

OLD TESTAMENT SELECTIONS FOR WEDDINGS

(Select one for first reading)

1 Genesis 1: 26-28

God said: *"Let us make man and woman in our image, after our likeness.*

Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and the cattle, and over all the wild animals and all the creatures that crawl on the ground."

God created humanity in his image; in the divine image he created them; male and female he created them.

God blessed them, saying: *"Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it.*

Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all the living things that move on the earth."

God looked at everything he had made, and he found it very good.

The Word of the Lord

2 Genesis 2: 18-24

The LORD God said: *"It is not good for the man to be alone.*

I will make a suitable partner for him."

So the LORD God formed out of the ground various wild animals and various birds of the air.

He brought them to the man to see what he would call them.

Whatever the man called each of them would be its name.

The man gave names to all the cattle, all the birds of the air, and all the wild animals; but none proved to be the suitable partner for the man.

So the LORD God cast a deep sleep on the man, and while he was asleep, he took out one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh.

The LORD God then built up into a woman the rib that he had taken from the man.

When he brought her to the man, the man said:

"This one, at last, is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh;

This one shall be called 'woman,' for out of 'her man' this one has been taken."

That is why a man leaves his father and mother and clings to his wife, and the two of them become one body.

The Word of the Lord.

3 Tobit 8: 5-7

Tobias arose from bed and said to his wife Sarah:

"My love get up! Let us pray and beg our Lord to have mercy on us and to grant us deliverance."

She got up, and they started to pray and beg that deliverance might be theirs.

He began with these words:

"Blessed are you, O God of our ancestors; praised be your name forever and ever.

Let the heavens and all your creation praise you forever.

You made Adam and you gave him his wife Eve to be his help and support; and from these two the human race descended.

You said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone.

Now, Lord, you know that I take this wife of mine for a noble purpose.

Call down your mercy on me and on her and allow us to live together to a happy old age."

They said together, "Amen!"

The Word of the Lord.

4 Song of Songs 2: 8-10, 8:6-7

Hark! My lover-here he comes springing across the mountains, leaping across the hills.
My lover is like a gazelle or a young stag.
Here he stands behind our wall, gazing through the windows, peering through the lattices.
My lover speaks; he says to me, "*Arise, my beloved, my beautiful one, and come!*"
Set me as a seal on your heart, as a seal on your arm;
For strong as death is love, relentless as the nether world is devotion.
Love's flames are a blazing fire. Deep waters cannot quench love, nor floods sweep it away.

The Word of the Lord

5 Sirach 26: 1-4, 16-21

Happy the husband of a good wife, twice-lengthened are his days.
A worthy wife brings joy to her husband, peaceful and full is his life.
A good wife is a generous gift bestowed upon him who fears the LORD.
Be he rich or poor, his heart is content, and a smile is ever on his face.
A gracious wife delights her husband, her thoughtfulness puts flesh on his bones;
Her firm virtue is of surpassing worth.
Choicest of blessings is a modest wife, priceless her chaste person.
Like the sun rising in the LORD'S heavens, the beauty of a virtuous wife is the radiance of her home.

The Word of the Lord.

6 Proverbs 31: 10-13, 19-20, 30-31

When one finds a worthy wife, her value is far beyond pearls.
Her husband, entrusting his heart to her, has an unfailing prize.
She brings him good, and not evil, all the days of her life.
She obtains wool and flax and makes cloth with skillful hands.
She puts her hands to the distaff, and her fingers ply the spindle.
She reaches out her hands to the poor and extends her arms to the needy.
Charm is deceptive and beauty fleeting; the woman who reveres the LORD is to be praised.
Give her the reward of her labors, and let her works praise her at the city gates.

The Word of the Lord