

*Priest:* Wisdom!

*Reader:* The reading from the First Book of Moses called Genesis. (*Genesis 14:14-20*)

*Priest:* Let us attend!

*Reader:* Now when Abram heard that Lot his nephew had been taken captive, he numbered his own home-born servants three hundred and eighteen, and pursued the enemy as far as Dan. And he fell upon them by night, he and his servants, and smote them and pursued them as far as Chobal, which is on the left of Damascus. And he brought back all the cavalry of Sodom, and he brought back Lot his nephew and all his goods and the women and the people. And the king of Sodom came out to meet him, after his return from the slaughter of Cho-do-lo-go-mor and the kings with him, to the valley of Sha-veh this was the plain of Kings. And Melchizedek, king of Salem, brought out bread and wine; he was Priest of the Most High. And he blessed Abram and said: Blessed is Abram by the most high God, who created the heaven and the earth. And blessed is the most high God, who has delivered your enemies into your hand.

*Priest:* Wisdom!

*Reader:* The reading from the Fifth Book of Moses called Deuteronomy. (*Deuteronomy 1:8-11, 15-17b*)

*Priest:* Let us attend!

*Reader:* Moses said to the sons of Israel: See, I have delivered the land before you; go in and inherit the land which I swore to your fathers, to Abraham and to Isaac and to Jacob, to give it to them and to their seed after them. And I spoke to you at that time saying: I alone shall not be able to bear you. the Lord your God has multiplied you, and behold, you are to-day as the stars of heaven in multitude. May the Lord the God of our fathers multiply you a thousand times more than you are, and bless you as he has spoken to you. And I took from you wise and understanding and prudent men, and I set them to rule over you, captains of thousands and hundreds and fifties and tens and recorders for your judges. And I commanded your judges at that time, saying: Hear cases between your brethren, and judge rightly between a man and his brother and the stranger who is with him. You shall not have respect to persons in judging. You shall hear the small as well as the great. You shall not shrink before any man's person; for the judgement is God's.

*Priest:* Wisdom!

*Reader:* The reading from the Fifth Book of Moses called Deuteronomy. (*Deuteronomy 10:14-18, 20-21*)

*Priest:* Let us attend!

*Reader:* Moses said to the sons of Israel: Behold the heaven and the highest heaven belong to the Lord your God, the earth and all that is in it. The Lord preferred your fathers, to love them: and he chose their seed after them, you above all nations, as it is at this day. So circumcise the hardness of your heart and stiffen your neck no longer. For the Lord your God is God of Gods and the Lord of Lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality, who takes no bribe. He executes judgement for the stranger, the orphan and the widow; and loves the stranger, giving him food and clothing. You shall fear the Lord your God and serve him, and to him you shall hold fast, and take oaths in his name. He is your boast, he your God, who has done for you the great and wonderful things which your eyes have seen.

*Priest:* Wisdom!

*Reader:* The reading from the Third Book of Kingdoms. (*3 [1] Kings 8:22-23, 27-30*)

*Priest:* Let us attend!

*Reader:* Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread forth his hands towards heaven; and said, "Lord, God of Israel, there is no God like you, in heaven above or on earth beneath, If, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you ; how much less this house which I have built . Yet have regard to my supplication, O Lord God of

Israel, hearkening to the prayer which your servant prays before you today; that your eyes may be open towards this house day and night, towards the place of which you have said, ““My name shall be there,”” to hearken to the prayer which your servant prays towards this place day and night. And hearken to the supplication of your servant and of your people Israel, when they pray toward this place; and hear your dwelling place in heaven; and you shall act and show pity. “

*Priest:* Wisdom!

*Reader:* The reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah. (*Isaiah 61:10-62:5*)

*Priest:* Let us attend!

*Reader:* Let my soul rejoice in my God; for he has clothed me with a garment of salvation and a tunic of gladness, as a bridegroom he has put a garland upon me, and as a bride he has adorned me with beauty. For as the earth brings forth its flower, and as a garden it seeds, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and joy to spring forth before all the nations. For Sion’s sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem’s sake I will not rest, until my righteousness goes forth like light, and my salvation as a burning torch. The nations shall see your righteousness, and kings your glory; and he will call you by a new name which the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. You shall no more be termed “Forsaken”, and your land shall no more be termed “Desert”; but you shall be called “My Will”, and your land “Inhabited”; for the Lord has been well pleased in you, and your land shall be inhabited. For as a young man marries a virgin, so shall your sons make their dwelling, and as bridegroom rejoices over bride, so shall the Lord rejoice over you.

*Priest:* Wisdom!

*Reader:* The reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah. (*Isaiah 60:1-16*)

*Priest:* Let us attend!

*Reader:* Shine, shine, Jerusalem; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, like thick darkness over nations; but the Lord will appear upon you, and his glory shall be seen upon you. And kings shall walk by your light, and nations by your brightness. Lift up your eyes round about, and see your children have been gathered; your sons have come from far, and your daughters shall be carried on the shoulders. Then you shall see and be afraid, and be amazed in heart; because the wealth of the sea shall be turned to you, and that of nations and peoples. Flocks of camels shall come to you, the camels of Madian and Gaïpha shall cover you; all those from Sheba shall come, bringing gold and they shall bring incense and precious stone, and shall proclaim the good tidings of the Lord’s salvation. All the sheep of Kedar shall be gathered to you, the rams of Nebaioth shall come to you; acceptable sacrifices shall be offered on my altar, and my house of prayer shall be glorified. Who are these that fly like clouds, and like doves with their nestlings? For the islands have waited for me, the ships of Tharsis first of all, to bring your children from far, their silver and gold with them, for the holy name of the Lord, and for the Holy One of Israel to be glorious. Foreigners shall build up your walls, and their kings shall stand before you; for in my wrath I smote you, but in mercy I have loved you. Your gates shall be open continually; day and night they shall not be shut; that men may bring to you the power of nations, with their kings led in procession. For the nation and kings that will not serve you shall perish; the nations shall be utterly laid waste. The glory of Lebanon shall come to you, with cypress, pine, and cedar, to glorify my holy place; and I will make the place of my feet glorious. The sons of those who oppressed you and troubled you shall come to you in fear; you shall be called “City of the Lord, Sion of the Holy One of Israel”. Whereas you have been forsaken and hated, with no one to help, I will make you a joy for ever, a gladness from generation to generation. You shall suck the milk of nations, eat the wealth of kings; and you shall know that I, the Lord, am your Savior and the God of Israel your Redeemer.