And it came to pass in the seventh year, in the fifth month, in the tenth day of the month, that certain of the elders of the children of Israel came to enquire of the LORD, and sat before me.

And I said unto them, Why enquire ye of me? As I live, saith the LORD GOD, will ye judge them, son of man, and will thou judge them thus to inquire of the LORD? Will ye judge them after the manner of the fathers? Are ye come to enquire of the LORD? And ye shall come near hither unto me in this manner: in the day when I chose Israel, and lifted up mine hand unto the elders of Israel, and said unto them, Cease ye from transgressing after the manner of your fathers; in enquiring of me as they enquired of their elders; and ye shall not enquire of the LORD.

But ye said, What do we enquire of the LORD? To cast off man, and defile not yourselves with their abominations. Ye are not come near me, as the children of Jacob; and ye abhorred abominations.

Wherefore thus saith the LORD GOD; In the day, when ye caste yourselves for your kings and for your princes, to be charmed at them, and spake your words in mine ears, saying, Our fathers have not served them; neither do we will to serve this people, which is among us; and ye have not hearkened unto me, saith the LORD GOD;

What! will ye enquire of me any more? Will ye also play the Prophet unto me? And ye have done worse and worse, since ye were in the land of Egypt.

Yet ye have not returned unto me: therefore I also will not expiate the iniquity of your fathers: therefore will I cast you out of my sight and I will do with you as I have done unto all this people 

But thus ye have spoken, saying, The word of the LORD is gone from us: we will not listen to it.

Therefore you shall hear the word of the LORD; Behold, I lift up mine hand unto the LORD, and he saith unto me, Make them hear concerning this city, saying, It shall not be inhabited, nor shall it be dwelt in for ever.

And they shall utter this song in the land of Egypt. When ye shall sing this song unto the LORD, then say, For I will make you pass through a land of brooks of water, and make you go in a land of sluggish water, and lead you in a land of dolphinry. In a land of sea butter, and in a land of sweet honey. And he said, Thus saith the LORD; Behold, I will give you a land, and ye shall serve me; and ye shall know that I am the LORD, 

Then came the word of the LORD unto me, saying, Son of man, speak unto the elders of Israel, and say unto them, Thus saith the LORD GOD; Are ye come to enquire of me? [As] I live, saith the LORD GOD, I will not be enquired of by you.

Wilt thou judge them, son of man, wilt thou judge them thus to inquire of the LORD? [As] I live, saith the LORD GOD, I will not be enquired of by you.

And say unto them, Thus saith the LORD GOD; In the day when I chose Israel, and lifted up mine hand unto the seed of the house of Jacob, and made myself known unto them in the land of Egypt, when I lifted up mine hand unto them, saying, I [am] the LORD your God;
will pour out my fury upon them, to accomplish my anger against them in the midst of the land of Egypt.

But I wrought for my name's sake, that it should not be polluted before the heathen, among whom they [were], in whose sight I made myself known unto them, in bringing them forth out of the land of Egypt.

Wherefore I caused them to go forth out of the land of Egypt, and brought them into the wilderness.

And I gave them my statutes, and shewed them my judgments, which [if] a man do, he shall even live in them.

Moreover also I gave them my sabbaths, to be a sign between me and them, that they might know that I [am] the LORD that sanctify them.

But the house of Israel rebelled against me in the wilderness: they walked not in my statutes, and they despaired of my judgments, which [if] a man do, he shall even live in them; and my sabbaths they greatly polluted: then I said, I would pour out my fury upon them in the wilderness, to consume them.

But I wrought for my name's sake, that it should not be polluted before the heathen, in whose sight I brought them out.

Yet also I lifted up my hand unto them in the wilderness, that I would not bring them into the land which I had given [them], flowing with milk and honey, which [is] the glory of all lands;
Because they despised my judgments, and walked not in my statutes, but polluted my sabbaths: for their heart went after their idols.

Nevertheless mine eye spied them from among the heathen, in whose sight I brought them forth.

21 Notwithstanding the children rebelled against me: they walked not in my statutes, neither kept my judgments to do them, which [if] a man do, he shall even live in them; they polluted my sabbaths: then I said, I would pour out my fury upon them, to accomplish my anger against them in the wilderness.

22 Nevertheless I withdrew mine hand, and wrought for my name’s sake, that it should not be polluted in the sight of the heathen, in whose sight I brought them forth.

23 I lifted up mine hand unto them also in the wilderness, that I would scatter them among the heathen, and disperse them through the countries;

24 Because they had not executed my judgments, but had despised my statutes,
Wherefore I gave them also statutes [that were] not good, and judgments whereby they should not live;

And I polluted them in their own gifts, in that they caused to pass through [the fire] all that opened the womb, that I might make them desolate, to the end that they might know that I [am] the LORD.

Therefore, son of man, speak unto the house of Israel, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Yet in this your fathers have blasphemed me, in that they have committed a trespass against me.

And when I had brought them into the land, [for] the which I lifted up mine hand to give it to them, then they saw every high hill, and all the thick trees, and they offered there their sacrifices, and there they presented the provocation of their offering: there also they made their sweet savour, and poured out there their drink offerings.

Then I said unto them, What [is] the high place whereunto ye go? And the name thereof is called Bashan unto this day.

Wherefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Are ye polluted after the manner of your fathers? and commit ye whoredoms after their abominations?

For when ye offer your gifts, when ye make your sons to pass through the
And that which cometh into your mind shall not be at all, that ye say. We will be as the heathen, as the families of the countries, to serve wood and stone.

And I will bring you out from the people, and will gather you out of the countries wherein ye are scattered, with a mighty hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with fury poured out, will I rule over you:

And I will bring you into the wilderness of the people, and there will I plead with you face to face.

Like as I pleaded with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so will I plead with you, saith the Lord GOD.

And I will cause you to pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant:

And I will purge out from among you the rebels, and them that transgress against me: I will bring them forth out of the country where they sojourn, and they shall not enter into the land of Israel: and ye shall know that I [am] the LORD.

As for you, O house of Israel, thus saith the Lord GOD: Go ye, serve ye every
one his idols, and hereafter [also], if ye will not hearken unto me: but pollute ye my holy name no more with your gifts, and with your idols.

40 For in mine holy mountain, in the mountain of the height of Israel, saith the Lord GOD, there shall all the house of Israel, all of them in the land, serve me: there will I accept them, and there will I require your offerings, and the firstfruits of your oblations, with all your holy things.

41 I will accept you with your sweet savour, when I bring you out from the people, and gather you out of the countries wherein ye have been scattered; and I will be sanctified in you before the heathen.

42 And ye shall know that I [am] the LORD, when I bring you into the land of Israel, into the country [for] the which I lifted up mine hand to give it to your fathers.

43 And there shall ye remember your ways, and all your doings, wherein ye have been defiled; and ye shall loathe yourselves in your own sight for all your evils that ye have committed.

44 And ye shall know that I [am] the LORD, when I have wrought with you for my name's sake, not according to your wicked ways, nor according to your corrupt doings. O ye house of Israel, saith the Lord GOD.

45 Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,
And say to the forest of the south, Hear the word of the LORD; Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will kindle a fire in thee, and it shall devour every green tree in thee, and every dry tree: the flaming flame shall not be quenched, and all faces from the south to the north shall be burned therein.

And all flesh shall see that I the LORD have kindled it: it shall not be quenched.

Then said I, Ah Lord GOD! they say of me, Doth he not speak parables?