

## THE GREAT WENCHOSTER BIBLE

Isaiah 6: 1-13.

1. In the year that king Uzziah died and Queen Hepshibobah became Regent, let the reader understand, I sent flowers and a condolence card, and I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and he did look nervous at the height, and his train filled the temple and his scarves dangled freely and their embroideries glinted in the light.
2. Above it, even higher, stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face for he also was afeared of heights, and with twain he covered his feet for he had no sandals, and with twain he did fly. And numerous cherubims circled the air plucking their instruments and making a merry noise unto the Lord. And I was amazed and my bowels did gurgle.
3. And one cried unto another, and said, Holy. And twice did they say, Holy. And a third time did they proclaim it, but added yet more words, Holy, is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory. And some others cried, Fee Fie, Fo and Fum. And one did bewail and question, Who has been eating my porridge?
4. And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried and did shake so that plaster fell from the walls, and the house was filled with smoke for the chimney was blocked by the trembling, and numerous pots and platters did fall from their shelves and brake, and the cooks were dumfounded
5. Then my bowels loosened and said I, Oh heck! Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean clothing, and I took a moment to adjust my robes. And I cried, I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord, the King, the Lord of hosts. And I understood that this was a good theme for an hymn.
6. Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar, and I was perplexed, for if he had used tongs why was the burning coal now in his hand?
7. And he laid the fiery coal upon my mouth, and I winced. And he said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged. And I understood the symbolism. And there was a taste of sauce in my mouth like that which is basted upon roasting meat.
8. Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me, unless there is someone else more worthy. But there was not.
9. And he said, Go, and tell this shower of a people, and tell it on the mountain, over the hills and far away – but sing ye it not: Hear ye indeed, but understand not; and see ye indeed, but perceive not, and ye touch indeed but feel not, and ye smell indeed, and thy scent has risen with a great waft to my nostrils.
10. Make the heart of this people fat with greasy foods – no bacon, mind - and fine wines, and make their ears heavy with stone earrings and much wax, and shut their eyes with dark lenses and blindfolds; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, touch with their hands divers parts to get a feel of things, and understand with their heart, and convert, and be healed.
11. Then said I, Lord, how long? You see, there's one snag. For chariot spaces in the outer courts of thy temple are few and the waiting time is but a few hours. And he answered, Worry ye not about parking fines, for until the cities be wasted without inhabitant, and the houses without man, or woman, or ass, and the land be utterly desolate, Bleak, eh, to put it mildly.
12. And the Lord have removed men far away, and the women with asses also, and there be a great forsaking in the midst of the land and the parking spaces shall be as plentiful as the stars in the sky or the sand on the seashore. And free after dark.

13. But yet in it shall be a tenth, and it shall return, and shall be eaten: as a teil tree, and as an oak, whose substance is in them, when they cast their leaves: so the holy seed shall be the substance thereof. And I said, Huh? That's too obscure even for me. And what's a teil tree when it's at home?