

OLD TESTAMENT

#1

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF LAMENTATIONS
3:21-26

MY SOUL IS DEPRIVED OF PEACE,
I HAVE FORGOTTEN WHAT HAPPINESS IS;
I TELL MYSELF MY FUTURE IS LOST,
ALL THAT I HOPED FOR FROM GOD.

YET IT IS BECAUSE I REMEMBER ALL THIS THAT I HAVE HOPE.
YAHWEH'S FAVOR IS NOT EXHAUSTED,
NOR HAS GOD'S COMPASSION FAILED.
THEY RISE UP ANEW EACH MORNING,
SO GREAT IS GOD'S FAITHFULNESS.
"YAHWEH IS ALL I HAVE," I CRY.
"SO I WILL WAIT IN PATIENCE."

THE MOST HIGH IS GOOD TO THOSE WHO HOPE IN GOD,
TO ALL WHO SEEK GOD'S PRESENCE.
IT IS GOOD TO WAIT PATIENTLY
FOR YAHWEH TO SET US FREE.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

OLD TESTAMENT

#2

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ECCLESIASTES

ECCLESIASTES 3:1-8

(E-clee-cee-as-tees)

THERE IS AN APPOINTED TIME FOR EVERYTHING,
AND A TIME FOR EVERY AFFAIR UNDER THE HEAVENS.
A TIME TO BE BORN, AND A TIME TO DIE;
A TIME TO PLANT, AND A TIME TO UPROOT THE PLANT.
A TIME TO KILL, AND A TIME TO HEAL;
A TIME TO TEAR DOWN, AND A TIME TO BUILD.
A TIME TO WEEP, AND A TIME TO LAUGH;
A TIME TO MOURN, AND A TIME TO DANCE.
A TIME TO SCATTER STONES, AND A TIME TO GATHER THEM;
A TIME TO EMBRACE, AND A TIME TO BE FAR FROM EMBRACES.
A TIME TO SEEK, AND A TIME TO LOSE;
A TIME TO KEEP, AND A TIME TO CAST AWAY.
A TIME TO REND, AND A TIME TO SEW;
A TIME TO BE SILENT, AND A TIME TO SPEAK.
A TIME TO LOVE, AND A TIME TO HATE;
A TIME OF WAR, AND A TIME OF PEACE.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

OLD TESTAMENT

#2A

ECCLESIASTES 3:1-14

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ECCLESIASTES

(E-clee-cee-as-tees)

EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENS IN THIS WORLD
HAPPENS AT THE TIME GOD CHOOSES.

A TIME FOR GIVING BIRTH, A TIME FOR DYING;
A TIME FOR PLANTING, A TIME FOR UPROOTING WHAT HAS BEEN PLANTED;
A TIME FOR KILLING, A TIME FOR HEALING;
A TIME FOR KNOCKING DOWN, A TIME FOR BUILDING;
A TIME FOR TEARS, A TIME FOR LAUGHTER;
A TIME FOR MOURNING, A TIME FOR DANCING;
A TIME FOR THROWING STONES AWAY, A TIME FOR GATHERING THEM UP;
A TIME FOR EMBRACING, A TIME TO REFRAIN FROM EMBRACING;
A TIME FOR SEARCHING, A TIME FOR LOSING;
A TIME FOR KEEPING, A TIME FOR THROWING AWAY;
A TIME FOR TEARING, A TIME FOR SEWING;
A TIME FOR KEEPING SILENT, A TIME FOR SPEAKING;
A TIME FOR LOVING, A TIME FOR HATING;
A TIME FOR WAR, A TIME FOR PEACE.

WHAT DO WE GAIN FROM ALL OUR WORK? I KNOW THE HEAVY BURDENS THAT
GOD HAS LAID ON US. GOD HAS SET THE RIGHT TIME FOR EVERYTHING. GOD
HAS GIVEN US A DESIRE TO KNOW THE FUTURE, BUT NEVER GIVES US THE
SATISFACTION OF FULLY UNDERSTANDING WHAT GOD DOES.

SO I REALIZE THAT ALL WE CAN DO IS BE HAPPY AND DO THE BEST WE
CAN WHILE WE ARE STILL ALIVE. ALL OF US SHOULD EAT AND DRINK AND
ENJOY WHAT WE HAVE WORKED FOR. IT IS GOD'S GIFT. I KNOW THAT
EVERYTHING GOD DOES WILL LAST FOREVER.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

OLD TESTAMENT

SIRACH 44: 10-15

#3

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF SIRACH

SO LET US NOW GIVE PRAISE FOR AN ILLUSTRIOUS MAN.

SOME PEOPLE GOD HONORED WITH GREAT GLORY,
AND WERE RENOWNED FOR THEIR STRENGTH;

OTHERS DIRECTED THE PEOPLE BY THEIR ADVICE,
BY THEIR UNDERSTANDING

AND BY THE WISE WORDS OF THEIR TEACHING;
OTHERS COMPOSED MUSICAL MELODIES

AND OTHERS SET DOWN BALLADS;
OTHERS WERE RICH AND POWERFUL

LIVING PEACEFULLY IN THEIR HOMES.

ALL THESE WERE HONORED BY THEIR CONTEMPORARIES,
AND WERE THE GLORY OF THEIR DAY.

SOME OF THEM LEFT A NAME BEHIND THEM,
SO THAT THEIR PRAISES ARE STILL SUNG;

WHILE OTHERS HAVE LEFT NO MEMORY,
AND DISAPPEARED AS THOUGH THEY HAD NOT EXISTED,
THEY ARE NOW AS THOUGH THEY HAD NEVER BEEN,
AND SO TOO, THEIR FAMILY AFTER THEM.

BUT HERE IS AN ILLUSTRIOUS MAN
WHOSE GOOD LIFE WILL NOT BE FORGOTTEN.

HIS REPUTATION WILL BE PASSED ON TO HIS DESCENDANTS
AND THIS WILL BE THEIR INHERITANCE.

HIS FAMILY CONTINUES TO KEEP THE COVENANT
AND WILL, BECAUSE OF WHAT THEY HAVE DONE.

HIS FAMILY LINE WILL CONTINUE,
AND HIS GLORY WILL NOT FADE.

HIS BODY WILL BE LAID TO REST,
BUT HIS REPUTATION WILL LIVE FOREVER.

THE PEOPLE WILL PROCLAIM HIS WISDOM,
AND THE ASSEMBLY WILL CELEBRATE HIS PRAISES.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

OLD TESTAMENT

#3-A

SIRACH 44: 10-15

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF SIRACH

HERE IS A MAN OF INTEGRITY

WHOSE GOOD LIFE WILL NOT BE FORGOTTEN.

HIS REPUTATION WILL BE PASSED ON TO HIS DESCENDANTS,

AND THIS WILL BE THEIR INHERITANCE.

HIS FAMILY CONTINUES TO KEEP THE COVENANT

AND WILL, BECAUSE OF WHAT THEIR FATHER DID.

HIS FAMILY LINE WILL CONTINUE,

AND HIS GLORY WILL NOT FADE.

HE WILL BE LAID TO REST,

BUT HIS REPUTATION WILL LIVE FOREVER.

THE PEOPLE WILL PROCLAIM HIS WISDOM,

AND THE ASSEMBLY WILL CELEBRATE HIS PRAISES.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

OLD TESTAMENT

#3-B

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF SIRACH

SO LET US NOW GIVE PRAISE FOR AN ILLUSTRIOUS WOMAN.
SOME PEOPLE GOD HONORED WITH GREAT GLORY,
AND WERE RENOWNED FOR THEIR STRENGTH;
OTHERS DIRECTED THE PEOPLE BY THEIR ADVICE,
BY THEIR UNDERSTANDING
-AND BY THE WISE WORDS OF THEIR TEACHING;
OTHERS COMPOSED MUSICAL MELODIES
AND OTHERS SET DOWN BALLADS;
OTHERS WERE RICH AND POWERFUL
LIVING PEACEFULLY IN THEIR HOMES.
ALL THESE WERE HONORED BY THEIR CONTEMPORARIES,
AND WERE THE GLORY OF THEIR DAY.
SOME OF THEM LEFT A NAME BEHIND THEM,
SO THAT THEIR PRAISES ARE STILL SUNG;
WHILE OTHERS HAVE LEFT NO MEMORY,
AND DISAPPEARED AS THOUGH THEY HAD NOT EXISTED,
THEY ARE NOW AS THOUGH THEY HAD NEVER BEEN,
AND SO TOO, THEIR CHILDREN AFTER THEM.
BUT HERE IS AN ILLUSTRIOUS WOMAN
WHOSE GOOD LIFE WILL NOT BE FORGOTTEN.
HER REPUTATION WILL BE PASSED ON TO HER DESCENDANTS
AND THIS WILL BE THEIR INHERITANCE.
HER FAMILY CONTINUES TO KEEP THE COVENANT
AND WILL, BECAUSE OF WHAT THEIR MOTHER DID.
HER FAMILY LINE WILL CONTINUE,
AND HER GLORY WILL NOT FADE.
HER BODY WILL BE LAID TO REST,
BUT HER REPUTATION WILL LIVE FOREVER.
THE PEOPLE WILL PROCLAIM HER WISDOM,
AND THE ASSEMBLY WILL CELEBRATE HER PRAISES.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

OLD TESTAMENT

#3-C
(PARAPHRASED
FOR A WOMAN)

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF SIRACH

HERE IS A WOMAN OF INTEGRITY
WHOSE GOOD LIFE WILL NOT BE FORGOTTEN.
HER REPUTATION WILL BE PASSED ON TO HER DESCENDANTS,
AND THIS WILL BE THEIR INHERITANCE.
HER FAMILY CONTINUES TO KEEP THE COVENANT
AND WILL, BECAUSE OF WHAT THEIR MOTHER DID.
HER FAMILY LINE WILL CONTINUE,
AND HER GLORY WILL NOT FADE.
SHE WILL BE LAID TO REST,
BUT HER REPUTATION WILL LIVE FOREVER.
THE PEOPLE WILL PROCLAIM HER WISDOM,
AND THE ASSEMBLY WILL CELEBRATE HER PRAISES.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

OLD TESTAMENT

#4

PROVERBS 31: 10,12-13, 19-20, 25-26, 28-29

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF PROVERBS

WHEN ONE HAS A WORTHY MOTHER
HER VALUE IS FAR BEYOND PEARLS.

HER FAMILY, ENTRUSTING THEIR HEART TO HER
HAS AN UNFAILING PRIZE.

SHE BRINGS THEM GOOD AND NOT EVIL
ALL THE DAYS OF HER LIFE.

SHE REACHES OUT HER HANDS TO THE POOR,
AND EXTENDS HER ARMS TO THE NEEDY.

STRENGTH AND DIGNITY ARE HER GARMENTS,
SHE SMILES AT THE TIME TO COME.

SHE OPENS HER LIPS WITH WISDOM
AND THE TEACHING OF KINDNESS IS ON HER TONGUE.

HER CHILDREN RISE UP AND CALL HER BLESSED.
"MANY WOMEN HAVE DONE EXCELLENTLY
BUT YOU SURPASS THEM ALL."

THE WORD OF THE LORD

OLD TESTAMENT

#5

SIRACH 26:1-4, 14-17

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF SIRACH

WHEN A COUPLE DEVELOPS A HAPPY MARRIAGE
THEY DOUBLE THEIR DAYS TOGETHER.

A WORTHY SPOUSE BRINGS JOY TO THE RELATIONSHIP,
AND TOGETHER THEIR LIFE IS PEACEFUL AND FULL.

A GOOD SPOUSE IS A GREAT BLESSING
ACCORDED ON THOSE WHO FEAR YAHWEH;
RICH OR POOR, THEY CARRY A GLAD HEART,
AND THEY ALWAYS WEAR A SMILE.

A LOVING PARTNER IS A CONTINUAL DELIGHT;
MUTUAL THOUGHTFULNESS ENHANCES THE UNION.

A JUDICIOUS MOUTH IS A HOLY GIFT IN A SPOUSE,
AND STRONG CHARACTER IS PRICELESS.

MODESTY IS A SPECIAL BLESSING,
AND A WELCOMING HOME BRINGS GRACE TO THE WHOLE
FAMILY.

VIEW THE SUN COMING UP OVER GOD'S MOUNTAINS
AND YOU WITNESS GOOD MATES IN A HAPPY HOUSEHOLD.
RADIANT AS THE LIGHT FROM THE SACRED LAMPSTAND
IS THE BEAUTY AND GRACE OF A COUPLE IN LOVE.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

OLD TESTAMENT

#6

SIRACH 3:1-4, 6, 12, 14

DUTIES TO PARENTS (Father)

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF SIRACH

CHILDREN, LISTEN TO ME; I AM YOUR FATHER. DO WHAT I TELL YOU AND YOU WILL BE SAFE, FOR GOD HAS GIVEN FATHERS AUTHORITY OVER THEIR CHILDREN AND GIVEN CHILDREN THE OBLIGATION TO OBEY THEIR FATHERS.

IF YOU RESPECT YOUR FATHER, YOU CAN MAKE UP FOR YOUR SINS, AND IF YOU HONOR YOUR FATHER, YOU ARE EARNING GREAT WEALTH. IF YOU OBEY GOD BY HONORING YOUR FATHER AND MAKING YOUR FATHER HAPPY, YOU WILL LIVE A LONG LIFE.

CHILDREN, TAKE CARE OF YOUR FATHER WHEN HE GROWS OLD; GIVE HIM NO CAUSE FOR WORRY AS LONG AS HE LIVES. GOD WILL NOT FORGET THE KINDNESS YOU SHOW TO YOUR FATHER; IT WILL HELP MAKE UP FOR YOUR SINS.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

OLD TESTAMENT

#6-A

SIRACH 3:1-4, 6, 12, 14

DUTIES TO PARENTS (Mother)

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF SIRACH

CHILDREN, LISTEN TO ME; I AM YOUR MOTHER. DO WHAT I TELL YOU AND YOU WILL BE SAFE, FOR GOD HAS GIVEN MOTHERS AUTHORITY OVER THEIR CHILDREN AND GIVEN CHILDREN THE OBLIGATION TO OBEY THEIR MOTHERS.

IF YOU RESPECT YOUR MOTHER, YOU CAN MAKE UP FOR YOUR SINS, AND IF YOU HONOR YOUR MOTHER, YOU ARE EARNING GREAT WEALTH. IF YOU OBEY GOD BY HONORING YOUR MOTHER AND MAKING YOUR MOTHER HAPPY, YOU WILL LIVE A LONG LIFE.

CHILDREN, TAKE CARE OF YOUR MOTHER WHEN SHE GROWS OLD; GIVE HER NO CAUSE FOR WORRY AS LONG AS SHE LIVES. GOD WILL NOT FORGET THE KINDNESS YOU SHOW TO YOUR MOTHER; IT WILL HELP MAKE UP FOR YOUR SINS.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

OLD TESTAMENT

A READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

YOU ARE THE ONLY GOD,

AND YOU LOVE ALL PEOPLE.

YOU ARE STRONG AND YOU TREAT EVERYONE WITH JUSTICE.

YOU ARE THE ONE WHO CREATED US,

AND SO YOU ARE GENTLE AND FORGIVING WITH US.

BY YOUR EXAMPLE, YOU SHOWED US THAT TO DO YOUR WILL,

WE MUST BE KIND TO EVERYONE.

WE ARE YOUR CHILDREN AND YOU GIVE US HOPE,

BECAUSE YOU FORGIVE OUR SINS.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

OLD TESTAMENT

A Reading from the Book of Wisdom

You are the only God,
and you love all people.
You are strong
and you treat everyone with justice.
You are the one who created us,
and so you are gentle and
forgiving with us.
By your example,
you showed us
that to do your will,
we must be kind to everyone.
We are your children
and you give us hope,
because you forgive our sins.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

OLD TESTAMENT

SONG OF SONGS: 2: 8-14

A READING FROM THE SONG OF SONGS

“ARISE, MY BELOVED, MY BEAUTIFUL ONE AND COME!
FOR SEE THE WINTER IS PAST.
THE RAINS ARE OVER AND GONE.
THE FLOWERS APPEAR ON THE EARTH, THE TIME OF PRUNING THE
VINES HAS COME,
AND THE SONG OF THE DOVE IS HEARD IN OUR LAND.
THE FIG TREE PUTS FORTH ITS FIGS, AND THE VINES, IN BLOOM,
GIVE FORTH FRAGRANCE.
ARISE, MY BELOVED, MY BEAUTIFUL ONE, AND COME!
O MY DOVE IN THE CLEFTS OF THE ROCK, IN THE SECRET RECESSES
OF THE CLIFF,
LET ME SEE YOU, LET ME HEAR YOUR VOICE,
FOR YOUR VOICE IS SWEET, AND YOU ARE LOVELY.”

THE WORD OF THE LORD

NEW TESTAMENT

#1

WE SHALL SEE GOD AS GOD REALLY IS
1 JOHN 3:1-2

A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF JOHN

SEE WHAT LOVE OUR GOD HAS BESTOWED ON US THAT WE MAY BE CALLED THE CHILDREN OF GOD. YET SO WE ARE. THE REASON THE WORLD DOES NOT KNOW US IS THAT IT DID NOT KNOW GOD. BELOVED, WE ARE GOD'S CHILDREN NOW; WHAT WE SHALL BE HAS NOT YET BEEN REVEALED. WE DO KNOW THAT WHEN IT IS REVEALED WE SHALL BE LIKE GOD, FOR WE SHALL SEE GOD AS GOD IS.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

NEW TESTAMENT

#2

II TIMOTHY 4:6-8

A READING FROM THE SECOND LETTER OF PAUL TO TIMOTHY

I AM READY FOR MY LIFE TO BE Poured OUT;
THE TIME OF MY DEPARTURE HAS COME.
I HAVE FOUGHT THE GOOD FIGHT,
I HAVE FINISHED THE RACE.
I HAVE KEPT THE FAITH.
ALL THERE IS TO COME FOR ME NOW
IS THE CROWN OF UPRIGHTNESS
WHICH OUR GOD, THE JUST JUDGE,
WILL AWARD TO ME,
AND NOT ONLY TO ME
BUT TO ALL WHO HAVE LONGED FOR CHRIST'S APPEARING.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

NEW TESTAMENT

A Reading from Paul's Second Letter to Timothy

As for you, be steady and self-possessed.

Be brave under trials.

As for me, the hour has come for me to be sacrificed;
the time is here for me to leave this life.

I have fought the good fight; I have finished the race;

I have kept the faith.

And now there is waiting for me the crown of righteousness, reserved for
me, which our God,

the Just Judge,

will give to me.

And not only me,

but to all those who wait with eager longing.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

NEW TESTAMENT

#2-B

II TIMOTHY 4:6-8

A READING FROM THE SECOND LETTER OF PAUL TO TIMOTHY

As for me, the hour has come for me to be sacrificed; the time is here for me to leave this life. I have done my best in the race, I have run the full distance, and I have kept the faith. And now there is waiting for me the prize of victory awarded for a righteous life, the prize which our God, the Righteous Judge, will give me on that day –and not only to me; but to all those who wait with love for Christ’s appearing.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

NEW TESTAMENT

#3

A READING FROM THE SECOND LETTER OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS

**WE SHOULD NEVER GIVE UP. THOUGH OUR BODIES ARE DYING,
OUR INNER STRENGTH IN CHRIST IS GROWING EVERY DAY. THESE
TROUBLES AND SUFFERINGS OF OURS ARE, AFTER ALL, QUITE
SMALL, AND WON'T LAST VERY LONG. YET, THIS SHORT TIME OF
DISTRESS WILL RESULT IN GOD'S RICHEST BLESSINGS UPON US
FOREVER.**

**SO, DO NOT LOOK AT WHAT WE CAN SEE RIGHT NOW, BUT WE
LOOK FORWARD TO THE JOYS IN HEAVEN WHICH WE HAVE NOT
YET SEEN. THE TROUBLES WILL SOON BE OVER, BUT THE JOYS TO
COME WILL LAST FOREVER.**

**FOR WE KNOW THAT WHEN THIS TENT WE LIVE IN IS TAKEN
DOWN, WHEN WE DIE AND LEAVE THESE BODIES, WE WILL HAVE
WONDERFUL NEW BODIES IN HEAVEN; HOMES THAT WILL BE
OURS FOREVERMORE MADE FOR US BY GOD, AND NOT BY HUMAN
HANDS.**

THE WORD OF THE LORD

NEW TESTAMENT

#4

A READING FROM ST. PAUL TO THE PHILIPPIANS

Show a gentle attitude toward everyone,
Christ is coming soon.
Don't worry about anything,
but in all your prayers
ask God for what you need,
always asking God with a thankful heart.
And God's peace,
which is far beyond human understanding,
will keep your hearts and minds safe
in union with Christ Jesus.

Fill your minds with those things that
are good and that deserve praise:
things that are true,
noble, right, pure, lovely and honorable.
Put into practice
what you learned and received from me,
both from my words
And from my actions.
And the God who gives us peace
will be with you.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

NEW TESTAMENT

#4-A

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF ST. PAUL TO THE PHILIPPIANS

DO NOT BE ANXIOUS ABOUT ANYTHING,
BUT IN EVERYTHING, BY PRAYER AND PETITION,
WITH THANKSGIVING, PRESENT YOUR REQUESTS TO GOD.
AND THE PEACE OF GOD, WHICH TRANSCENDS ALL UNDERSTANDING,
WILL GUARD YOUR HEARTS AND YOUR MINDS IN CHRIST JESUS.

FINALLY, WHATEVER IS TRUE, WHATEVER IS NOBLE,
WHATEVER IS RIGHT, WHATEVER IS PURE,
WHATEVER IS LOVELY, WHATEVER IS ADMIRABLE
-IF ANYTHING IS EXCELLENT OR PRAISEWORTHY
-THINK ABOUT SUCH THINGS.
WHATEVER YOU HAVE LEARNED OR RECEIVED OR HEARD FROM ME,
OR SEEN IN ME-PUT INTO PRACTICE.
AND THE GOD OF PEACE WILL BE WITH YOU.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

NEW TESTAMENT

#5

1 Corinthians 13: 4-13

A Reading from First Corinthians

Love is patient; love is kind.

Love is not jealous; it does not put on airs.

It is not snobbish.

Love is never rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not prone to anger. Neither does it brood over injuries.

Love does not rejoice in what is wrong, but rejoices with the truth.

There is no limit to love's forbearance, to its trust, its hope, its power to endure.

Love never fails.

There are in the end three things that last: faith, hope and love.

And the greatest of these is love.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

NEW TESTAMENT

#5-A

1 Corinthians 13: 1-13

A Reading from First Corinthians

IF I SPEAK WITH HUMAN TONGUES AND ANGELIC AS WELL,
BUT DO NOT HAVE LOVE,
I AM A NOISY GONG, A CLANGING CYMBAL.
IF I HAVE THE GIFT OF PROPHECY AND, WITH FULL KNOWLEDGE,
COMPREHEND ALL MYSTERIES,
IF I HAVE FAITH GREAT ENOUGH TO MOVE MOUNTAINS ,
BUT HAVE NOT LOVE, I HAVE NOTHING.
IF I GIVE EVERYTHING I HAVE TO FEED THE POOR AND HAND OVER MY BODY
TO BE BURNED, BUT HAVE NOT LOVE, I GAIN NOTHING.
LOVE IS PATIENT; LOVE IS KIND.
LOVE IS NOT JEALOUS, IT DOES NOT PUT ON AIRS, IT IS NOT SNOBBISH.
LOVE IS NEVER RUDE, IT IS NOT SELF-SEEKING,
IT IS NOT PRONE TO ANGER; NEITHER DOES IT BROOD OVER INJURIES.
LOVE DOES NOT REJOICE IN WHAT IS WRONG,
BUT REJOICES WITH THE TRUTH.
THERE IS NO LIMIT TO LOVE'S FORBEARANCE, TO ITS TRUST,
ITS, HOPE, ITS POWER TO ENDURE.
LOVE NEVER FAILS.
PROPHECIES WILL CEASE, TONGUES WILL BE SILENT,
KNOWLEDGE WILL PASS AWAY. OUR KNOWLEDGE IS IMPERFECT AND OUR
PROPHECYING IS IMPERFECT.
WHEN THE PERFECT COMES, THE IMPERFECT WILL PASS AWAY.
WHEN I WAS A CHILD I USED TO TALK LIKE A CHILD, THINK LIKE A CHILD,
REASON LIKE A CHILD. WHEN I BECAME AN ADULT, I PUT CHILDISH WAYS
ASIDE.
NOW WE SEE INDISTINCTLY, AS IN A MIRROR, THEN WE SHALL SEE FACE TO
FACE. MY KNOWLEDGE IS IMPERFECT NOW, THEN I SHALL KNOW EVEN AS I AM
KNOWN.
THERE ARE IN THE END THREE THINGS THAT LAST:
FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE, AND THE GREATEST OF THESE IS LOVE.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

NEW TESTAMENT

#6

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF ST. PAUL TO THE ROMANS
(12: 9-17; 21)

YOUR LOVE MUST BE SINCERE,
DETEST WHAT IS EVIL, CLING TO WHAT IS GOOD.
LOVE ONE ANOTHER WITH THE AFFECTION OF BROTHERS AND
SISTERS.

ANTICIPATE EACH OTHER IN SHOWING RESPECT.
DO NOT GROW SLACK, BUT BE FERVENT IN SPIRIT;
THE ONE WHOM YOU SERVE IS GOD.

REJOICE IN HOPE,
BE PATIENT UNDER TRIAL, PERSEVERE IN PRAYER.
LOOK ON THE NEEDS OF THE SAINTS AS YOUR OWN;
BE GENEROUS IN OFFERING HOSPITALITY.

BLESS YOUR PERSECUTORS.
REJOICE WITH THOSE WHO REJOICE
AND WEEP WITH THOSE WHO WEEP.
HAVE THE SAME ATTITUDE TOWARDS ALL.
NEVER REPAY INJURY WITH INJURY.
SEE THAT YOUR CONDUCT IS HONORABLE IN THE EYES OF ALL.
DO NOT BE CONQUERED BY EVIL,
BUT CONQUER EVIL WITH GOOD.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

JOURNEY OF LIFE

**For each of us life is like a journey.
Birth is the beginning of this journey,
and death is not the end but the destination.**

**It is a journey that takes us
from youth to age,
from innocence to awareness,
from ignorance to knowledge,
from foolishness to wisdom,
from weakness to strength and often back again,
from offense to forgiveness, from loneliness to friendship,
from pain to compassion, from fear to faith,
from defeat to victory and from victory to defeat,
until, looking backward or ahead,
we see that victory does not lie
at some high point along the way,
but in having made the journey,
stage by stage.**

Adapted from an old Hebrew prayer.

SUCCESS

**TO LAUGH OFTEN AND MUCH;
TO WIN THE RESPECT OF INTELLIGENT PEOPLE
AND AFFECTION OF CHILDREN; TO EARN THE
APPRECIATION OF HONEST CRITICS AND
ENDURE THE BETRAYAL OF FALSE FRIENDS;
TO APPRECIATE BEAUTY, TO FIND THE BEST
IN OTHERS; TO LEAVE THE WORLD A BIT
BETTER, WHETHER BY A HEALTHY CHILD,
A GARDEN PATCH OR A REDEEMED
SOCIAL CONDITION; TO KNOW EVEN
ONE LIFE HAS BREATHED EASIER BECAUSE
YOU HAVE LIVED. THIS IS TO HAVE SUCCEEDED.**

RALPH WALDO EMERSON

#2-A

SUCCESS

**A PERSON HAS ACHIEVED SUCCESS WHO HAS
LIVED WELL, LAUGHTED OFTEN, AND LOVED MUCH;
WHO HAS ENJOYED THE TRUST OF WOMEN, THE RESPECT OF MEN,
AND THE LOVE OF LITTLE CHILDREN;
WHO HAS FILLED THEIR NICHE
AND ACCOMPLISHED THEIR TASKS,
WHO HAS LEFT THE WORLD BETTER THAN IT WAS FOUND,
WHETHER BY AN IMPROVED FLOWER, A BEAUTIFUL POEM,
A SURPRISE GIFT OR A SELFLESS DEED;
WHO HAS NEVER LACKED APPRECIATION OF EARTH'S BEAUTY
OR FAILED TO EXPRESS IT;
WHO HAS ALWAYS LOOKED FOR THE BEST IN OTHERS
AND ALWAYS GIVEN THEM THE BEST;
WHOSE LIFE WAS AN INSPIRATION;
WHOSE MEMORY A BENEDICTION.**

#3

OUR GRANDPA

OUR GRANDPA WAS A GENTLE AND GENEROUS MAN WHO DEVOTED HIS ENTIRE LIFE TO HIS WIFE, CHILDREN, GRANDCHILDREN AND FAMILY.

EACH ONE OF US WILL REMEMBER HIM FOR THE SPECIAL THINGS THAT HE DID. WHEN YOU CALLED HIM, HE CAME, WHEN YOU ASKED HIM, HE GAVE FREELY OF HIMSELF. HE WAS ALWAYS THERE FOR US IN LOVE AND WITH STRENGTH.

DEVOTED HUSBAND, PATIENT FATHER, LOVING GRANDFATHER, CARING BROTHER, WE ARE BETTER PEOPLE BECAUSE YOU ALLOWED US TO SHARE YOUR LIFE. YOUR SUFFERING IS NOW OVER GRANDPA AND YOU ARE AT PEACE. WE WILL MISS YOU...

WE LOVE YOU...YOU WILL BE REMEMBERED...YOU LIVE ON IN OUR HEARTS AND IN OUR MINDS.

#3-A

OUR GRANDMA

OUR GRANDMA WAS A GENTLE AND GENEROUS WOMAN WHO DEVOTED HER ENTIRE LIFE TO HER HUSBAND, CHILDREN, GRANDCHILDREN AND FAMILY.

EACH ONE OF US WILL REMEMBER HER FOR THE SPECIAL THINGS THAT SHE DID. WHEN YOU CALLED HER, SHE CAME, WHEN YOU ASKED HER, SHE GAVE FREELY OF HERSELF. SHE WAS ALWAYS THERE FOR US IN LOVE AND WITH STRENGTH.

DEVOTED WIFE, PATIENT MOTHER, LOVING GRANDMOTHER, CARING SISTER, WE ARE BETTER PEOPLE BECAUSE YOU ALLOWED US TO SHARE YOUR LIFE. YOUR SUFFERING IS NOW OVER GRANDMA AND YOU ARE AT PEACE. WE WILL MISS YOU...

WE LOVE YOU...YOU WILL BE REMEMBERED...YOU LIVE ON IN OUR HEARTS AND IN OUR MINDS.

GRANDFATHER

WHEN I WAS BORN GOD KNEW I WOULD NEED LOTS OF LOVE; SO HE FOUND A “SPECIAL MAN” NAMED GRANDPA TO LOVE AND WATCH OVER ME.

YOU HAVE ALWAYS HAD SMILES TO GREET ME, THE BEST HUGS, AND EVEN FIXED A TOY OR TWO.

YOU GAVE ME A SPECIAL FAMILY FULL OF LOVE WITHOUT MEASURE. YOU GAVE THAT LOVE TO ME UNCONDITIONALLY. YOU MADE ME FEEL SPECIAL.

YOU LET ME KNOW THAT YOU WOULD LOVE ME ALWAYS. I WILL NEVER FEEL ALONE BECAUSE I HAVE HAD THAT SPECIAL LOVE! EVERYDAY I SAY A SPECIAL PRAYER, GOD WILL GIVE YOU HAPPINESS AND KEEP YOU IN HIS CARE.

I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU WITH MY MOST SPECIAL LOVE AND THANK YOU FOR LOVING ME!

WHAT CANCER CAN'T DO

**CANCER IS SO LIMITED...
IT CANNOT CRIPPLE LOVE,
IT CANNOT SHATTER HOPE,
IT CANNOT CORRODE FAITH,
IT CANNOT EAT AWAY PEACE,
IT CANNOT DESTROY CONFIDENCE,
IT CANNOT KILL FRIENDSHIP,
IT CANNOT SHUT OUR MEMORIES,
IT CANNOT SILENCE COURAGE,
IT CANNOT INVADE THE SOUL,
IT CANNOT REDUCE ETERNAL LIFE,
IT CANNOT QUENCH THE SPIRIT,
IT CANNOT LESSEN THE POWER OF THE
RESURRECTION.**

BEYOND THE RAINBOW'S END

**Beyond the rainbow's farthest end,
there lies a land that's always filled with love and light.
Where shadows never fall and dim the skies;
for in this lovely land there is no night.
In the celestial place of joy and peace,
there is no time or space, no doubt or fear;
For those who come to it all troubles cease.
All worldly difficulties disappear.
And though the loss of a loved one
brings sorrow and is hard for us to hear,
if we could see beyond the rainbow's end
we know that we would find them waiting there.
Our loved one is
in that celestial dwelling place above...
The land of peace and joy, of light and love.**

AN IRISH BLESSING

**MAY THE ROAD RISE
TO MEET YOU;
MAY THE WIND
BE ALWAYS AT YOUR BACK.
MAY THE SUN
SHINE WARM UPON YOUR FACE;
MAY THE RAINS FALL
SOFT UPON YOUR FIELDS.
AND UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN,
MAY GOD HOLD YOU
IN THE PALM
OF HIS HAND.**

IF TOMORROW STARTS WITHOUT ME

*If tomorrow starts without me, and I'm not here to see,
If the sun should rise to find that your eyes are filled with tears for me;
I hope you will not cry the way you might that day,
thinking of the many things we didn't get to say.
I know how much you love me and you know that I love you, too,
and each time that you'd think of me, please know I'd miss you too;
If tomorrow starts without me, please try to understand,
that an angel came and called my name, and took me by the hand.
The angel said my place was ready, in heaven far above,
and that I'd have to leave behind all of those I dearly love.
But as I turned to walk away, a tear fell from my eye
for all my life, I'd always thought, that I would never die.
I have so much to live for, so much left to do,
it seems almost impossible, that I'd be leaving you.
I thought of all the yesterdays, the good ones and the bad,
the thought of all the love we have shared, and all the fun we had.
But then I walked through heaven's gates, and felt so much at home.
When God looked down and smiled at me, from His great golden throne,
He said, "This is eternity, and all I've promised you,
today your life on earth is past, but here life starts anew.
I promise no tomorrow, but today will always last,
and since each day's the same way there's no longing for the past.
You have been so faithful, so trusting and so true.
though there were times you did some things you knew you shouldn't do.
But you have been forgiven and now at last you're free.
So won't you come and take my hand and live in peace with me?"
So if tomorrow starts without me, don't think we're far apart,
for every time you think of me, I'll be there in your heart.*

A HUG FROM HEAVEN

*Don't be sad, I'm here with Jesus. Don't be sad, and please don't cry.
I'm right here - I've never left you. Don't you know that love can't die?*

*I am safe and warm and happy as I've never been before.
Seeing Jesus face to face is more than I have bargained for.*

*As I speak, I'm right beside you. As you walk, I'm by your side.
Close your eyes and you'll see clearly that my Spirit has not died.*

*Everyone's on earth for reasons man can't fully comprehend.
But in heaven, I've seen clearly - justice triumphs in the end.*

*Understand my love surrounds you in a way you cannot see.
Feel it, sense it, trust its presence. Have some patience. Let me be.*

*Do not waste another moment. Give to God complete control
of the worries that concern you, and your heart and mind and soul.*

*Wake each day in joyful gladness knowing we're not far apart.
Look to Jesus for the answers. He will heal your broken heart.*

*But, above all, please remember, there's no need for you to cry...
I'm right here! I've never left you! Don't you know that love can't die?*

**YOUR MOTHER IS ALWAYS WITH YOU.
SHE'S THE WHISPER OF THE LEAVES AS YOU WALK
DOWN THE STREET.
SHE'S THE SMELL OF CERTAIN FOODS
YOU REMEMBER,
FLOWERS YOU PICK,
THE FRAGRANCE OF LIFE ITSELF.
SHE'S THE COOL HAND ON YOUR BROW
WHEN YOU'RE NOT FEELING WELL.
SHE'S YOUR BREATH IN THE AIR
ON A COLD WINTER'S DAY.
SHE IS THE SOUND OF THE RAIN
THAT LULLS YOU TO SLEEP,
THE COLOR OF A RAINBOW;
SHE IS CHRISTMAS MORNING.
YOUR MOTHER LIVES INSIDE YOUR LAUGHTER.
SHE'S THE PLACE YOU CAME FROM,
YOUR FIRST HOME
AND SHE'S THE MAP YOU FOLLOW
WITH EVERY STEP YOU TAKE.
SHE'S YOUR FIRST LOVE,
YOUR FIRST FRIEND,
EVEN YOUR FIRST ENEMY,
BUT NOTHING ON EARTH CAN SEPARATE YOU,
NOT TIME, NOT SPACE, NOT EVEN DEATH.**

**YOU CAN SHED TEARS THAT I AM GONE,
OR YOU CAN SMILE BECAUSE I HAVE LIVED.
YOU CAN CLOSE YOUR EYES AND PRAY THAT I'LL COME BACK,
OR YOU CAN OPEN YOUR EYES AND SEE ALL THAT I HAVE LEFT.
YOUR HEART CAN BE EMPTY BECAUSE YOU CAN'T SEE ME,
OR YOU CAN BE HAPPY FOR TOMORROW BECAUSE OF MY
YESTERDAY.
YOU CAN REMEMBER ME AND ONLY THAT I AM GONE,
OR YOU CAN CHERISH MY MEMORY AND LET IT LIVE ON.
YOU CAN CRY AND CLOSE YOUR MIND,
BE EMPTY AND TURN YOUR BACK,
OR YOU CAN DO WHAT I WOULD WANT,
SMILE,
OPEN YOUR EYES,
LOVE
AND GO ON.**

I HEARD YOUR VOICE IN THE WIND

***Author Unknown**

**I HEARD YOUR VOICE IN THE WIND TODAY
AND I TURNED TO SEE YOUR FACE;
THE WARMTH OF THE WIND CARESSED ME
AS I STOOD SILENTLY IN PLACE.**

**I FELT YOUR TOUCH IN THE SUN TODAY
AS ITS WARMTH FILLED THE SKY;
I CLOSED MY EYES FOR YOUR EMBRACE
AND MY SPIRIT SOARED HIGH.**

**I SAW YOUR EYES IN THE WINDOW PANE
AS I WATCHED THE FALLING RAIN;
IT SEEMED AS EACH RAINDROP FELL
IT QUIETLY SAID YOUR NAME.**

**I HELD YOU CLOSE IN MY HEART TODAY.
IT MADE ME FEEL COMPLETE.
YOU MAY HAVE DIED, BUT YOU ARE NOT GONE.
YOU WILL ALWAYS BE A PART OF ME.**

**AS LONG AS THE SUN SHINES...
THE WIND BLOWS...
THE RAIN FALLS...
YOU WILL LIVE ON INSIDE OF ME FOREVER.**