

A reading from the Book of Wisdom

**The souls of the just are in the hand of God,
and no torment shall touch them.**

**They seemed, in the view of the foolish, to be dead;
and their passing away was thought an affliction
and their going forth from us, utter destruction.**

But they are at peace.

**For if before men, indeed, they be punished,
yet is their hope full of immortality;**

**Chastised a little, they shall be greatly blessed,
because God tried them and found them worthy of himself.**

**As gold in the furnace, he proved them,
and as sacrificial offerings he took them to himself.**

**In the time of their visitation they shall shine,
and shall dart about as sparks through stubble;**

**They shall judge nations and rule over peoples,
and the Lord shall be their King forever.**

**Those who trust in him shall understand truth,
and the faithful shall abide with him in love;**

**Because grace and mercy are with his holy ones,
and his care is with his elect.**

The Word of the Lord.