீக்கேயாளும் மிகுந்த ஆடம்பரத்துடனே வந்து படைத்தலைவர்களோடும் பட்டணத்து தலைவர்களோடும் நீதிமன்றத்தில் நுழைந்தார்கள். உடனே பெஸ்துவினுடைய ஆணையின்படி பவுல் அழைத்துவரப்பட்டான். ²⁴ அப்பொழுது பெஸ்து: அகிரிப்பா ராஜாவே, எங்களோடுகூட இந்த இடத்தில் வந்திருக்கிறவர்களே, நீங்கள் காண்கிற இந்த மனிதனைக்குறித்து யூதமக்களெல்லோரும் எருசலேமிலும் இந்த இடத்திலும் என்னை வருந்திக் கேட்டுக்கொண்டு, இவன் இனி உயிரோடிருக்கிறது சரியில்லை என்று சொல்லிச் சத்தமிட்டார்கள். ²⁵ இவன் மரணத்திற்கு ஏதுவானதொன்றையும் செய்யவில்லையென்று நான் அறிந்துகொண்டதினாலும்,

இவன் தானே இராயனுக்கு மேல்முறையீடு செய்ததினாலும், அவரிடத்தில் இவனை அனுப்பும்படி தீர்மானித்தேன். ²⁶ இவனைக்குறித்து ஆண்டவனுக்கு எழுதுகிறதற்கு உறுதிசெய்யப்பட்ட காரியமொன்றும் எனக்கு புரியவில்லை. காவல்பண்ணப்பட்ட ஒருவன் செய்த குற்றங்களை எடுத்துக்காட்டாமல் அனுப்புகிறது புத்தியீனமான காரியமென்று எனக்குத் தோன்றுகிறபடியினாலே, ²⁷ இவனை விசாரித்துக் கேட்டபின்பு எழுதவேண்டிய செய்தி ஏதாவது எனக்கு புரியும் என்று, இவனை உங்களுக்கு முன்பாகவும், விசேஷமாக அகிரிப்பா ராஜாவே, உமக்கு முன்பாகவும் கொண்டுவந்தேன் என்றான்.

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¹ அகிரிப்பா பவுலைப் பார்த்து: நீ உனக்காகப் பேச உன்னை அனுமதிக்கிறேன் என்றான். அப்பொழுது பவுல் கையை நீட்டி, தனக்காக பதில் சொல்லத்தொடங்கினான். ² அகிரிப்பா ராஜாவே, யூதர்கள் என்மேல் சுமத்துகிற எல்லாக் காரியங்களைக்குறித்தும் நான் இன்றைக்கு உமக்கு முன்பாக பதில் சொல்லப்போகிறபடியினாலே என்னைப் பாக்கியவான் என்றெண்ணுகிறேன். ³ விசேஷமாக நீர் யூதர்களுடைய எல்லாமுறைமைகளையும் விவாதங்களையும் அறிந்தவரானதால் அப்படி எண்ணுகிறேன்; ஆகவே, நான் சொல்வதைப் பொறுமையோடு கேட்கும்படி உம்மை வேண்டிக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். ⁴ நான் என் சிறுவயது முதற்கொண்டு, எருசலேமிலே என் மக்களுக்குள்ளே இருந்தபடியால், ஆரம்பமுதல் நான் நடந்த நடக்கையை யூதரெல்லோரும் அறிந்திருக்கிறார்கள். ⁵ நம்முடைய மார்க்கத்திலுள்ள மதவேறுபாடுகளில் மிகவும் கண்டிப்பான நேரத்திற்கு ஏற்றபடி பரிசேயனாக நடந்தேனென்று சாட்சிசொல்ல அவர்களுக்கு விருப்பமிருந்தால் சொல்லலாம். ⁶ தேவன் நம்முடைய பிதாக்களுக்கு அருளிச்செய்த வாக்குத்தத்தம் நிறைவேறுமென்கிற நம்பிக்கைக்காகவே நான் இப்பொழுது நியாயம் விசாரிக்கப்படுகிறவனாக நிற்கிறேன். ⁷ இரவும் பகலும் இடைவிடாமல் ஆராதனை செய்துவருகிற நம்முடைய பன்னிரண்டு கோத்திரத்தார்களும் அந்த வாக்குத்தத்தம் நிறைவேறுமென்று நம்பியிருக்கிறார்கள். அகிரிப்பா ராஜாவே, அந்த நம்பிக்கையினிமித்தமே யூதர்கள் என்மேல் குற்றஞ்சுமத்துகிறார்கள். ⁸ தேவன் மரித்தவர்களை எழுப்புகிறது நம்பப்படாத காரியமென்று நீங்கள் நினைக்கிறதென்ன? ⁹ முன்னே நானும் நசரேயனாகிய இயேசுவின் நாமத்திற்கு எதிராக அநேக காரியங்களைச் செய்யவேண்டுமென்று நினைத்திருந்தேன். ¹⁰ அப்படியே நான் எருசலேமிலும் செய்தேன். நான் பிரதான ஆசாரியர்களிடத்தில் அனுமதிபெற்று, பரிசுத்தவான்களில் அநேகரைச் சிறைச்சாலைகளில் அடைத்தேன்; அவர்கள் கொலைசெய்யப்படும்போது நானும் சம்மதித்திருந்தேன். ¹¹ எல்லா ஜெபஆலயங்களிலும் நான் அவர்களை பலமுறைத் தண்டித்து அவதூறு சொல்லக் கட்டாயப்படுத்தினேன்; அவர்கள் பேரில் கோபவெறிகொண்டவனாக அந்நியப் பட்டணங்கள்வரைக்கும் அவர்களைத் துன்பப்படுத்தினேன். ¹² இப்படிச் செய்துவரும்போது, நான் பிரதான ஆசாரியர்களிடத்தில் அதிகாரமும் அனுமதியும் பெற்று, தமஸ்குவிற்குப் போகும்போது, ¹³ மத்தியான நேரத்தில், ராஜாவே, நான் வழியிலே சூரியனுடைய பிரகாசத்திலும் அதிகமான ஒளி வானத்திலிருந்து என்னையும் என்னுடனேகூடப் பயணம் செய்தவர்களையும் சுற்றிப் பிரகாசிக்கக்கண்டேன். ¹⁴ நாங்களெல்லோரும் தரையிலே விழுந்தபோது: சவுலே, சவுலே, நீ ஏன் என்னைத் துன்பப்படுத்துகிறாய்? முள்ளில் உதைக்கிறது உனக்குக் கடினம் என்று எபிரெயு மொழியிலே என்னுடனே பேசுகிற ஒரு சத்தத்தைக் கேட்டேன். ¹⁵ அப்பொழுது நான்: ஆண்டவரே, நீர் யார்? என்றேன். அதற்கு அவர்: நீ துன்பப்படுத்துகிற இயேசு நானே. ¹⁶ இப்பொழுது நீ எழுந்து, காலூன்றி நில். நீ பார்த்தவைகளையும் நான் உனக்குத் தரிசனமாகிக் காண்பிக்கப்போகிறவைகளையும்குறித்து உன்னை ஊழியக்காரனாகவும் சாட்சியாகவும் ஏற்படுத்துகிறதற்காக உனக்குக் காட்சியளித்தேன். ¹⁷ உன் சொந்த மக்களிடத்திலிருந்தும் அந்நிய மக்களிடத்திலிருந்தும் உன்னை விடுதலையாக்கி, ¹⁸ அவர்கள் என்னைப் பற்றும் விசுவாசத்தினாலே பாவமன்னிப்பையும், பரிசுத்தமாக்கப்பட்டவர்களுக்குரிய உரிமைப்பங்கையும் பெற்றுக்கொள்ளும்படியாக, அவர்கள் இருளைவிட்டு ஒளியினிடத்திற்கும், சாத்தானுடைய அதிகாரத்தைவிட்டு தேவனிடத்திற்கும் திரும்பும்படிக்கு நீ அவர்களுடைய கண்களைத் திறப்பதற்காக, இப்பொழுது உன்னை அவர்களிடத்திற்கு அனுப்புகிறேன் என்றார். ¹⁹ ஆகவே, அகிரிப்பா ராஜாவே, நான் அந்தப் பரமதரிசனத்திற்குக் கீழ்ப்படியாதவனாக இருக்கவில்லை. ²⁰ முன்பு தமஸ்குவிலும் எருசலேமிலும் யூதையா நாடெங்குமுள்ளவர்களிடத்திலும், பின்பு யூதரல்லாதோர்களிடத்திலும் நான் போய், அவர்கள் தேவனிடத்திற்கு மனம்திரும்பி குணப்படவும், மனம்திரும்புவதற்கேற்ற செயல்களைச் செய்யவும் வேண்டுமென்று அறிவித்தேன். ²¹ இதினிமித்தமே யூதர்கள் தேவாலயத்திலே என்னைப் பிடித்துக் கொலைசெய்ய முயற்சிசெய்தார்கள். ²² ஆனாலும் தேவ உதவியைப் பெற்று, நான் இந்த நாள்வரை சிறியோர்களுக்கும் பெரியோர்களுக்கும் சாட்சி சொல்லிவருகிறேன். ²³ தீர்க்கதரிசிகளும் மோசேயும் முன்னமே சொல்லியிருந்தபடியே, கிறிஸ்து பாடுபடவேண்டியதென்றும், மரித்தோர் உயிர்த்தெழுதலில் அவர் முதல்வராகி, சொந்த மக்களுக்கும் அந்நிய மக்களுக்கும் ஒளியை வெளிப்படுத்துகிறவரென்றும் சொல்லுகிறேனேயன்றி, வேறொன்றையும் நான் சொல்லுகிறதில்லை என்றான். ²⁴ இவ்விதமாக அவன் தனக்காக பதில்சொல்லும்போது, பெஸ்து மிகவும் சத்தமாக: பவுலே, நீ உலறுகிறாய், அதிகக் கல்வி உனக்குப் பயித்தியமுண்டாக்குகிறது என்றான். ²⁵ அதற்கு அவன்: கனம்பொருந்திய பெஸ்துவே, நான் பயித்தியக்காரனல்ல, சத்தியமும் சுயபுத்தியோடு வார்த்தைகளைப் பேசுகிறேன். ²⁶ இந்தச் செய்திகளை ராஜா அறிந்திருக்கிறார்; ஆகவே, தைரியமாக அவருக்கு முன்பாகப் பேசுகிறேன்; இவைகளில் ஒன்றும் அவருக்கு மறைவானதல்லவென்று நினைக்கிறேன்; இது ஒரு பக்கம் நடந்த காரியமல்ல. ²⁷ அகிரிப்பா ராஜாவே, தீர்க்கதரிசிகளை நம்புகிறீரா? நம்புகிறீர் என்று அறிவேன் என்றான். ²⁸ அப்பொழுது அகிரிப்பா பவுலைப் பார்த்து: நான் கிறிஸ்தவனாகிறதற்குக் கொஞ்சங்குறைய நீ என்னைச் சம்மதிக்கச் செய்கிறாய்

என்றான். ²⁹ அதற்குப் பவுல்: நீர் மாத்திரமல்ல, இன்று என் வசனத்தைக் கேட்கிற அனைவரும், கொஞ்சங்குறையமட்டும் அல்ல, இந்தக் கட்டுகள்தவிர, முழுவதும் என்னைப்போலாகும்படி தேவனை வேண்டிக்கொள்ளுகிறேன் என்றான். ³⁰ இவைகளை அவன் சொன்னபோது, ராஜாவும் தேசாதிபதியும் பெர்னீக்கேயாளும் அவர்களோடு உட்கார்ந்திருந்தவர்களும் எழுந்து, ³¹ தனியேபோய்: இந்த மனிதன் மரணத்திற்காவது கட்டுகளுக்காவது தகுதியானது எதையும் செய்யவில்லை என்று தங்களுக்குள்ளே பேசிக்கொண்டார்கள். ³² அகிரிப்பா பெஸ்துவைப் பார்த்து: இந்த மனிதன் இராயனுக்கு மேல்முறையீடு செய்யாதிருந்தானானால், இவனை விடுதலை செய்யமுடியும் என்றான்.

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¹ நாங்கள் இத்தாலியா தேசத்திற்குக் கப்பல் ஏறிப்போகும்படி தீர்மானிக்கப்பட்டபோது, பவுலையும் காவலில் வைக்கப்பட்டிருந்த வேறுசிலரையும் அகுஸ்து படையைச் சேர்ந்த யூலியு என்னும் பெயர்கொண்ட நூறுபேருக்கு தலைவனிடத்தில் ஒப்புவித்தார்கள். ² அதிரமித்தியம் ஊர்க்கப்பலில் நாங்கள் ஏறி, ஆசியா நாட்டு வழியைப்பிடித்துப் போகவேண்டுமென்று நினைத்துப் புறப்பட்டோம். மக்கெதோனியா தேசத்துத் தெசலோனிக்கே பட்டணத்தானாகிய அரிஸ்தர்க்கு எங்களுடனேகூட இருந்தான். ³ மறுநாள் சீதோன் துறைமுகம் வந்துசேர்ந்தோம். யூலியு பவுலை அன்பாக நடப்பித்து, அவன் தன் நண்பர்களிடத்திலே போய் உபசரிக்கப்படும்படிக்கு உத்தரவு கொடுத்தான். ⁴ அந்த இடத்தைவிட்டு நாங்கள் புறப்பட்டு, எதிர்க்காற்றாயிருந்தபடியினால், சீப்புரு தீவின் ஓரமாகப் பயணம் செய்தோம். ⁵ பின்பு சிலிசியா பம்பிலியா நாடுகளின் கடல்வழியாக பயணித்து, லீசியா நாட்டு மீறாப்பட்டணத்தில் சேர்ந்தோம். ⁶ இத்தாலியாவிற்குப் போகிற அலெக்சந்திரியா பட்டணத்துக் கப்பலை, நூறுபேருக்கு தலைவன் அங்கே பார்த்து, எங்களை அதில் ஏற்றினான். ⁷ காற்று எங்களைத் தடுத்தபடியினாலே, நாங்கள் அநேகநாட்கள் மெதுவாய்ச் சென்று, வருத்தத்தோடு கிளீது பட்டணத்திற்கு எதிரே வந்து, சல்மோனே ஊருக்கு எதிராய்க் கிரேத்தாதீவின் ஓரமாகப் பயணம் செய்தோம். ⁸ அதை வருத்தத்தோடு கடந்து, நல்ல துறைமுகம் என்னப்பட்ட ஒரு இடத்திற்கு வந்தோம்; லசேயப்பட்டணம் அதற்கு அருகில் இருந்தது. ⁹ வெகுகாலம் சென்று, உபவாசநாளும் முடிந்து போனபடியினாலே, இனிக் கப்பல் பயணம் செய்கிறது ஆபத்தாக இருக்குமென்று, பவுல் அவர்களை நோக்கி: ¹⁰ மனிதர்களே, இந்த பயணத்தினாலே பொருட்களுக்கும், கப்பலுக்கும் மாத்திரமல்ல, நம்முடைய உயிருக்கும் வருத்தமும், மிகுந்த சேதமும் உண்டாயிருக்குமென்று காண்கிறேன் என்று சொல்லி அவர்களை எச்சரித்தான். ¹¹ நூறுபேருக்குத் தலைவன் பவுலினால் சொல்லப்பட்டவைகளைவிட மாலுமியையும் கப்பல் சொந்தக்காரர்களையும் அதிகமாக நம்பினான். ¹² அந்தத் துறைமுகம் மழைகாலத்திலே தங்குவதற்கு வசதியாக இல்லாததினால், அந்த இடத்தைவிட்டுத் தென்மேற்கையும் வடமேற்கையும் நோக்கியிருக்கும் கிரேத்தா தீவிலுள்ள துறைமுகமாகிய பேனிக்ஸ் என்னும் இடத்தில் சேர்க்குமொனால் சேர்ந்து, மழைகாலத்தில் தங்கும்படி அநேகம்பேர் ஆலோசனை சொன்னார்கள்.

¹³ தென்றல் மெதுவாக வீசினபடியால், தாங்கள் வேண்டிக்கொண்டது கைகூடிவந்ததென்று எண்ணி, அந்த இடத்தைவிட்டுப் புறப்பட்டு கிரேத்தா தீவிற்கு அருகில் சென்றார்கள். ¹⁴ கொஞ்சநேரத்திற்குள்ளே யூரோக்கிலிதோன் என்னும் கடுங்காற்று அதில் மோதிற்று. ¹⁵ கப்பல் அதில் அகப்பட்டுக்கொண்டு, காற்றுக்கு எதிர்த்துப்போகக்கூடாதபடியினால் காற்றின் போக்கிலே கொண்டுபோகப்பட்டோம். ¹⁶ அப்படிக்கிலவுதா என்னப்பட்ட ஒரு சின்ன தீவின் அருகில் போகும்போது வெகுநேரம் போராடி படகை கைப்பற்றினோம். ¹⁷ அதை அவர்கள் தூக்கியெடுத்தப்பின்பு, கயிற்றினால் கப்பலைச் சுற்றிக் கட்டி, புதை மணலிலே விழுமோமென்று பயந்து, பாய்களை இறக்கி, இவ்விதமாகக் கொண்டுபோகப்பட்டார்கள். ¹⁸ மேலும் பெருங்காற்றும்மழையிலும் நாங்கள் மிகவும் அவதிப்பட்டபடியினால் மறுநாளில் சில பொருட்களை கடலில் எறிந்தார்கள். ¹⁹ மூன்றாம்நாளிலே கப்பலின் கருவிகளை எங்களுடைய கைகளினாலே எடுத்து கடலில் வீசினோம். ²⁰ அநேகநாளாகச் சூரியனாவது நட்சத்திரங்களாவது காணப்படாமல், மிகுந்த பெருங்காற்றும்மழையும் அடித்துக் கொண்டிருந்தபடியினால், இனித் தப்பிப்பிழைப்போமென்னும் நம்பிக்கை முழுமையும் இல்லாமல்போனது. ²¹ அநேகநாட்கள் அவர்கள் சாப்பிடாமல் இருந்தபோது, பவுல் அவர்கள் நடுவிலே நின்று: மனிதர்களே, இந்த வருத்தமும் சேதமும் வராதபடிக்கு என் சொல்லைக்கேட்டு, கிரேத்தாதீவைவிட்டுப்புறப்படாமல் இருக்கவேண்டியதாயிருந்தது. ²² ஆனாலும் மனதில் உறுதியுள்ளவர்களாக இருங்களென்று இப்பொழுது உங்களுக்குத் தெரியுமென்கிறேன். கப்பற்சேதமேயல்லாமல் உங்களில் ஒருவனுக்கும் உயிர்சேதம் வராது. ²³ ஏனென்றால், என்னை ஆட்கொண்டவரும் நான் வணங்குகிறவருமான தேவனுடைய தூதனானவன் இந்த இரவிலே என்னிடத்தில் வந்துநின்று: ²⁴ பவுலே, பயப்படாதே, நீ இராயனுக்கு முன்பாக நிற்கவேண்டும், இதோ, உன்னுடனேகூட பயணம் பண்ணுகிற அனைவரையும் தேவன் உனக்கு தயவுபண்ணினார் என்றான். ²⁵ ஆகவே, மனிதர்களே, மனதில் உறுதியுள்ளவர்களாக இருங்கள். எனக்குச் சொல்லப்பட்டபடியே நடக்கும் என்று தேவனிடத்தில் நம்பிக்கையாக இருக்கிறேன். ²⁶ ஆனாலும் நாம் ஒரு தீவிலே விழவேண்டியதாயிருக்கும் என்றான்.

²⁷ பதினான்காம் இராத்திரியானபோது, நாங்கள் ஆதிரியாக் கடலிலே அலைக்கழிக்கப்பட்டுப் போகும்போது, நடு இராத்திரியிலே கப்பலாட்களுக்கு ஒரு கரை நெருங்கிவருகிறதாகத் தோன்றியது. ²⁸ உடனே அவர்கள் நங்கூரம்விட்டுப் பார்த்தபோது இருபது அடி ஆழம் என்று கண்டார்கள்; சிறிதுதூரம் போனபொழுது, மறுபடியும் நங்கூரம்விட்டுப் பார்த்தபோது பதினைந்து அடி ஆழம் என்று கண்டார்கள். ²⁹ பாறையிடங்களில் விழுமோமென்று பயந்து, பின் பகுதியிலிருந்து நாலு நங்கூரங்களைப்போட்டு,

எப்போது பொழுதுவிடியுமோ என்றிருந்தார்கள். ³⁰ அப்பொழுது கப்பலாட்கள் கப்பலைவிட்டு ஓடிப்போக வகைதேடி, முன் பகுதியிலிருந்து நங்கூரங்களைப் போடப்போகிறதுபோல படகை கடலில் இறக்கும்போது, ³¹ பவுல் நூறுபேருக்கு தலைவனையும், போர்வீரர்களையும் நோக்கி: இவர்கள் கப்பலில் இல்லாவிட்டால் நீங்கள் தப்பிப் பிழைக்கமாட்டீர்கள் என்றான். ³² அப்பொழுது, போர்வீரர்கள் படகின் கயிறுகளை அறுத்து, அதைக் கீழே விழவிட்டார்கள். ³³ பொழுதுவிடியும்போது எல்லோரும் சாப்பிடும்படி பவுல் அவர்களுக்குத் தைரியஞ்சொல்லி: நீங்கள் இன்று பதினாலுநாட்களாக ஒன்றும் சாப்பிடாமல் பட்டினியாக இருக்கிறீர்கள். ³⁴ ஆகவே, சாப்பிடும்படி உங்களை வேண்டிக்கொள்ளுகிறேன், நீங்கள் தப்பிப் பிழைப்பதற்கு அது உதவியாக இருக்கும்; உங்களுடைய தலையிலிருந்து ஒரு முடியும் விழாது என்றான். ³⁵ இப்படிச் சொல்லி, அப்பத்தை எடுத்து, தேவனை ஸ்தோத்தரித்து, அதைப் பிட்டுச் சாப்பிடத் தொடங்கினான். ³⁶ அப்பொழுது எல்லோரும் தைரியப்பட்டு சாப்பிட்டார்கள். ³⁷ கப்பலில் இருநூற்று எழுபத்தாறுபேர் இருந்தோம். ³⁸ திருப்தியாக சாப்பிட்டபின்பு அவர்கள் கோதுமையைக் கடலிலே போட்டு, கப்பலின் பாரத்தைக் குறைத்தார்கள். ³⁹ பொழுதுவிடிந்தபின்பு, எந்த இடம் என்று அறியாதிருந்தார்கள். அப்பொழுது சமமான கரையுள்ள ஒரு துறைமுகத்தை அவர்கள் பார்த்து; கூடுமானால் அதற்குள் கப்பலையோட்ட யோசனையாக இருந்து, ⁴⁰ நங்கூரங்களை அறுத்துக் கடலிலே விட்டுவிட்டு, சுக்கான்களுடைய கட்டுகளைத் தளரவிட்டு, பெரும்பாயைக் காற்று முகமாக விரித்து, கரைக்கு நேராகப்போய், ⁴¹ இருபுறமும் கடல் மோதிய ஒரு இடத்திலே கப்பலை நிறுத்தினார்கள்; முன்பகுதி ஊன்றி அசையாமலிருந்தது, பின் பாகங்கள் அலைகளுடைய பலத்தினால் உடைந்துபோனது. ⁴² அப்பொழுது காவல் பண்ணப்பட்டவர்களில் ஒருவனும் நீந்தி ஓடிப்போகாதபடிக்கு அவர்களைக் கொன்றுபோடவேண்டுமென்று போர்வீரர்கள் யோசனையாக இருந்தார்கள். ⁴³ நூறுபேருக்குத் தலைவன் பவுலைக் காப்பாற்ற மனதாயிருந்து, அவர்களுடைய யோசனையைத் தடுத்து, நீந்தத்தக்கவர்கள் முந்திக் கடலில் விழுந்து கரையேறவும், ⁴⁴ மற்றவர்களில் சிலர் பலகைகள்மேலும், சிலர் கப்பலின் உடைந்த துண்டுகள்மேல் உட்கார்ந்து கரையேறவும் கட்டளையிட்டான்; இவ்விதமாக எல்லோரும் தப்பிக் கரைசேர்ந்தார்கள்.

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¹ நாங்கள் தப்பிக் கரையைச் சேர்ந்தப்பின்பு, அந்தத் தீவின் பெயர் மெலித்தா என்று அறிந்தோம். ² அறிமுகமில்லாத அந்தத் தீவின் மக்கள் எங்களுக்குப் பாராட்டின அன்பு கொஞ்சமல்ல. அந்த நேரத்திலே பிடித்திருந்த மழைக்காகவும் குளிருக்காகவும் அவர்கள் நெருப்பை மூட்டி, எங்கள் அனைவரையும் சேர்த்துக்கொண்டார்கள். ³ பவுல் சில விறகுகளை வாரி அந்த நெருப்பின்மேல் போடும்போது, ஒரு விரியன்பாம்பு வெப்பம் தாங்காமல் வெளியே வந்து அவனுடைய கையைக் கவ்விக்கொண்டது. ⁴ விரியன்பாம்பு அவன் கையிலே தொங்குகிறதை அறிமுகமில்லாத அந்தத் தீவின் மக்கள் கண்டபோது, இந்த மனிதன் கொலைபாதகன், இதற்குச் சந்தேகமில்லை; இவன் கடலிலிருந்து தப்பிவந்தும், பழியானது இவனைப் பிழைக்க விடவில்லை என்று தங்களுக்குள்ளே சொல்லிக்கொண்டார்கள். ⁵ அவன் அந்த விரியன் பாம்பை தீயிலே உதறிப்போட்டு, ஒரு தீங்கும் அடையாதிருந்தான். ⁶ அவனுக்கு வீக்கங்கொண்டு, அல்லது அவன் உடனடியாக விழுந்து சாவானென்று அவர்கள் பார்த்துக்கொண்டிருந்தார்கள்; நெடுநேரமாகப் பார்த்துக்கொண்டிருந்தும், ஒரு சேதமும் அவனுக்கு வராததைக் கண்டபோது, தங்களுடைய எண்ணத்தை மாற்றி, அவர் ஒரு தெய்வம் என்று சொல்லிக்கொண்டார்கள். ⁷ தீவிற்கு முதலாளியாகிய புபிலியு என்னும் பெயர்கொண்டவனுடைய நிலங்கள் அந்த இடத்திற்கு அருகில் இருந்தது; அவன் எங்களை ஏற்றுக்கொண்டு, மூன்று நாட்கள் அன்போடு உபசரித்தான். ⁸ புபிலியுவினுடைய தகப்பன் காய்ச்சலாலும் இரத்த பேதியினாலும் வியாதிப்பட்டு கிடந்தான்; பவுல் அவனிடத்திற்குப்போய் ஜெபம்பண்ணி, அவன்மேல் கரங்களை வைத்து, அவனைக் குணமாக்கினான். ⁹ இது நடந்தபின்பு, தீவிலே இருந்த மற்ற வியாதிக்காரர்களும் வந்து குணமாக்கப்பட்டார்கள். ¹⁰ அவர்கள் எங்களுக்கு அதிக மரியாதை செய்து, நாங்கள் கப்பல் ஏறிப்போகிறபோது எங்களுக்குத் தேவையானவைகளை ஏற்றினார்கள்.

¹¹ மூன்று மாதங்கள் சென்றபின்பு, அந்தத் தீவிலே மழைகாலத்திற்கு தங்கியிருந்த மிதுனம் என்னும் அடையாளமுடைய அலெக்சந்திரியா பட்டணத்துக் கப்பலில் நாங்கள் ஏறிப் புறப்பட்டு, ¹² சீரகூசா பட்டணத்தைச் சேர்ந்து, அங்கே மூன்று நாட்கள் தங்கினோம். ¹³ அந்த இடத்தைவிட்டுக் கரையோரமாகச் சுற்றி பயணம்செய்து, ரேகியு துறைமுகத்திற்கு வந்துசேர்ந்தோம். மறுநாளில் தென்றல் காற்றடிக்கும்போது புறப்பட்டு, இரண்டாம் நாள் புத்தேயோலி பட்டணத்திற்கு வந்து, ¹⁴ அங்கே சகோதரர்களைக் கண்டோம்; அவர்கள் எங்களை ஏழுநாட்கள் தங்கலிடத்தில் இருக்கும்படி வேண்டிக்கொண்டார்கள்; அந்தப்படி நாங்கள் இருந்து, பின்பு ரோமாபுரிக்குப் போனோம். ¹⁵ அந்த இடத்திலுள்ள சகோதரர்கள் நாங்கள் வருகிற செய்தியைக் கேள்விப்பட்டு, சிலர் அப்பியுபரம்வரைக்கும், சிலர் மூன்று தங்கும் விடுதி என்ற இடம்வரைக்கும், எங்களுக்கு எதிர்கொண்டுவந்தார்கள்; அவர்களைப் பவுல் கண்டு, தேவனை ஸ்தோத்திரித்துத் தைரியமடைந்தார்கள். ¹⁶ நாங்கள் ரோமாபுரியில் சேர்ந்தபோது, நூறுபேருக்குத் தலைவன் தன் காவலலிருந்தவர்களைப் போர்த்தலைவனிடத்தில் ஒப்புக்கொடுத்தான்; அப்பொழுது பவுல் தன்னைக் காத்திருக்கிற போர்ச்சேவகனுடனே தனித்துக் குடியிருக்கும்படி உத்தரவு பெற்றுக்கொண்டான்.

¹⁷ மூன்று நாட்களுக்குப்பின்பு, பவுல் யூதர்களில் முக்கியமானவர்களை வரவழைத்தான்; அவர்கள் கூடிவந்திருந்தபோது, அவன் அவர்களை நோக்கி: சகோதரர்களே, நம்முடைய மக்களுக்கும் நம்முடைய முன்னோர்களின் பழக்கங்களுக்கும் விரோதமானதொன்றையும் நான் செய்யாமலிருந்தும், கட்டப்பட்டவனாக எருசலேமிலிருந்து ரோமர்கள் கைகளில் ஒப்புக்கொடுக்கப்பட்டேன். ¹⁸ அவர்கள் என்னை நியாயம் விசாரித்தபோது மரணத்திற்குரிய குற்றம் ஒன்றும் என்னிடத்தில் காணாதபடியினால், என்னை விடுதலையாக்க மனதாயிருந்தார்கள். ¹⁹ யூதர்கள் அதற்கு எதிர்பேசினபோது, நான் இராயனிடத்தில் முறையிடவேண்டியதாயிருந்தது; ஆனாலும் என் மக்கள்மேல் எந்தவொரு குற்றஞ்சாட்டவேண்டுமென்று நான் அப்படிச் செய்யவில்லை. ²⁰ இந்தக் காரியத்தினிமித்தமே உங்களைக் காணவும் உங்களோடு பேசவும் உங்களை அழைப்பித்தேன். இஸ்ரவேலுடைய நம்பிக்கைக்காகவே இந்தச் சங்கிலியால் கட்டப்பட்டிருக்கிறேன் என்றான். ²¹ அதற்கு அவர்கள்: உன்னைக்குறித்து யூதேயாவிலிருந்து எங்களுக்குக் கடிதம் ஒன்றும் வரவுமில்லை, வந்த சகோதரர்களில் ஒருவனும் உன்பேரில் ஒரு தீங்கானக் காரியத்தையும் அறிவித்ததுமில்லை, அதைப்பற்றிப் பேசினதுமில்லை. ²² எங்கும் இந்த மதப்பிரிவிற்கு விரோதமாகப் பேசுகிறதாக நாங்கள் அறிந்திருக்கிறபடியால், இதைக்குறித்து உன்னுடைய கருத்து என்னவென்று கேட்டறிய விரும்புகிறோம் என்றார்கள். ²³ அதற்காக அவர்கள் ஒரு நாளைக்குறித்து, அந்த நாளில் அநேகம்பேர் அவன் தங்கியிருந்த வீட்டிற்கு அவனிடத்தில் வந்தார்கள். அவன் காலத்துவங்கி மாலைவரை மோசேயின் நியாயப்பிரமாணத்திலும் தீர்க்கதரிசிகளின் புத்தகங்களிலிருந்தும் இயேசுவிற்குரியவைகளை அவர்களுக்குப் போதித்து, தேவனுடைய ராஜ்யத்தைக்குறித்துச் சாட்சிக்கொடுத்து வலியுறுத்திப் பேசினான். ²⁴ அவன் சொன்னவைகளைச் சிலர் ஏற்றுக்கொண்டனர், சிலர் விசுவாசிக்காமலிருந்தார்கள். ²⁵ இப்படி அவர்கள் ஒருவரோடொருவர் கருத்து வேறுபட்டவர்களாக,

புறப்பட்டுப்போகும்போது, பவுல் அவர்களுக்குச் சொன்ன வார்த்தையாவது: ²⁶ நீங்கள் காதாரக்கேட்டும் உணராதிருப்பீர்கள், கண்ணார்க்கண்டும் பார்க்காதிருப்பீர்கள். ²⁷ இவர்கள் கண்களினால் காணாமலும், காதுகளினால் கேளாமலும், இருதயத்தினால் உணர்ந்து குணப்படாமலும், நான் இவர்களை ஆரோக்கியமாக்காமலும் இருக்கும்படிக்கு, இந்த மக்களின் இருதயம் கொழுத்திருக்கிறது; காதுகளினால் மந்தமாகக் கேட்டுத் தங்களுடைய கண்களை மூடிக்கொண்டார்கள் என்று இந்த மக்களினிடத்திற்குப்போய்ச் சொல்லு என்பதைப் பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவர் ஏசாயா தீர்க்கதரிசியைக்கொண்டு நம்முடைய முற்பிதாக்களுடனே நன்றாகச் சொல்லியிருக்கிறார். ²⁸ ஆதலால் தேவனுடைய இரட்சிப்பு யூதரல்லாதவர்களுக்கு அனுப்பப்பட்டிருக்கிறதென்றும், அவர்கள் அதற்குச் செவிகொடுப்பார்களென்றும் உங்களுக்குத் தெரிந்திருக்கக்கடவது என்றான். ²⁹ இப்படி அவன் சொன்னபின்பு, யூதர்கள் தங்களுக்குள்ளே மிகவும் விவாதம்பண்ணிக்கொண்டு, போய்விட்டார்கள். ³⁰ பின்பு பவுல் தனக்காக வாடகைக்கு வாங்கியிருந்த வீட்டிலே இரண்டு வருடங்கள் முழுதும் தங்கி, தன்னிடத்தில் வந்த அனைவரையும் ஏற்றுக்கொண்டு, ³¹ மிகுந்த தைரியத்துடனே தடையில்லாமல், தேவனுடைய ராஜ்யத்தைக்குறித்துப் பிரசங்கித்து, கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவைப்பற்றிய சத்தியங்களை உபதேசித்துக்கொண்டிருந்தான்.

Romans

அத்தியாயம்- 1

¹ இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவின் ஊழியக்காரனும், அப்போஸ்தலனாக இருப்பதற்காக அழைக்கப்பட்டவனும், தேவனுடைய நற்செய்திக்காகப் பிரித்தெடுக்கப்பட்டவனுமாகிய பவுல், ² ரோமாபுரியில் உள்ள தேவனுக்குப் பிரியமானவர்களும் பரிசுத்தவான்களாவதற்காக அழைக்கப்பட்டவர்களாகிய அனைவருக்கும் எழுதுகிறதாவது; ³ நம்முடைய பிதாவாகிய தேவனாலும் கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவினாலும் உங்களுக்குக் கிருபையும் சமாதானமும் உண்டாவதாக. ⁴ இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவைக்குறித்து தேவன் தம்முடைய தீர்க்கதரிசிகள் மூலமாகப் பரிசுத்த வேதாகமங்களில், முன்னமே தம்முடைய நற்செய்தியைப்பற்றி வாக்குத்தத்தம்பண்ணினபடி கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவானவர், ⁵ சரீரத்தின்படி தாவீதின் வம்சத்தில் பிறந்தவரும், பரிசுத்த ஆவியின்படி தேவனுடைய குமாரர் என்று மரித்தோரிலிருந்து உயிரோடு எழுந்ததினாலே பலமாக நிரூபிக்கப்பட்ட தேவகுமாரனுமாக இருக்கிறார். ⁶ அவர் எல்லா தேசத்து மக்களையும், அவர்களுக்குள் இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவினால் அழைக்கப்பட்டவர்களாகிய உங்களையும், ⁷ தமது நாமத்தினிமித்தம் விசுவாசத்திற்குக் கீழ்ப்படியப்பண்ணுவதற்காக, எங்களுக்குக் கிருபையையும் அப்போஸ்தல ஊழியத்தையும் கொடுத்திருக்கிறார்.

⁸ உங்களுடைய விசுவாசம் உலகமெங்கும் பிரசித்தமாகிறபடியினாலே, முதலாவது நான் உங்களெல்லோருக்காகவும் இயேசுகிறிஸ்து மூலமாக என் தேவனுக்கு நன்றி செலுத்துகிறேன். ⁹ நான் ஜெபம்பண்ணும்போதெல்லாம் இடைவிடாமல் உங்களை நினைத்துக்கொண்டிருக்கிறதைக்குறித்துத் தேவகுமாரனுடைய நற்செய்தியினாலே என் ஆவியோடு நான் வணங்குகிற தேவன் எனக்குச் சாட்சியாக இருக்கிறார். ¹⁰ நீங்கள் உறுதிப்படுத்தப்படுவதற்காக ஆவிக்குரிய சில வரங்களை உங்களுக்குக் கொடுப்பதற்காகவும், ¹¹ உங்களுக்குள்ளும் எனக்குள்ளும் உள்ள விசுவாசத்தினால் உங்களோடு நானும் ஆறுதல் அடைவதற்கும், உங்களைப் பார்க்க ஆவலாக இருக்கிறதினாலே, ¹² நான் எப்படியாவது உங்களிடம் வருகிறதற்கு தேவனுடைய விருப்பத்தினாலே எனக்கு நல்ல பயணம் சீக்கிரத்தில் அமையவேண்டும் என்று ஜெபித்துக்கொள்கிறேன். ¹³ சகோதரர்களே, யூதரல்லாதவர்களாகிய மற்றவர்களுக்குள்ளே நான் அநேகரை இரட்சிப்பிற்குள் வழிநடத்தினதுபோல உங்களுக்குள்ளும் சிலரை இரட்சிப்பிற்குள் வழிநடத்துவதற்காக, உங்களிடம் வருவதற்காக பலமுறை நான் யோசனையாக இருந்தேன், ஆனாலும் இதுவரைக்கும் எனக்குத் தடை உண்டானது என்று நீங்கள் அறியாமல் இருக்க எனக்கு மனமில்லை. ¹⁴ கிரேக்கர்களுக்கும், மற்ற அந்நியர்களுக்கும், ஞானிகளுக்கும், மூடர்களுக்கும் நான் கடனாளியாக இருக்கிறேன். ¹⁵ எனவே, ரோமாபுரியில் இருக்கிற உங்களுக்கும் என்னால் முடிந்தவரை நற்செய்தியைப் பிரசங்கம்பண்ண விரும்புகிறேன். ¹⁶ கிறிஸ்துவின் நற்செய்தியைக்குறித்து நான் வெட்கப்படமாட்டேன்; முதலில் யூதர்களிலும், பின்பு கிரேக்கர்களிலும் விசுவாசிக்கிறவன் எவனோ அவனுக்கு இரட்சிப்பு உண்டாவதற்கு அது தேவபெலனாக இருக்கிறது. ¹⁷ விசுவாசத்தினாலே நீதிமான் பிழைப்பான் என்று எழுதியிருக்கிறபடி, விசுவாசத்தினால் உண்டாகும் தேவநீதி விசுவாசத்திற்கென்று அந்த நற்செய்தியினால் வெளிப்படுத்தப்படுகிறது.

¹⁸ சத்தியத்தை அநியாயத்தினாலே அடக்கிவைக்கிற மனிதர்களுடைய எல்லாவிதமான அவபக்திக்கும் அநியாயத்திற்கும் எதிராக, தேவனுடைய கோபம் வானத்திலிருந்து வெளிப்படுத்தப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. ¹⁹ தேவனைக்குறித்து தெரிந்துகொள்வது அவர்களுக்குள்ளே வெளிப்பட்டிருக்கிறது; தேவனே அதை அவர்களுக்கு வெளிப்படுத்தியிருக்கிறார். ²⁰ எப்படியென்றால், காணப்படாதவைகளாகிய அவருடைய நித்திய வல்லமை, தெய்வீகத்தன்மை என்பவைகள், படைக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறவைகளினாலே, உலகம் உண்டாக்கப்பட்டதிலிருந்து, தெளிவாகக் காணப்படும்; எனவே அவர்கள் சாக்குப்போக்குச் சொல்லமுடியாது. ²¹ அவர்கள் தேவனைத் தெரிந்தும், அவரை தேவனென்று மகிமைப்படுத்தாமலும், நன்றி சொல்லாமலும் இருந்து, தங்களுடைய சிந்தனைகளினாலே வீணரானார்கள்; உணர்ச்சி இல்லாத அவர்களுடைய இருதயம் இருள் அடைந்தது. ²² அவர்கள் தங்களை ஞானிகளென்று சொல்லியும் பைத்தியக்காரர்களாகி, ²³ அழிவில்லாத தேவனுடைய மகிமையை அழிவுள்ள மனிதர்கள், பறவைகள், மிருகங்கள், ஊரும் பிராணிகள் ஆகிய இவைகளுடைய உருவங்களுக்கு ஒப்பாக மாற்றினார்கள். ²⁴ இதனால் அவர்கள் தங்களுடைய இருதயத்திலுள்ள இச்சைகளினாலே ஒருவரோடொருவர் தங்களுடைய சரீரங்களை அவமானப்படுத்துவதற்காக தேவன் அவர்களை அசுத்தத்திற்கு ஒப்புக்கொடுத்தார். ²⁵ தேவனுடைய சத்தியத்தை அவர்கள் பொய்யாக மாற்றி, படைத்தவரைத் தொழுதுகொள்ளாமல் படைக்கப்பட்டவைகளைத் தொழுதுகொண்டார்கள், அவரே என்றென்றைக்கும் ஸ்தோத்திரிக்கப்பட்டவர். ஆமென். ²⁶ இதனால் தேவன் அவர்களை இழிவான இச்சைகளுக்கு ஒப்புக்கொடுத்தார்; அப்படியே

அவர்களுடைய பெண்கள் இயற்கையான இச்சையை இயற்கைக்கு எதிரான இச்சையாக மாற்றினார்கள். ²⁷ அப்படியே ஆண்களும் பெண்களை இயற்கையின்படி அனுபவிக்காமல், ஒருவர்மேல் ஒருவர் இச்சையினாலே பொங்கி, ஆணோடு ஆண் அவலட்சணமானதை செய்து, தங்களுடைய தவறுகளுக்குத்தக்க பலனைத் தங்களுக்குள் அடைந்தார்கள். ²⁸ தேவனைத் தெரிந்துகொள்ளும் அறிவைப் பற்றிக்கொண்டிருக்க அவர்களுக்கு மனமில்லாமல் இருந்ததால், தவறான காரியங்களைச் செய்வதற்காக, தேவன் அவர்களைக் கேடான சிந்தைக்கு ஒப்புக்கொடுத்தார். ²⁹ அவர்கள் எல்லாவிதமான அநியாயத்தினாலும், வேசித்தனத்தினாலும், துரோகத்தினாலும், பொருளாசையினாலும், குரோதத்தினாலும் நிறையப்பட்டு; பொறாமையினாலும், கொலையினாலும், வாக்குவாதத்தினாலும், வஞ்சகத்தினாலும், வன்மத்தினாலும் நிறைந்தவர்களுமாக, ³⁰ கோள் சொல்லுகிறவர்களுமாக, அவதூறு பண்ணுகிறவர்களுமாக, தேவனைப் பகைக்கிறவர்களுமாக, மூர்க்கர்களுமாக, அகந்தை உள்ளவர்களுமாக, வீம்புக்காரர்களுமாக, பொல்லாதவைகளை யோசிக்கிறவர்களுமாக, பெற்றோருக்குக் கீழ்ப்படியாதவர்களுமாக, ³¹ உணர்வு இல்லாதவர்களுமாக, உடன்படிக்கைகளை மீறுகிறவர்களுமாக, சுபாவ அன்பு இல்லாதவர்களுமாக, இணங்காதவர்களுமாக, இரக்கம் இல்லாதவர்களுமாக இருக்கிறார்கள். ³² இப்படிப்பட்டவைகளைச் செய்கிறவர்கள் மரணத்திற்குத் தகுதியானவர்கள் என்று தேவன் தீர்மானித்த நீதியான தீர்ப்பை அவர்கள் தெரிந்திருந்தும், அவைகளைத் தாங்களே செய்கிறதும்ல்லாமல், அவைகளைச் செய்கிற மற்றவர்களையும் ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளுகிறவர்களுமாக இருக்கிறார்கள்.

அத்தியாயம்- 2

¹ ஆகவே, மற்றவர்களைக் குற்றவாளியாகத் தீர்க்கிறவனே, நீ யாரானாலும் சரி, சாக்குப்போக்குச் சொல்லமுடியாது; நீ குற்றமாகத் தீர்க்கிறவைகள் எவைகளோ, அவைகளை நீயும் செய்கிறதினால், நீ மற்றவர்களைக்குறித்துச் சொல்லுகிற தீர்ப்பினாலே உன்னைநீயே குற்றவாளியாக்குகிறாய். ² இப்படிப்பட்டவைகளைச் செய்கிறவர்களுக்குத் தேவனுடைய நியாயத்தீர்ப்பு சத்தியத்தின்படியே இருக்கிறதென்று அறிந்திருக்கிறோம். ³ இப்படிப்பட்டவைகளைச் செய்கிறவர்களைக் குற்றவாளிகள் என்று தீர்த்தும், அவைகளையே செய்கிறவனே, நீ தேவனுடைய நியாயத்தீர்ப்புக்குத் தப்பித்துக்கொள்ளலாம் என்று நினைக்கிறாயோ? ⁴ அல்லது தேவனுடைய தயவு நீ மனம்திரும்புவதற்கு உன்னை நடத்துகிறதென்று தெரியாமல், அவருடைய தயவு, பொறுமை, நீடிய சாந்தம் இவைகளின் ஐசுவரியத்தை அசட்டைபண்ணுகிறாயோ? ⁵ உன் மனதின் கடினத்திற்கும், மனம்திரும்பாத இருதயத்திற்கும் தகுந்தபடி, தேவனுடைய நீதியுள்ள தீர்ப்பு வெளிப்படும். கோபத்தின் தண்டனை நாளிலே உனக்காகக் கோபத்தினைக் குவித்துக்கொள்ளுகிறாயே. ⁶ தேவன் அவனவனுடைய செய்கைகளுக்குத் தகுந்தபடி அவனவனுக்குப் பலன் கொடுப்பார். ⁷ சோர்ந்துபோகாமல் நல்ல செயல்களைச்செய்து, மகிமையையும் கனத்தையும் அழியாமையையும் தேடுகிறவர்களுக்கு நித்தியஜீவனைக் கொடுப்பார். ⁸ சண்டைக்காரர்களாக இருந்து, சத்தியத்திற்குக் கீழ்ப்படியாமல், அநியாயத்திற்குக் கீழ்ப்படிந்திருக்கிறவர்களுக்கோ தேவனுடைய உக்கிரமான கோபம் வரும். ⁹ முதலில் யூதர்களிலும் பின்பு கிரேக்கர்களிலும் பொல்லாப்பு செய்கிற எந்தவொரு மனிதனுக்கும் உபத்திரவமும், வியாகுலமும் உண்டாகும். ¹⁰ முதலில் யூதர்களிலும் பின்பு கிரேக்கர்களிலும் எவன் நன்மைசெய்கிறானோ அவனுக்கு மகிமையும், கனமும், சமாதானமும் உண்டாகும். ¹¹ தேவனிடம் பட்சபாதம் இல்லை. ¹² எவர்கள் நியாயப்பிரமாணம் இல்லாமல் பாவம் செய்கிறார்களோ, அவர்கள் நியாயப்பிரமாணம் இல்லாமல் கெட்டுப்போவார்கள்; எவர்கள் நியாயப்பிரமாணத்திற்கு உட்பட்டவர்களாகப் பாவம் செய்கிறார்களோ, அவர்கள் நியாயப்பிரமாணத்தினாலே நியாயத்தீர்ப்பு அடைவார்கள். ¹³ நியாயப்பிரமாணத்தைக் கேட்கிறவர்கள் தேவனுக்குமுன்பாக நீதிமான்களாவதில்லை, நியாயப்பிரமாணத்தின்படி செய்கிறவர்களே நீதிமான்களாக்கப்படுவார்கள். ¹⁴ அன்றியும் நியாயப்பிரமாணம் இல்லாத யூதரல்லாதோர் சுபாவமாக நியாயப்பிரமாணத்தின்படி செய்கிறபோது, நியாயப்பிரமாணம் இல்லாத அவர்கள் தங்களுக்குத் தாங்களே நியாயப்பிரமாணமாக இருக்கிறார்கள். ¹⁵ அவர்களுடைய மனச்சாட்சியும், சாட்சியிடுகிறதினாலும், குற்றம் உண்டு குற்றம் இல்லை என்று அவர்களுடைய சிந்தனைகள் ஒன்றை ஒன்று தீர்க்கிறதினாலும், நியாயப்பிரமாணத்திற்கு தகுந்த செயல்கள் தங்களுடைய இருதயங்களில் எழுதியிருக்கிறது என்று காண்பிக்கிறார்கள். ¹⁶ என்னுடைய நற்செய்தியின்படியே, தேவன் இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவைக்கொண்டு மனிதர்களுடைய இரகசியங்களைக்குறித்து நியாயத்தீர்ப்புக்கொடுக்கும் நாளிலே இது விளங்கும்.

¹⁷ நீ யூதனென்று பெயர்பெற்று நியாயப்பிரமாணத்தில் நிலைத்திருந்து, தேவனைக்குறித்து மேன்மைபாராட்டி, ¹⁸ நியாயப்பிரமாணத்தினால் உபதேசிக்கப்பட்டவனாக, அவருடைய விருப்பத்தை அறிந்து, நன்மை எது, தீமை எது, என்று தெரிந்துகொள்கிறாயே. ¹⁹ நீ உன்னைக் குருடர்களுக்கு வழிகாட்டியாகவும், இருளில் இருப்பவர்களுக்கு வெளிச்சமாகவும், ²⁰ பேதைகளுக்குப் போதகனாகவும், குழந்தைகளுக்கு ஆசிரியராகவும், நியாயப்பிரமாணத்தின் அறிவையும் சத்தியத்தையும் காட்டிய சட்டமுடையவனாகவும் நினைக்கிறாயே. ²¹ இப்படியிருக்க, மற்றவனுக்குப் போதிக்கிற நீ உனக்கு நீயே போதிக்காமல் இருக்கலாமா? திருடக்கூடாது என்று பிரசங்கம் பண்ணுகிற நீ திருடலாமா? ²² விபசாரம் செய்யக்கூடாது என்று சொல்லுகிற நீ விபசாரம் செய்யலாமா? விக்கிரகங்களை அருவருக்கிற நீ கோவில்களைக் கொள்ளையடிக்கலாமா? ²³ நியாயப்பிரமாணத்தைக்குறித்து மேன்மைபாராட்டுகிற நீ நியாயப்பிரமாணத்தை மீறி நடந்து, தேவனைக் கனவீனம்பண்ணலாமா? ²⁴ எழுதியிருக்கிறபடி, தேவனுடைய நாமம் யூதரல்லாதவர்களுக்குள்ளே உங்கள் மூலமாக அவமதிக்கப்படுகிறதே. ²⁵ நீ நியாயப்பிரமாணத்திற்கு கீழ்ப்படிந்து நடந்தால் விருத்தசேதனம் பிரயோஜனமுள்ளதுதான்; நீ நியாயப்பிரமாணத்தை மீறிநடந்தால் உன் விருத்தசேதனம் விருத்தசேதனமில்லையே. ²⁶ மேலும் விருத்தசேதனமில்லாதவன் நியாயப்பிரமாணத்திற்குரிய நீதிகளைக் கைக்கொண்டு நடந்தால், அவனுடைய விருத்தசேதனமில்லாமை, விருத்தசேதனம் என்று எண்ணப்படும்ல்லவா? ²⁷ சுபாவத்தின்படி விருத்தசேதனமில்லாதவனாக இருந்தும் நியாயப்பிரமாணத்தை நிறைவேற்றுகிறவனாக இருந்தால், அவன் வேத எழுத்தும் விருத்தசேதனமும் உள்ளவனாக இருந்தும், நியாயப்பிரமாணத்தை மீறுகிற உன்னைக் குற்றப்படுத்துவானே? ²⁸ எனவே, வெளிப்புறமாக யூதனானவன் யூதன் இல்லை, வெளிப்புறமாக சரீரத்தில் செய்யப்படும் விருத்தசேதனமும் விருத்தசேதனம் இல்லை. ²⁹ உள்ளத்திலே யூதனானவனே யூதன்; எழுத்தின்படி உண்டாகாமல், ஆவியின்படி இருதயத்தில் உண்டாகும்

விருத்தசேதனமே விருத்தசேதனம்; இப்படிப்பட்டவனுக்கு வரும் புகழ்ச்சி மனிதராலே உண்டாகவில்லை, தேவனாலே உண்டாயிருக்கிறது.

அத்தியாயம்- 3

¹ இப்படியானால், யூதனுடைய மேன்மை என்ன? விருத்தசேதனத்தினாலே பிரயோஜனம் என்ன? ² அது எல்லாவிதத்திலும் உயர்ந்ததாக இருக்கிறது; தேவனுடைய வாக்கியங்கள் அவர்களிடத்தில் ஒப்புவிக்கப்பட்டது விசேஷித்த மேன்மையாமே. ³ சிலர் விசுவாசிக்காமற்போனாலும் என்ன? அவர்களுடைய அவிசுவாசம் தேவனுடைய உண்மையை ஒன்றுமில்லாமல் ஆக்குமா? ⁴ அப்படியாக்காது: நீர் உம்முடைய வசனங்களில் நீதிமானாக விளங்கவும், உம்முடைய நியாயம் விசாரிக்கப்படும்போது வெற்றியடையவும் இப்படியானது என்று எழுதியிருக்கிறபடி, தேவனே சத்தியவான் என்றும், எந்த மனிதனும் பொய்யன் என்றும் சொல்வோமாக. ⁵ நான் மனிதர்கள் பேசுகிறதுபோலப் பேசுகிறேன்; நம்முடைய அநீதி தேவனுடைய நீதியைக் காண்பித்தால் என்னசொல்லுவோம்? கோபத்தைக் காட்டுகிற தேவன் அநீதி உள்ளவராக இருக்கிறார் என்று சொல்லலாமா? ⁶ அப்படிச் சொல்லக்கூடாது; அப்படிச்சொன்னால், தேவன் உலகத்தை நியாயந்தீர்ப்பது எப்படி? ⁷ அன்றியும், என் பொய்யினாலே தேவனுடைய சத்தியம் அவருக்கு மகிமையுண்டாக விளங்கினதுண்டானால், இனி நான் பாவி என்று தீர்க்கப்படுவது ஏன்? ⁸ நன்மை வருவதற்காகத் தீமைசெய்வோமாக என்றும் சொல்லலாம் அல்லவா? நாங்கள் அப்படிப் போதிக்கிறவர்கள் என்றும் சிலர் எங்களை அவமதிக்கிறார்களே; அப்படிப் போதிக்கிறவர்கள்மேல் வரும் தண்டனை நீதியாக இருக்கும்.

⁹ ஆனாலும் என்ன? அவர்களைவிட நாங்கள் விசேஷமானவர்களா? கொஞ்சம்கூட விசேஷமானவர்கள் இல்லை, யூதர்கள் கிரேக்கர்கள் எல்லோரும் பாவத்திற்கு உட்பட்டவர்கள் என்பதை முன்பே வெளிப்படுத்தினோமே. ¹⁰ அப்படியே: ஒருவன்சூட நீதிமான் இல்லை; ¹¹ உணர்வுள்ளவன் இல்லை; தேவனைத் தேடுகிறவன் இல்லை; ¹² எல்லோரும் வழிதவறி, ஒன்றாகக் கெட்டுப்போனார்கள்; நன்மைசெய்கிறவன் இல்லை, ஒருவன்சூட இல்லை. ¹³ அவர்கள் தொண்டை திறக்கப்பட்ட சவக்குழி, தங்களுடைய நாக்குகளால் ஏமாற்றுகிறார்கள்; அவர்களுடைய உதடுகளின் கீழே பாம்பின் விஷம் இருக்கிறது; ¹⁴ அவர்கள் வாய் சபிக்கிறதினாலும், கசப்பினாலும் நிறைந்திருக்கிறது; ¹⁵ அவர்கள் கால்கள் இரத்தம் சிந்துகிறதற்கு அலைகிறது; ¹⁶ நாசமும், உபத்திரவமும் அவர்கள் வழிகளில் இருக்கிறது; ¹⁷ சமாதான வழியை அவர்கள் தெரிந்துகொள்ளாமல் இருக்கிறார்கள்; ¹⁸ அவர்கள் கண்களுக்கு முன்பாகத் தெய்வபயம் இல்லை என்று எழுதியிருக்கிறதே. ¹⁹ மேலும், வாய்கள் எல்லாம் அடைக்கப்படுவதற்கும், உலகத்தார் எல்லோரும் தேவனுடைய தண்டனைத்தீர்ப்புக்கு உள்ளானவர்களாவதற்கும், நியாயப்பிரமாணம் சொல்லுகிறதெல்லாம் நியாயப்பிரமாணத்திற்கு உட்பட்டிருக்கிறவர்களுக்கே சொல்லுகிறது என்று தெரிந்திருக்கிறோம். ²⁰ இப்படியிருக்க, பாவத்தைத் தெரிந்துகொள்ளுகிற அறிவு நியாயப்பிரமாணத்தினால் வருகிறதினால், எந்த மனிதனும் நியாயப்பிரமாணத்தின் செயல்களினாலே தேவனுக்குமுன்பாக நீதிமானாக்கப்படுவது இல்லை.

²¹ இப்படியிருக்க, நியாயப்பிரமாணம் இல்லாமல் தேவநீதி வெளியாக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது; அதற்கு நியாயப்பிரமாணமும் தீர்க்கதரிசனங்களும் சாட்சியாக இருக்கிறது. ²² அது இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவை விசுவாசிக்கும் விசுவாசத்தினாலே வரும் தேவநீதியே; விசுவாசிக்கிற எல்லோருக்குள்ளும் எவர்கள் மேலும் அது வரும், வித்தியாசமே இல்லை. ²³ எல்லோரும் பாவம்செய்து, தேவமகிமை இல்லாதவர்களாகி, ²⁴ இலவசமாக அவருடைய கிருபையினாலே கிறிஸ்து இயேசுவினுள்ள மீட்பைக்கொண்டு நீதிமான்களாக்கப்படுகிறார்கள்; ²⁵ தேவன் பொறுமையாக இருந்த முற்காலத்தில் நடந்த பாவங்களை அவர் பொறுத்துக்கொண்டதைக்குறித்துத் தம்முடைய நீதியைக் காண்பிப்பதற்காகவும், தாம் நீதியுள்ளவரும், இயேசுவிடம் விசுவாசமாக இருக்கிறவனை நீதிமானாக்குகிறவருமாக காண்பிப்பதற்காகவும், இக்காலத்திலே தமது நீதியைக் காண்பிப்பதற்காகவும், ²⁶ கிறிஸ்து இயேசுவினுடைய இரத்தத்தை விசுவாசிக்கும் விசுவாசத்தினாலே வரும் கிருபாதாரபலியாக அவரையே ஏற்படுத்தினார். ²⁷ இப்படியிருக்க, மேன்மைபாராட்டுவது எங்கே? அது நீக்கப்பட்டது. எந்தப் பிரமாணத்தினாலே? செய்கையின் பிரமாணத்தினாலா? இல்லை; விசுவாசப்பிரமாணத்தினாலே. ²⁸ எனவே, மனிதன் நியாயப்பிரமாணத்தின் செயல்கள் இல்லாமல் விசுவாசத்தினாலேயே நீதிமானாக்கப்படுகிறான் என்று தீர்மானிக்கிறோம். ²⁹ தேவன் யூதர்களுக்கு மட்டுமா தேவன்? யூதரல்லாதோர்களுக்கும் தேவனல்லவா? ஆம் யூதரல்லாதோர்களுக்கும் அவர் தேவன்தான். ³⁰ விருத்தசேதனம் உள்ளவர்களை விசுவாசத்தினாலும், விருத்தசேதனம் இல்லாதவர்களை விசுவாசத்தின் மூலமாகவும் நீதிமான்களாக்குகிற தேவன் ஒருவரே. ³¹ அப்படியானால், விசுவாசத்தினாலே நியாயப்பிரமாணத்தை ஒன்றுமில்லாமல் ஆக்குகிறோமா? அப்படி இல்லை; நியாயப்பிரமாணத்தை நிலைநிறுத்துகிறோமே.

அத்தியாயம்- 4

¹ அப்படியானால், நம்முடைய தகப்பனாகிய ஆபிரகாம் சரீரத்தின்படி என்னத்தைக் கண்டுபிடித்தான் என்று சொல்லுவோம்? ² ஆபிரகாம் செயல்களினாலே நீதிமானாக்கப்பட்டான் என்றால் மேன்மைபாராட்ட அவனுக்குக் காரணம் உண்டு; ஆனால் தேவனுக்குமுன்பாக மேன்மைபாராட்டமுடியாது. ³ வேதவாக்கியம் என்ன சொல்லுகிறது? ஆபிரகாம் தேவனை விசுவாசித்தான், அது அவனுக்கு நீதியாக எண்ணப்பட்டது என்று சொல்லுகிறது. ⁴ வேலை செய்கிறவனுக்கு வருகிற கூலி கிருபை என்று எண்ணப்படாமல், கடன் என்று எண்ணப்படும். ⁵ ஒருவன் செயல்களைச் செய்யாமல் பாவியை நீதிமானாக்குகிறவரிடம் விசுவாசம் வைக்கிறவனாக இருந்தால், அவனுடைய விசுவாசமே அவனுக்கு நீதியாக எண்ணப்படும். ⁶ அந்தப்படி, செயல்கள் இல்லாமல் தேவனாலே நீதிமான் என்று எண்ணப்படுகிற மனிதனுடைய பாக்கியத்தைக் காண்பிப்பதற்காக: ⁷ எவர்களுடைய அக்கிரமங்கள் மன்னிக்கப்பட்டதோ, எவர்களுடைய பாவங்கள் மூடப்பட்டதோ, அவர்கள் பாக்கியவான்கள். ⁸ எவனுடைய பாவத்தைக் கர்த்தர் எண்ணாதிருக்கிறாரோ, அவன் பாக்கியவான் என்று தாவீது சொல்லியிருக்கிறான். ⁹ இந்தப் பாக்கியம் விருத்தசேதனம் உள்ளவனுக்குமட்டும் வருமோ அல்லது விருத்தசேதனம் இல்லாதவனுக்கும் வருமோ? ஆபிரகாமுக்கு விசுவாசம் நீதியாக எண்ணப்பட்டது என்று சொல்லுகிறோமே. ¹⁰ அது எப்பொழுது அவனுக்கு அப்படி எண்ணப்பட்டது? அவன் விருத்தசேதனம் உள்ளவனாக இருந்தபோதா அல்லது விருத்தசேதனம் இல்லாதவனாக இருந்தபோதா? விருத்தசேதனம் உள்ளவனாக இருந்தபோது இல்லை, விருத்தசேதனம் இல்லாதவனாக இருந்தபோதே. ¹¹ மேலும், விருத்தசேதனம் இல்லாத காலத்தில் அவன் விசுவாசத்தினாலே அடைந்த நீதிக்கு முத்திரையாக விருத்தசேதனமாகிய அடையாளத்தைப் பெற்றான். விருத்தசேதனம் இல்லாதவர்களாக விசுவாசிக்கிற எல்லோருக்கும் நீதி எண்ணப்படுவதற்காக அவர்களுக்கு அவன் தகப்பனாக இருப்பதற்கும், ¹² விருத்தசேதனத்தைப் பெற்றவர்களாக மட்டுமில்லை, நம்முடைய தகப்பனாகிய ஆபிரகாம் விருத்தசேதனம் இல்லாத காலத்தில் அடைந்த விசுவாசமாகிய அடிச்சுவடுகளில் நடக்கிறவர்களாகவும் இருக்கிறவர்களுக்குத் தகப்பனாக இருப்பதற்கும், அந்த அடையாளத்தைப் பெற்றான். ¹³ அன்றியும், உலகத்தைச் சுதந்தரிப்பான் என்கிற வாக்குத்தத்தம் ஆபிரகாமுக்கோ அல்லது அவன் வம்சத்திற்கோ நியாயப்பிரமாணத்தினால் கிடைக்காமல் விசுவாசத்தினால் வருகிற நீதியினால் கிடைத்தது. ¹⁴ நியாயப்பிரமாணத்தைச் சேர்ந்தவர்கள் வாரிசுகளானால் விசுவாசம் வீணாகப்போகும், வாக்குத்தத்தமும் இல்லாமல்போகும். ¹⁵ மேலும் நியாயப்பிரமாணம் கோபத்தை உண்டாக்குகிறது, நியாயப்பிரமாணம் இல்லை என்றால் கீழ்ப்படியாமையும் இல்லை. ¹⁶ எனவே, சுதந்திரமானது கிருபையினால் உண்டாகிறதாக இருப்பதற்காக அது விசுவாசத்தினாலே வருகிறது; நியாயப்பிரமாணத்தைச் சேர்ந்த வம்சத்தினர்களுக்கும் இல்லை, நம் எல்லோருக்கும் தகப்பனாகிய ஆபிரகாமுடைய விசுவாசத்தைச் சேர்ந்தவர்களான எல்லா வம்சத்தினர்களுக்கும் அந்த வாக்குத்தத்தம் நிச்சயமாக இருப்பதற்காக அப்படி வருகிறது. ¹⁷ அநேக தேசமக்களுக்கு உன்னைத் தகப்பனாக ஏற்படுத்தினேன் என்று எழுதியிருக்கிறபடி, அவன், தான் விசுவாசித்தவருமாக, மரித்தோரை உயிரோடு எழுப்பி, இல்லாதவைகளை இருக்கிறவைகளைப்போல அழைக்கிறவருமாக இருக்கிற தேவனுக்குமுன்பாக நம்மெல்லோருக்கும் தகப்பன் ஆனான். ¹⁸ உன் வம்சம் இவ்வளவாக இருக்கும் என்று சொல்லப்பட்டபடியே, தான் அநேக தேசமக்களுக்கு தகப்பனாவதை நம்புகிறதற்கு வழியில்லாதிருந்தும், அதை நம்பிக்கையோடு விசுவாசித்தான். ¹⁹ அவன் விசுவாசத்திலே பலவீனமாக இருக்கவில்லை; அவன் ஏறக்குறைய நூறு வயதுள்ளவனாக இருக்கும்போது, தன் சரீரம் செத்துப்போனதையும், சாராளுடைய கர்ப்பம் செத்துப்போனதையும் நினைக்காமல் இருந்தான். ²⁰ தேவனுடைய வாக்குத்தத்தத்தைக்குறித்து அவன் அவிசுவாசமாகச் சந்தேகப்படாமல், ²¹ தேவன் வாக்குத்தத்தம்பண்ணினதை நிறைவேற்ற வல்லவராக இருக்கிறார் என்று முழுநிச்சயமாக நம்பி, தேவனை மகிமைப்படுத்தி, விசுவாசத்தில் வல்லவன் ஆனான். ²² எனவே, அது அவனுக்கு நீதியாக எண்ணப்பட்டது. ²³ அது அவனுக்கு நீதியாக எண்ணப்பட்டது என்பது, அவனுக்காகமட்டும் இல்லை, நமக்காகவும் எழுதப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. ²⁴ நம்முடைய கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுவை மரித்தோரிலிருந்து உயிரோடு எழுப்பினவரை விசுவாசிக்கிற நமக்கும் அப்படியே எண்ணப்படும். ²⁵ அவர் நம்முடைய பாவங்களுக்காக ஒப்புக்கொடுக்கப்பட்டும், நாம் நீதிமான்களாக்கப்படுவதற்காக எழுப்பப்பட்டும் இருக்கிறார்.

அத்தியாயம்- 5

¹ இந்தவிதமாக, நாம் விசுவாசத்தினாலே நீதிமான்களாக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறதினால், நம்முடைய கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவின் மூலமாக தேவனிடம் சமாதானம் பெற்றிருக்கிறோம். ² அவர் மூலமாக நாம் இந்தக் கிருபைக்குள் பிரவேசிக்கும் பாக்கியத்தை விசுவாசத்தினால் பெற்று நிலைகொண்டிருந்து, தேவமகிமையை அடைவோம் என்கிற நம்பிக்கையினாலே மேன்மைபாராட்டுகிறோம். ³ அதுமட்டும் இல்லை, உபத்திரவம் பொறுமையையும், பொறுமை பரீட்சையையும், பரீட்சை நம்பிக்கையையும் உண்டாக்குகிறது என்று நாங்கள் அறிந்து, ⁴ உபத்திரவங்களிலும் மேன்மைபாராட்டுகிறோம். ⁵ மேலும் நமக்கு அருளப்பட்ட பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவராலே தேவ அன்பு நம்முடைய இருதயங்களில் ஊற்றப்பட்டிருக்கிறதினால், அந்த நம்பிக்கை நம்மை வெட்கப்படுத்தாது. ⁶ அன்றியும், நாம் பெலன் இல்லாதவர்களாக இருக்கும்போதே, குறித்தக் காலத்தில் கிறிஸ்து அக்கிரமக்காரர்களுக்காக மரித்தார். ⁷ நீதிமானுக்காக ஒருவன் இறப்பது அரிது; நல்லவனுக்காக ஒருவேளை ஒருவன் மரிக்கத் துணிவான். ⁸ நாம் பாவிகளாக இருக்கும்போது கிறிஸ்து நமக்காக மரித்ததினாலே, தேவன் நம்மேல் வைத்த அவரது அன்பை நிரூபிக்கிறார். ⁹ இப்படி நாம் அவருடைய இரத்தத்தினாலே நீதிமான்களாக்கப்பட்டிருக்க, தேவனுடைய கோபத்திற்குத் தப்பி அவராலே நாம் இரட்சிக்கப்படுவது அதிக நிச்சயமே. ¹⁰ நாம் தேவனுக்கு பகைவர்களாக இருக்கும்போது, அவருடைய குமாரனின் மரணத்தினாலே அவரோடு ஒப்புரவாக்கப்பட்டோம் என்றால், ஒப்புரவாக்கப்பட்டபின்பு நாம் அவருடைய ஜீவனாலே இரட்சிக்கப்படுவது அதிக நிச்சயமே. ¹¹ அதுமட்டும் இல்லாமல், இப்பொழுது ஒப்புரவாகுதலை நமக்குக் கிடைக்கப்பண்ணின நம்முடைய கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்து மூலமாக நாம் தேவனுக்குள் களிகூறுகிறோம்.

¹² இப்படியாக, ஒரே மனிதனாலே பாவமும் பாவத்தினாலே மரணமும் உலகத்திலே நுழைந்ததுபோலவும், எல்லா மனிதர்களும் பாவம் செய்ததினால், மரணம் எல்லோருக்கும் வந்ததுபோலவும் இதுவும் ஆனது. ¹³ நியாயப்பிரமாணம் கொடுக்கப்படுவதற்கு முன்பே பாவம் உலகத்தில் இருந்தது; நியாயப்பிரமாணம் இல்லாதிருந்தால் பாவம் எண்ணப்படமாட்டாது. ¹⁴ அப்படியிருந்தும், மரணமானது ஆதாம் முதல் மோசே வரைக்கும், ஆதாமின் கீழ்ப்படியாமைக்கு இணையாகப் பாவம் செய்யாதவர்களையும் ஆண்டுகொண்டது; அந்த ஆதாம், பின்பே வந்தவருக்கு முந்தின அடையாளமானவன். ¹⁵ ஆனாலும் மீறுதலின் பலன் கிருபை வரத்தின் பலனுக்கு ஒப்பானது இல்லை. எப்படியென்றால், ஒருவனுடைய மீறுதலினாலே அநேகர் மரித்திருக்க, தேவனுடைய கிருபையும் இயேசுகிறிஸ்து என்னும் ஒரே மனிதனுடைய கிருபையினாலே வரும் ஈவும் அநேகர்மேல் அதிகமாகப் பெருகியிருக்கிறது. ¹⁶ மேலும் ஒருவன் பாவம் செய்ததினால் உண்டான தீர்ப்பு தேவன் அருளும் ஈவிற்கு ஒப்பானது இல்லை; அந்தத் தீர்ப்பு ஒரே குற்றத்தினால் தண்டனைக்குரியதாக இருந்தது; கிருபைவரமோ அநேக குற்றங்களை நீக்கி நீதிவிளங்கும் தீர்ப்புக்குரியதாக இருக்கிறது. ¹⁷ அல்லாமலும், ஒருவனுடைய மீறுதலினாலே, அந்த ஒருவன்மூலமாக, மரணம் ஆண்டுகொண்டிருக்க, கிருபையின் பரிபூரணத்தையும் நீதியாகிய ஈவின் பரிபூரணத்தையும் பெறுகிறவர்கள் இயேசுகிறிஸ்து என்னும் ஒருவராலே ஜீவனை அடைந்து ஆளுவார்கள் என்பது அதிக நிச்சயமே. ¹⁸ எனவே, ஒரே மீறுதலினாலே எல்லா மனிதர்களுக்கும் தண்டனைக்குரிய தீர்ப்பு உண்டானதுபோல, ஒரே நீதியினாலே எல்லா மனிதர்களுக்கும் ஜீவனைக் கொடுக்கும் நீதிக்குரிய தீர்ப்பு உண்டானது. ¹⁹ அன்றியும் ஒரே மனிதனுடைய கீழ்ப்படியாமையினாலே அநேகர் பாவிகளாக்கப்பட்டதுபோல, ஒருவருடைய கீழ்ப்படிதலினாலே அநேகர் நீதிமான்களாக்கப்படுவார்கள். ²⁰ மேலும், மீறுதல் பெருகும்படிக்கு நியாயப்பிரமாணம் வந்தது; அப்படியிருந்தும், பாவம் பெருகின இடத்தில் கிருபை அதிகமாகப் பெருகினது. ²¹ ஆதலால் பாவம் மரணத்தை ஆண்டுகொண்டதுபோல, கிருபையானது நம்முடைய கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவின் மூலமாக நீதியினாலே நித்தியஜீவனை ஆண்டுகொண்டது.

அத்தியாயம்- 6

¹ ஆகவே, என்னசொல்லுவோம்? கிருபை பெருகுவதற்காகப் பாவத்திலே நிலைநிற்கலாம் என்று சொல்லுவோமா? சொல்லக்கூடாதே. ² பாவத்திற்கு மரித்த நாம் இனி அதிலே எப்படி வாழ்வோம்? ³ கிறிஸ்து இயேசுவிற்குள்ளாக ஞானஸ்நானம் பெற்ற நாம் அனைவரும் அவருடைய மரணத்திற்குள்ளாக ஞானஸ்நானம் பெற்றதை அறியாமல் இருக்கிறீர்களா? ⁴ மேலும் பிதாவின் மகிமையினாலே கிறிஸ்து மரித்தோரிலிருந்து உயிரோடு எழுப்பப்பட்டதுபோல, நாமும் புதிய ஜீவனுள்ளவர்களாக நடந்துகொள்வதற்கு, அவருடைய மரணத்திற்குள்ளாக்கும் ஞானஸ்நானத்தினாலே கிறிஸ்துவோடு அடக்கம் பண்ணப்பட்டோம். ⁵ ஆகவே, அவருடைய மரணத்தின் சாயலில் நாம் இணைக்கப்பட்டவர்களானால், அவர் உயிர்த்தெழுதலின் சாயலிலும் இணைக்கப்பட்டிருப்போம். ⁶ நாம் இனிப் பாவத்திற்கு அடிமையாக இல்லாதபடிக்கு, பாவசரீரம் ஒழிந்துபோவதற்காக, நம்முடைய பழைய மனிதன் அவரோடு சிலுவையில் அறையப்பட்டதென்று அறிந்திருக்கிறோம். ⁷ மரித்தவன் பாவத்திற்கு நீங்கி விடுதலையாக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறானே. ⁸ எனவே, கிறிஸ்துவோடு நாம் மரித்தோம் என்றால், அவரோடு பிழைத்தும் இருப்போம் என்று நம்புகிறோம். ⁹ மரித்தோரிலிருந்து உயிரோடு எழுந்த கிறிஸ்து இனி இறப்பதில்லை என்று அறிந்திருக்கிறோம்; மரணம் இனி அவரை ஆண்டுகொள்ளுவதில்லை. ¹⁰ அவர் மரித்தது, பாவத்திற்கென்று ஒரேமுறை மரித்தார்; அவர் பிழைத்திருக்கிறது, தேவனுக்கென்று பிழைத்திருக்கிறார். ¹¹ அப்படியே நீங்களும், உங்களைப் பாவத்திற்கு மரித்தவர்களாகவும், நம்முடைய கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவிற்குள் தேவனுக்கென்று பிழைத்திருக்கிறவர்களாகவும் எண்ணிக்கொள்ளுங்கள். ¹² ஆகவே, நீங்கள் சரீர இச்சைகளின்படி பாவத்திற்குக் கீழ்ப்படிவதற்காக, மரணத்திற்குரிய உங்களுடைய சரீரத்தில் பாவம் ஆளுகை செய்யாமல் இருக்கட்டும். ¹³ நீங்கள் உங்களுடைய சரீர உறுப்புகளை அநீதியின் ஆயுதங்களாகப் பாவத்திற்கு ஒப்புக்கொடுக்காமல், உங்களை மரித்தோரிலிருந்து பிழைத்திருக்கிறவர்களாக தேவனுக்கு ஒப்புக்கொடுத்து, உங்களுடைய சரீர உறுப்புகளை நீதிக்குரிய ஆயுதங்களாக தேவனுக்கு ஒப்புக்கொடுங்கள். ¹⁴ நீங்கள் நியாயப்பிரமாணத்திற்குக் கீழ்ப்பட்டிராமல் கிருபைக்குக் கீழ்ப்பட்டிருக்கிறதினால், பாவம் உங்களை மேற்கொள்ளமுடியாது.

¹⁵ இதினால் என்ன? நாம் நியாயப்பிரமாணத்திற்குக் கீழ்ப்பட்டிராமல் கிருபைக்குக் கீழ்ப்பட்டிருக்கிறதினால், பாவம் செய்யலாமா? செய்யக்கூடாதே. ¹⁶ மரணத்திற்குரிய பாவத்திற்கானாலும், நீதிக்குரிய கீழ்ப்படிதலுக்கானாலும், எதற்குக் கீழ்ப்படிவதற்காக உங்களை அடிமைகளாக ஒப்புக்கொடுக்கிறீர்களோ, அதற்கே அடிமைகளாக இருக்கிறீர்கள் என்று தெரியாமல் இருக்கிறீர்களா? ¹⁷ முன்பு நீங்கள் பாவத்திற்கு அடிமைகளாக இருந்தும், இப்பொழுது உங்களுக்கு ஒப்புவிக்கப்பட்ட உபதேச சட்டத்திற்கு நீங்கள் மனப்பூர்வமாகக் கீழ்ப்படிந்ததினாலே தேவனுக்கு ஸ்தோத்திரம். ¹⁸ பாவத்திலிருந்து நீங்கள் விடுதலையாக்கப்பட்டு, நீதிக்கு அடிமைகளானீர்கள். ¹⁹ உங்களுடைய சரீர பலவீனத்தினால் மனிதர்கள் பேசுகிறதுபோலப் பேசுகிறேன். அக்கிரமத்தைச் செய்வதற்காக முன்பே நீங்கள் உங்களுடைய சரீர உறுப்புகளை அசுத்தத்திற்கும் அக்கிரமத்திற்கும் அடிமைகளாக ஒப்புக்கொடுத்ததுபோல, இப்பொழுது பரிசுத்தமானதைச் செய்வதற்காக உங்களுடைய சரீர உறுப்புகளை நீதிக்கு அடிமையாக ஒப்புக்கொடுங்கள். ²⁰ பாவத்திற்கு நீங்கள் அடிமைகளாக இருந்தகாலத்தில் நீதிக்கு விலகினவர்களாக இருந்தீர்கள்.

²¹ இப்பொழுது உங்களுக்கு வெட்கமாகத் தெரிகிற காரியங்களினாலே அந்தகாலத்தில் உங்களுக்கு என்ன பலன் கிடைத்தது? அவைகளின் முடிவு மரணமே. ²² இப்பொழுது நீங்கள் பாவத்தில் இருந்து விடுதலையாக்கப்பட்டு, தேவனுக்கு அடிமைகளானதினால், பரிசுத்தமாகுதல் உங்களுக்குக் கிடைக்கும் பலன், முடிவோ நித்தியஜீவன். ²³ பாவத்தின் சம்பளம் மரணம்; தேவனுடைய கிருபைவரமோ நம்முடைய கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவினால் உண்டான நித்தியஜீவன்.

அத்தியாயம்- 7

¹ நியாயப்பிரமாணத்தை தெரிந்திருக்கிறவர்களோடு பேசுகிறேன். சகோதரர்களே, ஒரு மனிதன் உயிரோடிருக்கும்வரைக்கும் நியாயப்பிரமாணம் அவனை ஆளுகிறது என்று தெரியாமல் இருக்கிறீர்களா? ² அது எப்படியென்றால், கணவனையுடைய ஒரு பெண் தன் கணவன் உயிரோடிருக்கும்வரை நியாயப்பிரமாணத்தின்படி அவனுடைய நிபந்தனைக்கு உட்பட்டிருக்கிறாள்; கணவன் மரித்தபின்பு கணவனைப்பற்றிய பிரமாணத்திலிருந்து விடுதலையாகி இருக்கிறாள். ³ ஆகவே, கணவன் உயிரோடிருக்கும்போது அவள் வேறொரு மனிதனை திருமணம்செய்தால் அவள் விபசாரி என்று சொல்லப்படுவாள்; ஆனால், கணவன் மரித்தபின்பு அவள் அந்தப் பிரமாணத்திலிருந்து விடுதலையானபடியால், வேறொரு மனிதனை திருமணம் செய்தாலும் அவள் விபசாரி இல்லை. ⁴ அதுபோல, என் சகோதரர்களே, நீங்கள் மரித்தோரிலிருந்து உயிரோடு எழுந்த கிறிஸ்து என்னும் வேறொருவருடையவர்களாகி, தேவனுக்கென்று பலன் கொடுப்பதற்காக கிறிஸ்துவின் சரீரத்தினாலே நியாயப்பிரமாணத்திற்கு மரித்தவர்களானீர்கள். ⁵ நாம் சரீரத்திற்கு உட்பட்டிருந்த காலத்தில் நியாயப்பிரமாணத்தினாலே தோன்றிய பாவ இச்சைகள் மரணத்திற்குரிய பலன்களைக் கொடுக்கக்கூடியதாக நம்முடைய சரீர உறுப்புகளிலே பெலன்செய்தது. ⁶ இப்பொழுதோ நாம் பழமையான எழுத்தின்படி இல்லை, புதுமையான ஆவியின்படி ஊழியம் செய்வதற்காக, நம்மைக் கட்டியிருந்த நியாயப்பிரமாணத்திற்கு நாம் மரித்தவர்களாகி, அதில் இருந்து விடுதலையாக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறோம்.

⁷ எனவே, என்னசொல்லுவோம்? நியாயப்பிரமாணம் பாவமோ? இல்லையே, பாவம் என்னவென்று நியாயப்பிரமாணத்தினால்தான் நான் தெரிந்துகொண்டேனேதவிர மற்றப்படி இல்லை; இச்சிக்காமல் இருப்பாயாக என்று நியாயப்பிரமாணம் சொல்லாதிருந்தால், இச்சை பாவம் என்று நான் தெரியாமல் இருப்பேனே. ⁸ பாவமானது கட்டளையினாலே வாய்ப்பைப்பெற்று எல்லாவிதமான இச்சைகளையும் எனக்குள் நடப்பித்தது. நியாயப்பிரமாணம் இல்லாவிட்டால் பாவம் செத்ததாக இருக்குமே. ⁹ முன்பே நியாயப்பிரமாணம் இல்லாதவனாக இருந்தபோது நான் ஜீவனுள்ளவனாக இருந்தேன்; கட்டளை வந்தபோது பாவம் உயிர்கொண்டது, நான் மரித்தவனானேன். ¹⁰ இப்படியிருக்க, ஜீவனுக்குரிய கட்டளை எனக்கு மரணத்திற்குரியதாக இருப்பதைப் பார்த்தேன். ¹¹ பாவமானது கட்டளையினாலே வாய்ப்பைப்பெற்று, என்னை ஏமாற்றியது, அதினாலே என்னைக் கொன்றது. ¹² எனவே, நியாயப்பிரமாணம் பரிசுத்தமுள்ளது, கட்டளையும் பரிசுத்தமாகவும் நீதியாகவும் நன்மையாகவும் இருக்கிறது. ¹³ இப்படியிருக்க, நன்மையானது எனக்கு மரணமானதோ? அப்படி இல்லை; பாவமே எனக்கு மரணமானது; பாவம் கட்டளையினாலே அதிக பாவமுள்ளதாவதற்கும், அது நன்மையானதைக்கொண்டு எனக்கு மரணத்தை உண்டாக்கினதினாலே, பாவமாகவே இருக்கும்படிக்கும் அப்படியானது. ¹⁴ மேலும், நமக்குத் தெரிந்திருக்கிறபடி, நியாயப்பிரமாணம் ஆவிக்குரியதாக இருக்கிறது, நானோ பாவத்திற்குக் கீழாக விற்கப்பட்டு, சரீரத்திற்குரியவனாக இருக்கிறேன். ¹⁵ எப்படியென்றால், நான் செய்கிறது எனக்கே புரியவில்லை; நான் விரும்புகிறதைச் செய்யாமல், நான் வெறுக்கிறதையே செய்கிறேன். ¹⁶ இப்படி நான் விரும்பாததைச் செய்கிறவனாக இருக்க, நியாயப்பிரமாணம் நல்லது என்று ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளுகிறேனே. ¹⁷ எனவே, நான் இல்லை, எனக்குள் வாழ்கிற பாவமே அப்படிச் செய்கிறது. ¹⁸ அது எப்படியென்றால், என்னிடம், அதாவது, என் சரீரத்தில், நன்மை வாழ்கிறதில்லையென்று நான் அறிந்திருக்கிறேன்; நன்மை செய்யவேண்டும் என்கிற விருப்பம் என்னிடம் இருக்கிறது, நன்மை செய்வதோ என்னிடம் இல்லை. ¹⁹ எனவே, நான் விரும்புகிற நன்மையைச் செய்யாமல், விரும்பாத தீமையையே செய்கிறேன். ²⁰ அதன்படி, நான் விரும்பாததை நான் செய்தால், நான் இல்லை, எனக்குள் வாழ்கிற பாவமே அப்படிச் செய்கிறது. ²¹ ஆனபடியால் நன்மைசெய்ய விரும்புகிற என்னிடம் தீமை உண்டு என்கிற ஒரு பிரமாணத்தைப் பார்க்கிறேன். ²² உள்ளான மனிதனுக்குத் தகுந்தபடி தேவனுடைய நியாயப்பிரமாணத்தின்மேல் பிரியமாக இருக்கிறேன். ²³ ஆனாலும் என் மனிதின் பிரமாணத்திற்கு எதிராகப் போராடுகிற வேறொரு பிரமாணத்தை என் உறுப்புகளில் இருக்கிறதைப் பார்க்கிறேன்; அது என் உறுப்புகளில் உண்டாயிருக்கிற பாவப்பிரமாணத்திற்கு என்னைச் சிறையாக்கிக் கொள்ளுகிறது. ²⁴ நிர்பந்தமான மனிதன் நான்! இந்த மரணசரீரத்திலிருந்து யார் என்னை விடுதலையாக்குவார்? ²⁵ நம்முடைய கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவின் மூலமாக தேவனுக்கு நன்றி செலுத்துகிறேன். எனவே, நானே என் மனிதினாலே தேவனுடைய நியாயப்பிரமாணத்திற்கும், சரீரத்தினாலே பாவப்பிரமாணத்திற்கும் சேவை செய்கிறேன்.

அத்தியாயம்- 8

¹ ஆனபடியால், கிறிஸ்து இயேசுவிற்கு உட்பட்டவர்களாக இருந்து, சரீரத்தின்படி நடக்காமல் ஆவியானவருக்கு ஏற்றபடி நடக்கிறவர்களுக்கு தண்டனைத்தீர்ப்பு இல்லை. ² ஜீவனுடைய ஆவியானவரின் பிரமாணம் கிறிஸ்து இயேசுவிற்குள் என்னைப் பாவம் மரணம் என்பவைகளின் பிரமாணத்திலிருந்து விடுதலையாக்கினதே. ³ அது எப்படியென்றால், சரீரத்தினாலே பலவீனமாக்கப்பட்ட நியாயப்பிரமாணம் செய்யமுடியாததை தேவனே செய்வதற்காக, தம்முடைய குமாரனைப் பாவசரீரத்தின் சாயலாகவும், பாவத்தை நீக்கும் பலியாகவும் அனுப்பி, சரீரத்திலே பாவத்தை தண்டனைக்குள்ளாகத் தீர்த்தார். ⁴ சரீரத்தின்படி நடக்காமல் ஆவியானவருக்கு ஏற்றபடி நடக்கிற நம்மிடம் நியாயப்பிரமாணத்தின் நீதி நிறைவேறுவதற்காகவே அப்படிச் செய்தார். ⁵ அன்றியும் சரீரத்தின்படி நடக்கிறவர்கள் சரீரத்திற்குரியவைகளைச் சிந்திக்கிறார்கள்; ஆவியானவருக்கு ஏற்றபடி நடக்கிறவர்கள் ஆவியானவருக்குரியவைகளைச் சிந்திக்கிறார்கள். ⁶ சரீரசிந்தை மரணம்; ஆவியானவரின் சிந்தையோ ஜீவனும் சமாதானமுமாகும். ⁷ எப்படியென்றால், சரீரசிந்தை தேவனுக்கு எதிரான பகை; அது தேவனுடைய நியாயப்பிரமாணத்திற்குக் கீழ்ப்படியாமலும், கீழ்ப்படியமுடியாமலும் இருக்கிறது. ⁸ சரீரத்திற்கு உட்பட்டவர்கள் தேவனுக்குப் பிரியமாக இருக்கமாட்டார்கள். ⁹ தேவனுடைய ஆவியானவர் உங்களுக்குள் இருந்தால், நீங்கள் சரீரத்திற்கு உட்பட்டவர்களாக இல்லாமல் ஆவியானவருக்கு உட்பட்டவர்களாக இருப்பீர்கள். கிறிஸ்துவின் ஆவியானவர் இல்லாதவன் அவருடையவன் இல்லை. ¹⁰ மேலும் கிறிஸ்து உங்களுக்குள் இருந்தால் சரீரமானது பாவத்தினிமித்தம் இறந்ததாகவும், ஆவியானது நீதியினிமித்தம் ஜீவனுள்ளதாகவும் இருக்கும். ¹¹ அன்றியும் இயேசுவை மரித்தோரிலிருந்து உயிரோடு எழுப்பினவருடைய ஆவியானவர் உங்களுக்குள் இருந்தால், கிறிஸ்துவை மரித்தோரிலிருந்து உயிரோடு எழுப்பினவர் உங்களுக்குள் வாழ்கிற தம்முடைய ஆவியானவராலே மரணத்திற்குரிய உங்களுடைய சரீரங்களையும் உயிர்ப்பிப்பார். ¹² எனவே, சகோதரர்களே, சரீரத்தின்படி பிழைப்பதற்கு நாம் சரீரத்திற்குக் கடனாளிகள் இல்லை. ¹³ சரீரத்தின்படி பிழைத்தால் இறப்பீர்கள்; ஆவியானவராலே சரீரத்தின் செயல்களை அழித்தால் பிழைப்பீர்கள். ¹⁴ மேலும் எவர்கள் தேவனுடைய ஆவியானவராலே நடத்தப்படுகிறார்களோ, அவர்கள் தேவனுடைய குமாரர்களாக இருக்கிறார்கள். ¹⁵ அப்படியே, திரும்பவும் பயப்படுகிறதற்கு நீங்கள் அடிமைத்தனத்தின் ஆவியைப் பெறாமல், ஆவியானவரால், அப்பா பிதாவே என்று கூப்பிடக்கூடிய பிள்ளை என்கிற உரிமையைப் பெற்றீர்கள். ¹⁶ நாம் தேவனுடைய பிள்ளைகளாக இருக்கிறோம் என்று ஆவியானவர்தாமே நம்முடைய ஆவியுடனே சாட்சிக் கொடுக்கிறார். ¹⁷ நாம் பிள்ளைகளானால் வாரிசுகளுமாமே; தேவனுடைய வாரிசுகளும், கிறிஸ்துவிற்கு உடன் வாரிசுகளுமாமே; கிறிஸ்துவோடு நாம் மகிமைப்படுவதற்காக அவரோடு பாடுபட்டால் அப்படி ஆகும்.

¹⁸ ஆதலால் இந்தக்காலத்துப் பாடுகள் இனி நம்மிடம் வெளிப்படும் மகிமைக்கு ஒப்பிடக்கூடியவைகள் அல்லவென்று எண்ணுகிறேன். ¹⁹ மேலும் தேவனுடைய குமாரர்கள் வெளிப்படுத்தப்படுவதற்காக தேவனுடைய படைப்புகள் அதிக ஆவலோடு காத்துக்கொண்டிருக்கிறது. ²⁰ அது என்னவென்றால் படைப்புகள் அழிவிற்குரிய அடிமைத்தனத்தில் இருந்து விடுதலையாக்கப்பட்டு, தேவனுடைய பிள்ளைகளுக்குரிய மகிமையான சுதந்திரத்தைப் பெற்றுக்கொள்ளும் என்கிற நம்பிக்கையோடு, ²¹ அந்தப் படைப்புகள் சொந்த இஷ்டத்தினாலே இல்லை, கீழ்ப்படுத்தினவராலேயே மாயைக்குக் கீழ்ப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. ²² எனவே, நமக்குத் தெரிந்திருக்கிறபடி, இதுவரைக்கும் படைப்புகள் எல்லாம் ஒன்றாகத் தவித்துப் பிரசவவேதனைப்படுகிறது. ²³ அதுவும் இல்லாமல், ஆவியானவரின் முதற்பலன்களைப் பெற்ற நாமும் நம்முடைய சரீர மீட்பாகிய பிள்ளை என்கிற உரிமை வருகிறதற்குக் காத்திருந்து, நமக்குள்ளே தவிக்கிறோம். ²⁴ அந்த நம்பிக்கையினாலே நாம் இரட்சிக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறோம். பார்க்கப்படுகிறதை நம்புகிறது நம்பிக்கை இல்லை; ஒருவன் தான் பார்க்கிறதை நம்பவேண்டியது என்ன? ²⁵ நாம் பார்க்காததை நம்பினோமானால், அது வருகிறதற்குப் பொறுமையோடு காத்திருப்போம். ²⁶ அப்படியே ஆவியானவரும் நமது பலவீனங்களில் நமக்கு உதவிசெய்கிறார். நாம் ஏற்றபடி வேண்டிக்கொள்ளவேண்டியது என்னவென்று தெரியாமல் இருக்கிறதினால், ஆவியானவர்தாமே சொல்லிமுடியாத பெருமூச்சுகளோடு நமக்காக வேண்டுதல்செய்கிறார். ²⁷ ஆவியானவர் தேவனுடைய விருப்பத்தின்படியே பரிசுத்தவான்களுக்காக வேண்டுதல்செய்கிறதினால், இருதயங்களை ஆராய்ந்து பார்க்கிறவர் ஆவியானவரின் சிந்தை என்னவென்று அறிவார்.

²⁸ அன்றியும், அவருடைய தீர்மானத்தின்படி அழைக்கப்பட்டவர்களாக தேவனிடம் அன்பாக இருக்கிறவர்களுக்கு எல்லாம் நன்மைக்குரியவைகளாக நடக்கிறது என்று அறிந்திருக்கிறோம். ²⁹ தம்முடைய குமாரன் அநேக சகோதரர்களுக்குள்ளே முதற்பேறானவராக இருப்பதற்காக, தேவன் எவர்களை முன்னறிந்தாரோ அவர்களைத் தமது குமாரனுடைய சாயலுக்கு ஒப்பாக இருப்பதற்கு முன்குறித்திருக்கிறார்; ³⁰ எவர்களை முன்குறித்தாரோ அவர்களை அழைத்தும் இருக்கிறார்; எவர்களை

அழைத்தாரோ அவர்களை நீதிமாண்களாக்கியும் இருக்கிறார்; எவர்களை நீதிமாண்களாக்கினாரோ அவர்களை மகிமைப்படுத்தியும் இருக்கிறார். ³¹ இவைகளைக்குறித்து நாம் என்னசொல்லுவோம்? தேவன் நம்முடைய பட்சத்தில் இருந்தால் நமக்கு எதிராக இருப்பவன் யார்? ³² தம்முடைய சொந்தக்குமாரன் என்றும் பார்க்காமல் நம்மெல்லோருக்காகவும் அவரை ஒப்புக்கொடுத்தவர், அவரோடு சேர்த்து மற்ற எல்லாவற்றையும் நமக்குக் கொடுக்காமல் இருப்பது எப்படி? ³³ தேவன் தெரிந்துகொண்டவர்கள்மேல் குற்றஞ்சாட்டுகிறவன் யார்? தேவனே அவர்களை நீதிமாண்களாக்குகிறவர். ³⁴ தண்டனைக்குள்ளாகத் தீர்க்கிறவன் யார்? கிறிஸ்துவே மரித்தவர்; அவரே உயிரோடு எழுந்தும் இருக்கிறவர்; அவரே தேவனுடைய வலதுபக்கத்திலும் இருக்கிறவர்; நமக்காக வேண்டிதல் செய்கிறவரும் அவரே. ³⁵ உமக்காக எந்தநேரமும் கொல்லப்படுகிறோம், அடிக்கப்படும் ஆடுகளைப்போல எண்ணப்படுகிறோம் என்று எழுதியிருக்கிறபடி நடந்தாலும், ³⁶ கிறிஸ்துவின் அன்பைவிட்டு நம்மைப் பிரிப்பவன் யார்? உபத்திரவமோ, வியாகுலமோ, துன்பமோ, பசியோ, நிர்வாணமோ. நாசமோசமோ, பட்டயமோ? ³⁷ இவைகள் எல்லாவற்றிலேயும் நாம் நம்மேல் அன்பு வைத்திருக்கிறவராலே முற்றிலும் வெற்றி பெறுகிறவர்களாக இருக்கிறோமே. ³⁸ மரணமானாலும், ஜீவனானாலும், தேவதூதர்களானாலும், அதிகாரங்களானாலும், வல்லமைகளானாலும் நிகழ்காரியங்களானாலும், வரும்காரியங்களானாலும், ³⁹ உயர்வானாலும், தாழ்வானாலும், வேறெந்தப் படைப்புகளானாலும் நம்முடைய கர்த்தராகிய கிறிஸ்து இயேசுவிலுள்ள தேவனுடைய அன்பைவிட்டு நம்மைப் பிரிக்கமுடியாது என்று நம்பியிருக்கிறேன்.

அத்தியாயம்- 9

¹ எனக்கு அதிக துக்கமும் இடைவிடாத மனவேதனையும் உண்டாயிருக்கிறது; ² நான் சொல்லுகிறது பொய்யல்ல, கிறிஸ்துவிற்குள் உண்மையைச் சொல்லுகிறேன் என்று பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவருக்குள் என் மனச்சாட்சியும் எனக்குச் சாட்சியாக இருக்கிறது. ³ சரீரத்தின்படி என் இனத்தைச் சேர்ந்த என் சகோதரர்களுக்குப் பதிலாக நானே கிறிஸ்துவைவிட்டுச் சபிக்கப்பட்டவனாகவேண்டுமென்று விரும்புவேனே. ⁴ அவர்கள் இஸ்ரவேலர்களே; புத்திரசுவிசாரமும், மகிமையும், உடன்படிக்கைகளும், நியாயப்பிரமாணமும், தேவ ஆராதனையும், வாக்குத்தத்தங்களும் அவர்களுடையவைகளே; ⁵ முற்பிதாக்கள் அவர்களுடையவர்களே; சரீரத்தின்படி கிறிஸ்துவும் அவர்களில் பிறந்தாரே, இவர் என்றென்றைக்கும் ஸ்தோத்திரிக்கப்பட்ட எல்லாவற்றிற்கும் மேலான தேவன். ஆமென். ⁶ தேவவசனம் நிறைவேறாமல்போனது என்று சொல்லக்கூடாது; ஏனென்றால், இஸ்ரவேல் வம்சத்தார் எல்லோரும் இஸ்ரவேலர் இல்லையே. ⁷ அவர்கள் ஆபிரகாமின் வம்சத்தினராக இருந்தாலும் அனைவரும் பிள்ளைகள் அல்லவே; ஈசாக்கினிடம் உன் வம்சம் விளங்கும் என்று சொல்லியிருக்கிறதே. ⁸ அது எப்படியென்றால், சரீரத்தின்படி பிள்ளைகள் ஆனவர்கள் தேவனுடைய பிள்ளைகள் அல்லவே, வாக்குத்தத்தத்தின்படி பிள்ளைகள் ஆனவர்களே அந்த வம்சம் என்று எண்ணப்படுகிறார்கள். ⁹ அந்த வாக்குத்தத்தமான வார்த்தையாவது: குறித்த காலத்திலே வருவேன், அப்பொழுது சாராள் ஒரு மகனைப் பெறுவாள் என்பதே. ¹⁰ இதுமட்டுமல்லாமல், நம்முடைய முற்பிதாவாகிய ஈசாக்கு என்னும் ஒருவனாலே ரெபெக்காள் கர்ப்பவதியானபோது, ¹¹ குழந்தைகள் இன்னும் பிறக்காமலும், நன்மை தீமை ஒன்றும் செய்யாமல் இருக்கும்போது, தேவனுடைய தெரிந்துகொள்ளுதலின்படி இருக்கிற அவருடைய தீர்மானம், செயல்களினாலே நிலைநிற்காமல் அழைக்கிறவராலே நிலைநிற்கும்படி, ¹² மூத்தவன், இளையவனுக்கு ஊழியம் செய்வான் என்று அவளுக்கு சொல்லப்பட்டது. ¹³ அப்படியே, யாக்கோபை நேசித்து, ஏசாவை வெறுத்தேன் என்றும் எழுதியிருக்கிறது. ¹⁴ ஆகவே, நாம் என்னசொல்லுவோம்? தேவனிடத்திலே அநீதி உண்டென்று சொல்லலாமா? சொல்லக்கூடாதே. ¹⁵ அவர் மோசையைப் பார்த்து: எவன்மேல் இரக்கமாக இருக்க விருப்பமாக இருப்பேனோ அவன்மேல் இரக்கமாக இருப்பேன், எவன்மேல் உருக்கமாக இருக்க விருப்பமாக இருப்பேனோ அவன்மேல் உருக்கமாக இருப்பேன் என்றார். ¹⁶ ஆகவே, விரும்புகிறவனாலும் இல்லை, ஒடுகிறவனாலும் இல்லை, இரங்குகிற தேவனாலே ஆகும். ¹⁷ மேலும் என்னுடைய வல்லமையை உன்னிடம் காண்பிப்பதற்காகவும், என்னுடைய பெயர் பூமியில் எங்கும் பிரசித்தமடைவதற்காகவும், உன்னை நிலைநிறுத்தினேன் என்று பார்வோனோடு சொன்னதாக வேதத்தில் சொல்லியிருக்கிறது. ¹⁸ எனவே, எவன்மேல் இரக்கமாக இருக்க விருப்பமாக இருக்கிறாரோ அவன்மேல் இரக்கமாக இருக்கிறார், எவனைக் கடினப்படுத்த விருப்பமாக இருக்கிறாரோ அவனைக் கடினப்படுத்துகிறார். ¹⁹ அப்படியானால், அவர் இன்னும் ஏன் குற்றம் கண்டுபிடிக்கிறார்? அவருடைய விருப்பத்திற்கு எதிர்த்து நிற்பவன் யார்? என்று என்னோடு சொல்லுவாய். ²⁰ அப்படியானால், மனிதனே, தேவனோடு எதிர்த்து வாக்குவாதம் செய்கிற நீ யார்? உருவாக்கப்பட்ட பொருள் உருவாக்கினவனைப் பார்த்து: நீ என்னை ஏன் இப்படி உருவாக்கினாய் என்று சொல்லலாமா? ²¹ மிதிக்கப்பட்ட ஒரே களிமண்ணினாலே குயவன் ஒரு பாத்திரத்தைக் கனமான காரியத்திற்காகவும், ஒரு பாத்திரத்தைக் கனவீனமான காரியத்திற்காகவும் செய்கிறதற்கு மண்ணின்மேல் அவனுக்கு அதிகாரம் இல்லையோ? ²² தேவன் தமது கோபத்தைக் காண்பிக்கவும், தமது வல்லமையைத் தெரிவிக்கவும், ²³ தாம் மகிமைக்காக ஆயத்தம்பண்ணின கிருபா பாத்திரங்கள்மேல் தம்முடைய மகிமையின் செல்வத்தைத் தெரியப்படுத்தவும் விருப்பமாக, அழிவிற்கு ஆயத்தம்பண்ணப்பட்ட கோபத்தின் தண்டனையின் பாத்திரங்கள்மேல் மிகவும் நீடிய சாந்தத்தோடு பொறுமையாக இருந்தால் உனக்கு என்ன? ²⁴ அவர் யூதர்களிலிருந்து மட்டுமல்ல, யூதரல்லாத மக்களிடமிருந்து நம்மை அழைத்திருக்கிறாரே. ²⁵ அந்தப்படி: எனக்கு மக்களாக இல்லாதவர்களை என்னுடைய மக்கள் என்றும், நேசிக்கப்படாமல் இருந்தவளை நேசிக்கப்பட்டவள் என்றும் சொல்லி அழைப்பேன். ²⁶ நீங்கள் என்னுடைய மக்கள் இல்லை என்று அவர்களுக்குச் சொல்லப்பட்ட இடத்திலே அவர்கள் ஜீவனுள்ள தேவனுடைய பிள்ளைகள் எனப்படுவார்கள் என்று ஓசியாவின் தீர்க்கதரிசனத்தில் சொல்லியிருக்கிறது. ²⁷ அல்லாமலும் இஸ்ரவேல் மக்களுடைய எண்ணிக்கை கடற்கரை மணலைப்போல இருந்தாலும், மீதியாக இருப்பவர்கள்மட்டும் இரட்சிக்கப்படுவார்கள் என்றும்; ²⁸ அவர் நீதியோடு சீக்கிரமாகத் தம்முடைய காரியத்தை நிறைவேற்றுவார்; கர்த்தர் பூமியிலே சீக்கிரமாகவே காரியத்தை நிறைவேற்றி முடிப்பார் என்றும், ஏசாயா இஸ்ரவேலரைக்குறித்துச் சொல்லுகிறான். ²⁹ அல்லாமலும் ஏசாயா முன்பே சொன்னபடி: சேனைகளின் கர்த்தர் நமக்குள்ளே ஒரு வம்சத்தைக்கூட மீதியாக வைக்காமல் இருந்தாரானால் நாம் சோதோமைப்போலாகி கொமோராவைப்போல இருந்திருப்போம்.

³⁰ இப்படியிருக்க நாம் என்னசொல்லுவோம்? நீதியைத் தேடாத யூதரல்லாத மக்கள் நீதியை அடைந்தார்கள்; அது விசுவாசத்தினால் உண்டாகும் நீதியே. ³¹ நீதிப்பிரமாணத்தைத் தேடின இஸ்ரவேலரோ நீதிப்பிரமாணத்தை அடையவில்லை. ³² ஏனென்றால், அவர்கள் விசுவாசத்தினாலே அதைத் தேடாமல், நியாயப்பிரமாணத்தின் செயல்களினாலே தேடினதினால் அதை அடையவில்லை; இடறுதற்கான கல்லில் இடறினார்கள். ³³ இதோ, இடறுதற்கான கல்லையும், தவறுகிறதற்கான கன்மலையையும், சீயோனில் வைக்கிறேன்; அவரிடம் விசுவாசமாக இருப்பவன் எவனோ அவன் வெட்கப்படுவதில்லை என்று எழுதியிருக்கிறபடி நடந்தது.

அத்தியாயம்- 10

¹ சகோதரர்களே, இஸ்ரவேல் மக்கள் இரட்சிக்கப்படவேண்டும் என்பதே என் இருதயத்தின் விருப்பமும் நான் தேவனிடம் செய்யும் விண்ணப்பமாகவும் இருக்கிறது. ² தேவனைப்பற்றி அவர்களுக்கு வைராக்கியம் உண்டு என்று அவர்களைக்குறித்துச் சாட்சி சொல்லுகிறேன்; ஆனாலும் அது அறிவிற்குரிய வைராக்கியம் இல்லை. ³ எப்படியென்றால், அவர்கள் தேவனுடைய நீதியை அறியாமல், தங்களுடைய சுயநீதியை நிலைநிறுத்தத் தேடுகிறதினால் தேவனுடைய நீதிக்குக் கீழ்ப்படியாமல் இருக்கிறார்கள். ⁴ விசுவாசிக்கிற எவனுக்கும் நீதி உண்டாகும்படியாகக் கிறிஸ்து நியாயப்பிரமாணத்தின் முடிவாக இருக்கிறார். ⁵ மோசே நியாயப்பிரமாணத்தினால் வரும் நீதியைக்குறித்து: இவைகளை செய்கிற மனிதன் இவைகளால் பிழைப்பான் என்று எழுதியிருக்கிறான். ⁶ விசுவாசத்தினால் வரும் நீதியானது: கிறிஸ்துவை இறங்கிவரப்பண்ணுவதற்காக பரலோகத்திற்கு ஏறுகிறவன் யார்? ⁷ அல்லது கிறிஸ்துவை மரித்தோரிலிருந்து ஏறிவரப்பண்ணுவதற்கு பாதாளத்திற்கு இறங்குகிறவன் யார்? என்று உன் உள்ளத்திலே சொல்லாமல் இருப்பாயாக என்று சொல்லுகிறதும் அல்லாமல்; ⁸ இந்த வார்த்தை உன் அருகில் உன் வாயிலும் உன் இருதயத்திலும் இருக்கிறது என்றும் சொல்லுகிறது; இந்த வார்த்தை நாங்கள் பிரசங்கிக்கிற விசுவாசத்தின் வார்த்தையே. ⁹ என்னவென்றால், கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுவை நீ உன் வாயினாலே அறிக்கையிட்டு, தேவன் அவரை மரித்தோரிலிருந்து உயிரோடு எழுப்பினார் என்று உன் இருதயத்திலே விசுவாசித்தால் இரட்சிக்கப்படுவாய். ¹⁰ இருதயத்திலே விசுவாசிக்கிறதினால் நீதி உண்டாகும். வாயினாலே அறிக்கைபண்ணுகிறதினால் இரட்சிப்பு உண்டாகும். ¹¹ அவரை விசுவாசிக்கிறவன் எவனோ அவன் வெட்கப்படுவது இல்லை என்று வேதம் சொல்லுகிறது. ¹² யூதனென்றும் கிரேக்கனென்றும் வித்தியாசமே இல்லை; எல்லோருக்கும் கர்த்தரானவர் தம்மைத் தொழுதுகொள்ளுகிற எல்லோரையும் அளவில்லாமல் ஆசீர்வதிக்கிறவராக இருக்கிறார். ¹³ எனவே, கர்த்தருடைய நாமத்தைத் தொழுதுகொள்ளுகிற எவனும் இரட்சிக்கப்படுவான். ¹⁴ அவரை விசுவாசிக்காதவர்கள் எப்படி அவரைத் தொழுதுகொள்ளுவார்கள்? அவரைக்குறித்துக் கேள்விப்படாதவர்கள் எப்படி விசுவாசிப்பார்கள்? பிரசங்கிக்கிறவன் இல்லாவிட்டால் எப்படிக் கேள்விப்படுவார்கள்? ¹⁵ அனுப்பப்படவில்லை என்றால் எப்படிப் பிரசங்கிப்பார்கள்? சமாதானத்தைச் சொல்லி, நல்ல காரியங்களை நற்செய்தியாக அறிவிக்கிறவர்களுடைய பாதங்கள் எவ்வளவு அழகானவைகள் என்று எழுதியிருக்கிறதே. ¹⁶ ஆனாலும் நற்செய்திக்கு அவர்கள் எல்லோரும் கீழ்ப்படியவில்லை. அதைக்குறித்து ஏசாயா: கர்த்தாவே, எங்கள் மூலமாகக் கேள்விப்பட்டதை விசுவாசித்தவன் யார் என்று சொல்லுகிறான். ¹⁷ எனவே, விசுவாசம் கேட்பதினாலே வரும், தேவனுடைய வசனத்தைக் கேட்பதினாலே விசுவாசம் வரும். ¹⁸ இப்படியிருக்க, அவர்கள் கேள்விப்படவில்லையா என்று கேட்கிறேன்; கேள்விப்பட்டார்கள்; அவைகளின் சத்தம் பூமியெங்கும் அவைகளின் வசனங்கள் பூமியின் கடைசிவரைக்கும் செல்லுகிறதே. ¹⁹ இஸ்ரவேலர் அதை அறியவில்லையா என்று கேட்கிறேன், அறிந்தார்கள். முதலாவது மோசே: என் மக்களாக இல்லாதவர்களைக் கொண்டு நான் உங்களுக்கு எரிச்சல் உண்டாக்குவேன்; புத்தியீனமுள்ள மக்களாலே உங்களுக்குக் கோபமூட்டுவேன் என்றான். ²⁰ அல்லாமலும் ஏசாயா: என்னைத் தேடாதவர்களாலே கண்டுபிடிக்கப்பட்டேன், என்னைக் கேட்காதவர்களுக்கு என்னை வெளிப்படுத்தினேன் என்று தைரியத்தோடு சொல்லுகிறான். ²¹ இஸ்ரவேலரைக்குறித்தோ: கீழ்ப்படியாதவர்களும் எதிர்த்துப் பேசுகிறவர்களுமாக இருக்கிற மக்களிடம் நாள்முழுவதும் என் கரங்களை நீட்டினேன் என்று அவன் சொல்லியிருக்கிறான்.

அத்தியாயம்- 11

¹ இப்படியிருக்க, தேவன் தம்முடைய மக்களைத் தள்ளிவிட்டாரோ என்று கேட்கிறேன், தள்ளிவிடவில்லையே; நானும் ஆபிரகாமின் வம்சத்திலும் பென்யமீன் கோத்திரத்திலும் பிறந்த இஸ்ரவேலன். ² தேவன், தாம் முன்குறித்துக்கொண்ட தம்முடைய மக்களைத் தள்ளிவிடவில்லை. எலியாவைக்குறித்துச் சொல்லிய இடத்தில், வேதம் சொல்லுகிறதை தெரியாமல் இருக்கிறீர்களா? அவன் தேவனைப் பார்த்து: ³ கர்த்தாவே, உம்முடைய தீர்க்கதரிசிகளை அவர்கள் கொலைசெய்து, உம்முடைய பலிபீடங்களை இடித்துப்போட்டார்கள்; நான் ஒருவன்மட்டும் மீதியாக இருக்கிறேன், என் உயிரையும் வாங்கத் தேடுகிறார்களே என்று இஸ்ரவேலருக்கு எதிராக விண்ணப்பம் செய்தபோது, ⁴ அவனுக்கு உண்டான தேவனுடைய பதில் என்ன? பாகாலுக்கு முன்பாக முழங்கால்படியிடாத ஏழாயிரம்பேரை எனக்காக மீதியாக வைத்தேன் என்பதே. ⁵ அதுபோல இந்தக்காலத்திலும் கிருபையினாலே உண்டாகும் தெரிந்துகொள்ளுதலின்படி ஒரு பங்கு மீதியாக இருக்கிறது. ⁶ அது கிருபையினாலே உண்டாயிருந்தால் செயல்களினாலே உண்டாயிருக்காது; அப்படியில்லை என்றால், கிருபையானது கிருபை இல்லையே. அன்றியும் அது செயல்களினாலே உண்டாயிருந்தால் அது கிருபையாக இருக்காது; அப்படியில்லை என்றால் செய்கையானது செய்கை இல்லையே. ⁷ அப்படியானால் என்ன? இஸ்ரவேலர் தேடுகிறதை அடையாமல் இருக்கிறார்கள்; தெரிந்துகொள்ளப்பட்டவர்களோ அதை அடைந்திருக்கிறார்கள்; மற்றவர்கள் இன்றைய நாள்வரை கடினப்பட்டிருக்கிறார்கள். ⁸ தூக்கத்தின் ஆவியையும், பார்க்காமல் இருக்கிற கண்களையும், கேட்காமல் இருக்கிற காதுகளையும், தேவன் அவர்களுக்குக் கொடுத்தார் என்று எழுதியிருக்கிறபடியானது. ⁹ அன்றியும், அவர்களுடைய பந்தி அவர்களுக்குச் சுருக்கும், கண்ணியும், இடறுதற்கான கல்லும், பதிலுக்குப்பதில் கொடுப்பதுமாக இருக்கட்டும்; ¹⁰ பார்க்காதபடிக்கு அவர்களுடைய கண்கள் இருள் அடையட்டும்; அவர்களுடைய முதுகை எப்போதும் குனியப்பண்ணும் என்று தாவீதும் சொல்லியிருக்கிறான்.

¹¹ இப்படியிருக்க, விழுந்துபோவதற்காகவா இடறினார்கள் என்று கேட்கிறேன், அப்படி இல்லையே; அவர்களுக்குள்ளே வைராக்கியத்தை எழுப்புவதற்காக அவர்களுடைய தவறுதலினாலே யூதரல்லாத மக்களுக்கு இரட்சிப்பு கிடைத்தது. ¹² அவர்களுடைய தவறு உலகத்திற்கு செல்வமும், அவர்களுடைய குறைவு யூதரல்லாத மக்களுக்கு செல்வமாகவும் இருக்க அவர்களுடைய நிறைவு எவ்வளவு அதிகமாக அப்படியிருக்கும். ¹³ யூதரல்லாத மக்களாகிய உங்களோடு பேசுகிறேன்; யூதரல்லாத மக்களுக்கு நான் அப்போஸ்தலனாக இருக்கிறதினாலே, என் இனத்தார்களுக்குள்ளே நான் வைராக்கியத்தை எழுப்பி, அவர்களில் சிலரை இரட்சிக்கவேண்டுமென்று, ¹⁴ என் ஊழியத்தை மேன்மைப்படுத்துகிறேன். ¹⁵ அவர்களைத் தள்ளிவிடுதல் உலகத்தை ஒப்புரவாக்குதலாக இருக்க, அவர்களை அங்கீகரித்துக்கொள்ளுதல் எப்படி இருக்கும்? மரித்தோருக்கு ஜீவன் உண்டானதுபோல இருக்கும் அல்லவோ? ¹⁶ மேலும் முதற்பலனாகிய மாவானது பரிசுத்தமாக இருந்தால், பிசைந்த மாவு முழுவதும் பரிசுத்தமாக இருக்கும்; வேரானது பரிசுத்தமாக இருந்தால், கிளைகளும் பரிசுத்தமாக இருக்கும். ¹⁷ சில கிளைகள் முறித்துப் போடப்பட்டிருக்க, காட்டு ஒலிவமரமாகிய நீ அவைகள் இருந்த இடத்தில் ஒட்டவைக்கப்பட்டு, ஒலிவமரத்தின் வேருக்கும், சாரத்திற்கும் உடன்பங்காளியாக இருந்தால், ¹⁸ நீ அந்தக் கிளைகளுக்கு எதிராகப் பெருமைப்படாதே; பெருமைப்பட்டால், நீ வேரைச் சுமக்காமல், வேர் உன்னைச் சுமக்கிறது என்று நினைத்துக்கொள். ¹⁹ நான் ஒட்டவைக்கப்படுவதற்கு அந்தக் கிளைகள் முறித்துப் போடப்பட்டது என்று சொல்லுகிறாயே. ²⁰ நல்லது, அவிசுவாசத்தினாலே அவைகள் முறித்துப் போடப்பட்டன, நீ விசுவாசத்தினாலே நிற்கிறாய்; மேட்டிமைச் சிந்தையாக இல்லாமல் பயந்திரு. ²¹ சுபாவக்கிளைகளை தேவன் தப்பவிடாமல் இருக்க, உன்னையும் தப்பவிடமாட்டார் என்று எச்சரிக்கையாக இரு. ²² எனவே, தேவனுடைய தயவையும் கண்டிப்பையும் பார்; விழுந்தவர்களிடம் கண்டிப்பையும், உன்னிடத்தில் தயவையும் காண்பித்தார்; அந்தத் தயவிலே நிலைத்திருந்தால் உனக்குத் தயவு கிடைக்கும்; நிலைக்காவிட்டால் நீயும் வெட்டப்பட்டுப் போவாய். ²³ அன்றியும், அவர்கள் அவிசுவாசத்திலே நிலைத்திராதிருந்தால் அவர்களும் ஒட்டவைக்கப்படுவார்கள்; அவர்களை மீண்டும் ஒட்டவைக்கிறதற்கு தேவன் வல்லவராக இருக்கிறாரே. ²⁴ சுபாவத்தின்படி காட்டு ஒலிவமரத்திலிருந்து நீ வெட்டப்பட்டு, சுபாவத்திற்கு எதிராக நல்ல ஒலிவமரத்திலே ஒட்டவைக்கப்பட்டிருந்தால், சுபாவக்கிளைகளாகிய அவர்கள் தங்களுடைய சுய ஒலிவமரத்திலே ஒட்டவைக்கப்படுவது அதிக நிச்சயமல்லவா?

²⁵ மேலும், சகோதரர்களே, நீங்கள் உங்களுடைய புத்திமான்கள் என்று நினைக்காதபடி ஒரு இரகசியத்தை நீங்கள் தெரிந்துகொள்ளவேண்டும் என்று இருக்கிறேன்; அது என்னவென்றால், யூதரல்லாத மக்களுடைய நிறைவு உண்டாகும்வரைக்கும் இஸ்ரவேலரில் ஒரு பகுதி மக்களுக்கு கடினமான மனது உண்டாயிருக்கும். ²⁶ இப்படியே இஸ்ரவேல் மக்கள் அனைவரும் இரட்சிக்கப்படுவார்கள். மீட்கிறவர் சீயோனிலிருந்து வந்து, அவபக்தியை யாக்கோபைவிட்டு நீக்குவார் என்றும்; ²⁷ நான் அவர்களுடைய

பாவங்களை நீக்கும்போது, இதுவே நான் அவர்களோடு செய்யும் உடன்படிக்கை என்றும் எழுதியிருக்கிறது. ²⁸ நற்செய்தியைக்குறித்து அவர்கள் உங்கள்நிமித்தம் பகைவர்களாக இருக்கிறார்கள்; தெரிந்துகொள்ளுதலைக்குறித்து அவர்கள் முற்பிதாக்களினிமித்தம் நேசிக்கப்பட்டவர்களாக இருக்கிறார்கள். ²⁹ தேவனுடைய கிருபைவரங்களும், அவர்களை அழைத்த அழைப்பும் மாறாதவைகளே. ³⁰ எனவே, நீங்கள் முற்காலத்திலே தேவனுக்குக் கீழ்ப்படியாமல் இருந்து, இப்பொழுது அவர்களுடைய கீழ்ப்படியாமையினாலே இரக்கம் பெற்றிருக்கிறதுபோல, ³¹ அவர்களும் இப்பொழுது கீழ்ப்படியாமல் இருந்தும், பின்பு உங்களுக்குக் கிடைத்த இரக்கத்தினாலே இரக்கம்பெறுவார்கள். ³² எல்லோர்மேலும் இரக்கமாக இருப்பதற்காக, தேவன் எல்லோரையும் கீழ்ப்படியாமைக்குள்ளே அடைத்துப்போட்டார்.

³³ ஆ! தேவனுடைய செல்வம், ஞானம், அறிவு என்பவைகளின் ஆழம் எவ்வளவாக இருக்கிறது! அவருடைய நியாயத்தீர்ப்புகள் அளந்துபார்க்க முடியாதவைகள், அவருடைய வழிகள் ஆராய்ந்துபார்க்க முடியாதவைகள்! ³⁴ கர்த்தருடைய சிந்தையைத் தெரிந்துகொண்டவன் யார்? அவருக்கு ஆலோசனைக்காரனாக இருந்தவன் யார்? ³⁵ தனக்குத் திரும்பக்கிடைக்கும் என்று முதலில் அவருக்கு ஒன்றைக் கொடுத்தவன் யார்? ³⁶ எல்லாம் அவராலும், அவர் மூலமாகவும், அவருக்காகவும் இருக்கிறது; அவருக்கே என்றென்றைக்கும் மகிமை உண்டாவதாக. ஆமென்.

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¹ அப்படியிருக்க, சகோதரர்களே, நீங்கள் உங்களுடைய சரீரங்களைப் பரிசுத்தமும் தேவனுக்குப் பிரியமுமான ஜீவபலியாக ஒப்புக்கொடுக்கவேண்டும் என்று, தேவனுடைய இரக்கங்களை முன்னிட்டு உங்களை வேண்டிக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்; இதுவே நீங்கள் செய்யும் புத்தியுள்ள ஆராதனை. ² நீங்கள் இந்த உலகத்திற்கேற்ற வேஷம் போடாமல், தேவனுடைய நன்மையும் பிரியமும் பரிபூரணமுமான விருப்பம் என்னவென்று பகுத்தறிவதற்காக, உங்களுடைய மனம் புதிதாக மாறுகிறதினாலே மறுபுறமாகுங்கள். ³ அல்லாமலும், எனக்கு அருளப்பட்ட கிருபையினாலே நான் சொல்லுகிறதாவது; உங்களில் யாராவது தன்னைக்குறித்து நினைக்கவேண்டிய அளவிற்கு அதிகமாக நினைக்காமல், அவனவனுக்கு தேவன் பகிர்ந்துகொடுத்த விசுவாச அளவின்படி, தெளிந்த எண்ணம் உள்ளவனாக நினைக்கவேண்டும். ⁴ ஏனென்றால், நமக்கு ஒரே சரீரத்திலே அநேக உறுப்புகள் இருந்தும், எல்லா உறுப்புகளுக்கும் ஒரே வேலை இல்லாததைப்போல, ⁵ அநேகராகிய நாமும் கிறிஸ்துவிற்குள் ஒரே சரீரமாக இருக்க, ஒருவருக்கொருவர் உறுப்புகளாக இருக்கிறோம். ⁶ நமக்கு அருளப்பட்ட கிருபையின்படியே நாம் வெவ்வேறான வரங்கள் உள்ளவர்களாக இருக்கிறதினால், நம்மில் தீர்க்கதரிசனம் சொல்லுகிற வரத்தை உடையவன் விசுவாசப்பிரமாணத்தின்படி சொல்லட்டும். ⁷ ஊழியம் செய்கிறவன் ஊழியத்திலும், போதிக்கிறவன் போதிக்கிறதிலும், ⁸ புத்திசொல்லுகிறவன் புத்திசொல்லுகிறதிலும் நிலைத்திருக்கவேண்டும்; பகிர்ந்துகொடுக்கிறவன் வஞ்சனையில்லாமல் கொடுக்கட்டும்; முதலாளியானவன் கவனமாக இருக்கவேண்டும்; இரக்கம் செய்கிறவன் உற்சாகத்துடனே செய்யட்டும்.

⁹ உங்களுடைய அன்பு மாயமில்லாமல் இருக்கட்டும், தீமையை வெறுத்து, நன்மையைப் பிடித்துக்கொண்டிருங்கள். ¹⁰ சகோதர அன்பினாலே ஒருவர்மேல் ஒருவர் பாசமாக இருங்கள்; மரியாதை கொடுக்கிறதிலே ஒருவருக்கொருவர் முந்திக்கொள்ளுங்கள். ¹¹ அசதியாக இல்லாமல் எச்சரிக்கையாக இருங்கள்; ஆவியிலே அனலாக இருங்கள்; கர்த்தருக்கு ஊழியம் செய்யுங்கள். ¹² நம்பிக்கையிலே சந்தோஷமாக இருங்கள்; உபத்திரவத்திலே பொறுமையாக இருங்கள்; ஜெபத்திலே உறுதியாக நிலைத்திருங்கள். ¹³ பரிசுத்தவான்களுடைய குறைவில் அவர்களுக்கு உதவிசெய்யுங்கள்; அந்நியர்களை உபசரியுங்கள். ¹⁴ உங்களைத் துன்பப்படுத்துகிறவர்களை ஆசீர்வதியுங்கள்; ஆசீர்வதிக்கவேண்டுமேதவிர சபிக்காமல் இருங்கள். ¹⁵ சந்தோஷப்படுகிறவர்களோடு சந்தோஷப்படுங்கள்; அழுகிறவர்களோடு அழுங்கள். ¹⁶ ஒருவரோடொருவர் ஒரேசிந்தை உள்ளவர்களாக இருங்கள்; மேட்டிமையானவைகளைச் சிந்திக்காமல், தாழ்மையானவர்களை ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளுங்கள்; உங்களை நீங்களே புத்திமான்கள் என்று நினைக்கவேண்டாம். ¹⁷ ஒருவனுக்கும் தீமைக்குத் தீமை செய்யாமல் இருங்கள்; எல்லா மனிதர்களுக்கு முன்பாகவும் யோக்கியமானவைகளைச் செய்யுங்கள். ¹⁸ உங்களால் முடிந்தவரை எல்லா மனிதர்களோடும் சமாதானமாக இருங்கள். ¹⁹ பிரியமானவர்களே, பழிவாங்குதல் என்னுடையது, நானே பதில்செய்வேன், என்று கர்த்தர் சொல்லுகிறார் என்று எழுதி இருக்கிறதினால், நீங்கள் பழிவாங்காமல், தேவனுடைய கோபத்தின் தண்டனைக்கு இடம்கொடுங்கள். ²⁰ அன்றியும், உன் பகைவன் பசியாக இருந்தால், அவனுக்கு ஆகாரம் கொடு; அவன் தாகமாக இருந்தால், அவனுக்கு ஏதாவது குடிக்கக்கொடு; நீ இப்படிச் செய்வதினால் நெருப்புத் தழலை அவன் தலையின்மேல் குவிப்பாய். ²¹ நீ தீமையினாலே வெல்லப்படாமல், தீமையை நன்மையினாலே வெல்லு.

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¹ எந்த மனிதனும் உயர் அதிகாரம் உள்ளவர்களுக்குக் கீழ்ப்படியவேண்டும்; ஏனென்றால், தேவனாலேயல்லாமல் ஒரு அதிகாரமும் இல்லை; உண்டாயிருக்கிற அதிகாரங்கள் தேவனாலே நியமிக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. ² எனவே, அதிகாரத்திற்கு எதிர்த்து நிற்கிறவன் தேவனுடைய நியமத்திற்கு எதிர்த்து நிற்கிறான்; அப்படி எதிர்த்து நிற்கிறவர்கள் தங்களுக்குத் தாங்களே தண்டனையை வரவழைத்துக்கொள்கிறார்கள். ³ மேலும் அதிகாரிகள் நல்ல செயல்களுக்கு அல்ல, தீய செயல்களுக்கே பயங்கரமாக இருக்கிறார்கள்; எனவே, நீ அதிகாரத்திற்குப் பயப்படாமல் இருக்கவேண்டுமானால், நன்மைசெய், அதினால் உனக்குப் புகழ்ச்சி உண்டாகும். ⁴ உனக்கு நன்மை உண்டாவதற்காக, அவன் தேவனுடைய ஊழியக்காரனாக இருக்கிறான். நீ தீமைசெய்தால் பயந்திரு; பட்டயத்தை அவன் வீணாகப் பிடித்திருக்கவில்லை; தீமைசெய்கிறவன்மேல் கோபத்தின் தண்டனையை வரப்பண்ணுவதற்காக, அவன் நீதியைச் செலுத்துகிற தேவனுடைய ஊழியக்காரனாக இருக்கிறானே. ⁵ எனவே, நீங்கள் கோபத்தின் தண்டனைக்காக மட்டுமில்லை, மனச்சாட்சிக்காகவும் கீழ்ப்படியவேண்டும். ⁶ இதற்காகவே நீங்கள் வரியையும் கொடுக்கிறீர்கள். அவர்கள் இந்த வேலையைப் பார்த்துவருகிற தேவனுடைய ஊழியக்காரர்களாக இருக்கிறார்களே. ⁷ எனவே எல்லோருக்கும் செலுத்தவேண்டிய கடமைகளைச் செலுத்துங்கள்; யாருக்கு வரியைச் செலுத்தவேண்டுமோ அவனுக்கு வரியையும், யாருக்கு சொத்துவரியைச் செலுத்தவேண்டுமோ அவனுக்கு சொத்துவரியையும் செலுத்துங்கள்; யாருக்குப் பயப்படவேண்டுமோ அவனுக்குப் பயப்படுங்கள்; யாருக்கு மதிப்புக் கொடுக்கவேண்டுமோ அவனுக்கு மதிப்புக் கொடுங்கள்.

⁸ ஒருவரிலொருவர் அன்பு செலுத்துகிற கடனைத்தவிர, வேறு எதிலும் யாருக்கும் கடன்படாமல் இருங்கள்; அயலகத்தாரிடம் அன்புசெலுத்துகிறவன் நியாயப்பிரணத்தை நிறைவேற்றுகிறான். ⁹ எப்படியென்றால், விபசாரம் செய்யாதிருப்பாயாக, கொலை செய்யாதிருப்பாயாக, களவு செய்யாதிருப்பாயாக, பொய்ச்சாட்சி சொல்லாதிருப்பாயாக, இச்சிக்காமல் இருப்பாயாக என்கிற இந்தக் கட்டளைகளும், வேறு எந்தக் கட்டளையும், உன்னிடத்தில் நீ அன்பாக செலுத்துவதுபோல மற்றவனிடமும் அன்புசெலுத்துவாயாக என்கிற ஒரே வாக்கியத்தில் அடங்கியிருக்கிறது. ¹⁰ அன்பு மற்றவனுக்கு தீமை செய்யாது; எனவே, அன்பு நியாயப்பிரமாணத்தின் நிறைவேறுதலாக இருக்கிறது. ¹¹ தூக்கத்தைவிட்டு எழுந்திருக்க வேண்டிய நேரமானது என்று, நாம் நேரத்தை அறிந்தவர்களாக, இப்படி நடக்கவேண்டும்; நாம் விசுவாசிகளானபோது இரட்சிப்பு அருகில் இருந்ததைவிட இப்பொழுது அது நமக்கு மிக அருகில் இருக்கிறது. ¹² இரவு கடந்துபோனது, பகல் அருகில் வந்துவிட்டது; எனவே, இருளின் செயல்களை நாம் தள்ளிவிட்டு, ஒளியின் ஆயுதங்களை அணிந்துகொள்வோம். ¹³ களியாட்டும், வெறியும், வேசித்தனமும் காமவிகாரமும், வாக்குவாதமும், பொறாமையும் உள்ளவர்களாக நடக்காமல், பகலிலே நடக்கிறவர்கள்போல ஒழுங்காக நடப்போம். ¹⁴ தீய இச்சைகளுக்கு இடமாக சரீரத்தைக் கொடுக்காமல், கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவை அணிந்துகொள்ளுங்கள்.

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¹ விசுவாசத்தில் பலவீனமாக உள்ளவனைச் சேர்த்துக்கொள்ளுங்கள்; ஆனாலும் அவனுடைய மன சந்தேகங்களைக் குற்றமாக தீர்மானிக்காமல் இருங்கள். ² ஒருவன் எந்த உணவுப்பொருளையும் சாப்பிடலாம் என்று நம்புகிறான்; பலவீனமாக உள்ளவனோ காய்கறிகளைமட்டும் சாப்பிடுகிறான். ³ சாப்பிடுகிறவன் சாப்பிடாமல் இருக்கிறவனை அற்பமாக நினைக்காமல் இருக்கவேண்டும்; சாப்பிடாமல் இருக்கிறவனும் சாப்பிடுகிறவனைக் குற்றவாளியாகத் தீர்க்காமல் இருக்கவேண்டும்; தேவன் அவனை ஏற்றுக்கொண்டாரே. ⁴ மற்றொருவனுடைய வேலைக்காரனைக் குற்றவாளியாகத் தீர்க்கிறதற்கு நீ யார்? அவன் நின்றாலும் விழுந்தாலும் அவனுடைய முதலாளிக்கே அவன் பொறுப்பானி; அவன் நிலைநிறுத்தப்படுவான்; தேவன் அவனை நிலைநிறுத்த வல்லவராக இருக்கிறாரே. ⁵ அன்றியும், ஒருவன் ஒருநாளையிட மற்றொரு நாள் சிறந்தது என்று நினைக்கிறான்; வேறொருவன் எல்லா நாட்களையும் சமமாக நினைக்கிறான்; அவனவன் தன்தன் மனதிலே முழு நிச்சயத்தை உடையவனாக இருக்கட்டும். ⁶ நாட்களை சிறப்பாக்கிக்கொள்கிறவன் கர்த்தருக்கென்று சிறப்பாக்கிக் கொள்கிறான்; நாட்களை சிறப்பாக்கிக் கொள்ளாதவனும் கர்த்தருக்கென்று சிறப்பாக்கிக் கொள்ளாமல் இருக்கிறான். சாப்பிடுகிறவன் தேவனுக்கு ஸ்தோத்திரம் செலுத்துகிறபடியால், கர்த்தருக்கென்று சாப்பிடுகிறான்; சாப்பிடாமல் இருக்கிறவனும் கர்த்தருக்கென்று சாப்பிடாமல், தேவனுக்கு ஸ்தோத்திரம் செலுத்துகிறான். ⁷ நம்மில் ஒருவனும் தனக்கென்று பிழைக்கிறதும் இல்லை, ஒருவனும் தனக்கென்று மரிக்கிறதும் இல்லை. ⁸ நாம் பிழைத்தாலும் கர்த்தருக்கென்று பிழைக்கிறோம், நாம் மரித்தாலும் கர்த்தருக்கென்று மரிக்கிறோம்; எனவே, பிழைத்தாலும் மரித்தாலும் நாம் கர்த்தருடையவர்களாக இருக்கிறோம். ⁹ கிறிஸ்துவும் மரித்தவர்களுக்கும், ஜீவனுள்ளவர்களுக்கும் ஆண்டவராக இருப்பதற்காக, மரித்தும், உயிரோடு எழுந்தும், பிழைத்தும் இருக்கிறார். ¹⁰ இப்படியிருக்க, நீ உன் சகோதரனைக் குற்றவாளி என்று தீர்க்கிறது என்ன? நீ உன் சகோதரனை அற்பமாக நினைக்கிறது என்ன? நாமெல்லோரும் கிறிஸ்துவினுடைய நியாயாசனத்திற்கு முன்பாக நிற்போமே. ¹¹ அப்படியே: முழங்கால்கள் எல்லாம் எனக்கு முன்பாக முடங்கும், நாக்குகள் எல்லாம் தேவனை அறிக்கைப்பண்ணும் என்று என் ஜீவனைக்கொண்டு உரைக்கிறேன் என்பதாகக் கர்த்தர் சொல்லுகிறார் என்று எழுதியிருக்கிறது. ¹² எனவே, நம்மில் ஒவ்வொருவனும் தன்னைக்குறித்து தேவனுக்குக் கணக்கு ஒப்புவிப்பான். ¹³ இப்படியிருக்க, நாம் இனிமேல் ஒருவரையொருவர் குற்றவாளிகள் என்று தீர்க்காமல் இருப்போமாக. ஒருவனும் தன் சகோதரனுக்கு முன்பாகத் தடையையும் இடறலையும் போடக்கூடாது என்று தீர்மானித்துக்கொள்ளுங்கள். ¹⁴ எந்தப்பொருளும் தன்னில்தானே தீட்டானவைகள் இல்லை என்று கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுவிற்குள் அறிந்து நிச்சயித்திருக்கிறேன்; ஒரு பொருளைத் தீட்டானது என்று நினைக்கிறவன் எவனோ அவனுக்கு அது தீட்டானதாக இருக்கும். ¹⁵ ஆகாரத்தினாலே உன் சகோதரனுக்கு விசனம் உண்டாக்கினால், நீ அன்பாக நடக்கிறவன் இல்லை; அவனை உன் ஆகாரத்தினாலே கெடுக்காதே, கிறிஸ்து அவனுக்காக மரித்தாரே. ¹⁶ உங்களுடைய நல்ல செயல்கள் அவமதிக்கப்பட இடங்கொடுக்காமல் இருங்கள். ¹⁷ தேவனுடைய ராஜ்யம் சாப்பிடுவதும் குடிப்பதும் இல்லை, அது நீதியும் சமாதானமும் பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவரால் உண்டாகும் சந்தோஷமாகவும் இருக்கிறது. ¹⁸ இவைகளிலே கிறிஸ்துவிற்கு ஊழியம் செய்கிறவன் தேவனுக்குப் பிரியமானவனும் மனிதனால் அங்கீகரிக்கப்பட்டவனுமாக இருக்கிறான். ¹⁹ எனவே, சமாதானத்திற்குரியவைகளையும், ஐக்கிய பக்திவளர்ச்சியை உண்டாக்கக்கூடியவைகளையும் நாடுவோம். ²⁰ ஆகாரத்திற்காக தேவனுடைய செயல்களை அழித்துப்போடாதே. எந்த உணவுப்பொருளும் சுத்தமானதுதான்; ஆனாலும் இடறல் உண்டாகச் சாப்பிடுகிறவனுக்கு அது தீமையாக இருக்கும். ²¹ இறைச்சி சாப்பிடுவதும், மதுபானம் அருந்துகிறதும், வேறு எதையாவது செய்கிறதும், உன் சகோதரன் இடறுவதற்கோ, தவறுவதற்கோ, பலவீனப்படுகிறதற்கோ காரணமாக இருந்தால், அவைகளில் ஒன்றையும் செய்யாமல் இருப்பதே நன்மையாக இருக்கும். ²² உனக்கு விசுவாசம் இருந்தால் அது தேவனுக்குமுன்பாக உனக்குள்மட்டும் இருக்கட்டும். நல்லது என்று நிச்சயித்த விஷயத்தில் தன்னைக் குற்றவாளியாக்காதவன் பாக்கியவான். ²³ ஒருவன் சந்தேகத்துடன் சாப்பிட்டால், அவன் விசுவாசம் இல்லாமல் சாப்பிடுகிறதினால், தண்டனைக்குரியவனாகத் தீர்க்கப்படுகிறான். விசுவாசத்தினாலே வராத எதுவும் பாவமே.

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¹ அன்றியும், பலம் உள்ளவர்களாகிய நாம் நமக்கே பிரியமாக நடக்காமல், பலவீனருடைய பலவீனங்களைத் தாங்கவேண்டும். ² நம்மில் ஒவ்வொருவனும் அயலகத்தானுக்கு பக்திவளர்ச்சிக்குரிய நன்மையை உண்டாக்குவதற்காக அவனுக்குப் பிரியமாக நடக்கவேண்டும். ³ கிறிஸ்துவும் தமக்கே பிரியமாக நடக்காமல்: உம்மை அவமதிக்கிறவர்களுடைய அவமானங்கள் என்மேல் விழுந்தது என்று எழுதியிருக்கிறபடியே நடந்தார். ⁴ தேவவசனத்தினால் உண்டாகும் பொறுமையினாலும், ஆறுதலினாலும் நாம் நம்பிக்கை உள்ளவர்களாவதற்காக, முன்பே எழுதியிருக்கிறவைகள் எல்லாம் நமக்குப் போதனையாக எழுதியிருக்கிறது. ⁵ நீங்கள் ஒருமனப்பட்டு நம்முடைய கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவின் பிதாவாகிய தேவனை ஒரே வாயினால் மகிமைப்படுத்துவதற்காக, ⁶ பொறுமையையும் ஆறுதலையும் அளிக்கும் தேவன், கிறிஸ்து இயேசுவினுடைய மாதிரியின்படியே, நீங்கள் ஒரே சிந்தை உள்ளவர்களாக இருக்க உங்களுக்கு தயவு செய்வாராக. ⁷ எனவே, தேவனுக்கு மகிமையுண்டாகும்படி, கிறிஸ்து நம்மை ஏற்றுக்கொண்டதுபோல, நீங்களும் ஒருவரையொருவர் ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளுங்கள். ⁸ மேலும், முற்பிதாக்களுக்குக் கொடுக்கப்பட்ட வாக்குத்தத்தங்களை உறுதியாக்குவதற்காக, தேவனுடைய சத்தியத்தினால் இயேசுகிறிஸ்து விருத்தசேதனம் உள்ளவர்களுக்கு ஊழியக்காரர் ஆனார் என்றும்; ⁹ யூதரல்லாத மக்களும் இரக்கம் பெற்றதினால் தேவனை மகிமைப்படுத்துகிறார்கள் என்றும் சொல்லுகிறேன். அப்படியே: இதனால் நான் யூதரல்லாத மக்களுக்குள்ளே உம்மை அறிக்கைசெய்து, உம்முடைய நாமத்தைச் சொல்லி, சங்கீதம் பாடுவேன் என்று எழுதியிருக்கிறது. ¹⁰ மேலும், யூதரல்லாத மக்களே, அவருடைய மக்களுடன் சேர்ந்து களிகூருங்கள் என்கிறார். ¹¹ மேலும், யூதரல்லாத மக்களே, எல்லோரும் கர்த்தரைத் துதியுங்கள்; மக்களே, எல்லோரும் அவரைப் புகழுங்கள் என்றும் சொல்லுகிறார். ¹² மேலும், ஈசாயின் வேரும் யூதரல்லாத மக்களை ஆளுகை செய்கிற ஒருவர் தோன்றுவார்; அவரிடம் யூதரல்லாத மக்கள் நம்பிக்கை வைப்பார்கள் என்று ஏசாயா சொல்லுகிறான். ¹³ பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவரின் பலத்தினாலே உங்களுக்கு நம்பிக்கை பெருக, நம்பிக்கையின் தேவன் விசுவாசத்தினால் உண்டாகும் எல்லாவிதமான சந்தோஷத்தினாலும், சமாதானத்தினாலும் உங்களை நிரப்புவாராக.

¹⁴ என் சகோதரர்களே, நீங்கள் நற்குணத்தினால் நிறைந்தவர்களும், எல்லா அறிவினாலும் நிரப்பப்பட்டவர்களும், ஒருவருக்கொருவர் புத்திசொல்ல வல்லவர்களாக இருக்கிறீர்கள் என்று நானும் உங்களைக்குறித்து நிச்சயித்திருக்கிறேன். ¹⁵ அப்படியிருந்தும், சகோதரர்களே, யூதரல்லாதவர்கள் பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவராலே பரிசுத்தமாக்கப்பட்டு, தேவனுக்குப் பிரியமான பலியாகும்படி, நான் தேவனுடைய நற்செய்தி ஊழியத்தை நடத்தும் ஆசாரியனாக இருந்து யூதரல்லாதவர்களுக்கு இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவினுடைய ஊழியக்காரனாவதற்கு, ¹⁶ தேவன் எனக்கு அளித்த கிருபையினாலே உங்களுக்கு ஞாபகப்படுத்துவதற்காக இவைகளை நான் அதிக தைரியமாக எழுதினேன். ¹⁷ எனவே, நான் தேவனுக்குரியவைகளைக்குறித்து இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவைக்கொண்டு மேன்மை பாராட்டமுடியும். ¹⁸ யூதரல்லாதவர்களை வார்த்தையினாலும் செய்கையினாலும் கீழ்ப்படியப்பண்ணுவதற்கு, அற்புத அடையாளங்களின் பலத்தினாலும், தேவ ஆவியானவரின் பலத்தினாலும், கிறிஸ்துவானவர் என்னைக்கொண்டு செய்தவைகளைத்தவிர வேறொன்றையும் சொல்ல நான் துணியவில்லை. ¹⁹ இப்படி எருசலேமிலிருந்து ஆரம்பித்து, இல்லிரிக்கம் தேசம்வரைக்கும், கிறிஸ்துவின் நற்செய்தியைப் பூரணமாகப் பிரசங்கம் செய்திருக்கிறேன். ²⁰ மேலும் அவருடைய செய்தியை அறியாமல் இருந்தவர்கள் பார்ப்பார்கள் என்றும், கேள்விப்படாமல் இருந்தவர்கள் உணர்ந்துகொள்வார்கள் என்றும் எழுதியிருக்கிறபடியே, ²¹ நான் மற்றொருவனுடைய அஸ்திபாரத்தின்மேல் கட்டாமல் கிறிஸ்துவினுடைய நாமம் சொல்லப்படாத இடங்களில் நற்செய்தியை அறிவிக்கும்படி விரும்புகிறேன். ²² உங்களிடம் வருவதற்கு இதினாலே அநேகமுறை தடைபட்டேன்.

²³ இப்பொழுது இந்தப் பகுதிகளிலே எனக்கு இடம் இல்லதாதினாலும், உங்களிடம் வரும்படி அநேக வருடமாக எனக்கு அதிக விருப்பம் உண்டாயிருக்கிறபடியினாலும், ²⁴ நான் ஸ்பானியா தேசத்திற்கு பயணம்செய்யும்போது உங்களிடம் வந்து, உங்களைப் பார்க்கவும், உங்களிடம் கொஞ்சம் திருப்தியடைந்தபின்பு, அந்த இடத்திற்கு உங்களால் நான் வழியனுப்பப்படவும், எனக்கு நேரம் கிடைக்கும் என்று நம்பியிருக்கிறேன். ²⁵ இப்பொழுதோ பரிசுத்தவான்களுக்கு உதவிசெய்வதற்காக நான் எருசலேமுக்குப் பயணம் செய்ய இருக்கிறேன். ²⁶ மக்கெதோனியாவிலும், அகாயாவிலும் உள்ளவர்கள் எருசலேமிலுள்ள பரிசுத்தவான்களுக்குள்ளே இருக்கிற ஏழைகளுக்கு சில பொருளுதவிகளைச் செய்ய விருப்பமாக இருக்கிறார்கள்; ²⁷ இப்படிச்செய்வது நல்லதென்று நினைத்தார்கள்; இப்படிச் செய்கிறதற்கு அவர்கள் கடனாளிகளாகவும் இருக்கிறார்கள். எப்படியென்றால், யூதரல்லாதவர்கள் அவர்களுடைய ஞானநன்மைகளில் பங்குபெற்றிருக்க, சரீர நன்மைகளால் அவர்களுக்கு உதவிசெய்ய இவர்கள் கடனாளிகளாக இருக்கிறார்களே. ²⁸ இந்தக் காரியத்தை நான் நிறைவேற்றி, இந்தப் பலனை அவர்கள்

கையிலே பத்திரமாக ஒப்புவித்தப்பின்பு, உங்களுடைய ஊர்வழியாக ஸ்பானியாவிற்குப் போவேன். ²⁹ நான் உங்களிடம் வரும்போது கிறிஸ்துவினுடைய நற்செய்தியின் சம்பூரணமான ஆசீர்வாதத்தோடு வருவேன் என்று அறிந்திருக்கிறேன். ³⁰ மேலும் சகோதரர்களே, தேவ விருப்பத்தினாலே நான் சந்தோஷத்தோடு உங்களிடம் வந்து உங்களோடு ஓய்வெடுப்பதற்காக, ³¹ யூதேயாவிலிருக்கிற அவிசுவாசிகளுக்கு நான் தப்புவிக்கப்படுவதற்காகவும், நான் எருசலேமிலுள்ள பரிசுத்தவான்களுக்குச் செய்யப்போகிற தர்மஉதவிகள் அவர்களால் அங்கீகரிக்கப்படுவதற்காகவும், ³² நீங்கள் தேவனை நோக்கி செய்யும் ஜெபங்களில், நான் போராடுவதுபோல நீங்களும் என்னோடு சேர்ந்து போராடவேண்டும் என்று நம்முடைய கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவினாலும், பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவருடைய அன்பினாலும், உங்களை வேண்டிக்கொள்கிறேன். ³³ சமாதானத்தின் தேவன் உங்கள் அனைவரோடும் இருப்பாராக. ஆமென்.

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¹ கெங்கிரேயா ஊர் சபைக்கு ஊழியக்காரியாகிய நம்முடைய சகோதரி பெபேயானை நீங்கள் கர்த்தருக்குள் பரிசுத்தவான்களுக்கேற்றபடி ஏற்றுக்கொண்டு, ² எந்தக் காரியத்தில் உங்களுடைய உதவி அவளுக்குத் தேவையாக இருக்கிறதோ, அந்தக் காரியத்திலே நீங்கள் அவளுக்கு உதவிசெய்யவேண்டும் என்று அவளை உங்களிடம் ஒப்புவிக்கிறேன்; அவள் அநேகருக்கும், எனக்கும் கூட ஆதரவாக இருந்தவள். ³ கிறிஸ்து இயேசுவிற்குள் என் உடன்வேலையாட்களாகிய பிரிஸ்கில்லானையும், ஆக்கில்லாவையும் வாழ்த்துங்கள். ⁴ அவர்கள் என்னுடைய ஜீவனுக்காகத் தங்களுடைய கழுத்தைக் கொடுத்தவர்கள்; அவர்களைப்பற்றி நான்மட்டும் அல்ல, யூதரல்லாதவர்களில் உண்டான சபையார் எல்லோரும் நன்றியுள்ளவர்களாக இருக்கிறார்கள். ⁵ அவர்களுடைய வீட்டிலே கூடிவருகிற சபையையும் வாழ்த்துங்கள். அகாயாவிலே கிறிஸ்துவிற்கு முதற்பலனாகிய என் பிரியமான எப்பெனத்தை வாழ்த்துங்கள். ⁶ எங்களுக்காக அதிகமாக பிரயாசப்பட்ட மரியானை வாழ்த்துங்கள். ⁷ அப்போஸ்தலர்களுக்குள் பெயர்பெற்றவர்களும் எனக்கு முன்பே கிறிஸ்துவிற்குள்ளானவர்களும் என் இனத்தாரும் என்னோடு காவலில் கட்டப்பட்டவர்களுமாக இருக்கிற அன்றோனீக்கையும், யூனியாவையும் வாழ்த்துங்கள். ⁸ கர்த்தருக்குள் எனக்குப் பிரியமான அம்பிலியாவை வாழ்த்துங்கள். ⁹ கிறிஸ்துவிற்குள் நம்மோடு உடன்வேலையாளாகிய உர்பானையும், என் பிரியமான ஸ்தாக்கியையும் வாழ்த்துங்கள். ¹⁰ கிறிஸ்துவிற்குள் உத்தமனாகிய அப்பெல்லேயை வாழ்த்துங்கள். அரிஸ்தொபூலுவின் குடும்பத்தாரை வாழ்த்துங்கள். ¹¹ என் இனத்தானாகிய ஏரோதியோனை வாழ்த்துங்கள். நர்கீசுவின் குடும்பத்தாரில் கர்த்தருக்குள் இருக்கிறவர்களை வாழ்த்துங்கள். ¹² கர்த்தருக்குள் அதிகமாக பிரயாசப்படுகிற திரிபேனாளையும், திரிபோசாளையும் வாழ்த்துங்கள். கர்த்தருக்குள் அதிகமாக பிரயாசப்பட்ட பிரியமான பெர்சியானை வாழ்த்துங்கள். ¹³ கர்த்தருக்குள் தெரிந்துகொள்ளப்பட்ட ரூபையும், எனக்கும் தாயாகிய அவனுடைய தாயையும் வாழ்த்துங்கள். ¹⁴ அசிங்கிரீத்துவையும், பிலெகோனையும், எர்மாவையும், பத்திரொபாவையும், எர்மேயையும், அவர்களோடு இருக்கிற சகோதரர்களையும் வாழ்த்துங்கள். ¹⁵ பிலொலோகையும், யூலியாளையும், நேரேயையும், அவனுடைய சகோதரியையும், ஒலிம்பாவையும், அவர்களோடு இருக்கிற பரிசுத்தவான்கள் எல்லோரையும் வாழ்த்துங்கள். ¹⁶ ஒருவரையொருவர் பரிசுத்த முத்தத்தோடு வாழ்த்துங்கள். கிறிஸ்துவின் சபையார் உங்களை வாழ்த்துகிறார்கள். ¹⁷ அன்றியும் சகோதரர்களே, நீங்கள் கற்றுக்கொண்ட உபதேசத்திற்கு எதிராகப் பிரிவினைகளையும், இடறல்களையும் உண்டாக்குகிறவர்களைக்குறித்து எச்சரிக்கையாக இருந்து, அவர்களைவிட்டு விலகவேண்டும் என்று உங்களுக்குப் புத்திசொல்லுகிறேன். ¹⁸ அப்படிப்பட்டவர்கள் நம்முடைய கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவிற்கு ஊழியம் செய்யாமல் தங்களுடைய வயிற்றுக்கே ஊழியம் செய்து, நயமான மொழிகளாலும், இனிய பேச்சினாலும், கபடு இல்லாதவர்களின் இருதயங்களை ஏமாற்றுகிறவர்களாக இருக்கிறார்கள். ¹⁹ உங்களுடைய கீழ்ப்படிதல் எல்லோருக்கும் தெரியவந்திருக்கிறது. எனவே, உங்களைக்குறித்து சந்தோஷப்படுகிறேன்; ஆனாலும் நீங்கள் நன்மைக்கு ஞானிகளும், தீமைக்குப் பேதைகளுமாக இருக்கவேண்டும் என்று விரும்புகிறேன். ²⁰ சமாதானத்தின் தேவன் சீக்கிரமாகச் சாத்தானை உங்களுடைய கால்களின் கீழே நசுக்கிப்போடுவார். நம்முடைய கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவினுடைய கிருபை உங்களோடு இருப்பதாக ஆமென். ²¹ என் உடன்வேலையாளாகிய தீமோத்தேயும், என் இனத்தாராகிய லூகியும், யாசோனும், சொசிபத்தரும் உங்களை வாழ்த்துகிறார்கள். ²² இந்தக் கடிதத்தை எழுதின தெர்தியுவாகிய நான் கர்த்தருக்குள் உங்களை வாழ்த்துகிறேன். ²³ என்னையும், சபைகள் அனைத்தையும் உபசரித்துவருகிற காயு உங்களை வாழ்த்துகிறான். பட்டணத்தின் பொருளாளரான ஏரஸ்தும், சகோதரனாகிய குவர்த்தும் உங்களை வாழ்த்துகிறார்கள். ²⁴ நம்முடைய கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவினுடைய கிருபை உங்கள் அனைவரோடும் இருப்பதாக ஆமென். ²⁵ ஆதிகாலம்முதல் இரகசியமாக இருந்து, இப்பொழுது தீர்க்கதரிசன ஆகமங்களினாலே அநாதி தேவனுடைய கட்டளையின்படி வெளிப்படுத்தப்பட்டதும், எல்லா தேசத்து மக்களும் விசுவாசத்திற்குக் கீழ்ப்படியும்படி அவர்களுக்கு அறிவிக்கப்பட்டதுமாக இருக்கிற இரகசியத்தை வெளிப்படுத்துகிற, ²⁶ இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவைப்பற்றிய பிரசங்கமாகிய என் நற்செய்தியின்படியே உங்களைப் பலப்படுத்த வல்லவரும், ²⁷ தாம் ஒருவரே ஞானம் உள்ளவருமாக இருக்கிற தேவனுக்கு இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவின் மூலமாக என்றென்றைக்கும் மகிமை உண்டாவதாக ஆமென்.

1 Corinthians

அத்தியாயம்- 1

¹ தேவனுடைய விருப்பத்தினாலே கிறிஸ்து இயேசுவின் அப்போஸ்தலனாகும்படி அழைக்கப்பட்டவனாகிய பவுலும், சகோதரனாகிய சொஸ்தேனேயும், ² கொரிந்துவிலே கிறிஸ்து இயேசுவிற்குள் பரிசுத்தமாக்கப்பட்டவர்களாகவும், பரிசுத்தவான்களாகும்படி அழைக்கப்பட்டவர்களாகவும் இருக்கிற தேவனுடைய சபைக்கும், எங்களுக்கும் அவர்களுக்கும் ஆண்டவராக இருக்கிற நம்முடைய கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவின் நாமத்தை எங்கும் தொழுதுகொள்ளுகிற அனைவருக்கும் எழுதுகிறதாவது: ³ நம்முடைய பிதாவாகிய தேவனாலும் கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவினாலும் உங்களுக்குக் கிருபையும் சமாதானமும் உண்டாவதாக.

⁴ கிறிஸ்துவைப்பற்றிய சாட்சி உங்களுக்குள்ளே உறுதிப்படுத்தப்பட்டபடியே, ⁵ நீங்கள் இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவிற்குள்ளாக எல்லா உபதேசத்திலும் எல்லா அறிவிலும், மற்றெல்லாவற்றிலும், முழு நிறைவுள்ளவர்களாக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறபடியால், ⁶ அவர் மூலமாக உங்களுக்கு அளிக்கப்பட்ட தேவகிருபைக்காக, நான் உங்களைக்குறித்து எப்பொழுதும் என் தேவனுக்கு நன்றி செலுத்துகிறேன். ⁷ அப்படியே நீங்கள் எந்த ஒரு வரத்திலும் குறைவில்லாதவர்களாக, நம்முடைய கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்து வெளிப்படுவதற்குக் காத்திருக்கிறீர்கள். ⁸ நம்முடைய கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்து வெளிப்படும் நாளிலே நீங்கள் குற்றஞ்சாட்டப்படாதவர்களாக இருக்கும்படி இறுதிவரைக்கும் அவர் உங்களை உறுதிப்படுத்துவார். ⁹ தம்முடைய குமாரனும் நம்முடைய கர்த்தருமாக இருக்கிற இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவோடு ஐக்கியமாக இருப்பதற்கு உங்களை அழைத்த தேவன் உண்மையுள்ளவர்.

¹⁰ சகோதரர்களே, நீங்களெல்லோரும் ஒரே காரியத்தைப் பேசவும், பிரிவினைகள் இல்லாமல் ஒரே மனதும் ஒரே யோசனையும் உள்ளவர்களாகச் சீர்பொருந்தியிருக்கவும் வேண்டுமென்று, நம்முடைய கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவின் நாமத்தினாலே உங்களுக்குப் புத்திசொல்லுகிறேன். ¹¹ ஏனென்றால், என் சகோதரர்களே, உங்களுக்குள்ளே வாக்குவாதங்கள் உண்டென்று குலோவேயாளின் குடும்பத்தாரால் உங்களைக்குறித்து எனக்கு அறிவிக்கப்பட்டது. ¹² உங்களில் சிலர்: நான் பவுலைச் சேர்ந்தவனென்றும், நான் அப்பொல்லோவைச் சேர்ந்தவனென்றும், நான் கேபாவைச் சேர்ந்தவனென்றும், நான் கிறிஸ்துவைச் சேர்ந்தவனென்றும் சொல்லுகிறபடியால், நான் இப்படிச் சொல்லுகிறேன். ¹³ கிறிஸ்து பிரிந்திருக்கிறாரா? பவுலா உங்களுக்காகச் சிலுவையில் அறையப்பட்டான்? பவுலின் நாமத்தினாலேயா ஞானஸ்நானம் பெற்றீர்கள்? ¹⁴ என் நாமத்தினாலே ஞானஸ்நானம் பெற்றுக்கொண்டேன் என்று ஒருவனும் சொல்லாதபடிக்கு, ¹⁵ நான் கிறிஸ்துவிற்கும் காயுவிற்கும்தவிர, உங்களில் வேறொருவனுக்கும் ஞானஸ்நானம் கொடுக்கவில்லை; இதற்காக தேவனுக்கு நன்றி செலுத்துகிறேன். ¹⁶ ஸ்தேவானுடைய குடும்பத்தினருக்கும் நான் ஞானஸ்நானம் கொடுத்ததுண்டு. இதுவுமல்லாமல் வேறு யாருக்காவது நான் ஞானஸ்நானம் கொடுத்தேனோ இல்லையோ என்பது எனக்குத் தெரியாது. ¹⁷ ஞானஸ்நானத்தைக் கொடுக்கும்படி கிறிஸ்து என்னை அனுப்பவில்லை; நற்செய்தியைப் பிரசங்கிக்கவே அனுப்பினார்; கிறிஸ்துவின் சிலுவை வீணாகப் போகாதபடிக்கு, மனித ஞானமில்லாமல் பிரசங்கிக்கவே அனுப்பினார்.

¹⁸ சிலுவையைப்பற்றிய உபதேசம் கெட்டுப்போகிறவர்களுக்குப் பைத்தியமாக இருக்கிறது, இரட்சிக்கப்படுகிற நமக்கோ அது தேவபெலனாக இருக்கிறது. ¹⁹ அந்தப்படி: ஞானிகளுடைய ஞானத்தை நான் அழித்து, புத்திசாலிகளுடைய புத்தியை அவமாக்குவேன் என்று எழுதியிருக்கிறது. ²⁰ ஞானி எங்கே? வேதபண்டிதன் எங்கே? இந்த உலகத்தின் தர்க்கஞானி எங்கே? இந்த உலகத்தின் ஞானத்தை தேவன் பைத்தியமாக்கவில்லையா? ²¹ எப்படியென்றால், தேவஞானத்துக்கேற்றபடி உலகமானது சுயஞானத்தினாலே தேவனை அறியாமல் இருந்ததினால், பைத்தியமாகத் தோன்றுகிற பிரசங்கத்தினாலே விசுவாசிகளை இரட்சிக்க தேவனுக்குப் பிரியமானது. ²² யூதர்கள் அடையாளத்தைக் கேட்கிறார்கள், கிரேக்கர்கள் ஞானத்தைத் தேடுகிறார்கள்; ²³ நாங்களோ சிலுவையில் அறையப்பட்ட கிறிஸ்துவைப் பிரசங்கிக்கிறோம்; அவர் யூதர்களுக்கு இடறலாகவும் கிரேக்கர்களுக்குப் பைத்தியமாகவும் இருக்கிறார். ²⁴ ஆனாலும் யூதர்களானாலும் கிரேக்கர்களானாலும் எவர்கள் அழைக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறார்களோ அவர்களுக்குக் கிறிஸ்து தேவபெலனும் தேவஞானமுமாக இருக்கிறார். ²⁵ இந்தப்படி, தேவனுடைய பைத்தியம் எனப்படுவது மனிதர்களுடைய ஞானத்திலும் அதிக ஞானமாக இருக்கிறது; தேவனுடைய பலவீனம் எனப்படுவது மனிதர்களுடைய பலத்திலும் அதிக பலமாக இருக்கிறது. ²⁶ எப்படியென்றால், சகோதரர்களே, நீங்கள் அழைக்கப்பட்ட அழைப்பைப் பாருங்கள்; மனிதர் பார்வையில் ஞானிகள் அநேகர் இல்லை, வல்லவர்கள் அநேகர் இல்லை, பிரபுக்கள் அநேகர் இல்லை. ²⁷ ஞானிகளை வெட்கப்படுத்தும்படி தேவன் உலகத்தில் பைத்தியமானவைகளைத் தெரிந்துகொண்டார்;

பலமுள்ளவைகளை வெட்கப்படுத்தும்படி தேவன் உலகத்தில் பலவீனமானவைகளைத் தெரிந்துகொண்டார். ²⁸ உள்ளவைகளை அவமாக்கும்படி, உலகத்தின் இழிவானவைகளையும், அற்பமாக எண்ணப்பட்டவைகளையும், இல்லாதவைகளையும் தேவன் தெரிந்துகொண்டார். ²⁹ மாம்சமான எவனும் தேவனுக்கு முன்பாகப் பெருமைபாராட்டாதபடிக்கு அப்படிச் செய்தார். ³⁰ அந்தப்படி, நீங்கள் அவராலே கிறிஸ்து இயேசுவிற்குட்பட்டிருக்கிறீர்கள். எழுதியிருக்கிறபடி, மேன்மைபாராட்டுகிறவன் கர்த்தரைக்குறித்தே மேன்மைபாராட்டத்தக்கதாக, ³¹ அவரே தேவனால் நமக்கு ஞானமும் நீதியும் பரிசுத்தமும் மீட்புமானார்.

அத்தியாயம்- 2

¹ சகோதரர்களே, நான் உங்களிடம் வந்தபோது, தேவனைப்பற்றிய சாட்சியைச் சிறந்த பேச்சுத் திறமையோடாவது ஞானத்தோடாவது அறிவிக்கிறவனாக வரவில்லை. ² நான் உங்களோடு இருக்கும்போது சிலுவையில் அறையப்பட்ட இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவைத்தவிர, வேறொன்றையும் அறியாதிருக்கத் தீர்மானித்திருந்தேன். ³ அல்லாமலும் நான் பலவீனத்தோடும் பயத்தோடும் மிகுந்த நடுக்கத்தோடும் உங்களிடம் இருந்தேன். ⁴ உங்களுடைய விசுவாசம் மனிதர்களுடைய ஞானத்தில் அல்ல, தேவனுடைய பெலத்தில் நிற்கும்படிக்கு, ⁵ என் பேச்சும் என் பிரசங்கமும் மனித ஞானத்திற்குரிய நயவசனமுள்ளதாக இல்லாமல், பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவராலும், பெலத்தினாலும் உறுதிப்படுத்தப்பட்டதாக இருந்தது.

⁶ அப்படியிருந்தும், தேறினவர்களுக்குள்ளே ஞானத்தைப் பேசுகிறோம்; இந்த உலகத்தின் ஞானத்தையல்ல, அழிந்து போகிறவர்களாகிய இந்த உலகத்தின் பிரபுக்களுடைய ஞானத்தையுமல்ல, ⁷ உலகத்தோற்றத்திற்கு முன்னே தேவன் நம்முடைய மகிமைக்காக ஏற்படுத்தினதும், மறைக்கப்பட்டதுமாக இருந்த இரகசியமான தேவஞானத்தையே பேசுகிறோம். ⁸ அதை இந்த உலகத்துப் பிரபுக்களில் ஒருவனும் அறியவில்லை; அறிந்தார்களானால், மகிமையின் கர்த்தரை அவர்கள் சிலுவையில் அறையமாட்டார்களே. ⁹ எழுதியிருக்கிறபடி: தேவன் தம்மேல் அன்பு செலுத்துகிறவர்களுக்கு ஆயத்தம் செய்தவைகளைக் கண் காணவும் இல்லை, காது கேட்கவும் இல்லை, அவைகள் மனிதனுடைய இருதயத்தில் தோன்றவும் இல்லை; ¹⁰ நமக்கோ தேவன் அவைகளைத் தமது ஆவியானவராலே வெளிப்படுத்தினார்; அந்த ஆவியானவர் எல்லாவற்றையும், தேவனுடைய ஆழமான காரியங்களையும் ஆராய்ந்திருக்கிறார். ¹¹ மனிதனிலுள்ள ஆவியேதவிர மனிதர்களில் எவன் மனிதனுக்குரியவைகளை அறிவான்? அதைப்போல, தேவ ஆவியானவரைத்தவிர, ஒருவனும் தேவனுக்குரியவைகளை அறியமாட்டான். ¹² நாங்களோ உலகத்தின் ஆவியைப் பெறாமல், தேவனால் எங்களுக்கு அருளப்பட்டவைகளை அறியும்படிக்கு தேவனிடத்திலிருந்து புறப்படுகிற ஆவியானவரையே பெற்றோம். ¹³ அவைகளை நாங்கள் மனிதஞானம் போதிக்கிற வார்த்தைகளாலே பேசாமல், பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவர் போதிக்கிற வார்த்தைகளாலே பேசி, ஆவியானவருக்குரியவைகளை ஆவியானவருக்குரியவைகளோடு சம்பந்தப்படுத்திக் காண்பிக்கிறோம். ¹⁴ ஜென்ம சபாவமான மனிதனோ தேவ ஆவியானவருக்குரியவைகளை ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளான்; அவைகள் அவனுக்குப் பைத்தியமாகத் தோன்றும்; அவைகள் ஆவிக் கேற்றபடி ஆராய்ந்து நிதானிக்கப்படுகிறவைகளானதால், அவைகளை அறியவும் மாட்டான். ¹⁵ ஆவியானவருக்குரியவன் எல்லாவற்றையும் ஆராய்ந்து நிதானிக்கிறான்; ஆனாலும் அவன் மற்றொருவனாலும் ஆராய்ந்து நிதானிக்கப்படான். ¹⁶ கர்த்தருக்குப் போதிக்கத்தக்கதாக அவருடைய சிந்தையை அறிந்தவன் யார்? எங்களுக்கோ கிறிஸ்துவின் சிந்தை உண்டாயிருக்கிறது.

அத்தியாயம்- 3

¹ மேலும், சகோதரர்களே, நான் உங்களை ஆவியானவருக்குரியவர்கள் என்று நினைத்து உங்களோடு பேசாமல், மாம்சத்திற்குரியவர்களென்றும், கிறிஸ்துவிடமிருள் குழந்தைகளென்றும் நினைத்துப் பேசவேண்டியதாக இருக்கிறது. ² நீங்கள் பெலன் இல்லாதவர்களானதால், உங்களுக்கு உணவு கொடுக்காமல், பாலைக் குடிக்கக்கொடுத்தேன்; இன்னமும் நீங்கள் சரீரத்திற்குரியவர்களாக இருக்கிறபடியால், இப்பொழுதும் உங்களுக்குப் பெலனில்லை. ³ பொறாமையும் வாக்குவாதமும் வேறுபாடுகளும் உங்களுக்குள் இருக்கிறபடியால், நீங்கள் மாம்சத்திற்குரியவர்களாக இருந்து மனித வழிமுறையில் நடக்கிறீர்களல்லவா? ⁴ ஒருவன் நான் பவுலைச் சேர்ந்தவனென்றும், மற்றொருவன் நான் அப்பொல்லோவைச் சேர்ந்தவனென்றும் சொல்லுகிறபடியால் நீங்கள் சரீரத்திற்குரியவர்களல்லவா? ⁵ பவுல் யார்? அப்பொல்லோ யார்? கர்த்தர் அவனவனுக்கு கிருபை அளித்தபடியே நீங்கள் விசுவாசிக்கிறதற்கு காரணமாக இருந்த ஊழியக்காரர்கள்தானே. ⁶ நான் நடேன், அப்பொல்லோ தண்ணீர்ப் பாய்ச்சினான், தேவனே விளையச்செய்தார். ⁷ அப்படியிருக்க, நடுகிறவனாலும் ஒன்றுமில்லை, தண்ணீர்ப் பாய்ச்சுகிறவனாலும் ஒன்றுமில்லை, விளையச்செய்கிற தேவனாலே எல்லாம் ஆகும். ⁸ மேலும் நடுகிறவனும் தண்ணீர்ப் பாய்ச்சுகிறவனும் ஒன்றாயிருக்கிறார்கள்; அவனவன் தன் தன் வேலைக்குத் தகுந்தபடி கூலியைப் பெறுவான். ⁹ நாங்கள் தேவனுக்கு உடன்வேலையாட்களாக இருக்கிறோம்; நீங்கள் தேவனுடைய பண்ணையும், தேவனுடைய மாளிகையுமாக இருக்கிறீர்கள். ¹⁰ எனக்கு அளிக்கப்பட்ட தேவகிருபையின்படியே புத்தியுள்ள சிற்ப ஆசாரியைப்போல அஸ்திபாரம் போட்டேன். வேறொருவன் அதின்மேல் கட்டுகிறான். அவனவன் தான் அதின்மேல் எப்படி கட்டுகிறான் என்று கவனமாக இருக்கவேண்டும். ¹¹ போடப்பட்டிருக்கிற அஸ்திபாரமாகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவை அல்லாமல் வேறு அஸ்திபாரத்தைப்போட ஒருவனாலும் முடியாது. ¹² ஒருவன் அந்த அஸ்திபாரத்தின்மேல் பொன், வெள்ளி, விலையேறப்பெற்ற கல், மரம், புல், வைக்கோல் ஆகிய இவைகளைக்கொண்டு கட்டினால், ¹³ அவனவனுடைய வேலைப்பாடு வெளிப்படும்; நியாயத்தீர்ப்பு நாளானது அதை வெளிப்படுத்தும். ஏனென்றால், அது அக்கினியினாலே வெளிப்படுத்தப்படும்; அவனவனுடைய வேலைப்பாடு எத்தன்மையுள்ளது என்று அக்கினியானது பரிசோதிக்கும். ¹⁴ அதின்மேல் ஒருவன் கட்டினது நிலைத்தால், அவன் கூலியைப் பெறுவான். ¹⁵ ஒருவன் கட்டினது வெந்துபோனால், அவன் நஷ்டமடைவான்; அவனோ இரட்சிக்கப்படுவான்; அதுவும் அக்கினியில் அகப்பட்டுத் தப்பினதுபோல இருக்கும்.

¹⁶ நீங்கள் தேவனுடைய ஆலயமாக இருக்கிறீர்களென்றும், தேவனுடைய ஆவியானவர் உங்களில் வாசமாக இருக்கிறாரென்றும் அறியாதிருக்கிறீர்களா? ¹⁷ ஒருவன் தேவனுடைய ஆலயத்தைக் கெடுத்தால், தேவன் அவனைக் கெடுப்பார்; தேவனுடைய ஆலயம் பரிசுத்தமாக இருக்கிறது; நீங்களே அந்த ஆலயம். ¹⁸ ஒருவனும் தன்னைத்தானே ஏமாற்றாமல் இருக்கட்டும்; இந்த உலகத்திலே உங்களில் ஒருவன் தன்னை ஞானியென்று நினைத்தால் அவன் ஞானியாகும்படிக்குப் பைத்தியக்காரனாகவேண்டும். ¹⁹ ஏனெனில், இந்த உலகத்தின் ஞானம் தேவனுக்கு முன்பாகப் பைத்தியமாக இருக்கிறது. அப்படியே, ஞானிகளை அவர்களுடைய தந்திரத்திலே பிடிக்கிறாரென்றும், ²⁰ ஞானிகளுடைய எண்ணங்கள் வீணாக இருக்கிறதென்று கர்த்தர் அறிந்திருக்கிறாரென்றும் எழுதியிருக்கிறது. ²¹ இப்படியிருக்க, ஒருவனும் மனிதர்களைக்குறித்து மேன்மைபாராட்டாமலிருப்பானாக; எல்லாம் உங்களுடையதே; ²² பவுலானாலும், அப்பொல்லோவானாலும், கேபாவானாலும், உலகமானாலும், ஜீவனானாலும் மரணமானாலும், நிகழ்காரியங்களானாலும், வரும்காரியங்களானாலும், எல்லாம் உங்களுடையது; ²³ நீங்கள் கிறிஸ்துவினுடையவர்கள்; கிறிஸ்து தேவனுடையவர்.

அத்தியாயம்- 4

¹ இப்படியாக, எந்த மனிதனும் எங்களைக் கிறிஸ்துவின் ஊழியக்காரன் என்றும், தேவனுடைய இரகசியங்களின் மேற்பார்வைக்காரர்களென்றும் நினைத்துக்கொள்ளவேண்டும். ² மேலும், மேற்பார்வைக்காரன் உண்மையுள்ளவன் என்று காணப்படுவது அவசியமாகும். ³ ஆனாலும் நான் உங்களாலேயாவது மனிதர்களுடைய நியாயநாளின் விசாரணையினாலோ தீர்ப்பைப்பெறுவது எனக்கு மிகவும் சாதாரண காரியமாக இருக்கிறது; நானும் என்னைக்குறித்துத் தீர்ப்புச்சொல்லுகிறதில்லை. ⁴ என்னிடத்தில் நான் எந்தவொரு குற்றத்தையும் அறியேன்; ஆனாலும் அதினாலே நான் நீதிமானாகிறதில்லை; என்னை நியாயம் விசாரிக்கிறவர் கர்த்தரே. ⁵ ஆதலால், கர்த்தர் வரும்வரைக்கும் நீங்கள் காலத்திற்குமுன்னே எதைக்குறித்தும் தீர்ப்புச்சொல்லாதிருங்கள்; இருளில் மறைந்திருக்கிறவைகளை அவர் வெளிப்படையாக்கி, இருதயங்களின் நோக்கங்களையும் வெளிப்படுத்துவார்; அப்பொழுது அவனவனுக்குரிய புகழ்ச்சி தேவனால் உண்டாகும். ⁶ சகோதரர்களே, எழுதப்பட்டதற்கு அதிகமாக நினைக்கவேண்டாமென்று நீங்கள் எங்களாலே கற்றுக்கொள்ளவும், ஒருவனும் ஒருவனிமித்தம் மற்றொருவனுக்கு விரோதமாக கர்வமடையாதிருக்கவும், நான் உங்கள்நிமித்தம் என்னையும் அப்பொல்லோவையும் ஆதாரமாக வைத்து, இவைகளை எழுதினேன். ⁷ அன்றியும் உன்னை சிறப்பானவனாகும்படி செய்கிறவர் யார்? உனக்கு உண்டாயிருக்கிறவைகளில் நீ பெற்றுக்கொள்ளாதது எது? நீ பெற்றுக்கொண்டவனானால் பெற்றுக்கொள்ளாதவன்போல ஏன் மேன்மைபாராட்டுகிறாய்? ⁸ இப்பொழுது திருப்தியடைந்திருக்கிறீர்களே, இப்பொழுது ஐசுவரியவான்களாக இருக்கிறீர்களே, எங்களையல்லாமல் ஆளுகிறீர்களே; நீங்கள் ஆளுகிறவர்களானால் நலமாக இருக்கும்; அப்பொழுது உங்களோடுகூட நாங்களும் ஆளுவோமே. ⁹ தேவன் அப்போஸ்தலர்களாகிய எங்களை மரணத்திற்குக் குறிக்கப்பட்டவர்கள்போலக் கடைசியானவர்களாகக் காணப்பட்டபண்ணினார் என்று தோன்றுகிறது; நாங்கள் உலகத்திற்கும் தூதர்களுக்கும் மனிதர்களுக்கும் வேடிக்கையானோம். ¹⁰ நாங்கள் கிறிஸ்துவினிமித்தம் பைத்தியக்காரர்கள், ஆனால் நீங்கள் கிறிஸ்துவில் புத்திசாலிகள்; நாங்கள் பலவீனமானவர்கள், ஆனால் நீங்கள் பலவான்கள்; நீங்கள் மேன்மையானவர்கள், ஆனால் நாங்கள் மேன்மையற்றவர்கள். ¹¹ இந்நேரம்வரைக்கும் பசியுள்ளவர்களும், தாகமுள்ளவர்களும், நிர்வாணிகளும், கொடூரமாக தாக்கப்பட்டவர்களும், தங்க இடம் இல்லாதவர்களுமாக இருக்கிறோம். ¹² எங்களுடைய கைகளினாலே வேலைசெய்து பாடுபடுகிறோம், சபிக்கப்படும்போது ஆசீர்வதிக்கிறோம், துன்பப்படும்போது சகிக்கிறோம். ¹³ நிந்திக்கப்படும்போது வேண்டிக்கொள்ளுகிறோம், இந்தநாள்வரை உலகத்தின் குப்பையைப்போலவும், எல்லோரும் துடைத்துப்போடுகிற அழுக்கைப்போலவும் ஆனோம். ¹⁴ உங்களை வெட்கப்படுத்தும்படிக்கு நான் இவைகளை எழுதவில்லை, நீங்கள் எனக்குப் பிரியமான பிள்ளைகளென்று உங்களுக்குப் புத்திசொல்லுகிறேன். ¹⁵ கிறிஸ்துவிற்குள் பத்தாயிரம் ஆசிரியர்கள் உங்களுக்கு இருந்தாலும், தகப்பன்மார்கள் அநேகர் உங்களுக்கு இல்லையே; கிறிஸ்து இயேசுவிற்குள் நற்செய்தியினால் நான் உங்களைப்பெற்றேன். ¹⁶ ஆகவே, என்னைப் பின்பற்றுகிறவர்களாக இருங்கள் என்று உங்களுக்குப் புத்திசொல்லுகிறேன். ¹⁷ இதினிமித்தமாக, எனக்குப் பிரியமும், கர்த்தருக்குள் உண்மையுமுள்ள என் குமாரனாகிய தீமோத்தேயுவை உங்களிடம் அனுப்பினேன்; நான் எங்கும் எந்தச் சபையிலும் போதித்துவருகிற பிரகாரம் கிறிஸ்துவிற்குள்ளான என் நடக்கைகளை அவன் உங்களுக்கு ரூபகப்படுத்துவான். ¹⁸ நான் உங்களிடத்திற்கு வருகிறதில்லை என்கிறதற்காகச் சிலர் இறுமாப்படைந்திருக்கிறார்கள். ¹⁹ ஆனாலும் கர்த்தருக்கு விருப்பமானால் நான் சீக்கிரமாக உங்களிடத்திற்கு வந்து, இறுமாப்படைந்திருக்கிறவர்களுடைய பேச்சை அல்ல, அவர்களுடைய பெலத்தையே அறிந்துகொள்வேன். ²⁰ தேவனுடைய ராஜ்யம் பேச்சிலே இல்லை, பெலத்திலே உண்டாயிருக்கிறது. ²¹ உங்களுக்கு என்ன வேண்டும்? நான் பிரம்போடு உங்களிடம் வரவேண்டுமோ? அல்லது அன்போடும் சாந்தமுள்ள ஆவியோடும் வரவேண்டுமோ?

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¹ உங்களுக்குள்ளே விபசாரம் உண்டென்று வெளிப்படையாக சொல்லப்படுகிறதே; ஒருவன் தன் தகப்பனுடைய மனைவியை வைத்துக்கொண்டிருக்கிறானே; அது அஞ்ஞானிகளுக்குள்ளும் சொல்லப்படாத விபசாரமாக இருக்கிறதே. ² இப்படிப்பட்டக் காரியத்தைச் செய்தவனை நீங்கள் உங்களைவிட்டு நீக்காமலும் துக்கப்படாமலும், இறுமாப்படைந்திருக்கிறீர்கள். ³ நான் சரீரத்தினாலே உங்களுக்குத் தூரமாக இருந்தும், ஆவியினாலே உங்களோடுகூட இருக்கிறவனாக, இப்படிச் செய்தவனைக்குறித்து நான் கூட இருக்கிறேன். ⁴ அப்படியே நீங்களும், என்னுடைய ஆவியும், நமது கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவின் அதிகாரத்தோடு கூடிவந்திருக்கும்போது, ⁵ அப்படிப்பட்டவனுடைய ஆவி கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவின் நாளிலே இரட்சிக்கப்படும்படி, மாம்சத்தின் அழிவுக்காக, நம்முடைய கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவின் நாமத்தினாலே அவனைச் சாத்தானுக்கு ஒப்புக்கொடுக்கவேண்டுமென்று தீர்ப்புச்செய்கிறேன். ⁶ நீங்கள் மேன்மைபாராட்டுகிறது நல்லதல்ல; கொஞ்சம் புளித்த மாவு பிசைந்த மாவு முழுவதையும் புளிப்பாக்குமென்று உங்களுக்குத் தெரியாதா? ⁷ ஆகவே, நீங்கள் புளிப்பில்லாதவர்களாக இருக்கிறபடியே, புதிதாகப் பிசைந்த மாவாக இருக்கும்படிக்கு, பழைய புளித்த மாவை வெளியே தூக்கிப்போடுங்கள். ஏனென்றால், நம்முடைய பஸ்கா ஆட்டுக்குட்டியாகிய கிறிஸ்து நமக்காக பலியிடப்பட்டிருக்கிறாரே. ⁸ ஆதலால் துர்க்குணம் பொல்லாப்பு என்னும் பழைய புளித்தமாவோடு அல்ல, பரிசுத்தம் உண்மை என்னும் புளிப்பில்லாத அப்பத்தோடு பண்டிகையை அனுசரிக்கக்கூடவோம். ⁹ விபசாரக்காரர்களோடு கலந்திருக்கக்கூடாதென்று கடிதத்தில் உங்களுக்கு எழுதினேன். ¹⁰ ஆனாலும், இந்த உலகத்திலுள்ள விபசாரக்காரர்கள், பொருளாசைக்காரர்கள், கொள்ளைக்காரர்கள், விக்கிரக ஆராதனைக்காரர்கள் இவர்களோடு கொஞ்சம்கூட கலந்திருக்கக்கூடாது என்று நான் எழுதவில்லை; அப்படியானால் நீங்கள் உலகத்தைவிட்டுப் போகவேண்டியதாயிருக்குமே. ¹¹ நான் உங்களுக்கு எழுதினது என்னவென்றால், சகோதரன் என்னப்பட்ட ஒருவன் விபசாரக்காரனாகவோ, பொருளாசைக்காரனாகவோ, விக்கிரக ஆராதனைக்காரனாகவோ, தூஷிக்கிறவனாகவோ, குடிவெறியனாகவோ, கொள்ளைக்காரனாகவோ இருந்தால், அவனோடுகூட கலந்திருக்கக்கூடாது; அப்படிப்பட்டவனோடுகூட உண்ணவும் கூடாது. ¹² சபைக்கு வெளியே இருக்கிறவர்களைக்குறித்துத் தீர்ப்புச்செய்கிறது என் வேலையா? சபைக்குள்ளே இருக்கிறவர்களையல்லவோ நீங்கள் தீர்ப்புச்செய்கிறீர்கள்? ¹³ வெளியே இருக்கிறவர்களைக்குறித்து தேவனே தீர்ப்புச்செய்வார். ஆகவே, அந்தப் பொல்லாதவனை உங்களைவிட்டு விலக்குங்கள்.

அத்தியாயம்- 6

¹ உங்களில் ஒருவனுக்கு வேறொருவனோடு வழக்குண்டானால், வழக்காடும்படி அவன் பரிசுத்தவான்களிடம் போகாமல், அநியாயக்காரர்களிடம் போகத் துணிகிறதென்ன? ² பரிசுத்தவான்கள் உலகத்தை நியாயந்தீர்ப்பார்களென்று உங்களுக்குத் தெரியாதா? உலகம் உங்களால் நியாயந்தீர்க்கப்படுவதாயிருக்க, சாதாரண வழக்குகளைத் தீர்க்க நீங்கள் தகுதியற்றவர்களா? ³ நாம் தேவதூதர்களையும் நியாயந்தீர்ப்போமென்று உங்களுக்குத் தெரியாதா? அப்படியிருக்க, இந்த வாழ்க்கைக்குரியவைகளை நீங்கள் நியாயந்தீர்த்துக்கொள்ளமுடியாதிருக்கிறது எப்படி? ⁴ இந்த வாழ்க்கைக்குரிய வழக்குகள் உங்களுக்கு இருந்தால், தீர்ப்புச்செய்கிறதற்கு, சபையில் சாதாரணமாக எண்ணப்பட்டவர்களை நியமித்துக்கொள்ளுங்கள். ⁵ உங்களுக்கு வெட்கம் உண்டாகும்படி இதைச் சொல்லுகிறேன். சகோதரனுக்கும் சகோதரனுக்கும் உண்டான வழக்கைத் தீர்க்கத்தக்க பகுத்தறிவு உள்ளவன் ஒருவன் கூட உங்களுக்குள் இல்லையா? ⁶ சகோதரனோடு சகோதரன் வழக்காடுகிறான், அவிசுவாசிகளுக்கு முன்பாகவும் அப்படிச்செய்கிறான். ⁷ நீங்கள் ஒருவரோடொருவர் வழக்காடுகிறது எல்லாவிதத்திலும் குற்றமாக இருக்கிறது. அப்படிச் செய்கிறதைவிட நீங்கள் ஏன் அநியாயத்தைச் சகித்துக்கொள்ளுகிறதில்லை, ஏன் நஷ்டத்தைப் பொறுத்துக்கொள்ளுகிறதில்லை? ⁸ நீங்களே அநியாயஞ்செய்கிறீர்கள், நஷ்டப்படுத்துகிறீர்கள்; உங்கள் சகோதரர்களுக்கும் அப்படிச் செய்கிறீர்களே. ⁹ அநியாயக்காரர்கள் தேவனுடைய ராஜ்யத்தைச் சுதந்தரிப்பதில்லை என்று உங்களுக்குத் தெரியாதா? ஏமாற்றப்படாமலிருங்கள்; வேசிமார்க்கத்தார்களும், விக்கிரக ஆராதனைக்காரர்களும், விபசாரக்காரர்களும், சுயபுணர்ச்சிக்காரர்களும், ஆண்புணர்ச்சிக்காரர்களும், ¹⁰ திருடர்களும், பொருளாசைக்காரர்களும், வெறியர்களும், உதாசினக்காரர்களும், கொள்ளைக்காரர்களும் தேவனுடைய ராஜ்யத்தைச் சுதந்தரிப்பதில்லை. ¹¹ உங்களில் சிலர் இப்படிப்பட்டவர்களாக இருந்தீர்கள்; ஆனாலும் கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுவின் நாமத்தினாலும், நமது தேவ ஆவியானவராலும் கழுவப்பட்டீர்கள், பரிசுத்தமாக்கப்பட்டீர்கள், நீதிமான்களாக்கப்பட்டீர்கள்.

¹² எல்லாவற்றையும் அநுபவிக்க எனக்கு அதிகாரம் உண்டு, ஆனாலும் எல்லாம் தகுதியாக இருக்காது; எல்லாவற்றையும் அநுபவிக்க எனக்கு அதிகாரம் உண்டு, ஆனாலும் நான் ஒன்றிற்கும் அடிமைப்படமாட்டேன். ¹³ வயிற்றுக்கு உணவும், உணவிற்கு வயிறும் ஏற்கும்; ஆனாலும் தேவன் இதையும் அதையும் அழியச்செய்வார். சரீரமோ வேசித்தனத்திற்கு அல்ல, கர்த்தருக்கே உரியது; கர்த்தர் சரீரத்திற்குரியவைகளைத் தந்தருளுவார். ¹⁴ தேவன் கர்த்தரை எழுப்பினாரே, நம்மையும் தமது வல்லமையினாலே எழுப்புவார். ¹⁵ உங்களுடைய சரீரங்கள் கிறிஸ்துவின் அவயவங்களென்று உங்களுக்குத் தெரியாதா? அப்படியிருக்க, நான் கிறிஸ்துவின் அவயவங்களை வேசியின் அவயவங்களாக்கலாமா? அப்படிச் செய்யக்கூடாதே. ¹⁶ வேசியோடு இணைந்திருக்கிறவன் அவளுடனே ஒரே சரீரமாக இருக்கிறானென்று உங்களுக்குத் தெரியாதா? இருவரும் ஒரே மாம்சமாக இருப்பார்கள் என்று சொல்லியிருக்கிறதே. ¹⁷ அப்படியே கர்த்தரோடு இணைந்திருக்கிறவனும், அவருடனே ஒரே ஆவியாக இருக்கிறான். ¹⁸ வேசித்தனத்திற்கு விலகி ஓடுங்கள். மனிதன் செய்கிற எந்தப் பாவமும் சரீரத்திற்கு வெளியே இருக்கும்; வேசித்தனம் செய்கிறவனோ தன் சொந்த சரீரத்திற்கு விரோதமாகப் பாவம் செய்கிறான். ¹⁹ உங்களுடைய சரீரமானது நீங்கள் தேவனாலே பெற்றும் உங்களில் தங்கியும் இருக்கிற பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவருடைய ஆலயமாக இருக்கிறதென்றும், நீங்கள் உங்களுடையவர்கள் அல்லவென்றும் உங்களுக்குத் தெரியாதா? ²⁰ விலைக்கு வாங்கப்பட்டீர்களே; ஆகவே, தேவனுக்கு உடையவைகளாகிய உங்களுடைய சரீரத்தினாலும் உங்களுடைய ஆவியினாலும் தேவனை மகிமைப்படுத்துங்கள்.

அத்தியாயம்- 7

¹ நீங்கள் எனக்கு எழுதின காரியங்களைக்குறித்து நான் எழுதுகிறது என்னவென்றால், பெண்ணைத் தொடாமலிருக்கிறது மனிதனுக்கு நல்லது. ² ஆனாலும் வேசித்தனம் இல்லாதபடிக்கு அவனவன் தன் சொந்த மனைவியையும், அவளவள் தன் சொந்த கணவனையும் உடையவர்களாக இருக்கவேண்டும். ³ கணவன் தன் மனைவிக்குச் செய்யவேண்டிய கடமையைச் செய்யவேண்டும்; அப்படியே மனைவியும் தன் கணவனுக்குச் செய்யவேண்டும். ⁴ மனைவியானவள் தன் சொந்த சரீரத்திற்கு அதிகாரியல்ல, கணவனே அதற்கு அதிகாரி; அப்படியே கணவனும் தன் சொந்த சரீரத்திற்கு அதிகாரியல்ல, மனைவியே அதற்கு அதிகாரி. ⁵ உபவாசத்திற்கும் ஜெபத்திற்கும் தடையில்லாதபடிக்கு இருவரும் சிலகாலம் பிரிந்திருக்கவேண்டுமென்று சம்மதித்தாலன்றி, ஒருவரைவிட்டு ஒருவர் பிரியாமல் இருங்கள்; உங்களுக்கு சுயக்கட்டுப்பாடு இல்லாததினால் சாத்தான் உங்களை சோதிக்காதபடிக்கு, மறுபடியும் இணைந்துவாழ்ங்கள். ⁶ இதை நான் கட்டளையாகச் சொல்லாமல், ஆலோசனையாகச் சொல்லுகிறேன். ⁷ எல்லா மனிதர்களும் என்னைப்போலவே இருக்க விரும்புகிறேன். ஆனாலும் அவனவனுக்கு தேவனால் கொடுக்கப்பட்ட அவனவனுக்குரிய வரம் உண்டு; அது ஒருவனுக்கு ஒருவிதமாகவும், மற்றொருவனுக்கு வேறுவிதமாகவும் இருக்கிறது. ⁸ திருமணம் செய்யாதவர்களையும், விதவை பெண்களையும் குறித்து நான் சொல்லுகிறது என்னவென்றால், அவர்கள் என்னைப்போல இருந்துவிட்டால் அவர்களுக்கு நலமாக இருக்கும். ⁹ ஆனாலும் அவர்கள் சுயக்கட்டுப்பாடு இல்லாதிருந்தால் திருமணம்செய்துகொள்ளக்கூடவர்கள்; வேகிறதைவிட திருமணம்செய்கிறது நல்லது. ¹⁰ திருமணம்செய்துகொண்டவர்களுக்கு நானல்ல, கர்த்தரே கட்டளையிடுகிறதாவது: மனைவியானவள் தன் கணவனைவிட்டுப் பிரிந்துபோகக்கூடாது. ¹¹ பிரிந்துபோனால் அவள் திருமணம் செய்யாதிருக்கவேண்டும், அல்லது கணவனோடு சமாதானமாகவேண்டும்; கணவனும் தன் மனைவியை விவாகரத்து செய்யக்கூடாது. ¹² மற்றவர்களைக்குறித்து கர்த்தர் அல்ல, நானே சொல்லுகிறதாவது: ஒரு சகோதரனுடைய மனைவி விசுவாசம் இல்லாதவளாக இருந்தும், அவனுடனே வாழ அவளுக்குச் சம்மதமிருந்தால், அவன் அவளை விவாகரத்து செய்யாமலிருக்கவேண்டும். ¹³ அப்படியே ஒரு பெண்ணுடைய கணவன் விசுவாசம் இல்லாமலிருந்தும், அவளுடனே இணைந்து வாழ அவனுக்குச் சம்மதமிருந்தால், அவன் அவளை விவாகரத்து செய்யாமலிருக்கவேண்டும். ¹⁴ ஏனென்றால், விசுவாசம் இல்லாத கணவன் தன் மனைவியால் பரிசுத்தமாக்கப்படுகிறான்; விசுவாசம் இல்லாத மனைவியும் தன் கணவனால் பரிசுத்தமாக்கப்படுகிறாள். இல்லாவிட்டால் உங்களுடைய பிள்ளைகள் அசுத்தமாக இருக்குமே; இப்பொழுதோ அவர்கள் பரிசுத்தமாக இருக்கிறார்கள். ¹⁵ ஆனாலும், விசுவாசம் இல்லாதவர் பிரிந்துபோனால் பிரிந்துபோகட்டும், இப்படிப்பட்ட விஷயத்தில் சகோதரனாவது சகோதரியாவது அடிமைப்பட்டவர்கள் இல்லை. சமாதானமாக இருக்கும்படிக்கே தேவன் நம்மை அழைத்திருக்கிறார். ¹⁶ மனைவியானவளே, நீ உன் கணவனை இரட்சிப்பாயோ இல்லையோ உனக்கு எப்படித் தெரியும்? கணவனே, நீ உன் மனைவியை இரட்சிப்பாயோ இல்லையோ உனக்கு எப்படித் தெரியும்? ¹⁷ தேவன் அவனவனுக்குப் பங்களித்தது எப்படியோ, கர்த்தர் அவனவனை அழைத்ததெப்படியோ, அப்படியே அவனவன் நடக்கவேண்டும். எல்லாச் சபைகளிலேயும் இப்படியே திட்டம் செய்கிறேன். ¹⁸ ஒருவன் விருத்தசேதனம் பெற்றவனாக அழைக்கப்பட்டிருந்தால், விருத்தசேதனம் இல்லாதவனாக இருக்க வகைதேடானாக; ஒருவன் விருத்தசேதனம் இல்லாதவனாக அழைக்கப்பட்டிருந்தால், விருத்தசேதனம் பெறாதிருப்பானாக. ¹⁹ விருத்தசேதனமும் ஒன்றுமில்லை, விருத்தசேதனம் இல்லாமையும் ஒன்றுமில்லை; தேவனுடைய கட்டளைகளைக் கைக்கொள்ளுகிறதே முக்கியமான காரியம். ²⁰ அவனவன் தான் அழைக்கப்பட்ட நிலைமையிலே நிலைத்திருக்கவேண்டும். ²¹ அடிமையாக நீ அழைக்கப்பட்டிருந்தால், கவலைப்படாதே; நீ விடுதலையாக முடியுமானால், அதை செய். ²² கர்த்தருக்குள் அழைக்கப்பட்ட அடிமையானவன் கர்த்தருடைய விடுதலைபெற்றவனாக இருக்கிறான்; அப்படியே விசுவாசிக்கும்படி அழைக்கப்பட்ட விடுதலைபெற்றவன் கிறிஸ்துவினுடைய அடிமையாக இருக்கிறான். ²³ நீங்கள் விலைக்கு வாங்கப்பட்டீர்கள்; மனிதர்களுக்கு அடிமைகளாகாமல் இருங்கள். ²⁴ சகோதரர்களே, அவனவன் தான் அழைக்கப்பட்ட நிலைமையிலே தேவனுக்குமுன்பாக நிலைத்திருக்கவேண்டும். ²⁵ அன்றியும் கன்னிகைகளைக்குறித்து, கர்த்தரால் எனக்குக் கட்டளை இல்லை. ஆனாலும் நான் உண்மையுள்ளவனாக இருக்கிறதற்குக் கர்த்தரால் இரக்கம் பெற்று, என் கருத்தைத் தெரியப்படுத்துகிறேன். ²⁶ அது என்னவென்றால், இப்பொழுது உண்டாயிருக்கிற துன்பத்தினிமித்தம் திருமணம் இல்லாமலிருக்கிறது மனிதனுக்கு நலமாக இருக்குமென்று நினைக்கிறேன். ²⁷ நீ மனைவியோடு இணைக்கப்பட்டிருந்தால், பிரிந்துபோக வகைதேடாதே; நீ மனைவி இல்லாதவனாக இருந்தால், மனைவியைத் தேடாதே. ²⁸ நீ திருமணம் செய்தாலும் பாவமல்ல; கன்னிகை திருமணம் செய்தாலும் பாவமல்ல. ஆனாலும் அப்படிப்பட்டவர்கள் சரீரத்திலே துன்பப்படுவார்கள்; அதற்கு நீங்கள் தப்பவேண்டும் என்று விரும்புகிறேன். ²⁹ மேலும், சகோதரர்களே, நான் சொல்லுகிறது என்னவென்றால்,

இனிவரும் காலம் குறுகினதானபடியால், மனைவிகளுள்ளவர்கள் மனைவிகள் இல்லாதவர்கள்போலவும், ³⁰ அழுகிறவர்கள் அழாதவர்கள்போலவும், சந்தோஷப்படுகிறவர்கள் சந்தோஷப்படாதவர்கள்போலவும், வாங்குகிறவர்கள் வாங்காதவர்கள்போலவும், ³¹ இந்த உலகத்தை அனுபவிக்கிறவர்கள் அதைத் தகாதவிதமாக அனுபவிக்காதவர்கள்போலவும் இருக்கவேண்டும்; இந்த உலகத்தின் வேஷம் கடந்துபோகிறதே. ³² நீங்கள் கவலை இல்லாதவர்களாக இருக்கவிரும்புகிறேன். திருமணமில்லாதவன் கர்த்தருக்கு எப்படிப் பிரியமாக இருக்கலாமென்று, கர்த்தருக்குரியவைகளுக்காகக் கவலைப்படுகிறான். ³³ திருமணம் செய்தவன் தன் மனைவிக்கு எப்படிப் பிரியமாக இருக்கலாமென்று, உலகத்திற்குரியவைகளுக்காகக் கவலைப்படுகிறான். ³⁴ அதுபோல, மனைவியானவளுக்கும், கன்னிப்பெண்ணுக்கும் வித்தியாசமுண்டு. திருமணம் செய்யாதவன் சரீரத்திலும் ஆத்துமாவிலும் பரிசுத்தமாக இருக்கும்படி, கர்த்தருக்குரியவைகளுக்காகக் கவலைப்படுகிறான்; திருமணம் செய்தவன் தன் கணவனுக்கு எப்படிப் பிரியமாக இருக்கலாமென்று, உலகத்திற்குரியவைகளுக்காகக் கவலைப்படுகிறான். ³⁵ இதை நான் உங்களைக் கட்டுப்பாட்டுக்குள் அகப்படுத்தவேண்டுமென்று சொல்லாமல், உங்களுக்குத் தகுதியாக இருக்குமென்றும், நீங்கள் கவலையில்லாமல் கர்த்தரைச் சார்ந்துகொண்டிருக்கவேண்டுமென்றும், உங்களுடைய சொந்த பிரயோஜனத்துக்காகவே சொல்லுகிறேன். ³⁶ ஆனாலும் ஒருவன் தன் மகளின் கன்னிப்பருவம் கடந்துபோனதினாலே, அவள் திருமணம் செய்யாமலிருப்பது அவளுக்குத் தகுதியல்லவென்றும், அவள் திருமணம் செய்வது அவசியமென்றும் நினைத்தால், அவன் தன் மனதின்படி செய்யவேண்டும்; அது பாவமல்ல, திருமணம் செய்யட்டும். ³⁷ ஆனாலும் அதற்கு அவசியத்தைப் பார்க்காமல், தன் இருதயத்திலே உறுதியுள்ளவனாகவும், சொந்த விருப்பத்தின்படிசெய்ய அதிகாரம் உள்ளவனாகவும் இருந்து, தன் மகளின் கன்னிப்பருவத்தைக் காக்கவேண்டுமென்று தன் இருதயத்தில் முடிவுசெய்கிறவன் நன்மை செய்கிறான். ³⁸ இப்படியிருக்க, அவளைத் திருமணம்செய்துகொடுக்கிறவனும் நன்மை செய்கிறான்; கொடுக்காமலிருக்கிறவனும் அதிக நன்மை செய்கிறான். ³⁹ மனைவியானவள் தன் கணவன் உயிரோடிருக்கும் காலம்வரை திருமண உடன்பாட்டினால் இணைக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறாள்; தன் கணவன் இறந்தபின்பு தனக்கு விருப்பமானவனாகவும் கர்த்தருக்கு உட்பட்டவனாகவும் இருக்கிற யாரையாவது திருமணம் செய்துகொள்ள விடுதலையாக இருக்கிறான். ⁴⁰ ஆனாலும் என்னுடைய கருத்தின்படி அவள் அப்படியே இருந்துவிட்டால் பாக்கியவதியாக இருப்பாள். என்னிடத்திலும் தேவனுடைய ஆவியானவர் உண்டு என்று நினைக்கிறேன்.

அத்தியாயம்- 8

¹ விக்கிரகங்களுக்குப் படைக்கப்பட்டவைகளைக்குறித்த விஷயத்தில், நம்மெல்லோருக்கும் அறிவு உண்டென்று நமக்குத் தெரியுமே. அறிவு இறுமாப்பை உண்டாக்கும், அன்போ பக்திவளர்ச்சியை உண்டாக்கும். ² ஒருவன் தான் ஏதேனும் ஒன்றை அறிந்தவனென்று எண்ணிக்கொள்வானானால், ஒன்றையும் அறியவேண்டிய விதத்தில் அவன் இன்னும் அறியவில்லை. ³ தேவனிடம் அன்புசெலுத்துகிறவன் யாரோ, அவன் தேவனால் அறியப்பட்டிருக்கிறான். ⁴ விக்கிரகங்களுக்குப் படைக்கப்பட்டவைகளைச் சாப்பிடுகிற விஷயத்தைப்பற்றி, உலகத்திலே விக்கிரகமானது ஒன்றுமில்லையென்றும் ஒருவரேதவிர வேறொரு தேவன் இல்லையென்றும் அறிந்திருக்கிறோம். ⁵ வானத்திலேயும் பூமியிலேயும் தேவர்கள் எனப்படுகிறவர்கள் உண்டு; இப்படி அநேக தேவர்களும் அநேக ஆண்டவன்மார்களும் உண்டாயிருந்தாலும், ⁶ பிதாவாகிய ஒரே தேவன் நமக்கு உண்டு, அவராலே அனைத்தும் உண்டாயிருக்கிறது; அவருக்கென்று நாமும் உண்டாயிருக்கிறோம். இயேசுகிறிஸ்து என்னும் ஒரே கர்த்தரும் நமக்கு உண்டு; அவர் மூலமாக அனைத்தும் உண்டாயிருக்கிறது, அவர் மூலமாக நாமும் உண்டாயிருக்கிறோம். ⁷ ஆனாலும், இந்த அறிவு எல்லோரிடத்திலும் இல்லை. சிலர் இன்றையவரைக்கும் விக்கிரகத்தை ஒரு பொருளென்று எண்ணி, விக்கிரகத்திற்குப் படைக்கப்பட்டதைச் சாப்பிடுகிறார்கள்; அவர்களுடைய மனச்சாட்சி பலவீனமாக இருப்பதால் அசுத்தமாக்கப்படுகிறது. ⁸ உணவானது நம்மை தேவனுக்கு உகந்தவர்களாக்கமாட்டாது ஏனென்றால், சாப்பிடுவதினால் நமக்கு ஒரு மேன்மையும் இல்லை, சாப்பிடாமல் இருப்பதினால் நமக்கு ஒரு குறைவும் இல்லை. ⁹ ஆனாலும் இதைக்குறித்து உங்களுக்கு உண்டாயிருக்கிற அதிகாரம் எவ்விதத்திலும் பலவீனர்களுக்கு இடையூறு வராதபடிக்குப் பாருங்கள். ¹⁰ எப்படியென்றால், அறிவுள்ளவனாகிய நீ விக்கிரகக் கோவிலிலே சாப்பிடுவதை ஒருவன் பார்த்தால், பலவீனனாக இருக்கிற அவனுடைய மனச்சாட்சி விக்கிரகங்களுக்குப் படைக்கப்பட்டவைகளை சாப்பிடுவதற்குத் துணிவு கொள்ளாமல்லவா? ¹¹ பலவீனமுள்ள சகோதரன் உன் அறிவினிமித்தம் கெட்டுப்போகலாமா? அவனுக்காகக் கிறிஸ்து மரித்தாரே. ¹² இப்படிச் சகோதரர்களுக்கு விரோதமாகப் பாவம்செய்து, பலவீனமுள்ள அவர்களுடைய மனச்சாட்சியை வருத்தப்படுத்துகிறதினாலே, நீங்கள் கிறிஸ்துவிற்கு விரோதமாகப் பாவம் செய்கிறீர்கள். ¹³ ஆதலால் மாம்சம் சாப்பிடுவது என் சகோதரனுக்கு இடறல் உண்டாக்கினால், நான் என் சகோதரனுக்கு இடறல் உண்டாக்காதபடிக்கு, என்றைக்கும் மாம்சம் சாப்பிடாமல் இருப்பேன்.

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¹ நான் அப்போஸ்தலன் அல்லவா? நான் சுதந்திரவாளி அல்லவா? நம்முடைய கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவை நான் தரிசிக்கவில்லையா? கர்த்தருக்குள் நீங்கள் என் செயல்களாக இருக்கிறீர்களல்லவா? ² நான் மற்றவர்களுக்கு அப்போஸ்தலனாக இல்லாமற்போனாலும், உங்களுக்கல்லவோ அப்போஸ்தலனாக இருக்கிறேன்; கர்த்தருக்குள் நீங்கள் என் அப்போஸ்தல ஊழியத்திற்கு அடையாளமாக இருக்கிறீர்களே. ³ என்னை நியாயம் விசாரிக்கிறவர்களுக்கு நான் சொல்லுகிற மறுமொழி என்னவென்றால்: ⁴ புசிக்கவும் குடிக்கவும் எங்களுக்கு உரிமை இல்லையா? ⁵ மற்ற அப்போஸ்தலர்களும், கர்த்தருடைய சகோதரர்களும், கேபாவும் செய்கிறதுபோல, விசுவாசியாகிய ஒரு மனைவியை கூட்டிக்கொண்டுபோக எங்களுக்கு உரிமை இல்லையா? ⁶ அல்லது, கைத்தொழில் செய்யாமலிருக்க எனக்கும் பர்னபாவிற்கும்மட்டும்தானா உரிமை இல்லை? ⁷ எவன் தன் சொந்தப்பணத்தைச் செலவழித்து, இராணுவத்திலே சேவை செய்வான்? எவன் திராட்சைத்தோட்டத்தை உண்டாக்கி, அதின் கனியை சாப்பிடாமல் இருப்பான்? எவன் மந்தையை மேய்த்து, அதின் பாலைக் குடிக்காமல் இருப்பான்? ⁸ இவைகளை மனிதர்கள் வழக்கத்தின்படி சொல்லுகிறேனோ? நியாயப்பிரமாணமும் இவைகளைச் சொல்லுகிறதில்லையா? ⁹ போரடிக்கிற மாட்டின் வாயைக் கட்டாதே என்று மோசேயின் பிரமாணத்திலே எழுதியிருக்கிறதே. தேவன் மாடுகளுக்காகவே கவலையாக இருக்கிறாரோ? ¹⁰ நமக்காகத்தான் இதைச் சொல்லுகிறாரோ? உழுகிறவன் நம்பிக்கையோடு உழவும், போரடிக்கிறவன் தான் நம்புகிறதில் பங்கடைவேன் என்கிற நம்பிக்கையோடு போரடிக்கவும் வேண்டும். ஆகவே, அது நமக்காகவே எழுதியிருக்கிறது. ¹¹ நாங்கள் உங்களுக்கு ஆவியானவருக்குரிய நன்மைகளை விதைத்திருக்க, உங்களுடைய சரீர நன்மைகளை அறுத்தால் அது பெரிய காரியமா? ¹² மற்றவர்கள் உங்களிடத்திலே இந்த அதிகாரத்தைச் செலுத்தினால், அவர்களைவிட நாங்கள் அதிகமாகச் செலுத்தலாமல்லவா? அப்படியிருந்தும், கிறிஸ்துவின் நற்செய்திக்கு எந்தவொரு தடையும் உண்டாகாதபடிக்கு, நாங்கள் இந்த அதிகாரத்தைச் செலுத்தாமல் எல்லாப் பாடுகளும் படுகிறோம். ¹³ ஆசாரிய ஊழியம் செய்கிறவர்கள் தேவாலயத்தில் இருக்கிறவைகளிலிருந்து சாப்பிடுகிறார்கள் என்றும், பலிபீடத்தை அடுத்துப் பணிவிடை செய்கிறவர்களுக்கு பலிபீடத்தில் உள்ளவைகளில் பங்கு உண்டென்றும் உங்களுக்குத் தெரியாதா? ¹⁴ அந்தப்படியே நற்செய்தியை அறிவிக்கிறவர்களுக்கு நற்செய்தியினாலே பிழைப்பு உண்டாகவேண்டுமென்று கர்த்தரும் கட்டளையிட்டிருக்கிறார். ¹⁵ அப்படியிருந்தும், நான் இவைகளில் ஒன்றையும் அனுபவிக்கவில்லை; இப்படி எனக்கு நடக்கவேண்டுமென்று இவைகளை நான் எழுதுகிறதில்லை. என் மேன்மைப்பாராட்டுதலை ஒருவன் மனவேதனையாக்குகிறதைவிட நான் சாகிறது எனக்கு நலமாக இருக்கும். ¹⁶ நற்செய்தியை நான் பிரசங்கித்துவந்தும், மேன்மைப்பாராட்ட எனக்கு இடமில்லை; அது என்மேல் விழுந்த கடமையாக இருக்கிறது; நற்செய்தியை நான் பிரசங்கிக்காமல் இருந்தால், எனக்கு ஐயோ. ¹⁷ நான் உற்சாகமாக அப்படிச் செய்தால் எனக்குப் பலன் உண்டு; உற்சாகம் இல்லாதவனாகச் செய்தாலும், மேற்பார்வையாளர் பதவி எனக்கு ஒப்புவிக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறதே. ¹⁸ ஆதலால் எனக்குப் பலன் என்ன? நான் நற்செய்தியை பிரசங்கிக்கும்போது அதைப்பற்றி எனக்கு உண்டாயிருக்கிற அதிகாரத்தை முற்றிலும் செலுத்தாமல், கிறிஸ்துவின் நற்செய்தியைச் செலவில்லாமல் பிரசங்கிப்பதே எனக்குப் பலன். ¹⁹ நான் ஒருவருக்கும் அடிமைப்படாதவனாக இருந்தும், நான் அதிக மக்களை ஆதாயப்படுத்திக்கொள்ளும்படிக்கு, என்னைத்தானே எல்லோருக்கும் அடிமையாக்கினேன். ²⁰ யூதர்களை ஆதாயப்படுத்திக்கொள்ளும்படிக்கு, யூதர்களுக்கு யூதனைப்போலவும், நியாயப்பிரமாணத்திற்குக் கீழ்ப்பட்டவர்களை ஆதாயப்படுத்திக்கொள்ளும்படிக்கு, நியாயப்பிரமாணத்திற்குக் கீழ்ப்பட்டவனைப்போலவும் ஆனேன். ²¹ நியாயப்பிரமாணம் இல்லாதவர்களை ஆதாயப்படுத்திக்கொள்ளும்படிக்கு அவர்களுக்கு நியாயப்பிரமாணம் இல்லாதவனைப்போலவும் ஆனேன். அப்படியிருந்தும், நான் தேவனுக்குமுன்பாக நியாயப்பிரமாணம் இல்லாதவனாக இல்லாமல், கிறிஸ்துவின் பிரமாணத்திற்கு உட்பட்டவனாக இருக்கிறேன். ²² பலவீனரை ஆதாயப்படுத்திக்கொள்ளும்படிக்குப் பலவீனருக்குப் பலவீனனைப்போலானேன்; எப்படியாவது சிலரை இரட்சிக்கும்படிக்கு நான் எல்லோருக்கும் எல்லாமானேன். ²³ நற்செய்தியின் ஆசீர்வாதங்களில் நான் உடன்பங்காளியாகும்படிக்கு, அதினிமித்தமே இப்படிச்செய்கிறேன். ²⁴ பந்தயப் பாதையில் ஓடுகிறவர்களெல்லோரும் ஓடுவார்கள்; ஆனாலும், ஒருவனே வெற்றியை பெறுவானென்று உங்களுக்குத் தெரியாதா? நீங்கள் பெற்றுக்கொள்ளத்தக்கதாக ஓடுங்கள். ²⁵ பந்தயத்திற்குப் போராடுகிற அனைவரும் எல்லாவற்றிலேயும் இச்சையடக்கமாக இருப்பார்கள். அவர்கள் அழிவுள்ள கிரீடத்தைப் பெறும்படிக்கு அப்படிச் செய்கிறார்கள், நாமோ அழிவில்லாத கிரீடத்தைப் பெறும்படிக்கு அப்படிச் செய்கிறோம். ²⁶ ஆதலால் நான் நிச்சயமில்லாதவனாக ஓடமாட்டேன்; ஆகாயத்தை அடிக்கிறவனாகச் சிலம்பம் பண்ணமாட்டேன். ²⁷ மற்றவர்களுக்குப் பிரசங்கம் செய்கிற நான்தானே ஆகாதவனாகப் போகாதபடிக்கு, என் சரீரத்தை ஓடுக்கி அடக்குகிறேன்.

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¹ இப்படியிருக்க, சகோதரர்களே, நீங்கள் எவைகளை அறியவேண்டுமென்று இருக்கிறேனென்றால்; நம்முடைய பிதாக்களெல்லோரும் மேகத்திற்குக் கீழே இருந்தார்கள், எல்லோரும், கடலின்வழியாக நடந்துவந்தார்கள். ² எல்லோரும் மோசேக்குள்ளாக மேகத்தினாலும் கடலினாலும் ஞானஸ்நானம் பெற்றார்கள். ³ எல்லோரும் ஒரே ஆவிக்குரிய ஆகாரத்தைச் சாப்பிட்டார்கள். ⁴ எல்லோரும் ஒரே ஆவிக்குரிய தண்ணீரைக் குடித்தார்கள். எப்படியென்றால், அவர்களோடுசுடச்சென்ற ஆவிக்குரிய கன்மலையின் தண்ணீரைக் குடித்தார்கள்; அந்தக் கன்மலை கிறிஸ்துவே. ⁵ அப்படியிருந்தும், அவர்களில் அதிகமானவர்களிடத்தில் தேவன் பிரியமாக இருக்கவில்லை; ஆகவே வனாந்திரத்திலே அவர்கள் அழிக்கப்பட்டார்கள். ⁶ அவர்கள் இச்சித்ததுபோல நாமும் தீங்கானவைகளை இச்சிக்காதபடிக்கு, இவைகள் நமக்கு அடையாளமாக இருக்கிறது. ⁷ மக்கள் உட்கார்ந்து உண்ணவும், குடிக்கவும், வேசித்தன எண்ணத்தோடு விளையாடவும் எழுந்திருந்தார்கள் என்று எழுதியிருக்கிறபடி, அவர்களில் சிலர் விக்கிரக ஆராதனைக்காரர்களானதுபோல நீங்களும் ஆகாதிருங்கள். ⁸ அவர்களில் சிலர் வேசித்தனம்செய்து, ஒரேநாளில் இருபத்து மூவாயிரம்பேர் இறந்துபோனார்கள்; அதுபோல நாமும் வேசித்தனம்செய்யாதிருப்போமாக. ⁹ அவர்களில் சிலர் கர்த்தரைச் சோதித்துப்பார்த்து, பாம்புகளால் அழிக்கப்பட்டார்கள்; அதுபோல நாமும் கிறிஸ்துவைச் சோதித்துப்பார்க்காமலிருப்போமாக. ¹⁰ அவர்களில் சிலர் முறுமுறுத்து, மரண தூதனாலே அழிக்கப்பட்டார்கள்; அதுபோல நீங்களும் முறுமுறுக்காமலிருங்கள். ¹¹ இவைகளெல்லாம் அடையாளங்களாக அவர்களுக்கு நடந்தது; உலகத்தின் முடிவு காலத்திலுள்ள நமக்கு எச்சரிப்பு உண்டாக்கும்படி எழுதப்பட்டும் இருக்கிறது. ¹² இப்படியிருக்க, தன்னை நிற்கிறவனென்று நினைக்கிறவன் விழாதபடிக்கு எச்சரிக்கையாக இருக்கவேண்டும். ¹³ மனிதர்களுக்குச் சம்பவிக்கிற சோதனையே அல்லாமல் வேறு சோதனை உங்களுக்குச் சம்பவிக்கவில்லை. தேவன் உண்மையுள்ளவராக இருக்கிறார்; உங்களுடைய பெலத்திற்கு மேலாக நீங்கள் சோதிக்கப்படுகிறதற்கு அவர் இடங்கொடுக்காமல், சோதனையைத் தாங்கத்தக்கதாக, சோதனையோடுசுட அதற்குத் தப்பிக்கொள்ளும்படியான வழியையும் உண்டாக்குவார்.

¹⁴ ஆகவே, எனக்குப் பிரியமானவர்களே, விக்கிரக ஆராதனைக்கு விலகி ஓடுங்கள். ¹⁵ உங்களைப் புத்திமான்களென்று நினைத்துப்பேசுகிறேன்; நான் சொல்லுகிறதை நீங்களே நிதானித்துப்பாருங்கள். ¹⁶ நாம் ஆசீர்வதிக்கிற ஆசீர்வாதத்தின் பாத்திரம் கிறிஸ்துவினுடைய இரத்தத்தின் ஐக்கியமாக இருக்கிறதல்லவா? நாம் பிடுகிற அப்பம் கிறிஸ்துவினுடைய சரீரத்தின் ஐக்கியமாக இருக்கிறதல்லவா? ¹⁷ அந்த ஒரே அப்பத்தில் நாமெல்லோரும் பங்குபெறுகிறபடியால், அநேகரான நாம் ஒரே அப்பமும் ஒரே சரீரமுமாக இருக்கிறோம். ¹⁸ மாம்சத்தின்படியான இஸ்ரவேலரைப் பாருங்கள்; பலிகளைச் சாப்பிடுகிறவர்கள் பலிபீடத்தோடு ஐக்கியமாக இருக்கிறார்களல்லவா? ¹⁹ இப்படியிருக்க, விக்கிரகம் ஒரு பொருளென்றும், விக்கிரகத்திற்குப் படைக்கப்பட்டது ஒரு பொருளென்றும் நான் சொல்லுகிறேனோ? ²⁰ பிறமார்க்கத்தார்கள் பலியிடுகிறவைகளை தேவனுக்கு இல்லை, பேய்களுக்கே பலியிடுகிறார்கள் என்று சொல்லுகிறேன்; நீங்கள் பேய்களோடு ஐக்கியமாக இருக்க எனக்கு மனதில்லை. ²¹ நீங்கள் கர்த்தருடைய பாத்திரத்திலும் பேய்களுடைய பாத்திரத்திலும் பானம்பண்ணக்கூடாதே; நீங்கள் கர்த்தருடைய உணவு பந்திக்கும் பேய்களுடைய உணவு பந்திக்கும் பங்குள்ளவர்களாக இருக்கக்கூடாதே. ²² நாம் கர்த்தருக்கு எரிச்சலைத் தூண்டலாமா? அவரைவிட நாம் பலவாண்களா?

²³ எல்லாவற்றையும் அநுபவிக்க எனக்கு அதிகாரம் உண்டு, ஆனாலும் எல்லாம் தகுதியாக இருக்காது; எல்லாவற்றையும் அநுபவிக்க எனக்கு அதிகாரம் உண்டு, ஆனாலும் எல்லாம் பக்திவளர்ச்சியை உண்டாக்காது. ²⁴ ஒவ்வொருவனும் தன் சொந்த ஆதாயத்தைத் தேடாமல், மற்றவர்களுடைய ஆதாயத்தைத் தேடவேண்டும். ²⁵ கடையிலே விற்கப்படுகிற எதையும் வாங்கிச்சாப்பிடுங்கள்; மனச்சாட்சியினிமித்தம் நீங்கள் ஒன்றையும் விசாரிக்கவேண்டியதில்லை. ²⁶ பூமியும் அதில் உள்ளவைகளும் கர்த்தருடையது. ²⁷ அன்றியும் விசுவாசம் இல்லாதவர்களில் ஒருவன் உங்களை விருந்துக்கு அழைக்கும்போது, போக உங்களுக்கு மனமிருந்தால், மனச்சாட்சியினிமித்தம் ஒன்றையும் விசாரிக்காமல், உங்கள்முன் வைக்கப்படுகிற எல்லாவற்றையும் சாப்பிடுங்கள். ²⁸ ஆனாலும் இது விக்கிரகங்களுக்குப் படைக்கப்பட்டதென்று ஒருவன் உங்களுக்குச் சொன்னால், அப்படி அறிவித்தவனிமித்தமும் மனச்சாட்சியினிமித்தமும் சாப்பிடாமலிருங்கள்; பூமியும் அதில் உள்ளவைகளும் கர்த்தருடையது. ²⁹ உன்னுடைய மனச்சாட்சியைக்குறித்து நான் இப்படிச் சொல்லாமல், மற்றொருவனுடைய மனச்சாட்சியைக்குறித்தே சொல்லுகிறேன். என் சுதந்திரம் மற்றொருவனுடைய மனச்சாட்சியினாலே குற்றமாக நினைக்கவேண்டியதென்ன? ³⁰ மேலும் நான் அதை நன்றியோடு அநுபவித்தால், நன்றிசெலுத்தி அநுபவிக்கிற பொருளைக்குறித்து நான் தூற்றப்படுவானேன்? ³¹ ஆகவே, நீங்கள், சாப்பிட்டாலும் குடித்தாலும், எதைச்செய்தாலும், எல்லாவற்றையும் தேவனுடைய

மகிமைக்கென்று செய்யுங்கள்.³² நான் என் சொந்தப் பிரயோஜனத்தைத் தேடாமல், அநேகருடைய பிரயோஜனத்தைத் தேடி, அவர்கள் இரட்சிக்கப்படும்படிக்கு, எவ்விதத்திலும் எல்லோருக்கும் பிரியமாக நடக்கிறதுபோல;³³ நீங்களும் யூதர்களுக்கும், கிரேக்கர்களுக்கும், தேவனுடைய சபைக்கும் இடறல் இல்லாதவர்களாக இருங்கள்.

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¹ நான் கிறிஸ்துவைப் பின்பற்றுகிறதுபோல, நீங்கள் என்னைப் பின்பற்றுகிறவர்களாக இருங்கள்.

² சகோதரர்களே, நீங்கள் எல்லாவற்றிலும் என்னை நினைத்துக்கொண்டு, நான் உங்களுக்கு ஒப்புவித்தபடி நீங்கள் கட்டளைகளைக் கைக்கொண்டு வருகிறதினால் உங்களைப் புகழுகிறேன். ³ ஒவ்வொரு ஆணுக்கும் கிறிஸ்து தலையாக இருக்கிறார் என்றும், பெண்ணுக்கு ஆண் தலையாக இருக்கிறார் என்றும், கிறிஸ்துவிற்கு தேவன் தலையாக இருக்கிறார் என்றும், நீங்கள் அறியவேண்டுமென்று விரும்புகிறேன். ⁴ ஜெபம் செய்கிறபோதாவது, தீர்க்கதரிசனம் சொல்லுகிறபோதாவது, தன் தலையை மூடிக்கொண்டிருக்கிற எந்த ஆணும் தன் தலையை அவமதிக்கிறான். ⁵ ஜெபம் செய்கிறபோதாவது, தீர்க்கதரிசனம் சொல்லுகிறபோதாவது, தன் தலையை மூடிக்கொள்ளாமலிருக்கிற எந்தப் பெண்ணும் தன் தலையை அவமதிக்கிறாள்; அது அவளுக்குத் தலை சிரைக்கப்பட்டதுபோல இருக்குமே. ⁶ பெண்ணானவள் முக்காடிட்டுக்கொள்ளாவிட்டால் தலைமுடியையும் கத்தரித்துப்போடவேண்டும்; தலைமுடி கத்தரிக்கப்படுகிறதும் சிரைக்கப்படுகிறதும் பெண்களுக்கு வெட்கமானால் முக்காடிட்டுக்கொள்ளவேண்டும். ⁷ ஆணானவன் தேவனுடைய சாயலும் மகிமையுமாக இருக்கிறபடியால், தன் தலையை மூடிக்கொள்ளவேண்டியதில்லை; பெண்ணானவள் ஆணுடைய மகிமையாக இருக்கிறாள். ⁸ ஆண் பெண்ணிலிருந்து தோன்றினவனல்ல, பெண்ணே ஆணிலிருந்து தோன்றினவள். ⁹ ஆண் பெண்ணுக்காகச் சிருஷ்டிக்கப்பட்டவனல்ல, பெண்ணே ஆணுக்காக சிருஷ்டிக்கப்பட்டவன். ¹⁰ ஆகவே, தூதர்களினிமித்தம் பெண்ணானவள் தலையின்மேல் முக்காடிட்டுக்கொள்ளவேண்டும். ¹¹ ஆனாலும் கர்த்தருக்குள் பெண்ணில்லாமல் ஆணுமில்லை, ஆணில்லாமல் பெண்ணுமில்லை. ¹² பெண்ணானவள் ஆணிலிருந்து தோன்றுகிறதுபோல, ஆணும் பெண்ணிலிருந்து தோன்றுகிறான்; அனைத்தும் தேவனால் உண்டாயிருக்கிறது. ¹³ பெண்ணானவள் தேவனை நோக்கி ஜெபம்செய்யும்போது, தன் தலையை மூடிக்கொள்ளாமலிருக்கிறது முறையாக இருக்குமோ என்று உங்களுக்குள்ளே தீர்மானித்துக்கொள்ளுங்கள். ¹⁴ ஆண் முடியை நீளமாக வளர்க்கிறது அவனுக்கு அவமானமாக இருக்கிறதென்றும், ¹⁵ பெண் தன் முடியை நீளமாக வளர்க்கிறது அவளுக்கு மகிமையாக இருக்கிறதென்றும் சுபாவமே உங்களுக்குப் போதிக்கிறதில்லையா? தலைமுடி அவளுக்கு முக்காடாகக் கொடுக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறதே. ¹⁶ ஆனாலும் ஒருவன் வாக்குவாதம்செய்ய மனதாயிருந்தால், எங்களுக்கும், தேவனுடைய சபைகளுக்கும் அப்படிப்பட்ட பழக்கம் இல்லையென்று அறியவேண்டும்.

¹⁷ உங்களைப் புகழாமல் இந்த விஷயத்தைக்குறித்து உங்களுக்குக் கட்டளைக் கொடுக்கிறேன்; நீங்கள் கூடிவருதல் நன்மைக்குரியதாக இல்லாமல், தீமைக்குரியதாக இருக்கிறதே. ¹⁸ முதலாவது, நீங்கள் சபையிலே கூடிவந்திருக்கும்போது, உங்களில் பிரிவினைகள் உண்டென்று, கேள்விப்படுகிறேன்; அதில் சிலவற்றை நம்புகிறேன். ¹⁹ உங்களில் உத்தமர்கள் எவர்களென்று தெரியும்படிக்கு வேறுபாடுகள் உங்களுக்குள்ளே உண்டாயிருக்கவேண்டியதே. ²⁰ நீங்கள் ஓரிடத்தில் கூடிவரும்போது, அவனவன் தன்தன் சொந்த போஜனத்தை முதலில் சாப்பிடுகிறான்; ஒருவன் பசியாக இருக்கிறான், ஒருவன் வெறியாக இருக்கிறான். ²¹ இப்படிச் செய்கிறது கர்த்தருடைய இராப்போஜனம்பண்ணுதல் இல்லையே. ²² சாப்பிடுகிறதற்கும், குடிக்கிறதற்கும் உங்களுக்கு வீடுகள் இல்லையா? தேவனுடைய சபையை அலட்சியம்செய்து, இல்லாதவர்களை வெட்கப்படுத்துகிறீர்களா? உங்களுக்கு நான் என்ன சொல்லவேன்? இதைக்குறித்து உங்களைப் புகழ்வேனோ? புகழ்மாட்டேன். ²³ நான் உங்களுக்கு ஒப்புவித்ததைக் கர்த்தரிடத்தில் பெற்றுக்கொண்டேன்; என்னவென்றால், கர்த்தராகிய இயேசு தாம் காட்டிக்கொடுக்கப்பட்ட அன்று இராத்திரியிலே அப்பத்தை எடுத்து, ²⁴ ஸ்தோத்திரம்பண்ணி, அதைப் பிட்டு: நீங்கள் வாங்கிப் புசியுங்கள், இது உங்களுக்காகப் பிடுக்கப்படுகிற என்னுடைய சரீரமாக இருக்கிறது; என்னை நினைவுகூரும்படி இதைச்செய்யுங்கள் என்றார். ²⁵ போஜனம்பண்ணினபின்பு, அவர் அந்தப்படியே பாத்திரத்தையும் எடுத்து: இந்தப் பாத்திரம் என் இரத்தத்தினாலாகிய புதிய உடன்படிக்கையாக இருக்கிறது; நீங்கள் இதைப் பானம்பண்ணும்போதெல்லாம் என்னை நினைவுகூரும்படி இதைச்செய்யுங்கள் என்றார். ²⁶ ஆகவே, நீங்கள் இந்த அப்பத்தைப் புசித்து, இந்தப் பாத்திரத்தில் பானம்பண்ணும்போதெல்லாம் கர்த்தர் வரும்வரைக்கும் அவருடைய மரணத்தைத் தெரிவிக்கிறீர்கள். ²⁷ இப்படியிருக்க, எவன் தகுதியின்றி கர்த்தருடைய அப்பத்தைப் புசித்து, அவருடைய பாத்திரத்தில் பானம்பண்ணுகிறானோ, அவன் கர்த்தருடைய சரீரத்தையும் இரத்தத்தையும் குறித்துக் குற்றமுள்ளவனாக இருப்பான். ²⁸ எந்த மனிதனும் தன்னைத்தானே சோதித்தறிந்து, இந்த அப்பத்தைப் புசித்து, இந்தப் பாத்திரத்தில் பானம்பண்ணவேண்டும். ²⁹ ஏனென்றால், தகுதியில்லாமல் புசித்து, பானம்பண்ணுகிறவன், கர்த்தருடைய சரீரம் என்னவென்று நிதானித்து அறியாததினால், தனக்கு

நியாயத்தீர்ப்பு வரும்படி புசிக்கவும், பானம்பண்ணவும் செய்கிறான். ³⁰ இதினிமித்தம், உங்களில் அநேகர் பலவீனரும் வியாதி உள்ளவர்களுமாக இருக்கிறார்கள்; அநேகர் மரணமும் அடைந்திருக்கிறார்கள். ³¹ நம்மைநாமே நிதானித்து அறிந்தால் நாம் நியாயந்தீர்க்கப்படமாட்டோம். ³² நாம் நியாயந்தீர்க்கப்படும்போது உலகத்தோடு தண்டனைக்குள்ளாகத் தீர்க்கப்படாதபடிக்கு, கர்த்தராலே சிட்சிக்கப்படுகிறோம். ³³ ஆகவே, என் சகோதரர்களே, நீங்கள் உணவு உண்ணக் கூடிவரும்போது, ஒருவருக்காக ஒருவர் காத்திருங்கள். ³⁴ நீங்கள் தண்டனைக்கு ஏதுவாகக் கூடிவராதபடிக்கு, ஒருவனுக்குப் பசியிருந்தால் வீட்டிலே சாப்பிடவேண்டும். மற்றக்காரியங்களை நான் வரும்போது திட்டமாக சொல்லுவேன்.

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¹ அன்றியும், சகோதரர்களே, ஆவியானவருக்குரிய வரங்களைக்குறித்து நீங்கள் அறியாமலிருக்க எனக்கு மனதில்லை. ² நீங்கள் தேவனை அறியாதவர்களாக இருந்தபோது ஏவப்பட்டபடியே, ஊமையான விக்கிரகங்களிடத்தில் மனதைச் செலுத்தினீர்களென்று உங்களுக்குத் தெரியுமே. ³ ஆதலால், தேவனுடைய ஆவியானவராலே பேசுகிற எவனும் இயேசுவைச் சபிக்கப்பட்டவன் என்று சொல்லமாட்டான் என்றும், பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவரைத்தவிர வேறு ஒருவனும் இயேசுவைக் கர்த்தரென்று சொல்லக்கூடாதென்றும், உங்களுக்குத் தெரிவிக்கிறேன். ⁴ வரங்களில் வித்தியாசங்கள் உண்டு, ஆவியானவர் ஒருவரே. ⁵ ஊழியங்களிலேயும் வித்தியாசங்கள் உண்டு, கர்த்தர் ஒருவரே. ⁶ கிரியைகளிலேயும் வித்தியாசங்கள் உண்டு, எல்லோருக்குள்ளும் எல்லாவற்றையும் நடப்பிக்கிற தேவன் ஒருவரே. ⁷ ஒவ்வொருவனுக்கும் அருளப்பட்ட ஆவியானவரின் வரங்கள் அனைவருடைய பிரயோஜனத்திற்கென்று அளிக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. ⁸ எப்படியென்றால், ஒருவனுக்கு ஆவியானவராலே ஞானத்தைப் போதிக்கும் வசனமும், வேறொருவனுக்கு அந்த ஆவியானவராலேயே அறிவை உணர்த்தும் வசனமும், ⁹ வேறொருவனுக்கு அந்த ஆவியானவராலேயே விசுவாசமும், வேறொருவனுக்கு அந்த ஆவியானவராலேயே குணமாக்கும் வரங்களும், ¹⁰ வேறொருவனுக்கு அற்புதங்களைச் செய்யும் சக்தியும், வேறொருவனுக்குத் தீர்க்கதரிசனம் உரைத்தலும், வேறொருவனுக்கு ஆவிகளைப் பகுத்தறிதலும், வேறொருவனுக்குப் பற்பல மொழிகளைப் பேசுதலும், வேறொருவனுக்கு மொழிகளை வியாக்கியானம் செய்தலும் அளிக்கப்படுகிறது. ¹¹ இவைகளையெல்லாம் அந்த ஒரே ஆவியானவர் நடப்பித்து, தமது விருப்பத்தின்படியே அவனவனுக்குப் பகிர்ந்துகொடுக்கிறார்.

¹² எப்படியென்றால், சரீரம் ஒன்று, அதற்கு உறுப்புகள் அநேகம்; ஒரே சரீரத்தின் உறுப்புகளெல்லாம் அநேகமாக இருந்தும், சரீரம் ஒன்றாகவே இருக்கிறது; அந்தப்பிரகாரமாகக் கிறிஸ்துவும் இருக்கிறார். ¹³ நாம் யூதர்களானாலும், கிரேக்கர்களானாலும், அடிமைகளானாலும், சுயாதீனர்களானாலும், எல்லோரும் ஒரே ஆவியானவராலே ஒரே சரீரத்திற்குள்ளாக ஞானஸ்நானம் செய்யப்பட்டு, எல்லோரும் ஒரே ஆவியானவருக்குள்ளாகவே தாகம் தீர்க்கப்பட்டோம். ¹⁴ சரீரமும் ஒரே உறுப்பாக இல்லாமல் அநேக உறுப்புகளாக இருக்கிறது. ¹⁵ காலானது நான் கையாக இல்லாதபடியினாலே, நான் சரீரத்தின் உறுப்பு இல்லையென்றால், அதினாலே அது சரீரத்தின் உறுப்பாக இருக்காதோ? ¹⁶ காதானது நான் கண்ணாக இல்லாதபடியினாலே, நான் சரீரத்தின் உறுப்பு இல்லையென்றால், அதினாலே அது சரீரத்தின் உறுப்பாக இருக்காதோ? ¹⁷ சரீரம் முழுவதும் கண்ணாக இருந்தால், கேட்கும் திறன் எங்கே? அது முழுவதும் காதாக இருந்தால், மோப்பம் செய்யும் திறன் எங்கே? ¹⁸ தேவன் தமது விருப்பத்தின்படி உறுப்புகள் ஒவ்வொன்றையும் சரீரத்திலே வைத்தார். ¹⁹ அவையெல்லாம் ஒரே உறுப்பாக இருந்தால், சரீரம் எங்கே? ²⁰ உறுப்புகள் அநேகமாக இருந்தும், சரீரம் ஒன்றே. ²¹ கண்ணானது கையைப்பார்த்து: நீ எனக்கு தேவையில்லையென்றும்; தலையானது கால்களைப் பார்த்து: நீங்கள் எனக்குத் தேவையில்லையென்றும் சொல்லமுடியாது. ²² சரீர உறுப்புகளில் பலவீனமுள்ளவைகளாகக் காணப்படுகிறவைகளே மிகவும் தேவையானவைகளாக இருக்கிறது. ²³ மேலும், சரீர உறுப்புகளில் கனவீனமாகக் காணப்படுகிறவைகளுக்கே அதிக கனத்தைக் கொடுக்கிறோம்; நம்மில் இலட்சணமில்லாதவைகளே அதிக அலங்காரம் பெறும்; ²⁴ நம்மில் இலட்சணமானவைகளுக்கு அலங்கரிப்பு தேவையில்லை. ²⁵ சரீரத்திலே பிரிவினை உண்டாகாமல், உறுப்புகள் ஒன்றைக்குறித்து ஒன்று கவலையாக இருக்கும்படிக்கு, தேவன் கனத்தில் குறைவுள்ளதற்கு அதிக கனத்தைக் கொடுத்து, இப்படிச் சரீரத்தை அமைத்திருக்கிறார். ²⁶ ஆதலால் ஒரு உறுப்பு பாடுபட்டால் எல்லா உறுப்புகளும் அதோடுசேர்ந்து பாடுபடும்; ஒரு உறுப்பு மகிமைப்பட்டால் எல்லா உறுப்புகளும் அதோடுசேர்ந்து சந்தோஷப்படும். ²⁷ நீங்களே கிறிஸ்துவின் சரீரமாகவும், தனித்தனியே உறுப்புகளாகவும் இருக்கிறீர்கள். ²⁸ தேவனானவர் சபையிலே முதலாவது அப்போஸ்தலர்களையும், இரண்டாவது தீர்க்கதரிசிகளையும், மூன்றாவது போதகர்களையும், பின்பு அற்புதங்களையும், பின்பு குணமாக்கும் வரங்களையும், உதவி செய்யும் ஊழியங்களையும், ஆளுகைகளையும், பலவித அந்நிய மொழிகளையும் ஏற்படுத்தினார். ²⁹ எல்லோரும் அப்போஸ்தலர்களா? எல்லோரும் தீர்க்கதரிசிகளா? எல்லோரும் போதகர்களா? எல்லோரும் அற்புதங்களைச் செய்கிறவர்களா? ³⁰ எல்லோரும் குணமாக்கும் வரங்களை உடையவர்களா? எல்லோரும் அந்நிய மொழிகளைப் பேசுகிறார்களா? எல்லோரும் வியாக்கியானம் செய்கிறார்களா? ³¹ இப்படியிருக்க, முக்கியமான வரங்களை விரும்புங்கள்; இன்னும் அதிக மேன்மையான வழியையும் உங்களுக்குக் காண்பிக்கிறேன்.

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¹ நான் மனிதர்களுடைய மொழிகளையும் தூதர்களுடைய மொழிகளையும் பேசினாலும், எனக்கு அன்பு இல்லையென்றால், சத்தமிடுகிற வெண்கலம்போலவும், ஓசையிடுகிற கைத்தாளம்போலவும் இருப்பேன். ² நான் தீர்க்கதரிசன வரத்தை உடையவனாக இருந்து, எல்லா இரகசியங்களையும், எல்லா அறிவையும் அறிந்தாலும், மலைகளைப் பெயர்க்கத்தக்கதாக விசுவாசமும் உள்ளவனாக இருந்தாலும், அன்பு இல்லையென்றால் நான் ஒன்றுமில்லை. ³ எனக்கு உண்டான எல்லாவற்றையும் நான் அன்னதானம் செய்தாலும், என் சரீரத்தைச் சுட்டெரிக்கப்படுவதற்குக் கொடுத்தாலும், அன்பு இல்லையென்றால் எனக்கு பயன் ஒன்றுமில்லை. ⁴ அன்பு நீடிய சாந்தமும் தயவுமுள்ளது; அன்புக்குப் பொறாமை இல்லை; அன்பு தன்னைப் புகழாது, இறுமாப்பாக இருக்காது, ⁵ அயோக்கியமானதைச் செய்யாது, தன்னலத்தைத் தேடாது, கோபமடையாது, தீங்கு நினைக்காது, ⁶ அநியாயத்தில் சந்தோஷப்படாமல், சத்தியத்தில் சந்தோஷப்படும். ⁷ எல்லாவற்றையும் தாங்கும், எல்லாவற்றையும் விசுவாசிக்கும், எல்லாவற்றையும் நம்பும், எல்லாவற்றையும் சகிக்கும். ⁸ அன்பு ஒருபோதும் ஒழியாது. தீர்க்கதரிசனங்களானாலும் ஒழிந்துபோகும், அந்நிய மொழிகளானாலும் ஓய்ந்துபோகும், அறிவானாலும் ஒழிந்துபோகும். ⁹ நம்முடைய அறிவு குறைவுள்ளது, நாம் தீர்க்கதரிசனம் சொல்லுதலும் குறைவுள்ளது. ¹⁰ நிறைவானது வரும்போது குறைவானது ஒழிந்துபோகும். ¹¹ நான் குழந்தையாக இருந்தபோது குழந்தையைப்போலப் பேசினேன், குழந்தையைப்போல சிந்தித்தேன், குழந்தையைப்போல யோசித்தேன்; நான் வாலிபனானபோதோ குழந்தைக்குரியவைகளை ஒழித்துவிட்டேன். ¹² இப்பொழுது கண்ணாடியிலே மங்கலான உருவத்தைப் பார்க்கிறோம், அப்பொழுது முகமுகமாகப் பார்ப்போம்; இப்பொழுது நான் குறைந்த அறிவுள்ளவன், அப்பொழுது நான் அறியப்பட்டிருக்கிறபடியே அறிந்துகொள்ளுவேன். ¹³ இப்பொழுது விசுவாசம், நம்பிக்கை, அன்பு இம்மூன்றும் நிலைத்திருக்கிறது; இவைகளில் அன்பே பெரியது.

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¹ அன்பை விரும்புங்கள்; ஆவியானவருக்குரிய வரங்களையும் விரும்புங்கள்; விசேஷமாகத் தீர்க்கதரிசனவரத்தை விரும்புங்கள். ² ஏனென்றால், அந்நிய மொழியில் பேசுகிறவன், ஆவியானவராலே இரகசியங்களைப் பேசினாலும், அவன் பேசுகிறதை ஒருவனும் அறியாமலிருக்கிறபடியினாலே, அவன் மனிதர்களிடம் பேசாமல், தேவனிடத்தில் பேசுகிறான். ³ தீர்க்கதரிசனம் சொல்லுகிறவனோ மனிதர்களுக்கு பக்திவளர்ச்சியும், புத்தியும், ஆறுதலும் உண்டாகத்தக்கதாகப் பேசுகிறான். ⁴ அந்நிய மொழியில் பேசுகிறவன் தனக்கே பக்திவளர்ச்சி உண்டாகப் பேசுகிறான்; தீர்க்கதரிசனம் சொல்லுகிறவனோ சபைக்கு பக்திவளர்ச்சி உண்டாகப்பேசுகிறான். ⁵ நீங்களெல்லோரும் அந்நிய மொழிகளைப் பேசும்படி விரும்புகிறேன்; ஆனாலும், அந்நிய மொழிகளில் பேசுகிறவன் சபைக்குப் பக்திவளர்ச்சி உண்டாகும்படிக்கு அர்த்தத்தையும் சொல்லாவிட்டால், தீர்க்கதரிசனம் சொல்லுகிறவன் அவனைவிட மேன்மையுள்ளவன்; ஆதலால் நீங்கள் தீர்க்கதரிசனம் சொல்லுகிறவர்களாகவேண்டுமென்று அதிகமாக விரும்புகிறேன். ⁶ மேலும், சகோதரர்களே, நான் உங்களிடம் வந்து உங்களுக்கு இரகசியங்களை வெளிப்படுத்துவதற்காவது, அறிவுண்டாக்குவதற்காவது, தீர்க்கதரிசனத்தை சொல்லுகிறதற்காவது, போதகத்தைப் போதிக்கிறதற்காவது ஏதுவானதைச் சொல்லாமல், அந்நிய மொழிகளில் பேசினால் என்னாலே உங்களுக்கு பலன் என்ன? ⁷ அப்படியே புல்லாங்குழல், சுரமண்டலம் முதலிய சத்தமிடுகிற உயிரில்லாத வாத்தியங்களின் தொனிகளில் வித்தியாசம் காட்டாவிட்டால், குழலாலே ஊதப்படுகிறதும், சுரமண்டலத்தாலே வாசிக்கப்படுகிறதும் என்னவென்று எப்படித் தெரியும்? ⁸ அந்தப்படி எக்காளமும் விளங்காத சத்தமிட்டால் எவன் போருக்கு ஆயத்தம் செய்வான்? ⁹ அதுபோல, நீங்களும் தெளிவான பேச்சைப் பேசாவிட்டால் பேசப்பட்டது என்னவென்று எப்படித் தெரியும்? ஆகாயத்தில் பேசுகிறவர்களாக இருப்பீர்களே. ¹⁰ உலகத்திலே எத்தனையோவிதமான மொழிகள் உண்டாயிருக்கிறது, அவைகளில் ஒன்றும் அர்த்தமில்லாததல்ல. ¹¹ ஆனாலும், மொழியின் கருத்தை நான் அறியாமலிருந்தால், பேசுகிறவனுக்கு அந்நியனாக இருப்பேன், பேசுகிறவனும் எனக்கு அந்நியனாக இருப்பான். ¹² நீங்களும் ஆவியானவருக்குரிய வரங்களை நாடுகிறவர்களானபடியால், சபைக்குப் பக்திவளர்ச்சி உண்டாகத்தக்கதாக அவைகளில் தேறும்படி விரும்புங்கள்; ¹³ அந்தப்படி அந்நிய மொழியில் பேசுகிறவன் அதின் அர்த்தத்தையும் சொல்லத்தக்கதாக ஜெபம் செய்யவேண்டும். ¹⁴ எதினாலென்றால், நான் அந்நிய மொழியிலே விண்ணப்பம் செய்தால் என் ஆவி விண்ணப்பம் செய்யுமேதவிர, என் கருத்து பயனில்லாததாக இருக்கும். ¹⁵ இப்படியிருக்க, செய்யவேண்டியதென்ன? நான் ஆவியோடும் விண்ணப்பம் செய்வேன்; கருத்தோடும் விண்ணப்பம் செய்வேன்; நான் ஆவியோடும் பாடுவேன், கருத்தோடும் பாடுவேன். ¹⁶ இல்லாவிட்டால், நீ ஆவியோடு ஸ்தோத்திரம் செய்யும்போது, படிப்பறியாதவன் உன் ஸ்தோத்திரத்திற்கு ஆமென் என்று எப்படிச் சொல்லுவான்? நீ பேசுகிறது என்னவென்று அவனுக்குத் தெரியாதே. ¹⁷ நீ நன்றாக ஸ்தோத்திரம் செய்கிறாய், ஆனாலும் மற்றவன் பக்திவளர்ச்சியடையமாட்டானே. ¹⁸ உங்களெல்லோரையும்விட நான் அதிகமான மொழிகளைப் பேசுகிறேன், இதற்காக என் தேவனுக்கு நன்றி செலுத்துகிறேன். ¹⁹ அப்படியிருந்தும், நான் சபையிலே அந்நிய மொழியில் பத்தாயிரம் வார்த்தைகளைப் பேசுகிறதைவிட, மற்றவர்களை உணர்த்தும்படி என் கருத்தோடு ஐந்து வார்த்தைகளைப் பேசுகிறதே எனக்கு அதிக விருப்பமாக இருக்கும். ²⁰ சகோதரர்களே, நீங்கள் புத்தியிலே குழந்தைகளாக இருக்கவேண்டாம்; துர்க்குணத்திலே குழந்தைகளாகவும், புத்தியிலோ தேறினவர்களாகவும் இருங்கள். ²¹ மறுமொழிக்காரர்களாலும், மறு உதடுகளாலும் இந்த மக்களிடத்தில் பேசுவேன்; ஆனாலும் அவர்கள் எனக்குச் செவிகொடுப்பதில்லை என்று கர்த்தர் சொல்லுகிறார் என்று வேதத்தில் எழுதியிருக்கிறதே. ²² அப்படியிருக்க, அந்நியமொழிகள் விசுவாசிகளுக்கு அடையாளமாக இல்லாமல், விசுவாசம் இல்லாதவர்களுக்கு அடையாளமாக இருக்கிறது; தீர்க்கதரிசனமோ விசுவாசம் இல்லாதவர்களுக்கு அடையாளமாக இல்லாமல், விசுவாசிகளுக்கு அடையாளமாக இருக்கிறது. ²³ ஆகவே, சபையார் எல்லோரும் ஏகமாகக் கூடிவந்து, எல்லோரும் அந்நிய மொழிகளிலே பேசிக்கொள்ளும்போது, படிப்பறியாதவர்களாவது, விசுவாசம் இல்லாதவர்களாவது உள்ளே நுழைந்தால், அவர்கள் உங்களைப் பைத்தியம் பிடித்தவர்கள் என்பார்களல்லவா? ²⁴ எல்லோரும் தீர்க்கதரிசனம் சொல்லும்போது, விசுவாசம் இல்லாத ஒருவன் அல்லது படிப்பறியாதவன் ஒருவன் உள்ளே நுழைந்தால், அவனுடைய பாவம் அவனுக்கு உணர்த்தப்பட்டும், சொல்லப்பட்ட எல்லாவற்றாலும் நியாயந்தீர்க்கப்பட்டும் இருப்பான். ²⁵ அவனுடைய இருதயத்தின் இரகசியங்களும் வெளியரங்கமாகும்; அவன் முகங்குப்புறவிழுந்து, தேவனைப் பணிந்துகொண்டு, தேவன் மெய்யாக உங்களுக்குள்ளே இருக்கிறார் என்று அறிக்கையிடுவான்.

²⁶ நீங்கள் கூடிவந்திருக்கிறபோது, உங்களில் ஒருவன் சங்கீதம் பாடுகிறான், ஒருவன் போதகம் பண்ணுகிறான், ஒருவன் அந்நிய மொழியைப் பேசுகிறான், ஒருவன் இரகசியத்தை

வெளிப்படுத்துகிறான், ஒருவன் விளக்கம் சொல்லுகிறான். சகோதரர்களே, இது என்ன? அனைத்தும் பக்திவளர்ச்சிக்கேதுவாகச் செய்யப்படவேண்டும். ²⁷ யாராவது அந்நிய மொழியிலே பேசுகிறதுண்டானால், அது இரண்டுபேர்மட்டும் அல்லது மிஞ்சினால் மூன்றுபேர்மட்டும் பேசவும், அவர்கள் ஒவ்வொருவராகப் பேசவும், இன்னொருவன் அர்த்தத்தைச் சொல்லவும் வேண்டும். ²⁸ அர்த்தம் சொல்லுகிறவன் இல்லாவிட்டால், சபையிலே பேசாமல், தனக்கும் தேவனுக்கும் தெரியப்பேசவேண்டும். ²⁹ தீர்க்கதரிசிகள் இரண்டுபேராவது மூன்றுபேராவது பேசலாம், மற்றவர்கள் நிதானிக்கவேண்டும். ³⁰ அங்கே உட்கார்ந்திருக்கிற மற்றொருவனுக்கு ஏதாவது வெளிப்படுத்தப்பட்டால், முதலில் பேசினவன் பேசாமலிருக்கவேண்டும். ³¹ எல்லோரும் கற்கிறதற்கும் எல்லோரும் தேறுகிறதற்கும், நீங்கள் அனைவரும் ஒவ்வொருவராகத் தீர்க்கதரிசனம் சொல்லலாம். ³² தீர்க்கதரிசிகளுடைய ஆவிகள் தீர்க்கதரிசிகளுக்கு அடங்கியிருக்கிறதே. ³³ தேவன் கலகத்திற்கு தேவனாக இல்லாமல், சமாதானத்திற்கு தேவனாக இருக்கிறார்; பரிசுத்தவான்களுடைய சபைகள் எல்லாவற்றிலேயும் அப்படியே இருக்கிறது. ³⁴ சபைகளில் உங்களுடைய பெண்கள் பேசாமலிருக்கவேண்டும்; பேசுகிறதற்கு அவர்களுக்கு அனுமதி இல்லை; அவர்கள் அடங்கியிருக்கவேண்டும்; வேதமும் அப்படியே சொல்லுகிறது. ³⁵ அவர்கள் ஒரு காரியத்தைக் கற்றுக்கொள்ளவிரும்பினால், தங்களுடைய கணவரிடத்தில் வீட்டிலே விசாரிக்கட்டும்; பெண்கள் சபையிலே பேசுகிறது அவமானத்தை ஏற்படுத்துகிறதாக இருக்குமே. ³⁶ தேவவசனம் உங்களிடத்திலிருந்தா புறப்பட்டது? அது உங்களிடத்திற்கு மாத்திரமா வந்தது? ³⁷ ஒருவன் தன்னைத் தீர்க்கதரிசியென்றாவது, ஆவியைப் பெற்றவென்றாவது நினைத்தால், நான் உங்களுக்கு எழுதுகிறவைகள் கர்த்தருடைய கட்டளைகளென்று அவன் ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளவேண்டும். ³⁸ ஒருவன் அறியாதவனாக இருந்தால், அவன் அறியாதவனாக இருக்கட்டும். ³⁹ இப்படியிருக்க, சகோதரர்களே, தீர்க்கதரிசனம் சொல்ல விரும்புங்கள், அந்நிய மொழிகளைப் பேசுகிறதற்கும் தடைசெய்யாமலிருங்கள். ⁴⁰ அனைத்து காரியங்களும் நல்லொழுக்கமாகவும், முறையாகவும் செய்யப்படவேண்டும்.

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¹ அன்றியும், சகோதரர்களே, நான் உங்களுக்குப் பிரசங்கித்த நற்செய்தியை மறுபடியும் உங்களுக்கு ஞாபகப்படுத்துகிறேன்; நீங்களும் அதை ஏற்றுக்கொண்டு, அதிலே நிலைத்திருக்கிறீர்கள். ² நான் உங்களுக்குப் பிரசங்கித்தபிரகாரமாக, நீங்கள் அதைக் கைக்கொண்டிருந்தால், அதினாலே நீங்கள் இரட்சிக்கப்படுவீர்கள்; மற்றப்படி உங்களுடைய விசுவாசம் பயனில்லாததாக இருக்குமே. ³ நான் பெற்றதும் உங்களுக்கு முக்கியமாக ஒப்புவித்ததும் என்னவென்றால், கிறிஸ்துவானவர் வேதவாக்கியங்களின்படி நமது பாவங்களுக்காக மரித்து, ⁴ அடக்கம் செய்யப்பட்டு, வேதவாக்கியங்களின்படி மூன்றாம்நாளில் உயிர்த்தெழுந்து, ⁵ கேபாவிற்கும், பின்பு பன்னிரண்டுபேருக்கும் தரிசனமானார். ⁶ அதன்பின்பு அவர் ஐந்நூறுபேருக்கு அதிகமான சகோதரர்களுக்கும் ஒரே நேரத்தில் காட்சியளித்தார்; அவர்களில் அநேகர் இந்தநாள்வரை இருக்கிறார்கள், சிலர்மட்டும் மரணமடைந்தார்கள். ⁷ பின்பு யாக்கோபுக்கும், அதன்பின்பு அப்போஸ்தலர்கள் எல்லோருக்கும் காட்சியளித்தார். ⁸ எல்லோருக்கும்பின்பு, அகாலப்பிறவிபோன்ற எனக்கும் தரிசனமானார். ⁹ நான் அப்போஸ்தலர்கள் எல்லோரையும்விட குறைந்தவனாக இருக்கிறேன்; தேவனுடைய சபையைத் துன்பப்படுத்தினதினாலே, நான் அப்போஸ்தலன் என்று பேர்பெறுவதற்கும் தகுதியற்றவன். ¹⁰ ஆனாலும் நான் இருக்கிறது தேவகிருபையினாலே இருக்கிறேன்; அவர் எனக்கு அருளிய கிருபை வீணாயிருக்கவில்லை; அவர்கள் எல்லோரையும்விட நான் அதிகமாகப் பிரயாசப்பட்டேன்; ஆனாலும் நான் இல்லை, என்னுடன் இருக்கிற தேவகிருபையே அப்படிச்செய்தது. ¹¹ ஆகவே, நானாயிருந்தாலும் அவர்களாயிருந்தாலும் இப்படியே பிரசங்கித்துவருகிறோம், நீங்களும் இதையே விசுவாசித்திருக்கிறீர்கள்.

¹² கிறிஸ்து மரித்தோரிலிருந்து உயிரோடு எழுந்தாரென்று பிரசங்கிக்கப்பட்டிருக்க, மரித்தோரின் உயிர்த்தெழுதல் இல்லையென்று உங்களில் சிலர் எப்படிச் சொல்லலாம்? ¹³ மரித்தோரின் உயிர்த்தெழுதல் இல்லாவிட்டால், கிறிஸ்துவும் உயிரோடு எழுந்திருக்கவில்லையே. ¹⁴ கிறிஸ்து உயிரோடு எழுந்திருக்கவில்லையென்றால், எங்களுடைய பிரசங்கமும் வீண், உங்களுடைய விசுவாசமும் வீண். ¹⁵ மரித்தோர் உயிர்த்தெழுவிட்டால், தேவன் எழுப்பாத கிறிஸ்துவை அவர் எழுப்பினார் என்று நாங்கள் தேவனைக்குறித்துச் சாட்சி சொன்னதினாலே, தேவனுக்காகப் பொய்ச்சாட்சி சொல்லுகிறவர்களாகவும் காணப்படுவோமே. ¹⁶ மரித்தோர் உயிர்த்தெழுவிட்டால், கிறிஸ்துவும் உயிரோடு எழுந்திருக்கவில்லை. ¹⁷ கிறிஸ்து உயிரோடு எழுந்திராவிட்டால், உங்களுடைய விசுவாசம் வீணாயிருக்கும்; நீங்கள் இன்னும் உங்களுடைய பாவங்களில் இருப்பீர்கள். ¹⁸ கிறிஸ்துவிற்குள் மரணமடைந்தவர்களும் அழிந்து போயிருப்பார்களே. ¹⁹ இவ்வுலக வாழ்விற்காகமட்டும் நாம் கிறிஸ்துவினமேல் நம்பிக்கை உள்ளவர்களாக இருந்தால், எல்லா மனிதர்களையும்விட மிகவும் பரிதபிக்கப்படத்தக்கவர்களாக இருப்போம். ²⁰ கிறிஸ்துவோ மரித்தோரிலிருந்து உயிரோடு எழுந்து, மரணமடைந்தவர்களில் முதற்பலனானார். ²¹ மனிதனால் மரணம் உண்டானபடியால், மனிதனால் மரித்தோரின் உயிர்த்தெழுதலும் உண்டானது. ²² ஆதாமுக்குள் எல்லோரும் மரிக்கிறதுபோல, கிறிஸ்துவிற்குள் எல்லோரும் உயிர்ப்பிக்கப்படுவார்கள். ²³ அவனவன் தன்தன் ஒழுங்கின்படியே உயிர்ப்பிக்கப்படுவான், முதற்பலனானவர் கிறிஸ்து; பின்பு அவர் வரும்போது அவருடையவர்கள் உயிர்ப்பிக்கப்படுவார்கள். ²⁴ அதன்பின்பு முடிவு உண்டாகும்; அப்பொழுது அவர் எல்லாத் துரைத்தனத்தையும் எல்லா அதிகாரத்தையும் வல்லமையையும் அழித்து, தேவனும் பிதாவுமாக இருக்கிறவருக்கு ராஜ்யத்தை ஒப்புக்கொடுப்பார். ²⁵ எல்லா விரோதிகளையும் தமது காலுக்குக் கீழாக்கிப்போடும்வரைக்கும், அவர் ஆளுகையையேண்டும். ²⁶ அழிக்கப்படும் கடைசி விரோதி மரணம். ²⁷ எல்லாவற்றையும் அவருடைய காலுக்குக் கீழ்ப்படுத்தினாரே; ஆனாலும் அனைத்தும் அவருக்குக் கீழ்ப்படுத்தப்பட்டதென்று சொல்லியிருக்கும்போது, அனைத்தையும் அவருக்குக் கீழ்ப்படுத்தினவர் கீழ்ப்படுத்தப்படவில்லை என்பது வெளியரங்கமாக இருக்கிறது. ²⁸ அனைத்தும் அவருக்குக் கீழ்ப்பட்டிருக்கும்போது, தேவனே எல்லாவற்றிலும் எல்லாமாக இருப்பதற்கு, குமாரன் தாமும் தமக்கு எல்லாவற்றையும் கீழ்ப்படுத்தினவருக்குக் கீழ்ப்பட்டிருப்பார். ²⁹ மேலும் மரித்தோர் உயிர்த்தெழுவிட்டால், மரித்தவர்களுக்காக ஞானஸ்நானம் பெறுகிறவர்கள் என்ன செய்வார்கள்? மரித்தவர்களுக்காக ஏன் ஞானஸ்நானம் பெறுகிறார்கள்? ³⁰ நாங்களும் ஏன் எந்நேரமும் நாசமோசத்திற்கு ஏதுவாக இருக்கிறோம்? ³¹ நான் அநுதினமும் சாகிறேன்; அதை நம்முடைய கர்த்தராகிய கிறிஸ்து இயேசுவினால் உங்களைக்குறித்து, நான் பாராட்டுகிற மேன்மையைக் கொண்டு உண்மையாகச் சொல்லுகிறேன். ³² நான் எபேசுவினே கொடிய மிருகங்களுடனே போராடினென்று மனிதர்கள் வழக்கமாகச் சொல்லுகிறேன்; அப்படிப் போராடினதினாலே எனக்கு பலன் என்ன? மரித்தோர் உயிர்த்தெழுவிட்டால், புசிப்போம் குடிப்போம், நாளைக்குச் சாவோம் என்று சொல்லலாமே? ³³ மோசம்போகாதீர்கள்; ஆகாத

உரையாடல்கள் நல்லொழுக்கங்களைக் கெடுக்கும். ³⁴ நீங்கள் பாவம் செய்யாமல் நீதியுள்ளவர்களாக வாழ்ந்து, தெளிந்தவர்களாக இருங்கள்; சிலர் தேவனைப்பற்றி அறிவு இல்லாதிருக்கிறார்களே; உங்களுக்கு வெட்கமுண்டாக இதைச் சொல்லுகிறேன்.

³⁵ ஆனாலும், மரித்தோர் எப்படி உயிரோடு எழுந்திருப்பார்கள், எப்படிப்பட்ட சரீரத்தோடு வருவார்களென்று ஒருவன் கேட்பானானால், ³⁶ புத்தியீனனே, நீ விதைக்கிற விதை செத்தாலொழிய உயிரடையாதே. ³⁷ நீ விதைக்கிறபோது, இனி உண்டாகும் மேனியை விதைக்காமல், கோதுமை, அல்லது மற்றொரு தானியத்தினுடைய வெறும் விதையையே விதைக்கிறாய். ³⁸ அதற்கு தேவன் தமது விருப்பத்தின்படியே மேனியைக் கொடுக்கிறார்; விதை வகைகள் ஒவ்வொன்றிற்கும் அதற்கேற்ற மேனியையே கொடுக்கிறார். ³⁹ எல்லா மாம்சமும் ஒரேவிதமான மாம்சமல்ல; மனிதர்களுடைய மாம்சம் வேறு, மிருகங்களுடைய மாம்சம் வேறு, மீன்களுடைய மாம்சம் வேறு, பறவைகளுடைய மாம்சம் வேறு. ⁴⁰ வானத்திற்குரிய மேனிகளும் உண்டு, பூமிக்குரிய மேனிகளும் உண்டு; வானத்திற்குரிய மேனிகளுடைய மகிமையும் வேறு, பூமிக்குரிய மேனிகளுடைய மகிமையும் வேறு; ⁴¹ சூரியனுடைய மகிமையும் வேறு, சந்திரனுடைய மகிமையும் வேறு, நட்சத்திரங்களுடைய மகிமையும் வேறு, மகிமையிலே நட்சத்திரத்திற்கு நட்சத்திரம் விசேஷித்திருக்கிறது. ⁴² மரித்தோரின் உயிர்த்தெழுதலும் அப்படியே இருக்கும். அழிவுள்ளதாக விதைக்கப்படும், அழிவில்லாததாக எழுந்திருக்கும்; ⁴³ மதிப்பில்லாததாக விதைக்கப்படும், மகிமையுள்ளதாக எழுந்திருக்கும்; பலவீனமுள்ளதாக விதைக்கப்படும், பலமுள்ளதாக எழுந்திருக்கும். ⁴⁴ சாதாரண சரீரம் விதைக்கப்படும், ஆவிக்குரிய சரீரம் எழுந்திருக்கும்; சாதாரண சரீரமும் உண்டு, ஆவிக்குரிய சரீரமும் உண்டு. ⁴⁵ அந்தப்படியே முந்தின மனிதனாகிய ஆதாம் ஜீவ ஆத்துமாவானான் என்று எழுதியிருக்கிறது; பிந்தின ஆதாம் உயிர்ப்பிக்கிற ஆவியானவர். ⁴⁶ ஆனாலும் ஆவிக்குரிய சரீரம் முந்தினதல்ல, சாதாரண சரீரமே முந்தினது; ஆவிக்குரிய சரீரம் பிந்தினது. ⁴⁷ முந்தின மனிதன் பூமியிலிருந்து உண்டான மண்ணானவன்; இரண்டாம் மனிதன் வானத்திலிருந்து வந்த கர்த்தர். ⁴⁸ மண்ணானவன் எப்படிப்பட்டவனோ மண்ணானவர்களும் அப்படிப்பட்டவர்களே; வானத்திற்குரியவர் எப்படிப்பட்டவரோ, வானத்திற்குரியவர்களும் அப்படிப்பட்டவர்களே. ⁴⁹ மேலும் மண்ணானவனுடைய சாயலை நாம் அணிந்திருக்கிறதுபோல, வானவருடைய சாயலையும் அணிந்துகொள்ளுவோம். ⁵⁰ சகோதரர்களே, நான் சொல்லுகிறது என்னவென்றால், மாம்சமும் இரத்தமும் தேவனுடைய ராஜ்யத்தை சுதந்தரிக்கமாட்டாது; அழிவுள்ளது அழியாமையை சுதந்தரிப்பதில்லை. ⁵¹ இதோ, ஒரு இரகசியத்தை உங்களுக்கு அறிவிக்கிறேன்; நாமெல்லோரும் மரணமடைவதில்லை; ஆனாலும் கடைசி எக்காளம் தொனிக்கும்போது, ஒரு நிமிடத்திலே, ஒரு இமைப்பொழுதிலே, நாமெல்லோரும் மறுரூபமாக்கப்படுவோம். ⁵² எக்காளம் தொனிக்கும், அப்பொழுது மரித்தோர் அழிவில்லாதவர்களாக எழுந்திருப்பார்கள்; நாமும் மறுரூபமாக்கப்படுவோம். ⁵³ அழிவுள்ளதாகிய இது அழியாமையையும், சாவுக்கேதுவாகிய இது சாவாமையையும் அணிந்துகொள்ளவேண்டும். ⁵⁴ அழிவுள்ளதாகிய இது அழியாமையையும், சாவுக்கேதுவாகிய இது சாவாமையையும் அணிந்துகொள்ளும்போது, மரணம் ஜெயமாக விழுங்கப்பட்டது என்று எழுதியிருக்கிற வார்த்தை நிறைவேறும். ⁵⁵ மரணமே! உன் கூர் எங்கே? பாதாளமே! உன் ஜெயம் எங்கே? ⁵⁶ மரணத்தின் கூர் பாவம், பாவத்தின் பெலன் நியாயப்பிரமாணம். ⁵⁷ நம்முடைய கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவினாலே நமக்கு ஜெயம் கொடுக்கிற தேவனுக்கு ஸ்தோத்திரம். ⁵⁸ ஆகவே, எனக்குப் பிரியமான சகோதரர்களே, கர்த்தருக்குள் நீங்கள் செய்கிற முயற்சி வீணாக இருக்காதென்று அறிந்து, நீங்கள் உறுதிப்பட்டவர்களாகவும், அசையாதவர்களாகவும், கர்த்தருடைய செயலிலே எப்பொழுதும் பெருகுகிறவர்களாகவும் இருப்பீர்களாக.

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¹ பரிசுத்தவான்களுக்காகச் சேர்க்கப்படும் நன்கொடை பணத்தைக்குறித்து நான் கலாத்தியா நாட்டுச் சபைகளுக்கு செய்த திட்டத்தின்படியே நீங்களும் செய்யுங்கள். ² நான் வந்திருக்கும்போது பணம் சேர்க்குதல் இல்லாதபடிக்கு, உங்களில் அவனவன் வாரத்தின் முதல்நாள்தோறும், தன்தன் வரவிற்கு ஏற்றபடி எதையாவது தன்னிடத்திலே சேர்த்துவைக்கவேண்டும். ³ நான் வரும்போது உங்களுடைய உதவியை எருசலேமுக்குக் கொண்டுபோகும்படிக்கு, நீங்கள் தகுதியுள்ளவர்களாகக் குறிக்கிறவர்கள் எவர்களோ, அவர்களிடத்தில் கடிதங்களைக் கொடுத்து, அவர்களை அனுப்புவேன். ⁴ நானும் அதை நேரில் எடுத்துச்செல்வது தகுதியானது என்று தோன்றினால், அவர்கள் என்னோடுகூட வரலாம்.

⁵ நான் மக்கெதோனியா நாட்டின்வழியாக போகிறபடியால், மக்கெதோனியா நாட்டைக் கடந்தபின்பு உங்களிடத்திற்கு வருவேன். ⁶ நான் எங்கே போனாலும் நீங்கள் என்னை வழியனுப்பும்படிக்கு, நான் உங்களிடம் சிலநாட்கள் தங்கவேண்டியதாயிருக்கும்; ஒருவேளை மழைகாலம் முடியும்வரைக்கும் இருப்பேன். ⁷ இப்பொழுது போகிற வழியில் உங்களை சிறிது காலம் சந்தித்துவிட்டுப் போக மனதில்லை; கர்த்தர் உத்தரவு கொடுத்தால் உங்களிடம் வந்து சிலநாட்கள் தங்கியிருக்கலாமென்று நம்புகிறேன். ⁸ ஆனாலும் பெந்தெகோஸ்தே பண்டிகைவரைக்கும் எபேசு பட்டணத்தில் இருப்பேன். ⁹ ஏனென்றால், இங்கே பெரிதும் சாதகமான கதவு எனக்குத் திறக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது; விரோதம் செய்கிறவர்களும் அநேகர் இருக்கிறார்கள். ¹⁰ தீமோத்தேயு உங்களிடத்திற்கு வந்தானேயாகில், அவன் உங்களிடம் பயமில்லாமலிருக்கப்பாருங்கள்; என்னைப்போல அவனும் கர்த்தருடைய வேலையைச் செய்கிறானே. ¹¹ ஆனபடியினால் ஒருவனும் அவனை இழிவாக நினைக்காதிருப்பானாக; சகோதரர்களோடுகூட அவன் வருகிறதற்கு நான் காத்திருக்கிறபடியால், என்னிடத்தில் வரும்படிக்கு அவனைச் சமாதானத்தோடு வழியனுப்பிவைப்புகள். ¹² சகோதரர்களோடுகூட உங்களிடம் வரும்படி சகோதரனாகிய அப்பொல்லோவை மிகவும் வேண்டிக்கொண்டேன்; ஆனாலும் இப்பொழுது வர அவனுக்கு மனதில்லை; அவனுக்கு சமயம் கிடைக்கும்போது வருவான். ¹³ விழித்திருங்கள், விசுவாசத்திலே நிலைத்திருங்கள், துணிவுள்ளவர்களாக இருங்கள், திடன்கொள்ளுங்கள். ¹⁴ உங்களுடைய காரியங்களெல்லாம் அன்போடு செய்யப்படவேண்டும். ¹⁵ சகோதரர்களே, ஸ்தேவானுடைய குடும்பத்தார் அகாயா நாட்டிலே முதல்கனியானவர்களென்றும், பரிசுத்தவான்களுக்கு ஊழியம் செய்யும்படிக்குத் தங்களை ஒப்புவித்திருக்கிறார்களென்றும் அறிந்திருக்கிறீர்களே. ¹⁶ இப்படிப்பட்டவர்களுக்கும், உடன்வேலையாட்களாக பிரயாசப்படுகிற மற்ற அனைவருக்கும் நீங்கள் கீழ்ப்படிந்திருக்கவேண்டுமென்று உங்களுக்குப் புத்திசொல்லுகிறேன். ¹⁷ ஸ்தேவான், பொர்த்துனாத்து, அகாயுக்கு என்பவர்கள் வந்ததற்காகச் சந்தோஷமாக இருக்கிறேன், நீங்கள் எனக்குச் செய்யவேண்டியதை அவர்கள் செய்திருக்கிறார்கள். ¹⁸ அவர்கள் என் ஆவிக்கும் உங்களுடைய ஆவிக்கும் ஆறுதல் செய்தார்கள்; இப்படிப்பட்டவர்களை அங்கீகாரம்பண்ணுங்கள்.

¹⁹ ஆசியா நாட்டிலுள்ள சபையார் உங்களை வாழ்த்துகிறார்கள். ஆக்கில்லாவும் பிரிஸ்கில்லாளும் தங்களுடைய வீட்டிலே கூடுகிற சபையோடுகூடக் கர்த்தருக்குள் உங்களை மிகவும் வாழ்த்துகிறார்கள். ²⁰ சகோதரர்களெல்லோரும் உங்களை வாழ்த்துகிறார்கள். ஒருவரையொருவர் பரிசுத்த முத்தத்தோடு வாழ்த்துங்கள். ²¹ பவுலாகிய நான் என் கையெழுத்தாலே உங்களை வாழ்த்துகிறேன். ²² ஒருவன் கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவினிடத்தில் அன்புசெலுத்தாமல்போனால், அவன் சபிக்கப்பட்டவனாக இருக்கவேண்டும், கர்த்தர் வருகிறார். ²³ கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவினுடைய கிருபை உங்களோடுகூட இருப்பதாக. ²⁴ கிறிஸ்து இயேசுவிற்குள்ளான என்னுடைய அன்பு உங்கள் அனைவரோடும்கூட இருப்பதாக. ஆமென்.

2 Corinthians

அத்தியாயம்- 1

¹ தேவனுடைய விருப்பத்தினாலே இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவின் அப்போஸ்தலனாகிய பவுலும், சகோதரனாகிய தீமோத்தேயுவும், கொரிந்து பட்டணத்தில் உள்ள தேவனுடைய சபைக்கும், அகாயா நாடு முழுவதும் உள்ள எல்லாப் பரிசுத்தவான்களுக்கும் எழுதுகிறது என்னவென்றால்: ² நம்முடைய பிதாவாகிய தேவனாலும், கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவினாலும் உங்களுக்குக் கிருபையும் சமாதானமும் உண்டாவதாக.

³ நமது கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவின் பிதாவாகிய தேவனும், இரக்கங்களின் பிதாவும், எல்லாவிதமான ஆறுதலின் தேவனுமாக இருக்கிறவருக்கு ஸ்தோத்திரம். ⁴ தேவனால் எங்களுக்கு அருளப்படுகிற ஆறுதலினாலே, எப்படிப்பட்ட உபத்திரவங்களிலும் இருப்பவர்களுக்கு நாங்கள் ஆறுதல்செய்கிறவர்களாவதற்கு, எங்களுக்கு வரும் எல்லா உபத்திரவங்களிலும் அவரே எங்களுக்கு ஆறுதல் செய்கிறவர். ⁵ எப்படியென்றால், கிறிஸ்துவினுடைய பாடுகள் எங்களிடம் பெருகுகிறதுபோல, கிறிஸ்துவினாலே எங்களுக்கு ஆறுதலும் பெருகுகிறது. ⁶ எனவே, நாங்கள் உபத்திரவப்பட்டாலும், அது உங்களுடைய ஆறுதலுக்கும் இரட்சிப்பிற்கும் ஏற்றதாகும்; நாங்கள் ஆறுதல் அடைந்தாலும், அதுவும் உங்களுடைய ஆறுதலுக்கும் இரட்சிப்பிற்கும் ஏற்றதாகும்; நாங்கள் பாடுபடுகிறதுபோல நீங்களும் பாடுபட்டுச் சகித்துக்கொள்கிறதினாலே அந்த இரட்சிப்பு பலன் தருகிறது. ⁷ நீங்கள் எங்களோடு பாடுபடுகிறதுபோல, எங்களோடு ஆறுதலும் பெற்றுக்கொள்கிறீர்கள் என்று நாங்கள் அறிந்து, உங்களைக்குறித்து உறுதியான நம்பிக்கையுள்ளவர்களாக இருக்கிறோம். ⁸ எனவே, சகோதரர்களே, ஆசியாவில் எங்களுக்கு ஏற்பட்ட உபத்திரவத்தை நீங்கள் தெரிந்துகொள்ளாமலிருக்க எங்களுக்கு மனமில்லை. என்னவென்றால், நாங்கள் பிழைப்போம் என்கிற நம்பிக்கை எங்களுக்கு இல்லாமல்போகும் அளவிற்கு, எங்களுடைய பலத்திற்கும் மிஞ்சின அதிக பாரமான வருத்தம் எங்களுக்கு உண்டானது. ⁹ நாங்கள் எங்கள்மேல் நம்பிக்கையாக இல்லாமல், மரித்தவர்களை உயிரோடு எழுப்புகிற தேவன்மேல் நம்பிக்கையாக இருப்பதற்காக, மரணம் வரும் என்று நாங்கள் எங்களுக்குள்ளே உறுதியாக இருந்தோம். ¹⁰ அப்படிப்பட்ட மரணத்திலிருந்தும் அவர் எங்களைக் காப்பாற்றினார், இப்பொழுதும் காப்பாற்றுகிறார், இனிமேலும் காப்பாற்றுவார் என்று அவரையே நம்பியிருக்கிறோம். ¹¹ அநேகர் மூலமாக எங்களுக்கு உண்டான இரக்கத்திற்காக அநேகரால் எங்கள் நிமித்தம் ஸ்தோத்திரங்கள் செலுத்தப்படுவதற்கு, நீங்களும் ஜெபத்தினால் எங்களுக்கு உதவிசெய்யுங்கள்.

¹² உலகத்திற்குரிய ஞானத்தோடு நடக்காமல், தேவனுடைய கிருபையினால் நாங்கள் உலகத்திலும், விசேஷமாக உங்களிடமும், கபடம் இல்லாமல் உண்மையோடு நடந்தோம் என்று, எங்களுடைய மனது எங்களுக்குச் சொல்லும் சாட்சியே எங்களுடைய புகழ்ச்சியாக இருக்கிறது. ¹³ ஏனென்றால், நீங்கள் படித்தும் புரிந்தும் இருக்கிற விஷயங்களைத்தவிர, வேறொன்றையும் நாங்கள் உங்களுக்கு எழுதவில்லை; முடிவுவரைக்கும் அப்படியே புரிந்துகொள்வீர்கள் என்று நம்பியிருக்கிறேன். ¹⁴ கர்த்தராகிய இயேசு வரும்நாளிலே நீங்கள் எங்களுக்குப் புகழ்ச்சியாக இருப்பதுபோல, நாங்களும் உங்களுக்குப் புகழ்ச்சியாக இருப்போம் என்பதை ஓரளவு ஒத்துக்கொண்டிருக்கிறீர்களே. ¹⁵ நான் இப்படிப்பட்ட நம்பிக்கையை உடையவனாக இருக்கிறதினால், உங்களுக்கு இரண்டாவதுமுறையும் பிரயோஜனம் உண்டாவதற்காக, முதலாவது உங்களிடம் வரவும், ¹⁶ பின்பு உங்களுடைய ஊர்வழியாக மக்கெதோனியா நாட்டிற்குப் போகவும், மக்கெதோனியாவைவிட்டு மீண்டும் உங்களிடம் வரவும், உங்களால் யூதேயா நாட்டிற்கு நான் வழியனுப்பப்படவேண்டும் என்றும் யோசனையாக இருந்தேன். ¹⁷ இப்படி நான் யோசித்தது வீணாக யோசித்தேனோ? அல்லது ஆம் ஆம் என்கிறதும், இல்லை இல்லை என்கிறதும், என்னிடத்திலே இருப்பதற்காக, நான் யோசிக்கிறவைகளை சரீரத்தின்படி யோசிக்கிறேனோ? ¹⁸ நாங்கள் உங்களுக்குச் சொன்ன வார்த்தை ஆம் என்றும் இல்லை என்றும் இல்லை; அதற்கு உண்மையுள்ள தேவனே சாட்சி. ¹⁹ என்னாலும், சில்வானுவினாலும், தீமோத்தேயுவினாலும், உங்களுக்குள்ளே பிரசங்கிக்கப்பட்ட தேவகுமாரனாகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவும் ஆம் என்றும், இல்லை என்றும் இல்லாமல், ஆம் என்றே இருக்கிறார். ²⁰ எங்களால் தேவனுக்கு மகிமை உண்டாகும்படி, தேவனுடைய வாக்குத்தத்தங்களெல்லாம் இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவிற்குள் ஆம் என்றும், அவருக்குள் ஆமென் என்றும் இருக்கிறதே. ²¹ உங்களோடு எங்களையும் கிறிஸ்துவிற்குள் உறுதிப்படுத்தி, நம்மை அபிஷேகம்பண்ணினவர் தேவனே. ²² அவர் நம்மை முத்திரை செய்து, நம்முடைய இருதயங்களில் ஆவியானவரை உத்திரவாதமாகக் கொடுத்திருக்கிறார். ²³ மேலும் நான் உங்களை வருத்தப்படுத்தாமல் இருப்பதற்காகத்தான் இதுவரைக்கும் கொரிந்து பட்டணத்திற்கு வராமல் இருக்கிறேன் என்று, என் ஆத்துமாவின்பேரில் தேவனையே சாட்சியாக வைக்கிறேன். ²⁴ உங்களுடைய விசுவாசத்திற்கு நாங்கள்

அதிகாரிகளாக இல்லாமல், நீங்கள் உங்களுடைய விசுவாசத்தில் நிலைத்து நிற்பதால், உங்களுடைய சந்தோஷத்திற்கு உதவியாக இருக்கிறோம்.

அத்தியாயம்- 2

¹ நான் மீண்டும் துக்கத்தோடு உங்களிடம் வரக்கூடாது என்று எனக்குள்ளே தீர்மானம்பண்ணிக்கொண்டேன். ² நான் உங்களைத் துக்கப்படுத்தினால், என்னாலே துக்கமடைந்தவனைத்தவிர, வேறு யார் என்னைச் சந்தோஷப்படுத்துவான்? ³ என்னுடைய சந்தோஷம் உங்களெல்லோருக்கும் சந்தோஷமாக இருக்கும் என்று, நான் உங்களெல்லோரையும்பற்றி நம்பிக்கை உள்ளவனாக இருந்து, நான் வரும்போது, என்னைச் சந்தோஷப்படுத்தவேண்டியவர்களால் நான் துக்கமடையாமல் இருப்பதற்காக, அதை உங்களுக்கு எழுதினேன். ⁴ அன்றியும், நீங்கள் துக்கப்படுவதற்காக எழுதாமல், உங்கள்மேல் நான் வைத்த அன்பின் அளவை நீங்கள் தெரிந்துகொள்வதற்காகவே, அதிக வியாசுலமும் மனவருத்தமும் அடைந்தவனாக அதிகக் கண்ணீரோடு உங்களுக்கு எழுதினேன்.

⁵ துக்கம் உண்டாக்கினவன் எனக்கு மாத்திரமல்ல, ஏறக்குறைய உங்களெல்லோருக்கும் துக்கம் உண்டாக்கினான்; நான் உங்கள் எல்லோர்மேலும் அதிக சுமையைச் சுமத்தாமல் இருப்பதற்காக இதைச் சொல்லுகிறேன். ⁶ அப்படிப்பட்டவனுக்கு அநேகரால் உண்டான இந்தத் தண்டனையே போதும். ⁷ எனவே அவன் அதிக துக்கத்தில் மூழ்கிப்போகாமல் இருக்க, நீங்கள் அவனுக்கு மன்னித்து ஆறுதல் செய்யவேண்டும். ⁸ அப்படியே, உங்களுடைய அன்பை அவனுக்குக் காண்பிக்கவேண்டும் என்று உங்களை வேண்டிக்கொள்கிறேன். ⁹ நீங்கள் எல்லாவற்றிலும் கீழ்ப்படிந்திருக்கிறீர்களோ என்று உங்களைச் சோதித்துப் பார்ப்பதற்காக இப்படி எழுதினேன். ¹⁰ யாரை நீங்கள் மன்னிக்கிறீர்களோ, அவனை நானும் மன்னிக்கிறேன்; மேலும் எதை நான் மன்னித்திருக்கிறேனோ, அதை உங்களுக்காக கிறிஸ்துவினுடைய சந்நிதானத்திலே மன்னித்திருக்கிறேன். ¹¹ சாத்தானாலே நாம் மோசமடையாமல் இருக்க அப்படிச் செய்தேன்; அவனுடைய தந்திரங்கள் நமக்குத் தெரியாதவைகள் இல்லை.

¹² மேலும் நான் கிறிஸ்துவின் நற்செய்தியைப் பிரசங்கிப்பதற்காக துரோவா பட்டணத்திற்கு வந்தபோது, கர்த்தராலே எனக்குக் கதவு திறக்கப்பட்டிருக்கும்போது, ¹³ நான் என் சகோதரனாகிய தீத்துவைப் பார்க்காததினாலே, என் மனதில் சமாதானம் இல்லாமல் இருந்தது. எனவே நான் அவர்களைவிட்டு, மக்கெதோனியா நாட்டிற்குப் புறப்பட்டுப்போனேன். ¹⁴ கிறிஸ்துவிற்குள் எப்பொழுதும் எங்களை வெற்றியடையச்செய்து, எல்லா இடங்களிலும் எங்களைக்கொண்டு அவரைத் தெரிந்துகொள்கிற அறிவின் நறுமணத்தை வெளிப்படுத்துகிற தேவனுக்கு ஸ்தோத்திரம். ¹⁵ இரட்சிக்கப்படுகிறவர்களுக்குள்ளும், கெட்டுப்போகிறவர்களுக்குள்ளும், நாங்கள் தேவனுக்குக் கிறிஸ்துவின் நறுமணமாக இருக்கிறோம். ¹⁶ கெட்டுப்போகிறவர்களுக்குள்ளே மரணத்திற்கான மரணவாசனையாகவும், இரட்சிக்கப்படுகிறவர்களுக்குள்ளே ஜீவனுக்கான ஜீவவாசனையாகவும் இருக்கிறோம். இவைகளை நடத்துவதற்கு தகுதியானவன் யார்? ¹⁷ அநேகரைப்போல, நாங்கள் தேவவசனத்தைக் கலப்படம் செய்து பேசாமல், சுத்தமாகவும், தேவனால் அருளப்பட்டபடியாகவே, கிறிஸ்துவிற்குள் தேவசந்நிதியில் பேசுகிறோம்.

அத்தியாயம்- 3

¹ எங்களை நாங்களே மீண்டும் பெருமைப்படுத்தத் தொடங்குகிறோமோ? அல்லது சிலருக்கு வேண்டியதாக இருக்கிறதுபோல, உங்களுக்கு சிபாரிசுக் கடிதங்களை அனுப்புவதும், உங்களிடமிருந்து சிபாரிசுக் கடிதங்களைப் பெற்றுக்கொள்வதும் எங்களுக்குத் தேவையோ? ² எங்களுடைய இருதயங்களில் எழுதப்பட்டும், எல்லா மனிதர்களாலும் அறிந்தும், படித்தும் இருக்கிற எங்களுடைய சிபாரிசுக் கடிதங்கள் நீங்கள்தானே. ³ ஏனென்றால், நீங்கள் எங்களுடைய ஊழியத்தினால் உண்டாகிய கிறிஸ்துவின் கடிதமாக இருக்கிறீர்கள் என்று வெளிக்காட்டப்பட்டிருக்கிறது; அது மையினால் இல்லை, ஜீவனுள்ள தேவனுடைய ஆவியினாலும்; கற்பலகைகளில் இல்லை, இருதயங்களாகிய பலகைகளிலும் எழுதப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. ⁴ நாங்கள் தேவனுக்கு முன்பாகக் கிறிஸ்துவின் மூலமாக இப்படிப்பட்ட நம்பிக்கையை உடையவர்களாக இருக்கிறோம். ⁵ எங்களால் ஏதாவது ஆகும் என்பதுபோல ஒன்றை யோசிக்கிறதற்கு நாங்கள் எங்களாலே தகுதியானவர்கள் இல்லை; எங்களுடைய தகுதி தேவனால் உண்டாயிருக்கிறது. ⁶ புதிய உடன்படிக்கையின் ஊழியக்காரர்களாக இருப்பதற்கு, அவரே எங்களைத் தகுதியுள்ளவர்களாக்கினார்; அந்த உடன்படிக்கை எழுத்திற்குரியதாக இல்லாமல், ஆவியானவருக்குரியதாக இருக்கிறது; எழுத்து கொல்லுகிறது, ஆனால், ஆவியோ உயிர் கொடுக்கிறது.

⁷ எழுத்துக்களினால் எழுதப்பட்டுக் கற்களில் பொறிக்கப்பட்டிருந்த மரணத்திற்கான ஊழியத்தைச் செய்த மோசேயினுடைய முகத்திலே மகிமையின் பிரகாசம் உண்டானதினால், இஸ்ரவேல் மக்கள் அவன் முகத்தை நேரடியாகப் பார்க்கமுடியாமல் இருந்தார்களே. ⁸ மங்கிப்போகிற மகிமையுடைய அந்த ஊழியம் அப்படிப்பட்ட மகிமையுள்ளதாக இருந்தால், ஆவியானவருக்குரிய ஊழியம் எவ்வளவு அதிக மகிமையுள்ளதாக இருக்கும்? ⁹ அழிவுக்கான தீர்ப்பைக் கொடுக்கும் ஊழியம் மகிமையுள்ளதாக இருந்தால், நீதியைக் கொடுக்கும் ஊழியம் அதிக மகிமையுள்ளதாக இருக்குமே. ¹⁰ இப்படியாக, மகிமைப்பட்டிருந்த அந்த ஊழியம் இந்த ஊழியத்திற்கு உண்டாயிருக்கிற சிறந்த மகிமைக்கு முன்பாக மகிமையே அல்ல. ¹¹ அன்றியும் மங்கிப்போவதே மகிமையுள்ளதாக இருந்ததானால், நிலைத்திருப்பது அதிக மகிமையுள்ளதாக இருக்குமே. ¹² நாங்கள் இப்படிப்பட்ட நம்பிக்கையுடையவர்களாக இருப்பதால், மிகவும் தாராளமாகப் பேசுகிறோம். ¹³ மேலும் மங்கிப்போகிற மகிமையின் முடிவை இஸ்ரவேல் மக்கள் நோக்கிப் பார்க்காதபடி, மோசே தன் முகத்தின்மேல் முக்காடு போட்டுக்கொண்டதுபோல நாங்கள் போடுகிறதில்லை. ¹⁴ அவர்களுடைய மனது கடினப்பட்டது; இந்தநாள் வரைக்கும் பழைய ஏற்பாடு படிக்கும்போது, அந்த முக்காடு நீங்காமல் இருக்கிறது; அது கிறிஸ்துவினாலே நீக்கப்படுகிறது. ¹⁵ மோசேயின் ஆகமங்கள் படிக்கப்படும்போது, இந்தநாள் வரைக்கும் முக்காடு அவர்கள் இருதயத்தின்மேல் இருக்கிறதே. ¹⁶ அவர்கள் கர்த்தரிடத்தில் மனம்திரும்பும்போது, அந்த முக்காடு எடுக்கப்படும். ¹⁷ கர்த்தரே ஆவியானவர்; கர்த்தருடைய ஆவி எங்கேயோ அங்கே விடுதலையும் உண்டு. ¹⁸ நாமெல்லோரும் திறந்த முகமாகக் கர்த்தருடைய மகிமையைக் கண்ணாடியிலே பார்க்கிறதுபோலப் பார்த்து, ஆவியாக இருக்கிற கர்த்தரால் அந்தச் சாயலாகவே மகிமையின்மேல் மகிமையடைந்து மறுரூபமடைகிறோம்.

அத்தியாயம்- 4

¹ இப்படிப்பட்ட ஊழியத்தை உடையவர்களாகிய நாங்கள் இரக்கம் பெற்றிருப்பதால் சோர்ந்துபோகிறது இல்லை. ² வெட்கமான அந்தரங்க காரியங்களை நாங்கள் வெறுத்து, தந்திரமாக நடக்காமலும், தேவ வசனத்தைத் திரித்துக் கூறாமலும், சத்தியத்தை வெளிப்படுத்துகிறதினாலே தேவனுக்குமுன்பாக எல்லா மனிதர்களுடைய மனச்சாட்சிக்கும் எங்களை உத்தமர்கள் என்று விளங்கப்பண்ணுகிறோம். ³ எங்களுடைய நற்செய்தி மறைபொருளாக இருந்தால், கெட்டுப்போகிறவர்களுக்கே அது மறைபொருளாக இருக்கும். ⁴ தேவனுடைய சாயலாக இருக்கிற கிறிஸ்துவின் மகிமையான நற்செய்தியின் ஒளி, அவிசுவாசிகளாகிய அவர்களுக்குப் பிரகாசமாக இல்லாதபடி, இந்த உலகத்தின் தேவனானவன் அவர்களுடைய மனதைக் குருடாக்கினான். ⁵ நாங்கள் எங்களையே பிரசங்கிக்காமல், கிறிஸ்து இயேசுவைக் கர்த்தர் என்றும், எங்களையோ இயேசுவினிமித்தம் நாங்கள் உங்களுடைய ஊழியக்காரர்கள் என்றும் பிரசங்கிக்கிறோம். ⁶ இருளில் இருந்து வெளிச்சத்தைப் பிரகாசிக்கச்சொன்ன தேவன் இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவின் முகத்தில் உள்ள தமது மகிமையின் அறிவாகிய ஒளியைத் தோன்றப்பண்ணுவதற்காக, எங்களுடைய இருதயங்களிலே பிரகாசித்தார். ⁷ இந்த மகத்துவமுள்ள வல்லமை எங்களால் உண்டாகாமல், தேவனால் உண்டாகியிருக்கிறது என்று தெரியும்படி, இந்தப் பொக்கிஷத்தை மண்பாண்டங்களில் பெற்றிருக்கிறோம். ⁸ நாங்கள் எல்லாப் பக்கங்களிலும் நெருக்கப்பட்டும் ஒடுங்கிப்போகிறதில்லை; கலக்கம் அடைவதும், மனம் உடைவதும் இல்லை; ⁹ துன்பப்படுத்தப்பட்டும் கைவிடப்படுவதில்லை; கீழே தள்ளப்பட்டும் மடிந்துபோகிறதில்லை. ¹⁰ கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுவினுடைய ஜீவன் எங்களுடைய சரீரத்திலே தெரியும்படி, இயேசுவின் மரணத்தை எப்பொழுதும் எங்களுடைய சரீரத்தில் சுமந்து திரிகிறோம். ¹¹ எப்படியென்றால், மரணத்திற்குரிய எங்களுடைய சரீரத்திலே இயேசுவினுடைய ஜீவன் தெரியும்படி உயிரோடு இருக்கிற நாங்கள் எப்பொழுதும் இயேசுவுக்காக மரணத்திற்கு ஒப்புக்கொடுக்கப்படுகிறோம். ¹² இப்படி மரணமானது எங்களிடமும், ஜீவனானது உங்களிடமும் பெலன் செய்கிறது. ¹³ விசுவாசித்தேன், ஆகவே, பேசினேன் என்று எழுதியிருக்கிறபடி, நாங்களும் அந்த விசுவாசத்தின் ஆவியை உடையவர்களாக இருந்து, விசுவாசிக்கிறதினால் பேசுகிறோம். ¹⁴ கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுவை உயிரோடு எழுப்பினவர் எங்களையும் இயேசுவைக்கொண்டு எழுப்பி, உங்களோடு தமக்குமுன்பாக நிறுத்துவார் என்று அறிந்திருக்கிறோம். ¹⁵ தேவனுடைய மகிமை அநேகருக்கு வெளிப்படுவதற்கேதுவாக அநேகருடைய ஸ்தோத்திரத்தினாலே கிருபையானது பெருகும்படி, இவைகளெல்லாம் உங்களுக்காக உண்டாகியிருக்கிறது. ¹⁶ எனவே, நாங்கள் சோர்ந்துபோகிறதில்லை; எங்களுடைய புறம்பான மனிதன் அழிந்தாலும், உள்ளான மனிதன் நாளுக்குநாள் புதிதாக்கப்படுகிறான். ¹⁷ மேலும் காணப்படுகிறவைகளை இல்லை, காணாதவைகளை நோக்கியிருக்கிற நமக்கு, அதிசீக்கிரத்தில் நீங்கிப்போகும் இலேசான நம்முடைய உபத்திரவம், மிகவும் அதிகமான நித்திய கனமகிமையை உண்டாக்குகிறது. ¹⁸ ஏனென்றால், காணப்படுகிறவைகள் தற்காலிகமானவைகள், காணப்படாதவைகளோ நித்தியமானவைகள்.

அத்தியாயம்- 5

¹ பூமிக்குரிய கூடாரமாகிய நம்முடைய சரீரம் அழிந்துபோனாலும், தேவனால் கட்டப்பட்ட கைவேலை இல்லாத நித்திய வீடு பரலோகத்தில் நமக்கு உண்டென்று அறிந்திருக்கிறோம். ² ஏனென்றால், இந்தக் கூடாரத்திலே நாம் தவித்து, நம்முடைய பரம வீட்டை அணிந்துகொள்ள அதிக ஏக்கம் உள்ளவர்களாக இருக்கிறோம்; ³ அணிந்துகொண்டவர்களானால், நிர்வாணிகளாகக் காணப்படமாட்டோம். ⁴ இந்தக் கூடாரத்தில் இருக்கிற நாம் சுமை சுமந்து தவிக்கிறோம்; இந்தப் போர்வையைக் களைந்து போடவேண்டும் என்று விரும்பாமல், மரணமானது ஜீவனாலே விழுங்கப்படுவதற்காக போர்வை தரித்தவர்களாக இருக்கவேண்டும் என்று விரும்புகிறோம். ⁵ இதற்கு நம்மை ஆயத்தப்படுத்துகிறவர் தேவனே; ஆவி என்னும் உத்திரவாதத்தை நமக்குத் தந்தவரும் அவரே. ⁶ நாம் காண்பவைகளின்படி நடக்காமல், அவரை விசுவாசித்து நடக்கிறோம். ⁷ இந்த சரீரத்தில் குடியிருக்கும்போது கர்த்தரிடம் குடியில்லாதவர்களாக இருக்கிறோம் என்று தெரிந்தும், எப்பொழுதும் தைரியமாக இருக்கிறோம். ⁸ நாம் தைரியமாகவே இருந்து, இந்த சரீரத்தைவிட்டுப் போகவும் கர்த்தரிடம் குடியிருக்கவும் அதிகமாக விரும்புகிறோம். ⁹ அதினாலேயே நாம் சரீரத்தில் குடியிருந்தாலும் குடியில்லாமல் போனாலும் அவருக்குப் பிரியமானவர்களாக இருக்கவிரும்புகிறோம். ¹⁰ ஏனென்றால், சரீரத்தில் அவனவன் செய்த நன்மைக்காவது தீமைக்காவது தகுந்த பலனைப் பெற்றுக்கொள்வதற்காக, நாமெல்லோரும் கிறிஸ்துவின் நியாயாசனத்திற்கு முன்பாக நிற்கவேண்டும்.

¹¹ எனவே, கர்த்தருக்குப் பயப்படவேண்டும் என்று அறிந்து, மனிதர்களுக்குப் புத்திசொல்லுகிறோம்; தேவனுக்குமுன்பாக வெளிப்படையாக இருக்கிறோம்; உங்களுடைய மனச்சாட்சிக்கும் வெளிப்படையாக இருக்கிறோம் என்று நம்புகிறேன். ¹² இதனாலே நாங்கள் உங்களுக்கு முன்பாக எங்களை மீண்டும் பெருமைப்படுத்திக்கொள்ளாமல், இருதயத்தில் இல்லை, வெளிவேஷத்தில் மேன்மை பாராட்டுகிறவர்களுக்கு எதிரே, எங்களைக்குறித்து நீங்கள் மேன்மைபாராட்டும்படி வாய்ப்பை உண்டாக்குகிறோம். ¹³ நாங்கள் பைத்தியம் பிடித்தவர்களென்றால் தேவனுக்காக அப்படியிருக்கிறோம்; தெளிந்த புத்தியுள்ளவர்களென்றால் உங்களுக்காக அப்படியிருக்கிறோம். ¹⁴ கிறிஸ்துவினுடைய அன்பு எங்களை அதிகமாக உற்சாகப்படுத்துகிறது; ஏனென்றால், எல்லோருக்காகவும் ஒருவரே மரித்திருக்க, எல்லோரும் மரித்தார்கள் என்றும்; ¹⁵ வாழ்கிறவர்கள் இனித் தங்களுக்கென்று வாழாமல், தங்களுக்காக மரித்து உயிரோடு எழுந்தவருக்கென்று வாழ்வதற்காக, அவர் எல்லோருக்காகவும் மரித்தார் என்றும் நிதானிக்கிறோம். ¹⁶ எனவே, இனிமேல், நாங்கள் ஒருவனையும் சரீரத்தின்படி அறியோம்; நாங்கள் கிறிஸ்துவையும் சரீரத்தின்படி அறிந்திருந்தாலும், இனி ஒருபோதும் அவரை சரீரத்தின்படி அறியோம். ¹⁷ இப்படியிருக்க, ஒருவன் கிறிஸ்துவிற்குள் இருந்தால் புதுப்படைப்பாக இருக்கிறான்; பழையவைகள் எல்லாம் ஒழிந்துபோனது, எல்லாம் புதிதானது. ¹⁸ இவைகளெல்லாம் தேவனாலே உண்டாயிருக்கிறது; அவர் இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவைக்கொண்டு நம்மை அவரோடு ஒப்புரவாக்கி, ஒப்புரவாக்குதலின் ஊழியத்தை எங்களுக்கு ஒப்புக்கொடுத்தார். ¹⁹ அது என்னவென்றால், தேவன் உலகத்தாருடைய பாவங்களை எண்ணாமல், கிறிஸ்துவிற்குள் அவர்களைத் தம்மோடு ஒப்புரவாக்கி, ஒப்புரவாக்குதலின் உபதேசத்தை எங்களிடம் ஒப்புவித்தார். ²⁰ ஆகவே, தேவனானவர் எங்களைக்கொண்டு புத்திசொல்லுகிறதுபோல, நாங்கள் கிறிஸ்துவின் பிரதிநிதிகளாக இருந்து, தேவனோடு ஒப்புரவாகுங்கள் என்று கிறிஸ்துவினால் உங்களை வேண்டிக்கொள்கிறோம். ²¹ நாம் அவருக்குள் தேவனுடைய நீதியாக இருப்பதற்காக, பாவம் அறியாத அவரை நமக்காகப் பாவமாக்கினார்.

அத்தியாயம்- 6

¹ தேவனுடைய கிருபையை நீங்கள் வீணாகப் பெற்றுக்கொள்ளாதபடி, தேவனுடைய உடன்வேலையாட்களாகிய நாங்கள் உங்களுக்குப் புத்திசொல்லுகிறோம். ² சரியான காலத்திலே நான் உன் வார்த்தையைக் கேட்டு, இரட்சிப்பின் நாளிலே உனக்கு உதவிசெய்தேன் என்று சொல்லியிருக்கிறாரே; இதோ, இப்பொழுதே சரியான காலம், இப்பொழுதே மீட்பின் நாள்.

³ இந்த ஊழியம் குற்றஞ்சாட்டப்படாமல் இருக்க, நாங்கள் யாருக்கும் இடறல் உண்டாக்காமல், எல்லாவிதத்திலும், எங்களை தேவ ஊழியர்களாக விளங்கப்பண்ணுகிறோம். ⁴ அதிக பொறுமையிலும், உபத்திரவங்களிலும், நெருக்கங்களிலும், இடுக்கண்களிலும், ⁵ அடிகளிலும், காவல்களிலும், கலகங்களிலும், பிரயாசங்களிலும், கண்விழிப்புகளிலும், உபவாசங்களிலும், ⁶ கற்பிலும், அறிவிலும், நீடிய சாந்தத்திலும், தயவிலும், பரிசுத்த ஆவியிலும், மாயமில்லாத அன்பிலும், ⁷ சத்தியவசனத்திலும், தேவபலத்திலும்; நீதியாகிய வலது இடதுபக்கத்து ஆயுதங்களை அணிந்திருக்கிறதிலும், ⁸ கனத்திலும், கனவீனத்திலும், இகழ்ச்சியிலும், புகழ்ச்சியிலும்; ஏமாற்றுபவர்கள் என்று சொல்லப்பட்டாலும், உண்மை உள்ளவர்களாகவும், ⁹ அறியப்படாதவர்கள் என்னப்பட்டாலும் நன்றாகத் அறியப்பட்டவர்களாகவும், சாகிறவர்கள் என்னப்பட்டாலும் உயிரோடு இருக்கிறவர்களாகவும், தண்டிக்கப்படுகிறவர்கள் என்னப்பட்டாலும் கொல்லப்படாதவர்களாகவும், ¹⁰ துக்கப்படுகிறவர்கள் என்னப்பட்டாலும் எப்பொழுதும் சந்தோஷப்படுகிறவர்களாகவும், ஏழைகள் என்னப்பட்டாலும் அநேகரை செல்வந்தர்களாக்குகிறவர்களாகவும், ஒன்றும் இல்லாதவர்கள் என்னப்பட்டாலும் எல்லாவற்றையும் உடையவர்களாகவும் எங்களை விளங்கப்பண்ணுகிறோம். ¹¹ கொரிந்தியர்களே, எங்களுடைய வாய் உங்களோடு பேசத் திறந்திருக்கிறது, எங்களுடைய இருதயம் உங்களுக்குத் திறந்திருக்கிறது. ¹² எங்களுடைய உள்ளம் உங்களைக்குறித்து நெருக்கமடையவில்லை, உங்களுடைய உள்ளமே எங்களைக்குறித்து நெருக்கமடைந்திருக்கிறது. ¹³ எனவே அதற்குப் பதிலாக நீங்களும் உங்களுடைய இருதயங்களைத் திறவுங்கள் என்று, குழந்தைகளுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறதுபோல, உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன்.

¹⁴ அவிசுவாசிகளுடன் இணைக்கப்படாமல் இருங்கள்; நீதிக்கும் அநீதிக்கும் சம்பந்தம் ஏது? ஒளிக்கும் இருளுக்கும் ஐக்கியம் ஏது? ¹⁵ கிறிஸ்துவிற்கும் பேலியாளுக்கும் ஒப்பந்தம் ஏது? அவிசுவாசியுடன் விசுவாசிக்குப் பங்கு ஏது? ¹⁶ தேவனுடைய ஆலயத்திற்கும் விக்கிரகங்களுக்கும் சம்பந்தம் ஏது? நான் அவர்களுக்குள்ளே வாழ்ந்து, அவர்களுக்குள்ளே உலாவி, அவர்களுக்கு தேவனாக இருப்பேன், அவர்கள் என் மக்களாக இருப்பார்கள் என்று, தேவன் சொன்னபடியே, நீங்கள் ஜீவனுள்ள தேவனுடைய ஆலயமாக இருக்கிறீர்களே. ¹⁷ எனவே, நீங்கள் அவர்கள் நடுவிலிருந்து புறப்பட்டுப் பிரிந்துபோய், அசுத்தமானதைத் தொடாமல் இருங்கள் என்று கர்த்தர் சொல்லுகிறார். ¹⁸ அப்பொழுது, நான் உங்களை ஏற்றுக்கொண்டு, உங்களுக்குப் பிதாவாக இருப்பேன், நீங்கள் எனக்குக் குமாரர்களும் குமாரத்திகளுமாக இருப்பீர்கள் என்று சர்வவல்லமையுள்ள கர்த்தர் சொல்லுகிறார்.

அத்தியாயம்- 7

¹ இப்படிப்பட்ட வாக்குத்தத்தங்கள் நமக்கு உண்டாயிருக்கிறபடியினால், பிரியமானவர்களே, சரீரத்திலும் ஆவியிலும் உண்டான எல்லா அசுத்தமானவைகளும் நீங்க, நம்மைச் சுத்திகரித்துக்கொண்டு, பரிசுத்தமாகுதலை தேவபயத்தோடு நிறைவாக்குவோம்.

² எங்களுக்கு உங்கள் இருதயத்தில் இடங்கொடுங்கள்; நாங்கள் யாருக்கும் அநியாயம் செய்யவில்லை, யாரையும் கெடுக்கவில்லை, யாரையும் ஏமாற்றவில்லை. ³ உங்களைக் குற்றவாளிகளாக்குவதற்கு இப்படி நான் சொல்லுகிறதில்லை; முன்னே நான் சொல்லியபடி, உங்களோடு மரிக்கவும் பிழைக்கவும் எங்களுடைய இருதயங்களில் நீங்கள் இருக்கிறீர்களே. ⁴ அதிக தைரியத்தோடு உங்களோடு பேசுகிறேன்; உங்களைக்குறித்து அதிகமாக மேன்மைபாராட்டுகிறேன், ஆறுதலால் நிறைந்திருக்கிறேன். எங்களுக்கு உண்டான எல்லா உபத்திரவத்திலேயும் பரிபூரண சந்தோஷமாக இருக்கிறேன். ⁵ எப்படியென்றால், நாங்கள் மக்கெதோனியா நாட்டிற்கு வந்தபோது, எங்களுடைய சரீரத்திற்கு ஓய்வு இல்லாமல், எல்லாப் பக்கத்திலேயும் உபத்திரவப்பட்டோம்; வெளியே போராட்டங்களும், உள்ளே பயங்களும் இருந்தன. ⁶ ஆனாலும், சிறுமைப்பட்டவர்களுக்கு ஆறுதல் செய்கிற தேவன், தீத்து வந்ததினாலே எங்களுக்கு ஆறுதல் செய்தார். ⁷ அவன் வந்ததினாலே மாத்திரமல்ல, உங்களுடைய வாஞ்சையையும், உங்களுடைய வருத்தத்தையும், என்னைப்பற்றி உங்களுக்கு உண்டான பக்திவைராக்கியத்தையும் அவன் பார்த்து, உங்களால் அடைந்த ஆறுதலைத் தெரியப்படுத்தினதிலாலும், நானும் ஆறுதலடைந்து அதிகமாகச் சந்தோஷப்பட்டேன். ⁸ ஆதலால் நான் கடிதத்தினால் உங்களைத் துக்கப்படுத்தியிருந்தும், அந்தக் கடிதம் கொஞ்சகாலம் உங்களைத் துக்கப்படுத்தினது என்று பார்த்து நான் வருத்தப்பட்டிருந்தும், இப்பொழுது வருத்தப்படுகிறது இல்லை. ⁹ இப்பொழுது சந்தோஷப்படுகிறேன்; நீங்கள் துக்கப்பட்டதற்காக இல்லை, மனம்திரும்புகிறதற்கேற்றத் துக்கப்பட்டதற்காகவே சந்தோஷப்படுகிறேன்; நீங்கள் ஒன்றிலும் எங்களால் நஷ்டப்படாதபடி, தேவனுக்கேற்ற துக்கம் அடைந்தீர்களே. ¹⁰ தேவனுக்கேற்ற துக்கம் பின்பு வருத்தப்படுகிறதற்கு ஏதுவாக இல்லாமல் இரட்சிப்பிற்குரிய மனந்திரும்புதலை உண்டாக்குகிறது; உலகத்தின் துக்கமோ மரணத்தை உண்டாக்குகிறது. ¹¹ பாருங்கள், நீங்கள் தேவனுக்கேற்ற துக்கமடைந்ததுண்டே; அது உங்களிடம் எவ்வளவு வாஞ்சையையும், குற்றம் தீர எவ்வளவு நியாயம் சொல்லுதலையும், எவ்வளவு வெறுப்பையும், எவ்வளவு பயத்தையும், எவ்வளவு ஆவலையும், எவ்வளவு பக்திவைராக்கியத்தையும், எவ்வளவு கண்டிப்பையும் உண்டாக்கியது. இந்தக் காரியத்திலே நீங்கள் எல்லாவிதத்திலும் உங்களைக் குற்றமற்றவர்கள் என்று விளங்கப்பண்ணினீர்கள். ¹² எனவே, நான் உங்களுக்கு அப்படி எழுதியிருந்தும், அநியாயம் செய்தவனாலும் இல்லை, அநியாயம் செய்யப்பட்டவனாலும் இல்லை, தேவனுக்குமுன்பாக உங்களைக்குறித்து எங்களுக்கு உண்டாயிருக்கிற வாஞ்சையை உங்களுக்குத் தெரியப்படுத்துவதற்காகவே அப்படி எழுதினேன். ¹³ இதனால் நீங்கள் ஆறுதலடைந்ததினாலே நாங்களும் ஆறுதலடைந்தோம்; விசேஷமாகத் தீத்துவினுடைய ஆவி உங்கள் அனைவராலும் ஆறுதல் அடைந்ததினாலே, அவனுக்கு உண்டான சந்தோஷத்தினால் அதிக சந்தோஷப்பட்டோம். ¹⁴ இப்படியிருக்க, உங்களுக்குப் புகழ்ச்சியாக நான் அவனுடன் சொன்ன எதைக்குறித்தும் வெட்கப்படமாட்டேன்; நாங்கள் எல்லாவற்றையும் உங்களுக்குச் சத்தியமாகச் சொன்னதுபோல, தீத்துவுடனே நாங்கள் உங்களுக்குப் புகழ்ச்சியாகச் சொன்னதும் சத்தியமாக விளங்கினதே. ¹⁵ மேலும் நீங்கள் எல்லோரும் கட்டளைக்குக் கீழ்ப்படிந்து, பயத்தோடும் நடுக்கத்தோடும் தன்னை ஏற்றுக்கொண்டதை அவன் நினைக்கும்போது, அவனுடைய உள்ளம் உங்களைப்பற்றி அதிக அன்பாக இருக்கிறது. ¹⁶ எனவே, எல்லாவிதத்திலும் உங்களைக்குறித்து எனக்குத் திடமான நம்பிக்கை இருக்கிறது என்று சந்தோஷப்படுகிறேன்.

அத்தியாயம்- 8

¹ அன்றியும் சகோதர, சகோதரிகளே மக்கெதோனியா நாட்டு சபைகளுக்கு தேவன் அளித்த கிருபையை உங்களுக்கு அறிவிக்கிறோம். ² அவர்கள் அதிக உபத்திரவத்தினாலே சோதிக்கப்படும்போது, கொடிய தரித்திரம் உடையவர்களாக இருந்தும், தங்களுடைய பரிபூரண சந்தோஷத்தினாலே அதிக தாராளமாகக் கொடுத்தார்கள். ³ மேலும் அவர்கள் தங்களுடைய தகுதிக்கும், தங்களுடைய தகுதிக்கு மிஞ்சியும் கொடுக்க, தாங்களே விருப்பம் உள்ளவர்களாக இருந்தார்கள் என்பதற்கு, நான் சாட்சியாக இருக்கிறேன். ⁴ தங்களுடைய உதவிகளையும், பரிசுத்தவான்களுக்குச் செய்யப்படும் தர்ம ஊழியத்தின் பங்கையும் நாங்கள் ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளும்படி அவர்கள் எங்களை அதிகமாக வேண்டிக்கொண்டார்கள். ⁵ மேலும் நாங்கள் எதிர்பார்த்தபடி கொடுக்காமல், தேவனுடைய விருப்பத்தினாலே தங்களைத்தாமே, முதலில் கர்த்தருக்கும், பின்பு எங்களுக்கும் ஒப்புக்கொடுத்தார்கள். ⁶ எனவே, தீத்து இந்தத் தர்மகாரியத்தை உங்களிடம் தொடங்கினபடியே, அதை முடிக்கவும் வேண்டும் என்று அவனைக் கேட்டுக்கொண்டோம். ⁷ அல்லாமலும், விசுவாசத்திலும், போதிப்பதிலும், அறிவிலும், எல்லாவிதமான எச்சரிக்கையிலும், எங்கள்மேல் உள்ள உங்களுடைய அன்பிலும், மற்ற எல்லாக் காரியங்களிலும், நீங்கள் பெருகியிருக்கிறதுபோல, இந்தத் தர்மகாரியத்திலும் பெருகவேண்டும். ⁸ இதை நான் கட்டளையாகச் சொல்லாமல், மற்றவர்களுடைய வாஞ்சையைக் கொண்டு, உங்களுடைய அன்பின் உண்மையைச் சோதிப்பதற்காகவே சொல்லுகிறேன். ⁹ நம்முடைய கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவின் கிருபையை அறிந்திருக்கிறீர்களே; அவர் செல்வந்தராக இருந்தும், நீங்கள் அவருடைய ஏழ்மையினாலே செல்வந்தர்களாவதற்கு, உங்களுக்காக ஏழையானாரே. ¹⁰ இதைக்குறித்து என் யோசனையை உங்களுக்கு அறிவிக்கிறேன்; இதைச் செய்கிறதற்கு மட்டுமில்லை, செய்யவேண்டும் என்று விருப்பப்பட்டு கடந்த வருடத்தில் ஆரம்பம்பண்ணின உங்களுக்கு இது தகுதியாக இருக்கும். ¹¹ எனவே, அதை இப்பொழுது செய்து நிறைவேற்றுங்கள்; கொடுக்கவேண்டும் என்கிற விருப்பம் உண்டாயிருந்ததுபோல, உங்களிடம் இருக்கிறவைகளில் எடுத்து அதை நிறைவேற்றுவதிலும் உண்டாவதாக. ¹² ஒருவனுக்கு மனவிருப்பம் இருந்தால், அவனுக்கு இல்லாதவைகளின்படியல்ல, அவனுக்கு இருக்கிறவைகளின்படியே அங்கீகரிக்கப்படும். ¹³ மற்றவர்களுக்கு உதவியும், உங்களுக்கு வருத்தமும் உண்டாகும்படியல்ல, ஏற்றத்தாழ்வில்லாமல் இருக்கும்படியாகவே சொல்லுகிறேன். ¹⁴ எப்படியென்றால், அதிகமாகச் சேர்த்தவனுக்கு அதிகமானதும் இல்லை, கொஞ்சமாகச் சேர்த்தவனுக்குக் குறைவானதும் இல்லை என்று எழுதியிருக்கிறபடி, ¹⁵ ஏற்றத்தாழ்வற்றப் பிரமாணத்தின்படியே, அவர்களுடைய செல்வம் உங்களுடைய வறுமைக்கு உதவும்படிக்கு இக்காலத்திலே உங்களுடைய செல்வம் அவர்களுடைய வறுமைக்கு உதவுவதாக.

¹⁶ அன்றியும் உங்களுக்காக இப்படிப்பட்ட வாஞ்சை உண்டாயிருக்கும்படி தீத்துவின் இருதயத்தில் அருளின தேவனுக்கு ஸ்தோத்திரம். ¹⁷ நாங்கள் கேட்டுக்கொண்டதை அவன் அங்கீகரித்ததோடு, அவன் அதிக வாஞ்சையாக இருந்து, தன் மனவிருப்பத்தின்படியே உங்களிடம் வருவதற்காகப் புறப்பட்டான். ¹⁸ நற்செய்தி ஊழியத்தில் எல்லா சபைகளிலும் புகழ்ச்சிபெற்ற ஒரு சகோதரனை அவனோடுகூட அனுப்பியிருக்கிறோம். ¹⁹ அதுமட்டும் இல்லை, கர்த்தருக்கு மகிமை உண்டாகவும், உங்களுடைய மனவிருப்பம் விளங்கவும், எங்களுடைய ஊழியத்தினாலே சேர்க்கப்படும் தர்மப்பணத்தைக் கொண்டுபோகும்போது, எங்களுடைய பயணத்தில் துணையாக இருப்பதற்காக, அவன் சபைகளால் தெரிந்து நியமிக்கப்பட்டவனாகவும் இருக்கிறான். ²⁰ எங்களுடைய ஊழியத்தினாலே சேர்க்கப்படும் இந்த அதிகமான தர்மப்பணத்தைக்குறித்து யாரும் எங்களைக் குற்றப்படுத்தாதபடி நாங்கள் எச்சரிக்கையாக இருந்து, ²¹ கர்த்தருக்கு முன்பாகமட்டும் இல்லை, மனிதர்களுக்கு முன்பாகவும் யோக்கியமானவைகளைச் செய்ய விரும்புகிறோம். ²² மேலும், அநேக காரியங்களில் ஜாக்கிரதையுள்ளவன் என்று நாங்கள் பலமுறை பார்த்து அறிந்தவனும், இப்பொழுது உங்கள்மேல் உள்ள அதிக நம்பிக்கையினாலே அதிக எச்சரிக்கையுள்ளவனுமாகிய நம்முடைய சகோதரனையும் இவர்களோடு அனுப்பியிருக்கிறோம். ²³ தீத்துவைக்குறித்து யாராவது விசாரித்தால், அவன் எனக்குக் கூட்டாளியும், உங்களுக்காக என் உடனவேலையாளமாக இருக்கிறான் என்றும்; எங்களுடைய சகோதரர்களைக்குறித்து ஒருவன் விசாரித்தால், அவர்கள் சபைகளில் இருந்து அனுப்பப்பட்ட பிரதிநிதிகளும், கிறிஸ்துவிற்கு மகிமையுமாக இருக்கிறார்கள் என்றும் அறியவேண்டும். ²⁴ எனவே, உங்களுடைய அன்பையும், நாங்கள் உங்களைக்குறித்துச் சொன்ன புகழ்ச்சியையும், சபைகளுக்கு முன்பாக அவர்களுக்குத் தெரியப்படுத்துங்கள்.

அத்தியாயம்- 9

¹ பரிசுத்தவான்களின் ஊழியத்திற்கு செய்யவேண்டிய உதவிகளைக்குறித்து, நான் அதிகமாக உங்களுக்கு எழுதவேண்டியதில்லை. ² உங்களுடைய மனவிருப்பத்தை அறிந்திருக்கிறேன்; அகாயாவில் உள்ளவர்கள் ஒருவருடமாக ஆயத்தமாக இருக்கிறார்கள் என்று, நான் மக்கெதோனியரிடம் சொல்லி, உங்களைப் புகழ்ந்தேனே; உங்களுடைய வாஞ்சை அநேகரை செயலில் ஈடுபடவைத்தது. ³ அப்படியிருந்தும், உங்களைக்குறித்து நாங்கள் சொன்ன புகழ்ச்சி இந்தக் காரியத்தில் வீணாகப்போகாமல், நான் சொன்னபடி நீங்கள் ஆயத்தப்பட்டவர்களாக இருப்பதற்கு, இந்தச் சகோதரர்களை அனுப்பினேன். ⁴ மக்கெதோனியர்கள் என்னோடு வந்து, நீங்கள் ஆயத்தப்படாதவர்களாக இருப்பதைப் பார்த்தால், இவ்வளவு உறுதியாக உங்களைப் புகழ்ந்ததற்காக, நீங்கள் வெட்கப்படுவீர்கள் என்று நாங்கள் சொல்லாமல், நாங்களே வெட்கப்படவேண்டியதாக இருக்கும். ⁵ ஆகவே, வாக்குறுதிபண்ணப்பட்டிருக்கிற உங்களுடைய தர்ம உதவியானது கட்டாயப்படுத்திக் கொடுக்கப்பட்டதாக இல்லாமல், தாராளமாகக் கொடுக்கப்பட்டதாக இருப்பதற்காக அதை ஆயத்தப்படுத்துகிறதற்குச் சகோதரர்களை முதலில் உங்களிடம் அனுப்புவது அவசியம் என்று எனக்குத் தோன்றியது.

⁶ பின்னும் நான் சொல்லுகிறது என்னவென்றால், கொஞ்சம் விதைக்கிறவன் கொஞ்சம் அறுப்பான், அதிகமாக விதைக்கிறவன் அதிகமாக அறுப்பான். ⁷ அவனவன் வருத்தத்தோடும் அல்ல, கட்டாயமாகவும் அல்ல, தன் மனதில் திட்டமிட்டபடியே கொடுக்கவேண்டும்; உற்சாகமாகக் கொடுக்கிறவனிடம் தேவன் பிரியமாக இருக்கிறார். ⁸ மேலும், நீங்கள் எல்லாவற்றிலும் எப்பொழுதும் சம்பூரணமுடையவர்களாகவும், எல்லாவித நல்ல செயல்களிலும் பெருகுகிறவர்களாகவும் இருப்பதற்காக, தேவன் உங்களில் எல்லாவிதமான கிருபையையும் பெருகச்செய்ய வல்லவராக இருக்கிறார். ⁹ வாரி இறைத்தான், ஏழைகளுக்குக் கொடுத்தான், அவனுடைய நீதி என்றென்றைக்கும் நிற்கும் என்று எழுதியிருக்கிறபடியே ஆகும். ¹⁰ விதைக்கிறவனுக்கு விதையையும், சாப்பிடுகிறதற்கு ஆகாரத்தையும் கொடுக்கிறவர் உங்களுக்கு விதையைக் கொடுத்து, அதைப் பெருகப்பண்ணி, உங்களுடைய நீதியின் விளைச்சலைப் பெருகச்செய்வார். ¹¹ நீங்கள் எல்லா வகையிலும் செல்வந்தராகி தாராளகுணத்திலே சம்பூரணமுள்ளவர்களாவீர்கள். இதனால் தேவனுக்கு எங்கள் மூலமாக ஸ்தோத்திரமுண்டாகும். ¹² இந்த தர்ம உதவியாகிய பணிவிடை பரிசுத்தவான்களுடைய குறைவுகளை நீக்குகிறதும்மட்டுமல்லாமல், அநேகர் தேவனை ஸ்தோத்திரிப்பதினாலே சம்பூரண பலன் உள்ளதாகவும் இருக்கும். ¹³ அவர்கள் இந்த தர்ம உதவிகளாகிய நன்மையை அனுபவித்து, நீங்கள் கிறிஸ்துவின் நற்செய்தியைக் கீழ்ப்படிதலோடு அறிக்கையிட்டதினால், தங்களுக்கும் மற்ற அனைவருக்கும் நீங்கள் தாராளமாக தர்ம உதவிகள் செய்கிறதினாலும், அவர்கள் தேவனை மகிமைப்படுத்தி; ¹⁴ உங்களுக்காக வேண்டுதல்செய்து, தேவன் உங்களுக்கு அளித்த மிகவும் விசேஷித்த கிருபையினால் உங்கள்மேல் வாஞ்சையாக இருக்கிறார்கள். ¹⁵ தேவன் அருளிய சொல்லிமுடியாத ஈவுக்காக அவருக்கு ஸ்தோத்திரம்.

அத்தியாயம்- 10

¹ உங்களுக்கு முன்பாக இருக்கும்போது தாழ்மையாகவும், தூரத்திலே இருக்கும்போது உங்கள்மேல் கண்டிப்புடனும் இருக்கிற பவுலாகிய நான் கிறிஸ்துவின் சாந்தத்தையும் தயவையும் முன்வைத்து உங்களுக்குப் புத்திசொல்லுகிறேன். ² எங்களை சரீரத்தின்படி நடக்கிறவர்கள் என்று நினைக்கிற சிலரைக்குறித்து நான் கண்டிப்புடன் இருக்கவேண்டும் என்று நினைத்திருக்கிற தைரியத்தோடு, உங்கள் முன்பாக இருக்கும்போது, நான் கண்டிப்புள்ளவனாக இல்லாதபடி நீங்கள் எச்சரிக்கையாக இருக்க உங்களை வேண்டிக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். ³ நாங்கள் சரீரத்தில் நடக்கிறவர்களாக இருந்தும் சரீரத்தின்படி போர் செய்கிறவர்கள் இல்லை. ⁴ எங்களுடைய போராயுதங்கள் சரீரத்திற்கு உரியவைகளாக இல்லாமல், அரண்களை அழிக்கிறதற்கு தேவபலமுள்ளவைகளாக இருக்கிறது. ⁵ அவைகளால் நாங்கள் வாக்குவாதங்களையும், தேவனை அறிகிற அறிவிற்கு விரோதமாக எழும்புகிற எல்லா மேட்டிமையையும் அழித்து, எல்லா எண்ணங்களையும் கிறிஸ்துவிற்குக் கீழ்ப்படியுமாறு சிறைப்படுத்துகிறவர்களாக இருக்கிறோம். ⁶ உங்களுடைய கீழ்ப்படிதல் நிறைவேறும்போது, எல்லாக் கீழ்ப்படியாமைக்கும் தகுந்த நீதியுள்ள தண்டனையைச் செலுத்த ஆயத்தமாக இருக்கிறோம். ⁷ வெளித்தோற்றத்தின்படி பார்க்கிறீர்களா? ஒருவன் தன்னைக் கிறிஸ்துவிற்குரியவன் என்று நம்பினால், தான் கிறிஸ்துவிற்குரியவனாக இருக்கிறதுபோல நாங்களும் கிறிஸ்துவிற்குரியவர்கள் என்று அவன் தனக்குள்ளே சிந்திக்கட்டும். ⁸ மேலும், உங்களை அழிக்கிறதற்காக அல்ல, உங்களை உறுதியாகக் கட்டி எழுப்புகிறதற்குக் கர்த்தர் எங்களுக்குக் கொடுத்த அதிகாரத்தைக்குறித்து, நான் இன்னும்கொஞ்சம் அதிகமாக மேன்மைபாராட்டினாலும் நான் வெட்கப்படுவதில்லை. ⁹ நான் கடிதங்களாலே உங்களைப் பயமுறுத்துகிறவனாகத் தோன்றாதபடிக்கு இதைச் சொல்லுகிறேன். ¹⁰ அவனுடைய கடிதங்கள் கடினமானவையும் பலமும் உள்ளவைகள்; சரீரத்தின் தோற்றமோ பலவீனமும், வசனம் அற்பமாகவும் இருக்கிறது என்கிறார்களே. ¹¹ அப்படிச் சொல்லுகிறவன், நாங்கள் தூரத்தில் இருக்கும்போது எழுதுகிற கடிதங்களால் வசனத்தில் எப்படிப்பட்டவர்களாக இருக்கிறோமோ அப்படிப்பட்டவர்களாகவே அருகில் இருக்கும்போதும், செய்கையிலும் இருப்போம் என்று சிந்திக்கட்டும். ¹² எனவே, தங்களைத்தாங்களே பெருமைப்படுத்திக் கொள்கிற சிலருக்கு நாங்கள் எங்களை சரியாக்கவும், ஒப்பிடவும் துணியமாட்டோம்; தங்களைக்கொண்டு தங்களையே அளந்துகொண்டு, தங்களுக்கே தங்களை ஒப்பிட்டுக்கொள்கிற அவர்கள் புத்திமான்கள் இல்லை. ¹³ நாங்கள் அளவிற்கு மிஞ்சி மேன்மைபாராட்டாமல், உங்களிடம் வந்தடைவதற்காக, தேவன் எங்களுக்கு அளந்து பகிர்ந்த அளவுப்பிரமாணத்தின்படியே மேன்மைபாராட்டுகிறோம். ¹⁴ உங்களிடம் வந்தடையாதவர்களாக நாங்கள் அளவிற்கு மிஞ்சிப்போகிறது இல்லை; நாங்கள் கிறிஸ்துவின் நற்செய்தியைப் பிரசங்கித்து உங்களிடம் வந்தோமே. ¹⁵ எங்களுடைய அளவைக் கடந்து மற்றவர்களுடைய வேலைக்கு உட்பட்டு மேன்மை பாராட்டமாட்டோம். ¹⁶ ஆனாலும் உங்களுடைய விசுவாசம் பெருகும்போது, மற்றவர்களுடைய எல்லைகளுக்குள்ளே செய்யப்பட்டவைகளை நாங்கள் செய்ததாக மேன்மைபாராட்டாமல், உங்களுக்கு அப்பால் உள்ள இடங்களில் நற்செய்தியைப் பிரசங்கிக்கத்தக்கதாக, எங்களுடைய அளவின்படி உங்களால் மிகவும் பெருகி விருத்தியடைவோம் என்று நம்பிக்கையாக இருக்கிறோம். ¹⁷ மேன்மைபாராட்டுகிறவன் கர்த்தரைக்குறித்தே மேன்மை பாராட்டவேண்டும். ¹⁸ தன்னைத்தான் புகழுகிறவன் உத்தமன் இல்லை, கர்த்தரால் புகழப்படுகிறவனே உத்தமன்.

அத்தியாயம்- 11

¹ என் புத்தியினத்தை நீங்கள் கொஞ்சம் சகித்துக்கொண்டால் நலமாக இருக்கும்; என்னைச் சகித்துமிருக்கிறீர்களே. ² நான் உங்களைக் கற்புள்ள கன்னிகையாகக் கிறிஸ்து என்னும் ஒரே கணவனுக்கு ஒப்புக்கொடுக்க நியமித்தபடியால், உங்களுக்காக தேவவைராக்கியமான வைராக்கியம் கொண்டிருக்கிறேன். ³ ஆனாலும், பாம்பானது தன்னுடைய தந்திரத்தினாலே ஏவாளை ஏமாற்றினதுபோல, உங்களுடைய மனதும் கிறிஸ்துவைப்பற்றிய உண்மையிலிருந்து விலகும்படி கெடுக்கப்படுமோ என்று பயந்திருக்கிறேன். ⁴ எப்படியென்றால், உங்களிடம் வருகிறவன் நாங்கள் பிரசங்கிக்காத வேறொரு இயேசுவைப் பிரசங்கித்தால், அல்லது நீங்கள் பெற்றுக்கொள்ளாத வேறொரு ஆவியையும், நீங்கள் ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளாத வேறொரு நற்செய்தியையும் பெற்றீர்களானால், நன்றாகச் சகித்திருப்பீர்களே. ⁵ மாபெரும் பிரதான அப்போஸ்தலர்களிலும், நான் ஒன்றிலும் குறைவுள்ளவன் இல்லை என்று நினைக்கிறேன். ⁶ நான் பேச்சிலே கற்றுக்கொள்ளாதவனாக இருந்தாலும், அறிவிலே கற்றுக்கொள்ளாதவன் இல்லை; எல்லாக் காரியத்திலும், எல்லோருக்கும் முன்பாகவும் உங்களுக்குள்ளே நாங்கள் இதை வெளிப்படுத்தியிருக்கிறோமே. ⁷ நீங்கள் உயர்த்தப்படும்படி நான் என்னைத்தானே தாழ்த்தி, தேவனுடைய நற்செய்தியை இலவசமாக உங்களுக்குப் பிரசங்கித்தினாலே குற்றம் செய்தேனோ? ⁸ உங்களுக்கு ஊழியம் செய்யும்படிக்கு, மற்றச் சபைகளில் சம்பளத்தைப் பெற்று, அவர்களைக் கொள்ளையிட்டேன். ⁹ நான் உங்களோடு இருந்து குறைவுபட்டபோதும், யாரையும் நான் வருத்தப்படுத்தவில்லை; மக்கெதோனியாவில் இருந்து வந்த சகோதரர்கள் என் குறைவை நிறைவாக்கினார்கள்; எந்தவிதத்திலும் நான் உங்களுக்குச் சுமையாக இல்லாதபடிக்கு ஜாக்கிரதையாக இருந்தேன், இனிமேலும் ஜாக்கிரதையாக இருப்பேன். ¹⁰ அகாயா நாட்டின் பகுதிகளிலே இந்தப் புகழ்ச்சி என்னைவிட்டு நீங்குவதில்லை என்று என்னில் உள்ள கிறிஸ்துவினுடைய சத்தியத்தைக்கொண்டு சொல்லுகிறேன். ¹¹ இப்படிச் சொல்லவேண்டியதென்ன? நான் உங்களை நேசிக்காதபடியாலோ? தேவன் அறிவார். ¹² மேலும், எங்களை எதிர்க்க நேரம் தேடுகிறவர்களுக்கு நேரம் கிடைக்காதபடிக்கு, தங்களைக்குறித்து மேன்மைபாராட்டுகிற காரியத்தில் அவர்கள் எங்களைப்போலக் காணப்படும்படி, நான் செய்வதையே இன்னும் செய்வேன். ¹³ அப்படிப்பட்டவர்கள் கள்ள அப்போஸ்தலர்கள், கபடமுள்ள வேலையாட்கள், கிறிஸ்துவினுடைய அப்போஸ்தலரின் வேஷத்தை அணிந்துகொண்டவர்களாக இருக்கிறார்கள். ¹⁴ அது ஆச்சரியம் இல்லை, சாத்தானும் ஒளியின் தூதனுடைய வேஷத்தை அணிந்துகொள்வானே. ¹⁵ எனவே அவனுடைய ஊழியக்காரர்களும் நீதியின் ஊழியக்காரர்களுடைய வேஷத்தை அணிந்துகொண்டால் அது ஆச்சரியம் இல்லையே; அவர்கள் முடிவு அவர்கள் செய்கைகளைப் பொருத்திருக்கும்.

¹⁶ பின்னும் நான் சொல்லுகிறேன்; யாரும் என்னைப் புத்தியினன் என்று நினைக்கவேண்டாம்; அப்படி நினைத்தால், நானும் கொஞ்சம் மேன்மைபாராட்டும்படி, என்னைப் புத்தியினனைப்போலாவது ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளுங்கள். ¹⁷ இப்படி நான் சொல்லுகிறது கர்த்தருக்கேற்றபடி சொல்லாமல், மேன்மைபாராட்டும் தைரியத்தினாலே புத்தியினனைப்போலச் சொல்லுகிறேன். ¹⁸ அநேகர் சரீரத்திற்கேற்றபடி மேன்மை பாராட்டிக்கொள்ளும்போது, நானும் மேன்மைபாராட்டுவேன். ¹⁹ நீங்கள் புத்தி உள்ளவர்களாக இருந்து புத்தியில்லாதவர்களைச் சந்தோஷமாகச் சகித்திருக்கிறீர்களே. ²⁰ ஒருவன் உங்களைச் சிறையாக்கினாலும், ஒருவன் உங்களை அழித்தாலும், ஒருவன் உங்களைக் கைவசப்படுத்தினாலும், ஒருவன் தன்னை உயர்த்தினாலும், ஒருவன் உங்களை முகத்தில் அறைந்தாலும் சகித்திருக்கிறீர்களே. ²¹ நாங்கள் பலவீனரானதுபோல, எங்களுக்கு வந்த கனவீனத்தைக்குறித்துப்பேசுகிறேன்; ஒருவன் எதிலே துணிவுள்ளவனாக இருக்கிறானோ அதிலே நானும் துணிவுள்ளவனாக இருக்கிறேன்; இப்படிப் புத்தியினமாகப் பேசுகிறேன். ²² அவர்கள் எபிரெயரோ? நானும் எபிரெயன்; அவர்கள் இஸ்ரவேலரோ? நானும் இஸ்ரவேலன்; அவர்கள் ஆபிரகாமின் வம்சத்தாரோ? நானும் ஆபிரகாமின் வம்சத்தான். ²³ அவர்கள் கிறிஸ்துவின் ஊழியக்காரர்களா? நான் அதிகம்; புத்தியினமாகப் பேசுகிறேன்; நான் அதிகமாகப் பிரயாசப்பட்டவன், அதிகமாக அடிபட்டவன், அதிகமாக சிறைக் காவல்களில் வைக்கப்பட்டவன், அநேகமுறை மரணவேதனையில் சிக்கிக்கொண்டவன். ²⁴ யூதர்களால் ஒன்றுகுறைய நாற்பது அடிகளாக ஐந்து முறை அடிக்கப்பட்டேன்; ²⁵ மூன்றுமுறை பிரம்புகளால் அடிக்கப்பட்டேன், ஒருமுறை கல்லெறியப்பட்டேன், மூன்றுமுறை கப்பல் சேதத்தில் இருந்தேன், கடலிலே ஒரு இரவும் பகலும் கழித்தேன். ²⁶ அநேகமுறை பயணம் செய்தேன்; ஆறுகளால் வந்த மோசங்களிலும், திருடர்களால் வந்த மோசங்களிலும், என் சொந்த மக்களால் வந்த மோசங்களிலும், யூதரல்லாதவர்கள் மூலம் வந்த மோசங்களிலும், பட்டணங்களில் உண்டான மோசங்களிலும், வனாந்திரத்தில் உண்டான மோசங்களிலும், கடலில் உண்டான மோசங்களிலும், கள்ளச்சகோதரர்களால் வந்த மோசங்களிலும்; ²⁷ பிரயாசத்திலும், வருத்தத்திலும் அநேகமுறை கண்விழிப்புகளிலும், பசியிலும் தாகத்திலும், அநேகமுறை உபவாசங்களிலும், குளிரிலும், நிர்வாணத்திலும் இருந்தேன். ²⁸ இவைகள்

மட்டுமல்லாமல், எல்லா சபைகளைக்குறித்தும் உண்டாயிருக்கிற கவலை என்னை தினந்தோறும் துக்கப்படுத்துகிறது. ²⁹ ஒருவன் பலவீனனானால் நானும் பலவீனனாகிறது இல்லையோ? ஒருவன் பாவத்தில் விழுந்தால் என் மனம் எரியாமல் இருக்குமோ? ³⁰ நான் மேன்மைபாராட்டவேண்டுமென்றால், என் பலவீனங்களைக் காண்பிக்கிறவைகளைக்குறித்து மேன்மைபாராட்டுவேன். ³¹ என்றென்றைக்கும் ஸ்தோத்தரிக்கப்பட்ட தேவனும், நம்முடைய கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவின் பிதாவுமானவர் நான் பொய் சொல்லுகிறது இல்லை என்று அறிவார். ³² தமஸ்கு பட்டணத்து அரேத்தா ராஜாவினுடைய படைத்தலைவன் என்னைப் பிடிக்கவேண்டும் என்று தமஸ்கருடைய பட்டணத்தைச் சுற்றி காவல்வைத்துக் காத்தான்; ³³ அப்பொழுது நான் கூடையிலே வைக்கப்பட்டு, மதிலிலிருந்த ஜன்னல் வழியாக இறக்கிவிடப்பட்டு, அவனுடைய கைக்குத் தப்பினேன்.

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¹ மேன்மைபாராட்டுகிறது எனக்குத் தகுதியானது இல்லையே; ஆனாலும், கர்த்தர் அருளிய தரிசனங்களையும் வெளிப்படுத்தல்களையும் சொல்லுகிறேன். ² கிறிஸ்துவிற்குள்ளான ஒரு மனிதனை அறிவேன்; அவன் பதினான்கு வருடத்திற்கு முன்பே மூன்றாம் வானம்வரைக்கும் எடுக்கப்பட்டான்; அவன் சரீரத்தில் இருந்தானோ அல்லது சரீரத்திற்கு வெளியே இருந்தானோ, அதை நான் அறியேன்; தேவன் அறிவார். ³ அந்த மனிதன் பரதீசுக்குள் எடுக்கப்பட்டு, மனிதன் பேசப்படாததும் வாக்குக்கெட்டாததுமான வார்த்தைகளைக் கேட்டான் என்று அறிந்திருக்கிறேன். ⁴ அவன் சரீரத்தில் இருந்தானோ அல்லது சரீரத்திற்கு வெளியே இருந்தானோ, அதை நான் அறியேன்; தேவன் அறிவார். ⁵ இப்படிப்பட்டவனைக்குறித்து மேன்மைபாராட்டுவேன்; ஆனாலும் என்னைக்குறித்து என் பலவீனங்களைத்தவிர, வேறொன்றிலும் மேன்மைபாராட்டமாட்டேன். ⁶ சத்தியமானதை நான் பேசுகிறேன்; நான் மேன்மைபாராட்ட விரும்பினாலும், நான் புத்தியினன் இல்லை, ஆனாலும் ஒருவனும் என்னிடம் பார்த்ததற்கும், கேட்டதற்கும் மேலாக என்னை நினைக்காமலிருக்க நான் அப்படிச் செய்யாதிருப்பேன். ⁷ அன்றியும், எனக்கு வெளிப்படுத்தப்பட்டவைகளுக்குரிய மேன்மையினால் நான் என்னை உயர்த்தாமல் இருக்க, என் சரீரத்திலே ஒரு முள் கொடுக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது; நான் என்னை உயர்த்தாமல் இருக்க, அது என்னைக் குத்தும் சாத்தானுடைய தூதனாக இருக்கிறது. ⁸ அது என்னைவிட்டு நீங்கும்படி, நான் மூன்றுமுறை கர்த்தரிடம் வேண்டிக்கொண்டேன். ⁹ அதற்கு அவர்: என் கிருபை உனக்குப் போதும்; உன் பலவீனத்திலே என் பலம் பூரணமாக இருக்கும் என்றார். எனவே, கிறிஸ்துவின் வல்லமை என்மேல் தங்கும்படி, என் பலவீனங்களைக்குறித்து நான் மிகவும் சந்தோஷமாக மேன்மைபாராட்டுவேன். ¹⁰ அப்படியே நான் பலவீனமாக இருக்கும்போதே பலமுள்ளவனாக இருக்கிறேன்; எனவே கிறிஸ்துவுக்காக எனக்கு வரும் பலவீனங்களிலும், நிந்தைகளிலும், நெருக்கங்களிலும், துன்பங்களிலும், இடுக்கண்களிலும் நான் பிரியப்படுகிறேன்.

¹¹ மேன்மைபாராட்டி, புத்தியினன் ஆனேன்; நீங்களே இதற்கு என்னைக் கட்டாயப்படுத்தினீர்கள். நான் ஒன்றுமில்லை என்றாலும், பிரதான அப்போஸ்தலர்களுக்கும் நான் சிறிதளவும் குறைந்தவனாக இல்லாதபடியால், உங்களாலே பாராட்டப்பட வேண்டியதாக இருந்ததே. ¹² அப்போஸ்தலனுக்குரிய அடையாளங்கள் எல்லாவிதமான பொறுமையோடும், அதிசயங்களோடும், அற்புதங்களோடும், வல்லமைகளோடும், உங்களுக்குள்ளே நடத்தப்பட்டதே. ¹³ எதிலே மற்றச் சபைகளுக்குக் குறைவாக இருந்தீர்கள்? நான் உங்களை வருத்தப்படுத்தாமல் இருந்ததே உங்களுக்குக் குறைவு; இந்த அநியாயத்திற்காக என்னை மன்னியுங்கள். ¹⁴ இதோ, உங்களிடம் மூன்றாவது முறையும் வருவதற்கு ஆயத்தமாக இருக்கிறேன்; நான் உங்களை வருத்தப்படுத்துவது இல்லை; நான் உங்களுடையவைகளை அல்ல, உங்களையே தேடுகிறேன்; பெற்றோருக்குக் குழந்தைகள் இல்லை, குழந்தைகளுக்குப் பெற்றோர்களே பொக்கிஷங்களைச் சேர்த்துவைக்கவேண்டும். ¹⁵ எனவே, நான் உங்களை எவ்வளவு அதிகமாக நேசிக்கிறேனோ அவ்வளவு குறைவாக உங்களால் நான் நேசிக்கப்பட்டிருந்தாலும், மிகவும் சந்தோஷமாக நான் உங்களுடைய ஆத்துமாக்களுக்காகச் செலவுபண்ணவும் செலவுபண்ணப்படவும் விரும்புகிறேன். ¹⁶ அப்படியே ஆகட்டும், நான் உங்களுக்குச் சுமையாக இருக்கவில்லை; ஆனாலும், உதவி செய்கிறவனாக இருந்து, தந்திரத்தினாலே உங்களைப் பிடித்தேனாம். ¹⁷ நான் உங்களிடம் அனுப்பினவர்களில் எவன் மூலமாவது உங்களிடம் நன்மையைத் தேடினது உண்டா? ¹⁸ தீத்து உங்களிடம் வரும்படி நான் அவனைக் கேட்டுக்கொண்டு, அவனோடுசுட ஒரு சகோதரனை அனுப்பினேன்; தீத்து உங்களிடம் ஏதாவது நன்மையைத் தேடினானா? நாங்கள் ஒரே ஆவியை உடையவர்களாக, ஒரே அடிச்சுவடுகளில் நடந்தோம் அல்லவா? ¹⁹ நாங்கள் யோக்கியமானவர்கள் என்று தெரியும்படி உங்களிடம் பேசுகிறோம் என்று நினைக்கிறீர்களோ? தேவனுக்கு முன்பாகக் கிறிஸ்துவிற்குள் பேசுகிறோம். பிரியமானவர்களே, எல்லாவற்றையும் உங்களுடைய பக்திவளர்ச்சிக்காகச் செய்கிறோம். ²⁰ ஆனாலும் நான் வந்து, உங்களை என் மனவிருப்பத்தின்படி இருக்கிறவர்களாகப் பார்க்காமலும், நானும் உங்களுடைய மனவிருப்பத்தின்படி இருக்கிறவனாகப் பார்க்கப்படாமல் இருப்பேனோ என்றும்; விரோதங்கள், வைராக்கியங்கள், கோபங்கள், வாக்குவாதங்கள், புறங்கூறுதல், கோள் சொல்லுதல், இறுமாப்பு, கலகங்கள் ஆகிய இவைகள் உங்களுக்குள்ளே உண்டாயிருக்குமோ என்றும்; ²¹ மீண்டும் நான் வருகிறபோது, என் தேவன் உங்களிடம் என்னைத் தாழ்த்தும்படிக்கு முன்பு பாவம் செய்தவர்களாகிய அநேகர் தாங்கள் செய்த அசத்தத்தையும் வேசித்தனத்தையும் காமவிகாரத்தையும்விட்டு மனம்திரும்பாமல் இருக்கிறதைக்குறித்து, நான் துக்கப்படவேண்டியதாக இருக்குமோ என்றும் பயந்திருக்கிறேன்.

அத்தியாயம்- 13

¹ மூன்றாவதுமுறை நான் உங்களிடம் வருகிறேன்; எல்லாக் காரியங்களும் இரண்டு மூன்று சாட்சிகளினாலே உறுதிப்படுத்தப்படும். ² நான் இரண்டாம்முறை உங்களோடு இருந்தபோது சொன்னதுபோல, இப்பொழுது தூரத்தில் இருந்தும் உங்களிடம் இருக்கிறவனாக, நான் மீண்டும் வந்தால் தப்பவிடமாட்டேன் என்று முன்பு பாவம் செய்தவர்களுக்கும் மற்ற எல்லோருக்கும் முன்னறிவித்து எழுதுகிறேன். ³ கிறிஸ்து என் மூலம் பேசுகிறார் என்பதற்கு ஆதாரம் தேடுகிறீர்களே; அவர் உங்களிடம் பலவீனராக அல்ல, உங்களிடம் வல்லவராக இருக்கிறார். ⁴ ஏனென்றால், அவர் பலவீனத்தால் சிலுவையில் அறையப்பட்டிருந்தும், தேவனுடைய வல்லமையினால் பிழைத்திருக்கிறார்; அப்படி நாங்களும் அவருக்குள் பலவீனராக இருந்தும், உங்களிடம் விளங்கிய தேவனுடைய வல்லமையினால் அவரோடு பிழைத்திருப்போம். ⁵ நீங்கள் விசுவாசம் உள்ளவர்களோ என்று உங்களை நீங்களே சோதித்துப்பாருங்கள்; உங்களை நீங்களே பரீட்சை செய்துப்பாருங்கள். இயேசுகிறிஸ்து உங்களுக்குள் இருக்கிறார் என்று உங்களுக்குத் தெரியாதா? நீங்கள் பரீட்சைக்கு நிற்காதவர்களாக இருந்தால் தெரியாது. ⁶ நாங்களோ பரீட்சைக்கு நிற்காதவர்கள் அல்ல என்பதைத் தெரிந்துகொள்வீர்கள் என்று நம்புகிறேன். ⁷ மேலும் நீங்கள் ஒரு பொல்லாங்கும் செய்யாமல் இருக்கும்படியாக, தேவனை நோக்கி வேண்டிதல்செய்கிறேன். நாங்கள் பரீட்சைக்கு நின்றவர்கள் என்று தெரிவதற்காக இல்லை, நாங்கள் பரீட்சைக்கு நிற்காதவர்களோடு இருந்தாலும், நீங்கள் நலமானதைச் செய்யும்படியே வேண்டிதல்செய்கிறேன். ⁸ சத்தியத்திற்கு எதிராக நாங்கள் ஒன்றும் செய்யமுடியாமல், சத்தியத்திற்கு சாதகமாகவே செய்யமுடியும். ⁹ நாங்கள் பலவீனமுள்ளவர்களும் நீங்கள் பலமுள்ளவர்களாகவும் இருக்கும்போது சந்தோஷப்படுகிறோம்; நீங்கள் பூரணர்களாகும்படி வேண்டிதல்செய்கிறோம். ¹⁰ ஆகவே, இடித்துப்போடுவதற்கு அல்ல, உறுதியாகக் கட்டவே கர்த்தர் எனக்குக் கொடுத்த அதிகாரத்தின்படி, நான் உங்களிடம் வரும்போது, உங்களைக் கண்டிக்காமல் இருப்பதற்காக, நான் தூரத்தில் இருக்கும்போதே இவைகளை எழுதுகிறேன்.

¹¹ கடைசியாக, சகோதரர்களே, சந்தோஷமாக இருங்கள், பூரணராக நாடுங்கள், ஆறுதல் அடையுங்கள்; ஒரே சிந்தையாக இருங்கள், சமாதானமாக இருங்கள், அப்பொழுது அன்புக்கும் சமாதானத்திற்கும் காரணராகிய தேவன் உங்களோடு இருப்பார். ¹² ஒருவரையொருவர் பரிசுத்த முத்தத்தோடு வாழ்த்துங்கள். ¹³ பரிசுத்தவான்கள் எல்லோரும் உங்களுக்கு வாழ்த்துதல் சொல்லுகிறார்கள். ¹⁴ கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவினுடைய கிருபையும், தேவனுடைய அன்பும், பரிசுத்த ஆவியினுடைய ஐக்கியமும், உங்கள் அனைவரோடும் இருப்பதாக. ஆமென்.

Galatians

அத்தியாயம்- 1

¹ மனிதர்களாலும் இல்லை, மனிதர்கள் மூலமாகவும் இல்லை, இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவினாலும், அவரை மரித்தோரிலிருந்து உயிரோடு எழுப்பின பிதாவாகிய தேவனாலும் அப்போஸ்தலனாக இருக்கிற பவுலாகிய நானும், ² என்னோடு இருக்கிற சகோதரர்கள் எல்லோரும், கலாத்தியா நாட்டில் உள்ள சபைகளுக்கு எழுதுகிறதாவது: ³ பிதாவாகிய தேவனாலும், நம்முடைய கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவினாலும் உங்களுக்குக் கிருபையும், சமாதானமும் உண்டாவதாக; ⁴ அவர் நம்மை இப்பொழுது இருக்கிற பொல்லாத உலகத்திலிருந்து விடுவிப்பதற்காக நம்முடைய பிதாவாகிய தேவனுடைய விருப்பத்தின்படியே நம்முடைய பாவங்களுக்காகத் தம்மைத்தாமே ஒப்புக்கொடுத்தார்; ⁵ அவருக்கு என்றென்றைக்குமுள்ள எல்லாக் காலங்களிலும் மகிமை உண்டாவதாக. ஆமென்.

⁶ உங்களைக் கிறிஸ்துவின் கிருபையினாலே அழைத்தவரை நீங்கள் இவ்வளவு சீக்கிரமாகவிட்டு, வேறொரு வித்தியாசமான நற்செய்திக்குத் திரும்புகிறதைப்பற்றி நான் ஆச்சரியப்படுகிறேன்; ⁷ வேறொரு நற்செய்தி இல்லையே; சிலர் உங்களைக் கலங்கப்படுத்தி, கிறிஸ்துவினுடைய நற்செய்தியை மாற்ற விரும்புகிறார்கள். ⁸ நாங்கள் உங்களுக்குப் பிரசங்கித்த நற்செய்தியைத்தவிர, நாங்களோ அல்லது வானத்திலிருந்து வருகிற ஒரு தூதனோ, வேறொரு நற்செய்தியை உங்களுக்குப் பிரசங்கித்தால், அவன் சபிக்கப்பட்டவனாக இருப்பான். ⁹ முன்பே சொன்னதுபோல மீண்டும் சொல்லுகிறேன்; நீங்கள் ஏற்றுக்கொண்ட நற்செய்தியைத்தவிர வேறொரு நற்செய்தியை ஒருவன் உங்களுக்குப் பிரசங்கித்தால் அவன் சபிக்கப்பட்டவனாக இருப்பான். ¹⁰ இப்பொழுது மனிதனுடையதா, தேவனுடையதா? யாருடைய அங்கீகாரத்தைத் தேடுகிறேன்? மனிதனைப் பிரியப்படுத்தப் பார்க்கிறேனா? நான் இன்னும் மனிதனைப் பிரியப்படுத்துகிறவனாக இருந்தால் நான் கிறிஸ்துவின் ஊழியக்காரன் இல்லையே.

¹¹ மேலும், சகோதரர்களே, என்னால் பிரசங்கிக்கப்பட்ட நற்செய்தி மனிதர்களுடைய யோசனையினால் உண்டானது இல்லையென்று உங்களுக்குத் தெரிவிக்கிறேன். ¹² நான் அதை ஒரு மனிதனிடமிருந்து பெற்றதும் இல்லை, மனிதனிடமிருந்து கற்றதும் இல்லை, இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவே அதை எனக்கு வெளிப்படுத்தினார். ¹³ நான் யூதமதத்தில் இருந்தபோது என்னுடைய நடத்தையைக்குறித்துக் கேள்விப்பட்டிருப்பீர்கள்; தேவனுடைய சபையை நான் அதிகமாக துன்பப்படுத்தி, அதைப் பாழாக்கி; ¹⁴ என் மக்களில் என் வயதுள்ள அநேகரைவிட யூதமதத்தில் தேறினவனாக, என் முற்பிதாக்களுடைய பாரம்பரிய நியாயங்களுக்காக அதிக பக்திவைராக்கியம் உள்ளவனாக இருந்தேன். ¹⁵ அப்படியிருந்தும், நான் என் தாயின் வயிற்றிலிருந்து முதல், என்னைப் பிரித்தெடுத்து, தம்முடைய கிருபையினால் அழைத்த தேவன், ¹⁶ தம்முடைய குமாரனை நான் யூதரல்லாத மக்களுக்கு நற்செய்தியாக அறிவிப்பதற்கு, அவரை எனக்குள் வெளிப்படுத்த விருப்பமாக இருந்தபோது, உடனே நான் சரீரத்தோடும் இரத்தத்தோடும் யோசனை பண்ணாமலும்; ¹⁷ எனக்கு முன்பே எருசலேமில் அப்போஸ்தலர்களாக இருந்தவர்களிடம் போகாமலும்; அரபிதேசத்திற்குப் புறப்பட்டுப்போய், மீண்டும் தமஸ்கு ஊருக்குத் திரும்பிவந்தேன். ¹⁸ மூன்று வருடங்களுக்குப்பின்பு, பேதுருவைப் பார்ப்பதற்காக நான் எருசலேமுக்குப்போய், அவனோடு கூட பதினைந்து நாட்கள் தங்கியிருந்தேன். ¹⁹ கர்த்தருடைய சகோதரனாகிய யாக்கோபைத்தவிர, அப்போஸ்தலரில் வேறொருவரையும் நான் பார்க்கவில்லை. ²⁰ நான் உங்களுக்கு எழுதுகிற இவைகள் பொய் இல்லை என்று தேவனுக்குமுன்பாக நிச்சயமாகச் சொல்லுகிறேன். ²¹ பின்பு, சீரியா சிலிசியா நாடுகளுக்குச் சென்றேன். ²² மேலும் யூதேயா நாட்டிலே கிறிஸ்துவிற்குள்ளான சபைமக்களுக்கு அறிமுகம் இல்லாதவனாக இருந்தேன். ²³ முன்னே நம்மைத் துன்பப்படுத்தினவனே, தான் அழிக்கப்பார்த்த விசுவாசத்தை இப்பொழுது பிரசங்கிக்கிறான் என்பதைமட்டும் அவர்கள் கேள்விப்பட்டு, ²⁴ எனக்காக தேவனை மகிமைப்படுத்தினார்கள்.

அத்தியாயம்- 2

¹ பதினான்கு வருடங்களுக்குப்பின்பு, நான் தீத்துவைக் கூட்டிக்கொண்டு, பர்னபாவோடு மீண்டும் எருசலேமுக்குப் போனேன். ² நான் தேவ அறிவிப்பினாலே அங்குபோய், யூதரல்லாத மக்களுக்கு நான் பிரசங்கிக்கிற நற்செய்தியை அவர்களுக்கு விளக்கிச் சொன்னேன்; ஆனாலும் நான் ஓடுகிறதும், ஓடினதும் வீணாகப் போகாதபடி சபையை நடத்துகிற தலைவர்களுக்கே தனிமையாக விளக்கிச் சொன்னேன். ³ ஆனாலும் என்னோடு இருந்த தீத்து கிரேக்கனாக இருந்தும் விருத்தசேதனம்பண்ணிக்கொள்ளுவதற்குக் கட்டாயப்படுத்தப்படவில்லை. ⁴ கிறிஸ்து இயேசுவிற்குள் நமக்கு உண்டான சுதந்திரத்தை உளவுபார்த்து நம்மை நியாயப்பிரமாணத்திற்கு அடிமைகளாக்குவதற்காக குறுக்குவழியாக நுழைந்த கள்ளச் சகோதரர்களினால் அப்படியானது. ⁵ நற்செய்தியாகிய சத்தியம் உங்களிடம் மாறாமல் நிலைத்திருப்பதற்காக, நாங்கள் ஒருமணிநேரம் கூட அவர்களுக்குக் கீழ்ப்படிந்து இணங்கவில்லை. ⁶ அல்லாமலும் அங்கிருந்த சபைத் தலைவர்கள் எனக்கு ஒன்றும் போதிக்கவில்லை; அவர்கள் எப்படிப்பட்டவர்களாக இருந்தாலும் எனக்குக் கவலையில்லை. தேவன் மனிதர்களிடம் பட்சபாதம் உள்ளவர் இல்லையே. ⁷ அதுமட்டுமல்லாமல், விருத்தசேதனம் உள்ளவர்களுக்கு அப்போஸ்தலனாக இருப்பதற்காக பேதுருவைப் பலப்படுத்தினவர், யூதரல்லாத மக்களுக்கு அப்போஸ்தலனாக இருப்பதற்காக என்னையும் பலப்படுத்தினதினால், ⁸ விருத்தசேதனம் உள்ளவர்களுக்கு நற்செய்தியைப் பிரசங்கிப்பதற்காக பேதுருவிற்கு அதிகாரம் கொடுக்கப்பட்டதுபோல, விருத்தசேதனம் இல்லாதவர்களுக்குப் பிரசங்கிப்பதற்காக எனக்கும் அதிகாரம் கொடுக்கப்பட்டதென்று அவர்கள் பார்த்து; ⁹ எனக்குக் கொடுக்கப்பட்ட கிருபையை அறிந்தபோது, தூண்களாக நினைக்கப்பட்ட யாக்கோபும், கேபாவும், யோவானும், தாங்கள் விருத்தசேதனம் உள்ளவர்களுக்கும், நாங்கள் யூதரல்லாத மக்களுக்கும் பிரசங்கிப்பதற்காக, நெருங்கிய ஐக்கியத்திற்கு அடையாளமாக எனக்கும் பர்னபாவிற்கும் வலது கரம் கொடுத்து, ¹⁰ ஏழைகளை நினைத்துக்கொள்ளச் சொன்னார்கள்; அப்படிச் செய்வதற்காக அதற்கு முன்னமே நானும் ஆவலாக இருந்தேன்.

¹¹ மேலும், பேதுரு அந்தியோகியாவிற்கு வந்தபோது, அவன்மேல் குற்றஞ்சுமத்தினால், நான் அவனை முகமுகமாக எதிர்த்தேன். ¹² எப்படியென்றால், யாக்கோபினிடமிருந்து சிலர் வருகிறதற்கு முன்பே அவன் யூதரல்லாத மக்களோடு சாப்பிட்டான்; அவர்கள் வந்தபோதோ, விருத்தசேதனம் உள்ளவர்களுக்குப் பயந்து, விலகிப் பிரிந்தான். ¹³ மற்ற யூதர்களும் அவனோடுகூட இணைந்து மாய்மாலம்பண்ணினார்கள்; அவர்களுடைய மாய்மாலத்தினாலே பர்னபாவும் ஈர்க்கப்பட்டான். ¹⁴ இப்படி அவர்கள் நற்செய்தியின் சத்தியத்தின்படி சரியாக நடக்காததை நான் பார்த்தபோது, எல்லோருக்கும் முன்பாக நான் பேதுருவைப் பார்த்து சொன்னது என்னவென்றால்: யூதனாக இருக்கிற நீ யூதர்கள் முறைப்படி நடக்காமல், யூதரல்லாதவர்களின் முறைப்படி நடந்து கொண்டிருக்க, யூதரல்லாதோரை யூதர்கள் முறைப்படி நடக்கச்சொல்லி நீ எப்படிக் கட்டாயப்படுத்தலாம்? ¹⁵ யூதரல்லாதவர்களில் பிறந்த பாவிகளாக இல்லாமல், பிறப்பின்படி யூதர்களாக இருக்கிற நாமும் இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவிற்குள் உள்ள விசுவாசத்தினாலேதவிர, நியாயப்பிரமாணத்தின் செய்கைகளினாலே மனிதன் நீதிமானாக்கப்படுவது இல்லை என்று அறிந்து, நியாயப்பிரமாணத்தின் செய்கைகளினால் இல்லை, கிறிஸ்துவிற்குள் உள்ள விசுவாசத்தினாலே நீதிமான்களாக்கப்படுவதற்குக் கிறிஸ்து இயேசுவின்மேல் விசுவாசிகளானோம். ¹⁶ நியாயப்பிரமாணத்தின் செய்கைகளினாலே எந்த மனிதனும் நீதிமானாக்கப்படுவதில்லையே. ¹⁷ கிறிஸ்துவிற்குள் நீதிமான்களாக்கப்படுவதற்கு விரும்புகிற நாமும் பாவிகளாக இருப்போமென்றால், கிறிஸ்து பாவத்திற்குக் காரணரோ? இல்லையே. ¹⁸ நான் இடித்துப்போட்டவைகளையே நான் மீண்டும் கட்டினால், பிரமாணத்தை மீறுகிறவனாக இருப்பேன். ¹⁹ தேவனுக்கென்று பிழைப்பதற்காக நான் நியாயப்பிரமாணத்தினாலே நியாயப்பிரமாணத்திற்கு மரித்தேனே. ²⁰ கிறிஸ்துவோடு சிலுவையில் அறையப்பட்டேன்; ஆனாலும், பிழைத்திருக்கிறேன்; இனி நான் இல்லை, கிறிஸ்துவே எனக்குள் பிழைத்திருக்கிறார்; நான் இப்பொழுது சரீரத்தில் பிழைத்திருக்கிறதோ, என்மேல் அன்புவைத்து எனக்காகத் தம்மைத்தாமே ஒப்புக்கொடுத்த தேவனுடைய குமாரன்மேல் உள்ள விசுவாசத்தினாலே பிழைத்திருக்கிறேன். ²¹ நான் தேவனுடைய கிருபையை வீணாக்குகிறதில்லை; நீதியானது நியாயப்பிரமாணத்தினாலே வருமென்றால் கிறிஸ்து மரித்தது வீணாயிருக்குமே.

அத்தியாயம்- 3

¹ புத்தியில்லாத கலாத்தியர்களே, நீங்கள் சத்தியத்திற்குக் கீழ்ப்படியாமலிருக்க உங்களை மயக்கினவன் யார்? இயேசுகிறிஸ்து சிலுவையில் அறையப்பட்டவராக உங்களுடைய கண்களுக்குமுன் தெளிவாக உங்களுக்குள்ளே வெளிப்படுத்தப்பட்டிருந்தாரே. ² ஒன்றைமட்டும் உங்களிடமிருந்து தெரிந்துகொள்ள விரும்புகிறேன்; நியாயப்பிரமாணத்தின் செய்கைகளினாலோ, விசுவாசக் கேள்வியினாலோ, எதினாலோ ஆவியானவரைப் பெற்றுக்கொண்டீர்கள்? ³ ஆவியினாலே ஆரம்பம்பண்ணின நீங்கள் இப்பொழுது சரீரத்தினாலே முடிவு பெறப்போகிறீர்களோ? நீங்கள் இவ்வளவு புத்தி இல்லாதவர்களா? ⁴ இத்தனை பாடுகளையும் வீணாக அனுபவித்தீர்களோ? அவைகள் வீணாகப்போய்விட்டதே. ⁵ அன்றியும் உங்களுக்கு ஆவியானவரைக் கொடுத்து, உங்களுக்குள்ளே அற்புதங்களைச் செய்கிறவர் அதை நியாயப்பிரமாணத்தின் செய்கைகளினாலோ, விசுவாசக் கேள்வியினாலோ, எதினாலே செய்கிறார்? ⁶ அப்படியே ஆபிரகாம் தேவனை விசுவாசித்தான், அது அவனுக்கு நீதியாக நினைக்கப்பட்டது. ⁷ ஆகவே, விசுவாசிக்கிறவர்கள் எவர்களோ அவர்களே ஆபிரகாமின் பிள்ளைகள் என்று தெரிந்துகொள்ளுங்கள். ⁸ மேலும் தேவன் விசுவாசத்தினாலே யூதரல்லாத மக்களை நீதிமாண்களாக்குகிறார் என்று வேதம் முன்னமே கண்டு: உனக்குள் எல்லா தேசங்களும் ஆசீர்வதிக்கப்படும் என்று ஆபிரகாமுக்கு நற்செய்தியாக முன்னறிவித்தது. ⁹ அப்படியே விசுவாசம் உள்ளவர்கள் விசுவாசமுள்ள ஆபிரகாமோடு ஆசீர்வதிக்கப்படுகிறார்கள். ¹⁰ நியாயப்பிரமாணத்தின் செய்கைக்காரர்களாகிய எல்லோரும் சாபத்திற்கு உட்பட்டிருக்கிறார்கள்; ஏனென்றால் நியாயப்பிரமாணப் புத்தகத்தில் எழுதப்பட்டவைகள் எல்லாவற்றையும் தொடர்ந்து செய்யாதவன் எவனோ அவன் சபிக்கப்பட்டவன் என்று எழுதியிருக்கிறதே. ¹¹ நியாயப்பிரமாணத்தினாலே தேவன் ஒருவனையும் நீதிமானாக்குகிறதில்லை என்பது வெளிப்படையாக இருக்கிறது. ஏனென்றால், விசுவாசத்தினாலே நீதிமான் பிழைப்பான் என்று எழுதியிருக்கிறதே. ¹² நியாயப்பிரமாணமோ விசுவாசத்திற்குரியது இல்லை; அவைகளைச் செய்கிற மனிதனே அவைகளால் பிழைப்பான். ¹³ மரத்திலே தொங்கவிடப்பட்ட எவனும் சபிக்கப்பட்டவன் என்று எழுதியிருக்கிறபடி, கிறிஸ்து நமக்காகச் சாபமாகி, நியாயப்பிரமாணத்தின் சாபத்திற்கு நம்மை நீக்கி மீட்டுக்கொண்டார். ¹⁴ ஆபிரகாமுக்கு உண்டான ஆசீர்வாதம் கிறிஸ்து இயேசுவினால் யூதரல்லாத மக்களுக்கு வருவதற்காகவும், ஆவியானவரைக்குறித்துச் சொல்லப்பட்ட வாக்குத்தத்தத்தை நாம் விசுவாசத்தினாலே பெற்றுக்கொள்வதற்காகவும் இப்படி ஆனது.

¹⁵ சகோதரர்களே, மனிதர்களின் முறைகளின்படிச் சொல்லுகிறேன்; மனிதர்களுக்குள்ளே உறுதிபண்ணப்பட்ட உடன்படிக்கையை ஒருவனும் தள்ளுகிறதில்லை, அதினோடு எதையும் கூட்டுகிறதில்லை. ¹⁶ ஆபிரகாமுக்கும் அவனுடைய சந்ததிக்கும் வாக்குத்தத்தங்கள் பண்ணப்பட்டன; சந்ததிகளுக்கு என்று அநேகரைப்பற்றிச் சொல்லாமல், உன் சந்ததிக்கு என்று ஒருவனைக்குறித்துச் சொல்லியிருக்கிறார், அந்த சந்ததி கிறிஸ்துவே. ¹⁷ ஆகவே, நான் சொல்லுகிறது என்னவென்றால், கிறிஸ்துவை முன்னிட்டு தேவனால் முன்னமே உறுதிப்பண்ணப்பட்ட உடன்படிக்கையை நானூற்றுமுப்பது வருடங்களுக்குப்பின்பு உண்டான நியாயப்பிரமாணமானது, வாக்குத்தத்தத்தைப் பயன்றறதாக்காது. ¹⁸ அன்றியும், உரிமைப்பங்கானது நியாயப்பிரமாணத்தினாலே உண்டானால் அது வாக்குத்தத்தத்தினாலே உண்டாயிருக்காது; தேவன் அதை ஆபிரகாமுக்கு வாக்குத்தத்தத்தினாலே அருளிச்செய்தாரே. ¹⁹ அப்படியென்றால், நியாயப்பிரமாணத்தின் நோக்கம் என்ன? வாக்குத்தத்தத்தைப் பெற்ற சந்ததி வரும்வரைக்கும் அக்கிரமங்களினிமித்தமாக நியாயப்பிரமாணம் தேவதூதர்களைக்கொண்டு மத்தியஸ்தனுடைய கையிலே கொடுக்கப்பட்டது. ²⁰ மத்தியஸ்தன் ஒருவனுக்குரியவன் அல்ல, தேவன் ஒருவரே. ²¹ அப்படியென்றால் நியாயப்பிரமாணம் தேவனுடைய வாக்குத்தத்தங்களுக்கு எதிரானதா? இல்லையே; நியாயப்பிரமாணம் உயிரைக் கொடுக்கக்கூடியதாக இருந்திருந்தால், நீதியானது நியாயப்பிரமாணத்தினால் உண்டாயிருக்குமே. ²² அப்படி இல்லாததினால், இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவை விசுவாசிக்கும் விசுவாசத்தினாலே பலிக்கிற வாக்குத்தத்தம் விசுவாசம் உள்ளவர்களுக்குக் கொடுக்கப்படும்படி வேதம் எல்லாவற்றையும் பாவத்தின்கீழ் அடைத்துப்போட்டது. ²³ ஆகவே, விசுவாசம் வருகிறதற்கு முன்பே, வெளிப்படப்போகிற விசுவாசத்திற்கு ஏதுவாக நாம் அடைக்கப்பட்டவர்களாக நியாயப்பிரமாணத்தின்கீழ் காவல்பண்ணப்பட்டிருந்தோம். ²⁴ இந்தவிதமாக, நாம் விசுவாசத்தினாலே நீதிமாண்களாக்கப்படுவதற்கு நியாயப்பிரமாணம் நம்மைக் கிறிஸ்துவிடம் வழிநடத்துகிற ஆசிரியராக இருந்தது. ²⁵ விசுவாசம் வந்தபின்பு நாம் நியாயப்பிரமாணத்திற்குக் கீழானவர்கள் இல்லையே.

²⁶ நீங்கள் எல்லோரும் கிறிஸ்து இயேசுவை விசுவாசிக்கும் விசுவாசத்தினால் தேவனுடைய பிள்ளைகளாக இருக்கிறீர்களே. ²⁷ ஏனென்றால், உங்களில் கிறிஸ்துவிற்குள்ளாக ஞானஸ்நானம் பெற்ற அனைவரும் கிறிஸ்துவை அணிந்துகொண்டீர்களே. ²⁸ யூதனென்றும் கிரேக்கனென்றும் இல்லை, அடிமையென்றும் சுதந்திரமானவனென்றும் இல்லை, ஆனென்றும் பெண்ணென்றும் இல்லை; நீங்கள்

எல்லோரும் கிறிஸ்து இயேசுவிற்குள் ஒன்றாக இருக்கிறீர்கள். ²⁹ நீங்கள் கிறிஸ்துவுடையவர்களானால், ஆபிரகாமின் சந்ததியாராகவும், வாக்குத்தத்தத்தினால் வாரிசுகளாகவும் இருக்கிறீர்கள்.

அத்தியாயம்- 4

¹ பின்னும் நான் சொல்லுகிறது என்னவென்றால், வாரிசானவன் எல்லாவற்றிற்கும் எஜமானாக இருந்தும், அவன் சிறுபிள்ளையாக இருக்கும் காலம்வரைக்கும், அவனுக்கும் அடிமையானவனுக்கும் வித்தியாசம் இல்லை. ² தகப்பன் குறித்த காலம்வரைக்கும் அவன் காப்பாளருக்கும் வீட்டு விசாரணைக்காரர்களுக்கும் கீழ்ப்பட்டிருக்கிறான். ³ அப்படியே நாமும் சிறுபிள்ளைகளாக இருந்தகாலத்தில் இந்த உலகத்தின் வழிபாடுகளுக்கு அடிமைப்பட்டவர்களாக இருந்தோம். ⁴ நாம் புத்திரசுவிசாரத்தை அடைவதற்காக நியாயப்பிரமாணத்திற்குக் கீழ்ப்பட்டவர்களை மீட்டுக்கொள்ளத்தக்கதாக, ⁵ காலம் நிறைவேறினபோது, பெண்ணிடத்தில் பிறந்தவரும் நியாயப்பிரமாணத்திற்குக் கீழானவருமாகிய தம்முடைய குமாரனை தேவன் அனுப்பினார். ⁶ மேலும் நீங்கள் பிள்ளைகளாக இருக்கிறதினால், அப்பா, பிதாவே! என்று கூப்பிடுவதற்காக தேவன் தமது குமாரனுடைய ஆவியை உங்களுடைய இருதயங்களில் அனுப்பினார். ⁷ ஆகவே, இனி நீ அடிமையாக இல்லாமல் அவருடைய பிள்ளையாக இருக்கிறாய்; நீ அவருடைய பிள்ளையென்றால், கிறிஸ்து மூலமாக தேவனுடைய வாரிசாகவும் இருக்கிறாய்.

⁸ நீங்கள் தேவனை அறியாமல் இருந்தபோது, சுபாவத்தின்படி தேவர்களாக இல்லாதவர்களுக்கு அடிமைகளாக இருந்தீர்கள். ⁹ இப்பொழுதோ நீங்கள் தேவனை அறிந்திருக்க அல்லது தேவனாலே அறியப்பட்டிருக்க, பெலன் இல்லாததும் வெறுமையானதுமான அந்த வழிபாடுகளுக்கு நீங்கள் மீண்டும் திரும்பி, மீண்டும் அவைகளுக்கு அடிமைகளாவதற்கு விரும்புகிறது ஏன்? ¹⁰ நாட்களையும், மாதங்களையும், காலங்களையும், வருடங்களையும் கடைபிடித்து வருகிறீர்கள். ¹¹ நான் உங்களுக்காகப் பிரயாசப்பட்டது வீணாகப் போனதோ என்று உங்களைக்குறித்துப் பயந்திருக்கிறேன். ¹² சகோதரர்களே, என்னைப்போல மாறுங்கள் என்று உங்களை வேண்டிக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்; நான் உங்களைப்போலும் ஆனேனே. எனக்கு நீங்கள் அறியாமல் எதுவும் செய்யவில்லை. ¹³ உங்களுக்குத் தெரிந்திருக்கிறபடி, நான் என்னுடைய சரீர பலவீனத்தினிமித்தம் முதலாம்முறை உங்களுக்கு நற்செய்தியைப் பிரசங்கித்தேன். ¹⁴ அப்படி இருந்தும், என் சரீரத்தில் இருக்கிற பெலவீனம் உங்களுக்கு சோதனையாக இருந்தாலும் நீங்கள் என்னை வெறுக்காமலும், தள்ளிவிடாமலும், தேவதூதனைப்போலவும், கிறிஸ்து இயேசுவைப்போலவும் ஏற்றுக்கொண்டீர்கள். ¹⁵ அப்பொழுது நீங்கள் கொண்டிருந்த ஆனந்தபாக்கியம் எங்கே? உங்களுடைய கண்களைப் பிடுங்கி எனக்குக் கொடுக்கமுடியும் என்றால், அதையும் செய்திருப்பீர்கள் என்று உங்களுக்குச் சாட்சியாக இருக்கிறேன். ¹⁶ நான் உங்களுக்குச் சத்தியத்தைச் சொன்னதினாலே உங்களுக்கு எதிரியாக ஆனேனோ? ¹⁷ அவர்கள் வைராக்கியத்தோடு உங்களைத் தேடுகிறார்கள்; ஆனாலும் நல்லமனதோடு அப்படிச் செய்யாமல், நீங்கள் என்னைவிட்டுவிட்டு, அவர்களை வைராக்கியத்தோடு பின்பற்றவேண்டும் என்று விரும்புகிறார்கள். ¹⁸ நல்லக் காரியத்திற்காக, நான் உங்களோடு இருக்கும்பொழுது மட்டுமில்லை, எப்பொழுதும் வைராக்கியம் கொள்வது நல்லதுதான். ¹⁹ என் சிறுபிள்ளைகளே, கிறிஸ்து உங்களுக்குள் உருவாகும்வரைக்கும் உங்களுக்காக மீண்டும் கர்ப்பவேதனைப்படுகிறேன்; ²⁰ உங்களைக்குறித்து நான் சந்தேகப்படுகிறதினால், நான் இப்பொழுது உங்களிடம் வந்து, வேறுவிதமாகப் பேச விரும்புகிறேன்.

²¹ நியாயப்பிரமாணத்திற்குக் கீழ்ப்பட்டிருக்க விரும்புகிற நீங்கள் நியாயப்பிரமாணம் சொல்லுகிறதைக் கேட்கவில்லையா? இதை எனக்குச் சொல்லுங்கள். ²² ஆபிரகாமுக்கு இரண்டு குமாரர்கள் இருந்தார்கள் என்று எழுதியிருக்கிறது; ஒருவன் அடிமையான பெண்ணுக்கும் மற்றொருவன் சுதந்திரமான பெண்ணுக்கும் பிறந்தவன். ²³ அடிமையானவளுக்குப் பிறந்தவன் சரீரத்தின்படி பிறந்தான், சுதந்திரமுள்ளவளுக்குப் பிறந்தவன் வாக்குத்தத்தத்தின்படி பிறந்தான். ²⁴ இவைகள் ஞான அர்த்தம் உள்ளவைகள்; அந்த இரண்டு பெண்களும் இரண்டு ஏற்பாடுகளாம்; ஒன்று சீனாய்மலையில் உண்டான ஏற்பாடு, அது அடிமைத்தனத்திற்குள்ளாகக் குழந்தைப் பெறுகிறது, அது ஆகார் என்பவள் தானே. ²⁵ ஆகார் என்பது அரபிதேசத்தில் உள்ள சீனாய்மலை; அந்த ஆகார் இப்பொழுது இருக்கிற எருசலேமுக்கு அடையாளம்; ஏனென்றால், இவள் தன் பிள்ளைகளோடு அடிமைப்பட்டிருக்கிறாளே. ²⁶ மேலான எருசலேமோ சுதந்திரம் உள்ளவள், அவளே நம்மெல்லோருக்கும் தாயானவள். ²⁷ அந்தப்படி பிள்ளைபெறாத மலடியே, மகிழ்ந்திரு; கர்ப்பவேதனைப்படாதவளே, மகிழ்ச்சியாக எழும்பி ஆர்ப்பரி; கணவன் உள்ளவளைவிட மலடியான பெண்ணுக்கே அதிக பிள்ளைகள் உண்டு என்று எழுதியிருக்கிறது. ²⁸ சகோதரர்களே, நாம் ஈசாக்கைப்போல வாக்குத்தத்தத்தின் பிள்ளைகளாக இருக்கிறோம். ²⁹ ஆனாலும் சரீரத்தின்படி பிறந்தவன் ஆவியின்படி பிறந்தவனை அப்பொழுது துன்பப்படுத்தினதுபோல, இப்பொழுதும் நடந்துவருகிறது. ³⁰ அதைக்குறித்து வேதம் என்ன சொல்லுகிறது: அடிமையானவளின் மகன் சுதந்திரமுள்ளவருடைய மகனோடு வாரிசாக இருப்பதில்லை; ஆகவே, அடிமையானவளையும்,

அவளுடைய மகனையும் வெளியே தள்ளு என்று சொல்லுகிறது.³¹ இப்படியிருக்க, சகோதரர்களே, நாம் அடிமையானவளுக்குப் பிள்ளைகளாக இல்லாமல், சுதந்திரமுள்ளவளுக்கே பிள்ளைகளாக இருக்கிறோம்.

அத்தியாயம்- 5

¹ ஆனபடியால், நீங்கள் மீண்டும் அடிமைத்தனத்தின் நுகத்திற்குக் கீழாகாமல், கிறிஸ்து நமக்கு உண்டாக்கின சுதந்திர நிலைமையிலே நிலைத்திருங்கள். ² இதோ, நீங்கள் விருத்தசேதனம் பண்ணிக்கொண்டால் கிறிஸ்துவினால் உங்களுக்கு ஒரு பிரயோஜனமும் இருக்காது, என்று பவுலாகிய நான் உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன். ³ மேலும், விருத்தசேதனம் பண்ணிக்கொள்ளுகிற எந்த மனிதனும் நியாயப்பிரமாணம் முழுவதையும் நிறைவேற்றக் கடனாளியாக இருக்கிறான் என்று மீண்டும் அப்படிப்பட்டவனுக்கு உறுதியாக அறிவிக்கிறேன். ⁴ நியாயப்பிரமாணத்தினால் நீதிமான்களாக விரும்புகிற நீங்கள் எல்லோரும் கிறிஸ்துவைவிட்டுப் பிரிந்து கிருபையிலிருந்து விழுந்தீர்கள். ⁵ நாங்களோ நீதிகிடைக்கும் என்று ஆவியைக்கொண்டு விசுவாசத்தினால் நம்பிக்கையோடு காத்திருக்கிறோம். ⁶ கிறிஸ்து இயேசுவிடம் விருத்தசேதனமும், விருத்தசேதனம் இல்லாததும் ஒன்றுக்கும் உதவாது, அன்பினால் செய்கைகளைச் செய்கிற விசுவாசமே உதவும். ⁷ நீங்கள் நன்றாக ஓடினீர்களே; சத்தியத்திற்குக் கீழ்ப்படியாமற்போக உங்களுக்குத் தடைசெய்தவன் யார்? ⁸ இந்தப் போதனை உங்களை அழைத்தவரால் உண்டானது இல்லை. ⁹ புளிப்பான கொஞ்சம் மாவு பிசைந்த மாவு அனைத்தையும் உப்பப்பண்ணும். ¹⁰ நீங்கள் வேறுவிதமாகச் சிந்திக்கமாட்டீர்கள் என்று நான் கர்த்தருக்குள் உங்களைக்குறித்து நம்பிக்கையாக இருக்கிறேன்; உங்களைக் குழப்புகிறவன் எப்படிப்பட்டவனாக இருந்தாலும் தனக்குரிய தண்டனையை அடைவான். ¹¹ சகோதரர்களே, இதுவரைக்கும் நான் விருத்தசேதனத்தைப் பிரசங்கிக்கிறவனாக இருந்தால், இதுவரைக்கும் எதற்காகத் துன்பப்படுகிறேன்? அப்படியென்றால் சிலுவையைப்பற்றி வரும் இடறல் ஒழிந்திருக்குமே. ¹² உங்களைக் குழப்புகிறவர்கள் உங்களிடமிருந்து துண்டித்துக்கொண்டால் நலமாக இருக்கும். ¹³ சகோதரர்களே, நீங்கள் சுதந்திரமாக இருப்பதற்காக அழைக்கப்பட்டீர்கள், இந்தச் சுதந்திரத்தை நீங்கள் சரீரத்திற்கேதுவாக அநுசரிக்காமல், அன்பினாலே ஒருவருக்கொருவர் பணிவிடை செய்யுங்கள். ¹⁴ உன்னை நீ நேசிக்கிறதுபோல மற்றவனையும் நேசிப்பாயாக, என்கிற இந்த ஒரே வார்த்தையிலே நியாயப்பிரமாணம் முழுவதும் நிறைவேறும். ¹⁵ நீங்கள் ஒருவரையொருவர் கடித்து விழுங்குவீர்கள் என்றால் அழிவீர்கள், அப்படி ஒருவரால் ஒருவர் அழிக்கப்படாதபடிக்கு எச்சரிக்கையாக இருங்கள்.

¹⁶ பின்னும் நான் சொல்லுகிறது என்னவென்றால், ஆவியானவருக்கு ஏற்றபடி நடந்துகொள்ளுங்கள், அப்பொழுது சரீர இச்சையை நிறைவேற்றாமல் இருப்பீர்கள். ¹⁷ சரீர இச்சை ஆவியானவருக்கு எதிராக செயல்படுகிறது. ஆவியானவர் சரீர இச்சைக்கு எதிராக செயல்படுகிறார்; நீங்கள் செய்யவேண்டியவைகளைச் செய்யாதபடி, இவைகள் ஒன்றுக்கொன்று எதிராக இருக்கிறது. ¹⁸ ஆவியானவரால் நடத்தப்படுவீர்களானால், நீங்கள் நியாயப்பிரமாணத்திற்குக் கீழ்ப்பட்டவர்கள் இல்லை. ¹⁹ சரீரத்தின் செய்கைகள் வெளியரங்கமாக இருக்கின்றன; அவையாவன: விபசாரம், வேசித்தனம், அசுத்தம், காமவிகாரம், ²⁰ விக்கிரக ஆராதனை, பில்லிகூனியம், பகைகள், விரோதங்கள், வைராக்கியங்கள், கோபங்கள், சண்டைகள், பிரிவினைகள், மார்க்கபேதங்கள், ²¹ பொறாமைகள், கொலைகள், வெறிகள், களியாட்டுகள் முதலானவைகளே; இப்படிப்பட்டவைகளைச் செய்கிறவர்கள் தேவனுடைய ராஜ்யத்தைப் பெற்றுக்கொள்வதில்லை என்று முன்னமே நான் சொன்னதுபோல இப்பொழுதும் உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன்.

²² ஆவியானவரின் கணியோ, அன்பு, சந்தோஷம், சமாதானம், நீடியபொறுமை, தயவு, நற்குணம், விசுவாசம், ²³ சாந்தம், இச்சையடக்கம்; இப்படிப்பட்டவைகளுக்கு எதிரான பிரமாணம் ஒன்றும் இல்லை. ²⁴ கிறிஸ்துவினுடையவர்கள் தங்களுடைய சரீரத்தையும் அதின் ஆசைகளையும் இச்சைகளையும் சிலுவையில் அறைந்திருக்கிறார்கள். ²⁵ நாம் ஆவியானவராலே பிழைத்திருந்தால், அவருக்கேற்றபடி நடப்போம். ²⁶ வீண்புகழ்ச்சியை விரும்பாமலும், ஒருவரையொருவர் கோபமூட்டாமலும், ஒருவர்மேல் ஒருவர் பொறாமைகொள்ளாமலும் இருப்போம்.

அத்தியாயம்- 6

¹ சகோதரர்களே, ஒருவன் எந்தவொரு குற்றத்தில் அகப்பட்டாலும், ஆவியானவருக்குரியவர்களாகிய நீங்கள் சாந்தமுள்ள ஆவியோடு அப்படிப்பட்டவனைச் சீர்ப்படுத்துங்கள்; நீயும் சோதிக்கப்படாதபடி உன்னைக்குறித்து எச்சரிக்கையாக இரு. ² ஒருவர் பாரத்தை ஒருவர் சுமந்து, இப்படியே கிறிஸ்துவினுடைய கட்டளையை நிறைவேற்றுவார்கள். ³ ஒருவன், தான் ஒன்றுமில்லாதிருந்தும், தன்னை ஒரு பொருட்டென்று நினைத்தால், தன்னைத்தானே ஏமாற்றுகிறவன் ஆவான். ⁴ அவனவன் தன்தன் சுயசெய்கைகளைச் சோதித்துப்பார்க்கவேண்டும்; அப்பொழுது மற்றவனைப் பார்க்கும்பொழுது அல்ல, தன்னையே பார்க்கும்பொழுது பெருமைபாராட்ட அவனுக்கு இடம் உண்டாகும். ⁵ அவனவன் தன்தன் பாரத்தைச் சுமப்பானே. ⁶ மேலும், திருவசனத்தில் உபதேசிக்கப்படுகிறவன் உபதேசிக்கிறவனுக்கு எல்லா நன்மைகளிலும் பகிர்ந்துகொடுக்கவேண்டும். ⁷ ஏமார்ந்துபோகாமல் இருங்கள், தேவன் தம்மைப் பரிகாசம்பண்ண விடமாட்டார்; மனிதன் எதை விதைக்கிறானோ அதையே அறுப்பான். ⁸ தன் சரீரத்திற்கென்று விதைக்கிறவன் சரீரத்தினால் அழிவை அறுப்பான்; ஆவியானவருக்கென்று விதைக்கிறவன் ஆவியானவராலே நித்தியஜீவனை அறுப்பான். ⁹ நன்மைசெய்கிறதில் சோர்ந்துபோகாமல் இருப்போமாக; நாம் தளர்ந்துபோகாமல் இருந்தால் சரியான நேரத்தில் அறுப்போம். ¹⁰ ஆகவே, நமக்குக் கிடைக்கும் வாய்ப்பின்படி, எல்லோருக்கும், விசேஷமாக விசுவாச குடும்பத்தார்களுக்கும் நன்மைசெய்வோம்.

¹¹ என் கையெழுத்தாக எவ்வளவு எழுதினேன் என்று பாருங்கள். ¹² சரீரத்தின்படி நல்லவர்களைப்போலக் காணப்படவிரும்புகிறவர்கள் எவர்களோ, அவர்கள் தாங்கள் கிறிஸ்துவினுடைய சிலுவையினிமித்தம் துன்பப்படாதபடிக்கு உங்களை விருத்தசேதனம்பண்ணிக்கொள்ளக் கட்டாயப்படுத்துகிறார்கள். ¹³ விருத்தசேதனம்பண்ணியிருக்கிற அவர்களும் நியாயப்பிரமாணத்தைக் கடைப்பிடிக்காமல் இருக்கிறார்கள்; அப்படியிருந்தும், அவர்கள் உங்களுடைய சரீரத்தைக்குறித்துப் பெருமைப்பாராட்டும்படி நீங்கள் விருத்தசேதனம்பண்ணிக்கொள்ளவேண்டும் என்று விரும்புகிறார்கள். ¹⁴ நானோ நம்முடைய கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவின் சிலுவையைக்குறித்தே அல்லாமல் வேறொன்றையும்குறித்துப் பெருமைபாராட்டாமல் இருப்பேனாக; அவரால் உலகம் எனக்குச் சிலுவையில் அறையப்பட்டிருக்கிறது, நானும் உலகத்திற்காகச் சிலுவையில் அறையப்பட்டிருக்கிறேன். ¹⁵ கிறிஸ்து இயேசுவிற்குள் விருத்தசேதனமும் ஒன்றுமில்லை, விருத்தசேதனம் இல்லாததும் ஒன்றுமில்லை; புதிய படைப்பே முக்கியம். ¹⁶ இந்தக் கட்டளையின்படி நடந்துவருகிறவர்கள் எவர்களோ, அவர்களுக்கும், தேவனுடைய இஸ்ரவேலருக்கும், சமாதானமும், இரக்கமும் உண்டாயிருப்பதாக. ¹⁷ இனிமேல் ஒருவனும் எனக்கு வருத்தம் உண்டாக்காமல் இருப்பானாக; கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுவினுடைய அடையாளங்களை நான் என் சரீரத்திலே அணிந்துகொண்டிருக்கிறேன். ¹⁸ சகோதரர்களே, நம்முடைய கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவின் கிருபை உங்கள் ஆவியோடு இருப்பதாக. ஆமென்.

Ephesians

அத்தியாயம்- 1

¹ தேவனுடைய விருப்பத்தினாலே இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவினுடைய அப்போஸ்தலனாகிய பவுல், எபேசுவினோடு கிறிஸ்து இயேசுவிற்குள் விசுவாசிகளாக இருக்கிற பரிசுத்தவான்களுக்கு எழுதுகிறதாவது: ² நம்முடைய பிதாவாகிய தேவனாலும், கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவினாலும், உங்களுக்குக் கிருபையும், சமாதானமும் உண்டாவதாக.

³ நம்முடைய கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவின் பிதாவாகிய தேவனுக்கு ஸ்தோத்திரம்; அவர் கிறிஸ்துவிற்குள் உன்னதங்களிலே ஆவியானவருக்குரிய எல்லா ஆசீர்வாதங்களினாலும் நம்மை ஆசீர்வதித்திருக்கிறார். ⁴ அவருக்கு முன்பாக நாம் எல்லோரும் பரிசுத்தம் உள்ளவர்களும், குற்றம் இல்லாதவர்களாக இருப்பதற்கு, உலகம் உருவாக்கப்படுவதற்கு முன்பே கிறிஸ்துவிற்குள் அவர் நம்மைத் தெரிந்துகொண்டபடியே, ⁵ பிரியமானவருக்குள் அவர் நமக்கு அருளிய அவருடைய கிருபையின் மகிமைக்குப் புகழ்ச்சியாக, ⁶ அவருடைய தயவுள்ள விருப்பத்தின்படியே, இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவின் மூலமாக அவருக்குச் சொந்த பிள்ளைகளாகும்படி நம்மை முன்குறித்திருக்கிறார். ⁷ தேவனுடைய கிருபையின் ஐசுவரியத்தின்படியே இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவினுடைய இரத்தத்தினாலே பாவமன்னிப்பாகிய மீட்பு இவருக்குள் நமக்கு உண்டாயிருக்கிறது. ⁸ அந்தக் கிருபையை அவர் எல்லா ஞானத்திலும் புத்தியிலும் எங்களுக்குள் பெருகப்பண்ணினார். ⁹ காலங்கள் நிறைவேறும்போது விளங்கும் ஒழுங்கின்படி பரலோகத்திலிருக்கிறவைகளும் பூலோகத்திலிருக்கிறவைகளுமாகிய எல்லாம் கிறிஸ்துவிற்குள்ளே ஒன்று சேர்க்கப்படவேண்டுமென்று, ¹⁰ தமக்குள்ளே தீர்மானித்திருந்த அவருடைய தயவுள்ள திட்டத்தின் இரகசியத்தை எங்களுக்கு அறிவித்தார். ¹¹ மேலும் கிறிஸ்துவின்மேல் முன்பு நம்பிக்கையாக இருந்த நாங்கள் அவருடைய மகிமைக்குப் புகழ்ச்சியாக இருப்பதற்காக, ¹² அவருடைய விருப்பத்தின் ஆலோசனைக்குத்தக்கதாக எல்லாவற்றையும் நடப்பிக்கிற அவருடைய தீர்மானத்தின்படியே நாங்கள் முன்குறிக்கப்பட்டு, கிறிஸ்துவிற்குள் அவருடைய உரிமைப்பங்காகும்படி தெரிந்துகொள்ளப்பட்டோம். ¹³ நீங்களும் உங்களுடைய இரட்சிப்பின் நற்செய்தியாகிய சத்திய வசனத்தைக்கேட்டு, விசுவாசிகளானபோது, வாக்குத்தத்தம்பண்ணப்பட்ட பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவரால் அவருக்குள் முத்திரைபோடப்பட்டீர்கள். ¹⁴ அவருக்குச் சொந்தமானவர்கள் அவருடைய மகிமைக்குப் புகழ்ச்சியாக மீட்கப்படுவார்கள் என்பதற்கு ஆவியானவர் நம்முடைய உரிமைப்பங்கின் உத்திரவாதமாக இருக்கிறார்.

¹⁵ எனவே, கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுவின்மேல் உள்ள உங்களுடைய விசுவாசத்தையும், பரிசுத்தவான்கள் எல்லோர்மேலும் உள்ள உங்களுடைய அன்பையும்குறித்து நான் கேள்விப்பட்டு, ¹⁶ இடைவிடாமல் உங்களுக்காக ஸ்தோத்திரம்பண்ணி, என் ஜெபங்களில் உங்களை நினைத்து, ¹⁷ நம்முடைய கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவின் தேவனும் மகிமையின் பிதாவுமானவர் தம்மை நீங்கள் அறிந்துகொள்வதற்கான ஞானத்தையும் தெளிவையும் அளிக்கிற ஆவியை உங்களுக்குத் தந்தருளவேண்டுமென்றும், ¹⁸ அவர் நம்மை அழைத்ததினாலே நமக்கு உண்டாயிருக்கிற நம்பிக்கை என்னவென்றும், பரிசுத்தவான்களிடத்தில் தமக்கு உண்டாயிருக்கிற உரிமைப்பங்கினுடைய மகிமையின் ஐசுவரியம் என்னவென்றும்; ¹⁹ தாம் கிறிஸ்துவை மரித்தோரிலிருந்து உயிரோடு எழுப்பி, அவரிடத்தில் நடப்பித்த தமது பலத்த வல்லமையின்படியே விசுவாசிக்கிறவர்களாகிய நம்மிடம் காண்பிக்கும் அவருடைய வல்லமையின் மகா மேன்மையான மகத்துவம் என்னவென்றும், நீங்கள் அறியும்படிக்கு, அவர் உங்களுக்குப் பிரகாசமுள்ள மனக்கண்களைக் கொடுக்கவேண்டும் என்றும் வேண்டிக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். ²⁰ எல்லா ஆளுகைக்கும், அதிகாரத்திற்கும், வல்லமைக்கும், கர்த்தத்துவத்திற்கும், இக்காலத்தில் மட்டுமல்ல வருங்காலத்திற்கும் பெயர்பெற்றிருக்கும் எல்லா நாமத்திற்கும் மேலாக அவர் உயர்ந்திருக்கத்தக்கதாக, ²¹ அவரை உன்னதங்களில் தம்முடைய வலதுபக்கத்தில் உட்காரும்படிச் செய்து, ²² எல்லாவற்றையும் அவருடைய பாதங்களுக்குக் கீழ்ப்படுத்தி, ²³ எல்லாவற்றையும் எல்லாவற்றாலும் நிரப்புகிறவருடைய நிறைவாகிய சரீரமான சபைக்கு அவரை எல்லாவற்றிற்கும் மேலான தலையாகத் தந்தருளினார்.

அத்தியாயம்- 2

¹ அக்கிரமங்களினாலும் பாவங்களினாலும் மரித்தவர்களாக இருந்த உங்களை உயிர்ப்பித்தார். ² அவைகளில் நீங்கள் முற்காலத்திலே இந்த உலக வழக்கத்திற்கு ஏற்றபடியும், கீழ்ப்படியாத பிள்ளைகளிடம் இப்பொழுது செயலாற்றும் ஆகாயத்து அதிகாரப் பிரபுவின் ஆவிக்குரியபடியும் நடந்துகொண்டீர்கள். ³ அவர்களுக்கள்ளே நாமெல்லோரும் முற்காலத்திலே நமது சரீர விருப்பத்தின்படியே நடந்து, நமது சரீரமும் மனதும் விரும்பினவைகளைச் செய்து, சுபாவத்தினாலே மற்றவர்களைப்போலக் கோபத்தின் பிள்ளைகளாக இருந்தோம். ⁴ தேவனோ இரக்கத்தில் செல்வந்தமுள்ளவராக நம்மில் அன்புகூர்ந்த தம்முடைய மிகுந்த அன்பினாலே, ⁵ அக்கிரமங்களில் மரித்தவர்களாக இருந்த நம்மைக் கிறிஸ்துவோடு உயிர்ப்பித்தார்; கிருபையினாலே இரட்சிக்கப்பட்டீர்கள்; ⁶ கிறிஸ்து இயேசுவிற்குள் அவர் நம்மேல் வைத்த தயவினாலே, தம்முடைய கிருபையின் மகா மேன்மையான செல்வத்தை வருங்காலங்களில் விளங்கச்செய்வதற்காக, ⁷ கிறிஸ்து இயேசுவிற்குள் நம்மை அவரோடு எழுப்பி, உன்னதங்களிலே அவரோடு உட்காரவும் செய்தார். ⁸ கிருபையினாலே விசுவாசத்தைக் கொண்டு இரட்சிக்கப்பட்டீர்கள்; இது உங்களால் உண்டானது இல்லை, இது தேவனுடைய ஈவு; ⁹ ஒருவரும் பெருமைப்படாதபடி இது செயல்களினால் உண்டானது இல்லை; ¹⁰ ஏனென்றால், நற்செயல்களைச் செய்கிறதற்கு நாம் கிறிஸ்து இயேசுவிற்குள் உருவாக்கப்பட்டு, தேவனுடைய செய்கையாக இருக்கிறோம்; அவைகளில் நாம் நடக்கும்படி அவர் முன்னதாக அவைகளை ஆயத்தம்பண்ணியிருக்கிறார்.

¹¹ எனவே, முன்பு சரீரத்தின்படி யூதரல்லாதவராக இருந்து, சரீரத்தில் கையினாலே விருத்தசேதனம்பண்ணப்பட்டவர்களால் விருத்தசேதனம்பண்ணப்படாதவர்கள் என்று சொல்லப்பட்ட நீங்கள், ¹² அக்காலத்திலே கிறிஸ்துவைச் சேராதவர்களும், இஸ்ரவேலுடைய குடியரிமைக்குப் புறம்பானவர்களும், வாக்குத்தத்தத்தின் உடன்படிக்கைகளுக்கு அந்நியர்களாகவும், நம்பிக்கை இல்லாதவர்களும், இந்த உலகத்தில் தேவனில்லாதவர்களுமாக இருந்தீர்கள் என்பதை நினைத்துக்கொள்ளுங்கள். ¹³ முன்னே தூரத்தில் இருந்த நீங்கள் இப்பொழுது கிறிஸ்து இயேசுவிற்குள் கிறிஸ்துவின் இரத்தத்தினாலே அருகில் வந்தீர்கள். ¹⁴ எப்படியென்றால், அவரே நம்முடைய சமாதான காரணராகி, இருகூட்டத்தாரையும் ஒன்றாக்கி, பகையாக நின்ற பிரிவினையாகிய நடுச்சுவரைத் தகர்த்து, ¹⁵ சட்டதிட்டங்களாகிய நியாயப்பிரமாணத்தைத் தம்முடைய சரீரத்தினாலே ஒழித்து, இருகூட்டத்தாரையும் அவருக்குள்ளாக ஒரே புதிய மனிதனாக உருவாக்கி, இப்படிச் சமாதானம்பண்ணி, ¹⁶ பகையைச் சிலுவையினால் கொன்று, அதினாலே இருகூட்டத்தாரையும் ஒரே சரீரமாக தேவனுக்கு ஒப்புரவாக்கினார். ¹⁷ அல்லாமலும், அவர் வந்து, தூரத்தில் இருந்த உங்களுக்கும், அருகில் இருந்த அவர்களுக்கும், சமாதானத்தை நற்செய்தியாக அறிவித்தார். ¹⁸ அப்படியே நாம் இருகூட்டத்தாரும் ஒரே ஆவியானவராலே பிதாவினிடத்தில் சேரும் பாக்கியத்தை அவர் மூலமாகப் பெற்றிருக்கிறோம். ¹⁹ ஆகவே, நீங்கள் இனி அந்நியர்களும் பரதேசிகளுமாக இல்லாமல், பரிசுத்தவான்களோடு ஒரே நகரத்தாரும் தேவனுடைய குடும்பத்தினராக இருந்து, ²⁰ அப்போஸ்தலர்கள் தீர்க்கதரிசிகள் என்பவர்களுடைய அஸ்திபாரத்தின்மேல் கட்டப்பட்டவர்களுமாக இருக்கிறீர்கள்; அதற்கு இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவே மூலைக்கல்லாக இருக்கிறார்; ²¹ அவர்மேல் மாளிகை முழுவதும் சீராக இணைக்கப்பட்டு, கர்த்தருக்குள் பரிசுத்த ஆலயமாக எழும்புகிறது; ²² அவர்மேல் நீங்களும் ஆவியானவராலே தேவன் தங்கும் இடமாகச் சேர்த்துக் கட்டப்பட்டுவருகிறீர்கள்.

அத்தியாயம்- 3

¹ இதினிமித்தம், பவுலாகிய நான் யூதரல்லாதோர்களாக இருக்கிற உங்கள் பொருட்டுக் கிறிஸ்து இயேசுவினிமித்தம் கட்டுண்டவனாக இருக்கிறேன். ² உங்களுக்காக எனக்கு அளிக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிற தேவகிருபைக்குரிய ஒழுங்குமுறை இன்னதென்று கேட்டிருப்பீர்களே; ³ அது என்னவென்றால் யூதரல்லாதவர்கள் நற்செய்தியினால் உடன்பங்காளிகளுமாக, ஒரே சரீரத்திற்கு உரியவர்களுமாக, கிறிஸ்துவிற் குள் அவர்பண்ணின வாக்குத்தத்தத்திற்கு உடன்பங்காளிகளுமாக இருக்கிறார்கள் என்கிற இந்த இரகசியத்தை அவர் எனக்கு வெளிப்படுத்தி அறிவித்தார். ⁴ இதைக்குறித்து நான் முன்னமே சுருக்கமாக எழுதியிருக்கிறேன். ⁵ அதை நீங்கள் படிக்கும்போது கிறிஸ்துவின் இரகசியத்தைப்பற்றி எனக்கு உண்டாயிருக்கிற அறிவை அறிந்துகொள்ளலாம்; ⁶ இந்த இரகசியம் இப்பொழுது அவருடைய பரிசுத்த அப்போஸ்தலர்களுக்கும் தீர்க்கதரிசிகளுக்கும் ஆவியானவராலே வெளிப்படுத்தப்பட்டிருக்கிறதுபோல, முற்காலங்களில் மனுக்குலத்திற்கு அறிவிக்கப்படவில்லை. ⁷ தேவனுடைய பலத்த வல்லமையினால் எனக்கு அளிக்கப்பட்ட வரமாகிய அவருடைய கிருபையினாலே இந்த நற்செய்திப் பணிக்கு ஊழியக்காரன் ஆனேன். ⁸ பரிசுத்தவான்கள் எல்லோரையும்விட சிறியவனாகிய நான் கிறிஸ்துவினுடைய அளவில்லாத ஐசுவரியத்தை யூதரல்லாதவர்களுக்கு நற்செய்தியாக அறிவிக்கிறதற்காக இந்தக் கிருபை எனக்கு அளிக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. ⁹ தேவன் நம்முடைய கர்த்தராகிய கிறிஸ்து இயேசுவிற்குள் கொண்டிருந்த அநாதி தீர்மானத்தின்படி, ¹⁰ உன்னதங்களிலுள்ள ஆட்சிக்கும் அதிகாரங்களுக்கும் அவருடைய அநந்த ஞானமானது சபையின் மூலமாக இப்பொழுது தெரியவரும்படி, ¹¹ இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவைக்கொண்டு எல்லாவற்றையும் சிருஷ்டித்த தேவனுக்குள்ளே ஆதிகாலங்கள்முதல் மறைந்திருந்த இரகசியத்தினுடைய ஐக்கியம் என்னவென்று, எல்லோருக்கும் வெளிப்படையாகக் காண்பிக்கிறதற்கு, இந்தக் கிருபை எனக்கு அளிக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. ¹² அவர்மேல் உள்ள விசுவாசத்தால் அவருக்குள் நமக்குத் தெரியமும் திடநம்பிக்கையோடு தேவனிடம் சேரும் பாக்கியமும் உண்டாயிருக்கிறது. ¹³ ஆகவே, உங்களுக்காக நான் அநுபவிக்கிற உபத்திரவங்களினால் நீங்கள் சோர்ந்துபோகாமலிருக்க வேண்டிக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்; அவைகள் உங்களுக்கு மகிமையாக இருக்கிறது.

¹⁴ இதற்காக நான் பரலோகத்திலும் பூலோகத்திலும் உள்ள எல்லாக்குடும்பத்திற்கும் பெயரிட்ட சிருஷ்டிகராகிய, ¹⁵ நம்முடைய கர்த்தராக இருக்கிற இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவினுடைய பிதாவை நோக்கி முழங்கால்படியிட்டு, ¹⁶ நீங்கள் அவருடைய ஆவியானவராலே உள்ளானமனிதனில் வல்லமையாகப் பலப்படவும், ¹⁷ விசுவாசத்தினாலே கிறிஸ்து உங்களுடைய இருதயங்களில் குடியிருக்கவும், நீங்கள் அன்பிலே வேர் ஊன்றி, நிலைபெற்றவர்களாகி, ¹⁸ எல்லாப் பரிசுத்தவான்களோடும் கிறிஸ்துவினுடைய அன்பின் அகலமும், நீளமும், ஆழமும், உயரமும் என்னவென்று உணர்ந்து; ¹⁹ அறிவிற்கு எட்டாத அந்த அன்பை அறிந்துகொள்ள வல்லவர்களாகவும், தேவனுடைய எல்லாப் பரிபூரணத்தாலும் நிறையப்படவும், அவர் தமது மகிமையினுடைய ஐசுவரியத்தின்படி, உங்களுக்கு ஆசியருளவேண்டும் என்று வேண்டிக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். ²⁰ நாம் வேண்டிக்கொள்ளுகிறதற்கும் நினைக்கிறதற்கும் மிகவும் அதிகமாக நமக்குள் கிரியைசெய்கிற வல்லமையின்படி, நமக்குச் செய்ய வல்லவராகிய அவருக்கு, ²¹ சபையிலே கிறிஸ்து இயேசுவின் மூலமாகத் தலைமுறை தலைமுறைக்கும் எல்லாக் காலங்களிலும் மகிமை உண்டாவதாக. ஆமென்.

அத்தியாயம்- 4

¹ எனவே, கர்த்தருக்காக சிறைப்பட்டவனாகிய நான் உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிற புத்தி என்னவென்றால், நீங்கள் அழைக்கப்பட்ட அழைப்புக்குத் தகுதி உள்ளவர்களாக நடந்து, ² மிகுந்த மனத்தாழ்மையும் சாந்தமும் அதிக பொறுமையும் உள்ளவர்களாக, அன்பினால் ஒருவரையொருவர் தாங்கி, ³ சமாதானக்கட்டினால் ஆவியானவர் தரும் ஒற்றுமையைக் காத்துக்கொள்வதற்கு கவனமாக இருங்கள். ⁴ உங்களுக்கு உண்டான அழைப்பினாலே நீங்கள் ஒரே நம்பிக்கைக்கு அழைக்கப்பட்டதுபோல, ஒரே சரீரமும், ஒரே ஆவியும் உண்டு; ⁵ ஒரே கர்த்தரும், ஒரே விசுவாசமும், ஒரே ஞானஸ்நானமும், ⁶ எல்லோருக்கும் ஒரே தேவனும் பிதாவும் உண்டு; அவர் எல்லோர்மேலும், எல்லோரோடும், உங்கள் எல்லோருக்குள்ளும் இருக்கிறவர். ⁷ கிறிஸ்துவினுடைய பரிசின் அளவிற்குத்தக்கதாக நம் ஒவ்வொருவருக்கும் கிருபை அளிக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. ⁸ ஆகையால், அவர் உன்னத்திற்கு ஏறி, சிறைப்பட்டவர்களைச் சிறையாக்கி, மனிதர்களுக்கு வரங்களை அளித்தார் என்று சொல்லியிருக்கிறார். ⁹ ஏறினார் என்பதினாலே அவர் அதற்கு முன்பே பூமியின் தாழ்வான இடங்களில் இறங்கினார் என்றும் புரிகிறதல்லவா? ¹⁰ இறங்கினவரே எல்லாவற்றையும் நிரப்புவதற்காக, எல்லா வானங்களுக்கும் மேலாக உன்னத்திற்கு ஏறினவருமாக இருக்கிறார். ¹¹ மேலும் நாம் அனைவரும் தேவனுடைய குமாரன்மேலுள்ள விசுவாசத்திலும் அறிவிலும் ஒன்றுபட்டவர்களாகி, கிறிஸ்துவினுடைய நிறைவான வளர்ச்சியின் அளவிற்குத்தக்கதாக தேறின விசுவாசியாகும் வரைக்கும், ¹² பரிசுத்தவான்கள் சீர்படுத்தப்படுவதற்காகவும், நற்செய்தி ஊழியத்தின் வேலைக்காகவும், கிறிஸ்துவின் சரீரமாகிய ஆலயமானது பக்தியில் வளர்ச்சி அடைவதற்காகவும், ¹³ அவர், சிலரை அப்போஸ்தலர்களாகவும், சிலரைத் தீர்க்கதரிசிகளாகவும், சிலரைச் சுவிசேஷகர்களாகவும், சிலரை மேய்ப்பர்களாகவும், போதகர்களாகவும் ஏற்படுத்தினார். ¹⁴ நாம் இனிக்குழந்தைகளைப்போல இல்லாமல், மனிதர்களுடைய வஞ்சகமான தந்திரமுள்ள போதனையாகிய பலவிதமான காற்றினாலே, அலைகளினால் அடிபட்டு அலைகிறவர்களாக இல்லாமல், ¹⁵ அன்புடன் சத்தியத்தில் நடந்து, தலையாகிய கிறிஸ்துவிற்குள் எல்லாவற்றிலேயும், நாம் வளருகிறவர்களாக இருப்பதற்காக அப்படிச் செய்தார். ¹⁶ அவராலே சரீரம் முழுவதும், அதற்கு உதவியாக இருக்கிற எல்லா பாகங்களினாலும் சரியாகச் சேர்த்து இணைக்கப்பட்டு, ஒவ்வொரு சரீர பாகங்களும் தன் தன் அளவிற்குத்தக்கதாக வேலை செய்கிறபடியே, அது அன்பினாலே தனக்கு பக்திவளர்ச்சியை உண்டாக்குவதற்காகச் சரீரவளர்ச்சியை உண்டாக்குகிறது.

¹⁷ எனவே, கர்த்தருக்குள் நான் உங்களுக்குச் சாட்சியாகச் சொல்லி எச்சரிக்கிறது என்னவென்றால், யூதரல்லாதவர்கள் தங்களுடைய வீணான சிந்தையிலே நடக்கிறதுபோல நீங்கள் இனி நடக்காமல் இருங்கள். ¹⁸ அவர்கள் புத்தியில் இருள் அடைந்து, தங்களுடைய இருதயக் கடினத்தினால் தங்களில் இருக்கும் அறியாமையினாலே தேவன் தரும் ஜீவனுக்கு அந்நியர்களாக இருந்து; ¹⁹ உணர்விலலாதவர்களாக, எல்லாவித அசுத்தங்களையும் ஆவலோடு செய்வதற்கு, தங்களைக் காமஇச்சைகளுக்கு ஒப்புக்கொடுத்திருக்கிறார்கள். ²⁰ நீங்களோ இந்தவிதமாகக் கிறிஸ்துவைக் கற்றுக்கொள்ளவில்லை. ²¹ இயேசுவிடம் உள்ள சத்தியத்தின்படி, நீங்கள் அவரிடம் கேட்டு, அறிந்து, அவரால் போதிக்கப்பட்டீர்கள். ²² அப்படியே, முந்தின நடக்கைக்குரிய மோசம்போக்கும் இச்சைகளாலே கெட்டுப்போகிற பழைய மனிதனை நீங்கள் களைந்துவிட்டு, ²³ உங்களுடைய உள்ளத்திலே புதியவர்களாகி, ²⁴ உண்மையான நீதியிலும் பரிசுத்தத்திலும் தேவனுடைய சாயலாக உருவாக்கப்பட்ட புதிய மனிதனை அணிந்துகொள்ளுங்கள். ²⁵ அன்றியும், நாம் ஒருவருக்கொருவர் சரீர பாகங்களாக இருக்கிறபடியால், பொய்யைப் பேசாமல், ஒவ்வொருவனும் மற்றவனோடு உண்மையைப் பேசவேண்டும். ²⁶ நீங்கள் கோபப்பட்டாலும் பாவம் செய்யாமல் இருங்கள்; சூரியன் மறைவதற்கு முன்பே உங்களுடைய எரிச்சல் மறைந்துபோகட்டும்; ²⁷ பிசாசுக்கு இடம் கொடுக்கவேண்டாம். ²⁸ திருடுகிறவன் இனித் திருடாமல், குறைவாக உள்ளவனுக்குத் தன்னிடமிருந்து கொடுக்கும்படி, தன் கைகளினால் பயனுள்ள வேலைசெய்து முயற்சி செய்யவேண்டும். ²⁹ கெட்டவார்த்தை எதுவும் உங்களுடைய வாய்களால் பேசவேண்டாம்; பக்திவளர்ச்சிக்கு தகுந்த நல்லவார்த்தை இருந்தால், கேட்கிறவர்களுக்குப் பிரயோஜனமாக இருப்பதற்காக அதையே பேசுங்கள். ³⁰ அன்றியும், நீங்கள் மீட்கப்படும் நாளுக்காக முத்திரையாகப் பெற்ற தேவனுடைய பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவரைத் துக்கப்படுத்தாமல் இருங்கள். ³¹ எல்லாவிதமான கசப்பும், கோபமும், எரிச்சலும், கூக்குரலும், அவமதிப்பதும், மற்ற எல்லாக் கெட்டகுணமும் உங்களைவிட்டு நீங்கட்டும். ³² ஒருவருக்கொருவர் தயவாகவும் மனஉருக்கமாகவும் இருந்து, கிறிஸ்துவிற்குள் தேவன் உங்களுக்கு மன்னித்ததுபோல, நீங்களும் ஒருவருக்கொருவர் மன்னியுங்கள்.

அத்தியாயம்- 5

¹ எனவே, நீங்கள் பிரியமான பிள்ளைகளைப்போல தேவனைப் பின்பற்றுகிறவர்களாக இருந்து, ² கிறிஸ்து நமக்காகத் தம்மை தேவனுக்கு இனிய வாசனையான காணிக்கையாகவும் பலியாகவும் ஒப்புக்கொடுத்து நம்மில் அன்புவைத்ததுபோல, நீங்களும் அன்பாக நடந்துகொள்ளுங்கள். ³ மேலும், பரிசுத்தவான்களுக்குத் தகுந்தபடி, வேசித்தனமும், மற்ற எந்த ஒரு அசுத்தமும், பொருளாசையும் ஆகிய இவைகளின் பெயர்கள்கூட உங்களுக்குள்ளே சொல்லப்படக்கூடாது. ⁴ அப்படியே நிந்தனையும், புத்தியில்லாத பேச்சும், பரிகாசம் செய்வதும் தவறானவைகள்; ஸ்தோத்திரம் செய்வதே நல்லது. ⁵ விபசாரக்காரனாவது, அசுத்தனாவது, விக் கிரக ஆராதனைக்காரனாகிய பொருளாசைக்காரனாவது தேவனுடைய ராஜ்யமாகிய கிறிஸ்துவின் ராஜ்யத்திலே இடம் பெறுவதில்லையென்று அறிந்திருக்கிறீர்களே. ⁶ இப்படிப்பட்டவைகளினால் கீழ்ப்படியாத பிள்ளைகள்மேல் தேவனுடைய கோபம் வருவதால், யாரும் வீணவார்த்தைகளினாலே உங்களை ஏமாற்றாதபடி நீங்கள் எச்சரிக்கையாக இருங்கள்; ⁷ அப்படிப்பட்டவர்களோடு சேராமல் இருங்கள். ⁸ முற்காலத்தில் நீங்கள் இருளாக இருந்தீர்கள், இப்பொழுதோ கர்த்தருக்குள் வெளிச்சமாக இருக்கிறீர்கள்; வெளிச்சத்தின் பிள்ளைகளாக நடந்துகொள்ளுங்கள். ⁹ வெளிச்சத்தின் கனி, எல்லா நல்லகுணத்திலும் நீதியிலும் உண்மையிலும் தெரியும். ¹⁰ கர்த்தருக்குப் பிரியமானது என்னவென்று நீங்கள் சோதித்துப்பாருங்கள். ¹¹ கனி இல்லாத இருளின் செயல்களுக்கு உடன்படாமல், அவைகள் தவறானவைகள் என்று சுட்டிக்காட்டுங்கள். ¹² அவர்கள் மறைவான இடத்தில் செய்யும் செயல்களைச் சொல்லுகிறதும் வெட்கமாக இருக்கிறதே. ¹³ அவைகள் எல்லாம் வெளிச்சத்தினால் வெளியாக்கப்படும்; வெளியாக்கப்படுவது எல்லாம் வெளிச்சமாக இருக்கிறது. ¹⁴ எனவே, தூங்குகிற நீ விழித்து, மரித்தோரைவிட்டு எழுந்திரு, அப்பொழுது கிறிஸ்து உன்னைப் பிரகாசிக்கப்பண்ணுவார் என்று சொல்லியிருக்கிறார். ¹⁵ எனவே, நீங்கள் ஞானம் இல்லாதவர்களைப்போல நடக்காமல், ஞானம் உள்ளவர்களைப்போலக் கவனமாக நடந்துகொண்டு, ¹⁶ நாட்கள் பொல்லாதவைகளாக இருப்பதால் காலத்தைச் சரியாகப் பயன்படுத்திக்கொள்ளுங்கள். ¹⁷ எனவே, நீங்கள் அறிவில்லாதவர்களாக இல்லாமல், கர்த்தருடைய விருப்பம் என்னவென்று உணர்ந்துகொள்ளுங்கள். ¹⁸ பொல்லாதவழிக்கு உன்னைக் கொண்டுச்செல்லும் மதுபானத்தை நீ குடித்து வெறிகொள்ளாமல், பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவரால் நிறைந்து; ¹⁹ சங்கீதங்களினாலும் கீர்த்தனைகளினாலும் ஞானப்பாட்டுகளினாலும் ஒருவருக்கொருவர் புத்திசொல்லிக்கொண்டு, உங்களுடைய இருதயத்தில் கர்த்தரைப் பாடிச் கீர்த்தனம்பண்ணி, ²⁰ நம்முடைய கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவின் நாமத்தினாலே எப்பொழுதும் எல்லாவற்றிற்காகவும் பிதாவாகிய தேவனை ஸ்தோத்திரித்து, ²¹ தெய்வபயத்தோடு ஒருவருக்கொருவர் கீழ்ப்படிந்திருங்கள்.

²² மனைவிகளே, கர்த்தருக்குக் கீழ்ப்படிகிறதுபோல, உங்களுடைய சொந்தக் கணவருக்குக் கீழ்ப்படியுங்கள். ²³ கிறிஸ்து சபைக்குத் தலையாக இருக்கிறதுபோல, கணவனும் மனைவிக்குத் தலையாக இருக்கிறான்; கிறிஸ்துவே சரீரத்திற்கும் இரட்சகராக இருக்கிறார். ²⁴ எனவே, சபையானது கிறிஸ்துவிற்குக் கீழ்ப்படிகிறதுபோல மனைவிகளும் தங்களுடைய சொந்தக் கணவர்களுக்கு எல்லாக் காரியங்களிலும் கீழ்ப்படிந்திருக்கவேண்டும். ²⁵ கணவர்களே, உங்களுடைய மனைவிகளிடம் அன்பாக இருங்கள்; அப்படியே கிறிஸ்துவும் சபையின்மேல் அன்பாக இருந்து, ²⁶ தாம் அதைத் திருவசனத்தைக் கொண்டு தண்ணீர் முழக்கினால் சுத்தப்படுத்தி, பரிசுத்தமாக்குகிறதற்கும், ²⁷ கறையேதும்இல்லாமல் பரிசுத்தமும் பிழை இல்லாததுமான மகிமையுள்ள சபையாக அதைத் தமக்குமுன் நிறுத்திக்கொள்வதற்கும் தம்மைத்தாமே அதற்காக ஒப்புக்கொடுத்தார். ²⁸ அப்படியே, கணவர்களும் தங்களுடைய மனைவிகளைத் தங்களுடைய சொந்த சரீரங்களாக நினைத்து, அவர்கள்மேல்அன்பாக இருக்கவேண்டும்; தன் மனைவியிடம் அன்பாக இருக்கிறவன் தன்னைத்தானே நேசிக்கிறான். ²⁹ தன் சொந்த சரீரத்தைப் பகைத்தவன் ஒருவனும் இல்லையே; கர்த்தர் சபையைப் பேணிக்காப்பாற்றுகிறதுபோல ஒவ்வொருவனும் தன் சரீரத்தைப் பேணிக்காப்பாற்றுகிறான். ³⁰ நாம் அவருடைய சரீரத்தின் பாகங்களாகவும், அவருடைய சரீரத்திற்கும் அவருடைய எலும்புகளுக்கும் உரியவர்களாகவும் இருக்கிறோம். ³¹ இதனால் மனிதன் தன் தகப்பனையும் தன் தாயையும்விட்டு, தன் மனைவியுடன் இணைந்து, இருவரும் ஒரே சரீரமாக இருப்பார்கள். ³² இந்த இரகசியம் பெரியது; நான் கிறிஸ்துவைப்பற்றியும் சபையைப்பற்றியும் சொல்லுகிறேன். ³³ எப்படியும், உங்கள்மேல் நீங்கள் அன்பாக இருப்பதுபோல, உங்களுடைய மனைவிகளிடமும் அன்பாக இருக்கவேண்டும்; மனைவியும் கணவனிடத்தில் பயபக்தியாக இருக்கவேண்டும்.

அத்தியாயம்- 6

¹ பிள்ளைகளே, உங்களுடைய பெற்றோருக்குக் கர்த்தருக்குள் கீழ்ப்படியுங்கள், இதுவே சரியானது. ² உனக்கு நன்மை உண்டாயிருப்பதற்கும், பூமியிலே உன் ஆயுசுநாட்கள் அதிகரிப்பதற்கும், ³ உன் தகப்பனையும் உன் தாயையும் கனம்பண்ணுவாயாக என்பதே தேவன் வாக்குத்தத்தம்பண்ணின முதலாம் கட்டளையாக இருக்கிறது. ⁴ தகப்பன்மார்களே, நீங்களும் உங்களுடைய பிள்ளைகளைக் கோப்படுத்தாமல், கர்த்தருக்கேற்ற ஒழுக்கத்திலும் போதனையிலும் அவர்களை வளர்த்துங்கள்.

⁵ வேலைக்காரர்களே, நீங்கள் கிறிஸ்துவிற்குக் கீழ்ப்படிகிறதுபோல, சரீரத்தின்படி உங்களுடைய எஜமான்களாக இருக்கிறவர்களுக்கும் பயத்தோடும் மரியாதையோடும் நேர்மையுள்ள மனதோடும் கீழ்ப்படிந்து; ⁶ மனிதர்களுக்குப் பிரியமாக இருக்கவிரும்புகிறவர்களாக அவர்களுடைய பார்வைக்கு ஊழியம் செய்யாமல், கிறிஸ்துவின் ஊழியக்காரர்களாக, மனப்பூர்வமாக தேவனுடைய விருப்பத்தின்படி செய்யுங்கள். ⁷ அடிமையானவன் என்றாலும், சுதந்திரமானவன் என்றாலும், அவனவன் செய்கிற நன்மையின்படியே கர்த்தரிடத்தில் பலனை பெறுவான் என்று அறிந்து, ⁸ மனிதருக்கென்று ஊழியம் செய்யாமல், கர்த்தருக்கென்றே நல்லமனதோடு ஊழியம் செய்யுங்கள். ⁹ எஜமான்களே, அப்படியே நீங்களும், வேலைக்காரர்களுக்குச் செய்யவேண்டியவைகளைச் செய்து, அவர்களுக்கும் உங்களுக்கும் எஜமானானவர் பரலோகத்தில் இருக்கிறார் என்றும், அவரிடத்தில் பட்சபாதம் இல்லை என்றும் அறிந்து, கடுமையான வார்த்தைகளை விட்டுவிடுங்கள்.

¹⁰ கடைசியாக, என் சகோதரர்களே, கர்த்தரிலும் அவருடைய வல்லமையிலும் பலப்படுங்கள். ¹¹ நீங்கள் பிசாசின் தந்திரங்களோடு எதிர்த்து நிற்கத் திறமையுள்ளவர்களாகும்படி, தேவனுடைய சர்வாயுதங்களையும் அணிந்துகொள்ளுங்கள். ¹² ஏனென்றால், சரீரத்தோடும் இரத்தத்தோடும் இல்லை, ஆளுகைகளோடும், அதிகாரங்களோடும், இந்த உலகத்தின் இருளின் அதிபதிகளோடும், வானமண்டலங்களிலுள்ள பொல்லாத ஆவிகளின் படைகளோடும் நமக்குப் போராட்டம் உண்டு. ¹³ எனவே, தீங்குநாளிலே அவைகளை நீங்கள் எதிர்க்கவும், எல்லாவற்றையும் செய்துமுடித்தவர்களாக நிற்கவும் திறமையுள்ளவர்களாகும்படி, தேவனுடைய சர்வாயுதங்களையும் எடுத்துக்கொள்ளுங்கள். ¹⁴ சத்தியம் என்னும் கச்சையை உங்களுடைய இடுப்பில் கட்டினவர்களாகவும், நீதி என்னும் மார்புகவசத்தை அணிந்தவர்களாகவும்; ¹⁵ சமாதானத்தின் நற்செய்திக்குரிய ஆயத்தம் என்னும் காலணிகளைக் கால்களிலே தொடுத்தவர்களாகவும்; ¹⁶ சாத்தான் எய்யும் அக்கினி அம்புகளையெல்லாம் அவித்துப்போடத்தக்கதாக, எல்லாவற்றிற்கும் மேலாக விசுவாசம் என்னும் கேடயத்தைப் பிடித்துக்கொண்டவர்களாகவும் நில்லுங்கள். ¹⁷ இரட்சிப்பு என்னும் தலைக்கவசத்தையும், தேவவசனமாகிய ஆவியின் பட்டயத்தையும் எடுத்துக்கொள்ளுங்கள். ¹⁸ எந்த நேரத்திலும் எல்லாவிதமான வேண்டுதலோடும் விண்ணப்பத்தோடும் ஆவியினாலே ஜெபம்பண்ணி, அதினால் மிகுந்த மனஉறுதியோடும் எல்லாப் பரிசுத்தவான்களுக்கான வேண்டுதலோடும் விழித்துக்கொண்டிருங்கள். ¹⁹ நற்செய்திக்காகக் கட்டப்பட்டிருக்கிற பிரதிநிதியாகிய நான் அதைப்பற்றிப் பேசவேண்டியதைத் தைரியமாகப் பேசவும், ²⁰ நான் தைரியமாக என் வாயைத் திறந்து நற்செய்தியின் இரகசியத்தை அறிவிக்கிறதற்கு வாக்கு எனக்குக் கொடுக்கப்படும்படி எனக்காகவும் விண்ணப்பம்பண்ணுங்கள்.

²¹ அன்றியும், நான் செய்யும் காரியங்களையும், என் சுகசெய்திகளையும், நமக்குப் பிரியமான சகோதரனும் கர்த்தருக்குள் உண்மையுள்ள ஊழியக்காரனுமாக இருக்கிற தீகிக்கு உங்களுக்கு அறிவிப்பான். ²² நீங்கள் எங்களுடைய செய்திகளைத் தெரிந்துகொள்ளவும், அவன் உங்களுடைய இருதயங்களுக்கு ஆறுதல் செய்யவும், அவனை உங்களிடம் அனுப்பினேன். ²³ பிதாவாகிய தேவனாலும் கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவினாலும், சகோதரர்களுக்குச் சமாதானமும் விசுவாசத்துடன் அன்பும் உண்டாவதாக. ²⁴ நம்முடைய கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவிடம் அழியாத அன்போடு அன்புகாட்டுகிற எல்லோருக்கும் கிருபை உண்டாயிருப்பதாக. ஆமென்.

Philippians

அத்தியாயம்- 1

¹ இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவின் ஊழியக்காரர்களாகிய பவுலும், தீமோத்தேயும், பிலிப்பி பட்டணத்தில் கிறிஸ்து இயேசுவிற்குள்ளான பரிசுத்தவான்கள் அனைவருக்கும், கண்காணிகளுக்கும், உதவிக்காரர்களுக்கும் எழுதுகிறதாவது: ² நம்முடைய பிதாவாகிய தேவனாலும் கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவினாலும் உங்களுக்குக் கிருபையும் சமாதானமும் உண்டாவதாக.

³ நற்செய்தி உங்களுக்கு அறிவிக்கப்பட்ட நாள்தொடர் இதுவரைக்கும் நீங்கள் எங்களோடு ஊழியத்தில் ஐக்கியப்பட்டுப்பதால், ⁴ நான் பண்ணுகிற ஒவ்வொரு விண்ணப்பத்திலும் உங்கள் அனைவருக்காகவும் எப்பொழுதும் சந்தோஷத்தோடு ஜெபம்பண்ணி, ⁵ உங்களில் நல்லசெயல்களைத் தொடங்கினவர் அதை இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவின் நாவரை நடத்திவருவார் என்று நம்பி, ⁶ நான் உங்களை நினைக்கும்போதெல்லாம் என் தேவனை ஸ்தோத்திரிக்கிறேன். ⁷ என் சிறைச்சாலையின் கட்டுகளிலும், நான் நற்செய்தியைப் போதித்து அதைத் உறுதிப்படுத்திவருகிறதிலும், நீங்கள் அனைவரும் எனக்கு அளிக்கப்பட்ட கிருபையில் பங்குள்ளவர்களானதால், உங்களை என் இருதயத்தில் வைத்துக்கொண்டிருக்கிறபடியினாலே, உங்கள் எல்லோரையும் குறித்து நான் இப்படி நினைக்கிறது எனக்குத் தகுதியாக இருக்கிறது. ⁸ இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவின் உருக்கமான அன்பினாலே உங்களெல்லோரையும் காண எவ்வளவோ ஆவலாக இருக்கிறேன் என்பதற்கு தேவனே எனக்குச் சாட்சி. ⁹ மேலும், உத்தமமானவைகளை நீங்கள் ஒப்புக்கொள்ளத்தக்கதாக உங்களுடைய அன்பானது அறிவிலும் எல்லா உணர்விலும் இன்னும் அதிகமதிகமாகப் பெருகவும், ¹⁰ தேவனுக்கு மகிமையும் துதியும் உண்டாகும்படி இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவினால் வருகிற நீதியின் களிகளால் நிறைந்தவர்களாகி, ¹¹ நீங்கள் கிறிஸ்துவின் நாளுக்கென்று நேர்மையானவர்களும், குற்றம் இல்லாதவர்களும் இருக்கவும் வேண்டுதல் செய்கிறேன்.

¹² சகோதரர்களே, எனக்கு சம்பவித்தவைகள் நற்செய்தி பரவுவதற்கு ஏதுவானது என்று நீங்கள் அறிய மனதாயிருக்கிறேன். ¹³ அரண்மனையில் உள்ளவர்களுக்கும் மற்ற எல்லோருக்கும் என் கட்டுகள் கிறிஸ்துவிற்குள்ளான கட்டுகள் என்று தெரிந்து, ¹⁴ சகோதரர்களில் அநேகர் என் கட்டுகளாலே கர்த்தருக்குள் தைரியம்கொண்டு பயம் இல்லாமல் திருவசனத்தைச் சொல்லும்படி அதிகமாகத் துணிந்திருக்கிறார்கள். ¹⁵ சிலர் பொறாமையினாலும் விரோதத்தினாலும், சிலர் நல்ல மனதினாலும் கிறிஸ்துவைப் பிரசங்கிக்கிறார்கள். ¹⁶ சிலர் என் கட்டுகளோடு உபத்திரவத்தையும் சேர்க்க நினைத்து, சுத்த மனதோடு கிறிஸ்துவை அறிவிக்காமல், விரோதத்தினாலே அறிவிக்கிறார்கள். ¹⁷ நற்செய்திக்காக நான் உத்தரவுசொல்ல நியமிக்கப்பட்டவன் என்று அறிந்து, சிலர் அன்பினாலே அறிவிக்கிறார்கள். ¹⁸ இதனால் என்ன? ஏமாற்றுவதினாலோ, உண்மையினாலோ, எப்படியாவது, கிறிஸ்து அறிவிக்கப்படுகிறார்; அதனால் சந்தோஷப்படுகிறேன், இனிமேலும் சந்தோஷப்படுவேன். ¹⁹ அது உங்களுடைய வேண்டுகிறினாலும் இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவினுடைய ஆவியின் உதவியினாலும் எனக்கு இரட்சிப்பாக முடியும் என்று அறிவேன். ²⁰ நான் ஒன்றிலும் வெட்கப்பட்டுப்போகாமல், எப்பொழுதும்போல இப்பொழுதும், மிகுந்த தைரியத்தோடு ஜீவனாலாவது, மரணத்தினாலாவது, கிறிஸ்து என் சரீரத்தினாலே மகிமைப்படுவார் என்று எனக்கு உண்டாயிருக்கிற வாஞ்சைக்கும் நம்பிக்கைக்கும் தகுந்ததாக அப்படி முடியும். ²¹ கிறிஸ்து எனக்கு ஜீவன், மரணம் எனக்கு ஆதாயம். ²² ஆனாலும் சரீரத்தில் பிழைத்திருக்கிறதினாலே என் செய்கைக்குப் பலன் கிடைத்திருப்பதால், நான் தெரிந்துகொள்ளவேண்டியது என்னவென்று தெரியாது. ²³ ஏனென்றால், இந்த இரண்டிற்கும் இடையே நான் நெருக்கப்படுகிறேன்; சரீரத்தைவிட்டுப் பிரிந்து, கிறிஸ்துவோடு இருக்க எனக்கு ஆசை உண்டு, அது அதிக நன்மையாக இருக்கும்; ²⁴ அப்படியிருந்தும், நான் சரீரத்தில் வாழ்ந்திருப்பது உங்களுக்கு அதிக அவசியம். ²⁵ இந்த நிச்சயத்தைக்கொண்டிருந்து, நான் மீண்டும் உங்களிடம் வருகிறதினால் என்னைக்குறித்து உங்களுடைய மகிழ்ச்சி கிறிஸ்து இயேசுவிற்குள் பெருகுவதற்காக, ²⁶ உங்களுடைய விசுவாசத்தின் வளர்ச்சிக்காகவும் சந்தோஷத்திற்காகவும் நான் பிழைத்து, உங்கள் அனைவரோடும் இருப்பேன் என்று அறிந்திருக்கிறேன். ²⁷ நான் வந்து உங்களைப் பார்த்தாலும், நான் வராமலிருந்தாலும், நீங்கள் ஒரே ஆவியிலே உறுதியாக நின்று, ஒரே ஆத்துமாவினாலே நற்செய்தியின் விசுவாசத்திற்காகப் போராடி, எதிர்க்கிறவர்களால் ஒன்றுக்கும் பயப்படாமல் இருக்கிறீர்கள் என்று உங்களைக்குறித்து நான் கேள்விப்படும்படி, எந்தவிதத்திலும் நீங்கள் கிறிஸ்துவின் நற்செய்திற்குத் தகுதியானவர்களாக நடந்துகொள்ளுங்கள். ²⁸ நீங்கள் பயப்படாமலிருக்கிறது அவர்கள் கெட்டுப்போகிறதற்கும், நீங்கள் இரட்சிக்கப்படுகிறதற்கும் அடையாளமாக இருக்கிறது; இதுவும் தேவனுடைய செயலே. ²⁹ ஏனென்றால், கிறிஸ்துவை விசுவாசிக்கிறதற்குமட்டும் இல்லை, அவருக்காகப் பாடுகள்படுகிறதற்கும் உங்களுக்கு

கொடுக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது.³⁰ நீங்கள் என்னிடம் பார்த்ததும் எனக்கு உண்டென்று இப்பொழுது கேள்விப்படுகிறதுமான போராட்டமே உங்களுக்கும் உண்டு.

அத்தியாயம்- 2

¹ ஆகவே, கிறிஸ்துவுிற்குள் எந்தவொரு ஆறுதலும், அன்பினாலே எந்தவொரு தேறுதலும், ஆவியின் எந்தவொரு ஐக்கியமும், எந்தவொரு உருக்கமான பரிவும் இரக்கங்களும் உண்டானால், ² நீங்கள் ஒரே சிந்தையும் ஒரே அன்பும் உள்ளவர்களாக இருந்து, இசைந்த ஆத்துமாக்களாக ஒன்றையே சிந்தித்து, என் சந்தோஷத்தை நிறைவாக்குங்கள். ³ ஒன்றையும் சுயநலத்தினாலோ, வீண்பெருமையினாலோ செய்யாமல், மனத்தாழ்மையினாலே ஒருவரையொருவர் உங்களைவிட மேன்மையானவர்களாக நினைக்கவேண்டும். ⁴ அவனவன் தன்னுடைய காரியங்களை மட்டுமல்ல, மற்றவர்களுடைய காரியங்களிலும் உதவிசெய்யவேண்டும். ⁵ கிறிஸ்து இயேசுவில் இருந்த சிந்தையே உங்களுக்கும் இருக்கவேண்டும்; ⁶ அவர் தேவனுடைய உருவமாக இருந்தும், தேவனுக்குச் சமமாக இருப்பதைக் கொள்ளையாடின பொருளாக நினைக்காமல், ⁷ தம்மைத்தாமே வெறுமையாக்கி, அடிமையின் உருவமெடுத்து, மனிதனின் சாயல் ஆனார். ⁸ அவர் மனித உருவமாக வெளிப்பட்டு, மரணம்வரைக்கும், அதாவது சிலுவையின் மரணம்வரைக்கும் கீழ்ப்படிந்தவராகி, தம்மைத்தாமே தாழ்த்தினார். ⁹ ஆகவே, தேவன் எல்லாவற்றிற்கும் மேலாக அவரை உயர்த்தி, ¹⁰ இயேசுவின் நாமத்தில் வானத்தில் உள்ளவைகளும், பூமியில் உள்ளவைகளும், பூமியின் கீழ் உள்ளவைகளுடைய முழங்கால்கள் எல்லாம் முடங்கும்படிக்கும், ¹¹ பிதாவாகிய தேவனுக்கு மகிமையாக இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவே கர்த்தர் என்று நாக்குகளெல்லாம் அறிக்கைபண்ணுவதற்கும், எல்லா நாமத்திற்கும் மேலான நாமத்தை அவருக்குத் தந்தருளினார்.

¹² ஆகவே, எனக்குப் பிரியமானவர்களே, நீங்கள் எப்பொழுதும் கீழ்ப்படிகிறபடியே, நான் உங்களுக்கு அருகில் இருக்கும்பொழுது மட்டுமில்லை, நான் தூரத்தில் இருக்கும்பொழுதும், அதிக பயத்தோடும் நடுக்கத்தோடும் உங்களுடைய இரட்சிப்பு நிறைவேற்பு பிரயாசப்படுங்கள். ¹³ ஏனென்றால், தேவனே தம்முடைய தயவுள்ள விருப்பத்தின்படி விருப்பத்தையும் செய்கையையும் உங்களில் உண்டாக்குகிறவராக இருக்கிறார். ¹⁴ நான் வீணாக ஓடினதும் வீணாகப் பிரயாசப்பட்டதும் இல்லை என்கிற மகிழ்ச்சி கிறிஸ்துவின் நாளில் எனக்கு உண்டாயிருப்பதற்கு, ஜீவவசனத்தைப் பிடித்துக்கொண்டு, உலகத்திலே சுடர்களைப்போலப் பிரகாசிக்கிற நீங்கள், ¹⁵ கோணலும் மாறுபாடுமான வம்சத்தின் நடுவிலே குற்றம் இல்லாதவர்களும் கபடு இல்லாதவர்களும், தேவனுடைய மாசற்ற பிள்ளைகளாக இருப்பதற்கு, ¹⁶ எல்லாவற்றையும் முறுமுறுப்பு இல்லாமலும் வாக்குவாதம் இல்லாமலும் செய்யுங்கள். ¹⁷ மேலும், உங்களுடைய விசுவாசமாகிய பலியின்மேலும் ஊழியத்தின்மேலும் நான் பான்பலியாக வார்க்கப்பட்டுப் போனாலும், நான் மகிழ்ந்து, உங்கள் அனைவரோடும் சேர்ந்து சந்தோஷப்படுவேன். ¹⁸ இதினால் நீங்களும் மகிழ்ந்து, என்னோடு சேர்ந்து சந்தோஷப்படுங்கள்.

¹⁹ அன்றியும், நானும் உங்களுடைய செய்திகளைத் தெரிந்து மன ஆறுதல் அடைவதற்குச் சீக்கிரமாகத் தீமோத்தேயுவை உங்களிடம் அனுப்பலாம் என்று கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுவிற்குள் நம்பியிருக்கிறேன். ²⁰ ஆகவே, உங்களுடைய காரியங்களை உண்மையாகக் கவனிப்பதற்கு என்னைப்போல மனதுள்ளவன் அவனைத்தவிர வேறுயாரும் என்னிடம் இல்லை. ²¹ மற்ற எல்லோரும் கிறிஸ்து இயேசுவிற்குரியவைகளைத் தேடாமல், தங்களுக்குரியவைகளையே தேடுகிறார்கள். ²² தகப்பனுக்குப் பிள்ளை ஊழியம் செய்வதுபோல, அவன் என்னோடு சேர்ந்து நற்செய்திக்காக ஊழியம் செய்தான் என்று அவனுடைய உத்தமகுணத்தை அறிந்திருக்கிறீர்கள். ²³ ஆகவே, என் காரியங்கள் எப்படி நடக்கும் என்று நான் அறிந்தவுடனே அவனை அனுப்பலாம் என்று நினைத்திருக்கிறேன். ²⁴ அன்றியும் நானே சீக்கிரத்தில் வருவேன் என்று கர்த்தருக்குள் விசுவாசமாக இருக்கிறேன். ²⁵ மேலும், என் சகோதரனும், உடன்வேலைக்காரனும், கிறிஸ்துவின் படைவீரனும், உங்களுடைய தூதுவனாகவும், என்னுடைய குறைவில் உதவி செய்தவனுமான எப்பாப்பிரோத்தீத்துவை உங்களிடம் அனுப்பவேண்டும் என்று நினைத்தேன். ²⁶ அவன் உங்கள் எல்லோர்மேலும் வாஞ்சையுள்ளவனும், தான் வியாதிப்பட்டதை நீங்கள் கேள்விப்பட்டதினாலே அதிக மனச்சோர்வு அடைந்தவனாகவும் இருக்கிறான். ²⁷ அவன் வியாதிப்பட்டு மரணத்திற்கு அருகில் இருந்தது உண்மைதான். ஆனாலும், தேவன் அவனுக்கு இரங்கினார்; அவனுக்கு இரங்கினதும்மட்டுமல்லாமல், துக்கத்தின்மேல் துக்கம் எனக்கு உண்டாகாதபடி, எனக்கும் இரங்கினார். ²⁸ ஆகவே, நீங்கள் அவனை மீண்டும் பார்த்து சந்தோஷப்படவும், என் துக்கம் குறையவும், அவனை சீக்கிரமாக அனுப்பினேன். ²⁹ ஆனபடியால் நீங்கள் கர்த்தருக்குள் அதிகமான சந்தோஷத்தோடு அவனை ஏற்றுக்கொண்டு, இப்படிப்பட்டவர்களைக் கனம்பண்ணுங்கள். ³⁰ ஏனென்றால், நீங்கள் எனக்குச் செய்யவேண்டிய ஊழியத்திலே உங்களுடைய குறைவை நிறைவாக்குவதற்கு, அவன் தன் உயிரையும் பெரிதாக நினைக்காமல், கிறிஸ்துவின் ஊழியத்திற்காக மரணத்திற்கு அருகில் இருந்தான்.

அத்தியாயம்- 3

¹ மேலும், என் சகோதரர்களே, கர்த்தருக்குள் சந்தோஷப்படுங்கள். எழுதினவைகளையே மீண்டும் எழுதுவது எனக்கு வருத்தம் இல்லை, அது உங்களுக்கு நலமாக இருக்கும். ² நாய்களுக்கு எச்சரிக்கையாக இருங்கள், பொல்லாத வேலையாட்களுக்கு எச்சரிக்கையாக இருங்கள். விருத்தசேதனக்காரர்களுக்கு எச்சரிக்கையாக இருங்கள். ³ ஏனென்றால், சரீரத்தின்மேல் நம்பிக்கையாக இல்லாமல், ஆவியினாலே தேவனுக்கு ஆராதனைசெய்து, கிறிஸ்து இயேசுவிற்குள் மேன்மைபாராட்டுகிற நாமே விருத்தசேதனமுள்ளவர்கள். ⁴ சரீரத்தின்மேல் நம்பிக்கை வைக்கவேண்டுமானால் நானும் வைக்கலாம்; வேறொருவன் சரீரத்தின்மேல் நம்பிக்கையாக இருக்க நினைத்தால் நான் அதைவிட அதிகமாக அப்படிச் செய்யலாம். ⁵ நான் எட்டாம்நாளில் விருத்தசேதனம் பண்ணப்பட்டவன், இஸ்ரவேல் வம்சத்தைச் சேர்ந்தவன், பென்யமீன் கோத்திரத்தைச் சேர்ந்தவன், எபிரெயரில் பிறந்த எபிரெயன், நியாயப்பிரமாணத்தின்படி பரிசேயன்; ⁶ பக்திவெராக்கியத்தின்படி சபையைத் துன்பப்படுத்தினவன், நியாயப்பிரமாணத்தின் நீதியின்படி குற்றஞ்சாட்டப்படாதவன். ⁷ ஆனாலும், எனக்கு இலாபமாக இருந்தவைகள் எவைகளோ, அவைகளைக் கிறிஸ்துவுக்காக நஷ்டம் என்று நினைத்தேன். ⁸ அதுமட்டும் இல்லை, என் கர்த்தராகிய கிறிஸ்து இயேசுவை அறிகிற அறிவின் மேன்மைக்காக எல்லாவற்றையும் நஷ்டம் என்று நினைத்துக்கொண்டிருக்கிறேன். ⁹ நான் கிறிஸ்துவை ஆதாயப்படுத்திக்கொள்வதற்காக, நியாயப்பிரமாணத்தினால் வருகிற சுயநீதியை உடையவனாக இல்லாமல், கிறிஸ்துவின்மேல் உள்ள விசுவாசத்தினால் வருகிறதும், விசுவாசம் மூலமாக தேவனால் உண்டாயிருக்கிறதும்மான நீதியை உடையவனாக இருந்து, கிறிஸ்துவிற்குள் இருக்கிறவன் என்று தெரியும்படிக்கும், ¹⁰ இப்படி நான் அவரையும் அவருடைய உயிர்த்தெழுதலின் வல்லமையையும், அவருடைய பாடுகளின் ஐக்கியத்தையும் தெரிந்துகொள்வதற்கும், அவருடைய மரணத்திற்கு இணையான மரணத்திற்குள்ளாகி, எப்படியாவது நான் மரித்தோரிலிருந்து உயிரோடு எழுந்திருப்பதற்குத் தகுதியாவதற்கும், ¹¹ அவருக்காக எல்லாவற்றையும் நஷ்டமென்றும் குப்பையென்றும் நினைக்கிறேன்.

¹² நான் பெற்றுக்கொண்டேன் அல்லது முழுவதும் தேறினவனானேன் என்று நினைக்காமல், கிறிஸ்து இயேசுவினால் நான் எதற்காகப் பிடிக்கப்பட்டேனோ அதை நான் பிடித்துக்கொள்வதற்காக ஆசையாகத் தொடருகிறேன். ¹³ சகோதரர்களே, அதைப் பிடித்துக்கொண்டேன் என்று நான் நினைக்கிறதில்லை; ஒன்று செய்கிறேன், கடந்தவைகளை மறந்து, வருகிறவைகளைத் தேடி, ¹⁴ கிறிஸ்து இயேசுவிற்குள் தேவன் அழைத்த பரம அழைப்பின் பந்தயப்பொருளுக்காக இலக்கை நோக்கித் தொடருகிறேன். ¹⁵ ஆகவே, நம்மில் தேறினவர்கள் எல்லோரும் இந்தச் சிந்தையாகவே இருக்கவேண்டும்; எந்தக் காரியத்திலாவது நீங்கள் வேறு சிந்தையாக இருந்தால், அதையும் தேவன் உங்களுக்கு வெளிப்படுத்துவார். ¹⁶ ஆனாலும் நாம் எதுவரைக்கும் தேறியிருக்கிறோமோ, அதுமுதல் ஒரே ஒழுங்காக நடந்துகொண்டு, ஒரே சிந்தையாக இருப்போமாக. ¹⁷ சகோதரர்களே, நீங்கள் என்னோடு பின்பற்றுகிறவர்களாகி, நாங்கள் உங்களுக்கு வழிகாட்டுகிறபடி நடக்கிறவர்களை மாதிரியாக நோக்கிப் பாருங்கள். ¹⁸ ஏனென்றால், அநேகர் வேறுவிதமாக நடக்கிறார்கள்; அவர்கள் கிறிஸ்துவின் சிலுவைக்குப் பகைவர்களென்று உங்களுக்கு அநேகமுறைச் சொன்னேன், இப்பொழுது கண்ணீரோடும் சொல்லுகிறேன். ¹⁹ அவர்களுடைய முடிவு அழிவு, அவர்களுடைய தேவன் வயிறு, அவர்களுடைய மகிமை அவர்களுடைய வெட்கமே, அவர்கள் பூமிக்குரியவைகளைச் சிந்திக்கிறார்கள். ²⁰ நம்முடைய குடியிருப்போ பரலோகத்தில் இருக்கிறது, அங்கேயிருந்து கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்து என்னும் இரட்சகர் வருவதற்காக எதிர்பார்த்துக்கொண்டிருக்கிறோம். ²¹ அவர் எல்லாவற்றையும் தமக்குக் கீழ்ப்படுத்திக்கொள்வதற்குத் தம்முடைய வல்லமையான செயலின்படி, நம்முடைய அற்பமான சரீரத்தை அவருடைய மகிமையான சரீரத்திற்கு ஒப்பாக மறுபுறப்படுத்துவார்.

அத்தியாயம்- 4

¹ ஆகவே, எனக்குப் பிரியமும் வாஞ்சையுமான சகோதரர்களே, எனக்குச் சந்தோஷமும் கிரீடமுமானவர்களே, பிரியமானவர்களே, இப்படியே கர்த்தருக்குள் நிலைத்து நில்லுங்கள்.

² கர்த்தருக்குள் ஒரே சிந்தையாக இருக்க எயோதியாளுக்கும் சிந்திகேயாளுக்கும் புத்திசொல்லுகிறேன். ³ அன்றியும், என் உத்தம கூட்டாளியே, அவர்களுக்கு உதவியாக இருக்கும்படி உன்னையும் வேண்டிக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்; அவர்கள் கிலேமெந்தோடும் மற்ற என் உடன்வேலையாட்களோடும் நற்செய்தியை அறிவிப்பதில் என்னோடு அதிகமாக உழைத்தார்கள், அவர்களுடைய பெயர்கள் ஜீவபுத்தகத்தில் இருக்கிறது. ⁴ கர்த்தருக்குள் எப்பொழுதும் சந்தோஷமாக இருங்கள்; சந்தோஷமாக இருங்கள் என்று மீண்டும் சொல்லுகிறேன். ⁵ உங்களுடைய சாந்தகுணம் எல்லா மனிதர்களுக்கும் தெரிந்திருப்பதாக. கர்த்தர் அருகில் இருக்கிறார். ⁶ நீங்கள் எதைக்குறித்தும் கவலைப்படாமல், எல்லாவற்றையும்குறித்து உங்களுடைய விண்ணப்பங்களை ஸ்தோத்திரத்துடன் ஜெபத்தினாலும் வேண்டுதலினாலும் தேவனுக்குத் தெரியப்படுத்துங்கள். ⁷ அப்பொழுது, எல்லாப் புத்திக்கும் மேலான தேவசமாதானம் உங்களுடைய இருதயங்களையும் உங்களுடைய சிந்தைகளையும் கிறிஸ்து இயேசுவிற்குள்ளாகக் காத்துக்கொள்ளும். ⁸ கடைசியாக, சகோதரர்களே, உண்மையுள்ளவைகள் எவைகளோ, ஒழுக்கமுள்ளவைகள் எவைகளோ, நீதியுள்ளவைகள் எவைகளோ, கற்புள்ளவைகள் எவைகளோ, அன்புள்ளவைகள் எவைகளோ, நற்பெயர் உள்ளவைகள் எவைகளோ, புண்ணியம் எதுவோ, புகழ் எதுவோ அவைகளையே சிந்தித்துக்கொண்டிருங்கள். ⁹ நீங்கள் என்னிடம் கற்றுக்கொண்டவைகளும், பெற்றுக்கொண்டவைகளும், கேட்டவைகளும், பார்த்தவைகளும் எவைகளோ, அவைகளையே செய்யுங்கள்; அப்பொழுது சமாதானத்தின் தேவன் உங்களோடு இருப்பார்.

¹⁰ என்னை விசாரிப்பதற்கு நீங்கள் இப்பொழுது மீண்டும் அக்கறை கொண்டதினாலே கர்த்தருக்குள் மிகவும் சந்தோஷப்பட்டேன்; முன்னமே இப்படிச் செய்ய நினைத்தீர்கள், ஆனால் உதவிசெய்ய உங்களுக்கு வாய்ப்பு கிடைக்கவில்லை. ¹¹ என் குறைகளினால் நான் இப்படிச் சொல்லவில்லை; ஏனென்றால், நான் எந்த நிலைமையில் இருந்தாலும் மனதிருப்தியாக இருக்கக் கற்றுக்கொண்டேன். ¹² தாழ்ந்திருக்கவும் எனக்குத் தெரியும், வாழ்ந்திருக்கவும் எனக்குத் தெரியும்; எந்த இடத்திலும் எல்லாவற்றிலும் திருப்தியாக இருக்கவும், பட்டினியாக இருக்கவும், பரிபூரணமடையவும், குறைவுபடவும் கற்றுக்கொண்டேன். ¹³ என்னைப் பெலப்படுத்துகிற கிறிஸ்துவினாலே எல்லாவற்றையும் செய்ய எனக்குப் பெலன் உண்டு. ¹⁴ ஆனாலும் நீங்கள் என் உபத்திரவத்தில் என்னோடு பங்குகொண்டது நலமாக இருக்கிறது. ¹⁵ மேலும், பிலிப்பியரே, நற்செய்தி ஊழியத்தின் ஆரம்பத்திலே நான் மக்கெதோனியாவிலிருந்து புறப்பட்டபோது, உங்களைத்தவிர வேறு எந்த சபையும் எனக்குப் பணம் கொடுத்து உதவிசெய்யவில்லை என்று உங்களுக்குத் தெரியும். ¹⁶ நான் தெசலோனிக்கேயில் இருந்தபோதும், என் குறைவுகளில் உதவிசெய்ய நீங்கள் பலமுறை பணம் அனுப்பி உதவி செய்தீர்கள். ¹⁷ உங்களுடைய உதவிகளை நான் தேடாமல், உங்களுடைய உதவிகளால் உங்களுக்கு வரும் பலன் பெருகுவதையே பார்க்க விரும்புகிறேன். ¹⁸ எல்லாம் எனக்குக் கிடைத்தது, பரிபூரணமும் உண்டாயிருக்கிறது; உங்களால் அனுப்பப்பட்டவைகளை தேவனுக்குச் சுகந்த வாசனையாகவும், பிரியமான பலியாகவும் எப்பாப்பிரோத்தீத்துவின் கைகளினால் பெற்றுக்கொண்டதினால் நான் திருப்தியடைந்திருக்கிறேன். ¹⁹ என் தேவன் தம்முடைய ஐசுவரியத்தின்படி உங்களுடைய குறைகளையெல்லாம் கிறிஸ்து இயேசுவிற்குள் மகிமையிலே நிறைவாக்குவார். ²⁰ நம்முடைய பிதாவாகிய தேவனுக்கு என்றென்றைக்கும் மகிமை உண்டாவதாக. ஆமென்.

²¹ கிறிஸ்து இயேசுவிற்குள்ளான பரிசுத்தவான்கள் எல்லோருக்கும் வாழ்த்துதல் சொல்லுங்கள். என்னோடு இருக்கிற சகோதரர்கள் உங்களுக்கு வாழ்த்துதல் சொல்லுகிறார்கள். ²² பரிசுத்தவான்கள் அனைவரும், விசேஷமாக இராயனுடைய அரண்மனையில் உள்ளவர்களும் உங்களுக்கு வாழ்த்துதல் சொல்லுகிறார்கள். ²³ நமது கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவினுடைய கிருபை உங்கள் அனைவரோடும் இருப்பதாக. ஆமென்.

Colossians

அத்தியாயம்- 1

¹ தேவனுடைய விருப்பத்தினாலே இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவின் அப்போஸ்தலனாகிய பவுலும், சகோதரனாகிய தீமோத்தேயும், ² கொலோசே பட்டணத்தில் கிறிஸ்துவிற்குள் பரிசுத்தவான்களும் விசுவாசிகளுமாக இருக்கிற சகோதரர்களுக்கு எழுதுகிறதாவது: நம்முடைய பிதாவாகிய தேவனாலும் கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவினாலும் உங்களுக்குக் கிருபையும் சமாதானமும் உண்டாவதாக.

³ கிறிஸ்து இயேசுவின்மேலுள்ள உங்களுடைய விசுவாசத்தையும், பரிசுத்தவான்கள் எல்லார்மேலுமுள்ள உங்களுடைய அன்பையும்குறித்து நாங்கள் கேள்விப்பட்டு, ⁴ பரலோகத்தில் உங்களுக்காக வைத்திருக்கிற நம்பிக்கையினிமித்தம், ⁵ நம்முடைய கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவின் பிதாவாகிய தேவனுக்கு நன்றிசெலுத்தி, எப்பொழுதும் உங்களுக்காக வேண்டுதல் செய்கிறோம். ⁶ அந்த நம்பிக்கையைக்குறித்து, நீங்கள் முன்னமே சத்தியவசனமாகிய நற்செய்தியினாலே கேள்விப்பட்டீர்கள்; அந்த நற்செய்தி உலகமெங்கும்பரவிப் பலன்தருகிறதுபோல, உங்களிடத்திலும் வந்து, நீங்கள் அதைக்கேட்டு, தேவகிருபையைச் சத்தியத்தின்படி அறிந்துகொண்ட நாள்முதல், அது உங்களுக்குள்ளும் பலன் தருகிறதாக இருக்கிறது; ⁷ அதை எங்களுக்குப் பிரியமான உடன் வேலையாளரும், உங்களுக்காகக் கிறிஸ்துவின் உண்மையான ஊழியக்காரனுமாக இருக்கிற எப்பாப்பிராவினிடம் நீங்கள் கற்றறிந்திருக்கிறீர்கள்; ⁸ ஆவியானவருக்குள்ளான உங்களுடைய அன்பையும் அவனே எங்களுக்குத் தெரியப்படுத்தினான். ⁹ இதினிமித்தம், நாங்கள் அதைக் கேட்ட நாள்முதல் உங்களுக்காக இடைவிடாமல் ஜெபம் செய்கிறோம்; நீங்கள் எல்லா ஞானத்தோடும், ஆவியானவருக்குரிய விவேகத்தோடும் அவருடைய விருப்பத்தை அறிகிற அறிவினாலே நிரப்பப்படவும், ¹⁰ எல்லாவித நல்ல செயல்களாகிய கனிகளைத் தந்து, தேவனை அறிகிற அறிவில் வளர்ச்சியடைந்து, கர்த்தருக்குப் பிரியமுண்டாக வாழவும் அவருக்குத் தகுதியாக நடந்துகொள்ளவும், ¹¹ சந்தோஷத்தோடுசுஷ்டிய எல்லாப் பொறுமையும் நீடிய சாந்தமும் உண்டாவதற்கு மகிமையான அவருடைய வல்லமையின்படி, எல்லா வல்லமையாலும் பலப்படுத்தப்படவும், உங்களுக்காக ஜெபம் செய்கிறோம். ¹² ஒளியிலுள்ள பரிசுத்தவான்களுடைய சுதந்திரத்தில் பங்கடைவதற்கு, நம்மைத் தகுதியுள்ளவர்களாக்கினவரும், ¹³ இருளின் அதிகாரத்திலிருந்து நம்மை விடுதலையாக்கி, தமது அன்பின் குமாரனுடைய ராஜ்யத்திற்கு உட்படுத்தினவருமாக இருக்கிற பிதாவிற்கு நன்றி செலுத்துகிறோம். ¹⁴ குமாரனாகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவிற்குள், அவருடைய இரத்தத்தினாலே, பாவமன்னிப்பாகிய மீட்பு நமக்கு உண்டாயிருக்கிறது.

¹⁵ அவர் கண்ணுக்குத் தெரியாத தேவனுடைய ரூபமும், எல்லாப் படைப்புக்கும் முதற்பேறுமானவர். ¹⁶ ஏனென்றால், அவருக்குள் எல்லாம் படைக்கப்பட்டது; பரலோகத்திலுள்ளவைகளும் பூலோகத்திலுள்ளவைகளாகிய காணப்படுகிறவைகளும் காணப்படாதவைகளுமான எல்லாப் பொருட்களும், சிங்காசனங்களானாலும், கர்த்தத்துவங்களானாலும், அரசாங்க ஆட்சி புரிவோர்களானாலும், அதிகாரங்களானாலும், எல்லாமும் அவரைக் கொண்டும் அவருக்கென்றும் படைக்கப்பட்டது. ¹⁷ அவர் எல்லாவற்றிற்கும் முந்தினவர், எல்லாம் அவருக்குள் நிலைநிற்கிறது. ¹⁸ அவரே சபையாகிய சரீரத்திற்குத் தலையானவர்; எல்லாவற்றிலும் முதல்வராக இருக்கும்படி, அவரே துவக்கமும் மரித்தோரிலிருந்து உயிரோடு எழுந்த முதற்பேறுமானவர். ¹⁹ எல்லாப் பரிபூரணமும் அவருக்குள்ளே வாசமாக இருக்கவும், ²⁰ அவர் சிலுவையில் சிந்தின இரத்தத்தினாலே சமாதானத்தை உண்டாக்கி, பூலோகத்திலுள்ளவைகள் பரலோகத்திலுள்ளவைகள் யாவையும் அவர் மூலமாகத் தமக்கு ஒப்புரவாக்கிக்கொள்ளவும் தேவனுக்கு விருப்பமானது. ²¹ முன்னே தேவனுக்கு அந்நியர்களாகவும் தீய செயல்களினால் மனதிலே விரோதிகளாகவும் இருந்த உங்களையும் பரிசுத்தர்களாகவும் குற்றமற்றவர்களாகவும் கண்டிக்கப்படாதவர்களாகவும் தமக்குமுன் நிறுத்தும்படியாக அவருடைய மாம்சசரீரத்தில் அடைந்த மரணத்தினாலே இப்பொழுது ஒப்புரவாக்கினார். ²² நீங்கள் கேட்ட நற்செய்தியினால் உண்டாகும் நம்பிக்கையைவிட்டு அசையாமல், நிலையாகவும் உறுதியாகவும் விசுவாசத்திலே நிலைத்திருப்பீர்களானால் அப்படியாகும். ²³ அந்த நற்செய்தி வானத்தின்கீழே இருக்கிற எல்லாப் படைப்புகளுக்கும் பிரசங்கிக்கப்பட்டுவருகிறது; அதற்கென்றே பவுலாகிய நான் ஊழியக்காரனானேன்.

²⁴ இப்பொழுது நான் உங்கள்நிமித்தம் அநுபவிக்கிற பாடுகளில் சந்தோஷமடைந்து, கிறிஸ்துவினுடைய உபத்திரவங்களில் குறைவானதை அவருடைய சரீரமாகிய சபைக்காக, என் சரீரத்தினாலே நிறைவேற்றுகிறேன். ²⁵ ஆரம்ப காலங்களுக்கும் தலைமுறை தலைமுறைகளுக்கும் மறைவாக இருந்து,

இப்பொழுது அவருடைய பரிசுத்தவான்களுக்கு வெளியாக்கப்பட்ட இரகசியமாகிய தேவவசனத்தை நிறைவாகத் தெரியப்படுத்துகிறதற்கு, ²⁶ உங்கள்நிமித்தம் தேவனால் எனக்கு அளிக்கப்பட்ட வேலையின்படியே நான் அந்தச் சபைக்கு ஊழியக்காரனானேன். ²⁷ யூதரல்லாதவர்களுக்குள்ளே விளங்கிய இந்த இரகசியத்திலுள்ள மகிமையின் ஐசுவரியம் இன்னதென்று, தேவன் தம்முடைய பரிசுத்தவான்களுக்குத் தெரியப்படுத்தப் பிரியமானார்; கிறிஸ்துவானவர் மகிமையின் நம்பிக்கையாக உங்களுக்குள் இருப்பதே அந்த இரகசியம். ²⁸ எந்த மனிதனையும் கிறிஸ்து இயேசுவிற்குள் தேறினவனாக நிறுத்தும்படிக்கு, அவரையே நாங்கள் அறிவித்து, எந்த மனிதனுக்கும் புத்திசொல்லி, எந்த மனிதனுக்கும் எல்லா ஞானத்தோடும் உபதேசம் செய்கிறோம். ²⁹ அதற்காக நான் எனக்குள்ளே வல்லமையான செய்கையை நடப்பிக்கிற அவருடைய பலத்தின்படி போராடிப் பிரயாசப்படுகிறேன்.

அத்தியாயம்- 2

¹ உங்களுக்காகவும் லவோதிகேயாவில் இருக்கிறவர்களுக்காகவும், சரீரத்தில் என் முகத்தைக் காணாதிருக்கிற மற்றெல்லோருக்காகவும் மிகுந்த போராட்டம் எனக்கு உண்டென்று நீங்கள் அறியவிரும்புகிறேன். ² அவர்களுடைய இருதயங்கள் தேற்றப்பட்டு, அவர்கள் அன்பினால் இணைக்கப்பட்டு, பிதாவாகிய தேவனுக்கும் கிறிஸ்துவிற்கும் உரிய இரகசியத்தை அறிந்துகொள்ளுகிற உணர்வின் பூரண நிச்சயத்தினுடைய எல்லா ஐசுவரியத்திற்கும் உரியவர்களாகவேண்டுமென்றே இப்படி விரும்புகிறேன். ³ அவருக்குள் ஞானம் அறிவு என்பவைகளாகிய பொக்கிஷங்களெல்லாம் அடங்கியிருக்கிறது. ⁴ ஒருவனும் பொய்யான வாதங்களால் உங்களை ஏமாற்றாதபடிக்கு இதைச் சொல்லுகிறேன். ⁵ சரீரத்தின்படி நான் தூரமாக இருந்தும், ஆவியின்படி உங்களோடுகூட இருந்து, உங்களுடைய ஒழுங்கையும், கிறிஸ்துவின் மேலுள்ள உங்களுடைய விசுவாசத்தின் உறுதியையும் பார்த்துச் சந்தோஷப்படுகிறேன்.

⁶ ஆகவே, நீங்கள் கர்த்தராகிய கிறிஸ்து இயேசுவை ஏற்றுக்கொண்டபடியே, அவருக்குள் வேர்கொண்டவர்களாகவும், அவர்மேல் கட்டப்பட்டவர்களாகவும், அவருக்குள் நடந்துகொண்டு, ⁷ நீங்கள் போதிக்கப்பட்டபடியே, விசுவாசத்தில் உறுதிப்பட்டு, நன்றி செலுத்துவதோடு அதிலே பெருகுவீர்களாக. ⁸ உலக ஞானத்தினாலும், மாயமான தந்திரத்தினாலும், ஒருவனும் உங்களைக் கொள்ளைகொண்டு போகாதபடிக்கு எச்சரிக்கையாக இருங்கள்; அது மனிதர்களின் பாரம்பரிய நியாயத்தையும் உலக வழிபாடுகளையும்பற்றினதேயல்லாமல் கிறிஸ்துவைப்பற்றினதல்ல. ⁹ ஏனென்றால், தேவத்துவத்தின் பரிபூரணமெல்லாம் சரீரப்பிரகாரமாக அவருக்குள் குடிகொண்டிருக்கிறது. ¹⁰ மேலும் எல்லாத் துரைத்தனங்களுக்கும் அதிகாரத்திற்கும் தலைவராக இருக்கிற அவருக்குள் நீங்கள் பரிபூரணம் உள்ளவர்களாக இருக்கிறீர்கள். ¹¹ அல்லாமலும், நீங்கள் கிறிஸ்துவைப்பற்றும் விருத்தசேதனத்தினாலே மாம்சத்திற்குரிய பாவசரீரத்தைக் களைந்துவிட்டதினால், கையால் செய்யப்படாத விருத்தசேதனத்தை அவருக்குள் பெற்றீர்கள். ¹² ஞானஸ்நானத்திலே அவரோடுகூட அடக்கம்பண்ணப்பட்டவர்களாகவும், அதிலே அவரை மரித்தோரிலிருந்து உயிரோடு எழுப்பின தேவனுடைய செயலின்மேலுள்ள விசுவாசத்தினாலே அவரோடுகூட உயிரோடு எழுந்தவர்களாகவும் இருக்கிறீர்கள். ¹³ உங்களுடைய பாவங்களினாலேயும், உங்களுடைய சரீரவிருத்தசேதனம் இல்லாமையினாலேயும் மரித்தவர்களாக இருந்த உங்களையும் அவரோடுகூட உயிர்ப்பித்து, அக்கிரமங்கள் எல்லாவற்றையும் உங்களுக்கு மன்னித்து; ¹⁴ நமக்கு எதிரானதாகவும் கட்டளைகளால் நமக்கு விரோதமாகவும் இருந்த கையெழுத்தை அழித்து, அதை நடுவில் இல்லாதபடிக்கு எடுத்து, சிலுவையின்மேல் ஆணியடித்து; ¹⁵ துரைத்தனங்களையும் அதிகாரங்களையும் பறித்துக்கொண்டு, வெளியரங்கமாக வெளிப்படுத்தி, அவைகளின்மேல் சிலுவையிலே வெற்றி சிறந்தார். ¹⁶ ஆகவே, உணவையும், பானத்தையும் குறித்தாவது, பண்டிகை நாளையும் மாதப்பிறப்பையும் ஓய்வுநாட்களையும் குறித்தாவது, ஒருவனும் உங்களைக் குற்றப்படுத்தாமல் இருப்பானாக. ¹⁷ அவைகள் வருங்காரியங்களுக்கு நிழலாக இருக்கிறது; அவைகளின் பொருள் கிறிஸ்துவைப்பற்றினது. ¹⁸ மூட்டுகளாலும் தசை நரம்புகளாலும் உதவிபெற்று இணைக்கப்பட்டு, தேவவளர்ச்சியாக வளர்ந்தேறுகிற சரீரமுழுவதையும் ஆதரிக்கிற தலையைப் பற்றிக்கொள்ளாமல், ¹⁹ மாய்மாலமான தாழ்மையிலும், தேவதூதர்களுக்குச் செய்யும் ஆராதனையிலும் விருப்பமடைந்து, காணாத காரியங்களிலே துணிவாய் நுழைந்து, தன் சரீரசிந்தையினாலே வீணாக கர்வம் கொண்டிருக்கிற எவனும் உங்களுடைய பந்தயப்பொருளை நீங்கள் இழந்துபோகும்படி உங்களை ஏமாற்றாதிருக்கப் பாருங்கள். ²⁰ நீங்கள் கிறிஸ்துவோடுகூட உலகத்தின் வழக்கங்களுக்கு மரித்ததுண்டானால், இன்னும் உலக வழக்கத்தின்படி பிழைக்கிறவர்கள்போல, ²¹ மனிதர்களுடைய கட்டளைகளின்படியும் போதனைகளின்படியும் நடந்து: தொடாதே, ருசி பாராதே, தீண்டாதே என்கிற கட்டளைகளுக்கு உடன்படுகிறதென்ன? ²² இவையெல்லாம் அநுபவிக்கிறதினால் அழிந்துபோகுமே. ²³ இப்படிப்பட்டப் போதனைகள் சுயவிருப்பமான ஆராதனையையும், போலியான தாழ்மையையும், சரீர ஒடுக்கத்தையும்பற்றி ஞானம் என்கிற பெயர்கொண்டிருந்தாலும், இவைகள் மாம்சத்தைப் பாதுகாப்பதற்கேயன்றி வேறு எதற்கும் உபயோகப்படாது.

அத்தியாயம்- 3

¹ நீங்கள் கிறிஸ்துவுடன் கூட எழுந்ததுண்டானால், கிறிஸ்து தேவனுடைய வலதுபாரசத்தில் வீற்றிருக்கும் இடத்திலுள்ள மேலானவைகளைத் தேடுங்கள். ² பூமியிலுள்ளவைகளை இல்லை, மேலானவைகளையே விரும்புங்கள். ³ ஏனென்றால், நீங்கள் மரித்தீர்கள், உங்களுடைய ஜீவன் கிறிஸ்துவோடு தேவனுக்குள் மறைந்திருக்கிறது. ⁴ நம்முடைய ஜீவனாகிய கிறிஸ்து வெளிப்படும்போது, நீங்களும் அவரோடு கூட மகிமையிலே வெளிப்படுவீர்கள். ⁵ ஆகவே, விபசாரம், அசுத்தம், மோகம், தீய எண்ணம், விக்கிரக ஆராதனையான பொருளாசை ஆகிய இந்த உலகத்திற்குரிய பாவ சுபாவத்தை அழித்துப்போடுங்கள். ⁶ இவைகளினாலேயே கீழ்ப்படியாமையின் பிள்ளைகள்மேல் தேவனுடைய கோபம் வரும். ⁷ நீங்களும் முற்காலத்தில் அவர்களுக்குள்ளே வாழ்ந்தபோது, அவைகளைச் செய்துகொண்டுவந்தீர்கள். ⁸ இப்பொழுதோ கோபமும் மூர்க்கமும் பொறாமையும், உங்களுடைய வாயிலிருந்து வரக்கூடாத நிந்தனையும், வம்புவார்த்தைகளுமாகிய இவைகளையெல்லாம் விட்டுவிடுங்கள். ⁹ ஒருவருக்கொருவர் பொய் சொல்லாதிருங்கள்; பழைய மனிதனையும் அவன் செய்கைகளையும் களைந்துபோட்டு, ¹⁰ தன்னைப் படைத்தவருடைய சாயலுக்கு ஒப்பாக பூரண அறிவடையும்படி புதிதாக்கப்பட்ட புதிய மனிதனை அணிந்துகொண்டிருக்கிறீர்களே. ¹¹ அதிலே கிரேக்கனென்றும் யூதனென்றும் இல்லை, விருத்தசேதனம் உள்ளவனென்றும், விருத்தசேதனம் இல்லாதவனென்றும் இல்லை, யூதனல்லாதவனென்றும் வெளிதேசத்தானென்றும் இல்லை, அடிமையென்றும் சுதந்திரமானவனென்றும் இல்லை; கிறிஸ்துவே எல்லோரிலும் எல்லாமுமாக இருக்கிறார். ¹² ஆகவே, நீங்கள் தேவனால் தெரிந்துகொள்ளப்பட்ட பரிசுத்தரும் பிரியருமாக, உருக்கமான இரக்கத்தையும், தயவையும், மனத்தாழ்மையையும், அமைதியையும், நீடிய பொறுமையையும் அணிந்துகொண்டு; ¹³ ஒருவரையொருவர் ஏற்றுக்கொண்டு, ஒருவர்பேரில் ஒருவருக்குக் குறைபாடு உண்டானால், கிறிஸ்து உங்களுக்கு மன்னித்ததுபோல, ஒருவருக்கொருவர் மன்னியுங்கள். ¹⁴ இவை எல்லாவற்றின்மேலும், பூரண நற்குணத்தின் கட்டாகிய அன்பை அணிந்துகொள்ளுங்கள். ¹⁵ தேவசமாதானம் உங்களுடைய இருதயங்களில் ஆளக்கடவது, இதற்கென்றே நீங்கள் ஒரே சரீரமாக அழைக்கப்பட்டீர்கள்; நன்றியுள்ளவர்களாகவும் இருங்கள். ¹⁶ கிறிஸ்துவின் வசனம் உங்களுக்குள்ளே எல்லா ஞானத்தோடும் பரிபூரணமாக குடியிருப்பதாக; பாடல்களினாலும் கீர்த்தனைகளினாலும் ஞானப்பாட்டுகளினாலும் ஒருவருக்கொருவர் போதித்து புத்திசொல்லிக்கொண்டு, உங்களுடைய இருதயத்திலே கர்த்தரைப் பக்தியுடன் பாடி; ¹⁷ வார்த்தையினாலாவது செயல்களினாலாவது, நீங்கள் எதைச்செய்தாலும், அதையெல்லாம் கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுவின் நாமத்தினாலே செய்து, அவர் மூலமாகப் பிதாவாகிய தேவனுக்கு நன்றி செலுத்துங்கள்.

¹⁸ மனைவிகளே, கர்த்தருக்கேற்கும்படி உங்களுடைய கணவர்களுக்குக் கீழ்ப்படியுங்கள். ¹⁹ கணவன்மார்களே, உங்களுடைய மனைவிகளில் அன்பு செலுத்துங்கள், அவர்கள்மேல் கசந்துகொள்ளாதிருங்கள். ²⁰ பிள்ளைகளே, உங்களுடைய பெற்றோருக்கு எல்லாக் காரியத்திலேயும் கீழ்ப்படியுங்கள்; இது கர்த்தருக்கு விருப்பமானது. ²¹ பிதாக்களே, உங்களுடைய பிள்ளைகள் மனம் தளர்ந்துபோகாதபடி, அவர்களை கோபமூட்டாமலிருங்கள். ²² வேலைக்காரர்களே, சரீரத்தின்படி உங்களுடைய எஜமான்களாக இருக்கிறவர்களுக்கு எல்லாக் காரியத்திலேயும் கீழ்ப்படிந்து, நீங்கள் மனிதர்களைப் பிரியப்படுத்த விரும்புகிறவர்களாகப் பார்வைக்கு பணிவிடைசெய்யாமல், தேவனுக்குப் பயப்படுகிறவர்களாகக் கபடமில்லாத இருதயத்தோடு பணிவிடைசெய்யுங்கள். ²³ நீங்கள் கர்த்தராகிய கிறிஸ்துவைத் தொழுதுகொள்ளுகிறதினாலே, உரிமைப்பங்கின் பலனைக் கர்த்தராலே பெறுவீர்களென்று அறிந்து, ²⁴ எதைச்செய்தாலும், அதை மனிதர்களுக்கென்று செய்யாமல், கர்த்தருக்கென்றே மனப்பூர்வமாகச் செய்யுங்கள். ²⁵ அநியாயம் செய்கிறவன் தான் செய்த அநியாயத்திற்குரிய பலனை அடைவான்; பட்சபாதமே இல்லை.

அத்தியாயம்- 4

¹ எஜமான்களே, உங்களுக்கும் பரலோகத்தில் எஜமான் இருக்கிறாரென்று அறிந்து, வேலைக்காரர்களுக்கு நீதியும் செம்மையுமானதைச் செய்யுங்கள்.

² இடைவிடாமல் ஜெபம்பண்ணுங்கள், நன்றியுள்ள இருதயத்தோடு ஜெபத்தில் விழித்திருங்கள். ³ கிறிஸ்துவினுடைய இரகசியத்தினிமித்தம் கட்டப்பட்டிருக்கிற நான் அந்த இரகசியத்தைக்குறித்துப் பேசவேண்டிய பிரகாரமாகப் பேசி, அதை வெளிப்படுத்துவதற்கு, ⁴ தேவவார்த்தை செல்லும்படியான வாசலை தேவன் திறந்தருளும்படி எங்களுக்காகவும் வேண்டிக்கொள்ளுங்கள். ⁵ அவிசுவாசிகளுக்கு முன்பாக ஞானமாக நடந்து, காலத்தைப் பயன்படுத்திக்கொள்ளுங்கள். ⁶ அவனவனுக்கு எவ்வாறு பதில்சொல்லவேண்டுமென்று நீங்கள் அறியும்படிக்கு, உங்களுடைய வசனம் எப்பொழுதும் கிருபை பொருந்தினதாகவும் உப்பினால் சாரமேறினதாகவும் இருப்பதாக.

⁷ பிரியமான சகோதரனும், உண்மையுள்ள ஊழியக்காரனும், கர்த்தருக்குள் எனக்கு உடன்வேலையாளமாக இருக்கிற தீகிக்கு என்பவன் என் செய்திகளையெல்லாம் உங்களுக்கு அறிவிப்பான். ⁸ உங்களுடைய செய்திகளை அறியவும், உங்களுடைய இருதயங்களைத் தேற்றவும், ⁹ அவனையும், உங்களில் ஒருவனாக இருக்கிற உண்மையும் பிரியமும் உள்ள சகோதரனாகிய ஒநேசிமு என்பவனையும், உங்களிடம் அனுப்பியிருக்கிறேன்; அவர்கள் இந்த இடத்துச் செய்திகளையெல்லாம் உங்களுக்கு அறிவிப்பார்கள். ¹⁰ என்னோடுகூடக் காவலில் இருக்கிற அரிஸ்தர்க்கும், பரன்பாவிற்கு நெருங்கிய உறவினரான மாற்கும் வாழ்த்துதல் சொல்லுகிறார்கள். மாற்குவைக்குறித்து உத்தரவுபெற்றீர்களே; இவன் உங்களிடம் வந்தால் இவனை அங்கீகரித்துக்கொள்ளுங்கள். ¹¹ யூஸ்து என்னப்பட்ட இயேசுவும் வாழ்த்துதல் சொல்லுகிறான். விருத்தசேதனம் உள்ளவர்களில் இவர்கள்மட்டும் தேவனுடைய ராஜ்யத்திற்காக என் உடன்வேலையாட்களாக இருந்து, எனக்கு ஆறுதல் செய்துவந்தார்கள். ¹² எப்பாப்பிராவும் உங்களுக்கு வாழ்த்துதல் சொல்லுகிறான்; உங்களைச் சேர்ந்தவனும் கிறிஸ்துவின் ஊழியக்காரனாகிய இவன், நீங்கள் தேவனுக்குச் சித்தமானவைகள் எல்லாவற்றிலும் தேறினவர்களாகவும் பூரண நிச்சயமுள்ளவர்களாகவும் நிலைநிற்கவேண்டுமென்று, தன் ஜெபங்களில் உங்களுக்காக எப்பொழுதும் போராடுகிறான். ¹³ இவன் உங்களுக்காகவும், லவோதிகேயருக்காகவும், எராப்போலியருக்காகவும், மிகுந்த விழிப்புள்ளவனாக இருக்கிறான் என்பதற்கு நான் சாட்சியாக இருக்கிறேன். ¹⁴ பிரியமான மருத்துவனாகிய லூக்காவும், தேமாவும், உங்களுக்கு வாழ்த்துதல் சொல்லுகிறார்கள். ¹⁵ லவோதிகேயாவிலிருக்கிற சகோதரர்களையும், நிம்பாவையும், அவன் வீட்டில் கூடுகிற சபையையும் வாழ்த்துங்கள். ¹⁶ இந்தக் கடிதம் உங்களிடம் வாசிக்கப்பட்டபின்பு இது லவோதிகேயா சபையிலும் வாசிக்கப்படும்படி செய்யுங்கள்; லவோதிகேயாவிலிருந்து வரும் கடிதத்தை நீங்களும் வாசியுங்கள். ¹⁷ அர்க்கிப்பைக் கண்டு: நீ கர்த்தரிடத்தில் பெற்ற ஊழியத்தை நிறைவேற்றும்படி கவனமாக இருப்பாயாகவென்று சொல்லுங்கள். ¹⁸ பவுலாகிய நான் என் கையினால் எழுதி, உங்களை வாழ்த்துகிறேன். நான் கட்டப்பட்டிருக்கிறதை நினைத்துக்கொள்ளுங்கள். கிருபை உங்களோடிருப்பதாக. ஆமென்.

1 Thessalonians

அத்தியாயம்- 1

¹ பவுலும், சில்வானும், தீமோத்தேயும், பிதாவாகிய தேவனுக்குள்ளும் கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவிற்குள்ளும் இருக்கிற தெசலோனிக்கேயர் சபைக்கு எழுதுகிறதாவது: நம்முடைய பிதாவாகிய தேவனாலும் கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவினாலும் உங்களுக்குக் கிருபையும் சமாதானமும் உண்டாவதாக.

² தேவனுக்குப் பிரியமான சகோதரர்களே, உங்களுடைய விசுவாசத்தின் செயல்களையும், உங்களுடைய அன்பின் பிரயாசத்தையும், நம்முடைய கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவின்மேலுள்ள உங்களுடைய நம்பிக்கையின் பொறுமையையும், நம்முடைய பிதாவாகிய தேவனுக்குமுன்பாக நாங்கள் இடைவிடாமல் நினைவுகூர்ந்து, ³ நீங்கள் தெரிந்துகொள்ளப்பட்டவர்களென்று நாங்கள் அறிந்து, ⁴ எங்களுடைய ஜெபங்களில் இடைவிடாமல் உங்களைக்குறித்து வேண்டிதல்செய்து, உங்களெல்லோருக்காகவும் எப்பொழுதும் தேவனுக்கு நன்றி செலுத்துகிறோம். ⁵ எங்களுடைய நற்செய்தி உங்களிடம் வசனத்தோடுமாத்திரமல்ல, வல்லமையோடும், பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவரோடும், முழு நிச்சயத்தோடும் வந்தது; நாங்களும் உங்களுக்குள்ளே இருந்தபோது உங்களுக்காக எப்படிப்பட்டவர்களாக இருந்தோமென்று அறிந்திருக்கிறீர்களே. ⁶ நீங்கள் மிகுந்த உபத்திரவத்திலே, பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவரின் மகிழ்ச்சியோடு, திருவசனத்தை ஏற்றுக்கொண்டு, எங்களையும் கர்த்தரையும் பின்பற்றுகிறவர்களாகி, ⁷ இவ்விதமாக மக்கெதோனியாவிலும் அகாயாவிலுமுள்ள விசுவாசிகள் அனைவருக்கும் மாதிரிகளானீர்கள். ⁸ எப்படியென்றால், உங்களிடமிருந்து கர்த்தருடைய வசனம் மக்கெதோனியாவிலும் அகாயாவிலும் பரவியதுமல்லாமல், நாங்கள் அதைக்குறித்து ஒன்றும் சொல்லவேண்டியதாக இல்லாதபடிக்கு, தேவனைப்பற்றின உங்களுடைய விசுவாசம் எல்லா இடங்களிலும் பிரசித்தமானது. ⁹ ஏனென்றால், அவர்கள்தாமே எங்களைக்குறித்து, உங்களிடம் எங்களுக்குக் கிடைத்த வரவேற்பு இன்னதென்பதையும், ஜீவனுள்ள மெய்யான தேவனுக்கு ஊழியம் செய்வதற்கு, நீங்கள் சிலை வழிபாடுகளைவிட்டு தேவனிடத்திற்கு மனந்திரும்பினதையும், ¹⁰ அவர் மரித்தோரிலிருந்து உயிரோடு எழுந்தவரும், இனிவரும் கோபத்திலிருந்து நம்மை விடுவித்து இரட்சிக்கிறவருமாக இருக்கிற அவருடைய குமாரனாகிய இயேசு பரலோகத்திலிருந்து வருவதை நீங்கள் எதிர்பார்த்துக்கொண்டிருக்கிறதையும் அறிவிக்கிறார்களே.

அத்தியாயம்- 2

¹ சகோதரர்களே, நாங்கள் உங்களிடம் வந்தது பிரயோஜனமில்லாததாக இருக்கவில்லையென்று நீங்களே அறிந்திருக்கிறீர்கள். ² உங்களுக்குத் தெரிந்திருக்கிறபடி, முன்னே பிலிப்பிப்பட்டணத்திலே நாங்கள் பாடுகள்பட்டு நிந்தையடைந்திருந்தும், மிகுந்த போராட்டத்தோடு தேவனுடைய நற்செய்தியை உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லும்படி, நம்முடைய தேவனுக்குள் தைரியங்கொண்டிருந்தோம். ³ எங்களுடைய போதகம் வஞ்சகத்தினாலும் தவறான விருப்பத்தினாலும் உண்டாகவில்லை, அது தந்திரமுள்ளதாகவும் இருக்கவில்லை. ⁴ தேவன் எங்களை நேர்மையானவர்கள் என்று நம்பி நற்செய்தியை எங்களிடம் ஒப்புவித்தார். நாங்கள் மனிதர்களுக்கு அல்ல, எங்களுடைய இருதயங்களைச் சோதித்தறிகிற தேவனுக்கே பிரியமுண்டாகப் பேசுகிறோம். ⁵ உங்களுக்குத் தெரிந்திருக்கிறபடி, நாங்கள் ஒருபோதும் முகத்துதியான வசனங்களைச் சொல்லவுமில்லை, பொருளாசையுள்ளவர்களாக மாயம்பண்ணவும் இல்லை; தேவனே சாட்சி. ⁶ நாங்கள் கிறிஸ்துவின் அப்போஸ்தலர்களாக உங்களுக்குப் பாரமாக இருக்கக்கூடியவர்களானாலும், உங்களிடத்திலாவது, மற்றவர்களிடத்திலாவது, மனிதர்களால் வரும் மகிமையை நாங்கள் தேடவில்லை. ⁷ பால் கொடுக்கிற தாயானவள் தன் பிள்ளைகளைக் காப்பாற்றுகிறதுபோல நாங்கள் உங்களிடம் கனிவாக நடந்துகொண்டோம்; ⁸ நாங்கள் உங்கள்மேல் வாஞ்சையாக இருந்து, தேவனுடைய நற்செய்தியை உங்களுக்குக் கொடுத்ததுமல்லாமல், நீங்கள் எங்களுக்குப் பிரியமானவர்களானபடியினாலே, எங்களுடைய உயிரையும் உங்களுக்குக் கொடுக்க விருப்பமாக இருந்தோம். ⁹ சகோதரர்களே, நாங்கள் பட்ட பிரயாசமும் வருத்தமும் உங்களுக்கு ஞாபகமாக இருக்கும்; உங்களில் ஒருவனுக்கும் பாரமாக இல்லாதபடிக்கு, இரவும் பகலும் நாங்கள் வேலைசெய்து, தேவனுடைய நற்செய்தியை உங்களுக்குப் பிரசங்கித்தோம். ¹⁰ விசுவாசிகளாகிய உங்களுக்குள்ளே நாங்கள் எவ்வளவு பரிசுத்தமும் நீதியும் பிழையில்லாமலும் நடந்தோம் என்பதற்கு நீங்களும் சாட்சி, தேவனும் சாட்சி. ¹¹ மேலும், தம்முடைய ராஜ்யத்திற்கும் மகிமைக்கும் உங்களை அழைத்த தேவனுக்கு நீங்கள் தகுதியுள்ளவர்களாக நடக்கவேண்டுமென்று, ¹² தகப்பன் தன் பிள்ளைகளுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறதுபோல, நாங்கள் உங்களில் ஒவ்வொருவனுக்கும் புத்தியும், பாராட்டுதலும், எச்சரிப்புமாகச் சொன்னதை அறிந்திருக்கிறீர்கள். ¹³ ஆகவே, நீங்கள் தேவவசனத்தை எங்களாலே கேள்விப்பட்டு ஏற்றுக்கொண்டபோது, அதை மனித வசனமாக ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளாமல், தேவவசனமாகவே ஏற்றுக்கொண்டதினாலே நாங்கள் இடைவிடாமல் தேவனுக்கு நன்றி செலுத்துகிறோம்; அது மெய்யாகவே தேவவசனம்தான், விசுவாசிக்கிற உங்களுக்குள்ளே அது பெலனாக இருக்கிறது. ¹⁴ எப்படியென்றால், சகோதரர்களே, யூதேயா நாட்டில் கிறிஸ்து இயேசுவிருள்ளான தேவனுடைய சபைகளை நீங்கள் பின்பற்றினவர்களாகி, அவர்கள் யூதர்களாலே எப்படிப் பாடுகள்பட்டார்களோ, அப்படியே நீங்களும் உங்களுடைய சொந்த மக்களாலே பாடுகள்பட்டீர்கள். ¹⁵ அந்த யூதர்கள் கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுவையும், தங்களுடைய தீர்க்கதரிசிகளையும், கொலை செய்தவர்களும், எங்களைத் துன்பப்படுத்தினவர்களும், தேவனுக்கு விருப்பமில்லாதவர்களும், மனிதர்கள் அனைவருக்கும் விரோதிகளுமாக இருந்து, ¹⁶ யூதரல்லாதவர்கள் இரட்சிக்கப்படுவதற்கு நாங்கள் அவர்களோடு பேசாதபடிக்குத் தடை செய்கிறார்கள்; இவ்விதமாக எக்காலத்திலும் தங்களுடைய பாவங்களை முழுமையாக்குகிறார்கள்; அவர்கள்மேல் கோபம் பூரணமாக வந்திருக்கிறது.

¹⁷ சகோதரர்களே, நாங்கள் இருதயத்தின்படி உங்களோடிருந்து, சரீரத்தின்படி கொஞ்சநாட்கள் உங்களைவிட்டுப் பிரிந்திருந்ததினாலே, உங்களுடைய முகத்தைப் பார்க்கவேண்டுமென்று மிகுந்த ஆசையோடு அதிகமாக முயற்சி செய்தோம். ¹⁸ ஆகவே, நாங்கள் உங்களிடம் வர ஒன்று இரண்டுமுறை விருப்பமாக இருந்தோம். பவுலாகிய நானே வர விருப்பமாக இருந்தேன்; சாத்தானோ எங்களைத் தடைசெய்தான். ¹⁹ எங்களுக்கு நம்பிக்கையும் சந்தோஷமும் மகிழ்ச்சியின் கிரீடமுமாக இருப்பவர்கள் யார்? நம்முடைய கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்து வரும்போது அவருடைய சந்நிதானத்திலே நீங்களல்லவா அப்படியிருப்பீர்கள்; ²⁰ நீங்களே எங்களுக்கு மகிமையும் சந்தோஷமுமாக இருக்கிறீர்கள்.

அத்தியாயம்- 3

¹ ஆகவே, நாங்கள் இனிக் காத்திருக்கமுடியாமல், அத்தேனே பட்டணத்தில் தனிமையாக இருப்பது நல்லது என்று நினைத்தோம். ² இந்த உபத்திரவங்களினாலே ஒருவனும் அசைக்கப்படாதபடிக்கு உங்களைத் திடப்படுத்தவும், உங்களுடைய விசுவாசத்தைப்பற்றி உங்களுக்குப் புத்திசொல்லவும், நம்முடைய சகோதரனும் தேவ ஊழியக்காரனும் கிறிஸ்துவின் நற்செய்தியில் எங்களுடைய உடன்வேலையாளமாகிய தீமோத்தேயுவை அனுப்பினோம். ³ இப்படிப்பட்ட உபத்திரவங்களைச் சகிக்க நாம் நியமிக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறோமென்று நீங்கள் அறிந்திருக்கிறீர்களே. ⁴ நமக்கு உபத்திரவம் வருமென்று நாங்கள் உங்களிடத்திலிருந்தபோது, உங்களுக்கு முன்னறிவித்தோம்; அப்படியே சம்பவித்ததென்றும் அறிந்திருக்கிறீர்கள். ⁵ ஆகவே, நான் இனிப் பொறுத்திருக்கமுடியாமல், எங்களுடைய வேலை வீணாகப்போகத்தக்கதாகச் சோதனைக்காரன் உங்களைச் சோதனைக்கு உட்படுத்தினதுண்டோவென்று, உங்களுடைய விசுவாசத்தை அறியும்படிக்கு அவனை அனுப்பினேன்.

⁶ இப்பொழுது தீமோத்தேயு உங்களிடமிருந்து எங்களிடம் வந்து, உங்களுடைய விசுவாசத்தையும் அன்பையும்குறித்து, நீங்கள் எப்பொழுதும் எங்களை அன்பாக நினைத்துக்கொண்டு, நாங்கள் உங்களைக் காண வாஞ்சையாக இருக்கிறதுபோல நீங்களும் எங்களைக் காண வாஞ்சையாக இருக்கிறீர்கள் என்பதைக்குறித்தும், எங்களுக்கு நற்செய்தி சொன்னதினாலே, ⁷ சகோதரர்களே, எங்களுக்குச் சம்பவித்த எல்லா நெருக்கத்திலும், உபத்திரவத்திலும் உங்களுடைய விசுவாசத்தினாலே உங்களால் ஆறுதல் அடைந்தோம். ⁸ நீங்கள் கர்த்தருக்குள் நிலைத்திருந்தால் நாங்கள் பிழைத்திருப்போம். ⁹ மேலும், நம்முடைய தேவனுக்குமுன்பாக நாங்கள் உங்களைக்குறித்து அடைந்திருக்கிற மிகுந்த சந்தோஷத்திற்காக, நாங்கள் தேவனுக்கு எவ்விதமாக நன்றி செலுத்துவோம்? ¹⁰ உங்களுடைய முகத்தைக் கண்டு, உங்களுடைய விசுவாசத்தின் குறைவுகளை நிறைவாக்கும்படிக்கு, இரவும் பகலும் மிகவும் வேண்டிக்கொள்ளுகிறோமே. ¹¹ நம்முடைய பிதாவாகிய தேவனும் நம்முடைய கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவும் உங்களிடத்திற்கு எங்களை நேராக வழிநடத்துவாராக. ¹² நாங்கள் உங்களிடம் வைத்திருக்கிற அன்புக்கு ஒப்பாக, நீங்களும் ஒருவரிலொருவர் வைக்கும் அன்பிலும் மற்ற எல்லா மனிதர்களிடத்தில் வைக்கும் அன்பிலும் கர்த்தர் உங்களைப் பெருகவும் நிலைத்தோங்கவும் செய்து, ¹³ இவ்விதமாக நம்முடைய கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்து தமது பரிசுத்தவான்கள் அனைவரோடும் கூட வரும்போது, நீங்கள் நம்முடைய பிதாவாகிய தேவனுக்கு முன்பாகப் பிழையற்ற பரிசுத்தமுள்ளவர்களாக இருக்கும்படி உங்களுடைய இருதயங்களைப் பலப்படுத்துவாராக.

அத்தியாயம்- 4

¹ அன்றியும், சகோதரர்களே, நீங்கள் இந்தவிதமாக நடக்கவும், தேவனுக்குப் பிரியமாக இருக்கவும்வேண்டுமென்று, நீங்கள் எங்களால் கேட்டு ஏற்றுக்கொண்டபடியே, அதிகமதிகமாக முன்னேறும்படிக்கு, கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுவிற்குள் உங்களை வேண்டிக்கொண்டு புத்திசொல்லுகிறோம். ² கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுவினாலே நாங்கள் உங்களுக்குக் கொடுத்த வழிமுறைகளை அறிந்திருக்கிறீர்களே. ³ நீங்கள் பரிசுத்தமுள்ளவர்களாக வேண்டுமென்பதே தேவனுடைய விருப்பமாக இருக்கிறது. அந்தப்படி, நீங்கள் வேசித்தனத்திற்கு விலகியிருந்து, ⁴ தேவனை அறியாத மக்களைப்போல மோக இச்சைக்குட்படாமல், ⁵ உங்களில் அவனவன் தன்தன் சரீரத்தைப் பரிசுத்தமாகவும் மரியாதையாகவும் ஆண்டுகொள்ளும்படி அறிந்து: ⁶ இந்தக் காரியத்தில் ஒருவனும் தன் சகோதரனை ஏமாற்றாமலும் கெடுதல் செய்யாமலும் இருக்கவேண்டும்; முன்னமே நாங்கள் உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லி, சாட்சியாக எச்சரித்தபடியே இப்படிப்பட்டக் காரியங்கள் எல்லாவற்றையும் குறித்துக் கர்த்தர் நீதியை நிலைநாட்டுகிறவராக இருக்கிறார். ⁷ தேவன் நம்மை அசுத்தத்திற்கு அல்ல பரிசுத்தத்திற்கே அழைத்திருக்கிறார். ⁸ ஆகவே, புறக்கணிக்கிறவன் மனிதர்களை அல்ல, தமது பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவரை நமக்குத் தந்தருளின தேவனையே புறக்கணிக்கிறான். ⁹ சகோதர அன்பைக்குறித்து நான் உங்களுக்கு எழுதவேண்டியதில்லை; நீங்கள் ஒருவரிலொருவர் அன்பாக இருப்பதற்கு தேவனால் போதிக்கப்பட்டவர்களாக இருக்கிறீர்களே. ¹⁰ அந்தப்படி நீங்கள் மக்கெதோனியா நாடெங்கிலும் உள்ள சகோதரர்களெல்லோருக்கும் செய்துவருகிறீர்கள். சகோதரர்களே, அன்பிலே நீங்கள் இன்னும் அதிகமாகப் பெருகவும்; ¹¹ அவிசுவாசிகளிடத்தில் ஒழுக்கமாக நடந்து, ஒன்றிலும் உங்களுக்குக் குறைவில்லாதிருக்கும்படிக்கு, ¹² நாங்கள் உங்களுக்குக் கட்டளையிட்டபடியே, அமைதலுள்ளவர்களாக இருக்கவிரும்பவும், உங்களுடைய சொந்த வேலைகளைப் பார்க்கவும், உங்களுடைய சொந்தக் கைகளினாலே வேலைசெய்யவும் வேண்டுமென்று உங்களுக்குப் புத்திசொல்லுகிறோம்.

¹³ அன்றியும், சகோதரர்களே, மரித்துப்போனவர்களுக்காக நீங்கள் நம்பிக்கை இல்லாதவர்களான மற்றவர்களைப்போல துக்கப்பட்டு, அறிவில்லாமலிருக்க எனக்கு மனதில்லை. ¹⁴ இயேசுவானவர் மரித்து, பின்பு உயிரோடு எழுந்திருந்தாரென்று நம்புகிறோமே; அப்படியே இயேசுவிற்குள் மரித்தவர்களையும் தேவன் அவரோடு கொண்டுவருவார். ¹⁵ கர்த்தருடைய வார்த்தையை முன்னிட்டு நாங்கள் உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறதாவது: கர்த்தருடைய வருகைவரைக்கும் உயிரோடிருக்கும் நாம் மரித்தவர்களுக்கு முந்திக்கொள்வதில்லை. ¹⁶ ஏனென்றால், கர்த்தர்தாமே ஆரவாரத்தோடும், பிரதான தூதனுடைய சத்தத்தோடும், தேவ எக்காளத்தோடும் பரலோகத்திலிருந்து இறங்கிவருவார்; அப்பொழுது கிறிஸ்துவுிற்குள் மரித்தவர்கள் முதலாவது எழுந்திருப்பார்கள். ¹⁷ பின்பு, உயிரோடிருக்கும் நாமும் கர்த்தருக்கு எதிர்கொண்டு போக, மேகங்கள்மேல் அவர்களோடு ஆகாயத்தில் எடுத்துக்கொள்ளப்பட்டு, இவ்விதமாக எப்பொழுதும் கர்த்தரோடு இருப்போம். ¹⁸ ஆகவே, இந்த வார்த்தைகளினாலே நீங்கள் ஒருவரையொருவர் தேற்றுவீர்கள்.

அத்தியாயம்- 5

¹ சகோதரர்களே, இவைகள் நடக்கும் நாட்களையும் நேரங்களையும் குறித்து உங்களுக்கு எழுதவேண்டியதில்லை. ² இரவிலே திருடன் வருகிற விதமாகக் கர்த்தருடைய நாள் வருமென்று நீங்களே நன்றாக அறிந்திருக்கிறீர்கள். ³ சமாதானமும் பாதுகாப்பும் உண்டென்று அவர்கள் சொல்லும்போது, கர்ப்பவதியானவளுக்கு வேதனை வருகிறதுபோல, அழிவு திடீரென அவர்கள்மேல் வரும்; அவர்கள் தப்பிப்போவதில்லை. ⁴ சகோதரர்களே, அந்த நாள் திருடனைப்போல உங்களைப் பிடித்துக்கொள்ளத்தக்கதாக, நீங்கள் இருளில் இருக்கிறவர்களில்லையே. ⁵ நீங்களெல்லோரும் வெளிச்சத்தின் பிள்ளைகளும், பகலின் பிள்ளைகளும் இருக்கிறீர்கள்; நாம் இரவிற்கும் இருளுக்கும் உரியவர்களல்ல. ⁶ ஆகவே, மற்றவர்கள் தூங்குகிறதுபோல நாமும் தூங்காமல், விழித்துக்கொண்டு தெளிந்தவர்களாக இருக்கக்கூடவோம். ⁷ தூங்குகிறவர்கள் இரவிலே தூங்குவார்கள்; வெறிகொள்ளுகிறவர்கள் இரவிலே வெறிகொள்ளுவார்கள். ⁸ பகலுக்குரியவர்களாகிய நாமோ தெளிந்தவர்களாக இருந்து, விசுவாசம், அன்பு என்னும் மார்புக்கவசத்தையும், இரட்சிப்பின் நம்பிக்கையென்னும் தலைக்கவசத்தையும் அணிந்துகொண்டிருக்கக்கூடவோம். ⁹ தேவன் நம்மைத் தண்டிப்பதற்காக நியமிக்காமல், நம்முடைய கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்து மூலமாக இரட்சிப்படைவதற்கென்று நியமித்தார். ¹⁰ நாம் உயிரோடிருக்கிறவர்களானாலும், மரித்தவர்களானாலும், அவரோடு நாம் ஒன்றாகப் பிழைத்திருப்பதற்காக அவர் நமக்காக மரித்தாரே. ¹¹ ஆகவே, நீங்கள் செய்துவருகிறபடியே, ஒருவரையொருவர் தேற்றி, ஒருவருக்கொருவர் பக்திவளர்ச்சி உண்டாகும்படிச் செய்யுங்கள்.

¹² அன்றியும், சகோதரர்களே, உங்களுக்குள்ளே கடுமையாக உழைத்து, கர்த்தருக்குள் உங்களை விசாரணை செய்கிறவர்களாக இருந்து, உங்களுக்குப் புத்திசொல்லுகிறவர்களை நீங்கள் மதித்து, ¹³ அவர்களுடைய செயல்களின் அடிப்படையில் அவர்களை மிகவும் அன்பாக நினைத்துக்கொள்ளும்படி உங்களை வேண்டிக்கொள்ளுகிறோம். உங்களுக்குள்ளே சமாதானமாக இருங்கள். ¹⁴ மேலும், சகோதரர்களே, நாங்கள் உங்களுக்குப் போதிக்கிறதென்னவென்றால், ஒழுங்கில்லாதவர்களுக்குப் புத்திசொல்லுங்கள், திடீர்நிறவர்களைத் தேற்றுங்கள், பலவீனரைத் தாங்குங்கள், எல்லோரிடத்திலும் நீடியசாந்தமாக இருங்கள். ¹⁵ ஒருவனும் மற்றொருவன் செய்யும் தீமைக்குத் தீமைசெய்யாதபடி பாருங்கள்; உங்களுக்குள்ளும் மற்ற அனைவருக்குள்ளும் எப்பொழுதும் நன்மைசெய்ய விரும்புங்கள். ¹⁶ எப்பொழுதும் சந்தோஷமாக இருங்கள். ¹⁷ இடைவிடாமல் ஜெபம்செய்யுங்கள். ¹⁸ எல்லாவற்றிலேயும் நன்றி சொல்லுங்கள்; அப்படிச் செய்வதே கிறிஸ்து இயேசுவிற்குள் உங்களைக்குறித்து தேவனுடைய விருப்பமாக இருக்கிறது. ¹⁹ ஆவியை அவித்துப்போடாமலிருங்கள். ²⁰ தீர்க்கதரிசனங்களை சாதாரணமாக எண்ணாதிருங்கள். ²¹ எல்லாவற்றையும் சோதித்துப்பார்த்து, நலமானதைப் பிடித்துக்கொள்ளுங்கள். ²² தீமையாகத் தோன்றுகிற எல்லாவற்றையும்விட்டு விலகுங்கள். ²³ சமாதானத்தின் தேவன்தாமே உங்களை முற்றிலும் பரிசுத்தமாக்குவாராக. உங்களுடைய ஆவி, ஆத்துமா, சரீரம் முழுவதும், நம்முடைய கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்து வரும்போது குற்றமற்றதாயிருக்கும்படி காக்கப்படுவதாக. ²⁴ உங்களை அழைக்கிறவர் உண்மையுள்ளவர், அவர் அப்படியே செய்வார். ²⁵ சகோதரர்களே, எங்களுக்காக வேண்டிக்கொள்ளுங்கள். ²⁶ சகோதரர்கள் எல்லோரையும் பரிசுத்த முத்தத்தோடு வாழ்த்துங்கள். ²⁷ இந்தக் கடிதம் பரிசுத்தமான சகோதரர்கள் எல்லோருக்கும் வாசிக்கப்படவேண்டுமென்று கர்த்தரின் பேரில் ஆணையிட்டு உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன். ²⁸ நம்முடைய கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவினுடைய கிருபை உங்களோடுகூட இருப்பதாக. ஆமென்.

2 Thessalonians

அத்தியாயம்- 1

¹ பவுலும், சில்வானும், தீமோத்தேயும், நம்முடைய பிதாவாகிய தேவனுக்குள்ளும், கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவிற்குள்ளும் இருக்கிற தெசலோனிக்கேயர் சபைக்கு எழுதுகிறதாவது: ² நம்முடைய பிதாவாகிய தேவனாலும் கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவினாலும் உங்களுக்குக் கிருபையும் சமாதானமும் உண்டாவதாக.

³ சகோதரர்களே, நாங்கள் எப்பொழுதும் உங்களுக்காக தேவனுக்கு நன்றிசெலுத்த கடனாளிகளாக இருக்கிறோம்; உங்களுடைய விசுவாசம் மிகவும் பெருகுகிறதினாலும், நீங்களெல்லோரும் ஒருவரிலொருவர் வைத்திருக்கிற அன்பு அதிகரிக்கிறதினாலும், அப்படிச் செய்கிறது தகுதியாக இருக்கிறது. ⁴ நீங்கள் சகிக்கிற எல்லாத் துன்பங்களிலும் உபத்திரவங்களிலும் பொறுமையையும் விசுவாசத்தையும் காண்பிக்கிறதினாலே உங்களைக்குறித்து நாங்கள் தேவனுடைய சபைகளில் மேன்மைபாராட்டுகிறோம். ⁵ நீங்கள் தேவனுடைய ராஜ்யத்தினிமித்தம் பாடுகள் அநுபவிக்கிறவர்களாக இருக்க, அந்த ராஜ்யத்திற்கு நீங்கள் தகுதியுடையவர்கள் என்று எண்ணப்படும்படிக்கு, தேவன் நியாயமானத் தீர்ப்புச் செய்கிறவரென்பதற்கு, அதுவே ஆதாரமாக இருக்கிறது. ⁶ உங்களை உபத்திரவப்படுத்துகிறவர்களுக்கு உபத்திரவத்தையும், உபத்திரவப்படுகிற உங்களுக்கு எங்களோடுகூட இளைப்பாறுதலையும் பிரதிபலனாகக்கொடுப்பது தேவனுக்கு நீதியாக இருக்கிறதே. ⁷ தேவனை அறியாதவர்களுக்கும், நம்முடைய கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவின் நற்செய்திக்குக் கீழ்ப்படியாதவர்களுக்கும் நீதியுள்ள தண்டனையைக் கொடுக்கும்படிக்கு, ⁸ கர்த்தராகிய இயேசு தமது வல்லமையின் தூதர்களோடும், எரிகிற அக்கினியோடும், வானத்திலிருந்து வெளிப்படும்போது அப்படியாகும். ⁹ அந்த நாளிலே தம்முடைய பரிசுத்தவான்களில் மகிமைப்படத்தக்கவராகவும், நீங்கள் எங்களுடைய சாட்சியை நம்பினபடியினாலே உங்களிடத்திலும், நம்புகிறவர்களெல்லோரிடத்திலும் ஆச்சரியப்படத்தக்கவராகவும், ¹⁰ அவர் வரும்போது, அவர்கள் கர்த்தருடைய சந்நிதானத்திலிருந்தும், அவருடைய வல்லமைபொருந்திய மகிமையிலிருந்தும் விலகி, நித்திய அழிவாகிய தண்டனையை அடைவார்கள். ¹¹ ஆகவே, நம்முடைய தேவனும் கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவும் அளிக்கும் கிருபையின்படியே நம்முடைய கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவின் நாமம் உங்களிடத்திலும், நீங்கள் அவரிடத்திலும் மகிமைப்படும்படிக்கு; ¹² நம்முடைய தேவன் உங்களைத் தமது அழைப்புக்குத் தகுதியுள்ளவர்களாக்கவும், தமது தயவுள்ள விருப்பம் முழுவதையும் விசுவாசத்தின் செயல்களையும் பலமாக உங்களிடம் நிறைவேற்றவும் வேண்டுமென்று, எப்பொழுதும் உங்களுக்காக வேண்டிக்கொள்கிறோம்.

அத்தியாயம்- 2

¹ அன்றியும், சகோதரர்களே, நம்முடைய கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவின் வருகையையும், நாம் அவரிடத்தில் சேர்க்கப்படுவதையும் குறித்து, நாங்கள் உங்களை வேண்டிக்கொள்ளுகிறது என்னவென்றால், ² கிறிஸ்துவினுடைய நாள் வந்துவிட்டது என்று தீர்க்கதரிசனமாகவோ எங்களுடைய வார்த்தையாகவோ எங்களிடத்திலிருந்து கடிதம் வந்ததாகவோ சொல்லப்பட்டால், உடனே சஞ்சலப்படாமலும் கலங்காமலும் இருங்கள். ³ எவ்விதத்தினாலும் ஒருவனும் உங்களை மோசம்போக்காதபடிக்கு எச்சரிக்கையாக இருங்கள்; ஏனென்றால், விசுவாச துரோகம் முன்னதாக நடந்து, பின்பு அழிவின் மகனாகிய பாவமனிதன் வெளிப்பட்டாலொழிய, அந்த நாள் வராது. ⁴ அவன் எதிர்த்து நிற்கிறவனாகவும், தேவனென்னப்படுவது எதுவோ, ஆராதிக்கப்படுவது எதுவோ, அவையெல்லாவற்றிற்கும் மேலாகத் தன்னை உயர்த்துகிறவனாகவும், தேவனுடைய ஆலயத்தில் தேவன்போல உட்கார்ந்து, தன்னைத்தான் தேவனென்று காண்பிக்கிறவனாகவும் இருப்பான். ⁵ நான் உங்களிடத்திலிருந்தபோது இவைகளைச் சொன்னது உங்களுக்கு ஞாபகமில்லையா? ⁶ அவன் தன் காலத்திலே வெளிப்படும்படிக்கு, இப்பொழுது அவனைத் தடைசெய்கிறது இன்னதென்றும் அறிந்திருக்கிறீர்களே. ⁷ அக்கிரமத்தின் இரகசியம் இப்பொழுதே கிரியைசெய்கிறது; ஆனாலும், தடைசெய்கிறவன் நடுவிலிருந்து நீக்கப்படுவதற்குமுன்னே அது வெளிப்படாது. ⁸ நீக்கப்படும்போது, அந்த அக்கிரமக்காரன் வெளிப்படுவான்; அவனைக் கர்த்தர் தம்முடைய வாயின் சுவாசத்தினாலே அழித்து, தம்முடைய வருகையின் தோற்றத்தினாலே நாசம்பண்ணுவார். ⁹ அந்த அக்கிரமக்காரனுடைய வருகை சாத்தானுடைய செயலின்படி எல்லா பொய்யான வல்லமையோடும் அடையாளங்களோடும் அற்புதங்களோடும், ¹⁰ கெட்டுப்போகிறவர்களுக்குள்ளே அநீதியினால் உண்டாகும் எல்லாவித வஞ்சகத்தோடும் இருக்கும். இரட்சிக்கப்படத்தக்கதாகச் சத்தியத்தை நேசிக்க அவர்கள் மறுத்ததினால் அப்படி நடக்கும். ¹¹ ஆகவே, சத்தியத்தை விசுவாசிக்காமல் அநீதியில் பிரியப்படுகிற எல்லோரும் தண்டனைக்குள்ளாக்கப்படும்படிக்கு, ¹² அவர்கள் பொய்யை விசுவாசிக்கத்தக்கதாகக் கொடிய மாய வஞ்சகத்தை தேவன் அவர்களுக்கு அனுப்புவார்.

¹³ கர்த்தருக்குப் பிரியமான சகோதரர்களே, நீங்கள் ஆவியானவராலே பரிசுத்தமாக்கப்படுகிறதினாலும், சத்தியத்தை விசுவாசிக்கிறதினாலும் இரட்சிப்படையும்படிக்கு, தொடக்கம் முதல் தேவன் உங்களைத் தெரிந்துகொண்டபடியினாலே, நாங்கள் உங்களைக்குறித்து எப்பொழுதும் தேவனுக்கு நன்றிசொல்ல கடனாளிகளாக இருக்கிறோம். ¹⁴ நீங்கள் நம்முடைய கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவின் மகிமையை அடையும்படிக்கு எங்களுடைய நற்செய்தியினாலே அந்த இரட்சிப்பிற்கு அவர் உங்களை அழைத்தார். ¹⁵ ஆகவே, சகோதரர்களே, நீங்கள் உறுதிக்கொண்டு, வார்த்தையினாலாவது கடிதத்தினாலாவது நாங்கள் உங்களுக்கு உபதேசித்த முறைமைகளைக் கைக்கொள்ளுங்கள். ¹⁶ நம்முடைய கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவும், நம்மிடத்தில் அன்புசூர்ந்து நித்தியஆறுதலையும் நல்நம்பிக்கையையும் கிருபையாக நமக்குக் கொடுத்திருக்கிற நம்முடைய பிதாவாகிய தேவனும், ¹⁷ உங்களுடைய இருதயங்களைத் தேற்றி, எல்லா நல்வசனத்திலும் செயல்களிலும் உங்களை உறுதிப்படுத்துவாராக.

அத்தியாயம்- 3

¹ கடைசியாக, சகோதரர்களே, உங்களிடம் கர்த்தருடைய வசனம் பரவி மகிமைப்படுகிறதுபோல, எவ்விடத்திலும் பரவி மகிமைப்படும்படிக்கும், ² துன்மார்க்கமான பொல்லாத மனிதர்களுடைய கையிலிருந்து நாங்கள் விடுவிக்கப்படும்படிக்கும், எங்களுக்காக வேண்டிக்கொள்ளுங்கள்; விசுவாசம் எல்லோரிடத்திலும் இல்லையே. ³ கர்த்தரோ உண்மையுள்ளவர், அவர் உங்களை உறுதிப்படுத்தி, தீமையிலிருந்து விலக்கிக் காத்துக்கொள்ளுவார். ⁴ மேலும், நாங்கள் கட்டளையிடுகிறவைகளை நீங்கள் செய்துவருகிறீர்களென்றும், இனிமேலும் செய்வீர்களென்றும், உங்களைக்குறித்துக் கர்த்தருக்குள் நம்பிக்கையாக இருக்கிறோம். ⁵ கர்த்தர் உங்களுடைய இருதயங்களை தேவனைப்பற்றும் அன்புக்கும் கிறிஸ்துவின் பொறுமைக்கும் நேராக நடத்துவாராக.

⁶ மேலும், சகோதரர்களே, எங்களிடம் ஏற்றுக்கொண்ட முறைமையின்படி நடக்காமல், சோம்பேறியாக இருக்கிற எந்தச் சகோதரனையும் நீங்கள் விட்டுவிடவேண்டுமென்று, நம்முடைய கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவின் நாமத்தினாலே, உங்களுக்குக் கட்டளையிடுகிறோம். ⁷ இன்னவிதமாக எங்களைப் பின்பற்றவேண்டுமென்று நீங்கள் அறிந்திருக்கிறீர்களே; நாங்கள் உங்களுக்குள்ளே சோம்பேறியாக நடக்காமல், ⁸ ஒருவனிடத்திலும் இலவசமாகச் சாப்பிடாமலும், உங்களில் ஒருவனுக்கும் பாரமாக இல்லாதபடிக்கு இரவும் பகலும் பிரயாசத்தோடும் வருத்தத்தோடும் வேலைசெய்து சாப்பிட்டோம். ⁹ உங்கள்மேல் பாரத்தை வைப்பதற்கான அதிகாரம் எங்களுக்கு இல்லையென்பதினாலே அப்படிச் செய்யாமல், நீங்கள் எங்களைப் பின்பற்றும்படிக்கு நாங்கள் உங்களுக்கு மாதிரியாக இருக்கவேண்டுமென்றே அப்படிச்செய்தோம். ¹⁰ ஒருவன் வேலைசெய்ய மனதில்லாதிருந்தால் அவன் சாப்பிடவும்கூடாதென்று நாங்கள் உங்களிடம் இருந்தபோது உங்களுக்குக் கட்டளையிட்டோமே. ¹¹ உங்களில் சிலர் எந்தவொரு வேலையும் செய்யாமல், மற்றவர்களுடைய வேலையில் தலையிட்டு, சோம்பேறிகளாகத் திரிகிறார்களென்று கேள்விப்படுகிறோம். ¹² இப்படிப்பட்டவர்கள் அமைதலோடு வேலைசெய்து, தங்களுடைய சொந்த உணவைச் சாப்பிடவேண்டுமென்று, நம்முடைய கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவினாலே அவர்களுக்குக் கட்டளையிட்டுப் புத்திசொல்லுகிறோம். ¹³ சகோதரர்களே, நீங்கள் நன்மை செய்வதிலே சோர்ந்துபோகாமல் இருங்கள். ¹⁴ மேலும், இந்தக் கடிதத்தில் சொல்லிய எங்களுடைய வசனத்திற்கு ஒருவன் கீழ்ப்படியாமற்போனால், அவனைக் கவனத்தில் கொண்டு, அவன் வெட்கப்படும்படிக்கு அவனோடுகூட சேராமல் இருங்கள். ¹⁵ ஆனாலும் அவனை விரோதியாக நினைக்காமல், சகோதரனாக நினைத்து, அவனுக்குப் புத்திசொல்லுங்கள்.

¹⁶ சமாதானத்தின் கர்த்தர்தாமே எப்பொழுதும் எல்லாவிதத்திலும் உங்களுக்குச் சமாதானத்தைத் தந்தருளுவாராக. கர்த்தர் உங்கள் அனைவரோடும் இருப்பாராக. ¹⁷ பவுலாகிய நான் என் கையெழுத்தாலே உங்களை வாழ்த்துகிறேன், என் கடிதங்கள் ஒவ்வொன்றுக்கும் இதுவே அடையாளம்; இப்படியே எழுதுகிறேன். ¹⁸ நம்முடைய கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவின் கிருபை உங்கள் அனைவரோடும் இருப்பதாக. ஆமென்.

1 Timothy

அத்தியாயம்- 1

¹ நம்முடைய இரட்சகராக இருக்கிற தேவனும், நம்முடைய நம்பிக்கையாக இருக்கிற கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவும் கட்டளையிட்டபடியே, இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவின் அப்போஸ்தலனாகிய பவுல், ² விசுவாசத்தில் உத்தம குமாரனாகிய தீமோத்தேயுவிற்கு எழுதுகிறதாவது: நம்முடைய பிதாவாகிய தேவனாலும் நம்முடைய கர்த்தராகிய கிறிஸ்து இயேசுவினாலும் கிருபையும் இரக்கமும் சமாதானமும் உண்டாவதாக.

³ மாறுபாடான உபதேசங்களைப் போதிக்காதபடிக்கும், விசுவாசத்தினால் விளங்கும் தெய்வீக பக்திவளர்ச்சிக்கு ஏதுவாக இல்லாமல், வாக்குவாதங்களுக்கு ஏதுவாக இருக்கிற கட்டுக்கதைகளையும் முடிவில்லாத வம்சவரலாறுகளையும் கவனிக்காதபடிக்கும், நீ சிலருக்குக் கட்டளையிடும்படி, ⁴ நான் மக்கெதோனியாவிற்குப் போகும்போது, உன்னை எபேசு பட்டணத்தில் இருக்கக் கேட்டுக்கொண்டபடியே செய். ⁵ இந்த கட்டளையின் பொருள் என்னவென்றால், சுத்தமான இருதயத்திலும் நல்லமனச்சாட்சியிலும் மாயமில்லாத விசுவாசத்திலும் பிறக்கும் அன்பே. ⁶ இவைகளைச் சிலர் பார்க்காமல் வீண்பேச்சுக்கு இடம்கொடுத்து விலகிப்போனார்கள். ⁷ தாங்கள் சொல்லுகிறதும், தாங்கள் உறுதியாக நம்புகிறதும் என்னவென்றும் தெரியாமல், வேதபண்டிதர்களாக இருக்க விரும்புகிறார்கள். ⁸ ஒருவன் நியாயப்பிரமாணத்தை நியாயப்படி கடைபிடித்தால், நியாயப்பிரமாணம் நல்லது என்று அறிந்திருக்கிறோம். ⁹ எங்களுக்குத் தெரிந்திருக்கிறபடி, நியாயப்பிரமாணம் நீதிமானுக்கு விதிக்கப்படாமல், அக்கிரமக்காரர்களுக்கும், அடங்காதவர்களுக்கும், பக்தியில்லாதவர்களுக்கும், பாவிசகளுக்கும், அசுத்தமானவர்களுக்கும், சீர்கெட்டவர்களுக்கும், தகப்பனையும் தாயையும் கொலை செய்கிறவர்களுக்கும், கொலைபாதகர்களுக்கும், ¹⁰ வேசிக்கள்ளர்களுக்கும், ஆண்புணர்ச்சிக்காரர்களுக்கும், கொத்தடிமைகளாக விற்க மனிதர்களைத் திருடுகிறவர்களுக்கும், பொய்யர்களுக்கும், பொய்யானை இடுகிறவர்களுக்கும், ஆரோக்கியமான உபதேசத்திற்கு எதிராக போதிக்கிறவர்களுக்கும், ¹¹ ஸ்தோத்தரிக்கப்பட்ட தேவனுடைய மகிமையான நற்செய்தியின்படி எனக்கு ஒப்புவிக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது.

¹² என்னைப் பலப்படுத்துகிற நம்முடைய கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்து என்னை உண்மையானவன் என்று நினைத்து, இந்த ஊழியத்திற்கு நியமித்தபடியால் அவருக்கு நன்றி செலுத்துகிறேன். ¹³ கடந்த காலத்தில் நான் நிந்திக்கிறவனும், துன்பப்படுத்துகிறவனும், கொடுமைப்படுத்துகிறவனுமாக இருந்தேன்; அப்படி இருந்தும், நான் தெரியாமல், விசுவாசம் இல்லாமல் அப்படிச் செய்ததினால் இரக்கம்பெற்றேன். ¹⁴ நம்முடைய கர்த்தரின் கிருபை கிறிஸ்து இயேசுவின்மேலுள்ள விசுவாசத்தோடும் அன்போடும் சேர்ந்து என்னிடத்தில் பரிபூரணமாகப் பெருகியது. ¹⁵ பாவிசகளை இரட்சிக்க கிறிஸ்து இயேசு உலகத்திற்கு வந்தார் என்கிற வார்த்தை உண்மையும் எல்லா அங்கீகரிப்புக்கும் தகுதியுள்ளதாக இருக்கிறது; அவர்களில் மோசமான பாவி நான். ¹⁶ அப்படி இருந்தும், நித்தியஜீவனை அடைவதற்காக இனிமேல் இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவிடம் விசுவாசமாக இருப்பவர்களுக்கு மாதிரியாக இருக்கும்படிக்கு மோசமான பாவியாகிய என்னிடத்தில் அவர் எல்லா நீடிய பொறுமையையும் காண்பிக்கும்படி இரக்கம்பெற்றேன். ¹⁷ நித்தியமாக நிலைத்திருக்கிற அழிவில்லாத கண்ணுக்குத் தெரியாத ராஜனுமாக, தாம் ஒருவரே ஞானமுள்ள தேவனுமாக இருக்கிறவருக்கு, கனமும் மகிமையும் எல்லாக் காலங்களிலும் உண்டாயிருப்பதாக. ஆமென். ¹⁸ என் குமாரனாகிய தீமோத்தேயுவே, உன்னைக்குறித்து முன்னமே சொன்ன தீர்க்கதரிசனங்களின்படியே, நீ விசுவாசத்தையும் மனசாட்சியையும் பற்றிக்கொண்டு நல்லப் போராட்டத்தைப் போராடும்படி, இந்தக் கட்டளையை உனக்கு ஒப்புவிக்கிறேன். ¹⁹ இந்த நல்ல மனச்சாட்சியைச் சிலர் தள்ளிவிட்டு, விசுவாசமாகிய கப்பலைச் சேதப்படுத்தினார்கள். ²⁰ இமெனேயும் அலெக்சந்தரும் அப்படிப்பட்டவர்கள்; அவர்கள் கர்த்தரை அவமதிக்காமல் இருக்கக் கற்றுக்கொள்ள அவர்களை சாத்தானிடத்தில் ஒப்புக்கொடுத்தேன்.

அத்தியாயம்- 2

¹ நான் முதலாவது சொல்லுகிற புத்தி என்னவென்றால், எல்லா மனிதருக்காகவும் விண்ணப்பங்களையும் ஜெபங்களையும் வேண்டுதல்களையும் நன்றிசெலுத்துதலையும் செய்யவேண்டும்; ² நாம் எல்லாப் பக்தியோடும், நல்லொழுக்கத்தோடும், சண்டை இல்லாமல் அமைதியான வாழ்க்கை வாழும்படிக்கு, ராஜாக்களுக்காகவும், அதிகாரமுள்ள எல்லோருக்காகவும் அப்படியே செய்யவேண்டும். ³ நம்முடைய இரட்சகராகிய தேவனுக்குமுன்பாக அது நன்மையும் பிரியமுமாக இருக்கிறது. ⁴ எல்லா மனிதர்களும் இரட்சிக்கப்படவும், சத்தியத்தை அறிகிற அறிவை அடையவும், அவர் விருப்பமுள்ளவராக இருக்கிறார். ⁵ தேவன் ஒருவரே, தேவனுக்கும் மனிதர்களுக்கும் மத்தியஸ்தரும் ஒருவரே. ⁶ எல்லோரையும் மீட்பதற்காகத் தம்மைத்தாமே ஒப்புக்கொடுத்த மனிதனாகிய கிறிஸ்து இயேசு அவரே; இதற்குரிய சாட்சி ஏற்ற காலங்களில் விளங்கிவருகிறது. ⁷ இதற்காகவே நான் பிரசங்கியாகவும், அப்போஸ்தலனாகவும், யூதரல்லாதோர்களுக்கு விசுவாசத்தையும் சத்தியத்தையும் விளங்கப்பண்ணுகிற போதகனாகவும் நியமிக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறேன்; நான் பொய் சொல்லாமல் கிறிஸ்துவிற்குள் உண்மையைச் சொல்லுகிறேன்.

⁸ அன்றியும், ஆண்கள் கோபமும், வாக்குவாதமும் இல்லாமல் பரிசுத்தமான கரங்களை உயர்த்தி, எல்லா இடங்களிலேயும் ஜெபம்பண்ணவேண்டும் என்று விரும்புகிறேன். ⁹ பெண்களும் மயிரைப் பின்னுவதினாலும், பொன்னினாலும் மற்றும் முத்துக்களினாலும், விலையுயர்ந்த ஆடைகளினாலும், தங்களை அலங்கரிக்காமல், ¹⁰ தகுதியான ஆடையினாலும், நாணத்தினாலும், தெளிந்த புத்தியினாலும், தேவபக்தியுள்ளவர்கள் என்று சொல்லிக்கொள்ளுகிற பெண்களுக்குரிய நற்கிரியைகளினாலும், தங்களை அலங்கரிக்கவேண்டும். ¹¹ பெண் என்பவள் எல்லாவற்றிலும் அடக்கமுடையவளாக இருந்து, அமைதியோடு கற்றுக்கொள்ளவேண்டும். ¹² உபதேசம்பண்ணவும், ஆணின்மேல் அதிகாரம்பண்ணவும் பெண்ணிற்கு நான் அனுமதி கொடுப்பது இல்லை; அவள் அமைதியாக இருக்கவேண்டும். ¹³ ஏனென்றால், முதலாவது ஆதாம் உருவாக்கப்பட்டான், பின்பு ஏவாள் உருவாக்கப்பட்டாள். ¹⁴ மேலும், ஆதாம் ஏமாற்றப்படவில்லை, பெண்ணே ஏமாற்றப்பட்டு மீறுதலுக்கு உட்பட்டாள். ¹⁵ அப்படி இருந்தும், தெளிந்த புத்தியோடு விசுவாசத்திலும் அன்பிலும் பரிசுத்தத்திலும் நிலைத்திருந்தால், குழந்தைப் பெறுவதினாலே காக்கப்படுவாள்.

அத்தியாயம்- 3

¹ கண்காணி பொறுப்பை விரும்புகிறவன் நல்ல வேலையை விரும்புகிறான், இது உண்மையான வார்த்தை. ² எனவே கண்காணியானவன் குற்றஞ்சாட்டப்படாதவனும், ஒரே மனைவியையுடைய கணவனும், நிதானமுள்ளவனும், தெளிந்த புத்தி உள்ளவனும், யோக்கியதை உள்ளவனும், அந்நியர்களை உபசரிக்கிறவனும், திறமையாகப் போதிக்கிறவனுமாக இருக்கவேண்டும். ³ அவன் மதுபானத்திற்கு அடிமையானவனும், அடிக்கிறவனும், இழிவான ஆதாயத்தை விரும்புகிறவனுமாக இல்லாமல், பொறுமை உள்ளவனும், சண்டைபண்ணாதவனும், பணஆசை இல்லாதவனுமாக இருந்து, ⁴ தன் சொந்தக் குடும்பத்தை நன்றாக நடத்துகிறவனும், தன் குழந்தைகளை எல்லா நல்லொழுக்கமும் உள்ளவர்களாகக் கீழ்ப்படியப்பண்ணுகிறவனுமாக இருக்கவேண்டும். ⁵ ஒருவன் தன் சொந்தக் குடும்பத்தை நடத்தத்தெரியாமல் இருந்தால், தேவனுடைய சபையை எப்படி விசாரிப்பான்? ⁶ அவன் பெருமை அடைந்து, சாத்தானைப்போல தண்டனையிலே விழாதபடிக்கு, புதிய சீடனாக இருக்கக்கூடாது. ⁷ அவன் நிந்தனையிலும், பிசாசின் கண்ணியிலும் விழாதபடிக்கு, விசுவாசமில்லாத மக்களிடம் நற்பெயர் பெற்றவனாக இருக்கவேண்டும். ⁸ அப்படியே, உதவிக்காரர்களும் இருநாக்கு உள்ளவர்களாகவும், மதுபானத்திற்கு அடிமையானவர்களாகவும், இழிவான ஆதாயத்தை விரும்புகிறவர்களாகவும் இல்லாமல், நல்லொழுக்கம் உள்ளவர்களாகவும், ⁹ விசுவாசத்தின் இரகசியத்தைச் சுத்த மனச்சாட்சியிலே காத்துக்கொள்ளுகிறவர்களாகவும் இருக்கவேண்டும். ¹⁰ மேலும், இவர்கள் முதலில் சோதிக்கப்படவேண்டும்; குற்றஞ்சாட்டப்படாதவர்களென்றால் உதவிக்காரர்களாக ஊழியம் செய்யலாம். ¹¹ அப்படியே பெண்களும் நல்லொழுக்கமுள்ளவர்களும், அவதூறுபண்ணாதவர்களும், தெளிந்த புத்தியுள்ளவர்களும், எல்லாவற்றிலும் உண்மையுள்ளவர்களாகவும் இருக்கவேண்டும். ¹² மேலும், உதவிக்காரர்கள் ஒரே மனைவியையுடைய கணவனும், தங்களுடைய குழந்தைகளையும் சொந்தக் குடும்பத்தையும் நன்றாக நடத்துகிறவர்களுமாக இருக்கவேண்டும். ¹³ இப்படி உதவிக்காரர்களுடைய ஊழியத்தை நன்றாகச் செய்கிறவர்கள் தங்களுக்கு நல்ல நிலையையும், கிறிஸ்து இயேசுவில் உள்ள விசுவாசத்தில் மிகுந்த தெரியத்தையும் அடைவார்கள். ¹⁴ நான் உன்னிடத்திற்குச் சீக்கிரமாக வருவேன் என்று நம்பியிருக்கிறேன். ¹⁵ தாமதிப்பேன் என்றால், தேவனுடைய வீட்டிலே நடக்கவேண்டிய முறையை நீ அறியும்படி இவைகளை உனக்கு எழுதுகிறேன்; அந்த வீடு ஜீவனுள்ள தேவனுடைய சபையாய்ச் சத்தியத்திற்குத் தூணும் ஆதாரமுமாக இருக்கிறது. ¹⁶ அன்றியும், தேவபக்திக்குரிய இரகசியமானது அனைவரும் ஒப்புக்கொள்ளுகிறபடியே மகாமேன்மையுள்ளது. தேவன் சரீரத்திலே வெளிப்பட்டார், ஆவியானவராலே நீதியுள்ளவர் என்று விளங்கப்பட்டார், தேவதூதர்களால் காணப்பட்டார், யூதரல்லாதவர்களிடத்தில் பிரசங்கிக்கப்பட்டார், உலகத்திலே விசுவாசிக்கப்பட்டார், மகிமையிலே எடுத்துக்கொள்ளப்பட்டார்.

அத்தியாயம்- 4

¹ ஆனாலும், ஆவியானவர் வெளிப்படையாக சொல்லுகிறபடி, கடைசிகாலத்தில் மனச்சாட்சியில் சூடுண்ட பொய்யருடைய மாயத்தினாலே சிலர் ஏமாற்றுகிற ஆவிகளுக்கும், பிசாசுகளின் உபதேசங்களுக்கும் கீழ்ப்படிந்து, விசுவாசத்தைவிட்டு விலகிப்போவார்கள். ² திருமணம் செய்யக்கூடாது என்றும், ³ விசுவாசிகளும், சத்தியத்தை அறிந்தவர்களும் நன்றி செலுத்தி அனுபவிக்கும்படி தேவன் படைத்த உணவுகளைச் சாப்பிடக்கூடாது என்றும் அந்தப் பொய்யர்கள் கட்டளையிடுவார்கள். ⁴ தேவன் படைத்தவைகள் அனைத்தும் நல்லதாக இருக்கிறது; நன்றியோடு ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளப்படுமானால் ஒன்றும் தள்ளப்படவேண்டியது இல்லை. ⁵ அது தேவவசனத்தினாலும் ஜெபத்தினாலும் பரிசுத்தமாக்கப்படும். ⁶ இவைகளை நீ சகோதரர்களுக்குப் போதித்துவந்தால், விசுவாசத்திற்குரிய வார்த்தைகளிலும் நீ அநுசரித்த நல்லபோதகத்திலும் தேறினவனாகி, இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவிற்கு நல்ல ஊழியக்காரனாக இருப்பாய். ⁷ சீர்கேடும், கிழவிகள் பேச்சுமாக இருக்கிற கட்டுக்கதைகளுக்கு விலகி, தேவபக்திக்கானவைகளை முயற்சிபண்ணு. ⁸ சரீரமுயற்சி கொஞ்சம் பிரயோஜனமுள்ளது; ஆனால், தேவபக்தியானது இந்த ஜீவனுக்கும் இதற்குப்பின்பு வரும் ஜீவனுக்கும் உள்ள வாக்குத்தத்தமுள்ளதாகையால் எல்லாவற்றிலும் பிரயோஜனமுள்ளது. ⁹ இந்த வார்த்தை உண்மையும் எல்லா அங்கீகரிப்புக்கும் தகுதி உள்ளதாக இருக்கிறது. ¹⁰ இதற்காகவே பிரயாசப்படுகிறோம், நிந்தையும் அடைகிறோம்; ஏனென்றால், எல்லா மனிதர்களுக்கும், விசேஷமாக விசுவாசிகளுக்கும் இரட்சகராகிய ஜீவனுள்ள தேவன்மேல் நம்பிக்கை வைத்திருக்கிறோம். ¹¹ இவைகளை நீ கட்டளையிட்டுப் போதித்துக்கொண்டிரு. ¹² உன் இளமையைக்குறித்து ஒருவனும் உன்னை அசட்டைபண்ணாதபடி, நீ உன் வார்த்தையிலும், நடக்கையிலும், அன்பிலும், ஆவியிலும், விசுவாசத்திலும், கற்பிலும், விசுவாசிகளுக்கு முன்மாதிரியாக இரு. ¹³ நான் வரும்வரைக்கும் வாசிக்கிறதிலும் புத்திசொல்லுகிறதிலும் உபதேசிக்கிறதிலும் ஐக்கிரதையாக இரு. ¹⁴ சபை மூப்பர்களாகிய சங்கத்தினர்கள் உன்மேல் கரங்களை வைத்தபோது தீர்க்கதரிசனத்தினால் உனக்கு அளிக்கப்பட்ட வரத்தைக்குறித்து அசதியாக இருக்கவேண்டாம். ¹⁵ உன்னுடைய வளர்ச்சி எல்லோருக்கும் தெரியும்படி இவைகளையே நீ சிந்தித்து, இவைகளில் நிலைத்திரு. ¹⁶ உன்னைக்குறித்தும், உன் உபதேசத்தைக்குறித்தும் எச்சரிக்கையாக இரு, இவைகளில் நிலைகொண்டிரு, நீ இப்படிச் செய்தால், உன்னையும், உன் உபதேசத்தைக் கேட்பவர்களையும் இரட்சித்துக்கொள்ளுவாய்.

அத்தியாயம்- 5

¹ முதிர்வயதானவரைக் கடிந்துபேசாமல், அவரைத் தகப்பனைப்போலவும், வாலிபர்களை சகோதரர்களைப்போலவும், ² முதிர்வயதுள்ள பெண்களைத் தாய்களைப்போலவும், வாலிபப்பெண்களை எல்லாக் கற்புடன் சகோதரிகளைப்போலவும் நினைத்து, புத்திசொல்லு. ³ ஆதரவற்ற விதவைகளைக் கனம்பண்ணு. ⁴ விதவையானவளுக்கு குழந்தைகளாவது, பேரன் பேத்திகளாவது இருந்தால், இவர்கள் முதலாவது தங்களுடைய சொந்தக் குடும்பத்தைத் தேவபக்தியாக நடத்தி, பெற்றோர் செய்த நன்மைகளுக்குப் பதில் நன்மைகளைச் செய்யக் கற்றுக்கொள்ளவேண்டும்; அது நன்மையும் தேவனுக்கு முன்பாகப் பிரியமுமாக இருக்கிறது. ⁵ ஆதரவற்ற விதவையாக இருந்து தனிமையாக இருக்கிறவள் தேவன்மேல் நம்பிக்கையுள்ளவளாக, இரவும் பகலும் வேண்டுதல்களிலும் ஜெபங்களிலும் நிலைத்திருப்பாள். ⁶ சுகபோகமாக வாழ்கிறவள் உயிரோடு செத்தவள். ⁷ அவர்கள் குற்றஞ்சாட்டப்படாதவர்களாக இருக்கும்படி இவைகளைக் கட்டளையிடு. ⁸ ஒருவன் தன் சொந்த உறவினர்களையும், விசேஷமாகத் தன் குடும்பத்தையும் கவனிக்காமல் இருந்தால், அவன் விசுவாசத்தை மறுதலித்தவனும், அவிசுவாசியைவிட கெட்டவனுமாக இருப்பான். ⁹ அறுபது வயதுக்குக் குறையாதவளும், ஒரே கணவனுக்கு மனைவியாக இருந்து, ¹⁰ குழந்தைகளை வளர்த்து, அந்நியர்களை உபசரித்து, பரிசுத்தவான்களுடைய கால்களைக்கழுவி, உபத்திரவப்படுகிறவர்களுக்கு உதவிசெய்து, எல்லா நல்லகிரியைகளையும் கவனமாக செய்து, இவ்விதமாக நற்கிரியைகளைக்குறித்து நற்பெயர் பெற்றவளுமாக இருந்தால், அப்படிப்பட்ட விதவைகளையே விதவைகள் கூட்டத்தில் சேர்த்துக்கொள்ளவேண்டும். ¹¹ இளம்வயதுள்ள விதவைகளை அதிலே சேர்த்துக்கொள்ளாதே; ஏனென்றால், அவர்கள் கிறிஸ்துவிற்கு விரோதமாக காமஇச்சைகளும்போது திருமணம் செய்துகொள்ள விரும்பி, ¹² முதலில் கொண்டிருந்த வாக்குறுதியை விட்டுவிடுவதினாலே தண்டிக்கப்படுவார்கள். ¹³ அதுவுமல்லாமல், அவர்கள் சோம்பலுள்ளவர்களாக, வீடுவீடாகத் திரியப்பழகுவார்கள்; சோம்பலுள்ளவர்களாக மட்டுமல்ல, அலப்புக்கிறவர்களாகவும், மற்றவர்களுடைய வேலையில் தலையிடுகிறவர்களாகவும், வேண்டாத காரியங்களைப் பேசுகிறவர்களாகவும் இருப்பார்கள். ¹⁴ எனவே இளவயதுள்ள விதவைகள் திருமணம்செய்யவும், குழந்தைகளைப் பெற்றுக்கொள்ளவும், வீட்டை நடத்தவும், எதிரியானவன் அவதூறாக பேசுவதற்கு இடம்கொடுக்காமலும் இருக்கவேண்டும் என்று விரும்புகிறேன். ¹⁵ ஏனென்றால், இதற்குமுன்பு சிலர் சாத்தானைப் பின்பற்றி விலகிப்போனார்கள். ¹⁶ விசுவாசியாகிய பெண்ணின் சொந்தத்தில் விதவைகள் இருந்தால், அவள் அவர்களுக்கு உதவிசெய்யவேண்டும்; சபையானது ஆதரவற்ற விதவைகளுக்கு உதவிசெய்யவேண்டியிருப்பதால் அந்தச் சுமையை அதின்மேல் வைக்கக்கூடாது. ¹⁷ நன்றாக விசாரிக்கிற மூப்பர்களை, விசேஷமாகத் திருவசனத்திலும் உபதேசத்திலும் பிரயாசப்படுகிறவர்களை, இரட்டிப்பான கனத்திற்கு தகுதியுள்ளவர்களாகக் கருதவேண்டும். ¹⁸ போரடிக்கிற மாட்டின் வாயைக் கட்டக்கூடாது என்றும், வேலைசெய்கிறவன் தன் கூலிக்குத் தகுதியானவன் என்றும், வேதவாக்கியம் சொல்லுகிறதே. ¹⁹ மூப்பனானவனுக்கு விரோதமாக ஒருவன் செய்யும் குற்றச்சாட்டை இரண்டு மூன்று சாட்சிகள் இல்லாமல் நீ ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளக்கூடாது. ²⁰ மற்றவர்களுக்குப் பயமுண்டாகும்படி, பாவம் செய்தவர்களை எல்லோருக்கும் முன்பாகக் கடிந்துகொள். ²¹ நீ பட்சபாதத்தோடு ஒன்றும் செய்யாமலும், விசாரிப்பதற்குமுன்பு முடிவுபண்ணாமலும், இவைகளைக் காத்துநடக்கும்படி, தேவனுக்கும், கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவிற்கும், தெரிந்துகொள்ளப்பட்ட தூதர்களுக்கும்முன்பாக, உறுதியாகக் கட்டளையிடுகிறேன். ²² யார்மேலும் சீக்கிரமாகக் கரங்களை வைக்கவேண்டாம்; மற்றவர்கள் செய்யும் பாவங்களுக்கும் உடன்படாதே; உன்னைச் சுத்தமானவனாகக் காத்துக்கொள். ²³ நீ இனிமேல் தண்ணீர்மட்டும் குடிக்காமல், உன் வயிற்றுக்காகவும், உனக்கு அடிக்கடி வருகிற பலவீனங்களுக்காகவும், கொஞ்சம் திராட்சைரசத்தையும் குடித்துக்கொள். ²⁴ சிலருடைய பாவங்கள் வெளிப்படையாக இருந்து, நியாயத்தீர்ப்புக்கு முந்திக்கொள்ளும்; சிலருடைய பாவங்கள் அவர்களைப் பின்தொடரும். ²⁵ அப்படியே சிலருடைய நல்லசெயல்களும் வெளிப்படையாக இருக்கும்; அப்படி இல்லாதவைகளும் மறைந்திருக்கமுடியாது.

அத்தியாயம்- 6

¹ தேவனுடைய நாமமும் உபதேசமும் அவமதிக்கப்படாதபடிக்கு, அடிமைத்தனத்திற்கு உட்பட்டிருக்கிற வேலைக்காரர்கள் அனைவரும் தங்களுடைய எஜமான்களை எல்லாக் கனத்திற்கும் தகுதியுள்ளவர்கள் என்று நினைத்துக்கொள்ளவேண்டும். ² விசுவாசிகளாகிய எஜமான்களை உடையவர்கள், தங்களுடைய எஜமான்கள் சகோதரர்களாக இருப்பதினால் அவர்களை அசட்டைபண்ணாமல், நல்ல வேலையின் பலனைப் பெற்றுக்கொள்ளுகிறவர்கள் விசுவாசிகளும், பிரியமுள்ளவர்களுமாக இருப்பதினால் அவர்களுக்கு அதிகமாக ஊழியம் செய்யுங்கள்; இந்தப்படியே போதித்துப் புத்திசொல்லு.

³ ஒருவன் நம்முடைய கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவின் ஆரோக்கியமான வார்த்தைகளையும், தேவபக்திக்குரிய உபதேசங்களையும் ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளாமல், மாறுபாடான உபதேசங்களைப் போதிக்கிறவனானால், ⁴ அவன் பெருமை உள்ளவனும், ஒன்றும் அறியாதவனும், தர்க்கமும், வாக்குவாதமும் பண்ணுகிற நோய்கொண்டவனுமாக இருக்கிறான்; அவைகளினாலே பொறாமையும், சண்டையும், அவதூறுகளும், பொல்லாத சந்தேகங்களும் உண்டாகி, ⁵ கெட்ட சிந்தையுள்ளவர்களும் சத்தியமில்லாதவர்களும் தேவபக்தியை ஆதாயத்தொழில் என்று நினைக்கிறவர்களுமாக இருக்கிற மனிதர்களால் உண்டாகும் மாறுபாடான தர்க்கங்களும் பிறக்கும்; இப்படிப்பட்டவர்களைவிட்டு விலகி இரு.

⁶ போதும் என்கிற மனதோடுகூடிய தேவபக்தியே மிகுந்த ஆதாயம். ⁷ உலகத்திலே நாம் ஒன்றும் கொண்டுவந்ததும் இல்லை, இதிலிருந்து நாம் ஒன்றும் கொண்டுபோவதுமில்லை என்பது நிச்சயம். ⁸ உண்பதற்கும் உடுத்துவதற்கும் நமக்கு இருந்தால் அது போதும் என்று இருக்கவேண்டும். ⁹ செல்வந்தர்களாவதற்கு விரும்புகிறவர்கள் சோதனையிலும் கண்ணியிலும், மனிதர்களைத் தீமையிலும், அழிவிலும் அமிழ்த்திப்போடுகிற மதிக்கேடும் சேதமுமான பலவிதமான இச்சைகளிலும் விழுகிறார்கள். ¹⁰ பணஆசை எல்லாத் தீமைகளுக்கும் வேராக இருக்கிறது; சிலர் அதை விரும்பி, விசுவாசத்தைவிட்டு விலகி, அநேக வேதனைகளாலே தங்களைத்தாங்களே கெடுத்துக்கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள்.

¹¹ நீயோ, தேவனுடைய மனிதனே, இவைகளைவிட்டு விலகி, நீதியையும் தேவபக்தியையும் விசுவாசத்தையும் அன்பையும் பொறுமையையும் சாந்தகுணத்தையும் நாடிப் பெற்றுக்கொள். ¹² விசுவாசத்தின் நல்ல போராட்டத்தைப் போராடு, நித்தியஜீவனைப் பற்றிக்கொள்; அதற்காகவே நீ அழைக்கப்பட்டாய்; அநேக சாட்சிகளுக்கு முன்பாக நல்ல அறிக்கைபண்ணினவனுமாக இருக்கிறாய். ¹³ நம்முடைய கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்து வரும்வரைக்கும், நீ இந்தக் கட்டளையை மாசில்லாமலும் குற்றமில்லாமலும் கடைபிடிக்கும்படி, ¹⁴ எல்லாவற்றையும் உயிரோடு இருக்கச்செய்கிற தேவனுடைய சந்நிதானத்திலேயும், பொந்தியுபிலாத்துவிற்கு முன்பாக நல்ல அறிக்கையைச் சாட்சியாக விளங்கப்பண்ணின கிறிஸ்து இயேசுவினுடைய சந்நிதானத்திலேயும் உனக்குக் கட்டளையிடுகிறேன். ¹⁵ இயேசுவின் வருகையை தேவன் தம்முடைய காலங்களில் வெளிப்படுத்துவார். அவரே ஸ்தோத்தரிக்கப்பட்ட ஏகசக்கராதிபதியும், ராஜாதி ராஜாவும், கர்த்தாதி கர்த்தாவும், ¹⁶ அவர் ஒருவரே மரணம் இல்லாதவரும், ஒருவரும் நெருங்கமுடியாத ஒளியில் வாழ்கிறவரும், மனிதர்களில் ஒருவரும் காணாதவரும், காணக்கூடாதவருமாக இருக்கிறவர்; அவருக்கே கனமும் நித்திய வல்லமையும் உண்டாயிருப்பதாக. ஆமென். ¹⁷ இந்த உலகத்தில் செல்வந்தர்கள் பெருமையான சிந்தையுள்ளவர்களாக இல்லாமலும், நிலையில்லாத செல்வத்தின்மேல் நம்பிக்கை வைக்காமலும், நாம் அனுபவிக்கிறதற்கு எல்லாவித நன்மைகளையும் நமக்கு பரிபூரணமாகக் கொடுக்கிற ஜீவனுள்ள தேவன்மேல் நம்பிக்கைவைக்கவும், ¹⁸ நன்மைசெய்யவும், நல்ல செயல்களில் செல்வந்தர்களாகவும், தாராளமாகக் கொடுக்கிறவர்களும், தங்களிடம் உள்ளதைப் பகிர்ந்துகொடுக்கிறவர்களாகவும் இருக்கவும், ¹⁹ நித்தியஜீவனைப் பெற்றுக்கொள்ளும்படி வருங்காலத்திற்காகத் தங்களுக்கு உறுதியான அஸ்திபாரத்தைப் பொக்கிஷமாக வைக்கவும் அவர்களுக்குக் கட்டளையிடு. ²⁰ ஓ தீமோத்தேயுவே, உன்னிடத்தில் ஒப்புவிக்கப்பட்டதை நீ காத்துக்கொண்டு, சீர்கேடான வீண்பேச்சுகளுக்கும், ஞானமென்று பொய்யாகப் பெயர்பெற்றிருக்கிற கொள்கையின் விபரீதங்களுக்கும் விலகி இரு. ²¹ சிலர் அதைப் பாராட்டி, விசுவாசத்தைவிட்டு விலகிப்போனார்கள். கிருபையானது உன்னோடு இருப்பதாக. ஆமென்.

2 Timothy

அத்தியாயம்- 1

¹ கிறிஸ்து இயேசுவினால் உண்டாயிருக்கிற ஜீவனைக்குறித்த வாக்குத்தத்தத்தின்படி, தேவனுடைய விருப்பத்தினாலே, இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவின் அப்போஸ்தலனாக இருக்கிற பவுல், ² பிரியமுள்ள குமாரனாகிய தீமோத்தேயுவிற்கு எழுதுகிறதாவது: பிதாவாகிய தேவனாலும் நம்முடைய கர்த்தராகிய கிறிஸ்து இயேசுவினாலும் கிருபையும் இரக்கமும் சமாதானமும் உண்டாவதாக.

³ நான் இரவும் பகலும் இடைவிடாமல் என் ஜெபங்களில் உன்னை நினைத்து, உன் கண்ணீரையும் நினைவுகூர்ந்து, மகிழ்ச்சியால் நிறையப்படும்படிக்கு உன்னைக் காண வாஞ்சையாக இருந்து, ⁴ உன்னிலுள்ள மாயமில்லாத விசுவாசத்தை நினைவுகூருகிறதினால், என் முன்னோர்கள் முதற்கொண்டு சுத்தமனச்சாட்சியோடு ஆராதித்துவரும் தேவனுக்கு நான் நன்றி செலுத்துகிறேன். ⁵ அந்த விசுவாசம் முந்தி உன் பாட்டியாகிய லோவிசாளுக்குள்ளும் உன் தாயாகிய ஜனிக்கேயாளுக்குள்ளும் நிலைத்திருந்தது; அது உனக்குள்ளும் நிலைத்திருக்கிறதென்று நிச்சயித்திருக்கிறேன். ⁶ இதினிமித்தமாக, நான் உன்மேல் என் கரங்களை வைத்ததினால் உனக்கு உண்டான தேவ வரத்தை நீ அனல்மூட்டி எழுப்பிவிடும்படி உனக்கு நினைப்பூட்டுகிறேன். ⁷ தேவன் நமக்குப் பயமுள்ள ஆவியைக் கொடுக்காமல், பலமும் அன்பும் தெளிந்த புத்தியுமுள்ள ஆவியையே கொடுத்திருக்கிறார். ⁸ ஆகவே, நம்முடைய கர்த்தரைப்பற்றிய சாட்சியைக்குறித்தாவது, அவர்நிமித்தம் கட்டப்பட்டிருக்கிற என்னைக்குறித்தாவது, நீ வெட்கப்படாமல், தேவ வல்லமைக்குரியபடி நற்செய்திக்காக என்னோடுகூடத் தீங்கு அனுபவி. ⁹ அவர் நம்முடைய செயல்களின்படி நம்மை இரட்சிக்காமல், தம்முடைய தீர்மானத்தின்படியும், ஆரம்பகாலமுதல் கிறிஸ்து இயேசுவிற்குள் நமக்கு அருளப்பட்ட கிருபையின்படியும், நம்மை இரட்சித்து, பரிசுத்த அழைப்பினாலே அழைத்தார். ¹⁰ நம்முடைய இரட்சகராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்து இந்த உலகத்தில் தோன்றியதன் மூலமாக அந்தக் கிருபை இப்பொழுது வெளிப்படுத்தப்பட்டது; அவர் மரணத்தை அழித்து, ஜீவனையும் அழியாமையையும் நற்செய்தியினாலே வெளியரங்கமாக்கினார். ¹¹ அதற்கு நான் பிரசங்கியாகவும், அப்போஸ்தலனாகவும், யூதரல்லாதவர்களுக்குப் போதகனாகவும் நியமிக்கப்பட்டேன். ¹² அதினாலே நான் இந்தப் பாடுகளையும் அனுபவிக்கிறேன்; ஆனாலும், நான் வெட்கப்படுகிறதில்லை; ஏனென்றால், நான் விசுவாசித்தவர் யார் என்று அறிவேன், நான் அவரிடத்தில் ஒப்புக்கொடுத்ததை அவர் அந்தநாளவரைக் காத்துக்கொள்ள வல்லவராக இருக்கிறார் என்று உறுதியாக நம்புகிறேன். ¹³ நீ கிறிஸ்து இயேசுவைப்பற்றும் விசுவாசத்தோடும் அன்போடும் என்னிடத்தில் கேட்டிருக்கிற ஆரோக்கியமான வார்த்தைகளை மாதிரியாக வைத்துப் பின்பற்று. ¹⁴ உன்னிடத்தில் ஒப்புவிக்கப்பட்ட அந்த நற்காரியங்களை நமக்குள்ளே வாசம்பண்ணுகிற பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவராலே காத்துக்கொள். ¹⁵ ஆசியா நாட்டிலிருக்கிற அனைவரும், அவர்களில் பிகெல்லு, எர்மொகெனே என்பவர்கள் என்னைவிட்டு விலகினார்களென்று அறிந்திருக்கிறாய். ¹⁶ ஒநேசிப்போருவின் குடும்பத்தினருக்குக் கர்த்தர் இரக்கம் கட்டளையிடுவாராக; அவன் அநேகமுறை என்னை இளைப்பாரச்செய்தான்; என் கட்டுக்களைக்குறித்து அவன் வெட்கப்படவுமில்லை; ¹⁷ அவன் ரோமாவில் வந்திருந்தபோது மிகுந்த பிரயாசப்பட்டு என்னைத் தேடிச் கண்டுபிடித்தான். ¹⁸ அந்த நாளிலே அவன் கர்த்தரிடத்தில் இரக்கத்தைக் கண்டடையும்படி, கர்த்தர் அவனுக்கு இரக்கம்செய்வாராக; அவன் எபேசுலிலே செய்த பலவிதமான உதவிகளையும் நீ நன்றாக அறிந்திருக்கிறாயே.

அத்தியாயம்- 2

¹ ஆதலால், என் மகனே, நீ கிறிஸ்து இயேசுவினுள்ள கிருபையில் பலப்படு. ² அநேக சாட்சிகளுக்கு முன்பாக நீ என்னிடத்தில் கேட்டவைகளை மற்றவர்களுக்குப் போதிக்கத்தக்க உண்மையுள்ள மனிதர்களிடத்தில் ஒப்புவி. ³ நீயும் இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவிற்கு நல்ல போர்வீரனாக தீங்கு அனுபவி. ⁴ படையில் சேர்ந்துகொண்ட எவனும், தன்னை அதில் சேர்த்துக்கொண்ட தலைவனுக்குப் பிரியமாக இருக்கும்படி, பிழைப்புக்கடுத்த வேலைகளில் சிக்கிக்கொள்ளமாட்டான். ⁵ மேலும் ஒரு விளையாட்டு வீரன் சட்டத்தின்படி விளையாடாவிட்டால் முடிசூட்டப்படமாட்டான். ⁶ பிரயாசப்பட்டுப் பயிரிடுகிறவன் பலனில் முதலாவதாக பங்கடையவேண்டும். ⁷ நான் சொல்லுகிறவைகளைச் சிந்தித்துக்கொள்; கர்த்தர் எல்லாக் காரியங்களிலும் உனக்குப் புத்தியைத் தந்தருளுவார். ⁸ தாவீதின் சந்ததியில் பிறந்த இயேசுகிறிஸ்து, என்னுடைய நற்செய்தியின்படியே, மரித்தோரிலிருந்து உயிரோடு எழுப்பப்பட்டவர் என்று நினைத்துக்கொள். ⁹ இந்த நற்செய்தியினிமித்தம் நான் பெரும் பாவம் செய்தவனைப்போலக் கட்டப்பட்டு, துன்பத்தை அனுபவிக்கிறேன்; தேவவசனமோ கட்டப்பட்டிருக்கவில்லை. ¹⁰ ஆகவே, தெரிந்துகொள்ளப்பட்டவர்கள் கிறிஸ்து இயேசுவினால் உண்டான இரட்சிப்பை நித்திய மகிமையோடு பெற்றுக்கொள்ளும்படி, எல்லாவற்றையும் அவர்கள் நிமித்தமாக சகித்துக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். ¹¹ இந்த வார்த்தை உண்மையுள்ளது; என்னவென்றால், நாம் அவரோடுகூட மரித்தோமானால், அவரோடுகூடப் பிழைத்துமிருப்போம்; ¹² அவரோடுகூடப் பாடுகளைச் சகித்தோமானால் அவரோடுகூட ஆளுகையும் செய்வோம்; நாம் அவரை மறுதலித்தால், அவரும் நம்மை மறுதலிப்பார்; ¹³ நாம் உண்மை இல்லாதவர்களாக இருந்தாலும், அவர் உண்மை உள்ளவராக இருக்கிறார்; அவர் தம்மைத்தாம் மறுதலிக்கமாட்டார்.

¹⁴ இவைகளை அவர்களுக்கு நினைப்பூட்டி, ஒன்றுக்கும் பிரயோஜனமில்லாமல், கேட்கிறவர்களைக் தோல்வியடையச் செய்வதற்கு ஏதுவான வாக்குவாதம் செய்யாதபடிக்கு, கர்த்தருக்கு முன்பாக அவர்களுக்கு எச்சரித்துப் புத்திசொல்லு. ¹⁵ நீ வெட்கப்படாத ஊழியக்காரனாகவும் சத்திய வசனத்தை நிதானமாகப் பகுத்துப் போதிக்கிறவனாகவும் உன்னை தேவனுக்குமுன்பாக உத்தமனாக நிறுத்தும்படி விழிப்பாக இரு. ¹⁶ சீர்கேடான வீண்பேச்சுகளுக்கு விலகியிரு; அவைகளால் (கள்ளப்போதகர்களான) அவர்கள் அதிக அவபக்தி உள்ளவர்கள் ஆவார்கள்; ¹⁷ அவர்களுடைய வார்த்தை அழகல் நோயைப்போல பரவும்; இமெனேயும் பிலேத்தும் அப்படிப்பட்டவர்கள்; ¹⁸ அவர்கள் சத்தியத்தைவிட்டு விலகி, உயிர்த்தெழுதல் நடந்துவிட்டதென்று சொல்லி, சிலருடைய நம்பிக்கையை அழித்துப்போடுகிறார்கள். ¹⁹ ஆனாலும் தேவனுடைய உறுதியான அஸ்திபாரம் நிலைத்திருக்கிறது; கர்த்தர் தம்முடையவர்களை அறிவாரென்பதும், கிறிஸ்துவின் நாமத்தைச் சொல்லுகிற எவனும் அநியாயத்தைவிட்டு விலகக்கடவன் என்பதும், அதற்கு முத்திரையாக இருக்கிறது. ²⁰ ஒரு பெரிய வீட்டிலே பொன்னும் வெள்ளியுமான பாத்திரங்கள் மட்டுமல்லாமல், மரமும் மண்ணுமான பாத்திரங்களும் உண்டு; அவைகளில் சில மதிப்புமிக்கவைகளும், சில மதிப்பற்றவைகளும் ஆகும். ²¹ ஆகவே, ஒருவன் இவைகளைவிட்டுத் தன்னைச் சுத்திகரித்துக்கொண்டால், அவன் பரிசுத்தமாக்கப்பட்டதும், எஜமானுக்கு உபயோகமானதும், எந்த நல்ல செயல்களுக்கும் ஆயத்தம் செய்யப்பட்டதுமான மதிப்புமிக்கப் பாத்திரமாக இருப்பான். ²² அன்றியும், பாலியத்திற்குரிய இச்சைகளுக்கு நீ விலகி ஓடி, சுத்த இருதயத்தோடு கர்த்தரைத் தொழுதுகொள்ளுகிறவர்களுடனே, நீதியையும் விசுவாசத்தையும் அன்பையும் சமாதானத்தையும் அடையும்படி நாடு. ²³ புத்தியீனமும் அறிவில்லாததுமான வாக்குவாதங்கள் சண்டைகளை உண்டாக்குமென்று அறிந்து, அவைகளுக்கு விலகி இரு. ²⁴ கர்த்தருடைய ஊழியக்காரன் சண்டைபண்ணுகிறவனாக இல்லாமல், எல்லோரிடத்திலும் சாந்தமுள்ளவனும், போதிப்பதற்குத் திறமையுள்ளவனும், தீமையைச் சகிக்கிறவனுமாக இருக்கவேண்டும். ²⁵ எதிர்பேசுகிறவர்கள் சத்தியத்தை அறியும்படி தேவன் அவர்களுக்கு மனந்திரும்புதலை கொடுக்கத்தக்கதாகவும், ²⁶ பிசாசானவனுடைய இச்சையின்படி செய்ய அவனால் பிடிக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிற அவர்கள் மறுபடியும் மயக்கம் தெளிந்து அவன் தந்திரத்திற்கு நீங்கத்தக்கதாகவும், சாந்தமாக அவர்களுக்கு உபதேசிக்கவேண்டும்.

அத்தியாயம்- 3

¹ மேலும், கடைசிநாட்களில் கொடியகாலங்கள் வருமென்று அறிவாயாக. ² எப்படியென்றால், மனிதர்கள் தற்பிரியர்களாகவும், பணப்பிரியர்களாகவும், வீம்புக்காரர்களாகவும், அகந்தை உள்ளவர்களாகவும், நிந்திக்கிறவர்களாகவும், தாய் தகப்பன்மாருக்குக் கீழ்ப்படியாதவர்களாகவும், நன்றி இல்லாதவர்களாகவும், பரிசுத்தமில்லாதவர்களாகவும், ³ மெய்யான அன்பு இல்லாதவர்களாகவும், மன்னிக்காதவர்களாகவும், அவதூறு செய்கிறவர்களாகவும், இச்சையடக்கம் இல்லாதவர்களாகவும், கொடுமை செய்கிறவர்களாகவும், நல்லவைகளை வெறுக்கிறவர்களாகவும், ⁴ துரோகிகளாகவும், துணிகரம் உள்ளவர்களாகவும், இறுமாப்பு உள்ளவர்களாகவும், தேவனுக்குப் பிரியமானவர்களாக இல்லாமல் சுகபோகப்பிரியர்களாகவும், ⁵ தேவ பக்தியின் வேஷத்தைத்தரித்து அதின் பெலனை மறுதலிக்கிறவர்களாகவும் இருப்பார்கள்; இப்படிப்பட்டவர்களை நீ விட்டுவிடலு. ⁶ பாவங்களால் நிறைந்து, பற்பல இச்சைகளால் இழுக்கப்பட்டு, ⁷ எப்போதும் கற்றாலும் ஒருபோதும் சத்தியத்தை அறிந்து உணராதவர்களாக இருக்கிற பெண்களுடைய வீடுகளில் இப்படிப்பட்டவர்கள் நுழைந்து, அவர்களை வசப்படுத்திக்கொள்ளுகிறார்கள். ⁸ யந்நேயும் யம்பிரேயும் மோசேக்கு எதிர்த்துநின்றதுபோல இவர்களும் சத்தியத்திற்கு எதிர்த்துநிற்கிறார்கள்; இவர்கள் தீய சிந்தையுள்ள மனிதர்கள், விசுவாச காரியத்தில் பரீட்சைக்கு நிற்காதவர்கள். ⁹ ஆனாலும், இவர்கள் அதிகமாகப் பலப்படுவதில்லை; அந்த இருவருடைய அறிவீனம் எல்லோருக்கும் வெளிப்பட்டதுபோல, இவர்களுடைய அறிவீனமும் வெளிப்படும்.

¹⁰ நீயோ என் போதகத்தையும் நடக்கையையும் நோக்கத்தையும் விசுவாசத்தையும் நீடிய சாந்தத்தையும் அன்பையும் பொறுமையையும், ¹¹ அந்தியோகியா, இக்கோனியா, லீஸ்திரா என்னும் பட்டணங்களில் எனக்கு உண்டான துன்பங்களையும் பாடுகளையும் நன்றாக அறிந்திருக்கிறாய்; எவ்வளவோ துன்பங்களைச் சகித்தேன்; இவைகள் எல்லாவற்றிலிருந்தும் கர்த்தர் என்னைக் காப்பாற்றினார். ¹² அன்றியும் கிறிஸ்து இயேசுவிற்குள் தேவபக்தியாக நடக்க விருப்பமாக இருக்கிற அனைவரும் துன்பப்படுவார்கள். ¹³ பொல்லாதவர்களும் ஏமாற்றுகிறவர்களாகவும் மோசம்போக்குகிறவர்களாகவும், மோசம்போகிறவர்களாகவும் இருந்து மேன்மேலும் கேடுள்ளவர்களாவார்கள். ¹⁴ நீ கற்று உறுதிசெய்துகொண்டவைகளில் நிலைத்திரு; அவைகளை யாரிடத்திலிருந்து கற்றுக்கொண்டாய் என்று நீ அறிந்திருக்கிறதும்ல்லாமல், ¹⁵ கிறிஸ்து இயேசுவைப்பற்றும் விசுவாசத்தினாலே உன்னை இரட்சிப்பிற்கு ஏற்ற ஞானம் உள்ளவனாக்கத்தக்க பரிசுத்த வேத எழுத்துக்களை, நீ சிறுவயதுமுதல் அறிந்தவனென்றும் உனக்குத் தெரியும். ¹⁶ வேத வாக்கியங்களெல்லாம் தேவனால் அருளப்பட்டிருக்கிறது; தேவனுடைய மனிதன் தேறினவனாகவும், எந்த நல்லசெயல்களையும் செய்யத் தகுதியுள்ளவனாகவும் இருக்கும்படியாக, ¹⁷ அவைகள் உபதேசத்திற்கும், கடிந்துகொள்ளுதலுக்கும், சீர்திருத்தலுக்கும், நீதியைப் படிப்பிக்குதலுக்கும் பிரயோஜனமுள்ளவைகளாக இருக்கிறது.

அத்தியாயம்- 4

¹ நான் தேவனுக்கு முன்பாகவும், உயிரோடு இருக்கிறவர்களையும் மரித்தவர்களையும் நியாயந்தீர்க்கப்போகிற கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவிற்கு முன்பாகவும், அவருடைய வருகையையும், அவருடைய ராஜ்யத்தையும் சாட்சியாக வைத்துக் கட்டளையிடுகிறதாவது: ² சமயம் வாய்த்தாலும் வாய்க்காவிட்டாலும் கவனமாக திருசனத்தைப் பிரசங்கம்பண்ணு; எல்லா நீடிய சாந்தத்தோடும் உபதேசத்தோடும் தவறென்று எடுத்துறைத்து, கடிந்துகொண்டு, புத்திசொல்லு. ³ ஏனென்றால், அவர்கள் ஆரோக்கியமான உபதேசத்தைப் பொறுக்க மனதில்லாமல், செவி கொடுக்காதவர்களாகி, தங்களுடைய சுயவிருப்பங்களுக்குத் தகுந்த போதகர்களைத் தங்களுக்கு மிகுதியாக சேர்த்துக்கொண்டு. ⁴ சத்தியத்திற்குச் செவியை விலக்கி, கட்டுக்கதைகளுக்குச் சாய்ந்துபோகும் காலம் வரும். ⁵ நீயோ எல்லாவற்றிலும் மனத்தெளிவுள்ளவனாக இரு, தீங்கு அனுபவி, சிவிசேஷகனுடைய வேலையைச் செய், உன் ஊழியத்தை நிறைவேற்று. ⁶ ஏனென்றால், நான் இப்பொழுதே பான்பலியாகத் தந்துவிட்டேன்; நான் சரீரத்தைவிட்டுப் பிரியும் நேரம் வந்தது. ⁷ நல்ல போராட்டத்தைப் போராடினேன், ஓட்டத்தை முடித்தேன், விசுவாசத்தைக் காத்துக்கொண்டேன். ⁸ இப்பொழுது நீதியின் கிரீடம் எனக்காக வைக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது, நீதியுள்ள நியாயாதிபதியாகிய கர்த்தர் அந்த நாளிலே அதை எனக்குக் கொடுப்பார்; எனக்கு மாத்திரமல்ல, அவருடைய வருகையை விரும்பும் அனைவருக்கும் அதைக் கொடுப்பார்.

⁹ நீ சீக்கிரமாக என்னிடத்தில் வரும்படி ஆயத்தப்படு. ¹⁰ ஏனென்றால், தேமா இந்த உலகத்தின்மேல் ஆசைவைத்து, என்னைவிட்டுப் பிரிந்து, தெசலோனிக்கே பட்டணத்திற்குப் போய்விட்டான்; கிரெஸ்கே கலாத்தியா நாட்டிற்கும், தீத்து தல்மாத்தியா நாட்டிற்கும் போய்விட்டார்கள். ¹¹ லூக்காமட்டும் என்னோடு இருக்கிறான். மாற்குவை என்னோடு அழைத்துக்கொண்டுவா; ஊழியத்தில் அவன் எனக்குப் பிரயோஜனமுள்ளவன். ¹² தீகிக்குவை நான் எபேசுவிற்கு அனுப்பினேன். ¹³ துரோவா பட்டணத்திலிருக்கிற கார்ப்பு என்பவனிடத்தில் நான் வைத்துவிட்டுவந்த மேலங்கியையும், புத்தகங்களையும், விசேஷமாகத் தோல் சுருள்களையும், நீ வருகிறபோது எடுத்துக்கொண்டுவா. ¹⁴ கன்னானாகிய அலெக்சந்தர் எனக்கு வெகு தீமைசெய்தான்; அவனுடைய செய்கைக்குத்தக்கதாகக் கர்த்தர் அவனுக்குப் பதிலளிப்பாராக. ¹⁵ நீயும் அவனைக்குறித்து எச்சரிக்கையாக இரு; அவன் நம்முடைய வார்த்தைகளுக்கு மிகவும் எதிர்த்து நின்றவன். ¹⁶ நான் முதல்முறை உத்தரவுசொல்ல நிற்கும்போது ஒருவனும் என்னோடுகூட இருக்கவில்லை, எல்லோரும் என்னைக் கைவிட்டார்கள்; அந்தக் குற்றம் அவர்கள்மேல் சாராதிருப்பதாக. ¹⁷ கர்த்தரோ எனக்குத் துணையாக நின்று, என்னாலே பிரசங்கம் நிறைவேறுகிறதற்காகவும், யூதரல்லாத எல்லோரும் கேட்கிறதற்காகவும், என்னைப் பலப்படுத்தினார்; சிங்கத்தின் வாயிலிருந்தும் நான் காப்பாற்றப்பட்டேன். ¹⁸ கர்த்தர் எல்லாத் தீமையிலிருந்தும் என்னை இரட்சித்து, தம்முடைய பரலோக ராஜ்யத்தை அடையும்படி காப்பாற்றுவார்; அவருக்கு எல்லாக் காலங்களிலும் மகிமை உண்டாவதாக. ஆமென்.

¹⁹ பிரிஸ்காளுக்கும் ஆக்கில்லாவிற்கும், ஒநேசிப்போருவின் குடும்பத்தினருக்கும் என் வாழ்த்துதலைச் சொல்லு. ²⁰ எரஸ்து கொரிந்து பட்டணத்தில் தங்கிவிட்டான்; துரோப்பீழுவை மிலேத்துவில் வியாதிப்பட்டவனாக விட்டுவந்தேன். ²¹ மழைக்காலத்திற்குமுன் நீ வந்துசேரும்படி ஆயத்தப்படு. ஐபூலுவும், புதேஞ்சும், லீனுவும், கலவுதியாளும், மற்றெல்லா சகோதரர்களும் உனக்கு வாழ்த்துதல் சொல்லுகிறார்கள். ²² கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்து உன் ஆவியுடனேகூட இருப்பாராக. கிருபை உங்களோடிருப்பதாக. ஆமென்.

Titus

அத்தியாயம்- 1

¹ தேவனுடைய ஊழியக்காரனும், இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவினுடைய அப்போஸ்தலனுமாகிய பவுல், பொதுவான விசுவாசத்தின்படி உத்தம மகனாகிய தீத்துவிற்கு எழுதுகிறதாவது: ² பிதாவாகிய தேவனாலும், நம்முடைய இரட்சகராக இருக்கிற கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவினாலும், கிருபையும் இரக்கமும் சமாதானமும் உண்டாவதாக. ³ பொய்யுரையாத தேவன் ஆரம்பகாலமுதல் நித்தியஜீவனைக்குறித்து வாக்குத்தத்தம் செய்து அதைக்குறித்த நம்பிக்கையைப்பற்றி தேவபக்திக்கேதுவான சத்தியத்தை அறிகிற அறிவும் விசுவாசமும் தேவனால் தெரிந்துகொள்ளப்பட்டவர்களுக்கு உண்டாகும்படி, ⁴ ஏற்றகாலங்களிலே நம்முடைய இரட்சகராகிய தேவனுடைய கட்டளையின்படி எனக்கு ஒப்புவிக்கப்பட்ட பிரசங்கத்தினாலே தமது வார்த்தையை வெளிப்படுத்தினார்.

⁵ நீ குறைவாயிருக்கிறவைகளை ஒழுங்குபடுத்தும்படிக்கும், நான் உனக்குக் கட்டளையிட்டபடியே, பட்டணங்கள்தோறும் மூப்பர்களை ஏற்படுத்தும்படிக்கும், உன்னைக் கிரேத்தா தீவிலே விட்டுவந்தேன். ⁶ குற்றஞ்சாட்டப்படாதவனும், ஒரே மனைவியையுடைய புருஷனும், துன்மார்க்கர்களென்றும் அடங்காதவர்களென்றும் பெயரெடுக்காத விசுவாசமுள்ள பிள்ளைகளை உடையவனுமாகிய ஒருவன் இருந்தால் அவனையே மூப்பராக ஏற்படுத்தலாம். ⁷ ஏனென்றால், கண்காணியானவன் தேவனுடைய மேற்பார்வைக்காரனுக்குரியவிதமாக, குற்றஞ்சாட்டப்படாதவனும், தன் இஷ்டப்படி செய்யாதவனும், முற்கோபமில்லாதவனும், மதுபானப்பிரியமில்லாதவனும், அடிக்காதவனும், இழிவான ஆதாயத்தை இச்சிக்காதவனும், ⁸ அந்நியர்களை உபசரிக்கிறவனும், நல்லவைகள்மேல் பிரியமுள்ளவனும், தெளிந்த புத்தியுள்ளவனும், நீதிமானும், பரிசுத்தவானும், இச்சையடக்கமுள்ளவனும், ⁹ ஆரோக்கியமான உபதேசத்தினாலே புத்திசொல்லவும், எதிர்த்து பேசுகிறவர்களைக் கடிந்துகொள்ளவும் வல்லவனுமாக இருக்கும்படி, தான் போதிக்கப்பட்டதற்கேற்ற உண்மையான வசனத்தை நன்றாகப் பற்றிக்கொள்ளுகிறவனுமாக இருக்கவேண்டும். ¹⁰ அநேகர், விசேஷமாக விருத்தசேதனமுள்ளவர்கள், அடங்காதவர்களும், வீண் பேச்சுக்காரர்களும், மனைதை மயக்குகிறவர்களுமாக இருக்கிறார்கள். ¹¹ அவர்களுடைய வாயை அடக்கவேண்டும்; அவர்கள் இழிவான ஆதாயத்திற்காகத் தகாதவைகளை உபதேசித்து, முழுக்குடும்பங்களையும் கவிழ்த்துப்போடுகிறார்கள். ¹² கிரேத்தா தீவைச்சேர்ந்தவர்கள் ஓயாத பொய்யர்கள், காட்டுமிராண்டிகள், பெருந்தீனிச் சோம்பேறிகள் என்று அவர்களில் ஒருவனாகிய அவர்கள் தீர்க்கதரிசியானவனே சொல்லியிருக்கிறான். ¹³ இந்தச் சாட்சி உண்மையாக இருக்கிறது; எனவே, அவர்கள் யூதர்களுடைய கட்டுக்கதைகளுக்கும், சத்தியத்தைவிட்டு விலகுகிற மனிதர்களுடைய கட்டளைகளுக்கும் செவிகொடுக்காமல், ¹⁴ விசுவாசத்திலே ஆரோக்கியமுள்ளவர்களாக இருக்கும்படி, நீ அவர்களைக் கண்டிப்பாய்க் கடிந்துகொள். ¹⁵ சுத்தமுள்ளவர்களுக்குச் சகலமும் சுத்தமாக இருக்கும்; அசுத்தமுள்ளவர்களுக்கும் அவிசுவாசமுள்ளவர்களுக்கும் ஒன்றும் சுத்தமாக இருக்காது; அவர்களுடைய புத்தியும் மனச்சாட்சியும் அசுத்தமாக இருக்கும். ¹⁶ அவர்கள் தேவனை அறிந்திருக்கிறோமென்று அறிக்கைபண்ணுகிறார்கள், செயல்களினாலோ அவரை மறுதலிக்கிறார்கள்; அவர்கள் அருவருக்கப்படத்தக்கவர்களும், கீழ்ப்படியாதவர்களும், எந்த நல்ல செயல்களையும் செய்ய தகுதியற்றவர்களுமாக இருக்கிறார்கள்.

அத்தியாயம்- 2

¹ நீயோ ஆரோக்கியமான உபதேசத்திற்குரியவைகளைப் போதிக்கவேண்டும். ² முதிர்வதுள்ள ஆண்கள் ஜாக்கிரதையுள்ளவர்களும், நல்லொழுக்கமுள்ளவர்களும், தெளிந்த புத்தியுள்ளவர்களும், விசுவாசத்திலும் அன்பிலும் பொறுமையிலும் ஆரோக்கியமுள்ளவர்களுமாக இருக்கும்படி புத்திசொல்லு. ³ முதிர்வதுள்ள பெண்களும் அப்படியே பரிசுத்தத்திற்குரியவிதமாக நடக்கிறவர்களும், அவதூறுபண்ணாதவர்களும், மதுபானத்திற்கு அடிமைப்படாதவர்களுமாக இருக்கவும், ⁴ தேவவசனம் தூஷிக்கப்படாதபடிக்கு வாலிபப் பெண்கள் தங்களுடைய கணவர்களிடமும், தங்களுடைய பிள்ளைகளிடமும் அன்புள்ளவர்களும், ⁵ தெளிந்த புத்தியுள்ளவர்களும், கற்புள்ளவர்களும், வீட்டில் தரித்திருக்கிறவர்களும், நல்லவர்களும், தங்களுடைய கணவர்களுக்குக் கீழ்ப்படிகிறவர்களுமாக இருக்கும்படி, அவர்களுக்குக் கற்றுக்கொடுக்கத்தக்க நல்லகாரியங்களைப் போதிக்கிறவர்களுமாக இருக்கவும் முதிர்வதுள்ள பெண்களுக்குப் புத்திசொல்லு. ⁶ அப்படியே, இளைஞர்களும் தெளிந்த புத்தியுள்ளவர்களாக இருக்கவும் நீ புத்திசொல்லி, ⁷ நீயே எல்லாவற்றிலும் உன்னை நல்ல செயல்களுக்கு மாதிரியாகக் காண்பித்து, ⁸ எதிரியானவன் உங்களைக்குறித்துப் பொல்லாங்கு சொல்லுகிறதற்கு ஒன்றுமில்லாமல் வெட்கப்படத்தக்கதாக, உபதேசத்திலே வேறுபாடில்லாதவனும், நல்லொழுக்கமுள்ளவனும் குற்றம் கண்டுபிடிக்க முடியாத ஆரோக்கியமான வசனத்தைப் பேசுகிறவனுமாக இருப்பாயாக. ⁹ வேலைக்காரர்கள் நம்முடைய இரட்சகராகிய தேவனுடைய உபதேசத்தை எல்லாவிதத்திலும் கவரக்கூடியதாகும்படி, ¹⁰ தங்களுடைய எஜமான்களுக்குக் கீழ்ப்படிந்திருந்து எதிர்த்துப்பேசாமல், எல்லாவற்றிலும் பிரியமுண்டாக நடந்துகொள்ளவும், திருடாமலிருந்து, எல்லாவிதத்திலும் உண்மையையும் நேர்மையையும் காண்பிக்கும்படி புத்திசொல்லு. ¹¹ ஏனென்றால், எல்லா மனிதர்களுக்கும் இரட்சிப்பை அளிக்கத்தக்க தேவகிருபையானது வெளிப்பட்டது. ¹² நாம் அவபக்தியையும் உலக இச்சைகளையும் வெறுத்து, தெளிந்த புத்தியும் நீதியும் தேவபக்தியும் உள்ளவர்களாக இந்த உலகத்திலே வாழ்ந்து, ¹³ நாம் நம்பியிருக்கிற ஆனந்தபாக்கியத்திற்கும், மகா தேவனும் நமது இரட்சகருமாகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவினுடைய மகிமையின் வருகைக்காக எதிர்பார்த்துக்கொண்டிருக்கும்படி நமக்குப் போதிக்கிறது. ¹⁴ அவர் நம்மை எல்லா அக்கிரமங்களிலிருந்து மீட்டுக்கொண்டு, தமக்குரிய சொந்த மக்களாகவும், நல்லசெயல்களைச் செய்ய பக்திவைவராக்கியம் உள்ளவர்களாகவும் நம்மைச் சுத்திகரிக்கும்படி, நமக்காகத் தம்மைத்தாமே ஒப்புக்கொடுத்தார். ¹⁵ இவைகளை நீ பேசி, போதித்து, எல்லா அதிகாரத்தோடும் கடிந்துகொள். ஒருவனும் உன்னை அசட்டைபண்ண இடங்கொடுக்காதிருப்பாயாக.

அத்தியாயம்- 3

¹ தலைவர்களுக்கும் அதிகாரங்களுக்கும் கீழ்ப்படிந்து அடங்கியிருக்கவும், எல்லாவிதமான நல்ல செயல்களையும் செய்ய ஆயத்தமாக இருக்கவும், ² ஒருவனையும் அவமதிக்காமலும், சண்டைபண்ணாமலும், பொறுமையுள்ளவர்களாக எல்லா மனிதர்களுக்கும் சாந்தகுணத்தைக் காண்பிக்கவும் அவர்களுக்கு நினைப்பூட்டு. ³ ஏனென்றால், முற்காலத்திலே நாமும் புத்தியினர்களும், கீழ்ப்படியாதவர்களும், வழிதப்பி நடக்கிறவர்களும், பலவிதமான இச்சைகளுக்கும் இன்பங்களுக்கும் அடிமைப்பட்டவர்களும், துர்க்குணத்தோடும் பொறாமையோடும் வாழ்கிறவர்களும், பகைக்கப்படத்தக்கவர்களும், ஒருவரையொருவர் பகைக்கிறவர்களுமாக இருந்தோம். ⁴ நம்முடைய இரட்சகராகிய தேவனுடைய தயவும் மனிதர்கள்மேலுள்ள அன்பும் வெளிப்பட்டபோது, ⁵ நாம் செய்த நீதியின் செயல்களினிமித்தம் அவர் நம்மை இரட்சிக்காமல், தமது இரக்கத்தின்படியே, மறுபிறப்பு முழுக்கினாலும், பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவருடைய புதிதாக்குதலினாலும் நம்மை இரட்சித்தார். ⁶ தமது கிருபையினாலே நாம் நீதிமான்களாக்கப்பட்டு, நித்தியஜீவனுண்டாகும் என்கிற நம்பிக்கையின்படி சுதந்திரராகத்தக்கதாக, ⁷ அவர் நமது இரட்சகராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவின் மூலமாக, அந்தப் பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவரை நம்மேல் சம்பூரணமாகப் பொழிந்தருளினார். ⁸ இந்த வார்த்தை உண்மையுள்ளது; தேவனை விசுவாசிக்கிறவர்கள் நல்ல செயல்களைச் செய்ய ஜாக்கிரதையாக இருக்கும்படி நீ இவைகளைக்குறித்துத் திட்டமாகப் போதிக்கவேண்டுமென்று விரும்புகிறேன்; இவைகளே நன்மையும் மனிதர்களுக்குப் பிரயோஜனமுமானவைகள். ⁹ புத்தியினமான தர்க்கங்களையும், வம்சவரலாறுகளையும், சண்டைகளையும், நியாயப்பிரமாணத்தைக்குறித்து உண்டாகிற வாக்குவாதங்களையும் விட்டுவிலகு; அவைகள் பிரயோஜனமில்லாததும் வீணானதாகவும் இருக்கும். ¹⁰ வேதப்புரட்டனாக இருக்கிற ஒருவனுக்கு நீ இரண்டொருமுறை புத்தி சொன்னபின்பு அவனைவிட்டு விலகு. ¹¹ அப்படிப்பட்டவன் நிலைதவறி, தன்னிலேதானே ஆக்கினைத்தீர்ப்புடையவனாகப் பாவம் செய்கிறவனென்று அறிந்திருக்கிறாயே.

¹² நான் அர்த்தமாவையாவது தீகிக்குவையாவது உன்னிடத்தில் அனுப்பும்போது நீ நிக்கொப்போலிக்கு என்னிடத்தில் வருவதற்குத் தீவிரப்படு; குளிர்காலத்திலே அங்கே தங்கும்படி தீர்மானித்திருக்கிறேன். ¹³ நியாயப்பண்டிதனாகிய சேனாவிற்கும், அப்பொல்லோவிற்கும் ஒரு குறைவுமில்லாதபடிக்கு அவர்களை ஜாக்கிரதையாக விசாரித்து வழியனுப்பு. ¹⁴ நம்முடையவர்களும் கனியற்றவர்களாக இல்லாதபடி மற்றவர்களுடைய அன்றாட தேவைகளை நிறைவுசெய்யும் முறையில் நல்ல செயல்களைச் செய்யப் பழகிக்கொள்ளட்டும். ¹⁵ என்னோடு இருக்கிற அனைவரும் உனக்கு வாழ்த்துதல் சொல்லுகிறார்கள். விசுவாசத்திலே நம்மைச் சிநேகிக்கிறவர்களுக்கு வாழ்த்துதல் சொல்லு. கிருபையானது உங்கள் அனைவரோடும் இருப்பதாக. ஆமென்.

Philemon

அத்தியாயம்- 1

¹ கிறிஸ்து இயேசுவுக்காக சிறைச்சாலையில் கட்டப்பட்டவனாக இருக்கிற பவுலும், சகோதரனாகிய தீமோத்தேயும், எங்களுக்குப் பிரியமுள்ளவனும் உடன்வேலையாளமாக இருக்கிற பிலேமோனுக்கும், ² பிரியமுள்ள அப்பியாளுக்கும், எங்களுடைய உடன் போர்வீரனாகிய அர்க்கிப்புவிற்கும், உம்முடைய வீட்டிலே கூடிவருகிற சபை விசுவாசிகளுக்கும் எழுதுகிறதாவது: ³ நம்முடைய பிதாவாகிய தேவனாலும், கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவினாலும், உங்களுக்குக் கிருபையும் சமாதானமும் உண்டாவதாக.

⁴ கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுவிடம் உள்ள உம்முடைய விசுவாசத்தையும், எல்லாப் பரிசுத்தவான்களிடமும் உள்ள உம்முடைய அன்பையும் நான் கேள்விப்பட்டு, ⁵ என் ஜெபங்களில் உம்மை நினைத்து, எப்பொழுதும் என் தேவனுக்கு நன்றி செலுத்தி, ⁶ கிறிஸ்துவில் நமக்குள் உள்ள எல்லா நன்மைகளும் தெரியப்படுகிறதினாலே உம்முடைய விசுவாசத்தின் ஐக்கியம் கிறிஸ்து இயேசுவுக்காகப் பயன்படவேண்டுமென்று வேண்டுதல் செய்கிறேன். ⁷ சகோதரனே, பரிசுத்தவான்களுடைய உள்ளங்கள் உம்மாலே உற்சாகமானதினால், உம்முடைய அன்பினாலே அதிக சந்தோஷமும் ஆறுதலும் அடைந்திருக்கிறேன்.

⁸ ஆகவே, பவுலாகிய நான் முதிர்வயதானவனாகவும், இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவுக்காக இப்பொழுது சிறைச்சாலையில் கட்டப்பட்டவனாகவும் இருக்கிறதினால், ⁹ நீர் செய்யவேண்டியதை உமக்குக் கட்டளையிடுவதற்குக் கிறிஸ்துவிற்குள் நான் துணிவுள்ளவனாக இருந்தாலும், அப்படிச் செய்யாமல், அன்பினாலே மன்றாடுகிறேன். ¹⁰ என்னவென்றால், சிறைச்சாலையில் கட்டப்பட்டிருக்கும்போது நான் பெற்ற என் மகனாகிய ஒநேசிமுக்காக உம்மை மன்றாடுகிறேன். ¹¹ முன்னே அவன் உமக்குப் பிரயோஜனமில்லாதவனாக இருந்தான், இப்பொழுதோ உமக்கும் எனக்கும் பிரயோஜனமாக இருக்கிறான். ¹² அவனை நான் உம்மிடம் அனுப்புகிறேன்; என் இருதயம்போல் இருக்கிற அவனை நீர் ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளும். ¹³ நற்செய்திக்காகக் கட்டப்பட்டிருக்கிற எனக்கு ஊழியம் செய்வதற்காக உமக்குப் பதிலாக அவனை என்னோடு வைத்துக்கொள்ளவேண்டும் என்று நினைத்தேன். ¹⁴ ஆனாலும் நீர் செய்யும் நன்மையைக் கட்டாயத்தினால் இல்லை, மனப்பூர்வமாகச் செய்வதற்காக, நான் உம்முடைய சம்மதம் இல்லாமல் ஒன்றும் செய்வதற்கு எனக்கு மனமில்லை. ¹⁵ அவன் என்றென்றைக்கும் உம்முடையவனாக இருப்பதற்காகவும், இனிமேல் அவன் அடிமையானவனாக இல்லை, அடிமையானவனுக்கு மேலானவனாகவும் பிரியமுள்ள சகோதரனாகவும் இருப்பதற்காகவும் கொஞ்சக்காலம் உம்மைவிட்டுப் பிரிந்துபோனான். ¹⁶ அவன் எனக்குப் பிரியமான சகோதரனென்றால், உமக்கு சரீரத்தின்படியும் கர்த்தருக்குள்ளும் எவ்வளவு பிரியமுள்ளவனாக இருக்கவேண்டும்! ¹⁷ ஆகவே, நீர் என்னை உம்முடைய உடன்ஊழியனாக ஏற்றுக்கொள்வதுபோல அவனையும் ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளும். ¹⁸ அவன் உமக்கு ஏதாவது அநியாயம் செய்ததும், உம்மிடம் கடன்பட்டதுமிருந்தால், அதை என் கணக்கிலே வைத்துக்கொள்ளும். ¹⁹ பவுலாகிய நான் இதை என் சொந்தக் கரத்தினாலே எழுதுகிறேன், நான் அதைத் திரும்பச் செலுத்துவேன். நீர் உன்னைநீயே எனக்குக் கடனாகச் செலுத்தவேண்டும் என்று நான் உமக்குச் சொல்லவேண்டியது இல்லையே. ²⁰ ஆம், சகோதரனே, கர்த்தருக்குள் உம்மாலே எனக்குப் பிரயோஜனம் உண்டாகட்டும்; கிறிஸ்துவிற்குள் என் இருதயத்தை ஆறுதல் செய்யும். ²¹ நான் சொல்லுகிறதைவிட அதிகமாகச் செய்வீர் என்று அறிந்து, இதற்கு நீர் சம்மதிப்பீர் என்கிற உறுதியோடு, உமக்கு எழுதியிருக்கிறேன். ²² மேலும், உங்களுடைய ஜெபங்களினாலே நான் உங்களிடம் அனுப்பப்படுவேன் என்று நம்பியிருக்கிறதினால், நான் தங்குவதற்காக ஒரு அறையை எனக்காக ஆயத்தப்பண்ணும். ²³ கிறிஸ்து இயேசுவுக்காக என்னோடு சிறைக்காவலில் வைக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிற எப்பாப்பிராவும், ²⁴ என் உடன்வேலையாட்களாகிய மாற்குவும், அரிஸ்தர்க்கும், தேமாவும், லூக்காவும் உமக்கு வாழ்த்துதல் சொல்லுகிறார்கள். ²⁵ நம்முடைய கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவின் கிருபை உங்களுடைய ஆவியோடு இருப்பதாக. ஆமென்.

Hebrews

அத்தியாயம்- 1

¹ முற்காலத்தில் வெவ்வேறு காலங்களில், அநேக விதங்களில் தீர்க்கதரிசிகள் மூலமாக முற்பிதாக்களோடு பேசின தேவன், ² இந்தக் கடைசிநாட்களில் குமாரன் மூலமாக நம்மோடு பேசினார்; இவரை எல்லாவற்றிற்கும் வாரிசாக நியமித்தார், இவர் மூலமாக உலகங்களையும் உண்டாக்கினார். ³ இவர் பிதாவுடைய மகிமையின் பிரகாசமும், அவருடைய குணத்தின் சாயலாகவும் இருந்து, எல்லாவற்றையும் தம்முடைய வல்லமையுள்ள வசனத்தினாலே தாங்குகிறவராக, அவர்தாமே நம்முடைய பாவங்களை நீக்கும் சுத்திகரிப்பை உண்டுபண்ணி, உன்னதத்திலுள்ள மகத்துவமானவருடைய வலதுபக்கத்தில் உட்கார்ந்தார். ⁴ இவர் தேவதூதர்களைவிட எவ்வளவு விசேஷமான நாமத்தைச் சுதந்தரித்துக்கொண்டாரோ, அவ்வளவு அதிகமாக அவர்களைவிட மேன்மையுள்ளவரானார். ⁵ எப்படியென்றால், நீர் என்னுடைய நேசகுமாரன், இன்று நான் உம் தகப்பனானேன் என்றும்; நான் அவருக்குப் பிதாவாக இருப்பேன், அவர் எனக்குக் குமாரனாக இருப்பார் என்றும், அவர் தூதர்களில் யாருக்காவது எப்போதாவது சொன்னது உண்டா? ⁶ மேலும், தமது முதற்பேறானவரை உலகத்தில் பிரவேசிக்கச் செய்தபோது: தேவதூதர்கள் எல்லோரும் அவரைத் தொழுதுகொள்ளவேண்டும் என்றார். ⁷ தேவதூதர்களைப்பற்றி: தம்முடைய தூதர்களைக் காற்றுகளாகவும், தம்முடைய ஊழியக்காரர்களை அக்கினிஜ்வாலைகளாகவும் செய்கிறார் என்று சொல்லியிருக்கிறது. ⁸ குமாரனைப்பற்றி: தேவனே, உம்முடைய சிங்காசனம் என்றென்றைக்கும் உள்ளது, உம்முடைய ராஜ்யத்தின் செங்கோல் நீதியுள்ள செங்கோலாக இருக்கிறது. ⁹ நீர் நீதியை விரும்பி, அக்கிரமத்தை வெறுத்திருக்கிறீர்; எனவே, தேவனே, உம்முடைய தேவன், உமது தோழர்களைவிட உம்மை ஆனந்தத் தைலத்தினால் அபிஷேகம்பண்ணினார் என்றும்; ¹⁰ கர்த்தாவே, நீர் ஆரம்பத்திலே பூமியை அஸ்திபாரப்படுத்தினீர்; வானங்கள் உம்முடைய கைவேலைகளாக இருக்கிறது; ¹¹ அவைகள் அழிந்துபோகும்; நீரோ நிலைத்திருப்பீர்; அவைகள் எல்லாம் ஆடைபோலப் பழையையாகப்போகும்; ¹² ஒரு சால்வையைப்போல அவைகளைச் சுருட்டுவீர், அப்பொழுது அவைகள் மாறிப்போகும்; ஆனால், நீரோ மாறாதவராக இருக்கிறீர், உம்முடைய ஆண்டுகள் முடிந்து போவதில்லை என்றும் சொல்லியிருக்கிறது. ¹³ மேலும், நான் உம்முடைய எதிரிகளை உமது பாதத்தின் கீழே போடும்வரை நீர் என்னுடைய வலதுபக்கத்தில் உட்கார்ந்திரும் என்று தூதர்களில் யாருக்காவது எப்போதாவது அவர் சொன்னதுண்டா? ¹⁴ அவர்கள் எல்லோரும், இரட்சிப்பைச் சுதந்தரிக்கப்போகிறவர்களுக்காக ஊழியம் செய்வதற்கு அனுப்பப்பட்ட பணிவிடை செய்யும் ஆவிகளாக இருக்கிறார்கள் அல்லவா?

அத்தியாயம்- 2

¹ எனவே, நாம் கேட்டவைகளைவிட்டு விலகாமல் இருக்க, அவைகளை அதிக கவனமாகக் கவனிக்கவேண்டும். ² ஏனென்றால், தேவதூதர்கள் மூலமாகச் சொல்லப்பட்ட வசனத்திற்கு எதிரான எந்தச் செய்கைக்கும் கீழ்ப்படியாமைக்கும் நீதியான தண்டனை வரத்தக்கதாக அவர்களுடைய வசனம் உறுதிப்படுத்தப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. ³ முதலாவது கர்த்தர் மூலமாக அறிவிக்கப்பட்டு, பின்பு அவரிடம் கேட்டவர்களாலே நமக்கு உறுதியாக்கப்பட்டதும், ⁴ அற்புதங்களினாலும், அதிசயங்களினாலும் பலவிதமான பலத்த செய்கைகளினாலும், தம்முடைய விருப்பத்தின்படி பகிர்ந்துகொடுத்த பரிசுத்த ஆவியின் வரங்களினாலும், தேவன்தாமே சாட்சி கொடுத்ததுமாக இருக்கிற இவ்வளவு பெரிதான இரட்சிப்பைக்குறித்து நாம் கவலை இல்லாமல் இருப்போம் என்றால் தண்டனைக்கு எப்படித் தப்பித்துக்கொள்ளுவோம்.

⁵ இனிவரும் உலகத்தைப்பற்றிப் பேசுகிறோமே, அதை அவர் தூதர்களுக்குக் கீழ்ப்படுத்தவில்லை. ⁶ ஒரு இடத்திலே ஒருவன் சாட்சியாக: மனிதனை நீர் நினைக்கிறதற்கும், மனிதனுடைய குமாரனை நீர் விசாரிக்கிறதற்கும் அவன் எம்மாத்திரம்? ⁷ அவனை தேவதூதர்களைவிட கொஞ்சம் சிறியவனாக்கினீர்; மகிமையினாலும் கனத்தினாலும் அவனுக்கு முடிசூட்டி, உம்முடைய கைகளின் செயல்களின்மீது அவனை அதிகாரியாக வைத்து, எல்லாவற்றையும் அவனுடைய பாதங்களுக்குக் கீழ்ப்படுத்தினீர் என்று சொன்னான். ⁸ எல்லாவற்றையும் அவனுக்குக் கீழ்ப்படுத்தினார் என்கிற காரியத்தில், அவர் அவனுக்குக் கீழ்ப்படுத்தாத பொருள் ஒன்றும் இல்லை; ஆனால், இன்னும் எல்லாம் அவனுக்கு கீழ்ப்பட்டிருப்பதைக் காணமுடியவில்லை. ⁹ என்றாலும், தேவனுடைய கிருபையினால் ஒவ்வொருவருக்காகவும், மரணத்தை ருசிபார்க்க தேவதூதர்களைவிட கொஞ்சம் சிறியவராக்கப்பட்டிருந்த இயேசு மகிமையினாலும் கனத்தினாலும் முடிசூட்டப்பட்டதைப் பார்க்கிறோம். ¹⁰ ஏனென்றால், தமக்காகவும் தம்மூலமாகவும் எல்லாவற்றையும் உண்டாக்கினவர், அநேக பிள்ளைகளை மகிமையில் கொண்டுவந்து சேர்க்கும்போது அவர்களுடைய இரட்சிப்பின் அதிபதியை உபத்திரவங்களினாலே பூரணப்படுத்துவது அவருக்கு ஏற்றதாக இருந்தது. ¹¹ எப்படியென்றால், பரிசுத்தம் பண்ணுகிறவரும் பரிசுத்தம் பண்ணப்பட்டவர்களுமாகிய எல்லோரும் ஒருவராலே உண்டாயிருக்கிறார்கள்; இதினால் அவர்களைச் சகோதரர்கள் என்று சொல்ல அவர் வெட்கப்படாமல்: ¹² உம்முடைய நாமத்தை என் சகோதரர்களுக்கு அறிவித்து, சபை நடுவில் உம்மைத் துதித்துப்பாடுவேன் என்றும்; ¹³ நான் அவரிடம் நம்பிக்கையாக இருப்பேன் என்றும்; இதோ, நானும், தேவன் எனக்குக் கொடுத்த பிள்ளைகளும் என்றும் சொல்லியிருக்கிறார். ¹⁴ எனவே, பிள்ளைகள் சரீரத்தையும் இரத்தத்தையும் உடையவர்களாக இருக்க, அவரும் அவர்களைப்போல சரீரத்தையும் இரத்தத்தையும் உடையவரானார்; மரணத்திற்கு அதிகாரியாகிய பிசாசானவனைத் தமது மரணத்தினாலே அழிப்பதற்கும், ¹⁵ ஜீவகாலமெல்லாம் மரணபயத்தினாலே அடிமைத்தனத்தில் வாழ்ந்தவர்கள் எல்லோரையும் விடுதலைபண்ணுவதற்கும் அப்படியானார். ¹⁶ எனவே, அவர் தேவதூதர்களுக்கு உதவியாகக் கைகொடுக்காமல், ஆபிரகாமின் வம்சத்திற்கு உதவியாகக் கைகொடுத்தார். ¹⁷ அன்றியும், அவர் மக்களின் பாவங்களை நிவர்த்தி செய்வதற்காக, தேவகாரியங்களைக்குறித்து இரக்கமும் உண்மையும் உள்ள பிரதான ஆசாரியராக இருப்பதற்கு எல்லாவிதத்திலும் தம்முடைய சகோதரர்களைப்போல மாறவேண்டியதாக இருந்தது. ¹⁸ எனவே, அவர்தாமே சோதிக்கப்பட்டுப் பாடுகள்பட்டதினாலே, அவர் சோதிக்கப்படுகிறவர்களுக்கு உதவிசெய்ய வல்லவராக இருக்கிறார்.

அத்தியாயம்- 3

¹ இப்படியிருக்க, பரலோக அழைப்புக்குப் பங்குள்ளவர்களாகிய பரிசுத்த சகோதரர்களே, நாம் அறிக்கைபண்ணுகிற அப்போஸ்தலர்களும் பிரதான ஆசாரியருமாக இருக்கிற கிறிஸ்து இயேசுவைக் கவனித்துப்பாருங்கள்; ² மோசே தேவனுடைய வீட்டில் எல்லாவற்றிலும் உண்மையுள்ளவனாக இருந்ததுபோல இவரும் தம்மை நியமித்தவருக்கு உண்மையுள்ளவராக இருந்தார். ³ வீட்டைக் கட்டுகிறவன் வீட்டைவிட அதிக கனத்திற்குரியவனாக இருக்கிறான்; அதுபோல மோசேயைவிட இவர் அதிக மகிமைக்குத் தகுதியானவராக இருக்கிறார். ⁴ ஏனென்றால், எந்த வீடும் ஒருவனால் உண்டாக்கப்படும்; எல்லாவற்றையும் உண்டுபண்ணினவர் தேவன். ⁵ சொல்லப்படப்போகிற காரியங்களுக்குச் சாட்சியாக, மோசே பணிவிடைக்காரனாக, தேவனுடைய வீட்டில் எல்லாவற்றிலும் உண்மையுள்ளவனாக இருந்தான். ⁶ கிறிஸ்துவோ தேவனுடைய வீட்டில் அதிகாரமுள்ள மகனாக உண்மையுள்ளவராக இருக்கிறார்; நம்பிக்கையினாலே உண்டாகும் தைரியத்தையும் மேன்மைபாராட்டலையும் முடிவுவரைக்கும் உறுதியாகப் பற்றிக்கொண்டிருப்போம் என்றால், நாமே அவருடைய வீடாக இருப்போம்.

⁷ எனவே, பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவர் சொல்லுகிறபடி: இன்று அவருடைய சத்தத்தைக் கேட்பீர்களானால், ⁸ வனாந்திரத்திலே கோபமூட்டினபோதும், சோதனைநாளிலும் நடந்ததுபோல, உங்களுடைய இருதயங்களைக் கடினப்படுத்தாமல் இருங்கள். ⁹ அங்கே உங்களுடைய முற்பிதாக்கள் என்னைச் சோதித்து, என்னைப் பரீட்சைபார்த்து, நாற்பது வருடகாலங்கள் என் செய்கைகளைப் பார்த்தார்கள். ¹⁰ எனவே, நான் அந்த வம்சத்தாரை வெறுத்து, அவர்கள் எப்பொழுதும் வழுவியபோகிற இருதயமுள்ள மக்களென்றும், என்னுடைய வழிகளைத் தெரியாதவர்களென்றும் சொல்லி; ¹¹ என்னுடைய இளைப்பாறுதலில் அவர்கள் பிரவேசிக்கமாட்டார்கள் என்று என்னுடைய கோபத்திலே ஆணையிட்டேன் என்றார். ¹² சகோதரர்களே, ஜீவனுள்ள தேவனைவிட்டு விலகுவதற்கான அவிசுவாசமுள்ள பொல்லாத இருதயம் உங்களில் யாருக்கும் இல்லாதபடி நீங்கள் எச்சரிக்கையாக இருங்கள். ¹³ உங்களில் ஒருவரும் பாவத்தின் ஏமாற்றுதலினாலே கடினப்பட்டுப்போகாமல் இருக்க, இன்று என்று சொல்லப்படும் நாள்வரை ஒவ்வொருநாளும் ஒருவருக்கொருவர் புத்திசொல்லுங்கள். ¹⁴ நாம் ஆரம்பத்திலே கொண்ட நம்பிக்கையை முடிவுவரைக்கும் உறுதியாகப் பிடித்துக்கொண்டிருப்போமானால், கிறிஸ்துவிடம் பங்குள்ளவர்களாக இருப்போம். ¹⁵ இன்று அவருடைய சத்தத்தைக் கேட்பீர்களானால், கோபமூட்டுதலில் நடந்ததுபோல உங்களுடைய இருதயங்களைக் கடினப்படுத்தாமல் இருங்கள் என்று சொல்லியிருக்கிறதே. ¹⁶ கேட்டவர்களில் கோபமூட்டினவர்கள் யார்? மோசேயினால் எகிப்திலிருந்து புறப்பட்ட எல்லோரும் அப்படிச் செய்தார்களல்லவா? ¹⁷ மேலும், அவர் நாற்பது வருடங்களாக யாரை வெறுத்தார்? பாவம் செய்தவர்களைத்தானே? அவர்களுடைய மரித்த சடலங்கள் வனாந்திரத்தில் விழுந்துபோனதே. ¹⁸ பின்னும், என்னுடைய இளைப்பாறுதலில் பிரவேசிக்கமாட்டார்கள் என்று அவர் யாரைப்பற்றி ஆணையிட்டார்? கீழ்ப்படியாதவர்களைப்பற்றித்தானே? ¹⁹ எனவே, அவிசுவாசத்தினாலே அவர்கள் அதில் பிரவேசிக்கமுடியாமல் போனார்கள் என்று பார்க்கிறோம்.

அத்தியாயம்- 4

¹ ஆகவே, அவருடைய இளைப்பாறுதலில் பிரவேசிப்பதற்குத் தகுந்த வாக்குத்தத்தம் நமக்கு உண்டாயிருக்க, உங்களில் ஒருவனும் அதை அடையாமல் பின்வாங்கிப்போனவனாக இல்லாமலிருக்கக் கவனமாக இருப்போம். ² ஏனென்றால், நற்செய்தி அவர்களுக்கு அறிவிக்கப்பட்டதுபோல நமக்கும் அறிவிக்கப்பட்டது; கேட்டவர்கள் விசுவாசம் இல்லாமல் கேட்டதினால், அவர்கள் கேட்ட வசனம் அவர்களுக்குப் பயனுள்ளதாக இருக்கவில்லை. ³ விசுவாசித்த நாமோ அந்த இளைப்பாறுதலில் நுழைகிறோம்; விசுவாசியாதவர்களைக் குறித்து தேவன்: இவர்கள் என்னுடைய இளைப்பாறுதலில் நுழையமாட்டார்கள் என்று என்னுடைய கோபத்திலே ஆணையிட்டேன் என்றார். அவருடைய செயல்கள் உலகம் தோன்றிய காலத்திலேயே முடிந்திருந்தும் இப்படிச் சொன்னார். ⁴ ஏனென்றால், தேவன் தம்முடைய செயல்களையெல்லாம் முடித்து ஏழாம் நாளிலே ஓய்ந்திருந்தார் என்று ஏழாம்நாளைக்குறித்து ஒரு இடத்தில் சொல்லியிருக்கிறார். ⁵ அன்றியும், அவர்கள் என்னுடைய இளைப்பாறுதலில் நுழையமாட்டார்கள் என்றும் அந்த இடத்திலேதானே சொல்லியிருக்கிறார். ⁶ எனவே, சிலர் அதில் பிரவேசிப்பது இன்னும் வரப்போகிற காரியமாக இருக்கிறதினாலும், நற்செய்தியை முதலாவது கேட்டவர்கள் கீழ்ப்படியாததினாலே அதில் நுழையாமல்போனதினாலும், ⁷ இன்று அவருடைய சத்தத்தைக் கேட்பீர்களானால் உங்களுடைய இருதயங்களைக் கடினப்படுத்தாமல் இருங்கள் என்று நீண்டகாலத்திற்குப்பின்பு தாவிதின் சங்கீதத்திலே சொல்லியிருக்கிறபடி, இன்று என்று சொல்வதினாலே பின்னும் ஒரு நாளைக் குறித்திருக்கிறார். ⁸ யோசுவா அவர்களை இளைப்பாறுதலுக்குள் நடத்தியிருந்தால், பின்பு அவர் மற்றொரு நாளைக்குறித்துச் சொல்லியிருக்கமாட்டாரே. ⁹ எனவே, தேவனுடைய மக்களுக்கு இளைப்பாறுகிற காலம் இனி வருகிறதாக இருக்கிறது. ¹⁰ ஏனென்றால், அவருடைய இளைப்பாறுதலில் நுழைந்தவன், தேவன் தம்முடைய செயல்களை முடித்து ஓய்ந்ததுபோல, தானும் தன் செயல்களை முடித்து ஓய்ந்திருப்பான். ¹¹ எனவே, இந்த மாதிரியின்படி ஒருவனும் கீழ்ப்படியாமையினாலே விழுந்துபோகாமல் இருக்க, நாம் இந்த இளைப்பாறுதலில் நுழைய கவனமாக இருப்போம். ¹² தேவனுடைய வார்த்தையானது ஜீவனும் வல்லமையும் உள்ளதாகவும், இரண்டு பக்கமும் கூர்மையான எல்லாப் பட்டயத்தையும்விட கூர்மையானதாகவும், ஆத்துமாவையும், ஆவியையும், கணுக்களையும் ஊனையும் பிரிக்க உருவக் குத்துகிறதாகவும், இருதயத்தின் நினைவுகளையும் யோசனைகளையும் பகுத்தறிகிறதாகவும் இருக்கிறது. ¹³ அவருடைய பார்வைக்கு மறைவான படைப்பு ஒன்றும் இல்லை; எல்லாம் அவருடைய கண்களுக்குமுன்பாக மறைக்கப்படாததாகவும், வெளிப்படையாகவும் இருக்கிறது, அவருக்கே நாம் கணக்கு ஒப்புவிக்கவேண்டும்.

¹⁴ வானங்களின்வழியாகப் பரலோகத்திற்குப்போன தேவகுமாரனாகிய இயேசு என்னும் மகா பிரதான ஆசாரியர் நமக்கு இருக்கிறதினால், நாம் பண்ணின அறிக்கையை உறுதியாகப் பற்றிக்கொண்டிருப்போம். ¹⁵ நம்முடைய பலவீனங்களைக்குறித்துப் பரிதாபப்படமுடியாத பிரதான ஆசாரியர் நமக்கு இல்லாமல், எல்லாவிதத்திலும் நம்மைப்போல சோதிக்கப்பட்டும், பாவம் இல்லாதவராக இருக்கிற பிரதான ஆசாரியரே நமக்கு இருக்கிறார். ¹⁶ எனவே, நாம் இரக்கத்தைப் பெற்றுக்கொள்ளவும், சரியான நேரத்தில் உதவிசெய்யும் கிருபையை அடையவும், தைரியமாகக் கிருபையின் சிங்காசனத்திடம் சேருவோம்.

அத்தியாயம்- 5

¹ அன்றியும், மனிதர்களில் இருந்து தெரிந்துகொள்ளப்பட்ட எந்தப் பிரதான ஆசாரியனும் பாவங்களுக்காகக் காணிக்கைகளையும் பலிகளையும் செலுத்த, மனிதர்களுக்காக தேவகாரியங்கள் செய்வதற்கு நியமிக்கப்படுகிறான். ² பிரதான ஆசாரியனும் பலவீனமுள்ளவனாக இருக்கிறதினாலே, அறியாதவர்களுக்கும் வழி தவறிப்போனவர்களுக்கும் இரங்கத்தக்கவனாக இருக்கிறான். ³ இதனால், அவன் மக்களுடைய பாவங்களுக்காகப் பலியிடவேண்டியதுபோல, தன்னுடைய பாவங்களுக்காகவும் பலியிடவேண்டியதாக இருக்கிறது. ⁴ மேலும், ஆரோனைப்போல தேவனால் அழைக்கப்படாமல், ஒருவனும் இந்தக் கனமான ஊழியத்திற்குத் தானாக ஏற்படுகிறதில்லை. ⁵ அப்படியே கிறிஸ்துவும் பிரதான ஆசாரியராகிறதற்குத் தம்மைத்தாமே உயர்த்தவில்லை; நீர் என்னுடைய நேசகுமாரன், இன்று நான் உம் தகப்பனானேன் என்று அவரோடு சொன்னவரே அவரை உயர்த்தினார். ⁶ அப்படியே வேறொரு இடத்திலும்: நீர் மெல்கிசேதேக்கின் முறைமையின்படி என்றென்றைக்கும் ஆசாரியராக இருக்கிறீர் என்று சொல்லியிருக்கிறார். ⁷ அவர் சரீரத்தில் இருந்த நாட்களில், தம்மை மரணத்திலிருந்து இரட்சிக்க வல்லமை உள்ளவரை நோக்கி பலத்த சத்தத்தோடும் கண்ணீரோடும் ஜெபப்பண்ணி, வேண்டுதல்செய்து, தமக்கு உண்டான பயபக்தியினால் கேட்கப்பட்டு, ⁸ அவர் குமாரனாக இருந்தும், அவர் பட்டபாடுகளினாலே கீழ்ப்படிதலைக் கற்றுக்கொண்டு, ⁹ தாம் பூரணரானபின்பு, தமக்குக் கீழ்ப்படிகிற எல்லோரும் நித்திய இரட்சிப்பை அடைவதற்குக் காரணராகி, ¹⁰ மெல்கிசேதேக்கின் முறைமையின்படியான பிரதான ஆசாரியர் என்று தேவனாலே பெயர் கொடுக்கப்பட்டது.

¹¹ இந்த மெல்கிசேதேக்கைப்பற்றி நாம் அதிகமாகப் பேசலாம்; நீங்கள் கேட்பதில் மந்தமாக இருப்பதினால், அதை உங்களுக்கு விளக்கிச் சொல்லுகிறது எனக்குக் கடினமாக இருக்கும். ¹² காலத்தைப் பார்த்தால், போதகர்களாக இருக்கவேண்டிய உங்களுக்கு தேவனுடைய வார்த்தைகளின் அடிப்படை உபதேசங்களை மீண்டும் உபதேசிக்கவேண்டியதாக இருக்கிறது; நீங்கள் திடமான உணவைச் சாப்பிடுகிறவர்களாக இல்லை, பாலைக் குடிக்கிறவர்களானீர்கள். ¹³ பாலைக் குடிக்கிறவன் குழந்தையாக இருக்கிறதினாலே நீதியின் வசனத்தில் அனுபவம் இல்லாதவனாக இருக்கிறான். ¹⁴ திடமான உணவானது, நன்மை எது? தீமை எது? என்று புரிந்துகொள்ளும் பயிற்சியினால் சரியானது என்ன? தவறானது என்ன? என்று பகுத்தறியும் அனுபவம் உள்ளவர்களாகிய தேறினவர்களுக்கே உரியது.

அத்தியாயம்- 6

¹ ஆகவே, கிறிஸ்துவைப்பற்றிச் சொல்லிய அடிப்படை உபதேசவசனங்களை நாம்விட்டுவிட்டு, செத்த செய்கைகளைவிட்டு மனம்திரும்புதல், தேவன்மேல் வைக்கும் விசுவாசம், ² ஞானஸ்நான உபதேசம், கரங்களை வைத்தல், மரித்தோரின் உயிர்த்தெழுதல், நித்திய நியாயத்தீர்ப்பு என்ற உபதேசங்களாகிய அஸ்திபாரத்தை மீண்டும் போடாமல், தேறினவர்களாகும்படி கடந்துபோவோம். ³ தேவனுக்கு விருப்பமானால் இப்படியே செய்வோம். ⁴ ஏனென்றால், ஒருமுறை பிரகாசிக்கப்பட்டும், பரலோக பரிசை ருசிபார்த்தும், பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவரைப் பெற்றும், ⁵ தேவனுடைய நல்வார்த்தையையும் இனிவரும் உலகத்தின் பெலன்களையும் ருசிபார்த்தும், ⁶ மறுதலித்துப்போனவர்கள், தேவனுடைய குமாரனைத் தாங்களே மீண்டும் சிலுவையில் அறைந்து அவமானப்படுத்துகிறதினால், மனந்திரும்புவதற்காக அவர்களை மீண்டும் புதுப்பிக்கிறது முடியாதகாரியம். ⁷ எப்படியென்றால், தன்மேல் அடிக்கடி பெய்கிற மழைநீரைக் குடித்து, தன்னிடம் பயிரிடுகிறவர்களுக்குத் தேவையான பயிரை முளைப்பிக்கும் நிலமானது தேவனால் ஆசீர்வாதம் பெறும். ⁸ முள்செடிகளையும் முள்பூண்டுகளையும் முளைப்பிக்கிற நிலமோ மதிப்பில்லாததும், சபிக்கப்படுகிறதாகவும் இருக்கிறது; சுட்டெரிக்கப்படுவதே அதின் முடிவு. ⁹ பிரியமானவர்களே, நாங்கள் இப்படிச் சொன்னாலும், நன்மையானவைகளும் இரட்சிப்பிற்குரிய காரியங்களும் உங்களிடம் உண்டாயிருக்கிறதென்று நம்பியிருக்கிறோம். ¹⁰ ஏனென்றால், உங்களுடைய செயல்களையும், நீங்கள் பரிசுத்தவான்களுக்கு ஊழியம் செய்ததினாலும், செய்து வருகிறதினாலும் அவருடைய நாமத்திற்காகக் காண்பித்த உங்களுடைய அன்பையும் மறந்துவிடுகிறதற்கு தேவன் அநீதியுள்ளவர் இல்லையே. ¹¹ நீங்கள் அசதியாக இல்லாமல், வாக்குத்தத்தமான ஆசீர்வாதங்களை விசுவாசத்தினாலும் அதிக பொறுமையினாலும் சுதந்தரித்துக்கொள்ளுகிறவர்களைப் பின்பற்றுகிறவர்களாக இருந்து, ¹² உங்களுக்கு நம்பிக்கையின் பூரணநிச்சயம் உண்டாக நீங்கள் எல்லோரும் முடிவுவரைக்கும் அதிக கவனத்தைக் காண்பிக்கவேண்டும் என்று ஆசையாக இருக்கிறோம்.

¹³ ஆபிரகாமுக்கு தேவன் வாக்குத்தத்தம்பண்ணினபோது, ஆணையிடுவதற்கு தம்மைவிட பெரியவர் ஒருவரும் இல்லாததினாலே தமது நாமத்தினாலே ஆணையிட்டு: ¹⁴ நிச்சயமாக நான் உன்னை ஆசீர்வதிக்கவே ஆசீர்வதித்து, உன்னைப்பெருகவே பெருகப்பண்ணுவேன் என்றார். ¹⁵ அப்படியே, அவன் பொறுமையாகக் காத்திருந்து, வாக்குத்தத்தம்பண்ணப்பட்டதைப் பெற்றுக்கொண்டான். ¹⁶ மனிதர்கள் தங்களைவிட பெரியவர்கள் பெயரில் ஆணையிடுவார்கள்; எல்லா விவாதங்களிலும் உறுதிப்படுத்துவதற்கு ஆணையிடுதலே முடிவு. ¹⁷ அப்படியே, தேவனும் வாக்குத்தத்தம்பண்ணப்பட்டவைகளைச் சுதந்தரித்துக்கொள்ளுகிறவர்களுக்குத் தமது ஆலோசனையின் மாறாத நிச்சயத்தைப் பரிபூரணமாகக் காண்பிக்க விருப்பம் உள்ளவராக, ஒரு ஆணையினாலே அதை உறுதிப்படுத்தினார். ¹⁸ நமக்கு முன்பாக வைக்கப்பட்ட நம்பிக்கையைப் பற்றிக்கொள்வதற்கு அடைக்கலமாக ஓடிவந்த நமக்கு இரண்டு மாறாத விசேஷங்களினால் நிறைந்த ஆறுதல் உண்டாவதற்கு, கொஞ்சம்கூட பொய் சொல்லாத தேவன் அப்படிச் செய்தார். ¹⁹ அந்த நம்பிக்கை நமக்கு நிலையானதும், ஆத்துமாக்களுக்கு உறுதியான நங்கூரமாகவும், திரைக்குப் பின்னே மகா பரிசுத்த இடத்திற்குள் பிரவேசிக்கிறதாகவும் இருக்கிறது. ²⁰ நமக்கு முன்னோடியானவராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்து, மெல்கிசேதேக்கின் முறைமையில் நித்திய பிரதான ஆசாரியராக நமக்காக அந்தத் திரைக்குள் பிரவேசித்திருக்கிறார்.

அத்தியாயம்- 7

¹ இந்த மெல்கிசேதேக்கு சாலேமின் ராஜாவும், உன்னதமான தேவனுடைய ஆசாரியனுமாக இருந்தான்; ராஜாக்களை முறியடித்து திரும்பிவந்த ஆபிரகாமுக்கு இவன் எதிர்கொண்டுபோய், அவனை ஆசீர்வதித்தான். ² இவனுக்கு ஆபிரகாம் எல்லாவற்றிலும் தசமபாகம் கொடுத்தான்; இவனுடைய முதல் பெயராகிய மெல்கிசேதேக்கு என்பதற்கு நீதியின் ராஜா என்றும், பின்பு சாலேமின் ராஜா என்பதற்கு சமாதானத்தின் ராஜா என்றும் அர்த்தமாகும். ³ இவன் தகப்பனும், தாயும், வம்சவரலாறும் இல்லாதவன்; இவன் வாழ்நாட்களின் துவக்கமும், முடிவும் இல்லாதவனாக, தேவனுடைய குமாரனைப்போல என்றென்றைக்கும் ஆசாரியனாக நிலைத்திருக்கிறான். ⁴ இவன் எவ்வளவு பெரியவனாக இருக்கிறான் பாருங்கள்; கோத்திரத்தலைவனாகிய ஆபிரகாம் கூட கொள்ளையிடப்பட்ட பொருள்களில் இவனுக்குத் தசமபாகம் கொடுத்தான். ⁵ லேவியின் குமாரர்களில் ஆசாரியத்துவத்தை அடைகிறவர்களும், ஆபிரகாமின் வம்சத்திலிருந்து வந்த தங்களுடைய சகோதரர்களான மக்களிடம் நியாயப்பிரமாணத்தின்படி தசமபாகம் வாங்குகிறதற்குக் கட்டளைப் பெற்றிருக்கிறார்கள். ⁶ ஆனாலும், அவர்களுடைய வம்சவரிசையில் வராதவனாகிய மெல்கிசேதேக்கு ஆபிரகாமிடம் தசமபாகம் வாங்கி, வாக்குத்தத்தங்களைப் பெற்றிருந்த அவனை ஆசீர்வதித்தான். ⁷ சிறியவன் பெரியவனாலே ஆசீர்வதிக்கப்படுவான், அதில் சந்தேகம் இல்லை. ⁸ அன்றியும், இங்கே, தசமபாகம் வாங்குகிற மனிதர்கள் ஒருநாளில் மரித்துப்போவார்கள்; அங்கேயோ, ஆபிரகாமிடம் தசமபாகத்தைப் பெற்றுக்கொண்டவன், உயிரோடு இருப்பவன் என்று சாட்சிபெற்றவன். ⁹ அன்றியும், மெல்கிசேதேக்கு ஆபிரகாமுக்கு எதிர்கொண்டுபோனபோது, லேவியானவன் தன் முற்பிதாவாகிய ஆபிரகாமின் சரீரத்தில் இருந்ததினால், ¹⁰ தசமபாகம் வாங்குகிற அவனும் ஆபிரகாமின் மூலமாகத் தசமபாகம் கொடுத்தான் என்று சொல்லலாம்.

¹¹ அல்லாமலும், இஸ்ரவேல் மக்கள் லேவி கோத்திர ஆசாரிய முறைமைக்கு உட்பட்டிருந்துதான் நியாயப்பிரமாணத்தைப் பெற்றார்கள்; அந்த ஆசாரியமுறைமையினாலே பூரணப்படுதல் உண்டாயிருக்குமானால், ஆரோனுடைய முறைமையின்படி அழைக்கப்படாமல், மெல்கிசேதேக்குடைய முறைமையின்படி அழைக்கப்பட்ட வேறொரு ஆசாரியர் எழும்பவேண்டியது என்ன? ¹² ஆசாரியத்துவம் மாற்றப்பட்டிருந்தால், நியாயப்பிரமாணமும் மாற்றப்படவேண்டும். ¹³ இவைகள் யாரைப்பற்றிச் சொல்லப்பட்டிருக்கிறதோ, அவர் வேறு கோத்திரத்தைச் சேர்ந்தவராக இருக்கிறாரே; அந்தக் கோத்திரத்தில் ஒருவனும் பலிபீடத்து ஊழியம் செய்தது இல்லையே. ¹⁴ நம்முடைய கர்த்தர் யூதாக்கோத்திரத்தில் தோன்றினார் என்பது தெளிவாக இருக்கிறது; அந்தக் கோத்திரத்தாரின் ஆசாரியத்துவத்தைப்பற்றி மோசே ஒன்றும் சொல்லவில்லையே. ¹⁵ அல்லாமலும், மெல்கிசேதேக்கைப்போல வேறொரு ஆசாரியர் எழும்புகிறார் என்று சொல்லியிருப்பது மிகவும் தெளிவாக விளங்குகிறது. ¹⁶ அவர் சரீர் சம்பந்தமான கட்டளையாகிய நியாயப்பிரமாணத்தினால் ஆசாரியர் ஆகாமல், ¹⁷ நீர் மெல்கிசேதேக்கின் முறைமையின்படி என்றென்றைக்கும் ஆசாரியராக இருக்கிறீர் என்று சொல்லிய சாட்சிக்குத் தகுந்தபடி அழியாத ஜீவனுக்குரிய வல்லமையின்படியே ஆசாரியர் ஆனார். ¹⁸ முந்தின கட்டளை பெலவீனமுள்ளதும் பயன் இல்லாததுமாக இருந்ததினால் மாற்றப்பட்டது. ¹⁹ நியாயப்பிரமாணமானது ஒன்றையும் பூரணப்படுத்தவில்லை, ஆனால், சிறந்த நம்பிக்கை நமக்குக் கொடுக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது; அந்த நம்பிக்கையினாலே தேவனுக்கு அருகில் சேருகிறோம். ²⁰ அன்றியும், அவர்கள் ஆணையில்லாமல் ஆசாரியர்களாக்கப்படுகிறார்கள்; இவரோ; நீர் மெல்கிசேதேக்கின் முறைமையின்படி என்றென்றைக்கும் ஆசாரியராக இருக்கிறீர் என்று கர்த்தர் ஆணையிட்டார், மனம்மாறாமலும் இருப்பார் என்று தம்மோடு சொன்னவராலே ஆணையோடு ஆசாரியர் ஆனார். ²¹ எனவே, இயேசுவானவர் ஆணையின்படியே ஆசாரியராக்கப்பட்டது எவ்வளவு சிறந்த காரியமோ, ²² அவ்வளவு சிறந்த உடன்படிக்கைக்கு உத்திரவாதமானார். ²³ அன்றியும், அவர்கள் மரணத்தினால் ஆசாரிய ஊழியத்தில் நிலைத்திருக்க முடியாததினால், அநேகர் ஆசாரியர்களாக்கப்படுகிறார்கள். ²⁴ ஆனால், இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவோ என்றென்றைக்கும் நிலைத்திருக்கிறதினால், அவருடைய ஆசாரியத்துவம் என்றும் மாறாதது. ²⁵ மேலும், அவர் மூலமாக தேவனிடம் சேருகிறவர்களுக்காக வேண்டுதல்செய்ய அவர் எப்பொழுதும் உயிரோடு இருப்பதால் அவர்களை முழுவதும் இரட்சிக்க வல்லவராகவும் இருக்கிறார். ²⁶ பரிசுத்தமுள்ளவரும், குற்றம் இல்லாதவரும், மாசு இல்லாதவரும், பாவிக்கு விலகினவரும், வானங்களிலும் உயர்ந்தவருமாக இருக்கிற பிரதான ஆசாரியரே நமக்கு இருக்கிறார். ²⁷ அவர் பிரதான ஆசாரியர்களைப்போல முதலில் தன் சொந்தப் பாவங்களுக்காகவும், பின்பு மக்களுடைய பாவங்களுக்காகவும் தினமும் பலியிடவேண்டியதில்லை; ஏனென்றால், தம்மைத்தாமே பலியிட்டபோதே இதை ஒரேமுறை செய்துமுடித்தார். ²⁸ நியாயப்பிரமாணம் பெலவீனமுள்ள மனிதர்களைப் பிரதான ஆசாரியர்களாக ஏற்படுத்துகிறது; ஆனால், நியாயப்பிரமாணத்திற்குப்பின்பு வந்த ஆணையின் வசனமோ,

என்றென்றைக்கும் பூரண பிரதான ஆசாரியராக இருக்கிற தேவகுமாரனை பிரதான ஆசாரியராக ஏற்படுத்தியது.

அத்தியாயம்- 8

¹ மேலே சொல்லியவைகளின் முக்கியமான பொருள் என்னவென்றால்; பரலோகத்தில் உள்ள மகத்துவமான சிங்காசனத்தின் வலதுபக்கத்திலே உட்கார்ந்திருக்கிறவருமாக, ² பரிசுத்த இடத்திலும், மனிதர்களால் அல்ல, கர்த்தரால் நிறுவப்பட்ட உண்மையான கூடாரத்திலும் ஆசாரிய ஊழியம் செய்கிறவருமாக இருக்கிற பிரதான ஆசாரியர் நமக்கு உண்டு. ³ ஒவ்வொரு பிரதான ஆசாரியனும் காணிக்கைகளையும் பலிகளையும் செலுத்துவதற்காக நியமிக்கப்படுகிறான்; ஆகவே, செலுத்துவதற்கு ஏதாவது ஒன்று இவருக்கும் அவசியமாக இருக்கிறது. ⁴ பூமியிலே கிறிஸ்து இருப்பாரானால் ஆசாரியராக இருக்கமாட்டார்; ஏனென்றால், நியாயப்பிரமாணத்தின்படி காணிக்கைகளைச் செலுத்துகிற ஆசாரியர்கள் இருக்கிறார்களே; ⁵ இவர்கள் செய்யும் ஆராதனை பரலோகத்தில் இருப்பவைகளின் சாயலுக்கும் நிழலுக்கும் ஒத்திருக்கிறது; அப்படியே, மோசே கூடாரத்தைக் கட்டப் போகும்போது; மலையிலே உனக்குக் காண்பிக்கப்பட்ட மாதிரியின்படியே நீ எல்லாவற்றையும் செய்ய எச்சரிக்கையாக இரு என்று தேவன் அவனுக்குக் கட்டளையிட்டார். ⁶ கிறிஸ்துவானவர் விசேஷித்த வாக்குத்தத்தங்களினால் நிறுவிக்கப்பட்ட விசேஷித்த உடன்படிக்கைக்கு எப்படி மத்தியஸ்தராக இருக்கிறாரோ, அப்படியே முக்கியமான ஆசாரிய ஊழியத்தையும் பெற்றிருக்கிறார். ⁷ அந்த முதலாம் உடன்படிக்கை பிழையில்லாமல் இருந்தால், இரண்டாம் உடன்படிக்கை தேவையில்லையே. ⁸ அவர்களைக் குற்றப்படுத்தி, அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: இதோ, கர்த்தர் சொல்லுகிறது என்னவென்றால்: இஸ்ரவேல் குடும்பத்தோடும் யூதா குடும்பத்தோடும் நான் புதிய உடன்படிக்கையை ஏற்படுத்தும் காலம் வருகிறது. ⁹ அவர்களுடைய முற்பிதாக்களை எகிப்துதேசத்திலிருந்து கொண்டு வர நான் அவர்களுடைய கையைப் பிடித்த நாளிலே அவர்களோடு செய்த உடன்படிக்கையைப்போல இது இருப்பதில்லை; அந்த உடன்படிக்கையிலே அவர்கள் நிலைத்து நிற்கவில்லையே, நானும் அவர்களைப் புறக்கணித்தேன் என்று கர்த்தர் சொல்லுகிறார். ¹⁰ அந்த நாட்களுக்குப்பின்பு நான் இஸ்ரவேல் குடும்பத்தாரோடு செய்யும் உடன்படிக்கையாவது: என்னுடைய பிரமாணங்களை அவர்களுடைய மனதிலே வைத்து, அவர்களுடைய இருதயங்களில் அவைகளை எழுதுவேன்; நான் அவர்கள் தேவனாக இருப்பேன், அவர்கள் என் மக்களாக இருப்பார்கள். ¹¹ அப்பொழுது சிறியவன்முதல் பெரியவன்வரைக்கும் எல்லோரும் என்னை அறிவார்கள்; ஆகவே, கர்த்தரை அறிந்துகொள் என்று ஒருவன் தன் அயலானுக்கும், ஒருவன் தன் சகோதரனுக்கும் போதிக்கவேண்டியது இல்லை. ¹² ஏனென்றால், நான் அவர்கள் அநியாயங்களைக் கிருபையாக மன்னித்து, அவர்கள் பாவங்களையும், அக்கிரமங்களையும் இனி நினைக்கமாட்டேன் என்று கர்த்தர் சொல்லுகிறார். ¹³ புதிய உடன்படிக்கை என்று அவர் சொல்லுகிறதினாலே முந்தினதைப் பழமையாக்கினார்; பழமையானதும் நாள்பட்டதுமாக இருக்கிறது உருக்குலைந்துபோகும் காலம் நெருங்கியிருக்கிறது.

அத்தியாயம்- 9

¹ அன்றியும், முதலாம் உடன்படிக்கையானது ஆராதனைக்குரிய முறைமைகளும் பூமிக்குரிய பரிசுத்த இடமும் உடையதாக இருந்தது. ² எப்படியென்றால், ஒரு கூடாரம் உண்டாக்கப்பட்டிருந்தது; அதின் முந்தின பாகத்தில் குத்துவிளக்கும், மேஜையும், தேவ சமூகத்து அப்பங்களும் இருந்தன; அது பரிசுத்த இடம் எனப்படும். ³ இரண்டாம் திரைக்கு உள்ளே மகா பரிசுத்த இடம் என்று சொல்லப்பட்ட கூடாரம் இருந்தது. ⁴ அதிலே தங்கத்தால் செய்த தூபகலசமும், முழுவதும் தங்கத்தகடு பதிக்கப்பட்ட உடன்படிக்கைப் பெட்டியும் இருந்தன; அந்தப் பெட்டியிலே மன்னா வைக்கப்பட்ட தங்கப்பாத்திரமும், ஆரோனுடைய துளிர்த்த கோலும், உடன்படிக்கையின் கற்பலகைகளும் இருந்தன. ⁵ அதற்கு மேலே மகிமையுள்ள கேருபீன்கள் வைக்கப்பட்டுக் கிருபாசனத்தை நிழலிட்டிருந்தன; இவைகளைப்பற்றி விளக்கிச்சொல்ல இப்பொழுது நேரமில்லை. ⁶ இவைகள் இவ்விதமாக ஆயத்தமாக்கப்பட்டிருக்க, ஆசாரியர்கள் ஆராதனை முறைமைகளை நிறைவேற்ற முதலாம் கூடாரத்திற்குள் எப்பொழுதும் பிரவேசிப்பார்கள். ⁷ இரண்டாம் கூடாரத்திற்குள் பிரதான ஆசாரியன்மட்டும் வருடத்திற்கு ஒருமுறை இரத்தத்தை எடுத்துக்கொண்டு உள்ளே பிரவேசித்து, அந்த இரத்தத்தைத் தனக்காகவும் மக்களுடைய தவறுகளுக்காகவும் செலுத்துவான். ⁸ அதினாலே, முதலாம் கூடாரம் நிற்கும்வரைக்கும் மகா பரிசுத்த இடத்திற்குப் போகிற வழி இன்னும் வெளிப்படவில்லை என்று பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவர் தெரியப்படுத்தியிருக்கிறார். ⁹ அந்தக் கூடாரம் இந்தக் காலத்திற்கு உதவுகிற ஒப்பனையாக இருக்கிறது; அதற்கேற்றபடி செலுத்தப்பட்டுவருகிற காணிக்கைகளும் பலிகளும் ஆராதனை செய்கிறவனுடைய மனச்சாட்சியைப் பூரணப்படுத்தமுடியாதவைகள். ¹⁰ உண்பதும், குடிப்பது, பலவிதமான குளியல்களும், சரீரத்திற்குரிய சடங்குகளேதவிர வேறொன்றும் இல்லை. இவைகள் சீர்திருத்தல் உண்டாகும் காலம்வரைக்கும் செய்வதற்கு கட்டளையிடப்பட்டது.

¹¹ கிறிஸ்துவானவர் வரப்போகிற நன்மைகளுக்குரிய பிரதான ஆசாரியராக வெளிப்பட்டு, கையினால் செய்யப்பட்டதாகிய இந்தப் படைப்பு சம்பந்தமான கூடாரத்தின்வழியாக அல்ல, பெரிதும் உத்தமமான கூடாரத்தின்வழியாகவும், ¹² வெள்ளாட்டுக்கடா, இளங்காளை இவைகளுடைய இரத்தத்தினாலே அல்ல, தம்முடைய சொந்த இரத்தத்தினாலும் ஒரேமுறை மகா பரிசுத்த இடத்திற்குள் நுழைந்து, நித்திய மீட்பை உண்டுபண்ணினார். ¹³ அது எப்படியென்றால், காளை வெள்ளாட்டுக்கடா இவைகளின் இரத்தமும், தீட்டுப்பட்டவர்கள்மேல் தெளிக்கப்பட்ட கடாரியின் சாம்பலும், சரீரத்தும் உண்டாகப் பரிசுத்தப்படுத்துமென்றால், ¹⁴ நித்திய ஆவியானவராலே தம்மைத்தாமே பழுதில்லாத பலியாக தேவனுக்கு ஒப்புக்கொடுத்த கிறிஸ்துவினுடைய இரத்தம் ஜீவனுள்ள தேவனுக்கு ஊழியம் செய்வதற்கு உங்களுடைய மனச்சாட்சியைச் செத்த செயல்கள் இல்லாமல் சுத்திகரிப்பது எவ்வளவு நிச்சயம்! ¹⁵ ஆகவே, முதலாம் உடன்படிக்கையின் காலத்திலே நடந்த அக்கிரமங்களை நீக்குவதற்காக அவர் மரணமடைந்து, அழைக்கப்பட்டவர்கள் வாக்குத்தத்தம்பண்ணப்பட்ட நித்திய சுதந்திரத்தை அடைந்துகொள்வதற்காக, புதிய உடன்படிக்கையின் மத்தியஸ்தராக இருக்கிறார். ¹⁶ ஏனென்றால், எங்கே மரணசாசனம் உண்டோ, அங்கே அந்த சாசனத்தை எழுதினவனுடைய மரணமும் உண்டாகவேண்டும். ¹⁷ எப்படியென்றால், மரணம் உண்டான பின்பே மரணசாசனம் உறுதிப்படும்; அதை எழுதினவன் உயிரோடு இருக்கும்போது அதற்குப் பயன் இல்லையே. ¹⁸ அப்படியே, முதலாம் உடன்படிக்கையும் இரத்தம் இல்லாமல் உறுதி செய்யப்படவில்லை. ¹⁹ எப்படியென்றால், மோசே, நியாயப்பிரமாணத்தினால், எல்லா மக்களுக்கும் எல்லாக் கட்டளைகளையும் சொன்னபின்பு, இளங்காளை, வெள்ளாட்டுக்கடா இவைகளின் இரத்தத்தைத் தண்ணீரோடும், சிவப்பான ஆட்டு முடியோடும், ஈசோப்போடும் எடுத்து, புத்தகத்தின் மேலும் மக்கள் எல்லோர்மேலும் தெளித்து: ²⁰ தேவன் உங்களுக்குக் கட்டளையிட்ட உடன்படிக்கையின் இரத்தம் இதுவே என்று சொன்னான். ²¹ இவ்விதமாக, கூடாரத்தின்மேலும் ஆராதனைக்குரிய எல்லாப் பணிமுட்டுகளின்மேலும் இரத்தத்தைத் தெளித்தான். ²² நியாயப்பிரமாணத்தின்படி ஏறக்குறைய எல்லாம் இரத்தத்தினாலே சுத்திகரிக்கப்படும்; இரத்தம் சிந்துதல் இல்லாமல் மன்னிப்பு உண்டாகாது. ²³ ஆகவே, பரலோகத்தில் உள்ளவைகளுக்குச் சாயலானவைகள் இப்படிப்பட்ட பலிகளினாலே சுத்திகரிக்கப்பட வேண்டியதாக இருந்தது; பரலோகத்தில் உள்ளவைகளோ இவைகளிலும் விசேஷித்த பலிகளாலே சுத்திகரிக்கப்படவேண்டியவைகள். ²⁴ அப்படியே, உண்மையான பரிசுத்த இடத்திற்கு அடையாளமான கையினால் செய்யப்பட்ட பரிசுத்த இடத்திலே கிறிஸ்துவானவர் நுழையாமல், பரலோகத்திலே இப்பொழுது நமக்காக தேவனுடைய சமூகத்தில் வேண்டுதல் செய்வதற்காக நுழைந்திருக்கிறார். ²⁵ பிரதான ஆசாரியன் மற்றவர்களுடைய இரத்தத்தோடு ஒவ்வொரு வருடமும் பரிசுத்த இடத்திற்குள் நுழைவதுபோல, அவர் அநேகமுறை தம்மைப் பலியிடுவதற்காக நுழையவில்லை. ²⁶ அப்படியிருந்தால், உலகம் உண்டானதுமுதல் அவர் அநேகமுறை பாடுபடவேண்டியதாக இருக்குமே; அப்படி இல்லை, அவர் தம்மைத்தாமே பலியிடுகிறதினாலே பாவங்களை நீக்க இந்தக் கடைசிகாலத்தில் ஒரேமுறை வெளிப்பட்டார். ²⁷ அன்றியும், ஒரேமுறை இறப்பதும், பின்பு நியாயத்தீர்ப்பு அடைவதும், மனிதர்களுக்கு

நியமிக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறபடியே, ²⁸ கிறிஸ்துவும் அநேகருடைய பாவங்களைச் சுமந்து தீர்ப்பதற்காக ஒரேமுறை பலியிடப்பட்டு, தமக்காகக் காத்துக்கொண்டு இருக்கிறவர்களுக்கு இரட்சிப்பை அருளும்படி இரண்டாவதுமுறை பாவம் இல்லாமல் தரிசனமாவார்.

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¹ இப்படியிருக்க, நியாயப்பிரமாணமானது வரப்போகிற நன்மைகளின் பொருளாக இல்லாமல், அவைகளின் நிழலாகமட்டும் இருக்கிறதினால், ஒவ்வொரு வருடமும் இடைவிடாமல் செலுத்தப்பட்டுவருகிற ஒரேவிதமான பலிகளினாலே அவைகளைச் செலுத்த வருகிறவர்களை ஒருபோதும் பூரணப்படுத்தாது. ² பூரணப்படுத்துமானால், ஆராதனை செய்கிறவர்கள் ஒருமுறை சுத்தமாக்கப்பட்டப்பின்பு, இன்னும் பாவங்கள் உண்டு என்று உணர்த்தும் மனச்சாட்சி அவர்களுக்கு இல்லாததினால், அந்தப் பலிகளைச் செலுத்துகிறது நிறுத்தப்படும் அல்லவா? ³ அப்படி நிறுத்தாததினால், பாவங்கள் உண்டு என்று அவைகளினாலே ஒவ்வொரு வருடமும் நினைவுகூருதல் உண்டாயிருக்கிறது. ⁴ அல்லாமலும், காளை, வெள்ளாட்டுக்கடா இவைகளுடைய இரத்தம் பாவங்களை நிவர்த்தி செய்யமுடியாதே. ⁵ ஆகவே, அவர் உலகத்திற்கு வந்தபோது: பலியையும், காணிக்கையையும் நீர் விரும்பவில்லை, ஒரு சரீரத்தை எனக்கு ஆயத்தம்பண்ணினீர்; ⁶ சர்வாங்க தகனபலிகளும், பாவநிவாரணபலிகளும் உமக்குப் பிரியமானது இல்லை என்றீர். ⁷ அப்பொழுது நான்: தேவனே, உம்முடைய விருப்பத்தின்படிசெய்ய, இதோ, வருகிறேன், புத்தகச்சுருளில் என்னைக்குறித்து எழுதியிருக்கிறது என்று சொன்னேன் என்றார். ⁸ நியாயப்பிரமாணத்தின்படி செலுத்தப்பட்டுவருகிற பலிகளைக்குறித்து மேலே சொன்னதுபோல: பலியையும், காணிக்கையையும், சர்வாங்கதகனபலிகளையும், பாவநிவாரணபலிகளையும் நீர் விரும்பவில்லை, அவைகள் உமக்குப் பிரியமானது இல்லை என்று சொன்னபின்பு: ⁹ தேவனே, உம்முடைய விருப்பத்தின்படிசெய்ய, இதோ, வருகிறேன் என்று சொன்னார். இரண்டாவதை நிலைநிறுத்துவதற்காக முதலாவதை நீக்கிப்போடுகிறார். ¹⁰ இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவினுடைய சரீரம் ஒரேமுறை பலியிடப்பட்டதினாலே, அந்த விருப்பத்தின்படி நாம் பரிசுத்தமாக்கப்பட்டு இருக்கிறோம். ¹¹ அன்றியும், எந்த ஆசாரியனும் தினந்தோறும் ஆராதனை செய்கிறவனாகவும், பாவங்களை ஒருபோதும் நிவர்த்திசெய்யமுடியாத ஒரேவிதமான பலிகளை அநேகமுறை செலுத்திவருகிறவனாகவும் நிற்பான். ¹² இவரோ, பாவங்களுக்காக ஒரே பலியைச் செலுத்தி என்றென்றைக்கும் தேவனுடைய வலதுபக்கத்தில் உட்கார்ந்து, ¹³ இனித் தம்முடைய எதிரிகளைத் தமது பாதத்தின் கீழே போடும்வரைக்கும் காத்துக்கொண்டிருக்கிறார். ¹⁴ ஏனென்றால், பரிசுத்தமாக்கப்படுகிறவர்களை ஒரே பலியினாலே இவர் என்றென்றைக்கும் பூரணப்படுத்தியிருக்கிறார். ¹⁵ இதைப்பற்றி பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவரும் நமக்குச் சாட்சிச்சொல்லுகிறார்; எப்படியென்றால்: ¹⁶ அந்த நாட்களுக்குப்பின்பு நான் அவர்களோடு செய்யும் உடன்படிக்கையாவது: நான் என்னுடைய கட்டளைகளை அவர்களுடைய இருதயங்களில் வைத்து, அவைகளை அவர்களுடைய மனதில் எழுதுவேன் என்று கர்த்தர் சொல்லுகிறார் என்பதை உரைத்தப்பின்பு, ¹⁷ அவர்களுடைய பாவங்களையும் அவர்களுடைய அக்கிரமங்களையும் நான் இனி நினைப்பதில்லை என்பதைச் சொல்லுகிறார். ¹⁸ இவைகள் மன்னிக்கப்பட்டதுண்டானால், இனிப் பாவத்திற்காக பலி செலுத்தப்படுவது இல்லை.

¹⁹ ஆகவே, சகோதரர்களே, நாம் பரிசுத்த இடத்தில் நுழைவதற்கு இயேசுவானவர் தமது சரீரமாகிய திரையின்வழியாகப் புதியதும் ஜீவனுமான வழியை நமக்கு உண்டுபண்ணினதினால், ²⁰ அந்தவழியாக நுழைவதற்கு அவருடைய இரத்தத்தினாலே நமக்குத் தைரியம் உண்டாயிருக்கிறதினாலும், ²¹ தேவனுடைய வீட்டின்மேல் அதிகாரியான பிரதான ஆசாரியர்கள் ஒருவர் நமக்கு இருக்கிறதினாலும், ²² தீயமனச்சாட்சி நீங்கத் தெளிக்கப்பட்ட இருதயம் உள்ளவர்களாகவும், சுத்த தண்ணீரினால் கழுவப்பட்ட சரீரம் உள்ளவர்களாகவும், உண்மையுள்ள இருதயத்தோடும் விசுவாசத்தின் பூரண நிச்சயத்தோடும் சேரக்கடவோம். ²³ அல்லாமலும், நம்முடைய நம்பிக்கையை அறிக்கையிடுவதில் அசைவில்லாமல் உறுதியாக இருப்போம்; வாக்குத்தத்தம்பண்ணினவர் உண்மையுள்ளவராக இருக்கிறாரே. ²⁴ மேலும், அன்புக்கும் நல்ல செய்கைகளுக்கும் நாம் ஏவப்படுவதற்காக ஒருவரையொருவர் கவனித்து; ²⁵ சபை கூடிவருகிறதைச் சிலர் விட்டுவிடுகிறதுபோல நாமும் விட்டுவிடாமல், ஒருவருக்கொருவர் புத்திசொல்லவேண்டும்; நாட்கள் நெருங்கி வருகிறதை எவ்வளவாகப் பார்க்கிறீர்களோ அவ்வளவாகப் புத்திசொல்லவேண்டும். ²⁶ சத்தியத்தை அறியும் அறிவை அடைந்தபின்பு, நாம் மனப்பூர்வமாகப் பாவம் செய்கிறவர்களாக இருந்தால், பாவங்களுக்காக செலுத்தப்படும் வேறொரு பலி இனி இல்லாமல், ²⁷ நியாயத்தீர்ப்பு வரும் என்று பயத்தோடு எதிர்பார்ப்பதும், எதிரிகளை அழிக்கும் கோபத்தின் தண்டனையுமே இருக்கும். ²⁸ மோசேயினுடைய நியாயப்பிரமாணத்தைத் தள்ளுகிறவன் இரக்கம்பெறாமல் இரண்டு மூன்று சாட்சிகளின் வாக்கினாலே சாகிறானே; ²⁹ தேவனுடைய குமாரனைக் காலின் கீழ் மிதித்து, தன்னைப் பரிசுத்தம் செய்த உடன்படிக்கையின் இரத்தத்தை அசுத்தம் என்று நினைத்து, கிருபையின் ஆவியை அவமதிக்கிறவன் எவ்வளவு கொடிய தண்டனைக்கு தகுதியானவனாக இருப்பான் என்பதை யோசித்துப்பாருங்கள். ³⁰ பழிவாங்குதல் என்னுடையது, நானே பதில்செய்வேன் என்று கர்த்தர் சொல்லுகிறார் என்றும், கர்த்தர் தம்முடைய மக்களை நியாயந்தீர்ப்பார் என்றும்

சொன்னவர் யார் என்று அறிவோம். ³¹ ஜீவனுள்ள தேவனுடைய கைகளில் விழுகிறது பயங்கரமாக இருக்குமே. ³² முந்தின நாட்களை நினைத்துக்கொள்ளுங்கள்; நீங்கள் பிரகாசமாக்கப்பட்டிருந்த அந்த நாட்களில் உபத்திரவங்களாகிய அதிக போராட்டத்தைச் சகித்தீர்களே. ³³ நிந்தைகளாலும், உபத்திரவங்களாலும் நீங்கள் வேடிக்கையாக்கப்பட்டதுமட்டுமில்லாமல், அப்படி நடத்தப்பட்டவர்களுக்குப் பங்களிகளுமானீர்கள். ³⁴ நான் கட்டப்பட்டிருக்கும்போது நீங்கள் என்னைக்குறித்துப் பரிதாபப்பட்டதுமில்லாமல், பரலோகத்தில் அதிக மேன்மையும் நிலையுள்ளதுமான சொத்து உங்களுக்கு உண்டு என்று அறிந்து, உங்களுடைய ஆஸ்திகளையும் சந்தோஷமாகக் கொள்ளையிடக் கொடுத்தீர்கள். ³⁵ ஆகவே, அதிக பலனைத் தரும் உங்களுடைய தைரியத்தை விட்டுவிடாமல் இருங்கள். ³⁶ நீங்கள் தேவனுடைய விருப்பத்தின்படிசெய்து, வாக்குத்தத்தம்பண்ணப்பட்டதைப் பெறுவதற்குப் பொறுமை உங்களுக்கு வேண்டியதாக இருக்கிறது. ³⁷ வருகிறவர் இன்னும் கொஞ்சக்காலத்தில் வருவார், தாமதம் செய்யார். ³⁸ விசுவாசத்தினாலே நீதிமான் பிழைப்பான், பின்வாங்கிப்போவான் என்றால் அவன்மேல் என் ஆத்துமா பிரியமாக இருக்காது என்கிறார். ³⁹ நாமோ கெட்டுப்போகப் பின்வாங்குகிறவர்களாக இருக்காமல், ஆத்துமாவைக் காக்க விசுவாசிக்கிறவர்களாக இருக்கிறோம்.

அத்தியாயம்- 11

¹ விசுவாசமானது நம்பப்படுகிறவைகளின் உறுதியும், காணப்படாதவைகளின் நிச்சயமுமாக இருக்கிறது. ² அதினாலே முன்னோர்கள் நற்சாட்சி பெற்றார்கள். ³ விசுவாசத்தினாலே நாம் உலகங்கள் தேவனுடைய வார்த்தையாலே உண்டாக்கப்பட்டது என்றும், இவ்விதமாக, காணப்படுகிறவைகள் காணப்படுகிறவைகளால் உண்டாகவில்லை என்றும் அறிந்திருக்கிறோம். ⁴ விசுவாசத்தினாலே ஆபேல் காயீனுடைய பலியைவிட மேன்மையான பலியை தேவனுக்குச் செலுத்தினான்; அதினாலே அவன் நீதிமான் என்று சாட்சிபெற்றான்; அவனுடைய காணிக்கைகளைப்பற்றி தேவனே சாட்சிகொடுத்தார்; அவன் மரித்தும் இன்னும் பேசுகிறான். ⁵ விசுவாசத்தினாலே ஏனோக்கு மரணமடையாமல் எடுத்துக்கொள்ளப்பட்டான்; தேவன் அவனை எடுத்துக்கொண்டதினால், அவன் காணப்படாமல் போனான்; அவன் தேவனுக்குப் பிரியமானவன் என்று அவன் எடுத்துக்கொள்ளப்படுவதற்கு முன்பே சாட்சிபெற்றான். ⁶ விசுவாசம் இல்லாமல் தேவனுக்குப் பிரியமாக இருப்பது முடியாதகாரியம்; ஏனென்றால், தேவனிடம் சேருகிறவன் அவர் இருக்கிறார் என்றும், அவர் தம்மைத் தேடுகிறவர்களுக்குப் பலன் கொடுக்கிறவர் என்றும் விசுவாசிக்கவேண்டும். ⁷ விசுவாசத்தினாலே நோவா அவனுடைய நாட்களிலே பார்க்காதவைகளைப்பற்றி தேவ எச்சரிப்பைப் பெற்று, பயபக்தியுள்ளவனாக, தன் குடும்பத்தை இரட்சிப்பதற்குக் கப்பலை உண்டாக்கினான்; அதினாலே அவன் உலகம் தண்டனைக்குரியது என்று முடிவுசெய்து, விசுவாசத்தினால் உண்டாகும் நீதிக்கு வாரிசானான். ⁸ விசுவாசத்தினாலே ஆபிரகாம் தான் உரிமைப்பங்காகப் பெறப்போகிற இடத்திற்குப் போக அழைக்கப்பட்டபோது, கீழ்ப்படிந்து, தான் போகும் இடம் எதுவென்று தெரியாமல் புறப்பட்டுப்போனான். ⁹ விசுவாசத்தினாலே அவன் வாக்குத்தத்தம்பண்ணப்பட்ட தேசத்திலே அந்நியனைப்போல வாழ்ந்து, அந்த வாக்குத்தத்தத்திற்கு உடன் வாரிசாகிய ஈசாக்கோடும் யாக்கோபோடும் கூடாரங்களிலே குடியிருந்தான்; ¹⁰ ஏனென்றால், தேவனே கட்டி உண்டாக்கின அஸ்திபாரங்கள் உள்ள நகரத்திற்கு அவன் காத்திருந்தான். ¹¹ விசுவாசத்தினாலே சாரானும் வாக்குத்தத்தம்பண்ணினவர் உண்மையுள்ளவர் என்று எண்ணி, கர்ப்பந்தரிக்கப் பெலன் பெற்று, வயதானவனாக இருந்தும் குழந்தைப் பெற்றான். ¹² எனவே, சரீரம் செத்தவன் என்று நினைக்கப்படும் ஒருவனாலே, வானத்தில் உள்ள அதிகமான நட்சத்திரங்களைப்போலவும் கடற்கரையில் உள்ள எண்ணமுடியாத மணலைப்போலவும் அதிக மக்கள் பிறந்தார்கள். ¹³ இவர்கள் எல்லோரும், வாக்குத்தத்தம்பண்ணப்பட்டவைகளைப் பெறாமல், தூரத்திலே அவைகளைப் பார்த்து, நம்பி, அனைத்துக்கொண்டு, பூமியின்மேல் தங்களை அந்நியர்களும், பரதேசிகளும் என்று அறிக்கையிட்டு விசுவாசத்தோடு மரித்தார்கள். ¹⁴ இப்படி அறிக்கையிடுகிறவர்கள் சொந்த தேசத்தை தேடிப்போகிறோம் என்று தெரியப்படுத்துகிறார்கள். ¹⁵ தாங்கள் விட்டுவந்த தேசத்தை நினைத்தார்கள் என்றால், அதற்குத் திரும்பிப்போவதற்கு அவர்களுக்கு நேரம் கிடைத்திருக்குமே. ¹⁶ அதையல்ல, அதைவிட மேன்மையான பரமதேசத்தையே விரும்பினார்கள்; ஆகவே, தேவன் அவர்களுடைய தேவன் என்று சொல்லப்பட வெட்கப்படுவது இல்லை; அவர்களுக்கு ஒரு நகரத்தை ஆயத்தம்பண்ணினாரே. ¹⁷ மேலும் விசுவாசத்தினாலே ஆபிரகாம் தான் சோதிக்கப்பட்டபோது ஈசாக்கைப் பலியாக ஒப்புக்கொடுத்தான். ¹⁸ ஈசாக்கிடம் உன் வம்சம் விளங்கும் என்று அவனிடம் சொல்லப்பட்டிருந்ததே; இப்படிப்பட்ட வாக்குத்தத்தங்களைப் பெற்றவன், மரித்தோரிலிருந்து உயிரோடு எழுப்ப தேவன் வல்லவராக இருக்கிறார் என்று நினைத்து, ¹⁹ தன்னுடைய ஒரே மகனைப் பலியாக ஒப்புக்கொடுத்தான்; மரித்தோரிலிருந்து அவனை ஒப்பனையாகத் திரும்பவும் பெற்றுக்கொண்டான். ²⁰ விசுவாசத்தினாலே ஈசாக்கு வருகின்ற காரியங்களைக்குறித்து யாக்கோபையும் ஏசாவையும் ஆசீர்வதித்தான். ²¹ விசுவாசத்தினாலே யாக்கோபு தன் மரணகாலத்தில் யோசேப்பினுடைய குமாரர்கள் இருவரையும் ஆசீர்வதித்து, தன் கோலின் முனையிலே சாய்ந்து தொழுதுகொண்டான். ²² விசுவாசத்தினாலே யோசேப்பு இஸ்ரவேல் மக்கள் எகிப்து தேசத்தைவிட்டுப் புறப்படுவார்கள் என்பதைப்பற்றித் தன்னுடைய கடைசிகாலத்தில் பேசி, தன் எலும்புகளைத் தங்களோடு எடுத்துக்கொண்டுபோகக் கட்டளைக் கொடுத்தான். ²³ மோசே பிறந்தபோது அவனுடைய பெற்றோர் அவனை அழகான குழந்தையென்று கண்டு, விசுவாசத்தினாலே, ராஜாவினுடைய கட்டளைக்குப் பயப்படாமல் அவனை மூன்று மாதங்கள் ஒளித்து வைத்தார்கள். ²⁴ விசுவாசத்தினாலே மோசே தான் பெரியவனானபோது பார்வோனுடைய குமாரத்தியின் மகன் என்று சொல்லப்படுவதை வெறுத்து, ²⁵ நிலையில்லாத பாவசந்தோஷங்களை அனுபவிப்பதைவிட தேவனுடைய மக்களோடு துன்பத்தை அனுபவிப்பதையே தெரிந்துகொண்டு, ²⁶ இனிவரும் பலன்மேல் நோக்கமாக இருந்து, எகிப்தில் உள்ள பொக்கிஷங்களைவிட கிறிஸ்துவுக்காக வரும் நிந்தையை அதிக பாக்கியம் என்று நினைத்தான். ²⁷ விசுவாசத்தினாலே அவன் கண்ணுக்குத் தெரியாதவரைக் காண்கிறதுபோல உறுதியாக இருந்து, ராஜாவின் கோபத்திற்குப் பயப்படாமல் எகிப்தைவிட்டுப் போனான். ²⁸ விசுவாசத்தினாலே, தலைப்பிள்ளைகளைக் கொல்லுகிறவன் இஸ்ரவேலரைத் தொடாமல் இருக்க, அவன் பஸ்காவையும் இரத்தம் பூசுதலாகிய நியமத்தையும்

ஆசரித்தான். ²⁹ விசுவாசத்தினாலே அவர்கள் செங்கடலை உலர்ந்த தரையைக் கடந்துபோவதைப்போலக் கடந்துபோனார்கள்; எகிப்தியரும் அப்படிக்கடந்துபோகத் துணிந்து மூழ்கிப்போனார்கள். ³⁰ விசுவாசத்தினாலே எரிகோ பட்டணத்தின் மதில்கள் ஏழுநாட்கள் சுற்றிவரப்பட்டு விழுந்தது. ³¹ விசுவாசத்தினாலே ராகாப் என்னும் வேசி வேவுகாரர்களைச் சமாதானத்தோடு ஏற்றுக்கொண்டு, கீழ்ப்படியாதவர்களோடு சேர்ந்து அழிந்துபோகாமல் இருந்தான். ³² பின்னும் நான் என்ன சொல்லுவேன்? கிதியோன், பாராக், சிம்சோன், யெப்தா, தாவீது, சாமுவேல் என்பவர்களையும், தீர்க்கதரிசிகளையும் குறித்து நான் விபரம் சொல்லவேண்டுமென்றால் காலம்போதாது. ³³ விசுவாசத்தினாலே அவர்கள் ராஜ்யங்களை ஜெயித்தார்கள், நீதியை நடப்பித்தார்கள், வாக்குத்தத்தங்களைப் பெற்றார்கள், சிங்கங்களின் வாய்களை அடைத்தார்கள், ³⁴ அக்கினியின் கோபத்தை அணைத்தார்கள், பட்டயக்கருக்குக்குத் தப்பினார்கள், பலவீனத்தில் பலன் கொண்டார்கள்; யுத்தத்தில் வல்லவர்களானார்கள், அந்நியர்களுடைய படைகளை முறியடித்தார்கள். ³⁵ பெண்கள் சாகக்கொடுத்த தங்களுடையவர்களை உயிரோடு எழுந்திருக்கப் பெற்றார்கள்; வேறுசிலர் மேன்மையான உயிர்த்தெழுதலை அடைவதற்கு, விடுதலைபெறச் சம்மதிக்காமல், வாதிக்கப்பட்டார்கள்; ³⁶ வேறுசிலர் நிந்தைகளையும், அடிகளையும், கட்டுகளையும், சிறைக்காவலையும் அனுபவித்தார்கள்; ³⁷ கல்லெறியப்பட்டார்கள், வாளால் அறுக்கப்பட்டார்கள், பரீட்சைப் பார்க்கப்பட்டார்கள், பட்டயத்தினாலே வெட்டப்பட்டு மரித்தார்கள், செம்மறியாட்டுத் தோல்களையும் வெள்ளாட்டுத் தோல்களையும் போர்த்துக்கொண்டு திரிந்து, குறைவையும், உபத்திரவத்தையும், துன்பத்தையும் அனுபவித்தார்கள்; ³⁸ உலகம் அவர்களுக்குத் தகுதியாக இருக்கவில்லை; அவர்கள் வனாந்திரங்களிலும், மலைகளிலும், குகைகளிலும், பூமியின் வெடிப்புகளிலும், சிதறி அலைந்தார்கள். ³⁹ இவர்கள் எல்லோரும் விசுவாசத்தினாலே நற்சாட்சிபெற்றும், வாக்குத்தத்தம் பண்ணப்பட்டதை பெற்றுக்கொள்ளாமற்போனார்கள். ⁴⁰ நாம் இல்லாமல் அவர்கள் பூரணர்களாகாதபடி விசேஷித்த நன்மையானதை தேவன் நமக்காக முன்னதாகவே நியமித்திருந்தார்.

அத்தியாயம்- 12

¹ ஆகவே, மேகத்தைப்போல இத்தனை அதிகமான சாட்சிகள் நம்மைச் சூழ்ந்துகொண்டிருக்க, பாரமான எல்லாவற்றையும், நம்மைச் சுற்றி நெருங்கி நிற்கிற பாவத்தையும் தள்ளிவிட்டு, விசுவாசத்தைத் துவக்குகிறவரும் முடிக்கிறவருமாக இருக்கிற இயேசுவைப் பார்த்து, நமக்கு நியமித்திருக்கிற ஓட்டத்தில் பொறுமையோடு ஓடுவோம்; ² அவர் தமக்குமுன்பாக வைத்திருந்த சந்தோஷத்தின்பொருட்டு, அவமானத்தை நினைக்காமல், சிலுவையைச் சகித்து, தேவனுடைய சிங்காசனத்தின் வலதுபக்கத்தில் வீற்றிருக்கிறார். ³ ஆகவே, நீங்கள் மனம் தளர்ந்தவர்களாக உங்களுடைய ஆத்துமாக்களில் சோர்ந்துபோகாமல் இருக்க, தமக்கு விரோதமாகப் பாவிகளால் செய்யப்பட்ட இந்தவிதமான வெறுக்கத்தக்க காரியங்களைச் சகித்த அவரையே நினைத்துக்கொள்ளுங்கள். ⁴ பாவத்திற்கு விரோதமாகப் போராடுகிறதில் இரத்தம் சிந்தப்படத்தக்கதாக நீங்கள் இன்னும் எதிர்த்து நிற்கவில்லையே. ⁵ அன்றியும்: என் மகனே, கர்த்தருடைய கண்டிப்பை அற்பமாக நினைக்காதே, அவரால் கடிந்துகொள்ளப்படும்போது சோர்ந்துபோகாதே. ⁶ கர்த்தர் எவனை நேசிக்கிறாரோ அவனை அவர் கண்டித்து, தாம் சேர்த்துக்கொள்ளுகிற எந்த மகனையும் தண்டிக்கிறார் என்று குழந்தைகளுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறதுபோல உங்களுக்குச் சொல்லியிருக்கிற புத்திமதிகளை மறந்தீர்கள். ⁷ நீங்கள் கண்டிக்கப்படுவதை சகிக்கிறவர்களாக இருந்தால் தேவன் உங்களைப் பிள்ளைகளாக எண்ணி நடத்துகிறார்; தகப்பன் கண்டிக்காத பிள்ளைகள் உண்டோ? ⁸ எல்லோருக்கும் கிடைக்கும் கண்டிப்பு உங்களுக்குக் கிடைக்காமல் இருந்தால் நீங்கள் தேவனுடைய பிள்ளைகளாக இல்லாமல் வேசியின் பிள்ளைகளாக இருப்பீர்கள். ⁹ அன்றியும், நம்முடைய சரீரத்தின் தகப்பன்மார்கள் நம்மைக் கண்டிக்கும்போது, அவர்களுக்கு நாம் பயந்து நடந்திருக்க, நாம் பிழைப்பதற்காக ஆவிகளின் பிதாவிற்கு அதிகமாக அடங்கி நடக்கவேண்டுமல்லவா? ¹⁰ அவர்கள் தங்களுக்கு நல்லதென்று தோன்றினபடி கொஞ்சக்காலம் கண்டித்தார்கள்; இவரோ தம்முடைய பரிசுத்தத்திற்கு நாம் பங்குள்ளவர்களாவதற்காக நம்முடைய பிரயோஜனத்துக்காகவே நம்மைக் கண்டிக்கிறார் ¹¹ எந்தக் கண்டித்தலும் தற்காலத்தில் சந்தோஷமாக இல்லாமல் துக்கமாக இருக்கும்; ஆனாலும் பிற்காலத்தில் அதில் பழகினவர்களுக்கு அது நீதியாகிய சமாதான பலனைத் தரும். ¹² ஆகவே, நெகிழ்ந்த கைகளையும் தளர்ந்த முழங்கால்களையும் நீங்கள் திரும்ப நிமிர்த்தி, ¹³ முடமாக இருக்கிறது பெலவீனமாகிப்போகாமல் குணமாவதற்காக, உங்களுடைய பாதங்களுக்கு வழிகளைச் சீர்ப்படுத்துங்கள்.

¹⁴ எல்லோரோடும் சமாதானமாக இருக்கவும், பரிசுத்தமுள்ளவர்களாக இருக்கவும் விரும்புங்கள்; பரிசுத்தம் இல்லாமல் ஒருவனும் கர்த்தரைத் தரிசிக்கமுடியாது. ¹⁵ ஒருவனும் தேவனுடைய கிருபையை இழந்துபோகாமல் இருக்கவும், எந்தவொரு கசப்பான வேர் முளைத்து எழும்பிக் கலகம் உண்டாக்குகிறதினால் அநேகர் தீட்டுப்படாமல் இருக்கவும், ¹⁶ ஒருவனும் வேசிக்கள்ளனாகவும், ஒருநேர உணவிற்காக தன் புத்திரசுவிகாரத்தை விற்றுப்போட்ட ஏசாவைப்போலச் சீர்கெட்டவனாகவும் இராதபடிக்கு எச்சரிக்கையாக இருங்கள். ¹⁷ ஏனென்றால், பின்பதாக அவன் ஆசீர்வாதத்தைச் சுதந்திரித்துக்கொள்ள விரும்பியும், தகுதியற்றவன் என்று தள்ளப்பட்டதை அறிவீர்கள்; அவன் கண்ணீர்விட்டு, கவலையோடு தேடியும் மனம் மாறுதலைப் பெற்றுக்கொள்ள முடியவில்லை. ¹⁸ அன்றியும், தொடக்கூடியதும், அக்கினி பற்றியெரிகிற மலையினிடமும், மந்தாரம், இருள், பெருங்காற்று ஆகிய இவைகளிடமும், ¹⁹ எக்காளமுடிக்கத்தினிடமும், வார்த்தைகளுடைய சத்தத்தினிடமும், நீங்கள் வந்து சேரவில்லை; அந்தச் சத்தத்தைக் கேட்டவர்கள் பின்னும் தங்களுக்கு வார்த்தை சொல்லப்படாதபடி வேண்டிக்கொண்டார்கள். ²⁰ ஏனென்றால், ஒரு மிருகமானாலும் மலையைத் தொட்டால், அது கல்லெறியப்பட்டு, அல்லது அம்பினால் எய்யப்பட்டுச் சாகவேண்டும் என்று சொல்லப்பட்ட கட்டளையைச் சகிக்கமுடியாமல் இருந்தார்கள். ²¹ மோசேயும்: நான் மிகவும் பயந்து நடுங்குகிறேன் என்று சொல்லும் அளவிற்கு அந்தக் காட்சி அவ்வளவு பயங்கரமாக இருந்தது. ²² நீங்களோ சீயோன் மலையினிடமும், ஜீவனுள்ள தேவனுடைய நகரமாகிய பரம எருசலேமிடமும், ஆயிரமாயிரம் தேவதூதர்களிடமும், ²³ பரலோகத்தில் பெயர் எழுதியிருக்கிற தலைப்பிள்ளைகளின் சர்வசங்கமாகிய சபையினிடமும், எல்லோருக்கும் நியாயாதிபதியாகிய தேவனிடமும், பூரணர்களாக்கப்பட்ட நீதிமான்களுடைய ஆவிகளினிடமும், ²⁴ புதிய உடன்படிக்கையின் மத்தியஸ்தராகிய இயேசுவினிடமும், ஆபேலினுடைய இரத்தம் பேசினதைவிட நன்மையானவைகளைப் பேசுகிற இரத்தமாகிய தெளிக்கப்படும் இரத்தத்தினிடமும் வந்து சேர்ந்தீர்கள். ²⁵ பேசுகிறவருக்கு நீங்கள் கவனிக்கமாட்டோம் என்று விலகாமல் இருக்க எச்சரிக்கையாக இருங்கள்; ஏனென்றால், பூமியிலே பேசினவருக்கு கவனிக்கமாட்டோம் என்று விலகினவர்கள் தண்டனைக்குத் தப்பித்துக்கொள்ளாமல் இருக்க, பரலோகத்தில் இருந்து பேசுகிறவரை நாம் விட்டுவிலகினால் எப்படித் தப்பித்துக்கொள்ளுவோம்? ²⁶ அவருடைய சத்தம் அப்பொழுது பூமியை அசையப்பண்ணினது; இன்னும் ஒருமுறை நான் பூமியை மட்டுமல்ல, வானத்தையும் அசையப்பண்ணுவேன் என்று இப்பொழுது வாக்குத்தத்தம் செய்திருக்கிறார். ²⁷ இன்னும் ஒருமுறை

என்கிற சொல்லானது அசையாதவைகள் நிலைத்திருப்பதற்காக, அசைவுள்ளவைகள் உண்டாக்கப்பட்டவைகள்போல மாறிப்போகும் என்பதைக் குறிக்கிறது.²⁸ ஆகவே, அசைவில்லாத ராஜ்யத்தைப் பெறுகிறவர்களாகிய நாம் பயத்தோடும் பக்தியோடும் தேவனுக்குப் பிரியமாக ஆராதனை செய்வதற்காக கிருபையைப் பற்றிக்கொள்ளவேண்டும்.²⁹ நம்முடைய தேவன் சுட்டெரிக்கிற அக்கினியாக இருக்கிறாரே.

அத்தியாயம்- 13

¹ சகோதர அன்பு நிலைத்திருக்கட்டும். ² அந்நியர்களை உபசரிக்க மறக்காதிருங்கள்; அதினாலே சிலர் அறியாமல் தேவதூதர்களையும் உபசரித்ததுண்டு. ³ சிறைச்சாலையில் இருக்கிறவர்களோடு நீங்களும் சிறைச்சாலையிலே இருக்கிறவர்களைப்போல அவர்களை நினைத்துக்கொள்ளுங்கள்; அவர்களுடைய சரீரங்களைப்போல உங்களுடைய சரீரங்களும் தீங்கு அனுபவித்ததாக நினைத்து, தீங்கு அனுபவிக்கிறவர்களை நினைத்துக்கொள்ளுங்கள். ⁴ திருமணம் எல்லோருக்குள்ளும் கனமுள்ளதாகவும், பரிசுத்தமாகவும் இருப்பதாக; வேசிக்கள்ளர்களையும் விபசாரக்காரர்களையும் தேவன் நியாயந்தீர்ப்பார். ⁵ நீங்கள் பணஆசை இல்லாதவர்களாக நடந்து, உங்களுக்கு இருக்கிறவைகளே போதும் என்று எண்ணுங்கள்; நான் உன்னைவிட்டு விலகுவதும் இல்லை, உன்னைக் கைவிடுவதும் இல்லை என்று அவர் சொல்லியிருக்கிறாரே. ⁶ அதினாலே நாம் தைரியத்தோடு: கர்த்தர் எனக்கு உதவிசெய்கிறவர், நான் பயப்படமாட்டேன், மனிதன் எனக்கு என்ன செய்வான் என்று சொல்லலாமே. ⁷ தேவவசனத்தை உங்களுக்குப் போதித்து உங்களை நடத்தினவர்களை நீங்கள் நினைத்து, அவர்களுடைய நடக்கையின் முடிவை நன்றாகச் சிந்தித்து, அவர்களுடைய விசுவாசத்தைப் பின்பற்றுங்கள். ⁸ இயேசுகிறிஸ்து நேற்றும் இன்றும் என்றும் மாறாதவராக இருக்கிறார். ⁹ பலவிதமான அந்நிய போதனைகளால் அலைந்து திரியாமல் இருங்கள். உணவுபொருட்களால் இல்லை, கிருபையினாலே இருதயம் உறுதிப்படுத்தப்படுகிறது நல்லது; உணவுபொருட்களால் பயனில்லையே. ¹⁰ நமக்கு ஒரு பலிபீடம் உண்டு, அங்குள்ளவைகளைச் சாப்பிடுகிறதற்கு ஆசரிப்புக்கூடாரத்தில் ஆராதனை செய்கிறவர்களுக்கு அதிகாரம் இல்லை. ¹¹ ஏனென்றால், எந்த மிருகங்களுடைய இரத்தம் பாவங்களுக்காகப் பரிசுத்த இடத்திற்குள் பிரதான ஆசாரியனாலே கொண்டுவரப்படுகிறதோ, அந்த மிருகங்களின் உடல்கள் முகாமிற்கு வெளியே சுட்டெரிக்கப்படும். ¹² அப்படியே, இயேசுவும் தம்முடைய சொந்த இரத்தத்தினாலே மக்களைப் பரிசுத்தம் பண்ணுவதற்காக நகர வாசலுக்கு வெளியே பாடுகள்பட்டார். ¹³ ஆகவே, நாம் அவருடைய நிந்தையைச் சுமந்து, முகாமிற்கு வெளியே அவரிடம் புறப்பட்டுப் போவோம். ¹⁴ நிலையான நகரம் நமக்கு இங்கே இல்லை; வரப்போகிறதையே விரும்பித்தேடுகிறோம். ¹⁵ ஆகவே, அவருடைய நாமத்தைத் துதிக்கும் உதடுகளின் கனியாகிய ஸ்தோத்திரபலியை அவர் மூலமாக எப்போதும் தேவனுக்குச் செலுத்துவோம். ¹⁶ அன்றியும் நன்மைசெய்யவும், தானதர்மம் பண்ணவும் மறக்காமல் இருங்கள்; இப்படிப்பட்ட பலிகளின்மேல் தேவன் பிரியமாக இருக்கிறார். ¹⁷ உங்களை நடத்துகிறவர்கள், உங்களுடைய ஆத்துமாக்களுக்காக உத்திரவாதம் பண்ணுகிறவர்களாக விழித்திருக்கிறதினால், அவர்கள் துக்கத்தோடு இல்லை, சந்தோஷத்தோடு அதைச் செய்வதற்காக, அவர்களுக்குக் கீழ்ப்படிந்து அடங்கி இருங்கள்; அவர்கள் துக்கத்தோடு அதைச்செய்தால் அது உங்களுக்குப் பிரயோஜனமாக இருக்காது. ¹⁸ எங்களுக்காக ஜெபம்பண்ணுங்கள்; நாங்கள் நல்ல மனச்சாட்சி உள்ளவர்களாக எல்லாவற்றிலும் யோக்கியமாக நடக்க விரும்புகிறோம் என்று உறுதியாக நம்புகிறோம். ¹⁹ நான் மிகவும் சீக்கிரமாக உங்களிடம் வருவதற்கு நீங்கள் தேவனை வேண்டிக்கொள்ளும்படி உங்களை அதிகமாகக் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். ²⁰ நித்திய உடன்படிக்கையின் இரத்தத்தினாலே ஆடுகளுடைய பெரிய மேய்ப்பரான நம்முடைய கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுவை மரித்தோரிலிருந்து எழும்பிவரப்பண்ணின சமாதானத்தின் தேவன், ²¹ இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவைக்கொண்டு தமக்குமுன்பாகப் பிரியமானதை உங்களில் நடப்பித்து, நீங்கள் தம்முடைய விருப்பத்தின்படிசெய்ய உங்களை எல்லாவிதமான நல்லசெய்கையிலும் தகுதி உள்ளவர்களாக்குவாராக; அவருக்கு என்றென்றைக்கும் மகிமை உண்டாவதாக. ஆமென். ²² சகோதரர்களே, நான் சுருக்கமாக உங்களுக்கு எழுதின இந்தப் புத்திமதியான வார்த்தைகளை நீங்கள் பொறுமையாக ஏற்றுக்கொள்ள உங்களை வேண்டிக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். ²³ சகோதரனாகிய தீமோத்தேயு விடுதலையாக்கப்பட்டான் என்று தெரிந்துகொள்ளுங்கள்; அவன் சீக்கிரமாக வந்தால், நான் அவனோடுகூட வந்து, உங்களைப் பார்ப்பேன். ²⁴ உங்களை நடத்துகிறவர்களையும், பரிசுத்தவான்கள் எல்லோரையும் வாழ்த்துங்கள். இத்தாலியா தேசத்தார் எல்லோரும் உங்களுக்கு வாழ்த்துதல் சொல்லுகிறார்கள். ²⁵ கிருபையானது உங்கள் அனைவரோடும் இருப்பதாக. ஆமென்.

James

அத்தியாயம்- 1

¹ தேவனுக்கும் கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவிற்கும் ஊழியக்காரனாகிய யாக்கோபு, உலகமெங்கும் சிதறுண்டு வாழும் பன்னிரண்டு கோத்திரங்களுக்கும் வாழ்த்துதல் சொல்லி எழுதுகிறதாவது:

² என் சகோதரர்களே, நீங்கள் பலவிதமான சோதனைகளில் சிக்கிக்கொள்ளும்போது, ³ உங்களுடைய விசுவாசத்தின் பரீட்சையானது சகிப்புத்தன்மையை உண்டாக்குமென்று அறிந்து, அதை மிகுந்த சந்தோஷமாக எண்ணுங்கள். ⁴ நீங்கள் ஒன்றிலும் குறைவுள்ளவர்களாக இல்லாமல், தேறினவர்களாகவும் நிறைவுள்ளவர்களாகவும் இருப்பதற்காக, சகிப்புத்தன்மையானது தனது செயலைச் செய்துமுடிக்கட்டும். ⁵ உங்களில் ஒருவன் ஞானத்தில் குறைவுள்ளவனாக இருந்தால், எல்லோருக்கும் பரிபூரணமாகக் கொடுக்கிறவரும் ஒருவரையும் கடிந்துகொள்ளாதவருமாகிய தேவனிடத்தில் கேட்கட்டும், அப்பொழுது அவனுக்குக் கொடுக்கப்படும். ⁶ ஆனாலும் அவன் கொஞ்சம்சூட சந்தேகப்படாமல் விசுவாசத்தோடு கேட்கவேண்டும்; சந்தேகப்படுகிறவன் காற்றினால் அடிபட்டு அலைகிற கடலின் அலைக்கு ஒப்பாக இருக்கிறான். ⁷ அப்படிப்பட்ட மனிதன், தான் கர்த்தரிடத்தில் எதையாவது பெறலாமென்று நினைக்காமல் இருப்பானாக. ⁸ ஏனென்றால், இருமனமுள்ளவன் தன் வழிகளிலெல்லாம் நிலையற்றவனாக இருக்கிறான்.

⁹ ஏழ்மையான சகோதரன் தான் உயர்த்தப்பட்டதைக்குறித்து மேன்மைபாராட்டட்டும். ¹⁰ ஐசுவரியவான் தான் தாழ்த்தப்பட்டதைக்குறித்து மேன்மைபாராட்டட்டும்; ஏனென்றால், அவன் புல்லின் பூவைப்போல ஒழிந்துபோவான். ¹¹ சூரியன் கடும் வெயிலுடன் உதித்து, புல்லை உலர்த்தும்போது, அதின் பூ உதிர்ந்து, அதின் அழகான வடிவம் அழிந்துபோகும்; ஐசுவரியவானும் அப்படியே தன் வழிகளில் அழிந்துபோவான். ¹² சோதனையைச் சகிக்கிற மனிதன் பாக்கியவான்; அவன் உத்தமன் என்று தெரிந்தபின்பு கர்த்தர், தம்மை நேசிக்கிறவர்களுக்கு வாக்குத்தத்தம் செய்யப்பட்ட ஜீவகிரீடத்தைப் பெறுவான். ¹³ சோதிக்கப்படுகிற எவனும், நான் தேவனால் சோதிக்கப்படுகிறேன் என்று சொல்லாமல் இருப்பானாக; தேவன் தீமைகளினால் சோதிக்கப்படுகிறவர் இல்லை, ஒருவனையும் அவர் சோதிக்கிறவரும் இல்லை. ¹⁴ அவனவன் தன்தன் சொந்த ஆசையினாலே இழுக்கப்பட்டு, சிக்குண்டு, சோதிக்கப்படுகிறான். ¹⁵ பின்பு ஆசையானது கர்ப்பந்தரித்து, பாவத்தைப் பெற்றெடுக்கும், பாவம் பூரணமாகும்போது, மரணத்தைப் பெற்றெடுக்கும். ¹⁶ என் பிரியமான சகோதரர்களே, ஏமாந்துபோகவேண்டாம். ¹⁷ நன்மையான எந்த ஈவும் பூரணமான எந்த வரமும் பரலோகத்திலிருந்து உண்டாகி, ஒளிகளின் பிதாவினிடத்திலிருந்து இறங்கி வருகிறது; அவரிடத்தில் எந்தவொரு மாறுதலும், எந்தவொரு வேற்றுமையின் நிழலும் இல்லை. ¹⁸ அவர் விருப்பம்கொண்டு தம்முடைய படைப்புகளில் நாம் முதற்கனிகளாவதற்கு நம்மைச் சத்தியவசனத்தினாலே பெற்றெடுத்தார்.

¹⁹ ஆகவே, என் பிரியமான சகோதரர்களே, அனைவரும் கேட்கிறதற்கு விரைவாகவும், பேசுகிறதற்கு பொறுமையாகவும், கோபித்துக்கொள்கிறதற்குத் தாமதமாகவும் இருக்கவேண்டும்; ²⁰ மனிதனுடைய கோபம் தேவனுடைய நீதியை நடப்பிக்கமாட்டாதே. ²¹ ஆகவே, நீங்கள் எல்லாவித பாவமான அசுத்தங்களையும் கொடிய தீயகுணத்தையும் அகற்றிவிட்டு, உங்களுடைய உள்ளத்தில் நாட்டப்பட்டதாகவும், உங்களுடைய ஆத்துமாக்களை இரட்சிக்க வல்லமையுள்ளதாகவும் இருக்கிற திருவசனத்தைச் சாந்தமாக ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளுங்கள். ²² அல்லாமலும், நீங்கள் உங்களை ஏமாற்றாதபடிக்குத் திருவசனத்தைக் கேட்கிறவர்களாக மாத்திரமல்ல, அதின்படி செய்கிறவர்களாகவும் இருங்கள். ²³ ஏனென்றால், ஒருவன் திருவசனத்தைக்கேட்டும் அதின்படி செய்யாதவனானால், கண்ணாடியிலே தன் முகத்தைப் பார்க்கிற மனிதனுக்கு ஒப்பாக இருப்பான்; ²⁴ அவன் தன்னைத்தானே பார்த்து, அந்த இடத்தைவிட்டுப் போனவுடனே, தன் சாயல் என்னவென்பதை மறந்துவிடுவான். ²⁵ ஆனால், சுதந்திரம் கொடுக்கிற பூரணப்பிரமாணத்தை உற்றுப்பார்த்து, அதிலே நிலைத்திருக்கிறவன் கேட்கிறதை மறக்கிறவனாக இல்லாமல், அதைச் செய்கிறவனாக இருப்பதினால் அவன் பாக்கியவானாக இருப்பான். ²⁶ உங்களில் ஒருவன் தன் நாக்கை அடக்காமல், தன் இருதயத்தை ஏமாற்றி, தன்னை தேவபக்தியுள்ளவெனென்று நினைத்தால் அவனுடைய தேவபக்தி வீணாயிருக்கும். ²⁷ திக்கற்ற பிள்ளைகளும், விதவைகளும் படுகிற பாடுகளிலே அவர்களை விசாரிக்கிறதும், உலகத்தால் கறைபடாதபடிக்குத் தன்னைக் காத்துக்கொள்ளுவதே பிதாவாகிய தேவனுக்குமுன்பாக குற்றமில்லாத சுத்தமான பக்தியாக இருக்கிறது.

அத்தியாயம்- 2

¹ என் சகோதரர்களே, மகிமையுள்ள நம்முடைய கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவை விசுவாசிக்கிற நீங்கள் ஒரு சிலரை பட்சபாதத்துடன் நடத்தாதிருங்கள். ² ஏனென்றால், பொன்மோதிரமும் அழகான ஆடையும் அணிந்திருக்கிற ஒரு மனிதனும், கந்தையான ஆடை அணிந்திருக்கிற ஒரு ஏழ்மையானவனும் உங்களுடைய ஆலயத்திற்கு வரும்போது, ³ அழகான ஆடை அணிந்திருந்தவனைப் பார்த்து: ஐயா இந்த நல்ல இடத்தில் உட்காருங்கள் என்றும்; ஏழ்மையானவனைப் பார்த்து: நீ அங்கே நில்லு, அல்லது இங்கே என் காலடியிலே உட்காரு என்றும் நீங்கள் சொன்னால், ⁴ உங்களுக்குள்ளே பட்சபாதத்துடன், தகாத சிந்தனைகளோடு தீர்ப்பளிக்கிறவர்களாக இருப்பீர்களல்லவா? ⁵ என் பிரியமான சகோதரர்களே, கேளுங்கள்; தேவன் இந்த உலகத்தின் ஏழ்மையானவர்களை விசுவாசத்தில் ஐசுவரியவான்களாகவும், தம்மிடத்தில் அன்பு செலுத்துகிறவர்களுக்குத் தாம் வாக்குத்தத்தம் செய்த ராஜ்யத்தைச் சுதந்தரிக்கிறவர்களாகவும் தெரிந்துகொள்ளவில்லையா? ⁶ நீங்களோ ஏழைகளை அவமதிக்கிறீர்கள். செல்வந்தர்களல்லவோ உங்களை ஒடுக்குகிறார்கள்? அவர்களல்லவோ உங்களை நீதிமன்றத்திற்கு இழுக்கிறார்கள்? ⁷ உங்களுக்குக் கொடுக்கப்பட்ட நல்ல நாமத்தை அவர்களல்லவோ நிந்திக்கிறார்கள்? ⁸ உன்னிடத்தில் நீ அன்பு செலுத்துகிறதுபோல மற்றவனிடத்திலும் அன்புசெலுத்துவாயாக என்று வேதவாக்கியம் சொல்லுகிற ராஜரீகப்பிரமாணத்தை நீங்கள் நிறைவேற்றினால் நன்மைசெய்வீர்கள். ⁹ நீங்கள் பட்சபாதமுள்ளவர்களாக இருந்தால், பாவம்செய்து, மீறினவர்களென்று நியாயப்பிரமாணத்தினாலே நியாயந்தீர்க்கப்படுவீர்கள். ¹⁰ எப்படியென்றால், ஒருவன் நியாயப்பிரமாணம் முழுவதையும் கைக்கொண்டிருந்தும், ஒன்றிலே தவறினால் எல்லாவற்றிலும் குற்றவாளியாக இருப்பான். ¹¹ ஏனென்றால், விபசாரம் செய்யாதிருப்பாயாக என்று சொன்னவர் கொலை செய்யாதிருப்பாயாக என்றும் சொன்னார்; ஆதலால், நீ விபசாரம் செய்யாமலிருந்தும் கொலை செய்தாயானால் நியாயப்பிரமாணத்தை மீறினவனாவாய். ¹² சுதந்திரப்பிரமாணத்தினால் நியாயத்தீர்ப்பு அடையப்போகிறவர்களாக அதற்கேற்றபடி பேசி, அதற்கேற்றபடி செய்யுங்கள். ¹³ ஏனென்றால், இரக்கம் செய்யாதவனுக்கு இரக்கமில்லாத நியாயத்தீர்ப்பு கிடைக்கும்; நியாயத்தீர்ப்புக்குமுன்பாக இரக்கம் மேன்மைபாராட்டும்.

¹⁴ என் சகோதரர்களே, ஒருவன் தனக்கு விசுவாசம் உண்டென்று சொல்லியும், செயல்களில்லாதவனாக இருந்தால் அவனுக்குப் பயன் என்ன? அந்த விசுவாசம் அவனை இரட்சிக்குமா? ¹⁵ ஒரு சகோதரனாவது சகோதரியாவது, ஆடையில்லாமலும், அனுதின ஆகாரமில்லாமலும் இருக்கும்போது, ¹⁶ உங்களில் ஒருவன் அவர்களைப் பார்த்து: நீங்கள் சமாதானத்தோடு போங்கள், குளிர்காய்ந்து பசியாற்றிக்கொள்ளுங்கள் என்று சொல்லியும், சரீரத்திற்கு வேண்டியவைகளை அவர்களுக்குக் கொடுக்காவிட்டால் பயன் என்ன? ¹⁷ அப்படியே விசுவாசமும் செயல்களில்லாதிருந்தால் அது தன்னிலேதானே உயிரில்லாததாக இருக்கும். ¹⁸ ஒருவன்: உனக்கு விசுவாசமுண்டு, எனக்கு செயல்களும் உண்டு; செயல்களில்லாமல் உன் விசுவாசத்தை எனக்குக் காண்பி, நான் என் விசுவாசத்தை என் செயல்களினாலே உனக்குக் காண்பிப்பேன் என்பானே. ¹⁹ தேவன் ஒருவர் உண்டென்று விசுவாசிக்கிறாய், அப்படிச் செய்கிறது நல்லதுதான்; பிசாசுகளும் விசுவாசித்து, நடுங்குகின்றன. ²⁰ வீணான மனிதனே, செயல்களில்லாத விசுவாசம் உயிரில்லாதது என்று நீ அறியவேண்டுமா? ²¹ நம்முடைய தகப்பனாகிய ஆபிரகாம் தன் மகன் ஈசாக்கைப் பலிபீடத்தின்மேல் வைக்கும்போது, செயல்களினாலே அல்லவோ நீதிமானாக்கப்பட்டான்? ²² விசுவாசம் அவனுடைய செயல்களோடு கூட முயற்சிசெய்து, செயல்களினாலே விசுவாசம் பூரணப்பட்டதென்று பார்க்கிறாயே. ²³ அப்படியே ஆபிரகாம் தேவனை விசுவாசித்தான், அது அவனுக்கு நீதியாக எண்ணப்பட்டது என்கிற வேதவாக்கியம் நிறைவேறியது; அவன் தேவனுடைய நண்பன் எனப்பட்டான். ²⁴ ஆதலால், மனிதன் விசுவாசத்தினால் மாத்திரமல்ல, செயல்களினாலேயும் நீதிமானாக்கப்படுகிறான் என்று நீங்கள் பார்க்கிறீர்களே. ²⁵ அந்தப்படி ராகாப் என்னும் வேசியும் தூதர்களை ஏற்றுக்கொண்டு வேறுவழியாக அனுப்பிவிட்டபோது, செயல்களினாலே அல்லவோ நீதியுள்ளவளாக்கப்பட்டான்? ²⁶ அப்படியே, ஆவியில்லாத சரீரம் உயிரில்லாததாக இருக்கிறதுபோல, செயல்களில்லாத விசுவாசமும் உயிரில்லாததாக இருக்கிறது.

அத்தியாயம்- 3

¹ என் சகோதரர்களே, அதிக தண்டனையை அடைவோம் என்று அறிந்து, உங்களில் அநேகர் போதகர்களாகாதிருங்கள். ² நாம் எல்லோரும் அநேக காரியங்களில் தவறுகிறோம்; ஒருவன் சொல் தவறாதவனானால் அவன் பூரணமனிதனும், தன் சரீரம் முழுவதையும் கடிவாளத்தினாலே அடக்கிக்கொள்ளக்கூடியவனுமாக இருக்கிறான். ³ பாருங்கள், குதிரைகள் நமக்குக் கீழ்ப்படியும்படிக்கு அவைகளின் வாய்களில் கடிவாளம்போட்டு, அவைகளுடைய முழுச்சரீரத்தையும் திருப்பி நடத்துகிறோம். ⁴ கப்பல்களையும் பாருங்கள், அவைகள் மகா பெரியவைகளாக இருந்தாலும், கடுங்காற்றுகளால் அடிபட்டாலும், அவைகளை நடத்துகிறவன் போகும்படி யோசிக்கும் இடம் எதுவோ அந்த இடத்திற்கு நேராக மிகவும் சிறிதான சுக்கானாலே திருப்புகிறான். ⁵ அப்படியே, நாக்கானதும் சிறிய உறுப்பாக இருந்தும் பெருமையானவைகளைப் பேசும். பாருங்கள், சிறிய நெருப்பு எவ்வளவு பெரிய காட்டைக் கொளுத்திவிடுகிறது! ⁶ நாக்கும் நெருப்புத்தான், அது அநீதி நிறைந்த உலகம் போன்றது; நம்முடைய உறுப்புகளில் நாக்கானது முழுச்சரீரத்தையும் கறைப்படுத்தி, வாழ்க்கை சக்கரத்தைக் கொளுத்திவிடுகிறதாகவும், நரக அக்கினியினால் கொளுத்தப்படுகிறதாகவும் இருக்கிறது! ⁷ எல்லாவிதமான மிருகங்கள், பறவைகள், ஊரும் பிராணிகள், நீரில்வாழும் உயிரினங்கள் ஆகிய இவைகள் மனிதர்களால் அடக்கப்படும், அடக்கப்பட்டதும் உண்டு. ⁸ நாக்கை அடக்க ஒரு மனிதனாலும் முடியாது; அது அடங்காத பொல்லாங்கு உள்ளதும், மரணத்திற்கு ஏதுவான விஷம் நிறைந்ததுமாக இருக்கிறது. ⁹ அதினாலே நாம் பிதாவாகிய தேவனைத் துதிக்கிறோம்; தேவனுடைய சாயலின்படி உண்டாக்கப்பட்ட மனிதர்களை அதினாலேயே சபிக்கிறோம். ¹⁰ துதித்தலும் சபித்தலும் ஒரே வாயிலிருந்து புறப்படுகிறது. என் சகோதரர்களே, இப்படி இருக்கக்கூடாது. ¹¹ ஒரே ஊற்றுக்கண்ணிலிருந்து தித்திப்பும் கசப்புமான தண்ணீர் சுரக்குமா? ¹² என் சகோதரர்களே, அத்திமரம் ஒலிவப்பழங்களையும், திராட்சைச்செடி அத்திப்பழங்களையும் கொடுக்குமா? அப்படியே உவர்ப்பான நீருற்றுத் தித்திப்பான தண்ணீரைக் கொடுக்காது.

¹³ உங்களில் ஞானியும் விவேகியுமாக இருக்கிறவன் எவனோ, அவன் ஞானத்திற்குரிய சாந்தத்தோடு தன் செயல்களை நல்ல நடக்கையினாலே காண்பிக்கவேண்டும். ¹⁴ உங்களுடைய இருதயத்திலே கசப்பான வைராக்கியத்தையும் விரோதத்தையும் வைத்தீர்களானால், நீங்கள் பெருமைபாராட்டவேண்டாம்; சத்தியத்திற்கு விரோதமாகப் பொய் சொல்லாமலிருங்கள். ¹⁵ இப்படிப்பட்ட ஞானம் பரத்திலிருந்து இறங்கிவருகிற ஞானமாக இல்லாமல், உலக சம்பந்தமானதும், ஜென்ம சுபாவத்திற்குரியதாகவும், பேய்த்தனத்திற்குரியதுமாகவும் இருக்கிறது. ¹⁶ வைராக்கியமும், விரோதமும் எங்கே உண்டோ, அங்கே கலகமும் எல்லாத் தீயச்செய்கைகளுமுண்டு. ¹⁷ பரத்திலிருந்து வருகிற ஞானமோ முதலாவது சுத்தமுள்ளதாகவும், பின்பு சமாதானமும் சாந்தமும், அன்புமிக்கதாகவும், இரக்கத்தாலும் நற்கனிகளாலும் நிறைந்ததாகவும், படசபாதமில்லாததாகவும், மாயமில்லாததாகவும் இருக்கிறது. ¹⁸ நீதியாகிய கனியானது சமாதானத்தை நடப்பிக்கிறவர்களாலே சமாதானத்திலே விதைக்கப்படுகிறது.

அத்தியாயம்- 4

¹ உங்களுக்குள்ளே வாக்குவாதங்களும் சண்டைகளும் எதினாலே வருகிறது; உங்களுடைய அவயவங்களிலே போர்செய்கிற ஆசைகளினாலல்லவா? ² நீங்கள் ஆசைப்பட்டும் உங்களுக்குக் கிடைக்கவில்லை; நீங்கள் கொலைசெய்தும், பொறாமையுள்ளவர்களாக இருந்தும், அடையக்கூடாமல் போகிறீர்கள்; நீங்கள் சண்டையும், யுத்தமும் செய்தும், நீங்கள் விண்ணப்பம்செய்யாமல் இருக்கிறதினாலே, உங்களுக்குக் கிடைப்பதில்லை. ³ நீங்கள் விண்ணப்பம்செய்தும், உங்களுடைய ஆசைகளை நிறைவேற்றும்படி செலவழிக்கவேண்டும் என்று தவறான நோக்கத்தோடு விண்ணப்பம்செய்கிறதினால், பெற்றுக்கொள்ளாமல் இருக்கிறீர்கள். ⁴ விபசாரக்காரர்களே, விபசாரிகளே, உலக நட்பு தேவனுக்கு விரோதமான பகையென்று உங்களுக்குத் தெரியாதா? ஆகவே, உலகத்திற்கு நண்பனாக இருக்கவிரும்புகிறவன் தேவனுக்குப் பகைஞனாகிறான். ⁵ நம்மில் வாசமாக இருக்கிற ஆவியானவர் நம்மிடத்தில் வைராக்கிய வாஞ்சையாக இருக்கிறாரென்று வேதவாக்கியம் வீணாகச் சொல்லுகிறதென்று நினைக்கிறீர்களா? ⁶ அவர் அதிகமான கிருபையை அளிக்கிறாரே. ஆதலால் தேவன் பெருமையுள்ளவர்களுக்கு எதிர்த்து நிற்கிறார், தாழ்மையுள்ளவர்களுக்கோ கிருபை அளிக்கிறாரென்று சொல்லியிருக்கிறது. ⁷ ஆகவே, தேவனுக்குக் கீழ்ப்படிந்திருங்கள்; பிசாசுக்கு எதிர்த்து நில்லுங்கள், அப்பொழுது அவன் உங்களைவிட்டு ஓடிப்போவான். ⁸ தேவனிடத்தில் சேருங்கள், அப்பொழுது அவர் உங்களிடம் சேருவார். பாவிகளே, உங்களுடைய கைகளைச் சுத்திகரியுங்கள்; இரும்புள்ளவர்களே, உங்களுடைய இருதயங்களைப் பரிசுத்தம் செய்யுங்கள். ⁹ நீங்கள் துயரப்பட்டுப் புலம்பி அழுங்கள்; உங்களுடைய சிரிப்பு புலம்பலாகவும், உங்களுடைய சந்தோஷம் துயரமாகவும் மாறட்டும். ¹⁰ கர்த்தருக்கு முன்பாகத் தாழ்மைப்படுங்கள், அப்பொழுது அவர் உங்களை உயர்த்துவார். ¹¹ சகோதரர்களே, ஒருவருக்கொருவர் விரோதமாகப் பேசாதிருங்கள்; சகோதரனுக்கு விரோதமாகப் பேசி, தன் சகோதரனைக் குற்றப்படுத்துகிறவன் நியாயப்பிரமாணத்திற்கு விரோதமாகப் பேசி நியாயப்பிரமாணத்தைக் குற்றப்படுத்துகிறான்; நியாயப்பிரமாணத்தைக் குற்றப்படுத்தினால், நீ நியாயப்பிரமாணத்தின்படி செய்கிறவனாக இல்லாமல், அதற்கு நியாயாதிபதியாக இருப்பாய். ¹² நியாயப்பிரமாணத்தைக் கொடுத்தவரும் ஒருவரே, அவரே இரட்சிக்கவும் அழிக்கவும் வல்லவர்; மற்றவனைக் குற்றப்படுத்துகிறதற்கு நீ யார்?

¹³ மேலும், நாங்கள் இன்றைக்கு அல்லது நாளைக்கு இந்த பட்டணத்திற்குச் சென்று, அங்கே ஒரு வருடம் தங்கி, வியாபாரம் செய்து, பணம் சம்பாதிப்போம் என்று சொல்லுகிறவர்களே, கேளுங்கள். ¹⁴ நாளைக்கு நடப்பது உங்களுக்குத் தெரியாதே. உங்களுடைய ஜீவன் எப்படிப்பட்டது? கொஞ்சக்காலம்தோன்றி, பின்பு காணாமற்போகிற புகையைப்போல இருக்கிறதே. ¹⁵ ஆதலால்: தேவனுக்கு விருப்பமானால், நாங்களும் உயிரோடிருந்தால், இன்னின்னதைச் செய்வோம் என்று சொல்லவேண்டும். ¹⁶ இப்பொழுது உங்களுடைய பிடிவாதங்களில் பெருமைகொள்கிறீர்கள்; இப்படிப்பட்ட பெருமையெல்லாம் தீமையாக இருக்கிறது. ¹⁷ ஆதலால், ஒருவன் நன்மைசெய்ய அறிந்தவனாக இருந்தும், அதைச் செய்யாமல்போனால், அது அவனுக்குப் பாவமாக இருக்கும்.

அத்தியாயம்- 5

¹ செல்வந்தர்களே, கேளுங்கள், உங்கள்மேல் வரும் பெருந்துன்பங்களினிமித்தம் அலறி அழுங்கள். ² உங்களுடைய செல்வம் அழிந்து, உங்களுடைய ஆடைகள் அந்து பூச்சிகளால் வீணாகப்போனது. ³ உங்களுடைய பொன்னும் வெள்ளியும் துருப்பிடித்தது; அவைகளிலுள்ள துரு உங்களுக்கு விரோதமாக சாட்சியாக இருந்து, அக்கினியைப்போல உங்களுடைய சரீரத்தை உண்ணும். கடைசிநாட்களிலே பொக்கிஷத்தைச் சேர்த்தீர்கள். ⁴ இதோ, உங்களுடைய வயல்களை அறுவடைசெய்த வேலைக்காரர்களுடைய கூலியை நீங்கள் அநியாயமாகப் பிடித்து வைத்ததினால் அது கூக்குரலிடுகிறது; அறுவடைசெய்தவர்களுடைய கூக்குரல் சேனைகளுடைய கர்த்தரின் செவிகளைச் சென்றடைந்தது. ⁵ பூமியிலே நீங்கள் சொகுசாக வாழ்ந்து, சுகபோகத்தில் உழன்றீர்கள்; கொழுத்தவைகளை அடிக்கும்நாளில் நடக்கிறதுபோல உங்களுடைய இருதயங்களைப் போஷித்தீர்கள். ⁶ நீதிமானை நீங்கள் தண்டனைக்குள்ளாகத் தீர்த்துக் கொலைசெய்தீர்கள்; அவன் உங்களிடம் எதிர்த்து நிற்கவில்லை.

⁷ இப்படியிருக்க, சகோதரர்களே, கர்த்தருடைய வருகைவரை நீடிய பொறுமையாக இருங்கள். இதோ, பயிரிடுகிறவன் பூமியின் நற்கனியை அடையவேண்டும் என்று, முன்மாரியும், பின்மாரியும் வரும்வரை, நீடிய பொறுமையோடு காத்திருக்கிறான். ⁸ நீங்களும் நீடிய பொறுமையோடு இருந்து, உங்களுடைய இருதயங்களை உறுதிப்படுத்துங்கள்; கர்த்தரின் வருகை சமீபமாக இருக்கிறது. ⁹ சகோதரர்களே, நீங்கள் நியாயந்தீர்க்கப்படாதபடிக்கு ஒருவருக்கொருவர் விரோதமாக குறைசொல்லாதிருங்கள்; இதோ, நியாயாதிபதி வாசற்படியில் நிற்கிறார். ¹⁰ என் சகோதரர்களே, கர்த்தருடைய நாமத்தினாலே பேசின தீர்க்கதரிசிகளைத் துன்பப்படுத்துக்கும், நீடிய பொறுமைக்கும் உதாரணமாக வைத்துக்கொள்ளுங்கள். ¹¹ இதோ, பொறுமையாக இருக்கிறவர்களை பாக்கியவான்கள் என்கிறோமே! யோபின் பொறுமையைக்குறித்து கேள்விப்பட்டிருக்கிறீர்கள்; கர்த்தருடைய செயலின் முடிவையும் பார்த்திருக்கிறீர்கள்; கர்த்தர் மிகுந்த உருக்கமும், இரக்கமும் உள்ளவராக இருக்கிறாரே. ¹² குறிப்பாக, என் சகோதரர்களே, வானத்தின்பேரிலாவது, பூமியின்பேரிலாவது, வேறு எதன்மீதும் சத்தியம் செய்யாமலிருங்கள்; நீங்கள் தண்டனைக்குள்ளாகத் தீர்க்கப்படாதபடிக்கு உள்ளதை உள்ளதென்றும், இல்லாததை இல்லையென்றும் சொல்லுங்கள்.

¹³ உங்களில் ஒருவன் துன்பப்பட்டால் ஜெபம் செய்யவேண்டும்; ஒருவன் மகிழ்ச்சியாக இருந்தால் சங்கீதம் பாடவேண்டும். ¹⁴ உங்களில் ஒருவன் வியாதிப்பட்டால், அவன் சபையின் மூப்பர்களை வரவழைக்கவேண்டும்; அவர்கள் கர்த்தருடைய நாமத்தினாலே அவனுக்கு எண்ணெய் பூசி, அவனுக்காக ஜெபம் செய்யவேண்டும். ¹⁵ அப்பொழுது விசுவாசமுள்ள ஜெபம் நோயாளியை குணமாக்கும்; கர்த்தர் அவனை எழுப்புவார்; அவன் பாவம் செய்திருந்தால் அது அவனுக்கு மன்னிக்கப்படும். ¹⁶ நீங்கள் குணமடையும்படிக்கு, உங்களுடைய குற்றங்களை ஒருவருக்கொருவர் அறிக்கையிட்டு, ஒருவருக்காக ஒருவர் ஜெபம்செய்யுங்கள். நீதிமான் செய்யும் ஊக்கமான வேண்டுதல் மிகவும் பெலனுள்ளதாக இருக்கிறது. ¹⁷ எலியா என்பவன் நம்மைப்போலப் பாடுள்ள மனிதனாகயிருந்தும், மழைபெய்யாதபடிக்குக் கருத்தாக ஜெபம்செய்தான், அப்பொழுது மூன்று வருடங்களும் ஆறு மாதங்களும் பூமியின்மேல் மழைபெய்யவில்லை. ¹⁸ மறுபடியும் ஜெபம்செய்தான், அப்பொழுது வானம் மழையைப் பொழிந்தது, பூமி தன் கனியைத் தந்தது. ¹⁹ சகோதரர்களே, உங்களில் ஒருவன் சத்தியத்தைவிட்டு விலகி மோசம்போகும்போது, மற்றொருவன் அவனைத் திரும்ப வழிநடத்தினால், ²⁰ தவறான வழியிலிருந்து பாவியைத் திருப்புகிறவன் ஒரு ஆத்துமாவை மரணத்திலிருந்து இரட்சித்து, அநேக பாவங்களை மூடுவானென்று அறிந்துகொள்ளட்டும்.

1 Peter

அத்தியாயம்- 1

¹ இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவின் அப்போஸ்தலனாகிய பேதுரு, பொந்து, கலாத்தியா, கப்பத்தோக்கியா, ஆசியா, பித்தினியா தேசங்களிலே சிதறியிருக்கிறவர்களில், ² பிதாவாகிய தேவனுடைய முன்னறிவின்படியே, பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவரின் பரிசுத்தமாக்குதலினாலே, இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவிற்கு கீழ்ப்படிவதற்காகவும், அவருடைய இரத்தம் தெளிக்கப்படுவதற்காகவும் தெரிந்துகொள்ளப்பட்ட அந்நியர்களாக இருப்பவர்களுக்கு எழுதுகிறதாவது: கிருபை உங்களோடு இருந்து, உங்களுடைய சமாதானம் பெருகட்டும்.

³ நம்முடைய கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவின் பிதாவாகிய தேவனுக்கு ஸ்தோத்திரம் உண்டாவதாக; ⁴ தேவன், இயேசுகிறிஸ்து மரித்தோரிலிருந்து உயிரோடு எழுந்ததினாலே, அழியாததும், மாசு இல்லாததும், மகிமை குறையாததுமாகிய, சுதந்திரத்திற்கேதுவாக, ஜீவனுள்ள நம்பிக்கை உண்டாவதற்கு, தமது மிகுந்த இரக்கத்தின்படியே நம்மை மீண்டும் பிறக்கச்செய்தார். ⁵ கடைசிக்காலத்திலே வெளிப்பட ஆயத்தமாயிருக்கிற இரட்சிப்பிற்குரிய விசுவாசத்தைக் கொண்டு தேவனுடைய பலத்தினாலே காக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிற உங்களுக்கு அந்தச் சொத்து பரலோகத்தில் வைக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. ⁶ இதிலே நீங்கள் மிகவும் சந்தோஷப்படுகிறீர்கள்; என்றாலும், துன்பப்படவேண்டியது அவசியம் என்பதால், இப்பொழுது கொஞ்சக்காலம் பலவிதமான சோதனைகளினாலே துக்கப்படுகிறீர்கள். ⁷ அழிந்துபோகிற தங்கம் நெருப்பினாலே சோதிக்கப்படும்; அதைவிட அதிக விலையுயர்ந்த உங்களுடைய விசுவாசம் சோதிக்கப்பட்டு, இயேசுகிறிஸ்து வெளிப்படும்போது உங்களுக்குப் புகழ்ச்சியும் கனமும் மகிமையும் உண்டாகக் காணப்படும். ⁸ நீங்கள் அவரைப் பார்க்காமல் இருந்தும் அவரை நேசிக்கிறீர்கள்; இப்பொழுது நீங்கள் அவரைப் பார்க்காமல் இருந்தும் அவர்மேல் விசுவாசம் வைத்து, சொல்லமுடியாததும், மகிமையினால் நிறைந்ததுமாக இருக்கிற சந்தோஷம் உள்ளவர்களாகக் களிகூர்ந்து, ⁹ உங்களுடைய விசுவாசத்தின் பலனாகிய ஆத்தும் இரட்சிப்பைப் பெற்றுக்கொள்கிறீர்கள். ¹⁰ உங்களுக்கு உண்டான கிருபையைப்பற்றித் தீர்க்கதரிசனம் சொன்ன தீர்க்கதரிசிகள் இந்த இரட்சிப்பைப்பற்றிக் கருத்தாகத் தேடி ஆராய்ந்து பார்த்தார்கள்; ¹¹ தங்களுக்குள் உள்ள கிறிஸ்துவின் ஆவியானவர் கிறிஸ்துவிற்கு உண்டாகும் பாடுகளையும், அவைகளுக்குப்பின்பு வரும் மகிமைகளையும் முன்னமே அறிவித்தபோது, இந்தக் காலத்தைக் குறித்தார் என்பதையும், அந்தக் காலத்தின் விசேஷம் என்ன என்பதையும் ஆராய்ந்தார்கள். ¹² தங்களுக்காக இல்லை, நமக்காகவே இவைகளைத் தெரிவித்தார்கள் என்று அவர்களுக்கு வெளிப்படுத்தப்பட்டது; பரலோகத்திலிருந்து அனுப்பப்பட்ட பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவராலே உங்களுக்கு நற்செய்தியைப் பிரசங்கம்பண்ணினவர்கள் மூலமாக இவைகள் இப்பொழுது உங்களுக்கு அறிவிக்கப்பட்டுவருகிறது; இவைகளைத் தெரிந்துகொள்ள தேவதூதர்களும் ஆசையாக இருக்கிறார்கள்.

¹³ ஆகவே, நீங்கள் உங்களுடைய மனதை ஆயத்தப்படுத்தி, தெளிவான புத்தி உள்ளவர்களாக இருந்து; இயேசுகிறிஸ்து வெளிப்படும்போது உங்களுக்கு அளிக்கப்படும் கிருபையின்மேல் பூரண நம்பிக்கை உள்ளவர்களாக இருங்கள். ¹⁴ நீங்கள் முன்பே உங்களுடைய அறியாமையினாலே, உங்களுக்குள் இருந்த இச்சைகளின்படி இனி நடக்காமல், கீழ்ப்படிகிற பிள்ளைகளாக இருந்து, ¹⁵ உங்களை அழைத்தவர் பரிசுத்தராக இருக்கிறதுபோல, நீங்களும் உங்களுடைய நடக்கைகள் எல்லாவற்றிலும் பரிசுத்தமாக இருங்கள். ¹⁶ நான் பரிசுத்தர், ஆகவே, நீங்களும் பரிசுத்தமாக இருங்கள் என்று எழுதியிருக்கிறதே. ¹⁷ அன்றியும், பட்சபாதம் இல்லாமல் அவனவனுடைய செய்கைகளின்படி நியாயந்தீர்க்கிறவரை நீங்கள் பிதாவாகத் தொழுதுகொள்ளுகிறதினால், இங்கே அந்நியர்களைப்போல பயத்தோடு வாழுங்கள். ¹⁸ உங்களுடைய முன்னோர்களால் பாரம்பரியமாக நீங்கள் கடைபிடித்துவந்த வீணான செயல்களில் இருந்து, அழிவுள்ள பொருட்களாகிய வெள்ளியினாலும் தங்கத்தினாலும் மீட்கப்படாமல், ¹⁹ குற்றம் இல்லாத, மாசு இல்லாத ஆட்டுக்குட்டியாகிய கிறிஸ்துவின் விலையுயர்ந்த இரத்தத்தினாலே மீட்கப்பட்டீர்கள் என்று தெரிந்திருக்கிறீர்களே. ²⁰ அவர் உலகம் உருவாவதற்கு முன்னமே தெரிந்துகொள்ளப்பட்டவராக இருந்து, தமது மூலமாக தேவன்மேல் விசுவாசமாக இருக்கிற உங்களுக்காக இந்தக் கடைசிக்காலங்களில் வெளிப்பட்டார். ²¹ உங்களுடைய விசுவாசமும் நம்பிக்கையும் தேவன்மேல் இருப்பதற்காக, அவரை மரித்தோரிலிருந்து உயிரோடு எழுப்பி, அவருக்கு மகிமையைக் கொடுத்தார். ²² ஆகவே, நீங்கள் மாய்மாலம் இல்லாத சகோதர அன்பு உள்ளவர்களாவதற்கு, ஆவியானவராலே சத்தியத்திற்குக் கீழ்ப்படிந்து, உங்களுடைய ஆத்துமாக்களைச் சுத்தமாக்கிக்கொண்டவர்களாக இருக்கிறதினால், சுத்தமான இருதயத்தோடு ஒருவரையொருவர் ஊக்கமாக நேசியுங்கள்; ²³ அழிவுள்ள விதையினாலே இல்லை, என்றென்றைக்கும் நிலைத்துநிற்கிறதும், ஜீவன் உள்ளதுமான தேவவசனமாகிய அழிவில்லாத விதையினாலே மீண்டும் பிறந்திருக்கிறீர்களே. ²⁴ மனிதர்கள்

எல்லோரும் புல்லைப்போலவும், மனிதனுடைய மகிமையெல்லாம் புல்லின் பூவைப்போலவும் இருக்கிறது; புல் உலர்ந்தது, அதின் பூவும் உதிர்ந்தது.²⁵ கர்த்தருடைய வசனமோ என்றென்றைக்கும் நிலைத்திருக்கும்; உங்களுக்கு நற்செய்தியாக அறிவிக்கப்பட்டு வருகிற வசனம் இதுவே.

அத்தியாயம்- 2

¹ இப்படியிருக்க, கர்த்தர் தயவுள்ளவர் என்பதை நீங்கள் ருசித்துப் பார்த்திருந்தால், ² எல்லாத் தீயகுணங்களையும், எல்லாவிதமான கபடத்தையும், வஞ்சகங்களையும், பொறாமைகளையும், எல்லாவிதமான புறம்சுறுதலையும் ஒழித்துவிட்டு, ³ நீங்கள் வளருவதற்காக, புதிதாகப் பிறந்த குழந்தைகளைப்போல, திருவசனமாகிய களங்கம் இல்லாத பாலின்மேல் வாஞ்சையாக இருங்கள்.

⁴ மனிதர்களால் தள்ளப்பட்டதாக இருந்தும், தேவனால் தெரிந்துகொள்ளப்பட்டதும் விலையுயர்ந்ததுமாக இருக்கிற ஜீவனுள்ள கல்லாகிய அவரிடம் சேர்ந்தவர்களாகிய நீங்களும், ⁵ ஜீவனுள்ள கற்களைப்போல ஆவியானவருக்குரிய மாளிகையாகவும், இயேசுகிறிஸ்து மூலமாக தேவனுக்குப் பிரியமான ஆவியானவருக்குரிய பலிகளைச் செலுத்துவதற்குப் பரிசுத்த ஆசாரியக்கூட்டமாகவும் கட்டப்பட்டுவருகிறீர்கள். ⁶ அப்படியே: இதோ, தெரிந்துகொள்ளப்பட்டதும் விலையுயர்ந்ததுமாக இருக்கிற மூலைக்கல்லைச் சீயோனில் வைக்கிறேன்; அவரிடம் விசுவாசமாக இருக்கிறவன் வெட்கப்படுவது இல்லை என்று வேதத்திலே சொல்லியிருக்கிறது. ⁷ ஆகவே, விசுவாசிக்கிற உங்களுக்கு அது விலையுயர்ந்தது; கீழ்ப்படியாமல் இருக்கிறவர்களுக்கோ வீட்டைக் கட்டுகிறவர்களால் தள்ளப்பட்ட பிரதான மூலைக்கல்லாகிய அந்தக் கல் இடறுகிறதற்கான கல்லும், விழுக்கிறதற்கான கன்மலையும் ஆனது; ⁸ அவர்கள் திருவசனத்திற்கு கீழ்ப்படியாதவர்களாக இருந்து இடறுகிறார்கள்; அதற்காகவே நியமிக்கப்பட்டவர்களாகவும் இருக்கிறார்கள். ⁹ நீங்களோ, உங்களை அந்தகாரமான இருளில் இருந்து தம்முடைய ஆச்சரியமான ஒளியிடத்திற்கு வரவழைத்தவருடைய புண்ணியங்களை அறிவிப்பதற்காகத் தெரிந்துகொள்ளப்பட்ட வம்சமாகவும், ராஜரீகமான ஆசாரியக்கூட்டமாகவும், பரிசுத்த தேசமாகவும், அவருக்குச் சொந்தமான மக்களாகவும் இருக்கிறீர்கள். ¹⁰ முன்பே நீங்கள் தேவனுடைய மக்களாக இருக்கவில்லை, இப்பொழுதோ அவருடைய மக்களாக இருக்கிறீர்கள்; முன்னே நீங்கள் இரக்கம் பெற்றுக்கொள்ளவில்லை, இப்பொழுதோ இரக்கம் பெற்றவர்களாக இருக்கிறீர்கள். ¹¹ பிரியமானவர்களே, அந்நியர்களும் அலைகிறவர்களும் இருக்கிற நீங்கள் ஆத்துமாவிற்கு எதிராகப் போர்செய்கிற சரீர இச்சைகளைவிட்டு விலகி, ¹² யூதரல்லாதோர் உங்களை அக்கிரமக்காரர்கள் என்று எதிராகப் பேசும் விஷயத்தில், அவர்கள் உங்களுடைய நல்ல செயல்களைப் பார்த்து, அதினாலே, தேவன் வரும்நாளிலே அவர்கள் தேவனை மகிமைப்படுத்துவதற்கு நீங்கள் அவர்களுக்குள்ளே நல்லநடக்கை உள்ளவர்களாக நடந்துகொள்ளுங்கள் என்று உங்களுக்குப் புத்திசொல்லுகிறேன்.

¹³ நீங்கள் மனிதர்களுடைய கட்டளைகள் எல்லாவற்றிற்கும் கர்த்தருக்காக கீழ்ப்படியுங்கள். ¹⁴ மேலான அதிகாரமுள்ள ராஜாவாக இருந்தாலும், தீமைசெய்கிறவர்களுக்கு தண்டனையும் நன்மைசெய்கிறவர்களுக்குப் புகழ்ச்சியும் கொடுக்க ராஜாவால் அனுப்பப்பட்ட அதிகாரிகளாக இருந்தாலும், அவர்களுக்குக் கீழ்ப்படியுங்கள். ¹⁵ நீங்கள் நன்மைசெய்கிறதினாலே புத்தியீனமான மனிதர்களுடைய வார்த்தைகளை அடக்குவது தேவனுடைய விருப்பமாக இருக்கிறது. ¹⁶ சுதந்திரம் உள்ளவர்களாக இருந்தும் உங்களுடைய சுதந்திரம் தீயகுணத்தை மூடுகிறதாக இல்லாமல், தேவனுக்கு அடிமைகளாக இருங்கள். ¹⁷ எல்லோரையும் கனம்பண்ணுங்கள்; சகோதரர்களிடம் அன்பாக இருங்கள்; தேவனுக்குப் பயந்திருங்கள்; ராஜாவைக் கனம்பண்ணுங்கள். ¹⁸ வேலைக்காரர்களே, அதிக பயத்தோடு உங்களுடைய எஜமான்களுக்குக் கீழ்ப்படிந்திருங்கள்; நல்லவர்களுக்கும், சாந்தகுணமுள்ளவர்களுக்கும்மட்டும் இல்லை, முரட்டுக்குணமுள்ளவர்களுக்கும் கீழ்ப்படிந்திருங்கள். ¹⁹ ஏனென்றால், ஒருவன் அநியாயமாகப் பாடுகள்படும்போது தேவனை நினைத்துக்கொண்டே உபத்திரவங்களைப் பொறுமையாகச் சகித்துக்கொண்டால் அதுவே தேவனுக்குப் பிரியமாக இருக்கும். ²⁰ நீங்கள் குற்றம் செய்து அடிக்கப்படும்போது பொறுமையோடு சகித்துக்கொண்டால், அதினால் என்ன நன்மை உண்டு? ஆனால், நீங்கள் நன்மைசெய்து பாடுகள்படும்போது பொறுமையோடு சகித்துக்கொண்டால் அதுவே தேவனுக்கு முன்பாகப் பிரியமாக இருக்கும். ²¹ இதற்காகத்தான் நீங்கள் அழைக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறீர்கள்; ஏனென்றால், கிறிஸ்துவும் உங்களுக்காகப் பாடுகள்பட்டு, நீங்கள் அவருடைய அடிச்சுவடுகளைப் பின்பற்றி வருவதற்காக உங்களுக்கு முன்மாதிரியை வைத்துப்போனார். ²² அவர் பாவம் செய்யவில்லை, அவருடைய வாயிலே வஞ்சனையும் காணப்படவில்லை; ²³ அவர் தூஷிக்கப்படும்போது பதிலுக்குத் தூஷிக்காமலும், பாடுகள்பட்டபோது திரும்ப பயமுறுத்தாமலும், நியாயமாக நியாயத்தீர்ப்புச் செய்கிறவருக்கு தம்மையே ஒப்புவித்தார். ²⁴ நாம் பாவங்களுக்குச் செத்து, நீதிக்குப் பிழைத்திருக்கத்தக்கதாக, அவர்தாமே தமது சரீரத்திலே நம்முடைய பாவங்களைச் சிலுவையிலே சுமந்தார்; அவருடைய தழும்புகளால் குணமானீர்கள். ²⁵ சிதறிப்போன ஆடுகளைப்போல இருந்தீர்கள்; இப்பொழுதோ உங்களுடைய ஆத்துமாக்களுக்கு மேய்ப்பரும் கண்காணியுமாக இருக்கிற இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவிடம் திரும்பிவந்திருக்கிறீர்கள்.

அத்தியாயம்- 3

¹ அந்தப்படி மனைவிகளே, உங்களுடைய சொந்தக் கணவர்களுக்குக் கீழ்ப்படிந்திருங்கள்; அப்பொழுது அவர்களில் யாராவது திருவசனத்திற்குக் கீழ்ப்படியாதவர்களாக இருந்தால், பயபக்தியான உங்களுடைய கற்புள்ள நடக்கையை அவர்கள் பார்த்து, ² போதனை இல்லாமல், மனைவிகளின் நடக்கையினாலேயே ஆதாயப்படுத்திக்கொள்ளப்படுவார்கள். ³ முடியைப் பின்னி, தங்க ஆபரணங்களை அணிந்து, விலையுயர்ந்த ஆடைகளை உடுத்திக்கொள்கிற வெளிப்புற அலங்காரிப்பு உங்களுக்கு அலங்காரமாக இல்லாமல், ⁴ அழியாத அலங்கரிப்பாக இருக்கிற சாந்தமும் அமைதியுமுள்ள ஆவியாகிய இருதயத்தில் மறைந்திருக்கிற குணமே உங்களுக்கு அலங்காரமாக இருக்கவேண்டும்; அதுவே தேவனுடைய பார்வையில் விலையுயர்ந்தது. ⁵ இப்படியே ஆதிக்காலங்களில் தேவனிடம் நம்பிக்கையாக இருந்த பரிசுத்தப் பெண்களும் தங்களுடைய கணவர்களுக்குக் கீழ்ப்படிந்து தங்களை அலங்கரித்தார்கள். ⁶ அப்படியே சாராள் ஆபிரகாமை ஆண்டவன் என்று சொல்லி, அவனுக்குக் கீழ்ப்படிந்திருந்தாள்; நீங்கள் நன்மைசெய்து ஒரு ஆபத்திற்கும் பயப்படாமல் இருந்தீர்களென்றால் அவளுக்குப் பிள்ளைகளாக இருப்பீர்கள். ⁷ அப்படியே கணவன்மார்களே, மனைவியானவன் பெலவீன பாண்டமாக இருக்கிறதினால், உங்களுடைய ஜெபங்களுக்குத் தடைவராதபடி, நீங்கள் ஞானத்துடன் அவர்களோடு வாழ்ந்து, உங்களோடு அவர்களும் நித்தியஜீவனாகிய கிருபையைப் பெற்றுக்கொள்ளுகிறவர்களாக இருப்பதினால், அவர்களுக்குச் செய்யவேண்டிய கடமைகளைச் செய்யுங்கள்.

⁸ மேலும், நீங்களெல்லோரும் ஒருமனப்பட்டவர்களும், இரக்கம் உள்ளவர்களும், சகோதரஅன்பு உள்ளவர்களும், மனதுருக்கம் உள்ளவர்களும், தாழ்மை உள்ளவர்களாக இருந்து, ⁹ தீமைக்குத் தீமையையும், அவமானத்திற்கு அவமானத்தையும் செய்யாமல், அதற்குப் பதிலாக, நீங்கள் ஆசீர்வாதத்தைப் பெற்றுக்கொள்வதற்காக அழைக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறவர்கள் என்று தெரிந்து, ஆசீர்வாதம்பண்ணுங்கள். ¹⁰ ஜீவனை விரும்பி, நல்ல நாட்களைப் பார்க்கவேண்டுமென்று இருக்கிறவன் தீமையானவைகளுக்குத் தன் நாக்கையும், கபடான வார்த்தைகளுக்குத் தன் உதடுகளையும் விலக்கிக்காத்து, ¹¹ தீமைகளைவிட்டு நீங்கி, நன்மைசெய்து, சமாதானத்தைத் தேடி, அதைப் பின்தொடரவேண்டும். ¹² கர்த்தருடைய கண்கள் நீதிமான்களைப் பார்த்துக்கொண்டிருக்கிறது, அவருடைய காதுகள் அவர்களுடைய வேண்டுகளைக் கேட்டுக்கொண்டிருக்கிறது; தீமைசெய்கிறவர்களுக்கோ கர்த்தருடைய முகம் எதிராக இருக்கிறது. ¹³ நீங்கள் நன்மையைப் பின்பற்றுகிறவர்களானால், உங்களுக்குத் தீமைசெய்கிறவன் யார்? ¹⁴ நீதிக்காக நீங்கள் பாடுகள்பட்டால் பாக்கியவான்களாக இருப்பீர்கள்; அவர்களுடைய பயமுறுத்தலுக்கு நீங்கள் பயப்படாமலும் கலங்காமலும் இருந்து; ¹⁵ கர்த்தராகிய தேவனை உங்களுடைய இருதயங்களில் பரிசுத்தம்பண்ணுங்கள்; உங்களுக்குள் இருக்கிற நம்பிக்கையைப்பற்றி உங்களிடம் விசாரித்துக் கேட்கிற எல்லோருக்கும் சாந்தத்தோடும், மரியாதையோடும் பதில்சொல்ல எப்பொழுதும் ஆயத்தமாக இருங்கள். ¹⁶ கிறிஸ்துவிற்குரிய உங்களுடைய நல்ல நடக்கையை அவமதிக்கிறவர்கள் உங்களை அக்கிரமக்காரர்கள் என்று உங்களுக்கு எதிராகச் சொல்லுகிற விஷயத்தில் அவர்கள் வெட்கப்பட்டுப்போகும்படி நீங்கள் நல்ல மனச்சாட்சி உள்ளவர்களாக இருங்கள். ¹⁷ தீமைசெய்து பாடுகள் அனுபவிப்பதைவிட, தேவனுக்கு விருப்பமானால், நன்மைசெய்து பாடுகள் அனுபவிப்பதே மேன்மையாக இருக்கும். ¹⁸ ஏனென்றால், கிறிஸ்துவும் நம்மை தேவனிடம் சேர்ப்பதற்காக அநீதியுள்ளவர்களுக்குப் பதிலாக நீதி உள்ளவராகப் பாவங்களுக்காக ஒருமுறை பாடுகள் பட்டார்; அவர் சரீரத்திலே கொலை செய்யப்பட்டு, ஆவியிலே உயிர்ப்பிக்கப்பட்டார். ¹⁹ அந்த ஆவியிலே அவர் போய், சிறைக்காவலில் உள்ள ஆவிகளுக்குப் பிரசங்கம்பண்ணினார். ²⁰ அந்த ஆவிகள், நோவா கப்பலைக் கட்டின நாட்களிலே, தேவன் அதிக பொறுமையோடு காத்திருந்தபோது, கீழ்ப்படியாமல் போனவைகள்; அந்தக் கப்பலிலே எட்டு நபர்கள்மட்டுமே பிரவேசித்து தண்ணீரினாலே காக்கப்பட்டார்கள். ²¹ அதற்கு ஒப்பனையான ஞானஸ்நானமானது, சரீர அழுக்கை நீக்குவதாக இல்லாமல், தேவனைப் பற்றிக்கொள்ளும் நல்ல மனச்சாட்சியின் உடன்படிக்கையாக இருந்து, இப்பொழுது நம்மையும் இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவினுடைய உயிர்த்தெழுதலினால் இரட்சிக்கிறது; ²² அவர் பரலோகத்திற்குப்போய், தேவனுடைய வலதுபக்கத்தில் இருக்கிறார்; தேவதூதர்களும், அதிகாரங்களும், வல்லமைகளும் அவருக்குக் கீழ்ப்பட்டிருக்கிறது.

அத்தியாயம்- 4

¹ இப்படியிருக்க, கிறிஸ்து நமக்காக சரீரத்திலே பாடுகள்ப்பட்டதினால், நீங்களும் அப்படிப்பட்ட சிந்தையை ஆயுதமாக அணிந்துகொள்ளுங்கள். ² ஏனென்றால், சரீரத்தில் பாடுபடுகிறவன் இனி சரீரத்தில் இருக்கும் காலம்வரைக்கும் மனிதர்களுடைய இச்சைகளின்படி பிழைக்காமல் தேவனுடைய விருப்பத்தின்படியே பிழைப்பதற்காகப் பாவங்களைவிட்டு விலகியிருப்பான். ³ கடந்த வாழ்நாட்களிலே நாம் யூதரல்லாத மக்கள் செய்ய விரும்புவதைபோல செய்துவந்தது போதும்; அப்பொழுது நாம் காமவிகாரத்தையும் தீயஆசைகளையும் நடத்தி, மதுஅருந்தியும், களியாட்டுச்செய்து, வெறிகொண்டு, அருவருப்பான விக்கிரக ஆராதனையைச் செய்துவந்தோம். ⁴ அந்தத் துன்மார்க்க உளையிலே அவர்களோடு சேர்ந்து நீங்கள் விழுந்துவிடாமல் இருக்கிறதினாலே அவர்கள் ஆச்சரியப்பட்டு, உங்களை அவமதிக்கிறார்கள். ⁵ உயிரோடு இருக்கிறவர்களுக்கும் மரித்தவர்களுக்கும் நியாயத்தீர்ப்புக் கொடுக்க ஆயத்தமாக இருக்கிறவருக்கு அவர்கள் கணக்கு ஒப்புவிப்பார்கள். ⁶ இதற்காக மரித்தோர்கள், மனிதர்களுக்கு முன்பாக சரீரத்திலே தண்டனைக்கு உள்ளாக்கப்பட்டிருந்தும், தேவன்முன்பாக ஆவியிலே பிழைப்பதற்காக, அவர்களுக்கும் நற்செய்தி அறிவிக்கப்பட்டது. ⁷ எல்லாவற்றிற்கும் முடிவு நெருங்கிவிட்டது; ஆகவே, தெளிந்த புத்தி உள்ளவர்களாக இருந்து, ஜெபம்பண்ணுவதற்கு கவனம் உள்ளவர்களாக இருங்கள். ⁸ எல்லாவற்றிற்கும் மேலாக ஒருவரிலொருவர் ஊக்கமான அன்பு உள்ளவர்களாக இருங்கள்; அன்பு திரளான பாவங்களை மூடும். ⁹ முறுமுறுப்பு இல்லாமல் ஒருவரையொருவர் உபசரியுங்கள். ¹⁰ அவனவன் பெற்றுக்கொண்ட வரத்தின்படியே நீங்கள் தேவனுடைய பற்பல கிருபையுள்ள ஈவுகளைப் பகிர்ந்துகொடுக்கும் நல்ல பொறுப்பாளர்போல, ஒருவருக்கொருவர் உதவிசெய்யுங்கள். ¹¹ ஒருவன் போதனை செய்தால் தேவனுடைய வார்த்தைகளின்படியே போதனை செய்யவேண்டும்; ஒருவன் உதவிசெய்தால் தேவன் தந்தருளும் பெலத்தின்படியே உதவிசெய்யவேண்டும்; எல்லாவற்றிலேயும் இயேசுகிறிஸ்து மூலமாக தேவன் மகிமைப்படும்படியே செய்வீர்களாக; அவருக்கே மகிமையும் வல்லமையும் எல்லாக் காலங்களிலும் உண்டாயிருப்பதாக. ஆமென்.

¹² பிரியமானவர்களே, உங்களைப் பரீட்சைப்பார்க்க உங்கள் நடுவில் அக்கினியைப்போன்ற சோதனைகள் வரும்போது ஏதோ புதுமை நடக்கிறது என்று ஆச்சரியப்படாமல், ¹³ கிறிஸ்துவின் மகிமை வெளிப்படும்போது நீங்கள் களிகூர்ந்து மகிழ்வதற்காக அவருடைய பாடுகளுக்கு நீங்கள் பங்காளிகளானதால் சந்தோஷப்படுங்கள். ¹⁴ நீங்கள் கிறிஸ்துவின் நாமத்திற்காக அவமதிக்கப்பட்டால் பாக்கியவான்கள்; ஏனென்றால், தேவனுடைய ஆவியாகிய மகிமையுள்ள ஆவியானவர் உங்கள்மேல் தங்கியிருக்கிறார்; அவர்களாலே அவமதிக்கப்படுகிறார்; உங்களாலே மகிமைப்படுகிறார். ¹⁵ ஆகவே, உங்களில் யாரும் கொலைபாதகனாகவோ, திருடனாகவோ, தீங்கு செய்தவனாகவோ, அந்நிய காரியங்களில் தலையிட்டுக்கொண்டவனாகவோ இருந்து பாடுபடுகிறவனாக இருக்கக்கூடாது. ¹⁶ ஒருவன் கிறிஸ்தவனாக இருப்பதினால் பாடுபட்டால் வெட்கப்படாமல் இருந்து, அதினால் தேவனை மகிமைப்படுத்தவேண்டும். ¹⁷ நியாயத்தீர்ப்பு தேவனுடைய வீட்டிலே ஆரம்பமாகும் காலமாக இருக்கிறது; அது முதலில் நம்மிடத்திலே ஆரம்பிக்கப்பட்டால் தேவனுடைய நற்செய்திக்குக் கீழ்ப்படியாதவர்களின் முடிவு எப்படியாக இருக்கும்? ¹⁸ நீதிமானே இரட்சிக்கப்படுவது கடினமென்றால், பக்தியில்லாதவனும் பாவியும் எங்கே நிற்பார்கள்? ¹⁹ ஆகவே, தேவனுடைய விருப்பத்தினால் பாடுகளை அனுபவிக்கிறவர்கள் நன்மை செய்கிறவர்களாகத் தங்களுடைய ஆத்துமாக்களை உண்மையுள்ள சிருஷ்டிகர்த்தாவாகிய அவருக்கு ஒப்புக்கொடுக்கவேண்டும்.

அத்தியாயம்- 5

¹ உங்களில் உள்ள மூப்பர்களுக்கு உடன்மூப்பனும், கிறிஸ்துவின் பாடுகளுக்குச் சாட்சியும், இனி வெளிப்படும் மகிமைக்குப் பங்குள்ளவனாக இருக்கிற நான் புத்திசொல்லுகிறது என்னவென்றால்: ² உங்களிடம் உள்ள தேவனுடைய மந்தையை நீங்கள் மேய்த்து, கட்டாயமாக இல்லை, மனப்பூர்வமாகவும், அவலட்சணமான ஆதாயத்திற்காகவும் இல்லை, உற்சாக மனதோடும், ³ சுதந்திரத்தை பெருமையோடு ஆளுகிறவர்களாக இல்லை, மந்தைக்கு முன்மாதிரிகளாகவும், கண்காணிப்புச் செய்யுங்கள். ⁴ அப்படி செய்தால் பிரதான மேய்ப்பர் வெளிப்படும்போது மகிமை குறையாத கிரீடத்தைப் பெற்றுக்கொள்வீர்கள். ⁵ அப்படியே, இளைஞர்களே, மூப்பர்களுக்குக் கீழ்ப்படியுங்கள். நீங்கள் எல்லோரும் ஒருவருக்கொருவர் கீழ்ப்படிந்து, மனத்தாழ்மையை அணிந்துகொள்ளுங்கள்; பெருமை உள்ளவர்களுக்கு தேவன் எதிர்த்து நிற்கிறார், தாழ்மை உள்ளவர்களுக்கோ கிருபை அளிக்கிறார். ⁶ ஆகவே, குறித்தக் காலத்திலே தேவன் உங்களை உயர்த்துவதற்காக, அவருடைய பலத்த கரங்களுக்குள் அடங்கி இருங்கள். ⁷ அவர் உங்களை விசாரிக்கிறவராக இருப்பதினால், உங்களுடைய கவலைகளையெல்லாம் அவர்மேல் வைத்துவிடுங்கள். ⁸ தெளிந்த புத்தி உள்ளவர்களாக இருங்கள், விழித்திருங்கள்; ஏனென்றால், உங்களுடைய எதிராளியாகிய பிசாசு கெர்ச்சிக்கிற சிங்கம்போல யாரை விழுங்கலாமோ என்று தேடிச் சுற்றித்திரிகிறான். ⁹ விசுவாசத்தில் உறுதியாக இருந்து, அவனுக்கு எதிர்த்து நில்லுங்கள்; உலகத்தில் உள்ள உங்களுடைய சகோதரர்களும் அப்படிப்பட்ட பாடுகளை அனுபவிக்கிறார்கள் என்று தெரிந்திருக்கிறீர்களே. ¹⁰ கிறிஸ்து இயேசுவிற்குள் நம்மை அவருடைய நித்திய மகிமைக்கு அழைத்தவராக இருக்கிற எல்லாக் கிருபையும் பொருந்திய தேவன்தாமே கொஞ்சக்காலம் பாடுகள் அனுபவிக்கிற உங்களைச் சீர்ப்படுத்தி, உறுதிப்படுத்தி, பலப்படுத்தி, நிலைநிறுத்துவாராக; ¹¹ அவருக்கு மகிமையும் வல்லமையும் எல்லாக் காலங்களிலும் உண்டாயிருப்பதாக. ஆமென்.

¹² உங்களுக்குப் புத்திசொல்லுவதற்கும், நீங்கள் நிலைகொண்டு நிற்கிற கிருபை, தேவனுடைய உண்மையான கிருபைதான் என்று சாட்சியிடுவதற்கும், நான் சுருக்கமாக உங்களுக்கு எழுதி, உண்மையுள்ள சகோதரனாக எனக்குத் தோன்றுகிற சில்வானுவின் கையிலே கொடுத்து அனுப்பியிருக்கிறேன். ¹³ உங்களோடு தெரிந்துகொள்ளப்பட்டிருக்கிற பாபிலோனிலுள்ள சபையும், என் மகனாகிய மாற்கும் உங்களுக்கு வாழ்த்துதல் சொல்லுகிறார்கள். ¹⁴ ஒருவரையொருவர் அன்பின் முத்தத்தோடு வாழ்த்துதல் செய்யுங்கள். கிறிஸ்து இயேசுவிற்குள்ளான உங்கள் அனைவருக்கும் சமாதானம் உண்டாவதாக. ஆமென்.

2 Peter

அத்தியாயம்- 1

¹ நம்முடைய தேவனும் இரட்சகருமாக இருக்கிற இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவினுடைய நீதியால் எங்களைப்போல அருமையான விசுவாசத்தைப் பெற்றவர்களுக்கு, இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவின் ஊழியக்காரனும் அப்போஸ்தலனுமாகிய சீமோன்பேதுரு எழுதுகிறதாவது: ² தேவனையும் நம்முடைய கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுவையும் அறிந்துகொள்கிற அறிவின் மூலமாக உங்களுக்குக் கிருபையும் சமாதானமும் பெருகட்டும்.

³ தம்முடைய மகிமையினாலும் காருணியத்தினாலும் நம்மை அழைத்தவரை அறிகிற அறிவினாலே ஜீவனுக்கும் தேவபக்திக்கும் வேண்டிய எல்லாவற்றையும், அவருடைய தெய்வீக வல்லமையானது நமக்குத் தந்தருளினது மட்டுமல்லாமல், ⁴ இச்சையினால் உலகத்தில் உள்ள தீமைக்குத் தப்பி, தெய்வீக சபாவத்திற்குப் பங்குள்ளவர்களாவதற்காக, அதிக மேன்மையும் அருமையான வாக்குத்தத்தங்களும் அவைகளினாலே நமக்குக் கொடுக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. ⁵ இப்படியிருக்க, நீங்கள் அதிக கவனம் உள்ளவர்களாக உங்களுடைய விசுவாசத்தோடு தைரியத்தையும், தைரியத்தோடு ஞானத்தையும், ⁶ ஞானத்தோடு இச்சையடக்கத்தையும், இச்சையடக்கத்தோடு பொறுமையையும், பொறுமையோடு தேவபக்தியையும், ⁷ தேவபக்தியோடு சகோதரசிநேகத்தையும், சகோதரசிநேகத்தோடு அன்பையும் காட்டுங்கள். ⁸ இவைகள் உங்களுக்கு உண்டாயிருந்து பெருகினால், நீங்கள் நம்முடைய கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவை அறிகிற அறிவிலே வீணரும் கனியில்லாதவர்களாக இருக்கமாட்டீர்கள். ⁹ இவைகள் இல்லாதவன் எவனோ, அவன் முன்னமே செய்த பாவங்கள் சுத்திகரிக்கப்பட்டது, என்பதை மறந்து தன் அருகில் உள்ளவைகளையும் காண இயலாதவனாகவும் குருடனாகவும் இருக்கிறான். ¹⁰ ஆகவே, சகோதரர்களே, உங்களுடைய அழைப்பையும் தெரிந்துகொள்ளுதலையும் உறுதியாக்குவதற்கு எச்சரிக்கையாக இருங்கள்; இவைகளைச் செய்தால் நீங்கள் ஒருபோதும் இடறிவிழுவதில்லை. ¹¹ இவ்விதமாக, நம்முடைய கர்த்தரும் இரட்சகருமாகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவினுடைய நித்திய ராஜ்யத்திற்குள் பிரவேசித்தல் உங்களுக்குப் பரிபூரணமாக அளிக்கப்படும.

¹² இதினால், இவைகளை நீங்கள் அறிந்தும், நீங்கள் இப்பொழுது அறிந்திருக்கிற சத்தியத்தில் உறுதிப்பட்டிருந்தும், உங்களுக்கு இவைகளை ஞாபகப்படுத்த எப்பொழுதும் நான் ஆயத்தமாக இருக்கிறேன். ¹³ நம்முடைய கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்து எனக்கு அறிவித்தபடி நான் மரித்துப்போவது சீக்கிரத்தில் நடக்கும் என்று அறிந்து, ¹⁴ நான் மரிக்கும்வரைக்கும் உங்களை ஞாபகப்படுத்தி எழுப்பிவிடுவது நியாயம் என்று நினைக்கிறேன். ¹⁵ மேலும், நான் மரித்ததற்குப்பின்பு இவைகளை நீங்கள் எப்பொழுதும் நினைத்துக்கொள்வதற்குரிய காரியங்களைச் செய்வேன். ¹⁶ நாங்கள் தந்திரமான கட்டுக்கதைகளைப் பின்பற்றினவர்களாக இல்லை, அவருடைய மகத்துவத்தைக் கண்களால் பார்த்தவர்களாகவே நம்முடைய கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவின் வல்லமையையும் வருகையையும் உங்களுக்கு அறிவித்தோம். ¹⁷ இவர் என்னுடைய நேசகுமாரன், இவர்மேல் பிரியமாக இருக்கிறேன் என்று சொல்லுகிற சத்தம் உன்னதமான மகிமையிலிருந்து அவருக்கு உண்டாகி, பிதாவாகிய தேவனால் அவர் கனத்தையும் மகிமையையும் பெற்றபோது, ¹⁸ அவரோடு நாங்கள் பரிசுத்த பர்வதத்தில் இருக்கும்போது, வானத்திலிருந்து பிறந்த அந்தச் சத்தத்தைக் கேட்டோம். ¹⁹ அதிக உறுதியான தீர்க்கதரிசன வசனமும் நமக்கு உண்டு; பொழுதுவிடிந்து விடிவெள்ளி உங்களுடைய இருதயங்களில் உதிக்கும்வரைக்கும் இருள் உள்ள இடத்தில் பிரகாசிக்கிற விளக்கைப்போன்ற அந்த வசனத்தைக் கவனித்திருப்பது நலமாக இருக்கும். ²⁰ வேதத்தில் உள்ள எந்தத் தீர்க்கதரிசனமும் தீர்க்கதரிசியினுடைய சொந்த விளக்கமாக இருக்காது என்று நீங்கள் முதலில் அறியவேண்டும். ²¹ தீர்க்கதரிசனமானது ஒருகாலத்திலும் மனிதர்களுடைய விருப்பத்தினாலே உண்டாகவில்லை; தேவனுடைய பரிசுத்த மனிதர்கள் பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவராலே ஏவப்பட்டுப் பேசினார்கள்.

அத்தியாயம்- 2

¹ கள்ளத்தீர்க்கதரிசிகளும் மக்களுக்குள்ளே இருந்தார்கள், அப்படியே உங்களுக்குள்ளும் கள்ளப்போதகர்கள் இருப்பார்கள்; அவர்கள் அழிவிற்குரிய வேதப்புரட்டுகளைத் தந்திரமாக நுழையப்பண்ணி, தங்களை விலைக்கொடுத்து வாங்கின ஆண்டவரை மறுதலித்து, தங்களுக்கு வேகமான அழிவை வரவழைத்துக்கொள்வார்கள். ² அவர்களுடைய தீயசெய்கைகளை அநேகர் பின்பற்றுவார்கள்; அவர்களால் சத்தியப்பாதை அவமானப்படும். ³ பொருளாசை உள்ளவர்களாக, தந்திரமான வார்த்தைகளால் உங்களைத் தங்களுக்கு ஆதாயமாக வசப்படுத்திக்கொள்ளுவார்கள்; ஆதிகாலம்முதல் அவர்களுக்கு விதிக்கப்பட்ட தண்டனை காத்திருக்காது, அவர்களுடைய அழிவு தாமதிக்காது. ⁴ பாவம்செய்த தூதர்களைத் தேவன் தப்பவிடாமல், அந்தகாரச் சங்கிலிகளினாலே கட்டி நரகத்திலே தள்ளி நியாயத்தீர்ப்புக்கு வைக்கப்பட்டவர்களாக ஒப்புக்கொடுத்து; ⁵ முழு உலகத்தையும் தப்பவிடாமல், நீதியைப் பிரசங்கித்த நோவாவையும் மற்ற ஏழு நபர்களையும் காப்பாற்றி, அவபக்தியுள்ளவர்கள் நிறைந்த உலகத்தின்மேல் பெரும்வெள்ளத்தை வரப்பண்ணி; ⁶ சோதோம் கொமோரா என்னும் பட்டணங்களையும் சாம்பலாக்கிக் கவிழ்த்துப்போட்டு, தண்டனைக்குள்ளாகத் தீர்த்து, பிற்காலத்திலே அவபக்தியாக நடப்பவர்களுக்கு அவைகளை உதாரணமாக வைத்து; ⁷ அக்கிரமக்காரர்களோடு வாழ்கின்றபோது அவர்களுடைய காமவிகார செயல்களினால் வருத்தப்பட்டு, ⁸ நாள்தோறும் அவர்களுடைய அக்கிரமச் செய்கைகளைப் பார்த்து, கேட்டு நீதியுள்ள தன்னுடைய இருதயத்தில் வாதிக்கப்பட்ட நீதிமானாகிய லோத்தை அவர் இரட்சித்திருக்க; ⁹ கர்த்தர் தேவபக்தியுள்ளவர்களைச் சோதனையில் இருந்து இரட்சிக்கவும், அக்கிரமக்காரர்களை தண்டனைக்குரியவர்களாக நியாயத்தீர்ப்பின் நாளுக்காக வைக்கவும் அறிந்திருக்கிறார். ¹⁰ விசேஷமாக அசுத்தமான ஆசைகளோடு சரீரத்திற்கேற்றபடி நடந்து, கர்த்தரின் அதிகாரத்தை அவமதிக்கிறவர்களை அப்படிச் செய்வார். இவர்கள் துணிகரமானவர்கள், அகங்காரம் நிறைந்தவர்கள், மகத்துவங்களை அவமானப்படுத்த பயப்படாதவர்கள். ¹¹ அதிக பெலனையும் வல்லமையையுமுடைய தேவதூதர்கள் முதலாகக் கர்த்தருக்கு முன்பாக அவர்களை அவமானமாகக் குற்றப்படுத்தமாட்டார்களே. ¹² இவர்களோ பிடிபட்டு அழிக்கப்படுவதற்கு உண்டான புத்தி இல்லாத மிருகஜீவன்களைப்போலத் தங்களுக்குத் தெரியாதவைகளை அவமானப்படுத்தி, தங்களுடைய தீயச்செயலினால் கெட்டு, அழிந்து, அநீதியின் பலனை அடைவார்கள். ¹³ இவர்கள் ஒருநாள் வாழ்வை இன்பம் என்று நினைத்து, தங்களுடைய வஞ்சனைகளில் உல்லாசமாக வாழ்ந்து, உங்களோடு விருந்து சாப்பிடும்போது கறைகளாகவும் களங்கமாகவும் இருக்கிறார்கள்; ¹⁴ விபசார மயக்கத்தினால் நிறைந்தவர்களும், பாவத்தைவிட்டு ஓயாதவைகளாக இருக்கிற கண்களை உடையவர்கள்; உறுதியில்லாத ஆத்துமாக்களைத் தந்திரமாகப் பிடித்து, பொருளாசைகளில் பழகின இருதயத்தையுடைய சாபத்தின் குழந்தைகள். ¹⁵ செம்மையான பாதையைவிட்டுத் தப்பிநடந்து, பேயோரின் குமாரனாகிய பிலேயாமின் வழியைப் பின்பற்றிப் போனவர்கள்; அவன் அநீதியின் கூலியை விரும்பி, ¹⁶ தன்னுடைய அக்கிரமத்திற்காகக் கடிந்து கொள்ளப்பட்டான்; பேசாதக் கழுதை மனிதர்களின் பேச்சைப் பேசித் தீர்க்கதரிசியினுடைய மதிக்கேட்டைத் தடுத்தது. ¹⁷ இவர்கள் தண்ணீர் இல்லாத கிணறுகளும், சுழல்காற்றினால் அடிபட்டு ஓடுகிற மேகங்களுமாக இருக்கிறார்கள்; எப்பொழுதும் உள்ள காரிருளே இவர்களுக்கு வைக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. ¹⁸ வஞ்சகமாக நடக்கிறவர்களிடம் இருந்து அரிதாகத் தப்பினவர்களிடம் இவர்கள் பெருமையான வீண்வார்த்தைகளைப் பேசி, சரீர இச்சைகளினாலும் காமவிகாரங்களினாலும் அவர்களைத் தந்திரமாகப் பிடிக்கிறார்கள். ¹⁹ தாங்களே தீமைக்கு அடிமைகளாக இருந்தும், அவர்களுக்குச் சுதந்திரத்தை வாக்குத்தத்தம்பண்ணுகிறார்கள்; எதினால் ஒருவன் ஜெயிக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறானோ அதற்கு அவன் அடிமைப்பட்டிருக்கிறானே. ²⁰ கர்த்தரும் இரட்சகருமாக இருக்கிற இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவை அறிகிற அறிவினாலே உலகத்தின் அசுத்தங்களுக்குத் தப்பினவர்கள் மீண்டும் அவைகளில் சிக்கிக்கொண்டு அவற்றால் ஆட்கொள்ளப்பட்டால், அவர்களுடைய பின்னிலைமை முன்னிலைமையைவிட அதிக தீமையுள்ளதாக இருக்கும். ²¹ அவர்கள் நீதியின் பாதையை அறிந்தபின்பு தங்களுக்கு ஒப்புவிக்கப்பட்ட பரிசுத்த கட்டளையைவிட்டுவிலகுவதைவிட, அதை அறியாமல் இருந்தார்களானால் அவர்களுக்கு நலமாக இருக்கும். ²² நாய் தான் கக்கினதை சாப்பிடவும், கழுவப்பட்ட பன்றி சேற்றிலே புரளவும் திரும்பினது என்று சொல்லப்பட்ட உண்மையான பழமொழியின்படியே அவர்களுக்கு நடந்தது.

அத்தியாயம்- 3

¹ பிரியமானவர்களே, இந்த இரண்டாம் கடிதத்தை இப்பொழுது உங்களுக்கு எழுதுகிறேன். ² பரிசுத்த தீர்க்கதரிசிகளால் முன்னமே சொல்லப்பட்ட வார்த்தைகளையும், இரட்சகராக இருக்கிற கர்த்தருடைய அப்போஸ்தலர்களாகிய எங்களுடைய கட்டளைகளையும் நீங்கள் நினைத்துப்பார்ப்பதற்காக இந்தக் கடிதங்களினால் உங்களுடைய உண்மையான மனதை ஞாபகப்படுத்தி எழுப்புகிறேன். ³ முதலாவது நீங்கள் தெரிந்துகொள்ளவேண்டியது என்னவென்றால்: கடைசிநாட்களில் பரிகாசக்காரர்கள் வந்து, தங்களுடைய சுய இச்சைகளின்படி நடந்து, ⁴ அவர் திரும்பவருவார் என்று சொல்லுகிற வாக்குத்தத்தம் எங்கே? முற்பிதாக்கள் மரித்தபின்பு எல்லாக் காரியங்களும் படைப்பின் ஆரம்பத்தில் இருந்தவிதமாகவே இருக்கிறதே என்று சொல்லுவார்கள். ⁵ ஆதிகாலத்தில் தேவனுடைய வார்த்தையினாலே வானங்களும் பூமியும் தண்ணீரிலிருந்து தோன்றி தண்ணீரினாலே நிலைகொண்டிருக்கிறது என்பதையும், ⁶ அப்பொழுது இருந்த உலகம் பெருவெள்ளத்தினாலே அழிந்தது என்பதையும் மனதார அறியாமலிருக்கிறார்கள். ⁷ இப்பொழுது இருக்கிற வானங்களும் பூமியும் அதே வார்த்தையினாலே நெருப்புக்கு இரையாக வைக்கப்பட்டு, தேவபக்தி இல்லாதவர்கள் நியாயந்தீர்க்கப்பட்டு அழிந்துபோகும் நாள்வரை காக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. ⁸ பிரியமானவர்களே, கர்த்தருக்கு ஒருநாள் ஆயிரம் வருடங்களைப்போலவும், ஆயிரம் வருடங்கள் ஒருநாளைப்போலவும் இருக்கிறது என்கிற இந்த ஒரு காரியத்தை நீங்கள் அறியாமல் இருக்கவேண்டாம். ⁹ தாமதம் பண்ணுகிறார் என்று சிலர் நினைக்கிறபடி, கர்த்தர் தமது வாக்குத்தத்தத்தைக்குறித்துத் தாமதம்பண்ணாமல்; ஒருவரும் கெட்டுப்போகாமல் எல்லோரும் மனம்திரும்பவேண்டும் என்று விரும்பி, நம்மேல் நீடியபொறுமை உள்ளவராக இருக்கிறார். ¹⁰ கர்த்தருடைய நாள் இரவிலே திருடன் வருகிறதுபோல வரும்; அப்பொழுது வானங்கள் பயங்கர சத்தத்தோடு விலகிப்போகும், பஞ்சபூதங்கள் வெந்து உருகிப்போகும், பூமியும் அதில் உள்ள செயல்களும் எரிந்து அழிந்துபோகும். ¹¹ இப்படி இவைகளெல்லாம் அழிந்து போகிறதாக இருக்கிறதினால் நீங்கள் எப்படிப்பட்ட பரிசுத்த வாழ்க்கையும் தேவபக்தியும் உள்ளவர்களாக இருக்கவேண்டும்! ¹² தேவன் வருகின்ற நாள் சீக்கிரமாக வருவதற்கு அதிக ஆவலோடு காத்திருங்கள்; அந்த நாளில் வானங்கள் வெந்து அழிந்து, பஞ்சபூதங்கள் எரிந்து உருகிப்போகும். ¹³ அவருடைய வாக்குத்தத்தத்தின்படி நீதி நிலைத்திருக்கும் புதிய வானங்களும் புதிய பூமியும் உண்டாகும் என்று காத்திருக்கிறோம். ¹⁴ ஆகவே, பிரியமானவர்களே இவைகள் வருவதற்காகக் காத்திருக்கிற நீங்கள் கறை இல்லாதவர்களும் பிழை இல்லாதவர்களுமாகச் சமாதானத்தோடு அவர் சந்நிதியில் காணப்படுவதற்கு கவனமாக இருங்கள். ¹⁵ மேலும் நம்முடைய கர்த்தரின் அதிகப் பொறுமையை இரட்சிப்பு என்று நினைத்துக்கொள்ளுங்கள்; நமக்குப் பிரியமான சகோதரனாகிய பவுலும் தனக்கு அருளப்பட்ட ஞானத்தினாலே இப்படியே உங்களுக்கு எழுதியிருக்கிறான்; ¹⁶ எல்லாக் கடிதங்களிலும் இவைகளைக்குறித்துப் பேசியிருக்கிறான்; அவன் சொன்னவைகளில் சில காரியங்கள் புரிந்துகொள்வதற்கு கடினமாக இருக்கிறது; கல்லாதவர்களும் உறுதி இல்லாதவர்களும் மற்ற வேதவாக்கியங்களைப் புரட்டுகிறதுபோலத் தங்களுக்குத் தீமை வரும்படி இவைகளையும் புரட்டுகிறார்கள். ¹⁷ ஆகவே, பிரியமானவர்களே, இவைகளை முன்னமே நீங்கள் தெரிந்திருக்கிறதினால், அக்கிரமக்காரர்களுடைய வஞ்சகத்தினாலே நீங்கள் இழுக்கப்பட்டு உங்களுடைய உறுதியில் இருந்து விலகி விழுந்துவிடாதபடி எச்சரிக்கையாக இருந்து, ¹⁸ நம்முடைய கர்த்தரும் இரட்சகருமாகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவின் கிருபையிலும் அவருடைய அறிவிலும் வளருங்கள். அவருக்கு இப்பொழுதும் என்றென்றைக்கும் மகிமை உண்டாவதாக. ஆமென்.

1 John

அத்தியாயம்- 1

¹ ஆரம்பமுதல் இருந்ததும், நாங்கள் கேட்டதும், எங்களுடைய கண்களினாலே கண்டதும், நாங்கள் ஏறெடுத்துப் பார்த்ததும், எங்களுடைய கைகளினாலே தொட்டதுமாக இருக்கிற ஜீவவார்த்தையைக்குறித்து உங்களுக்கு அறிவிக்கிறோம். ² அந்த ஜீவன் வெளிப்பட்டது; பிதாவினிடத்தில் இருந்ததும், எங்களுக்கு வெளிப்பட்டதுமான நித்தியமாக இருக்கிற அந்த ஜீவனை நாங்கள் பார்த்து, அதைக்குறித்துச் சாட்சிகொடுத்து, அதை உங்களுக்கு அறிவிக்கிறோம். ³ நீங்களும் எங்களோடு ஐக்கியம் உள்ளவர்களாகும்படி, நாங்கள் பார்த்தும் கேட்டும் இருக்கிறதை உங்களுக்கும் அறிவிக்கிறோம்; எங்களுடைய ஐக்கியம் பிதாவோடும் அவருடைய குமாரனாகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவோடும் இருக்கிறது. ⁴ உங்களுடைய சந்தோஷம் நிறைவாக இருக்கும்படி இவைகளை உங்களுக்கு எழுதுகிறோம்.

⁵ தேவன் ஒளியாக இருக்கிறார், அவரிடம் கொஞ்சம்கூட இருள் இல்லை; இது நாங்கள் அவரிடத்தில் கேட்டு உங்களுக்கு அறிவிக்கிற செய்தியாக இருக்கிறது. ⁶ நாம் அவரோடு ஐக்கியம் உள்ளவர்களென்று சொல்லியும், இருளிலே நடக்கிறவர்களாக இருந்தால், சத்தியத்தின்படி நடக்காமல் பொய் சொல்லுகிறவர்களாக இருப்போம். ⁷ அவர் ஒளியில் இருக்கிறதுபோல நாமும் ஒளியிலே நடந்தால் ஒருவரோடொருவர் ஐக்கியம் உள்ளவர்களாக இருப்போம்; அவருடைய குமாரனாகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவின் இரத்தம் எல்லாப் பாவங்களையும் நீக்கி, நம்மைச் சுத்திகரிக்கும். ⁸ நமக்குப் பாவம் இல்லை என்று சொல்வோமானால், நம்மைநாமே ஏமாற்றிக்கொள்ளுகிறவர்களாக இருப்போம், சத்தியம் நமக்குள் இருக்காது. ⁹ நம்முடைய பாவங்களை நாம் அறிக்கையிட்டால், பாவங்களை நமக்கு மன்னித்து எல்லா அநியாயத்தையும் நீக்கி நம்மைச் சுத்திகரிப்பதற்கு அவர் உண்மையும் நீதியும் உள்ளவராக இருக்கிறார். ¹⁰ நாம் பாவம் செய்யவில்லை என்போமானால், நாம் அவரைப் பொய்யராக்குகிறவர்களாக இருப்போம், அவருடைய வார்த்தை நமக்குள் இருக்காது.

அத்தியாயம்- 2

¹ என் பிள்ளைகளே, நீங்கள் பாவம் செய்யாதபடிக்கு இவைகளை உங்களுக்கு எழுதுகிறேன்; ஒருவன் பாவம் செய்தால் நீதிபரராக இருக்கிற இயேசுகிறிஸ்து நமக்காகப் பிதாவினிடத்தில் பரிந்து பேசுகிறவராக இருக்கிறார். ² நம்முடைய பாவங்களை நிவர்த்தி செய்கிற பாவநிவாரணபலி அவரே; நம்முடைய பாவங்களையும் அல்ல, முழு உலகத்தின் பாவங்களையும் நிவர்த்தி செய்கிற பலியாக இருக்கிறார். ³ அவருடைய கட்டளைகளை நாம் கடைபிடிக்கிறவர்களாக இருப்போமானால், அவரை அறிந்திருக்கிறோம் என்பதை அதினால் அறிவோம். ⁴ அவரை அறிந்திருக்கிறேன் என்று சொல்லியும், அவருடைய கட்டளைகளைக் கடைப்பிடிக்காதவன் பொய்யனாக இருக்கிறான், அவனுக்குள் சத்தியம் இல்லை. ⁵ அவருடைய வசனத்தைக் கடைபிடிக்கிறவனிடத்தில் தேவ அன்பு உண்மையாகவே பூரணப்பட்டிருக்கும்; நாம் அவருக்குள் இருக்கிறோம் என்பதை அதினாலே அறிந்திருக்கிறோம். ⁶ அவருக்குள் நிலைத்திருக்கிறேன் என்று சொல்லுகிறவன், அவர் நடந்தபடியே தானும் நடக்கவேண்டும். ⁷ சகோதரர்களே, நான் உங்களுக்குப் புதிய கட்டளையை அல்ல, ஆரம்பமுதல் நீங்கள் பெற்றிருக்கிற பழைய கட்டளையையே எழுதுகிறேன்; அந்தப் பழைய கட்டளை நீங்கள் ஆரம்பமுதல் கேட்டிருக்கிற வசனம்தானே. ⁸ மேலும், நான் புதிய கட்டளையையும் உங்களுக்கு எழுதுகிறேன், இது அவருக்குள்ளும் உங்களுக்குள்ளும் உண்மையாக இருக்கிறது; ஏனென்றால், இருள் நீங்கிப்போகிறது, உண்மையான ஒளி இப்பொழுது பிரகாசிக்கிறது. ⁹ ஒளியிலே இருக்கிறேன் என்று சொல்லியும் தன் சகோதரனைப் பகைக்கிறவன் இதுவரைக்கும் இருளிலே இருக்கிறான். ¹⁰ தன் சகோதரனிடத்தில் அன்புசெலுத்துகிறவன் ஒளியிலே நிலைத்திருக்கிறான்; அவனிடத்தில் தடுமாற்றம் ஒன்றுமில்லை. ¹¹ தன் சகோதரனைப் பகைக்கிறவன் இருளிலே இருந்து இருளிலே நடக்கிறான்; இருளானது அவன் கண்களைக் குருடாக்கிப்படியால் தான் போகும் இடம் எங்கேயென்று தெரியாமல் இருக்கிறான். ¹² பிள்ளைகளே அவருடைய நாமத்தினிமித்தம் உங்களுடைய பாவங்கள் மன்னிக்கப் பட்டிருக்கிறதினால் உங்களுக்கு எழுதுகிறேன். ¹³ பிதாக்களே, ஆரம்பமுதல் இருக்கிறவரை நீங்கள் அறிந்திருக்கிறதினால் உங்களுக்கு எழுதுகிறேன். வாலிபர்களே, சாத்தானை நீங்கள் ஜெயித்ததினால் உங்களுக்கு எழுதுகிறேன். பிள்ளைகளே, நீங்கள் பிதாவை அறிந்திருக்கிறதினால் உங்களுக்கு எழுதுகிறேன். ¹⁴ பிதாக்களே, ஆரம்பமுதல் இருக்கிறவரை நீங்கள் அறிந்திருக்கிறதினால் உங்களுக்கு எழுதியிருக்கிறேன். வாலிபர்களே, நீங்கள் பலவான்களாக இருக்கிறதினாலும், தேவவசனம் உங்களில் நிலைத்திருக்கிறதினாலும், நீங்கள் சாத்தானை ஜெயித்ததினாலும், உங்களுக்கு எழுதியிருக்கிறேன்.

¹⁵ உலகத்தையும் உலகத்தில் உள்ளவைகளையும் நேசிக்காதீர்கள்; ஒருவன் உலகத்தை நேசித்தால் அவனிடம் பிதாவின் அன்பு இல்லை. ¹⁶ ஏனென்றால், சரீரத்தின் இச்சையும், கண்களின் இச்சையும், வாழ்க்கையின் பெருமையுமாகிய உலகத்தில் உள்ளவைகளெல்லாம் பிதாவினால் உண்டானவைகள் அல்ல, அவைகள் உலகத்தினால் உண்டானவைகள். ¹⁷ உலகமும் அதின் இச்சையும் ஒழிந்துபோகும்; தேவனுடைய விருப்பத்தின்படி செய்கிறவனோ என்றென்றைக்கும் நிலைத்திருப்பான்.

¹⁸ பிள்ளைகளே, இது கடைசி காலமாக இருக்கிறது; அந்திக்கிறிஸ்து வருகிறானென்று நீங்கள் கேள்விப்பட்டபடி இப்பொழுதும் அநேக அந்திக்கிறிஸ்துகள் இருக்கிறார்கள்; அதினாலே இது கடைசிக்காலமென்று அறிகிறோம். ¹⁹ அவர்கள் நம்மைவிட்டுப் பிரிந்துபோனார்கள், ஆனாலும் அவர்கள் நம்முடையவர்களாக இருக்கவில்லை; நம்முடையவர்களாக இருந்தார்களானால் நம்முடனே நிலைத்திருப்பார்களே; எல்லோரும் நம்முடையவர்கள் இல்லை என்று வெளிப்படுத்துவதற்காகவே பிரிந்துபோனார்கள். ²⁰ நீங்கள் பரிசுத்தராலே அபிஷேகம் பெற்று எல்லாவற்றையும் அறிந்திருக்கிறீர்கள். ²¹ சத்தியத்தை நீங்கள் அறியாததினால் அல்ல, நீங்கள் சத்தியத்தை அறிந்திருக்கிறதினாலும், சத்தியத்தினால் ஒரு பொய்யும் உண்டாகாது என்பதை நீங்கள் அறிந்திருக்கிறதினாலும், உங்களுக்கு எழுதியிருக்கிறேன். ²² இயேசுவைக் கிறிஸ்து இல்லை என்று மறுதலிக்கிறவனேதவிர வேறு யார் பொய்யன்? பிதாவையும் குமாரனையும் மறுதலிக்கிறவனே அந்திக்கிறிஸ்து. ²³ குமாரனை மறுதலிக்கிறவன் பிதாவை உடையவனல்ல, குமாரனை அறிக்கையிடுகிறவன் பிதாவையும் உடையவனாக இருக்கிறான். ²⁴ ஆகவே, ஆரம்பமுதல் நீங்கள் கேள்விப்பட்டது உங்களில் நிலைத்திருக்கட்டும்; ஆரம்பமுதல் நீங்கள் கேள்விப்பட்டது உங்களில் நிலைத்திருந்தால், நீங்கள் குமாரனிலும் பிதாவிலும் நிலைத்திருப்பீர்கள். ²⁵ நித்தியஜீவனை கொடுப்பேன் என்பதே அவர் நமக்குச் செய்த வாக்குத்தத்தம். ²⁶ உங்களை ஏமாற்றுகிறவர்களுக்குறித்து இவைகளை உங்களுக்கு எழுதியிருக்கிறேன். ²⁷ நீங்கள் அவராலே பெற்ற அபிஷேகம் உங்களில் நிலைத்திருக்கிறது, ஒருவரும் உங்களுக்குப் போதிக்கவேண்டியதில்லை; அந்த அபிஷேகம் எல்லாவற்றையும்குறித்து உங்களுக்குப் போதிக்கிறது; அது சத்தியமாக இருக்கிறது, பொய்யல்ல, அது உங்களுக்குப் போதித்தபடியே அவரில் நிலைத்திருப்பீர்களாக.

²⁸ இப்படியிருக்க, பிள்ளைகளே, அவர் வெளிப்படும்போது நாம் தைரியமுள்ளவர்களாக இருப்பதற்காகவும் அவர் வரும்போது நாம் வெட்கப்பட்டுப்போகாமல் இருக்கவும் அவரில் நிலைத்திருப்போம். ²⁹ அவர் நீதியுள்ளவராக இருக்கிறாரென்று உங்களுக்குத் தெரிந்திருப்பதினால், நீதியைச் செய்கிறவன் எவனும் அவரில் பிறந்தவனென்று அறிந்திருக்கிறீர்கள்.

அத்தியாயம்- 3

¹ நாம் தேவனுடைய பிள்ளைகள் என்று அழைக்கப்படுவதினாலே பிதாவானவர் நமக்குப் பாராட்டின அன்பு எவ்வளவு பெரியது என்று உணர்ந்து பாருங்கள்; உலகம் அவரை அறியாதபடியினாலே நம்மையும் அறியவில்லை. ² பிரியமானவர்களே, இப்பொழுது தேவனுடைய பிள்ளைகளாக இருக்கிறோம், இனி எவ்விதமாக இருப்போம் என்று இன்னும் வெளிப்படவில்லை; ஆனாலும் அவர் வெளிப்படும்போது அவர் இருக்கிற பிரகாரமாகவே நாம் அவரைக் காண்பதினால், அவருடைய சாயலாக இருப்போம் என்று அறிந்திருக்கிறோம். ³ அவர்மேல் இப்படிப்பட்ட நம்பிக்கை வைத்திருக்கிறவன் எவனும், அவர் சுத்தமுள்ளவராக இருக்கிறதுபோல, தன்னையும் சுத்திகரித்துக்கொள்ளுகிறான். ⁴ பாவம் செய்கிற எவனும் நியாயப்பிரமாணத்தை மீறுகிறான்; நியாயப்பிரமாணத்தை மீறுகிறதே பாவம். ⁵ அவர் நம்முடைய பாவங்களைச் சுமந்து தீர்க்க வெளிப்பட்டாரென்று அறிவீர்கள்; அவரிடத்தில் பாவம் இல்லை. ⁶ அவரில் நிலைத்திருக்கிற எவனும் பாவம் செய்கிறதில்லை; பாவம் செய்கிற எவனும் அவரைக் காணவும் இல்லை, அவரை அறியவும் இல்லை. ⁷ பிள்ளைகளே, நீங்கள் ஒருவராலும் ஏமாற்றப்படாமலிருங்கள்; நீதியைச் செய்கிறவன் அவர் நீதியுள்ளவராக இருக்கிறதுபோலத் தானும் நீதியுள்ளவனாக இருக்கிறான். ⁸ பாவம் செய்கிறவன் பிசாசினால் உண்டாயிருக்கிறான்; ஏனென்றால், பிசாசானவன் ஆரம்பமுதல் பாவம் செய்கிறான், பிசாசினுடைய செயல்களை அழிப்பதற்காக தேவனுடைய குமாரன் வெளிப்பட்டார். ⁹ தேவனால் பிறந்த எவனும் பாவம் செய்யமாட்டான், ஏனென்றால், அவருடைய வித்து அவனுக்குள் நிலைத்திருக்கிறது; அவன் தேவனால் பிறந்தபடியினால் பாவம் செய்யமாட்டான். ¹⁰ இதினாலே தேவனுடைய பிள்ளைகள் யாரென்றும், பிசாசின் பிள்ளைகள் யாரென்றும் வெளிப்படும்; நீதியைச் செய்யாமலும் தன் சகோதரனில் அன்புசுராமலும் இருக்கிற எவனும் தேவனால் உண்டானவன் இல்லை.

¹¹ நாம் ஒருவரையொருவர் நேசிக்கவேண்டும் என்பதே நீங்கள் ஆரம்பமுதல் கேள்விப்பட்ட செய்தியாக இருக்கிறது. ¹² சாத்தானால் உண்டாயிருந்து தன் சகோதரனைக் கொலைசெய்த காயீனைப்போல இருக்கவேண்டாம்; அவன் எதினிமித்தம் அவனைக் கொலைசெய்தான்? தன் செய்கைகள் பொல்லாதவைகளும், தன் சகோதரனுடைய செய்கைகள் நீதி உள்ளவைகளாக இருந்ததினிமித்தம்தானே. ¹³ என் சகோதரர்களே, உலகம் உங்களைப் பகைத்தால் ஆச்சரியப்படாமலிருங்கள். ¹⁴ நாம் சகோதரர்களிடம் அன்பு செலுத்துகிறபடியால், மரணத்தைவிட்டு விலகி ஜீவனுக்கு உட்பட்டிருக்கிறோம் என்று அறிந்திருக்கிறோம்; சகோதரனிடத்தில் அன்புசுராதவன் மரணத்திலே நிலைபெற்றிருக்கிறான். ¹⁵ தன் சகோதரனைப் பகைக்கிற எவனும் மனித கொலைபாதகனாக இருக்கிறான்; மனித கொலைபாதகன் எவனோ அவனுக்குள் நித்தியஜீவன் நிலைத்திருக்காது என்று அறிவீர்கள். ¹⁶ அவர் தம்முடைய ஜீவனை நமக்காகக் கொடுத்ததினாலே அன்பு இன்னதென்று அறிந்திருக்கிறோம்; நாமும் சகோதரர்களுக்காக ஜீவனைக் கொடுக்கக் கடனாளிகளாக இருக்கிறோம். ¹⁷ ஒருவன் இந்த உலகத்தின் செல்வம் உடையவனாக இருந்து, தன் சகோதரனுக்கு வறுமை உண்டென்று அறிந்து, தன் இருதயத்தை அவனுக்கு அடைத்துக்கொண்டால், அவனுக்குள் தேவஅன்பு நிலைபெறுகிறது எப்படி? ¹⁸ என் பிள்ளைகளே, வசனத்தினாலும் பேச்சினாலுமல்ல, செயல்களினாலும் உண்மையினாலும் அன்பு செலுத்துவோம். ¹⁹ இதினாலே நாம் நம்மைச் சத்தியத்திற்குரியவர்கள் என்று அறிந்து, நம்முடைய இருதயத்தை அவருக்கு முன்பாக நிச்சயப்படுத்திக்கொள்ளலாம். ²⁰ நம்முடைய இருதயமே நம்மைக் குற்றவாளிகளாகத் தீர்க்குமானால், தேவன் நம்முடைய இருதயத்திலும் பெரியவராக இருந்து எல்லாவற்றையும் அறிந்திருக்கிறார். ²¹ பிரியமானவர்களே, நம்முடைய இருதயம் நம்மைக் குற்றவாளிகளென்று தீர்க்காமலிருந்தால், நாம் தேவனிடத்தில் நம்பிக்கைக் கொண்டிருந்து, ²² அவருடைய கட்டளைகளை நாம் கடைபிடித்து அவருக்கு முன்பாகப் பிரியமானவைகளைச் செய்கிறபடியினால் நாம் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறது எதுவோ அதை அவராலே பெற்றுக்கொள்ளுகிறோம். ²³ நாம் அவருடைய குமாரனாகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவின் நாமத்தின்மேல் விசுவாசமாக இருந்து, அவர் நமக்குக் கட்டளையிட்டபடி ஒருவரிலொருவர் அன்பாக இருக்கவேண்டுமென்பதே அவருடைய கட்டளையாக இருக்கிறது. ²⁴ அவருடைய கட்டளைகளைக் கடைப்பிடிக்கிறவன் அவரில் நிலைத்திருக்கிறான், அவரும் அவனில் நிலைத்திருக்கிறார்; அவர் நம்மில் நிலைத்திருக்கிறதை அவர் நமக்குத் தந்தருளின ஆவியானவராலே அறிந்திருக்கிறோம்.

அத்தியாயம்- 4

¹ பிரியமானவர்களே, உலகத்தில் அநேக கள்ளத்தீர்க்கதரிசிகள் தோன்றியிருப்பதினால், நீங்கள் எல்லா ஆவிகளையும் நம்பாமல், அந்த ஆவிகள் தேவனால் உண்டானவைகளோ என்று சோதித்துப்பாருங்கள். ² தேவ ஆவியை நீங்கள் எதினாலே அறியலாம் என்றால்: சரீரத்தில் வந்த இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவை அறிக்கை செய்கிற எந்த ஆவியும் தேவனால் உண்டாயிருக்கிறது. ³ சரீரத்தில் வந்த இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவை அறிக்கை செய்யாத எந்த ஆவியும் தேவனால் உண்டானதல்ல; வருமென்று நீங்கள் கேள்விப்பட்ட அந்திக்கிறிஸ்துவினுடைய ஆவி அதுவே, அது இப்பொழுதும் உலகத்தில் இருக்கிறது. ⁴ பிள்ளைகளே, நீங்கள் தேவனால் உண்டாயிருந்து, அவர்களை வென்றீர்கள்; ஏனென்றால், உலகத்தில் இருக்கிறவனைவிட உங்களுக்குள் இருக்கிறவர் பெரியவர். ⁵ அவர்கள் உலகத்திற்குரியவர்கள், ஆகவே, உலகத்திற்குரியவைகளைப் பேசுகிறார்கள், உலகமும் அவர்களுக்குச் செவிகொடுக்கும். ⁶ நாங்கள் தேவனால் உண்டானவர்கள்; தேவனை அறிந்தவன் எங்களுக்குச் செவிகொடுக்கிறான்; தேவனால் உண்டாகாதவன் எங்களுக்குச் செவிகொடுக்கிறதில்லை; இதினாலே சத்திய ஆவி எதுவென்றும் ஏமாற்றும் ஆவி எதுவென்றும் அறிந்திருக்கிறோம்.

⁷ பிரியமானவர்களே, ஒருவரிலொருவர் அன்பாக இருப்போம்; ஏனென்றால், அன்பு தேவனால் உண்டாயிருக்கிறது; அன்புள்ள எவனும் தேவனால் பிறந்து, அவரை அறிந்திருக்கிறான். ⁸ அன்பில்லாதவன் தேவனை அறியான்; தேவன் அன்பாகவே இருக்கிறார். ⁹ தம்முடைய ஒரேபேறான குமாரனாலே நாம் பிழைக்கும்படிக்கு தேவன் அவரை இந்த உலகத்திற்கு அனுப்பினதினால் தேவன் நம்மேல் வைத்த அன்பு வெளிப்பட்டது. ¹⁰ நாம் தேவனிடத்தில் அன்புகூர்ந்ததினால் அல்ல, அவர் நம்மிடத்தில் அன்புகூர்ந்து, நம்முடைய பாவங்களை நிவர்த்தி செய்கிற பாவநிவாரணபலியாகத் தம்முடைய குமாரனை அனுப்பினதினாலே அன்பு உண்டாயிருக்கிறது. ¹¹ பிரியமானவர்களே, தேவன் இவ்விதமாக நம்மிடத்தில் அன்புகூர்ந்திருக்க, நாமும் ஒருவரிலொருவர் அன்புகூரக் கடனாளிகளாக இருக்கிறோம். ¹² தேவனை ஒருவரும் ஒருபோதும் கண்டதில்லை; நாம் ஒருவரிலொருவர் அன்புகூர்ந்தால் தேவன் நமக்குள் நிலைத்திருக்கிறார்; அவருடைய அன்பும் நமக்குள் பூரணப்படும். ¹³ அவர் தம்முடைய ஆவியானவரை நமக்குக் கொடுத்ததினாலே நாம் அவரிலும் அவர் நம்மிலும் நிலைத்திருக்கிறதை அறிந்திருக்கிறோம். ¹⁴ பிதாவானவர் குமாரனை உலக இரட்சகராக அனுப்பினாரென்று நாங்கள் பார்த்து சாட்சியிடுகிறோம். ¹⁵ இயேசுவானவர் தேவனுடைய குமாரனென்று அறிக்கைசெய்கிறவன் எவனோ அவனில் தேவன் நிலைத்திருக்கிறார், அவனும் தேவனில் நிலைத்திருக்கிறான். ¹⁶ தேவன் நம்மேல் வைத்திருக்கிற அன்பை நாம் அறிந்து விசுவாசித்திருக்கிறோம். தேவன் அன்பாகவே இருக்கிறார்; அன்பில் நிலைத்திருக்கிறவன் தேவனில் நிலைத்திருக்கிறான், தேவனும் அவனில் நிலைத்திருக்கிறார். ¹⁷ நியாயத்தீர்ப்புநாளிலே நமக்கு தைரியம் உண்டாயிருக்கத்தக்கதாக அன்பு நம்மிடத்தில் பூரணப்படுகிறது; ஏனென்றால், அவர் இருக்கிறபிரகாரமாக நாமும் இந்த உலகத்தில் இருக்கிறோம். ¹⁸ அன்பிலே பயமில்லை; பூரண அன்பு பயத்தை வெளியே தள்ளும்; பயமானது வேதனையுள்ளது, பயப்படுகிறவன் அன்பில் பூரணப்பட்டவன் இல்லை. ¹⁹ அவர் முதலாவது நம்மிடத்தில் அன்பு கூர்ந்தபடியால் நாமும் அவரிடத்தில் அன்பு செலுத்துகிறோம். ²⁰ தேவனிடத்தில் அன்பு கூருகிறேனென்று ஒருவன் சொல்லியும், தன் சகோதரனைப் பகைத்தால், அவன் பொய்யன்; தான் கண்ட சகோதரனிடத்தில் அன்பு கூராமலிருக்கிறவன், தான் காணாத தேவனிடத்தில் எப்படி அன்பு செலுத்துவான்? ²¹ தேவனிடத்தில் அன்புசெலுத்துகிறவன் தன் சகோதரனிடத்திலும் அன்புகூரவேண்டுமென்கிற இந்தக் கட்டளையை அவராலே பெற்றிருக்கிறோம்.

அத்தியாயம்- 5

¹ இயேசுவானவரே கிறிஸ்து என்று விசுவாசிக்கிற எவனும் தேவனால் பிறந்திருக்கிறான்; பிறக்கச்செய்தவரிடம் அன்பு செலுத்துகிற எவனும் அவரால் பிறந்தவனிடமும் அன்பு செலுத்துகிறான். ² நாம் தேவனிடத்தில் அன்புசெலுத்தி அவருடைய கட்டளைகளைக் கடைப்பிடிக்கும்போது, தேவனுடைய பிள்ளைகளிடத்தில் அன்பு செலுத்துகிறோம் என்று அறிந்துகொள்ளுகிறோம். ³ தேவனிடத்தில் அன்புகூறுவது என்பது அவருடைய கட்டளைகளைக் கடைப்பிடிப்பதே ஆகும்; அவருடைய கட்டளைகள் பாரமானவைகளும் இல்லை. ⁴ தேவனால் பிறப்பதெல்லாம் உலகத்தை ஜெயிக்கும்; நம்முடைய விசுவாசமே உலகத்தை மேற்கொள்ளும் ஜெயம். ⁵ இயேசுவானவர் தேவனுடைய குமாரனென்று விசுவாசிக்கிறவனைத்தவிர உலகத்தை ஜெயிக்கிறவன் யார்? ⁶ இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவாகிய இவரே தண்ணீரினாலும் இரத்தத்தினாலும் வந்தவர்; தண்ணீரினாலே மாத்திரமல்ல, தண்ணீரினாலும் இரத்தத்தினாலும் வந்தவர். ஆவியானவர் சத்தியமாக இருப்பதினால், ஆவியானவரே சாட்சிகொடுக்கிறவர். ⁷ பரலோகத்திலே சாட்சியிடுகிறவர்கள் மூவர், பிதா, வார்த்தை, பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவர் என்பவர்களே, இந்த மூவரும் ஒன்றாக இருக்கிறார்கள்; ⁸ பூலோகத்திலே சாட்சியிடுகிறவைகள் மூன்று, ஆவி, தண்ணீர், இரத்தம் என்பவைகளே, இம்மூன்றும் ஒருமைப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. ⁹ நாம் மனிதனுடைய சாட்சியை ஏற்றுக்கொள்கிறோம். அதைவிட தேவனுடைய சாட்சி மேன்மையாக இருக்கிறது; தேவன் தமது குமாரனைக்குறித்துக் கொடுத்த சாட்சி இதுவே. ¹⁰ தேவனுடைய குமாரனிடத்தில் விசுவாசமாக இருக்கிறவன் அந்தச் சாட்சியைத் தனக்குள்ளே பெற்றிருக்கிறான்; தேவனை விசுவாசிக்காதவனோ, தேவன் தம்முடைய குமாரனைக்குறித்துக் கொடுத்த சாட்சியை விசுவாசிக்காததினால், அவரைப் பொய்யராக்குகிறான். ¹¹ தேவன் நமக்கு நித்தியஜீவனைத் கொடுத்திருக்கிறார், அந்த ஜீவன் அவருடைய குமாரனில் இருக்கிறதென்பதே அந்தச் சாட்சி ஆகும். ¹² குமாரனை உடையவன் ஜீவனை உடையவன், தேவனுடைய குமாரன் இல்லாதவன் ஜீவன் இல்லாதவன்.

¹³ உங்களுக்கு நித்தியஜீவன் உண்டென்று நீங்கள் அறியவும், தேவகுமாரனுடைய நாமத்தின்மேல் நீங்கள் விசுவாசமாக இருக்கவும், தேவகுமாரனுடைய நாமத்தின்மேல் விசுவாசமாக இருக்கிற உங்களுக்கு இவைகளை எழுதியிருக்கிறேன். ¹⁴ நாம் எதையாவது அவருடைய விருப்பத்தின்படி கேட்டால், அவர் நமக்குச் செவிகொடுக்கிறார் என்பதே அவரைப்பற்றி நாம் அறிந்திருக்கிற நம்பிக்கை. ¹⁵ நாம் எதைக்கேட்டாலும், அவர் நமக்குச் செவிகொடுக்கிறார் என்று நாம் அறிந்திருந்தோமானால், அவரிடத்தில் நாம் கேட்டவைகளைப் பெற்றுக்கொண்டோமென்றும் அறிந்திருக்கிறோம். ¹⁶ மரணத்திற்குரியதாக இல்லாத பாவத்தைத் தன் சகோதரன் செய்வதை ஒருவன் பார்த்தால், அவன் ஜெபம் செய்யவேண்டும், அப்பொழுது அவனுக்கு ஜீவனைக் கொடுப்பார்; யாருக்கென்றால், மரணத்திற்குரியதாக இல்லாத பாவத்தைச் செய்தவர்களுக்கே; மரணத்திற்குரியதான பாவமும் உண்டு, அதைக்குறித்து ஜெபம்செய்ய நான் சொல்வதில்லை. ¹⁷ அநீதி எல்லாம் பாவம்தான்; என்றாலும் மரணத்திற்குரியதாக இல்லாத பாவமும் உண்டு. ¹⁸ தேவனால் பிறந்த எவனும் பாவம் செய்யமாட்டான் என்று அறிந்திருக்கிறோம்; தேவனால் பிறந்தவனை தேவன் தீமையிலிருந்து காக்கிறார், சாத்தான் அவனைத் தொடமாட்டான். ¹⁹ நாம் தேவனால் உண்டாயிருக்கிறோம் என்றும், உலகம் முழுவதும் சாத்தானுக்குள் இருக்கிறது என்றும் அறிந்திருக்கிறோம். ²⁰ அன்றியும், நாம் சத்தியமுள்ளவரை அறிந்துகொள்வதற்கு தேவனுடைய குமாரன் வந்து நமக்கு புத்தியைக் கொடுத்திருக்கிறார் என்றும் அறிவோம்; அவருடைய குமாரனாகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்து என்னப்பட்ட சத்தியமுள்ளவருக்குள்ளும் இருக்கிறோம்; இவரே மெய்யான தேவனும் நித்தியஜீவனுமாக இருக்கிறார். ²¹ பிள்ளைகளே, நீங்கள் விக்கிரகங்களுக்கு விலகி, உங்களைக் காத்துக்கொள்வீர்களாக. ஆமென்.

2 John

அத்தியாயம்- 1

¹ நமக்குள் நிலைத்துநிற்கிறதும் என்றென்றைக்கும் நம்மோடு இருப்பதுமாகிய சத்தியத்திற்காக, நான்மட்டும் அல்ல, சத்தியத்தை அறிந்திருக்கிற எல்லோரும் சத்தியத்தின்படி நேசித்திருக்கிறவளும், ² தெரிந்துகொள்ளப்பட்ட தாயாருக்கும், அவளுடைய பிள்ளைகளுக்கும், மூப்பனாகிய நான் எழுதுகிறதாவது: ³ பிதாவாகிய தேவனாலும் பிதாவின் குமாரனாக இருக்கிற கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவினாலும், கிருபையும் இரக்கமும், சமாதானமும், சத்தியத்தோடும் அன்போடும் கூட உங்களோடு இருப்பதாக. ⁴ பிதாவினால் நாம் பெற்ற கட்டளையின்படி உம்முடைய பிள்ளைகளில் சிலர் சத்தியத்திலே நடக்கிறதை நான் பார்த்து மிகவும் சந்தோஷப்பட்டேன். ⁵ இப்பொழுதும் தாயாரே, நாம் ஒருவரையொருவர் நேசிக்கவேண்டும் என்று, உமக்குப் புதிய கட்டளையாக எழுதாமல், ஆரம்பம் முதல் நமக்கு உண்டாயிருக்கிற கட்டளையாக எழுதி, உம்மை வேண்டிக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். ⁶ நாம் அவருடைய கட்டளைகளின்படி நடப்பதே அன்பு; நீங்கள் ஆரம்பமுதல் கேட்டிருக்கிறபடி நடந்துகொள்ளவேண்டிய கட்டளை இதுவே. ⁷ சரீரத்தில் வந்த இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவை அறிக்கைபண்ணாத அநேக ஏமாற்றுக்காரர்கள் உலகத்திலே தோன்றியிருக்கிறார்கள்; இப்படிப்பட்டவனே ஏமாற்றுக்காரனும், அந்திக்கிறிஸ்துவுமாக இருக்கிறான். ⁸ உங்களுடைய செய்கைகளின் பலனை இழந்துபோகாமல், பூரண பலனைப் பெற்றுக்கொள்வதற்கு எச்சரிக்கையாக இருங்கள். ⁹ கிறிஸ்துவின் உபதேசத்திலே நிலைத்திருக்காமல் மீறி நடக்கிற எவனும் தேவனை உடையவன் இல்லை, கிறிஸ்துவின் உபதேசத்தில் நிலைத்திருக்கிறவனோ பிதாவையும் குமாரனையும் உடையவன். ¹⁰ ஒருவன் உங்களிடம் வந்து இந்த உபதேசத்தைக் கொண்டுவராமல் இருந்தால், அவனை உங்களுடைய வீட்டிலே ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளாமலும், அவனுக்கு வாழ்த்துதல் சொல்லாமலும் இருங்கள். ¹¹ அவனுக்கு வாழ்த்துதல் சொல்லுகிறவன் அவனுடைய கெட்டசெய்கைகளுக்கும் பங்குள்ளவன் ஆகிறான். ¹² உங்களுக்கு எழுதவேண்டிய காரியங்கள் அதிகம் உண்டு; காகிதத்தினாலும் மையினாலும் அவைகளை எழுத எனக்கு மனம் இல்லை. உங்களுடைய சந்தோஷம் நிறைவாக இருப்பதற்காக உங்களிடம் வந்து, முகமுகமாகப் பேசலாம் என்று நம்பியிருக்கிறேன். ¹³ தெரிந்துகொள்ளப்பட்ட உம்முடைய சகோதரியின் பிள்ளைகள் உமக்கு வாழ்த்துதல் சொல்லுகிறார்கள். ஆமென்.

3 John

அத்தியாயம்- 1

¹ மூப்பனாகிய நான் சத்தியத்தின்படி நேசிக்கிற பிரியமான காயுவிற்கு எழுதுகிறதாவது: ² பிரியமானவனே, உன் ஆத்துமா வாழ்கிறதுபோல நீ எல்லாவற்றிலும் வாழ்ந்து சுகமாக இருக்கும்படி ஜெபித்துக்கொள்கிறேன். ³ சகோதரர்கள் வந்து நீ சத்தியத்தில் நடந்துகொள்ளுகிறாய் என்று உன்னுடைய உண்மையைக்குறித்துச் சாட்சி கொடுத்தபோது அதிக சந்தோஷப்பட்டேன். ⁴ என் பிள்ளைகள் சத்தியத்திலே நடக்கிறார்கள் என்று நான் கேள்விப்படுகிற சந்தோஷத்தைவிட அதிகமான சந்தோஷம் எனக்கு இல்லை. ⁵ பிரியமானவனே, நீ சகோதரர்களுக்கும், அந்நியர்களுக்கும் செய்கிற எல்லாவற்றையும் உண்மையாகச் செய்கிறாய். ⁶ அவர்கள் உன்னுடைய அன்பைக்குறித்துச் சபைக்குமுன்பாகச் சாட்சி சொன்னார்கள்; தேவனுக்குத் தகுதியானபடி நீ அவர்களை வழியனுப்பிவைத்தால் நலமாக இருக்கும். ⁷ ஏனென்றால், அவர்கள் யூதரல்லாத மக்களிடம் ஒன்றும் வாங்காமல் தேவனுடைய நாமத்தினிமித்தம் புறப்பட்டுப்போனார்கள். ⁸ ஆகவே, நாம் சத்தியத்திற்கு உடனவேலையாட்களாக இருப்பதற்காக அப்படிப்பட்டவர்களைச் சேர்த்துக்கொள்ளக் கடமைப்பட்டிருக்கிறோம். ⁹ நான் சபைக்கு எழுதினேன்; ஆனாலும் அவர்களில் முதன்மையாக இருக்கவிரும்புகிற தியோத்திரேப்பு எங்களை ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளவில்லை. ¹⁰ ஆகவே, நான் வந்தால், அவன் எங்களுக்கு எதிராகப் பொல்லாத வார்த்தைகளைப் பேசி, செய்துவருகிற செயல்களை ரூபகப்படுத்துவேன். அவன் இப்படிச் செய்துவருவதும் போதாமல், தன்னுடைய சகோதரர்களை ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளாமலிருப்பது மட்டுமல்லாமல், ஏற்றுக்கொள்ள விருப்பமாக இருக்கிறவர்களையும் தடைசெய்து, சபைக்கு வெளியே தள்ளுகிறான். ¹¹ பிரியமானவனே, நீ தீமையானதைப் பின்பற்றாமல், நன்மையானதைப் பின்பற்று, நன்மைசெய்கிறவன் தேவனால் உண்டாயிருக்கிறான்; தீமைசெய்கிறவன் தேவனைப் பார்த்தது இல்லை. ¹² தேமேத்திரியு எல்லோராலும் நற்சாட்சி பெற்றதும் இல்லாமல், சத்தியத்தாலும் நற்சாட்சி பெற்றவன்; நாங்களும் சாட்சி கொடுக்கிறோம், எங்களுடைய சாட்சி உண்மை என்று அறிவீர்கள். ¹³ எழுதவேண்டிய காரியங்கள் அதிகம் உண்டு; ஆனால் மையினாலும், இறகினாலும் எழுத எனக்கு விருப்பம் இல்லை. ¹⁴ சீக்கிரமாக உன்னைப் பார்க்கலாம் என்று நம்பியிருக்கிறேன், அப்பொழுது முகமுகமாகப் பேசிக்கொள்ளுவோம். உனக்கு சமாதானம் உண்டாவதாக. நண்பர்கள் உனக்கு வாழ்த்துதல் சொல்லுகிறார்கள். நண்பர்களைப் பெயர்பெயராக வாழ்த்துவாயாக.

Jude

அத்தியாயம்- 1

¹ இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவினுடைய ஊழியக்காரனும், யாக்கோபினுடைய சகோதரனுமாக இருக்கிற யூதா, பிதாவாகிய தேவனாலே பரிசுத்தமாக்கப்பட்டவர்களும், இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவினாலே காக்கப்பட்டவர்களுமாகிய அழைக்கப்பட்டவர்களுக்கு எழுதுகிறதாவது: ² உங்களுக்கு இரக்கமும் சமாதானமும் அன்பும் பெருகட்டும்.

³ பிரியமானவர்களே, பொதுவான இரட்சிப்பைக்குறித்து உங்களுக்கு எழுதுவதற்கு நான் மிகவும் கருத்துள்ளவனாக இருக்கும்போது, பரிசுத்தவான்களுக்கு ஒருமுறை ஒப்புக்கொடுக்கப்பட்ட விசுவாசத்திற்காக நீங்கள் தைரியமாகப் போராடவேண்டும் என்று, உங்களுக்கு எழுதி உணர்த்துவது எனக்கு அவசியமாகத் தெரிந்தது. ⁴ ஏனென்றால், நமது தேவனுடைய கிருபையைக் காமவிகாரத்திற்குரியதாக மாற்றி, நம்முடைய ஒரே ஆண்டவராகிய தேவனையும், கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவையும் மறுதலிக்கிற பக்தி இல்லாதவர்களாகிய சிலர் இரகசியவழியாக நுழைந்திருக்கிறார்கள்; அவர்கள் இந்த தண்டனைக்கு உள்ளாவார்கள் என்று ஆரம்பத்திலே எழுதியிருக்கிறது. ⁵ நீங்கள் முன்னமே அறிந்திருந்தாலும், நான் உங்களுக்கு ஞாபகப்படுத்த விரும்புகிறது என்னவென்றால், கர்த்தர் தமது மக்களை எகிப்துதேசத்திலிருந்து புறப்பட்பண்ணி, இரட்சித்து, பின்பு விசுவாசிக்காதவர்களை அழித்தார். ⁶ தங்களுடைய ஆதி மேன்மையைக் காத்துக்கொள்ளாமல், தங்களுக்குச் சொந்தமான வசிக்கும் இடத்தை விட்டுவிட்ட சாத்தானுடைய தூதர்களையும், தேவனுடைய நாளின் நியாயத்தீர்ப்புக்காக நித்திய சங்கிலிகளினாலே கட்டி, அந்தகார இருளில் அடைத்து வைத்திருக்கிறார். ⁷ அப்படியே சோதோம் கொமோரா பட்டணத்தைச் சேர்ந்தவர்களும், அவைகளைச் சுற்றியுள்ள பட்டணத்து மக்களும், அவர்களைப்போல விபசாரம்பண்ணி, இயற்கைக்கு மாறான இச்சைகளிலே விழுந்து, நித்திய அக்கினியின் தண்டனையைப் பெற்று அடையாளமாக வைக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறார்கள். ⁸ அதைப்போலவே, சொப்பனக்காரர்களாகிய இவர்களும் சரீரத்தை அசுத்தப்படுத்திக்கொண்டு, கர்த்தரின் அதிகாரத்தை அசட்டைபண்ணி, மகத்துவங்களை அவமதிக்கிறார்கள். ⁹ பிரதான தூதனாகிய மிகாவேல் மோசேயினுடைய சரீரத்தைக்குறித்துப் பிசாசோடு வாக்குவாதம்பண்ணினபோது, அவனை அவமதித்து குற்றப்படுத்தத் துணிவில்லாமல்: கர்த்தர் உன்னைக் கடிந்து கொள்வாராக என்று சொன்னான். ¹⁰ இவர்கள் தங்களுக்குத் தெரியாதவைகளை அவமதிக்கிறார்கள்; புத்தி இல்லாத மிருகங்களைப்போல சுபாவத்தின்படி தங்களுக்குத் தெரிந்திருக்கிறவைகளாலே தங்களைக் கெடுத்துக்கொள்ளுகிறார்கள். ¹¹ இவர்களுக்கு ஐயோ! இவர்கள் காயினுடைய வழியில் நடந்து, பிலேயாம் கூலிக்காகச் செய்த வஞ்சகத்திலே வேகமாக ஓடி, கோரா எதிர்த்துப்பேசின பாவத்திற்குள்ளாகி, கெட்டுப்போனார்கள். ¹² இவர்கள் உங்களுடைய அன்பின் விருந்துகளில் கறைகளாக இருந்து, பயம் இல்லாமல் விருந்து சாப்பிட்டு, தங்களைத் தாங்களே கவனித்துக்கொள்கிற மேய்ப்பராக இருக்கிறார்கள்; இவர்கள் காற்றுகளால் அடிபட்டு ஓடுகிற தண்ணீர் இல்லாத மேகங்களும், இலைகள் உதிர்ந்து, கனிகள் இல்லாமல் இரண்டுமுறை காய்ந்தும் வேர் இல்லாத மரங்களும், ¹³ தங்களுடைய அவமானங்களை நுரைதள்ளுகிற இரைச்சலான கடல் அலைகளும், வழிதப்பி அலைகிற நட்சத்திரங்களுமாக இருக்கிறார்கள்; இவர்களுக்காக என்றென்றைக்கும் காரிருளே வைக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. ¹⁴ ஆதாமுக்கு ஏழாம் தலைமுறையான ஏனோக்கும் இவர்களைக்குறித்து: இதோ, எல்லோருக்கும் நியாயத்தீர்ப்புக் கொடுக்கிறதற்கும், அவர்களில் அவபக்தியுள்ளவர்கள் எல்லோரும் அவபக்தியாகச் செய்துவந்த எல்லா அவபக்தியான செய்கைகளினாலும், ¹⁵ தமக்கு விரோதமாக அவபக்தியுள்ள பாவிகள் பேசின கடினமான வார்த்தைகள் எல்லாவற்றினாலும், அவர்களைக் கண்டிக்கிறதற்கும், ஆயிரம் ஆயிரமான தமது பரிசுத்தவான்களோடு கர்த்தர் வருகிறார் என்று முன்னமே அறிவித்தான். ¹⁶ இவர்கள் முறுமுறுக்கிறவர்களும், முறையிடுகிறவர்களும், தங்களுடைய இச்சைகளின்படி நடக்கிறவர்களுமாக இருக்கிறார்கள்; இவர்களுடைய வாய் பெருமையானவைகளைப் பேசும்; தற்புகழ்ச்சிக்காக முகஸ்துதி செய்வார்கள்.

¹⁷ நீங்களோ பிரியமானவர்களே, நம்முடைய கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவின் அப்போஸ்தலர்களால் முன்பே சொல்லப்பட்ட வார்த்தைகளை நினைத்துப்பாருங்கள். ¹⁸ கடைசிக்காலத்திலே தங்களுடைய துன்மார்க்கமான இச்சைகளின்படி நடக்கிற பரிகாசக்காரர்கள் தோன்றுவார்கள் என்று உங்களுக்குச் சொன்னார்களே. ¹⁹ இவர்கள் பிரிந்துபோகிறவர்களும், ஜென்மசுபாவம் உள்ளவர்களும், ஆவியானவர் இல்லாதவர்களுமே. ²⁰ நீங்களோ பிரியமானவர்களே, உங்களுடைய மகா பரிசுத்தமான விசுவாசத்தின்மேல் உங்களை உறுதிப்படுத்திக்கொண்டு, பரிசுத்த ஆவியானவருக்குள் ஜெபம்பண்ணி, ²¹ தேவனுடைய அன்பிலே உங்களைக் காத்துக்கொண்டு, நித்தியஜீவனுக்குரிய நம்முடைய கர்த்தராகிய

இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவினுடைய இரக்கத்தைப் பெற்றுக்கொள்ளக் காத்திருங்கள். ²² அல்லாமலும், நீங்கள் பகுத்தறிவு உள்ளவர்களாக இருந்து, சிலருக்கு இரக்கம் காட்டி, சிலரை அக்கினியில் இருந்து இழுத்துவிட்டு, பயத்தோடு இரட்சித்து, ²³ பாவத்தினால் கறைப்பட்டிருக்கிற அவர்களுடைய ஆடையையும் கூட வெறுத்துத்தள்ளுங்கள்.

²⁴ உங்களை இடறிவிழாமல் காக்கவும், தமது மகிமையுள்ள சந்நிதானத்திலே அதிக மகிழ்ச்சியோடு உங்களை மாசு இல்லாதவர்களாக நிறுத்தவும், வல்லமை உள்ளவரும், ²⁵ தாம் ஒருவரே ஞானம் உள்ளவருமாகிய நம்முடைய இரட்சகரான தேவனுக்குக் கனமும், மகத்துவமும், வல்லமையும், அதிகாரமும், இப்பொழுதும், எப்பொழுதும் உண்டாவதாக. ஆமென்.

Revelation

அத்தியாயம்- 1

¹ சீக்கிரத்தில் சம்பவிக்கவேண்டியவைகளைத் தம்முடைய ஊழியக்காரர்களுக்குக் காண்பிப்பதற்காக, தேவன் இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவிற்கு ஒப்புவித்ததும், இவர் தம்முடைய தூதனை அனுப்பி, தம்முடைய ஊழியக்காரனாகிய யோவானுக்கு வெளிப்படுத்தினதுமான காரியம். ² இவன் தேவனுடைய வசனத்தைக்குறித்தும், இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவைப்பற்றிய சாட்சியைக்குறித்தும், தான் பார்த்த எல்லாவற்றையும் சாட்சியாக அறிவித்திருக்கிறான். ³ இந்தத் தீர்க்கதரிசன வசனங்களைப் படிக்கிறவனும், கேட்கிறவர்களும், இதில் எழுதியிருக்கிறவைகளின்படி நடக்கிறவர்களும் பாக்கியவான்கள், காலம் நெருங்கிவிட்டது.

⁴ யோவான் ஆசியாவில் உள்ள ஏழு சபைகளுக்கும் எழுதுகிறதாவது: இருக்கிறவரும் இருந்தவரும் வருகிறவருமானவராலும், அவருடைய சிங்காசனத்திற்கு முன்பாக இருக்கிற ஏழு ஆவிகளாலும், ⁵ உண்மையுள்ள சாட்சியும், மரித்தோரிலிருந்து முதலில் பிறந்தவரும், பூமியின் ராஜாக்களுக்கு அதிபதியுமாகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவினாலும் உங்களுக்குக் கிருபையும் சமாதானமும் உண்டாவதாக. ⁶ நம்மேல் அன்புவைத்து, தமது இரத்தத்தினாலே நம்முடைய பாவங்களைக் கழுவி, தம்முடைய பிதாவாகிய தேவனுக்குமுன்பாக நம்மை ராஜாக்களும் ஆசாரியர்களுமாக்கின அவருக்கு மகிமையும் வல்லமையும் என்றென்றைக்கும் உண்டாயிருப்பதாக. ஆமென். ⁷ இதோ, மேகங்களோடு வருகிறார்; கண்கள் எல்லாம் அவரைப் பார்க்கும், அவரைக் குத்தினவர்களும் அவரைப் பார்ப்பார்கள்; பூமியில் உள்ள கோத்திரத்தார்கள் எல்லோரும் அவரைப் பார்த்துப் புலம்புவார்கள். அப்படியே நடக்கும், ஆமென். ⁸ இருக்கிறவரும் இருந்தவரும் வருகிறவருமாகிய சர்வவல்லமையுள்ள கர்த்தர்: நான் அல்பாவும், ஓமெகாவும், துவக்கமும், முடிவுமாக இருக்கிறேன் என்று உரைக்கிறார்.

⁹ உங்களுடைய சகோதரனும், இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவினிமித்தம் வருகிற உபத்திரவத்திற்கும் அவருடைய ராஜ்யத்திற்கும் அவருடைய பொறுமைக்கும் உங்களுடைய உடன்பங்களியுமாக இருக்கிற யோவானாகிய நான் தேவவசனத்தினிமித்தமும், இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவைப்பற்றிய சாட்சியினிமித்தமும், பத்மு என்னும் தீவிலே இருந்தேன். ¹⁰ கர்த்தரை ஆராதிக்கும் நாளில் நான் ஆவியானவரின் கட்டுப்பாட்டுக்குள் இருந்தேன்; அப்பொழுது எனக்குப் பின்னாலே எக்காளசத்தம்போல ஒரு பெரிய சத்தத்தைக் கேட்டேன். ¹¹ அது: நான் அல்பாவும் ஓமெகாவும், முந்தினவரும் பிந்தினவருமாக இருக்கிறேன். நீ பார்க்கிறதை ஒரு புத்தகத்தில் எழுதி, ஆசியாவில் இருக்கிற எபேசு, சிமிர்னா, பெர்கமு, தியத்தீரா, சர்தை, பிலதெல்பியா, லவோதிக்கேயா என்னும் பட்டணங்களில் உள்ள ஏழு சபைகளுக்கும் அனுப்பு என்று சொன்னது. ¹² அப்பொழுது என்னோடு பேசின அந்த சத்தத்தைப் பார்க்கத் திரும்பினேன்; திரும்பினபொழுது, ஏழு பொன் குத்துவிளக்குகளையும், ¹³ அந்த ஏழு குத்துவிளக்குகளின் நடுவிலே, பாதம்வரை நீளமான அங்கி அணிந்து, மார்பில் பொற்கச்சை கட்டியிருந்த மனிதகுமாரனைப்போல ஒருவரைப் பார்த்தேன். ¹⁴ அவருடைய தலையும், தலைமுடியும் வெண்மையான பஞ்சைப்போலவும் உறைந்த பனியைப்போலவும் வெண்மையாக இருந்தது; அவருடைய கண்கள் அக்கினிஜுவாலையைப்போல இருந்தது; ¹⁵ அவருடைய பாதங்கள் உலையில் காய்ந்த பிரகாசமான வெண்கலம்போல இருந்தது; அவருடைய சத்தம் பெருவெள்ளத்து இரைச்சலைப்போல இருந்தது. ¹⁶ தமது வலது கையிலே ஏழு நட்சத்திரங்களை ஏந்திக்கொண்டிருந்தார்; அவர் வாயில் இருந்து இரண்டு பக்கமும் கூர்மையான வாள் புறப்பட்டு வந்தது; அவருடைய முகம் வல்லமையைப் பிரகாசிக்கிற சூரியனைப்போல இருந்தது. ¹⁷ நான் அவரைப் பார்த்தபோது செத்தவனைப்போல அவருடைய பாதத்தில் விழுந்தேன்; அப்பொழுது அவர் தம்முடைய வலது கையை என்மேல் வைத்து, என்னைப் பார்த்து: பயப்படாதே, நான் முந்தினவரும் பிந்தினவரும், உயிருள்ளவருமாக இருக்கிறேன்; ¹⁸ மரித்தேன், ஆனாலும், இதோ, எல்லாக் காலங்களிலும் உயிரோடு இருக்கிறேன், ஆமென்; நான் மரணம் மற்றும் பாதாளத்தின் திறவுகோல்களை வைத்திருக்கிறேன். ¹⁹ நீ பார்த்தவைகளையும் இருக்கிறவைகளையும், இவைகளுக்குப் பின்பு நடக்கப்போகிறவைகளையும் எழுது; ²⁰ என் வலது கையில் நீ பார்த்த ஏழு நட்சத்திரங்களின் இரகசியத்தையும், ஏழு பொன் குத்துவிளக்குகளின் இரகசியத்தையும் எழுது; அந்த ஏழு நட்சத்திரங்களும் ஏழு சபைகளின் தூதர்கள்; நீ பார்த்த ஏழு குத்துவிளக்குகளும் ஏழு சபைகள்.

அத்தியாயம்- 2

¹ எபேச சபையின் தூதனுக்கு நீ எழுதவேண்டியது என்னவென்றால்: ஏழு நட்சத்திரங்களைத் தம்முடைய வலது கையில் ஏந்திக்கொண்டு, ஏழு பொன் குத்துவிளக்குகளின் நடுவிலே உலாவிக்கொண்டிருக்கிறவர் சொல்லுகிறதாவது; ² நீ செய்தவைகளையும், உன் கடினஉழைப்பையும், உன் பொறுமையையும், நீ பொல்லாதவர்களைச் சகித்துக்கொள்ளமுடியாமல் இருக்கிறதையும், அப்போஸ்தலர்களாக இல்லாதவர்கள் தங்களை அப்போஸ்தலர்கள் என்று சொல்லுகிறதை நீ சோதித்துப்பார்த்து அவர்கள் பொய்யர்கள் என்பதைக் கண்டுபிடித்ததையும்; ³ நீ சகித்துக்கொண்டு இருக்கிறதையும், பொறுமையாக இருக்கிறதையும், என் நாமத்திற்காக ஓய்வு இல்லாமல் பிரயாசப்பட்டதையும் அறிந்திருக்கிறேன். ⁴ ஆனாலும், நீ ஆரம்பத்திலே வைத்திருந்த அன்பைவிட்டுவிட்டாய் என்று உன்மேல் எனக்குக் குறை உண்டு. ⁵ எனவே, நீ எந்த நிலைமையில் இருந்து விழுந்தாய் என்பதை நினைத்து, மனம்திரும்பி, ஆதியில் செய்த செய்கைகளைச் செய்; இல்லாவிட்டால் நான் சீக்கிரமாக உன்னிடம் வந்து, நீ மனம்திரும்பவில்லை என்றால், உன் விளக்குத்தண்டை அதனிடத்திலிருந்து நீக்கிவிடுவேன். ⁶ நான் வெறுக்கிற நிக்கொலாய் மதத்தைச் சேர்ந்தவர்களின் செய்கைகளை நீயும் வெறுக்கிறாய், இது உன்னிடத்தில் உண்டு. ⁷ ஆவியானவர் சபைகளுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறதைக் காதுள்ளவன் கேட்கவேண்டும்; ஜெயம் பெறுகிறவன் எவனோ அவனுக்கு தேவனுடைய பரதீசின் நடுவில் இருக்கிற ஜீவமரத்தின் கனியை உண்ணக்கொடுப்பேன் என்று எழுது.

⁸ சிமிர்னா சபையின் தூதனுக்கு நீ எழுதவேண்டியது என்னவென்றால்: முந்தினவரும் பிந்தினவரும், மரித்தோரிலிருந்து உயிரோடு எழுந்தவருமானவர் சொல்லுகிறதாவது; ⁹ உன் செய்கைகளையும், உன் உபத்திரவத்தையும், நீ ஐசுவரியம் உள்ளவனாக இருந்தும் உனக்கு இருக்கிற தரித்திரத்தையும், தங்களை யூதர்கள் என்று சொல்லியும் யூதர்களாக இல்லாமல் சாத்தானுடைய கூட்டமாக இருக்கிறவர்கள் செய்யும் அவதூறுகளையும் அறிந்திருக்கிறேன். ¹⁰ நீ படப்போகிற பாடுகளைப்பற்றிப் பயப்படாதே; இதோ, நீங்கள் சோதிக்கப்படுவதற்காகப் பிசாசு உங்களில் சிலரைக் காவலில் போடுவான்; பத்துநாட்கள் உபத்திரவப்படுவீர்கள். ஆனாலும் நீ மரிக்கும்வரை உண்மையாக இரு, அப்பொழுது ஜீவகிரீடத்தை உனக்குத் தருவேன். ¹¹ ஆவியானவர் சபைகளுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறதைக் காதுள்ளவன் கேட்கவேண்டும்; ஜெயம் பெறுகிறவன் இரண்டாம் மரணத்தினால் சேதப்படுவதில்லை என்று எழுது.

¹² பெர்கமு சபையின் தூதனுக்கு நீ எழுதவேண்டியது என்னவென்றால்: இரண்டு பக்கமும் கூர்மையான வாளை வைத்திருப்பவர் சொல்லுகிறதாவது; ¹³ உன் செய்கைகளையும், சாத்தானுடைய சிங்காசனம் இருக்கிற இடத்தில் நீ குடியிருக்கிறதையும், நீ என் நாமத்தை உறுதியாகப் பிடித்துக் கொண்டிருக்கிறதையும், சாத்தான் குடியிருக்கிற இடத்திலே உங்களுக்குள்ளே எனக்கு உண்மையுள்ள சாட்சியான அந்திப்பா என்பவன் கொல்லப்பட்ட நாட்களிலும் என்மேல் நீ வைத்த உன் விசுவாசத்தை, நீ மறுதலிக்காமல் இருந்ததையும் அறிந்திருக்கிறேன். ¹⁴ ஆனாலும், சில காரியங்களைக்குறித்து உன்மேல் எனக்குக் குறை உண்டு; இஸ்ரவேல் மக்கள் விக்கிரகங்களுக்குப் படைத்தவைகளை சாப்பிடுவதற்கும் வேசித்தனம் பண்ணுவதற்கும் சாதகமான இடறலை அவர்களுக்கு முன்பாகப் போடும்படி பாலாக் என்பவனுக்குப் போதனைசெய்த பிலேயாமுடைய போதனையைக் கடைபிடிக்கிறவர்கள் உன்னிடம் உண்டு. ¹⁵ அப்படியே நிக்கொலாய் மதத்தினருடைய போதனையைக் கடைபிடிக்கிறவர்களும் உன்னிடம் உண்டு; அதை நான் வெறுக்கிறேன். ¹⁶ நீ மனம்திரும்பு, இல்லாவிட்டால் நான் சீக்கிரமாக உன்னிடம் வந்து, என் வாயின் வாளினால் அவர்களோடு யுத்தம்பண்ணுவேன். ¹⁷ ஆவியானவர் சபைகளுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறதைக் காதுள்ளவன் கேட்கவேண்டும்; ஜெயம் பெறுகிறவனுக்கு நான் மறைவான மன்னாவை உண்ணக்கொடுத்து, பெற்றுக்கொள்கிறவனைத்தவிர வேறொருவனுக்கும் தெரியாத புதிய நாமம் எழுதப்பட்ட வெண்மையானக் கல்லைக் கொடுப்பேன் என்று எழுது.

¹⁸ தியத்தீரா சபையின் தூதனுக்கு நீ எழுதவேண்டியது என்னவென்றால்: அக்கினிஜ்வாலை போன்ற கண்களும், பிரகாசமான வெண்கலம்போன்ற பாதங்களும் உள்ள தேவகுமாரன் சொல்லுகிறதாவது; ¹⁹ உன் செய்கைகளையும், உன் அன்பையும், உன் ஊழியத்தையும், உன் விசுவாசத்தையும், உன் பொறுமையையும், நீ முன்பு செய்த செயல்களைவிட பின்பு செய்த செயல்கள் அதிகமாக இருக்கிறதையும் அறிந்திருக்கிறேன். ²⁰ ஆனாலும், உன்மேல் எனக்குக் குறை உண்டு; என்னவென்றால், தன்னைத் தீர்க்கதரிசி என்று சொல்லுகிற யேசுபேல் என்னும் பெண், என்னுடைய ஊழியக்காரர்கள் வேசித்தனம்பண்ணவும் விக்கிரகங்களுக்குப் படைத்தவைகளைச் சாப்பிடவும் அவர்களுக்குப் போதித்து, அவர்களை ஏமாற்ற, நீ அவளுக்கு இடம் கொடுக்கிறாய். ²¹ அவள் மனம்திரும்புவதற்காக அவளுக்கு வாய்ப்புக்கொடுத்தேன்; தன் வேசித்தன வழியைவிட்டு மனம்திரும்ப அவளுக்கு விருப்பம் இல்லை. ²² இதோ, நான் அவளைக் கட்டில்கிடையாக்கி, அவளோடு விபசாரம் செய்தவர்கள் தங்களுடைய செய்கைகளைவிட்டு மனம்திரும்பவில்லை என்றால், அவர்களையும் அதிக உபத்திரவத்திலே தள்ளி, ²³

அவளுடைய பிள்ளைகளையும் கொல்லுவேன்; அப்பொழுது நானே, சிந்தனைகளையும், இருதயங்களையும் ஆராய்கிறவர் என்று எல்லா சபைகளும் அறிந்துகொள்ளும்; உங்கள் ஒவ்வொருவனுக்கும் உங்களுடைய செய்கைகளுக்குத் தகுந்தபடியே பலன் கொடுப்பேன். ²⁴ தியாத்தீராவிலே இந்தப் போதகத்தைப் பின்பற்றாமலும், சாத்தானுடைய ஆழமான இரகசியங்கள் என்று சொல்லப்படுகிற அந்தத் தந்திரங்களை அறிந்துகொள்ளாமலும் இருக்கிற மற்றவர்களாகிய உங்களுக்கு நான் சொல்லுகிறதாவது; உங்கள்மேல் எந்தவொரு பாரதையும் சுமத்தமாட்டேன். ²⁵ நான் வரும்வரைக்கும் என்னை விசுவாசித்து என்னைப் பற்றிக்கொண்டிருங்கள். ²⁶ ஜெயம்பெற்று கடைசிவரைக்கும் நான் செய்த காரியங்களைச் செய்கிறவன் எவனோ அவனுக்கு நான் என் பிதாவிடம் இருந்து அதிகாரம் பெற்றதுபோல, தேசங்களின் மக்கள்மேல் அதிகாரம் கொடுப்பேன். ²⁷ அவன் இரும்புக்கோலால் அவர்களை ஆளுவான்; அவர்கள் மண்பாண்டங்களைப்போல நொறுக்கப்படுவார்கள். ²⁸ விடியற்கால நட்சத்திரத்தையும் அவனுக்குக் கொடுப்பேன். ²⁹ ஆவியானவர் சபைகளுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறதைக் காதுள்ளவன் கேட்கவேண்டும் என்று எழுது.

அத்தியாயம்- 3

¹ சர்தை சபையின் தூதனுக்கு நீ எழுதவேண்டியது என்னவென்றால்: தேவனுடைய ஏழு ஆவிகளையும் ஏழு நட்சத்திரங்களையும் வைத்திருப்பவர் சொல்லுகிறதாவது; உன் செய்கைகளை அறிந்திருக்கிறேன், நீ உயிருள்ளவன் என்று பெயர்பெற்றிருந்தும் செத்தவனாக இருக்கிறாய். ² நீ விழித்துக்கொண்டு, மரித்துப்போகிறதாக இருக்கிற காரியங்களைப் பெலப்படுத்து; உன் செய்கைகள் தேவனுக்குமுன்பாக நிறைவானவைகளாக நான் பார்க்கவில்லை. ³ எனவே நீ கேட்டதையும், பெற்றுக்கொண்டதையும் நினைத்துப்பார்த்து, அதற்குக் கீழ்ப்படிந்து மனம்திரும்பு. நீ விழிப்படையாவிட்டால், திருடனைப்போல உன்னிடம் வருவேன்; நான் உன்னிடம் வரும் நேரத்தை நீ தெரியாமல் இருப்பாய். ⁴ ஆனாலும் தங்களுடைய ஆடைகளை அசுத்தப்படுத்தாத சிலபேர் சர்தையிலும் உனக்கு உண்டு; அவர்கள் தகுதி உடையவர்களாக இருப்பதால், வெண்மையான ஆடை அணிந்து என்னோடு நடப்பார்கள். ⁵ ஜெயம் பெறுகிறவன் எவனோ அவனுக்கு வெண்மையான ஆடை அணிவிக்கப்படும்; ஜீவபுத்தகத்திலிருந்து அவனுடைய பெயரை நான் நீக்கிப்போடாமல், என் பிதாவிற்கு முன்பாகவும் அவருடைய தூதர்களுக்கு முன்பாகவும் அவன் பெயரை அறிக்கைச் செய்வேன். ⁶ ஆவியானவர் சபைகளுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறதைக் காதுள்ளவன் கேட்கவேண்டும் என்று எழுது.

⁷ பிலதெல்பியா சபையின் தூதனுக்கு எழுதவேண்டியது என்னவென்றால்: பரிசுத்தம் உள்ளவரும், சத்தியம் உள்ளவரும், தாவீதின் திறவுகோலை உடையவரும், ஒருவனும் பூட்டமுடியாதபடி திறக்கிறவரும், ஒருவனும் திறக்கமுடியாதபடி பூட்டுகிறவருமாக இருக்கிறவர் சொல்லுகிறதாவது; ⁸ நீ செய்த உன் செயல்களை அறிந்திருக்கிறேன்; உனக்குக் கொஞ்சம் பெலன் இருந்தும், நீ என் நாமத்தை மறுதலிக்காமல், என் வசனத்திற்கு கீழ்ப்படிந்து நடந்ததினால், இதோ, திறந்தவாசலை உனக்கு முன்பாக வைத்திருக்கிறேன், அதை ஒருவனும் பூட்டமாட்டான். ⁹ இதோ, யூதர்களாக இல்லாதிருந்தும் தங்களை யூதர்கள் என்று பொய் சொல்லுகிற சாத்தானுடைய கூட்டத்தாரில் சிலரை உனக்குக் கொடுப்பேன்; இதோ, அவர்கள் உன் பாதங்களுக்கு முன்பாக வந்து பணிந்து, நான் உன்மேல் அன்பாக இருப்பதை அவர்கள் தெரிந்துகொள்ளும்படி செய்வேன். ¹⁰ என் பொறுமையைப்பற்றிச் சொல்லிய வசனத்திற்கு நீ கீழ்ப்படிந்து நடந்ததினால், பூமியில் குடியிருக்கிறவர்களைச் சோதிப்பதற்காகப் பூச்சக்கரத்தின்மேல் வரப்போகிற சோதனைக்காலத்திற்கு நான் உன்னைத் தப்பித்துக் காப்பேன். ¹¹ இதோ, சீக்கிரமாக வருகிறேன்; யாரும் உன் கிரீடத்தை எடுத்துக்கொள்ளாதபடி நான் உனக்குச் சொன்னதையெல்லாம் செய்துகொண்டு இரு. ¹² ஜெயம் பெறுகிறவன் எவனோ, அவனை என் தேவனுடைய ஆலயத்திலே தூணாக வைப்பேன், அதில் இருந்து அவன் எப்போதும் நீங்குவது இல்லை; என் தேவனுடைய நாமத்தையும் என் தேவனால் பரலோகத்தில் இருந்து இறங்கிவருகிற புதிய எருசலேமாகிய என் தேவனுடைய நகரத்தின் நாமத்தையும், என் புதிய நாமத்தையும் அவன்மேல் எழுதுவேன். ¹³ ஆவியானவர் சபைகளுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறதைக் காதுள்ளவன் கேட்கவேண்டும் என்று எழுது.

¹⁴ லவோதிக்கேயா சபையின் தூதனுக்கு நீ எழுதவேண்டியது என்னவென்றால்: உண்மையும் சத்தியமுள்ள சாட்சியும், தேவனுடைய படைப்பிற்கு ஆதியுமாக இருக்கிற ஆமென் என்பவர் சொல்லுகிறதாவது; ¹⁵ உன் செய்கைகளை அறிந்திருக்கிறேன்; நீ குளிரும் இல்லை அனலும் இல்லை; நீ குளிராக அல்லது அனலாக இருந்தால் நன்றாக இருக்கும். ¹⁶ இப்படி நீ குளிரும் இல்லாமல் அனலும் இல்லாமல் வெதுவெதுப்பாக இருக்கிறதினால் உன்னை என் வாயில் இருந்து வாந்திபண்ணிப்போடுவேன். ¹⁷ நீ பாக்கியமில்லாதவனாகவும், பரிதாபப்படத்தக்கவனாகவும், தரித்திரனும், பார்வை இல்லாதவனாகவும், நிர்வாணியாகவும் இருக்கிறதை அறியாமல், நான் ஐசுவரியவான் என்றும், பொருளாதார வசதிபடைத்தவன் என்றும், எனக்கு ஒரு குறையும் இல்லை என்றும் சொல்லுகிறதினால்; ¹⁸ நான்: நீ ஐசுவரியவானாவதற்காக நெருப்பிலே புடமிடப்பட்ட பொன்னையும், உன் நிர்வாணமாகிய அவலட்சணம் தெரியாதபடி நீ உடுத்திக்கொள்வதற்கு வெண்மையான ஆடைகளையும் என்னிடம் வாங்கிக்கொள்ளவும், நீ பார்வை பெறுவதற்காக உன் கண்களுக்கு மருந்து போடவேண்டும் என்று உனக்கு ஆலோசனை சொல்லுகிறேன். ¹⁹ நான் நேசிக்கிறவர்கள் எவர்களோ அவர்களைக் கடிந்துகொண்டு சிட்சிக்கிறேன்; எனவே நீ எச்சரிக்கையாக இருந்து, மனம்திரும்பு. ²⁰ இதோ, வாசற்படியிலே நின்று கதவைத் தட்டுகிறேன்; ஒருவன் என் சத்தத்தைக்கேட்டு, கதவைத் திறந்தால், நான் அவன் வீட்டிற்குள் சென்று, அவனோடுகூட உணவு உண்பேன், அவனும் என்னோடு உண்பான். ²¹ நான் ஜெயம்பெற்று என் பிதாவுடைய சிங்காசனத்திலே அவரோடு உட்கார்ந்ததுபோல, ஜெயம் பெறுகிறவன் எவனோ, அவனும் என்னுடைய சிங்காசனத்தில் என்னோடு உட்காருவதற்கு அருள்செய்வேன். ²² ஆவியானவர் சபைகளுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறதைக் காதுள்ளவன் கேட்கவேண்டும் என்று எழுது என்றார்.

அத்தியாயம்- 4

¹ இவைகளுக்குப் பின்பு, இதோ, பரலோகத்தில் திறக்கப்பட்டிருந்த ஒரு வாசலைக் கண்டேன். முதலில் எக்காளசத்தம்போல என்னோடு பேசின சத்தமானது: இங்கே ஏறிவா, இவைகளுக்குப் பின்பு நடக்கவேண்டியவைகளை உனக்குக் காண்பிப்பேன் என்று சொன்னது. ² உடனே ஆவிக்குள்ளானேன்; அப்பொழுது, இதோ, வானத்தில் ஒரு சிங்காசனம் வைக்கப்பட்டிருந்தது, அந்தச் சிங்காசனத்தின்மேல் ஒருவர் வீற்றிருந்தார். ³ வீற்றிருந்தவர், பார்ப்பதற்கு வச்சிரக்கல்லைப்போலவும், பதுமராகத்தைப்போலவும் இருந்தார்; அந்த சிங்காசனத்தைச் சுற்றிலும் ஒரு வானவில் இருந்தது; அது பார்ப்பதற்கு மரகதம்போல தோன்றியது. ⁴ அந்த சிங்காசனத்தைச் சுற்றிலும் இருபத்துநான்கு சிங்காசனங்கள் இருந்தன; இருபத்துநான்கு மூப்பர்கள் வெண்மையான ஆடை அணிந்து, தங்களுடைய தலைகளில் பொற்கிரீடம் சூடி, அந்த சிங்காசனங்களின்மேல் உட்கார்ந்திருப்பதைப் பார்த்தேன். ⁵ அந்தச் சிங்காசனத்தில் இருந்து மின்னல்களும் இடிமுழக்கங்களும் சத்தங்களும் புறப்பட்டன; தேவனுடைய ஏழு ஆவிகளாகிய ஏழு அக்கினி தீபங்கள் சிங்காசனத்திற்கு முன்பாக எரிந்துகொண்டிருந்தன. ⁶ அந்தச் சிங்காசனத்திற்கு முன்பாகப் பளிங்குக் கல்லைப்போல கண்ணாடிக் கடல் இருந்தது; அந்தச் சிங்காசனத்தின் நடுவிலும் அந்தச் சிங்காசனத்தைச் சுற்றிலும் நான்கு ஜீவன்கள் இருந்தன, அவைகள் முன்பக்கத்திலும் பின்பக்கத்திலும் கண்களால் நிறைந்திருந்தன. ⁷ முதலாம் ஜீவன் சிங்கத்தைப்போலவும், இரண்டாம் ஜீவன் காளையைப்போலவும், மூன்றாம் ஜீவன் மனிதமுகம் போன்ற முகம் உள்ளதாகவும், நான்காம் ஜீவன் பறக்கிற கழுகுபோலவும் இருந்தன. ⁸ அந்த நான்கு ஜீவன்களிலும் ஒவ்வொன்றும் ஆறுஆறு சிறகுகள் உள்ளவைகளும், சுற்றிலும், உள்ளேயும் கண்களால் நிறைந்தவைகளுமாக இருந்தன. அவைகள்: இருந்தவரும் இருக்கிறவரும் வருகிறவருமாகிய சர்வவல்லமையுள்ள தேவனாகிய கர்த்தர் பரிசுத்தர் பரிசுத்தர் பரிசுத்தர் என்று இரவும் பகலும் ஓய்வு இல்லாமல் சொல்லிக்கொண்டிருந்தன. ⁹ மேலும், சிங்காசனத்தின்மேல் வீற்றிருந்து, எல்லாக் காலங்களிலும் உயிரோடு இருக்கிறவருக்கு அந்த ஜீவன்கள், மகிமையையும் கனத்தையும் ஸ்தோத்திரத்தையும் செலுத்தும்போது, ¹⁰ இருபத்துநான்கு மூப்பர்களும் சிங்காசனத்தின்மேல் வீற்றிருக்கிறவருக்கு முன்பாகத் தாழ்விழுந்து, எல்லாக் காலங்களிலும் உயிரோடு இருக்கிறவரைத் தொழுதுகொண்டு, தங்களுடைய கிரீடங்களைச் சிங்காசனத்திற்கு முன்பாக வைத்து: ¹¹ கர்த்தாவே, தேவரீர், மகிமையையும் கனத்தையும் வல்லமையையும் பெற்றுக்கொள்கிறதற்குத் தகுதி உடையவராக இருக்கிறீர்; நீரே எல்லாவற்றையும் படைத்தீர், உம்முடைய விருப்பத்தினாலே அவைகள் உண்டாயிருக்கிறவைகளும் படைக்கப்பட்டவைகளுமாக இருக்கிறது என்றார்கள்.

அத்தியாயம்- 5

¹ பின்னும், உள்ளேயும் வெளியேயும் எழுதப்பட்டு, ஏழு முத்திரைகளால் முத்திரை போடப்பட்டிருந்த ஒரு புத்தகத்தை சிங்காசனத்தின்மேல் வீற்றிருந்தவருடைய வலது கையிலே பார்த்தேன். ² புத்தகத்தைத் திறக்கவும் அதின் முத்திரைகளை உடைக்கவும் தகுதியானவர் யார்? என்று அதிக சத்தமாகக் கேட்கிற பலமுள்ள ஒரு தூதனையும் பார்த்தேன். ³ வானத்திலோ, பூமியிலோ, பூமியின் கீழாவது, ஒருவனும் அந்தப் புத்தகத்தைத் திறக்கவும், அதைப் படிக்கவும் முடியாமல் இருந்தது. ⁴ ஒருவனும் அந்தப் புத்தகத்தைத் திறக்கவும் படிக்கவும் தகுதியானவனாக இல்லாததினால் நான் மிகவும் அழுதேன். ⁵ அப்பொழுது மூப்பர்களில் ஒருவன் என்னைப் பார்த்து: நீ அழவேண்டாம்; இதோ, யூதா கோத்திரத்தின் சிங்கமும், தாவீதின் வேருமானவர் புத்தகத்தைத் திறக்கவும் அதின் ஏழு முத்திரைகளையும் உடைக்கவும் ஜெயங்கொண்டிருக்கிறார் என்றான். ⁶ அப்பொழுது, இதோ, அடிக்கப்பட்ட நிலையில் இருக்கிற ஒரு ஆட்டுக்குட்டி சிங்காசனத்திற்கும், நான்கு ஜீவன்களுக்கும், மூப்பர்களுக்கும் நடுவிலே நிற்பதைக் கண்டேன்; அது ஏழு கொம்புகளையும் ஏழு கண்களையும் உடையதாக இருந்தது; அந்தக் கண்கள் பூமியெல்லாம் அனுப்பப்படுகிற தேவனுடைய ஏழு ஆவிகளே. ⁷ அந்த ஆட்டுக்குட்டியானவர் வந்து, சிங்காசனத்தின்மேல் வீற்றிருந்தவருடைய வலது கரத்திலிருந்து அந்தப் புத்தகத்தை வாங்கினார். ⁸ அந்தப் புத்தகத்தை அவர் வாங்கினபோது, அந்த நான்கு ஜீவன்களும், இருபத்துநான்கு மூப்பர்களும் தங்களுடைய சுரமண்டலங்களையும், பரிசுத்தவான்களுடைய ஜெபங்களாகிய தூபவர்க்கத்தால் நிறைந்த பொற்கலசங்களையும் பிடித்துக்கொண்டு, ஆட்டுக்குட்டியானவருக்கு முன்பாக முகங்குப்புறவிழுந்து: ⁹ தேவரீர் புத்தகத்தை வாங்கவும் அதின் முத்திரைகளை உடைக்கவும் தகுதி உள்ளவராக இருக்கிறீர்; ஏனென்றால், நீர் அடிக்கப்பட்டு, எல்லாக் கோத்திரங்களிலும், மொழிகளிலும், மக்களிலும், தேசங்களிலும் இருந்து எங்களை தேவனுக்காக உம்முடைய இரத்தத்தினாலே மீட்டுக்கொண்டு, ¹⁰ எங்களுடைய தேவனுக்குமுன்பாக எங்களை ராஜாக்களும் ஆசாரியர்களுமாக்கினீர்; நாங்கள் பூமியிலே அரசாளுவோம் என்று புதிய பாட்டைப் பாடினார்கள். ¹¹ பின்னும் நான் பார்த்தபோது, சிங்காசனத்தையும் ஜீவன்களையும் மூப்பர்களையும் சுற்றியிருந்த அநேக தூதர்களுடைய சத்தத்தைக் கேட்டேன்; அவர்களுடைய எண்ணிக்கை கோடானகோடியாக இருந்தது. ¹² அவர்களும் அதிக சத்தமிட்டு: அடிக்கப்பட்ட ஆட்டுக்குட்டியானவர் வல்லமையையும் ஐசுவரியத்தையும் ஞானத்தையும் பெலத்தையும் கனத்தையும் மகிமையையும் ஸ்தோத்திரத்தையும் பெற்றுக்கொள்ளத் தகுதியுள்ளவராக இருக்கிறார் என்று சொன்னார்கள். ¹³ அப்பொழுது, வானத்திலும், பூமியிலும், பூமியின் கீழும் இருக்கிற படைப்புகளும், கடலில் உள்ள எல்லா ஜீவன்களும்: சிங்காசனத்தின்மேல் வீற்றிருக்கிறவருக்கும் ஆட்டுக்குட்டியானவருக்கும் ஸ்தோத்திரமும் கனமும் மகிமையும் வல்லமையும் எல்லாக் காலங்களிலும் உண்டாவதாக என்று சொல்வதைக்கேட்டேன். ¹⁴ அதற்கு நான்கு ஜீவன்களும்: ஆமென் என்று சொல்லின. இருபத்துநான்கு மூப்பர்களும் முகங்குப்புறவிழுந்து எல்லாக் காலங்களிலும் உயிரோடு இருக்கிறவரைத் தொழுதுகொண்டார்கள்.

அத்தியாயம்- 6

¹ ஆட்டுக்குட்டியானவர் முத்திரைகளில் ஒன்றை உடைக்கக் கண்டேன். அப்பொழுது நான்கு ஜீவன்களில் ஒன்று என்னைப் பார்த்து: நீ வந்து பார் என்று இடிமுழக்கம்போல சத்தமாகச் சொல்வதைக்கேட்டேன். ² நான் பார்த்தபோது, இதோ, ஒரு வெள்ளைக்குதிரையைக் கண்டேன்; அதின்மேல் ஏறியிருந்தவன் வில்லைப் பிடித்திருந்தான்; அவனுக்கு ஒரு கிரீடம் கொடுக்கப்பட்டது; அவன் ஜெயிக்கிறவனாகவும் ஜெயிப்பவனாகவும் புறப்பட்டான். ³ அவர் இரண்டாம் முத்திரையை உடைத்தபோது, இரண்டாம் ஜீவனானது: நீ வந்து பார் என்று சொல்லக்கேட்டேன். ⁴ அப்பொழுது சிவப்பான வேறொரு குதிரை புறப்பட்டது; அதின்மேல் ஏறியிருந்தவனுக்கு, பூமியிலுள்ளவர்கள் ஒருவரையொருவர் கொலை செய்வதற்காகச் சமாதானத்தை பூமியிலிருந்து எடுத்துப்போடும்படியான அதிகாரம் கொடுக்கப்பட்டது; ஒரு பெரிய வாளும் அவனுக்குக் கொடுக்கப்பட்டது. ⁵ அவர் மூன்றாம் முத்திரையை உடைத்தபோது, மூன்றாம் ஜீவனானது: நீ வந்து பார் என்று சொல்வதைக்கேட்டேன். நான் பார்த்தபோது, இதோ, ஒரு கறுப்புக்குதிரையைப் பார்த்தேன்; அதின்மேல் ஏறியிருந்தவன் ஒரு தராசைத் தன் கையிலே பிடித்திருந்தான். ⁶ அப்பொழுது, ஒரு வெள்ளிக்காசுக்கு ஒருபடி கோதுமையென்றும், ஒரு வெள்ளிக்காசுக்கு மூன்றுபடி வாற்கோதுமையென்றும், எண்ணெயையும் திராட்சைரசத்தையும் சேதப்படுத்தாதே என்றும், நான்கு ஜீவன்களின் நடுவிலிருந்து உண்டான சத்தத்தைக் கேட்டேன். ⁷ அவர் நான்காம் முத்திரையை உடைத்தபோது, நான்காம் ஜீவனானது: நீ வந்து பார் என்று சொல்லும் சத்தத்தைக் கேட்டேன். ⁸ நான் பார்த்தபோது, இதோ, மங்கின நிறமுள்ள ஒரு குதிரையைப் பார்த்தேன்; அதின்மேல் ஏறியிருந்தவனுக்கு மரணம் என்று பெயர்; பாதாளம் அவனுக்குப் பின்னே சென்றது. பட்டயத்தினாலும், பஞ்சத்தினாலும், மரணத்தினாலும், பூமியின் கொடிய மிருகங்களினாலும், பூமியில் உள்ள நான்கில் ஒரு பங்கு மக்களைக் கொலைசெய்ய அவைகளுக்கு அதிகாரம் கொடுக்கப்பட்டது. ⁹ அவர் ஐந்தாம் முத்திரையை உடைத்தபோது, தேவவசனத்தினாலும் தாங்கள் கொடுத்த சாட்சியினாலும் கொல்லப்பட்டவர்களுடைய ஆத்துமாக்களைப் பலிபீடத்தின் கீழேப் பார்த்தேன். ¹⁰ அவர்கள்: பரிசுத்தமும் சத்தியமும் உள்ள ஆண்டவரே, தேவரீர் பூமியின்மேல் குடியிருக்கிறவர்களிடம் எங்களுடைய இரத்தத்தைக்குறித்து எவ்வளவு காலங்கள் நியாயத்தீர்ப்புச் செய்யாமலும் பழிவாங்காமலும் இருப்பீர் என்று அதிக சத்தமாகக் கேட்டார்கள். ¹¹ அப்பொழுது அவர்கள் ஒவ்வொருவருக்கும் வெள்ளை அங்கிகள் கொடுக்கப்பட்டது; அவர்கள் தங்களைப்போலக் கொலைசெய்யப்பட்டபோகிறவர்களாகிய தங்களுடைய உடன்பணியாளர்களும் தங்களுடைய சகோதரர்களுமானவர்களின் எண்ணிக்கை நிறைவாகும்வரை இன்னும் கொஞ்சக்காலம் காத்திருக்கவேண்டும் என்று அவர்களுக்குச் சொல்லப்பட்டது. ¹² அவர் ஆறாம் முத்திரையை உடைப்பதைப் பார்த்தேன்; இதோ, பூமி மிகவும் அதிர்ந்தது; சூரியன் கருப்புக் கம்பளியைப்போலக் கருத்துப்போனது; சந்திரன் இரத்தம்போல ஆனது. ¹³ அத்திமரம் பெருங்காற்றினால் அசைக்கப்படும்போது, அதின் காய்கள் உதிருகிறதுபோல, வானத்தின் நட்சத்திரங்களும் பூமியிலே விழுந்தது. ¹⁴ வானமும் சுருட்டப்பட்ட புத்தகம்போல விலகிப்போனது; மலைகள் தீவுகள் எல்லாம் தங்களுடைய இடங்களைவிட்டு விலகிச்சென்றன. ¹⁵ பூமியின் ராஜாக்களும், பெரியோர்களும், ஐசுவரியவான்களும், படைத்தளபதிகளும், பலவான்களும், அடிமைகள், சுதந்திரமானவர்கள் எல்லோரும், குகைகளிலும் மலைகளின் பாறைகளிலும் ஒளிந்துகொண்டு, ¹⁶ மலைகளையும் பாறைகளையும் பார்த்து: நீங்கள் எங்கள்மேல் விழுந்து, சிங்காசனத்தின்மேல் வீற்றிருக்கிறவருடைய முகத்திற்கும், ஆட்டுக்குட்டியானவருடைய கோபத்திற்கும் எங்களை மறைத்துக்கொள்ளுங்கள்; ¹⁷ அவருடைய கோபத்தின் மகா நாள் வந்துவிட்டது, யார் நிலைத்து நிற்கமுடியும் என்றார்கள்.

அத்தியாயம்- 7

¹ இவைகளுக்குப் பின்பு, பூமியின் நான்கு திசைகளிலும் நான்கு தூதர்கள் நின்று, பூமியின்மேலோ, கடலின்மேலோ, ஒரு மரத்தின்மேலோ காற்று அடிக்காதபடி பூமியின் நான்கு காற்றுகளையும் பிடித்திருப்பதைப் பார்த்தேன். ² ஜீவனுள்ள தேவனுடைய முத்திரைக்கோலை வைத்திருந்த வேறொரு தூதன் சூரியன் உதிக்கும் திசையிலிருந்து ஏறிவருவதைப் பார்த்தேன்; அவன், பூமியையும் கடலையும் சேதப்படுத்துகிறதற்கு அதிகாரம் பெற்ற அந்த நான்கு தூதரையும் நோக்கி: ³ நாம் நமது தேவனுடைய ஊழியக்காரர்களின் நெற்றிகளில் முத்திரைப் போடும்வரைக்கும் பூமியையும் கடலையும் மரங்களையும் சேதப்படுத்தாமல் இருங்கள் என்று அதிக சத்தமாகச் சொன்னான். ⁴ முத்திரைபோடப்பட்டவர்களின் எண்ணிக்கையைச் சொல்வதைக்கேட்டேன்; இஸ்ரவேல் மக்களுடைய எல்லாக் கோத்திரங்களிலும் முத்திரைபோடப்பட்டவர்கள் ஒருஇலட்சத்து நூற்பத்து நான்காயிரம்பேர். ⁵ யூதாக்கோத்திரத்தில் முத்திரைபோடப்பட்டவர்கள் பன்னிரண்டாயிரம். ரூபன் கோத்திரத்தில் முத்திரைபோடப்பட்டவர்கள் பன்னிரண்டாயிரம். காத்திரத்தில் முத்திரைபோடப்பட்டவர்கள் பன்னிரண்டாயிரம். ⁶ ஆசேர் கோத்திரத்தில் முத்திரைபோடப்பட்டவர்கள் பன்னிரண்டாயிரம். நப்தலி கோத்திரத்தில் முத்திரைபோடப்பட்டவர்கள் பன்னிரண்டாயிரம். மனாசே கோத்திரத்தில் முத்திரைபோடப்பட்டவர்கள் பன்னிரண்டாயிரம். ⁷ சிமியோன் கோத்திரத்தில் முத்திரைபோடப்பட்டவர்கள் பன்னிரண்டாயிரம். லேவி கோத்திரத்தில் முத்திரைபோடப்பட்டவர்கள் பன்னிரண்டாயிரம். இசக்கார் கோத்திரத்தில் முத்திரைபோடப்பட்டவர்கள் பன்னிரண்டாயிரம். ⁸ செபுலோன் கோத்திரத்தில் முத்திரைபோடப்பட்டவர்கள் பன்னிரண்டாயிரம். யோசேப்பு கோத்திரத்தில் முத்திரைபோடப்பட்டவர்கள் பன்னிரண்டாயிரம். பென்யமீன் கோத்திரத்தில் முத்திரைபோடப்பட்டவர்கள் பன்னிரண்டாயிரம்.

⁹ இவைகளுக்குப் பின்பு, நான் பார்த்தபோது, இதோ, எல்லாத் தேசங்களிலும் கோத்திரங்களிலும் மக்களிலும் மொழிக்காரர்களிலிருந்து வந்ததும், ஒருவனும் எண்ணிப்பார்க்க முடியாத திரளான மக்கள்கூட்டம், வெள்ளை அங்கிகளை அணிந்து, தங்களுடைய கைகளில் குருத்தோலைகளைப் பிடித்து, சிங்காசனத்திற்கு முன்பாகவும் ஆட்டுக்குட்டியானவருக்கு முன்பாகவும் நிற்பதைக் கண்டேன். ¹⁰ அவர்கள் அதிக சத்தமாக: இரட்சிப்பு, சிங்காசனத்தின்மேல் வீற்றிருக்கிற எங்களுடைய தேவனுக்கும் ஆட்டுக்குட்டியானவருக்கும் உரியது என்று ஆர்ப்பரித்தார்கள். ¹¹ தூதர்கள் எல்லோரும் சிங்காசனத்தையும் மூப்பர்களையும் நான்கு ஜீவன்களையும் சுற்றிநின்று, சிங்காசனத்திற்கு முன்பாக முகங்குப்புறி விழுந்து, தேவனைத் தொழுதுகொண்டு: ¹² ஆமென், எங்களுடைய தேவனுக்குத் துதியும் மகிமையும் ஞானமும் ஸ்தோத்திரமும் கனமும் வல்லமையும் பெலனும் எல்லாக் காலங்களிலும் உண்டாவதாக; ஆமென், என்றார்கள். ¹³ அப்பொழுது, மூப்பர்களில் ஒருவன் என்னைப் பார்த்து: வெள்ளை அங்கிகளை அணிந்திருக்கிற இவர்கள் யார்? எங்கே இருந்து வந்தார்கள்? என்று கேட்டான். ¹⁴ அதற்கு நான்: ஆண்டவனே, அது உமக்கே தெரியும் என்றேன். அப்பொழுது அவன்: இவர்கள் அதிக உபத்திரவத்தில் இருந்து வந்தவர்கள்; இவர்கள் தங்களுடைய அங்கிகளை ஆட்டுக்குட்டியானவருடைய இரத்தத்திலே நனைத்து வெண்மையாக்கிக்கொண்டவர்கள். ¹⁵ எனவே, இவர்கள் தேவனுடைய சிங்காசனத்திற்கு முன்பாக இருந்து, இரவும் பகலும் அவருடைய ஆலயத்திலே அவரை ஆராதிக்கிறார்கள்; சிங்காசனத்தின்மேல் வீற்றிருக்கிறவர் இவர்களோடு இருந்து பாதுகாப்பார். ¹⁶ இவர்கள் இனிப் பசியடைவதும் இல்லை, இனித் தாகமடைவதும் இல்லை; வெயிலோ, வெப்பமோ இவர்கள்மேல் படுவதும் இல்லை. ¹⁷ சிங்காசனத்தின் நடுவில் இருக்கிற ஆட்டுக்குட்டியானவரே இவர்களை மேய்த்து, இவர்களை ஜீவத்தண்ணீர் உள்ள ஊற்றுகளுக்கு நடத்திக்கொண்டு போவார்; தேவனே இவர்களுடைய கண்ணீர் எல்லாவற்றையும் துடைப்பார் என்றான்.

அத்தியாயம்- 8

¹ அவர் ஏழாம் முத்திரையை உடைத்தபோது, பரலோகத்தில் ஏறக்குறைய அரைமணிநேரம் வரை அமைதி உண்டானது. ² பின்பு, தேவனுக்குமுன்பாக நிற்கிற ஏழு தூதர்களையும் பார்த்தேன்; அவர்களுக்கு ஏழு எக்காளங்கள் கொடுக்கப்பட்டது. ³ வேறொரு தூதனும் வந்து, தூபங்காட்டும் பொற்கலசத்தைப் பிடித்துப் பலிபீடத்தின் படியிலே நின்றான்; சிங்காசனத்திற்கு முன்பாக இருந்த பொற்பீடத்தின்மேல் எல்லாப் பரிசுத்தவான்களுடைய ஜெபங்களோடு அதிகமான தூபவர்க்கம் செலுத்தும்படி அவனுக்குக் கொடுக்கப்பட்டது. ⁴ அப்படியே பரிசுத்தவான்களுடைய ஜெபங்களோடும் செலுத்தப்பட்ட தூபவர்க்கத்தின் புகையானது தூதனுடைய கையில் இருந்து தேவனுக்குமுன்பாக எழும்பியது. ⁵ பின்பு, அந்தத் தூதன் தூபகலசத்தை எடுத்து, அதைப் பலிபீடத்து நெருப்பினால் நிரப்பி, பூமியிலே கொட்டினான்; உடனே சத்தங்களும், இடிமுழக்கங்களும், மின்னல்களும், பூமி அதிர்ச்சியும் உண்டானது.

⁶ அப்பொழுது, ஏழு எக்காளங்களை வைத்திருந்த ஏழு தூதர்கள் எக்காளம் ஊதுகிறதற்குத் தங்களை ஆயத்தப்படுத்தினார்கள். ⁷ முதலாம் தூதன் எக்காளம் ஊதினான்; அப்பொழுது இரத்தம் கலந்த கல்மழையும் அக்கினியும் உண்டாகி, பூமியிலே கொட்டப்பட்டது; அதினால் மரங்களில் மூன்றில் ஒரு பங்கு வெந்துபோனது, பசும்புல்லெல்லாம் எரிந்துபோனது. ⁸ இரண்டாம் தூதன் எக்காளம் ஊதினான்; அப்பொழுது அக்கினியால் எரிகிற பெரிய மலைபோல ஒன்று கடலிலே போடப்பட்டது. அதனால் கடலில் மூன்றில் ஒரு பங்கு இரத்தமாக மாறியது. ⁹ கடலில் இருந்த உயிருள்ள படைப்புகளில் மூன்றில் ஒரு பங்கு மரித்துப்போனது; கப்பல்களில் மூன்றில் ஒரு பங்கு சேதமானது. ¹⁰ மூன்றாம் தூதன் எக்காளம் ஊதினான்; அப்பொழுது ஒரு பெரிய நட்சத்திரம் தீவட்டியைப்போல எரிந்து, வானத்திலிருந்து விழுந்தது; அது ஆறுகளில் மூன்றில் ஒருபங்கின்மேலும், நீரூற்றுகளின்மேலும் விழுந்தது. ¹¹ அந்த நட்சத்திரத்திற்கு எட்டி என்று பெயர்; அதினால் தண்ணீரில் மூன்றில் ஒரு பங்கு எட்டியைப்போலக் கசப்பானது; இப்படி கசப்பான தண்ணீரினால் மனிதர்களில் அநேகர் மரித்தார்கள். ¹² நான்காம் தூதன் எக்காளம் ஊதினான்; அப்பொழுது சூரியனில் மூன்றில் ஒருபங்கும், சந்திரனில் மூன்றில் ஒருபங்கும், நட்சத்திரங்களில் மூன்றில் ஒருபங்கும் சேதமானது, அவைகளில் மூன்றில் ஒரு பங்கு இருள் அடைந்தது; பகலிலும் மூன்றில் ஒரு பங்கு பிரகாசம் இல்லாமல்போனது, இரவிலும் அப்படியே ஆனது. ¹³ பின்பு, ஒரு கழுகு வானத்தின் நடுவிலே பறந்து வருவதைப் பார்த்தேன்; அவன் அதிக சத்தமாக: இனி எக்காளம் ஊதப்போகிற மற்ற மூன்று தூதர்களுடைய எக்காள சத்தங்களினால் பூமியில் குடியிருக்கிறவர்களுக்கு ஐயோ, ஐயோ, ஐயோ (ஆபத்துவரும்) என்று சொல்வதைக்கேட்டேன்.

அத்தியாயம்- 9

¹ ஐந்தாம் தூதன் எக்காளம் ஊதினான்; அப்பொழுது வானத்திலிருந்து பூமியின்மேல் விழுந்த ஒரு நட்சத்திரத்தைப் பார்த்தேன்; அவனுக்குப் பாதாளக்குழியின் திறவுகோல் கொடுக்கப்பட்டது. ² அவன் பாதாளக்குழியைத் திறந்தான்; உடனே பெரியசூளையின் புகையைப்போல அந்தக் குழியிலிருந்து புகை எழும்பியது; அந்தக் குழியின் புகையினால் சூரியனும் ஆகாயமும் இருளானது. ³ அந்தப் புகையிலிருந்து வெட்டுக்கிளிகள் புறப்பட்டுப் பூமியின்மேல் வந்தது; அவைகளுக்குப் பூமியில் உள்ள தேள்களின் வல்லமைக்கு இணையான வல்லமைக் கொடுக்கப்பட்டது. ⁴ பூமியின் புல்லையும், பசுமையான பூண்டையும், மரத்தையும் சேதப்படுத்தாமல், தங்களுடைய நெற்றிகளில் தேவனுடைய முத்திரை இல்லாத மனிதர்களைமட்டும் சேதப்படுத்த அவைகளுக்கு உத்தரவு கொடுக்கப்பட்டது. ⁵ மேலும் அவர்களைக் கொலைசெய்வதற்கு அவைகளுக்கு அனுமதி கொடுக்காமல், ஐந்து மாதங்கள்வரை அவர்களை வேதனைப்படுத்துவதற்குமட்டும் அனுமதி கொடுக்கப்பட்டது; அவைகள் கொடுக்கும் வேதனை, தேள் மனிதனைக் கொட்டும்போது உண்டாகும் வேதனையைப்போல இருக்கும். ⁶ அந்த நாட்களில் மனிதர்கள் மரித்துப்போவதற்கான வழியைத் தேடுவார்கள். ஆனாலும் அவர்கள் மரிக்கமாட்டார்கள், சாகவேண்டும் என்று ஆசைப்படுவார்கள், ஆனால், சாவோ அவர்களுக்கு விலகி தூரமாக ஓடிப்போகும். ⁷ அந்த வெட்டுக்கிளிகளின் உருவம் யுத்தத்திற்கு ஆயத்தம்பண்ணப்பட்ட குதிரைகள்போல இருந்தது; அவைகளுடைய தலைகளின்மேல் பொற்கிரீடம் போன்றவைகள் இருந்தன; அவைகளின் முகங்கள் மனிதர்களுடைய முகங்கள்போல இருந்தன. ⁸ அவைகளுடைய கூந்தல் பெண்களுடைய கூந்தல்போல இருந்தது; அவைகளின் பற்கள் சிங்கங்களின் பற்கள்போல இருந்தன. ⁹ இரும்புக் கவசங்களைப்போல மார்க்கவசங்கள் அவைகளுக்கு இருந்தன; அவைகளுடைய சிறகுகளின் சத்தம் யுத்தத்திற்கு ஒடுகிற அநேக குதிரைகள் பூட்டிய இரதங்களின் சத்தத்தைப்போல இருந்தன. ¹⁰ அவைகள் தேள்களின் வால்களைப்போன்ற வால்களையும், அந்த வால்களில் கொடுக்குகளையும் உடையவைகளாக இருந்தன; அவைகள் ஐந்து மாதங்கள்வரைக்கும் மனிதர்களைச் சேதப்படுத்துவதற்கு அதிகாரம் உடையவைகளாக இருந்தன. ¹¹ அவைகளுக்கு ஒரு ராஜா உண்டு, அவன் பாதாளத்தின் தூதன்; எபிரெய மொழியிலே அபெத்தோன் என்றும், கிரேக்க மொழியிலே அப்பொல்லியோன் என்றும் அவனுக்குப் பெயர். ¹² முதலாம் ஆபத்து கடந்துபோனது; இவைகளுக்குப் பின்பு இன்னும் இரண்டு ஆபத்துகள், இதோ வருகிறது. ¹³ ஆறாம் தூதன் எக்காளம் ஊதினான்; அப்பொழுது தேவனுக்குமுன்பாக இருந்த பொற்பீடத்தின் நான்கு கொம்புகளிலும் இருந்து ஒரு சத்தம் உண்டாகி, ¹⁴ எக்காளத்தைப் பிடித்திருந்த ஆறாம் தூதனைப் பார்த்து: ஐபிராத்து என்னும் பெரிய நதியிலே கட்டப்பட்டிருக்கிற நான்கு தூதர்களையும் அவிழ்த்துவிடு என்று சொல்வதைக்கேட்டேன். ¹⁵ அப்பொழுது மனிதர்களில் மூன்றில் ஒரு பங்கைக் கொல்வதற்காக ஒருமணிநேரத்திற்கும், ஒரு நாளுக்கும், ஒரு மாதத்திற்கும், ஒரு வருடத்திற்கும் ஆயத்தமாக்கப்பட்டிருந்த அந்த நான்கு தூதர்களும் அவிழ்த்துவிடப்பட்டார்கள். ¹⁶ குதிரைப்படைகளாகிய இராணுவங்களின் எண்ணிக்கை கோடானகோடியாக இருந்தது; அவைகளின் எண்ணிக்கையைச் சொல்லக்கேட்டேன். ¹⁷ குதிரைகளையும், அவைகளின்மேல் ஏறியிருந்தவர்களையும் நான் தரிசனத்தில் பார்த்தவிதமாவது; அவர்கள் அக்கினி சிவப்பு நிறமும், நீலநிறமும், கந்தக மஞ்சள் நிறமுமான மார்க்கவசங்களை உடையவர்களாக இருந்தார்கள்; குதிரைகளுடைய தலைகள் சிங்கங்களின் தலைகளைப்போல இருந்தன; அவைகளுடைய வாய்களிலிருந்து அக்கினியும் புகையும் கந்தகமும் புறப்பட்டு வந்தது. ¹⁸ அவைகளுடைய வாய்களிலிருந்து புறப்பட்டுவந்த அக்கினி, புகை, கந்தகம் என்னும் இந்த மூன்றினாலும் மனிதர்களில் மூன்றில் ஒரு பங்கு கொல்லப்பட்டார்கள். ¹⁹ அந்தக் குதிரைகளின் வல்லமை அவைகளுடைய வாயிலும் வால்களிலும் இருக்கிறது; அவைகளுடைய வால்கள் பாம்புகள்போலவும், தலைகள் உள்ளவைகளாகவும் இருக்கிறது, அவைகளாலே மனிதர்களைச் சேதப்படுத்துகிறது. ²⁰ அப்படியிருந்தும், அந்த வாதைகளால் கொல்லப்படாத மற்றமனிதர்கள், பேய்களையும் பொன் வெள்ளி செம்பு கல் மரம் போன்றவைகளால் செய்யப்பட்டவைகளும், பார்க்கவும் கேட்கவும் நடக்கவும் முடியாதவைகளுமாக இருக்கிற விக்கிரகங்களையும்; வணங்காமல் இருப்பதற்குத் தங்களுடைய கைகளின் செய்கைகளைவிட்டு மனம்திரும்பவும் இல்லை; ²¹ தங்களுடைய கொலைபாதகங்களை, தங்களுடைய சூனியங்களை, தங்களுடைய வேசித்தனங்களை, தங்களுடைய களவுகளைவிட்டும் மனம்திரும்பவில்லை.

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¹ பின்பு, பலமுள்ள வேறொரு தூதன் வானத்திலிருந்து இறங்கி வருவதைப் பார்த்தேன்; மேகம் அவனைச் சுற்றியிருந்தது, அவனுடைய தலையின்மேல் வானவில் இருந்தது, அவனுடைய முகம் சூரியனைப்போலவும், அவனுடைய கால்கள் அக்கினித் தூண்களைப்போலவும் இருந்தது. ² திறக்கப்பட்ட ஒரு சிறிய புத்தகம் அவனுடைய கையில் இருந்தது; தன் வலது பாதத்தைக் கடலின்மேலும், தன் இடதுபாதத்தை பூமியின்மேலும் வைத்து, ³ சிங்கம் கெர்ச்சிக்கிறதுபோல அதிக சத்தமாக ஆர்ப்பரித்தான்; அவன் ஆர்ப்பரித்தபோது ஏழு இடிகளும் சத்தமிட்டு முழங்கின. ⁴ அந்த ஏழு இடிகளும் தங்களுடைய சத்தங்களை முழங்கினபோது நான் எழுதவேண்டுமென்று இருந்தேன். அப்பொழுது: ஏழு இடிமுழக்கங்கள் சொன்னவைகளை நீ எழுதாமல் அவைகள் இரகசியமாக இருக்க முத்திரைபோடு என்று வானத்திலிருந்து சொன்ன ஒரு சத்தத்தைக் கேட்டேன். ⁵ கடலின்மேலும் பூமியின்மேலும் நிற்கிறதாக நான் பார்த்த அந்த தூதன், தன் கையை வானத்திற்கு நேராக உயர்த்தி: ⁶ இனி காலம் தாமதம் ஆகாது; ஆனாலும் தேவன் தம்முடைய ஊழியக்காரர்களாகிய தீர்க்கதரிசிகளுக்கு நற்செய்தியாக அறிவித்தபடி, ஏழாம் தூதனுடைய நாட்களிலே அவன் எக்காளம் ஊதப்போகிறபோது தேவ இரகசியம் நிறைவேறும் என்று, ⁷ வானத்தையும் அதில் இருப்பவைகளையும், பூமியையும் அதில் இருப்பவைகளையும், கடலையும் அதில் இருப்பவைகளையும் உண்டாக்கினவரும் எல்லாக் காலங்களிலும் உயிரோடு இருக்கிறவருமானவர்மேல் ஆணையிட்டுச் சொன்னான். ⁸ நான் வானத்தில் இருந்து கேட்ட சத்தம் மீண்டும் என்னோடு பேசி: கடலின்மேலும் பூமியின்மேலும் நிற்கிற தூதனுடைய கையில் இருக்கும் திறக்கப்பட்ட சிறிய புத்தகத்தை நீ போய் வாங்கிக்கொள் என்று சொல்ல, ⁹ நான் தூதனிடம்போய்: அந்தச் சிறிய புத்தகத்தை எனக்குத் தரவேண்டும் என்றேன். அதற்கு அவன்: நீ இதை வாங்கிச் சாப்பிடு; இது உன் வயிற்றுக்குக் கசப்பாக இருக்கும். ஆனால் உன் வாய்க்கு இது தேனைப்போலச் சுவையாக இருக்கும் என்றான். ¹⁰ நான் அந்தச் சிறிய புத்தகத்தைத் தூதனுடைய கையிலிருந்து வாங்கி, அதைச் சாப்பிட்டேன்; என் வாய்க்கு அது தேனைப்போல இனிமையாக இருந்தது; நான் அதைச் சாப்பிட்டவுடனே என் வயிறு கசப்பானது. ¹¹ அப்பொழுது அவன் என்னைப் பார்த்து: நீ மீண்டும் அநேக மக்களையும், தேசங்களையும், பல மொழிக்காரர்களையும், ராஜாக்களையும் குறித்துத் தீர்க்கதரிசனம் சொல்லவேண்டும் என்றான்.

அத்தியாயம்- 11

¹ பின்பு கைத்தடி போன்ற ஒரு அளவுகோல் என்னிடம் கொடுக்கப்பட்டது. அப்பொழுது தேவதூதன் நின்று, என்னைப் பார்த்து: நீ எழுந்து, தேவனுடைய ஆலயத்தையும், பலிபீடத்தையும், அதில் தொழுதுகொள்ளுகிறவர்களையும் அளந்து பார். ² ஆலயத்திற்கு வெளியே இருக்கிற முற்றம் யூதரல்லாதவர்களுக்குக் கொடுக்கப்பட்டபடியால் அதை அளக்கவேண்டாம்; பரிசுத்த நகரத்தை அவர்கள் நாற்பத்திரண்டு மாதங்கள்வரைக்கும் மிதிப்பார்கள். ³ என்னுடைய இரண்டு சாட்சிகளும் துக்கத்திற்கான சாக்கு ஆடை அணிந்துகொண்டவர்களாக, ஆயிரத்து இருநூற்றுஅறுபது நாட்கள்வரை தீர்க்கதரிசனம் சொல்லுவதற்கு அவர்களுக்கு அதிகாரம் கொடுப்பேன். ⁴ பூலோகத்தின் ஆண்டவருக்கு முன்பாக நிற்கிற இரண்டு ஒலிவமரங்களும் இரண்டு விளக்குத்தண்டுகளும் இவர்களே. ⁵ ஒருவன் அவர்களைச் சேதப்படுத்த நினைத்தால், அவர்களுடைய வாயிலிருந்து அக்கினி புறப்பட்டு, அவர்களுடைய எதிராளிகளை அழிக்கும்; யாராவது அவர்களைச் சேதப்படுத்த நினைத்தால், அவனும் அப்படியே கொல்லப்படவேண்டும். ⁶ அவர்கள் தீர்க்கதரிசனம் சொல்லுகிற நாட்களிலே மழைபெய்யாதபடி வானத்தை அடைக்க அவர்களுக்கு அதிகாரம் உண்டு; அவர்கள் தண்ணீர்களை இரத்தமாக மாற்றவும், தங்களுக்கு வேண்டியபோதெல்லாம் பூமியை எல்லாவித வாதைகளாலும் வாதிக்கவும் அவர்களுக்கு அதிகாரம் உண்டு. ⁷ அவர்கள் தங்களுடைய சாட்சியைச் சொல்லி முடிக்கும்போது, பாதாளத்தில் இருந்து மேலே ஏறி வருகிற மிருகம் அவர்களோடு யுத்தம்பண்ணி, அவர்களை ஜெயித்து, அவர்களைக் கொன்றுபோடும். ⁸ அவர்களுடைய உடல்கள், நம்முடைய கர்த்தர் சிலுவையிலே அறையப்பட்ட மகா நகரத்தின் வீதியிலே கிடக்கும். அந்த நகரம் சோதோம் என்றும் எகிப்து என்றும் அடையாளமாகச் சொல்லப்படும். ⁹ மக்களிலும், கோத்திரங்களிலும், பல மொழிக்காரர்களும், பல தேசங்களைச் சேர்ந்தவர்களும் அவர்களுடைய உடல்களை மூன்றரை நாட்கள்வரை பார்ப்பார்கள், ஆனால், அவர்களுடைய உடல்களைக் கல்லறைகளில் வைக்க அனுமதிக்கமாட்டார்கள். ¹⁰ அந்த இரண்டு தீர்க்கதரிசிகளும் பூமியின் மக்களை வேதனைப்படுத்தினதினால் அவர்களுக்காக பூமியில் குடியிருக்கிறவர்கள் சந்தோஷப்பட்டு மகிழ்ந்து, ஒருவருக்கொருவர் வெகுமதிகளை அனுப்புவார்கள். ¹¹ மூன்றரை நாட்களுக்குப்பின்பு தேவனிடத்தில் இருந்து ஜீவ சுவாசம் அவர்களுக்குள் பிரவேசித்தது, அப்பொழுது அவர்கள் கால் ஊன்றி நின்றார்கள்; அவர்களைப் பார்த்தவர்களுக்கு அதிக பயம் உண்டானது. ¹² இங்கே ஏறிவாருங்கள் என்று வானத்திலிருந்து அவர்களுக்கு உண்டான பெரிய சத்தத்தை அவர்கள் கேட்டு, மேகத்தில் ஏறி வானத்திற்குப் போனார்கள்; அவர்களுடைய எதிராளிகள் அவர்களைப் பார்த்தார்கள். ¹³ அந்த நேரத்திலே பூமி அதிகமாக அதிர்ந்தது, உடனே அந்த நகரத்தில் பத்தில் ஒரு பங்கு இடிந்து விழுந்தது; மனிதர்களில் ஏழாயிரம்பேர் பூமி அதிர்ச்சியினால் அழிந்தார்கள்; மீதி இருந்தவர்கள் பயமடைந்து பரலோகத்தின் தேவனை மகிமைப்படுத்தினார்கள். ¹⁴ இரண்டாம் ஆபத்து கடந்துபோனது; இதோ, மூன்றாம் ஆபத்து சீக்கிரமாக வருகிறது.

¹⁵ ஏழாம் தூதன் எக்காளம் ஊதினான்; அப்பொழுது உலகத்தின் ராஜ்யங்கள் நம்முடைய கர்த்தருக்கும், அவருடைய கிறிஸ்துவிடமிருந்த ராஜ்யங்களானது; அவர் எல்லாக் காலங்களிலும் ராஜ்யங்களை ஆளுவார் என்ற சத்தங்கள் வானத்தில் உண்டானது. ¹⁶ அப்பொழுது தேவனுக்கு முன்பாகத் தங்களுடைய சிங்காசனங்கள்மேல் அமர்ந்திருந்த இருபத்துநான்கு மூப்பர்களும் முகங்குப்புவிழுந்து: ¹⁷ இருக்கிறவரும் இருந்தவரும் வருகிறவருமாகிய சர்வவல்லமையுள்ள கர்த்தராகிய தேவனே, உம்மை ஸ்தோத்திரிக்கிறோம்; தேவரீர் உமது மகா வல்லமையைக் கொண்டு ராஜ்யங்களை ஆளுகிறீர். ¹⁸ தேசத்தின் மக்கள் கோபித்துக்கொண்டார்கள், அப்பொழுது உம்முடைய கோபம் வந்தது; மரித்தவர்கள் நியாயத்தீர்ப்பு அடைகிறதற்கும், தீர்க்கதரிசிகளாகிய உம்முடைய ஊழியக்காரர்களுக்கும் பரிசுத்தவான்களுக்கும் உமது நாமத்தின்மேல் பயபக்தியாக இருந்த சிறியவர்கள் மற்றும் பெரியவர்களுக்கு பலன் கொடுப்பதற்கும், பூமியைக் கெடுத்தவர்களைக் கெடுக்கிறதற்கும் நேரம்வந்தது என்று சொல்லி, தேவனைத் தொழுதுகொண்டார்கள். ¹⁹ அப்பொழுது பரலோகத்தில் தேவனுடைய ஆலயம் திறக்கப்பட்டது, அவருடைய ஆலயத்திலே அவருடைய உடன்படிக்கையின் பெட்டி காணப்பட்டது; அப்பொழுது மின்னல்களும், சத்தங்களும், இடிமுழக்கங்களும், பூமி அதிர்ச்சியும், பெருங்கல்மழையும் உண்டானது.

அத்தியாயம்- 12

¹ அன்றியும் ஒரு பெரிய அடையாளம் வானத்திலே காணப்பட்டது; ஒரு பெண் சூரியனை அணிந்திருந்தாள், அவள் பாதங்களின் கீழே சந்திரனும், அவள் தலையின்மேல் பன்னிரண்டு நட்சத்திரங்களுள்ள கிரீடமும் இருந்தன. ² அவள் கர்ப்பவதியாக இருந்து, பிரசவவேதனையடைந்து, குழந்தைபெறும்படி கதறிஅழுதாள். ³ அப்பொழுது வேறொரு அடையாளம் வானத்திலே காணப்பட்டது; ஏழு தலைகளையும், பத்துக் கொம்புகளையும், தன் தலைகளின்மேல் ஏழு கிரீடங்களையுடைய சிவப்பான பெரிய இராட்சசப் பாம்பு இருந்தது. ⁴ அதின் வால் வானத்தின் நட்சத்திரங்களில் மூன்றில் ஒரு பங்கை இழுத்து, அவைகளைப் பூமியில் விழத்தள்ளியது; பிரசவவேதனைப்படுகிற அந்தப் பெண் குழந்தைபெற்றவுடனே, அவளுடைய குழந்தையைக் கொன்றுபோடுவதற்காக அந்த இராட்சசப் பாம்பு அவளுக்கு முன்பாக நின்றது. ⁵ எல்லா தேசங்களையும் இரும்புக்கோலால் ஆளுகையையும் ஆண்பிள்ளையை அவள் பெற்றாள்; அவளுடைய குழந்தை தேவனிடத்திற்கும் அவருடைய சிங்காசனத்தினிடத்திற்கும் எடுத்துக்கொள்ளப்பட்டது. ⁶ அந்தப் பெண் வனாந்திரத்திற்கு ஓடிப்போனாள்; அவளை ஆயிரத்து இருநூற்றுஅறுபது நாட்கள் போஷிப்பதற்காக தேவனால் ஆயத்தமாக்கப்பட்ட இடம் அங்கே இருந்தது. ⁷ வானத்திலே யுத்தம் உண்டானது; அந்த யுத்தத்தில் மிகாவேலும் அவனைச் சேர்ந்த தூதர்களும் இராட்சசப் பாம்போடு யுத்தம்பண்ணினார்கள்; இராட்சசப் பாம்பும் அதைச் சேர்ந்த தூதர்களும் யுத்தம்பண்ணியும் வெற்றி பெற்றாடியவில்லை. ⁸ பரலோகத்தில் அவர்கள் இருந்த இடமும் காணாமல்போனது. ⁹ உலகம் முழுவதையும் ஏமாற்றுகிறவன் பிசாசு என்றும் சாத்தான் என்றும் சொல்லப்பட்ட ஆரம்பத்தில் இருந்த பாம்பாகிய பெரிய இராட்சசப் பாம்பு தள்ளப்பட்டது; அது பூமியிலே விழத்தள்ளப்பட்டது, அதோடு அதைச் சேர்ந்த தூதர்களும் தள்ளப்பட்டார்கள். ¹⁰ அப்பொழுது வானத்திலே ஒரு பெரியசத்தம் உண்டாகி: இப்பொழுது இரட்சிப்பும் வல்லமையும் நமது தேவனுடைய ராஜ்யமும், அவருடைய கிறிஸ்துவின் அதிகாரமும் உண்டாயிருக்கிறது; இரவும் பகலும் நம்முடைய தேவனுக்குமுன்பாக நம்முடைய சகோதரர்மேல் குற்றஞ்சாட்டும்படி அவர்கள்மேல் குற்றஞ்சாட்டுகிறவன் தூக்கி எறியப்பட்டான். ¹¹ மரணம் சம்பவிக்கிறதாக இருந்தாலும் அதற்குத் தப்பிப்பதற்காக தங்களுடைய உயிரையும் பார்க்காமல், ஆட்டுக்குட்டியின் இரத்தத்தினாலும் தங்களுடைய சாட்சியின் வசனத்தினாலும் அவனை ஜெயித்தார்கள். ¹² எனவே, பரலோகங்களே! அவைகளில் வசிக்கிறவர்களே! களிசுருங்கள். ஆனால், பூமியிலும் கடலிலும் குடியிருக்கிறவர்களே! ஐயோ, பிசாசானவன் தனக்குக் கொஞ்சக்காலம்மட்டும் இருக்கிறதைத் தெரிந்து, அதிக கோபப்பட்டு, உங்களிடம் இறங்கினதினால், உங்களுக்கு ஆபத்துவரும் என்று சொல்வதைக்கேட்டேன். ¹³ இராட்சசப் பாம்பானது தான் பூமியிலே தள்ளப்பட்டதை அறிந்து, அந்த ஆண் குழந்தையைப் பெற்ற பெண்ணைத் துன்பப்படுத்தினது. ¹⁴ அந்தப் பெண் அந்தப் பாம்பின் முகத்திற்கு விலகி, ஒரு காலமும், காலங்களும், அரைக்காலமுமாகப் போஷிக்கப்படத்தக்கதாக வனாந்திரத்தில் உள்ள தன் இடத்திற்குப் பறந்துபோவதற்காக பெரிய கழுகின் இரண்டு சிறகுகள் அவளுக்குக் கொடுக்கப்பட்டது. ¹⁵ அப்பொழுது அந்தப் பெண்ணை வெள்ளம் அடித்துக்கொண்டுபோகும்படி பாம்பானது தன் வாயிலிருந்து ஒரு நதிபோன்ற தண்ணீரை அவளுக்குப் பின்பாக ஊற்றிவிட்டது. ¹⁶ ஆனால், பூமியானது பெண்ணுக்கு உதவியாகத் தன் வாயைத் திறந்து, இராட்சசப் பாம்பு தன் வாயிலிருந்து ஊற்றின தண்ணீரை விழுங்கினது. ¹⁷ அப்பொழுது இராட்சசப் பாம்பு பெண்ணின்மேல் கோபப்பட்டு, தேவனுடைய கட்டளைகளைக் கடைபிடிக்கிறவர்களும், இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவைக்குறித்துச் சாட்சியை உடையவர்களுமாகிய அவளுடைய வம்சத்தின் மற்ற பிள்ளைகளோடு யுத்தம்பண்ணப் போனது.

அத்தியாயம்- 13

¹ பின்பு நான் கடற்கரை மணலின்மேல் நின்றேன். அப்பொழுது கடலிலிருந்து ஒரு மிருகம் எழும்பிவருவதைப் பார்த்தேன்; அதற்கு ஏழு தலைகளும் பத்துக்கொம்புகளும் இருந்தன; அதின் கொம்புகளின்மேல் பத்து கிரீடங்களும், அதின் தலைகளின்மேல் தேவனை அவமதிக்கும் பெயர்களும் இருந்தன. ² நான் கண்ட மிருகம் சிறுத்தையைப்போல இருந்தது; அதின் கால்கள் கரடியின் கால்களைப்போலவும், அதின் வாய் சிங்கத்தின் வாயைப்போலவும் இருந்தன; இராட்சசப் பாம்பானது தன் பலத்தையும் தன் சிங்காசனத்தையும் மிகுந்த அதிகாரத்தையும் அதற்குக் கொடுத்தது. ³ அதின் தலைகளில் ஒன்றில் மரணத்திற்குரிய காயமடைந்திருப்பதைப் பார்த்தேன்; ஆனாலும் மரணத்திற்குரிய அந்தக் காயம் குணமாக்கப்பட்டது. பூமியிலுள்ள எல்லோரும் ஆச்சரியத்தோடு அந்த மிருகத்தைப் பின்பற்றி, ⁴ அந்த மிருகத்திற்கு அப்படிப்பட்ட அதிகாரம் கொடுத்த இராட்சசப் பாம்பை வணங்கினார்கள். அல்லாமலும்: மிருகத்திற்கு நிகரானவன் யார்? அதோடு யுத்தம் செய்பவன் யார்? என்று சொல்லி, மிருகத்தையும் வணங்கினார்கள். ⁵ பெருமையானவைகளையும் அவதூறான வார்த்தைகளையும் பேசும் வாய் அதற்குக் கொடுக்கப்பட்டது; மேலும், நாற்பத்திரண்டு மாதங்கள் யுத்தம்பண்ண அதற்கு அதிகாரம் கொடுக்கப்பட்டது. ⁶ அது தேவனை அவமதிப்பதற்காகத் தன் வாயைத் திறந்து, அவருடைய நாமத்தையும், அவருடைய இருப்பிடத்தையும், பரலோகத்தில் வசிக்கிறவர்களையும் அவமதித்து. ⁷ மேலும், பரிசுத்தவான்களோடு யுத்தம்செய்து அவர்களை ஜெயிக்கும்படி அதற்கு அதிகாரம் கொடுக்கப்பட்டது, ஒவ்வொரு கோத்திரம், மொழி, தேசம் மற்றும் மக்களின்மேலும் அதற்கு அதிகாரம் கொடுக்கப்பட்டது. ⁸ உலகம் உண்டானதுமுதல் அடிக்கப்பட்ட ஆட்டுக்குட்டியினுடைய ஜீவபுத்தகத்தில் பெயர் எழுதப்படாத பூமியில் வசிக்கின்ற மக்கள் எல்லோரும் அதை வணங்குவார்கள். ⁹ காதுள்ளவன் எவனோ அவன் கேட்கவேண்டும். ¹⁰ சிறைப்படுத்திக்கொண்டு போகிறவன் சிறைப்பட்டுப்போவான்; பட்டயத்தினாலே கொல்லுகிறவன் பட்டயத்தினாலே கொல்லப்படவேண்டும். பரிசுத்தவான்களுடைய பொறுமையும் விசுவாசமும் இதிலே வெளிப்படும்.

¹¹ பின்பு, வேறொரு மிருகம் பூமியிலிருந்து எழும்புவதைப் பார்த்தேன்; அது ஒரு ஆட்டுக்குட்டியைப்போல இரண்டு கொம்புகளை உடையதாக இருந்து, இராட்சசப் பாம்பைப்போலப் பேசினது. ¹² அது முந்தின மிருகத்தின் அதிகாரம் முழுவதையும் அதின் முன்பாக நடத்திக்காட்டி, மரணத்திற்குரிய காயத்திலிருந்தும் குணமடைந்த முந்தின மிருகத்தைப் பூமியும் அதில் வாழும் மக்களையும் வணங்கும்படிச் செய்தது. ¹³ அன்றியும், அது மனிதர்களுக்கு முன்பாக வானத்திலிருந்து பூமியின்மேல் அக்கினியை இறங்கப்பண்ணும்விதமாகப் பெரிய அற்புதங்களை நடத்திக்காட்டி, ¹⁴ மிருகத்தின் முன்பாக அந்த அற்புதங்களைச் செய்யும்படி தனக்குக் கொடுக்கப்பட்ட அடையாளங்களினாலே பூமியின் மக்களை ஏமாற்றி, வாளினாலே காயப்பட்டுப் பிழைத்த மிருகத்திற்கு ஒரு உருவம் உண்டாக்கவேண்டும் என்று பூமியின் மக்களுக்குச் சொன்னது. ¹⁵ மேலும் அந்த மிருகத்தின் உருவம் பேசத்தக்கதாகவும், மிருகத்தின் உருவத்தை வணங்காத எல்லோரையும் கொலைசெய்வதற்காகவும், மிருகத்தின் உருவத்திற்கு சுவாசத்தைக் கொடுக்கும்படி அதற்கு அதிகாரம் கொடுக்கப்பட்டது. ¹⁶ அது சிறியவர்கள், பெரியவர்கள், செல்வந்தர்கள், ஏழைகள், சுதந்திரமானவர்கள், அடிமைகள், இவர்கள் எல்லோரும் தங்கள் தங்கள் வலது கைகளிலோ அல்லது நெற்றிகளிலோ ஒரு முத்திரையைப் பெறும்படிக்கும், ¹⁷ அந்த மிருகத்தின் முத்திரையையோ, பெயரையோ, அந்த பெயரின் எண்ணையோ அணிந்துகொள்ளுகிறவனைத்தவிர வேறொருவனும் வாங்கவும் விற்கவும் முடியாதபடிக்கும் செய்தது. ¹⁸ இதைப் புரிந்துகொள்ள ஞானம் தேவை; அந்த மிருகத்தின் எண்ணைப் புத்தியுடையவன் கணக்குப் பார்க்கவேண்டும்; அது மனிதனுடைய எண்ணாக இருக்கிறது; அதினுடைய எண் அறுநூற்று அறுபத்தி ஆறு.

அத்தியாயம்- 14

¹ பின்பு நான் பார்த்தபோது, இதோ, சீயோன் மலையின்மேல் ஆட்டுக்குட்டியானவரையும், அவரோடு அவருடைய பிதாவின் பெயர் தங்களுடைய நெற்றிகளில் எழுதப்பட்டிருந்த ஒருஇலட்சத்து நாற்பத்து நான்காயிரம்பேரும் நிற்பதைப் பார்த்தேன். ² அல்லாமலும், பெருவெள்ளத்தின் இரைச்சல்போலவும். பலத்த இடிமுழக்கம்போலவும், ஒரு சத்தம் வானத்திலிருந்து உண்டாகக் கேட்டேன்; நான் கேட்ட சத்தம் சுரமண்டலக்காரர்கள் தங்களுடைய சுரமண்டலங்களை வாசிக்கிற ஓசையைப்போல இருந்தது. ³ அவர்கள் சிங்காசனத்திற்கு முன்பாகவும், நான்கு ஜீவன்களுக்கு முன்பாகவும், மூப்பர்களுக்கு முன்பாகவும் புதுப்பாட்டைப் பாடினார்கள்; அந்தப் பாட்டு பூமியிலிருந்து மீட்டுக்கொள்ளப்பட்ட ஒருஇலட்சத்து நாற்பத்து நான்காயிரம் நபர்களைத்தவிர வேறொருவரும் கற்றுக்கொள்ளமுடியாமல் இருந்தது. ⁴ பெண்களால் தங்களைக் கறைப்படுத்தாதவர்கள் இவர்களே; கற்புள்ளவர்கள் இவர்களே; ஆட்டுக்குட்டியானவர் எங்கே சென்றாலும் அவரைப் பின்பற்றுகிறவர்கள் இவர்களே; இவர்கள் மனிதர்களில் இருந்து தேவனுக்கும் ஆட்டுக்குட்டியானவருக்கும் முதற்பலனாக மீட்டுக்கொள்ளப்பட்டவர்கள். ⁵ இவர்களுடைய வாயிலே கபடம் காணப்படவில்லை; இவர்கள் தேவனுடைய சிங்காசனத்திற்கு முன்பாக குற்றமில்லாதவர்களாக இருக்கிறார்கள்.

⁶ பின்பு வேறொரு தூதன் வானத்தின் நடுவிலே பறப்பதைப் பார்த்தேன்; அவன் பூமியில் வசிக்கின்ற எல்லா தேசத்தார்களுக்கும், கோத்திரத்தார்களுக்கும், மொழிக்காரர்களுக்கும், மக்கள்கூட்டத்தினருக்கும் அறிவிக்கும் நித்திய நற்செய்தியை உடையவனாக இருந்து, ⁷ அதிக சத்தமிட்டு: தேவனுக்குப் பயந்து, அவரை மகிமைப்படுத்துங்கள்; அவர் நியாயத்தீர்ப்பு கொடுக்கும் நேரம் வந்துவிட்டது; வானத்தையும் பூமியையும் கடலையும் நீருற்றுகளையும் உண்டாக்கினவரைத் தொழுதுகொள்ளுங்கள் என்று சொன்னான். ⁸ வேறொரு தூதன் பின்னேசென்று: பாபிலோன் மகா நகரம் விழுந்தது! விழுந்தது! தன் வேசித்தனமாகிய கோபமான மதுவை எல்லா தேசத்து மக்களுக்கும் குடிக்கக் கொடுத்தானே! என்றான். ⁹ அவர்களுக்குப் பின்னால் மூன்றாம் தூதன் வந்து, அதிக சத்தமிட்டு: மிருகத்தையும் அதின் உருவத்தையும் வணங்கித் தன் நெற்றியிலோ தன் கையிலோ அதின் முத்திரையை அணிந்து கொள்ளுகிறவன் எவனோ, ¹⁰ அவன் தேவனுடைய கோபத்தின் தண்டனையாகிய பாத்திரத்திலே கலப்பில்லாமல் ஊற்றப்பட்ட அவருடைய கோபமாகிய மதுவைக் குடித்து, பரிசுத்த தூதர்களுக்கு முன்பாகவும், ஆட்டுக்குட்டியானவருக்கு முன்பாகவும், அக்கினியினாலும் கந்தகத்தினாலும் வாதிக்கப்படுவான். ¹¹ அவர்களுடைய வாதையின் புகை எல்லாக் காலங்களிலும் எழும்பும்; மிருகத்தையும் அதின் உருவத்தையும் வணங்குகிறவர்களுக்கும், அதினுடைய பெயரின் முத்திரையை அணிந்துகொள்ளுகிற அனைவருக்கும் இரவும் பகலும் ஓய்வு இருக்காது. ¹² தேவனுடைய கட்டளைகளையும் இயேசுவின்மேலுள்ள விசுவாசத்தையும் காத்துக்கொள்ளுகிறவர்களாகிய பரிசுத்தவான்களுடைய பொறுமை இதிலே வெளிப்படும் என்று சொன்னான். ¹³ பின்பு, பரலோகத்திலிருந்து ஒரு சத்தம் உண்டாகக் கேட்டேன்; அது: கர்த்தருக்குள் மரிக்கிறவர்கள் இதுமுதல் பாக்கியவான்கள் என்று எழுது; அவர்கள் தங்களுடைய வேலைகளில் இருந்து ஓய்வெடுப்பார்கள்; அவர்களுடைய செய்கைகள் அவர்களோடு கூடப்போகும்; ஆவியானவரும் ஆம் என்று சொல்லியிருக்கிறார் என்று சொல்லியது.

¹⁴ பின்பு நான் பார்த்தபோது, இதோ, வெண்மையான மேகத்தையும், அந்த மேகத்தின்மேல் மனிதகுமாரனைப்போல தமது தலையின்மேல் பொற்கிரீடத்தையும் தமது கையிலே கூர்மையான அரிவாளையும் வைத்திருக்கும் ஒருவர் உட்கார்ந்திருப்பதையும் பார்த்தேன். ¹⁵ அப்பொழுது வேறொரு தூதன் தேவாலயத்திலிருந்து புறப்பட்டு, மேகத்தின்மேல் உட்கார்ந்திருக்கிறவரைப் பார்த்து: பூமியின் பயிர் முதிர்ந்தது, அறுக்கிறதற்குக் காலம் வந்தது, எனவே உம்முடைய அரிவாளை நீட்டி அறுத்துவிடும் என்று அதிக சத்தமிட்டுச் சொன்னான். ¹⁶ அப்பொழுது மேகத்தின்மேல் உட்கார்ந்திருந்தவர் தமது அரிவாளைப் பூமியின்மேல் நீட்டினார், பூமியின் விளைச்சல் அறுக்கப்பட்டது. ¹⁷ பின்பு வேறொரு தூதனும் கூர்மையான அரிவாளைப் பிடித்துக்கொண்டு பரலோகத்திலுள்ள தேவாலயத்திலிருந்து புறப்பட்டுவந்தான். ¹⁸ அக்கினியின்மேல் அதிகாரம் உள்ள வேறொரு தூதனும் பலிபீடத்திலிருந்து புறப்பட்டுவந்து, கூர்மையான அரிவாளைப் பிடித்திருக்கிறவனைப் பார்த்து: பூமியின் திராட்சைப்பழங்கள் பழுத்திருக்கிறது, கூர்மையான உமது அரிவாளை நீட்டி, அதின் குலைகளை அறுத்துவிடும் என்று அதிக சத்தத்தோடு சொன்னான். ¹⁹ அப்பொழுது அந்தத் தூதன் தன் அரிவாளைப் பூமியின்மேலே நீட்டி, பூமியின் திராட்சைப்பழங்களை அறுத்து, தேவனுடைய கோபத்தின் தண்டனை என்னும் பெரிய ஆலையிலே போட்டான்; ²⁰ நகரத்திற்கு வெளியே உள்ள அந்த ஆலையிலே அது மிதிக்கப்பட்டது; அந்த ஆலையிலிருந்து முந்நாறு கிலோமீட்டர் தூரத்திற்கு இரத்தம் புறப்பட்டு குதிரைகளின் கடிவாளங்களின் உயரம்வரைக்கும் பெருகிவந்தது.

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¹ பின்பு, வானத்திலே பெரிதும் ஆச்சரியமுமான வேறொரு அடையாளமாகிய கடைசியான ஏழு வாதைகளையுடைய ஏழு தூதர்களைப் பார்த்தேன், அவைகளால் தேவனுடைய கோபம் முடிவிற்கு வந்தது. ² அன்றியும், அக்கினிக் கலந்த கண்ணாடிக் கடல்போல ஒரு கடலையும், மிருகத்திற்கும் அதின் உருவத்திற்கும் அதின் முத்திரைக்கும் அதின் பெயரின் எண்ணிற்கும் உள்ளாகாமல் ஜெயம் பெற்றவர்கள் தேவ சுரமண்டலங்களைப் பிடித்துக்கொண்டு அந்தக் கண்ணாடிக் கடலருகே நிற்கிறதையும் பார்த்தேன். ³ அவர்கள் தேவனுடைய ஊழியக்காரனாகிய மோசேயின் பாட்டையும் ஆட்டுக்குட்டியானவருடைய பாட்டையும் பாடி: சர்வவல்லமையுள்ள தேவனாகிய கர்த்தாவே, தேவரீருடைய செய்கைகள் மகத்துவமும் ஆச்சரியமுமானவைகள்; பரிசுத்தவான்களின் ராஜாவே, தேவரீருடைய வழிகள் நீதியும் சத்தியமுமானவைகள். ⁴ கர்த்தாவே, யார் உமக்குப் பயப்படாமலும், உமது நாமத்தை மகிமைப்படுத்தாமலும் இருப்பார்கள்? தேவரீர் ஒருவரே பரிசுத்தர், எல்லா தேசத்து மக்களும் வந்து உமக்கு முன்பாகத் தொழுதுகொள்வார்கள்; உம்முடைய நீதியான செயல்கள் வெளிப்பட்டது என்றார்கள். ⁵ இவைகளுக்குப் பின்பு, நான் பார்த்தபோது, இதோ, பரலோகத்திலே சாட்சியின் கூடாரமாகிய தேவனுடைய ஆலயம் திறக்கப்பட்டது; ⁶ அந்த ஆலயத்திலிருந்து ஏழு வாதைகளையுடைய அந்த ஏழு தூதர்களும் பரிசுத்தமும் பிரகாசமுமான மெல்லிய ஆடையணிந்து, மார்பில் பொற்கச்சைகளைக் கட்டிக்கொண்டு புறப்பட்டார்கள். ⁷ அப்பொழுது அந்த நான்கு ஜீவன்களில் ஒன்று, எல்லாக் காலங்களிலும் உயிரோடு இருக்கிற தேவனுடைய கோபாத்தினால் நிறைந்த ஏழு பொற்கலசங்களை அந்த ஏழு தூதர்களுக்குக் கொடுத்தது. ⁸ அப்பொழுது, தேவனுடைய மகிமையினாலும் அவருடைய வல்லமையினாலும் உண்டான புகையினாலே தேவனுடைய ஆலயம் நிறைந்தது; ஏழு தூதர்களுடைய ஏழு வாதைகளும் முடியும்வரைக்கும் ஒருவரும் தேவாலயத்திற்குள் செல்லமுடியவில்லை.

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¹ அப்பொழுது தேவாலயத்திலிருந்து வந்த ஒரு பெரியசத்தம் அந்த ஏழு தூதர்களிடம்: நீங்கள் போய் ஏழு கலசங்களிலும் உள்ள தேவனுடைய கோபத்தை பூமியின்மேல் ஊற்றுவீர்கள் என்று சொல்வதைக்கேட்டேன். ² முதலாம் தூதன் போய், தன் கலசத்தில் இருந்ததை பூமியின்மேல் ஊற்றினான்; உடனே மிருகத்தின் முத்திரையை அணிந்தவர்களும் அதின் உருவத்தை வணங்குகிற மனிதர்களுக்குப் பொல்லாத கொடிய புண்கள் உண்டானது. ³ இரண்டாம் தூதன் தன் கலசத்தில் உள்ளதைக் கடலிலே ஊற்றினான்; உடனே அது மரித்தவனுடைய இரத்தத்தைப்போலானது; கடலிலுள்ள பிராணிகளெல்லாம் மரித்துப்போயின. ⁴ மூன்றாம் தூதன் தன் கலசத்திலுள்ளதை ஆறுகளிலும், நீருற்றுகளிலும் ஊற்றினான்; உடனே அவைகள் இரத்தமாக மாறியது. ⁵ அப்பொழுது தண்ணீர்களின் தூதன்: இருக்கிறவரும் இருந்தவரும் பரிசுத்தருமாகிய தேவரீர் இப்படி நியாயந்தீர்க்க நீதியுள்ளவராக இருக்கிறீர். ⁶ அவர்கள் பரிசுத்தவான்களுடைய இரத்தத்தையும் தீர்க்கதரிசிகளுடைய இரத்தத்தையும் சிந்தினதினால், இரத்தத்தையே அவர்களுக்குக் குடிக்கக்கொடுத்தீர்; அதற்குத் தகுதியுடையவர்களாக இருக்கிறார்கள் என்று சொல்வதைக்கேட்டேன். ⁷ பல்பீடத்திலிருந்து வேறொருவன்: ஆம், சர்வவல்லமையுள்ள தேவனாகிய கர்த்தாவே, உம்முடைய நியாயத்தீர்ப்புகள் சத்தியமும் நீதியுமானவைகள் என்று சொல்வதைக்கேட்டேன். ⁸ நான்காம் தூதன் தன் கலசத்தில் உள்ளதைச் சூரியன்மேல் ஊற்றினான்; தீயினால் மனிதர்களைச் சூடுவதற்கு அதற்கு அதிகாரம் கொடுக்கப்பட்டது. ⁹ அப்பொழுது மனிதர்கள் அதிக வெப்பத்தினால் சுடப்பட்டு, இந்த வாதைகளைச் செய்ய அதிகாரமுள்ள தேவனுடைய நாமத்தை அவமதித்தார்களேதவிர, அவரை மகிமைப்படுத்த மனம்திரும்பவில்லை. ¹⁰ ஐந்தாம் தூதன் தன் கலசத்திலுள்ளதை மிருகத்தினுடைய சிங்காசனத்தின்மேல் ஊற்றினான்; அப்பொழுது அதின் ராஜ்யம் இருளடைந்தது; அவர்கள் வருத்தத்தினாலே தங்களுடைய நாக்குகளைக் கடித்துக்கொண்டு, ¹¹ தங்களுடைய வருத்தங்களாலும், தங்களுடைய புண்களாலும், பரலோகத்தின் தேவனை அவமதித்தார்களேதவிர, தங்களுடைய செய்கைகளைவிட்டு மனம்திரும்பவில்லை. ¹² ஆறாம் தூதன் தன் கலசத்தில் உள்ளதை ஐபிராத்து என்னும் பெரிய நதியில் ஊற்றினான்; அப்பொழுது சூரியன் உதிக்கும் திசையிலிருந்து வரும் ராஜாக்களுக்கு வழி ஆயத்தமாகும்படி அந்த நதியின் தண்ணீர் வற்றிப்போனது. ¹³ அப்பொழுது, இராட்சச பாம்பின் வாயிலும் மிருகத்தின் வாயிலும் கள்ளத்தீர்க்கதரிசியின் வாயிலும் இருந்து தவளைகளைப்போல மூன்று அசுத்தஆவிகள் புறப்பட்டு வருவதைப் பார்த்தேன். ¹⁴ அவைகள் அற்புதங்களைச் செய்கிற பிசாசுகளின் ஆவிகள்; அவைகள் பூலோகமெங்கும் உள்ள ராஜாக்களை சர்வவல்லமையுள்ள தேவனுடைய மகாநாளில் நடக்கும் யுத்தத்திற்குக் கூட்டிச்சேர்க்கும்படி புறப்பட்டுப்போகிறது. ¹⁵ இதோ, திருடனைப்போல வருகிறேன். தன் மானம் தெரியும்படி நிர்வாணமாக நடக்காமல் விழித்துக்கொண்டு, தன் உடைகளைக் காத்துக்கொள்ளுகிறவன் பாக்கியவான். ¹⁶ அப்பொழுது எபிரெயு மொழியிலே அர்மகெதோன் என்னப்பட்ட இடத்திலே அவர்களைக் கூட்டிச் சேர்த்தன. ¹⁷ ஏழாம் தூதன் தன் கலசத்தில் உள்ளதை ஆகாயத்தில் ஊற்றினான்; அப்பொழுது பரலோகத்தின் ஆலயத்திலுள்ள சிங்காசனத்திலிருந்து வந்த பெரிய சத்தம் அது செய்துமுடிக்கப்பட்டது என்று சொன்னது. ¹⁸ சத்தங்களும் இடிமுழக்கங்களும் மின்னல்களும் உண்டானது; பூமி மிகவும் அதிர்ந்தது, பூமியின்மேல் மனிதர்கள் உண்டான நாளிலிருந்து அப்படிப்பட்ட பெரிய அதிர்ச்சி உண்டானது இல்லை. ¹⁹ அப்பொழுது மகா நகரம் மூன்று பங்காகப் பிரிக்கப்பட்டது, யூதரல்லாதவர்களுடைய பட்டணங்கள் விழுந்தன. மகா பாபிலோனுக்கு தேவனுடைய கடுமையான கோபத்தின் தண்டனையாகிய மதுவுள்ள பாத்திரத்தைக் கொடுக்கும்படி அது அவருக்கு முன்பாக ஞாபகப்படுத்தப்பட்டது. ²⁰ தீவுகள் எல்லாம் அகன்றுபோயின; மலைகள் காணாமல்போனது. ²¹ நாற்பது கிலோ எடையுள்ள பெரிய கல்மழையும் வானத்திலிருந்து மனிதர்கள்மேல் விழுந்தது; அந்தக் கல்மழையினால் உண்டான வாதையினால் மனிதர்கள் தேவனை அவமதித்தார்கள்; அந்த வாதை மகா கொடியதாக இருந்தது.

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¹ ஏழு கலசங்களையுடைய அந்த ஏழு தூதர்களில் ஒருவன் வந்து என்னோடு பேசி: நீ வா, திரளான தண்ணீர்கள்மேல் உட்கார்ந்திருக்கிற மகா வேசியோடு பூமியின் ராஜாக்கள் வேசித்தனம்பண்ணினார்களே, அவளுடைய வேசித்தனமாகிய மதுவால் பூமியின் மக்களும் வெறிகொண்டிருந்தார்களே; ² அவளுக்கு வருகிற தண்டனையை உனக்குக் காண்பிப்பேன் என்று சொல்லி; ³ ஆவிக்குள் என்னை வனாந்திரத்திற்குக் கொண்டுபோனான். அப்பொழுது ஏழு தலைகளையும் பத்து கொம்புகளையும் உடையதும் அவதூறான பெயர்களால் நிறைந்ததுமான சிவப்பு நிறமுள்ள மிருகத்தின்மேல் ஒரு பெண் ஏறியிருப்பதைப் பார்த்தேன். ⁴ அந்தப் பெண் இரத்தாம்பரமும் சிவப்பான ஆடையும் அணிந்து பொன்னினாலும் இரத்தினங்களினாலும் முத்துக்களினாலும் சிங்காரிக்கப்பட்டு, தன் வேசித்தனமாகிய அருவருப்புகளாலும் அசுத்தத்தாலும் நிறைந்த பொற்பாத்திரத்தைத் தன் கையிலே பிடித்திருந்தாள். ⁵ மேலும், இரகசியம், மகா பாபிலோன், வேசிகளுக்கும் பூமியிலுள்ள அருவருப்புகளுக்கும் தாய் என்னும் பெயர் அவள் நெற்றியில் எழுதியிருந்தது. ⁶ அந்தப் பெண் பரிசுத்தவான்களின் இரத்தத்தினாலும், இயேசுவினுடைய சாட்சிகளின் இரத்தத்தினாலும் வெறிகொண்டிருக்கிறதைப் பார்த்தேன்; அவளைப் பார்த்து நான் மிகவும் ஆச்சரியப்பட்டுன். ⁷ அப்பொழுது, தூதனானவன் என்னைப் பார்த்து: ஏன் ஆச்சரியப்படுகிறாய்? இந்தப் பெண்ணுடைய இரகசியத்தையும், ஏழு தலைகளையும் பத்துக் கொம்புகளையுமுடையதாக இவளைச் சுமக்கிற மிருகத்தினுடைய இரகசியத்தையும் உனக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன். ⁸ நீ பார்த்த மிருகம் முன்னே இருந்தது, இப்பொழுது இல்லை; அது பாதாளத்திலிருந்து ஏறி வந்து, நாசமடையப்போகிறது. உலகம் உண்டானதுமுதல் ஜீவபுத்தகத்தில் பெயர் எழுதப்படாத பூமியின் மக்களே, இருந்ததும், இல்லாமல்போனதும், இனி இருப்பதுமாக இருக்கிற மிருகத்தைப் பார்த்து ஆச்சரியப்படுவார்கள். ⁹ ஞானமுள்ள மனம் இதைப் புரிந்துகொள்ளும். அந்த ஏழு தலைகளும் அந்தப் பெண் உட்கார்ந்திருக்கிற ஏழு மலைகளாம். ¹⁰ அவைகள் ஏழு ராஜாக்களாம்; இவர்களில் ஐந்துபேர் விழுந்தார்கள், ஒருவன் இருக்கிறான், மற்றவன் இன்னும் வரவில்லை; வரும்போது அவன் கொஞ்சக்காலம் ஆட்சி செய்வான். ¹¹ இருந்ததும், இப்பொழுது இல்லாததுமாகிய மிருகமே எட்டாவதாக வருகிறவனும், அந்த ஏழு இராஜாக்களில் ஒருவனும் நாசமடையப்போகிறவனுமாக இருக்கிறான். ¹² நீ பார்த்த பத்துக்கொம்புகளும், பத்து ராஜாக்களே; இவர்கள் இன்னும் ராஜ்யம் பெறவில்லை; இவர்கள் மிருகத்துடன் ஒருமணி நேரம்வரை ராஜாக்கள்போல அதிகாரம் பெற்றுக்கொள்ளுகிறார்கள். ¹³ இவர்கள் ஒரே மனதுடையவர்கள்; இவர்கள் தங்களுடைய வல்லமையையும் அதிகாரத்தையும் மிருகத்திற்குக் கொடுப்பார்கள். ¹⁴ இவர்கள் ஆட்டுக்குட்டியானவரோடு யுத்தம்பண்ணுவார்கள்; ஆட்டுக்குட்டியானவர் கர்த்தாதி கர்த்தரும் ராஜாதி ராஜாவுமாக இருக்கிறதினால் அவர்களை ஜெயிப்பார்; அவரோடு இருக்கிறவர்கள் அழைக்கப்பட்டவர்களும் தெரிந்துகொள்ளப்பட்டவர்களும் உண்மையுள்ளவர்களுமாக இருக்கிறார்கள் என்றான். ¹⁵ பின்னும் அந்த தூதன் என்னைப் பார்த்து: அந்த வேசி உட்கார்ந்திருக்கிற தண்ணீர்களைப் பார்த்தாயே; அவைகள் மக்களும், திரள்கூட்டமும், தேசங்களும், பல்வேறு மொழிகளைப் பேசுகிறவர்களுமே. ¹⁶ நீ மிருகத்தின்மேல் பார்த்த பத்துக்கொம்புகளைப் போன்றவர்கள் அந்த வேசியைப் பகைத்து, அவளைப் பாழும் நிர்வாணமுமாக்கி, அவளுடைய சரீரத்தை நாசமாக்கி, அவளை நெருப்பினால் சுட்டெரித்துப்போடுவார்கள். ¹⁷ தேவன் தம்முடைய வார்த்தைகள் நிறைவேறும்வரையும், அவர்கள் தமது யோசனையை நிறைவேற்றுகிறதற்கும், ஒரே மனதுடையவர்களாக இருந்து, தங்களுடைய ராஜ்யத்தை மிருகத்திற்குக் கொடுக்கிறதற்கும் அவர்களுடைய இருதயங்களை ஏவினார். ¹⁸ நீ பார்த்த அந்தப் பெண் பூமியின் ராஜாக்கள்மேல் ராஜ்யபாரம் பண்ணுகிற மகா நகரமே என்றான்.

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¹ இவைகளுக்குப் பின்பு, வேறொரு தூதன் மிகுந்த அதிகாரமுடையவனாக, வானத்திலிருந்து இறங்கி வருவதைப் பார்த்தேன்; அவனுடைய மகிமையினால் பூமி பிரகாசமாக இருந்தது. ² அவன் அதிக சத்தமிட்டு: மகா பாபிலோன் விழுந்தது! விழுந்தது! அது பேய்களுடைய குடியிருப்பும், எல்லாவித அசுத்தஆவிகளுக்கும் காவல் வீடும், அசுத்தமும் அருவருப்புமுள்ள எல்லாவித பறவைகளுடைய கூடுமானது. ³ அவளுடைய வேசித்தனத்தின் கோபமான மதுவை எல்லா தேசத்து மக்களும் குடித்தார்கள்; பூமியின் ராஜாக்கள் அவளோடு வேசித்தனம் செய்தார்கள்; பூமியிலிருந்த வியாபாரிகள் அவளுடைய செல்வச்செழிப்பினால் செல்வந்தர்களானார்கள் என்று சொன்னான். ⁴ பின்பு, வேறொரு சத்தம் வானத்திலிருந்து உண்டாகக் கேட்டேன். அது: என் மக்களே, நீங்கள் அவளுடைய பாவங்களுக்கு உடன்படாமலும், அவளுக்கு நடக்கும் வாதைகளில் சிக்காமலும் இருக்கும்படி அவளைவிட்டு வெளியே வாருங்கள். ⁵ அவளுடைய பாவம் வானம்வரை எட்டியது, அவளுடைய அநியாயங்களை தேவன் நினைத்தார். ⁶ அவள் உங்களுக்குச் செய்ததுபோல நீங்களும் அவளுக்குச் செய்யுங்கள்; அவளுடைய செய்கைகளுக்கு தகுந்தவாறு அவளுக்கு இரண்டுமடங்காகக் கொடுங்கள்; அவள் உங்களுக்குக் கலந்துகொடுத்த பாத்திரத்திலே இரண்டுமடங்காக அவளுக்குக் கலந்துகொடுங்கள். ⁷ அவள் தன்னை மகிமைப்படுத்தி, எவ்வளவு செல்வச்செழிப்பாய் வாழ்ந்தாளோ அந்த அளவுக்கே வாதையையும் துக்கத்தையும் அவளுக்குக் கொடுங்கள். நான் அரசியாக இருக்கிறேன்; நான் விதவைப் பெண் இல்லை, நான் துக்கத்தைப் பார்ப்பதில்லை என்று அவள் தன் இருதயத்திலே நினைத்தாள். ⁸ எனவே அவளுக்கு வரும் வாதைகளாகிய மரணமும் துக்கமும் பஞ்சமும் ஒரே நாளிலே வரும்; அவள் அக்கினியினாலே சுட்டெரிக்கப்படுவாள்; அவளுக்கு நியாயத்தீர்ப்பு கொடுக்கும் தேவனாகிய கர்த்தர் வல்லமை உள்ளவர். ⁹ அவளுடன் வேசித்தனம்செய்து செல்வச்செழிப்பாய் வாழ்ந்த பூமியின் ராஜாக்களும் அவள் அக்கினியில் வேகிறதினால் உண்டான புகையைப் பார்க்கும்போது அவளுக்காக அழுது புலம்பி, ¹⁰ அவளுக்கு உண்டான வாதையினால் பயந்து, தூரத்திலே நின்று: ஐயோ! பாபிலோன், மகா நகரமே! பலமான பட்டணமே! ஒருமணிநேரத்தில் உனக்கு தண்டனை வந்ததே! என்பார்கள். ¹¹ பூமியின் வியாபாரிகளும் தங்களுடைய பொருட்களான பொன்னையும், வெள்ளியையும், இரத்தினங்களையும், முத்துக்களையும், மெல்லிய ஆடைகளையும், இரத்தாம்பரத்தையும், பட்டு ஆடைகளையும், சிவப்பு ஆடைகளையும், ¹² எல்லாவிதமான வாசனைக் கட்டைகளையும், தந்தத்தினால் செய்த பொருள்களையும், விலையுயர்ந்த மரத்தினாலும் வெண்கலத்தினாலும் இரும்பினாலும் வெள்ளைக் கல்லினாலும் செய்திருக்கிற பொருள்களையும், ¹³ இலவங்கப்பட்டையையும், தூபவர்க்கங்களையும், தைலங்களையும், சாம்பிராணியையும், திராட்சைரசத்தையும், எண்ணெயையும், மெல்லிய மாவையும், கோதுமையையும், மாடுகளையும், ஆடுகளையும், குதிரைகளையும், இரதங்களையும், அடிமைகளையும், மனிதர்களுடைய ஆத்துமாக்களையும் இனி வாங்குகிறவர்கள் இல்லை என்பதால் அவளுக்காக அழுது புலம்புவார்கள். ¹⁴ உன் ஆத்துமா விரும்பிய பழுவகைகள் உன்னைவிட்டு நீங்கிப்போனது; ஆடம்பரங்களும், செல்வச்செழிப்பும் உன்னைவிட்டு நீங்கிப்போனது; நீ அவைகளை இனிப் பார்ப்பதில்லை. ¹⁵ இப்படிப்பட்டவைகளினால் வியாபாரம் செய்து அவளால் செல்வந்தர்களாக மாறியவர்கள் அவளுக்கு உண்டான வாதையைப் பார்த்து பயந்து, தூரத்திலே நின்று; ¹⁶ ஐயோ! மெல்லிய ஆடையும் இரத்தாம்பரமும் சிவப்பாடையும் அணிந்து, பொன்னினாலும் இரத்தினங்களினாலும் முத்துக்களினாலும் சிங்காரிக்கப்பட்டிருந்த மகா நகரமே! ஒரே மணிநேரத்தில் எல்லாச் செல்வமும் அழிந்துபோனதே! என்று சொல்லி, அழுது துக்கத்தோடு இருப்பார்கள். ¹⁷ கப்பல்களில் பயணம்செய்கிறவர்களும், மாலுமிகள் அனைவரும், கப்பலில் வேலை செய்கிறவர்களும், கடலில் தொழில்செய்கிற அனைவரும் தூரத்திலே நின்று, ¹⁸ அவள் வேகிறதினால் உண்டான புகையைப் பார்த்து: இந்த மகா நகரத்திற்கு ஒப்பான நகரம் உண்டோ என்று சத்தமிட்டு, ¹⁹ தங்களுடைய தலைகளின்மேல் புழுதியைப் போட்டுக்கொண்டு: ஐயோ, மகா நகரமே! கடலிலே கப்பல்களை உடையவர்கள் எல்லோரும் இவளுடைய செல்வத்தினால் செல்வந்தர்களானார்களே! ஒருமணி நேரத்திலே இவள் அழிந்துபோனாளே! என்று அழுது துக்கத்தோடு ஓலமிடுவார்கள். ²⁰ பரலோகமே! பரிசுத்தவான்களாகிய அப்போஸ்தலர்களே! தீர்க்கதரிசிகளே! அவளைக்குறித்துக் களிகூருங்கள். உங்களுக்காக தேவன் அவளை நியாயந்தீர்த்தாரே! என்று தூதன் சொன்னான். ²¹ அப்பொழுது, பலமுள்ள தூதன் ஒருவன் பெரிய எந்திரக்கல்லுக்கு சமமான ஒரு கல்லை எடுத்துக் கடலிலே தூக்கியெறிந்து: இப்படியே பாபிலோன் மகா நகரம் வேகமாகத் தள்ளப்பட்டு, இனி ஒருபோதும் பார்க்கமுடியாமல்போகும். ²² சுரமண்டலக்காரர்களும், கீதவாத்தியக்காரர்களும், நாகசுரக்காரர்களும், எக்காளக்காரர்களுமானவர்களுடைய சத்தம் இனி உன்னிடத்தில் கேட்கப்படுவதுமில்லை; எந்தக் கைவினைத் தொழிலாளியும் இனி உன்னிடத்தில் இருக்கமாட்டார்கள்; எந்திரசத்தம் இனி உன்னிடத்தில் கேட்கப்படுவதுமில்லை. ²³ விளக்குவெளிச்சம் இனி உன்னிடத்தில் பிரகாசிப்பதுமில்லை; மணமகன் மற்றும் மணமகளுடைய சத்தம் இனி உன்னிடத்தில் கேட்கப்படுவதுமில்லை. உன்னுடைய வியாபாரிகள் உலகத்தின் முக்கிய நபர்களாக இருந்தார்களே; உன்

சூனியத்தால் எல்லா நாட்டு மக்களும் மோசம்போனார்களே. ²⁴ தீர்க்கதரிசிகளுடைய இரத்தமும் பரிசுத்தவான்களுடைய இரத்தமும் பூமியில் கொல்லப்பட்ட அனைவருடைய இரத்தமும் அவளிடத்தில் காணப்பட்டது என்று சொன்னான்.

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¹ இவைகளுக்குப் பின்பு, பரலோகத்தில் திரளான மக்கள்கூட்டம் ஆரவாரத்தோடு சத்தமிடுகிறதைக் கேட்டேன். அவர்கள்: அல்லேலுயா, இரட்சிப்பும் மகிமையும் கனமும் வல்லமையும் நம்முடைய தேவனாகிய கர்த்தருக்கே உரியது; அவருடைய நியாயத்தீர்ப்புகள் சத்தியமும் நீதியுமானவைகள். ² தன் வேசித்தனத்தினால் பூமியைக் கெடுத்த மகா வேசிக்கு அவர் நியாயத்தீர்ப்புக்கொடுத்து, தம்முடைய ஊழியக்காரர்களின் இரத்தத்திற்காக அவளிடத்தில் பழிவாங்கினாரே என்றார்கள். ³ மறுபடியும் அவர்கள்: அல்லேலுயா என்று சொல்லி ஆர்ப்பரித்தார்கள். அவருடைய புகை என்றென்றைக்கும் எழும்புகிறது என்றார்கள். ⁴ இருபத்துநான்கு மூப்பர்களும், நான்கு ஜீவன்களும் முகங்குப்புறவிழுந்து: ஆமென், அல்லேலுயா, என்று சொல்லி, சிங்காசனத்தின்மேல் வீற்றிருக்கும் தேவனைத் தொழுதுகொண்டார்கள். ⁵ மேலும், நமது தேவனுடைய ஊழியக்காரர்களே, அவருக்குப் பயப்படுகிற சிறியோர்களே பெரியோர்களே, நீங்கள் எல்லோரும் அவரைத் துதியுங்கள் என்று ஒரு சத்தம் சிங்காசனத்திலிருந்து வந்தது. ⁶ அப்பொழுது திரளான மக்கள் போடும் ஆரவாரம்போலவும், பெரியவெள்ளத்தின் இரைச்சலைப்போலவும், பலத்த இடிமுழக்கம்போலவும், ஒரு சத்தம் உண்டாகி: அல்லேலுயா, சர்வவல்லமையுள்ள தேவனாகிய கர்த்தர் ராஜ்யபாரம்பண்ணுகிறார். ⁷ நாம் சந்தோஷப்பட்டுக் களிகூர்ந்து அவருக்குத் துதிசெலுத்தக்கடவோம். ஆட்டுக்குட்டியானவருடைய திருமணம் வந்தது, அவருடைய மனைவி தன்னை ஆயத்தம்பண்ணினாள் என்று சொல்லக்கேட்டேன். ⁸ சுத்தமும் பிரகாசமுமான மெல்லிய ஆடை அணிந்துகொள்ளும்படி அவளுக்கு தரப்பட்டது; அந்த மெல்லிய ஆடை பரிசுத்தவான்களுடைய நீதிகளே. ⁹ பின்னும், அவன் என்னைப் பார்த்து: ஆட்டுக்குட்டியானவருடைய திருமணவிருந்துக்கு அழைக்கப்பட்டவர்கள் பாக்கியவான்கள் என்று எழுது என்றான். மேலும், இவைகள் தேவனுடைய சத்தியமான வசனங்கள் என்று என்னுடனே சொன்னான். ¹⁰ அப்பொழுது அவனை வணங்கும்படி அவனுடைய பாதத்தில் விழுந்தேன். அவன் என்னைப் பார்த்து: இப்படிச் செய்யாதபடிக்குப் பார்; உன்னோடும் இயேசுவைக்குறித்துச் சாட்சியிட்ட உன் சகோதரர்களோடு நானும் ஒரு ஊழியக்காரன்; தேவனைத் தொழுதுகொள். இயேசுவைப்பற்றின சாட்சி தீர்க்கதரிசனத்தின் ஆவியாக இருக்கிறது என்றான்.

¹¹ பின்பு, பரலோகம் திறந்திருப்பதைப் பார்த்தேன்; இதோ, ஒரு வெள்ளைக்குதிரை காணப்பட்டது, அதின்மேல் ஏறியிருந்தவர் உண்மையும் சத்தியமும் உள்ளவர் என்று அழைக்கப்பட்டவர்; அவர் நீதியாக நியாயந்தீர்த்து யுத்தம்பண்ணுகிறார். ¹² அவருடைய கண்கள் அக்கினிஜுவாலையைப்போலிருந்தன, அவருடைய தலையின்மேல் அநேக கிரீடங்கள் இருந்தன; அவருக்கேயன்றி வேறொருவருக்கும் தெரியாத ஒரு பெயரும் எழுதியிருந்தது. ¹³ இரத்தத்தில் தோய்க்கப்பட்ட ஆடையை அணிந்திருந்தார்; அவருடைய பெயர் தேவனுடைய வார்த்தை என்பதே. ¹⁴ பரலோகத்திலுள்ள படைகள் வெண்மையும் சுத்தமுமான மெல்லிய ஆடை அணிந்தவர்களாக, வெள்ளைக் குதிரைகளின்மேல் ஏறி, அவருக்குப் பின் சென்றார்கள். ¹⁵ அந்நிய மக்களை வெட்டும்படிக்கு அவருடைய வாயிலிருந்து கூர்மையான வாள் புறப்படுகிறது; இரும்புக்கோலால் அவர்களை அரசாளுவார்; அவர் சர்வவல்லமையுள்ள தேவனுடைய கடுமையான கோபமாகிய மதுபான ஆலையை மிதிக்கிறார். ¹⁶ ராஜாதி ராஜா, கர்த்தாதி கர்த்தா என்னும் நாமம் அவருடைய ஆடையின்மேலும் அவருடைய தொடையின்மேலும் எழுதப்பட்டிருந்தது. ¹⁷ பின்பு ஒரு தேவதூதன் சூரியனில் நிற்பதைப் பார்த்தேன்; அவன் வானத்தின் நடுவில் பறக்கிற எல்லாப் பறவைகளையும் பார்த்து: ¹⁸ நீங்கள் ராஜாக்களின் மாம்சத்தையும், படைத் தளபதிகளின் மாம்சத்தையும், பலவான்களின் மாம்சத்தையும், குதிரைகளின் மாம்சத்தையும், அவைகளின்மேல் ஏறியிருக்கிறவர்களின் மாம்சத்தையும், சுதந்திரமானவர்கள், அடிமைகள், சிறியோர், பெரியோர், இவர்களுடைய மாம்சத்தையும் அழிக்கும்படிக்கு, தேவன் கொடுக்கும் விருந்துக்குக் கூடிவாருங்கள் என்று மிகுந்த சத்தமாகக் கூப்பிட்டான். ¹⁹ பின்பு, மிருகமும் பூமியின் ராஜாக்களும் அவர்களுடைய படைகளும், குதிரையின்மேல் ஏறியிருக்கிறவரோடும் அவருடைய படைகளோடும் யுத்தம்பண்ணுவதற்கு வருவதைப் பார்த்தேன். ²⁰ அப்பொழுது மிருகம் பிடிக்கப்பட்டது; மிருகத்தின் முன்பாக அற்புதங்கள் செய்த கள்ளத்தீர்க்கதரிசியும் பிடிக்கப்பட்டான். தன்னுடைய அற்புதங்கள் மூலமாக மிருகத்தின் முத்திரையை அணிந்தவர்களையும் அதின் உருவத்தை வணங்கினவர்களையும் ஏமாற்றினவன் இவனே; இருவரும் கந்தகம் எரிகிற அக்கினிக்கடலிலே உயிரோடு தள்ளப்பட்டார்கள். ²¹ மற்றவர்கள் குதிரையின்மேல் ஏறினவருடைய வாயிலிருந்து புறப்படுகிற வானினால் கொல்லப்பட்டார்கள்; அவர்களுடைய மாம்சத்தினால் பறவைகள் யாவும் திருப்தியடைந்தன.

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¹ ஒரு தேவதூதன் பாதாளத்தின் திறவுகோலையும் பெரிய சங்கிலியையும் தன் கையிலே பிடித்துக்கொண்டு வானத்திலிருந்து இறங்கி வருவதைப் பார்த்தேன். ² பிசாசு என்றும் சாத்தான் என்றும் சொல்லப்பட்ட ஆரம்பத்தில் இருந்த பாம்பாகிய இராட்சசப் பாம்பை அவன் பிடித்து, அதை ஆயிரம் வருடங்கள் கட்டிவைத்து, அந்த ஆயிரம் வருடங்கள் நிறைவேறும்வரைக்கும் அது மக்களை ஏமாற்றாதபடிக்கு அதைப் பாதாளத்திலே போட்டு, அதின்மேல் முத்திரைபோட்டான். ³ அதற்குப்பின்பு அது கொஞ்சக்காலம் விடுதலையாகவேண்டும். ⁴ அன்றியும், நான் சிங்காசனங்களைப் பார்த்தேன்; நியாயத்தீர்ப்புக் கொடுக்கும்படி அதிகாரம் அளிக்கப்பட்டவர்கள் அவைகளின்மேல் உட்கார்ந்தார்கள். இயேசுவைப்பற்றிய சாட்சியினிமித்தமும் தேவனுடைய வசனத்தினிமித்தமும் சிரச்சேதம்பண்ணப்பட்டவர்களுடைய ஆத்துமாக்களையும், மிருகத்தையாவது அதின் உருவத்தையாவது வணங்காமலும் தங்களுடைய நெற்றியிலும் தங்களுடைய கையிலும் அதின் முத்திரையைத் அணிந்துகொள்ளாமலும் இருந்தவர்களையும் பார்த்தேன். அவர்கள் உயிர்த்தெழுந்து கிறிஸ்துவோடுகூட ஆயிரம் வருடங்கள் அரசாண்டார்கள். ⁵ மரணமடைந்த மற்றவர்கள் அந்த ஆயிரம் வருடங்கள் முடியும்வரை உயிரடையவில்லை. இதுவே முதலாம் உயிர்த்தெழுதல். ⁶ முதலாம் உயிர்த்தெழுதலுக்குப் பங்குள்ளவன் பாக்கியவானும் பரிசுத்தவானுமாக இருக்கிறான்; இவர்கள்மேல் இரண்டாம் மரணத்திற்கு அதிகாரம் இல்லை; இவர்கள் தேவனுக்கும் கிறிஸ்துவிற்கும் முன்பாக ஆசாரியர்களாக இருந்து, அவரோடுகூட ஆயிரம் வருடங்கள் அரசாளுவார்கள்.

⁷ அந்த ஆயிரம் வருடங்கள் முடியும்போது சாத்தான் தன் காவலிலிருந்து விடுதலையாகி, ⁸ பூமியின் நான்கு திசைகளிலுமுள்ள தேசத்து மக்களாகிய கோகையும் மாகோகையும் ஏமாற்றவும், அவர்களை யுத்தத்திற்குக் கூட்டிக்கொள்ளும்படிக்கும் புறப்படுவான்; அவர்களுடைய எண்ணிக்கை கடற்கரை மணலைப்போல இருக்கும். ⁹ அவர்கள் பூமியெங்கும் நிரம்பி, பரிசுத்தவான்களுடைய பாளையத்தையும், பிரியமான நகரத்தையும் வளைந்துகொண்டார்கள்; அப்பொழுது தேவனால் வானத்திலிருந்து அக்கினி இறங்கி அவர்களை அழித்துப்போட்டது. ¹⁰ மேலும் அவர்களை ஏமாற்றின பிசாசானவன், மிருகமும் கள்ளத்தீர்க்கதரிசியும் இருக்கிற இடமாகிய அக்கினியும் கந்தகமுமான கடலிலே தள்ளப்பட்டான். அவர்கள் இரவும் பகலும் எல்லாக் காலங்களிலும் வாதிக்கப்படுவார்கள்.

¹¹ பின்பு, நான் பெரிய வெள்ளைச் சிங்காசனத்தையும் அதின்மேல் உட்கார்ந்திருக்கிறவரையும் பார்த்தேன்; அவருடைய சமூகத்திலிருந்து பூமியும் வானமும் அகன்றுபோயின; அவைகளுக்கு இடங்காணப்படவில்லை. ¹² மரித்தோராகிய சிறியோரையும் பெரியோரையும் தேவனுக்குமுன்பாக நிற்பதைப் பார்த்தேன்; அப்பொழுது புத்தகங்கள் திறக்கப்பட்டன; ஜீவபுத்தகம் என்னும் வேறொரு புத்தகமும் திறக்கப்பட்டது; அப்பொழுது அந்தப் புத்தகங்களில் எழுதப்பட்டவைகளின்படியே மரித்தோர் தங்கள் தங்கள் செய்கைகளுக்குத்தக்கதாக நியாயத்தீர்ப்படைந்தார்கள். ¹³ கடல் தன்னிலுள்ள மரித்தோரை ஒப்புவித்தது; மரணமும் பாதாளமும் தங்களிலுள்ள மரித்தோரை ஒப்புவித்தன. அனைவரும் தங்கள் தங்கள் செய்கைகளின்படியே நியாயத்தீர்ப்படைந்தார்கள். ¹⁴ அப்பொழுது மரணமும் பாதாளமும் அக்கினிக்கடலிலே தள்ளப்பட்டன. இது இரண்டாம் மரணம். ¹⁵ ஜீவபுத்தகத்திலே எழுதப்பட்டவனாகக் காணப்படாதவன் எவனோ அவன் அக்கினிக்கடலிலே தள்ளப்பட்டான்.

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¹ பின்பு, நான் புதிய வானத்தையும் புதிய பூமியையும் பார்த்தேன்; முந்தின வானமும் முந்தின பூமியும் ஒழிந்துபோயின; கடலும் இல்லாமல்போனது. ² யோவானாகிய நான், புதிய எருசலேமாகிய பரிசுத்த நகரத்தை தேவனிடத்திலிருந்து பரலோகத்தைவிட்டு இறங்கி வருவதைப் பார்த்தேன்; அது தன் கணவனுக்காக அலங்கரிக்கப்பட்ட மணமகளைப்போல ஆயத்தமாக்கப்பட்டிருந்தது. ³ மேலும், பரலோகத்திலிருந்து உண்டான ஒரு பெரிய சத்தத்தைக் கேட்டேன்; அது: இதோ, மனிதர்களிடத்திலே தேவனுடைய வாசஸ்தலம் இருக்கிறது, அவர்களிடத்திலே அவர் வாசமாக இருப்பார்; அவர்களும் அவருடைய மக்களாக இருப்பார்கள், தேவன்தாமே அவர்களோடு இருந்து அவர்களுடைய தேவனாக இருப்பார். ⁴ அவர்களுடைய கண்ணீர் யாவையும் தேவன் துடைப்பார்; இனி மரணமில்லை, துக்கமில்லை, அலறுதலுமில்லை, வருத்தமில்லை; முந்தினவைகள் ஒழிந்துபோயின என்று சொன்னது. ⁵ சிங்காசனத்தின்மேல் உட்காருந்திருந்தவர்: இதோ, நான் எல்லாவற்றையும் புதிதாக்குகிறேன் என்றார். பின்னும் அவர்: இந்த வசனங்கள் சத்தியமும் உண்மையுமானவைகள், இவைகளை எழுது என்றார். ⁶ அன்றியும், அவர் என்னைப் பார்த்து: ஆயிற்று, நான் அல்பாவும், ஓமெகாவும், தொடக்கமும், முடிவுமாக இருக்கிறேன். தாகமாக இருக்கிறவனுக்கு நான் ஜீவத்தண்ணீர் ஊற்றிலிருந்து இலவசமாகக் கொடுப்பேன். ⁷ ஜெயங்கொள்ளுகிறவன் எல்லாவற்றையும் சுதந்திரித்துக்கொள்ளுவான்; நான் அவன் தேவனாக இருப்பேன், அவன் என் குமாரனாக இருப்பான். ⁸ பயப்படுகிறவர்களும், அவிசுவாசிகளும், அருவருப்பானவர்களும், கொலைபாதகர்களும், விபசாரக்காரர்களும், சூனியக்காரர்களும், விக்கிரக ஆராதனைக்காரர்களும், பொய்யர்கள் அனைவரும் இரண்டாம் மரணமாகிய அக்கினியும் கந்தகமும் எரிகிற கடலிலே பங்கடைவார்கள் என்றார். ⁹ பின்பு, கடைசியான ஏழு வாதைகளால் நிறைந்த ஏழு கலசங்களையுடைய அந்த ஏழு தூதர்களில் ஒருவன் என்னிடத்தில் வந்து: நீ இங்கே வா, ஆட்டுக்குட்டியானவருடைய மனைவியாகிய மணமகளை உனக்குக் காண்பிக்கிறேன் என்று சொல்லி, ¹⁰ பெரிதும் உயரமுமான ஒரு மலையின்மேல் என்னை ஆவியில் கொண்டுபோய், தேவனுடைய மகிமையை அடைந்த எருசலேமாகிய பரிசுத்த நகரம் பரலோகத்தைவிட்டு தேவனிடத்திலிருந்து இறங்கிவருகிறதை எனக்குக் காண்பித்தான். ¹¹ அதின் பிரகாசம் மிகவும் விலையுயர்ந்த இரத்தினக்கல்லைப்போலவும், பளிங்கின் ஒளியுள்ள வச்சிரக்கல்லைப்போலவும் இருந்தது. ¹² அதற்குப் பெரிதும் உயரமுமான மதிலும், கிழக்கே மூன்று வாசல்கள், வடக்கே மூன்று வாசல்கள், தெற்கே மூன்று வாசல்கள், மேற்கே மூன்று வாசல்கள் ஆகப் பன்னிரண்டு வாசல்களும் இருந்தன. ¹³ வாசல்களின் அருகே பன்னிரண்டு தூதர்களிருந்தார்கள்; அந்த வாசல்களின்மேல் இஸ்ரவேல் வம்சத்தில் உள்ள பன்னிரண்டு கோத்திரத்தாருடைய நாமங்களும் எழுதப்பட்டிருந்தன. ¹⁴ நகரத்தின் மதிலுக்குப் பன்னிரண்டு அஸ்திபாரக் கற்கள் இருந்தன; அவைகள்மேல் ஆட்டுக்குட்டியானவருடைய பன்னிரண்டு அப்போஸ்தலரின் பன்னிரண்டு பெயர்களும் பதிந்திருந்தன. ¹⁵ என்னுடனே பேசினவன், நகரத்தையும் அதின் வாசல்களையும் அதின் மதிலையும் அளக்கிறதற்கு ஒரு பொற்கோலைப் பிடித்திருந்தான். ¹⁶ அந்த நகரம் சதுரமாக இருந்தது, அதின் அகலமும் நீளமும் சமமாக இருந்தது. அவன் அந்தக் கோலினால் நகரத்தை அளந்தான்; அது இரண்டாயிரத்து இருநூறு கிலோமீட்டர் தூர அளவாக இருந்தது; அதின் நீளமும் அகலமும் உயரமும் சமமாக இருந்தது. ¹⁷ அவன் அதின் மதிலை அளந்தபோது, மனித அளவின்படியே அது நூற்றுநாற்பத்துநான்கு முழமாக இருந்தது. ¹⁸ அதின் மதில் வச்சிரக்கல்லால் கட்டப்பட்டிருந்தது; நகரம் தெளிந்த பளிங்குக்கு ஒப்பான சுத்தப்பொன்னாக இருந்தது. ¹⁹ நகரத்து மதில்களின் அஸ்திபாரங்கள் எல்லாவகை இரத்தினங்களினாலும் அலங்கரிக்கப்பட்டிருந்தன; முதலாம் அஸ்திபாரம் வச்சிரக்கல், இரண்டாவது இந்திரநீலம், மூன்றாவது சந்திரகாந்தம், நான்காவது மரகதம், ²⁰ ஐந்தாவது கோமேதகம், ஆறாவது பதுமராகம், ஏழாவது சுவர்ணரத்தினம், எட்டாவது படிகப்பச்சை, ஒன்பதாவது புஷ்பராகம், பத்தாவது வைபுரியம், பதினோராவது சுநீரம், பன்னிரண்டாவது சுகந்தி இவைகளே. ²¹ பன்னிரண்டு வாசல்களும் பன்னிரண்டு முத்துக்களாக இருந்தன; ஒவ்வொரு வாசலும் ஒவ்வொரு முத்தாயிருந்தது. நகரத்தின் வீதி தெளிவுள்ள பளிங்குபோலச் சுத்தப்பொன்னாக இருந்தது. ²² அதிலே தேவாலயத்தை நான் பார்க்கவில்லை; சர்வவல்லமையுள்ள தேவனாகிய கர்த்தரும் ஆட்டுக்குட்டியானவருமே அதற்கு ஆலயம். ²³ நகரத்திற்கு வெளிச்சம் கொடுக்கச் சூரியனும் சந்திரனும் அதற்கு வேண்டியதில்லை; தேவனுடைய மகிமையே அதைப் பிரகாசிப்பித்தது, ஆட்டுக்குட்டியானவரே அதற்கு விளக்கு. ²⁴ இரட்சிக்கப்படுகிற மக்கள் அதின் வெளிச்சத்திலே நடப்பார்கள். பூமியின் ராஜாக்கள் தங்களுடைய மகிமையையும் கனத்தையும் அதற்குள்ளே கொண்டுவருவார்கள். ²⁵ அங்கே இரவு இல்லாதபடியால், அதின் வாசல்கள் பகலில் அடைக்கப்படுவதே இல்லை. ²⁶ உலகத்தாருடைய மகிமையையும் கனத்தையும் அதற்குள்ளே கொண்டுவருவார்கள். ²⁷ தீட்டுள்ளதும் அருவருப்பையும் பொய்யையும் நடப்பிக்கிறதுமாகிய ஒன்றும் அதில் செல்வதில்லை; ஆட்டுக்குட்டியானவரின் ஜீவபுத்தகத்தில் எழுதப்பட்டவர்கள்மட்டும் அதில் செல்வார்கள்.

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¹ பின்பு, பளிங்கைப்போல தெளிவான ஜீவத்தண்ணீருள்ள சுத்தமான நதி தேவனும் ஆட்டுக்குட்டியானவரும் இருக்கிற சிங்காசனத்திலிருந்து புறப்பட்டு வருகிறதை எனக்குக் காண்பித்தான்.

² நகரத்து வீதியின் மத்தியிலும், நதியின் இருகரையிலும், பன்னிரண்டு விதமான கனிகளைத்தரும் ஜீவமரம் இருந்தது, அது மாதந்தோறும் தன் கனியைக் கொடுக்கும்; அந்த மரத்தின் இலைகள் மக்கள் ஆரோக்கியமாக வாழ்வதற்குத் தகுந்தவைகள். ³ இனி சாபமில்லை. தேவனும் ஆட்டுக்குட்டியானவரும் இருக்கிற சிங்காசனம் அதிலிருக்கும். ⁴ அவருடைய ஊழியக்காரர்கள் அவரைச் சேவித்து, அவருடைய முகத்தைப் பார்ப்பார்கள், அவருடைய பெயர் அவர்களுடைய நெற்றிகளில் இருக்கும். ⁵ அங்கே இரவுகள் இருக்காது; விளக்கும் சூரியனுடைய வெளிச்சமும் அவர்களுக்கு வேண்டியதில்லை; தேவனாகிய கர்த்தரே அவர்கள்மேல் பிரகாசிப்பார். அவர்கள் எல்லாக் காலங்களிலும் அரசாளுவார்கள். ⁶ பின்பு, தேவதூதன் என்னைப் பார்த்து: இந்த வசனங்கள் உண்மையும் சத்தியமானவைகள், சீக்கிரமாக நடக்கவேண்டியவைகளைத் தம்முடைய ஊழியக்காரர்களுக்குக் காட்டும்படி, பரிசுத்த தீர்க்கதரிசிகளின் கர்த்தராகிய தேவனானவர் தம்முடைய தூதனை அனுப்பினார்.

⁷ இதோ, சீக்கிரமாக வருகிறேன்; இந்தப் புத்தகத்திலுள்ள தீர்க்கதரிசன வசனங்களைக் கடைபிடிக்கிறவன் பாக்கியவான் என்றார். ⁸ யோவானாகிய நானே இவைகளைப் பார்த்தும் கேட்டும் இருந்தேன். நான் கேட்டுப் பார்த்தபோது, இவைகளை எனக்குக் காண்பித்த தூதனை வணங்கும்படி அவன் பாதத்தில் விழுந்தேன். ⁹ அதற்கு அவன்: நீ இப்படிச் செய்யவேண்டாம்; உன்னோடும் உன் சகோதரர்களோடும் தீர்க்கதரிசிகளோடும், இந்தப் புத்தகத்தின் வசனங்களைக் கடைபிடிக்கிற ஊழியர்களில் நானும் ஒருவன்; தேவனைத் தொழுதுகொள் என்றான். ¹⁰ அவர் என்னைப் பார்த்து: இந்தப் புத்தகத்திலுள்ள தீர்க்கதரிசன வசனங்களுக்கு முத்திரை போடவேண்டாம்; காலம் நெருங்கியிருக்கிறது. ¹¹ அநியாயம் செய்கிறவன் இன்னும் அநியாயம் செய்யட்டும்; அசுத்தமாக இருக்கிறவன் இன்னும் அசுத்தமாக இருக்கட்டும்; நீதியுள்ளவன் இன்னும் நீதிசெய்யட்டும்; பரிசுத்தமுள்ளவன் இன்னும் பரிசுத்தமாகட்டும். ¹² இதோ, சீக்கிரமாக வருகிறேன்; அவனவனுடைய செய்கைகளின்படி அவனவனுக்கு நான் அளிக்கும் பலன் என்னோடுகூட வருகிறது. ¹³ நான் அல்பாவும் ஓமெகாவும், தொடக்கமும் முடிவும், முந்தினவரும் பிந்தினவருமாக இருக்கிறேன். ¹⁴ ஜீவமரத்தின்மேல் அதிகாரமுள்ளவர்களாவதற்கும், வாசல்கள்வழியாக நகரத்திற்குள் செல்வதற்கும் அவருடைய கட்டளைகளின்படி செய்கிறவர்கள் பாக்கியவான்கள். ¹⁵ நாய்களும், சூனியக்காரர்களும், விபசாரக்காரர்களும், கொலைபாதகர்களும், விக்கிரக ஆராதனைக்காரர்களும், பொய்யை விரும்பி அதின்படி செய்கிற அனைவரும் வெளியே இருப்பார்கள். ¹⁶ இவைகளை சபைகளில் உங்களுக்குச் சாட்சியாக தெரிவிக்கும்படிக்கு இயேசுவாகிய நான் என் தூதனை அனுப்பினேன். நான் தாவீதின் வேரும், வம்சமும், பிரகாசமுள்ள விடியற்கால நட்சத்திரமுமாக இருக்கிறேன் என்றார். ¹⁷ ஆவியானவரும் மணமகளும் வா என்கிறார்கள்; கேட்கிறவனும் வா என்பானாக; தாகமாக இருக்கிறவன் வரவேண்டும்; விருப்பமுள்ளவன் ஜீவத்தண்ணீரை இலவசமாக வாங்கிக்கொள்ளவேண்டும். ¹⁸ இந்தப் புத்தகத்திலுள்ள தீர்க்கதரிசன வசனங்களைக் கேட்கிற அனைவருக்கும் நான் சாட்சியாக எச்சரிக்கிறதாவது: ஒருவன் இவைகளோடு எதையாவது கூட்டினால், இந்தப் புத்தகத்தில் எழுதியிருக்கிற வாதைகளை தேவன் அவன்மேல் கூட்டுவார். ¹⁹ ஒருவன் இந்தத் தீர்க்கதரிசன புத்தகத்தின் வசனங்களிலிருந்து எதையாவது எடுத்துப்போட்டால், ஜீவபுத்தகத்திலிருந்தும், பரிசுத்த நகரத்திலிருந்தும், இந்தப் புத்தகத்தில் எழுதப்பட்டவைகளில் இருந்தும், அவனுடைய பங்கை தேவன் எடுத்துப்போடுவார். ²⁰ இவைகளைச் சாட்சியாக அறிவிக்கிறவர்: உண்மையாகவே நான் சீக்கிரமாக வருகிறேன் என்கிறார். ஆமென், கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுவே, வாரும். ²¹ நம்முடைய கர்த்தராகிய இயேசுகிறிஸ்துவின் கிருபை உங்கள் அனைவரோடும் இருப்பதாக. ஆமென்.