

TOBIT

¹ Tobit* *was* of the lineage and of the city of Naphtali, which is in the higher parts of Galilee, above Hazor, behind [*or after*] the way that leadeth to the west, and it hath in the left side the city of Thisbe,

² when he was taken [*or he was caught*] in the days of Shalmaneser, king of Assyrians [*or of Assyria*], never-theless he set in captivity, *either taken prisoner*, forsook not the way of truth,

³ so that he parted each day all things which he might have, with his captive brethren that were of his kin.

⁴ And when he was younger than all others in the lineage of Naphtali, nevertheless he did no childish thing in work [*or in deed*].

⁵ Forsooth when all *the Jews* went to worship the golden calves, which Jeroboam, the king of Israel, had made, this *Tobit* alone fled the companies of all *those Jews*;

⁶ and he went to Jerusalem, to the temple of the Lord, and there he worshipped the Lord God of Israel; and he offered faithfully all his first fruits, and his tithes;

⁷ so that in the third year he gave all his tithe to converts, that is, men that were turned to the belief [*or the converted from Gentiles*], and to comelings.

* **CHAPTER 1:1** *This story of Tobit befelled in the sixth year of king Hezekiah.*

⁸ The young man kept these things, and things like these, by *[or after]* he law of God of heaven.

⁹ And when he was made a man, he took a wife, Anna, of his lineage; and he engendered *[or he begat]* of her a son, and he put his own name to him;

¹⁰ whom he taught from young childhood to dread God, and for to abstain from all sin. *[whom from the time that he began to speak, he taught to dread God, and to abstain from all sin.]*

¹¹ Therefore when by captivity Tobit was come, with his wife and son, into the city of Nineveh, with all his lineage,

¹² and all ate *there* of the meats of heathen men *[or all ate of the meats of Gentiles]*, this Tobit kept his soul, *clean*, and he was never defouled in the meats of them, *that were forbidden to Jews by Moses' law*.

¹³ And for he was mindful of the Lord in all his heart, God gave grace to him in the sight of Shalmaneser, the king;

¹⁴ and he gave to Tobit power to go wither ever he would, and he had freedom to do whatever things he would.

¹⁵ Therefore he went by all men that were in *[the]* captivity, and gave to them the behests *[or admonishings]* of health.

¹⁶ And when he was come into Rages, a city of Media, and had ten talents of silver, of these things by *[or with]* which he was honoured of the king;

¹⁷ and he saw Gabael needy, that was of his lineage, with much company of his kin, Tobit

gave to him, under an obligation [*or under writing*], the foresaid weight of silver.

18 And after much time, after that Shalmaneser, the king, was dead, when Sennacherib, his son, reigned for him [*or when his son Sennacherib reigned for him*], and had the sons of Israel hateful in his sight,

19 Tobit went each day by all his kindred, and comforted them, and he parted [*or divided*] of his chattel to each man, as he might;

20 he fed hungry men, and gave clothes to naked men, and he busily ordained sepulchres to dead men and slain.

21 And when king Sennacherib turned again, fleeing from Judea for the vengeance that God did *there* to him for his blasphemy, and was wroth, and killed many of the sons of Israel, Tobit buried their bodies.

22 And after that this was told to the king, he commanded Tobit to be slain, and he took from him all his chattel [*or all his substance*].

23 And Tobit fled with his son and with his wife, and he was hid naked, *that is, spoiled of all his chattel*, for many men loved him.

24 Forsooth after five and forty days, the sons of the king killed the king;

25 and *then* Tobit turned again to his house, and all his chattel was restored to him.

CHAPTER 2

1 Forsooth after these things, when a feast day of the Lord was, and a good meat was made in the house of Tobit, he said to his son,

² Go thou, and bring some men of our lineage, that dread God, that they eat with us.

³ And when he, *young Tobias*, was gone *forth*, he turned again, and told to his father, that one of the sons of Israel lay strangled in the street; and anon Tobit rose up from his sitting place, and left the meat, and came fasting to the body;

⁴ and he took it, and bare *it* to his house privily, for to bury him warily [*or slyly*], when the sun was gone down.

⁵ And when he had hid the body, he ate bread with mourning and trembling,

⁶ and remembered the word, which the Lord said by Amos, the prophet, Your feast days shall be turned into mourning and lamentation, *either wailing, [or into wailing and sorrowing]*.

⁷ And when the sun was gone down, Tobit went, and buried him.

⁸ Forsooth all his neighbours blamed [*or reproved*] him, and said, Now for the cause [*or because*] of this thing thou were commanded to be slain, and scarcely thou hast escaped the behest [*or the commandment*] of death, and again thou buriest dead men?

⁹ But Tobit dreaded more God than the king, and he took away the bodies of slain men, and hid *them* in his house, and buried those in the middle of nights [*or in the midnights he buried them*].

¹⁰ And it befelled, that in a day Tobit was made weary of burying *dead bodies*; and he came home, and laid himself beside a wall, and slept *there*;

11 and while he slept, hot turds, or drit, fell down from the nest of swallows upon his eyes; and he was made blind.

12 And therefore the Lord suffered this temptation to befall to him, that the ensample of his patience should be given to after-comers, as also *it is* of holy Job.

13 For why when Tobit dreaded God ever[*more*] from his young childhood, and kept his commandments, he was not sorry, *or heavy, or grutching* against God, for that the sickness of blindness came to him;

14 but he dwelled unmovable in the dread of God, and did thankings to God in all the days of his life.

15 For why as kings upbraided saint or blessed Job, so *it befelled* to this *Tobit*, that his elders and kinsmen scorned his life, and said,

16 Where is thine hope*, for which thou didest alms-deeds and buryings?

17 And Tobit blamed them, and said,

18 Do not ye speak so, for we be the sons of holy men, and we abide that life, which God shall give to them that change never their faith from him.

19 And Anna, his wife, went each day to the work of weaving, and she brought *home* the livelode [*or the lifelode*] which she might get of the travail of her hands.

20 Whereof it befell, that she took a kid of goats, *for her weaving*, and she brought *it* home.

* **CHAPTER 2:16** *These believed the rewarding of good and of evil is only in present life, as the friends of Job did.*

²¹ And when her husband had heard the voice of this kid bleating, he said, Look ye, lest peradventure this kid be *gotten* of theft [*or it be stolen*], but *if it so be* yield ye it *again* to his lords; for it is not leaveful, either to eat either to touch anything of theft.

²² At these words the wife of Tobit was wroth, and answered, Now is openly thine hope made vain, and thine alms-deeds have appeared, *that is, feigned and void, as done for hypocrisy.*

²³ And by these and other such words she said shame [*or put reproof*] to him.

CHAPTER 3

¹ Then Tobit inwardly sorrowed, and began to pray with tears, and said,

² Lord, thou art just, and all thy dooms be just, and all thy ways be mercy, and truth, and doom.

³ And now, Lord, have thou mind of me, and take thou not vengeance of my sins, neither have thou mind of my trespasses [*or nor remember thou my guilts*], neither of my fathers.

⁴ For we obeyed not to thy commandments, and *therefore* we be taken into rifling [*or wasting*], and into captivity, and into death, and into a fable or jangling, and into shame [*or reproof*] to all nations, among which thou hast scattered us.

⁵ And now, Lord, thy dooms be great *and dreadful*; for we have not done after thy commandments, and we have not gone cleanly [*or clearly*] before thee.

⁶ And now, Lord, by [*or after*] thy will do thou mercy with me, and command thou my spirit to be received in peace; for it speedeth more to me to die than to live.

⁷ And also it befell in the same day, that Sarah, the daughter of Raguel, *was* in Rages, a city of Media, and she heard shame [*or the reproof*] of one of the handmaids of her father;

⁸ for she was given to seven husbands, and a fiend [*or a devil*], Asmodeus by name, killed them, anon as they had entered [*in*] to her.

⁹ And when Sarah blamed her maid for her guilt, the damsel answered to her, and said, Thou slayeress of thine husbands, see we never upon earth son either daughter of thee;

¹⁰ whether also thou wilt slay me, as also thou hast slain seven men? At this word Sarah went into the higher closet [*or the over bed-place*] of her house, and three days and three nights she ate not, neither drank;

¹¹ but she continued in prayer with tears, and besought God, that he should deliver her from this shame [*or reproof*].

¹² And it was done in the third day, while she had fulfilled her prayer,

¹³ she blessed the Lord, and said, God of our fathers, thy name is blessed, [*or Blessed is thy name, God of our fathers*], which when thou hast been wroth, [*thou*] shalt do mercy, and in time of tribulation thou forgivest sins to them, that inwardly call thee.

¹⁴ Lord, to thee I turn altogether my face; and I lift up mine eyes to thee. [*To thee, Lord, I turn my face, and to thee mine eyes I rear.*]

¹⁵ Lord, I ask *of thee*, that thou loose me from the bond of this shame, either certainly that thou take me away from above the earth.

¹⁶ Lord, thou knowest, that I never coveted man *for fleshly lust*, and I have kept my soul clean from all covetousness [*or lust*].

¹⁷ I meddled me never with players *dissolutely and dishonestly*, [*or Never with players I mingled me*], neither I gave myself *to be* partner with them that go in unstableness.

¹⁸ But, *Lord*, I consented to take an husband with thy dread, not with my lust.

¹⁹ And either I was unworthy to them, either they peradventure were not worthy to me; for in hap [*or peradventure*] thou hast kept me to another husband.

²⁰ For thy counsel is not in the power of man *to know it*.

²¹ Forsooth each that worshipping thee hath this for certain, that if his life is in proving, he shall be crowned, *if he continue patiently*; soothly if he is in tribulation, he shall be delivered; and if he is in chastising, it shall be leaveful to come to thy mercy.

²² For thou delightest not in our losses; for after tempest thou makest peaceable, and after mourning and weeping thou bringest [*or pourest*] in full out joying.

²³ God of Israel, thy name be blessed into worlds, *that is, till into without end*.

²⁴ In that time the prayers of both *Tobit and Sarah* were heard in [*the*] sight of the glory of the highest God [*or the most good God*];

²⁵ and Raphael, the holy angel of the Lord, was sent to heal them both, whose prayers were rehearsed in one time in the sight of the Lord.

CHAPTER 4

¹ Therefore when Tobit guessed his prayer to be heard, that he might die, he called Tobias, his son, to him,

² and said to him, My son, hear thou the words of my mouth, and build or ground thou them as a fundament in thine heart.

³ When God hath taken my soul, bury thou my body; and thou shalt do honour to thy mother in all the days of her life;

⁴ for thou owest to be mindful, what perils and how great *perils* she suffered for thee in her womb.

⁵ And when also she hath [*full-*]filled or ended the time of her life, thou shalt bury her beside me.

⁶ And in all the days of thy life have thou God in mind, and be thou ware [*or beware*], lest anytime thou consent to sin, and forsake the behests of our God.

⁷ And of thy *own* chattel [*or thy substance*] do thou alms-*[deeds]*, and do not thou turn away thy face from any poor man*; and so it shall be done,

* **CHAPTER 4:7** If thou mayest not give chattel, give thou will, and sign of compassion.

that the face of the Lord be not turned away from thee.

⁸ As thou mayest, *that is, after thy power*, be thou merciful. [*What manner wise thou shalt be able, so be thou merciful.*]

⁹ If thou hast much, give thou plenteously [*or abundantly*]; if thou hast a little, also be thou busy to part willfully or gladly a little.

¹⁰ Certainly *then* thou treasurest to thee a good meed, in the day of need;

¹¹ for why alms-*[deeds]* delivereth from all sin and from death, and shall not suffer the soul to go into dark-nesses.

¹² Alms-*[deeds]* shall be the great trust before the highest God to all men doing it.

¹³ Son, take heed to thyself, and flee from all fornication, and besides thy wife, suffer thou never to know sin.

¹⁴ And suffer thou never pride to have lordship in thy wit, neither in thy word; for all loss [*or perdition*], *either damnation*, took beginning in *pride*.

¹⁵ Whoever worketh anything to thee, yield thou anon his meed, and utterly the hire of thine hired man, or thy workman, dwell *it* not with thee.

¹⁶ That that thou hatest to be done to thee of another man, see thou, lest anytime thou do *that thing* to another man. [*That of another thou hatest to be done to thee, look thou, that anytime thou do it not to another.*]

¹⁷ Eat thy bread with hungry men and needy, and with thy clothes cover thou naked men.

18 Ordain thy bread and thy wine on the sepulchre, or the burying, of a just [*or rightwise*] man, and do not thou eat and drink thereof with sinners.

19 Ever[*more*] seek thou perfectly counsel of a wise man.

20 In all time bless thou God, and ask thou of him, that he dress [*or make ready*] thy ways, and all thy counsels dwell in him.

21 Also, my son, I show to thee, that while thou were yet a little child [*or little infant*], I gave ten talents of silver to Gabael, in Rages, a city of Media; and I have his obligation [*or the writ of it*] with me;

22 therefore inquire thou busily, how thou shalt come to him, and receive *thou* of him the foresaid weight of silver, and restore to him his obligation [*or his writ*].

23 My son, do not thou dread; forsooth we lead a poor life, but we shall have many goods, if we dread God, and go away from all sin[†], and do well.

CHAPTER 5

1 Then Tobias answered to his father and said, Father, I shall do all things, whichever [*or whatever*] thou commandedest to me;

2 but I know not, how I shall get this money; Gabael knoweth not me, and I know not him; what token shall I give to him? but neither I knew anytime the way, by which me goeth thither.

[†] **CHAPTER 4:23** That is, deadly sin, for we may not utterly eschew all venial in this life.

³ Then his father answered to him, and said, Certainly I have his obligation here with me, which the while thou showest *it* to him, he shall restore [*or yield*] anon the money.

⁴ But go now, and inquire [*or ensearch*] to thee some faithful man, that shall go with thee for his hire safe [*or saved his meed*], that thou receive that money yet while I live.

⁵ Then Tobias went forth, and he found a shining young man, standing, tucked up [*or gird*], and as ready to go;

⁶ and he knew not that it was the angel [*or an angel*] of God. And he greeted the young man, and said, Of whence have we thee, good young man?

⁷ And he answered, *I am* of the sons of Israel. And Tobias said to him, Knowest thou the way, that leadeth into the country of Media?

⁸ To whom he answered, I know *it*, and I have gone often all the ways thereof, and I have dwelled with Gabael, your cousin/your brother, that dwelleth in Rages, a city of Media, which city is set in Ecbatana.

⁹ To whom Tobias said, I beseech *thee*, abide thou me *here*, till I tell these things to my father.

¹⁰ Then Tobias entered, and told all these things to his father; on the which things his father wondered, and he prayed *the young man*, that he would enter [*or should come*] in to him.

¹¹ Then he entered, and greeted Tobit, and said *to him*, Joy be ever-*[more]* to thee!

¹² And Tobit said, What manner joy shall be to me, that sit in darkneses, and see not the light of heaven?

13 To whom the young man said, Be thou of strong wit; it is in the most nigh *time*, or full nigh, that thou be healed [*or cured*] of God.

14 Then Tobit said to him, Whether thou mayest lead my son to Gabael into Rages, a city of Media, and when thou comest again, I shall restore [*or I shall yield*] thy meed to thee?

15 And the angel said to him, I shall lead *him thither*, and bring again him to thee/and I shall lead again him whole to thee.

16 To whom Tobit answered, I pray thee, show to me, of what house, either of what lineage thou art?

17 To whom Raphael, the angel, said, Askest thou the kin [*or the kindred*] of the hired man, either *askest thou who is the hired man himself*, that shall go with thy son?

18 But lest peradventure I make thee doubtful, I am Azariah, *that is interpreted, the helper of God*, the son of the great Ananias, *that is interpreted, the grace of God*. [*But lest peradventure I make thee stirred, I am Azariah, the son of great Ananias.*]

19 And Tobit answered, Thou art of great kin; but I ask, *or pray, thee*, that thou be not wroth, that I would know thy kin [*or thy kindred*].

20 And the angel said to him, I shall lead forth thy son whole [*or sound*], and I shall bring again to thee thy son whole [*or sound*] /and I shall lead him again whole [*or sound*] to thee.

21 And Tobit answered, and said, Well go ye, and the Lord be in your way, and his angel go with you.

22 Then when all things were ready, that should be borne in the way *with them*, Tobias made farewell to his father and his mother; and both went together/and they walked forth both together.

23 And when they were gone forth, his mother began to weep, and to say *to old Tobit*, Thou hast taken the staff*, *or the substance*, of our eld age[*or The staff of our eld thou hast taken away*], and hast sent *him* away from us;

24 I would that that money had never been, that thou hast sent him for/for which thou sentest him;

25 our poverty sufficed to us, that we should have areckoned this thing *to be riches to us* /that we should areckon this riches, that we see our son *beside us*.

26 And Tobit said to her, Do not thou weep/ Weep thou not; our son shall come safe *thither*, and he shall turn again safe to us, and thine eyes shall see him.

27 Soothly I believe, that the good angel of God goeth with him, and *that angel* shall dispose well all things, that be done about him, so that he turn again with joy to us.

28 At this voice, *or word*, his mother ceased to weep, and was still.

* **CHAPTER 5:23** That is, the sustaining, for children owe to fathers and mothers the service of reverence, and of needful purveyance, if they have need.

CHAPTER 6

¹ And Tobias went forth, and a dog pursued him [*or an hound followed him*], and he dwelled, *or abode*, in the first dwelling *of his journey* beside the flood of Tigris.

² And he went forth to wash his feet; and lo! a great fish went out to devour him.

³ Which fish Tobias dreaded, and cried with great voice, and said, Sire, this *fish* assaileth me.

⁴ And the angel said to him, Take the fish by the gill, *or by the jaw*, [*or Catch his fin*], and draw him to thee. And when he had done this thing, he drew the fish into a dry place, and it began to sprawl before his feet.

⁵ Then the angel said to him, Draw out the entrails of this fish [*or Open this fish*], and keep to thee his heart and gall and maw; for these things be needful to medicines profitably.

⁶ And when he had done this thing, he roasted the flesh thereof, and they took with them in the way; and they salted other things, that should suffice to them in the way, till they came into Rages, the city of Media.

⁷ Then Tobias asked the angel, and said to him, Azarias, brother, I beseech thee, that thou say to me, what remedy these things shall have, which thou hast commanded to be kept of the fish.

⁸ And the angel answered, and said to him, If thou puttest a little part of his heart upon hot coals, the smoke thereof driveth away all kind of fiends [*or devils*], either from man either from woman, so that it nigh no more to them.

9 And the gall is much worthy to anoint eyes, in which is a web [*or rime*], and they shall be healed [*or be whole*].

10 And Tobias said to him, Where wilt thou, that we dwell, *or abide*?

11 And the angel answered, and said, Here is a man, Raguel by name, a nigh man of thy lineage, and he hath a daughter, Sarah by name; but neither he hath male child neither any other female or maid child, except her.

12 All his chattel [*or his substance*] is due to thee; and it behooveth thee have her to *thy* wife.

13 Therefore ask thou her of her father; and he shall give her a wife to thee.

14 Then Tobias answered, and said, I have heard, that she was given to seven husbands, and *all* they be dead; but I have heard this also, that a fiend [*or a devil*] killed them.

15 And therefore I dreaded, lest peradventure also these things befall to me; and since I am one alone to my father and mother, I put down with sorrow their *eld age* to hells/and since I am an only *son* to my father and mother, I *dread* to put down to hell their *eld age* with dreariness.

16 Then the angel Raphael said to him, Hear thou me, and I shall show to thee, who they be, over whom the fiend [*or the devil*] hath mastery;

17 *certainly the fiend hath power* over them, that take so their weddings [*or wedlock*], that they close out God from them, and from their mind; the fiend [*or the devil*] hath power over them, that give so attention to their lechery [*or lusts*],

as an horse and a mule *do*, that have none understanding.

18 But when thou hast taken her *to wife*, enter into thy bed-place, and by three days be thou continent from her, or be thou chaste abstaining thee from her *in all fleshly lust*, and to none other thing thou shalt give attention with her, but only to prayers.

19 Forsooth in that *first* night, when the maw of the fish is burnt, the fiend [*or the devil*] shall be driven away.

20 And in the second night, thou shalt be received [*or admitted*] in the coupling, *or marriage*, of holy patriarchs.

21 And in the third night, thou shalt get blessing, that whole [*or sound*] sons be engendered of you.

22 But when the third night is passed, thou shalt take the virgin [*or the maiden*] with the dread of the Lord, and thou shalt be led more by the love of *begetting of* children than by lust, that in the seed of Abraham thou get blessing in sons.

CHAPTER 7

1 Forsooth they entered [*or went in*] to Raguel; and Raguel received them with joy.

2 And Raguel beheld Tobias, and said to Edna, his wife, This young man is full like my sister's son [*or How like is this young man to our aunt's son*].

3 And when he had said these things, he said, Of whence be ye, young men, our brethren? And

they said, We be of the lineage of Naphtali, of the captivity of Nineveh.

⁴ And Raguel said to them, Know ye Tobit, my brother? And they answered, We know him.

⁵ And when he spake many good things of Tobit, the angel said to Raguel, Tobit, of whom thou askest, is the father of this man.

⁶ Then Raguel bowed down himself, and with tears he kissed Tobias, and he wept on his neck,

⁷ and said, My son, blessing be to thee; for thou art the son of a good and a full noble man.

⁸ And Edna, his wife, and Sarah, their daughter, wept.

⁹ And after that they had spoken *thus*, Raguel commanded a wether to be slain, and a feast to be made ready. And when Raguel moved them to sit down to meat,

¹⁰ Tobias said, I shall not eat, neither drink here today, no but thou confirm first mine asking, and [*thou*] promise to give to me Sarah, thy daughter to wife.

¹¹ And when this word was heard, Raguel dreaded, witting what befel to those seven men; and he began to dread, lest peradventure it should befall in like manner to this Tobias, [*and he die*]. And when he doubted, *or mused in this manner*, and gave none answer to the asker,

¹² the angel said to him, Do not thou dread to give her to this man; for thy daughter oweth to be given to this man dreading God; therefore another man might not have her.

¹³ Then Raguel said, I doubt not, that God hath received my prayers and my tears in his sight.

14 And I believe, that therefore the Lord made you to come to me, that also this woman should be joined to her kindred by [*or after*] the law of Moses; and now, *Tobias*, do not thou bear *any* doubt, that I shall give her to thee.

15 And he took the right hand of his daughter, and gave to the right hand of *Tobias*, and said, God of Abraham, and God of Isaac, and God of Jacob, be with you, and he join you together, and he [*full-*]fill his blessing in you.

16 And they took a charter, and they made together a writing of *witnessing* of the marriage. [*And the charter taken, they made the conscription of the wedlock.*]

17 And after these things they [*plente-ously*] ate, and blessed God.

18 And *Raguel* called to him *Edna*, his wife, and commanded [*to*] her to make ready another bed-
[*place*].

19 And she led *Sarah*, her daughter, in to it, and *Sarah* wept; and *Edna* said to her, My daughter, be thou of strong wit; the Lord of heaven give to thee joy, for the annoyance that thou hast suffered.

CHAPTER 8

1 And after that they had supped, they brought the young man *Tobias* in to her.

2 And *Tobias* bethought *him* of the words of the angel, and brought forth or drew out of his scrip [*or his bag*], a part of the maw of *the fish*, and he putted it upon quick coals.

³ And then Raphael, the angel, took the fiend [*or caught the devil*], and bound him *fast* in the desert of higher Egypt.

⁴ Then Tobias admonished the virgin [*or the maiden*], and said to her, Sarah, rise up, and pray we God today, and tomorrow, and the second morrow/ and after tomorrow; for in these three nights we be joined to God; and when the third night is passed, we shall be in our marriage [*or in our wedlock*];

⁵ for we be the children of holy men, and we may not be joined or coupled together as heathen men [*or Gentiles*]*be*, that know not God.

⁶ Soothly they rose up together, and they both prayed together busily, that health should be given to them.

⁷ And Tobias said, Lord God of our fathers, heavens, and *all* lands or earths, and the sea, and wells, and floods, and each creature of thine, that is in those, bless thee;

⁸ thou madest Adam of the slime of earth, and thou gavest to him an helper, Eve.

⁹ And now, Lord, thou knowest, that I take my sister *to wife*, not for cause [*or because*] of lechery, but for love alone of heirs or of begetting [*or of bringing forth*] of children, in which thy name be blessed into worlds of worlds.

¹⁰ And then Sarah said, Lord, have thou mercy on us, have thou mercy on us, and wax we both eld together whole *in body and soul*.

¹¹ And it was done about the cock's crowing or the crowing of the cock's, Raguel made [*or*

commanded] his servants to be called, and they went with him to dig a grave.

12 For he dreaded, lest it had befallen in like manner to Tobias, that befelled also to the other seven men, that entered *into wedlock* to Sarah *before*.

13 And when they had made ready a pit, Raguel went again to his wife, and said to her,

14 Send one of thine handmaids, and see she, whether Tobias is dead, that I bury him, before that light of day come.

15 And she sent one of her hand-maids, which entered into the closet, *or bed chamber*, [*or into the bed-place*], and found them safe and sound, sleeping together by themselves.

16 And she turned again, and told good message. And they blessed the Lord, that is, Raguel and Edna, his wife,

17 and said, Lord God of Israel, we bless thee, for it hath not befallen to us, as we guessed;

18 for thou hast done thy mercy with us, and hast shut out from us the enemy pursuing us.

19 Soothly thou hast done mercy with two alone. My Lord, make thou them to bless thee fullier [*or more fully*], and for to offer to thee the sacrifice of thy praising, and of their health, that the university, *or the multitude*, of folks know, that thou art God alone in all earth.

20 And anon Raguel commanded his servants to fill the pit, which they had made, before that light of day came [*or before that it waxed light*].

21 And Raguel said to his wife, that she should array a feast, and make ready all things, that

were needful to men making journey [*or were necessary to way-goers*].

²² Also he made to be slain two fat kine, and four weathers, and [*plenteous*] meats to be made ready to all his neighbours, and to all his friends.

²³ And Raguel made Tobias to swear or to promise him, that he should dwell two weeks at Raguel/that he should abide with him two weeks.

²⁴ And all things, that Raguel had in possession, he gave the half part to Tobias; and he made this scripture, that the half part, that was left of *his chattel*, should come to the lordship of Tobias after the death of him and his wife.

CHAPTER 9

¹ Then Tobias called to him the angel, whom soothly he guessed a man. And Tobias said to him, Azarias, brother, I ask of *thee*, that thou hearken my words.

² If I shall betake or Though I betake myself [*a*] servant to thee, yet I shall not *by my knowing*, be even worthy to thy purveyance, *or wisdom*.

³ Nevertheless I beseech thee, that thou take to thee beasts, either servants, and go thou to Gabael into Rages, a city of Media, and yield or betake thou to him his obligation [*or his writ*]; and take [*or receive*] of him the money *that he oweth to my father*, and pray him to come to my weddings [*or to my bridals*].

⁴ For thou knowest, that my father numbereth the days of *our journey*, and if I [*shall*] tarry one day more, his soul [*or his life*] shall be made sorry.

⁵ And certainly thou seest, how Raguel hath charged me to dwell here with him, whose charging I may not despise.

⁶ Then Raphael took four of the servants of Raguel, and two camels, and went into Rages, a city of Media, and he found Gabael, and gave to him his obligation [*or writ*], and received of him all the money;

⁷ and he showed to him of Tobias, the son of Tobit, *and* all things that were done. And he made Gabael to come with him to the weddings [*or to the bridals*].

⁸ And when Gabael entered into the house of Raguel, he found Tobias sitting at the meat; and he skipped up/and Tobias rose up anon, and they kissed themselves together.

⁹ And Gabael wept, and blessed God, and said, The Lord God of Israel bless thee, for thou art the son of a full good man, and just [*or rightwise*], and dreading God, and doing alms-deeds;

¹⁰ and the blessing *of God* be brought *or come* upon thy wife, and upon your fathers and mothers,

¹¹ and see ye your sons, and the sons of your sons, till into [*or unto*] the third and the fourth generation; and your seed be blessed of God of Israel, that reigneth into worlds of worlds or without end.

¹² And when all men had said Amen, they went to the feast or to meat; and they used the feast of those weddings [*or bridals*] with the dread of the Lord.

CHAPTER 10

¹ Soothly when Tobias made tarry-ing for cause of his weddings [*or by reason of the bridals*], Tobit his father was heaved or anguished, and he said *to his wife*, Why guessest thou, that my son tarrieth thus, either why he is withholden there or he is held there *thus long*?

² Guesseth thou, whether Gabael is dead, and no man yieldeth to him the money?

³ Forsooth he began to be sorry full much, and Anna, his wife, with him; and both began to weep together, for that their son turned not home again to them in the day set.

⁴ Then his mother wept with tears without remedy [*or with unremediable tears*], and said, Alas to me! my son, why sent we thee *to go* a pilgrimage, *thou art* the light of our eyes, the staff* of our eld *age*, the solace of our life, and the hope of our heirs or after-comers?

⁵ We had all things together in thee alone, and we ought not to have [*or should not*] let thee go from us.

⁶ To whom Tobit said, Be still, and do not thou be troubled [*or disturbed*]; our son is whole *and safe*; *for* that man is faithful enough, with whom we sent him *forth*.

⁷ But his mother might not be comforted in any manner, but each day she went out, and looked about *after him*, and compassed all the ways, by

* **CHAPTER 10:4** For as a sick man is sustained by a staff, so father and mother in eld age owe to be sustained of sons.

which the hope of his again-coming seemed *to her*, to see him coming afar, if it might be done.

⁸ And soothly Raguel said to the husband of his daughter [*or his son-in-law*], Dwell thou here, or Abide thou here *with me*, and I shall send a messenger *to tell* of thine health to Tobit, thy father.

⁹ To whom Tobias said, I know, that my father and my mother reckon now [*or now count*] the days *of mine absence from them*, and their spirit is tormented in them.

¹⁰ And when Raguel had prayed Tobias with many words, and he would not hear Raguel or consent to him by, or for, any reason, Raguel betook to him Sarah, and half the part of all his chattel or all his goods, [*or all his substance*], in servants, and damsels or handmaidens, in sheep and camels, and in kine, and in much money; and he delivered from him-self Tobias safe and joying, and said,

¹¹ The holy angel of the Lord be in your way, and bring you sound *home*, and find ye all things rightfully [*or right*] about your father and your mother,

¹² and mine eyes see your sons, before that I die. And the father and mother took their daughter, and kissed her, and let her go *forth with Tobias her husband*,

¹³ and admonished her to honour the father and mother of her husband [*or her father- and mother-in-law*], and to love her husband, and to rule *well her* meine, and to govern *wisely* her house, and to show herself unprovable.

CHAPTER 11

¹ And when they turned again, they came to Haran, which is in the middle of the way against Nineveh, in the eleventh day *from departing from the house of Raguel*.

² And the angel said, Tobias, brother, thou knowest, how [*or what manner*] thou leftest thy father.

³ Therefore if it pleaseth thee, go we before; and the meine, with thy wife, together with the beasts, pursue [*or follow*] they our way with soft going.

⁴ And when this thing pleased *Tobias*, that they should go *before*, Raphael said to Tobias, Take with thee of the gall of the fish, for it shall be needful. Then Tobias took *with him* of that gall, and they went forth.

⁵ And Anna sat beside the way each day in the cop of the hill, from whence she might behold from afar.

⁶ And while she beheld from the same place the coming of him, she saw afar, and she knew anon her son coming [*or anon she knew her son coming*]; and she ran *home*, and told to her husband, and said, Lo! thy son cometh.

⁷ And Raphael said to Tobias, When thou hast entered into thine house, anon worship thou the Lord thy God, and do thou thankings to him, and *then* nigh to thy father, and kiss him.

⁸ And anon anoint on his eyes of this gall of the fish, which thou barest with thee; for why know thou, that anon his eyes shall be opened, and thy

father shall see the light of heaven, and he shall be joyful in thy sight.

⁹ Then the dog [*or the hound*] ran before, that was together in the way, and he made joy with the fanning of his tail *to old Tobit and his wife*, as a messenger coming *and bringing good tidings*.

¹⁰ And his blind father rose up, and began to run, stumbling with his feet, and when he had given his hand to a child *to lead him*, he ran against his son.

¹¹ And Tobit, with his wife, received *their son*, and kissed him, and both began to weep for joy.

¹² And when they had worshipped God, and had done thankings *to him*, they sat down together.

¹³ And then Tobias took of the gall of the fish, and anointed the eyes of his father.

¹⁴ And he abode the working *of that medicine* almost half an hour, and *then* the web, [*or the rime*], as the little skin of an egg, began to go out of his eyes.

¹⁵ Which web Tobit took, and drew *it* from his eyes, and anon he received his sight.

¹⁶ And they glorified God, that is, Tobit, and his wife, and all that knew him.

¹⁷ And Tobit said, Lord God of Israel, I bless thee, for thou hast chastised me, and thou hast saved me; and lo! *now* I see Tobias, my son.

¹⁸ Then also Sarah, the wife of his son, entered after seven days, and all the meine, and the beasts whole, and camels, and much money of the wife, but also the money which he had received of Gabael.

¹⁹ And he told to his father and mother all the benefices [*or all the benefits*] or all the goodnesses of God, which he had done about him by the man, that had led him *in the way*.

²⁰ And Achior and Nadab, the nigh cousins of Tobit, came to Tobit, and were joyful *with him*, and they thanked *God* with him of all the goodnesses that God had showed about him.

²¹ And by seven days they ate, and joyed [*or gladdened*] with great joy.

CHAPTER 12

¹ Then Tobit called to him his son, and said to him, What may we give to this holy man, that came with thee?

² And Tobias answered, and said to his father, Father, what meed shall we give to him, either what thing may be worthy to his benefices [*or his benefits*] or his goodnesses?

³ He led *me forth*, and brought me whole again/ and he hath brought me again whole; *and* he received of Gabael the money *that he owed to thee*; *and* he made me to have a wife, and he drove away the fiend [*or the devil*] from her; he made joy to her father and mother; he delivered me from the devouring of a fish; and he made thee to see the light of heaven; and we be full-filled with all goods by him; what thing worthy to these things may we give to him?

⁴ But, father, I ask thee, *that is, I beseech thee*, that thou pray him, if peradventure he shall vouchsafe to take to him the half part of all things, whatever things be brought *hither*.

⁵ And the father and the son called him, and took him asides half, and they began to pray *him*, that he would vouchsafe to have acceptable the half part of all things, which they had brought *thither*.

⁶ Then *Raphael* said to them privily, Bless ye God of heaven, and acknowledge ye to him before all men living, for he hath done his mercy with you.

⁷ For it is good to hide the private of an *earthly* king; but it is worshipful to show and acknowledge the works of God.

⁸ Prayer is good with fasting, and with alms-*[deeds]*, more than to hide treasures of gold;

⁹ for why alms-*[deeds]* delivereth from death, and those alms it is that purgeth sins, and maketh *man* to find everlasting life.

¹⁰ Forsooth they that do sin and wickedness, be enemies of their soul.

¹¹ Therefore I show truth to you, and I shall not hide from you a privy word. [*Then I open to you the truth, and shall not hide from you the privy word.*]

¹² When thou, *Tobit*, prayedest with tears, and buriedest dead men *[for buriedest the dead]*, and leftest *thy* meat, and hidest *those* dead men by day in thine house, and buriedest *them* in the night, I offered thy prayers* to the Lord.

* **CHAPTER 12:12** For angels offer to God the prayers of just men; they be spirits of service sent into service, for them that take the heritage of health; to the *Book of Hebrews*, in the first Chapter.

13 And for thou were acceptable to the Lord, it was needful that temptation should prove thee.

14 And now the Lord sent me for to cure thee, and to deliver Sarah, the wife of thy son, from the fiend. [*And now the Lord sent me, that I should heal thee, and Sarah, the wife of thy son, from the devil deliver.*]

15 For I am Raphael, the angel, one of the seven that be present [*or that stand*] before the Lord.

16 And when they had heard this, they were disturbed or troubled, *that is, they wondered and were astonished*, and they fell down trembling upon their faces.

17 And the angel said to them, Peace be to you, do not ye dread;

18 for when I was with you, I was by God's will [*or by the will of God*]. *Therefore* bless ye him, and sing ye to him.

19 Certainly I seemed to eat and to drink with you; but I use invisible meat, and drink that may not be seen of men.

20 Therefore it is time, that I turn again to him, that sent me; but bless ye God, and tell ye out all his marvels; bless ye him, and sing ye to him.

21 And when he had said these things, he was taken [*or borne*] away from their sight; and they might no more see him.

22 Then they felled down upon their faces the space of three hours, and they blessed God; and they rising up, told all his marvels.

CHAPTER 13

¹ Forsooth the elder Tobit opened his mouth, and blessed God, and said, Lord, thou art great without end, and thy realm is into all worlds;

² for thou beatest [*or scourgest*], and makest safe; thou ledest down to hells, and ledest again; for none is that escapeth thine hand.

³ Sons of Israel, acknowledge ye to the Lord, and praise ye him in the sight of heathen men [*or Gentiles*];

⁴ for therefore he hath scattered you among heathen men, that know not God, that ye tell out his marvels, and make them to know, that none other God is almighty besides him/ that there is none other God Almighty except him.

⁵ He hath chastised us for our wickednesses; and he shall save us for his mercy.

⁶ Therefore behold ye, what things he hath done with you, and acknowledge ye to him with dread and trembling; and enhance ye the King of worlds in your works.

⁷ Forsooth I in the land of my captivity shall acknowledge to him; for he hath showed his majesty upon [*or into*] a sinful folk.

⁸ Therefore, ye sinners, be ye converted, *that is, be ye altogether in heart, and word, and deed, turned from your sin*, and do ye rightfulness [*or rightwiseness*] before God, and *then* believe ye, that he shall do his mercy with you.

⁹ Soothly I and my soul shall be glad in him.

¹⁰ All chosen of the Lord, bless ye him [*or Blesseth the Lord, ye all chosen of him*]; make ye the days of gladness, and acknowledge ye to him.

11 Jerusalem, the city of God, the Lord hath chastised* thee for the works of thine hands.

12 Acknowledge thou to God in thy goods, and bless thou God of worlds, *that is, without ending*, that he build again in thee his tabernacle, and again-call to thee all thy prisoners [*or call again to thee all thy captives*]; and that thou have joy into all worlds of worlds.

13 Thou shalt shine with bright light, and all the coasts of the earth shall worship [*or shall honour*] thee.

14 Nations, *that is, many men from diverse countries*, shall come from [*a*] far to thee, and they shall bring gifts *to thee*, and shall worship the Lord in thee, and they shall have thy land into hallowing;

15 for they shall call in thee the great name./ and in thee, *Jerusalem*, they shall inwardly call the great name *of the Lord*.

16 And they shall be cursed, that despise thee, and they shall be damned or condemned, that blaspheme thee; and they shall be blessed, that build [*up*] thee.

17 Forsooth, *Jerusalem*, thou shalt be glad in thy sons, for all they shall be blessed [*or for all shall be blessed*], and they shall be gathered together to the Lord.

18 Blessed be all that love thee, and that have joy upon thy peace.

* **CHAPTER 13:11** That is, shall chastise, for it was not destroyed in the time of Tobit.

19 My soul, bless thou the Lord, for the Lord our God hath delivered Jerusalem, his city, from all tribulations thereof.

20 I shall be blessed, if the relics or the after-comers of my seed shall be *abiding* to see the clearness [*or the clarity*] of Jerusalem.

21 The gates of Jerusalem shall be builded of sapphire, and of smaragdus, and of precious stones; all the compass of the walls thereof *shall be* of white and clean stone.

22 And all the streets thereof shall be strewed; and alleluia, *that is, the praising of God*, shall be sung through the streets thereof.

23 Blessed be the Lord, that hath enhanced it, that his realm be upon it into worlds of worlds. Amen.

CHAPTER 14

1 And *thus* the words of Tobit were ended; and after that he was lightened *of his blindness*[*or after that he is lighted to see*], he lived two and forty years, and saw the sons of his son's sons.

2 And when an hundred years and twain were filled, he was buried worshipfully in Nineveh.

3 Soothly *when Tobit was* of six and fifty years he lost the light of his eyes; and *when he was* of sixty years age he received *his sight again*.

4 Forsooth the residue of his life was in joy, and he went [*or passed*] in peace with good increasing of God's dread.

5 And in the hour of his death, he called to him Tobias, his son, and seven young sons of him, his son's sons, and said to them,

⁶ The perishing, *or destruction*, of Nineveh shall be nigh, for the word of God shall not fall away *void*; and your brethren, that be scattered from the land of Israel, shall turn again to it.

⁷ And all the desert land of it shall be full-filled, and the house of God, which is burnt therein, shall be builded again, and all that dread God shall turn again thither.

⁸ And heathen men shall forsake their idols, and they shall come to Jerusalem, and they shall dwell therein or shall inhabit it.

⁹ And all the kings of earth shall have joy therein, and they shall worship the King of Israel [*or honouring the king of Israel*].

¹⁰ Therefore, my sons, hear ye your father; serve ye the Lord in dread and in truth; and inquire ye [*or inwardly seeketh*] to do those things that be pleasant to him.

¹¹ And command ye your sons to do rightwises and alms-deeds; and that they be mindful of God, and bless God in all time, in truth, and in all their virtue or power.

¹² Now therefore, my sons, hear ye me, and do not ye dwell here *in Nineveh*, but in whatever day ye have buried your mother beside me in a sepulchre, from that day dress ye your steps, that ye go out from hence;

¹³ soothly I see that the wickedness *of Nineveh* shall bring destruction thereto.

¹⁴ And it was done after the death of his mother, Tobias went away from Nineveh, with his wife, and his sons, and with the sons of his sons, and he turned again to the father and

mother of his wife [*or to his father- and mother-in-law*].

¹⁵ And he found them sound in good *eld age*. And he did the care of them, and he closed their eyes; and after that he took all the heritage of the house of Raguel, and *Tobias* saw the fifth generation, the sons of his sons.

¹⁶ And when ninety years and nine were fulfilled in the dread of the Lord, they buried him with joy.

¹⁷ Forsooth all his kindred, and all his generation, dwelled perfectly in good life, and in holy conversation, so that they were acceptable both to God and to men, and to all inhabiting the earth or that dwelled in earth [*or to all dwelling in the land*].

Wycliffe's Bible with Modern Spelling English: Wycliffe's Bible Modern Spelling (with Deuterocanon)

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Language: English

Dialect: Archaic

Translation by: Terry Noble

Wycliffe's Bible with Modern Spelling, was made in response to requests from readers who wanted my Wycliffe's Old and New Testaments and Apocrypha in one volume. Printing limitations dictated the number of pages available to me and the letter size. In my previous books, Wycliffe's Bible, Wycliffe's Old Testament, Vols. 1 amp 2, Wycliffe's New Testament, and Wycliffe's Apocrypha, I have tens of thousands of rewritten verses, presented in parentheses "()", to provide help in comprehending the 14th century Middle English vocabulary and grammar. In this present volume, with space at a premium, those "helps" had to be eliminated, to make room for the text of the Apocrypha.

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2019-09-26

PDF generated using Haiola and XeLaTeX on 3 Mar 2023 from source files dated 10 Feb 2022

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