
IN SACRED PAGE AND WINGED WORD: PROPHETS AND POETS FOR ISRAEL AND THE CHURCH

Verses from NASB

I Kings 3:16-28

Solomon Wisely Judges

Then two women who were harlots came to the king and stood before him.

The one woman said, "Oh, my lord, this woman and I live in the same house; and I gave birth to a child while she was in the house. It happened on the third day after I gave birth, that this woman also gave birth to a child, and we were together. There was no stranger with us in the house, only the two of us in the house. This woman's son died in the night because she lay on it. So she arose in the middle of the night and took my son from beside me while your maidservant slept, and laid him in her bosom, and laid her dead son in my bosom. When I rose in the morning to nurse my son, behold, he was dead; but when I looked at him carefully in the morning, behold, he was not my son, whom I had borne."

Then the other woman said, "No! For the living one is my son, and the dead one is your son."

But the first woman said, "No! For the dead one is your son, and the living one is my son."

Thus they spoke before the king.

Then the king said, "The one says, 'This is my son who is living, and your son is the dead one'; and the other says, 'No! For your son is the dead one, and my son is the living one.'"

The king said, "Get me a sword." So they brought a sword before the king.

The king said, "Divide the living child in two, and give half to the one and half to the other."

Then the woman whose child was the living one spoke to the king, for she was deeply stirred over her son and said, "Oh, my lord, give her the living child, and by no means kill him."

But the other said, "He shall be neither mine nor yours; divide him!"

Then the king said, "Give the first woman the living child, and by no means kill him. She is his mother."

When all Israel heard of the judgment which the king had handed down, they feared the king, for they saw that the wisdom of God was in him to administer justice.

Psalm 85-Prayer for God's Mercy upon the Nation

For the choir director. A Psalm of the sons of Korah.

O LORD, You showed favor to Your land;

You restored the captivity of Jacob.

You forgave the iniquity of Your people;

You covered all their sin. Selah.

You withdrew all Your fury;

You turned away from Your burning anger.

Restore us, O God of our salvation,

And cause Your indignation toward us to cease.

Will You be angry with us forever?

Will You prolong Your anger to all generations?

Will You not Yourself revive us again,

That Your people may rejoice in You?

Show us Your lovingkindness, O LORD,

And grant us Your salvation.

I will hear what God the LORD will say;

For He will speak peace to His people, to His godly ones;

But let them not turn back to folly.

Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him,

That glory may dwell in our land.

Lovingkindness and truth have met together;

Righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

Truth springs from the earth,

And righteousness looks down from heaven.

Indeed, the LORD will give what is good,

And our land will yield its produce.

Exodus 3:13-15

The Burning Bush

Then Moses said to God, "Behold, I am going to the sons of Israel, and I will say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you.' Now they may say to me, 'What is His name?' What shall I say to them?"

God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM"; and He said, "Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, I AM has sent me to you."

God, furthermore, said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, 'The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.' This is My name forever, and this is My memorial-name to all generations.

Righteousness will go before Him

And will make His footsteps into a way.

Sermon 185 (around 414 AD)

Truth, which is in the bosom of the Father (Jn 1:18), has sprung from the earth, in order also to be in the bosom of his mother.

Truth, by which the world is held together, has sprung from the earth, in order to be carried in a woman's arms.

Truth, on which the bliss of the angels is incorruptibly nourished, has sprung from the earth, in order to be [nourished] at breasts of flesh.

Truth, which heaven is not big enough to hold, has sprung from the earth, in order to be placed in a manger.

For whose benefit did such sublimity come in such humility? Certainly, for none of his own. But, if we are believers, totally for ours. Wake up, mankind. For you God became man.

Sermon 191 (411 or 412 AD)

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The maker of man, he was made man, so that the director of the stars might be a babe at the breast; that bread might be hungry, and the fountain thirsty; that the light might sleep, and the way be weary from a journey; that the truth might be accused by false witnesses,

and the judge of the living and the dead be judged by a mortal judge; that justice might be convicted by the unjust, and discipline be scourged with whips; that the cluster of grapes might be crowned with thorns, and the foundation be hung up on a tree; that strength might grow weak, eternal health be wounded life die.¹

Sermon 200-On the Lord's Epiphany (393-405 AD)

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There he was, lying in the manger, and leading the Magi from the east. There he was, tucked away in a stable, recognized in the sky, so that after being recognized in the sky he might be manifested in the stable . . . It calls our attention simultaneously to his loftiness and his lowliness, since the one who was being revealed by starry signs in the open sky was also being looked for and found in a cramped and crowded lodging house; feeble in his infant limbs, folded round with an infant's wrappings, he was being worshipped by the wise men, feared by the wicked."²

¹ Hill, Sermons III.6, 44, traces some of the texts alluded to in this particularly elaborate chain of antitheses: Ps 147:4; Jn 6:35; Lk 4:2; Ps 36:9; Jn 7:28; Jn 19:28; Jn 8:12; Mk 4:38; Jn 14:6; 4:6; Jn 14:6; Mk 14:57; ² Tm 4:1; Mt 27:26; 1 Cor 1:30; Mk 14:64; Nm 13:23; Mk 15:17; 1 Cor 3:11; Jn 14:6. ² Sermon 200, 83.