The Wisdom of Solomon

The *Wisdom of Solomon* is recognized as Deuterocanonical Scripture by the Roman Catholic, Greek Orthodox, and Russian Orthodox Churches.

1

1 Love righteousness, all you who are judges of
the earth.
Think of the Lord† with a good mind.
Seek him in singleness of heart,
2 because he is found by those who don't put
him to the test,
and is manifested to those who trust him.
3 for crooked thoughts separate from God.
His Power convicts when it is tested,
and exposes the foolish;
4 because wisdom will not enter into a soul that
devises evil,
nor dwell in a body that is enslaved by sin.
5 For a holy spirit of discipline will flee deceit,
and will depart from thoughts that are
without understanding,
and will be ashamed when unrighteousness
has come in.

6 For‡ wisdom is a spirit who loves man,
and she will not hold a§ blasphemer guiltless
for his lips,
because God is witness of his inmost self,

† **1:1** Gr. *in goodness.*
‡ **1:6** Some authorities read *the spirit of wisdom is loving to man.*
§ **1:6** Or, *reviler*

and is a true overseer of his heart,
and a hearer of his tongue.
7 Because the spirit of the Lord has filled† the
world,
and that which holds all things together
knows what is said.
8 Therefore no one who utters unrighteous things
will be unseen;
neither will Justice, when it convicts, pass
him by.
9 For in his counsels the ungodly will be searched
out,
and the sound of his words will come to the
Lord to bring his lawless deeds to
conviction;
10 because a jealous ear listens to all things,
and the noise of murmurings is not hidden.
11 Beware then of unprofitable murmuring,
and keep your tongue from slander;
because no secret utterance will go on its
way void,
and a lying mouth destroys a soul.
12 Don't court death in the error of your life.
Don't draw destruction upon yourselves by
the works of your hands;
13 because God didn't make death,
neither does he delight when the living
perish.
14 For he created all things that they might have
being.
The generative powers of the world are
wholesome,

† **1:7** Gr. *the inhabited earth.*

and there is no poison of destruction in them,
nor has Hades‡ royal dominion upon earth;
15 for righteousness is immortal,
16 but ungodly men by their hands and their words summon death;
deeming him a friend they§ pined away.
They made a covenant with him,
because they are worthy to belong with him.

2

1 For they said† within themselves, with unsound reasoning,
"Our life is short and sorrowful.
There is no healing when a man comes to his end,
and no one was ever known who‡ was released from Hades.
2 Because we were born by mere chance,
and hereafter we will be as though we had never been,
because the breath in our nostrils is smoke,
and reason is a spark kindled by the beating of our heart,
3 which being extinguished, the body will be turned into ashes,
and the spirit will be dispersed as thin air.
4 Our name will be forgotten in time.
No one will remember our works.
Our life will pass away as the traces of a cloud,
and will be scattered as is a mist,

‡ **1:14** Or, *a royal house* § **1:16** Or, *were consumed* with love of him † **2:1** Or, *among* ‡ **2:1** Or, *returned out of Hades*

when it is chased by the rays of the sun,
and§ overcome by its heat.
5 For our allotted time is the passing of a shadow,
and our end doesn't retreat,
because it is securely sealed, and no one†
turns it back.

6 "Come therefore and let's enjoy the good things
that exist.
Let's use the creation earnestly as in our
youth.
7 Let's fill ourselves with costly wine and
perfumes,
and let no spring flower pass us by.
8 Let's crown ourselves with rosebuds before
they wither.
9 Let none of us go without his share in our proud
revelry.
Let's leave tokens of mirth everywhere,
because this is our portion, and this is our lot.
10 Let's oppress the righteous poor.
Let's not spare the widow,
nor regard the gray hair of the old man.
11 But let our strength be a law of righteousness;
for that which is weak is proven useless.
12 But let's lie in wait for the righteous man,
because he annoys us,
is contrary to our works,
reproaches us with sins against the law,
and charges us with sins against our training.
13 He professes to have knowledge of God,
and calls himself a child of the Lord.

§ **2:4** Gr. *weighed down.* † **2:5** Or, *comes again*

14 He became to us a reproof of our thoughts.
15 He is grievous to us even to look at,
because his life is unlike other men's,
and his paths are strange.
16 We were regarded by him as something
worthless,
and he abstains from our ways as from
uncleanness.
He calls the latter end of the righteous happy.
He boasts that God is his father.
17 Let's see if his words are true.
Let's test what will happen at the end of his
life.
18 For if the righteous man is God's son, he will
uphold him,
and he will deliver him out of the hand of his
adversaries.
19 Let's test him with insult and torture,
that we may find out how gentle he is,
and test his patience.
20 Let's condemn him to a shameful death,
for he will be protected, according to his
words."

21 Thus they reasoned, and they were led astray;
for their wickedness blinded them,
22 and they didn't know the mysteries of God,
neither did they hope for wages of holiness,
nor did they discern that there is a prize for
blameless souls.
23 Because God created man for incorruption,
and made him an image of his own
everlastingness;

24 but death entered into the world by the envy of
the devil,
and those who belong to him experience it.

3

1 But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of
God,
and no torment will touch them.
2 In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have
died.
Their departure was considered a disaster,
3 and their travel away from us ruin,
but they are in peace.
4 For even if in the sight of men they are
punished,
their hope is full of immortality.
5 Having borne a little chastening, they will
receive great good;
because God tested them, and found them
worthy of himself.
6 He tested them like gold in the furnace,
and he accepted them as a whole burnt
offering.
7 In the time of their visitation they will shine.
They will run back and forth like sparks
among stubble.
8 They will judge nations and have dominion
over peoples.
The Lord will reign over them forever.
9 Those who trust him will understand truth.
The faithful will live with him in love,
because grace and mercy are with his chosen
ones.

10 But the ungodly will be punished even as their
reasoning deserves,
those who neglected righteousness and
revolted from the Lord;
11 for he who despises wisdom and discipline
is miserable.
Their hope is void and their toils unprofitable.
Their works are useless.
12 Their wives are foolish and their children are
wicked.
13 Their descendants are cursed.
For the barren woman who is undefiled is happy,
she who has not conceived in transgression.
She will have fruit when God examines souls.
14 So is the eunuch which has done no lawless
deed with his hands,
nor imagined wicked things against the Lord;
for a precious gift will be given to him for his
faithfulness,
and a delightful inheritance in the Lord's
sanctuary.
15 For good labors have fruit of great renown.
The root of understanding can't fail.
16 But children of adulterers will not come to
maturity.
The seed of an unlawful union will vanish
away.
17 For if they live long, they will not be esteemed,
and in the end, their old age will be without
honor.
18 If they die young, they will have no hope,
nor consolation in the day of judgment.
19 For the end of an unrighteous generation is
always grievous.

4

1 It is better to be childless with virtue,
for immortality is in the memory of virtue,
because it is recognized both before God and
before men.
2 When it is present, people imitate it.
They long after it when it has departed.
Throughout all time it marches, crowned in
triumph,
victorious in the competition for the prizes
that are undefiled.
3 But the multiplying brood of the ungodly will be
of no profit,
and their illegitimate offshoots won't take
deep root,
nor will they establish a sure hold.
4 For even if they grow branches and flourish for
a season,
standing unsure, they will be shaken by the
wind.
They will be uprooted by the violence of
winds.
5 Their branches will be broken off before they
come to maturity.
Their fruit will be useless,
never ripe to eat, and fit for nothing.
6 For unlawfully conceived children are
witnesses of wickedness
against parents when they are investigated.

7 But a righteous man, even if he dies before his
time, will be at rest.
8 For honorable old age is not that which stands
in length of time,

nor is its measure given by number of years,
9 but understanding is gray hair to men,
and an unspotted life is ripe old age.

10 Being found well-pleasing to God, someone
was loved.
While living among sinners he was
transported.
11 He was caught away, lest evil should change his
understanding,
or guile deceive his soul.
12 For the fascination of wickedness obscures the
things which are good,
and the whirl of desire perverts an innocent
mind.
13 Being made perfect quickly,
he filled a long time;
14 for his soul was pleasing to the Lord.
Therefore he hurried out of the midst of
wickedness.
15 But the peoples saw and didn't understand,
not considering this, that grace and mercy
are with his chosen,
and that he visits his holy ones;
16 but a righteous man who is dead will condemn
the ungodly who are living,
and youth who is quickly perfected will
condemn the many years of an
unrighteous man's old age.
17 For the ungodly will see a wise man's end,
and won't understand what the Lord
planned for him,
and why he safely kept him.
18 They will see, and they will despise;

but the Lord will laugh them to scorn.
After this, they will become a dishonored carcass
and a reproach among the dead forever;
19 because he will dash them speechless to the ground,
and will shake them from the foundations.
They will lie utterly waste.
They will be in anguish
and their memory will perish.

20 They will come with coward fear when their sins are counted.
Their lawless deeds will convict them to their face.

5

1 Then the righteous man will stand in great boldness
before the face of those who afflicted him,
and those who make his labors of no account.
2 When they see him, they will be troubled with terrible fear,
and will be amazed at the marvel of salvation.
3 They will speak among themselves repenting,
and for distress of spirit they will groan,
"This was he whom we used to hold in derision,
as a parable of reproach.
4 We fools considered his life madness,
and his end without honor.
5 How was he counted among sons of God?
How is his lot among saints?
6 Truly we went astray from the way of truth.
The light of righteousness didn't shine for us.

The sun didn't rise for us.
7 We† took our fill of the paths of lawlessness and
destruction.
We traveled through trackless deserts,
but we didn't know the Lord's way.
8 What did our arrogance profit us?
What good have riches and boasting brought
us?

9 Those things all passed away as a shadow,
like a rumor that runs by,
10 like a ship passing through the billowy
water,
which, when it has gone by, there is no trace
to be found,
no pathway of its keel in the waves.
11 Or it is like when a bird flies through the air,
no evidence of its passage is found,
but the light wind, lashed with the stroke of
its pinions,
and torn apart with the violent rush of the
moving wings, is passed through.
Afterwards no sign of its coming remains.
12 Or it is like when an arrow is shot at a mark,
the air it divided closes up again
immediately,
so that men don't know where it passed
through.
13 So we also, as soon as we were born, ceased to
be;
and we had no sign of virtue to show,
but we were utterly consumed in our
wickedness."

† **5:7** See Proverbs 14:14.

14 Because the hope of the ungodly man is like
chaff carried by the wind,
and‡ as§ foam vanishing before a tempest;
and is scattered like smoke by the wind,
and passes by as the remembrance of a guest
who stays just a day.

15 But the righteous live forever.
Their reward is in the Lord,
and the care for them with the Most High.
16 Therefore they will receive the crown of royal
dignity
and the diadem of beauty from the Lord's
hand,
because he will cover them with his right hand,
and he will shield them with his arm.
17 He will take his zeal as complete armor,
and will make the whole creation his
weapons to punish his enemies:
18 He will put on righteousness as a breastplate,
and will wear impartial judgment as a
helmet.
19 He will take holiness as an invincible shield.
20 He will sharpen stern wrath for a sword.
The universe will go with him to fight against
his frenzied foes.
21 Shafts of lightning will fly with true aim.
They will leap to the mark from the clouds,
as from a well-drawn bow.
22 Hailstones full of wrath will be hurled as from
a catapult.

‡ **5:14** Gr. *like foam chased to thinness:* or, *as thin foam chased.*

§ **5:14** Most Greek authorities read *hoar frost:* some authorities, perhaps rightly, *a spider's web.*

The water of the sea will be angered against
them.
Rivers will sternly overwhelm them.
23 A mighty wind will encounter them.
It will winnow them away like a tempest.
So lawlessness will make all the land desolate.
Their evil-doing will overturn the thrones of
princes.

6

1 Hear therefore, you kings, and understand.
Learn, you judges of the ends of the earth.
2 Give ear, you rulers who have dominion
over many people,
and make your boast† in multitudes of
nations,
3 because your dominion was given to you from
the Lord,
and your sovereignty from the Most High.
He will search out your works,
and will inquire about your plans,
4 because being officers of his kingdom, you
didn't judge rightly,
nor did you keep the law,
nor did you walk according to God's counsel.
5 He will come upon you awfully and swiftly,
because a stern judgment comes on those
who are in high places.
6 For the man of low estate may be pardoned in
mercy,
but mighty men will be mightily tested.

† **6:2** Or, *in the multitudes of your nations*

7 For the Sovereign Lord of all will not be
impressed with anyone,
neither will he show deference to greatness;
because it is he who made both small and great,
and cares about them all;
8 but the scrutiny that comes upon the powerful
is strict.
9 Therefore, my words are to you, O princes,
that you may learn wisdom and not fall away.
10 For those who have kept the things that are
holy in holiness will be made holy.
Those who have been taught them will find
what to say in defense.
11 Therefore set your desire on my words.
Long for them, and you princes will be
instructed.

12 Wisdom is radiant and doesn't fade away;
and is easily seen by those who love her,
and found by those who seek her.
13 She anticipates those who desire her, making
herself known.
14 He who rises up early to seek her won't have
difficulty,
for he will find her sitting at his gates.
15 For to think upon her is perfection of
understanding,
and he who watches for her will quickly be
free from care;
16 because she herself goes around, seeking those
who are worthy of her,
and in their paths she appears to them
graciously,

and in every purpose she meets them.
17 For her true beginning is desire for instruction;
and desire for instruction is love.
18 And love is observance of her laws.
To give heed to her laws confirms
immortality.
19 Immortality brings closeness to God.
20 So then desire for wisdom promotes to a
kingdom.

21 If therefore you delight in thrones and
sceptres, you princes of peoples,
honor wisdom, that you may reign forever.
22 But what wisdom is, and how she came into
being, I will declare.
I won't hide mysteries from you;
but I will explore from her first beginning,
bring the knowledge of her into clear light,
and I will not pass by the truth.
23 Indeed, I won't travel with consuming envy,
because envy will have no fellowship with
wisdom.
24 But a multitude of wise men is salvation to the
world,
and an understanding king is stability for his
people.
25 Therefore be instructed by my words, and you
will profit.

7

1 I myself am also† mortal, like everyone else,

† **7:1** Many authorities read *a mortal man.*

and am a descendant of one formed first and
born of the earth.
2 I molded into flesh in the time of ten months in
my mother's womb,
being compacted in blood from the seed of
man and pleasure of marriage.
3 I also, when I was born, drew in the common air,
and fell upon the kindred earth,
uttering, like all, for my first voice, the same cry.
4 I was nursed with care in swaddling clothes.
5 For no king had a different beginning,
6 but all men have one entrance into life, and
a common departure.

7 For this cause I prayed, and understanding was
given to me.
I asked, and a spirit of wisdom came to me.
8 I preferred her before sceptres and thrones.
I considered riches nothing in comparison to
her.
9 Neither did I liken to her any priceless gem,
because all gold in her presence is a little
sand,
and silver will be considered as clay before
her.
10 I loved her more than health and beauty,
and I chose to have her rather than light,
because her bright shining is never laid to
sleep.
11 All good things came to me with her,
and innumerable riches are in her hands.
12 And I rejoiced over them all because wisdom
leads them;

although I didn't know that she was their
mother.
13 As I learned without guile, I impart without
grudging.
I don't hide her riches.
14 For she is a treasure for men that doesn't fail,
and those who use it obtain friendship with
God,
commended by the gifts which they present
through discipline.

15 But may God grant that I may speak his
judgment,
and to conceive thoughts worthy of what has
been given me;
because he is one who guides even wisdom
and who corrects the wise.
16 For both we and our words are in his hand,
with all understanding and skill in various
crafts.
17 For he himself gave me an unerring knowledge
of the things that are,
to know the structure of the universe and the
operation of the elements;
18 the beginning, end, and middle of times;
the alternations of the solstices and the
changes of seasons;
19 the circuits of years and the positions of
stars;
20 the natures of living creatures and the
raging of wild beasts;
the violence of‡ winds and the thoughts of
men;

‡ **7:20** Or, *spirits*

the diversities of plants and the virtues of
roots.
21 All things that are either secret or manifest I
learned,
22 for wisdom, that is the architect of all
things, taught me.

For there is in her a spirit that is quick to
understand, holy,
unique, manifold, subtle, freely moving,
clear in utterance, unpolluted,
distinct, invulnerable, loving what is good,
keen, unhindered,
23 beneficent, loving toward man, steadfast,
sure, free from care, all-powerful,
all-surveying,
and penetrating through all spirits that are
quick to understand, pure, most subtle.
24 For wisdom is more mobile than any motion.
Yes, she pervades and penetrates all things
by reason of her purity.
25 For she is a breath of the power of God,
and a pure emanation of the glory of the
Almighty.
Therefore nothing defiled can find entrance into
her.
26 For she is a reflection of everlasting light,
an unspotted mirror of the working of God,
and an image of his goodness.
27 Although she is one, she has power to do all
things.
Remaining in herself, she renews all things.

From generation to generation passing into holy
souls,
she makes friends of God and prophets.
28 For God loves nothing as much as one who
dwells with wisdom.
29 For she is fairer than the sun,
and above all the constellations of the stars.
She is better than light.
30 For daylight yields to night,
but evil does not prevail against wisdom.

8

1 But she reaches from one end to the other with
full strength,
and orders all things well.

2 I loved her and sought her from my youth.
I sought to take her for my bride.
I became enamoured by her beauty.
3 She glorifies her noble birth by living with God.
The Sovereign Lord of all loves her.
4 For she is initiated into the knowledge of God,
and she chooses his works.
5 But if riches are a desired possession in life,
what is richer than wisdom, which makes all
things?
6 And if understanding is effective,
who more than† wisdom is an architect of
the things that exist?
7 If a man loves righteousness,
the fruits of wisdom's labor‡ are virtues,
for she teaches soberness, understanding,
righteousness, and courage.

† **8:6** Gr. *she.* ‡ **8:7** Gr. *her labors*

There is nothing in life more profitable for
people than these.
8 And if anyone longs for wide experience,
she knows the things of old, and infers the
things to come.
She understands subtleties of speeches and
interpretations of dark sayings.
She foresees signs and wonders, and the
issues of seasons and times.

9 Therefore I determined to take her to live with
me,
knowing that she is one who would give me
good counsel,
and encourage me in cares and grief.
10 Because of her, I will have glory among
multitudes,
and honor in the sight of elders, though I am
young.
11 I will be found keen when I give judgment.
I will be admired in the presence of rulers.
12 When I am silent, they will wait for me.
When I open my lips, they will heed what I
say.
If I continue speaking, they will put their
hands on their mouths.
13 Because of her, I will have immortality,
and leave behind an eternal memory to
those who come after me.
14 I will govern peoples.
Nations will be subjected to me.
15 Dreaded monarchs will fear me when they
hear of me.

Among the people, I will show myself to be
good, and courageous in war.
16 When I come into my house, I will find rest
with her.
For conversation with her has no bitterness,
and living with her has no pain, but gladness
and joy.
17 When I considered these things in myself,
and thought in my heart how immortality is
in kinship to wisdom,
18 and in her friendship is good delight,
and in the labors of her hands is wealth that
doesn't fail,
and understanding is in her companionship,
and great renown in having fellowship with
her words,
I went about seeking how to take her to
myself.
19 Now I was a clever child, and received a good
soul.
20 Or rather, being good, I came into an
undefiled body.
21 But perceiving that I could not otherwise
possess wisdom unless God gave her to
me—
yes, and to know and understand by whom
the grace is given—
I pleaded with the Lord and implored him,
and with my whole heart I said:

9

1 "O God of my ancestors and Lord of mercy,
who made all things by your word;
2 and by your wisdom you formed man,

that he should have dominion over the
creatures that were made by you,
3 and rule the world in holiness and
righteousness,
and execute judgment in uprightness of soul,
4 give me wisdom, her who sits by you on
your thrones.
Don't reject me from among your† servants,
5 because I am your servant and the son of
your handmaid,
a weak and short-lived man,
with little power to understand judgment
and laws.
6 For even if a man is perfect among the sons of
men,
if the wisdom that comes from you is not
with him, he will count for nothing.
7 You chose me to be king of your people,
and a judge for your sons and daughters.
8 You gave a command to build a sanctuary on
your holy mountain,
and‡ an altar in the city where you live,
a copy of the holy tent which you prepared
from the beginning.
9 Wisdom is with you and knows your works,
and was present when you were making the
world,
and understands what is pleasing in your
eyes,
and what is right according to your
commandments.
10 Send her from the holy heavens,

† **9:4** Or, *children* ‡ **9:8** Or, *a place of sacrifice*

and ask her to come from the throne of your glory,
that being present with me she may work,
and I may learn what pleases you well.
11 For she knows all things and understands,
and she will guide me prudently in my actions.
She will guard me in her glory.
12 So my works will be acceptible.
I will judge your people righteously,
and I will be worthy of my father's§ throne.
13 For what man will know the counsel of God?
Or who will conceive what the Lord wills?
14 For the thoughts of mortals are unstable,
and our plans are prone to fail.
15 For a corruptible body weighs down the soul.
The earthy tent burdens a mind that is full of cares.
16 We can hardly guess the things that are on earth,
and we find the things that are close at hand with labor;
but who has traced out the things that are in the heavens?
17 Who gained knowledge of your counsel, unless you gave wisdom,
and sent your holy spirit from on high?
18 It was thus that the ways of those who are on earth were corrected,
and men were taught the things that are pleasing to you.
They were saved through wisdom."

§ **9:12** Gr. *thrones.*

10

1 Wisdom† guarded to the end the first formed
father of the world, who was created alone,
and delivered him out of his own
transgression,
2 and gave him strength to rule over all things.
3 But when an unrighteous man fell away from
her in his anger,
he perished himself in the rage with which
he killed his brother.
4 When for his cause the earth was drowning
with a flood,
wisdom again saved it,
guiding the righteous man's course by a paltry
piece of wood.

5 Moreover, when nations consenting together in
wickedness had been confounded,
wisdom‡ knew the righteous man, and
preserved him blameless to God,
and kept him strong when his heart yearned
toward his child.

6 While the ungodly were perishing, wisdom§
delivered a righteous man,
when he fled from the fire that descended
out of heaven on the five cities.
7 To whose wickedness a smoking waste still
witnesses,
and plants bearing fair fruit that doesn't
ripen,
a disbelieving soul has a memorial: a
standing pillar of salt.

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† **10:1** Gr. *She.* ‡ **10:5** Gr. *she* § **10:6** Gr. *she*

8 For having passed wisdom by,
not only were they disabled from
recognising the things which are good,
but they also left behind them for their life a
monument of their folly,
to the end that where they stumbled, they
might fail even to be unseen;
9 but wisdom delivered those who waited on her
out of troubles.

10 When a righteous man was a fugitive from a
brother's wrath,† wisdom guided him in
straight paths.
She showed him God's kingdom, and gave
him knowledge of holy things.
She prospered him in his toils, and
multiplied the fruits of his labor.
11 When in their covetousness men dealt harshly
with him,
she stood by him and made him rich.
12 She guarded him from enemies,
and she kept him safe from those who lay in
wait.
Over his severe conflict, she watched as
judge,
that he might know that godliness is more
powerful than every one.

13 When a righteous man was sold,‡ wisdom
didn't forsake him,
but she delivered him from sin.
She went down with him into a dungeon,

† **10:10** Gr. *she.* ‡ **10:13** Gr. *she.*

14 and in bonds she didn't depart from him,
until she brought him the sceptre of a kingdom,
and authority over those that dealt like a tyrant with him.
She also showed those who had mockingly accused him to be false,
and gave him eternal glory.

15 Wisdom§ delivered a holy people and a blameless seed from a nation of oppressors.
16 She entered into the soul of a servant of the Lord,
and withstood terrible kings in wonders and signs.
17 She rendered to holy men a reward of their toils.
She guided them along a marvelous way,
and became to them a covering in the day-time,
and a starry flame through the night.
18 She brought them over the Red sea,
and led them through much water;
19 but she drowned their enemies,
and she cast them up from the bottom of the deep.
20 Therefore the righteous plundered the ungodly,
and they sang praise to your holy name, O Lord,

§ **10:15** Gr. *she.*

and extolled with one accord your hand that
fought for them,
21 because wisdom opened the mouth of the
mute,
and made the tongues of babes to speak clearly.

11

1 Wisdom prospered their works in the hand of a
holy prophet.

2 They traveled through a desert without
inhabitant,
and they pitched their tents in trackless
regions.
3 They withstood enemies and repelled foes.
4 They thirsted, and they called upon you,
and water was given to them out of the†
flinty rock,
and healing of their thirst out of the hard
stone.
5 For by what things their foes were punished,
by these they in their need were benefited.
6 When enemies were troubled with clotted blood
instead of a river's ever-flowing fountain,
7 to rebuke the decree for the slaying of babies,
you gave them abundant water beyond all
hope,
8 having shown by the thirst which they had
suffered
how you punished the adversaries.
9 For when they were tried, although chastened
in mercy,

† **11:4** See Deuteronomy 8:15; Psalms 114:8.

they learned how the ungodly were
tormented, being judged with wrath.
10 For you tested these as a father admonishing
them;
but you searched out those as a stern king
condemning them.
11 Yes and whether they were far off or near,
they were equally distressed;
12 for a double grief seized them,
and a groaning at the memory of things past.
13 For when they heard that through their own
punishments the others benefited,
they recognized the Lord.
14 For him who long before was thrown out and
exposed they stopped mocking.
In the end of what happened, they marveled,
having thirsted in another manner than the
righteous.

15 But in return for the senseless imaginings of
their unrighteousness,
wherein they were led astray to worship
irrational reptiles and wretched vermin,
you sent upon them a multitude of irrational
creatures to punish them,
16 that they might learn that by what things a
man sins, by these he is punished.
17 For your all-powerful hand
that created the world out of formless matter
didn't lack means to send upon them a
multitude of bears, fierce lions,
18 or newly-created and unknown wild
beasts, full of rage,

either breathing out a blast of fiery breath,
or belching out smoke,
or flashing dreadful sparks from their eyes;
19 which had power not only to consume them by their violence,
but to destroy them even by the terror of their sight.
20 Yes and without these they might have fallen by a single breath,
being pursued by Justice, and scattered abroad by the breath of your power;
but you arranged all things by measure, number, and weight.

21 For to be greatly strong is yours at all times.
Who could withstand the might of your arm?
22 Because the whole world before you is as a grain in a balance,
and as a drop of dew that comes down upon the earth in the morning.
23 But you have mercy on all men, because you have power to do all things,
and you overlook the sins of men to the end that they may repent.
24 For you love all things that are,
and abhor none of the things which you made;
For you never would have formed anything if you hated it.
25 How would anything have endured unless you had willed it?
Or that which was not called by you, how would it have been preserved?

26 But you spare all things, because they are
yours,
O Sovereign Lord, you who love the living.

12

1 For your incorruptible spirit is in all things.
2 Therefore you convict little by little those who
fall from the right way,
and, putting them in remembrance by the
things wherein they sin, you admonish
them,
that escaping from their wickedness they
may believe in you, O Lord.

3 For truly the old inhabitants of your holy land,
4 hating them because they practiced
detestable works of enchantments and
unholy rites—
5 merciless slaughters of children
and sacrificial banquets of men's flesh and of
blood—
6 allies in an impious fellowship,
and murderers of their own helpless babes,
it was your counsel to destroy by the hands
of our fathers;
7 that the land which in your sight is most
precious of all
might receive a worthy colony of God's
servants.†
8 Nevertheless you even spared these as men,
and you sent hornets‡ as forerunners of your
army,
to cause them to perish little by little.

† **12:7** Or, *children* ‡ **12:8** Or, *wasps*

9 Not that you were unable to subdue the ungodly
under the hand of the righteous in battle,
or by terrible beasts or by a stern word to
make away with them at once,
10 but judging them little by little you gave them a
chance to repent,
not being ignorant that their nature by birth
was evil,
their wickedness inborn,
and that their manner of thought would
never be changed.
11 For they were a cursed seed from the
beginning.
It wasn't through fear of any that you left
them unpunished for their sins.

12 For who will say, "What have you done?"
Or "Who will withstand your judgment?"
Who will accuse you for the perishing of nations
which you caused?
Or who will come and stand before you as an
avenger for unrighteous men?
13 For there isn't any God beside you that cares
for all,
that you might show that you didn't judge
unrighteously.
14 No king or prince will be able to confront you
about those whom you have punished.
15 But being righteous, you rule all things
righteously,
deeming it a thing alien from your power
to condemn one who doesn't deserve to be
punished.

16 For your strength is the source of
righteousness,
and your sovereignty over all makes you to
forbear all.
17 For when men don't believe that you are
perfect in power, you show your strength,
and in dealing with those who think this, you
confuse their boldness.
18 But you, being sovereign in strength, judge in
gentleness,
and with great forbearance you govern us;
for the power is yours whenever you desire
it.

19 But you taught your people by such works as
these,
how the righteous must be kind.
You made your sons to have good hope,
because you give repentance when men
have sinned.
20 For if on those who were enemies of your
servants§ and deserving of death,
you took vengeance with so great
deliberation and indulgence,
giving them times and opportunities when
they might escape from their wickedness,
21 with how great care you judged your sons,
to whose fathers you gave oaths and
covenants of good promises!
22 Therefore while you chasten us, you scourge
our enemies ten thousand times more,

§ **12:20** Or, *children*

to the intent that we may ponder your
goodness when we judge,
and when we are judged may look for mercy.

23 Therefore also the unrighteous that lived in a
life of folly,
you tormented through their own
abominations.
24 For truly they went astray very far in the ways
of error,
Taking as gods those animals† which even
among their enemies were held in
dishonor,
deceived like foolish babes.
25 Therefore, as to unreasoning children, you sent
your judgment to mock them.
26 But those who would not be admonished by
mild correction
will experience the deserved judgment of
God.
27 For through the sufferings they were indignant
of,
being punished in these creatures which
they supposed to be gods,
they saw and recognized as the true God him
whom they previously refused to know.
Therefore also the result of extreme
condemnation came upon them.

13

1 For truly all men who had no perception of God
were foolish by nature,

† **12:24** Gr. *living creatures:* and so elsewhere in this book.

and didn't gain power to know him who
exists from the good things that are seen.
They didn't recognize the architect from his
works.
2 But they thought that either fire, or wind, or
swift air,
or circling stars, or raging water, or
luminaries of heaven
were gods that rule the world.
3 If it was through delight in their beauty that
they took them to be gods,
let them know how much better their
Sovereign Lord is than these,
for the first author of beauty created them.
4 But if it was through astonishment at their
power and influence,
then let them understand from them how
much more powerful he who formed them
is.
5 For from the greatness of the beauty of created
things,
mankind forms the corresponding
perception of their Maker.†
6 But yet for these men there is but small blame,
for they too perhaps go astray
while they are seeking God and desiring to
find him.
7 For they diligently search while living among
his works,
and they trust their sight that the things that
they look at are beautiful.
8 But again even they are not to be excused.

† **13:5** Gr. *is the first maker of them seen.*

9 For if they had power to know so much,
that they should be able to explore the world,
how is it that they didn't find the Sovereign
Lord sooner?

10 But they were miserable, and their hopes were
in dead things,
who called them gods which are works of
men's hands,
gold and silver, skillfully made, and
likenesses of animals,
or a useless stone, the work of an ancient
hand.
11 Yes and some‡ woodcutter might saw down a
tree that is easily moved,
skillfully strip away all its bark,
and fashion it in attractive form, make a
useful vessel to serve his life's needs.
12 Burning the scraps from his handiwork to cook
his food,
he eats his fill.
13 Taking a discarded scrap which served no
purpose,
a crooked piece of wood and full of knots,
he carves it with the diligence of his idleness,
and shapes it by the skill of his idleness.
He shapes it in the image of a man,
14 or makes it like some worthless animal,
smearing it with something red, painting it
red,
and smearing over every stain in it.
15 Having made a worthy chamber for it,
he sets it in a wall, securing it with iron.

‡ **13:11** Gr. *carpenter who is a woodcutter.*

16 He plans for it that it may not fall down,
knowing that it is unable to help itself
(for truly it is an image, and needs help).
17 When he makes his prayer concerning goods
and his marriage and children,
he is not ashamed to speak to that which has
no life.
18 Yes, for health, he calls upon that which is
weak.
For life, he implores that which is dead.
For aid, he supplicates that which has no
experience.
For a good journey, he asks that which can't
so much as move a step.
19 And for profit in business and good success of
his hands,
he asks ability from that which has hands
with no ability.

14

1 Again, one preparing to sail, and about to
journey over raging waves,
calls upon a piece of wood more fragile than
the vessel that carries him.
2 For the hunger for profit planned it,
and wisdom was the craftsman who built it.
3 Your providence, O Father, guides it along,
because even in the sea you gave a way,
and in the waves a sure path,
4 showing that you can save out of every danger,
that even a man without skill may put to sea.
5 It is your will that the works of your wisdom
should not be ineffective.

Therefore men also entrust their lives to a
little piece of wood,
and passing through the surge on a raft come
safely to land.
6 For† in the old time also, when proud giants
were perishing,
the hope of the world, taking refuge on a raft,
your hand guided the seed of generations of
the race of men.
7 For blessed is wood through which comes
righteousness;
8 but the idol made with hands is accursed,
itself and he that made it;
because his was the working, and the
corruptible thing was called a god.
9 For both the ungodly and his ungodliness are
alike hateful to God;
10 for truly the deed will be punished
together with him who committed it.
11 Therefore also there will be a visitation
among the idols of the nation,
because, though formed of things which God
created, they were made an abomination,
stumbling blocks to the souls of men,
and a snare to the feet of the foolish.

12 For the devising of idols was the beginning of
fornication,
and the invention of them the corruption of
life.
13 For they didn't exist from the beginning, and
they won't exist forever.

† **14:6** The Greek text here may be corrupt.

14 For by the boastfulness of men they entered
into the world,
and therefore a speedy end was planned for
them.

15 For a father worn with untimely grief,
making an image of the child quickly taken
away,
now honored him as a god which was then a
dead human being,
and delivered to those that were under him
mysteries and solemn rites.
16 Afterward the ungodly custom, in process of
time grown strong, was kept as a law,
and the engraved images received worship
by the commandments of princes.
17 And when men could not honor them in
presence because they lived far off,
imagining the likeness from afar,
they made a visible image of the king whom
they honored,
that by their zeal they might flatter the
absent as if present.

18 But worship was raised to a yet higher pitch,
even by those who didn't know him,
urged forward by the ambition of the
architect;
19 for he, wishing perhaps to please his ruler,
used his art to force the likeness toward a
greater beauty.
20 So the multitude, allured by reason of the grace
of his handiwork,

now consider an object of devotion him that
a little before was honored as a man.
21 And this became an ambush,
because men, in bondage either to calamity
or to tyranny,
invested stones and stocks with the Name
that shouldn't be shared.

22 Afterward it was not enough for them to go
astray concerning the knowledge of God,
but also, while they live in a great war of
ignorance, they call a multitude of evils
peace.
23 For either slaughtering children in solemn
rites, or celebrating secret mysteries,
or holding frenzied revels of strange
customs,
24 no longer do they guard either life or purity of
marriage,
but one brings upon another either death by
treachery, or anguish by adultery.
25 And all things confusedly are filled with blood
and murder, theft and deceit,
corruption, faithlessness, tumult, perjury,
26 confusion about what is good, forgetfulness of
favors,
ingratitude for benefits,
defiling of souls, confusion of sex,
disorder in marriage, adultery and
wantonness.
27 For the worship of idols that may not be
named*

* **14:27** Exodus 23:13; Psalms 16:4; Hosea 2:17; Wisdom 14:21

is a beginning and cause and end of every evil.
28 For their worshipers either make merry to madness, or prophesy lies,
or live unrighteously, or lightly commit perjury.
29 For putting their trust in lifeless idols,
when they have sworn a wicked oath, they expect not to suffer harm.
30 But on both counts, the just doom will pursue them,
because they had evil thoughts of God by giving heed to idols,
and swore unrighteously in deceit through contempt for holiness.
31 For it is not the power of things by which men swear,
but it is the just penalty for those who sin
that always visits the transgression of the unrighteous.

15

1 But you, our God, are gracious and true,
patient, and in mercy ordering all things.
2 For even if we sin, we are yours, knowing your dominion;
but we will not sin, knowing that we have been accounted yours.
3 For to be acquainted with you is† perfect righteousness,

† **15:3** Gr. *entire.*

and to know your dominion is the root of
immortality.
4 For we weren't led astray by any evil plan of
men's,
nor yet by painters' fruitless labor,
a form stained with varied colors,
5 the sight of which leads fools into‡ lust.
Their desire is for the breathless form of a
dead image.
6 Lovers of evil things, and worthy of such hopes,
are those who make, desire, and worship
them.

7 For a potter, kneading soft earth,
laboriously molds each article for our
service.
He fashions out of the same clay
both the vessels that minister to clean uses,
and those of a contrary sort,
all in like manner.
What shall be the use of each article of either sort,
the potter is the judge.
8 Also, laboring to an evil end, he molds a vain
god out of the same clay,
he who, having but a little before been made
of earth,
after a short space goes his way to the earth
out of which he was taken,
when he is required to give back the§ soul
which was lent him.
9 However he has anxious care,
not because his powers must fail,

‡ **15:5** Some authorities read *reproach.* § **15:8** Or, *life*

nor because his span of life is short;
But he compares himself with goldsmiths and
silversmiths,
and he imitates molders in† brass,
and considers it great that he molds
counterfeit gods.
10 His heart is ashes.
His hope is of less value than earth.
His life is of less honor than clay,
11 because he was ignorant of him who molded
him,
and of him that inspired into him‡ an active§
soul,
and breathed into him a vital spirit.
12 But† he accounted our life to be a game,
and our‡ lifetime a festival for profit;
for, he says, one must get gain however one can,
even if it is by evil.
13 For this man, beyond all others, knows that he
sins,
out of earthy matter making brittle vessels
and engraved images.
14 But most foolish and more miserable than a
baby,
are the enemies of your people, who
oppressed them;
15 because they even considered all the idols of
the nations to be gods,
which have neither the use of eyes for seeing,
nor nostrils for drawing breath,

† **15:9** Or, *copper* ‡ **15:11** Gr. *a soul that moves to activity.*
§ **15:11** Or, *life* † **15:12** Some authorities read *they accounted.*
‡ **15:12** Or, *way of life*

nor ears to hear,
nor fingers for handling,
and their feet are helpless for walking.
16 For a man made them,
and one whose own spirit is borrowed molded them;
for no one has power as a man to mold a god like himself.
17 But, being mortal, he makes a dead thing by the work of lawless hands;
for he is better than the objects of his worship,
since he indeed had life, but they never did.

18 Yes, and they worship the creatures that are most hateful,
for, being compared as to lack of sense, these are worse than all others;
19 Neither, as seen beside other creatures, are they beautiful, so that one should desire them,
but they have escaped both the praise of God and his blessing.

16

1 For this cause, they were deservedly punished through creatures like those which they worship,
and tormented through a multitude of vermin.
2 Instead of this punishment, you, giving benefits to your people,
prepared quails for food,
a delicacy to satisfy the desire of their appetite,

3 to the end that your enemies, desiring food,
might for the hideousness of the creatures
sent among them,
loathe even the necessary appetite;
but these, your people, having for a short time
suffered lack,
might even partake of delicacies.
4 For it was necessary that inescapable lack
should come upon those oppressors,
but that to these it should only be showed
how their enemies were tormented.
5 For even when terrible raging of wild beasts
came upon your people,
and they were perishing by the bites of
crooked serpents,
your wrath didn't continue to the uttermost;
6 but for admonition were they troubled for a
short time,
having a token of salvation
to put them in remembrance of the
commandment of your law;

7 for he who turned toward it was not saved
because of that which was seen,
but because of you, the Savior of all.
8 Yes, and in this you persuaded our enemies
that you are he who delivers out of every
evil.
9 For the bites of locusts and flies truly killed
them.
No healing for their life was found,
because they were worthy to be punished by
such things.

10 But your children weren't overcome by the
very fangs of venomous dragons,
for your mercy passed by where they were
and healed them.
11 For they were bitten to put them in
remembrance of your oracles,
and were quickly saved, lest, falling into
deep forgetfulness,
they should become unable to respond to
your kindness.
12 For truly it was neither herb nor poultice that
cured them,
but your word, O Lord, which heals all
people.
13 For you have authority over life and death,
and you lead down to the gates of Hades, and
lead up again.
14 But though a man kills by his wickedness,
he can't retrieve the spirit that has departed
or release the imprisoned soul.

15 But it is not possible to escape your hand;
16 for ungodly men, refusing to know you, were
scourged in the strength of your arm,
pursued with strange rains and hails and
relentless storms,
and utterly consumed with fire.
17 For, what was most marvelous,
in the water which quenches all things, the
fire burned hotter;
for the world fights for the righteous.
18 For at one time the flame was restrained,

that it might not burn up the creatures sent
against the ungodly,
but that these themselves as they looked
might see that they were chased by the
judgment of God.
19 At another time even in the midst of water it
burns more intensely than fire,
that it may destroy the produce of an
unrighteous land.
20 Instead of these things, you gave your people
angels' food to eat,
and you provided ready-to-eat bread for
them from heaven without toil,
having the virtue of every pleasant flavor,
and agreeable to every taste.
21 For your nature showed your sweetness
toward your children,
while that bread, serving the desire of the
eater,
changed itself according to every man's
choice.
22 But snow and ice endured fire, and didn't melt,
that people might know that fire was
destroying the fruits of the enemies,
burning in the hail and flashing in the rains;
23 and that this fire, again, in order that righteous
people may be nourished,
has even forgotten its own power.
24 For the creation, ministering to you, its maker,
strains its force against the unrighteous for
punishment
and in kindness, slackens it on behalf of
those who trust in you.

25 Therefore at that time also, converting itself
into all forms,
it ministered to your all-nourishing bounty,
according to the desire of those who had
need,
26 that your children, whom you loved, O Lord,
might learn
that it is not the growth of crops that
nourishes a man,
but that your word preserves those who
trust you.
27 For that which was not destroyed by fire,
melted away when it was simply warmed by
a faint sunbeam,
28 that it might be known that we must rise
before the sun to give you thanks,
and must pray to you at the dawning of the
light;
29 for the hope of the unthankful will melt as the
winter's hoar frost,
and will flow away as water that has no use.

17

1 For your judgments are great, and hard to
interpret;
therefore undisciplined souls went astray.
2 For when lawless men had supposed that they
held a holy nation in their power,
they, prisoners of darkness, and bound in the
fetters of a long night,
kept close beneath their roofs,
lay exiled from the eternal providence.

3 For while they thought that they were unseen in
their secret sins,
they were divided from one another by a
dark curtain of forgetfulness,
stricken with terrible awe, and very troubled
by apparitions.
4 For neither did the dark recesses that held them
guard them from fears,
but terrifying sounds rang around them,
and dismal phantoms appeared with
unsmiling faces.
5 And no power of fire prevailed to give light,
neither were the brightest flames of the stars
strong enough to illuminate that gloomy
night;
6 but only the glimmering of a self-kindled fire
appeared to them, full of fear.
In terror, they considered the things which
they saw
to be worse than that sight, on which they
could not gaze.
7 The mockeries of their magic arts were
powerless, now,
and a shameful rebuke of their boasted
understanding:
8 For those who promised to drive away terrors
and disorders from a sick soul,
these were sick with a ludicrous fearfulness.
9 For even if no troubling thing frighted them,
yet, scared with the creeping of vermin and
hissing of serpents,
10 they perished trembling in fear,

refusing even to look at the air, which could
not be escaped on any side.
11 For wickedness, condemned by a witness
within, is a coward thing,
and, being pressed hard by conscience,
always has added forecasts of the worst.
12 For fear is nothing else but a surrender of
the help which reason offers;
13 and from within, the expectation of being
less
prefers ignorance of the cause that brings
the torment.
14 But they, all through the night which was
powerless indeed,
and which came upon them out of the
recesses of powerless Hades,
sleeping the same sleep,
15 now were haunted by monstrous
apparitions,
and now were paralyzed by their soul's
surrendering;
for sudden and unexpected fear came upon
them.
16 So then whoever it might be, sinking down in
his place,
was kept captive, shut up in that prison
which was not barred with iron;
17 for whether he was a farmer, or a shepherd,
or a laborer whose toils were in the
wilderness,
he was overtaken, and endured that
inescapable sentence;

for they were all bound with one chain of
darkness.
18 Whether there was a whistling wind,
or a melodious sound of birds among the
spreading branches,
or a measured fall of water running
violently,
19 or a harsh crashing of rocks hurled down,
or the swift course of animals bounding
along unseen,
or the voice of wild beasts harshly roaring,
or an echo rebounding from the hollows of
the mountains,
all these things paralyzed them with terror.
20 For the whole world was illuminated with
clear light,
and was occupied with unhindered works,
21 while over them alone was spread a heavy
night,
an image of the darkness that should
afterward receive them;
but to themselves, they were heavier than
darkness.

18

1 But for your holy ones there was great light.
Their enemies, hearing their voice but not
seeing their form,
counted it a happy thing that they had not
suffered,
2 yet for that they do not hurt them, though
wronged by them before, they are
thankful;

and because they had been at variance with
them, they begged for pardon.
3 Therefore you provided a burning pillar of fire,
to be a guide for your people's unknown
journey,
and a harmless sun for their glorious exile.
4 For the Egyptians well deserved to be deprived
of light and imprisoned by darkness,
they who had imprisoned your children,
through whom the incorruptible light of the
law was to be given to the race of men.

5 After they had taken counsel to kill the babes of
the holy ones,
and when a single child had been abandoned
and saved to convict them of their sin,
you took away from them their multitude of
children,
and destroyed all their army together in a
mighty flood.
6 Our fathers were made aware of that night
beforehand,
that, having sure knowledge, they might be
cheered by the oaths which they had
trusted.
7 Salvation of the righteous and destruction of the
enemies was expected by your people.
8 For as you took vengeance on the adversaries,
by the same means, calling us to yourself,
you glorified us.
9 For holy children of good men offered sacrifice
in secret,

and with one consent they agreed to the
covenant of the divine law,
that they would partake alike in the same
good things and the same perils,
the fathers already leading the sacred songs
of praise.
10 But the discordant cry of the enemies echoed
back,
and a pitiful voice of lamentation for
children was spread abroad.
11 Both servant and master were punished with
the same just doom,
and the commoner suffering the same as
king;
12 Yes, they all together, under one form of death,
had corpses without number.
For the living were not sufficient even to bury
them,
Since at a single stroke, their most cherished
offspring was consumed.
13 For while they were disbelieving all things by
reason of the enchantments,
upon the destruction of the firstborn they
confessed the people to be God's children.
14 For while peaceful silence wrapped all things,
and night in her own swiftness was half
spent,
15 your all-powerful word leaped from heaven,
from the royal throne,
a stern warrior, into the midst of the doomed
land,
16 bearing as a sharp sword your authentic
commandment,

and standing, it filled all things with death,
and while it touched the sky it stood upon the earth.
17 Then immediately apparitions in dreams terribly troubled them,
and unexpected fears came upon them.
18 And each, one thrown here half dead, another there,
made known why he was dying;
19 for the dreams, disturbing them, forewarned them of this,
that they might not perish without knowing why they were afflicted.

20 The experience of death also touched the righteous,
and a multitude were destroyed in the wilderness,
but the wrath didn't last long.
21 For a blameless man hurried to be their champion,
bringing the weapon of his own ministry,
prayer, and the atoning sacrifice of incense.
He withstood the indignation and set an end to the calamity,
showing that he was your servant.
22 And he overcame the anger,
not by strength of body, not by force of weapons,
but by his word, he subdued the avenger
by bringing to remembrance oaths and covenants made with the fathers.
23 For when the dead had already fallen in heaps one upon another,

he intervened and stopped the wrath,
and cut off its way to the living.
24 For the whole world was pictured on his long
robe,
and the glories of the fathers were upon the
engraving of the four rows of precious
stones,
and your majesty was upon the diadem on
his head.
25 The destroyer yielded to these, and they feared;
for it was enough only to test the wrath.

19

1 But indignation without mercy came upon the
ungodly to the end;
for God also foreknew their future,
2 how, having changed their minds to let your
people go,
and having sped them eagerly on their way,
they would change their minds and pursue
them.
3 For while they were yet in the midst of their
mourning,
and lamenting at the graves of the dead,
they made another foolish decision,
and pursued as fugitives those whom they
had begged to leave and driven out.
4 For the doom which they deserved was drawing
them to this end,
and it made them forget the things that had
happened to them,
that they might fill up the punishment which
was yet lacking from their torments,

5 and that your people might journey on by a
marvelous road,
but they themselves might find a strange
death.

6 For the whole creation, each part in its diverse
kind, was made new again,
complying with your commandments,
that your servants might be kept unharmed.
7 Then the cloud that overshadowed the camp
was seen,
and dry land rising up out of what had been
water,
out of the Red sea an unhindered highway,
and a grassy plain out of the violent surge,
8 by which they passed over with all their
army,
these who were covered with your hand,
having seen strange marvels.
9 For like horses they roamed at large,
and they skipped about like lambs,
praising you, O Lord, who was their
deliverer.
10 For they still remembered the things that
happened in the time of their sojourning,
how instead of bearing cattle, the land
brought forth lice,
and instead of fish, the river spewed out a
multitude of frogs.
11 But afterwards, they also saw a new kind of
birds,
when, led on by desire, they asked for
luxurious dainties;

12 for, to comfort them, quails came up for them
from the sea.

13 Punishments came upon the sinners,
not without the signs that were given
beforehand by the violence of the thunder,
for they justly suffered through their own
wickednesses,
for the hatred which they practiced toward
guests was grievous indeed.
14 For while the others didn't receive the
strangers when they came to them,
the Egyptians made slaves of guests who
were their benefactors.
15 And not only so, but while punishment of some
sort will come upon the former,
since they received as enemies those who
were aliens;
16 because these first welcomed with
feastings,
and then afflicted with dreadful toils,
those who had already shared with them in
the same rights.
17 And moreover they were stricken with loss of
sight
(even as were those others at the righteous
man's doors),
when, being surrounded with yawning
darkness,
they each looked for the passage through his
own door.

18 For as the notes of a lute vary the character of
the rhythm,

even so the elements, changing their order
one with another,
continuing always in its sound,
as may clearly be conjectured from the sight
of the things that have happened.
19 For creatures of the dry land were turned into
creatures of the waters,
and creatures that swim moved upon the
land.
20 Fire kept the mastery of its own power in water,
and water forgot its quenching nature.
21 On the contrary, flames didn't consume flesh of
perishable creatures that walked among
them,
neither did they melt the crystalline grains of
ambrosial food that were melted easily.

22 For in all things, O Lord, you magnified your
people,
and you glorified them and didn't lightly
regard them,
standing by their side in every time and
place.

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