

## **Wisdom 4:7-14**

### **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 that consideration into account.**

**The Word of the Lord**