

## Readings From The Old Testament

### --- Sirach 2: 6-11

A reading from the Book of Sirach:

Trust in God, and he will help you; make your ways straight and hope in him. You that fear the Lord, wait for his mercy, do not stray lest you fall. You that fear the Lord, trust in him, and your reward will not be lost. You that fear the Lord, hope for good things, for lasting joy and mercy. Consider the generations long past and see: has anyone trusted in the Lord and been disappointed? Has anyone persevered in his fear and been forsaken? Has anyone called upon him and been ignored? For the Lord is compassionate and merciful; forgives sins and saves in time of trouble.

The Word of the Lord.

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

- Omit the words in bolded brackets [ ] for the short form of this reading.

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.

[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.

### --- Wisdom 4:7-15

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.

**--- Isaiah 25:6a, 7-9**

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.

**--- Isaiah 40: 28-31**

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah:

Do you not know? Have you not heard?  
The Lord is the everlasting God, the creator of the ends  
of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his  
understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to  
the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even  
youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble  
and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their  
strength. They will soar on wings like eagles;  
they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not  
be faint.

The Word of the Lord.

**--- Isaiah 43: 1-3a**

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah:

But now, thus says the Lord, who created you, O Jacob,  
and formed you, O Israel: Fear not, for I have redeemed  
you; I have called you by name: you are mine.

When you pass through the water, I will be with you; in  
the rivers you shall not drown. When you walk through  
fire, you shall not be burned; the flames shall not  
consume you, for I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of  
Israel, your savior.

The Word of the Lord.

**--- Proverbs 3: 1-7**

A reading from the Book of Proverbs:

My child, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart  
keep my commandments; for length of days and years of

life, and abundant welfare they will give you. Do not let loyalty and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart. So you will find favor and good repute in the sight of God and of people. Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord, and turn away from evil.

The Word of the Lord.

**--- Ecclesiastes 3: 1-11**

A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven; a time to be born, a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up, a time to weep, a time to laugh; a time to morn and a time to dance; a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; 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 keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.

What gain has the worker for his toil? I have considered the task which God has appointed for men to be busied about. He has made everything appropriate to its time, and has put the timeless into their hearts, without man's ever discovering, from beginning to end, the work which God has done.

The Word of the Lord.

**READINGS FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT**

**--- Romans 5:5-11**

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans:

Brothers and sisters:

Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

For Christ, while we were still helpless, died at the appointed time for the ungodly.

Indeed, only with difficulty does one die for a just person, though perhaps for a good person one might even find courage to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us.

How much more then, since we are now justified by his Blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath.

Indeed, if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, how much more, once reconciled, will we be saved by his life. Not only that, but we also boast of God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

The word of the Lord.

**--- Romans 5:17-21**

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans:

Brothers and sisters: if, by the transgression of the one, death came to reign through that one, how much more will those who receive the abundance of

grace and of the gift of justification  
come to reign in life through the one Jesus Christ.  
In conclusion, just as through one transgression  
condemnation came upon all,  
so, through one righteous act,  
acquittal and life came to all.  
For just as through the disobedience of the one man  
the many were made sinners,  
so through the obedience of the one  
the many will be made righteous.  
The law entered in so that transgression might increase  
but, where sin increased, grace overflowed all the more,  
so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign  
through justification for eternal life  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The word of the Lord.

**--- Romans 6:3-9 (short form, 6:3-4, 8-9)**

- Omit the words in bolded brackets [ ] for the short form of this reading.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans:

Brothers and sisters:

Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ  
Jesus were baptized into his death?  
We were indeed buried with him through baptism into  
death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead  
by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness  
of life. [For if we have grown into union with him through  
a death like his, we shall also be united with him in the  
resurrection. We know that our old self was crucified with

him, so that our sinful body might be done away with,  
that we might no longer be in slavery to sin.  
For a dead person has been absolved from sin.]  
If, then, we have died with Christ,  
we believe that we shall also live with him.  
We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more;  
death no longer has power over him.

The word of the Lord.

**--- Romans 8:14-23**

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans:

Brothers and sisters:

Those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.  
For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into  
fear, but you received a spirit of adoption, through which  
we cry, Abba, "Father!"

The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit  
that we are children of God,  
and if children, then heirs,  
heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ,  
if only we suffer with him  
so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are as  
nothing compared with the glory to be revealed for us.  
For creation awaits with eager expectation the revelation  
of the children of God; for creation was made subject to  
futility, not of its own accord but because of the one who  
subjected it, in hope that creation itself would be set free  
from slavery to corruption and share in the glorious  
freedom of the children of God.

We know that all creation is groaning in labor pains even until now; and not only that, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, we also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

The word of the Lord.

**--- Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39**

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans:

Brothers and sisters:

If God is for us, who can be against us?

He did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all, will he not also give us everything else along with him? Who will bring a charge against God's chosen ones? It is God who acquits us.

Who will condemn?

It is Christ Jesus who died, rather, was raised, who also is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.

What will separate us from the love of Christ?

Will anguish, or distress or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword?

No, in all these things, we conquer overwhelmingly through him who loved us.

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The word of the Lord.

**--- Romans 14:7-9, 10c-12**

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans:

Brothers and sisters: No one lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself.

For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord; so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.

For this is why Christ died and came to life, that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Why then do you judge your brother?

Or you, why do you look down on your brother?

For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God; for it is written:

*As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bend before me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.*

So then each of us shall give an accounting of himself to God.

The word of the Lord.

**--- 1 Corinthians 15:20-28 (short form, 15:20-23)**

- Omit the words in bolded brackets [ ] for the short form of this reading.

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians:

Brothers and sisters:  
Christ has been raised from the dead,  
the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.  
For since death came through a man,  
the resurrection of the dead came also through man.  
For just as in Adam all die,  
so too in Christ shall all be brought to life,  
but each one in proper order:  
Christ the firstfruits;  
then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ;  
[then comes the end, when he hands over the Kingdom to  
his God and Father. For he must reign until he has put all  
his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be  
destroyed is death, for "he subjected everything under his  
feet." But when it says that everything has been  
subjected, it is clear that it excludes the one who  
subjected everything to him.  
When everything is subjected to him,  
then the Son himself will also be subjected  
to the one who subjected everything to him,  
so that God may be all in all.]

The word of the Lord.

**--- 1 Corinthians 15:51-57**

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the  
Corinthians:

Brothers and sisters:  
Behold, I tell you a mystery.  
We shall not all fall asleep, but we will all be changed,  
in an instant, in the blink of an eye, at the last trumpet.

For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.  
For that which is corruptible must clothe itself with incorruptibility, and that which is mortal must clothe itself with immortality. And when this which is corruptible clothes itself with incorruptibility and this which is mortal clothes itself with immortality, then the word that is written shall come about:

*Death is swallowed up in victory.*

*Where, O death, is your victory?*

*Where, O death, is your sting?*

The sting of death is sin,  
and the power of sin is the law.  
But thanks be to God who gives us the victory  
through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord.

**--- 2 Corinthians 4:14—5:1**

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to the  
Corinthians:

Brothers and sisters:  
Knowing that the One who raised the Lord Jesus  
will raise us also with Jesus  
and place us with you in his presence.  
Everything indeed is for you,  
so that the grace bestowed in abundance on more and  
more people may cause the thanksgiving to overflow for  
the glory of God.  
Therefore, we are not discouraged;  
rather, although our outer self is wasting away,

our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this momentary light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to what is seen but to what is unseen; for what is seen is transitory, but what is unseen is eternal. For we know that if our earthly dwelling, a tent, should be destroyed, we have a building from God, a dwelling not made with hands, eternal in heaven.

The word of the Lord.

### **--- 2 Corinthians 5:1, 6-10**

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians:

Brothers and sisters:

We know that if our earthly dwelling, a tent, should be destroyed, we have a building from God, a dwelling not made with hands, eternal in heaven. We are always courageous, although we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yet we are courageous, and we would rather leave the body and go home to the Lord. Therefore, we aspire to please him, whether we are at home or away. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense, according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil.

The word of the Lord.

### **--- Philippians 3:20-21**

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians:

Brothers and sisters: Our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we also await a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will change our lowly body to conform with his glorified Body by the power that enables him also to bring all things into subjection to himself.

The word of the Lord.

### **--- 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians:

We do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, about those who have fallen asleep, so that you may not grieve like the rest, who have no hope.

For if we believe that Jesus died and rose, so too will God, through Jesus, bring with him those who have fallen asleep. Indeed, we tell you this, on the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will surely not precede those who have fallen asleep.

For the Lord himself, with a word of command, with the voice of an archangel and with the trumpet of God, will come down from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.

Thus we shall always be with the Lord.  
Therefore, console one another with these words.

The word of the Lord.

**--- 2 Timothy 2:8-13**

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy:

Beloved:

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David: such is my Gospel, for which I am suffering, even to the point of chains, like a criminal. But the word of God is not chained.

Therefore, I bear with everything for the sake of those who are chosen, so that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, together with eternal glory. This saying is trustworthy:

If we have died with him  
we shall also live with him;  
if we persevere  
we shall also reign with him.  
But if we deny him  
he will deny us.  
If we are unfaithful  
he remains faithful,  
for he cannot deny himself.

The word of the Lord.

**--- 1 John 3:1-2**

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John:

Beloved:  
See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. Yet so we are.

The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed. We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

The word of the Lord.

**--- 1 John 3:14-16**

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John:

Beloved:  
We know that we have passed from death to life because we love our brothers.

Whoever does not love remains in death. Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life remaining in him. The way we came to know love was that he laid down his life for us; so we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.

The word of the Lord.