

OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 45:1-7

¹ "This is what the LORD says to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I take hold of to subdue nations before him and to strip kings of their armor, to open doors before him so that gates will not be shut:

² I will go before you and will level the mountains; I will break down gates of bronze and cut through bars of iron.

³ I will give you the treasures of darkness, riches stored in secret places, so that you may know that I am the LORD, the God of Israel, who summons you by name.

⁴ For the sake of Jacob my servant, of Israel my chosen, I summon you by name and bestow on you a title of honor, though you do not acknowledge me.

⁵ I am the LORD, and there is no other; apart from me there is no God. I will strengthen you, though you have not acknowledged me,

[6](#) so that from the rising of the sun to the place of its setting men may know there is none besides me. I am the LORD, and there is no other.

[7](#) I form the light and create darkness, I bring prosperity and create disaster; I, the LORD, do all these things.

EPISTLE

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

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

²We always thank God for all of you, mentioning you in our prayers.

³We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by 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 simply with words, but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and with deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake.

⁶You became imitators of us and of the Lord; in spite of severe suffering, you welcomed the message with the joy given by the Holy Spirit.

⁷And so you became a model to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia.

⁸The Lord's message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia--
your faith in God has become known everywhere. Therefore we do not
need to say anything about it,

⁹for they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us. They tell
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 rescues us from the coming wrath.

THIS IS THE WORD OF THE LORD.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 22:15-22

[15](#)Then the Pharisees went out and laid plans to trap him in his words.

[16](#)They sent their disciples to him along with the Herodians. "Teacher," they said, "we know you are a man of integrity and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. You aren't swayed by men, because you pay no attention to who they are.

[17](#)Tell us then, what is your opinion? Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not?"

[18](#)But Jesus, knowing their evil intent, said, "You hypocrites, why are you trying to trap me?

[19](#)Show me the coin used for paying the tax." They brought him a denarius,

[20](#)and he asked them, "Whose portrait is this? And whose inscription?"

[21](#)"Caesar's," they replied. Then he said to them, "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's."

[22](#)When they heard this, they were amazed. So they left him and went away.