

The Wisdom of Solomon

Contents

THE WISDOM OF SOLOMON

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

1 Love righteousness, all you who are judges of the earth.

Think of the Lord ¹ with a good mind.

Seek him in singleness of heart,

2 because he is found by those who don't put him to the test,

and is manifested to those who trust him.

3 for crooked thoughts separate from God.

His Power convicts when it is tested,

and exposes the foolish;

4 because wisdom will not enter into a soul that devises evil,

nor dwell in a body that is enslaved by sin.

5 For a holy spirit of discipline will flee deceit,

and will depart from thoughts that are without understanding,

and will be ashamed when unrighteousness has come in.

6 For ² wisdom is a spirit who loves man,

and she will not hold a ³ blasphemer guiltless for his lips,

because God is witness of his inmost self,

and is a true overseer of his heart,

¹ + 1:1 Gr. in goodness.

² + 1:6 Some authorities read the spirit of wisdom is loving to man.

³ + 1:6 Or, reviler

a nd a hearer of his tongue.

7Because the spirit of the Lord has filled ⁴ the world,

a nd that which holds all things together knows what is said.

8Therefore no one who utters unrighteous things will be unseen;

n either will Justice, when it convicts, pass him by.

9For in his counsels the ungodly will be searched out,

a nd the sound of his words will come to the Lord to bring his lawless deeds to conviction;

10because a jealous ear listens to all things,

a nd the noise of murmurings is not hidden.

11Beware then of unprofitable murmuring,

a nd keep your tongue from slander;

b ecause no secret utterance will go on its way void,

a nd a lying mouth destroys a soul.

12Don't court death in the error of your life.

D on't draw destruction upon yourselves by the works of your hands;

13because God didn't make death,

n either does he delight when the living perish.

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

T he generative powers of the world are wholesome,

⁴ + 1:7 Gr. the inhabited earth.

a nd there is no poison of destruction in them,

n or has Hades ⁵ royal dominion upon earth;

15for righteousness is immortal,

16but ungodly men by their hands and their words summon death;

d eeming him a friend they ⁶ pined away.

T hey made a covenant with him,

b ecause they are worthy to belong with him.

2For they said ⁷ within themselves, with unsound reasoning,

“ Our life is short and sorrowful.

T here is no healing when a man comes to his end,

a nd no one was ever known who ⁸ was released from Hades.

2Because we were born by mere chance,

a nd hereafter we will be as though we had never been,

b ecause the breath in our nostrils is smoke,

a nd reason is a spark kindled by the beating of our heart,

3which being extinguished, the body will be turned into ashes,

a nd the spirit will be dispersed as thin air.

4Our name will be forgotten in time.

⁵+ 1:14 Or, a royal house

⁶+ 1:16 Or, were consumed with love of him

⁷+ 2:1 Or, amongst

⁸+ 2:1 Or, returned out of Hades

N o one will remember our works.

O ur life will pass away as the traces of a cloud,

a nd will be scattered as is a mist,

w hen it is chased by the rays of the sun,

a nd ⁹ overcome by its heat.

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

a nd our end doesn't retreat,

b ecause it is securely sealed, and no one ¹⁰ turns it back.

6"Come therefore and let's enjoy the good things that exist.

L et's use the creation earnestly as in our youth.

7Let's fill ourselves with costly wine and perfumes,

a nd let no spring flower pass us by.

8Let's crown ourselves with rosebuds before they wither.

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

L et's leave tokens of mirth everywhere,

b ecause this is our portion, and this is our lot.

10Let's oppress the righteous poor.

L et's not spare the widow,

n or regard the grey hair of the old man.

⁹+ 2:4 Gr. weighed down.

¹⁰+ 2:5 Or, comes again

11But let our strength be a law of righteousness;

f or that which is weak is proven useless.

12But let's lie in wait for the righteous man,

b ecause he annoys us,

i s contrary to our works,

r eproaches us with sins against the law,

a nd charges us with sins against our training.

13He professes to have knowledge of God,

a nd calls himself a child of the Lord.

14He became to us a reproof of our thoughts.

15He is grievous to us even to look at,

b ecause his life is unlike other men's,

a nd his paths are strange.

16We were regarded by him as something worthless,

a nd he abstains from our ways as from uncleanness.

H e calls the latter end of the righteous happy.

H e boasts that God is his father.

17Let's see if his words are true.

L et's test what will happen at the end of his life.

18For if the righteous man is God's son, he will uphold him,

and he will deliver him out of the hand of his adversaries.

19Let's test him with insult and torture,

that we may find out how gentle he is,

and test his patience.

20Let's condemn him to a shameful death,

for he will be protected, according to his words."

21Thus they reasoned, and they were led astray;

for their wickedness blinded them,

22and they didn't know the mysteries of God,

neither did they hope for wages of holiness,

nor did they discern that there is a prize for blameless souls.

23Because God created man for incorruption,

and made him an image of his own everlastingness;

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

and those who belong to him experience it.

3But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God,

and no torment will touch them.

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

Their departure was considered a disaster,

3and their travel away from us ruin,

b ut they are in peace.

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

t heir hope is full of immortality.

5Having borne a little chastening, they will receive great good;

b ecause God tested them, and found them worthy of himself.

6He tested them like gold in the furnace,

a nd he accepted them as a whole burnt offering.

7In the time of their visitation they will shine.

T hey will run back and forth like sparks amongst stubble.

8They will judge nations and have dominion over peoples.

T he Lord will reign over them forever.

9Those who trust him will understand truth.

T he faithful will live with him in love,

b ecause grace and mercy are with his chosen ones.

10But the ungodly will be punished even as their reasoning deserves,

t hose who neglected righteousness and revolted from the Lord;

11for he who despises wisdom and discipline is miserable.

T heir hope is void and their toils unprofitable.

T heir works are useless.

12Their wives are foolish and their children are wicked.

13 Their descendants are cursed.

F or the barren woman who is undefiled is happy,

s he who has not conceived in transgression.

S he will have fruit when God examines souls.

14 So is the eunuch which has done no lawless deed with his hands,

n or imagined wicked things against the Lord;

f or a precious gift will be given to him for his faithfulness,

a nd a delightful inheritance in the Lord's sanctuary.

15 For good labours have fruit of great renown.

T he root of understanding can't fail.

16 But children of adulterers will not come to maturity.

T he seed of an unlawful union will vanish away.

17 For if they live long, they will not be esteemed,

a nd in the end, their old age will be without honour.

18 If they die young, they will have no hope,

n or consolation in the day of judgement.

19 For the end of an unrighteous generation is always grievous.

4 It is better to be childless with virtue,

f or immortality is in the memory of virtue,

b ecause it is recognised both before God and before men.

2When it is present, people imitate it.

They long after it when it has departed.

Throughout all time it marches, crowned in triumph,

victorious in the competition for the prizes that are undefiled.

3But the multiplying brood of the ungodly will be of no profit,

and their illegitimate offshoots won't take deep root,

nor will they establish a sure hold.

4For even if they grow branches and flourish for a season,

standing unsure, they will be shaken by the wind.

They will be uprooted by the violence of winds.

5Their branches will be broken off before they come to maturity.

Their fruit will be useless,

never ripe to eat, and fit for nothing.

6For unlawfully conceived children are witnesses of wickedness

against parents when they are investigated.

7But a righteous man, even if he dies before his time, will be at rest.

8For honourable old age is not that which stands in length of time,

nor is its measure given by number of years,

9but understanding is grey hair to men,

and an unspotted life is ripe old age.

10 Being found well-pleasing to God, someone was loved.

While living amongst sinners he was transported.

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

or guile deceive his soul.

12 For the fascination of wickedness obscures the things which are good,

and the whirl of desire perverts an innocent mind.

13 Being made perfect quickly,

he filled a long time;

14 for his soul was pleasing to the Lord.

Therefore he hurried out of the midst of wickedness.

15 But the peoples saw and didn't understand,

not considering this, that grace and mercy are with his chosen,

and that he visits his holy ones;

16 but a righteous man who is dead will condemn the ungodly who are living,

and youth who is quickly perfected will condemn the many years of an unrighteous man's old age.

17 For the ungodly will see a wise man's end,

and won't understand what the Lord planned for him,

and why he safely kept him.

18 They will see, and they will despise;

b ut the Lord will laugh them to scorn.

A fter this, they will become a dishonoured carcass

a nd a reproach amongst the dead forever;

19because he will dash them speechless to the ground,

a nd will shake them from the foundations.

T hey will lie utterly waste.

T hey will be in anguish

a nd their memory will perish.

20They will come with coward fear when their sins are counted.

T heir lawless deeds will convict them to their face.

5Then the righteous man will stand in great boldness

b efore the face of those who afflicted him,

a nd those who make his labours of no account.

2When they see him, they will be troubled with terrible fear,

a nd will be amazed at the marvel of salvation.

3They will speak amongst themselves repenting,

a nd for distress of spirit they will groan,

“ This was he whom we used to hold in derision,

a s a parable of reproach.

4We fools considered his life madness,

a nd his end without honour.

5How was he counted amongst sons of God?

H ow is his lot amongst saints?

6Truly we went astray from the way of truth.

T he light of righteousness didn't shine for us.

T he sun didn't rise for us.

7We ¹¹ took our fill of the paths of lawlessness and destruction.

W e travelled through trackless deserts,

b ut we didn't know the Lord's way.

8What did our arrogance profit us?

W hat good have riches and boasting brought us?

9Those things all passed away as a shadow,

l ike a rumour that runs by,

10like a ship passing through the billowy water,

w hich, when it has gone by, there is no trace to be found,

n o pathway of its keel in the waves.

11Or it is like when a bird flies through the air,

n o evidence of its passage is found,

b ut the light wind, lashed with the stroke of its pinions,

a nd torn apart with the violent rush of the moving wings, is passed through.

¹¹ + 5:7 See Proverbs 14:14.