### EΠΙΣΤΟΛΗ IEPEMIOY EPISTLE of JEREMIAH

Αντίγραφον ἐπιστολῆς ῆς ἀπέστειλεν Ἱερεμιας πρὸς τοὺς ἀχθησομένους αἰχμαλώτους εἰς Α copy of letter which sent Jeremiah unto the being taken captive into Βαβυλῶνα ὑπὸ τοῦ βασιλέως τῶν Βαβυλωνίων, ἀναγγεῖλαι αὐτοῖς καθότι Babylon by of the king of the Babylonians, to report to them in what manner ἐπετάγη αὐτῷ ὑπὸ τοῦ Θεοῦ. it was commanded to him by the God.

είς Βαβυλῶνα 2 Διὰ τὰς ἁμαρτίας ἃς ἡμαρτήκατε έναντίον τοῦ Θεοῦ, ἀχθήσεσθε On account of sins which you have committed before the God, being led away into Babylon αἰχμάλωτοι ὑπὸ Ναβουχοδονοσορ βασιλέως τῶν Βαβυλωνίων. by Nebuchadnezzar of the Babylonians. captives king 3 Εἰσελθόντες οὖν εἰς Βαβυλῶνα ἔσεσθε έκεῖ ἔτη πλείονα, καὶ χρόνον μακρὸν ἕως Having entered then into Babylon you shall be there years many, and time until έπτά, μετὰ τοῦτο δὲ ἐξάξω ύμᾶς ἐκεῖθεν μετ' εἰρήνης. generations seven, after that and I will bring away you from there with peace.

4 Νυνὶ δὲ ὄψεσθε ἐν Βαβυλῶνι θεοὺς ἀργυροῦς καὶ χρυσοῦς καὶ ξυλίνους ἐπ' ὤμοις Now but you shall see in Babylon gods of silver and of gold and of wood upon shoulders αἰρομένους, δεικνύντας φόβον τοῖς ἔθνεσιν. being raised up, bring forth fear to the heathen. 5 Εὐλαβήθητε οὖν μὴ καὶ ὑμεῖς ἀφομοιωθέντες τοῖς ἀλλοφύλοις ἀφομοιωθῆτε,

5 Εὐλαβήθητε οὖν μὴ καὶ ὑμεῖς ἀφομοιωθέντες τοῖς ἀλλοφύλοις ἀφομοιωθῆτε, Let you beware then not also you be like to the aliens let you imitate, καὶ φόβος ὑμᾶς λάβη ἐπ' αὐτοῖς, ἰδόντας ὄχλον ἔμπροσθεν καὶ ὅπισθεν αὐτῶν and fear you should grasp upon to you, having seen multitude before and behind of them προσκυνοῦντας αὐτά.

worshipping them.

6 Εἴπατε δὲ τῇ διανοίᾳ, σοὶ δεῖ προσκυνεῖν, δέσποτα. Let you say but in the hearts, to you it behoves to worship, O Lord.

7 Ὁ γὰρ ἄγγελός μου μεθ' ὑμῶν ἐστιν, αὐτός τε ἐκζητῶν τὰς ψυχὰς ὑμῶν.

The for angel of me with you it is, self both seeking out the souls of you.

8 Γλῶσσα γὰρ αὐτῶν ἐστιν κατεξυσμένη ὑπὸ τέκτονος, αὐτά τε περίχρυσα καὶ Tongue for of them is fashioned by craftsmen, same both plated with gold and περιάργυρα, ψευδῆ δ' ἐστὶ, καὶ οὐ δύνανται λαλεῖν. plated with silver, false but it is, and not able to speak.

9 Καὶ ὥσπερ παρθένω φιλοκόσμω λαμβάνοντες χρυσίον κατασκευάζουσιν στεφάνους ἐπὶ τὰς And like as a virgin loving taking gold adorning a crown upon the κεφαλὰς τῶν θεῶν αὐτῶν.

heads of the gods of them.

10 Έστι δὲ καὶ ὅτε ὑφαιρούμενοι οἱ ἱερεῖς ἀπὸ τῶν θεῶν αὐτῶν χρυσίον καὶ ἀργύριον εἰς It is and also that take away the priests from of the gods of them gold and silver for ἑαυτοὺς καταναλώσουσιν.

themselves provide.

11 Δώσουσιν δὲ ἀπ' αὐτῶν καὶ ταῖς ἐπὶ τοῦ στέγους πόρναις· κοσμοῦσί τε αὐτοὺς, They give and from of them and to the upon of the roof of prostitutes; adorning both them, ὡς ἀνθρώπους, τοῖς ἐνδύμασιν, θεοὺς ἀργυροῦς, καὶ χρυσοῦς, καὶ ξυλίνους. as men, with the garments, gods of silver, and gold and of wood.

12 Οὖτοι δὲ οὐ διασώζονται ἀπὸ ἰοῦ καὶ βρωμάτων, περιβεβλημένων αὐτῶν ἱματισμὸν These but not are saved from rust and moth, having been covered them raiment πορφυροῦν.

purple.

13 Ἐκμάσσονται τὸ πρόσωπον αὐτῶν διὰ τὸν ἐκ τῆς οἰκίας κονιορτόν, ὅς ἐστι πλείων ἐπ' Wiped clean the face of the because the out of the temple dust, which is much upon αὐτοῖς.

them.

14 Καὶ σκῆπτρον ἔχει ὡς ἄνθρωπος κριτής χώρας, ὃς τὸν εἰς αὐτὸν ἁμαρτάνοντα And a sceptre he has as a man of judgement of country, who the against him sinning οὐκ ἀνελεῖ.

not will he respond.

15 Έχει δὲ ἐγχειρίδιον ἐν δεξιᾳ καὶ πέλεκυν, ἑαυτὸν δὲ ἐκ πολέμου καὶ ληστῶν οὐκ He has but a dagger in right hand and axe, himself but from of war and robbery not ἐξελεῖται.

remove.

16 Θεν γνώριμοί είσιν οὐκ ὄντες θεοί· μὴ οὖν φοβηθῆτε αὐτούς. Whereby well known they are not being gods; not therefore let you fear them.

17 "ωσπερ γὰρ σκεῦος ἀνθρώπου συντριβὲν άχρεῖον γίνεται, Just as for a vessel of a man having been shattered useless becomes, τοιοῦτοι ὑπάρχουσιν οἱ θεοὶ αὐτῶν, καθιδρυμένων αὐτῶν ἐν τοῖς οἴκοις: the gods of them, having been sat down them in the temples; οἱ ὀφθαλμοὶ αὐτῶν πλήρεις εἰσὶ κονιορτοῦ ἀπὸ τῶν ποδῶν τῶν εἰσπορευομένων. of them full of are of dust from of the feet of the coming in. 18 Καὶ ὤσπερ τινὶ ἠδικηκότι βασιλέα περιπεφραγμέναι εἰσὶν αἱ αὐλαὶ ὑς ἐπὶ θανάτω And just as anyone having offended king shut all around are the courtyards as upon to death τούς οἴκους αὐτῶν ὀχυροῦσιν οἱ ἱερεῖς θυρώμασίν τε καὶ κλείθροις καὶ being committed, the temples of the make fast the priests doorways both also bars and μοχλοῖς, ὅπως ὑπὸ τῶν ληστῶν μὴ συληθῶσι. bolts, in such a way by of the robbers not they may not be plundered.

19 Λύχνους καίουσιν καὶ πλείους ἢ ἑαυτοῖς, ὧν οὐδένα δύνανται ἰδεῖν. Lamps lighting and more than of themselves, of which not one is able to see. 20 Ἔστι μὲν ὥσπερ δοκὸς τῶν ἐκ τῆς οἰκίας, τὰς δὲ καρδίας αὐτῶν φασιν They are indeed just as a beam of the from of the temple, the but hearts of them it is said ἐκλείχεσθαι, τῶν ἀπὸ τῆς γῆς ἑρπετῶν, κατεσθόντων αὐτούς τε καὶ τὸν are eaten away, of the from of the earth things creeping, having devoured them both and the ἱματισμὸν αὐτῶν οὐκ αἰσθάνονται.

clothes of them not they feel.

21 Μεμελανωμένοι τὸ πρόσωπον αὐτῶν ἀπὸ τοῦ καπνοῦ τοῦ ἐκ τῆς οἰκίας. Blackened the face of them from of the smoke of the out of the temple.

22 Ἐπὶ τὸ σῶμα αὐτῶν καὶ ἐπὶ τὴν κεφαλὴν ἐφίπτανται νυκτερίδες, χελιδόνες καὶ τὰ ὄρνεα, Upon the body of them and upon the head perch bats, swallows and the birds, δὲ καὶ οἱ αἴλουροι. ώσαύτως in like manner and also the cats. 23 Όθεν γνώσεσθε ὅτι οὔκ εἰσι θεοί٠ μή οὖν φοβεῖσθε αὐτά. Whence you will know that not they are gods; not then let you fear them. 24 Τὸ γὰρ χρυσίου, ὃ περίκεινται εἰς κάλλος, ἐὰν μή τις ἐκμάξη τὸν ἰόν, ού μὴ The for gold, which is laid on for beauty, except certain rub off the tarnish, by no means στίλψωσιν. οὐδὲ γάρ ὅτε έχωνεύοντο, ήσθάνοντο. will they shine, neither for at the time when they were being cast, were they feeling it. 25 Έκ πάσης τιμῆς ἠγορασμένα ἐστίν, ἐν οἶς οὐκ ἔστιν πνεῦμα. they were bought, in which not is breath. From much cost 26 Άνευ ποδῶν ἐπ' ὤμοις φέρονται, ένδεικνύμενοι τὴν ἑαυτῶν ἀτιμίαν τοῖς Without feet upon shoulders they are carried, they declaring the of themselves worthless to the ἀνθρώποις, men. 27 Αἰσχύνονταί τε καὶ οἱ θεραπεύοντες αὐτὰ, διὰ τό, μήποτε ἐπὶ τὴν χῆν πέση, They are ashamed both also the serving them, because, lest ever upon the ground it should fall down, δι' αὐτῶν ἀνίστασθαι, μήτε ἐάν τις αὐτὸ ὀρθὸν στήση, δι' by of themselves make to stand, neither if certain them upright should stand, by of them selves κινηθήσεται, μήτε έὰν κλιθῆ, οὐ μὴ ὀρθωθῆ, άλλ' ώσπερ νεκροῖς τὰ will they be moved, nor if it leans, by no means straighten itself, but just as to corpses the δῶρα αὐτοῖς παρατίθεται. gifts to them place beside. 28 Τὰς δὲ θυσίας αὐτῶν ἀποδόμενοι οί ἱερεῖς αὐτῶν καταχρῶνται· The things but sacrifices of them having rendered the priests of them make away with; δὲ καὶ αἱ γυναῖκες αὐτῶν ἀπ' αὐτῶν ταριχεύουσαι, οὔτε πτωχῷ ώσαύτως in like manner and also the wives of them from of them to preserve, neither to poor οὔτε ἀδυνάτω μεταδιδόασιν. they give a share. nor to disabled 29 Τῶν θυσιῶν αὐτῶν ἀποκαθημένη καὶ λεχὼ άπτονται. Of the sacrifices of them having seated themselves<sup>1</sup> and fresh from childbirth grasp; οὖν ἀπὸ τούτων ότι οὔκ εἰσιν θεοί, μὴ φοβηθῆτε γνόντες having perceived then from of these things that not thy are gods, not should you fear them. ότι γυναῖκες παρατιθέασιν θεοῖς ἀργυροῖς καὶ 30 Πόθεν γὰρ κληθείησαν θεοί; Why for may they be called gods? For women set beside *food* to god silver χρυσοῖς καὶ ξυλίνοις. and wood gold

And in the temples of them the priests sit,

31 Καὶ ἐν τοῖς οἴκοις αὐτῶν οἱ ἱερεῖς διφρεύουσιν, ἔχοντες τοὺς χιτῶνας διερρωγότας καὶ τὰς

having the clothes

having torn

<sup>1</sup> This is usually translated – 'menstruating women'.De sacrificiis eorum fœtæ et **menstruatæ** contingunt. Sciens itaque ex his quia non sunt dii, ne timeatis eos. - Vulgate St. Jerome.

κεφαλὰς καὶ τοὺς πώγωνας ἐξυρημένους, ὧν αἱ κεφαλαὶ ἀκάλυπτοί εἰσιν. heads and the beards shaven, of them the heads uncovered are. 32 Ἡρύονται δὲ βοῶντες ἐναντίον τῶν θεῶν αὐτῶν, ὥσπερ τινὲς ἐν περιδείπνω νεκροῦ. They how and shout before of the gods of them, as certain in funeral feat of dead.

33 ἀπὸ τοῦ ἱματισμοῦ αὐτῶν ἀφελόμενοι οἱ ἱερεῖς, ἐνδύουσιν τὰς γυναῖκας αὐτῶν From of the clothes of them² having taken off the priests, clothing the wives of them καὶ τὰ παιδία.

and the children.

34 Οὔτε ἐὰν κακὸν πάθωσιν ὑπό τινος, οὔτε ἐὰν ἀγαθόν, δυνήσονται ἀνταποδοῦναι· Neither if evil they should suffer from certain, nor if good, will they be able to repay, οὔτε καταστῆσαι βασιλέα δύνανται, οὔτε ἀφελέσθαι.

neither to overthrow a king they are able, nor take away.

35 'Wσαύτως οὔτε πλοῦτον οὔτε χαλκὸν οὐ μὴ δύνωνται διδόναι' In like manner neither wealth nor money by no means may they be able to give; ἐάν τις αὐτοῖς εὐχὴν εὐξάμενος μὴ ἀποδῷ, οὐ μὴ ἐπιζητήσωσιν. if certain to them a vow having made not should render, by no means will they require it. 36 Ἐκ θανάτου ἄνθρωπον οὐ μὴ ῥύσωνται, οὔτε ἥττονα ἀπὸ ἰσχυροῦ οὐ μὴ From death a man certainly not rescue, neither weak from of strong by no means ἑξέλωνται.

may they remove.

37 Ἄνθρωπον τυφλὸν εἰς ὅρασιν οὐ μὴ περιστήσωσιν, ἐν ἀνάγκη ἄνθρωπον ὅντα Α man blind into sight certainly not will they restore, in distress a man being οὐ μὴ ἐξέλωνται.

by no means may they remove.

38 Χήραν οὐ μὴ ἐλεήσωσιν, οὔτε ὀρφανὸν εὖ ποιήσουσιν. Widows certainly not they show pity, nor fatherless good they will do.

39 Τοῖς ἀπὸ τοῦ ὄρους λίθοις ὡμοιωμένοι εἰσὶ τὰ ξύλινα, καὶ τὰ Το the from of the mountain stone like are the wooden things, and the things περίχρυσα καὶ τὰ περιάργυρα, οἱ δὲ θεραπεύοντες αὐτὰ καταισχυνθήσονται. plated with gold and the things plated with silver, the but worshipping them will be humiliated.

40 Πῶς οὖν νομιστέον ἢ κλητέον αὐτοὺς ὑπάρχειν θεούς, ἔτι δὲ καὶ αὐτῶν τῶν How then deem or named them to be Gods, yet but also of them of the Χαλδαίων ἀτιμαζόντων αὐτά;

Chaldaeans dishonour them?

41 Οἴ ὅταν ἴδωσιν ἐνεὸν οὐ δυνάμενον λαλῆσαι, προσενεγκάμενοι τὸν Βῆλον, Who whenever they should see a dumb man not able to speak, having brought to the Bel, ἀξιοῦσιν φωνῆσαι, ὡς δυνατοῦ ὄντος αὐτοῦ αἰσθέσθαι.

expecting him to speak clearly, as able being him to understand.

42 Καὶ οὐ δύνανται αὐτοὶ νοήσαντες καταλιπεῖν αὐτά, αἴσθησιν γὰρ οὐκ ἔχουσιν. And not able them to understand leave behind them, perception for not they have.

43 Αἱ δὲ γυναῖκες περιθέμεναι σχοινία ἐν ταῖς ὁδοῖς ἐγκάθηνται The and women having placed around themselves cords in the roads they sit

<sup>2</sup> ie. the idols.

θυμιῶσαι τὰ πίτυρα: őταν δέ αὐτῶν ἐφελκυσθεῖσα ὑπό τινος τῶν τις burning as incense the bran; whenever but anyone of them should be drawn by certain of the παραπορευομένων κοιμηθῆ, τὴν πλησίον ὀνειδίζει, passers by should be slept with, the neighbour she reproaches, for not ἠξίωται ώσπερ καὶ αὐτὴ, οὔτε τὸ σχοινίον αὐτῆς διερῥάγη. has she been deemed worthy like as also herself, neither the cord of her been broken. 44 Πάντα τὰ γινόμενα αὐτοῖς ἐστι ψευδῆ· πῶς οὖν νομιστέον ἢ κλητέον ὥστε All the things being done to them is false; how then deemed worthy or called equal to θεούς αὐτούς ὑπάρχειν; to be?

gods the

45 Υπό τεκτόνων καὶ χρυσοχόων κατεσκευασμένα εἰσίν· οὐθὲν ἄλλο μὴ γένωνται

carpenters and goldsmiths having been made they are; nothing other not may they be

ὃ βούλονται οἱ τεχνῖται αὐτὰ γενέσθαι. ή

or which they wished the workmen them to be.

46 Αὐτοί τε οἱ κατασκευάζοντες αὐτὰ οὐ μὴ γένωνται πολυχρόνιοι

them by no means may their lives be prolonged; These both the making

τὰ ὑπ' αὐτῶν κατασκευασθέντα; πῶς τε δὴ μέλλει

how both then may expect the things by them they made?

#### 47 Κατέλιπον γὰρ ψεύδη καὶ ὄνειδος τοῖς ἐπιγινομένοις.

They leave behind for lies and rebuke to the being after.

48 Όταν γὰρ ἐπέλθη ἐπ' αὐτὰ πόλεμος καὶ κακά, βουλεύονται πρὸς ἑαυτοὺς οἱ ἱερεῖς ποῦ for should come upon them war and evil, take counsel with themselves the priests where συναποκρυβῶσι μετ' αὐτῶν.

they be hidden together with them.

οὔτε σώζουσιν ἑαυτοὺς ἐκ 49 Πῶς οὖν οὐκ ἔστιν αἰσθέσθαι ὅτι οὔκ εἰσιν θεοί, oἳ How then not it is to perceive that not they are gods, which neither they save themselves from πολέμου, οὔτε ἐκ κακῶν:

nor from disaster?

50 Υπάρχοντα γὰρ ξύλινα καὶ περίχρυσα καὶ περιάργυρα γνωσθήσεται They being for wooden and plated with gold and plated with silver it will be known μετὰ ταῦτα ότι ἐστὶν ψευδῆ.

after these things that it is false.

51 Τοῖς ἔθνεσι πᾶσι τοῖς τε βασιλεῦσι φανερὸν ἔσται ότι οὔκ εἰσι θεοὶ, άλλὰ ἔργα To the nations all to the both kings manifest it will be that not they are gods, but works χειρῶν ἀνθρώπων, καὶ οὐδὲν Θεοῦ ἔργον ἐν αὐτοῖς ἐστι.

of hands of men, and no of God work in them

#### 52 Τίνι οὖν γνωστέον ἐστὶν ὅτι οὔκ εἰσιν

Who then must know is that not they are gods?

οὔτε ὑετὸν ἀνθρώποις οὐ μὴ 53 Βασιλέα γάρ χώρας οὐ μὴ ἀναστήσωσιν,

for over a country certainly not may they raise up, nor rain to men by no means Kings δῶσι.

may they give.

54 Κρίσιν διακρίνωσιν αὐτῶν, οὐδὲ μὴ ῥύσωνται ἀδικούμενον, ού μή Judgement both by no means settle of them, neither not redress a wrong doing, άδύνατοι ὄντες· ὥσπερ γὰρ κορῶναι ἀνὰ μέσον τοῦ οὐρανοῦ καὶ τῆς γῆς. between of the heaven and of the earth. being; just as for crows unable

είς οἰκίαν θεῶν ξυλίνων ἢ περιχρύσων ἢ 55 Καὶ γὰρ ὅταν ἐμπέση for whenever should fall upon into temple of gods of wood or gilded περιαργύρων πῦρ, οἱ μὲν ἱερεῖς αὐτῶν φεύξονται καὶ διασωθήσονται, silvered fire, the indeed priests of them they will flee themselves and to safety, αὐτοὶ δὲ ὥσπερ δοκοὶ μέσοι κατακαυθήσονται.

they but like as beams in middle burned up.

56 Βασιλεῖ δὲ καὶ πολεμίοις οὐ μὴ

but and wars by no means can they resist;

πῶς οὖν ἐκδεκτέον η νομιστέον ὅτι εἰσὶν

how then they be thought of or accounted that they are gods?

57 Οὔτε ἀπὸ κλεπτῶν, οὔτε ἀπὸ ληστῶν οὐ μὴ διασωθῶσιν θεοὶ ξύλινοι, Neither from thieves, nor from robbers certainly not may they be preserved gods wooden, καὶ περιάργυροι καὶ περίχρυσοι·

and plated with silver and with gold;

58 ὧν οἱ ἰσχύοντες περιελοῦνται τὸ χρυσίον καὶ τὸ ἀργύριον, καὶ τὸν ἱματισμὸν τὸν such as the having strength strip away the gold and the silver, and the clothes the περικείμενον αὐτοῖς ἀπελεύσονται ἔχοντες. οὔτε ἑαυτοῖς βοηθήσωσιν. ού μὴ having around them they will go away with having, neither themselves by no means may they help.

59 ΄ ωστε κρεῖσσον εἶναι βασιλέα ἐπιδεικνύμενον τὴν ἑαυτοῦ ἀνδρείαν, ἢ σκεῦος Like a mighty to be king displaying the of himself manliness, or a vessel in a house χρήσιμον, ἐφ᾽ ὧ χρήσεται ὁ κεκτημένος. οί ψευδεῖς θεοί. on which will furnish the having acquired for himself, than the false έν αὐτῆ ὄντα, ἢ οἱ ψευδεῖς θεοί· ἢ καὶ θύρα έν οἰκία διασώζουσα τὰ or also a door in a house preserving the things in it being, than the false gods, καὶ ξύλινος στῦλος ἐν βασιλείοις, ἢ οἱ ψευδεῖς θεοί. also a wooden pillar in a palace, than the false gods.

60 ή Ηλιος μέν γάρ καὶ σελήνη καὶ ἄστρα ὄντα λαμπρά, καὶ ἀποστελλόμενα ἐπὶ χρείας, Sun indeed for and moon and stars being bright, and having sent upon duty, εὐήκοά εἰσιν.

obedient they are.

61 ωσαύτως καὶ ἀστραπή, ὅταν ἐπιφανῆ, εὔοπτός ἐστι· τὸ δ' αὐτὸ καὶ πνεῦμα ἐν πάση In like manner also lightning, when it flashes, conspicuous it is; the but it also wind in every χώρα πνεῖ.

country it is blowing.

62 Καὶ νεφέλαις ὅταν ἐπιταγῆ ὑπὸ τοῦ Θεοῦ ἐπιπορεύεσθαι ἐφ' ὅλην τὴν οἰκουμένην, And clouds when ordered by the God to travel over all the inhabited world, συντελοῦσι τὸ ταχθέν.

they accomplish the in order.

63 Τό, τε πῦρ ἐξαποσταλὲν ἄνωθεν ἐξαναλῶσαι ὄρη καὶ δρυμούς, ποιεῖ τὸ The, both fire sent down from above to destroy utterly mountains and forests, they do the

συνταχθέν· ταῦτα δὲ οὔτε ταῖς εἰδέαις οὔτε ταῖς δυνάμεσιν αὐτῶν having been ordered; these things but neither the appearance nor the power of them ἀφωμοιωμένα ἐστίν. comparable it is.

64 "Όθεν οὔτε νομιστέον οὔτε κλητέον ὑπάρχειν αὐτοὺς θεούς, οὐ δυνατῶν ὄντων αὐτῶν Wherefore neither deemed nor called to be them gods, not able being of them οὔτε κρίσιν κρῖναι, οὔτε εὖ ποιεῖν ἀνθρώποις. nor judgement to decide, nor benefit to do to mankind. 65 Γνόντες οὖν ὅτι οὔκ εἰσι θεοί, μὴ φοβηθῆτε αὐτούς. Having known then that not they are gods, not let you fear them.

66 Οὔτε γὰρ βασιλεῦσιν οὐ μὴ καταράσωνται, οὔτε μὴ εὐλογήσωσι.

Neither for kings by no means may thy curse, nor not bless.

67 Σημεῖά τε ἐν ἔθνεσιν ἐν οὐρανῷ οὐ μὴ δείξωσιν, οὐδὲ ὡς ὁ ἥλιος λάμψουσιν, Signs both in heaven in heaven certainly not may they display, nor as the sun may they shine, οὐδὲ φωτίσουσιν ὡς σελήνη.

nor give light as moon.

68 Τὰ θηρία αὐτῶν ἐστὶ κρείττω, ἃ δύνανται ἐκφυγόντα εἰς σκέπην ἑαυτὰ ώφελῆσαι.

The beasts of them is<sup>3</sup> better, which can flee into shelter themselves to succour.

69 Κατ' οὐδένα οὖν τρόπον ἐστὶν ἡμῖν φανερὸν ὅτι εἰσὶν θεοί·

Accordingly not one then by appearance is to us manifest that they are gods;

διὸ μὴ φοβηθῆτε αὐτούς.

therefore not let you fear them.

70 ωσπερ γὰρ ἐν σικυηράτῳ προβασκάνιον οὐδὲν φυλάσσον, οὕτως οἱ θεοὶ αὐτῶν εἰσιν Just as for in cucumber plot a scarecrow nothing guards, thus the gods of them are ξύλινοι καὶ περίχρυσοι καὶ περιάργυροι.

of wood and gold plated and silver plated.

71 Τὸν αὐτὸν τρόπον καὶ τῆ ἐν κήπω ῥάμνω, ἐφ' ῆς πᾶν ὄρνεον ἐπικάθηται,

The it like also the in a garden a thorn bush, upon which every bird sits,

ώσαύτως δὲ καὶ νεκρῷ ἐρῥιμμένῳ ἐν σκότει ἀφωμοίωνται οἱ θεοὶ αὐτῶν in like manner and also a corpse having been cast out in dark such the gods of them ξύλινοι καὶ περίχρυσοι καὶ περιάργυροι.

wooden and gold plated and silver plated.

72 Άπό τε τῆς πορφύρας καὶ τῆς μαρμάρου τῆς ἐπ' αὐτοῖς σηπομένης

From both of the purple and of the marble of the upon them decaying

γνώσεσθε ὅτι οὔκ εἰσιν θεοί· αὐτά τε ἐξ ὑστέρου βρωθήσονται, you will perceive for yourselves that not they are gods; they both from afterwards will be eaten away, καὶ ἔσται ὄνειδος ἐν τῆ χώρ $\alpha$ .

and to be a reproach in the country.

73 Κρείσσων οὖν ἄνθρωπος δίκαιος οὐκ ἔχων εἴδωλα, ἔσται γὰρ μακρὰν ἀπὸ ὀνειδισμοῦ. Better then a man righteous not having idols, he shall be for far from reproach.

7

<sup>3</sup> Neuter plural subject – singular verb.