

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF GENESIS:



Then God said:

"Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.  
Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea,  
the birds of the air, and the cattle,  
and over all the wild animals  
and all the creatures that crawl on the ground."

God created man in his image;  
in the divine image he created him;  
male and female he created them.

God blessed them,  
saying: "Be fertile and multiply;  
fill the earth and subdue it.

And so it happened.

Then, God looked at everything he had made,  
and he found it very good.

The Word of the Lord.

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!

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.

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 and women, 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.



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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.



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

The Word of the Lord.

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF 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.

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF LAMENTATIONS:

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 it 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 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.



A READING FROM THE BOOK OF THE PROPHET DANIEL:

I, Daniel, mourned and I 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.

A READING FROM THE SECOND 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 of the dead in view;  
for if he were not expecting the fallen to rise again,  
it would have been useless and foolish to pray for them in death.

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 freed from sin.

The Word of the Lord.



A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ECCLESIASTES:

I said to myself,

“Come, now, let me try you with pleasure  
and the enjoyment of good things.” But behold, this too was vanity.

Of laughter I said: “Mad!” and of mirth: “What good does this do?”

I thought of beguiling my senses with wine,

though my mind was concerned with wisdom,  
and of taking up folly,

until I should understand what is best for us to do under the heavens  
during the limited days of our life.

I undertook great works; I built myself houses and planted vineyards;

I made gardens and parks, and set out in them fruit trees of all sorts.

And I constructed for myself reservoirs to water a flourishing woodland.

I acquired male and female slaves, and slaves were born in my house.

I also had growing herds of cattle and flocks of sheep,

more than all who had been before me in Jerusalem.

I amassed for myself silver and gold, and the wealth of kings and provinces.

I got for myself male and female singers and all human luxuries.

I became great, and I stored up more than all others before me in Jerusalem;

my wisdom, too, stayed with me.

Nothing that my eyes desired did I deny them, nor did I deprive myself of any joy,  
but my heart rejoiced in the fruit of all my toil.

This was my share for all my toil.

But when I turned to all the works that my hands had wrought,

and to the toil at which I had taken such pains,

behold! all was vanity and a chase after wind,

with nothing gained under the sun.

For what will the one do who is to come after the king?

What we have already done!

I went on to the consideration of wisdom, madness and folly.

And I saw that wisdom has the advantage over folly  
as much as light has the advantage over darkness.

For what profit comes to a person from all the toil and anxiety of heart  
with which he has labored under the sun?

All his days, sorrow and grief are his occupation;  
even at night his mind is not at rest.

The Word of the Lord.