

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF JOB

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!

AS FOR ME, I KNOW THAT MY VINDICATOR LIVES,
AND THAT HE WILL AT LAST STAND FORTH UPON
THE DUST.

THIS WILL HAPPEN WHEN MY SKIN HAS BEEN
STRIPPED OFF,

AND FROM MY FLESH I WILL SEE GOD:

I WILL SEE FOR MYSELF,

MY OWN EYES, NOT ANOTHER'S, WILL BEHOLD HIM:

MY INMOST BEING IS CONSUMED WITH LONGING.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF WISDOM

THE SOULS OF THE RIGHTEOUS 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 TO OTHERS, INDEED, THEY SEEM 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.

A – 2.1 Wis 3:1-6, 9
Short Version

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 THE ELECT.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

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 PASSES FOR GRAY HAIR, AND AN UNSULLIED LIFE IS THE ATTAINMENT OF OLD AGE.

THE ONE WHO PLEASED GOD WAS LOVED, LIVING 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 THAT CONSIDERATION INTO
ACCOUNT.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

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:
“INDEED, THIS IS OUR GOD; WE LOOKED TO HIM,
AND HE SAVED US!
THIS IS THE LORD TO WHOM WE LOOKED:

A-4 Is 25:6a, 7-9

LET US REJOICE AND BE GLAD THAT HE HAS SAVED
US!”

THE WORD OF THE LORD

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF LAMENTATIONS

MY LIFE IS DEPRIVED OF PEACE,

I HAVE FORGOTTEN WHAT HAPPINESS IS:

MY ENDURING HOPE, I SAID, HAS PERISHED

BEFORE THE LORD.

THE THOUGHT OF MY WRETCHED HOMELESSNESS

IS WORMWOOD AND POISON:

REMEMBERING IT OVER AND OVER,

MY SOUL IS DOWNCAST.

BUT THIS I WILL CALL TO MIND:

THEREFORE, I WILL HOPE:

THE LORD'S ACTS OF MERCY ARE NOT EXHAUSTED,

HIS COMPASSION IS NOT SPENT:

THEY ARE RENEWED EACH MORNING—

GREAT IS YOUR FAITHFULNESS!

THE LORD IS MY PORTION, I TELL MYSELF,

THEREFORE, I WILL HOPE IN HIM.

THE LORD IS GOOD TO THOSE WHO TRUST IN HIM,

TO THE ONE THAT SEEKS HIM:

IT IS GOOD TO HOPE IN SILENCE

FOR THE LORD'S DELIVERANCE.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF THE PROPHET
DANIEL

I DANIEL MOURNED, AND I HEARD THE 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 THE NATION 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 TO EVERLASTING LIFE,

OTHERS TO REPROACH AND EVERLASTING
DISGRACE.

BUT THOSE WITH INSIGHT SHALL SHINE BRIGHTLY

A – 5 Dn. 12:1-3

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

A READING FROM THE 2ND BOOK OF MACCABEES

JUDAS, THE RULER OF ISRAEL, THEN TOOK UP A COLLECTION AMONG ALL HIS SOLDIERS, AMOUNTING TO TWO THOUSAND SILVER DRACHMAS, WHICH HE SENT TO JERUSALEM TO PROVIDE FOR AN EXPIATORY SACRIFICE. IN DOING THIS HE ACTED IN A VERY EXCELLENT AND NOBLE WAY, INASMUCH AS HE HAD THE RESURRECTION IN MIND:

FOR IF HE WERE NOT EXPECTING THE FALLEN TO RISE AGAIN, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN SUPERFLUOUS AND FOOLISH TO PRAY FOR THE DEAD.

BUT IF HE DID THIS WITH A VIEW TO THE SPLENDID REWARD THAT AWAITS THOSE WHO HAD GONE TO REST IN GODLINESS, IT WAS A HOLY AND PIOUS THOUGHT.

THUS, HE MADE ATONEMENT FOR THE DEAD THAT THEY MIGHT BE ABSOLVED FROM THEIR SIN.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF PROVERBS

WHEN ONE FINDS A WORTHY WIFE

HER VALUE IS BEYOND JEWELS.

HER HUSBAND TRUSTS HER JUDGMENT;

HE DOES NOT LACK INCOME.

SHE BRINGS HIM PROFIT, NOT LOSS,

ALL THE DAYS OF HER LIFE.

SHE SEEKS OUT WOOL AND FLAX

AND WEAVES WITH SKILLFUL HANDS.

SHE PUTS HER HANDS TO THE DISTAFF,

AND HER FINGERS PLY THE SPINDLE.

SHE REACHES OUT HER HANDS TO THE POOR,

AND EXTENDS HER ARMS TO THE NEEDY.

CHARM IS DECEPTIVE AND BEAUTY FLEETING;

THE WOMAN WHO FEARS THE LORD IS TO BE

PRAISED.

ACCLAIM HER FOR THE WORK OF HER HANDS,

A – 8 Prov 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31

AND LET HER DEEDS PRAISE HER AT THE CITY
GATES.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

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.

WHAT PROFIT HAVE WORKERS FROM THEIR TOIL?

I HAVE SEEN THE BUSINESS THAT GOD HAS GIVEN
TO MORTALS TO BE BUSIED ABOUT.

GOD HAS MADE EVERYTHING APPROPRIATE TO ITS
TIME, BUT HAS PUT THE TIMELESS INTO THEIR
HEARTS SO THEY CANNOT FIND OUT, FROM
BEGINNING TO END, THE WORK WHICH GOD HAS
DONE.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

A – 10 Is 61:1-3

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF THE PROPHET
ISAIAH

THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD GOD IS UPON ME,
BECAUSE THE LORD HAS ANOINTED ME;
HE HAS SENT ME TO BRING GOOD NEWS TO THE
AFFLICTED,
TO BIND UP THE BROKENHEARTED,
TO PROCLAIM LIBERTY TO THE CAPTIVES,
RELEASE TO THE PRISONERS,
TO ANNOUNCE A YEAR OF FAVOR FROM THE LORD
AND A DAY OF VINDICATION BY OUR GOD;
TO COMFORT ALL WHO MOURN;
TO PLACE ON THOSE WHO MOURN IN ZION
A DIADEM INSTEAD OF ASHES,
TO GIVE THEM OIL OF GLADNESS INSTEAD OF
MOURNING,

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF THE PROPHET
ISAIAH

SEE, I AM CREATING NEW HEAVENS

AND A NEW EARTH;

THE FORMER THINGS SHALL NOT BE REMEMBERED
NOR COME TO MIND.

INSTEAD, SHOUT FOR JOY AND BE GLAD FOREVER
IN WHAT I AM CREATING.

INDEED, I AM CREATING JERUSALEM TO BE A JOY
AND ITS PEOPLE TO BE A DELIGHT;

I WILL REJOICE IN JERUSALEM
AND EXULT IN MY PEOPLE.

NO LONGER SHALL THE SOUND OF WEEPING BE
HEARD THERE,

OR THE SOUND OF CRYING;

NO LONGER SHALL THERE BE IN IT

AN INFANT WHO LIVES BUT A FEW DAYS,

NOR ANYONE WHO DOES NOT LIVE A FULL
LIFETIME;

ONE WHO DIES AT A HUNDRED YEARS SHALL BE
CONSIDERED A YOUTH,

AND ONE WHO FALLS SHORT OF A HUNDRED SHALL
BE THOUGHT ACCURSED.

THEY SHALL BUILD HOUSES AND LIVE IN THEM,
THEY SHALL PLANT VINEYARDS AND EAT THEIR
FRUIT;

THE WORD OF THE LORD