

THE WISDOM OF SOLOMON

1

¹ Love righteousness, ye that be judges of the earth,
Think ye of the Lord with a good mind,
And in singleness of heart seek ye him;

² Because he is found of them that tempt him not,
And is manifested to them that do not distrust him.

³ For crooked thoughts separate from God;
And the *supreme* Power, when it is brought to the proof,
putteth to confusion the foolish:

⁴ Because wisdom will not enter into a soul that deviseth
evil,
Nor dwell in a body that is held in pledge by sin.

⁵ For a holy spirit of discipline will flee deceit.
And will start away from thoughts that are without
understanding,
And will be put to confusion when unrighteousness hath
come in.

⁶ For wisdom is a spirit that loveth man,
And she will not hold a blasphemers guiltless for his lips;
Because God beareth witness of his heart,
And is a true overseer of his mind,
And a hearer of his tongue:

⁷ Because the spirit of the Lord hath filled the world,
And that which holdeth all things together hath knowl-
edge of *every* voice.

⁸ Therefore no man that uttereth unrighteous things shall
be unseen;
Neither shall Justice, when it convicteth, pass him by.

⁹ For in *the midst* of his counsels the ungodly shall be
searched out;
And the sound of his words shall come unto the Lord

The Wisdom Of Solomon 1:10 The Wisdom Of Solomon 2:2

To bring to conviction his lawless deeds:

¹⁰ Because *there is* an ear of jealousy *that* listeneth to all things,

And the noise of murmurings is not hidden.

¹¹ Beware then of unprofitable murmuring,

And refrain your tongue from backbiting;

Because no secret utterance shall go on its way void,

And a mouth that believeth destroyeth a soul.

¹² Court not death in the error of your life;

Neither draw upon yourselves destruction by the works of your hands:

¹³ Because God made not death;

Neither delighteth he when the living perish:

¹⁴ For he created all things that they might have being:

And the generative powers of the world *are* healthsome,

And there is no poison of destruction in them:

Nor hath Hades royal dominion upon earth,

¹⁵ For righteousness is immortal:

¹⁶ But ungodly men by their hands and their words called death unto them:

Deeming him a friend they consumed away,

And they made a covenant with him,

Because they are worthy to be of his portion.

2

¹ For they said within themselves, reasoning not aright,

Short and sorrowful is our life;

And there is no healing when a man cometh to his end,

And none was ever known that gave release from Hades.

² Because by mere chance were we born,

And hereafter we shall be as though we had never been:

Because the breath in our nostrils is smoke,

And while our heart beateth reason is a spark,

The Wisdom Of Solomon 2:33The Wisdom Of Solomon 2:13

³ Which being extinguished, the body shall be turned into ashes,

And the spirit shall be dispersed as thin air;

⁴ And our name shall be forgotten in time,

And no man shall remember our works;

And our life shall pass away as the traces of a cloud,

And shall be scattered as is a mist,

When it is chased by the beams of the sun,

And overcome by the heat thereof.

⁵ For our allotted time is the passing of a shadow,

And our end retreateth not;

Because it is fast sealed, and none turneth it back.

⁶ Come therefore and let us enjoy the good things that *now* are;

And let us use the creation with all our soul as youth's *possession*.

⁷ Let us fill ourselves with costly wine and perfumes;

And let no flower of spring pass us by:

⁸ Let us crown ourselves with rosebuds, before they be withered:

⁹ Let none of us go without his share in our proud revelry:

Everywhere let us leave tokens of *our* mirth:

Because this is our portion, and our lot is this.

¹⁰ Let us oppress the righteous poor;

Let us not spare the widow,

Nor reverence the hairs of the old man gray for length of years.

¹¹ But let our strength be to us a law of righteousness;

For that which is weak is found to be of no service.

¹² But let us lie in wait for the righteous man,

Because he is of disservice to us,

And is contrary to our works,

And upbraideth us for sins against the law,

And layeth to our charge sins against our discipline.

¹³ He professeth to have knowledge of God,

The Wisdom Of Solomon 2:144The Wisdom Of Solomon 3:2

And nameth himself servant of the Lord.

¹⁴ He became to us a reproof of our thoughts.

¹⁵ He is grievous unto us even to behold,

Because his life is unlike other men's,
And his paths are of strange fashion.

¹⁶ We were accounted of him as base metal,
And he abstaineth from our ways as from uncleannesses.

The latter end of the righteous he calleth happy;

And he vaunteth that God is his father.

¹⁷ Let us see if his words be true,
And let us try what shall befall in the ending 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 With outrage and torture let us put him to the test,

That we may learn his gentleness,

And may prove his patience under wrong.

²⁰ Let us condemn him to a shameful death;
For he shall be visited according to his words.

²¹ Thus reasoned they, and they were led astray;

For their wickedness blinded them,

²² And they knew not the mysteries of God,

Neither hoped they for wages of holiness,

Nor did they judge *that there is* a prize for blameless souls.

²³ Because God created man for incorruption,

And made him an image of his own proper being;

²⁴ But by the envy of the devil death entered into the
world,

And they that are of his portion make trial thereof.

3

¹ But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God,
And no torment shall touch them.

² In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died;

The Wisdom Of Solomon 3:35 The Wisdom Of Solomon 3:13

And their departure was accounted *to be their* hurt,

³ And their journeying away from us *to be their* ruin:

But they are in peace.

⁴ For even if in the sight of men they be punished,

Their hope is full of immortality;

⁵ And having borne a little chastening, they shall receive
great good;

Because God made trial of them, and found them worthy
of himself.

⁶ As gold in the furnace he proved them,

And as a whole burnt offering he accepted them.

⁷ And in the time of their visitation they shall shine forth,

And as sparks among stubble they shall run to and fro.

⁸ They shall judge nations, and have dominion over
peoples;

And the Lord shall reign over them forevermore.

⁹ They that trust on him shall understand truth,

And the faithful shall abide with him in love;

Because grace and mercy are to his chosen.

¹⁰ But the ungodly shall be requited even as they rea-
soned,

They that lightly regarded the righteous *man*, and re-
volted from the Lord;

¹¹ (For he that setteth at nought wisdom and discipline is
miserable;)

And void is their hope and their toils unprofitable,

And useless are their works:

¹² Their wives are foolish, and wicked are their children;

¹³ Accursed is their begetting.

Because happy is the barren that is undefiled,

She who hath not conceived in transgression;

She shall have fruit when *God* visiteth souls.

The Wisdom Of Solomon 3:146 The Wisdom Of Solomon 4:4

- ¹⁴ And *happy* is the eunuch who hath wrought no lawless deed with his hands,
Nor imagined wicked things against the Lord;
For there shall be given him for his faithfulness a peculiar favor,
And a lot in the sanctuary of the Lord more delightsome *than wife or children*.
- ¹⁵ For good labors have fruit of great renown;
And the root of understanding cannot fail.
- ¹⁶ But children of adulterers shall not come to maturity,
And the seed of an unlawful bed shall vanish away.
- ¹⁷ For if they live long, they shall be held in no account,
And at the last their old age shall be without honor.
- ¹⁸ And if they die quickly, they shall have no hope,
Nor in the day of decision *shall they have* consolation.
- ¹⁹ For the end of an unrighteous generation is always grievous.

4

- ¹ Better *than this* is childishness with virtue;
For in the memory of virtue is immortality:
Because it is recognized both before God and before men.
- ² When it is present, *men* imitate it;
And they long after it when it is departed:
And throughout all time it marcheth crowned in triumph,
Victorious in the strife for the prizes that are undefiled.
- ³ But the multiplying brood of the ungodly shall be of no profit,
And with bastard slips they shall not strike deep root,
Nor shall they establish a sure hold.
- ⁴ For even if these put forth boughs and flourish for a season,
Yet, standing unsure, they shall be shaken by the wind,
And by the violence of winds they shall be rooted out.

The Wisdom Of Solomon 4:57 The Wisdom Of Solomon 4:15

⁵ *Their* branches shall be broken off before they come to maturity,

And their fruit *shall be* useless,
Never ripe to eat, and fit for nothing.

⁶ For children unlawfully begotten are witnesses of wickedness

Against parents when *God* searcheth them out.

⁷ But a righteous man, though he die before his time, shall be at rest.

⁸ (For honorable old age is not that which standeth in length of time,

Nor is its measure given by number of years:

⁹ But understanding is gray hairs unto men,

And an unspotted life is ripe old age.)

¹⁰ Being found well-pleasing unto *God* he was beloved of *him*,

And while living among sinners he was translated:

¹¹ He was caught away, lest wickedness should change his understanding,

Or guile deceive his soul.

¹² (For the bewitching of naughtiness obscureth the things which are good,

And the giddy whirl of desire perverteth an innocent mind.)

¹³ Being made perfect in a little while, he fulfilled long years;

¹⁴ For his soul was pleasing unto the Lord:

Therefore hasted he out of the midst of wickedness.

¹⁵ But as for the peoples, seeing and understanding not,

Neither laying this to heart,

That grace and mercy are with his chosen,

And that he visiteth his holy ones—

The Wisdom Of Solomon 4:168The Wisdom Of Solomon 5:4

¹⁶ But a righteous man that is dead shall condemn the
ungodly that are living,
And youth that is quickly perfected the many years of an
unrighteous man's old age;

¹⁷ For *the ungodly* shall see a wise man's end,
And shall not understand what the Lord purposed con-
cerning him,
And for what he safely kept him—

¹⁸ They shall see, and they shall despise;
But them the Lord shall laugh to scorn.
And after this they shall become a dishonored carcass,
And a reproach among the dead forever:

¹⁹ Because he shall dash them speechless to the ground,
And shall shake them from the foundations,
And they shall lie utterly waste, and they shall be in
anguish,
And their memory shall perish.

²⁰ They shall come, when their sins are reckoned up, with
coward fear;
And their lawless deeds shall convict them to their face.

5

¹ Then shall the righteous man stand in great boldness
Before the face of them that afflicted him,
And them that make his labors of no account.

² When they see it, they shall be troubled with terrible
fear,
And shall be amazed at the marvel of *God's* salvation.

³ They shall say within themselves repenting,
And for distress of spirit shall they groan,
This was he whom aforetime we had in derision,
And *made* a parable of reproach:

⁴ We fools accounted his life madness,
And his end without honor:

The Wisdom Of Solomon 5:59 The Wisdom Of Solomon 5:14

⁵ How was he numbered among sons of God?
And *how* is his lot among saints?

⁶ Verily we went astray from the way of truth,
And the light of righteousness shined not for us,
And the sun rose not for us.

⁷ We took our fill of the paths of lawlessness and destruction,

And we journeyed through trackless deserts,
But the way of the Lord we knew not.

⁸ What did our arrogancy profit us?
And what good have riches and vaunting brought us?

⁹ Those things all passed away as a shadow,
And as a message that runneth by:

¹⁰ As a ship passing through the billowy water,
Whereof, when it is gone by, there is no trace to be found,
Neither pathway of its keel in the billows:

¹¹ Or as when a bird flieth through the air,
No token of *its* passage is found,
But the light wind, lashed with the stroke of its pinions,
And rent asunder with the violent rush of the moving
wings, is passed through,

And afterwards no sign of *its* coming is found therein:

¹² Or as when an arrow is shot at a mark,
The air departed closeth up again immediately,
So that men know not where it passed through:

¹³ So we also, as soon as we were born, ceased to be;
And of virtue we had no sign to show,
But in our wickedness we were utterly consumed.

¹⁴ Because the hope of the ungodly man is as chaff carried
by the wind,

And as foam vanishing before a tempest;
And is scattered as smoke *is scattered* by the wind,
And passeth by as the remembrance of a guest that
tarrieth but a day.

The Wisdom Of Solomon 5:15 10 The Wisdom Of Solomon 6:2

¹⁵ But the righteous live forever,

And in the Lord is their reward,
And the care for them with the Most High.

¹⁶ Therefore shall they receive the crown of royal dignity
And the diadem of beauty from the Lord's hand;

Because with his right hand shall he cover them,
And with his arm shall he shield them.

¹⁷ He shall take his jealousy as complete armor,
And shall make the *whole* creation his weapons for
vengeance on *his* enemies:

¹⁸ He shall put on righteousness as a breastplate,
And shall array himself with judgment unfeigned as with
a helmet;

¹⁹ He shall take holiness as an invincible shield,

²⁰ And he shall sharpen stern wrath for a sword:

And the world shall go forth with him to fight against *his*
insensate *foes*.

²¹ Shafts of lightning shall fly with true aim,

And from the clouds, as from a well drawn bow, shall they
leap to the mark.

²² And as from an engine of war shall be hurled hailstones
full of wrath;

The water of the sea shall be angered against them,

And rivers shall sternly overwhelm them;

²³ A mighty blast shall encounter them,

And as a tempest shall it winnow them away:

And so shall lawlessness make all the land desolate,

And their evildoing shall overturn the thrones of princes.

6

¹ Hear therefore, ye kings, and understand;

Learn, ye judges of the ends of the earth:

² Give ear, ye that have dominion over much people,

The Wisdom Of Solomon 6:311The Wisdom Of Solomon 6:14

And make your boast in multitudes of nations.

³ Because your dominion was given you from the Lord,
And your sovereignty from the Most High;
Who shall search out your works,
And shall make inquisition of your counsels:

⁴ Because being officers of his kingdom ye did not judge
aright,

Neither kept ye law, nor walked after the counsel of God.

⁵ Terribly and swiftly shall he come upon you;
Because a stern judgment befalleth them that be in high
place:

⁶ For the man of low estate may be pardoned in mercy,
But mighty men shall be searched out mightily.

⁷ For the Sovereign Lord of all will not refrain himself for
any *man's* person,

Neither will he reverence greatness;
Because it is he that made *both* small and great,
And alike he taketh thought for all;

⁸ But strict is the scrutiny that cometh upon the powerful.

⁹ Unto you therefore, O princes, are my words,
That ye may learn wisdom and fall not from the right way.

¹⁰ For they that have kept holily the things that are holy
shall *themselves* be hallowed;

And they that have been taught them shall find what to
answer;

¹¹ Set your desire therefore on my words;
Long for *them*, and ye shall be trained by *their* discipline.

¹² Wisdom is radiant and fadeth not away;
And easily is she beheld of them that love her,
And found of them that seek her.

¹³ She forestalleth them that desire *to know her*, making
herself first known.

¹⁴ He that riseth up early to *seek her* shall have no toil,

The Wisdom Of Solomon 6:1512The Wisdom Of Solomon 7:1

For he shall find her sitting at his gates.

¹⁵ For to think upon her is perfectness of understanding,
And he that watcheth for her sake shall quickly be free
from care.

¹⁶ Because she goeth about, herself seeking them that are
worthy of her,

And in their paths she appeareth unto them graciously,
And in every purpose she meeteth them.

¹⁷ For her true beginning is desire of discipline;
And the care for discipline is love of *her*;

¹⁸ And love of *her* is observance of her laws;

And to give heed to *her* laws confirmeth incorruption;

¹⁹ And incorruption bringeth near unto God;

²⁰ So then desire of wisdom promoteth to a kingdom.

²¹ If therefore ye delight in thrones and scepters, ye
princes of peoples,

Honor wisdom, that ye may reign forever.

²² But what wisdom is, and how she came into being, I will
declare,

And I will not hide mysteries from you;

But I will trace *her* out from the beginning of creation,

And bring the knowledge of her into clear light,

And I will not pass by the truth;

²³ Neither indeed will I take pining envy for my compan-
ion in the way,

Because envy shall have no fellowship with wisdom.

²⁴ But a multitude of wise men is salvation to the world,
And an understanding king is tranquility to *his* people.

²⁵ Wherefore be disciplined by my words, and *thereby* shall
ye profit.

7

¹ I myself also am mortal, like to all,

The Wisdom Of Solomon 7:213The Wisdom Of Solomon 7:14

And am sprung from one born of the earth, *the man* first formed,

² And in the womb of a mother was I molded into flesh in the time of ten months,

Being compacted in blood of the seed of man and pleasure that came with sleep.

³ And 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 selfsame wail:

⁴ In swaddling clothes was I nursed, and with *watchful* cares.

⁵ For no king had any other first beginning;

⁶ But all men have one entrance into life, and a like departure.

⁷ For this cause I prayed, and understanding was given me: I called upon *God*, and there came to me a spirit of wisdom.

⁸ I preferred her before scepters and thrones, And riches I esteemed nothing in comparison of her.

⁹ Neither did I liken to her any priceless gem, Because all the gold of *the earth* in her presence is a little sand,

And silver shall be accounted as clay before her.

¹⁰ Above health and comeliness I loved her,

And I chose to have her rather than light,

Because her bright shining is never laid to sleep.

¹¹ But with her there came to me all good things together,

And in her hands innumerable riches:

¹² And I rejoiced over *them* all because wisdom leadeth them;

Though I knew not that she was the mother of them.

¹³ As I learned without guile, I impart without grudging;

I do not hide her riches.

¹⁴ For she is unto men a treasure that faileth not,

And they that use it obtain friendship with God,

The Wisdom Of Solomon 7:15 14 The Wisdom Of Solomon 7:23

Commended *to him* by the gifts which they through discipline present *to him*.

¹⁵ But to me may God give to speak with judgment,
And to conceive thoughts worthy of what hath been given
me;
Because himself is one that guideth even wisdom and that
correcteth the wise.

¹⁶ For in his hand are both we and our words;
All understanding, and *all* acquaintance with diverse
crafts.

¹⁷ For himself gave me an unerring knowledge of the
things that are,
To know the constitution of the world, and the operation
of the elements;

¹⁸ The beginning and 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 ragings of wild
beasts,

The violences of winds and the thoughts of men,
The diversities of plants and the virtues of roots:

²¹ All things that are either secret or manifest I learned,

²² For she that is the artificer of all things taught me, *even*
wisdom.

For there is in her a spirit quick of understanding, holy,

Alone in kind, manifold,

Subtle, freely moving,

Clear in utterance, unpolluted,

Distinct, unharmed,

Loving what is good, keen, unhindered,

²³ Beneficent, loving toward man,

Steadfast, sure, free from care,

The Wisdom Of Solomon 7:2415The Wisdom Of Solomon 8:2

All-powerful, all-surveying,
And penetrating through all spirits
That are quick of understanding, pure, most subtle:
²⁴ For wisdom is more mobile than any motion;
Yea, she pervadeth and penetrateth all things by reason
of her pureness.
²⁵ For she is a breath of the power of God,
And a clear effluence of the glory of the Almighty;
Therefore can nothing defiled find entrance into her.
²⁶ For she is an effulgence from everlasting light,
And an unspotted mirror of the working of God,
And an image of his goodness.
²⁷ And she, being one, hath power to do all things;
And remaining in herself, reneweth all things:
And from generation to generation passing into holy
souls
She maketh *men* friends of God and prophets.
²⁸ For nothing doth God love save him that dwelleth with
wisdom.
²⁹ For she is fairer than the sun,
And above all the constellations of the stars:
Being compared with light, she is found *to be* before it;
³⁰ For to the light *of day* succeedeth night,
But against wisdom evil doth not prevail;

8

¹ But she reacheth from one end *of the world* to the other
with full strength,
And ordereth all things graciously.

² Her I loved and sought out from my youth,
And I sought to take her for my bride,
And I became enamored of her beauty.

The Wisdom Of Solomon 8:316The Wisdom Of Solomon 8:12

³ She glorifieth *her* noble birth in that it is given her to
live with God,

And the Sovereign Lord of all loved her.

⁴ For she is initiated into the knowledge of God,

And she chooseth out *for him* his works.

⁵ But if riches are a desired possession in life,

What is richer than wisdom, which worketh all things?

⁶ And if understanding worketh,

Who more than wisdom is an artificer of the things that
are?

⁷ And if a man loveth righteousness,

The fruits of wisdom's labor are virtues,

For she teacheth soberness and understanding, righ-
teousness and courage;

And there is nothing in life for men more profitable than
these.

⁸ And if a man longeth even for much experience,

She knoweth the things of old, and divineth the things to
come:

She understandeth subtleties of speeches and interpreta-
tions of dark sayings:

She foreseeth signs and wonders, and the issues of sea-
sons and times.

⁹ I determined therefore to take her unto me to live with
me,

Knowing that she is one who would give me good *thoughts*
for counsel,

And encourage me in cares and grief.

¹⁰ Because of her I shall have glory among multitudes,

And honor in the sight of elders, though I be young.

¹¹ I shall be found of a quick conceit when I give judgment,

And in the presence of princes I shall be admired.

¹² When I am silent, they shall wait for me;

And when I open my lips, they shall give heed unto me;

The Wisdom Of Solomon 8:1317The Wisdom Of Solomon 9:1

And if I continue speaking, they shall lay their hand upon
their mouth.

¹³ Because of her I shall have immortality,
And leave behind an eternal memory to them that come
after me.

¹⁴ I shall govern peoples,
And nations shall be subjected to me.

¹⁵ Dread princes shall fear me when they hear *of me*:
Among *my* people I shall show myself a good *ruler*, and in
war courageous.

¹⁶ When I am come into my house, I shall find rest with
her;

For converse with her hath no bitterness,
And to live with her hath no pain, but gladness and joy.

¹⁷ When I considered these things in myself,
And took thought in my heart how that in kinship unto
wisdom is immortality,

¹⁸ And in her friendship is good delight,
And in the labors of her hands is wealth that faileth not,
And in assiduous communing with her is understanding,
And great renown in having fellowship with her words,
I went about seeking how to take her unto myself.

¹⁹ Now I was a child of parts, and a good soul fell to my lot;

²⁰ Nay rather, being good, I came into a body undefiled.

²¹ But perceiving that I could not otherwise possess
wisdom except God gave *her* me

(Yea and to know by whom the grace is given, this too
came of understanding),

I pleaded with the Lord and besought him, and with my
whole heart I said,

The Wisdom Of Solomon 9:218The Wisdom Of Solomon 9:11

Who madest all things by thy word;
2 And by thy wisdom thou formedst man,
That he should have dominion over the creatures that
were made by thee,
3 And rule the world in holiness and righteousness,
And execute judgment in uprightness of soul;
4 Give me wisdom, her that sitteth by thee on thy throne;
And reject me not from among thy servants:
5 Because I am thy bondman and the son of thy handmaid,
A man weak and short-lived,
And of small power to understand judgment and laws.
6 For even if a man be perfect among the sons of men,
Yet if the wisdom that cometh from thee be not with him,
he shall be held in no account.
7 Thou didst choose me before *my brethren* to be king of
thy people,
And to do judgment for thy sons and daughters.
8 Thou gavest command to build a sanctuary in thy holy
mountain,
And an altar in the city of thy habitation,
A copy of the holy tabernacle which thou preparedst
beforehand from the beginning.
9 And with thee is wisdom, which knoweth thy works,
And was present when thou wast making the world,
And which understandeth what is pleasing in thine eyes,
And what is right according to thy commandments.
10 Send her forth out of the holy heavens,
And from the throne of thy glory bid her come,
That being present with me she may toil *with me*,
And *that* I may learn what is well-pleasing before thee.
11 For she knoweth all things and hath understanding
thereof,
And in my doings she shall guide me in *ways of soberness*,
And she shall guard me in her glory.

The Wisdom Of Solomon 9:1219The Wisdom Of Solomon 10:4

¹² And so shall my works be acceptable,
And I shall judge thy people righteously,
And I shall be worthy of my father's throne.

¹³ For what man shall know the counsel of God?
Or who shall conceive what the Lord willeth?

¹⁴ For the thoughts of mortals are timorous,
And our devices are prone to fail.

¹⁵ For a corruptible body weigheth down the soul,
And the earthy frame lieth heavy on a mind that is full of
cares.

¹⁶ And hardly do we divine the things that are on earth,
And the things that are close at hand we find with labor;
But the things that are in the heavens who *ever* yet traced
out?

¹⁷ And who *ever* gained knowledge of thy counsel, except
thou gavest wisdom,
And sentest thy holy spirit from on high?

¹⁸ And it was thus that the ways of them who are on earth
were corrected,
And men were taught the things that are pleasing unto
thee;
And through wisdom were they saved.

10

¹ Wisdom guarded to the end the first formed father of
the world, that was created alone,
And delivered him out of his own transgression,

² And gave him strength to get dominion over all things.

³ But when an unrighteous man fell away from her in his
anger,
He perished himself in the rage wherewith he slew his
brother.

⁴ And when for his cause the earth was drowning with a
flood,

The Wisdom Of Solomon 10:520The Wisdom Of Solomon 10:10

Wisdom again saved it,
Guiding the righteous man's course by a poor piece of
wood.

⁵ Moreover, when nations consenting together in wicked-
ness had been confounded,
Wisdom knew the righteous man, and preserved him
blameless unto 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 Pentapolis.

⁷ To whose wickedness a smoking waste still witnesseth,
And plants bearing fair fruit that cometh not to ripeness;
Yea and a disbelieving soul hath a memorial *there*, a pillar
of salt *still* standing.

⁸ For having passed wisdom by,
Not only were they disabled from recognizing the things
which are good,
But they also left behind them for *human* life a monument
of their folly;
To the end that where they went astray they might fail
even to be unseen:

⁹ But wisdom delivered out of troubles those that waited
on her.

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;

The Wisdom Of Solomon 10:1121The Wisdom Of Solomon 10:19

She prospered him in his toils, and multiplied the fruits
of his labor;

¹¹ When in their covetousness *men* dealt hardly with him,
She stood by him and made him rich;

¹² She guarded him from enemies,
And from those that lay in wait she kept him safe,
And over his sore conflict she watched as judge,
That he might know that godliness is more powerful than
all.

¹³ When a righteous man was sold, wisdom forsook him
not,

But from sin she delivered him;
She went down with him into a dungeon,

¹⁴ And in bonds she left him not,
Till she brought him the scepter of a kingdom,
And authority over those that dealt tyrannously with
him;

She showed them also to be false that had mockingly
accused him,
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 unto holy men a reward of their toils;
She guided them along a marvelous way,

And became unto them a covering in the daytime,
And a flame of stars through the night.

¹⁸ She brought them over the Red Sea,
And led them through much water;

¹⁹ But their enemies she drowned,
And out of the bottom of the deep she cast them up.

²⁰ Therefore the righteous plundered the ungodly;
And they sang praise to thy holy name, O Lord,
And extolled with one accord thy hand that fought for
them:

²¹ Because wisdom opened the mouth of the dumb,
And made the tongues of babes to speak clearly.

11

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

² They journeyed through a desert without inhabitant,
And in trackless regions they pitched their tents.

³ They withstood enemies, and repelled foes.

⁴ They thirsted, and they called upon thee,
And there was given them water 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 *the enemy* were troubled with clotted blood in-
stead of a river's ever-flowing fountain,

⁷ To rebuke the decree for the slaying of babes,
Thou gavest them abundant water beyond all hope,

⁸ Having shown *them* by the thirst which they had suffered
how thou didst punish the adversaries.

⁹ For when they were tried, albeit but in mercy chastened,
They learned how the ungodly were tormented, being
judged with wrath:

¹⁰ For these, as a father, admonishing them, thou didst
prove;

But those, as a stern king, condemning them, thou didst
search out.

¹¹ Yea and whether they were far off *from the righteous* or
near *them*, they were alike distressed;

The Wisdom Of Solomon 11:1223The Wisdom Of Solomon 11:20

- 12 For a double grief took hold on them,
And a groaning at the remembrance of things past.
- 13 For when they heard that through their own punishments the others had been benefited,
They felt *the presence of* the Lord;
- 14 For him who long before was cast forth and exposed
they left off mocking:
In the last issue of what came to pass they marveled,
Having thirsted in another manner than the righteous.
- 15 But in requital of the senseless imaginings of their unrighteousness,
Wherein they were led astray to worship irrational reptiles and wretched vermin,
Thou didst send upon them a multitude of irrational creatures for vengeance;
- 16 That they might learn, that by what things a man sinneth, by these he is punished.
- 17 For thine all-powerful hand,
That created the world out of formless matter,
Lacked not means to send upon them a multitude of bears,
or fierce lions,
- 18 Or new-created wild beasts, full of rage, of unknown kind,
Either breathing out a blast of fiery breath,
Or blowing forth *from their nostrils* noisome smoke,
Or flashing dreadful sparkles 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 Yea and without these might they have fallen by a single breath,
Being pursued by Justice, and scattered abroad by the breath of thy power.

The Wisdom Of Solomon 11:2124The Wisdom Of Solomon 12:3

But by measure and number and weight thou didst order
all things.

²¹ For to be greatly strong is thine at all times;

And the might of thine arm who shall withstand?

²² Because the whole world before thee is as a grain in a
balance,

And as a drop of dew that at morning cometh down upon
the earth.

²³ But thou hast mercy on all men, because thou hast
power to do all things,

And thou overlookest the sins of men to the end they may
repent.

²⁴ For thou lovest all things that are,

And abhorrest none of the things which thou didst make;
For never wouldest thou have formed anything if thou
didst hate it.

²⁵ And how would anything have endured, except thou
hadst willed it?

Or that which was not called by thee, *how would* it have
been preserved?

²⁶ But thou sparest all things, because they are thine,
O Sovereign Lord, thou lover of *men's* lives;

12

¹ For thine incorruptible spirit is in all things.

² Wherefore thou convictest by little and little them that
fall from the right way,

And, putting them in remembrance by the *very* things
wherein they sin, dost thou admonish them,

That escaping from their wickedness they may believe on
thee, O Lord.

³ For verily the old inhabitants of thy 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 Confederates in an impious fellowship,
And murderers of their own helpless babes,
It was thy counsel to destroy by the hands of our fathers;

⁷ That the land which in thy sight is most precious of all
lands

Might receive a worthy colony of God's servants.

⁸ Nevertheless even these thou didst spare as *being* men,
And thou sentest hornets as forerunners of thy host,
To cause them to perish by little and little;

⁹ Not that thou wast unable to subdue the ungodly under
the hand of the righteous in battle,
Or by terrible beasts or by *one* stern word to make away
with them at once;

¹⁰ But judging them by little and little thou gavest them a
place of repentance,
Not being ignorant that their nature by birth was evil, and
their wickedness inborn,
And that their manner of thought would in no wise ever
be changed,

¹¹ For they were a seed accursed from the beginning:
Neither was it through fear of any that thou didst leave
them *then* unpunished for their sins.

¹² For who shall say, What hast thou done?
Or who shall withstand thy judgment?
And who shall accuse thee for the perishing of nations
which thou didst make?
Or who shall come and stand before thee as an avenger
for unrighteous men?

The Wisdom Of Solomon 12:13 26 The Wisdom Of Solomon 12:21

13 For neither is there any God beside thee that careth for all,

That thou mightest show *unto him* that thou didst not judge unrighteously:

14 Neither shall king or prince be able to look thee in the face *to plead* for those whom thou hast punished.

15 But being righteous thou rulest all things righteously, Deeming it a thing alien from thy power To condemn one that doth not himself deserve to be punished.

16 For thy strength is the beginning of righteousness, And thy sovereignty over all maketh thee to forbear all.

17 For when men believe not that thou art perfect in power, thou showest thy strength, And in dealing with them that know *it* thou puttest their boldness to confusion.

18 But thou, being sovereign over *thy* strength, judgest in gentleness,

And with great forbearance dost thou govern us; For the power is thine whensoever thou hast the will.

19 But thou didst teach thy people by such works as these, How that the righteous must be a lover of men; And thou didst make thy sons to be of good hope, Because thou givest repentance when men have sinned.

20 For if on them that were enemies of thy servants and due to death

Thou didst take vengeance with so great heedfulness and indulgence,

Giving them times and place whereby they might escape from their wickedness;

21 With how great carefulness didst thou judge thy sons, To whose fathers thou gavest oaths and covenants of good promises!

The Wisdom Of Solomon 12:2227The Wisdom Of Solomon 13:2

²² While therefore thou dost chasten us, thou scourgest
our enemies ten thousand times more,
To the intent that we may ponder thy goodness when we
judge,

And when we are judged may look for mercy.

²³ Wherefore also the unrighteous that lived in folly of life
Thou didst torment through their own abominations.

²⁴ For verily 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 unto unreasoning children, thou didst
send thy judgment to mock them.

²⁶ But they that would not be admonished by a mocking
correction as of children

Shall have experience of a judgment worthy of God.

²⁷ For through the sufferings whereat they were indig-
nant,

Being punished in these creatures which they supposed
to be gods,

They saw, and recognized as the true God him whom
before they refused to know:

Wherefore also the last end of condemnation came upon
them.

13

¹ For verily all men by nature *were but* vain who had no
perception of God,

And from the good things that are seen they gained not
power to know him that is,

Neither by giving heed to the works did they recognize
the artificer;

² But either fire, or wind, or swift air,
Or circling stars, or raging water, or luminaries of heaven,

They thought to be gods that rule the world.

³ And if it was through delight in their beauty that they took them to be gods,

Let them know how much better than these is their Sovereign Lord;

For the first author of beauty created them:

⁴ But if it was through astonishment at their power and influence,

Let them understand from them how much more powerful is he that formed them;

⁵ For from the greatness of the beauty even of created things

In like proportion doth man form the image of their first maker.

⁶ But yet for these men there is but small blame,

For they too peradventure do *but* go astray

While they are seeking God and desiring to find him.

⁷ For living among his works they make diligent search,

And they yield themselves up to sight, because the things that they look upon are beautiful.

⁸ But again even they are not to be excused.

⁹ For if they had power to know so much,

That they should be able to explore the course of *things*,

How is it that they did not sooner find the Sovereign Lord of these *his works*?

¹⁰ But miserable *were* they, and in dead things *were* their hopes,

Who called them gods which are works of men's hands,

Gold and silver, wrought with careful art, and likenesses of animals,

Or a useless stone, the work of an ancient hand.

¹¹ Yea and if some woodcutter, having sawn down a tree that is easily moved,

The Wisdom Of Solomon 13:1229The Wisdom Of Solomon 13:19

Skillfully strippeth away all its bark,
And fashioning it in comely form maketh a vessel useful
for the service of life;

¹² And burning the refuse of his handiwork to dress his
food, eateth his fill;

¹³ And taking the very refuse thereof which served to no
use,

A crooked piece of wood and full of knots,
Carveth it with the diligence of his idleness,

And shapeth it by the skill of his indolence;

Then he giveth it the semblance of the image of a man,

¹⁴ Or maketh it like some paltry animal,

Smearing it with vermilion, and with paint coloring it red,

And smearing over every stain that is therein;

¹⁵ And having made for it a chamber worthy of it,

He setteth it in a wall, making it fast with iron.

¹⁶ While then he taketh thought for it that it may not fall
down,

Knowing that it is unable to help itself;

(For verily it is an image, and hath need of help;)

¹⁷ When he maketh his prayer concerning goods and his
marriage and children,

He is not ashamed to speak to that which hath no life;

¹⁸ Yea for health he calleth upon that which is weak,

And for life he beseecheth that which is dead,

And for aid he supplicateth that which hath least experi-
ence.

And for a *good* journey that which cannot so much as move
a step,

¹⁹ And for gaining and getting and good success of his
hands

He asketh ability of that which with its hands is most
unable.

14

- ¹ Again, one preparing to sail, and about to journey over
raging waves,
Calleth upon a piece of wood more rotten than the vessel
that carrieth him;
- ² For that *vessel* the hunger for gains devised,
And an artificer, *even* wisdom, built it;
- ³ And thy providence, O Father, guideth it along,
Because even in the sea thou gavest a way,
And in the waves a sure path,
- ⁴ Showing that thou canst save out of every *danger*,
That so even without art a man may put to sea;
- ⁵ And it is thy will that the works of thy wisdom should be
not idle;
Therefore also do men entrust their lives to a little piece
of wood,
And passing through the surge on a raft are brought safe
to land.
- ⁶ For in the old time also, when proud giants were
perishing,
The hope of the world, taking refuge on a raft,
Left to the race of men a seed of generations *to come*,
Thy hand guiding the helm.
- ⁷ For blessed hath been wood through which cometh
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 named a god:
- ⁹ For both the ungodly doer and his ungodliness are alike
hateful to God;
- ¹⁰ For verily the deed shall be punished together with him
that committed it.
- ¹¹ Therefore also among the idols of the nations shall
there be a visitation,

The Wisdom Of Solomon 14:1231The Wisdom Of Solomon 14:19

Because, though formed of things which God created,
they were made an abomination,
And 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 neither were they from the beginning, neither shall they be forever;

¹⁴ For by the vaingloriousness of men they entered into the world,
And therefore was a speedy end devised 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 who was then a dead man,
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 by the commandments of princes the graven images received worship.

¹⁷ And when men could not honor them in presence because they dwelt 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 unto a yet higher pitch was worship raised even by them that knew *him* not,
Urged forward by the ambition of the artificer:

¹⁹ For he, wishing peradventure to please one in authority,
Used his art to force the likeness toward a greater beauty;

20 And the multitude, allured by reason of the grace of his handiwork,

Now accounted as an object of devotion him that a little before was honored as a man.

21 And this became a hidden danger unto life,
Because men, in bondage either to calamity or to tyranny,
Invested stones and stocks with the incommunicable Name.

22 Afterward it was not enough for them to go astray as touching the knowledge of God;

But also, while they live in sore conflict through ignorance of *him*.

That multitude of evils they call peace.

23 For either slaughtering children in solemn rites, or celebrating secret mysteries,

Or holding frantic revels of strange ordinances,

24 No longer do they guard either life or purity of marriage,

But one bringeth upon another either death by treachery, or anguish by adulterate offspring.

25 And all things confusedly are filled with blood and murder, theft and deceit,

Corruption, faithlessness, tumult, perjury, ²⁶ turmoil,

Ingratitude for benefits *received*,

Defiling of souls, confusion of sex,

Disorder in marriage, adultery and wantonness.

27 For the worship of those nameless idols

Is a beginning and cause and end of every evil.

28 For *their worshipers* either make merry unto madness, or prophesy lies,

Or live unrighteously, or lightly forswear themselves.

29 For putting their trust in lifeless idols,

When they have sworn a wicked oath, they expect not to suffer harm.

³⁰ But for both *sins* shall the just doom pursue them,
Because they had evil thoughts of God by giving heed to idols,
And sware unrighteously in deceit through contempt for holiness.

³¹ For it is not the power of them by whom men swear,
But it is that Justice which hath regard to them that sin,
That visiteth always the transgression of the unrighteous.

15

¹ But thou, our God, art gracious and true,
Long-suffering, and in mercy ordering all things.

² For even if we sin, we are thine, knowing thy dominion;
But we shall not sin, knowing that we have been accounted thine:

³ For to be acquainted with thee is perfect righteousness,
And to know thy dominion is the root of immortality.

⁴ For neither were we led astray by any evil device of men's art,
Nor yet by painters' fruitless labor,
A form stained with varied colors;

⁵ The sight whereof leadeth fools into lust:
Their desire is for the breathless form of a dead image.

⁶ Lovers of evil things, and worthy of such hopes as *these*,
Are both they that do, and they that desire, and they that worship.

⁷ For a potter, kneading soft earth,
Laboriously moldeth each several *vessel* for our service:
Nay, out of the same clay doth he fashion

The Wisdom Of Solomon 15:834The Wisdom Of Solomon 15:14

Both the vessels that minister to clean uses, and those of
a contrary sort,

All in like manner;

But what shall be the use of each *vessel* of either sort,
The craftsman *himself* is the judge.

⁸ And also, laboring to an evil end, he moldeth a vain god
out of the same clay,

He who, having but a little before been made of earth,
After a short space goeth his way *to the earth* out of which
he was taken,

When he is required to render back the soul which was
lent him.

⁹ Howbeit he hath anxious care,
Not because his powers must fail,

Nor because his span of life is short;

But he matcheth himself against goldsmiths and silver-
smiths,

And he imitateth molders in brass,

And esteemeth it glory that he moldeth counterfeits.

¹⁰ His heart is ashes,

And his hope of less value than earth,

And his life of less honor than clay:

¹¹ Because he was ignorant of him that molded him,

And of him that inspired into him an active soul,

And breathed into him a vital spirit.

¹² But he accounted our *very* life to be a plaything,

And our lifetime a gainful fair;

For, saith he, one must get gain whence one can, though
it be by evil.

¹³ For this man beyond all others knoweth that he sinneth,
Out of earthy matter making brittle vessels and graven
images.

¹⁴ But most foolish *were* they all, and of feebler soul than
a babe,

The enemies of thy people, who oppressed them;

¹⁵ Because they even accounted all the idols of the nations
to be gods;

Which have neither the use of eyes for seeing,
Nor nostrils for drawing breath,

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 hath power, *being* a man, to mold a god like
unto himself,

¹⁷ But, being mortal, he maketh a dead thing by the work
of lawless hands;
For he is better than the objects of his worship,
Forasmuch as he indeed had life, but they never.

¹⁸ Yea, and the creatures that are most hateful do they
worship,
For, being compared as to want of sense, these are worse
than all others;

¹⁹ Neither, as seen beside *other* creatures, are they beauti-
ful, so that one should desire them,
But they have escaped both the praise of God and his
blessing.

16

¹ For this cause were *these men* worthily punished through
creatures like those which they worship,

And tormented through a multitude of vermin.

² Instead of which punishment, thou, bestowing benefits
on thy people,

Preparedst quails for food,
Food of rare taste, to satisfy the desire of their appetite;

³ To the end that thine enemies, desiring food,

The Wisdom Of Solomon 16:436The Wisdom Of Solomon 16:11

Might for the hideousness of the *creatures* sent among
them

Loathe even the necessary appetite;

But these, *thy people*, having for a short space suffered
want,

Might even partake of *food of rare taste*.

⁴ For it was needful that upon those should come inex-
orable want in their tyrannous dealing,

But that to these it should only be shown how their
enemies were tormented.

⁵ For even when terrible raging of wild beasts came upon
thy people,

And they were perishing by the bites of crooked serpents,
Thy wrath continued not to the uttermost;

⁶ But for admonition were they troubled for a short space,
Having a token of salvation,

To put them in remembrance of the commandment of thy
law:

⁷ For he that turned toward it was not saved because of
that which was beheld,

But because of thee, the Savior of all.

⁸ Yea, and in this didst thou persuade our enemies,

That thou art he that delivereth out of every evil.

⁹ For them verily the bites of locusts and flies did slay,

And there was not found a healing for their life,

Because they were worthy to be punished by such *as these*;

¹⁰ But thy sons not the very teeth of venomous dragons
overcame,

For thy mercy passed by where they were, and healed
them.

¹¹ For they were bitten, to put them in remembrance of
thine oracles;

And were quickly saved, lest, falling into deep forgetful-
ness,

The Wisdom Of Solomon 16:1237The Wisdom Of Solomon 16:20

They should become unable to be roused by thy beneficence:

¹² For of a truth it was neither herb nor mollifying plaster that cured them,

But thy word, O Lord, which healeth all things;

¹³ For thou hast authority over life and death, And thou ledest down to the gates of Hades, and ledest up again.

¹⁴ But though a man *may* slay by his wickedness, Yet the spirit that is gone forth he turneth not again, Neither giveth release to the soul that *Hades* hath received.

¹⁵ But thy hand it is not possible to escape;

¹⁶ For ungodly men, refusing to know thee, were scourged in the strength of thine arm,

Pursued with strange rains and hails and showers inexorable,

And utterly consumed with fire;

¹⁷ For, what was most marvelous *of all*,

In the water which quencheth all things the fire wrought yet more mightily;

For the world fighteth for the righteous.

¹⁸ For at one time the flame lost its fierceness,

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 through the judgment of God:

¹⁹ And at another time even in the midst of water it burneth above the power of fire,

That it may destroy the fruits of an unrighteous land.

²⁰ Instead whereof thou gavest thy people angels' food to eat,

The Wisdom Of Solomon 16:2138The Wisdom Of Solomon 16:28

And bread ready *for their use* didst thou provide for them
from heaven without *their* toil,
Bread having the virtue of every pleasant savor,
And agreeing to every taste;

²¹ For thy nature manifested thy sweetness toward *thy*
children;

While *that bread*, ministering to the desire of the eater,
Tempered itself according to every man's choice.

²² But snow and ice endured fire, and melted not,
That *men* might know that fire was destroying the fruits
of the enemies,

Burning in the hail and flashing in the rains;

²³ And that this *element* again, in order that righteous men
may be nourished,

Hath even forgotten its own power.

²⁴ For the creation, ministering to thee its maker,
Straineth its force against the unrighteous, for punish-
ment,
And slackeneth it in behalf of them that trust in thee, for
beneficence.

²⁵ Therefore at that time also, converting itself into all
forms,

It ministered to thine all-nourishing bounty,
According to the desire of them that made supplication;

²⁶ That thy sons, whom thou lovedst, O Lord, might learn
That it is not the growth of *the earth's* fruits that nour-
isheth a man,

But that thy word preserveth them that trust thee.

²⁷ For that which was not marred by fire,
When it was simply warmed by a faint sunbeam melted
away;

²⁸ That it might be known that *we* must rise before the sun
to give thee thanks,

And must plead with thee at the dawning of the light:

²⁹ For the hope of the unthankful shall melt as the winter's
hoar frost,
And shall flow away as water that hath no use.

17

¹ For great are thy judgments, and hard to interpret;
Therefore souls undisciplined went astray.
² For when lawless men had supposed that they held a
holy nation in their power,
They, *themselves*, prisoners of darkness, and bound in the
fettters of a long night,
Close kept beneath their roofs,
Lay exiled from the eternal providence.
³ For while they thought that they were unseen in *their*
secret sins,
They were sundered one from another by a dark curtain
of forgetfulness,
Stricken with terrible awe, and sore troubled by spectral
forms.
⁴ For neither did the dark recesses that held them guard
them from fears,
But sounds rushing down rang around them,
And phantoms appeared, cheerless with unsmiling faces.
⁵ And no force of fire prevailed to give *them* light,
Neither were the brightest flames of the stars strong
enough to illumine that gloomy night:
⁶ But only there appeared to them the glimmering of a fire
self-kindled, full of fear;
And in terror they deemed the things which they saw
To be worse than that sight, on which they could not gaze.
⁷ And they lay *helpless*, made the sport of magic art,
And a shameful rebuke of their vaunts of understanding:

⁸ For they that promised to drive away terrors and
troublings from a sick soul,

These were *themselves* sick with a ludicrous fearfulness:

⁹ For even if no troublous thing affrighted them,

Yet, scared with the creepings of vermin and hissings of
serpents,

¹⁰ They perished for very trembling,

Refusing even to look on the air, which could on no side
be escaped.

¹¹ For wickedness, condemned by a witness within, is a
coward thing,

And, being pressed hard by conscience, always fore-
casteth the worst *lot*:

¹² For fear is nothing else but a surrender of the succors
which reason offereth;

¹³ And from within *the heart* the expectation of *them* being
less

Maketh of greater account the ignorance of the cause that
bringeth the torment.

¹⁴ But they, all through the night which was powerless
indeed,

And which came upon them out of the recesses of power-
less Hades,

All sleeping the same sleep,

¹⁵ Now were haunted by monstrous apparitions,

And now were paralyzed by their soul's surrendering;

For fear sudden and unlooked for came upon them.

¹⁶ So then *every man*, whosoever it might be, sinking down
in his place,

Was kept in ward shut up in that prison which was barred
not with iron:

¹⁷ For whether he were a husbandman, or a shepherd,

Or a laborer whose toils were in the wilderness,

He was overtaken, and endured that inevitable necessity,

The Wisdom Of Solomon 17:1841The Wisdom Of Solomon 18:4

For with one chain of darkness were they all bound.

¹⁸ Whether there were a whistling wind,
Or a melodious noise 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 moun-
tains,

All these things paralyzed them with terror.

²⁰ For the whole world *beside* was enlightened 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 yet heavier than darkness were they unto themselves.

18

¹ But for thy holy ones there was great light;
And *the Egyptians*, hearing their voice but seeing not their
form,

Counted it a happy thing that they too had suffered,

² Yet for that they do not hurt them *now*, though wronged
by them before, they are thankful;

And because they had been at variance *with them*, they
made supplication *to them*.

³ Whereas thou didst provide *for thy people* a burning pillar
of fire,

To be a guide for *their* unknown journey,

And withal a kindly sun for *their* proud exile.

⁴ For well did the Egyptians deserve to be deprived of light
and imprisoned by darkness,

The Wisdom Of Solomon 18:54 The Wisdom Of Solomon 18:12

They who had kept in close ward thy sons,
Through whom the incorruptible light of the law was to
be given to the race of men.

⁵ After they had taken counsel to slay the babes of the holy
ones,
And when a single child had been cast forth and saved to
convict *them of their sin*,

Thou tookest away from them their multitude of children,
And destroyedst all *their host* together in a mighty flood.

⁶ Of that night were our fathers made aware beforehand,
That, having sure knowledge, they might be cheered by
the oaths which they had trusted:

⁷ So by thy people was expected salvation of the righteous
and destruction of the enemies;

⁸ For as thou didst take vengeance on the adversaries,
By the same means, calling us unto thyself, thou didst
glorify us.

⁹ For holy children of good men offered sacrifice in secret,
And with one consent they took upon themselves 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 there sounded back in discord the cry of the
enemies,
And a piteous voice of lamentation for children was borne
abroad.

¹¹ And servant along with master punished with a like just
doom,

And commoner suffering the same as king,

¹² Yea, all *the people* together, under one form of death,
Had *with them* corpses without number;
For the living were not sufficient even to bury them,

The Wisdom Of Solomon 18:1343The Wisdom Of Solomon 18:22

Since at a single stroke their nobler 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 son.

¹⁴ For while peaceful silence enwrapped all things, And night in her own swiftness was in midcourse,

¹⁵ Thine all-powerful word leaped from heaven out of the royal throne,

A stern warrior, into the midst of the doomed land,

¹⁶ Bearing as a sharp sword thine unfeigned commandment;

And standing it filled all things with death;

And while it touched the heaven it trod upon the earth.

¹⁷ Then forthwith apparitions in dreams terribly troubled them,

And fears came upon them unlooked for.

¹⁸ And *each*, one thrown here half dead, another there, Made manifest wherefore he was dying:

¹⁹ For the dreams, perturbing them, did foreshow this, That they might not perish without knowing why they were afflicted.

²⁰ But it befell the righteous also to make trial of death, And a multitude were stricken in the wilderness: Howbeit the wrath endured not for long.

²¹ For a blameless man hasted to be their champion:

Bringing the weapon of his own ministry,

Even prayer and the propitiation of incense,

He withstood the indignation, and set an end to the calamity,

Showing that he was thy servant.

²² And he overcame the anger,

The Wisdom Of Solomon 18:2344The Wisdom Of Solomon 19:4

Not by strength of body, not by efficacy of weapons;
But by word did he subdue the minister of punishment,
By bringing to remembrance oaths and covenants made
with the fathers.

²³ For when the dead were already fallen in heaps one
upon another,

Standing between he stopped the *advancing* wrath,
And cut off the way to the living.

²⁴ For upon *his* long *high-priestly* robe was the whole world,
And the glories of the fathers *were* upon the graving of the
four rows of precious stones,

And thy majesty *was* upon the diadem of his head.

²⁵ To these the destroyer gave place, and these *the people*
feared;

For it was enough only to make trial of the wrath.

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¹ But upon the ungodly there came unto the end indignation
without mercy;

For their future also *God* foreknew,

² How that, having changed their minds to *let thy people*
go,

And having speeded them eagerly on their way,
They would repent themselves and pursue them.

³ For while they were yet in the midst of their mourning,
And making lamentation at the graves of the dead,
They drew upon themselves another counsel of folly,
And pursued as fugitives those whom with entreaties they
had cast out.

⁴ For the doom which they deserved was drawing them
unto this end,
And it made them forget the things that had befallen
them,

The Wisdom Of Solomon 19:545The Wisdom Of Solomon 19:13

That they might fill up the punishment which was yet
wanting to their torments,

⁵ And that thy 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 several kind, was
fashioned again anew,

Ministering to *thy* several commandments,

That thy servants might be guarded free from hurt.

⁷ *Then* was beheld the cloud that shadowed the camp,

And dry land rising up out of what before was 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 hosts,

These that were covered with thy hand,

Having beheld strange marvels.

⁹ For like horses they roamed at large,

And they skipped about like lambs,

Praising thee, O Lord, who wast their deliverer.

¹⁰ For they still remembered the things that came to pass
in the time of their sojourning,

How that instead of bearing cattle the land brought forth
lice,

And instead of fish the river cast up a multitude of frogs.

¹¹ But afterwards they saw also a new race of birds,

When, led on by desire, they asked for luxurious dainties;

¹² For, to solace them, there came up for them quails from
the sea.

¹³ And upon the sinners came the punishments

Not without the tokens that were given beforehand by the
force of the thunders;

The Wisdom Of Solomon 19:1446The Wisdom Of Solomon 19:21

For justly did they suffer through their own wickednesses,
For grievous indeed was the hatred which they practiced
toward guests.

¹⁴ For whereas the *men of Sodom* received not the strangers
when they came among *them*;

The Egyptians made slaves of guests who were their
benefactors.

¹⁵ And not only so, *but God* shall visit the men of Sodom
after another sort,

Since they received as enemies them that were aliens;

¹⁶ Whereas these *first* welcomed with feastings,

And *then* afflicted with dreadful toils,

Them that 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 compassed about with yawning darkness,
They sought every one the passage through his own door.

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

Even so *did* the elements, changing their order one with
another,

Continuing always *the same*, *each* in its *several* sound;

As may clearly be divined from the sight of the things that
are come to pass.

¹⁹ For creatures of the dry land were turned into creatures
of the waters,

And creatures that swim trod *now* upon the earth:

²⁰ Fire kept the mastery of its own power in *the midst of*
water,

And water forgot its quenching nature:

²¹ Contrariwise, flames wasted not the flesh of perishable
creatures that walked among them;

The Wisdom Of Solomon 19:2247The Wisdom Of Solomon 19:22

Neither melted they the ice-like grains of ambrosial food,
that were *of nature* apt to melt.

²² For in all things, O Lord, thou didst magnify thy people,
And thou didst glorify them and not lightly regard them;
Standing by their side in every time and place.

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