

TOBIT



The book of the words of Tobit son of Tobiel, son of Ananiel, son of Aduel, son of Gabael, son of Raphael, son of Raguel, of the descendants of Asiel from the tribe of Naphtali, ²who in the days of Shalmaneser^a, the king of the Assyrians, was taken into captivity from Thisbe, which is to the south^b of Kedesh of Naphtali in Upper Galilee above Asher to the west, north^c of Phogor.

TOBIT'S YOUTH AND VIRTUOUS LIFE

³I, Tobit, walked in the ways of truth and in righteous deeds all the days of my life, and I performed many acts of mercy for my brothers and my compatriots who went with me into captivity in the land of the Assyrians, to Nineveh. ⁴Now when I was in my own country, in the land of Israel, when I was young, the whole tribe of Naphtali my ancestor^d broke away from the house of my ancestor David and from the city of Jerusalem, the place chosen from among all the tribes of Israel, where all the tribes should sacrifice. In it the temple of God's dwelling was consecrated and established for all generations forever.

⁵All my brothers and the house of Naphtali my ancestor—those people used to sacrifice on all the high places of Galilee to the calf that Jeroboam, king of Israel, made in Dan. ⁶But I alone went often to Jerusalem at the time for the feasts, just as it is written for all Israel by an everlasting decree. I would hurry off to Jerusalem, taking the first fruits—the first fruits of my fields and the tithes of my livestock and the first shearings of the sheep—and I would give these to the priests, the sons of Aaron, at the altar. ⁷I would give a tenth of the grain,

wine, olive oil, pomegranates, figs, and the produce from the other fruit trees to the sons of Levi who ministered in Jerusalem. I tithed a second tenth in silver for the six years, and I would go and spend this in Jerusalem each year. ⁸I would give these things to the orphans and widows and sojourners who had attached themselves to the sons of Israel: I would carry and give it to them in the third year and we would eat them according to the stipulation that had been stipulated concerning them in the Law of Moses and according to the commands which Deborah, the mother of Ananiel our father, had commanded me (for my father had died and left me an orphan). ⁹When I became a man I took a wife from the descendants of our family, and I fathered a son by her, and I called his name Tobias.

TAKEN CAPTIVE TO NINEVEH

¹⁰After I was carried away captive to Assyria, and while I was in captivity, I went to Nineveh. And all my brothers and my relatives ate the food^e of the Gentiles; ¹¹but I preserved my soul from eating the Gentiles' food. ¹²And because^f I had been mindful of my God with my whole soul, ¹³the Most High gave me favor and good standing in the sight of Shalmaneser, and I used to purchase for him whatever he needed. ¹⁴I used to go into Media and buy for him there until he died. And I entrusted sacks of money to Gabael, the brother of Gabri, in the land of Media—ten talents of silver. ¹⁵And when Shalmaneser died and his son

^aLatin *Enemessar*; also verses 13, 15, 16 ^bGreek *right*
^cGreek *left* ^dGreek *father*; twice, and also verse 5
^eGreek *bread*; also verse 11 ^fLatin; Greek *when*

1:2 2 Kings 15:29; 1 Chr 5:26 1:3 Lev 25:35; Acts 9:36 1:4 1 Kings 12:19, 20 1:5 1 Kings 12:28, 30; Hos 13:2
1:6 Ex 22:30; Num 18:12; Deut 12:6 1:7 Num 18:21; Deut 14:25, 26 1:8 Deut 14:28, 29
1:9 Num 36:7–9; Tob 2:1 1:10 Hos 9:3; ver 2; Tob 6:12 1:11 Jdt 12:2 1:14 Tob 4:1, 20; 5:5; 9:2
1:15 2 Kings 18:13; ver 2; Jdt 1:5, 15



THE WISDOM OF SOLOMON



EXHORTATION TO UPRIGHTNESS



- ove righteousness,
you rulers of the earth,
think of the Lord
with uprightness
and seek him with
sincerity of heart;
² because he is found by those who
do not put him to the test
and manifests himself to those
who do not distrust him.
³ For perverse thoughts separate
people from God,
and when his power is tested,
it convicts the foolish;
⁴ because wisdom will not
enter a deceitful soul
or dwell in a body enslaved to sin.
⁵ For a holy and disciplined
spirit will flee from deceit
and will rise and depart
from foolish thoughts
and will be ashamed at the
approach of unrighteousness.
- ⁶ For wisdom is a kindly spirit and
will not free a blasphemer from
the guilt of his words,
because God is witness of
his inmost feelings
and a true observer of his heart
and a hearer of his tongue.
⁷ Because the Spirit of the Lord
has filled the world,
and that which holds all things
together knows what is said;
⁸ therefore no one who
utters unrighteous things
will escape notice,
and justice, when it punishes,
will not pass him by.

- ⁹ For inquiry will be made into the
counsels of an ungodly man,
and a report of his words
will come to the Lord
to convict him of his lawless deeds;
¹⁰ because a jealous ear
hears all things,
and the sound of murmurings
does not go unheard.
¹¹ Beware then of useless murmuring
and keep your tongue from slander;
because no secret word
is without result,^a
and a lying mouth destroys
the soul.
- ¹² Do not invite death by the
error of your life
or bring on destruction by the
works of your hands;
¹³ because God did not make death,
and he does not delight in
the death of the living.
¹⁴ For he created all things
that they might exist,
and the origins^b of the world
are wholesome,
and there is no destructive
poison in them;
and the dominion^c of Hades
is not on earth.
¹⁵ For righteousness is immortal.

LIFE AS THE UNGODLY SEE IT

- ¹⁶ But the ungodly by their deeds
and words summoned death;^d
considering him a friend,
they pined away,

^aOr word will go unpunished ^bOr creatures ^cOr palace
^dGreek him

1:1 Deut 1:16; 1 Kings 3:3, 9; Isa 56:1 1:2 Deut 4:29 1:3 Ps 125:5 1:5 Jer 4:22 1:6 Ps 139:4; Jer 17:10; Heb 4:12 1:7 Isa 6:3;
Jer 23:24 1:10 Wis 5:17; Phil 2:14 1:11 Prov 19:9; Mt 12:36; 2 Cor 12:20; Phil 2:14 1:12 Ex 20:4, 5
1:13 Ezek 33:11; Wis 2:24; 2 Esd 8:59 1:14 Gen 1:31 1:16 Isa 28:15, 18; Wis 2:24

- ²⁵ One confirms the good things of the other, and who can have enough of seeing his glory?



SPLendor OF THE SUN



he pride of the heavenly heights is the clear firmament, the appearance of heaven in a spectacle of glory.

- ² The sun, when it appears, making proclamation as it goes forth, is a marvelous instrument, the work of the Most High.
- ³ At noon it parches the land; and who can withstand its burning heat?
- ⁴ A man tending^a a furnace works in burning heat, but the sun burns the mountains three times as much; it breathes out fiery vapors, and with bright beams it blinds the eyes.
- ⁵ Great is the Lord who made it; and at his command it hastens on its course.

SPLendor OF THE MOON

- ⁶ He made the moon also, to mark its season, to show the times, and to be a sign of the age.
- ⁷ From the moon comes the sign for feast days, a light that wanes when it has reached the full.
- ⁸ The month is named for the moon,^b increasing marvelously in its phases, an instrument of the hosts on high shining forth in the firmament of heaven.

^aSome manuscripts *blowing* ^bHebrew *The new moon is renewed*

GLORY OF STARS AND RAINBOW

- ⁹ The glory of the stars is the beauty of heaven, a gleaming adornment in the heights of the Lord.
- ¹⁰ At the command of the Holy One they stand as ordered, they never relax in their watches.
- ¹¹ Look upon the rainbow and praise him who made it, exceedingly beautiful in its brightness.
- ¹² It encircles the heaven with its glorious arc; the hands of the Most High have stretched it out.

MARVELS OF NATURE

- ¹³ By his command he sends the driving snow and speeds the lightnings of his judgment.
- ¹⁴ Therefore the storehouses are opened, and the clouds fly forth like birds.
- ¹⁵ In his majesty he amasses the clouds, and the hailstones are broken in pieces.
- ^{17a} The voice of his thunder convulses the earth;
- ¹⁶ at his appearing the mountains are shaken; at his will the south wind blows.
- ^{17b} So do the tempest from the north and the whirlwind. He scatters the snow like birds flying down, and its descent is like locusts alighting.
- ¹⁸ The eye marvels at the beauty of its whiteness, and the mind is amazed at its falling.
- ¹⁹ He pours the frost upon the earth like salt, and when it freezes, it becomes pointed thorns.

43:1 Job 37:18 43:2 Ps 19:4–6 43:3 Ps 19:6; Jas 1:11 43:4 Rev 1:16 43:5 Ps 19:5; Eccl 1:5 43:6 Ps 104:19
 43:7 Gen 1:14; Ex 12:2 43:9 Ps 8:3; Wis 13:2, 3 43:10 Bar 3:34 43:11 Gen 9:13; Ezek 1:28; Sir 50:7; Rev 4:3
 43:13 Job 28:26; 37:6; 38:25; Ps 147:16 43:14 Deut 28:12; Job 38:22; Jer 10:13; 51:16
 43:16 Job 37:17; Ps 104:32 43:17 Ex 10:5; Job 37:9 43:19 Ps 147:16

2 MACCABEES



LETTER TO THE JEWS IN EGYPT



he Jewish brothers in Jerusalem and those in the land of Judea to their Jewish brothers in Egypt: Greeting and good peace.

²May God do good to you, and may he remember his covenant with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob, his faithful servants. ³May he give you all a heart to worship him and to do his will with a strong heart and a willing spirit. ⁴May he open your heart to his law and his commandments, and may he bring peace. ⁵May he hear your prayers and be reconciled to you, and may he not forsake you in time of evil. ⁶We are now praying for you here.

⁷In the reign of Demetrius, in the 169th year,^a we Jews wrote to you, in the critical distress that came upon us in those years after Jason and his company revolted from the Holy Land and the kingdom ⁸and burned the gate and shed innocent blood. We prayed to the Lord, and we were heard, and we offered sacrifice and grain offering, and we lit the lamps and we set out the loaves. ⁹And now we see that you keep the Feast of Booths in the month of Chislev, in the 188th year.^b

LETTER TO ARISTOBULUS

¹⁰Those in Jerusalem and those in Judea and the senate and Judas to Aristobulus, who is of the family of the anointed priests, teacher of King Ptolemy, and to the Jews in Egypt: Greeting and good health.

¹¹Having been saved by God out of grave dangers, we thank him greatly for taking our side against the king.^c ¹²For he drove out those who fought against the holy city. ¹³For when the leader reached Persia with

a force that seemed irresistible, they were cut to pieces in the temple of Nanea by a deception employed by the priests of Nanea. ¹⁴For under pretext of intending to marry her, Antiochus came to the place together with his friends, to secure most of its treasures as a dowry. ¹⁵When the priests of the temple of Nanea had set out the treasures and Antiochus had come with a few men inside the wall of the sacred precinct, they closed the temple as soon as he entered it. ¹⁶Opening the secret door in the ceiling, they threw stones and struck down the leader and his men and dismembered them and cut off their heads and threw them to the people outside. ¹⁷Blessed in every way be our God, who has brought judgment upon those who have behaved impiously.

FIRE CONSUMES NEHEMIAH'S SACRIFICE

¹⁸Since on the twenty-fifth day of Chislev we shall celebrate the purification of the temple, we thought it necessary to notify you, in order that you also may celebrate the Feast of Booths and the Feast of the Fire given when Nehemiah, who built the temple and the altar, offered sacrifices.

¹⁹For when our fathers were being led captive to Persia, the pious priests of that time took some of the fire of the altar and secretly hid it in the hollow of a dry cistern, where they took such precautions that the place was unknown to anyone. ²⁰But after many years had passed, when it pleased God, Nehemiah, having been commissioned by the king of Persia, sent the descendants of the priests who had hidden

^a143 BC ^b124 BC ^cGreek *greatly as those who array themselves against a king*

1:2 Lev 26:42 1:4 Acts 16:14 1:5 2 Macc 5:20 1:7 Wis 12:3; 1 Macc 10:67; 11:19; 2 Macc 4:7 1:8 1 Macc 4:38, 50–53; 2 Macc 8:33
1:9 1 Macc 1:54; ver 18; 2 Macc 10:5–8 1:10 Lev 4:3; 16:32; 1 Macc 12:6; 15:16 1:12 2 Macc 3:1 1:13 1 Macc 6:1–4; 2 Macc 9:2
1:14 1 Macc 1:10; 2 Macc 8:9 1:18 Lev 23:39–43; Neh 8:14–18; 1 Macc 4:59; ver 9; 2 Macc 2:16; 10:5, 8
1:19 2 Macc 2:1 1:20 Neh 2:6