

# 1011 FIRST READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

1011-1 2 Maccabees 12:43-45\*

*'He acted very well and honourably, taking account of the resurrection.'*

A reading from the Second Book of Maccabees.

In those days: Judas, the leader of Israel  
 43 took up a collection, man by man,  
 to the amount of two thousand drachmas of silver  
 and sent it to Jerusalem to provide for a sin offering.  
 In doing this he acted very well and honourably,  
 taking account of the resurrection.  
 44 For if he were not expecting  
 that those who had fallen would rise again,  
 it would have been superfluous and foolish to pray for the dead.  
 45 But if he was looking to the splendid reward  
 that is laid up for those who fall asleep in godliness,  
 it was a holy and pious thought.  
 Therefore he made atonement for the dead,  
 that they might be delivered from their sin.  
 The word of the Lord.

1011-2 Job 19:1, 23-27a

*'I know that my Redeemer lives.'*

A reading from the Book of Job.

1 Job said,  
 23 'Oh that my words were written!  
 Oh that they were inscribed in a book!  
 24 Oh that with an iron pen and lead  
 they were engraved in the rock for ever!

\* Vulgate 2 Maccabees 12:43-46

- 25 For I know that my Redeemer lives,  
and at the last he will stand upon the earth.
- 26 And after my skin has been thus destroyed,  
yet in my flesh I shall see God,
- 27 whom I shall see for myself,  
and my eyes shall behold, and not another.’
- The word of the Lord.

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Longer form

1011-3

*Wisdom 3:1-9*  
*‘Like a sacrificial whole burnt offering he accepted them.’*

A reading from the Book of Wisdom.

- 1 The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God,  
and no torment will ever touch them.
- 2 In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died,  
and their departure was thought to be an evil thing,  
3 and their going from us to be their destruction;  
but they are at peace.
- 4 For though in the sight of men they were punished,  
their hope is full of immortality.
- 5 Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good,  
because God tested them and found them worthy of himself.
- 6 like gold in the furnace he tried them,  
and like a sacrificial whole burnt offering he accepted them.
- 7 In the time of their visitation they will shine forth  
and will run like sparks through the stubble.
- 8 They will govern nations and rule over peoples,  
and the Lord will reign over them for ever.
- 9 Those who trust in him will understand truth,  
and the faithful will abide with him in love,  
because grace and mercy are upon his holy ones,  
and he watches over his chosen.

The word of the Lord.

## Shorter form

1011-3

Wisdom 3:1-6, 9

*'Like a sacrificial whole burnt offering he accepted them.'*

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and no torment will ever touch them.
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because grace and mercy are upon his holy ones,  
and he watches over his chosen.
- The word of the Lord.

1011-4

Wisdom 4:7-15

*'A blameless life is ripe old age.'*

A reading from the Book of Wisdom.

- 7 The righteous man, though he die early, will be at rest.
- 8 For old age is not honoured for length of time  
or measured by number of years;
- 9 but understanding is grey hair for human beings,  
and a blameless life is ripe old age.

- 10 There was one who pleased God and was loved by him,  
and while living among sinners he was taken up.
- 11 He was caught up lest evil change his understanding,  
or guile deceive his soul.
- 12 For the fascination of wickedness obscures what is good,  
and roving desire perverts the innocent mind.
- 13 Being perfected in a short time, he fulfilled long years;  
14 for his soul was pleasing to the Lord,  
therefore he took him quickly from the midst of wickedness.
- 15 Yet the peoples saw and did not understand  
or take such a thing to heart,  
that God's grace and mercy are with his elect,  
and he watches over his holy ones.
- The word of the Lord.

1011-5 Isaiah 25:6a, 7-9  
*'The LORD will swallow up death for ever.'*

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

On that day:

- 6 On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples  
a feast of rich food.
- 7 And he will swallow up on this mountain  
the covering that is cast over all peoples,  
the veil that is spread over all nations.
- 8 He will swallow up death for ever;  
and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces,  
and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth,  
for the LORD has spoken.
- 9 It will be said on that day,  
'Behold, this is our God;  
we have waited for him, that he might save us.  
This is the LORD; we have waited for him;  
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.'

The word of the Lord.

**1011-6** Lamentations 3:17-26  
*'It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD.'*

A reading from the Book of Lamentations.

- My soul is bereft of peace;  
I have forgotten what happiness is;  
■ so I say, 'My endurance has perished;  
so has my hope from the LORD.'
- Remember my affliction and my wanderings,  
the wormwood and the gall!
- My soul continually remembers it  
and is bowed down within me.
- But this I call to mind,  
and, therefore, I have hope:
- The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases;  
his mercies never come to an end;  
■ they are new every morning;  
great is your faithfulness.
- 'The LORD is my portion,' says my soul,  
'therefore I will hope in him.'
- The LORD is good to those who wait for him,  
to the soul who seeks him.
- It is good that one should wait quietly  
for the salvation of the LORD.

The word of the Lord.

**1011-7** Daniel 12:1-3  
*'Those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake.'*

A reading from the Prophet Daniel.

- In those days: I, Daniel, was mourning  
and heard the voice of the Lord:  
■ 'At that time shall arise Michael,  
the great prince who has charge of your people.

- 1 And there shall be a time of trouble,  
such as never has been since there was a nation till that time.  
2 But at that time your people shall be delivered,  
everyone whose name shall be found written in the book.  
3 And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake,  
some to everlasting life,  
and some to shame and everlasting contempt.  
4 And those who are wise shall shine  
like the brightness of the sky above;  
and those who turn many to righteousness,  
like the stars for ever and ever.  
The word of the Lord.