TOBIT
TO THE READER

EDITION OF THE GREEK TEXTS
The present translations have been based on the critical edition of Robert Hanhart (Septuaginta: Vetus Testamentum Graecum Auctoritate Academiae Scientiarum Gottingensis editum VIII.5: Tobit [Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 1983]). In my translations I have differed from the readings in Hanhart’s edition in only a few cases (and only in GII [see below]) and have adopted another reading on the basis of Greek manuscript evidence. See, for example, 1.2, where I omit Hanhart’s reading “road” (δοῦ), because Codex Sinaiticus does not contain it. In 2.6, I retain “ways” (δοῖ), the reading of Sinaiticus; Hanhart (following the conjecture of Rahlfs and Fritzsche) adopts the reading “songs” (ψῶμοι) and refers to Amos 8.10. In 6.11, I follow MS 319, a reading supported also in 4QpapTobit,1 “he has a beautiful (καλὴ) daughter whose name is Sara”; Hanhart omits “beautiful.”

THE TWO GREEK VERSIONS
Attestation
There are two complete versions of the book of Tobit in Greek. Robert Hanhart, the editor, calls these versions Greek I (= GI), the shorter text form, and Greek II (= GII), the longer form (by about 1700 words). Almost all major manuscripts—Vaticanus, Alexandrinus, Venetus, Papyrus Oxyrhynchus 1594 (= Rahlfs 990) and most cursive manuscripts—contain GI of Tobit, which Hanhart prints at the top of the page of his Göttingen edition with its apparatus underneath.

Unfortunately, GII is found relatively intact only in Codex Sinaiticus and partially (from 3.6 to the word τούτου in 6.16) in cursive manuscript 319, which, however, gives GI from 1.1 to 3.5 and from 6.16 ὁτι to 14.15. Sinaiticus contains many copyist’s errors and has two significant lacunae (4.7–18 and 13.7–9). A tiny portion of GII is preserved also in sixth-century Papyrus Oxyrhynchus 10763 (= Rahlfs 910), containing 2.2–5, 8. Hanhart prints GII at the bottom of the page with an apparatus, which includes readings from 319 and 910 as well as the critically important Old Latin manuscripts (= La). The Old Latin, which contains the entire book of Tobit, is important, for it was translated from a text-form very close to the version found in Sinaiticus.

Priority
Curiously, in the introduction to his critical edition, Hanhart notes in passing that up to his day the question of the priority between GI and GII could not be answered with certainty.4 In his later study of the text and textual history of Tobit, however, Hanhart is more nuanced; while noting that a case could be made for the priority of either GI or GII, he favors the judgment that GI is a reworking of GII.5 Since earlier scholars up to the nineteenth century preferred GI to GII, the King James Version (1611) and Revised Standard Version (1957) were translated from GI. In the opinion of the vast majority of scholars today, however, GII with its highly Semitic coloring represents more accurately the original form of the book. In fact, the Cave IV fragmentary texts of Tobit from Qumran (four in Aramaic, 4QTobad ar, and one in Hebrew, 4QTobe) “agree in general with the long version of the book found in the fourth-century Greek text of Codex Sinaiticus.”6

3 Ibid., 6–9.
4 Hanhart, Tobit, 33.
6 Fitzmyer, “Tobit,” 2. Fitzmyer (“The Aramaic and Hebrew Fragments of Tobit from Qumran Cave 4,” CBQ 57 [1995] 675) writes that the Qumran fragments preserve “perhaps not more than a fifth of the original Semitic texts,” and then he adds that “there is little in [these fragments] that is radically new, or different from the form of the story in either [Sinaiticus] or the VL.” He dates (Ibid., 655–657) the copies of these fragments from roughly 100 BCE to CE 50.
Thus, the priority of GII seems beyond question. Accordingly, the most recent translations of Tobit are based on GII: Jerusalem Bible (1966), New American Bible (1970), New English Bible (1970), Good News Bible, also known as Today’s English Version (1979), New Jerusalem Bible (1985), Revised English Bible (1989), New Revised Standard Version (1989), and the translation by Carey A. Moore in the Anchor Bible.7 Oddly enough, however, despite the evidence of Qumran, Paul Deselaers8 and Heinrich Gross9 continue to defend the priority of GI over GII.

Internal evidence also favors GII as the basis of GI; see, for example, 2.3 where one would be hard put to imagine how the fourteen Greek words of GI (“And he came and said, ‘Father, one of our race has been strangled and thrown into the marketplace.’”) could possibly have been the source of the thirty-nine Greek words found in GII (“So Tobias went to seek some poor person of our kindred. And on his return he said, ‘Father!’ And I said, ‘Here I am, my child. Then in reply he said, ‘Father, behold, one of our people has been murdered and thrown into the marketplace and now lies strangled there.’”). One can readily see how the translator of GI has condensed the narrative and the dialogue between Tobias and Tobit. In contrast, GII provides the expected Semitic narrative framework as well as the back and forth dialogue of son and father.

A more dramatic example is 5.10 where GI has only eight Greek words: “Then he called him, and he went in, and they greeted each other.” It is extremely unlikely that these eight words could have been the origin of the 149 words in GII in which in detailed (typically biblical) fashion Tobit tells the angel Raphael (in disguise as a relative, Azarias) the anguish he experiences because of his blindness and the need he has for a reliable guide to accompany his son Tobias into Media: “Then Tobias went out and called him and said to him, ‘Young man, my father is calling you.’ So he went in to him, and Tobith greeted him first. And he said to him, ‘Many joyful greetings to you!’ But in reply Tobith said to him, ‘What is there for me still to be joyful about? Now I am a man with no power in my eyes, and I do not see the light of heaven, but I lie in darkness like the dead who no longer look at the light. Living, I am among the dead. I hear the voice of people, but I do not see them.’ So he said to him, ‘Take courage; the time is near for God to heal you; take courage.’ Then Tobith said to him, ‘Tobias my son wishes to go into Media. Can you go along with him and lead him? And I will give to you your wages, brother.’ And he said to him, ‘I can go with him; indeed, I know all the roads. Also I went into Media many times, and I crossed all its plains, and I know its mountains and all its roads.’”

A close examination of chapter 9 in GI and GII provides further convincing evidence that the former is condensed from the latter. The text of GI, which omits many narrative elements, fails to convey the drama and tension found in the much more detailed form of the story in GII.

By reading the translations of GI and GII synoptically, the reader will see many other instances where GI condenses GII or omits the GII repetitions that are a hallmark of biblical narrative. Perhaps the translator of GI was writing for a more sophisticated Greek-speaking audience for whom the Semitic-type repetitions and extended dialogues could seem otiose or stylistically less elegant.

A Third Version

A third version exists in cursive manuscripts 106–107 (= d) that Hanhart calls Greek III (= GIII); it preserves the text of only 6.9–12.22. Hanhart describes GIII as a secondary text-form fundamentally related to GII;10 accordingly, he includes its variants in the apparatus of GII. It should be noted that 106–107 give the GII form of the text from 1.1 to 6.8 and again from 13.1 to 14.15.

Approach to the Greek Text

Synoptic Rendering

In accord with the general principles of NETS concerning books that have two Greek forms, I have rendered the exact synoptic parallels between the two versions of Tobit in the same way. These synoptic parallels within their contexts provide a further opportunity for the reader to see how GI was indeed based upon GII and not the other way around. In any case, I hope that the reader will be able to follow more easily, with the aid of my translations, the two Greek forms of the book as we now have them. Since these

10 Hanhart, Tobit, 33.
Greek forms are themselves translations of a Semitic original, in my translations I have attempted to re-produce in English the flavor of these two Greek forms.

Recent Translations
The recent translations of the book of Tobit are based, as I mentioned above, on G II, and these make a serious effort to reconstruct or correct the defective text of Sinaiticus on the basis of Greek witnesses, whenever possible, and also on the basis of the critically essential Old Latin witnesses. See, for example, the critical footnotes the translators of Tobit supplied in the New Revised Standard Version, and especially the extensive critical notes I provided for my translation of Tobit in the New American Bible. The forthcoming revision of Tobit in the New American Bible, revised edition, by Joseph A. Fitzmyer who, as noted above, edited the Qumran fragments of Tobit, also will contain readings from these fragments.

The NETS Translations of Tobit
My translation of G II, however, is different from any of these other translations. What I give is a translation of G II alone, warts and all. In those places where Codex Sinaiticus has lacunae, as noted above, Hanhart does not supply a text, but only an apparatus. These lacunae, therefore, are represented also in my translation; to see what essentially would have been in these lacunae the reader should look to the translation of GI. In rare cases when a passage of G II is awkward, I render it into English without attempting to improve on the Greek. In 11.11–13, for instance, I give the following translation: “Then he lay the medicine on him, and ait worked. And he scaled it off with both his hands from the corners of his eyes.” Note a then states: “Gk uncertain.” Thus, readers can see for themselves what the Greek text says. I followed the same procedure in my translation of GI.

If the translation of a Greek expression needs clarification, I have appended a note. The translation of 1.2 in G II, for example, states, “Thisbe which is to the right of Kydios . . . above Asserb to the west, left of Phogor.” My note a reads: “Aram/Heb = south,” and note c reads “Aram/Heb = north.”

The Names of the Protagonist(s)
In the Qumran Aramaic and Hebrew fragments the father’s name appears as יבשת, a Hebrew name meaning “my good,” but this form is clearly an abbreviation of the son’s name יבשת, a Hebrew name meaning “Yah[weh] is my good,” which recurs also in Ezra 2.60; Neh 2.10, 19; 3.35; 4.1; 6.1, 12, 14, 17, 19; 7.62; 13.4, 7, 8. The father’s name in the Greek forms of the book is spelled in different ways: Τωβίτ in GI and Τωβίθ (twenty-two times) in G II; the final consonant in each of these forms was added to the final vowel of the Greek transliteration to make the name indeclinable. In G II a second form, Τωβίς, is found eight times and is inflected: nominative (11.10; 12.4), dative Τωβίς (7.2) and accusative Τωβίν (3.17; 7.4; 9.6; 10.8; 11.18). The son’s name recurs as Τωβίς in GI as well as in G II, a name that also can be inflected; this Greek name represents the transliteration of Hebrew ישיבת. In the LXX of Ezra 2.60 and most of the Nehemiah texts, the name occurs as indeclinable Τωβίς. But in Neh 3.35; 6.12, 19, the name is given as Τωβίς while in 6.17 the name occurs in the first of two instances in the accusative case.

ALEXANDER A. DI LELLA

12 See Moore, Tobit, 99–100.
13 Similar cases are the personal name Sirach, a transliteration of Hebrew סרח (Sir 50.27), and the place name Ακελδημοχα, a transliteration of Aramaic אַכְּלדָּם (Acts 1.19).
The book of the words of Tobit son of Tobiel son of Hananiel son of Adouel son of Gabael son of Raphael son of Ragouel of the descendants of Asiel, of the tribe of Nephthaleim, who in the days of Enemessaros, the king of the Assyrians, was taken into captivity from Thisbe which is to the right of Kydios Nephthaleim in Upper Galilee, above Asier to the west, left of Phogor.

3 I, Tobit, walked in the ways of truth and righteousness all the days of my life, and I performed many acts of charity for my kindred and people who had accompanied me into the land of the Assyrians, into Nineue. And when I was in my own country, in the land of Israel, while I was a young man, all the tribe of Nephthaleim my ancestor withdrew from the house of David my ancestor and from Jerusalem, the city chosen from all the tribes of Israel to offer sacrifice for all the tribes of Israel, and the shrine of God’s covert had been consecrated and established in it for all the generations of the age.

5 All my kindred and the house of Nephthaleim my ancestor sacrificed to the calf which Jeroboam, the king of Israel, had made in Dan on all the mountains of Galilee. But I alone went frequently into Jerusalem for the feasts, as it is written in all Israel in an everlasting ordinance. Taking the first fruits and the first products and the tithes of the cattle and the first shearings of the sheep, I would hurry off to Jerusalem. And I gave these to the priests, the sons of Aaron, at the altar, and the tenth of the grain and the wine and olive oil and pomegranates and the figs and the rest of the fruits to the sons of Levi who ministered in Jerusalem. Also I tithed the second tenth in silver for six years and would go and spend these things in Jerusalem each year. And I gave these things to the orphans and the widows and guests who had attached themselves to the sons of Israel. I brought and gave these things to them in the third year, and we would eat them according to the decree that had been decreed concerning them in the law of Moses and according to the commands which Debbora, the mother of Hananiel our father, had commanded, for my father had left me an orphan and died. And when I became a man, I took a wife, one of our own family, and by her I became the father of a son, and I called his name Tobias.

10 Now when I was taken captive to the Assyrians and when I was taken captive, I went into Nineue. And all of my kindred and my race ate the food of the nations, but I kept myself from eating the bread of the nations. And when I was mindful of my God with my whole soul, the Most High gave me favor and good standing with Enemessaros, and I bought everything he needed. So I would go into Media and buy for him there until he died. And I placed in trust bags of silver, ten talents worth, with Gabaelos the brother of Gabriel in the country of Media. But

11 But I kept myself from eating it, because I was mindful of God with my whole soul. Then the Most High gave me favor and good standing with Enemessaros, and I was his buyer of provisions. So I went into Media, and I placed in trust ten talents of silver with Gabaelos, the brother of Gabrius, at Rhaga in Media. But when Enemessaros died, Sennachereim his son became king in his place, and his roads became unstable, and I could no longer go into Media.
when Enemassar died and Sennachereim his son became king in his place, then the roads to Media became unfit, and I could no longer go into Media.

16 In the days of Enemessaros I performed many acts of charity for my kindred, those of my race. 17 I would give my bread to the hungry and clothing to the naked, and if I saw anyone of my people dead and cast out behind the wall of Nineue, I would bury him. 18 And if Sennachereim killed anyone, when he came fleeing from Judea in the days of judgment which the king of heaven executed upon him because of the blasphemies which he blasphemed, I buried him. For in his anger he killed many of the sons of Israel, but I would steal their bodies and bury them. And Sennachereim sought them, but he could not find them. 19 Then a certain one of the people of Nineue went and informed the king about me, that I bury them; so I hid myself. But when I discovered that the king knew about me and that I was being sought out to be put to death, I fled in fear. 20 Then everything that belonged to me was seized, and nothing was left to me except Hanna my wife and Tobias my son.

21 But forty days did not pass before two of his sons killed him, and they fled into the mountains of Ararat. Then Sacherdonos his son became king after him. And he appointed Achicharos son of Hanael my brother over all the accounts of his kingdom, and he had authority over all the administration. 22 Then Achicharos interceded for me, and I returned into Nineue. For Achicharos was chief cupbearer and keeper of the signet and in charge of administration and accounts under Sennachereim, the king of the Assyrians, and Sacherdonos appointed him second to himself. Now he was my nephew and from my kinsfolk.

Then during the reign of King Sarchedonos I returned home, and my wife Hanna and Tobias my son were given back to me. And at our feast of Pentecost, which is the holy feast of weeks, there was a good dinner for me, and I reclined to have dinner. 2 And the table was set for me, and many fine foods were set before me. Then I said to Tobias my son, “My child, go, and bring whatever poor person of our kindred you may find among the Nineuïte exiles, who is mindful with his whole heart, and he will eat together with me. And see, I shall wait for you, my child, until you come.” 3 So Tobias went to seek some poor person of our kindred. And on his return he said, “Father!” And I said, “Here I am, my child.” Then in reply he said, “Father, behold, one of our people has been murdered and thrown into the marketplace and now lies strangled there.” 4 So I sprang up, left the dinner before even tasting it and removed him from the square and put him into one of the rooms until the sun set and I would bury him. 5 So returning, I washed myself and ate the bread with
Your feasts shall be turned into mourning,
and all your merriments into lamentation."

And I wept.

7 And when the sun had set, I went and dug a
game and buried him. 8And my neighbors were
laughing, saying, "Is he still not afraid? For
he was already sought out to be murdered for this
thing, and he ran away. And again, behold, he is
burying the dead!" 9Then the same night I washed
myself and went into my court yard and slept by the
wall of the court yard, and my face was uncovered
because of the heat. 10And I did not know that
there were sparrows in the wall above me, and their
warm excrement settled into my eyes and brought
about white films. So I went to the physicians to be
healed, but the more they anointed me with the
medicines so much the more were my eyes blinded
by the white films until I became completely blind.
And I was powerless with my eyes four years. Now
all my kindred grieved for me, but Achiacharos sup-
ported me two years before he went to Elymais.

11 And at that time Hanna my wife earned
money in women's works. 12Then she would send
what she made to their owners, and they would
give her the wages. Now, on the seventh of Dystros,
she cut off a piece of weaving and sent it to the
owners, and they gave her all the wages and also
gave her for the family a kid from the goats. 13And
when it came in toward me, the kid began to bleat.
So I called her and said, "Where is this kid from? It
is not stolen, is it? Give it back to its owners, for we
have no authority to eat anything stolen." 14But
she said to me, "It was given to me as a gift in ad-
dition to the wages." But I did not believe her and
told her to give it back to the owners. And because
of this I flushed with anger against her. Then in
reply she said to me, "Now where are your acts of
charity? Where are your righteous deeds? See, these
things are known about you!"

Then being grief-stricken in spirit and groan-
ing, I wept, and I began to pray with sighs:

"You are righteous, O Lord,
and all your deeds are righteous,
and all your ways are mercy and truth;
you judge the age.

And now you, O Lord, remember me,
and look down.
And do not punish me for my sins
and for my unwitting offenses
and those of my ancestors;
they sinned before you,
and they disobeyed your
commandments.
And you gave us over to plunder and exile
and death

"Your feasts shall be turned into mourning,
and all your merriments into lamentation."

And I wept.

7 And when the sun had set, I went and dug a
game and buried him. 8And the neighbors were
laughing, saying, "He is no longer afraid to be
murdered for this thing. And he ran away, and be-
hold, he is again burying the dead!" 9Then on the
same night I returned from the burial, and, be-
cause I was defiled, I slept by the wall of the court-
yard, and my face was uncovered. 10I did not know
that there were sparrows in the wall, and since my
eyes were open the sparrows dropped their warm
excrement into my eyes, and white films came into
my eyes. So I went to physicians, but they did not
help me. Achiacharos, however, supported me
until he went to Elymais.

11 And my wife Hanna earned money in
women's things. 12Then she would send what she
made to the owners. And they in turn gave her the
wages, giving in addition also a kid. 13But when it
came toward me, it began to bleat. So I said to her,
"Where is the kid from? It is not stolen, is it? Give
it back to the owners, for it is not lawful to eat
what is stolen." 14But she said, "It was given to me
as a gift in addition to the wages." But I did not be-
lieve her and told her to give it back to the owners.
And I blushed in anger against her. She, however,
said to me in reply, "Where are your acts of chari-
ty and your righteous deeds? Behold, all things are
known about you!"

3 Then in grief I wept, and I prayed with an-
guish, saying,

"You are righteous, O Lord,
and all your deeds
and all your ways are mercy and truth;
you judge forever.

And now you, O Lord, remember me,
and look down.
And do not punish me for my sins
and for my unwitting offenses
and those of my ancestors;
they sinned before you,
and they disobeyed your
commandments.
And you gave us over to plunder and exile
and death

a = Ha  b = Ha
and for an illustration and byword and reproof among all the nations among which you have scattered us.

5 And now your many judgments are true in doing with me concerning my sins and those of my ancestors, because we did not keep your commandments and did not walk truthfully before you.

6 So now according to what is pleasing to you do with me, and command my spirit to be taken up from me, that I may be set free from the face of the earth and become earth. For it is better for me to die than to live, because I have heard false reproaches, and grief is great in me. O Lord, command that I be set free from this distress; set me free into the place everlasting, and do not turn away your face, O Lord, from me.

7 On that day, it happened to Sarra daughter of Ragouel at Ecbatana in Media that she also heard reproaches from one of her father's maids. For she had been given to seven husbands, and Asmodaios the wicked demon had killed them before they had been with her as is prescribed for wives. So the maid said to her, "You are the one who kills your husbands! Behold, already you have been given to seven husbands, and you have not borne the name of one of them. Why do you beat us concerning your husbands? Because they are dead? Go with them! And may we never see a son or a daughter of yours!"

8 On that day she was grieved in spirit and wept. And going up into the upper room of her father, she wished to hang herself. But she thought again and said, "I am my father's only one; if I do this, it will be a disgrace to him, and I shall bring down his old age with sorrow into Hades." So she prayed toward the window and said, "Blessed are you, O Lord my God! And blessed is your holy and honored name forever. Let all your works praise you forever."

9 And now, O Lord, I have turned my eyes and my face toward you. Command that I be set free from the earth and hear reproaches no more. You know, O Lord, that I am pure from all sin with a man and that I did not defile my name or my father's name in the land of my captivity. I am my father's only begotten, and he has no other child who will be his heir, nor has he a near kinsman or son of his
or my father's name in the land of my captivity.

I am my father's only begotten,
and he has no other child to be his heir,
or has he a near kinsman or other relative
that I should keep myself as wife for him.

Seven of mine have already died.

So why should I still live?
But if it does not please you to kill me,
O Lord, hear now my reproach."

16 At that very moment, the prayer of both was heard in the presence of the glory of God. 17And Raphael was sent to heal the two: Tobis, by removing the white films from his eyes so that he might see with his eyes the light of God, and Sarra daughter of Ragouel, by giving her to Tobias son of Tobith as wife and by freeing Asmodaios the wicked demon from her, because Tobias had the right to inherit her before all others who desired to have her. At that moment Tobith returned from the courtyard into his house, and Sarra daughter of Ragouel also came down herself from the upper room.

4 On that day Tobith remembered the silver, which he had placed in trust with Gabaelos at Rhaga in Media, 2and he said in his heart, "Behold, I have asked for death. Why do I not call Tobias my son and inform him about this silver before I die?" 3Then he called Tobias his son, and he came to him. And he said, "Bury me properly. And honor your mother and do not abandon her all the days of her life. And do what is pleasing before her, and do not grieve her spirit in anything. Remember her, my child, because she experienced many dangers for you in her womb. And when she dies, bury her beside me in one grave.

5 "And all your days, my child, remember the Lord, and do not desire to sin or to transgress his commandments. Do righteous acts all the days of your life, and do not walk in the ways of injustice. 6For those who keep to the truth will succeed in all their deeds. And to all those who do righteousness, . . .

that I should keep myself as wife for him.

Seven of mine have already died.

Why should I live?

But if it does not please you to kill me,
command that some regard be shown to me
and mercy be given to me
and that I hear reproach no more."

16 Now the prayer of both was heard in the presence of the glory of the great Raphael. 17And he was sent to heal the two: to scale away the white films of Tobit and to give Sarra daughter of Ragouel to Tobias son of Tobit as wife and to bind Asmodaios the wicked demon, because Tobias had the right to inherit her. At that very moment Tobit returned and entered into his house, and Sarra daughter of Ragouel came down from her upper room.

4 On that day Tobith remembered about the silver, which he had placed in trust with Gabaelos at Rhaga in Media, and he said in himself, 2"I have asked for death. Why do I not call Tobias my son so that I may inform him before I die?" 3So calling him, he said, "My child, if I die, bury me, and do not neglect your mother. Honor her all the days of your life, and do what is pleasing to her, and do not grieve her. 4Remember, my child, that she experienced many dangers for you in the womb. When she dies, bury her beside me in one grave.

5 "All the days, my child, remember the Lord our God, and do not desire to sin or to transgress his commandments. Do righteousness all the days of your life, and do not walk in the ways of injustice. 6For if you keep to the truth, there will be successes in your deeds. And to all who do righteousness 7give alms from your possessions, and do not let your eye be envious when you give alms. Do not turn your face away from any poor person, and the face of God shall not be turned away from you. 8If you have abundant possessions, give alms from them accordingly; if you have a little, do not be afraid to give alms according to that little. 9For you will be storing up a good treasure for yourself against the day of necessity. 10Therefore, alms delivers from death and prevents entering into the darkness. 11For alms is a good gift to those who give them in the presence of the Most High.

12 "Beware, my child, of all immorality. And first of all take a wife from among the descendants of your ancestors, and do not take a foreign woman, who is not of the tribe of your father, for we are the children of the prophets. Remember, my child, Noe, Abraam, Isaak, Jakob, our fathers from of old. These all took wives from among their
the Lord will give to them good counsel. And if the Lord wishes, he casts down to deepest Hades. So now, my child, remember these commandments, and do not let them be erased from your heart.

20 And now, my child, I will inform you that I placed ten talents of silver in trust with Gabaelos son of Gabri at Rhaga in Media. 21 So do not be afraid, my child, because we have become poor. You will have many good things if you fear God and flee from every sin and do what is good in the sight of the Lord, your God.

Then in reply Tobias said to Tobith his father, "Everything that you have commanded me I shall do, father. 2But how can I get it from him; indeed, he does not know me, nor do I know him? What sign shall I give him, so he will recognize me and give me the silver? Also, I do not know the roads into Media in order to go there." 3 Then in reply Tobith said to Tobias his son, "He gave me his bond, and I gave him my bond. And I divided it into two, and we each took one part, and I put it in with the silver. And now behold, it is twenty years since I placed this silver in trust. So now, my child, seek for yourself a trustworthy man who will go with you, and we will give him wages until you come. But get this silver from him.

4 So Tobias went out to seek a man who would go with him into Media, who was acquainted with the road. And he went out and found Raphael the angel standing in front of him, but he did not know that he was an angel of God. 5 And he said to him, "Where are you from, young man?" And he said to him, "From the sons of Israel, your kindred, and they were blessed in their children, and their descendants will inherit land. 13 So now, my child, love your kindred, and do not act arrogantly in your heart with your kindred, the sons and daughters of your people, in taking for yourself a wife from among them. For in pride there is ruin and great confusion, and in worthlessness there is loss and great want, because worthlessness is the mother of famine.

14 "Let not the wages of any one who works for you stay with you overnight, but give it to him at once. And if you are subject to God, you will be repaid. Watch yourself, my child, in all your deeds, and be disciplined in all your behavior. 15 And what you hate, do to no one. Do not drink wine to drunkenness, and do not let drunkenness go with you on your way. 16 Give some of your bread to the hungry and some of your clothing to the naked. Everything you have left over give as alms, and do not let your eye be envious when you give alms.

17 Spread out your bread on the grave of the righteous, but give nothing to the sinners. 18 Seek advice from every prudent person, and do not despise any useful advice. 19 And at every moment bless the Lord, your God, and ask from him that your ways may be straight and all your paths and counsels may succeed. For no nation has understanding, but the Lord himself gives all good things, and the one he wishes he humbles as he wills. So now, my child, remember my commandments, and do not let them be erased from your heart.

20 And now I will inform you about the ten talents of silver, which I placed in trust with Gabaelos son of Gabri at Rhaga in Media. 21 So do not be afraid, my child, because we have become poor. You will have many things if you fear God and withdraw from every sin and do what is pleasing in his sight."
And he said to him, "I wish to know, brother, about your race and name." 

So he said to him, "I am Azarias son of Hananias the great, one of your relatives." 

Then he said to him, "Come in, brother, in good health and safety! And do not be bitter toward me, brother, because I wanted to know the truth about your family also. Now you happen to be a relative, and you are of a noble and good lineage. I knew Hananias and Nathan, the two sons of Semelias the great, and they would go with me into Jerusalem and do obeisance with me there, and they did not err. Your relatives are good people; you are of good stock. So come in with joy!" 

Then he said to him, "I will give you a drachma a day as wages, and what is needed for you as well as for my son. So go with my son. I will also add more to your wages." And he said to him, "I shall go with him; so do not fear. We shall go away in good health, and we shall return to you in good health, because I wish to know, brother, about your tribe and family. So you happen to be my relative, of a noble and good lineage. For I knew Hananias and Iathan, the sons of Semelias the great, when we would go together into Hierosolyma to do obeisance, offering the firstborn of our flocks and the tithes of our produce. And they did not err in the error of our relatives. You are of great stock, brother.

But say, what wages shall I give you—a drachma a day and what is needed for you as well as for my son? I will also add more to your wages if you come back in good health." So they agreed on this.

So he went in and said to his father, "Behold, I have found some one who will go along with me." Then he said, "Call him to me so that I may find out to what tribe he belongs and if he is trustworthy to go with you."
Then he called his son and said to him, “My child, prepare the things for the journey, and go out with your brother. And may God in heaven bring you safely there and restore you back to me in good health, and may his angel journey along with you in safety, my child.” And he went out to go on his journey, and he kissed his father and mother. Then Tobith said to him, “Go in good health.”

But his mother wept and said to Tobith, “Why is it that you have sent my child away? Is he not the rod of our hand as he goes in and goes out before us? 19Do not add silver to silver, but let it be a ransom for our child. 20For as it has been given to us to live by the Lord, that is enough.” 21And he said to her, “Do not worry; our child will go in good health and come back to us in good health. And your eyes will see him on the day when he comes back to you in good health. Do not worry! Do not fear for them, my sister. 22For a good angel will accompany him, and his journey will be successful, and he will come back in good health.”

So she stopped weeping.

2 Then the child went out, and the angel with him, and the dog went out with him and walked with them. And they both walked, and the first night came upon them, and they camped by the Tigris River. 3Then the child went down to wash himself. And a large fish, leaping up from the river, wanted to swallow the young man. 4But the angel said to him, “Take hold of the fish!” So the child seized the fish and carried it up onto the land. 5Then the angel said to him, “Rip open the fish, and take out its gall and heart and liver, and put them aside with you, but the entrails throw away. For its gall and heart and liver are useful as medicine.” 6So cutting open the fish, the young man gathered together the gall and heart and liver; then he roasted and ate some of the fish and kept some of it salted.

And the two walked together until they drew near to Media. 7And then the young man asked the angel and said to him, “Brother Azarias, what is the medicine in the fish’s heart and liver and in the gall?” 8And he said to him, “As for the fish’s heart and liver, burn them to smoke in the presence of a man or woman afflicted by a demon or evil spirit, and every affliction will flee away from him and will not remain with him any longer. 9And as for the gall, anoint a person’s eyes on which white films have come up; blow upon them, upon the white films, and they will be healed.”

And they both journeyed until they drew near to Ecbatana. 10Now as they approached Rhagai, the angel said to the young man, “Brother Tobias. And he said to him, “Here I am.” Then he said to him, “This night we must bring you safely there and restore you back to me in good health.” Then he called his son and said to him, “My child, prepare the things for the journey, and go out with your brother. And may God in heaven bring you safely there and restore you back to me in good health, and may his angel journey along with you in safety, my child.” And he went out to go on his journey, and he kissed his father and mother. Then Tobith said to him, “Go in good health.”

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And they both journeyed until they drew near to Ecbatana. 12Then the young man went down to wash himself. And a fish leaped up from the river and wanted to swallow the young man. 13But the angel said to him, “Take hold of the fish!” So the child seized the fish and threw it up onto the land. 14Then the angel said to him, “Cut open the fish, and take out the heart and liver and gall, and put them away safely.”

Then the young man did as the angel had told him. Then, roasting the fish, they ate.
stay in the home of Ragouelos. Now the man is your relative, and he has a beautiful\(^a\) daughter whose name is Sarra. \(^b\)And he has no male son or daughter except Sarra alone, and you are closer to her than all other men, to have her as an inheritance. And it is right for you to have her father's possessions as an inheritance. Also the girl is sensible and brave and very beautiful, and her father is noble." \(^c\)And he said, "It is right for you to take her. So listen to me, brother, and I shall speak to the father about the girl this night so that we may take her to be your bride. And, when we return from Rhaga, we shall celebrate her wedding feast. And I know that Ragouel cannot keep her from you or promise her to another; he would be liable to death according to the decree of the book of Moyses. And he knows that the inheritance is yours by right to take his daughter before any other man. So now listen to me, brother, and we shall speak this night concerning the girl and have her engaged to you. And, when we return from Rhaga, we shall take her and bring her back with us into your house."

14 Then in reply Tobias said to Raphael, "Brother Azarias, I heard that she already has been given to seven husbands, and they died in their bridal chamber. On the night when they went in toward her, they would die. And I heard people say that a demon kills them. \(^d\)And now I am afraid— for it does not harm her, but anyone who desires to approach her it kills; I am my father's only son—that I may die and bring my father's and my mother's life, because of me, to their grave with sorrow. And they have no other son, that he may bury them."

16 But he said to him, "Do you not remember your father's commandments, that he commanded you to take a wife from your father's house? So now listen to me, brother, and do not worry about this demon, and take her. And I know that this night a wife will be given to you. \(^e\)Now when you go into the bridal chamber, take some of the fish's heart and liver, and you shall take embers of incense and lay upon them some of the fish's incense, and the smell will go forth. \(^f\)Then the demon will smell it and flee and will never be seen around her any more. And when you are about to be with her, get up first, both of you, and pray, and beseech the Lord of heaven that mercy and safety may be upon you. So do not be afraid, for she was set apart for you from of old. And you will save her, and she will go with you. And I suppose that you will have children by her, and they will be as brothers to you. Do not worry!" Now when Tobias heard the words of Raphael, and that she was his kinswoman of the lineage of his father's house, he loved her very much, and his heart clung to her.

\(^a\)Om = Ha \(^b\)he = Ha

7 Now when they entered into Ecbatana, he said to him, "Brother Azarias, lead me straight to Ragouel our brother." So he led him into the

14 Then the young man said to the angel, "Brother Azarias, I have heard that the girl has been given to seven husbands and all died in the bridal chamber. \(^g\)And now I am the only one my father has, and I fear that I may go in and die as did those before me, for a demon loves her, and it harms no one except those who approach her. So now I fear that I may die and bring my father's and my mother's life, because of me, to their grave with sorrow. And they have no other son who will bury them."

16 But the angel said to him, "Do you not remember the words with which your father commanded you, to take a wife from among your people? So now listen to me, brother, for she will become your wife. Also do not worry about the demon, for this night she will be given to you as wife. \(^h\)Now when you go into the bridal chamber, you shall take embers of incense and lay upon them some of the fish's heart and liver, and you shall make smoke. \(^i\)Then the demon will smell it and flee and will never again come back. Now when you come near her, rise up, both of you, and cry out to the merciful God, and he will save you and have mercy. Do not be afraid, for she has been prepared for you from of old. And you will save her, and she will go with you, and I suppose that you will have children by her." Now when Tobias heard these things, he loved her, and his spirit clung to her intensely.

7 And they went into Ecbatana and arrived at the house of Ragouel. Sarra then met them and greeted them, and they her. And she brought them into the house. \(^j\)Then Ragouel said to Edna his wife, "How much the young man resembles
house of Ragouelos, and they found him sitting beside the door of the courtyard. And they greeted him first, and he said to them, “Many joyful greetings, brothers, and welcome in good health!” Then he led them into his house. 2And he said to Edna his wife, “How much this young man resembles Tobis my kinsman!” 3Then Edna asked them and said to them, “Where are you from, brothers?” And they said to her, “We belong to the children of Nephthaleim, who were taken captive in Nineue.” 4So she said to them, “Do you know Tobis our kinsman?” And they said to her, “We do know him.” 5Then she said to them, “Is he in good health?” 6And they said to her, “He is in good health and alive.” And Tobias said, “He is my father!” 7Then Ragouel jumped up and kissed him and wept. 8And he spoke and said to him, “Blessings on you, my child, son of a noble and good father! O most miserable of calamities that a righteous man who also gives alms has become blind!” Then he fell on the neck of Tobias his kinsman and wept. 9Also Edna his wife wept for him, and Sarra their daughter likewise wept. 10Then he slaughtered a ram from the flock and welcomed them very warmly.

Now when they had bathed and washed themselves and had reclined to have dinner, Tobias said to Raphael, “Brother Azarias, speak to Ragouel that he give to me Sarra my kinswoman.” 11But Ragouel heard the word and said to the lad, “Eat, and drink, and be merry this night. For there is no man who has the right to take Sarra my daughter except you, brother. Likewise I myself do not have the authority to give her to any other man except you, because you are my nearest relative. But let me explain to you the truth more fully, my child. I have given her to seven men of our kinsmen, and all died on the night when they went in toward her. So now, my child, eat, and drink, and the Lord will do something with you both.” Then Tobias said, “I will neither eat nor drink until you settle the things that pertain to me.” So Ragouel said to him, “I will do it. Indeed, she is given to you according to the decree of the book of Moyses, and from heaven it has been decreed that she be given to you. Take your kinswoman; from now on you are her brother, and she is your sister. She has been given to you from today and forever. And may the Lord of heaven prosper you both with peace.” 12Then Ragouel called Sarra his daughter, and taking her hand, he gave her over to Tobias as wife, and he said, “Behold, according to the law of Moyses take her, and lead her away to your father.” And he blessed them. 13Then he called Edna his wife, and taking a scroll, he wrote out a contract, a scroll of marriage, that he gave her to him as wife according to the decree of the law of Moyses. 14After that they began to eat.

4Possibly make a binding agreement with me
15 Then Ragouel called Edna his wife and said to her, “My sister, prepare the other room, and lead her in there.” 16 So she went and made the bed in the room as he had told her, and she led her there. And she wept for her. Then she wiped away the tears and said to her, 17 “Take courage, my daughter; may the Lord of heaven grant you joy in place of your sorrow. Take courage, my daughter.” Then she went out.

8 When they had finished eating and drinking, they wanted to go to sleep; so they led the young man out and led him into the room. 2 Then Tobias remembered the words of Raphael, and he took the fish’s liver and heart out of the bag where he had them and put them on the embers of the incense. 3 And the odor of the fish became a hindrance, and the demon fled into the upper parts of Egypt. But Raphael went and bound him there hand and foot and tied him up at once. 4 Then they went out and shut the door of the room. And Tobias got up from the bed and said to her, “Sister, get up, let us pray and implore our Lord that he grant us mercy and safety.” 5 So she got up, and they began to pray and implore that safety may be theirs. And he began to say, “Blessed are you, O God of our ancestors, and blessed be your name for all the ages forever. Let the heavens and all your creatures bless you for all the ages. 6 You made Adam, and you made for him a helper, a support—his wife Heua. And from the two of them the human race has come. 7 And you said, ‘It is not good for the man to be alone; let us make for him a helper like himself.’ 8 And now, O Lord, not because of lust am I taking this kinswoman of mine, but with sincerity. Grant that I and she may have mercy and that we may grow old together.” 9 And they said with each other, “Amen, Amen.” 10 Then they went to sleep for the night.

But Ragouel got up and called his servants to him, and they went and dug a grave, 10 for he said, “Perhaps he may die, and we may become an object of ridicule and derision.” 11 And when they had finished digging the grave, Ragouel went into the house and called his wife, 12 and he said, “Send one of the maids, and have her go in to see if he is alive. But if he is dead, let us bury him so that no one may know.” 13 So they sent the maid and lit the lamp and opened the door, and she went in and found them lying there fast asleep together. 14 And the maid went out and told them that he was alive and that nothing was wrong. 15 So they blessed the God of heaven, and they said,

*a upward into the parts = Ha*
16 "Blessed are you, O God, with every pure blessing, and may they bless you forever and ever.
And blessed are you because you have made me glad, and it did not turn out as I expected, but according to your great mercy you have dealt with us.
17 And blessed are you because you had mercy on two only children. Have mercy on them, O Master, and keep them safe, and bring their life to fulfillment with gladness and mercy."

18 Then he told his domestics to fill in the grave before it became dawn. And he gave them a wedding feast for fourteen days. 20 And before the days of the wedding feast were over, Ragouel said with an oath that he should not leave. 21 And that he should take half of his property and go with health to his father, and the rest, "when I die and my wife."

9 Then Tobias called Raphael and said to him, "Brother Azarias, take with you a servant and two camels, and go to Gabael's house at Rhaga in Media, and get the silver for me, and bring him to the wedding feast. 3 For Ragouel has sworn that I should not leave. 4 But my father is counting the days, and if I delay long, he will be greatly distressed." 5 So Raphael went and stayed with Gabael. Then he gave him the bond, and he brought out the money bags with the seals and gave them to him. 6 And they both got up early in the morning and went to the wedding feast. And he blessed Tobias and his wife.

9 And Tobias called Raphael and said to him, "Brother Azarias, take with you a servant and two camels, and go to Gabael's house at Rhaga in Media, and get the silver for me, and bring him to the wedding feast. 3 For Ragouel has sworn that I should not leave. 4 But my father is counting the days, and if I delay long, he will be greatly distressed." 5 So Raphael went and stayed with Gabael. Then he gave him the bond, and he brought out the money bags with the seals and gave them to him. 6 And they both got up early in the morning and went to the wedding feast. And he blessed Tobias and his wife.
10 Now day by day Tobith was counting the days on which Tobias would need for going and for coming back. And when the days had been completed and his son did not appear, 2 he said, "Perhaps he has been detained there? Or perhaps Gabael has died, and no one is giving him the silver?" 3 And he began to grieve. 4 Then Hanna his wife said, "My child has perished and is no longer among the living." And she began to weep and mourn for her son, and she said, 5 "Woe to me, my child, the light of my eyes, that I let you go!" 6 But Tobith said to her, "Be quiet, and do not worry, my sister; he is in good health. And they probably had a distraction there. Also the man who went with him is trustworthy and is one of our own kindred. Do not grieve for him, my sister; he will soon be here." 7 Then she said to him, "Be quiet; away from me! And stop deceiving me! My child has perished." And she would rush out every day and watch the road on which her son had gone, and she would not believe anyone. And when the sun had set she would go in and mourn and weep the whole night and get no sleep. 8 Now when the fourteen days of the wedding feast had ended that Ragouel had sworn to have for his daughter, Tobias came to him and said, "Send me back, for I know that my father and mother do not believe that they will see me again. So now I beg you, father, that you send me away and that I may go to my father. I have already explained to you how I left him." 9 But Ragouel said to Tobias, "Stay, my child, stay with me, and I shall send messengers to Tobis your father, and they will inform him about you." 10 But he said to him, "By no means! I beg you that you send me back from here to my father." 11 So Ragouel got up and gave Tobias Sarra his wife and half of all his property—male and female slaves, oxen and sheep, asses and camels, clothing and silver and utensils. 12 Then he sent them away in good health, and he embraced him and said to him, "Good health, my child; go away in good health. The Lord of heaven prosper you and Sarra your wife, and may I see your children before I die." 13 Then Tobias went away from Ragouel in good health and rejoicing and blessing the Lord of heaven because he had made his journey a success. And he blessed Ragouel and Edna his wife.
When they came near to Kaserein, which is opposite Nineue, 2Raphael said, "You know how we left your father. 3Let us run on ahead of your wife and prepare the house while they are on the way." So the two of them went together, and he said to him, "Take the gall with your hands." And the dog came along behind them.

5Now Hanna sat looking intently at the road for her son. And she caught sight of him coming, and she said to his father, "Behold, your son is coming, and the man who went with him!"

7Then Raphael said to Tobias, before he had approached his father, "I know that his eyes will be opened. 8Sprinkle the gall of the fish on his eyes, and the medicine will make the white films contract and peel off from his eyes, and your father will look up and see the light."

9Then running out, Hanna fell on the neck of her son and said to him, "I see you, my child; from now on I am ready to die." And she wept. 10Then Tobit got up and stumbled on his feet and went out the door of the courtyard. And Tobias went up to him. 11Now the gall of the fish was in his hand, and he blew into his eyes and held him and said, "Take courage, father." Then he lay the medicine on him, and 12it worked. And he scaled it off with both his hands from the corners of his eyes. Then he fell on his neck, 14and he wept and said to him, "I see you, my child, the light of my eyes!" Then he said, "Blessed be God, and blessed be his great name, and blessed be all his holy angels. May his great name be upon us, and may all the angels be blessed throughout all the ages."

15For he afflicted me, but behold, I see Tobias my son!" And Tobias went in rejoicing and blessing God with full voice. Then Tobit said to his father that his journey had been successful and that he had brought the silver and that he had taken Sarra daughter of Ragouel as wife and that behold, she is arriving and is near the gate of Nineue.

16Then Tobith went out to the gate of Nineue to meet his daughter-in-law, rejoicing and blessing God. Now the people of Nineue, seeing him walking and moving along in all his strength and with no one leading him, were amazed. 17And Tobith acknowledged before them that God had been merciful to him and that he had opened his eyes. Then Tobith approached Sarra, the wife of Tobias his son, and he blessed her and said to her, "Come in, in good health, daughter, and blessed be your God, who has brought you to us, daughter. And blessed be your father 2and your mother, and blessed are you, O God, and blessed is your name forever, and blessed are all your holy angels.

For you have afflicted me, but you have had mercy upon me; behold, I see Tobias my son!"

And his son went in rejoicing, and he announced to his father the great things that had happened to him in Media.

16Then Tobit went out to the gate of Nineue to meet his daughter-in-law, rejoicing and blessing God. Now those who saw him walking were amazed because he could see. 17And Tobit acknowledged before them that God had been merciful to him. Now when Tobit approached Sarra his daughter-in-law, he blessed her, saying, "Come, in good health, daughter! Blessed be God, who has brought you to us, and blessed be your father and your mother." And there was joy among all his relatives in Nineue. 18Also Achiacharos and Nasbas his nephew came. 19Then the wedding feast of Tobias was held with rejoicing for seven days.
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blessed be Tobias my son, and blessed be you, daughter. Come into your house in good health, with blessing and joy. Come in, daughter." On that day there was joy among all the Judeans who were in Nineue. And Achikar and Nabad his nephews came rejoicing to Tobis.

12 Now when the wedding feast was ended, Tobit called Tobias his son and said to him, "My child, see that you give the wages to the man who went with you, even add to his wages." So he said to him, "Father, how much shall I give him as his wages? It would do me no harm to give him half of the possessions he brought back with me. He has led me back in good health and cured my wife and brought the silver with me, and he healed you. How much shall I still give him as wages?" Then Tobis said to him, "It is his right, my child, to take half of all that he came back with." So he called him and said, "Take half of all that you came back with for your wages, and go away in good health."

5 Then he called the two in secret and said to them, "Bless God, and before all the living acknowledge him for the good things he has done for you. Bless, and sing praise to his name. The words of God declare with honor to all people. And do not hesitate to acknowledge him. It is good to conceal the secret of a king but to reveal and acknowledge honorably the works of God. Do what is good, and evil will not overtake you. Prayer is good with fasting, but almsgiving with righteousness is more than wealth with injustice. It is better to give alms rather than to store up gold. Almsgiving delivers from death, and it purges away every sin. Those who give alms will enjoy life to the full. Those who commit sin and injustice are enemies of their own self.

11 "I shall declare the whole truth to you, and I will not conceal any word from you. Already I declared to you and said, 'It is good to conceal the secret of a king, but to reveal gloriously the works of God.' So now when you and Sarra prayed, I brought the memorial of your prayer before the glory of the Lord and did likewise when you would bury the dead. And when you did not hesitate to get up and leave your dinner and when you went and buried the dead. Then I was sent to you to test you. And at the same time God sent me to heal you and Sarra your daughter-in-law. I am Raphael, one of the seven angels who approach and enter before the glory of the Lord."

16 Then they were both troubled, and they fell on their face, and they were afraid. But he said to them, "Do not be afraid; peace be with you. Bless God forevermore. As for me, when I was with you, not by my grace was I with you, but by the will of God. Bless him each and every day; sing his praises, and do not hesitate to acknowledge him. For it is good to conceal the secret of a king, but to reveal gloriously the works of God. And do not hesitate to acknowledge him. It is good to conceal the secret of a king but to reveal gloriously the works of God. For prayer is good with fasting, but almsgiving and righteousness. A little with righteousness is better than much with injustice. It is better to give alms than to store up gold. For almsgiving delivers from death, and it purges away every sin. Those who practice almsgiving and righteousness will have fullness of life, but those who sin are enemies of their own life.

12 Then Tobit called Tobias his son and said to him, "My child, see to the wages for the man who traveled with you, and something must be added for him." So he said to him, "Father, it would do me no harm to give him half of what I have brought back. For he has led me back to you safely and cured my wife, and he brought my silver, and he also healed you." Then the old man said, "It is his right." So he called the angel and said to him, "Take half of all that you have brought back back."

6 Then calling the two in secret, he said to them, "Bless God, and acknowledge him, and magnify him, and before all the living acknowledge him concerning the things he has done for you. It is good to bless God and to exalt his name, declaring with honor the words of the works of God. And do not hesitate to acknowledge him. It is good to conceal the secret of a king but to reveal gloriously the works of God. Do good, and evil will not overtake you. Prayer is good with fasting, and almsgiving and righteousness. A little with righteousness is better than much with injustice. It is better to give alms than to store up gold. For almsgiving delivers from death, and it purges away every sin. Those who practice almsgiving and righteousness will have fullness of life, but those who sin are enemies of their own life.

11 "I will not conceal any word from you. I have indeed said, 'It is good to conceal the secret of a king but to reveal gloriously the works of God,' And now when you and your daughter-in-law Sarra prayed, I brought the memorial of your prayer before the Holy One, and when you would bury the dead, I was likewise present with you. And when you did not hesitate to get up and leave your dinner to go out and bury the dead, the good deed was not hidden from me, but I was with you. So now God sent me to heal you and your daughter-in-law Sarra. I am Raphael, one of the seven holy angels who present the prayers of the holy ones and enter before the glory of the Holy One."

16 Then they were both troubled, and they fell face forward, for they were afraid. But he said to them, "Do not be afraid; you will have peace. But bless God forever. For not by my grace, but by the will of our God have I come. Therefore, bless him forever. All the days I appeared to you, but I did not eat or drink; rather, you were seeing a vision. So now acknowledge God, for I am as-
praises. Now you were watching me; I did not eat anything, but a vision was being seen by you.

20 So bless the Lord on the earth and acknowledge God. Behold, I am ascending to him who sent me. Write down all these things that have happened to you.” And he ascended. Then they stood up, and they could see him no longer. And they blessed and sang praises to God, and they acknowledged God for these marvelous deeds of his, when an angel of God had appeared to them.

13 Then he said:

“Blessed be God who lives forever,
and blessed be his kingdom.

2 For he afflicts, and he shows mercy;
he leads down to Hades in the lowest
part of the earth,
and he brings up from the great
destruction,
and there is nothing that will escape his
hand.

3 Acknowledge him, O sons of Israel, before
the nations,
for he has scattered you among them.

4 Even there he has shown you his greatness;
so exalt him in the presence of all the
living,
because he is our Lord and he is our God,
and he is our Father and he is God for all
the ages.

5 He will afflict you for your injustices,
and he will show mercy on all of you
from all the nations
among whom you have been scattered.

6 When you turn back to him with all your
heart and with all your soul,
to do what is true before him,
then he will turn back to you
and will no longer hide his face from
you.
And now see what he has done with you,
and acknowledge him with full voice.
And bless the Lord of righteousness,
and exalt the king of the ages . . .

13 Then Tobit wrote a prayer of rejoicing and
said:

“Blessed be God who lives forever,
and blessed be his kingdom.

2 For he afflicts, and he shows mercy;
he leads down to Hades and brings up,
and there is no one who will escape his
hand.

3 Acknowledge him, O sons of Israel, before
the nations,
for he has scattered us among them.

4 There show forth his greatness;
exalt him in the presence of all the living,
because he is our Lord and God;
he is our Father for all the ages.

5 And he will afflict us for our injustices,
and again he will show mercy,
and he will gather us from all the nations
among whom you have been scattered.

6 If you turn back to him with all your heart
and with all your soul,
to do what is true before him,
then he will turn back to you
and will not hide his face from you.
And see what he will do with you,
and acknowledge him with full voice.
And bless the Lord of righteousness,
and exalt the king of the ages.
In the land of my captivity I acknowledge
him,
and I show his power and majesty to a
nation of sinners.

Turn back, you sinners,
and do what is just before him;
who knows if he will take delight in you
and grant mercy to you?

7 I exalt my God,
and my soul exalts the king of heaven,
and it will rejoice in his majesty.

8 Let all speak
and acknowledge him in Hierosolyma.

9 O Hierosolyma, holy city,
he will afflict you for the works of your
sons,
but again he will show mercy to the sons
of the righteous.
10 Acknowledge the Lord well, and bless the king of the ages that again his tent may be built in you with joy. And may he gladden within you all those who are captives and love within you all those who are distressed, for all the generations of the age.

11 A bright light will shine to all the ends of the earth; many nations from far away will come to you, the inhabitants of all the remote parts of the earth to your holy name, also bearing their gifts in their hands for the king of heaven. Generations of generations will give joyful worship in you, and the name of the chosen one will last for the generations of the world.

12 Cursed are all who speak a harsh word; cursed will be all who cast you down and pull down your walls and all who overthrow your towers and set your homes on fire. But blessed forever will be those who fear you.

13 Then go, and rejoice before the sons of the righteous, for they all will be gathered together and will bless the Lord of the age.

14 Happy are those who love you, and happy are those who will rejoice in your peace, and happy are all the people who will grieve over you, over all your afflictions, for they will rejoice over you and see all your joy forever.

15 aMy soul blesses the Lord, the great king. For Jerusalem will be built as a city, as his house for all the ages. Happy shall I be if a remnant of my seed should be present to see your glory and to acknowledge the king of heaven. And the gates of Jerusalem will be built with lapis lazuli and emerald, and all your walls with precious stone. The towers of Jerusalem will be built with gold, and their battlements with pure gold.

16 The streets of Jerusalem will be paved with ruby and stone of Souphir. And the gates of Jerusalem will say hymns of joy, and all her houses will say, 'Hallelouia! Blessed be the God of Israel!' And the blessed will bless his holy name forever and ever.

a Or O my soul, bless = Ha

17 And the streets of Jerusalem will be paved with beryl and carbuncle and stone from Souphir.

18 And all her lanes will say 'Hallelouia!' and will give praise, saying, 'Blessed be God, who has exalted all the ages.'
14 Then the words of Tobit’s praise were completed.

And he died in peace at one hundred twelve years, and he was buried with honor in Nineue.

2 Now he was sixty-two years old when he became maimed in his eyes, and after he saw again he lived in prosperity and gave alms. And he still continued to bless God and to acknowledge the majesty of God.

3 Now when he was about to die, he called Tobias his son and commanded him, saying: “My child, take your children, 4 and hurry off into Media, for I believe the word of God about Nineue, the things Naoum spoke, that all these things will come about and happen to Athour and Nineue. Also everything that the prophets of Israel spoke, those whom God sent, will happen. And not one of all their words will fail, but all will come true at their appointed times. So in Media there will be safety rather than among the Assyrians or in Babyloun. For I know and believe that all things that God said will be fulfilled and will come to pass, and no utterance of his words shall fail. And our kindred, who live in the land of Israel, all will be scattered and taken as captives from the good land, and the whole land of Israel will be desolate, even Samaria and Ierousalem will be desolate. And the house of God will be in grief and will be burned down for a time.

5 “But again God will have mercy on them, and God will bring them back into the land of Israel, and again they will build the house, but not like the first one, until the time when the time of the appointed times will be completed. Then after this they all will return from their captivity, and they will build Ierousalem honorably. And the house of God will be built in it, just as the prophets of Israel said concerning it. 6 Then all the nations in the whole world will turn back and truly fear God. And all will abandon their idols, which deceitfully have made them err in their error. 7 And they will bless the God of the ages in righteousness. All the sons of Israel who are saved in those days, mindful of God and to acknowledge him.

8-9 “So now, my children, I command you, serve God in truth, and do what is pleasing before him. Also your children are to be commanded to practice righteousness and almsgiving and to be mindful of God and bless his name at every moment in truth and with all their strength.

9 “So now, my child, go out from Nineue, and do not remain here. 10 On the day you bury your mother with me, on that day do not spend the night within its borders. For I see that there is much injustice within it and that much deceit is accomplished within it, and they are not ashamed. See, my child, what Nadab did to Achikaros who went down into the darkness. Manasses gave alms and was saved from the death trap that they had
had reared him. Was he not, while still alive, brought down into the earth? And God repaid the dishonor to his face. Now Achikaros came out into the light, but Nadab went into the everlasting darkness, because he sought to kill Achikaros. Because he gave alms, he came out of the death trap that Nadab had set for him, but Nadab fell into the death trap himself, and it destroyed him. 11 So now, my children, see what almsgiving does and what injustice does: it kills! But behold, my soul is about to leave." Then they laid him on the bed, and he died, and he was buried honorably.

12 And when Hanna died, Tobias buried her with his father. Then Tobias went away with his wife and his sons to Ecbatana to Ragouel his father-in-law. 13 And he grew old honorably, and he buried his parents-in-law honorably. Then he inherited the house of Ragouelos and that of Tobith his father.

14 Then he died at the age of one hundred seventeen years. 15 And before he died he saw and heard of the destruction of Nineue, and he saw its captivity being led into Media, which Achiacharos, the king of Media, had taken captive. And he blessed God for all the things that he had done to the sons of Nineue and Athouria; before he died he rejoiced over Nineue, and he blessed the Lord God forever and ever. Amen.  

\[\text{\textsuperscript{a}}\text{Om = Ha}\]