

# Isaiah 1:21-26 + 2:2-5

## A Bilingual Edition

John F. Hobbins

[www.ancienthebrewpoetry.typepad.com](http://www.ancienthebrewpoetry.typepad.com)

The original Hebrew is presented in Tiberian Masoretic dress. Vertical alignment of versets facilitates the observation of parallelisms. A verset of two to three stress units is given a line of its own, with stress units marked by the use of the *maqeph* like MT, but not always in accordance with it. Interstitial gaps of varying dimensions set off lines, strophes, and stanzas. A circulus is placed over a word if its consonantal skeleton or vocalization is at variance with MT. An introduction to the building blocks of ancient Hebrew verse, discussions of individual poems, and background essays of a technical nature are offered elsewhere.<sup>1</sup>

The English translation is designed to enhance appreciation of the poetry of the original. The goal has been to furnish a global approximation of the poetry and prosody of the Hebrew, even if the results are necessarily piecemeal. I sometimes retain examples of enallage, chiasm, ellipsis, and inversion which perforce result in a less idiomatic rendering. Differences in the use of blank spacing define stress units, versets, lines, strophes, and stanzas. Minimal use of capitalization and punctuation is intentional. By and large capitalization marks the onset of a stanza as defined in the general rule.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> See the writer's "Regularities in Ancient Hebrew Verse: An Overview," and supporting essays, at [www.ancienthebrewpoetry.typepad.com](http://www.ancienthebrewpoetry.typepad.com).

<sup>2</sup> The general rule: ancient Hebrew verse is confined within a system of "twos and threes": two to three "stress units" make up a "verset"; two to three versets a poetic "line"; two to three lines a "strophe"; two to three strophes a "stanza"; two to three stanzas a "section"; and two to three sections a poem, or an extensive section thereof.

Isaiah 1:21-26

How she has become a whore  
the town of integrity  
“full of justice  
law and order lodge in her”  
but now murderers!  
your silver has become slag  
your drink diluted with water  
your rulers are rogues  
associates of thieves  
all of them love a bribe  
and chase after gifts  
the orphan they do not defend  
the widow’s cause  
does not come before them  
Herewith the word of the Lord  
of Yahweh of Armies  
of the Bull of Israel  
oh I’ll be satisfied of my foes  
I’ll be avenged of my enemies  
and turn my hand against you  
I’ll smelt away your slag in a crucible  
remove all your dross  
and restore your judges as before  
your counselors as of yore  
after that they’ll call you  
“citadel of justice  
town of integrity”

ישעיהו א 21-26

איכה היתה לזונה  
קרית נאמנה  
מלאתי משפט  
צדק יליו בה  
ועתה מרצחים  
כסף היה לסיגים  
סבאך מהול במים  
שריף סוררים  
וחברי גנבים  
כלו אהב שחד  
ורדף שלמנים  
יתום לא ישפטו  
וריב אלמנה  
לא יבוא אליהם  
לכן נאם האדון  
יהוה צבאות  
אביר ישראל  
הוי אנחם מצרי  
ואנקמה מאויבי  
ואשיבה ידי עליך  
ואצרף בפר סיגך  
ואסירה כל-בדילך  
ואשיבה שפטיך כבראשנה  
ויעצוך כבתחלה  
אחרי-כן יקרא לך  
עיר הצדק  
קרית נאמנה

Original Continuation  
Isaiah 2:2-5

ישעיהו ב 5-2

It will happen in days to come  
the mountain of Yahweh's house  
shall be established

as the chief of mountains  
and raised above hills

nations shall stream to it  
many peoples go  
they'll say, come, let's go up  
to Yahweh's mountain  
to the house of the God of Jacob

that he teach us his ways  
and we walk in his paths  
for counsel issues from Zion  
Yahweh's word from Jerusalem

He'll judge among nations  
decide for many peoples  
and they'll beat their swords into ploughshares  
their spears into pruning hooks

nation shall not lift  
sword against nation  
they shall not learn  
war any more

house of Jacob  
come, let us walk  
in Yahweh's light

וְהָיָה | בְּאַחֲרֵית הַיָּמִים  
נִבְנוֹן יְהוָה  
הַר־בַּיִת יְהוָה  
בְּרֹאשׁ הַהָרִים  
וְנִשָּׂא מִגְּבְעוֹת

וְנָהְרוּ אֵלָיו כָּל־הַגּוֹיִם  
וְהָלְכוּ עַמִּים רַבִּים  
וְאָמְרוּ לְכוּ | וְנַעֲלֶה  
אֶל־הַר יְהוָה  
אֶל־בַּיִת אֱלֹהֵי יַעֲקֹב

וְיִרְנֹו מִדַּרְכָּיו  
וְנִלְכָה בְּאַרְחֹתָיו  
כִּי־מִצִּיּוֹן תֵּצֵא תוֹרָה  
וּדְבַר יְהוָה מִירוּשָׁלַם

וְשִׁפְטוּ בֵּין הַגּוֹיִם  
וְהוֹכִיחַ לְעַמִּים רַבִּים  
וְכָתְתוּ חַרְבוֹתָם לְאֵתִים  
וְחַנִּיתוֹתֵיהֶם לְמִזְמֵרוֹת

לֹא יִשָּׂא  
גּוֹי אֶל־גּוֹי חֶרֶב  
וְלֹא יִלְמְדוּ  
עוֹד מִלְחָמָה

בֵּית יַעֲקֹב  
לְכוּ וְנִלְכָה  
בְּאוֹר יְהוָה: