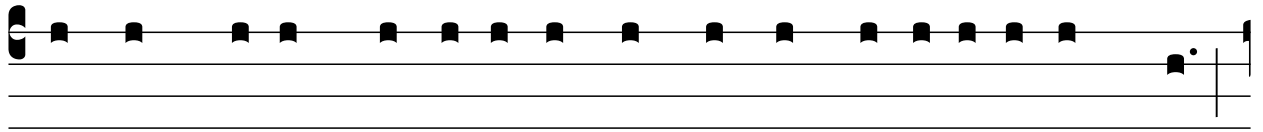
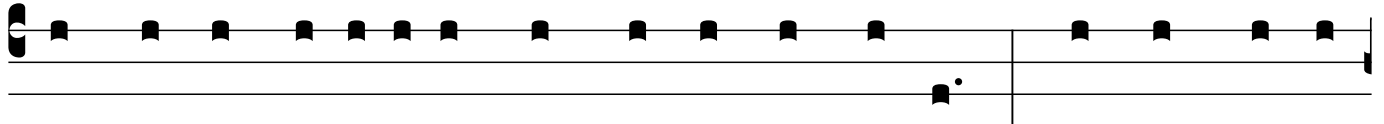


Ezekiel 36

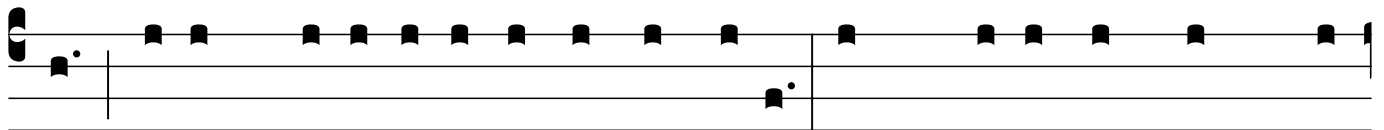
Vigil for the Eve of the Baptism of our Lord 7



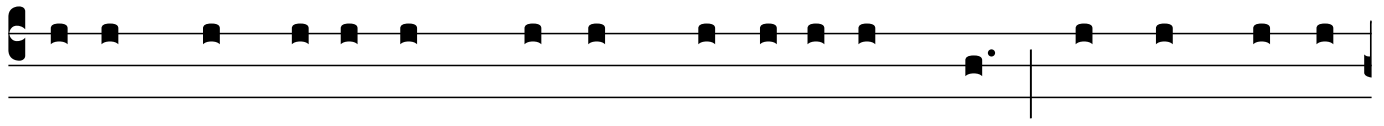
And you, mortal, prophe-sy to the mountains of Isra-el and say:



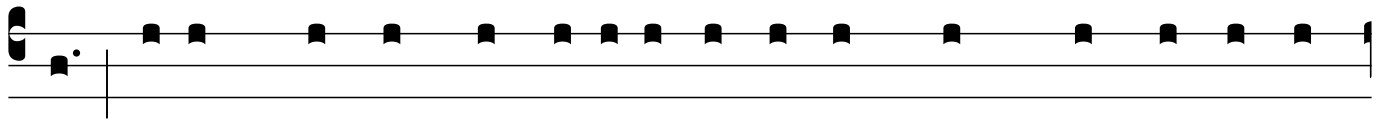
O mountains of Isra-el, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord



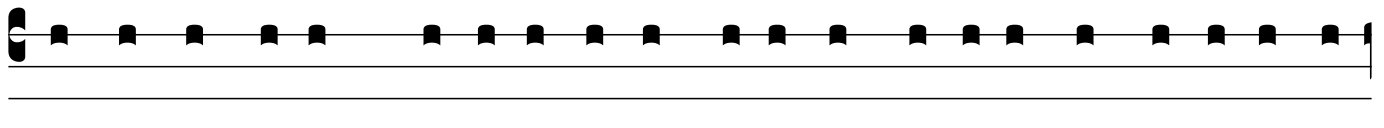
God: Because the en-emy said of you, “Aha!” and, “The ancient heights have



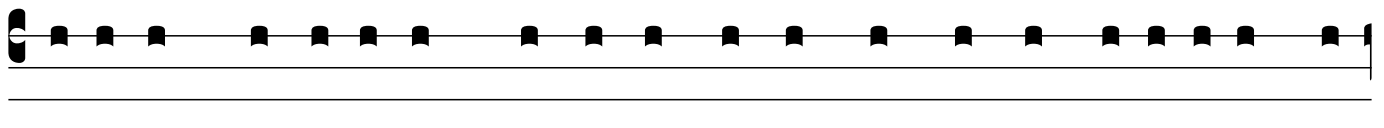
be-come our possession,” therefore prophe-sy and say: Thus says the Lord



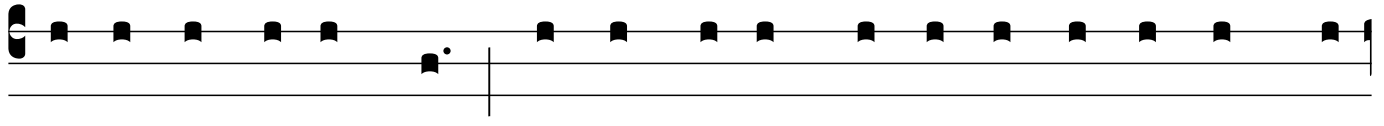
God: Because they made you des-o-late indeed and crushed you from all sides,



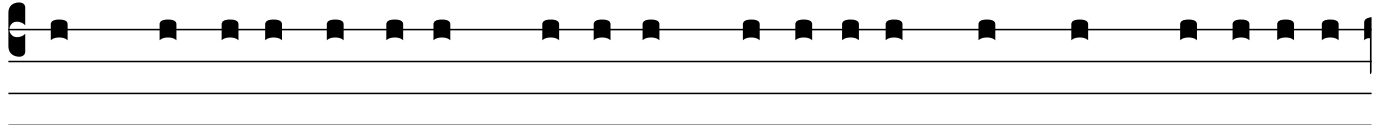
so that you be-came the possession of the rest of the nations and an object of



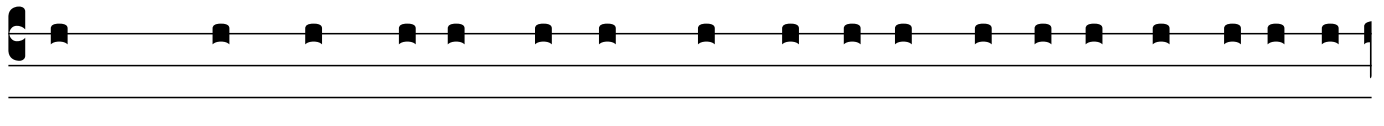
gossip and slander among the people, therefore, O mountains of Isra-el, hear



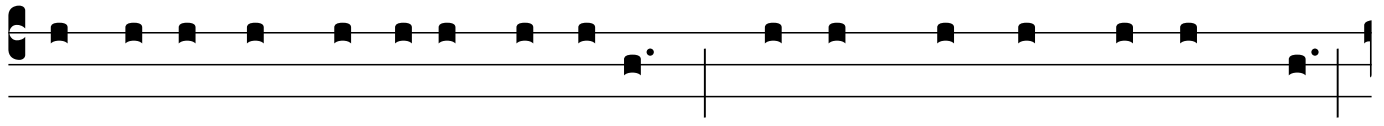
the word of the Lord God: Thus says the Lord God to the mountains and the



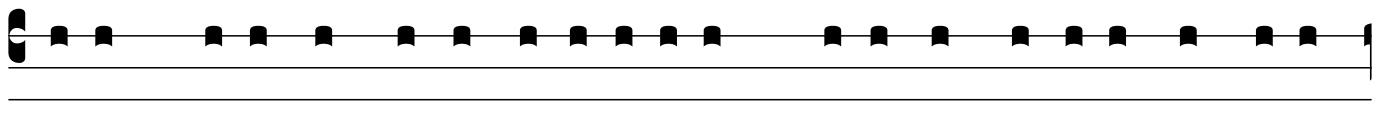
hills, the watercourses and the valleys, the desolate wastes and the deserted



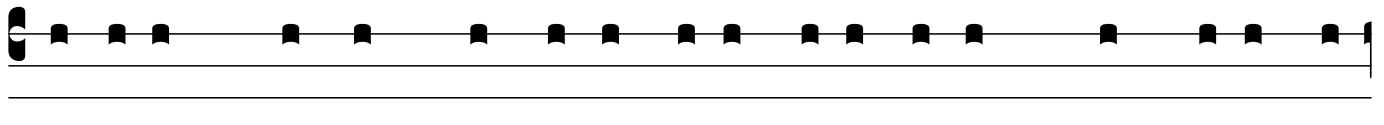
towns, which have become a source of plunder and an object of derision



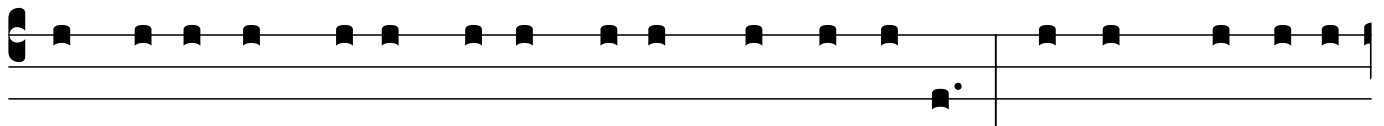
to the rest of the nations all around; therefore thus says the Lord God:



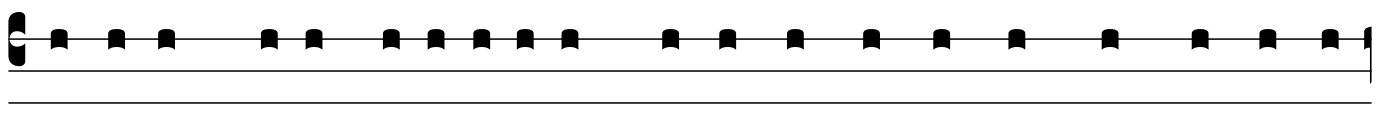
I am speaking in my hot jealousy against the rest of the nations and against



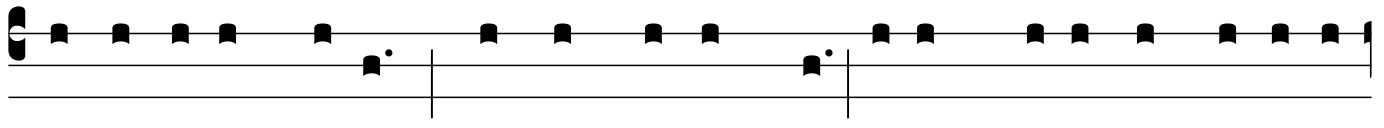
all Edom, who, with wholehearted joy and utter contempt, took my land as



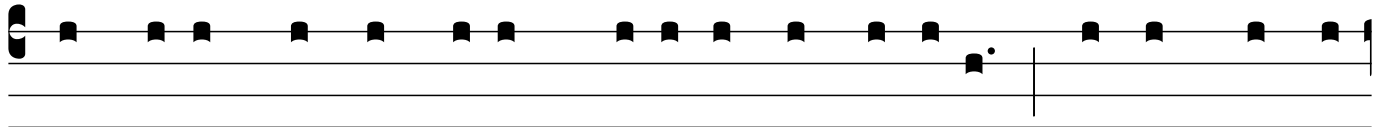
their possession, because of its pasture, to plunder it. Therefore prophecy



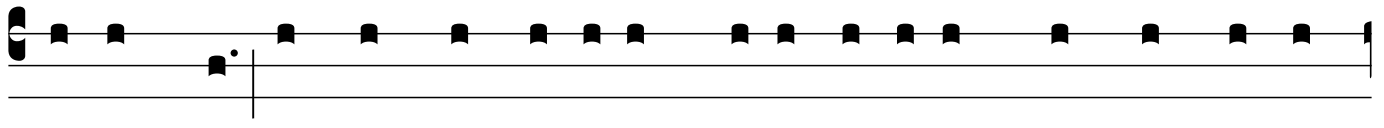
concerning the land of Israel and say to the mountains and hills, to the wa-



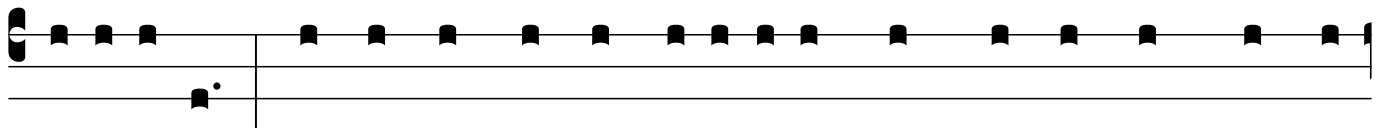
tercourses and valleys: Thus says the Lord God: I am speaking in my jealous



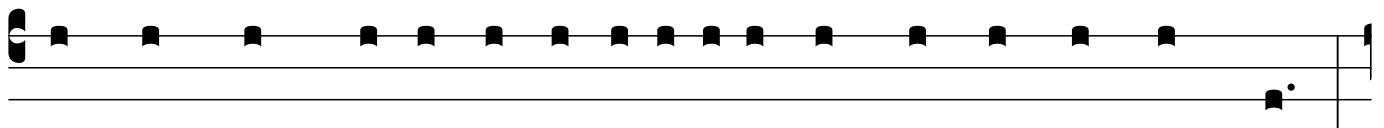
wrath because you have suffered the insults of the nations; therefore thus says



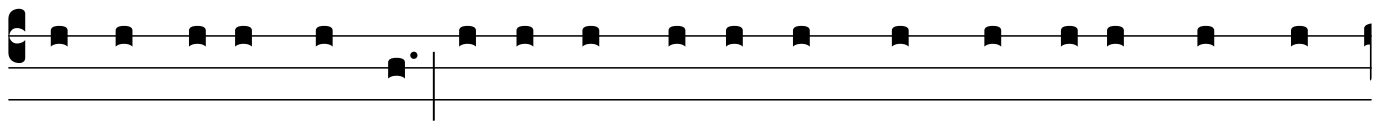
the Lord God: I swear that the nations that are all around you shall themselves



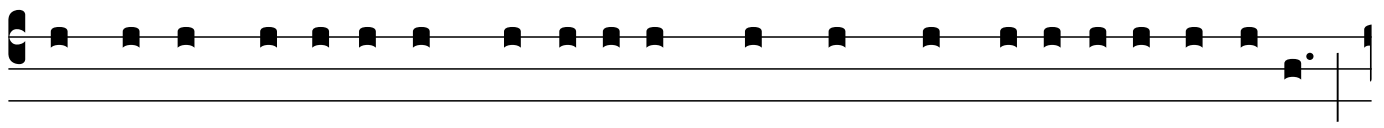
suffer insults. But you, O mountains of Israel, shall shoot out your branches



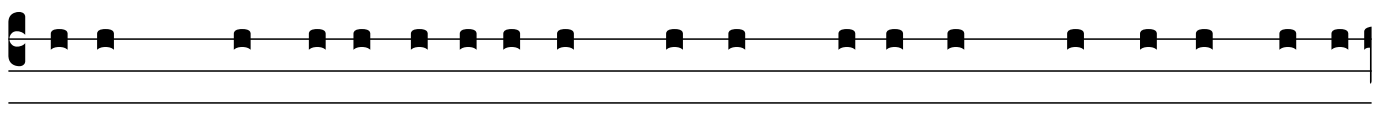
and yield your fruit to my people Israel, for they shall soon come home.



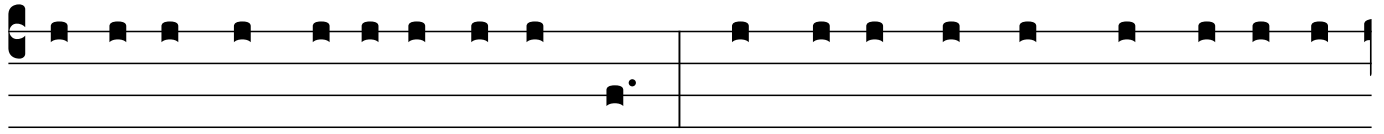
See now, I am for you; I will turn to you, and you shall be tilled and sown,



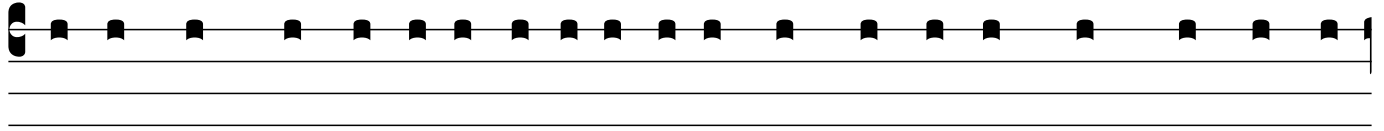
and I will multiply your population, the whole house of Israel, all of it;



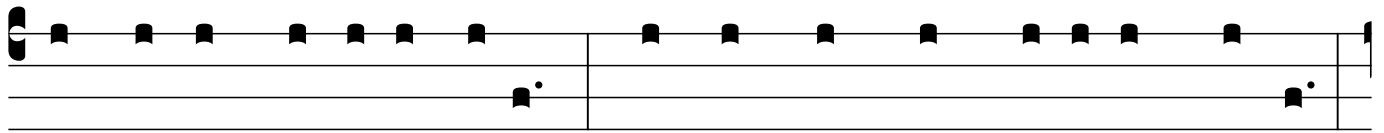
the towns shall be inhabited and the waste places rebuilt, and I will multi-



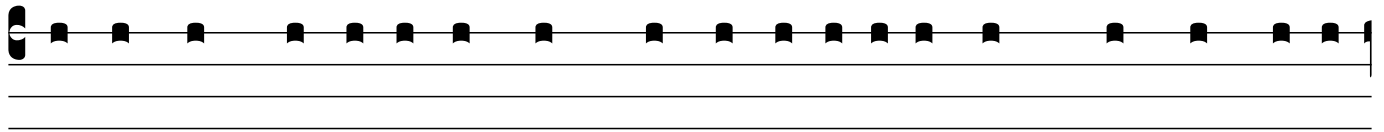
ply humans and animals upon you. They shall increase and be fruitful, and



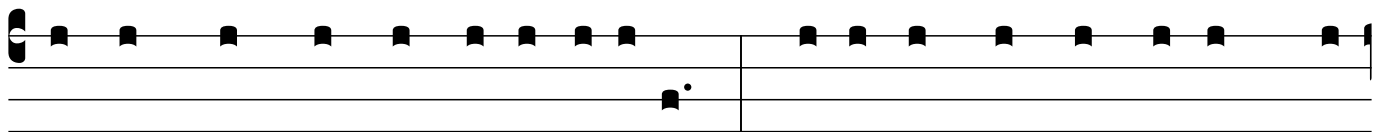
I will cause you to be inhabited as in your former times and will do more



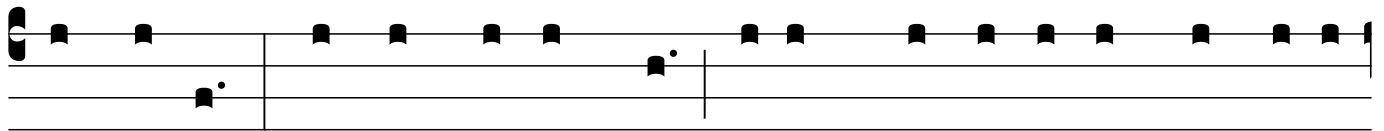
good to you than ever before. Then you shall know that I am the Lord.



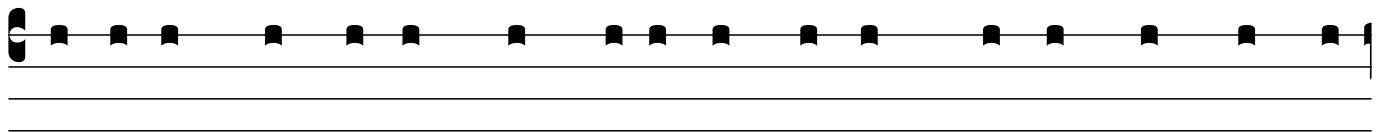
I will lead people upon you—my people Israel—and they shall possess



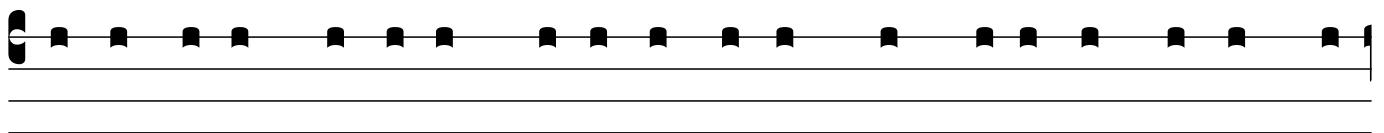
you, and you shall be their inheritance. No longer shall you bereave them



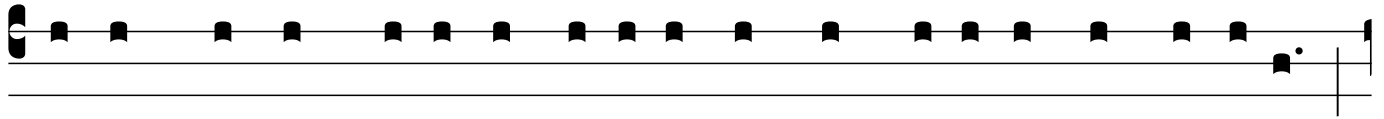
of children. Thus says the Lord God: Because they say to you, "You devour



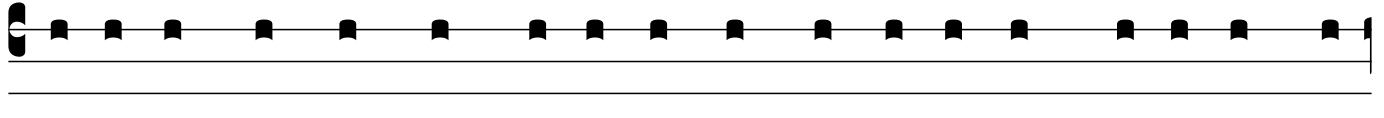
people, and you bereave your nation of children," therefore you shall no



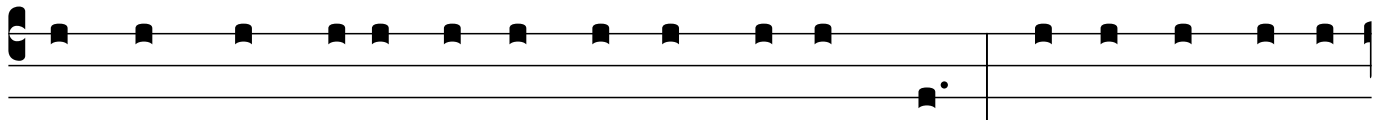
longer devour people and no longer bereave your nation of children, says



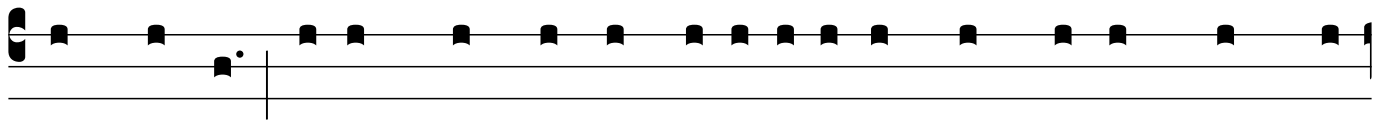
the Lord God, and no longer will I let you hear the insults of the nations;



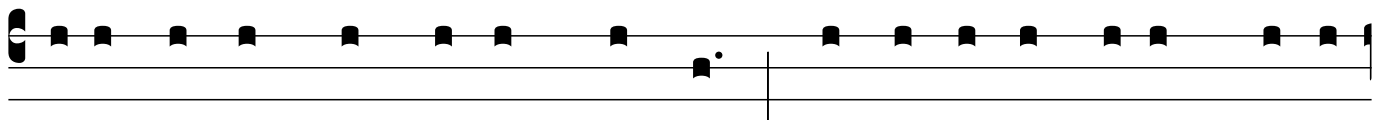
no longer shall you bear the disgrace of the peoples, and no longer shall



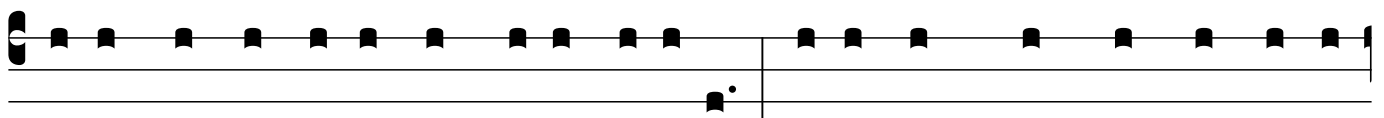
you cause your nation to stumble, says the Lord God. The word of the Lord



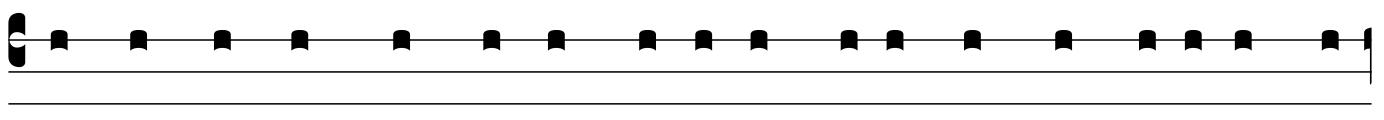
came to me: Mortal, when the house of Israel lived on their own soil, they



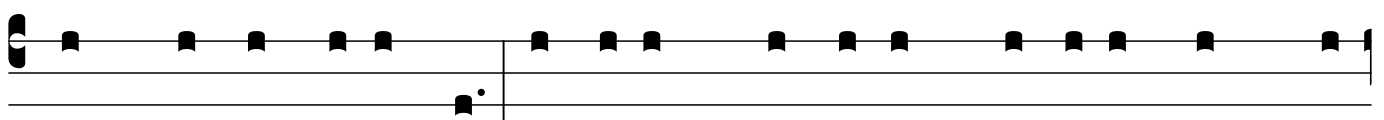
de-filed it with their ways and their deeds; their conduct in my sight was like



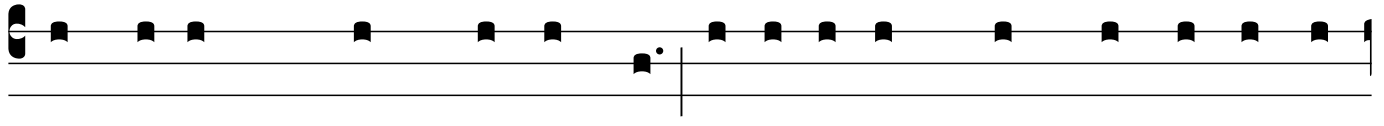
the uncleanness of a menstrual period. So I poured out my wrath upon



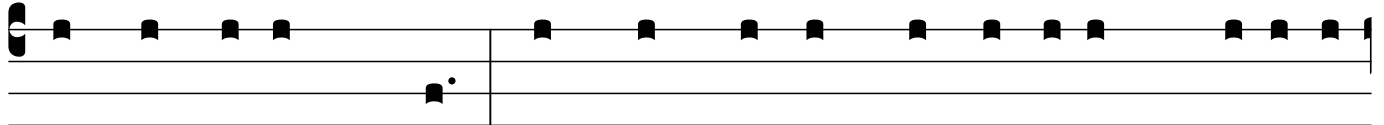
them for the blood that they had shed upon the land and for the idols with



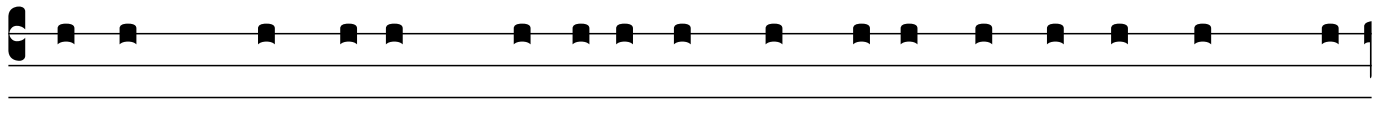
which they had de-filed it. I scattered them among the nations, and they



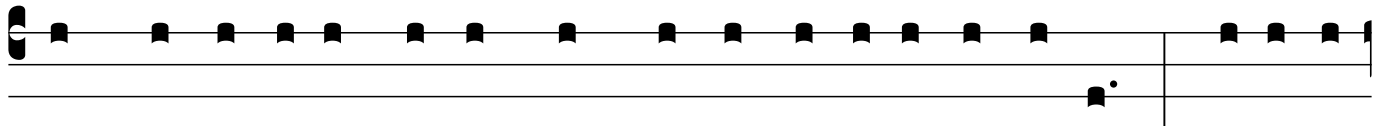
were dispersed through the countries; in accordance with their conduct and



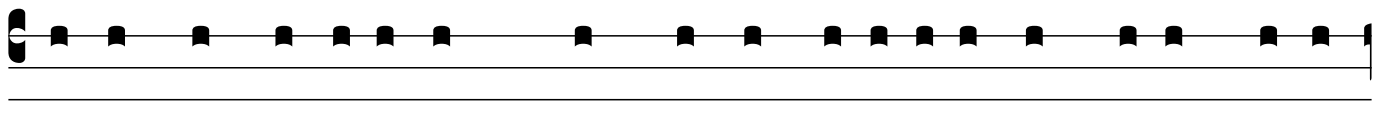
their deeds I judged them. But when they came to the nations, wher-ev-er



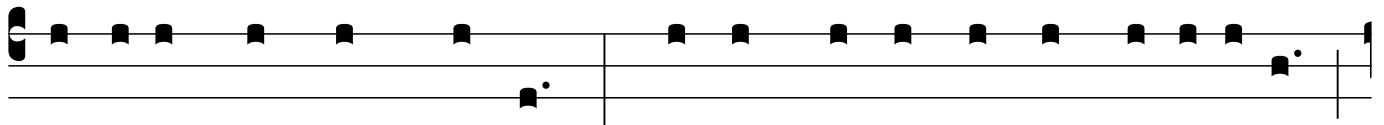
they came, they pro-faned my ho-ly name, in that it was said of them, "These



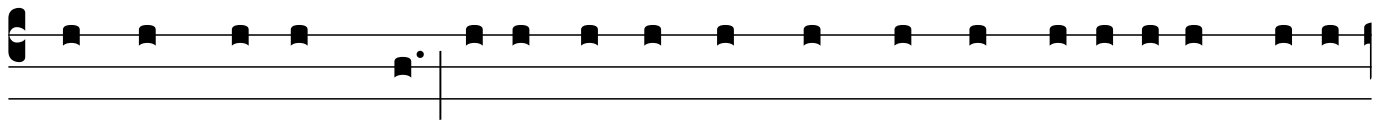
are the people of the Lord, yet they had to go out of his land." But I had



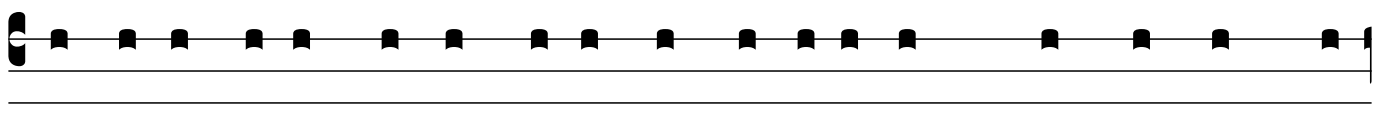
concern for my ho-ly name, which the house of Isra- el had pro-faned among



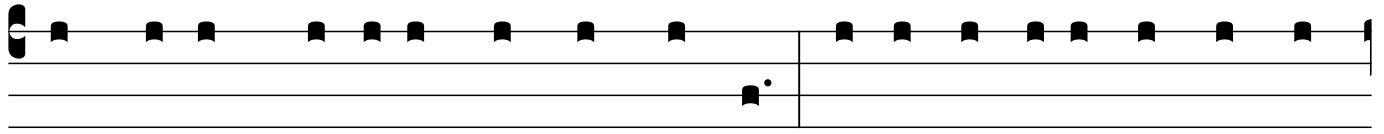
the nations to which they came. Therefore say to the house of Isra- el:



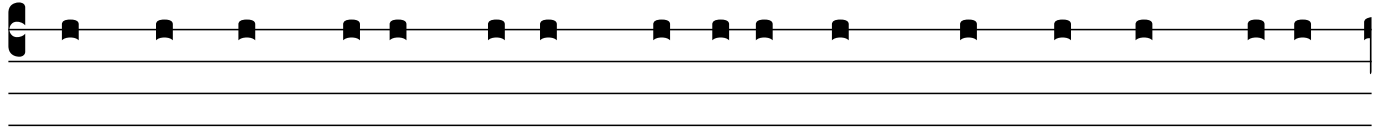
Thus says the Lord God: It is not for your sake, O house of Isra- el, that I



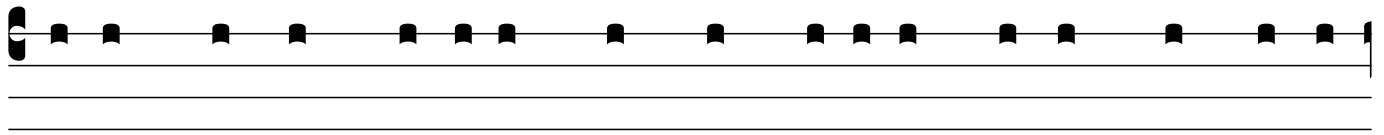
am about to act but for the sake of my ho-ly name, which you have pro-



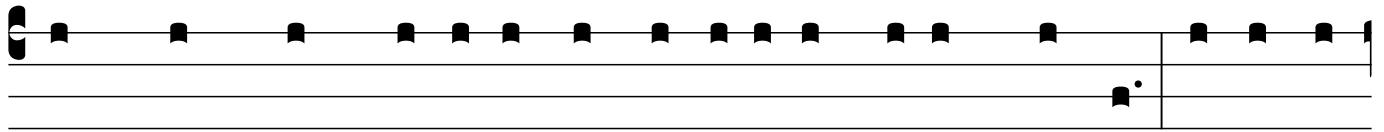
faned among the nations to which you came. I will sancti-fy my great name,



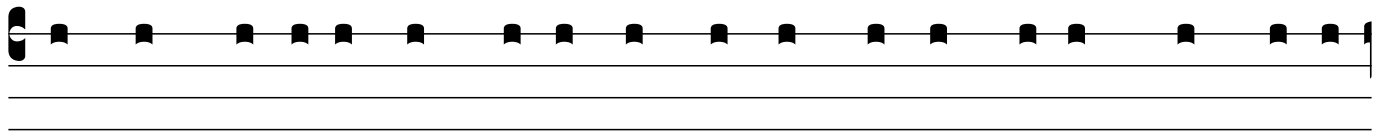
which has been pro-faned among the nations and which you have pro-faned



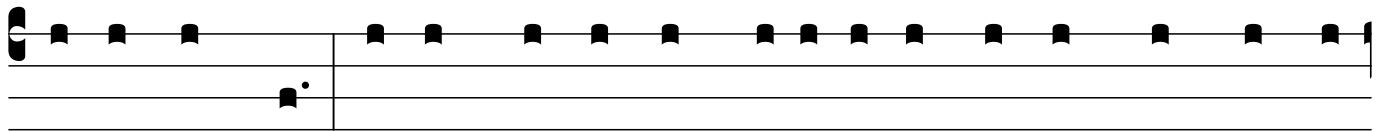
among them, and the nations shall know that I am the Lord, says the Lord



God, when through you I display my ho-li-ness be-fore their eyes. I will take



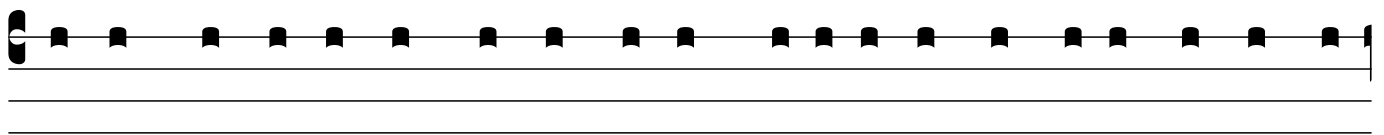
you from the nations and gather you from all the countries and bring you in-



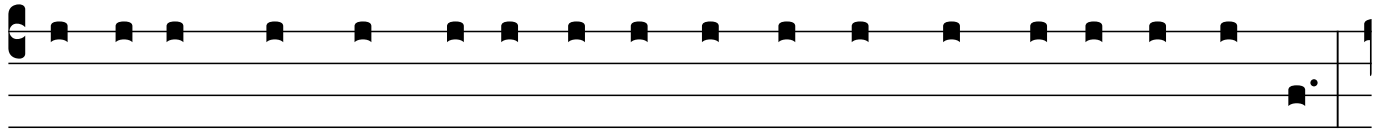
to your own land. I will sprinkle clean wa-ter up-on you, and you shall be



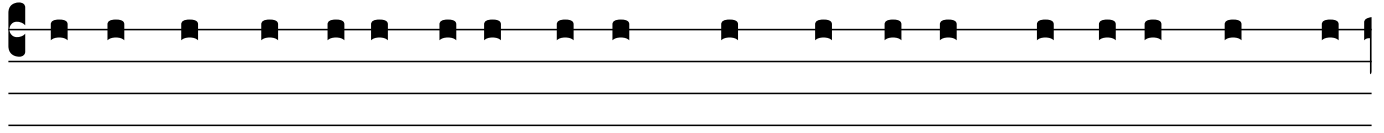
clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your i-dols I will cleanse you.



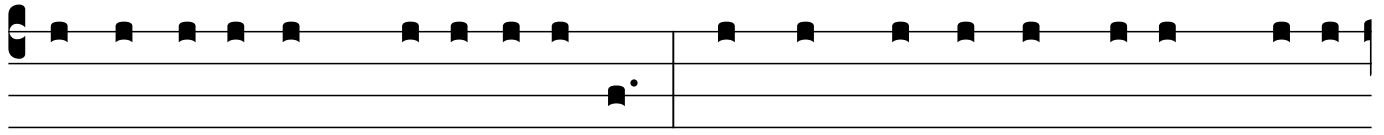
A new heart I will give you, and a new spir-it I will put within you, and I



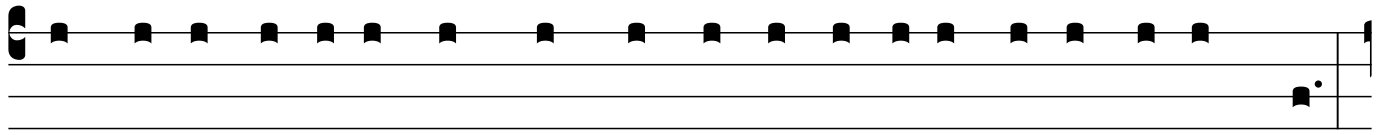
will remove from your bod-y the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.



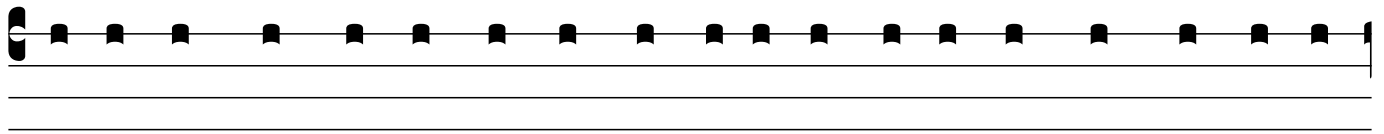
I will put my spir-it within you and make you fol-low my stat-utes and be



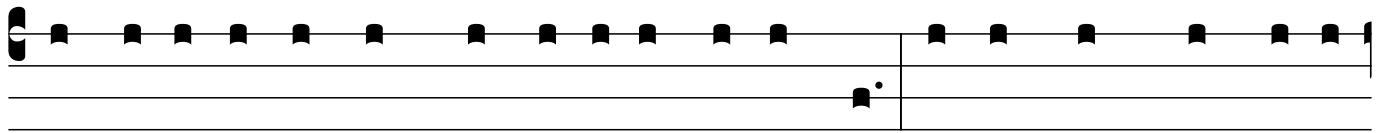
careful to observe my ordi-nances. Then you shall live in the land that I



gave to your ancestors, and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.



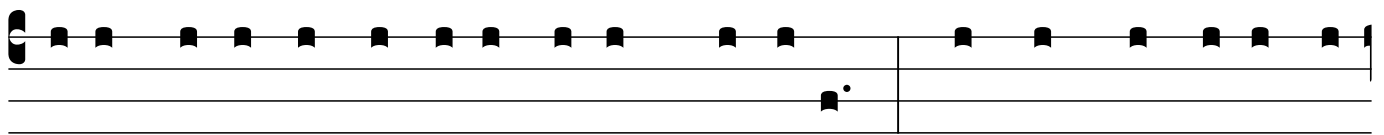
I will save you from all your uncleannesses, and I will summon the grain and



make it a-bundant and lay no famine up-on you. I will make the fruit of



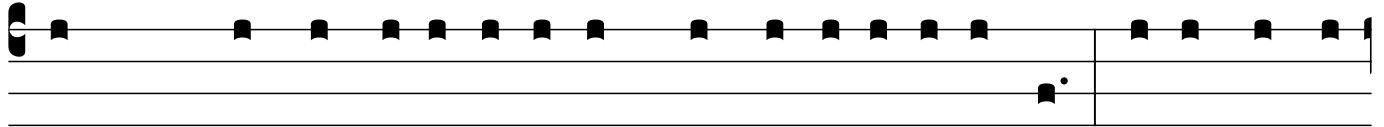
the tree and the pro-duce of the field a-bundant, so that you may nev-er again



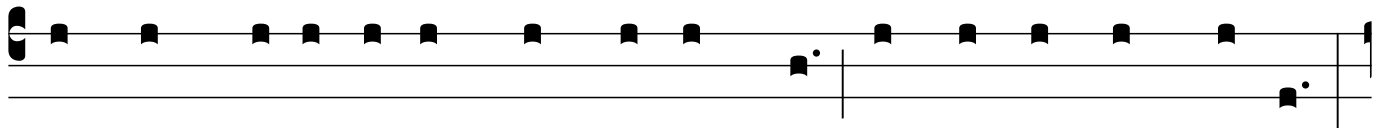
suffer the disgrace of famine among the nations. Then you shall remember



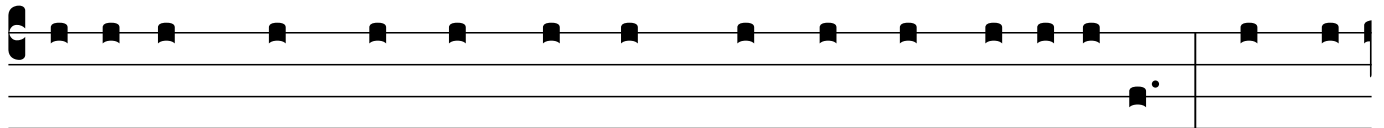
your e-vil ways and your deal-ings that were not good, and you shall loathe



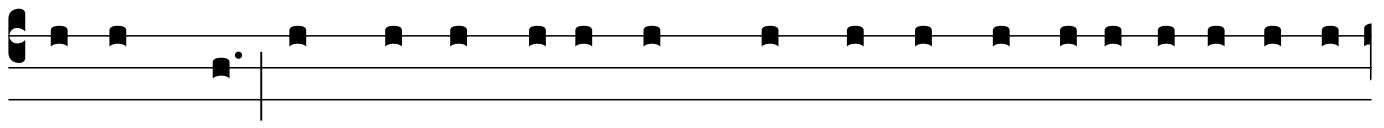
yourselves for your in-iqui-ties and your a-bomi-nable deeds. It is not for



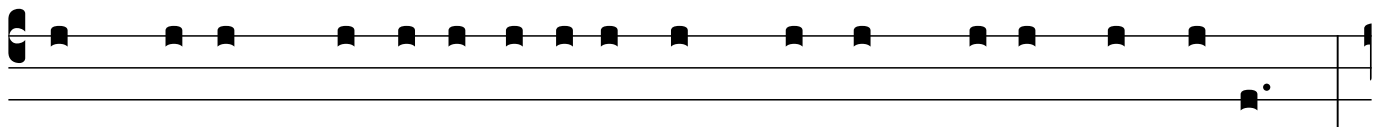
your sake that I will act, says the Lord God; let that be known to you.



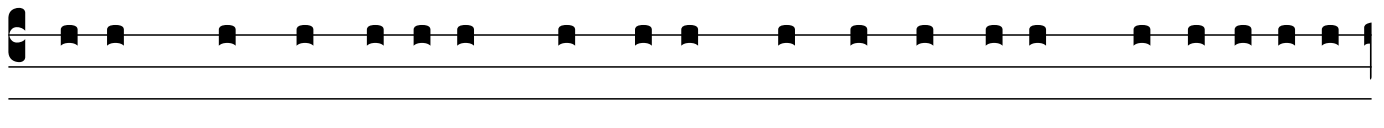
Be ashamed and dismayed for your ways, O house of Isra-el. Thus says



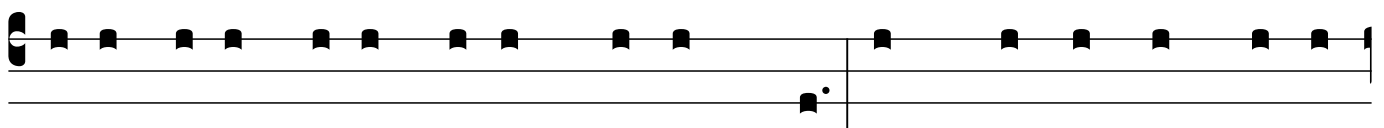
the Lord God: On the day that I cleanse you from all your in-iqui-ties, I will



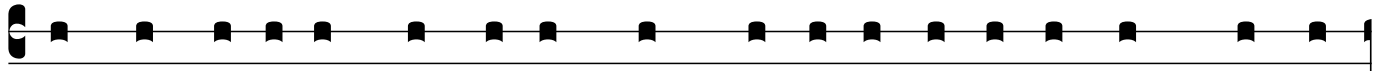
cause the towns to be inhab-it-ed, and the waste plac-es shall be rebuilt.



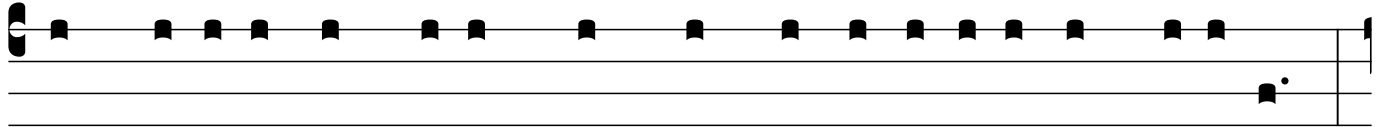
The land that was des-o-late shall be tilled, instead of be- ing the des-o-lation



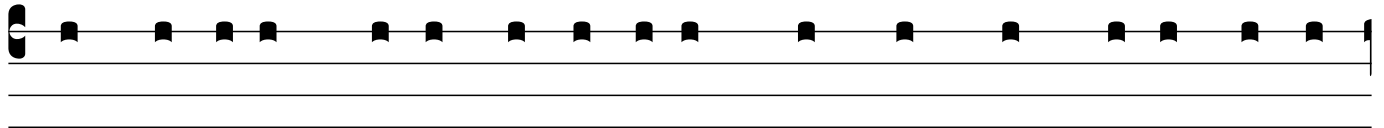
that it was in the sight of all who passed by. And they will say,“This land



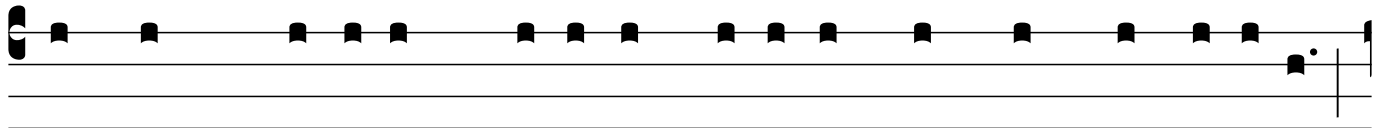
that was des-o-late has be-come like the garden of E-den, and the waste



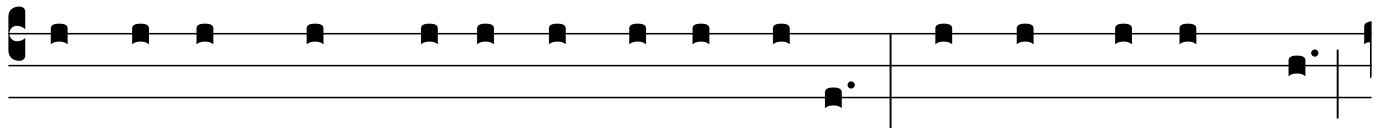
and des-o-late and ru-ined towns are now inhab-it-ed and forti-fied.”



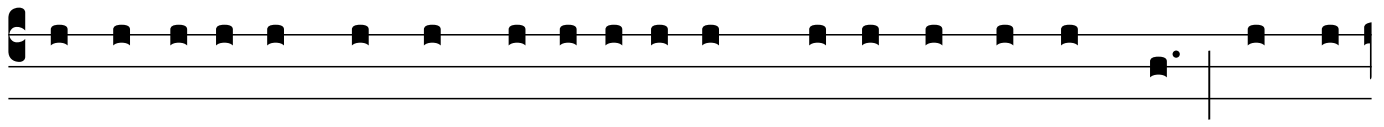
Then the nations that are left all around you shall know that I, the Lord,



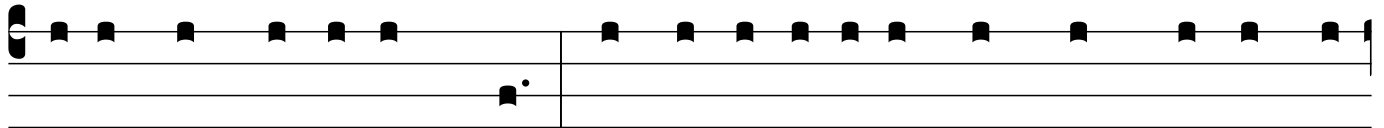
have rebuilt the ru-ined plac-es and replanted that which was des-o-late;



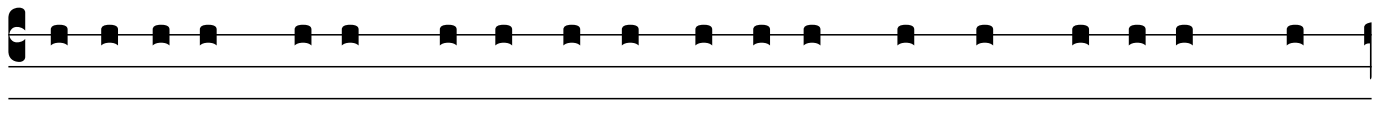
I, the Lord, have spo-ken, and I will do it. Thus says the Lord God:



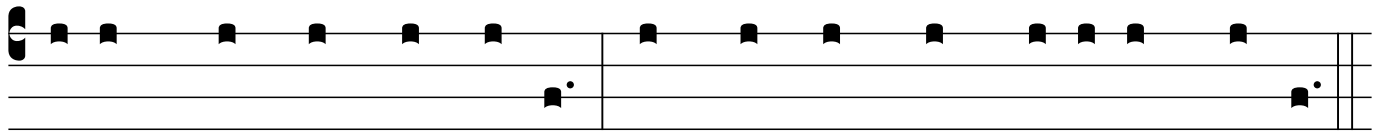
I will also let the house of Isra-el ask me to do this for them: to mul-



tiply their people like sheep. Like a consecrat-ed flock, like the flock at



Je-ru-sa-lem dur-ing her appointed fes-ti-vals, so shall the ru-ined towns



be filled with flocks of people. Then they shall know that I am the Lord.