

*2 Maccabees 12:43-46*

*He acted in an excellent and noble way as he had the resurrection of the dead in view.*

## 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 this sin.

The word of the Lord

*Job 19:1, 23-27a*

*I know that my Vindicator lives.*

## A reading from the Book of Job

Then 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

*Long Form: Wisdom 3:1-9*

*As sacrificial offerings he took them to himself.*

## 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 the elect.

The word of the Lord

*Short Form: Wisdom 3:1-6, 9*

*As sacrificial offerings he took them to himself.*

## A reading from the Book of Wisdom

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and his care is with the elect.

The word of the Lord

*Isaiah 25:6a, 7-9*

*He will destroy death forever.*

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

*Lamentations 3:17-26*

*It is good to hope in silence for the saving help 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

*Daniel 12:1-3*

*Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake.*

## A reading from the Book of the Prophet Daniel

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

*Long Form: Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 - There is an appointed time.*

## 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 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.

I recognized that there is nothing better than to rejoice  
and to do well during life.

Moreover, that all can eat and drink  
and enjoy the good of all their toil — this is a gift of God.

I recognized that whatever God does will endure forever;  
there is no adding to it, or taking from it.

Thus has God done that he may be revered.

What now is has already been;  
what is to be, already is:

God retrieves what has gone by.

The word of the Lord

*Short Form: Ecclesiastes 3:1-8*

*There is an appointed time.*

## A Reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes

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The word of the Lord

*During the Easter season one of the following four readings could be used as first reading, instead of Old Testament*

*Long Form: Acts of the Apostles 10:34-43*

*He is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead.*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Peter proceeded to speak saying,

"In truth, I see that God shows no partiality.

Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly  
is acceptable to him.

You know the word that he sent to the children of Israel  
as he proclaimed peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of  
all,

what has happened all over Judea,  
beginning in Galilee after the baptism  
that John preached,  
how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth  
with the holy Spirit and power.

He went about doing good  
and healing all those oppressed by the devil,  
for God was with him.

We are witnesses of all that he did  
both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem.

They put him to death by hanging him on a tree.

This man God raised on the third day and granted that he be  
visible,

not to all the people, but to us,  
the witnesses chosen by God in advance,  
who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.

He commissioned us to preach to the people  
and testify that he is the one appointed by God  
as judge of the living and the dead.

To him all the prophets bear witness,  
that everyone who believes in him  
will receive forgiveness of sins through his name."

The word of the Lord

*Short Form: Acts of the Apostles 10:34-36, 42-43*

*He is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead.*

## A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Peter proceeded to speak saying,

"In truth, I see that God shows no partiality.

Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly  
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You know the word that he sent to the children of Israel  
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that everyone who believes in him  
will receive forgiveness of sins through his name."

The word of the Lord

*Revelation 14:13*

*Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.*

## A reading from the Book of Revelation

I, John, heard a voice from heaven say, "Write this:  
Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on."  
"Yes, said the Spirit,  
"let them find rest from their labors,  
for their works accompany them."

The word of the Lord

*Revelation 20:11-21:1*

*The dead were judged according to their deeds.*

## A reading from the Book of Revelation

I, John, saw a large white throne and the one who was sitting on it.

The earth and the sky fled from his presence and there was no place for them.

I saw the dead, the great and the lowly, standing before the throne, and scrolls were opened.

Then another scroll was opened, the book of life.

The dead were judged according to their deeds, by what was written in the scrolls.

The sea gave up its dead; then Death and Hades gave up their dead.

All the dead were judged according to their deeds.

Then Death and Hades were thrown into the pool of fire.

(This pool of fire is the second death.)

Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the pool of fire.

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth.

The former heaven and the former earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.

The word of the Lord

*Revelation 21:1-5a, 6b-7:1*

*There shall be no more death.*

## A reading from the Book of Revelation

I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth.

The former heaven and the former earth had passed away,  
and the sea was no more.

I also saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem,  
coming down out of heaven from God,  
prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“Behold, God’s dwelling is with the human race.

He will dwell with them and they will be his people

and God himself will always be with them as their God.

He will wipe every tear from their eyes,

and there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain,  
for the old order has passed away.”

The One who sat on the throne said,

“Behold, I make all things new.

I am the Alpha and the Omega,

the beginning and the end.

To the thirsty I will give a gift

from the spring of life-giving water.

The victor will inherit these gifts,

and I shall be his God,

and he will be my son.”

The word of the Lord

*Ecclesiastes 3:1-8*

*There is an appointed time.*

## A Reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes

There is an appointed time for everything,  
and a time for every affair under the heavens.  
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A time to love, and a time to hate;  
a time of war, and a time of peace.

The word of the Lord

Proverbs 31: 10-12, 25-29

## A Reading from the book of Proverbs

When one finds a worthy wife, her value is far beyond pearls. Her husband, entrusting his heart to her, has an unfailing prize. She brings him good, and not evil, all the days of her life. She is clothed with strength and dignity, and she laughs at the days to come. She opens her mouth in wisdom, and on her tongue is kindly counsel. She watches the conduct of her household, and eats not her food in idleness. Her children rise up and praise her, her husband, too, extols her: “Many are the women of proven worth, but you have excelled them all.”

The Word of the Lord.

Proverbs 4:1-5

## A reading from the book of Proverbs

Listen, children, to a father's instruction, and be attentive, that you may gain insight; for I give you good precepts: do not forsake my teaching. When I was a son with my father, tender, and my mother's favorite, he taught me, and said to me, "Let your heart hold fast my words; keep my commandments, and live. Get wisdom; get insight: do not forget, nor turn away from the words of my mouth."

The Word of the Lord.