

Daniel 12:1-3

A Reading from the Prophet Daniel

“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 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

Ecclesiastes 3:1-11

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 give birth, 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 does the worker gain from toil? I have seen the burden God has given to all. God has made everything beautiful in its time.

He has also set eternity into the hearts of all; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end.

The Word of the Lord.

Wisdom 4:7-15

A Reading from the Book of Wisdom

The righteous one, 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 this into account.

Because grace and mercy are with his holy ones,

and his care is with his elect.

The Word of the Lord

Wisdom 3:1-9

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.

In the time of their judgment they shall shine
and 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 the elect.

The Word of the Lord

Proverbs 31:10-12, 25-26, 28-31

A Reading from the book of Proverbs

Who can find a woman of worth?
Far beyond jewels is her value.
Her husband trusts her judgment;
he does not lack income.
She brings him profit, not loss,
all the days of her life.
She is clothed with strength and dignity,
and laughs at the days to come.
She opens her mouth in wisdom;
kindly instruction is on her tongue.
Her children rise up and call her blessed;
her husband, too, praises 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.
Acclaim her for the work of her hands,
and let her deeds praise her at the city gates.

The Word of the Lord

Proverbs 31:10,25-31

A Reading from the book of Proverbs

An excellent wife, who can find?

For her worth is far above jewels.

She is clothed with strength and dignity,
and laughs at the days to come.

She opens her mouth in wisdom;
kindly instruction is on her tongue.

She watches over the affairs of her household,
and does not eat the bread of idleness.

Her children rise up and call her blessed;
her husband, too, praises 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.

Acclaim her for the work of her hands, and let her deeds praise
her at the city gates.

The Word of the Lord

Proverbs 31:10-31

A Reading from the book of Proverbs

A wife of noble character who can find?

She is worth far more than rubies.

Her husband has full confidence in her

And lacks for nothing of value.

She brings him good, not harm,

All the days of her life.

She selects wool and flax

And works with eager hands.

She is like the merchant ships

Bringing her food from afar.

She gets up while it is still dark;

She provides food for her family

And portion for her servant girls.

She considers a field and buys it;

Out of her earnings she plants a vineyard.

She sees that her trading is profitable,

And her life does not go out at night.

In her hand she holds the distaff and grasps

The spindle with her fingers.

She opens her arms to the poor and

Extends her hands to the needy.

When it snows, she has no fear for her household;

For all of them are clothed in scarlet

She makes covering for her bed;

She is clothed in fine linen and purple.

Her husband is respected at the city gate,

Where he takes his seat among the elders of the land.

She makes linen garments and sells them,

And supplies the merchants with sashes.

She is clothed with strength and dignity;

She can laugh at the days to come.

She speaks with wisdom,

And faithful instruction is on her tongue.

She watches over the affairs of her household

And does not eat the bread of idleness.

Her children arise and call her blessed;

Her husband also, and he praises her;

“Many women do noble things,

But you surpass them all.”

Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting;

And a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.

Give her the reward she has earned, And let her works bring her
praise at the city gate.

The Word of the Lord

Isaiah 43:1-5

A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah

But now, thus says the LORD,

who created you, Jacob, and formed you, Israel:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;

I have called you by name: you are mine.

When you pass through waters, I will be with you;

through rivers, you shall not be swept away.

When you walk through fire, you shall not be burned,

nor will flames consume you.

For I, the LORD, am your God,

the Holy One of Israel, your savior.

Because you are precious in my eyes

and honored, and I love you.

Fear not, for I am with you.

The Word of the Lord

Ecclesiastes 3:9-13

A Reading from the book of Ecclesiastes

What does the worker gain from toil? I have seen the burden God has laid on all. He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of all; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end. I know that there is nothing better for us than to be happy and do good while we live. That everyone may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all of their toil, this is the gift of God.

The Word of the Lord.

Micah 6:6-8

A Reading from the book of the prophet Micah

What shall I bring to the Lord, the God of Heaven, when I come to worship? Shall I bring God the best of calves to burn as offerings to Him? Will the Lord be pleased if I bring thousands of sheep or endless streams of olive oil? No, the Lord has told us what is good. What God requires of us is this:

To love tenderly,

To act justly,

To walk humbly with your God.

The word of the Lord.

Isaiah 25:6a, 7-9

A Reading from 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

Proverbs 3:1-6

A Reading from the book of Proverbs

My children, do not forget my teaching,

take to heart my commands;

For many days, and years of life,

and peace, will they bring you.

Do not let love and fidelity forsake you;

bind them around your neck;

write them on the tablet of your heart.

Then will you win favor and esteem

before God and human beings.

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and

lean not on your own understanding.

In all your ways acknowledge him,

and he will make your paths straight.

The Word of the Lord

Sirach 6:6-15

A Reading from the book of Sirach

Let those who are friendly to you be many,
but one in a thousand your confidant.

When you gain friends, gain them through testing,
and do not be quick to trust them.

For there are friends when it suits them,
but they will not be around in time of trouble.

Another is a friend who turns into an enemy,
and tells of the quarrel to your disgrace.

Others are friends, table companions,
but they cannot be found in time of affliction.

When things go well, they are your other self,
and lord it over your servants.

If disaster comes upon you, they turn against you
and hide themselves.

Stay away from your enemies,
and be on guard with your friends.

Faithful friends are a sturdy shelter;
whoever finds one finds a treasure.

Faithful friends are beyond price,
no amount can balance their worth.

The Word of the Lord

Sirach 25:1-11

A Reading from the book of Sirach (Sir·ak)

I will tell you about the kinds of people that I feel fortunate to know, especially in the case of the last:

- Someone who takes pride in their children
- A person fortunate enough to have an understanding spouse
- A married couple who are well matched
- A person who never speaks sinfully
- Someone fortunate enough to have a real friend
- A person that people are happy to listen to,
- And the really great one: someone who is wise.

But, the greatest one of all is the person who fears the Lord.

Such a person has no equal, because the love of the Lord is the most important thing in the world.

The husband of a good wife is a fortunate man. He will live twice as long because of her. A fine wife is a joy to her husband and he will live out his years in peace. A good wife is among the precious possessions given to those who love the Lord. Whether such men are rich or poor, they will be happy and always look cheerful.

The Word of the Lord