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The Wisdom of Shelomoh

Introduction

The *Wisdom of Shelomoh* (Solomon) urges its readers, especially rulers, to seek wisdom and do what's right. It begins by comparing people who trust God with those who think that life is short and that they should take whatever pleasure and power they can get. The apparent success of wicked people and the suffering of good people don't tell the whole story: the book looks beyond death to God's judgement and the lasting life of those who belong to him.

The middle chapters describe a king's desire for wisdom and his prayer for God's help. Wisdom is pictured as a woman who can be loved and welcomed as a lifelong companion. She is worth more than wealth, power, beauty, or health, and enables people to understand what pleases God.

The final part looks back over the experiences of Yisrael (Israel), especially the escape from slavery in Mitsrayim (Egypt). It contrasts God's care for his people with the punishment of their oppressors, considers his patience with wrongdoers, and exposes the foolishness of worshipping created things. The book connects wise living with knowing the Creator and recognising his work in the world.

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

Main components of this document

The lives and destinies of the righteous and the wicked *1:1–5:23*
The search for wisdom and a prayer to receive it *6:1–9:18*
Wisdom's protection of God's people *10:1–11:14*
God's power, patience, and mercy *11:15–12:27*
The foolishness and harm of idol worship *13:1–15:19*
God rescues his people and judges their oppressors *16:1–19:22*

The DC editions are placed side by side by chapter only. Their verse numbering and textual contents differ; corresponding lines are not established equivalents.

Lighter type marks additions. Underscores join parts of a single source word.

Struck words are untranslated. The ◘ sign marks a verse with no text.

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Readers' Version

Seek God and do what's right

1:1 Love righteousness, all you who are judges of the earth.
Think of the master[1] with a good mind.
Seek him in singleness of heart,
2 because he's 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's tested,
and exposes the foolish;
4 because wisdom won't enter into a soul that devises evil,
nor live in a body that's enslaved by sin.
5 Because 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 Because[2] wisdom is a spirit who loves man,
and she won't hold a[3] blasphemer guiltless for his lips,
because God is witness of his inmost self,
and is a true overseer of his heart,
and a hearer of his tongue.
7 Because the master's spirit has filled[4] the world,
and that which holds all things together knows what's said.
8 Therefore no one who utters unrighteous things will be unseen;
neither will Justice, when it convicts, pass him by.
9 Because in his counsels the ungodly will be searched out,
and the sound of his words will come to the master to bring his lawless activities to conviction;
10 because a jealous ear listens to all things,
and the noise of murmurings isn't hidden.

Literal Version

1:1 to_love righteousness the/this/who to_
_judge the/this/who earth, ⟦φρονήσατε⟧ about
of_the lord in/on/among ⟦ἀγαθότητι⟧, and
in/on/among openness heart ⟦ζητήσατε⟧
he/she/it/self. **2** that/since ⟦εὑρίσκεται⟧
the/this/who not ⟦πειράζουσιν⟧ he/she/it/self,
⟦ἐμφανίζεται⟧ but/and the/this/who not to_
_disbelieve he/she/it/self. **3** ⟦Σκολιοὶ⟧ for
⟦λογισμοὶ⟧ ⟦χωρίζουσιν⟧ away_from God,
⟦δοκιμαζομένη⟧ and/both the/this/who power
to_rebuke the/this/who ⟦ἄφρονας⟧. **4** that/since
toward ⟦κακότεχνον⟧ soul no to_enter wisdom,
and_not ⟦κατοικήσει⟧ in/on/among body
⟦κατάχρεῳ⟧ sin. **5** holy for spirit/breath
discipline to_flee deceit, and ⟦ἀπαναστήσεται⟧
away_from thought ⟦ἀσυνέτων⟧, and
⟦ἐλεγχθήσεται⟧ ⟦ἐπελθούσης⟧ unrighteousness.
6 ⟦Φιλάνθρωπον⟧ for spirit/breath wisdom, and
no ⟦ἀθῳώσει⟧ blasphemous away_from lip
he/she/it/self/my/your/him-self/there,
that/since the/this/who ⟦νεφρῶν⟧
he/she/it/self/my/your/him-self/there witness
the/this/who God, and the/this/who heart
he/she/it/self/my/your/him-self/there overseer
true, and the/this/who tongue ⟦ἀκουστής⟧;
7 that/since spirit/breath lord to_fulfill
the/this/who world, and the/this/who
⟦συνέχον⟧ the/this/who all knowledge/to_know
to_have/be voice/sound. **8** through/because_of
this/he/she/it ⟦φθεγγόμενος⟧ ⟦ἄδικα⟧ none not
⟦λάθῃ⟧, and_not certainly/month ⟦παροδεύσῃ⟧
he/she/it/self ⟦ἐλέγχουσα⟧ the/this/who
condemnation. **9** in/on/among for ⟦διαβουλίοις⟧
⟦ἀσεβοῦς⟧ ⟦ἐξέτασις⟧ to_be, word but/and
he/she/it/self/my/your/him-self/there hearing
to/with lord to_come/be_present toward rebuke
⟦ἀνομημάτων⟧
he/she/it/self/my/your/him-self/there.
10 that/since ear ⟦ζηλώσεως⟧ hearer
the/this/who all, and ⟦θροῦς⟧ murmuring no
⟦ἀποκρύπτεται⟧. **11** ⟦Φυλάξασθε⟧ then
⟦γογγυσμὸν⟧ ⟦ἀνωφελῆ⟧, and away_from slander
⟦φείσασθε⟧ tongue; that/since an_utterance
⟦λαθραῖον⟧ empty no to_travel, mouth but/and
⟦καταψευδόμενον⟧ to_do_away_with soul. **12** not
be_eager death in/on/among error life you, nor

1 **RV 1:1 · Note** Grk. in goodness.

2 **RV 1:6 · Note** Some authorities read the spirit of wisdom is loving to man.

3 **RV 1:6 · Note** Or, reviler

4 **RV 1:7 · Note** Grk. the inhabited earth.

Literal Version

⟦ἐπισπᾶσθε⟧ destructive work hand you;
13 that/since the/this/who God death no to_
_do/make, and_not ⟦τέρπεται⟧ upon/to/against
destruction to_live. **14** to_create for toward
the/this/who to_be the/this/who all, and
⟦σωτήριοι⟧ the/this/who/which ⟦γενέσεις⟧ of_
_the world, and no to_be in/on/among
he/she/it/self a_potion ⟦ὀλέθρου⟧, neither
Hades kingly upon/to/against earth.
15 righteousness for ⟦ἀθάνατός⟧ to_be;
16 ungodly but/and the/this/who hand and
the/this/who word ⟦προσεκαλέσαντο⟧
he/she/it/self, friendly/friend ⟦ἡγησάμεμοι⟧
he/she/it/self ⟦ἐτάκησαν⟧, and ⟦συνθήκην⟧ to_
_place to/with he/she/it/self, that/since worthy
to_be the/this/who that part to_be.

2:1 to_say for my/your/him-self ⟦λογισάμενοι⟧
no correctly, little/few he_is and distressing
the/this/who life I/we, and no to_be healing
in/on/among death a_human, and no to_know
the/this/who ⟦ἀναλύσας⟧ out_from Hades.
2 that/since ⟦αὐτοσχεδίως⟧ to_beget, and
with/after this/he/she/it to_be which/how no
⟦ὑπάρξαντες⟧, that/since smoke the/this/who
wind/breath in/on/among ⟦ῥισὶν⟧ I/we, and
the/this/who word a_spark in/on/among
⟦κινήσει⟧ heart I/we, **3** which/whither
⟦σβεσθέντος⟧ ⟦τέφρα⟧ to_get_out the/this/who
body, and the/this/who spirit/breath
⟦διαχυθήσεται⟧ which/how ⟦χαῦνος⟧ air. **4** and
the/this/who name I/we ⟦ἐπιλησθήσεται⟧
in/on/among time, and none ⟦μνημονεύσει⟧
the/this/who work I/we; and to_pass_by
the/this/who life I/we which/how ⟦ἴχνη⟧ cloud,
and which/how fog ⟦διασκεδασθήσεται⟧
⟦διωχθεῖσα⟧ by/under ⟦ἀκτίνων⟧ sun, and

Readers' Version

11 Beware then of unprofitable murmuring,
and keep your tongue from slander;
because no secret utterance will go on its way void,
and a lying mouth destroys a soul.

Don't invite death by doing evil

12 Don't court death in the error of your life.
Don't draw destruction on yourselves by the works of your hands;
13 because God didn't make death,
neither does he delight when the living perish.
14 Because he created all things that they might have being.
The generative powers of the world are wholesome,
and there's no poison of destruction in them,
nor has Haidais[5] royal dominion on earth;
15 for righteousness is immortal,
16 but ungodly men by their hands and their words summon death;
deeming him a friend they[6] pined away.
They made a covenant with him,
because they're worthy to belong with him.

The wicked plan to enjoy life and oppress the innocent

2:1 Because they said[7] within themselves, with unsound reasoning,
"Our life is short and sorrowful.
There's no healing when a man comes to his end,
and no one was ever known who[8] was released from Haidais.
2 Because we were born by mere chance,
and in the future we'll be as though we'd never been,
because the breath in our nostrils is smoke,
and reason is a spark kindled by the beating of our heart,
3 which being extinguished, the body will be turned into ashes,
and the spirit will be dispersed as thin air.

5 **RV 1:14 · Note** Or, a royal house
6 **RV 1:16 · Note** Or, were consumed with love of him
7 **RV 2:1 · Note** Or, amongst
8 **RV 2:1 · Note** Or, returned out of Hades

Readers' Version

4 Our name will be forgotten in time.
No one will remember our works.
Our life will pass away as the traces of a cloud,
and will be scattered as is a mist,
when it's chased by the rays of the sun,
and[9] overcome by its heat.
5 Because our allotted time is the passing of a shadow,
and our end doesn't retreat,
because it's securely sealed, and no one[10] turns it back.
6 "Come therefore and let's enjoy the good things that exist.
Let's use the creation earnestly as in our youth.
7 Let's fill ourselves with costly wine and perfumes,
and let no spring flower pass us by.
8 Let's crown ourselves with rosebuds before they wither.
9 Let none of us go without his share in our proud revelry.
Let's leave tokens of mirth everywhere,
because this is our portion, and this is our lot.
10 Let's oppress the righteous poor.
Let's not spare the widow,
nor regard the grey hair of the old man.
11 But let our strength be a law of righteousness;
for that which is weak is proven useless.
12 But let's lie in wait for the righteous man,
because he annoys us,
is contrary to our works,
reproaches us with sins against the law,
and charges us with sins against our training.
13 He professes to have knowledge of God,
and calls himself a child of the master.
14 He became to us a reproof of our thoughts.
15 He's grievous to us even to look at,
because his life is unlike other men's,
and his paths are strange.
16 We were regarded by him as something worthless,
and he abstains from our ways as from uncleanness.

Literal Version

by/under ⟦θερμότητος⟧
he/she/it/self/my/your/him-self/there
⟦βαρυνθεῖσα⟧. 5 ⟦Σκιᾶς⟧ for passing_by
the/this/who life I/we, and no to_be recall
the/this/who death I/we, that/since
⟦κατεσφραγίσθη⟧, and none ⟦ἀναστρέφει⟧.
6 come therefore/then and ⟦ἀπολαύσωμεν⟧
the/this/who to_be good-doer, and ⟦χρησώμεθα⟧
the/this/who creation which/how ⟦νεότητι⟧
diligently. 7 wine valuable and ⟦μύρων⟧
⟦πλησθῶμεν⟧, and not ⟦παροδευσάτω⟧ I/we
flower air. 8 ⟦Στεψώμεθα⟧ ⟦ῥόδων⟧ ⟦κάλυξι⟧
⟦πρινὴ⟧ ⟦μαρανθῆναι⟧. 9 nothing I/we ⟦ἄμοιρος⟧
to_be the/this/who our ⟦ἀγερωχίας⟧,
everywhere ⟦καταλίπωμεν⟧ ⟦σύμβολα⟧
the/this/who joy, that/since this/he/she/it
the/this/who part I/we and the/this/who lot
this/he/she/it. 10 ⟦Καταδυναστεύσωμεν⟧
⟦πένητα⟧ just, not ⟦φεισώμεθα⟧ widow, nor
⟦πρεσβύτου⟧ ⟦ἐντραπῶμεν⟧ ⟦πολιὰς⟧
⟦πολυχρονίους⟧. 11 to_be but/and I/we
the/this/who strength law the/this/who
righteousness, the/this/who for weak useless to_
_rebuke. 12 ⟦Ἐνεδρεύσωμεν⟧ but/and
the/this/who just, that/since inconvenient I/we
he_is and ⟦ἐναντιοῦται⟧ the/this/who work I/we,
and ⟦ὀνειδίζει⟧ I/we sin law, and ⟦ἐπιφημίζει⟧
I/we sin discipline I/we. 13 ⟦Ἐπαγγέλλεται⟧
knowledge/to_know to_have/be God, and child
lord my/your/him-self ⟦ὀνομάζει⟧. 14 to_be I/we
toward rebuke thought/purpose I/we. 15 weighty
to_be I/we and ⟦βλεπόμενος⟧, that/since
⟦ἀνόμοιος⟧ the/this/who another the/this/who
life he/she/it/self/my/your/him-self/there, and
⟦ἐξηλλαγμέναι⟧ the/this/who/which ⟦τρίβοι⟧
he/she/it/self/my/your/him-self/there.
16 toward ⟦κίβδηλον⟧ to_count he/she/it/self,
and ⟦ἀπέχεται⟧ the/this/who road I/we
which/how away_from ⟦ἀκαθαρσιῶν⟧;
⟦μακαρίζει⟧ last/least just, and ⟦ἀλαζονεύεται⟧
father God. 17 to_perceive if the/this/who word
he/she/it/self/my/your/him-self/there true,
and ⟦πειράσωμεν⟧ the/this/who in/on/among
⟦ἐκβάσει⟧
he/she/it/self/my/your/him-self/there. 18 if for
to_be the/this/who just son God, ⟦ἀντιλήμψεται⟧
he/she/it/self/my/your/him-self/there, and to_
_deliver he/she/it/self out_from hand

9 **RV 2:4 · Note** Grk. weighed down.

10 **RV 2:5 · Note** Or, comes again

Literal Version

⟦ἀνθεστηκότων⟧. **19** ⟦Ὕβρει⟧ and ⟦βασάνῳ⟧
⟦ἐτάσωμεν⟧ he/she/it/self, in_order_that/to
⟦γνῶμεν⟧ the/this/who ⟦ἐπιείκειαν⟧
he/she/it/self/my/your/him-self/there, and
⟦δοκιμάσωμεν⟧ the/this/who ⟦ἀνεξικακίαν⟧
he/she/it/self/my/your/him-self/there.
20 death ⟦ἀσχήμονι⟧ ⟦καταδικάσωμεν⟧
he/she/it/self; to_be for
he/she/it/self/my/your/him-self/there
oversight out_from word
he/she/it/self/my/your/him-self/there.
21 this/he/she/it ⟦ἐλογίσαντο⟧, and to_lead_
_astray; ⟦ἀπετύφλωσε⟧ for he/she/it/self
the/this/who evil he/she/it/self, and no to_
_know mystery **22** God, and_not wage ⟦ἤλπισαν⟧
⟦ὁσιότητος⟧, and_not ⟦ἔκριναν⟧ an_honour soul
⟦ἀμώμων⟧. **23** that/since the/this/who God to_
_create the/this/who a_human ⟦ἐπ⟧
incorruptibility, and image the/this/who one's_
_own/private ⟦ἰδιότητος⟧ to_do/make ⟦ἀτόν⟧.
24 envy but/and devilish/the_Devil death to_
_enter toward the/this/who world; ⟦πειράζουσι⟧
but/and he/she/it/self the/this/who
the/this/who that part to_be.

3:1 just/to_justify but/and soul in/on/among
hand God, and no not to_kindle he/she/it/self
torment. **2** to_think in/on/among eye foolish
⟦τεθνάναι⟧, **3** and to_count oppression
the/this/who departure he/she/it/self, and
the/this/who away_from I/we journey ruin;
the/this/who but/and to_be in/on/among peace;
4 and for in/on/among to_see a_human if
⟦κολασθῶσιν⟧, the/this/who hope he/she/it/self
⟦ἀθανασίας⟧ full. **5** and little/few ⟦παιδευθέντες⟧
great ⟦εὐεργετηθήσονται⟧, that/since
the/this/who God to_test/tempt he/she/it/self,
and to_find/meet he/she/it/self worthy
my/your/him-self. **6** which/how gold
in/on/among ⟦χωνευτηρίῳ⟧ ⟦ἐδοκίμασεν⟧
he/she/it/self, and which/how a_whole_offering
sacrifice ⟦προσεδέξατο⟧ he/she/it/self. **7** and
in/on/among time/right_time oversight
he/she/it/self ⟦ἀναλάμψουσι⟧, and which/how
⟦σπινθῆρες⟧ in/on/among straw/stubble
⟦διαδραμοῦνται⟧. **8** to_judge Gentile_nation and
⟦κρατήσουσι⟧ a_people, and to_reign

Readers' Version

He calls the latter end of the righteous happy.
He boasts that God is his father.
17 Let's see if his words are true.
Let's test what'll happen at the end of his life.
18 Because if the righteous man is God's son, he'll uphold him,
and he'll deliver him out of the hand of his adversaries.
19 Let's test him with insult and torture,
that we may find out how gentle he is,
and test his patience.
20 Let's condemn him to a shameful death,
for he'll be protected, according to his words."

The wicked misunderstand God's purposes

21 Thus they reasoned, and they were led astray;
for their wickedness blinded them,
22 and they didn't know the mysteries of God,
neither did they hope for wages of holiness,
nor did they discern that there's a prize for blameless souls.
23 Because God created man for incorruption,
and made him an image of his own everlastingness;
24 but death entered into the world by the envy of the devil,
and those who belong to him experience it.

The righteous are safe in God's care

3:1 But the souls of the righteous are in God's hand,
and no torment will touch them.
2 In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died.
Their departure was considered a disaster,
3 and their travel away from us ruin,
but they're in peace.
4 Because even if in the sight of men they're punished,
their hope is full of immortality.
5 Having borne a little chastening, they'll receive great good;
because God tested them, and found them worthy of himself.
6 He tested them like gold in the furnace,
and he accepted them as a whole burnt offering.
7 In the time of their visitation they'll shine.

Readers' Version

They'll run back and forth like sparks among stubble.
8 They'll judge nations and have dominion over peoples.
The master will reign over them forever.
9 Those who trust him will understand truth.
The faithful will live with him in love,
because grace and mercy are with his chosen ones.
10 But the ungodly will be punished even as their reasoning deserves,
those who neglected righteousness and revolted from the master;
11 for he who despises wisdom and discipline is miserable.
Their hope is void and their toils unprofitable.
Their works are useless.
12 Their wives are foolish and their children are wicked.
13 Their descendants are cursed.
Because the barren woman who's undefiled is happy,
she who hasn't conceived in transgression.
She'll have fruit when God examines souls.
14 So is the eunuch which has done no lawless deed with his hands,
nor imagined wicked things against the master;
for a precious gift will be given to him for his faithfulness,
and a delightful inheritance in the master's sanctuary.
15 Because good labours have fruit of great renown.
The root of understanding can't fail.
16 But children of adulterers won't come to maturity.
The seed of an unlawful union will vanish away.
17 Because if they live long, they won't be esteemed,
and in the end, their old age will be without honour.
18 If they die young, they'll have no hope,
nor consolation in the day of judgement.
19 Because the end of an unrighteous generation

Goodness matters more than having children

Literal Version

he/she/it/self lord toward the/this/who an_age.
9 the/this/who to_persuade upon/to/against he/she/it/self to_understand truth, and the/this/who faithful in/on/among love to_ _remain/persist he/she/it/self, that/since grace and mercy the/this/who select he/she/it/self/my/your/him-self/there.
10 the/this/who but/and ungodly as/just_as ⟦ἐλογίσαντο⟧ to_have/be ⟦ἐπιτιμίαν⟧, the/this/who to_neglect of_the just and of_the lord ⟦ἀποστάντες⟧. **11** wisdom for and discipline the/this/who ⟦ἐξουθενῶν⟧ wretched, and empty the/this/who hope he/she/it/self, and the/this/who ⟦κόποι⟧ ⟦ἀνόνητοι⟧, and ⟦ἄχρηστα⟧ the/this/who work he/she/it/self.
12 the/this/who/which woman he/she/it/self foolish, and evil/bad the/this/who child he/she/it/self. **13** cursed the/this/who origin he/she/it/self, that/since blessed infertility the/this/who pure, who/which no to_know ⟦κοίτης⟧ in/on/among trespass, to_have/be fruit in/on/among oversight soul. **14** and eunuch the/this/who not ⟦ἐργασάμενος⟧ in/on/among hand a_violation_of_law, nor ⟦ἐνθυμηθεὶς⟧ according_to of_the lord evil/bad; to_give for he/she/it/self the/this/who faith grace select, and lot in/on/among temple lord ⟦θυμηρέστερος⟧; **15** good-doer for travail fruit renowned, and ⟦ἀδιάπτωτος⟧ the/this/who root the/this/who ⟦φρονήσεως⟧. **16** child but/and ⟦μοιχῶν⟧ ⟦ἀτέλεστα⟧ to_be, and out_from ⟦παρανόμου⟧ ⟦κοίτης⟧ seed ⟦ἀφανισθήσεται⟧.
17 if and/both for ⟦μακρόβιοι⟧ to_be, toward none ⟦λογισθήσονται⟧, and ⟦ἄτιμον⟧ upon/to/against last/least the/this/who old_age he/she/it/self. **18** if and/both swiftly ⟦τελευτήσωσιν⟧, no to_have/be hope, and_not in/on/among day ⟦διαγνώσεως⟧ comfort;
19 generation for ⟦ἀδίκου⟧ ⟦χαλεπὰ⟧ the/this/who goal/tax.

Literal Version

4:1 greater childlessness with/after ⟦ἀρετῆς⟧,
immortality for to_be in/on/among
remembrance he/she/it/self, that/since and
from_with God to_know and from_with a_human;
2 ⟦παροῦσάν⟧ and/both ⟦μιμοῦνται⟧
he/she/it/self/my/your/him-self, and
⟦ποθοῦσιν⟧ ⟦ἀπελθοῦσαν⟧ and in/on/among
the/this/who an_age ⟦στεφανηφοροῦσα⟧
⟦πομπεύει⟧, the/this/who the/this/who
⟦ἀμιάντων⟧ ⟦ἄθλων⟧ fight to_conquer.
3 ⟦Πολύγονον⟧ but/and ungodly multitude no
⟦χρησιμεύσει⟧, and out_from ⟦νόθων⟧
⟦μοσχευμάτων⟧ no to_give root toward depth,
and_not secure ⟦βάσιν⟧ ⟦ἑδράσει⟧. **4** and/even_
_if/if for in/on/among branch to/with
time/right_time ⟦ἀναθάλῃ⟧, ⟦ἐπισφαλῶς⟧
⟦βεβηκότα⟧ by/under wind ⟦σαλευθήσεται⟧, and
by/under force wind to_uproot.
5 ⟦Περικλασθήσονται⟧ ⟦κλῶνες⟧ ⟦ἀτέλεστοι⟧, and
the/this/who fruit he/she/it/self useless,
unseasonable toward eating, and toward none
necessary. **6** out_from for lawless ⟦ὕπνων⟧ child
⟦γεννώμενα⟧ witness to_be evil according_to
parent in/on/among ⟦ἐξετασμῷ⟧ he/she/it/self.
7 just but/and if ⟦φθάσῃ⟧ ⟦τελευτῆσαι⟧,
in/on/among ⟦ἀναπαύσει⟧ to_be. **8** old_age for
precious no the/this/who ⟦πολυχρόνιον⟧, and_
_not number year ⟦μεμέτρηται⟧. **9** greyness_of_
_hair but/and to_be understanding a_human, and
age/height ⟦γήρως⟧ life spotless. **10** well-pleasing
the/this/who God to_be ⟦ἠγαπήθη⟧, and to_live
between/meanwhile sinful to_transport. **11** to_
_seize not evil ⟦ἀλλάξῃ⟧ understanding
he/she/it/self/my/your/him-self/there, or/than
deceit ⟦ἀπατήσῃ⟧ soul
he/she/it/self/my/your/him-self/there.
12 jealousy for ⟦φαυλότητος⟧ ⟦ἀμαυροῖ⟧
the/this/who good, and ⟦ῥεμβασμὸς⟧ desire
⟦μεταλλεύει⟧ mind ⟦ἄκακον⟧. **13** to_perfect
in/on/among little/few to_fulfill time ⟦μακρούς⟧.
14 ⟦Ἀρεστὴ⟧ for to_be lord the/this/who soul
he/she/it/self/my/your/him-self/there;
through/because_of this/he/she/it ⟦ἔσπευσεν⟧
out_from midst evil. **15** the/this/who but/and a_
_people to_perceive and not ⟦νοήσαντες⟧, nor to_
place upon/to/against mind the/this/who such
_as_this, that/since grace and mercy
in/on/among the/this/who select
he/she/it/self/my/your/him-self/there, and
oversight in/on/among the/this/who ⟦ὁσίοις⟧

Readers' Version

is always grievous.

4:1 It's better to be childless with virtue,
for immortality is in the memory of virtue,
because it's recognised both before God and before men.

2 When it's present, people imitate it.
They long after it when it's departed.
Throughout all time it marches, crowned in triumph,
victorious in the competition for the prizes that are undefiled.

3 But 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.

4 Because even if they grow branches and flourish for a season,
standing unsure, they'll be shaken by the wind.
They'll be uprooted by the violence of winds.

5 Their branches will be broken off before they come to maturity.
Their fruit will be useless,
never ripe to eat, and fit for nothing.

6 Because unlawfully conceived children are witnesses of wickedness
against parents when they're investigated.

A good life matters more than a long life

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

8 Because honourable old age isn't that which stands in length of time,
nor is its measure given by number of years,
9 but 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 among sinners he was transported.

11 He was caught away, so that evil wouldn't change his understanding,
or guile deceive his soul.

12 Because the fascination of wickedness obscures the things which are good,
and the whirl of desire perverts an innocent mind.

Readers' Version

13 Being made perfect quickly,
he filled a long time;
14 for his soul was pleasing to the master.
Therefore he hurried away from 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's dead will condemn the ungodly who are living,
and youth who's quickly perfected will condemn the many years of an unrighteous man's old age.
17 Because the ungodly will see a wise man's end,
and won't understand what the master planned for him,
and why he safely kept him.
18 They'll see, and they'll despise;
but the master will laugh them to scorn.
After this, they'll become a dishonoured carcass
and a reproach among the dead forever;
19 because he'll dash them speechless to the ground,
and will shake them from the foundations.
They'll lie utterly waste.
They'll be in anguish
and their memory will perish.
20 They'll come with coward fear when their sins are counted.
Their lawless activities will convict them to their face.

The wicked regret rejecting the righteous

5:1 Then the righteous man will stand in great boldness
before the face of those who afflicted him,
and those who make his labours of no account.
2 When they see him, they'll be troubled with terrible fear,
and will be amazed at the marvel of salvation.
3 They'll speak among themselves repenting,
and for distress of spirit they'll groan,
"This was he whom we used to hold in derision,
as a parable of reproach.
4 We fools considered his life madness,
and his end without honour.

Literal Version

he/she/it/self/my/your/him-self/there. 16 to_
_condemn but/and just ⟦καμὼν⟧ the/this/who
to_live ungodly, and youth ⟦τελεσθεῖσα⟧ quickly
⟦πολυετὲς⟧ old_age ⟦ἀδίκου⟧. 17 to_see for
⟦τελευτὴν⟧ ⟦σοφοῦ⟧, and no ⟦νοήσουσι⟧
one/which? ⟦ἐβουλεύσατο⟧ about
he/she/it/self/my/your/him-self/there, and
toward one/which? to_secure he/she/it/self
the/this/who lord. 18 to_see and
⟦ἐξουθενήσουσιν⟧, he/she/it/self but/and
the/this/who lord ⟦ἐκγελάσεται⟧; and to_be
with/after this/he/she/it toward corpse
⟦ἄτιμον⟧, and toward mistreatment
in/on/among dead through/because_of an_age.
19 that/since to_throw_violently he/she/it/self
⟦ἀφώνους⟧ ⟦πρηνεῖς⟧, and ⟦σαλεύσει⟧
he/she/it/self out_from ⟦θεμελίων⟧, and until
last/least ⟦χερσωθήσονται⟧, and to_be
in/on/among anguish, and the/this/who
remembrance he/she/it/self to_destroy. 20 to_
_come/go in/on/among ⟦συλλογισμῷ⟧ sin
he/she/it/self timid, and to_rebuke
he/she/it/self right_opposite the/this/who
⟦ἀνομήματα⟧ he/she/it/self.

5:1 then ⟦στήσεται⟧ in/on/among boldness
much the/this/who just according_to face
the/this/who ⟦θλιψάντων⟧ he/she/it/self, and
the/this/who ⟦ἀθετούντων⟧ the/this/who
⟦πόνους⟧
he/she/it/self/my/your/him-self/there. 2 to_
_perceive ⟦ταραχθήσονται⟧ fear ⟦δεινῷ⟧ and
⟦ἐκστήσονται⟧ upon/to/against the/this/who
⟦παραδόξῳ⟧ the/this/who salvation. 3 to_say
my/your/him-self ⟦μετανοοῦντες⟧, and
through/because_of ⟦στενοχωρίαν⟧ spirit/breath
to_groan, this/he/she/it to_be which to_have/be
once/when toward ⟦γέλωτα⟧ and toward parable
⟦ὀνειδισμοῦ⟧. 4 the/this/who foolish
the/this/who life
he/she/it/self/my/your/him-self/there
⟦ἐλογισάμεθα⟧ insanity, and the/this/who

Literal Version

⟦τελευτὴν⟧
he/she/it/self/my/your/him-self/there
⟦ἄτιμον⟧. **5** how?/how?! ⟦κατελογίσθη⟧
in/on/among son God, and in/on/among holy
the/this/who lot
he/she/it/self/my/your/him-self/there to_be?
6 therefore ⟦ἐπλανήθημεν⟧ away_from road
truth, and the/this/who the/this/who
righteousness light no to_shine I/we, and
the/this/who sun no to_rise I/we. **7** lawlessness
⟦ἐνεπλήσθημεν⟧ ⟦τρίβοις⟧ and destruction, and
⟦διωδεύσαμεν⟧ deserted ⟦ἀβάτους⟧,
the/this/who but/and road lord no ⟦ἔγνωμεν⟧.
8 one/which? to_help I/we the/this/who pride?
and one/which? riches with/after ⟦ἀλαζονείας⟧
⟦συμβέβληται⟧ I/we? **9** to_pass_by that all
which/how shadow, and which/how message
⟦παρατρέχουσα⟧; **10** which/how ship
⟦δειρχομενη⟧ ⟦κυμαινόμενον⟧ water, which
⟦διαβάσης⟧ no to_be track to_find/meet, and_not
⟦ἀτραπὸν⟧ ⟦τρόπιος⟧ he/she/it/self
in/on/among ⟦κύμασιν⟧; **11** or/than which/how
bird ⟦διϊπτάντος⟧ air, none ⟦εὑρίσκεται⟧ clear_
_proof ⟦πορείας⟧, plague/blow/wound but/and
⟦ταρσῶν⟧ ⟦μαστιζόμενον⟧ spirit/breath
⟦κοῦφον⟧ and ⟦σχιζόμενον⟧ force ⟦ῥοιζου⟧,
⟦κινουμένων⟧ wing ⟦διωδεύθη⟧, and with/after
this/he/she/it no to_find/meet sign ⟦ἐπιβάσεως⟧
in/on/among he/she/it/self; **12** or/than
which/how ⟦βέλους⟧ ⟦βληθέντος⟧
upon/to/against goal, ⟦τμηθεὶς⟧ the/this/who
air immediately toward my/your/him-self
⟦ἀνελύθη⟧, which/how ⟦ἀγνοῆσαι⟧ the/this/who
⟦δίοδον⟧
he/she/it/self/my/your/him-self/there;
13 thus(-ly) and I/we ⟦γεννηθέντες⟧
⟦ἐξελίπομεν⟧; and ⟦ἀρετῆς⟧ on_one_hand sign
none to_have/be to_show, in/on/among but/and
the/this/who evil I/we ⟦κατεδαπανήθημεν⟧.
14 that/since hope ⟦ἀσεβοῦς⟧ which/how
⟦φερόμενος⟧ a_coos/dust by/under wind, and
which/how frost by/under storm ⟦διωχθεῖσα⟧
⟦λεπτὴ⟧, and which/how smoke by/under wind
⟦διεχύθη⟧, and which/how remembrance
⟦καταλύτου⟧ ⟦μονοημέρου⟧ ⟦παρώδευσε⟧. **15** just
but/and toward the/this/who an_age to_live, and

Readers' Version

5 How was he counted among sons of God?
How is his lot among saints?
6 Truly we went astray from the way of truth.
The light of righteousness didn't shine for us.
The sun didn't rise for us.
7 We[11] took our fill of the paths of lawlessness and destruction.
We travelled through trackless deserts,
but we didn't know the master's way.
8 What did our arrogance profit us?
What good have riches and boasting brought us?
9 Those things all passed away as a shadow,
like a rumour that runs by,
10 like a ship passing through the billowy water,
which, when it's gone by, there's no trace to be found,
no pathway of its keel in the waves.
11 Or it's like when a bird flies through the air,
no evidence of its passage is found,
but the light wind, lashed with the stroke of its pinions,
and torn apart with the violent rush of the moving wings, is passed through.
Afterwards no sign of its coming remains.
12 Or it's like when an arrow is shot at a mark,
the air it divided closes up again immediately,
so that men don't know where it passed through.
13 So we also, as soon as we were born, ceased to be;
and we had no sign of virtue to show,
but we were utterly consumed in our wickedness."
14 Because the hope of the ungodly man is like chaff carried by the wind,
and[12] as[13] foam vanishing before a tempest;
and is scattered like smoke by the wind,
and passes by as the remembrance of a guest who stays just a day.

11 **RV 5:7 · Note** See Proverbs 14:14.

12 **RV 5:14 · Note** Grk. like foam chased to thinness: or, as thin foam chased.

13 **RV 5:14 · Note** Most Greek authorities read hoar frost: some authorities, perhaps rightly, a spider's web.

Readers' Version

God rewards the righteous and judges the world

15 But the righteous live forever.
Their reward is in the master,
and the care for them with the Most High.
16 Therefore they'll receive the crown of royal dignity
and the diadem of beauty from the master's hand,
because he'll cover them with his right hand,
and he'll shield them with his arm.
17 He'll take his zeal as complete armour,
and will make the whole creation his weapons to punish his enemies:
18 He'll put on righteousness as a breastplate,
and will wear impartial judgement as a helmet.
19 He'll take holiness as an invincible shield.
20 He'll sharpen stern anger for a sword.
The universe will go with him to fight against his frenzied foes.
21 Shafts of lightning will fly with true aim.
They'll leap to the mark from the clouds, as from a well-drawn bow.
22 Hailstones full of anger will be hurled as from a catapult.
The water of the sea will be angered against them.
Rivers will sternly overwhelm them.
23 A mighty wind will encounter them.
It'll winnow them away like a tempest.
So lawlessness will make all the land desolate.
Their evil-doing will overturn the thrones of princes.

Rulers must answer to God

6:1 Hear therefore, you kings, and understand.
Learn, you judges of the ends of the earth.
2 Give ear, you rulers who have dominion over many people,
and make your boast[14] in multitudes of nations,
3 because your dominion was given to you from the master,
and your sovereignty from the Most High.
He'll search out your works,

Literal Version

in/on/among lord the/this/who wage he/she/it/self, and the/this/who bewilderment he/she/it/self from_with ⟦ὑψίστῳ⟧.
16 through/because_of this/he/she/it to_take the/this/who kingly the/this/who ⟦εὐπρεπείας⟧, and the/this/who diadem of_the ⟦κάλλους⟧ out_ _from hand lord, that/since the/this/who right ⟦σκεπάσει⟧ he/she/it/self, and the/this/who arm ⟦ὑπερασπιεῖ⟧ he/she/it/self. 17 to_take complete_armour the/this/who zeal he/she/it/self/my/your/him-self/there, and ⟦ὁπλοποιήσει⟧ the/this/who ⟦κτίσιν⟧ toward ⟦ἄμυναν⟧ enemy. 18 ⟦Ἐνδύσεται⟧ breastplate righteousness, and ⟦περιθήσεται⟧ ⟦κόρυθα⟧ judgement genuine. 19 to_take ⟦ἀσπίδα⟧ ⟦ἀκαταμάχητον⟧ ⟦ὁσιότητα⟧, 20 ⟦ὀξυνεῖ⟧ but/and ⟦ἀπότομον⟧ wrath toward sword, ⟦συνεκπολεμήσει⟧ but/and he/she/it/self the/this/who world upon/to/against the/this/who ⟦παράφρονας⟧. 21 to_travel ⟦εὔστοχοι⟧ ⟦βολίδες⟧ ⟦ἀστραπῶν⟧, and which/how away_from ⟦εὐκύκλου⟧ ⟦τόξου⟧ the/this/who ⟦νεφῶν⟧ upon/to/against goal ⟦ἁλοῦνται⟧. 22 and out_from ⟦πετροβόλου⟧ wrath full ⟦ῥιφήσονται⟧ ⟦χάλαζαι⟧; ⟦ἀγανακτήσει⟧ according_to he/she/it/self water sea, river but/and ⟦συγκλύσουσιν⟧ severely. 23 ⟦Ἀντιστήσεται⟧ he/she/it/self spirit/breath power, and which/how storm ⟦ἐκλικμήσει⟧ he/she/it/self; and ⟦ἐρημώσει⟧ all the/this/who earth lawlessness, and the/this/who misdeeds ⟦περιτρέψει⟧ throne ⟦δυναστῶν⟧.

6:1 to_hear therefore/then king and to_ _understand, to_learn ⟦δικασταὶ⟧ end earth. 2 to_ _listen_to the/this/who to_grasp/seize multitude, and ⟦γεγαυρομένοι⟧ upon/to/against crowd Gentile_nation. 3 that/since to_give from_ _with of_the lord the/this/who holding_firm,_ _steadying you, and the/this/who command from_with highest, which ⟦ἐξετάσει⟧ you the/this/who work, and the/this/who plan ⟦διερευνήσει⟧. 4 that/since servant to_be the/this/who he/she/it/self/my/your/him-self/there kingdom no ⟦ἐκρίνατε⟧ correctly, and_not to_

14 **RV 6:2 · Note** Or, in the multitudes of your nations

Literal Version

_keep/guard law, and_not according_to
the/this/who plan of_the God ⟦ἐπορεύθητε⟧;
5 ⟦φρικτῶς⟧ and quickly ⟦ἐπιστήσεται⟧ you,
that/since judgement precisely in/on/among
the/this/who ⟦ὑπερέχουσιν⟧ to_be.
6 the/this/who for least ⟦συγγνωστός⟧ to_be
mercy, able but/and mightily ⟦ἐτασθήσονται⟧;
7 no for ⟦ὑποστελεῖται⟧ face the/this/who all
master, and_not ⟦ἐντραπήσεται⟧ greatness;
that/since small and great he/she/it/self to_
_do/make, similarly and/both to_care_for about
all. **8** the/this/who but/and ⟦κραταιοῖς⟧ strong
to_approach to_look_for/into. **9** to/with you
therefore/then oh!/to_be tyrants the/this/who
word I/we, in_order_that/to to_learn wisdom and
not ⟦παραπέσητε⟧. **10** the/this/who for
⟦φυλάξαντες⟧ devoutly the/this/who sacred
⟦ὁσιωθήσονται⟧, and the/this/who
⟦διδαχθέντες⟧ he/she/it/self to_find/meet
defence. **11** ⟦Ἐπιθυμήσατε⟧ therefore/then
the/this/who word I/we, ⟦ποθήσατε⟧ and
⟦παιδευθήσεσθε⟧. **12** shining and unfading to_be
the/this/who wisdom, and easily ⟦θεωρεῖται⟧
by/under the/this/who to_love
he/she/it/self/my/your/him-self, and
⟦εὑρίσκεται⟧ by/under the/this/who to_seek
he/she/it/self/my/your/him-self. **13** ⟦Φθάνει⟧
the/this/who ⟦ἐπιθυμοῦντας⟧ ⟦προγνωσθῆναι⟧.
14 the/this/who ⟦ὀρθρίσας⟧ upon/to/against
he/she/it/self/my/your/him-self no ⟦κοπιάσει⟧,
⟦πάρεδρον⟧ for to_find/meet the/this/who gate
he/she/it/self/my/your/him-self/there.
15 the/this/who for ⟦ἐνθυμηθῆναι⟧ about
he/she/it/self ⟦φρονήσεως⟧ perfection, and
the/this/who ⟦ἀγρυπνήσας⟧ through/because_of
he/she/it/self/my/your/him-self quickly
untroubled to_be. **16** that/since the/this/who
worthy he/she/it/self this/he/she/it
⟦περιέρχεται⟧ ⟦ζητοῦσα⟧, and in/on/among
the/this/who ⟦τρίβοις⟧ ⟦φαντάζεται⟧
he/she/it/self ⟦εὐμενῶς⟧, and in/on/among all
thought ⟦ὑπαντᾷ⟧ he/she/it/self. **17** beginning
for he/she/it/self the/this/who ⟦ἀληθεστάτη⟧
discipline desire, bewilderment but/and
discipline love, **18** love but/and jail/keeping
⟦νόμων⟧ he/she/it/self, putting_to_land but/and
⟦νόμων⟧ confirmation ⟦ἀφθαρσίας⟧,
19 incorruptibility but/and near to_be to_
_do/make God. **20** desire therefore wisdom
⟦ἀνάγει⟧ upon/to/against kingdom. **21** if
therefore/then ⟦ἤδεσθε⟧ upon/to/against

Readers' Version

and will enquire about your plans,
4 because being officers of his kingdom, you didn't judge rightly,
nor did you keep the law,
nor did you walk according to God's counsel.
5 He'll come on you awfully and swiftly,
because a stern judgement comes on those who are in high places.
6 Because the man of low estate may be pardoned in mercy,
but mighty men will be mightily tested.
7 Because the Sovereign master of all won't be impressed with anyone,
neither will he show deference to greatness;
because it's he who made both small and great,
and cares about them all;
8 but the scrutiny that comes on the powerful is strict.
9 Therefore, my words are to you, Oh princes,
that you may learn wisdom and not fall away.
10 Because those who've kept the things that are holy in holiness will be made holy.
Those who've been taught them will find what to say in defence.
11 Therefore set your desire on my words.
Long for them, and you princes will be instructed.

Wisdom welcomes those who seek her

12 Wisdom is radiant and doesn't fade away;
and is easily seen by those who love her,
and found by those who seek her.
13 She anticipates those who desire her, making herself known.
14 He who rises up early to seek her won't have difficulty,
for he'll find her sitting at his gates.
15 Because to think on her is perfection of understanding,
and he who watches for her will quickly be free from care;
16 because she herself goes around, seeking those who are worthy of her,
and in their paths she appears to them graciously,
and in every purpose she meets them.
17 Because her true beginning is desire for in-

Readers' Version

struction;
and desire for instruction is love.
18 And love is observance of her laws.
To give heed to her laws confirms immortality.
19 Immortality brings closeness to God.
20 So then desire for wisdom promotes to a kingdom.
21 If therefore you delight in thrones and sceptres, you princes of peoples,
honour wisdom, that you may reign forever.
22 But what wisdom is, and how she came into being, I'll declare.
I won't hide mysteries from you;
but I'll explore from her first beginning,
bring the knowledge of her into clear light,
and I won't pass by the truth.
23 Indeed, I won't travel with consuming envy,
because envy will have no fellowship with wisdom.
24 But a multitude of wise men is salvation to the world,
and an understanding king is stability for his people.
25 Therefore be instructed by my words, and you'll profit.

A king's search for wisdom

7:1 I myself am also[15] mortal, like everyone else,
and am a descendant of one formed first and born of the earth.
2 I moulded into flesh in the time of ten months in my mother's womb,
being compacted in blood from the seed of man and pleasure of marriage.
3 I also, when I was born, drew in the common air,
and fell onto the kindred earth,
uttering, like all, for my first voice, the same cry.
4 I was nursed with care in swaddling clothes.
5 Because no king had a different beginning,
6 but all men have one entrance into life, and a common departure.
7 Because this cause I prayed, and understanding was given to me.
I asked, and a spirit of wisdom came to me.

15 **RV 7:1 · Note** Many authorities read a mortal man.

Literal Version

⟦θρόνοις⟧ and ⟦σκήπτροις⟧ tyrants a_people, to_
_honour wisdom, in_order_that/to toward
the/this/who an_age ⟦βασιλεύσητε⟧;
22 one/which? but/and he_is wisdom and
how?/how?! to_be, to_announce, and no
⟦ἀποκρύψω⟧ you mystery, but away_from
beginning origin ⟦ἐξιχνιάσω⟧, and to_place
toward the/this/who ⟦ἐμφανὲς⟧ the/this/who
knowledge/to_know he/she/it/self, and no not
⟦παροδεύσω⟧ the/this/who truth; **23** neither
certainly/month envy ⟦τετηκότι⟧ ⟦συνοδεύσω⟧,
that/since this/he/she/it no ⟦κοινωνήσει⟧
wisdom. **24** multitude but/and wise salvation
world, and king thoughtful ⟦εὐστάθεια⟧ ⟦δήμου⟧.
25 so ⟦παιδεύεσθε⟧ the/this/who declaration
I/we, and ⟦ὠφεληθήσεσθε⟧.

7:1 to_be on_one_hand I/we/and_I mortal a_
human, equal ⟦ἅπασι⟧, and ⟦γηγενοῦς⟧ a
_descendant ⟦πρωτοπλάστου⟧. **2** and
in/on/among belly/womb/stomach mother
⟦ἐγλύφην⟧ flesh ⟦δεκαμηνιαίῳ⟧ time, ⟦παγεὶς⟧
in/on/among blood out_from seed man and
⟦ἡδονῆς⟧ sleep ⟦συνελθούσης⟧. **3** and I/we
but/and to_be ⟦ἔσπασα⟧ the/this/who common
air, and upon/to/against the/this/who
⟦ὁμοιοπαθῆ⟧ ⟦κατέπεσον⟧ earth, first
voice/sound the/this/who ⟦ὁμοίαν⟧ all equal to_
_weep. **4** in/on/among ⟦σπαργάνοις⟧
⟦ἀνετράφην⟧, and in/on/among ⟦φροντίσιν⟧.
5 none for king other to_have/be origin
beginning. **6** one but/and all entry toward
the/this/who life, departure and/both equal.
7 through/because_of this/he/she/it ⟦ηὐξάμην⟧,
and understanding to_give I/we,
⟦ἐπεκαλεσάμην⟧, and to_come/go I/we
spirit/breath wisdom. **8** ⟦Προέκρινα⟧
he/she/it/self/my/your/him-self ⟦σκήπτρων⟧
and throne, and riches none to_govern

Literal Version

in/on/among ⟦συγκρίσει⟧ he/she/it/self. **9** and_
_not ⟦ὁμοίωσα⟧ he/she/it/self stone ⟦ἀτίμητον⟧,
that/since the/this/who all gold in/on/among
to_see he/she/it/self sabulum. ⟦ὀλίγη⟧, and
which/how clay to_count silver against/in_front_
_of he/she/it/self. **10** above/for ⟦ὑγίειαν⟧ and
⟦εὐμορφίαν⟧ to_love
he/she/it/self/my/your/him-self, and
⟦προειλόμην⟧ he/she/it/self/my/your/him-self
for light to_have/be, that/since ⟦ἀκοίμητον⟧
the/this/who out_from this/he/she/it
brightness. **11** to_come/go but/and I/we
the/this/who good-doer together all with/after
he/she/it/self, and countless riches
in/on/among hand he/she/it/self.
12 ⟦Εὐφράνθην⟧ but/and upon/to/against all,
that/since he/she/it/self ⟦ἡγεῖται⟧ wisdom, be_
_ignorant but/and
he/she/it/self/my/your/him-self ⟦γενέτιν⟧ to_
be this/he/she/it. **13** ⟦Ἀδόλως⟧ and/both to
_learn, ⟦ἀφθόνως⟧ and/both to_share,
the/this/who riches he/she/it/self no
⟦ἀποκρύπτομαι⟧. **14** incessant for treasure to_be
a_human, which the/this/who ⟦χρησάμενοι⟧
to/with God ⟦ἐστείλαντο⟧ ⟦φιλίαν⟧,
through/because_of the/this/who out_from
discipline free_gift ⟦συσταθέντες⟧. **15** I/we/my
but/and to_give the/this/who God to_say
according_to resolution, and ⟦ἐνθυμηθῆναι⟧
appropriately the/this/who ⟦δεδομένων⟧,
that/since he/she/it/self and the/this/who
wisdom guide/leader he_is, and the/this/who
wise of_books,_editor,_reviser. **16** in/on/among
for hand he/she/it/self/my/your/him-self/there
and I/we and the/this/who word I/we, all
and/both understanding and ⟦ἐργατειῶν⟧
higher_knowledge. **17** he/she/it/self for I/we to_
_give the/this/who to_be knowledge/to_know
⟦ἀψευδῆ⟧, to_perceive ⟦σύστασιν⟧ world and
active_energy principle, **18** beginning and
goal/tax and ⟦μεσότητα⟧ time, ⟦τροπῶν⟧
⟦ἀλλαγὰς⟧ and ⟦μεταβολὰς⟧ time/right_time,
19 ⟦ἐνιαυτῶν⟧ ⟦κύκλους⟧ and star ⟦θέσεις⟧,
20 ⟦φύσεις⟧ living_thing and ⟦θυμοὺς⟧ wild_
animal, spirit/breath force and reasoning a
_human, ⟦διαφορὰς⟧ ⟦φυτῶν⟧ and power root,
21 just_as/how_much and/both he_is hidden and
revealed to_know. **22** the/this/who for all
courtesan to_teach I/we wisdom; he_is for
in/on/among he/she/it/self spirit/breath
⟦νοερὸν⟧, holy, ⟦μονογενὲς⟧, ⟦πολυμερὲς⟧, coin,

Readers' Version

8 I preferred her before sceptres and thrones.
I considered riches nothing in comparison to her.
9 Neither did I liken to her any priceless gem,
because all gold in her presence is a little sand,
and silver will be considered as clay before her.
10 I loved her more than health and beauty,
and I chose to have her rather than light,
because her bright shining is never laid to sleep.
11 All good things came to me with her,
and innumerable riches are in her hands.
12 And I rejoiced over them all because wisdom leads them;
although I didn't know that she was their mother.
13 As I learnt without guile, I impart without grudging.
I don't hide her riches.
14 Because she's a treasure for men that doesn't fail,
and those who use it obtain friendship with God,
commended by the gifts which they present through discipline.

Wisdom's knowledge and power

15 But may God grant that I may speak his judgement,
and to conceive thoughts worthy of what's been given me;
because he's one who guides even wisdom and who corrects the wise.
16 Because both we and our words are in his hand,
with all understanding and skill in various crafts.
17 Because he himself gave me an unerring knowledge of the things that are,
to know the structure of the universe and the operation of the elements;
18 the beginning, end, and middle of times;
the alternations of the solstices and the changes of seasons;
19 the circuits of years and the positions of stars;
20 the natures of living creatures and the raging of wild animals;

Readers' Version

the violence of[16] winds and the thoughts of men;
the diversities of plants and the virtues of roots.
21 All things that are either secret or manifest I learnt,
22 for wisdom, that's the architect of all things, taught me.
Because there's in her a spirit that's quick to understand, holy,
unique, manifold, subtle, freely moving, clear in utterance, unpolluted,
distinct, invulnerable, loving what's good, keen, unhindered,
23 beneficent, loving towards man, steadfast, sure, free from care, all-powerful, all-surveying,
and penetrating through all spirits that are quick to understand, pure, most subtle.
24 Because wisdom is more mobile than any motion.
Yes, she pervades and penetrates all things because of her purity.
25 Because she's a breath of God's power,
and a pure emanation of the Almighty's glory.
Therefore nothing defiled can find entrance into her.
26 Because she's a reflection of eternal light,
an unspotted mirror of the working of God,
and an image of his goodness.
27 Although she's one, she has power to do all things.
Remaining in herself, she renews all things.
Throughout the generations passing into holy souls,
she makes friends of God and prophets.
28 Because God loves nothing as much as one who lives with wisdom.
29 Because she's fairer than the sun,
and above all the constellations of the stars.
She's better than light.
30 Because daylight yields to night,
but evil doesn't prevail against wisdom.
8:1 But she reaches from one end to the other with full strength,

Literal Version

⟦εὐκίνητον⟧, ⟦τρανὸν⟧, ⟦ἀμόλυντον⟧, ⟦σαφὲς⟧, ⟦ἀπήμαντον⟧, lover_of_good, sharp/swift, ⟦ἀκώλυτον⟧, ⟦εὐεργετικὸν⟧, **23** ⟦φιλάνθρωπον⟧, ⟦βέβαιον⟧, secure, ⟦ἀμέριμνον⟧, ⟦παντοδύναμον⟧, ⟦πανεπίσκοπον⟧, and through/because_of all ⟦χωροῦν⟧ spirit/breath ⟦νοερῶν⟧, ⟦καθαρῶν⟧, ⟦λεπτοτάτων⟧. **24** all for ⟦κινήσεως⟧ ⟦κινητικώτερον⟧ wisdom, ⟦διήκει⟧ but/and and to_make_room_for through/because_of all through/because_of the/this/who cleanness. **25** vapour for he_is the/this/who of_the God power. and ⟦ἀπόῤῥοια⟧ the/this/who of_the almighty glory pure; through/because_of this/he/she/it none ⟦μεμιαμμένον⟧ toward he/she/it/self/my/your/him-self ⟦παρεμπίπτει⟧. **26** radiance for he_is light ⟦ἀϊδίου⟧, and mirror ⟦ἀκηλίδωτον⟧ the/this/who of_the God active_ _energy, and image the/this/who ⟦ἀγαθότητος⟧ he/she/it/self/my/your/him-self/there. **27** one but/and to_be all be_able, and ⟦μένουσα⟧ in/on/among he/she/it/self/this/he/she/it the/this/who all ⟦καινίζει⟧, and according_to generation toward soul ⟦ὁσίας⟧ ⟦μεταβαίνουσα⟧, friendly/friend God and prophet ⟦κατασκευάζει⟧. **28** none for to_love the/this/who God, if not the/this/who wisdom ⟦συνοικοῦντα⟧. **29** he_is for this/he/she/it ⟦εὐπρεπεστέρα⟧ sun, and above/for all star ⟦θέσιν⟧, light ⟦συγκρινομένη⟧ ⟦εὑρίσκεται⟧ ⟦προτέρα⟧. **30** this/he/she/it on_ _one_hand for ⟦διαδέχεται⟧ night, wisdom but/and no ⟦ἀντισχύει⟧ evil.

8:1 ⟦Διατείνει⟧ but/and away_from ⟦πέρατος⟧ toward end ⟦εὐρώστως⟧, and ⟦διοικεῖ⟧ the/this/who all ⟦χρηστῶς⟧. **2** this/he/she/it

16 RV 7:20 · Note Or, spirits

Literal Version

⟦ἐφίλησα⟧ and ⟦ἐξεζήτησα⟧ out_from youth I/we, and ⟦ἐζήτησα⟧ bride ⟦ἀγαγέσθαι⟧ myself, and a_ _lover to_be of_the ⟦κάλλους⟧ he/she/it/self. **3** ⟦Εὐγένειαν⟧ ⟦δοξάζει⟧ ⟦συμβίωσιν⟧ God to_ _have/be, and the/this/who all master to_love he/she/it/self/my/your/him-self. **4** initiator for he_is the/this/who of_the God ⟦ἐπιστήμης⟧, and one_who_chooses the/this/who work he/she/it/self/my/your/him-self/there. **5** if but/and riches to_be ⟦ἐπιθυμητὸν⟧ possession in/on/among ⟦βίῳ⟧, one/which? wisdom ⟦πλουσιώτερον⟧ the/this/who the/this/who all ⟦ἐργαζομένης⟧? **6** if but/and understanding to_ _work, one/which? he/she/it/self the/this/who to_be more he_is craftsman? **7** and if righteousness to_love one, the/this/who ⟦πόνοι⟧ this/he/she/it to_be ⟦ἀρεταί⟧; ⟦σωφροσύνην⟧ for and ⟦φρόνησιν⟧ ⟦ἐκδιδάσκει⟧, righteousness and ⟦ἀνδρίαν⟧, which ⟦χρησιμώτερον⟧ none to_be in/on/among ⟦βίῳ⟧ a_human. **8** if but/and and ⟦πολυπειρίαν⟧ ⟦ποθεῖ⟧ one, to_perceive the/this/who ancient and the/this/who to_ensue ⟦εἰκάζειν⟧, to_approach/to_know/understand ⟦στροφὰς⟧ word and ⟦λύσεις⟧ ⟦αἰνιγμάτων⟧, sign and wonders ⟦προγινώσκει⟧, and ⟦ἐκβάσεις⟧ time/right_time and time. **9** to_judge then this/he/she/it ⟦ἀγαγέσθαι⟧ to/with ⟦συμβίωσιν⟧, to_perceive that/since to_be I/we counsellor good-doer, and ⟦παραίνεσις⟧ ⟦φροντίδων⟧ and grief. **10** out/outside(r) through/because_of he/she/it/self/my/your/him-self glory in/on/among crowd, and honour from_with elder the/this/who new. **11** sharp/swift ⟦εὑρεθήσομαι⟧ in/on/among judgement, and in/on/among to_see ⟦δυναστῶν⟧ ⟦θαυμασθήσομαι⟧. **12** ⟦Σιγῶντά⟧ I/we ⟦περιμενοῦσι⟧, and ⟦φθεγγομένῳ⟧ ⟦προσέξουσι⟧, and to_speak ⟦ἐπιπλεῖον⟧, hand to_put/lay_on upon/to/against mouth he/she/it/self. **13** out/outside(r) through/because_of he/she/it/self/my/your/him-self immortality, and remembrance eternal the/this/who ⟦μετ⟧ I/we ⟦ἀπολείψω⟧. **14** ⟦Διοικήσω⟧ ⟦λαοὺς⟧, and Gentile_nation to_subject I/we. **15** ⟦Φοβηθήσονταί⟧ I/we to_hear tyrants ⟦φρικτοὶ⟧, in/on/among multitude ⟦φανοῦμαι⟧ good-doer, and in/on/among war vigorous. **16** to_

Readers' Version

and orders all things well.

Choosing wisdom as a lifelong companion

2 I loved her and wanted her from my youth.

I tried to take her for my bride.

I became enamoured by her beauty.

3 She glorifies her noble birth by living with God.

The Sovereign master of all loves her.

4 Because she's initiated into the knowledge of God,

and she chooses his works.

5 But if riches are a desired possession in life,

what's richer than wisdom, which makes all things?

6 And if understanding is effective,

who more than[17] wisdom is an architect of the things that exist?

7 If a man loves righteousness,

the fruits of wisdom's labour[18] are virtues,

for she teaches soberness, understanding, righteousness, and courage.

There's nothing in life more profitable for people than these.

8 And if anyone longs for wide experience,

she knows the things of old, and infers the things to come.

She understands subtleties of speeches and interpretations of dark sayings.

She foresees signs and wonders, and the issues of seasons and times.

9 Therefore I determined to take her to live with me,

knowing that she's one who'd give me good counsel,

and encourage me in cares and grief.

10 Because of her, I'll have glory among multitudes,

and honour in the sight of elders, though I'm young.

11 I'll be found keen when I give judgement.

I'll be admired in the presence of rulers.

12 When I'm silent, they'll wait for me.

When I open my lips, they'll heed what I say.

17 **RV 8:6 · Note** Grk. she.

18 **RV 8:7 · Note** Grk. her labours

Readers' Version

If I continue speaking, they'll put their hands on their mouths.
13 Because of her, I'll have immortality,
and leave behind an eternal memory to those who come after me.
14 I'll govern peoples.
Nations will be subjected to me.
15 Dreaded monarchs will fear me when they hear of me.
Among the people, I'll show myself to be good, and courageous in war.
16 When I come into my house, I'll find rest with her.
Because conversation with her has no bitterness,
and living with her has no pain, but gladness and joy.
17 When I considered these things in myself,
and thought in my heart how immortality is in kinship to wisdom,
18 and in her friendship is good delight,
and in the labours of her hands is wealth that doesn't fail,
and understanding is in her companionship,
and great renown in having fellowship with her words,
I went about seeking how to take her to myself.
19 Now I was a clever child, and received a good soul.
20 Or rather, being good, I came into an undefiled body.
21 But perceiving that I couldn't otherwise possess wisdom unless God gave her to me—
yes, and to know and understand by whom the grace is given—
I pleaded with the master and implored him, and with my whole heart I said:
9:1 "O God of my ancestors **A prayer for wisdom**
and master of mercy,
who made all things by your word;
2 and by your wisdom you formed man,
that he should have dominion over the creatures that were made by you,
3 and rule the world in holiness and righteousness,
and execute judgement in uprightness of soul,

Literal Version

enter toward the/this/who house I/we ⟦προσαναπαύσομαι⟧ he/she/it/self; no for to _have/be ⟦πικρίαν⟧ the/this/who living_with,_ _intercourse he/she/it/self, and_not ⟦ὀδύνην⟧ the/this/who club,_society he/she/it/self, but ⟦εὐφροσύνην⟧ and joy. **17** this/he/she/it to_ _count in/on/among myself, and ⟦φροντίσας⟧ in/on/among heart I/we, that/since to_be immortality in/on/among kindred wisdom, **18** and in/on/among friendship he/she/it/self delight good-doer, and in/on/among ⟦πόνοις⟧ hand he/she/it/self riches incessant, and in/on/among experience,_training ⟦ὁμιλίας⟧ he/she/it/self understanding, and ⟦εὔκλεια⟧ in/on/among participation word he/she/it/self, ⟦περιῄειν⟧ to_seek that to_take he/she/it/self/my/your/him-self toward myself. **19** child but/and to_be ⟦εὐφυὴς⟧, soul and/both ⟦ἔλαχον⟧ good-doer, **20** more but/and good-doer to_be to_come/go toward body pure. **21** to_know but/and that/since no otherwise to_be self-controlled, if not the/this/who God to_give, and this/he/she/it but/and to_be ⟦φρονήσεως⟧ the/this/who to_perceive which? the/this/who grace, to_call_on the/this/who lord, and to_pray he/she/it/self/my/your/him-self/there, and to_ _say out_from all the/this/who heart I/we,

9:1 God father and lord of_the mercy you, the/this/who to_do/make the/this/who all in/on/among word you, **2** and the/this/who wisdom you ⟦κατεσκεύασας⟧ a_human, in_order_ _that/to ⟦δεσπόζῃ⟧ the/this/who by/under you to_be creature, **3** and ⟦διέπῃ⟧ the/this/who world in/on/among holiness and righteousness, and in/on/among ⟦εὐθύτητι⟧ soul judgement to_ _judge; **4** to_give I/we the/this/who the/this/who ⟦σῶν⟧ throne ⟦πάρεδρον⟧ wisdom,

Literal Version

and not I/we ⟦ἀποδοκιμάσῃς⟧ out_from child you. **5** that/since I/we slave your and son the/this/who maidservant you, a_human weak and ⟦ὀλιγοχρόνιος⟧ and lesser in/on/among understanding judgement and ⟦νόμων⟧. **6** and/even_if/if for one to_be perfect in/on/among son a_human, the/this/who away_ _from you wisdom ⟦ἀπούσης⟧, toward none to_ _count. **7** you I/we ⟦προείλω⟧ king a_people you, and magistrate son you and daughter. **8** to_say to_build temple in/on/among mountain holy you, and in/on/among city ⟦κατασκηνώσεώς⟧ you altar, ⟦μίμημα⟧ tent holy which ⟦προητοίμασας⟧ away_from beginning. **9** and with/after you the/this/who wisdom the/this/who to_perceive the/this/who work you, and ⟦παροῦσα⟧ when ⟦ἐποίεις⟧ the/this/who world, and ⟦ἐπισταμένη⟧ one/which? pleasing in/on/among eye you, and one/which? ⟦εὐθὲς⟧ in/on/among commandment you. **10** ⟦Ἐξαπόστειλον⟧ he/she/it/self/my/your/him-self out_from holy heaven, and away_from throne glory you to_send he/she/it/self/my/your/him-self, in_order_ _that/to ⟦συμπαροῦσά⟧ I/we ⟦κοπιάσῃ⟧, and to_ _know one/which? well-pleasing he_is from_with you/your. **11** to_perceive for that all and ⟦συνιεῖ⟧, and to_guide I/we in/on/among the/this/who action I/we in_self-control, and to_keep/guard I/we in/on/among the/this/who glory/to_think he/she/it/self. **12** and to_be ⟦προσδεκτὰ⟧ the/this/who work I/we, and to_judge/doubt the/this/who a_people you rightly, and to_be worthy throne father I/we. **13** one/which? for a_ _human to_know plan God? or/than one/which? ⟦ἐνθυμηθήσεται⟧ one/which? to_will/desire the/this/who lord? **14** ⟦Λογισμοὶ⟧ for ⟦θνητῶν⟧ timid, and ⟦ἐπισφαλεῖς⟧ the/this/who/which ⟦ἐπίνοιαι⟧ I/we. **15** perishable for body ⟦βαρύνει⟧ soul, and ⟦βρίθει⟧ the/this/who ⟦γεῶδες⟧ tent mind ⟦πολυφροντίδα⟧. **16** and hardly ⟦εἰκάζομεν⟧ the/this/who upon/to/against earth, and the/this/who in/on/among hand to_find/meet with/after travail; the/this/who but/and in/on/among heaven one/which? ⟦ἐξιχνίασε⟧? **17** plan but/and you one/which? to_know, if not you to_give wisdom, and ⟦ἔπεμψας⟧

Readers' Version

4 give me wisdom, her who sits by you on your thrones.
Don't reject me from among your[19] servants,
5 because I'm your servant and the son of your handmaid,
a weak and short-lived man,
with little power to understand judgement and laws.
6 Because even if a man is perfect among the sons of men,
if the wisdom that comes from you isn't with him, he'll count for nothing.
7 You chose me to be king of your people,
and a judge for your sons and daughters.
8 You gave a command to build a sanctuary on your holy mountain,
and[20] an altar in the city where you live,
a copy of the holy tent which you prepared from the beginning.
9 Wisdom is with you and knows your works,
and was present when you were making the world,
and understands what's pleasing in your eyes,
and what's right according to your commandments.
10 Send her from the holy heavens,
and ask her to come from the throne of your glory,
that being present with me she may work,
and I may learn what pleases you well.
11 Because she knows all things and understands,
and she'll guide me prudently in my actions.
She'll guard me in her glory.
12 So my works will be acceptable.
I'll judge your people righteously,
and I'll be worthy of my father's[21] throne.
13 Because what man will know God's counsel?
Or who'll conceive what the master wills?
14 Because the thoughts of mortals are unstable,
and our plans are prone to fail.
15 Because a corruptible body weighs down the

19 **RV 9:4 · Note** Or, children

20 **RV 9:8 · Note** Or, a place of sacrifice

21 **RV 9:12 · Note** Grk. thrones.

Readers' Version

soul.

The earthy tent burdens a mind that's full of cares.

16 We can hardly guess the things that are on earth,

and we find the things that are close at hand with labour;

but who's traced out the things that are in the heavens?

17 Who gained knowledge of your counsel, unless you gave wisdom,

and sent your holy spirit from on high?

18 It was thus that the ways of those who are on earth were corrected,

and men were taught the things that are pleasing to you.

They were saved through wisdom."

Wisdom protects and rescues the faithful

10:1 Wisdom[22] guarded to the end the first formed father of the world, who was created alone,

and delivered him out of his own transgression,

2 and gave him strength to rule over all things.

3 But when an unrighteous man fell away from her in his anger,

he perished himself in the rage with which he killed his brother.

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

wisdom again saved it,

guiding the righteous man's course by a paltry piece of wood.

5 Moreover, when nations consenting together in wickedness had been confounded,

wisdom[23] knew the righteous man, and preserved him blameless to God,

and kept him strong when his heart yearned towards his child.

6 While the ungodly were perishing, wisdom[24] delivered a righteous man,

when he fled from the fire that descended out

Literal Version

the/this/who holy you spirit/breath away_from ⟦ὑψίστων⟧? **18** and thus(-ly) ⟦διωρθώθησαν⟧ the/this/who/which ⟦τρίβοι⟧ the/this/who upon/to/against earth, and the/this/who pleasing you to_teach a_human, and the/this/who wisdom ⟦ἐσώθησαν⟧.

10:1 this/he/she/it ⟦πρωτόπλαστον⟧ father world alone/only to_create ⟦διεφύλαξε⟧, and to_ _take_out/select he/she/it/self out_from trespass one's_own/private, **2** to_give and/both he/she/it/self strength to_grasp/seize all. **3** to_ _leave but/and away_from he/she/it/self unjust in/on/among wrath he/she/it/self/my/your/him-self/there, ⟦ἀδελφοκτόνοις⟧ to_die/destroy_with ⟦θυμοῖς⟧, **4** through/because_of which ⟦κατακλυζομένην⟧ earth again ⟦διέσωσε⟧ wisdom, through/because_ _of ⟦εὐτελοῦς⟧ wood the/this/who just ⟦κυβερνήσασα⟧. **5** this/he/she/it and in/on/among concord evil Gentile_nation ⟦συγχυθέντων⟧ to_find/meet the/this/who just, and ⟦ἐτήρησεν⟧ he/she/it/self ⟦ἄμεμπτον⟧ God, and upon/to/against child affection/entrails strong to_keep/guard. **6** this/he/she/it just, ⟦ἐξαπολλυμένων⟧ ungodly, to_deliver ⟦φυγόντα⟧ fire ⟦καταβάσιον⟧ ⟦Πενταπόλεως⟧; **7** which still testimony the/this/who evil ⟦καπνιζομένη⟧ ⟦καθέστηκε⟧ uncultivated, and ⟦ἀτελέσιν⟧ ⟦ὥραις⟧ ⟦καρποφοροῦντα⟧ ⟦φυτά⟧; ⟦ἀπιστοῦσης⟧ soul grave ⟦ἑστηκυῖα⟧ a_monument ⟦ἁλός⟧. **8** wisdom for ⟦παροδεύσαντες⟧ no alone/only ⟦ἐβλάβησαν⟧ of_the not to_know the/this/who good, but and the/this/who foolishness to_leave the/this/who ⟦βίῳ⟧ memorial, in_order_that/to

22 RV 10:1 · Note Grk. She.

23 RV 10:5 · Note Grk. she

24 RV 10:6 · Note Grk. she

Literal Version

in/on/among which ⟦ἐσφάλησαν⟧ nor be_hidden ⟦δυνηθῶσι⟧. **9** wisdom but/and the/this/who ⟦θεραπεύσαντας⟧ he/she/it/self/my/your/him-self out_from travail to_deliver. **10** this/he/she/it ⟦φυγάδα⟧ wrath brother just ⟦ὡδήγησεν⟧ in/on/among ⟦τρίβοις⟧ ⟦εὐθείαις⟧, to_show he/she/it/self kingdom God, and to_give he/she/it/self knowledge/to_know holy, ⟦εὐπόρησεν⟧ he/she/it/self in/on/among ⟦μόχθοις⟧, and ⟦ἐπλήθυνε⟧ the/this/who ⟦πόνους⟧ he/she/it/self/my/your/him-self/there. **11** in/on/among greediness ⟦κατισχύοντων⟧ he/she/it/self to_stand_by, and ⟦ἐπλούτισεν⟧ he/she/it/self. **12** ⟦Διεφύλαξεν⟧ he/she/it/self away_from enemy, and away_from ⟦ἐνεδρευόντων⟧ to_secure, and fight strong ⟦ἐβράβευσεν⟧ he/she/it/self, in_order_that/to to_know, that/since all ⟦δυνατωτέρα⟧ to_be piety. **13** this/he/she/it ⟦πραθέντα⟧ just no to_leave_ _behind, but out_from sin to_deliver he/she/it/self; **14** ⟦συγκατέβη⟧ he/she/it/self toward ⟦λάκκον⟧, and in/on/among chain no to_ _release he/she/it/self, until to_bear/lead he/she/it/self ⟦σκῆπτρα⟧ kingdom and authority ⟦τυραννούντων⟧ he/she/it/self/my/your/him-self/there; false and/both to_show the/this/who ⟦μωμησαμένους⟧ he/she/it/self, and to_give he/she/it/self glory eternal. **15** this/he/she/it a_ _people sacred and seed ⟦ἄμεμπτον⟧ to_deliver out_from Gentile_nation ⟦θλιβόντων⟧. **16** to_ _enter toward soul ⟦θεράποντος⟧ lord, and to_ _oppose king ⟦φοβεροῖς⟧ in/on/among wonders and sign. **17** to_pay ⟦ὁσίοις⟧ wage labour he/she/it/self, ⟦ὡδήγησεν⟧ he/she/it/self in/on/among road marvellous, and to_be he/she/it/self toward ⟦σκέπην⟧ day, and toward flame star the/this/who night. **18** ⟦Διεβίβασεν⟧ he/she/it/self sea red, and ⟦διήγαγεν⟧ he/she/it/self through/because_of water much. **19** the/this/who but/and enemy he/she/it/self ⟦κατέκλυσε⟧, and out_from depth abyss ⟦ἀνέβρασεν⟧ he/she/it/self. **20** through/because_ _of this/he/she/it just ⟦ἐσκύλευσαν⟧ ungodly, and ⟦ὕμνησαν⟧ lord the/this/who name the/this/who holy you, the/this/who and/both ⟦ὑπέρμαχόν⟧ you hand ⟦ἤνεσαν⟧ united.

Readers' Version

of heaven on the five cities.

7 To whose wickedness a smoking waste still witnesses,

and plants bearing fair fruit that doesn't ripen,

a disbelieving soul has a memorial: a standing pillar of salt.

8 Because having passed wisdom by,

not only were they disabled from recognising the things which are good,

but they also left behind them for their life a monument of their folly,

to the end that where they stumbled, they might fail even to be unseen;

9 but wisdom delivered those who waited on her out of troubles.

10 When a righteous man was a fugitive from a brother's anger,[25] wisdom guided him in straight paths.

She showed him God's kingdom, and gave him knowledge of holy things.

She prospered him in his toils, and multiplied the fruits of his labour.

11 When in their covetousness men dealt harshly with him,

she stood by him and made him rich.

12 She guarded him from enemies,

and she kept him safe from those who lay in wait.

Over his severe conflict, she watched as judge,

that he might know that godliness is more powerful than every one.

13 When a righteous man was sold,[26] wisdom didn't forsake him,

but she delivered him from sin.

She went down with him into a dungeon,

14 and in bonds she didn't depart from him,

until she brought him the sceptre of a kingdom,

and authority over those that dealt like a tyrant with him.

She also showed those who'd mockingly accused him to be false,

and gave him eternal glory.

25 RV 10:10 · Note Grk. she.

26 RV 10:13 · Note Grk. she.

Readers' Version

Wisdom leads God's people out of slavery

15 Wisdom[27] delivered a holy people and a blameless seed from a nation of oppressors.
16 She entered into the soul of a servant of the master,
and withstood terrible kings in wonders and signs.
17 She rendered to holy men a reward of their toils.
She guided them along a marvellous way,
and became to them a covering in the day-time,
and a starry flame through the night.
18 She brought them over the Red sea,
and led them through much water;
19 but she drowned their enemies,
and she threw them up from the bottom of the deep.
20 Therefore the righteous plundered the ungodly,
and they sang praise to your holy name, Oh master,
and extolled with one accord your hand that fought for them,
21 because wisdom opened the mouth of the mute,
and made the tongues of babes to speak clearly.

Water for God's people and punishment for their enemies

11:1 Wisdom prospered their works in the hand of a holy prophet.
2 They travelled through a desert without inhabitant,
and they pitched their tents in trackless regions.
3 They withstood enemies and repelled foes.
4 They thirsted, and they called on you,
and water was given to them out of the[28] flinty rock,
and healing of their thirst out of the hard stone.[29]

Literal Version

21 that/since the/this/who wisdom to_open mouth ⟦κωφῶν⟧, and tongue child to_place ⟦τρανάς⟧.

11:1 ⟦Εὐωδώσε⟧ the/this/who work he/she/it/self in/on/among hand prophet holy. **2** ⟦Διώδευσαν⟧ deserted ⟦ἀοίκητον⟧, and in/on/among ⟦ἀβάτοις⟧ ⟦ἔπηξαν⟧ tent. **3** to_ _oppose ⟦πολεμίοις⟧, and ⟦ἠμύναντο⟧ enemy. **4** ⟦Ἐδίψησαν⟧ and ⟦ἐπεκαλέσαντό⟧ you, and to_ _give he/she/it/self out_from rock ⟦ἀκροτόμου⟧ water, and healing ⟦δίψης⟧ out_from stone ⟦σκληροῦ⟧. **5** through/because_of which for ⟦ἐκολάσθησαν⟧ the/this/who enemy he/she/it/self, through/because_of this/he/she/it he/she/it/self ⟦ἀποροῦντες⟧ ⟦εὐεργετήθησαν⟧. **6** for on_one_hand flow ⟦ἀεννάου⟧ river blood ⟦λυθρώδει⟧ ⟦ταραχθέντες⟧ **7** toward rebuke ⟦νηπιοκτόνου⟧ ⟦διατάγματος⟧, to_give he/she/it/self ⟦δαψιλὲς⟧ water

27 RV 10:15 · Note Grk. she.

28 RV 11:4 · Note See Deuteronomy 8:15; Psalms 114:8.

29 RV 11:4 · Cross-ref. Exo 17:1-6; Num 20:7-11.

Literal Version

⟦ἀνελπίστως⟧; **8** ⟦δείξας⟧ through/because_of of_
_the then ⟦δίψους⟧ how?/how?! the/this/who
opposed ⟦ἐκόλασας⟧. **9** when for to_test/tempt,
although in/on/among mercy to_instruct, to_
_know how?/how?! in/on/among wrath to_judge
ungodly ⟦ἐβασανίζοντο⟧. **10** this/he/she/it on_
_one_hand for which/how father ⟦νουθεντῶν⟧
⟦ἐδοκίμασας⟧, that but/and which/how precisely
king ⟦καταδικάζων⟧ ⟦ἐξήτασας⟧. **11** and be_away
but/and and be_present similarly ⟦ἐτρύχοντο⟧.
12 ⟦Διπλῆ⟧ for he/she/it/self to_take grief, and
groan ⟦μνημῶν⟧ the/this/who ⟦παρελθουσῶν⟧.
13 when for to_hear through/because_of
the/this/who one's_own/private ⟦κολάσεων⟧
⟦εὐεργετουμένους⟧ he/she/it/self, ⟦ᾔσθοντο⟧ of_
_the lord. **14** the/this/who for in/on/among
⟦ἐκθέσει⟧ of_old ⟦ῥιφέντα⟧ to_renounce
⟦χλευάζοντες⟧, upon/to/against to_finish
the/this/who ⟦ἐκβάσεων⟧ to_marvel, no like just
⟦διψήσαντες⟧. **15** for but/and thought
⟦ἀσυνέτων⟧ unrighteousness he/she/it/self,
in/on/among which ⟦πλανηθέντες⟧
⟦ἐθρήσκευον⟧ unreasonable reptile and
⟦κνώδαλα⟧ ⟦εὐτελῆ⟧, ⟦ἐπαπέστειλας⟧
he/she/it/self multitude ⟦ἀλόγων⟧ living_thing
toward vengeance, **16** in_order_that/to
knowledge/to_know that/since
through/because_of which one to_sin,
through/because_of this/he/she/it ⟦κολάζεται⟧.
17 no for be_perplexed the/this/who all-powerful
you hand ⟦κτίσασα⟧ the/this/who world out_
_from ⟦ἀμόρφου⟧ ⟦ὕλης⟧, ⟦ἐπιπέμψαι⟧
he/she/it/self multitude ⟦ἄρκων⟧, or/than
⟦θρασεῖς⟧ ⟦λέοντας⟧, **18** or/than ⟦νεοκτίστους⟧
wrath full ⟦θῆρας⟧ ⟦ἀγνώστους⟧, whether
⟦πυρπνόον⟧ ⟦φυσῶντας⟧ ⟦ἄσθμα⟧, or/than
⟦βρόμους⟧ ⟦λικμωμένους⟧ smoke, or/than
⟦δεινοὺς⟧ away_from eye ⟦σπινθῆρας⟧
⟦ἀστράπτοντας⟧; **19** which no alone/only
the/this/who ⟦βλάβη⟧ be_able ⟦συνεκτρίψαι⟧
he/she/it/self, but and the/this/who face
⟦ἐκφοβήσασα⟧ ⟦διολέσαι⟧. **20** and without
but/and this/he/she/it, one spirit/breath to_
_collapse ⟦ἐδύνατο⟧ by/under the/this/who
⟦δίκης⟧ ⟦διωχθέντες⟧, and ⟦λικμηθέντες⟧
by/under spirit/breath power you; but all
measure and number and ⟦σταθμῷ⟧ ⟦διέταξας⟧.
21 the/this/who for greatly be_strong ⟦πάρεστί⟧

Readers' Version

5 Because by what things their foes were punished,
by these they in their need were benefitted.
6 When enemies were troubled with clotted blood
instead of a river's ever-flowing fountain,[30]
7 to rebuke the decree for the slaying of babies,[31]
you gave them abundant water beyond all hope,
8 having shown by the thirst which they'd suffered
how you punished the adversaries.
9 Because when they were tried, although chastened in mercy,
they learnt how the ungodly were tormented, being judged with anger.
10 Because you tested these as a father admonishing them;
but you searched out those as a stern king condemning them.
11 Yes and whether they were far off or near,
they were equally distressed;
12 for a double grief seized them,
and a groaning at the memory of things past.
13 Because when they heard that through their own punishments the others benefitted,
they recognised the master.
14 Because him who long before was thrown out and exposed they stopped mocking.
In the end of what happened, they marvelled,
having thirsted in another manner than the righteous.

God's power and patience

15 But in return for the senseless imaginings of their unrighteousness,
wherein they were led astray to worship irrational reptiles and wretched vermin,
you sent on them a multitude of irrational creatures to punish them,
16 that they might learn that by what things a man sins, by these he's punished.
17 Because your all-powerful hand
that created the world out of formless matter

30 RV 11:6 · Cross-ref. Exo 7:19-21.

31 RV 11:7 · Cross-ref. Exo 1:22.

Readers' Version

didn't lack means to send on them a multitude of bears, fierce lions,
18 or newly-created and unknown wild animals, full of rage,
either breathing out a blast of fiery breath,
or belching out smoke,
or flashing dreadful sparks from their eyes;
19 which had power not only to consume them by their violence,
but to destroy them even by the terror of their sight.
20 Yes and without these they might have fallen by a single breath,
being pursued by Justice, and scattered abroad by the breath of your power;
but you arranged all things by measure, number, and weight.
21 Because to be greatly strong is yours at all times.
Who could withstand the might of your arm?
22 Because the whole world before you is as a grain in a balance,
and as a drop of dew that comes down on the earth in the morning.
23 But you have mercy on all men, because you have power to do all things,
and you overlook the sins of men to the end that they may repent.
24 Because you love all things that are,
and abhor none of the things which you made;
Because you never would have formed anything if you hated it.
25 How would anything have endured unless you'd willed it?
Or that which wasn't called by you, how would it have been preserved?
26 But you spare all things, because they're yours,
Oh Sovereign master, you who love the living.
12:1 Because your incorruptible spirit is in all things.
2 Therefore you convict little by little those who fall from the right way,
and, putting them in remembrance by the things wherein they sin, you admonish them,
that escaping from their wickedness they may

Literal Version

you always, and power/to_grasp/seize arm you one ⟦ἀντιστήσεται⟧? **22** that/since which/how crux out_from ⟦πλαστίγγων⟧ all the/this/who world against/in_front_of you, and which/how drop,_spot ⟦δρόσον⟧ ⟦ὀρθρινὴ⟧ ⟦κατελθοῦσα⟧ upon/to/against earth. **23** ⟦Ἐλεεῖς⟧ but/and all, that/since all be_able, and ⟦παρορᾷς⟧ sin a_ _human toward repentance. **24** to_love for the/this/who to_be all, and none ⟦βδελύσσῃ⟧ which to_do/make, and_not for if to_hate one ⟦κατεσκεύασας⟧. **25** how?/how?! but/and to_stay if one if not you ⟦ἐθέλησας⟧? or/than the/this/who not to_call by/under you ⟦διετηρήθη⟧? **26** ⟦Φείδῃ⟧ but/and all, that/since your he_is, master ⟦φιλόψυχε⟧.

12:1 the/this/who for incorruptible you spirit/breath to_be in/on/among all. **2** for the/this/who ⟦παραπίπτοντας⟧ according_to little/few ⟦ἐλέγχεις⟧, and in/on/among which to_sin ⟦ὑπομιμνήσκων⟧ ⟦νουθετεῖς⟧, in_order_ _that/to ⟦ἀπαλλαγέντες⟧ the/this/who evil to_ _trust_(in) upon/to/against you lord. **3** and for the/this/who old ⟦οἰκήτορας⟧ the/this/who holy

Literal Version

you earth **4** ⟦μισήσας⟧, upon/to/against the/this/who ⟦ἔχθιστα⟧ to_do/require work ⟦φαρμακειῶν⟧, and ⟦τελετὰς⟧ ⟦ἀνοσίους⟧, **5** child and/both ⟦φονέας⟧ merciless, and ⟦σπλαγχνοφάγων⟧ human flesh ⟦θοῖναν⟧, **6** and blood out_from midst ⟦μυσταθείας⟧ you, and ⟦αὐθέντας⟧ parent soul ⟦ἀβοηθήτων⟧, ⟦ἐβουλήθης⟧ to_destroy through/because_of hand father I/we; **7** in_order_that/to ⟦ἀξίαν⟧ ⟦ἀποικίαν⟧ to_receive God child the/this/who from_with you/your all ⟦τιμιωτάτη⟧ earth. **8** but and this/he/she/it which/how a_human ⟦ἐφείσω⟧, to_send and/both ⟦προδρόμους⟧ of_ _the ⟦στρατοπέδου⟧ you ⟦σφῆκας⟧, in_order_ _that/to he/she/it/self ⟦καταβραχὺ⟧ ⟦ἐξολοθρεύσωσιν⟧. **9** no unable in/on/among ⟦παρατάξει⟧ ungodly just ⟦ὑποχειρίους⟧ to_give, or/than ⟦θηρίοις⟧ ⟦δεινοῖς⟧, or/than word ⟦ἀποτόμῳ⟧ by/under in/on/among/one ⟦ἐκτρίψαι⟧; **10** to_judge but/and ⟦καταβραχὺ⟧ ⟦ἐδίδους⟧ place repentance, no be_ignorant, that/since evil/bad the/this/who origin he/she/it/self, and implanted/ingrafted the/this/who evil he/she/it/self, and that/since no not ⟦ἀλλαγῇ⟧ the/this/who thought he/she/it/self toward the/this/who an_age; **11** seed for to_be ⟦κατηραμένον⟧ away_from beginning; and_not ⟦εὐλαβούμενός⟧ one, upon/to/against which ⟦ἡμάρτανον⟧ ⟦ἄδειαν⟧ ⟦ἐδίδους⟧. **12** one/which? for to_say, one/which? to_do/make? or/than one/which? ⟦ἀντιστήσεται⟧ the/this/who judgement you? one/which? but/and to_accuse you according_to Gentile_nation ⟦ἀπολωλότων⟧, which you to_ _do/make? or/than one/which? toward ⟦κατάστασίν⟧ you to_come/go avenging according_to unjust a_human? **13** neither for God he_is but/however you, which to_concern about all, in_order_that/to ⟦δείξῃς⟧ that/since no unjustly to_judge. **14** neither king or/than tyrant ⟦ἀντοφθαλμῆσαι⟧ be_able you about which ⟦ἀπώλεσας⟧. **15** just but/and to_be rightly the/this/who all ⟦διέπεις⟧, he/she/it/self the/this/who not ⟦ὀφείλοντα⟧ ⟦κολασθῆναι⟧ ⟦καταδικάσαι⟧ another's to_govern the/this/who your power. **16** the/this/who for strength you righteousness beginning, and the/this/who all you ⟦δεσπόζειν⟧, all ⟦φείδεσθαι⟧ to_do/make.

Readers' Version

believe in you, Oh master.

God gives the wicked time to change

3 Because truly the old inhabitants of your holy land,

4 hating them because they practised detestable works of enchantments and unholy rites—

5 merciless slaughters of children

and sacrificial banquets of men's flesh and of blood—

6 allies in an impious fellowship,

and murderers of their own helpless babes,

it was your counsel to destroy by the hands of our fathers;

7 that the land which in your sight is most precious of all

might receive a worthy colony of God's servants.[32]

8 Nevertheless you even spared these as men,

and you sent hornets[33] as forerunners of your army,

to cause them to perish little by little.

9 Not that you were unable to subdue the ungodly under the hand of the righteous in battle,

or by terrible wild animals or by a stern word to make away with them at once,

10 but judging them little by little you gave them a chance to repent,

not being ignorant that their nature by birth was evil,

their wickedness inborn,

and that their manner of thought would never be changed.

11 Because they were a cursed seed from the beginning.

It wasn't through fear of any that you left them unpunished for their sins.

12 Because who'll say, "What have you done?"

Or "Who'll withstand your judgement?"

Who'll accuse you for the perishing of nations which you caused?

Or who'll come and stand before you as an avenger for unrighteous men?

13 Because there isn't any God beside you that

32 **RV 12:7 · Note** Or, children

33 **RV 12:8 · Note** Or, wasps

Readers' Version

cares for all,
that you might show that you didn't judge unrighteously.
14 No king or prince will be able to confront you
about those whom you've punished.
15 But being righteous, you rule all things righteously,
deeming it a thing alien from your power
to condemn one who doesn't deserve to be punished.
16 Because your strength is the source of righteousness,
and your sovereignty over all makes you to forbear all.
17 Because when men don't believe that you're perfect in power, you show your strength,
and in dealing with those who think this, you confuse their boldness.
18 But you, being sovereign in strength, judge in gentleness,
and with great forbearance you govern us;
for the power is yours whenever you desire it.

Learning kindness from God's mercy

19 But you taught your people by such works as these,
how the righteous must be kind.
You made your sons to have good hope,
because you give repentance when men have sinned.
20 Because if on those who were enemies of your servants[34] and deserving of death,
you took vengeance with so great deliberation and indulgence,
giving them times and opportunities when they might escape from their wickedness,
21 with how great care you judged your sons,
to whose fathers you gave oaths and covenants of good promises!
22 Therefore while you chasten us, you scourge our enemies ten thousand times more,
to the intent that we may ponder your goodness when we judge,
and when we're judged may look for mercy.
23 Therefore also the unrighteous that lived in a life of folly,

Literal Version

17 strength for ⟦ἐνδείκνυσαι⟧ ⟦ἀπιστούμενος⟧ upon/to/against power ⟦τελειότητι⟧, and in/on/among the/this/who ⟦εἰδόσι⟧ the/this/who boldness ⟦ἐξελέγχεις⟧. **18** you but/and ⟦δεσπόζεν⟧ strength in/on/among gentleness to_judge and with/after much ⟦φειδοῦς⟧ ⟦διοικεῖς⟧ I/we; ⟦πάρεστι⟧ for you when(-ever) to_will/desire the/this/who be_able. **19** to_teach but/and you the/this/who a_people through/because_of the/this/who such_as_this work, that/since be_necessary the/this/who just to_be ⟦φιλάνθρωπον⟧; and ⟦εὐέλπιδας⟧ to_ _do/make the/this/who son you, that/since ⟦δίδως⟧ upon/to/against ⟦ἁμαρτήμασι⟧ repentance. **20** if for enemy child you and ⟦ὀφειλομένους⟧ death with/after ⟦τοσαύτης⟧ ⟦ἐτιμώρησας⟧ ⟦προσοχῆς⟧ and petition, to_give time and place through/because_of which ⟦ἀπαλλαγῶσι⟧ the/this/who evil; **21** with/after ⟦πόσης⟧ ⟦ἀκριβείας⟧ to_judge the/this/who son you which the/this/who father oath and ⟦συνθήκας⟧ to_give good-doer ⟦ὑποσχέσεων⟧? **22** I/we therefore/then ⟦παιδεύων⟧, the/this/who enemy I/we in/on/among ⟦μυριότητι⟧ ⟦μαστιγοῖς⟧, in_order_that/to you the/this/who ⟦ἀγαθότητα⟧ ⟦μεριμνῶμεν⟧ to_ _judge, to_judge but/and ⟦προσδοκῶμει⟧ mercy. **23** whence and the/this/who in/on/among foolishness life ⟦βιώσαντας⟧ unjust, through/because_of the/this/who one's_ _own/private ⟦ἐβασάνισας⟧ abomination. **24** and for the/this/who error road ⟦μακρότερον⟧ to_ _lead_astray, God ⟦ὑπολαμβάνοντες⟧ the/this/who and in/on/among ⟦ζώοις⟧ the/this/who enemy ⟦ἄτιμα⟧, child condemnation foolish ⟦ψευσθέντες⟧. **25** through/because_of this/he/she/it which/how child ⟦ἀλογίστοις⟧ the/this/who judgement toward ⟦ἐμπαιγμὸν⟧ ⟦ἔπεμψας⟧. **26** the/this/who but/and ⟦παιγνίοις⟧ ⟦ἐπιτιμήσεως⟧ not ⟦νουθετηθέντες⟧, ⟦ἀξίαν⟧ God judgement ⟦πειράσουσιν⟧. **27** upon/to/against which for he/she/it/self to_suffer ⟦ἠγανάκτουν⟧, upon/to/against this/he/she/it which to_think God, in/on/among he/she/it/self ⟦κολαζόμενοι⟧, to_perceive which of_old ⟦ἠρνοῦντο⟧ to_ _perceive, God to_come_to_know true; for and the/this/who goal the/this/who ⟦καταδίκης⟧ upon/to/against he/she/it/self ⟦ἐπῆλθε⟧.

34 RV 12:20 · Note Or, children

Literal Version

13:1 futile on_one_hand for all a_human nature, which ⟦παρῆν⟧ God ignorance, and out_from the/this/who ⟦ὁρομένων⟧ good-doer no be_ _strong to_perceive the/this/who to_be, neither the/this/who work ⟦προσχόντες⟧ to_come_to_ _know the/this/who ⟦τεχνίτην⟧. **2** but or/than fire, or/than spirit/breath, or/than ⟦ταχινὸν⟧ air, or/than ⟦κύκλον⟧ star, or/than ⟦βίαιον⟧ water, or/than ⟦φωστῆρας⟧ heaven, ⟦πρυτάνεις⟧ world God to_think. **3** which if on_one_hand the/this/who beauty ⟦τερπόμενοι⟧, God ⟦ὑπελάμβανον⟧, ⟦γνώτωσαν⟧ how_much/many this/he/she/it the/this/who master he_is better; the/this/who for of_the ⟦κάλλους⟧ creator to_ _create he/she/it/self. **4** if but/and power and active_energy ⟦ἐκπλαγέντες⟧, ⟦νοησάτωσαν⟧ away_from he/she/it/self how_much/many the/this/who to_prepare he/she/it/self ⟦δυνατώτερός⟧ to_be. **5** out_from for ⟦μεγέθους⟧ ⟦καλλονῆς⟧ creature ⟦ἀναλόγως⟧ the/this/who fashioner,_creator he/she/it/self ⟦θεωρεῖται⟧. **6** but just_as upon/to/against this/he/she/it he_ _is complaint ⟦ὀλίγη⟧, and for he/she/it/self perhaps to_lead_astray God to_seek, and to_ _will/desire to_find/meet. **7** in/on/among for the/this/who work

Readers' Version

you tormented through their own abominations.

24 Because truly they went astray very far in the ways of error,

Taking as gods those animals[35] which even among their enemies were held in dishonour,

deceived like foolish babes.

25 Therefore, as to unreasoning children, you sent your judgement to mock them.

26 But those who wouldn't be admonished by mild correction

will experience the deserved judgement of God.

27 Because through the sufferings they were indignant of,

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

they saw and recognised as the true God him whom they previously refused to know.

Therefore also the result of extreme condemnation came on them.

Recognising the Creator through creation

13:1 Because truly all men who had no perception of God were foolish by nature,

and didn't gain power to know him who exists from the good things that are seen.

They didn't recognise the architect from his works.

2 But they thought that either fire, or wind, or swift air,

or circling stars, or raging water, or luminaries of heaven

were gods that rule the world.

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

let them know how much better their Sovereign master is than these,

for the first author of beauty created them.

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

then let them understand from them how much more powerful he who formed them is.

5 Because from the greatness of the beauty of created things,

35 RV 12:24 · Note Grk. living creatures: and so elsewhere in this book.

Readers' Version

mankind forms the corresponding perception of their Maker.[36]

6 But yet for these men there's but small blame,
for they too perhaps go astray
while they're seeking God and desiring to find him.

7 Because they diligently search while living among his works,
and they trust their sight that the things that they look at are beautiful.

8 But again even they aren't to be excused.

9 Because if they had power to know so much,
that they should be able to explore the world,
how is it that they didn't find the Sovereign master sooner?

The foolishness of worshipping idols

10 But they were miserable, and their hopes were in dead things,
who called them gods which are works of men's hands,
gold and silver, skilfully made, and likenesses of animals,
or a useless stone, the work of an ancient hand.

11 Yes and some[37] woodcutter might saw down a tree that's easily moved,
skilfully strip away all its bark,
and fashion it in attractive form, make a useful vessel to serve his life's needs.

12 Burning the scraps from his handiwork to cook his food,
he eats his fill.

13 Taking a discarded scrap which served no purpose,
a crooked piece of wood and full of knots,
he carves it with the diligence of his idleness,
and shapes it by the skill of his idleness.
He shapes it in the image of a man,

14 or makes it like some worthless animal,
smearing it with something red, painting it red,
and smearing over every stain in it.

15 Having made a worthy chamber for it,
he sets it in a wall, securing it with iron.

Literal Version

he/she/it/self/my/your/him-self/there ⟦ἀναστρεφόμενοι⟧ ⟦διερευνῶσι⟧, and ⟦πείθονται⟧ the/this/who to_see, that/since good the/this/who to_see. **8** again but/and and_not he/she/it/self ⟦συγγνωστοί⟧. **9** if for so_great be_ _strong to_perceive, in_order_that/to be_able ⟦στοχάσασθαι⟧ the/this/who an_age, the/this/who this/he/she/it master how?/how?! more_quickly no to_find/meet? **10** ⟦Ταλαίπωροι⟧ but/and and in/on/among dead the/this/who/which ⟦ἐλπίδες⟧ he/she/it/self, who/which ⟦ἐκάλεσαν⟧ God work hand a_ _human, gold and silver skill instrument_for_ _practice, and ⟦ἀπεικάσματα⟧ living_thing, or/than stone useless hand work ⟦ἀρχαίας⟧. **11** if but/and and one ⟦ὑλοτῦμος⟧ craftsman ⟦εὐκίνητον⟧ a_plant ⟦ἐκπρίσας⟧, ⟦περιέξυσεν⟧ ⟦εὐμαθῶς⟧ all the/this/who ⟦φλοιὸν⟧ he/she/it/self/my/your/him-self/there, and ⟦τεχνησέμενος⟧ ⟦εὐπρεπῶς⟧ to_prepare profitable vessel toward ⟦ὑπηρεσίαν⟧ life, **12** the/this/who but/and ⟦ἀποβλήματα⟧ the/this/who work toward ⟦ἑτοιμασίαν⟧ food ⟦ἀναλώσας⟧ ⟦ἐνεπλήσθη⟧, **13** the/this/who but/and out_from he/she/it/self anything_cast_ _away toward none helpful, wood ⟦σκολιὸν⟧, and ⟦ὄζοις⟧ ⟦συμπεφυκὸς⟧, to_take ⟦ἔγλυψεν⟧ in/on/among care ⟦ἀργίας⟧ he/she/it/self/my/your/him-self/there, and ⟦ἐμπειρίᾳ⟧ understanding ⟦ἐτύπωσεν⟧ he/she/it/self, ⟦ἀπείκασεν⟧ he/she/it/self image a_human, **14** or/than ⟦ζώῳ⟧ one ⟦εὐτελεῖ⟧ ⟦ὡμοίωσεν⟧ he/she/it/self, ⟦καταχρίσας⟧ ⟦μίλτῳ⟧, and ⟦φύκει⟧ ⟦ἐρυθῇνας⟧ ⟦χρόαν⟧ he/she/it/self/my/your/him-self/there, and all ⟦κηλίδα⟧ the/this/who in/on/among he/she/it/self ⟦καταχρίσας⟧. **15** and to_do/make he/she/it/self he/she/it/self/my/your/him-self/there worthy cell, in/on/among ⟦τοίχῳ⟧ to_place he/she/it/self ⟦ἀσφαλισάμενος⟧ ⟦σιδήρῳ⟧; **16** in_ _order_that/to on_one_hand therefore/then not ⟦καταπέσῃ⟧, ⟦προενόησεν⟧ he/she/it/self/my/your/him-self/there, to_ _perceive that/since ⟦ἀδυνατεῖ⟧ my/your/him-self to_help, and for to_be image, and need to_have/be ⟦βοηθείας⟧. **17** about but/and ⟦κτημάτων⟧ and wedding

36 RV 13:5 · Note Grk. is the first maker of them seen.

37 RV 13:11 · Note Grk. carpenter who is a woodcutter.

Literal Version

he/she/it/self/my/your/him-self/there and child to_pray, no ⟦αἰσχύνεται⟧ the/this/who ⟦ἀψύχῳ⟧ ⟦προσλαλῶν⟧. **18** and about on_one_ _hand ⟦ὑγείας⟧ the/this/who weak to_call_ _(on)/name, about but/and life the/this/who dead worthy, about but/and help the/this/who ⟦ἀπειρότατον⟧ ⟦ἱκετεύει⟧, about but/and journey the/this/who nor ⟦βάσει⟧ ⟦χρῆσθαι⟧ be_able, **19** about but/and ⟦πορισμοῦ⟧ and work and hand ⟦ἐπιτυχίας⟧ the/this/who ⟦ἀδρανέστατον⟧ the/this/who hand ⟦εὐδράνειαν⟧ ⟦αἰτεῖται⟧.

14:1 voyage one again ⟦στελλόμενος⟧, and wild to_ensue ⟦διοδεύειν⟧ a_wave, of_the ⟦φέροντος⟧ he/she/it/self boat ⟦σαθρότερον⟧ wood ⟦ἐπιβοᾶται⟧. **2** that on_one_hand for lust ⟦πορισμῶν⟧ ⟦ἐπενόησε⟧, craftsman but/and wisdom to_prepare; **3** the/this/who but/and your, father, ⟦διακυβερνᾷ⟧ foresight, that/since to_give and in/on/among sea road and in/on/among ⟦κύμασι⟧ ⟦τρίβον⟧ secure; **4** ⟦δεικνὺς⟧ that/since be_able out_from all to_ _save, in_order_that/to and/even_if/if without skill one ⟦ἐπιβῇ⟧. **5** to_will/desire but/and not ⟦ἀργὰ⟧ to_be the/this/who the/this/who wisdom you work, through/because_of this/he/she/it and least wood to_trust_(in) a_ _human soul, and to_pass_through ⟦κλύδωνα⟧ a_ _barge to_save. **6** and beginning for ⟦ἀπολλυμένων⟧ ⟦ὑπερηφάνων⟧ ⟦γιγάντων⟧, the/this/who hope of_the world upon/to/against ⟦σχεδίας⟧ ⟦καταφυγοῦσα⟧, ⟦ἀπέλιπεν⟧ an_age seed origin the/this/who your ⟦κυβερνηθεῖσα⟧ hand. **7** ⟦Εὐλόγηται⟧ for wood through/because_ _of which/whither to_be righteousness. **8** the/this/who hand-made but/and ⟦ἐπικατάρατον⟧ he/she/it/self, and the/this/who to_do/make he/she/it/self, that/since the/this/who on_one_hand to_work, the/this/who but/and perishable God to_name. **9** in/on/among ⟦ἴσῳ⟧ for ⟦μισητὰ⟧ God and the/this/who ungodly and the/this/who

Readers' Version

16 He plans for it that it may not fall down,
knowing that it's unable to help itself
(for truly it's an image, and needs help).
17 When he makes his prayer about goods and his marriage and children,
he isn't ashamed to speak to that which has no life.
18 Yes, for health, he calls on that which is weak.
Because life, he implores that which is dead.
Because aid, he supplicates that which has no experience.
Because a good journey, he asks that which can't so much as move a step.
19 And for profit in business and good success of his hands,
he asks ability from that which has hands with no ability.
14:1 Again, one preparing to sail, and about to journey over raging waves,
calls on a piece of wood more fragile than the vessel that carries him.
2 Because the hunger for profit planned it,
and wisdom was the craftsman who built it.
3 Your providence, Oh Father, guides it along,
because even in the sea you gave a way,
and in the waves a sure path,
4 showing that you can save out of every danger,
that even a man without skill may put to sea.
5 It's your will that the works of your wisdom shouldn't be ineffective.
Therefore men also entrust their lives to a little piece of wood,
and passing through the surge on a raft come safely to land.
6 Because[38] in the old time also, when proud giants were perishing,
the hope of the world, taking refuge on a raft,
your hand guided the seed of generations of the race of men.
7 Because blessed is wood through which comes righteousness;
8 but the idol made with hands is accursed, itself and he that made it;
because his was the working, and the corrupt-

38 RV 14:6 · Note The Greek text here may be corrupt.

Readers' Version

ible thing was called a god.

9 Because both the ungodly and his ungodliness are alike hateful to God;

10 for truly the deed will be punished together with him who committed it.

11 Therefore also there'll be a visitation among the idols of the nation,

because, though formed of things which God created, they were made an abomination,

stumbling blocks to men's souls,

and a snare to the feet of the foolish.

The origin and harm of idol worship

12 Because the devising of idols was the beginning of fornication,

and the invention of them the corruption of life.

13 Because they didn't exist from the beginning, and they won't exist forever.

14 Because by the boastfulness of men they entered into the world,

and therefore a speedy end was planned for them.

15 Because a father worn with untimely grief,

making an image of the child quickly taken away,

now honoured him as a god which was then a dead human being,

and delivered to those that were under him mysteries and solemn rites.

16 Afterward the ungodly custom, in process of time grown strong, was kept as a law,

and the engraved images received worship by the commandments of princes.

17 And when men couldn't honour them in presence because they lived far off,

imagining the likeness from afar,

they made a visible image of the king whom they honoured,

that by their zeal they might flatter the absent as if present.

18 But worship was raised to a yet higher pitch, even by those who didn't know him,

urged forward by the ambition of the architect;

19 for he, wishing perhaps to please his ruler,

used his art to force the likeness towards a greater beauty.

Literal Version

ungodlinessness
he/she/it/self/my/your/him-self/there. **10** and
for the/this/who ⟦πραχθὲν⟧ with the/this/who
⟦δράσαντι⟧ ⟦κολασθησεται⟧.
11 through/because_of this/he/she/it and
in/on/among ⟦εἰδώλοις⟧ Gentile_nation
oversight to_be, that/since in/on/among
⟦κτίσματι⟧ God toward abomination to_be, and
toward stumbling_block soul a_human, and
toward trap ⟦ποσὶνἀφρόνων⟧. **12** beginning for
sexual_sin thought idol, ⟦εὕρεσις⟧ but/and
he/she/it/self corruption life. **13** neither for to_
_be away_from beginning, neither toward
the/this/who an_age to_be. **14** empty_conceit for
a_human to_enter toward world, and
through/because_of this/he/she/it ⟦σύντομον⟧
he/she/it/self goal/tax ⟦ἐπενοήθη⟧. **15** ⟦Ἀώρῳ⟧
for ⟦πένθει⟧ ⟦τρυχόμενος⟧ father, of_the quickly
⟦ἀφαιρεθέντος⟧ child image to_do/make,
the/this/who then dead a_human, now
which/how God ⟦ἐτίμησεν⟧, and to_deliver
the/this/who ⟦ὑποχειρίοις⟧ mystery and
⟦τελετάς⟧. **16** then in/on/among time
⟦κρατυνθὲν⟧ the/this/who ⟦ἀσεβὲς⟧ custom
which/how law ⟦ἐφυλάχθη⟧, **17** and tyrants
⟦ἐπιταγαῖς⟧ ⟦ἐθρησκεύετο⟧ the/this/who
⟦γλυπτά⟧; which in/on/among to_see not be_able
⟦τιμᾷν⟧ a_human through/because_of
the/this/who long/distant to_dwell,
the/this/who afar_off face ⟦ἀνατυπωσάμενοι⟧,
revealed image of_the ⟦τιμωμένου⟧ king to_
_do/make, in_order_that/to the/this/who
⟦ἀπόντα⟧ which/how ⟦παρόντα⟧ ⟦κολακεύωσι⟧
through/because_of the/this/who diligence.
18 toward ⟦ἐπίτασιν⟧ but/and religion and
the/this/who ⟦ἀγνοοῦντας⟧ the/this/who of_the
⟦τεχνίτου⟧ ⟦προετρέψατο⟧ ⟦φιλοτιμία⟧.
19 the/this/who on_one_hand for perhaps
the/this/who ⟦κρατοῦντι⟧ to_plan to_please,
⟦ἐξεβιάσατο⟧ the/this/who skill the/this/who
likeness upon/to/against the/this/who good.
20 the/this/who but/and multitude
⟦ἐφελκόμενον⟧ through/because_of
the/this/who ⟦εὔχαρι⟧ the/this/who work,
the/this/who before little/few ⟦τιμηθέντα⟧ a_
_human, now object_of_worship ⟦ἐλογίσαντο⟧.
21 and this/he/she/it to_be the/this/who ⟦βίῳ⟧
toward hinderance, that/since or/than
⟦συμφορᾷ⟧ or/than ⟦τυραννίδι⟧ ⟦δουλεύσαντες⟧
a_human, the/this/who ⟦ἀκοινώνητον⟧ name
stone and ⟦ξύλοις⟧ ⟦περιέθεσαν⟧. **22** ⟦Εἶτ'⟧ no
⟦ἤρκεσε⟧ the/this/who ⟦πλανᾶσθαι⟧ about

Literal Version

the/this/who of_the God knowledge/to_know,
but and great to_live ignorance war,
the/this/who so_great evil/harm peace
⟦προσαγορεύουσιν⟧. **23** or/than for
⟦τεκνοφόνους⟧ ⟦τελετὰς⟧, or/than ⟦κρύφια⟧
mystery, or/than ⟦ἐμμανεῖς⟧ out_from another
⟦θεσμῶν⟧ ⟦κώμους⟧ to_bring, **24** neither ⟦βίους⟧
neither wedding ⟦καθαροὺς⟧ still to_keep/guard,
other but/and other or/than ⟦λοχῶν⟧ to_do_
_away_with, or/than ⟦νοθεύων⟧ ⟦ὀδυνᾷ⟧. **25** all
but/and respect_of_persons to_have/be blood
and murder, theft and deceit, corruption,
unbelief, disturbance, ⟦ἐπιορκία⟧, **26** commotion
good-doer, grace decree_of_amnesty, soul
defilement, origin ⟦ἐναλλαγὴ⟧, wedding
⟦ἀταξία⟧, adultery, and debauchery.
27 the/this/who for the/this/who ⟦ἀνωνύμων⟧
idol religion all beginning evil/harm and
cause/charge and end to_be. **28** or/than for
⟦εὐφραινόμενοι⟧ ⟦μεμήνασιν⟧, or/than
⟦προφητεύουσι⟧ ⟦ψευδῆ⟧, or/than to_live
unjustly, or/than ⟦ἐπιορκοῦσι⟧ quickly.
29 ⟦Ἀψύχοις⟧ for to_persuade ⟦εἰδώλοις⟧, badly
⟦ὀμόσαντες⟧, ⟦ἀδικηθῆναι⟧ no to_wait_
_for/welcome. **30** both but/and he/she/it/self
⟦μετελεύσεται⟧ the/this/who just, that/since
badly ⟦ἐφρόνησαν⟧ about God ⟦προσχόντες⟧
⟦εἰδώλοις⟧, and unjustly ⟦ὤμοσαν⟧ in/on/among
deceit ⟦καταφρονήσαντες⟧ ⟦ὁσιότητος⟧. **31** no for
the/this/who the/this/who ⟦ὀμνυομένων⟧
power, but the/this/who the/this/who to_sin
condemnation ⟦ἐπεξέρχεται⟧ always
the/this/who the/this/who unjust ⟦παράβασιν⟧.

Readers' Version

20 So the multitude, allured because of the grace of his handiwork,
now consider an object of devotion him that a little before was honoured as a man.
21 And this became an ambush,
because men, in bondage either to calamity or to tyranny,
invested stones and stocks with the Name that shouldn't be shared.
22 Afterward it wasn't enough for them to go astray about the knowledge of God,
but also, while they live in a great war of ignorance, they call a multitude of evils peace.
23 Because either slaughtering children in solemn rites, or celebrating secret mysteries,
or holding frenzied revels of strange customs,
24 no longer do they guard either life or purity of marriage,
but one brings on another either death by treachery, or anguish by adultery.
25 And all things confusedly are filled with blood and murder, theft and deceit,
corruption, faithlessness, tumult, perjury,
26 confusion about what's good, forgetfulness of favours,
ingratitude for benefits,
defiling of souls, confusion of sex,
disorder in marriage, adultery and wantonness.
27 Because the worship of idols that may not be named[39]
is a beginning and cause and end of every evil.
28 Because their worshippers either make merry to madness, or prophesy lies,
or live unrighteously, or lightly commit perjury.
29 Because putting their trust in lifeless idols,
when they've sworn a wicked oath, they expect not to suffer harm.
30 But on both counts, the just doom will pursue them,
because they had evil thoughts of God by giving heed to idols,
and swore unrighteously in deceit through contempt for holiness.

39 RV 14:27 · Cross-ref. Exo 23:13; Psa 16:4; Hos 2:17; Wis 14:21.

Readers' Version

31 Because it isn't the power of things by which men swear,
but it's the just penalty for those who sin
that always visits the transgression of the unrighteous.

Knowing the true God

15:1 But you, our god, are gracious and true,
patient, and in mercy ordering all things.
2 Because even if we sin, we're yours, knowing your dominion;
but we won't sin, knowing that we've been accounted yours.
3 Because to be acquainted with you is[40] perfect righteousness,
and to know your dominion is the root of immortality.
4 Because we weren't led astray by any evil plan of men's,
nor yet by painters' fruitless labour,
a form stained with varied colours,
5 the sight of which leads fools into[41] lust.
Their desire is for the breathless form of a dead image.
6 Lovers of evil things, and worthy of such hopes,
are those who make, desire, and worship them.

The potter who makes a god

7 Because a potter, kneading soft earth,
laboriously moulds each article for our service.
He fashions out of the same clay
both the vessels that minister to clean uses, and those of a contrary sort,
all in the same way.
What'll be the use of each article of either sort,
the potter is the judge.
8 Also, labouring to an evil end, he moulds a vain god out of the same clay,
he who, having but a little before been made of earth,
after a short space goes his way to the earth out of which he was taken,
when he's required to render back the[42] soul which was lent him.

Literal Version

15:1 you but/and the/this/who God I/we good/kind and true, lenient and in/on/among mercy ⟦διοικῶν⟧ the/this/who all. 2 and for if ⟦ἁμάρτωμεν⟧, you/your to_be, to_perceive you the/this/who power; no ⟦ἁμαρτησόμεθα⟧ but/and, to_perceive that/since you/your ⟦λελογίσμεθα⟧. 3 the/this/who for ⟦ἐπίστασθαί⟧ you whole righteousness, and to_perceive the/this/who power you root ⟦ἀθανασίας⟧. 4 neither for to_lead_astray I/we a_human ⟦κακότεχνος⟧ thought, and_not ⟦σκιαγράφων⟧ travail unfruitful, appearance ⟦σπιλωθὲν⟧ ⟦χρώμασι⟧ ⟦διηλλαγμένοις⟧. 5 which face ⟦ἄφροσιν⟧ toward disgrace to_come/go, ⟦ποθεῖ⟧, and/both ⟦νεκρᾶς⟧ image appearance ⟦ἄπνουν⟧. 6 evil/harm ⟦ἐρασταὶ⟧ worthy and/both such_as_ _this ⟦ἐλπίδων⟧, and the/this/who ⟦δρῶντες⟧, and the/this/who ⟦ποθοῦντες⟧, and the/this/who ⟦σεβόμενοι⟧. 7 and for potter ⟦ἁπαλὴν⟧ earth ⟦θλίβων⟧ ⟦ἐπίμοχθον⟧, ⟦πλάσσει⟧ to/with ⟦ὑπηρεσίαν⟧ I/we each. but out_from of_the he/she/it/self/my/your/him-self/there clay ⟦ἀνεπλάσατο⟧ the/this/who and/both the/this/who ⟦καθαρῶν⟧ work slave vessel, the/this/who and/both against, ⟦πάνθ'⟧ similarly; this/he/she/it but/and ⟦ἑκατέρου⟧ one/which? each to_be the/this/who use, judge the/this/who working_in_clay. 8 and perversely God ⟦μάταιον⟧ out_from of_the he/she/it/self/my/your/him-self/there ⟦πλάσσει⟧ clay, which before small out_from earth to_beget with/after little/few to_travel out_from which ⟦ἐλήφθη⟧, the/this/who the/this/who soul ⟦ἀπαιτηθεὶς⟧ a_debt. 9 but to_ _be he/she/it/self bewilderment no that/since to_ensue ⟦κάμνειν⟧, and_not that/since ⟦βραχυτελῆ⟧ life to_have/be, but ⟦ἀντερείδεται⟧ on_one_hand ⟦χρυσουργοῖς⟧ and ⟦ἀργυροχόοις⟧, ⟦χαλκοπλάστας⟧ and/both ⟦μιμεῖται⟧, and glory ⟦ἡγεῖται⟧ that/since ⟦κίβδηλα⟧ ⟦πλάσσει⟧. 10 ashes the/this/who heart

40 **RV 15:3 · Note** Grk. entire.

41 **RV 15:5 · Note** Some authorities read reproach.

42 **RV 15:8 · Note** Or, life

Literal Version

he/she/it/self/my/your/him-self/there, and
earth ⟦εὐτελεστέρα⟧ the/this/who hope
he/she/it/self/my/your/him-self/there,
⟦πηδοῦ⟧ and/both ⟦ἀτιμότερος⟧ the/this/who
life he/she/it/self/my/your/him-self;
11 that/since ⟦ἠγνόησε⟧ the/this/who
⟦πλάσαντα⟧ he/she/it/self, and the/this/who
⟦ἐμπνεύσαντα⟧ he/she/it/self soul ⟦ἐνεργοῦσαν⟧,
and ⟦ἐμφυσήσαντα⟧ spirit/breath ⟦ζωτίκον⟧.
12 but ⟦ἐλογίσαντο⟧ a_plaything to_be
the/this/who life I/we, and the/this/who life
⟦πανεγυρισμὸν⟧ ⟦ἐπικερδῆ⟧; be_necessary for to_
_say whence so and/even_if/if out_from
evil/harm ⟦πορίζειν⟧. **13** this/he/she/it for from_
_with all to_perceive that/since to_sin, ⟦ὕλης⟧
⟦γεώδους⟧ ⟦εὔθραυστα⟧ vessel and ⟦γλυπτὰ⟧
⟦δημιουργῶν⟧. **14** all but/and ⟦ἀφρονέστατοι⟧
and ⟦τάλανες⟧ above/for soul child,
the/this/who enemy of_the a_people you
⟦καταδυναστεύσαντες⟧ he/she/it/self.
15 that/since and all idol the/this/who Gentile_
_nation ⟦ἐλογίσαντο⟧ God, which neither eye use
toward ⟦ὅρασιν⟧, neither ⟦ῥῖνες⟧ toward
⟦συνολκὴν⟧ air, neither ear to_hear, neither
⟦δάκτυλοι⟧ hand toward ⟦ψηλάφησιν⟧, and
the/this/who foot he/she/it/self idle to/with
⟦ἐπίβασιν⟧. **16** a_human for to_do/make
he/she/it/self, and the/this/who spirit/breath
⟦δεδανεισμένος⟧ ⟦ἔπλασεν⟧ he/she/it/self; none
for he/she/it/self like a_human be_strong
⟦πλάσαι⟧ God; **17** mortal but/and to_be dead to_
_work hand lawless; greater for he_is
the/this/who ⟦σεβασμάτων⟧
he/she/it/self/my/your/him-self/there, which
he/she/it/self on_one_hand to_live, that but/and
never. **18** and the/this/who living_thing but/and
the/this/who ⟦ἔχθιστα⟧ be_devout, folly for
⟦συγκρινόμενα⟧ the/this/who another he_is
worse_than. **19** and_not just_as/how_much
⟦ἐπιποθῆσαι⟧ which/how in/on/among living_
_thing to_see good ⟦τυγχάνει⟧, ⟦ἐκπέφευγε⟧
but/and and the/this/who of_the God praise and
the/this/who praise
he/she/it/self/my/your/him-self/there.

Readers' Version

9 However he has anxious care,
not because his powers must fail,
nor because his span of life is short;
But he compares himself with goldsmiths and silversmiths,
and he imitates moulders in[43] brass,
and considers it great that he moulds counterfeit gods.
10 His heart is ashes.
His hope is of less value than earth.
His life is of less honour than clay,
11 because he was ignorant of him who moulded him,
and of him that inspired into him[44] an active[45] soul,
and breathed into him a vital spirit.
12 But[46] he accounted our life to be a game,
and our[47] lifetime a festival for profit;
for, he says, one must get gain however one can, even if it's by evil.
13 Because this man, beyond all others, knows that he sins,
out of earthy matter making brittle vessels and engraved images.
14 But most foolish and more miserable than a baby,
are your people's enemies, who oppressed them;
15 because they even considered all the idols of the nations to be gods,
which have neither the use of eyes for seeing,
nor nostrils for drawing breath,
nor ears to hear,
nor fingers for handling,
and their feet are helpless for walking.
16 Because a man made them,
and one whose own spirit is borrowed moulded them;
for no one has power as a man to mould a god like himself.
17 But, being mortal, he makes a dead thing by

43 **RV 15:9 · Note** Or, copper

44 **RV 15:11 · Note** Grk. a soul that moves to activity.

45 **RV 15:11 · Note** Or, life

46 **RV 15:12 · Note** Some authorities read they accounted.

47 **RV 15:12 · Note** Or, way of life

Readers' Version

the work of lawless hands;
for he's better than the objects of his worship,
since he indeed had life, but they never did.
18 Yes, and they worship the creatures that are most hateful,
for, being compared as to lack of sense, these are worse than all others;
19 Neither, as seen beside other creatures, are they beautiful, so that one should desire them,
but they've escaped both the praise of God and his blessing.

Animals bring punishment and rescue

16:1 Because this cause, they were deservedly punished through creatures like those which they worship,
and tormented through a multitude of vermin.
2 Instead of this punishment, you, giving benefits to your people,
prepared quails for food,
a delicacy to satisfy the desire of their appetite,
3 to the end that your enemies, desiring food,
might for the hideousness of the creatures sent among them,
loathe even the necessary appetite;
but these, your people, having for a short time suffered lack,
might even partake of delicacies.
4 Because it was necessary that inescapable lack should come on those oppressors,
but that to these it should only be showed how their enemies were tormented.
5 Because even when terrible raging of wild animals came on your people,
and they were perishing by the bites of crooked serpents,
your anger didn't continue to the uttermost;
6 but for admonition were they troubled for a short time,
having a token of salvation
to put them in remembrance of the commandment of your law;
7 for he who turned towards it wasn't saved because of that which was seen,
but because of you, the Saviour of all.
8 Yes, and in this you persuaded our enemies
that you're he who delivers out of every evil.

Literal Version

16:1 through/because_of this/he/she/it through/because_of ⟦ὁμοίων⟧ ⟦ἐκολάσθησαν⟧ appropriately, and through/because_of multitude ⟦κνωδάλον⟧ ⟦ἐβασανίσθησαν⟧. **2** for which ⟦κολάσεως⟧ ⟦εὐεργετήσας⟧ the/this/who a_ _people you, toward desire ⟦ὀρέξεως⟧ ⟦ξένην⟧ ⟦γεῦσιν⟧, food to_make_ready ⟦ὀρτυγομήτραν⟧, **3** in_order_that/to that on_one_hand ⟦ἐπιθυμοῦντες⟧ food, through/because_of the/this/who ⟦εἰδέχθειαν⟧ the/this/who ⟦ἐπαπεσταλμένων⟧ and the/this/who ⟦ἀναγκαίαν⟧ ⟦ὄρεξιν⟧ ⟦ἀποστρέφωνται⟧, he/she/it/self but/and upon/to/against little/few ⟦ἐνδεεῖς⟧ to_be and ⟦ξένης⟧ ⟦μετάσχωσι⟧ ⟦γεύσεως⟧. **4** be_necessary for that on_one_hand ⟦ἀπαραίτητον⟧ ⟦ἔνδειαν⟧ ⟦ἐπελθεῖν⟧ ⟦τυραννοῦσι⟧, this/he/she/it but/and alone/only ⟦δειχθῆναι⟧ how?/how?! the/this/who enemy he/she/it/self ⟦ἐβασανίζοντο⟧. **5** and for when he/she/it/self awful ⟦ἐπῆλθε⟧ wild_animal wrath, ⟦δήγμασί⟧ and/both ⟦σκολιῶν⟧ ⟦διεφθείροντο⟧ snake, no until goal/tax to_stay the/this/who wrath you. **6** toward admonition but/and to/with little/few to_trouble, a_symbol to_have/be salvation, toward remembrance commandment law you. **7** the/this/who for to_turn no through/because_ _of the/this/who ⟦θεωρούμενον⟧ ⟦ἐσώζετο⟧, but through/because_of you the/this/who all saviour. **8** and in/on/among this/he/she/it but/and ⟦ἔπεισας⟧ the/this/who enemy I/we, that/since you to_be the/this/who to_deliver out_from all evil/harm. **9** which on_one_hand for locust and ⟦μυιῶν⟧ to_kill ⟦δήγματα⟧, and no to_ _find/meet healing the/this/who soul he/she/it/self, that/since worthy to_be by/under such_as_this ⟦κολασθῆναι⟧. **10** the/this/who but/and son you and_not ⟦ἰοβόλων⟧ ⟦δρακόντων⟧ to_conquer tooth,

Literal Version

the/this/who mercy for you to_pass and to_heal he/she/it/self. **11** toward for remembrance the/this/who oracles you ⟦ἐνεκεντρίζοντο⟧, and swiftly ⟦διεσώζοντο⟧, in_order_that/to not toward ⟦βαθεῖαν⟧ ⟦ἐμπεσόντες⟧ forgetfulness, ⟦ἀπερίσπαστοι⟧ to_be the/this/who your good_ _deed. **12** and for neither crop neither a_dressing to_serve/heal he/she/it/self, but the/this/who your lord word the/this/who all to_heal. **13** you for life and death authority to_have/be, and ⟦κατάγεις⟧ toward gate Hades and ⟦ἀνάγεις⟧. **14** a_human but/and to_kill on_one_hand the/this/who evil he/she/it/self/my/your/him-self/there, ⟦ἐξελθὸν⟧ but/and spirit/breath no ⟦ἀναστρέφει⟧, and_not ⟦ἀναλύει⟧ soul ⟦παραληφθεῖσαν⟧. **15** the/this/who but/and your hand to_flee unable to_be. **16** to_deny for you to_ _perceive ungodly, in/on/among strength arm you ⟦ἐμαστιγώθησαν⟧, foreign ⟦ὑετοῖς⟧ and ⟦χαλάζαις⟧ and ⟦ὄμβροις⟧ to_pursue ⟦ἀπαραιτήτοις⟧, and fire ⟦καταναλισκόμενοι⟧. **17** the/this/who for ⟦παραδοξότατον⟧, in/on/among the/this/who all ⟦σβεννῦντι⟧ water greater ⟦ἐνήργει⟧ the/this/who fire; champion,_defender for the/this/who world he_ _is just. **18** once/when on_one_hand for ⟦ἡμεροῦτο⟧ flame, in_order_that/to not ⟦καταφλέξῃ⟧ the/this/who upon/to/against ungodly to_send living_thing, but he/she/it/self to_see to_perceive, that/since God judgement ⟦ἐλαύνονται⟧. **19** once/when but/and and between/meanwhile water above/for the/this/who fire power ⟦φλέγει⟧, in_order_ _that/to ⟦ἀδίκου⟧ earth offspring ⟦διαφθείρῃ⟧. **20** for which angel food ⟦ἐψώμισας⟧ the/this/who a_people you, and ready bread he/she/it/self away_from heaven ⟦ἔπεμψας⟧ ⟦ἀκοπιάτως⟧, all pleasure ⟦ἰσχύοντα⟧ and to/with all ⟦ἁρμόνιον⟧ ⟦γεῦσιν⟧. **21** the/this/who on_one_hand for confidence/essence you the/this/who your ⟦γλυκύτητα⟧ to/with child ⟦ἐνεφάνισε⟧, the/this/who but/and of_the ⟦προσφερομένου⟧ desire servant, to/with the/this/who/which one to_plan ⟦μετεκιρνᾶτο⟧. **22** snow but/and and crystal to_remain/endure fire, and no ⟦ἐτήκετο⟧, in_order_that/to knowledge/to_know that/since the/this/who the/this/who enemy fruit ⟦κατέφθειρε⟧ fire ⟦φλεγομένον⟧, in/on/among the/this/who hail and in/on/among the/this/who ⟦ὑετοῖς⟧

Readers' Version

9 Because the bites of locusts and flies truly killed them.

No healing for their life was found,

because they were worthy to be punished by such things.

10 But your children weren't overcome by the very fangs of venomous dragons,

for your mercy passed by where they were and healed them.

11 Because they were bitten to put them in remembrance of your oracles,

and were quickly saved, so that they wouldn't fall into deep forgetfulness

and become unable to respond to your kindness.

12 Because truly it was neither herb nor poultice that cured them,

but your word, Oh master, which heals all people.

13 Because you have authority over life and death,

and you lead down to Haidais' gates, and lead up again.

14 But though a man kills by his wickedness,

he can't retrieve the spirit that's departed

or release the imprisoned soul.

Hail for Mitsrayim and food for God's people

15 But it isn't possible to escape your hand;

16 for ungodly men, refusing to know you, were scourged in the strength of your arm,

pursued with strange rains and hails and relentless storms,

and utterly consumed with fire.

17 Because, what was most marvellous,

in the water which quenches all things, the fire burnt hotter;

for the world fights for the righteous.

18 Because at one time the flame was restrained,

that it might not burn up the creatures sent against the ungodly,

but that these themselves as they looked might see that they were chased by God's judgement.

19 At another time even surrounded by water it burns more intensely than fire,

that it may destroy the produce of an unrigh-

Readers' Version

teous land.
20 Instead of these things, you gave your people angels' food to eat,
and you provided ready-to-eat bread for them from heaven without toil,
having the virtue of every pleasant flavour,
and agreeable to every taste.
21 Because your nature showed your sweetness towards your children,
while that bread, serving the desire of the eater,
changed itself according to every man's choice.
22 But snow and ice endured fire, and didn't melt,
that people might know that fire was destroying the fruits of the enemies,
burning in the hail and flashing in the rains;
23 and that this fire, again, so that righteous people may be nourished,
has even forgotten its own power.
24 Because the creation, ministering to you, its maker,
strains its force against the unrighteous for punishment
and in kindness, slackens it on behalf of those who trust in you.
25 Therefore at that time also, converting itself into all forms,
it ministered to your all-nourishing bounty,
according to the desire of those who had need,
26 that your children, whom you loved, Oh master, might learn
that it isn't the growth of crops that nourishes a man,
but that your word preserves those who trust you.
27 Because that which wasn't destroyed by fire,
melted away when it was simply warmed by a faint sunbeam,
28 that it might be known that we must rise before the sun to give you thanks,
and must pray to you at the dawning of the light;
29 for the hope of the unthankful will melt as the winter's hoar frost,
and will flow away as water that has no use.

Literal Version

⟦διαστράπτον⟧. 23 this/he/she/it again but/and in_order_that/to ⟦τραφῶσι⟧ just, and the/this/who one's_own/private ⟦ἐπιλελῆσθαι⟧ power. 24 the/this/who for creation you the/this/who to_do/make ⟦ὑπηρετοῦσα⟧, ⟦ἐπιτείνεται⟧ toward punishment according_to the/this/who unjust, and ⟦ἀνίεται⟧ toward ⟦εὐεργεσίαν⟧ above/for the/this/who toward you ⟦πεποιθότων⟧. 25 through/because_of this/he/she/it and then toward all ⟦μεταλλευομένη⟧, the/this/who ⟦παντοτρόφῳ⟧ you free_gift ⟦ὑπηρετεῖ⟧, to/with the/this/who the/this/who ⟦δεομένων⟧ will; 26 in_order_ _that/to ⟦μάθωσιν⟧ the/this/who son you, which to_love, lord, that/since no the/this/who/which ⟦γενέσεις⟧ the/this/who fruit ⟦τρέφουσιν⟧ a_ _human, but the/this/who declaration you the/this/who you to_trust_(in) ⟦διατηρεῖ⟧. 27 the/this/who for by/under fire not to_ _corrupt, without_reserve by/under ⟦βραχείας⟧ ⟦ἀκτῖνος⟧ sun to_warm ⟦ἐτήκετο⟧; 28 that acquainted_with to_be, that/since be_necessary ⟦φθάνειν⟧ the/this/who sun upon/to/against thankfulness you, and to/with ⟦ἀνατολὴν⟧ light to_call_on you. 29 ⟦Ἀχαρίστου⟧ for hope which/how ⟦χειμέριος⟧ frost ⟦τακήσεται⟧, and ⟦ῥυήσεται⟧ which/how water useless.

Literal Version

17:1 great for you the/this/who/which judgement and ⟦δυσδιήγητοι⟧; through/because_ _of this/he/she/it ⟦ἀπαίδευτοι⟧ soul to_lead_ _astray. **2** ⟦Ὑπειληφότες⟧ for ⟦καταδυναστεύειν⟧ Gentile_nation holy ⟦ἄνομοι⟧, prisoner darkness and ⟦μακρᾶς⟧ ⟦πεδῆται⟧ night, ⟦κατακλεισθέντες⟧ ⟦ὀρόφοις⟧, ⟦φυγάδες⟧ the/this/who eternal foresight ⟦ἔκειντο⟧. **3** be_ _hidden for to_think upon/to/against ⟦κρυφαίοις⟧ ⟦ἁμαρτήμασιν⟧, ⟦ἀφεγγεῖ⟧ ⟦λήθης⟧ ⟦παρακαλύμματι⟧ ⟦ἐσκορπίσθησαν⟧, ⟦θαμβούμενοι⟧ terribly and ⟦ἰνδάλμασιν⟧ ⟦ἐκταρασσόμενοι⟧. **4** and_not for the/this/who to_hold_back/fast he/she/it/self ⟦μυχὸς⟧ fearlessly ⟦διεφύλασσεν⟧, ⟦ἦχοι⟧ but/and ⟦καταράσσοντες⟧ he/she/it/self ⟦περιεκόμπουν⟧, and ⟦φάσματα⟧ ⟦ἀμειδήτοις⟧ ⟦κατηφῆ⟧ ⟦προσώποις⟧ ⟦ἐνεφανίζετο⟧. **5** and fire on_one_ _hand none force ⟦κατίσχυε⟧ ⟦φωτίζειν⟧, neither star ⟦ἔκλαμπροι⟧ ⟦φλόγες⟧ ⟦καταυγάζειν⟧ ⟦ὑπέμενον⟧ the/this/who ⟦στυγνὴν⟧ that night. **6** ⟦Διεφαίνετο⟧ but/and he/she/it/self alone/only by_itself fire fear full, ⟦ἐκδειματούμενοι⟧ but/and the/this/who not ⟦θεωρουμένης⟧ that ⟦ὄψεως⟧, ⟦ἡγοῦντο⟧ ⟦χείρω⟧ the/this/who to_see. **7** ⟦Μαγικῆς⟧ but/and ⟦ἐμπαίγματα⟧ to_recline skill, and the/this/who upon/to/against understanding ⟦ἀλαζονείας⟧ rebuke contemptible. **8** the/this/who for ⟦ὑπισχνούμενοι⟧ ⟦δείματα⟧ and ⟦ταραχὰς⟧ ⟦ἀπελαύνειν⟧ soul ⟦νοσούσης⟧, this/he/she/it ⟦καταγέλαστον⟧ ⟦εὐλάβειαν⟧ ⟦ἐνόσουν⟧. **9** and for if nothing he/she/it/self ⟦ταραχῶδες⟧ ⟦ἐφόβει⟧, ⟦κνωδάλων⟧ ⟦παρόδοις⟧ and reptile ⟦συριγμοῖς⟧ ⟦ἐκσεσοβημένοι⟧, **10** ⟦διώλλυντο⟧ ⟦ἔντρομοι⟧ and the/this/who ⟦μηδαμόθεν⟧ ⟦φευκτὸν⟧ air ⟦προσιδεῖν⟧ to_deny. **11** ⟦Δειλὸν⟧ for ⟦ἰδίως⟧ evil to_testify ⟦καταδικαζομένη⟧, always but/and ⟦προσείληφε⟧ the/this/who ⟦χαλεπὰ⟧ to_hold/oppress the/this/who conscience. **12** none for he_is fear, if not ⟦προδοσία⟧ the/this/who away_from ⟦λογισμοῦ⟧ ⟦βοηθημάτων⟧. **13** within but/and to_be ⟦ἥττων⟧ the/this/who expectation, greater to_count the/this/who ignorance the/this/who ⟦παρεχούσης⟧ the/this/who ⟦βάσανον⟧ cause/charge. **14** the/this/who but/and the/this/who unable really night and out_from ⟦ἀδυνάτου⟧ Hades ⟦μυχῶν⟧ ⟦ἐπελθοῦσαν⟧, the/this/who he/she/it/self ⟦ὕπνον⟧ ⟦κοιμώμενοι⟧, **15** the/this/who on_one_hand wonders ⟦ἠλαύνοντο⟧ ⟦φαντασμάτων⟧,

Readers' Version

Mitsrayim's darkness and fear

17:1 Because your judgements are great, and hard to interpret;

therefore undisciplined souls went astray.

2 Because when lawless men had supposed that they held a holy nation in their power,

they, prisoners of darkness, and bound in the fetters of a long night,

kept close beneath their roofs,

lay exiled from the eternal providence.

3 Because while they thought that they were unseen in their secret sins,

they were divided from one another by a dark curtain of forgetfulness,

stricken with terrible awe, and very troubled by apparitions.

4 Because neither did the dark recesses that held them guard them from fears,

but terrifying sounds rang around them,

and dismal phantoms appeared with unsmiling faces.

5 And no power of fire prevailed to give light,

neither were the brightest flames of the stars strong enough to illuminate that gloomy night;

6 but only the glimmering of a self-kindled fire appeared to them, full of fear.

In terror, they considered the things which they saw

to be worse than that sight, on which they couldn't gaze.

7 The mockeries of their magic arts were powerless, now,

and a shameful rebuke of their boasted understanding:

8 Because those who promised to drive away terrors and disorders from a sick soul,

these were sick with a ludicrous fearfulness.

9 Because even if no troubling thing frighted them,

yet, scared with the creeping of vermin and hissing of serpents,

10 they perished trembling in fear,

refusing even to look at the air, which couldn't be escaped on any side.

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

Readers' Version

and, being pressed hard by conscience, always has added forecasts of the worst.

12 Because fear is nothing else but a surrender of the help which reason offers;

13 and from within, the expectation of being less

prefers ignorance of the cause that brings the torment.

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

and which came on them out of the recesses of powerless Haidais,

sleeping the same sleep,

15 now were haunted by monstrous apparitions,

and now were paralysed by their soul's surrendering;

for sudden and unexpected fear came on them.

16 So then whoever it might be, sinking down in his place,

was kept captive, shut up in that prison which wasn't barred with iron;

17 for whether he was a farmer, or a shepherd,

or a labourer whose toils were in the wilderness,

he was overtaken, and endured that inescapable sentence;

for they were all bound with one chain of darkness.

18 Whether there was a whistling wind,

or a melodious sound of birds among the spreading branches,

or a measured fall of water running violently,

19 or a harsh crashing of rocks hurled down,

or the swift course of animals bounding along unseen,

or the voice of wild animals harshly roaring,

or an echo rebounding from the hollows of the mountains,

all these things paralysed them with terror.

20 Because the whole world was illuminated with clear light,

and was occupied with unhindered works,

21 while over them alone was spread a heavy night,

an image of the darkness that should afterward receive them;

Literal Version

the/this/who but/and the/this/who soul ⟦παρελύοντο⟧ ⟦προδοσίᾳ⟧; sudden for he/she/it/self and ⟦ἀπροσδόκητος⟧ fear ⟦ἐπῆλθεν⟧. **16** ⟦Εἶθ'⟧ thus(-ly), which ⟦δήποτ'⟧ therefore/then to_be there ⟦καταπίπτων⟧, ⟦ἐφρουρεῖτο⟧ toward the/this/who ⟦ἀσίδηρον⟧ ⟦εἰρκτὴν⟧ ⟦κατακλεισθείς⟧. **17** whether for farmer to_be one, or/than shepherd, or/than the/this/who according_to ⟦ἐρημίαν⟧ worker ⟦μόχθων⟧, ⟦προληφθεὶς⟧ the/this/who ⟦δυσάλυκτον⟧ to_stay necessity; one for chain darkness all ⟦ἐδέθησαν⟧. **18** whether spirit/breath ⟦συρίζον⟧, or/than about ⟦ἀμφιλαφεῖς⟧ branch ⟦ὀρνέων⟧ sound ⟦εὐμελὴς⟧, or/than a_proportion water to_travel force, or/than ⟦κτύπος⟧ ⟦ἀπηνῆς⟧ ⟦καταῤῥιπτομένων⟧ ⟦πετρῶν⟧, **19** or/than ⟦σκιρτώντων⟧ living_thing racecourse ⟦ἀθεώρητος⟧, or/than ⟦ὠρυομένων⟧ ⟦ἀπηνεστάτων⟧ wild_animal voice/sound, or/than ⟦ἀντανακλωμένη⟧ out_from ⟦κοιλοτάτων⟧ mountain an_echo, ⟦παρέλυσεν⟧ he/she/it/self ⟦ἐκφοβοῦντα⟧. **20** all for the/this/who world ⟦λαμπρῷ⟧ ⟦κατελάμπετο⟧ light, and ⟦ἀνεμποδίστοις⟧ to_hold/oppress work. **21** alone but/and that ⟦ἐπετέτατο⟧ ⟦βαρεῖα⟧ night, image of_the to_ensue he/she/it/self ⟦διαδέχεσθαι⟧ darkness, my/your/him-self but/and to_be ⟦βαρύτεροι⟧ darkness.

Literal Version

18:1 the/this/who but/and ⟦ὁσίοις⟧ you ⟦μέγιστον⟧ to_be light, which voice/sound on_ _one_hand to_hear, form but/and no to_see, that/since on_one_hand therefore/then and_ _that_one ⟦ἐπεπόνθεισαν⟧, ⟦ἐμακάριζον⟧, **2** that/since but/and no ⟦βλάπτουσι⟧ ⟦προηδικημένοι⟧, ⟦εὐχαριστοῦσι⟧, and of_the ⟦διενεχθῆναι⟧ because_of/grace ⟦ἐδέοντο⟧. **3** for which ⟦πυριφλεγῆ⟧ pillar, guide/leader on_one_ _hand ⟦ἀγνώστου⟧ journey, sun but/and ⟦ἀβλαβῆ⟧ ⟦φιλοτίμου⟧ ⟦ξενιτείας⟧ ⟦παρέσχες⟧. **4** worthy on_one_hand for that ⟦στερηθῆναι⟧ light, and ⟦φυλακισθῆναι⟧ in/on/among darkness, the/this/who ⟦κατακλείστους⟧ ⟦φυλάξαντες⟧ the/this/who son you, through/because_of which to_ensue the/this/who incorruptible law light the/this/who an_age ⟦δίδοσθαι⟧. **5** ⟦Βουλευσαμένους⟧ but/and he/she/it/self the/this/who the/this/who ⟦ὁσιῶν⟧ to_kill ⟦νήπια⟧, and one to_explain/expose child, and ⟦σωθέντος⟧, toward rebuke the/this/who he/she/it/self ⟦ἀφείλω⟧ multitude child, and united ⟦ἀπώλεσας⟧ in/on/among water ⟦σφοδρῷ⟧. **6** that the/this/who night ⟦προεγνώσθη⟧ father I/we, in_order_that/to securely to_perceive which to_trust_(in) ⟦ὅρκοις⟧, ⟦ἐπευθυμήσωσι⟧. **7** ⟦Προσεδέχθη⟧ but/and by/under a_people you salvation on_ _one_hand just, enemy but/and destruction. **8** which/how for ⟦ἐτιμωρήσω⟧ the/this/who opposed, this/he/she/it I/we to_call_to/summon ⟦ἐδόξασας⟧. **9** in_secret for ⟦ἐθυσιαζον⟧ ⟦ὅσιοι⟧ ⟦παῖδες⟧ good-doer, and the/this/who the/this/who ⟦θειότητος⟧ law in/on/among concord ⟦διέθεντο⟧, the/this/who he/she/it/self similarly and good-doer and ⟦κινδύνων⟧ ⟦μεταλήψεσθαι⟧ the/this/who holy, father already ⟦προαναμελπόντων⟧ ⟦αἴνους⟧. **10** ⟦Ἀντήχει⟧ but/and discordant enemy outcry, and ⟦οἰκτρὰ⟧ to_spread/surpass ⟦θρηνουμένων⟧ child. **11** like but/and condemnation slave together master ⟦κολασθεὶς⟧, and ⟦δημότης⟧ king the/this/who he/she/it/self to_suffer. **12** united but/and all in/on/among one name death dead to_have/be ⟦ἀναριθμήτους⟧, and_not for to/with the/this/who to_bury the/this/who to_live to_be sufficient, since to/with one ⟦ῥοπὴν⟧ the/this/who ⟦ἐντιμοτέρα⟧ origin

Readers' Version

but to themselves, they were heavier than darkness.

Light for God's people

18:1 But for your holy ones there was great light.

Their enemies, hearing their voice but not seeing their form,

counted it a happy thing that they too had suffered,

2 yet for that they don't hurt them, though wronged by them before, they're thankful;

and because they'd been at variance with them, they begged for pardon.

3 Therefore you provided a burning pillar of fire,

to be a guide for your people's unknown journey,

and a harmless sun for their glorious exile.

4 Because the Mitsrim (Egyptians) well deserved to be deprived of light and imprisoned by darkness,

they who'd imprisoned your children,

through whom the incorruptible light of the law was to be given to the race of men.

The death of Mitsrayim's firstborn

5 After they'd taken counsel to kill the babes of the holy ones,

and when a single child had been abandoned and saved to convict them of their sin,

you took away from them their multitude of children,

and destroyed all their army together in a mighty flood.

6 Our fathers were made aware of that night beforehand,

that, having sure knowledge, they might be cheered by the oaths which they'd trusted.

7 Salvation of the righteous and destruction of the enemies was expected by your people.

8 Because as you took vengeance on the adversaries,

by the same means, calling us to yourself, you glorified us.

9 Because holy children of good men offered sacrifice in secret,

and with one consent they agreed to the covenant of the divine law,

that they'd partake alike in the same good

Readers' Version

things and the same perils,
the fathers already leading the sacred songs of praise.
10 But the discordant cry of the enemies echoed back,
and a pitiful voice of lamentation for children was spread abroad.
11 Both servant and master were punished with the same just doom,
and the commoner suffering the same as king;
12 Yes, they all together, under one form of death,
had corpses without number.
Because the living weren't sufficient even to bury them,
Since at a single stroke, their most cherished offspring was consumed.
13 Because while they were disbelieving all things because of the enchantments,
on the destruction of the firstborn they confessed the people to be God's children.
14 Because while peaceful silence wrapped all things,
and night in her own swiftness was half spent,
15 your all-powerful word leapt from heaven, from the royal throne,
a stern warrior, into the middle of the doomed land,
16 bearing as a sharp sword your authentic commandment,
and standing, it filled all things with death,
and while it touched the heaven it stood on the earth.
17 Then immediately apparitions in dreams terribly troubled them,
and unexpected fears came on them.
18 And each, one thrown here half dead, another there,
made known why he was dying;
19 for the dreams, disturbing them, forewarned them of this,
that they might not perish without knowing why they were afflicted.
20 The experience of death also touched the righteous,

A priest pleads for the people

and a multitude were destroyed in the wilder-

Literal Version

he/she/it/self ⟦διεφθάρη⟧. 13 all for ⟦ἀπιστοῦντες⟧ through/because_of the/this/who ⟦φαρμακίας⟧, upon/to/against the/this/who the/this/who firstborn ⟦ὀλέθρῳ⟧, ⟦ὡμολόγησαν⟧ God son a_people to_be. 14 ⟦Ἡσύχου⟧ for silence ⟦περιεχούσης⟧ the/this/who all, and night in/on/among one's_own/private quickness ⟦μεσαζούσης⟧, 15 the/this/who all-powerful you word away_from heaven out_from throne ⟦βασιλειῶν⟧, precisely a_warrior, toward midst the/this/who ⟦ὀλεθρίας⟧ to_spring earth, a_ _knife-blade sharp/swift the/this/who genuine command your to_bear/lead, 16 and to_stand to_ _fulfill the/this/who all death; and heaven on_ _one_hand ⟦ἥπτετο⟧, ⟦βεβήκει⟧ but/and upon/to/against earth. 17 then instantly ⟦φαντασίαι⟧ on_one_hand ⟦ὀνείρων⟧ terribly ⟦ἐξετάραξαν⟧ he/she/it/self, fear but/and to_ _approach ⟦ἀδόκητοι⟧ 18 and another ⟦ἀλλαχῆ⟧ ⟦ῥιφεὶς⟧ half-dead, through/because_of which ⟦ἔθνησκεν⟧ cause/charge ⟦ἐνεφάνιζεν⟧. 19 the/this/who for ⟦ὄνειροι⟧ ⟦θορυβήσαντες⟧ he/she/it/self, this/he/she/it ⟦προεμήνυσαν⟧, in_order_that/to not be_ignorant through/because_of the/this/who/which badly ⟦πάσχουσιν⟧, to_destroy. 20 to_kindle but/and and just test death, and a_devastation in/on/among deserted to_be multitude; but no upon/to/against much to_stay the/this/who wrath. 21 to_hasten for man blameless ⟦προεμάχησε⟧; the/this/who the/this/who one's_own/private ministry weapon, prayer and incense ⟦ἐξιλασμὸν⟧ ⟦κομίσας⟧, to_oppose the/this/who ⟦θυμῷ⟧, and end to_put/lay_on the/this/who ⟦συμφορᾷ⟧, ⟦δεικνὺς⟧ that/since your he_is servant. 22 to_conquer but/and the/this/who crowd no strength of_the body, no weapon active_energy, but word the/this/who ⟦κολάζοντα⟧ to_subject, oath father and ⟦διαθήκας⟧ ⟦ὑπομνήσας⟧. 23 in_arithmetical_ _progression for already ⟦πεπτωκότων⟧ upon/to/against one_another dead, between/meanwhile to_stand, ⟦ἀνέκοψε⟧ the/this/who wrath, and ⟦διέσχισε⟧ the/this/who to/with the/this/who to_live road. 24 upon/to/against for ⟦ποδήρους⟧ clothing to_ _be all the/this/who world, and father ⟦δόξαι⟧ upon/to/against ⟦τετραστίχου⟧ stone ⟦γλυφῆς⟧, and majesty you upon/to/against ⟦διαδήματος⟧ head he/she/it/self/my/your/him-self/there. 25 this/he/she/it ⟦εἶξεν⟧ the/this/who to_

Literal Version

_destroy, this/he/she/it but/and to_fear; to_be for abode the/this/who test the/this/who wrath ⟦ἱκανή⟧.

19:1 the/this/who but/and ungodly until goal/tax merciless wrath to_approach; ⟦προῄδει⟧ for he/she/it/self and the/this/who to_ensue, **2** that/since he/she/it/self to_turn of_the ⟦ἀπεῖναι⟧, and with/after diligence ⟦προπέμψαντες⟧ he/she/it/self, to_pursue ⟦μεταμεληθέντες⟧. **3** still for in/on/among hand to_have/be the/this/who ⟦πὲνθη⟧, and ⟦προσοδυρόμενοι⟧ grave dead, other ⟦ἐπεσπάσαντο⟧ ⟦λογισμὸν⟧ folly, and which ⟦ἱκετεύοντες⟧ to_expel, this/he/she/it which/how ⟦φυγάδας⟧ to_pursue. **4** ⟦Εἶλκε⟧ for he/she/it/self the/this/who worthy upon/to/against this/he/she/it the/this/who end necessity, and the/this/who to_happen ⟦ἀμνηστίαν⟧ ⟦ἐνέβαλεν⟧, in_order_that/to the/this/who ⟦λείπουσαν⟧ the/this/who torment ⟦προαναπληρώσωσιν⟧ punishment; **5** and the/this/who on_one_hand a_people you ⟦παράδοξον⟧ ⟦ὁδοιπορίαν⟧ ⟦περάσῃ⟧, that

Readers' Version

ness,
but the anger didn't last long.
21 Because a blameless man hurried to be their champion,
bringing the weapon of his own ministry,
prayer, and the atoning sacrifice of incense.
He withstood the indignation and set an end to the calamity,
showing that he was your servant.
22 And he overcame the anger,
not by strength of body, not by force of weapons,
but by his word, he subdued the avenger
by bringing to remembrance oaths and covenants made with the fathers.
23 Because when the dead had already fallen in heaps one on another,
he intervened and stopped the anger,
and cut off its way to the living.
24 Because the whole world was pictured on his long robe,
and the glories of the fathers were on the engraving of the four rows of precious stones,
and your majesty was on the diadem on his head.
25 The destroyer yielded to these, and they feared;
for it was enough only to test the anger.

The sea destroys the pursuing army

19:1 But indignation without mercy came on the ungodly to the end;
for God also foreknew their future,
2 how, having changed their minds to let your people go,
and having sped them eagerly on their way,
they'd change their minds and pursue them.
3 Because while they were still mourning,
and lamenting at the graves of the dead,
they made another foolish decision,
and pursued as fugitives those whom they'd begged to leave and driven out.
4 Because the doom which they deserved was drawing them to this end,
and it made them forget the things that'd happened to them,
that they might fill up the punishment which

Readers' Version

was yet lacking from their torments,
5 and that your people might journey on by a marvellous road,
but they themselves might find a strange death.
6 Because the whole creation, each part in its diverse kind, was made new again,
complying with your commandments,
that your servants might be kept unharmed.

Creation serves God's people

7 Then the cloud that overshadowed the camp was seen,
and dry land rising up out of what had been water,
out of the Red sea an unhindered highway,
and a grassy plain out of the violent surge,
8 by which they passed over with all their army,
these who were covered with your hand,
having seen strange marvels.
9 Because like horses they roamed at large,
and they skipped about like lambs,
praising you, Oh master, who was their deliverer.
10 Because they still remembered the things that happened in the time of their sojourning,
how instead of bearing cattle, the land brought forth lice,
and instead of fish, the river spewed out a multitude of frogs.
11 But afterwards, they also saw a new kind of birds,
when, led on by desire, they asked for luxurious dainties;
12 for, to comfort them, quails came up for them from the sea.

Punishment for mistreating strangers

13 Punishments came on the sinners,
not without the signs that were given beforehand by the violence of the thunder,
for they justly suffered through their own wickednesses,
for the hatred which they practised towards guests was grievous indeed.
14 Because while the others didn't receive the

Literal Version

but/and foreign to_find/meet death. 6 all for the/this/who creation in/on/among one's_ _own/private family again from_above/again ⟦διετυποῦτο⟧, ⟦ὑπηρετοῦσα⟧ the/this/who one's_ _own/private ⟦ἐπιταγαῖς⟧, in_order_that/to the/this/who you/your ⟦παῖδες⟧ ⟦φυλαχθῶσιν⟧ ⟦ἀβλαβεῖς⟧. 7 the/this/who the/this/who barracks ⟦σκιάζουσα⟧ cloud, out_from but/and ⟦προϋφεστῶτος⟧ water dried_up/withered emergence earth ⟦ἐθεωρήθη⟧, out_from ⟦ἐρυθρᾶς⟧ sea road ⟦ἀνεμπόδιστος⟧, and ⟦χλοηφόρον⟧ a_plain out_from ⟦κλύδωνος⟧ ⟦βιαίου⟧, 8 through/because_of which/whither ⟦πανεθνὶ⟧ to_pass_through the/this/who the/this/who your ⟦σκεπαζόμενοι⟧ hand, to_ _see/experience marvellous wonders.
9 which/how for ⟦ἵπποι⟧ ⟦ἐνεμήθησαν⟧, and which/how ⟦ἀμνοὶ⟧ ⟦διεσκίρτησαν⟧, to_praise you, lord, the/this/who to_deliver he/she/it/self.
10 ⟦Ἐμέμνηντο⟧ for still the/this/who in/on/among the/this/who sojourning he/she/it/self, how?/how?! for on_one_hand origin living_thing to_lead_out the/this/who earth ⟦σκνῖπα⟧, for but/and ⟦ἐνύδρων⟧ ⟦ἐξηρεύξατο⟧ the/this/who river multitude ⟦βατράχων⟧. 11 upon/to/against to_lack but/and to_perceive and new ⟦γένεσιν⟧ ⟦ὀρνέων⟧, that/since desire ⟦προαχθέντες⟧ to_ask ⟦ἐδέσματα⟧ ⟦τρυφῆς⟧. 12 toward for comfort to_ _ascend he/she/it/self away_from sea a_ _mother-quail, 13 and the/this/who/which ⟦τιμωρίαι⟧ the/this/who sinful to_arrive/invade, no without the/this/who ⟦γεγονότων⟧ ⟦τεκμήριων⟧ the/this/who force the/this/who ⟦κεραυνῶν⟧; rightly for ⟦ἔπασχον⟧ the/this/who one's_own/private he/she/it/self ⟦πονηρίαις⟧; and for ⟦χαλεπωτέραν⟧ ⟦μισοξενίαν⟧ ⟦ἐπετήδευσαν⟧. 14 the/this/who on_one_hand for the/this/who ⟦ἀγνοοῦντας⟧ no ⟦ἐδέχοντο⟧ ⟦παρόντας⟧, this/he/she/it but/and ⟦εὐεργέτας⟧ foreign ⟦ἐδουλοῦντο⟧. 15 and no alone/only, but who/which oversight to_be he/she/it/self, since ⟦ἀπεχθῶς⟧ ⟦προσεδέχοντο⟧ the/this/who ⟦ἀλλοτρίους⟧; 16 the/this/who but/and with/after ⟦ἑορτασμάτων⟧ ⟦εἰσδεξάμενοι⟧ the/this/who already the/this/who he/she/it/self ⟦μετεσχηκότας⟧ just ⟦δεινοῖς⟧ to_ _harm ⟦πόνοις⟧. 17 ⟦Ἐπλήγησαν⟧ but/and and inability_to_see, just_as that upon/to/against the/this/who of_the just door, when ⟦ἀχανεῖ⟧ ⟦περιβληθέντες⟧ darkness, each the/this/who he/she/it/self/my/your/him-self/there door

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the/this/who ⟦δίοδον⟧ to_seek.
18 through/because_of my/your/him-self for the/this/who principle ⟦μεθαρμοζόμενα⟧, just_as in/on/among ⟦ψαλτηρίῳ⟧ ⟦φθόγγοι⟧ of_the ⟦ῥυθμοῦ⟧ the/this/who name ⟦διαλλάσσουσι⟧, always to_stay sound, ⟦ὅπερ⟧ to_be ⟦εἰκάσαι⟧ out_from the/this/who the/this/who ⟦γεγονότων⟧ ⟦ὄψεως⟧ exactly. **19** ⟦Χερσαῖα⟧ for toward ⟦ἔνυδρα⟧ ⟦μετεβάλλετο⟧, and ⟦νηκτὰ⟧ ⟦μετέβαινεν⟧ upon/to/against earth. **20** fire be_ _strong in/on/among water the/this/who one's_ _own/private power, and water the/this/who ⟦σβεστικῆς⟧ power ⟦ἐπελανθάνετο⟧. **21** ⟦Φλόγες⟧ ⟦ἀνάπαλιν⟧ ⟦εὐφθάρτων⟧ living_thing no ⟦ἐμάραναν⟧ flesh ⟦ἐμπεριπατούντων⟧, and_not ⟦τηκτὸν⟧ ⟦εὔτηκτον⟧ ⟦κρυσταλλοειδὲς⟧ family ⟦ἀμβροσίας⟧ food. **22** according_to all for, lord, ⟦ἐμεγάλυνας⟧ the/this/who a_people you, and ⟦ἐδόξασας⟧, and no ⟦ὑπερεῖδες⟧, in/on/among all time/right_time and place ⟦παριστάμενος⟧.

Readers' Version

strangers when they came to them,
the Mitsrim (Egyptians) made slaves of guests who were their benefactors.
15 And not only so, but while punishment of some sort will come on the former,
since they received as enemies those who were aliens;
16 because these first welcomed with feastings,
and then afflicted with dreadful toils,
those who'd already shared with them in the same rights.
17 And moreover they were stricken with loss of sight
(even as were those others at the righteous man's doors),
when, being surrounded with yawning darkness,
they each looked for the passage through his own door.
18 Because as the notes of a lute vary the character of the rhythm,
even so the elements, changing their order one with another,
continuing always in its sound,
as may clearly be conjectured from the sight of the things that have happened.
19 Because creatures of the dry land were turned into creatures of the waters,
and creatures that swim moved on the land.
20 Fire kept the mastery of its own power in water,
and water forgot its quenching nature.
21 On the contrary, flames didn't consume flesh of perishable creatures that walked among them,
neither did they melt the crystalline grains of ambrosial food that were melted easily.
22 Because in all things, Oh master, you magnified your people,
and you glorified them and didn't lightly regard them,

Readers' Version

standing by their side in every time and place.

Literal Version

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