

### **The Old Testament: 2 Samuel 23:1-7**

These are the last words of David :  
The oracle of David, son of Jesse,  
the oracle of the man whom God exalted,  
the anointed of the God of Jacob,  
the favorite of the Strong One of Israel:  
The spirit of the LORD speaks through me,  
his word is upon my tongue.  
The God of Israel has spoken,  
the Rock of Israel has said to me:  
One who rules over people justly,  
ruling in the fear of God,  
is like the light of morning,  
like the sun rising on a cloudless morning,  
gleaming from the rain on the grassy land.  
Is not my house like this with God?  
For he has made with me an everlasting covenant,  
ordered in all things and secure.  
Will he not cause to prosper  
all my help and my desire?  
But the godless are all like thorns that are thrown away;  
for they cannot be picked up with the hand;  
to touch them one uses an iron bar  
or the shaft of a spear.  
And they are entirely consumed in fire on the spot.

### **The Epistle: Revelation 1:4b-8**

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is  
to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne,  
and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the  
dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and  
made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to  
him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Look! He is coming with the clouds;  
every eye will see him,

even those who pierced him;  
and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.

So it is to be. Amen.

"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and  
who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

### **The Gospel: John 18:33-37**

Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and  
asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered, "Do  
you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" Pilate  
replied, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief  
priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?" Je-  
sus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom  
were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me  
from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is  
not from here." Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus an-  
swered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for  
this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who  
belongs to the truth listens to my voice."