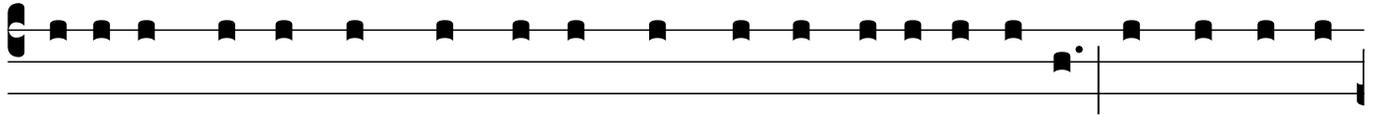


Ezekiel 37

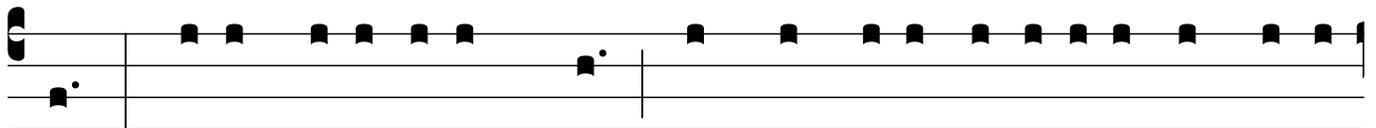
Vigil on the Eve of Baptism 5



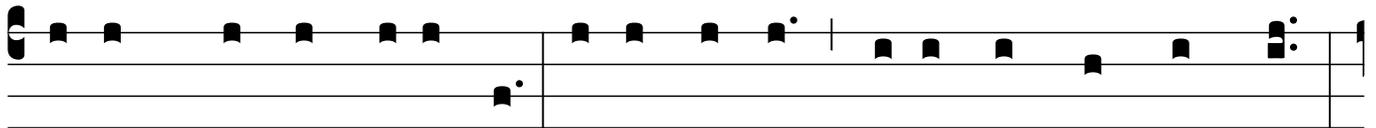
The hand of the Lord came up-on me, and he brought me out by the



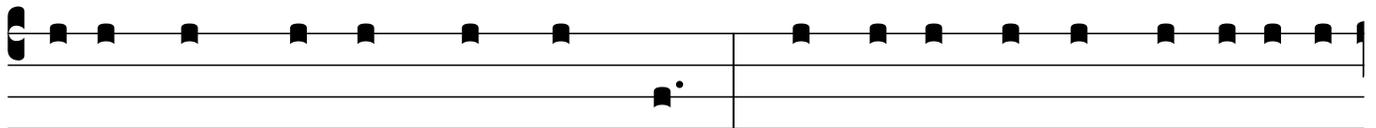
spir-it of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of



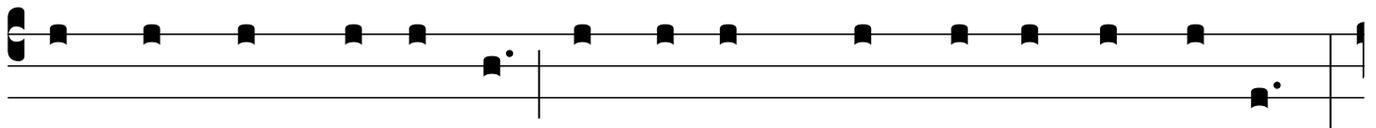
bones. He led me all around them; there were ver-y man-y ly- ing in the val-



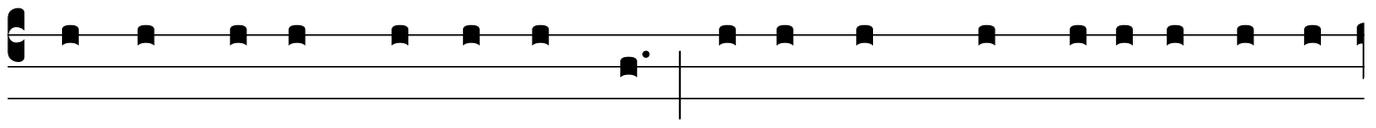
ley, and they were ver-y dry. He said to me, “Mortal, can these bones live?”



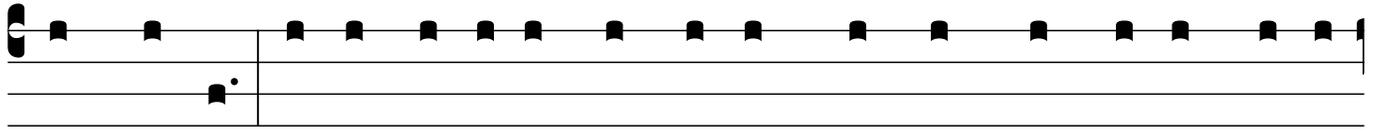
I answered, “O Lord God, you know.” Then he said to me, “Prophe-sy to



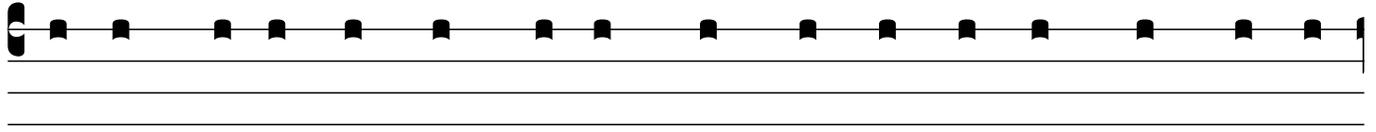
these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord.



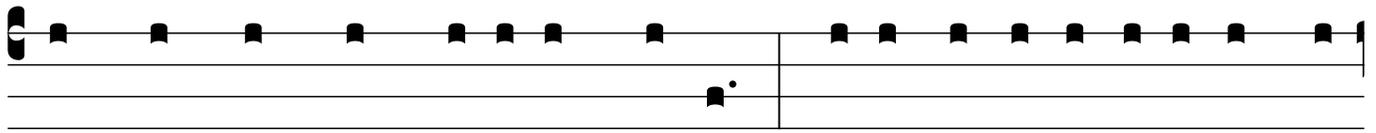
Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and



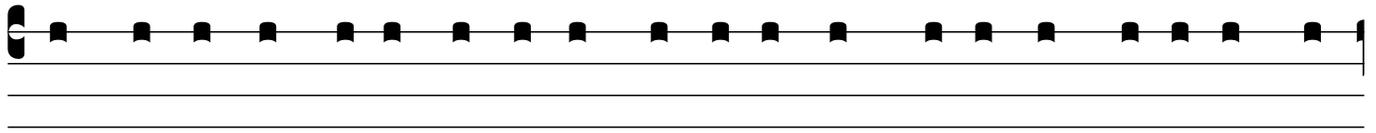
you shall live. I will lay sin-ews on you and will cause flesh to come up-on



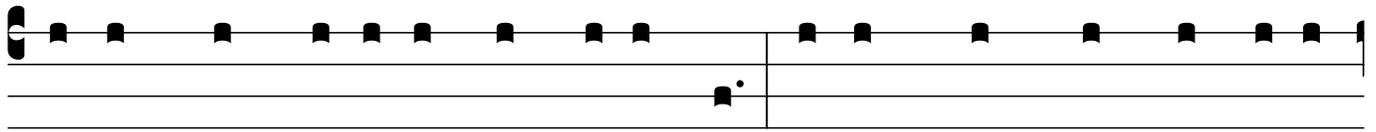
you and cov-er you with skin and put breath in you, and you shall live,



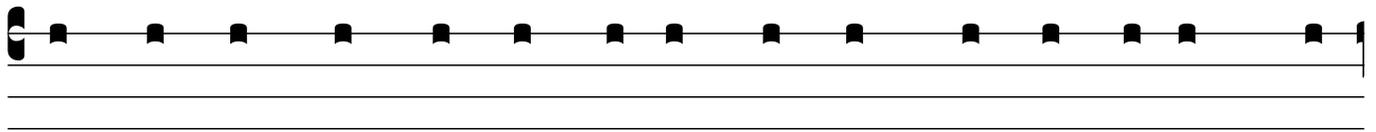
and you shall know that I am the Lord.” So I prophe-sied as I had been



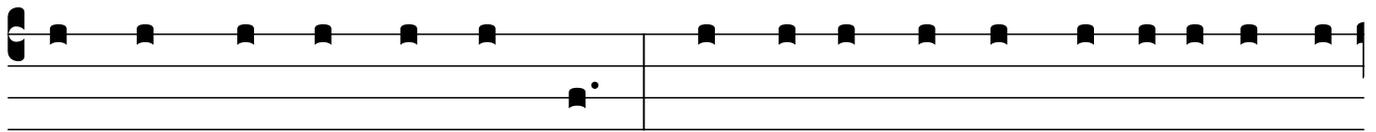
commanded, and as I prophe-sied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and



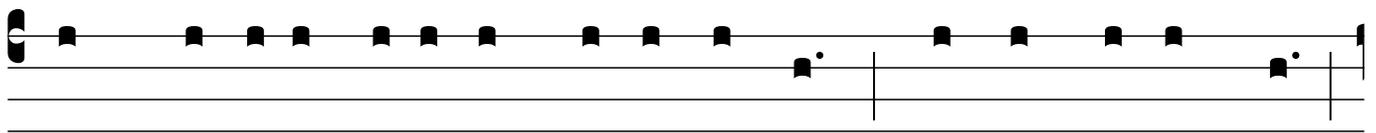
the bones came to-gether, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sin-ews



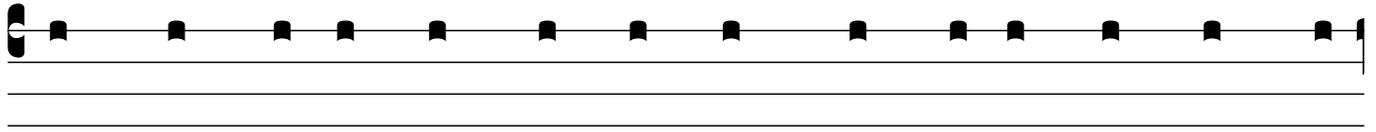
on them, and flesh had come up-on them, and skin had cov-ered them,



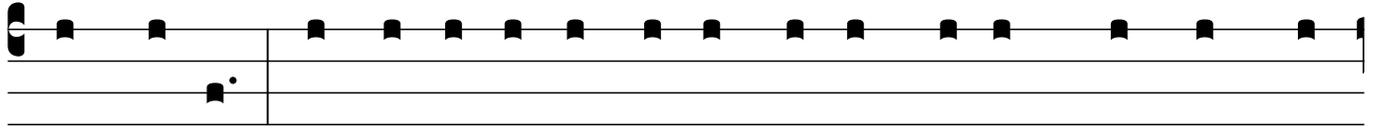
but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me,“Prophe-sy to the



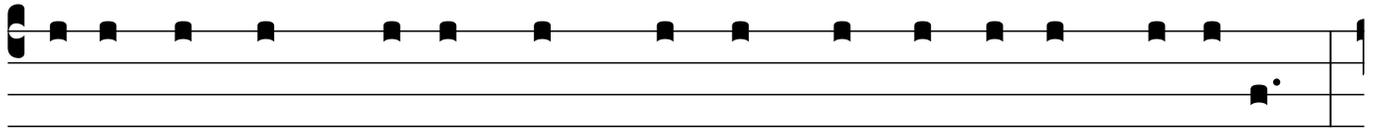
breath, prophe-sy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God:



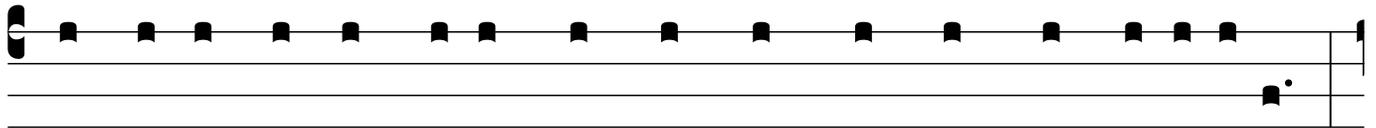
Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe up-on these slain, that



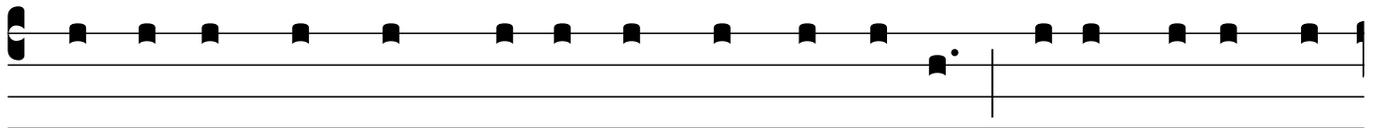
they may live.” I prophe-sied as he commanded me, and the breath came



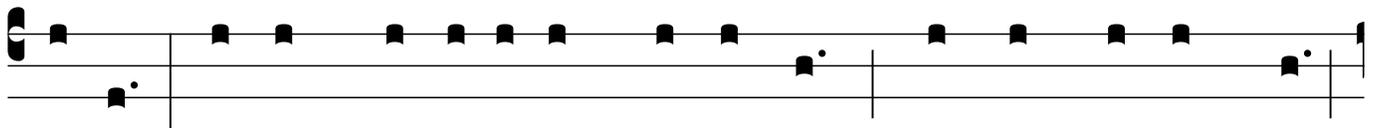
into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast mul-ti-tude.



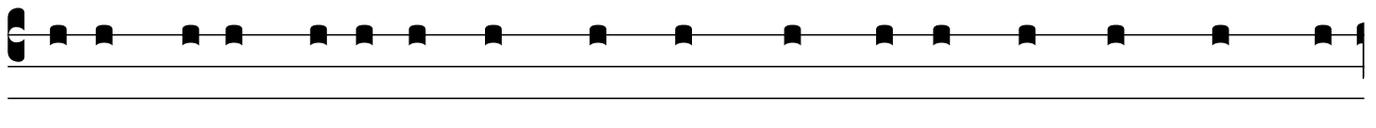
Then he said to me,“Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Isra- el.



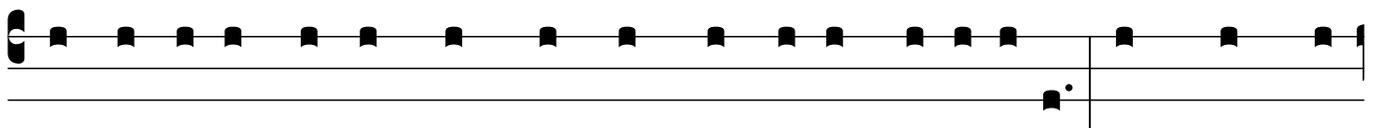
They say,‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off com-



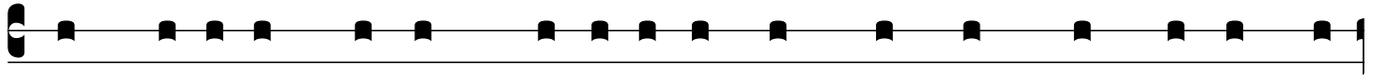
pletely.’ Therefore prophe-sy and say to them: Thus says the Lord God:



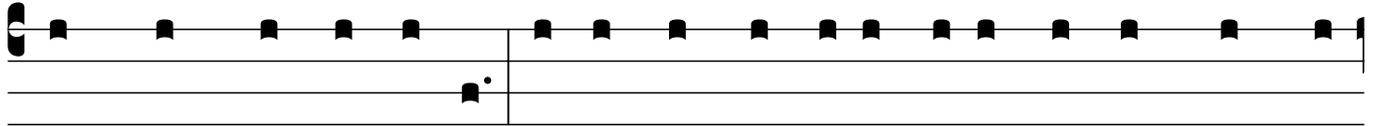
I am go- ing to o-pen your graves and bring you up from your graves, O



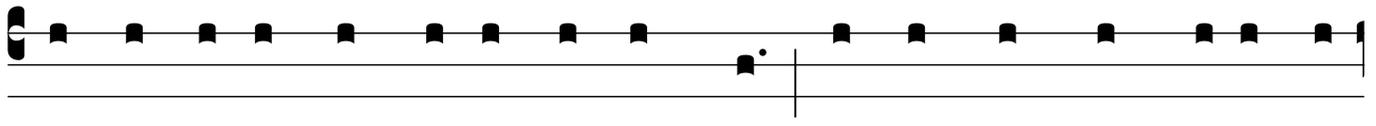
my people, and I will bring you back to the land of Isra- el. And you shall



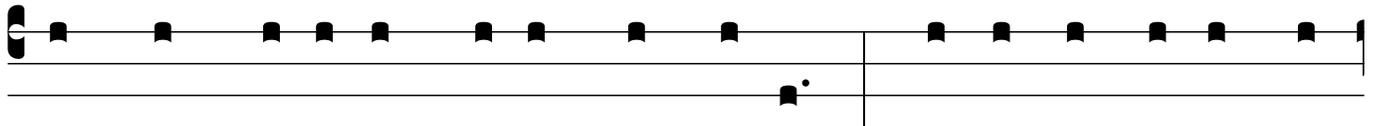
know that I am the Lord when I o-pen your graves and bring you up from



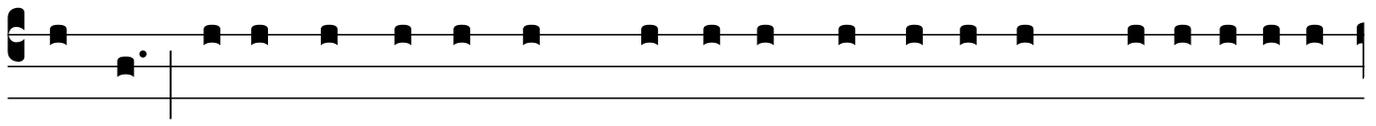
your graves, O my people. I will put my spir-it within you, and you shall



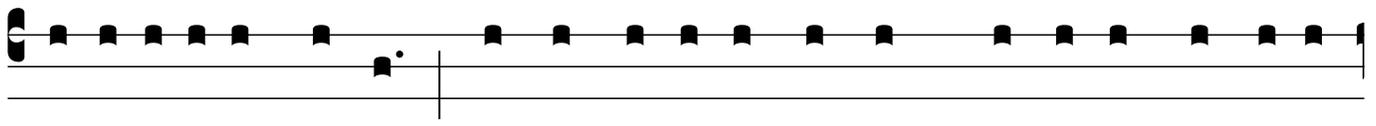
live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the



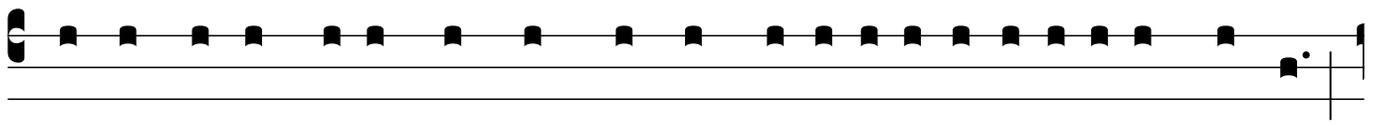
Lord, have spo-ken and will act, says the Lord.” The word of the Lord came



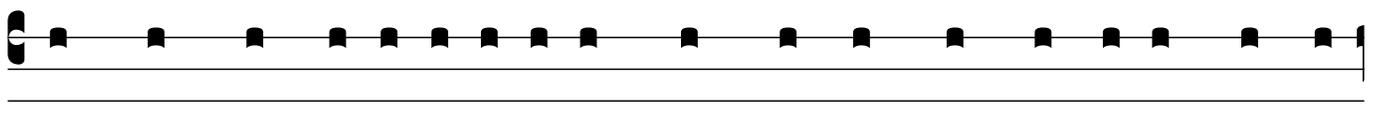
to me: Mortal, take a stick and write on it,“For Ju-dah and the Isra-el-ites



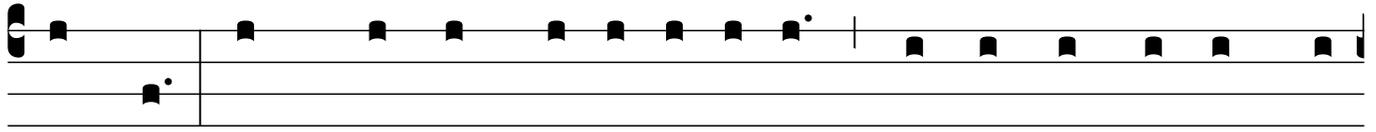
asso-ci- at-ed with it”; then take an-other stick and write on it,“For Jo-seph



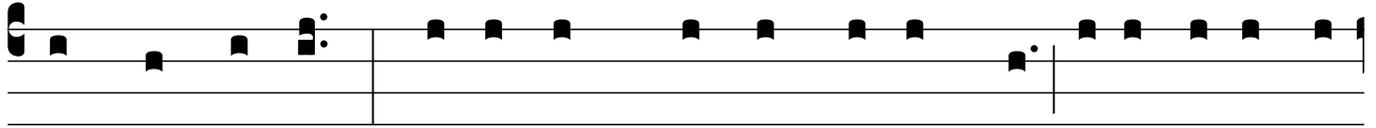
(the stick of Ephra- im) and all the house of Isra-el asso-ci- at-ed with it”;



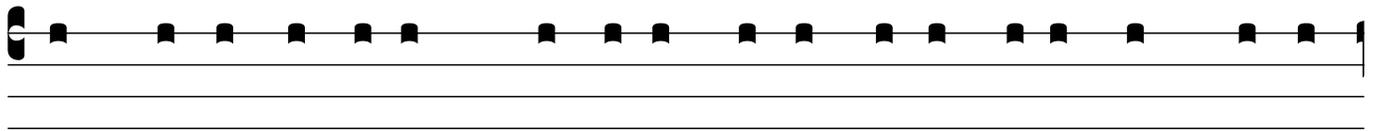
and join them to-gether into one stick, so that they may be-come one in



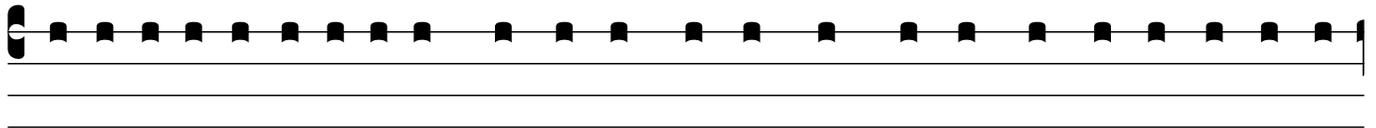
your hand. And when your people say to you, “Will you not show us what



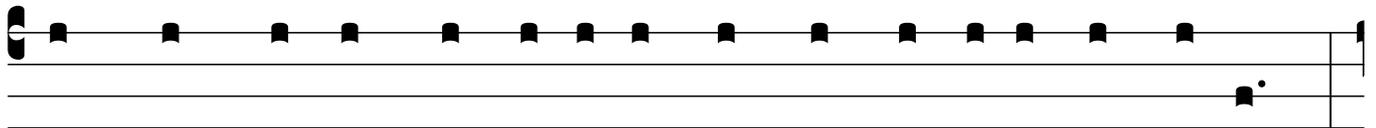
you mean by these?” say to them, “Thus says the Lord God: I am about to



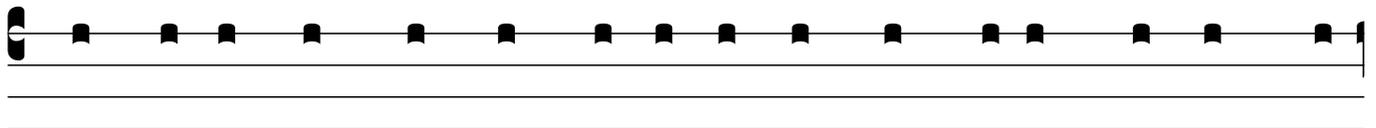
take the stick of Jo-seph (which is in the hand of Ephra- im) and the tribes



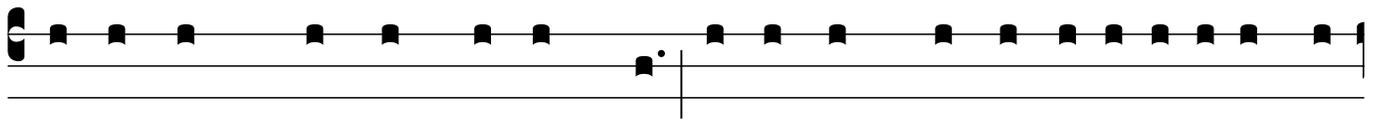
of Isra- el asso-ci- at-ed with it, and I will put the stick of Ju-dah up-on it



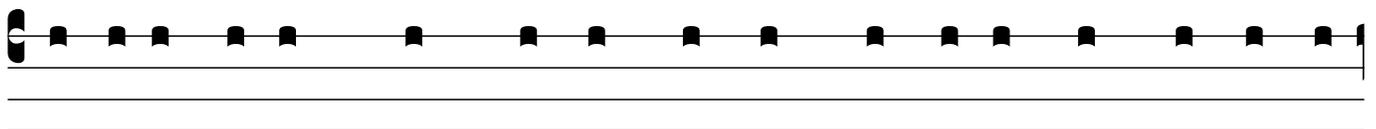
and make them one stick, in order that they may be one in my hand.”



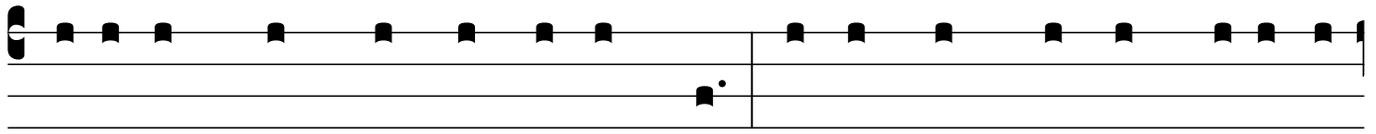
When the sticks on which you write are in your hand be-fore their eyes, then



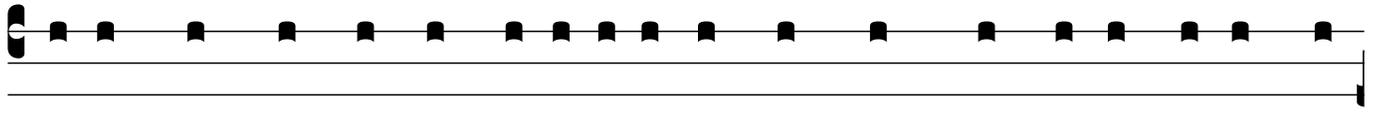
say to them, “Thus says the Lord God: I will take the people of Isra- el from



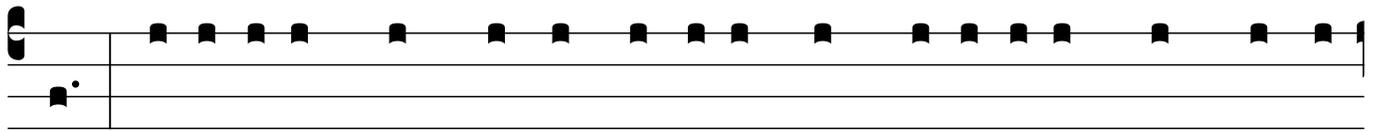
the nations among which they have gone and will gather them from every



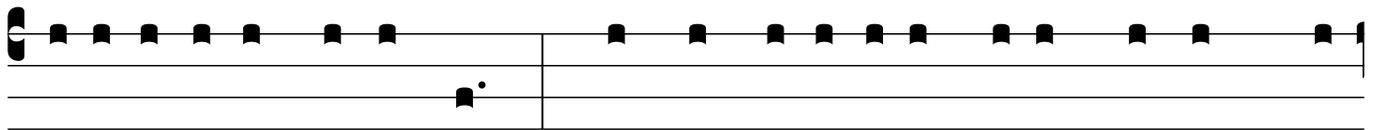
quarter and bring them to their own land. I will make them one nation in



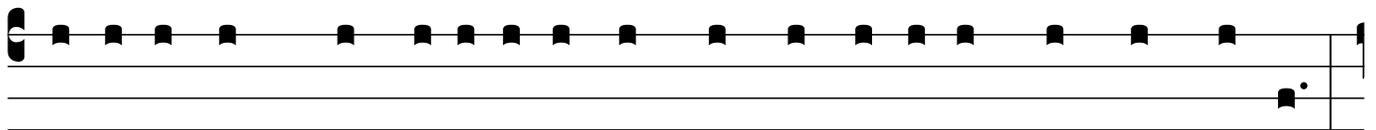
the land, on the mountains of Isra- el, and one king shall be king o-ver them



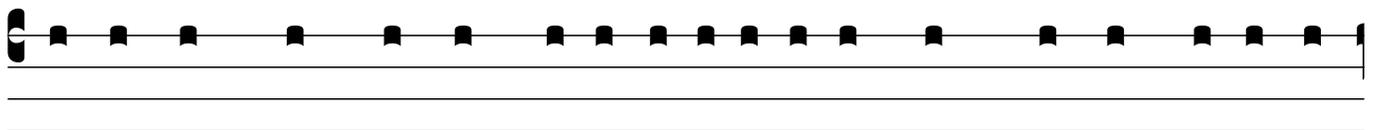
all. Nev-er again shall they be two nations, and nev-er again shall they be



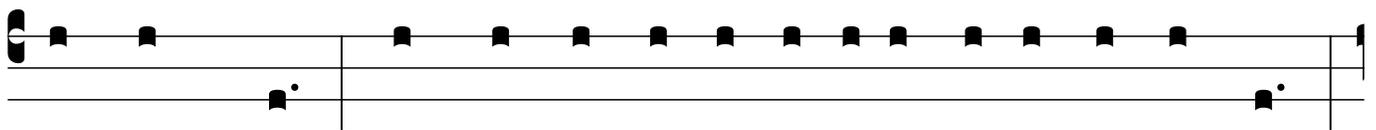
di-vid-ed into two kingdoms. They shall nev-er again de-file themselves with



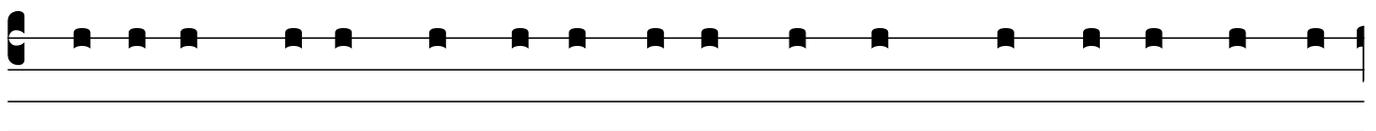
their i-dols and their de-testable things or with an-y of their transgressions.



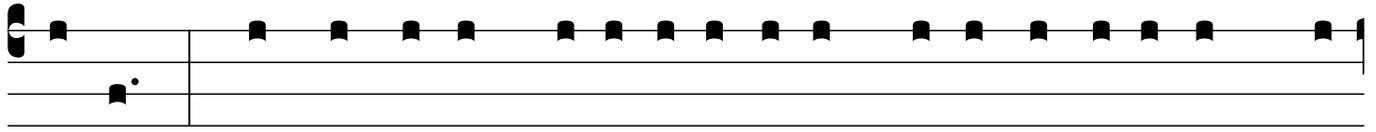
I will save them from all the a-postasies into which they have fall-en and



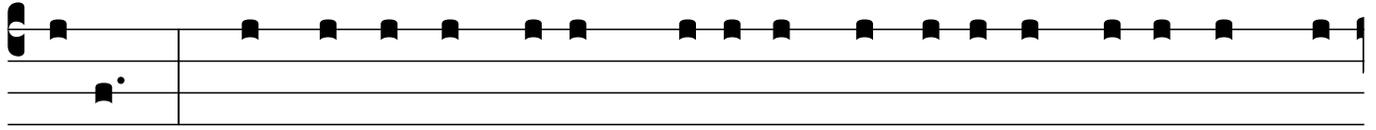
will cleanse them. Then they shall be my people, and I will be their God.



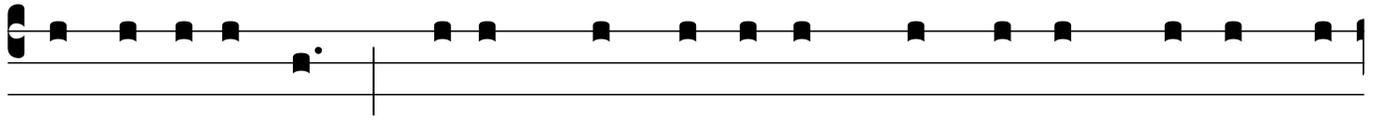
“My servant Da-vid shall be king o-ver them, and they shall all have one



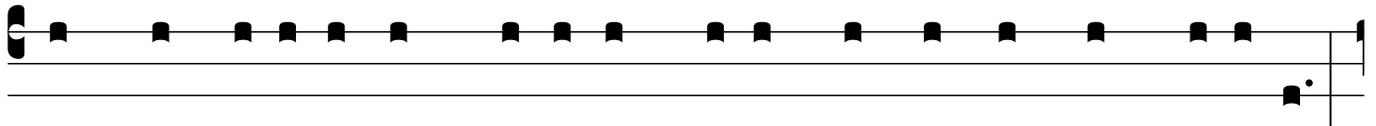
shepherd. They shall fol-low my ordi-nances and be careful to observe my



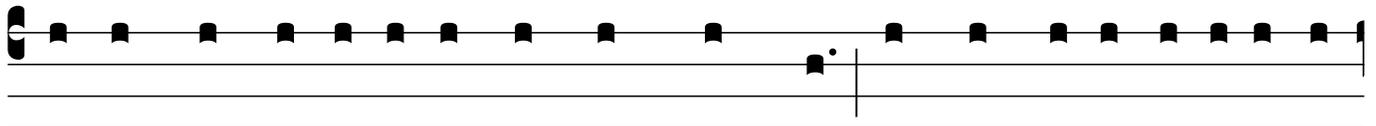
stat-utes. They shall live in the land that I gave to my servant Ja-cob, in which



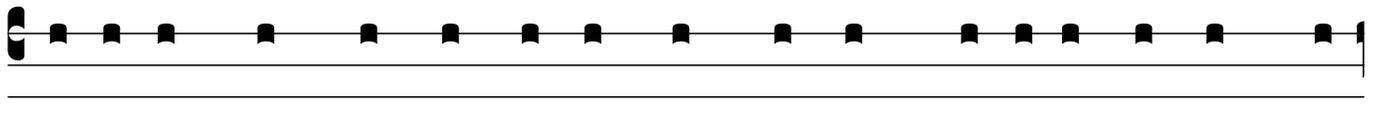
your ancestors lived; they and their children and their children's children shall



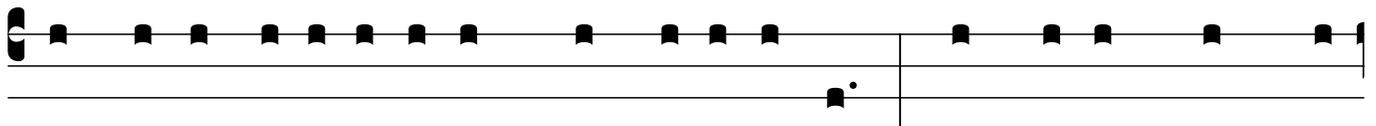
live there for-ev-er, and my servant Da-vid shall be their prince for-ev-er.



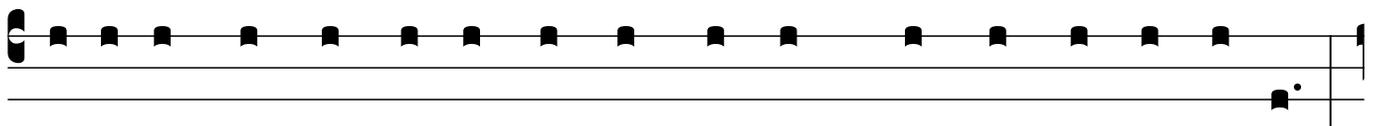
I will make a cov-e-nant of peace with them; it shall be an ev-erlast-ing



cov-e-nant with them, and I will bless them and mul-ti-ply them and will



set my sanctu- ar-y among them for-ev-ermore. My dwell-ing place shall



be o-ver them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

