

Isaiah 45:1–7

1 Thus says the Lord to his anointed,
 to Cyrus,
 whose right hand I have grasped,
 to subdue nations before him
 and to loose the belts of kings,
 to open doors before him
 that gates may not be closed:
 2 "I will go before you
 and level the exalted places,
 I will break in pieces the doors of bronze
 and cut through the bars of iron,
 3 I will give you the treasures of darkness
 and the hoards in secret places,
 that you may know that it is I, the Lord,
 the God of Israel,
 who call you by your name.
 4 For the sake of my servant Jacob,
 and Israel my chosen,
 I call you by your name,
 I name you,
 though you do not know me.
 5 I am the Lord, and there is no other,
 besides me there is no God;
 I equip you,
 though you do not know me,
 6 that people may know,
 from the rising of the sun
 and from the west,
 that there is none besides me;
 I am the Lord, and there is no other.
 7 I form light and create darkness,
 I make well-being
 and create calamity,
 I am the Lord,
 who does all these things."

**Psalm 96:1–9**

1 Oh sing to the Lord a | new song;*
 sing to the Lord, | all the earth!
 2 Sing to the Lord, | bless his name;*
 tell of his salvation from | day to day.
 3 Declare his glory among the | nations,*
 his marvelous works
 among all the | peoples!
 4 For great is the Lord,
 and greatly | to be praised;*
 he is to be feared a- | bove all gods.
 5 For all the gods of the peoples
 are worthless | idols,*
 but the Lord made the | heavens.
 6 Splendor and majesty are be- | fore him;*
 strength and beauty
 are in his sanctu- | ary.
 7 Ascribe to the Lord,
 O families of the | peoples,*
 ascribe to the Lord
 glo- | ry and strength!
 8 Ascribe to the Lord
 the glory | due his name;*
 bring an offering,
 and come in- | to his courts!
 9 Worship the Lord
 in the splendor of | holiness;*
 tremble before him, | all the earth!

1 Thessalonians 1:1–10

¹Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,
To the church of the Thessalonians in
God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:
Grace to you and peace.

²We give thanks to God always for
all of you, constantly mentioning you in
our prayers, ³remembering before our God
and Father your work of faith and labor of
love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord
Jesus Christ. ⁴For we know, brothers loved
by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵because
our gospel came to you not only in word,
but also in power and in the Holy Spirit
and with full conviction. You know what
kind of men we proved to be among you
for your sake. ⁶And you became imitators
of us and of the Lord, for you received the
word in much affliction, with the joy of the
Holy Spirit, ⁷so that you became an
example to all the believers in Macedonia
and in Achaia. ⁸For not only has the word
of the Lord sounded forth from you in
Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in
God has gone forth everywhere, so that we
need not say anything. ⁹For they
themselves report concerning us the kind
of reception we had among you, and how
you turned to God from idols to serve the
living and true God, ¹⁰and to wait for his
Son from heaven, whom he raised from the
dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath
to come.

Matthew 22:15–22

¹⁵Then the Pharisees went and plotted
how to entangle [Jesus] in his talk. ¹⁶And
they sent their disciples to him, along with
the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know
that you are true and teach the way of God
truthfully, and you do not care about
anyone's opinion, for you are not swayed
by appearances. ¹⁷Tell us, then, what you
think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or
not?" ¹⁸But Jesus, aware of their malice,
said, "Why put me to the test, you
hypocrites? ¹⁹Show me the coin for the
tax." And they brought him a denarius.
²⁰And Jesus said to them, "Whose likeness
and inscription is this?" ²¹They said,
"Caesar's." Then he said to them,
"Therefore render to Caesar the things that
are Caesar's, and to God the things that are
God's." ²²When they heard it, they
marveled. And they left him and went
away.