

Old Testament

Job 19:1, 23-27a

I know that my Vindicator lives.

A reading from the Book of Job

Job answered Bildad the Shuhite and said:

Oh, would that my words were written down!

 Would that they were inscribed in a record:

That with an iron chisel and with lead

 they were cut in the rock forever!

But as for me, I know that my Vindicator lives,

 and that he will at last stand forth upon the dust;

Whom I myself shall see:

 my own eyes, not another's, shall behold him;

And from my flesh I shall see God;

 my inmost being is consumed with longing.

The word of the Lord.

Old Testament

Proverbs 31:10-12, 14, 21-23, 25-31

Her family praises her and she is rewarded for her labors.

A reading from the Book of Proverbs.

When one finds a worthy wife, her value is far beyond pearls.
Her husband, entrusting his heart to her, has an unfailing prize.
She brings him good, and not evil, all the days of her life.
Like merchant ships, she secures her provisions from afar.
She fears not the snow for her household;
 all her charges are doubly clothed.
She makes her own coverlets; fine linen and purple are her clothing.
Her husband is prominent at the city gates
 as he sits with the elders of the land.
She is clothed with strength and dignity,
 and she laughs at the days to come.
She opens her mouth in wisdom, and on her tongue is kindly counsel.
She watches the conduct of her household, and eats not food in idleness.
Her children rise up and praise her, her husband, too, extols her.
Many are the women of proven worth, but you have excelled them all.
Charm is deceptive and beauty fleeting;
 the woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.
Give her a reward of her labors,
 and let her works praise her at the city gates.

The word of the Lord.

Old Testament

Ecclesiastes 3:1-15

There is an appointed time for everything.

A reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes

There is an appointed time for everything,
and a time for every affair under the heavens.
A time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to uproot the plant.
A time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to tear down, and a time to build.
A time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance.
A time to scatter stones, and a time to gather them;
a time to embrace, and a time to be far from embraces.
A time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to cast away.
A time to rend, and a time to sew;
a time to be silent, and a time to speak.
A time to love, and a time to hate;
a time of war, and a time of peace.

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Old Testament

Ecclesiastes 3:1-15, *continued from previous page*

What advantage has the worker from his toil?

I have considered the task which God has appointed
for all to be busied about.

He has made everything appropriate to its time,
and has put the timeless into their hearts, without them ever discovering,
from beginning to end, the work which God has done.

I recognize that whatever God does will endure forever;
there is no adding to it or taking from it.

Thus has God done that he may be revered.

What now is has already been; what is to be, already is;
and God restores what would otherwise be displaced.

The word of the Lord.

Old Testament

Wisdom 3:1-6, 9 (short form)

As sacrificial offerings he took them to himself.

A reading from the Book of Wisdom

The souls of the just are in the hand of God,
and no torment shall touch them.

They seemed, in the view of the foolish, to be dead;
and their passing away was thought an affliction
and their going forth from us, utter destruction.

But they are in peace.

For if before men, indeed they be punished,
yet is their hope full of immortality;

Chastised a little, they shall be greatly blessed,
because God tried them
and found them worthy of himself.

As gold in the furnace, he proved them,
and as sacrificial offerings he took them to himself.

Those who trust in him shall understand truth,
and the faithful shall abide with him in love:

Because grace and mercy are with his holy ones,
and his care is with his elect.

The word of the Lord.

Old Testament

Wisdom 4:7-15

An unsullied life, the attainment of old age.

A reading from the Book of Wisdom

The just man, though he die early,
shall be at rest.

For the age that is honorable comes not
with the passing of time,
nor can it be measured in terms of years.

Rather, understanding is the hoary crown for men,
and an unsullied life, the attainment of old age.

He who pleased God was loved;
he who lived among sinners was transported—
Snatched away, lest wickedness pervert his mind
or deceit beguile his soul;

For the witchery of paltry things obscures what is right
and the whirl of desire transforms the innocent mind.

Having become perfect in a short while,
he reached the fullness of a long career;
for his soul was pleasing to the LORD,
therefore he sped him out of the midst of wickedness.

But the people saw and did not understand,
nor did they take this into account.

The word of the Lord.

Old Testament

Wisdom 7:21-8:1

The nature and incomparable dignity of Wisdom.

A reading from the Book of Wisdom

Whatever is hidden or plain I learned,
for Wisdom, the artisan of all, taught me.

*For in her is a spirit
intelligent, holy, unique,
manifold, subtle, agile,
clear, unstained, certain,
never harmful, loving the good, keen,
unhampered, beneficent, kindly,
firm, secure, tranquil,
all-powerful, all-seeing,
and pervading all spirits,
though they be intelligent, pure and very subtle.

For Wisdom is mobile beyond all motion,
and she penetrates and pervades all things by reason
of her purity.

For she is a breath of the might of God
and a pure emanation of the glory of the Almighty;
therefore nothing defiled can enter into her.

For she is the reflection of eternal light,
the spotless mirror of the power of God,
the image of his goodness.

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Old Testament

Wisdom 7:21–8:1, *continued from previous page*

Although she is one, she can do all things,
and she renews everything while herself perduring;
passing into holy souls from age to age,
she produces friends of God and prophets.

For God loves nothing so much as the one who dwells with Wisdom.

For she is fairer than the sun

and surpasses every constellation of the stars.

Compared to light, she is found more radiant;

though night supplants light,

wickedness does not prevail over Wisdom.

Indeed, she spans the world from end to end mightily

and governs all things well.

The Word of the Lord.

Old Testament

Sirach 44:1, 10-15

The wisdom of our ancestors will live on.

A reading from the Book of Sirach

Now I will praise those godly people, our ancestors,
each in his own time;

These were godly people whose virtues have not been forgotten;

Their wealth remains in their families,
their heritage with their descendants;

Through God's covenant with them their family endures,
their posterity, for their sake.

And for all time their progeny will endure,
their glory will never be blotted out;

Their bodies are peacefully laid away, but their name lives on and on.

At gatherings their wisdom is retold,
and the assembly proclaims their praise.

The word of the Lord.

Old Testament

Isaiah 25:6a, 7-9

He will destroy death forever.

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

On this mountain the LORD of hosts
will provide for all peoples.

On this mountain he will destroy
the veil that veils all peoples,

The web that is woven over all nations;
he will destroy death forever.

The Lord GOD will wipe away
the tears from all faces;

The reproach of his people he will remove
from the whole earth; for the LORD has spoken.

On that day it will be said:

"Behold our God, to whom we looked to save us!

This is the LORD for whom we looked;

let us rejoice and be glad that he has saved us!"

The word of the Lord.

Old Testament

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The word of the Lord.

Old Testament

Isaiah 43:1, 4, 10-11, 21

You are my chosen one, do not be afraid.

Thus says the Lord:

Here is your servant whom I uphold,

my chosen one with whom I am pleased;

I have formed you and I have grasped you by the hand.

Do not be afraid,

for I have called you by your name and you are mine.

You are precious in my eyes, you are honored, and I love you.

You are my witness, my servant whom I have chosen,

that people may know and believe me and understand that it is I.

I am the Lord, there is no other savior but me.

I have formed you for myself, to sing my praises, and I am your God.

The word of the Lord.

Old Testament

Lamentations 3:22-26

It is good to hope in silence for the saving help of the Lord.

A reading from the Book of Lamentations

The favors of the LORD are not exhausted,
his mercies are not spent;
They are renewed each morning,
so great is his faithfulness.

My portion is the LORD, says my soul;
therefore will I hope in him.

Good is the LORD to one who waits for him,
to the soul that seeks him;

It is good to hope in silence
for the saving help of the LORD.

The word of the Lord.