

**OT-1** [1011-2] *Job 19: 1, 23-27a*

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.

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**OT-2 [1011-3 Short] *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.

**OT-3** [1011-4] *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.

The word of the Lord.

**OT-4** [1011-5] *Isaiah 25: 6a, 7-9*

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 look 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.

**OT-5**    **[1011-6]**        *Lamentations 3: 17-26*

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.

**OT-6**    **[1011-7]**        *Daniel 12: 1-3*

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.

**OT-7**     *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 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 men 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.

The word of the Lord.

**OT-8**     *Song of Songs 8: 6-7*

A reading from the Song of Solomon

Set me as a seal on your heart,  
as a seal on your arm;

For stern as death is love,  
relentless as the nether world is devotion;  
its flames are a blazing fire.

Deep waters cannot quench love,  
nor floods sweep it away.

Were one to offer all he owns to purchase love,  
he would be roundly mocked.

The word of the Lord.



**OT-8A**      *Jeremiah 29:10-15*

A reading from the Prophet Jeremiah

The Lord says I will show my concern for you and  
keep My promise to bring you back home.

I alone know the plans I have for you,  
plans to bring you prosperity and not disaster,  
plans to bring about the future you hope for.

Then you will call to Me.

You will come and pray to Me,  
because you will seek Me with all of your heart.

Yes, I say you will find Me,  
and I will restore you to your homeland.

I will gather you from every land and every place  
to which I have scattered you.

I will bring you back home.

I, the Lord, have spoken.

The Word of the Lord

**OT-9**     *Sirach 44: 1, 10-15*

A reading from the book of Sirach

Now will I praise those godly people,  
    our ancestors, each in his own time;

Those were godly people  
    whose virtues have not been forgotten.

Their wealth remains in their families,  
    their heritage with their descendants;

Through God's covenant with them  
    their family endures,  
    their posterity, for their sake.

And for all time their progeny will endure,  
    their glory will never be blotted out;

Their bodies are peacefully laid away,  
    but their name lives on and on.

At gatherings their wisdom is retold,  
    and the assembly proclaims their praise.

The word of the Lord.

**OT-10**      *Isaiah 65: 17-19, 21, 23-24*

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

Lo, I am about to create new heavens  
and a new earth;

The things of the past shall not be remembered  
or come to mind.

Instead, there shall always be rejoicing and happiness  
in what I create;

For I create Jerusalem to be a joy  
and its people to be a delight;

I will rejoice in Jerusalem  
and exult in my people.

No longer shall the sound of weeping be heard there,  
or the sound of crying;

No longer shall there be in it an infant  
who lives but a few days,  
or an old man  
who does not round out his full lifetime;

He dies a mere youth who reaches but a hundred years,  
and who fails a hundred  
shall be thought accursed.

They shall live in the houses they build,  
and eat the fruit of the vineyards they plant.

The word of the Lord.

**OT-11**

*Ezekiel 34: 11-16*

A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel

Thus says the Lord God:

I myself will look after and tend my sheep.

As a shepherd tends his flock  
 when he finds himself among his scattered sheep,  
 so will I tend my sheep.

I will rescue them from every place  
 where they were scattered-  
 when it was cloudy and dark.

I will lead them out from among the peoples  
 and gather them from the foreign lands;  
 I will bring them back to their own country  
 and pasture them upon the mountains of Israel.

In good pastures will I pasture them,  
 and on the mountain heights of Israel  
 shall be their grazing ground.

There they shall lie down on good grazing ground,  
 and in rich pastures,  
 shall they be pastured on the mountains of Israel.

I myself will pasture my sheep;  
 I myself will 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.

**OT-12**

*Zephaniah 3: 16-17, 19-20*

A reading from the book of the prophet Zephaniah

Fear not, O Zion, be not discouraged!

The Lord, your God, is in your midst,  
a mighty savior.

He will rejoice over you with gladness,  
and renew you in his love.

He will sing joyfully because of you,  
as one sings at festivals.

At that time I will bring you home,  
and at that time I will gather you.

For I will give you renown and praise,  
among all the peoples of the earth,

When I bring about your restoration  
before your very eyes, says the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

**OT-13** *Proverbs 31: 10-12, 15,17, 20-21, 25-31*

A reading from the Book of Proverbs

When one finds a worthy wife  
her value is far beyond pearls.

Her husband, entrusting their heart to her,  
has an unfailing prize.

She brings them good, and not evil, all the days of her life.

She rises while it is still night, and prepares food for her household.

She is clothed with strength, and sturdy are her arms.

She reaches out her hands to the poor, and opens her arms to the needy.

She fears not the snow for her household;  
all her family are warmly clothed.

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

She speaks with wisdom; and on her tongue is kindly instruction.

She watches the conduct of her family;  
there is no bread of idleness for her.

Her children stand up and praise her  
her husband also extols her.

For many women have done admirable things,  
but you have surpassed them all.

Charm is deceptive and beauty fleeting;  
but the woman who fears the Lord is the one to be praised.

Give her, O Lord, a reward of her labors,  
and let her works praise her at the heavenly gates.

The Word of the Lord.