

Wisdom  
3:1-9

Selection A4  
(Long Form)

## **A Reading from the Book of Wisdom**

**The souls of the righteous 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 in peace.**

**For if to others, indeed, they seem 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 judgment they shall shine  
and 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 the elect.**

**The Word of the Lord**