1. O Israel, return unto the LORD thy God; for thou hast fallen by thine iniquity.

2. Take with you words, and turn to the LORD: say unto him, Take away all iniquity, and receive [us] graciously: so will we render the calves of our lips.

3. Asshur shall not save us; we will not ride upon horses: neither will we say any more to the work of our hands, [Ye are] our gods: for in thee the fatherless findeth mercy.

4. I will be as the dew unto Israel: he shall grow as the lily, and cast forth his roots as Lebanon.

5. His branches shall spread, and his beauty shall be as the olive tree, and his smell as Lebanon.

6. They that dwell under his shadow shall return; they shall revive [as] the corn, and grow as the vine: the scent thereof [shall be] as the wine of Lebanon.

7. Ephraim [shall say], What have I to do any more with idols? I have heard [him], and observed him: I [am] like a green fir tree. From me is thy fruit found.

8. Who [is] wise, and he shall understand these things? prudent, and he shall know them? for the ways of the LORD [are] right, and the just shall walk therein.

9. For the LORD is good, his mercy is eternal; and his truth [stands] unto all generations.