

### **The Old Testament: Jeremiah 1:4-10**

The word of the LORD came to me saying,  
"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,  
and before you were born I consecrated you;  
I appointed you a prophet to the nations."  
Then I said, "Ah, Lord GOD! Truly I do not know how to speak, for  
I am only a boy." But the LORD said to me,  
"Do not say, 'I am only a boy';  
for you shall go to all to whom I send you,  
and you shall speak whatever I command you,  
Do not be afraid of them,  
for I am with you to deliver you,  
says the LORD."  
Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the  
LORD said to me,  
"Now I have put my words in your mouth.  
See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms,  
to pluck up and to pull down,  
to destroy and to overthrow,  
to build and to plant."

### **The Epistle: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13**

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have  
love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have pro-  
phetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge,  
and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have  
love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand  
over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain  
nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or arro-  
gant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or  
resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the  
truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, en-  
dures all things. Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will  
come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge,  
it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy  
only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to  
an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a

child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an  
end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then  
we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know  
fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and  
love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

### **The Gospel: Luke 4:21-30**

In the synagogue at Nazareth, Jesus read from the book of the  
prophet Isaiah, and began to say, "Today this scripture has been  
fulfilled in your hearing." All spoke well of him and were amazed  
at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, "Is  
not this Joseph's son?" He said to them, "Doubtless you will  
quote to me this proverb, 'Doctor, cure yourself!' And you will  
say, 'Do here also in your hometown the things that we have  
heard you did at Capernaum.'" And he said, "Truly I tell you, no  
prophet is accepted in the prophet's hometown. But the truth is,  
there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the  
heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a  
severe famine over all the land; yet Elijah was sent to none of  
them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. There were also  
many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none  
of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian." When they  
heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. They got  
up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill  
on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the  
cliff. But he passed through the midst of them and went on his  
way.