

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS



1. A reading from the book of Job (19:1,23-37a)

Job answered 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 READINGS



2. A reading from the book of Wisdom (long form - 3:1-9)

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 and affliction
and their going forth from us, utter destruction.

But they are in peace.

For if before others, 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.

In the time of their visitation they shall shine,
and shall dart about as sparks through stubble;
They shall judge nations and rule over peoples,
and the Lord shall be their King forever.

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.

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2. A reading from the book of Wisdom (short form - 3:1-6,9)

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 and affliction
and their going forth from us, utter destruction.
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For if before others, indeed, they be punished,
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3. A reading from the book of Wisdom (4:7-15)

The just one, though they 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 crown for humans,
and an unsullied life, the attainment of old age.

The one who pleased God was loved;
the one who lived among sinners was transported –
Snatched away, lest wickedness pervert their mind
or deceit beguile their 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,
they reach the fullness of a long career;
for their soul was pleasing to the Lord,
therefore He sped them 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.

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4. A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah (25:6a,7-9)

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.

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5. A reading from the book of Lamentations (3:17-26)

My soul is deprived of peace,
I have forgotten what happiness is;
I tell myself my future is lost,
all that I hoped for from the Lord.

The thought of my homeless poverty
is wormwood and gall;
Remembering is over and over
leaves my soul downcast within me.

But I will call this to mind,
as my reason to have hope:

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 I will hope in Him.

Good is the Lord to the 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.

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6. A reading from the book of the prophet Daniel (12:1-3)

In those days, I, Daniel, mourned
and heard this word of the Lord:
“At that time there shall arise
Michael, the great prince,
guardian of your people;
It shall be a time unsurpassed in distress
since nations began until that time.

At that time your people shall escape,
everyone who is found written in the book.

Many of those who sleep
in the dust of the earth shall awake;
Some shall live forever,
others shall be an everlasting horror and disgrace.

But the wise shall shine brightly
like the splendor of the firmament,
And those who lead the many to justice
shall be like the stars forever.”

The Word of the Lord.

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8. A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes (3:1-9)

There is an appointed time for everything,
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.

God has made everything appropriate to its time.

The Word of the Lord.

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS



9. A reading from the Song of Songs (8:6-7)

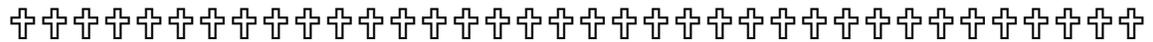
For love is as strong as death,
jealousy is as cruel as the grave.

Its flashes are flashes of fire,
a most vehement flame.

Many waters cannot quench love,
neither can floods drown it.

The Word of the Lord.

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12. A Reading from the Book of Sirach (26:1-4)

Happy the husband of a good wife,
twice-lengthened are his days;
a worthy wife brings joy to her husband
peaceful and full is his life.

A good wife is a generous gift
bestowed upon him who fears the Lord;
but be he rich or poor, his heart is content,
and a smile is ever on his face.

The Word of the Lord.

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS



15. A reading from the Book of Sirach (17:1-5)

God from the earth created man,
and in His own image He made him.

He makes man return to earth again,
and endows him with a strength of His own.

Limited days of life He gives him,
with power over all things else on earth.

He puts the fear of him in all flesh,
and gives him rule over beasts and birds.

He created for them counsel, and a tongue and eyes and ears,
and an inventive heart,
and filled them with the discipline of understanding.

He created in them knowledge of the spirit;
with wisdom He fills their heart;
good and evil He shows them.

He put the fear of Himself upon their hearts,
and showed them His mighty works,
that they might glory in the wonder of His deeds
and praise His holy name.

He has set before them knowledge,
a law of life as their inheritance;
an everlasting covenant he has made with them,
His justice and His judgments He has revealed to them.

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS



His majestic glory their eyes beheld,
His glorious voice their ears heard.

He says to them, "*Avoid all evil*";
each of them He gives precepts about his fellow men.

Their ways are ever known to Him,
they cannot be hidden from His eyes.

Over every nation He places a ruler,
but God's own portion is Israel.

All their actions are clear as the sun to Him,
His eyes are ever upon their ways.

The Word of the Lord.