### Old Testament

### Psalm 23

**1**The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
**2**    He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;
**3**    he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths
    for his name’s sake.

**4**Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
    I fear no evil;
for you are with me;
    your rod and your staff—
    they comfort me.

**5**You prepare a table before me
    in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
    my cup overflows.
**6**Surelygoodness and mercy shall follow me
    all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
    my whole life long.

# Isaiah 43

**43**But now thus says the Lord,
    he who created you, O Jacob,
    he who formed you, O Israel:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
    I have called you by name; you are mine.
**2**When you pass through the waters, I will be with you,
    and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
    and the flame shall not consume you.
**3**For I am the Lord your God,
    the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour.
I give Egypt as your ransom,
    Cush and Seba in exchange for you.
**4**Because you are precious in my sight
    and honoured and I love you.

**New Testament**

**Luke 10. 25-37**

**The Good Samaritan**

**25**An expert in the law stood up to test Jesus.“Teacher,” he said, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” **26**He said to him, “What is written in the law? What do you read there?” **27**He answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbour as yourself.” **28**And he said to him, “You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.”

**29**But wanting to vindicate himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbour?” **30**Jesus replied,

“A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and took off, leaving him half dead. **31**Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. **32**So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. **33**But a Samaritan while traveling came upon him, and when he saw him he was moved with compassion. **34**He went to him and bandaged his wounds, treating them with oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. **35**The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, ‘Take care of him, and when I come back I will repay you whatever more you spend.’

**36**Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” **37**

He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

# John 11:17-44

**17**When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. **18**Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two milesaway, **19**and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. **20**When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. **21**Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. **22**But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.” **23**Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” **24**Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” **25**Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, **26**and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” **27**She said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah,the Son of God, the one coming into the world.”

**28**When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary and told her privately, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.” **29**And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. **30**Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him. **31**The Jews who were with her in the house consoling her saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. **32**When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” **33**When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. **34**He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” **35**Jesus began to weep. **36**So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” **37**But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

**38**Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. **39**Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.” **40**Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?” **41**So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me. **42**I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.” **43**When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” **44**The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

## John 14. 1-6

‘Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.’

Thomas said to him, ‘Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?’

Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.’

## Revelation 21. 1-7.

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

‘See, the home of God is among mortals.
He will dwell with them;
they will be his peoples,
and God himself will be with them;
he will wipe every tear from their eyes.
Death will be no more;
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,
for the first things have passed away.’

And the one who was seated on the throne said, ‘See, I am making all things new.’ Also he said, ‘Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.’ Then he said to me, ‘It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children.’

## 1 Corinthians 13.

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

**1 Thessalonians 4. 13-end.**

**13**But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. **14**For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. **15**For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died.**16**For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel’s call and with the sound of God’s trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. **17**Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. **18**Therefore encourage one another with these words.

**Romans 8. 31-end**

**31**What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? **32**He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? **33**Who will bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. **34**Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.**35**Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? **36**As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;
    we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

**37**No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. **38**For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, **39**nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

# Matthew 5:1-12

**5**When Jesussaw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. **2**And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

**3**“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

**4**“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

**5**“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

**6**“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

**7**“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

**8**“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

**9**“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

**10**“Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

**11**“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falselyon my account. **12**Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.