

## A) Job 19:1, 23-27a

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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.

## B) Proverbs 31:10-24

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When one finds a worthy wife, her value is far beyond pearls. Her husband, entrusting his heart to her, has an unfailling prize.

She brings him good, and not evil, all the days of her life. She obtains wool and flax and makes cloth with skillful hands. Like merchant ships, she secures her provisions from afar. She rises while it is still night, and distributes food to her household.

She picks out a field to purchase; out of her earnings she plants a vineyard. She is girt about with strength, and sturdy are her arms.

She enjoys the success of her dealings; at night her lamp is undimmed. She puts her hand to the distaff, and her fingers ply the spindle.

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

She fears not the snow for her household; all her charges are doubly clothed. She makes her own coverlets; fine linen and purple are her clothing.

Her husband is prominent at the city gates as he sits with the elders of the land.

She makes garments and sells them, and stocks the merchants with belts.

## C) Proverbs 31:10-24

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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.  
God has made everything appropriate to its time, and has put the timeless into our hearts,  
without us ever discovering from, beginning to end, the work which God has done.

## D) Wisdom 3:1-9

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### ***Long Version***

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.

### ***Short Version***

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.

## E) Wisdom 4:7-15

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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.

## F) Sirach 6:5-17

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A kind mouth multiplies friends and appeases enemies,  
and gracious lips prompt friendly greetings.

Let your acquaintances be many,

but one in a thousand your confidant.

When you gain a friend, first test him,

and be not too ready to trust him.

For one sort is a friend when it suits him,

and he will not be with you in time of distress.

Another is a friend who becomes an enemy,

and tells of the quarrel to your shame.

Another is a friend, a boon companion,

who will not be with you when sorrow comes.

When things go well, he is your other self,

and lords it over your servants;

But if you are brought low, he turns against you

and avoids meeting you.

Keep away from your enemies;

be on guard with your friends.

A faithful friend is a sturdy shelter;

he who finds one finds a treasure.

A faithful friend is beyond price,

no sum can balance his worth.

A faithful friend is a life-saving remedy,

such as he who fears God finds,

For he who fears God behaves accordingly,

and his friend will be like himself.

## G) Sirach 26:1-4; 13-16

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Blessed the husband of a good wife,

twice-lengthened are his days;  
A worthy wife brings joy to her husband,  
peaceful and full is his life.  
A good wife is a generous gift  
bestowed upon him who fears the LORD;  
Be he rich or poor, his heart is content,  
and a smile is ever on his face.  
A gracious wife delights her husband,  
her thoughtfulness puts flesh on his bones;  
A gift from the LORD is her governed speech,  
and her firm virtue is of surpassing worth.  
Choicest of blessings is a modest wife,  
priceless her chaste soul.  
A holy and decent woman adds grace upon grace;  
indeed, no price is worthy of her temperate soul.  
Like the sun rising in the LORD's heavens,  
the beauty of a virtuous wife is the radiance of her home.

## H) Isaiah 25:6a,7-9

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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!"

## I) Isaiah 40:25-31

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To whom can you liken me as an equal?  
says the Holy One.  
Lift up your eyes on high  
and see who has created these things:  
He leads out their army and numbers them,  
calling them all by name.  
By his great might and the strength of his power  
not one of them is missing!  
Why, O Jacob, do you say,  
and declare, O Israel,  
"My way is hidden from the Lord,  
and my right is disregarded by my God"?

Do you not know  
or have you not heard?  
The Lord is the eternal God,  
creator of the ends of the earth.  
He does not faint nor grow weary,  
and his knowledge is beyond scrutiny.  
He gives strength to the fainting;  
for he weak he makes vigor abound.  
Though young men faint and grow weary,  
and youths stagger and fall,  
They that hope in the Lord will renew their strength,  
they will soar as with eagles' wings;  
They will run and not grow weary,  
walk and not grow faint.

## J) Lamentations 3:17-26

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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.

## K) Daniel 12:1-3

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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.

## L) 2 Maccabees 12:43-46

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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.