

2Maccabees 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,
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.

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 advantage has the worker from his toil?

I have considered the task which God has appointed for people to be busied about.

He has made everything appropriate to its time, and has put the timeless into their hearts, without men's ever discovering, from beginning to end, the work which God has done.

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

For everyone, moreover, to eat and drink and enjoy the fruit of all his labor is a gift of God.

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

The Word of the Lord

Job 19:1, 23-27a

I know that my Vindicator lives.

A reading from the Book of Job

Job answered Bildad the Shuhite 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 version: 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 his elect.

The word of the Lord.

Short version: Wisdom 3:1 -6,9

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
in the eyes of 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. 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

An unsullied life, the attainment of old age.

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

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.