Zephaniah 1:7–16

7 Be silent before the Lord God!
For the day of the Lord is near;
the Lord has prepared a sacrifice
and consecrated his guests.
8 And on the day of the Lord's sacrifice—
"I will punish the officials and the king's sons
and all who array themselves in foreign attire.
9 On that day I will punish
everyone who leaps over the threshold,
and those who fill their master's house
with violence and fraud.
10 "On that day," declares the Lord,
"a cry will be heard from the Fish Gate,
a wail from the Second Quarter,
a loud crash from the hills.
11 Wail, O inhabitants of the Mortar!
For all the traders are no more;
all who weigh out silver are cut off.
12 At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the men
who are complacent,
those who say in their hearts,
'The Lord will not do good,
nor will he do ill.'
13 Their goods shall be plundered,
and their houses laid waste.
Though they build houses,
they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards,
they shall not drink wine from them."
14 The great day of the Lord is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter;
the mighty man cries aloud there.
15 A day of wrath is that day,
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,
16 a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.



Psalm 90:1–12

1 Lord, you have been our | dwelling place*
in all gener- | ations.
2 Before the mountains were brought forth,
or ever you had formed the earth |
and the world,*
from everlasting to everlasting |
you are God.
3 You return | man to dust*
and say, "Return, O chil- | dren of man!"
4 For a thousand years in your sight
are but as yesterday when | it is past,*
or as a watch | in the night.
5 You sweep them away as | with a flood;*
they are like a dream,
like grass that is renewed in the | morning:
6 in the morning it flourishes and | is renewed;*
in the evening it fades and | withers.
7 For we are brought to an end by your | anger;*
by your wrath we | are dismayed.
8 You have set our iniquities be- | fore you,*
our secret sins in the light
of your | presence.
9 For all our days pass away
un- | der your wrath;*
we bring our years to an end | like a sigh.
10 The years of our life are seventy,
or even by reason of strength | eighty;*
yet their span is but toil and trouble;
they are soon gone, and we | fly away.
11 Who considers the power of your | anger,*
and your wrath according to
the | fear of you?
12 So teach us to number | our days*
that we may get a heart of | wisdom.

1 Thessalonians 5:1–11

1 Now concerning the times and the
seasons, brothers, you have no need to have
anything written to you. 2 For you yourselves are
fully aware that the day of the Lord will come
like a thief in the night. 3 While people are
saying, "There is peace and security," then
sudden destruction will come upon them as labor
pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they
will not escape. 4 But you are not in darkness,
brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief.
5 For you are all children of light, children of the
day. We are not of the night or of the darkness.
6 So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us
keep awake and be sober. 7 For those who sleep,
sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are
drunk at night. 8 But since we belong to the day,
let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of
faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of
salvation. 9 For God has not destined us for
wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord
Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us so that whether
we are awake or asleep we might live with him.
11 Therefore encourage one another and build one
another up, just as you are doing.

Matthew 25:14–30

14 [Jesus said:] "For it will be like a man
going on a journey, who called his servants and
entrusted to them his property. 15 To one he gave
five talents, to another two, to another one, to
each according to his ability. Then he went away.
16 He who had received the five talents went at
once and traded with them, and he made five
talents more. 17 So also he who had the two
talents made two talents more. 18 But he who had
received the one talent went and dug in the
ground and hid his master's money. 19 Now after a
long time the master of those servants came and
settled accounts with them. 20 And he who had
received the five talents came forward, bringing
five talents more, saying, ‘Master, you delivered
to me five talents; here I have made five talents
more.' 21 His master said to him, ‘Well done, good
and faithful servant. You have been faithful over
a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the
joy of your master.' 22 And he also who had the
two talents came forward, saying, ‘Master, you
delivered to me two talents; here I have made
two talents more.' 23 His master said to him, ‘Well
done, good and faithful servant. You have been
faithful over a little; I will set you over much.
Enter into the joy of your master.' 24 He also who
had received the one talent came forward,
saying, ‘Master, I knew you to be a hard man,
reaping where you did not sow, and gathering
where you scattered no seed, 25 so I was afraid,
and I went and hid your talent in the ground.
Here you have what is yours.' 26 But his master
answered him, ‘You wicked and slothful servant!
You knew that I reap where I have not sowed
and gather where I scattered no seed? 27 Then you
ought to have invested my money with the
bankers, and at my coming I should have
received what was my own with interest. 28 So
take the talent from him and give it to him who
has the ten talents. 29 For to everyone who has
will more be given, and he will have an
abundance. But from the one who has not, even
what he has will be taken away. 30 And cast the
worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that
place there will be weeping and gnashing of
teeth.'"