

Daniel 12:1-3 NIV

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF DANIEL.

“At that time Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will arise. There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. But at that time your people—everyone whose name is found written in the book—will be delivered. Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.

THE WORD OF THE LORD.

Ezekiel 34: 11-12; 15-16

A reading from the Book of Ezekiel

For thus says the Lord God: I myself will look after and tend my sheep. As a shepherd tends his flock after he finds himself among the scattered ones, so will I tend my sheep. I will rescue them from every place where they were scattered when it was cloudy and dark.

I myself will pasture my sheep; I myself shall give them rest, says the Lord God. The lost I will seek out, the strayed I will bring back, the injured I will bind up, the sick I will heal, shepherding them rightly.

The word of the Lord

PROVERBS 31: 20-31

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF PROVERBS

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 coverings 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; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.

Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the gates. Reward her for all she has done. Let her deeds publicly declare her praise.

THE WORD OF THE LORD.

(ALL): RESPONSE: THANKS BE TO GOD

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF SAINT PAUL TO THE THESSALONIANS

(1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-18)

We do not want you to be unaware, brothers, about those who have fallen asleep, so that you may not grieve like the rest, who have no hope.

For if we believe that Jesus died and rose, so too will God, through Jesus, bring with him those who have fallen asleep.

Indeed, we tell you this, on the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will surely not precede those who have fallen asleep.

For the Lord himself, with a word of command, with the voice of an archangel and with the trumpet of God, will come down from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Thus, we shall always be with the Lord.

Therefore, console one another with these words.

THE WORD OF THE LORD.

A reading from the book of Proverbs

Who can find a woman of noble character?

She is worth far more than jewels.

Her family has full confidence in her,

And lacks nothing of value.

She brings them good not harm,

All the days of her life.

She gets up while it is still dark;

She provides food for her family

She sets about her work vigorously;

Her arms are strong for her tasks.

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:

“Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all.”

Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting;

But a woman who honors the Lord is to be praised.

Give her the reward she has earned,

And let her works bring her praise at the city gates.

The Word of the Lord.

WISDOM 4:7-15

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.
This is the Word of the Lord.

Shorter form:

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 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.
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.
This is the Word of the Lord.

2 Longer form:

WISDOM 3:1-9

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 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.

This is the Word of the Lord.