

SOPHIA IN THE DESERT

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40 Days with Wisdom

FIRST EDITION

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*To my son, Xavier,
beloved of Wisdom*

Prologue

Whereas many have undertaken to write of holy Wisdom, it seemed fitting to set forth for you, good Philosopher, having researched all things from the beginning, an orderly account of the wisdom in which you have been instructed.

For, eyewitnesses from ancient times who beheld with their own eyes the awesome Power of God have left us a trustworthy report of the deeds and feats by which holy Wisdom succored the People of God, as retold in sacred scripture:

Wisdom delivered a holy and blameless people
from a nation which oppressed them.

She entered into the soul of a servant of God
and stood against terrible kings
in wonders and in signs.

She rendered to the just the wages of their labors.
She guided them along a marvellous way
and became a sheltering cloud for them by day
and a starry flame through the night.

She bore them over the Red Sea
and led them across a great water,
but their enemies she overwhelmed

and churned them up from the bottom of the deep
that the righteous might despoil the ungodly.

And they sang hymns of praise to your holy name,
O, 'I Am,'
and they praised, all together, your hand
which fought for them.

For, Wisdom opened the mouth of the dumb
and made the tongues of infants to speak clearly.¹

This same Wisdom, who guided the children of Israel,
asks us to follow her into the desert: into the land of the
saraph and manna, yea, into the land of the water and
rock.

As cloud and as fire she walks on ahead of us, guiding
us safely through water, to life. She bids us to follow
her bravely with confidence, taking her hand as she
leads us to home.

*In your great compassion,
you did not forsake them in the wilderness:
you did not turn away from them the pillar of cloud by day
to guide them in the way
nor the pillar of fire by night
to make clear for them the way they should walk -
you gave your good Spirit to direct them.²*

¹ Wisdom 10:15-21

² Nehemiah 9:19-20

Introduction:

Wisdom in the Desert

*Jesus, being full of the Holy Spirit
returned from the Jordan
and was led by the Spirit into the desert
for forty days.
(Luke 4:1-2)*

Wisdom abode with the children of Israel for forty years in the desert and wilderness. In the form of a cloud and of fire she dwelt with them, manifesting the presence of God in their midst.

...Moses finished the work on the tent of meeting.

Then the Cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the Glory of I Am filled the tabernacle. And Moses was not able to enter into the tent of meeting, because the Cloud abode thereon, and the Glory of I Am filled the tabernacle.

And when the Cloud went up from the tabernacle, the children of Israel prepared to depart with their baggage. And if the Cloud went not up, then they prepared not, to depart, until the day of its going up.

For, the Cloud of I Am was upon the tabernacle by day, and there was Fire therein by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel, throughout all their journeys.³

Scripture identifies this mysterious presence of cloud and of fire as the Spirit of Wisdom.

She conducted them by a wondrous path
and became a cloud cover for them by day,
a flame of stars by night.
She brought them over the Red Sea.⁴

Wisdom herself says,

I dwelt in the heights
and my throne was in the pillar of cloud.⁵

This Spirit of Wisdom invites us to follow her, into the desert where mysteries abound. As once she conducted the children of Israel, Wisdom now beckons us: follow my lead.

She leads through the wilderness, amidst beasts and serpents. To God's holy mountain, she bids us ascend. She calls us to enter her cloud and her fire, and there make a covenant with the divine.

³ Exodus 40:33-38

⁴ Wisdom 10:17-18

⁵ Sirach 24:7



*'This shall be a sign to you that I have sent you:
when you have brought forth the people out of Egypt
you shall tend the divine upon this mountain.'*⁶

⁶ Exodus 3:9-12

Day 1:
Wisdom, I Am

“Thus you shall say to the children of Israel:

*‘I Am -
the God of your fathers,
the God of Abraham
the God of Isaac
and the God of Jacob -
has sent me to you.’*

*This is my name for ever.
This is my memorial unto all generations.”
(Exodus 3:15)*

The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are one single God, whose name is I Am. The Father is I Am, the Son is I Am, and the Spirit is I Am. Equal in glory, united in nature, the Father, the Son and the Spirit of Wisdom are one single deity: they are the divine.

Thus says I Am,
the king of Israel and its redeemer,
I Am of hosts:
‘I am the first and last

and besides me there is no God.⁷

Now, the Jews were accustomed, as a sign of respect, to say the word “Lord” instead of pronouncing “I Am.” And thus the term “Lord” came to stand for “I Am.” And in this sense St. Paul wrote,

No one can say, ‘Jesus is *Lord*,’ except by the Holy Spirit⁸

which means, ‘no one can say Jesus is *I Am*, except [etc].’

Similarly the council fathers of Constantinople professed,

We believe...in the Holy Spirit, *the Lord*⁹

which meaning is: ‘We believe in the Holy Spirit, [who is] *I Am*.’

In this way the Church and the Scriptures profess the divinity of the Son and the Holy Spirit, along with the Father, by naming them “Lord,” that is, “I Am”: the name possessed by God alone.

That the Spirit of Wisdom is divine, Solomon made clear when he wrote of the omniscience, omnipotence, and eternity of Wisdom, which befit God alone:

⁷ Isaiah 44:6

⁸ 1 Corinthians 12:3

⁹ Πιστεύομεν εἰς...τὸ Πνεῦμα τὸ Ἅγιον, τὸ Κύριον. Council of Constantinople, 381.

She knows and understands all things.¹⁰

and,

Being but one, she can do all things.¹¹

Wisdom herself bears witness to her co-eternity with God, prior to all creation:

I Am possessed me, the beginning of his way,
before his works since then.¹²

The wisest of men wrote of Wisdom,

She is a vapor of the power of God,
a pure emanation of the glory of the almighty God,
and therefore no defiled thing comes into her.

For she is the brightness of eternal light,
and the unspotted mirror of God's majesty,
and the image of his goodness.¹³

This Spirit of Wisdom, all knowing and all powerful,
without beginning nor end, the brightness of eternal
light, glorious and divine, is the same I Am as the
Father and Son: the God of our fathers, the God of
Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.

¹⁰ Wisdom 9:11

¹¹ Wisdom 7:27

¹² Proverbs 8:22

¹³ Wisdom 7:25-26

Now, the work of the Exodus is the work of I Am: it is the work of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

And, in the deeds of I Am, we can see the work of the Father, the Son, and the Spirit. *Let us look for the Spirit.*

In the words of I Am we can hear the voice of the Father, the Son, and the Spirit. *Let us listen for the Spirit.*

On our journey, we will look for the Spirit in the deeds of I Am, and listen for the Spirit in the words of I Am.

We will look for the Spirit - because the Spirit is hidden and goes often unseen. We will tune our ears to the voice of the Spirit, because the Spirit speaks softly, and goes often unheard.

We will walk with Spirit of Wisdom for forty days, following Christ who was led by the Dove. We will journey with Israel, sojourning forty years, led by the pillar of cloud and of fire.

Let us give ear to the call of the burning bush, and hear therein Wisdom, the Spirit, who speaks to us, who guides and inspires, who chooses and strengthens, who calls and instructs, and who sends forth the prophets.

...Who, one with the Father and Son, is I Am.

Day 2:

Wisdom, Who Sends the Prophets

*The Wisdom of God said:
'I will send to them prophets.'
(Luke 11:49)*

Behold, the Wisdom of God sends forth a prophet:

The burning bush said to Moses,

‘I will send you to Pharaoh.’¹⁴

The Spirit of Wisdom sends forth holy prophets, to speak and to work mighty deeds in God’s name. Our Lord said of Wisdom that she sends forth the prophets.

“The Wisdom of God has said:
‘I will send to them prophets.’”¹⁵

In the Acts of the Apostles we see how the Spirit sends forth the apostles:

¹⁴ Exodus 3:10

¹⁵ Luke 11:49

The Holy Spirit said to them,
‘Set apart for me Saul and Barnabas, for the work to
which I have summoned them.’

Then they, fasting and praying and imposing their
hands upon them, sent them away. So they, being
sent by the Holy Spirit, went to Seleucia and from
there sailed to Cyprus. And when they came to
Salamina, they preached the word of God.¹⁶

The Spirit, indeed, is the strong driving wind who
empowers the Church to embark on her mission.

‘You shall receive power at the coming of the Holy
Spirit upon you, and you shall be witnesses to me
both in Jerusalem and in all of Judea and Samaria, and
unto the ends of the earth.’¹⁷

Wisdom empowers the prophetic mission of the
Church from its inception. Indeed, from the beginning
of time,

In every generation she passes into holy souls
and makes of them friends of God, and prophets.¹⁸

In this way, she filled Moses, and made him a prophet.

She entered into the soul of a servant of God [Moses],
and stood against terrible kings

¹⁶ Acts 13:2-5

¹⁷ Acts 1:8

¹⁸ Wisdom 7:27

in wonders and in signs.¹⁹

Let us listen quietly to the Spirit of Wisdom, who comes down and sends forth a holy soul, Moses:

‘I have seen the pain of my people in Egypt, and heard their crying on account of their taskmasters. I know their sorrows, and I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a land good and large, to a land flowing with milk and honey...

‘And now behold, the cry of the children of Israel is come to me, and I have seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them.

‘Come now, and I will send you to Pharaoh, and you will bring forth my people, the children of Israel, from Egypt.’²⁰

Like a mother awakened by the cry of her baby, like a she-bear who rouses to look for her cubs, Wisdom has stirred and come down to attend to them: the children of Israel, crying in need.

With milk and with honey she wishes to nourish them, and give them a land wherein which they can grow. She wishes to take by the hand her son Israel, and lead him, her firstborn, from Egypt to home.

¹⁹ Wisdom 10:16

²⁰ Exodus 3:7-10



*‘When Israel was a child, then I loved him,
and out of Egypt I called my son...*

*‘And I, I taught Ephraim to walk,
taking them by their arms.*

*‘But they knew not that I healed them.
I drew them with cords of human kindness,
and with bonds of love.*

*‘And I was to them
as one who lifts a little child to the cheek,
and I bent down to feed them tenderly.’²¹*

²¹ Hosea 11:1,3-4

Day 3:

Wisdom, Voice of the Prophets

*'I will be in your mouth
and I will teach you what you are to say.'
(Exodus 4:12)*

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who speaks through the prophets.

David testified,

‘The Spirit of I Am spoke through me.’²²

The prophet Ezekiel left a description of what it was like when the Spirit of God came upon him and spoke.

The Spirit of I Am fell upon me, and said to me,
‘Speak: Thus says I Am...’²³

Our Lord reassured us that when it is necessary, the Spirit of Wisdom will speak through us too.

²² 2 Samuel 23:2

²³ Ezekiel 11:5

‘It is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit.’²⁴

And again,

‘I will give you a mouth and wisdom,’²⁵

and again,

‘The Holy Spirit will teach you what you are to say.’²⁶

In this way, the Spirit of Wisdom helped Moses to speak:

‘I will be with your mouth
and will teach you what you are to say.’²⁷

For, Moses excused himself, refusing his mission, by claiming to be an unsuitable messenger on account of his speech.

‘I am not a man of words, neither before nor after you have spoken to your servant, for I am slow of speech, and of a slow tongue.’²⁸

But Wisdom would help him, and be with his mouth, and would send also Aaron to speak and to work.

²⁴ Mark 13:11

²⁵ Luke 21:15

²⁶ Luke 12:12

²⁷ Exodus 4:12

²⁸ Exodus 4:10

‘Is there not Aaron, your brother the Levite? I know he can speak well. And, behold, he comes to meet you, and when he sees you, he will be glad in his heart. And you will speak to him and put the words in his mouth, and I will be with your mouth, and with his mouth, and will teach you what you are to do.’²⁹

Wisdom has set apart Moses and Aaron and called them as prophets upon a great mission. She fills them with power and enters within them, and through them she speaks and she works and she flows.

She has heard the sad cries of the children of Israel, laboring under a rule which oppressed them. She dwells within Moses, and likewise in Aaron, and these three together will set the wrong right.

Wisdom delivered a holy and blameless people from a nation which oppressed them.
She entered into the soul of a servant of God,
and stood against terrible kings,
in wonders and in signs.³⁰



*On account of Wisdom,
I shall be found of good judgment
and shall be admired in the sight of the mighty,*

²⁹ Exodus 4:14-15

³⁰ Wisdom 10:15-16

and the faces of princes shall wonder at me.

*They shall wait for me when I hold my peace,
and they shall look upon me when I speak,
and if I speak much
they shall lay their hands upon their mouths.*

*Because of her I shall gain immortality,
and shall leave behind an everlasting memory
for those yet to come.*

*I shall set the people in order
and nations shall be subject to me.*

*Terrible kings, hearing, shall be afraid of me.
Among the multitude I shall be found good
and valiant in war.³¹*

³¹ Wisdom 8:11-15

Day 4:

Wisdom, Guiding the Prophets

*I will be with your mouth, and with his mouth,
and will teach you what you are to do.'*
(Exodus 4:15)

Wisdom inspires our words and our actions; good guidance she gives, to apostles and prophets:

The Spirit said to Philip,
'Go up to that chariot.'

And Philip, having run near, heard the Ethiopian reading the prophet Isaiah, and said,
'Do you know, then, what you are reading?'

And he replied,
'Why, how am I able, unless someone should guide me?'³²

³² Acts 8:29-31

Wisdom guides Philip to go to the chariot, and through him, she likewise guides him who was riding. Their meeting has come from the whisper of Wisdom, who graciously, steadfastly, counsels each soul.

She goes about seeking those worthy of her,
and she graciously appears to them in their paths,
and meets them in every thought.³³

In another place, Wisdom guides Peter and those who are seeking him:

The Spirit said to Peter,
'Behold, three men are looking for you. Arise
therefore, go down and go with them, without
reservation, for I have sent them.'³⁴

Wisdom directed Cornelius to Peter, and Peter in turn is directed to follow. Their meeting has come from the Spirit who moves them, and brings them together as part of God's plan.

In this way, the Spirit of Wisdom brings together Moses and Aaron.

'Behold, your brother Aaron is coming to meet you,
and when he sees you, his heart will rejoice. And you
will speak to him and set the words in his mouth, and
I - I am with your mouth and with his mouth, and I

³³ Wisdom 6:17

³⁴ Acts 10:19-20

will teach you what you are to say, and what you are to do.³⁵

A skillful arranger is Wisdom the Spirit: a wonderful planner of human relations. She gathers together the children of God to be partners with her in the work of salvation.

And not only men, but the whole of creation she brings into harmony, guiding it well.

She reaches from end to end mightily
and orders all things sweetly.³⁶

Wisdom is the helper of mankind: a wise guide in all our labors.

Even so, Solomon asked God for Wisdom, to help and to guide him, and work by his side.

‘Send her out from your holy heaven
and from the throne of your majesty
that she may be with me
and may labor with me
that I may know what is acceptable to you,
for she knows and understands all things
and shall lead me soberly in my works.’³⁷

Wisdom guides man in his speech and his labors; our words and our actions she wishes to train. So, let us

³⁵ Exodus 4:14-15

³⁶ Wisdom 8:1

³⁷ Wisdom 9:10-11

heed Wisdom and scorn not her counsel, and let us take Wisdom as helper and guide. For she says,

‘He who listens to me shall not be confounded;
those who work by me shall not sin.’³⁸

Wisdom has set apart Moses and Aaron to take on the mission to which she has summoned them. Through them she plans to accomplish a marvel; through them she will speak and will act, and work wonders.



*Then his people remembered the days of old,
the days of Moses...
[how] the Spirit of I Am came down
and guided them.*³⁹

³⁸ Sirach 24:30

³⁹ Isaiah 63:11,14

Day 5:

Wisdom, Wonder Worker

*To one is given, by the Spirit, the word of wisdom...
to another, the working of miracles,
to another, prophecy.
(1 Corinthians 12:8,10)*

Wisdom works wonders to show forth God's power,
and strengthen the words of the prophets she sends.

As St. Paul said,

My word and my preaching were not in persuasive
words of human sophistry, but in the demonstration
of the Spirit and of power.⁴⁰

For our Lord had foretold,

'You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes
upon you, and you will bear witness to me.'⁴¹

⁴⁰ 1 Corinthians 2:4

⁴¹ Acts 1:8

The power of the Spirit supports the apostles, and prophets, and martyrs, and all who preach Christ. The Spirit inspires, directs, and empowers, and brings forth God's word amidst signs and in wonders.

Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit - full of faith and of power - was doing great wonders and signs among the people.⁴²

These signs and these wonders, these gifts of the Spirit, lend credence to those who are called Christ's ambassadors.

The signs of a true apostle were worked among you in all patience, in signs and wonders and in mighty deeds.⁴³

And likewise the faithful, believing in Jesus, are shadowed by signs, as the Lord had foretold of them:

'These signs shall accompany those who believe:
in my name they shall cast out devils.
They shall speak new tongues.
They shall take up serpents,
and if they drink any deadly thing,
it shall not hurt them.
They shall lay their hands upon the sick
and they shall recover.'⁴⁴

⁴² Cf. Acts 6:5,8

⁴³ 2 Corinthians 12:12

⁴⁴ Mark 16:17-18

This powerful witness, of those who believe, is a gift of the Spirit, to build up the Church. The Spirit who speaks through apostles and prophets, is likewise the one who confirms them with charisms.

To one is given, by the Spirit, the word of wisdom,
and to another, the word of knowledge according to
the same Spirit.

To another, faith, in the same Spirit,
to another, the grace of healing in the one Spirit,
to another, the working of miracles,
to another, prophecy,
to another, the discerning of spirits,
to another, diverse kinds of tongues,
to another, interpretation of tongues.

But all these things, one and the same Spirit works,
apportioning to each personally,
according to design.⁴⁵

The Spirit who dwells in the heart of the faithful,
inspires good deeds, and accomplishes wonders. Each
member is filled with the Spirit of Wisdom, and
through each, and with each, the Spirit will work.

‘Lord, enable your servants to speak your word with
great boldness. Stretch out your hand to heal and
perform signs and wonders through the name of your
holy servant Jesus.’

⁴⁵ 1 Corinthians 12:8-11

And after they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke boldly the word of God.⁴⁶

The Spirit of Wisdom arrives like an earthquake, emboldening men to speak boldly God's word. She fills them with courage and strength and with power, for Wisdom herself is a Spirit of power:

In her is the spirit of understanding: holy, one, manifold, subtile, eloquent, active, undefiled, sure, sweet, loving that which is good, quick, which nothing hinders, beneficent, gentle, kind, steadfast, assured, secure, having all power, overseeing all things and containing all spirits, intelligible, pure, subtile.

For Wisdom is more active than all active things, and reaches everywhere by reason of her purity.

For she is the Breath of the power of God.⁴⁷



⁴⁶ Acts 4:29-31

⁴⁷ Wisdom 7:22-25

Day 6:

Wisdom, Teacher of Moses

*If a man desire much knowledge,
Wisdom knows things past, and judges things to come;
she understands subtle speech and the solution of riddles;
she knows signs and wonders before they be done
and the events of times and ages.
(Wisdom 8:8)*

Now, the Spirit of Wisdom, who dwelt within Moses,
instructed him how they would work signs together:

‘What is in your hand?’

‘A staff.’

‘Cast it on the ground.’

And he casts it on the ground, and it becomes a
serpent...

‘Now put your hand into your bosom.’ And he puts his hand into his bosom, and when he takes it out, behold, his hand is struck - white as snow.

‘Put your hand back into your bosom.’ And he puts his hand back into his bosom, and when he takes it out of his bosom, behold, it is turned again as his other flesh.

‘So, now, if they will not believe you,
nor listen to the voice of the first sign,
they will believe the voice of the second sign.
And if they will not believe these two signs
nor listen to your voice,
then you will take of the water of the river
and pour it on the dry land
and the water which you take of the river
will become blood upon the dry land.’⁴⁸

And so Moses learned of three wonders from Wisdom:

- ❖ the sign of the hand
- ❖ the sign of the water
- ❖ the sign of the staff of wood: serpent and tree

Now, each of these signs bears the hallmark of Wisdom, for Scripture so calls her:

- ❖ The Hand of God
- ❖ The Water of Life
- ❖ The Rod of God, and the Tree of Life

⁴⁸ Cf. Exodus 4:2-9

Wisdom has given to Moses her calling card: Water, and Hand, and the Tree in his grasp. These three are the sign of the Spirit who dwells in him, coming to Egypt to work signs and wonders:

- ❖ The Finger of God will use Moses' hand,
- ❖ and the Water of Life will work signs in the water;
- ❖ the Giver of Life, like the Tree of Life, bearing fruit, comes to work wonders of serpent and wood.

Wisdom has chosen and entered in Moses, that in him and through him she might work her wonders.

She entered into the soul of the servant of God,
and stood against dreadful kings
in wonders and in signs.⁴⁹

Let us look closer, and closely examine the Hand and the Water, the Rod and the Tree, and see if we find therein Wisdom, the Spirit - the one who both speaks and who acts through the prophets.

Let us examine the signs taught to Moses, and see if we find therein Wisdom, the Spirit - the one who is known as the "Finger of God."

The magicians said to Pharaoh,
'This is the Finger of God.'⁵⁰

⁴⁹ Wisdom 10:16

⁵⁰ Exodus 8:15



*She stood against dreadful kings
in wonders and in signs.⁵¹*

⁵¹ Wisdom 10:16

Day 7:

Wisdom, Finger of God

*I Am
finished speaking to Moses on Mount Sinai
and gave him two tablets of testimony,
the tablets of stone,
written by the Finger of God.
(Exodus 31:18)*

Our Lord called the Spirit the ‘Finger of God’ when he said,

‘If I cast out demons by the *Spirit of God*,
then the kingdom of God is come upon you,’⁵²

and in another place,

‘If I cast out demons by the *Finger of God*,
then the kingdom of God is surely come upon you.’⁵³

The sorcerers of Egypt admitted to Pharaoh that the plagues wrought by Moses were the work of the Spirit.

⁵² Matthew 12:28

⁵³ Luke 11:20

The magicians said to Pharaoh, ‘This is the Finger of God,’ but Pharaoh’s heart was hardened, and he harkened not to them.⁵⁴

The Church acclaims the Spirit as the “Finger of the Father’s right hand” in the hymn *Veni Creator Spiritus*:

You are known in your sevenfold gifts,
You, Finger of the Father’s right hand.
You, the promise of the Father,
Who endow the tongue with power.⁵⁵

This Finger of God, Holy Wisdom, the Spirit, would write out for Moses, on stone, the commandments.

‘I Am delivered to me two tablets of stone
written by the Finger of God;
on them were written all the words
which I Am spoke to you on the mount,
out of the midst of fire
in the day of the assembly.’⁵⁶

St. Paul references this writing of the Spirit when he says we too have been

written with the Spirit of the living God,
not on tablets of stone
but on fleshy tablets of the heart.⁵⁷

⁵⁴ Exodus 8:15

⁵⁵ “*digitus Paternae dexteræ*,” *Veni Creator Spiritus*, vesper hymn after the Ascension

⁵⁶ Deuteronomy 9:10

⁵⁷ 2 Corinthians 3:3

And what has the Finger of God written down, on these tablets of stone, and the flesh of our heart? What message, important, has come from the Spirit? What letter, impassioned, is writ in this hand?

I am 'I Am,' your God,
who brought you out of the land of Egypt,
out of the house of bondage.
You will have no other gods before me.

You will not make for yourself a graven image,
nor any manner of likeness
of any thing in the heavens above
or in the earth beneath
or in the water under the earth.
You will not bow down to them or serve them,
for I - I Am, your God - am a jealous God.⁵⁸

The Finger of God writes the first of commandments,
the first rule of love: you are mine and none other's.
You will not go after a substitute deity. See, I am
jealous; do not break my heart.

The Finger of God, Holy Wisdom, the Spirit, is jealous,
and will not abide phony deities.

'I cast out demons by the Finger of God.'⁵⁹

Even so, Wisdom has come down to Egypt, to drive out
its demons, and shame its false goddesses.

⁵⁸ Exodus 20:2-5

⁵⁹ Luke 11:20

I will pass through the land of Egypt that night,
and will kill every firstborn in the land of Egypt
both man and beast,
and against all the gods of Egypt
I will execute judgment.⁶⁰

The Finger of God drives out demons and devils, and
shatters the kingdom of false gods and goddesses.
Wisdom is jealous and suffers no rivals, and will not
abide molten idols of gold.

She writes out the law of love, written with fire, on
tablets of stone and on hearts made of flesh: “You will
not replace me with cunning impostors. For lo, it is I
who have come set you free.”



*Love is strong as death,
jealousy is cruel as the grave;
the flashes thereof are flashes of fire:
the very Flame of I Am.⁶¹*

⁶⁰ Exodus 12:12

⁶¹ Song of Songs 8:6

Day 8:

Wisdom, Hand of God

*And the form of a Hand was put forth
and I was taken by a lock of my head,
and the Spirit lifted me up.
(Ezekiel 8:3)*

The Finger of God, God's own hand, his own Spirit,
spells doom on the false gods of Egypt and Babylon.

They drank wine, and praised the gods of gold, and of silver, of brass, and of iron, of wood, and of stone. In the same hour came forth fingers as of a human hand, and wrote over against the lampstand upon the plaster of the wall of the king's palace, and the king saw the palm of the hand that wrote...

This is the writing that was inscribed: MENE MENE, TEKEL UPHARSIN. This is the interpretation of the writing:

- ❖ MENE - God has numbered your kingdom, and brought it to an end.
- ❖ TEKEL - you have been weighed in the scale, and found wanting.

❖ PERES - your kingdom is divided.⁶²

The Finger of God is a jealous God, loving us, wanting our love, undivided and pure. The Finger has signed us and sealed us, and schooled our heart, writing the first rule of love: you are mine.

As Wisdom says in the Song of Songs,

‘I am my beloved’s,
and my beloved is mine.’⁶³

Wisdom has given herself as a gift of love, sent from the Father to dwell with mankind. And having poured out her love, wholly, without reserve, Wisdom invites us to love in return.

Hear, O Israel: I Am is our God, I Am, alone.
And you shall love I Am, your God,
with all your heart,
and with all your soul,
and with all your might.⁶⁴

Wisdom commands our love, because she herself has loved us from the first.

She asks us to set her as a seal upon our heart,

‘Set me as a seal on your heart.’⁶⁵

⁶² Daniel 5:4-5, 25-28

⁶³ Song of Songs 6:3

⁶⁴ Deuteronomy 6:4-5

⁶⁵ Song of Songs 8:6

because she has set us as a seal upon her own heart.

My beloved is to me a satchet of myrrh
that lies betwixt my breasts.⁶⁶

Wisdom is God's own hand, reaching out to touch mankind, making first contact, and bringing to life. She is the 'Presence of God,' the Shekinah, abiding within us, and leading to God.

When God reaches out to man, it is the Spirit who touches first.

The Spirit draws us to the Son, who draws us to the Father.

It should be no surprise that when God comes to man, it is the Spirit of Fire whom man first encounters.

The Spirit of Wisdom is the hand of God, reaching out to mankind. The Spirit of Wisdom is the voice of God, calling to mankind:

Wisdom preaches abroad,
she utters her voice in the streets,
at the head of multitudes she cries out,
in the entrance of the gates of the city she utters her words, saying...

'I called, and you refused;
I stretched out my hand,

⁶⁶ Song of Songs 1:13

and none took it.⁶⁷

But blessed is he who takes the hand of Wisdom.

Blessed is the man who finds Wisdom...

She is more precious than all riches,
and all things which are desired
cannot be compared with her.

Length of days is in her right hand
and in her left hand, riches and glory.⁶⁸



*The Hand of I Am came upon me,
and I Am brought me forth by the Spirit,
and set me in the midst of the plain,
and it was full of human bones.⁶⁹*

⁶⁷ Proverbs 1:20-21,24

⁶⁸ Proverbs 3:13-16

⁶⁹ Ezekiel 37:1

Day 9:

Wisdom, Hand Upon the Heart

Set me as a seal on your heart.
(Song of Songs 8:6)

The Spirit is:

- ❖ The Finger of God, who is jealous and wants our love, bearing no rivals: no false gods nor goddesses
- ❖ The Hand of God, reaching out, striving to touch our lives, making first contact, and drawing to God
- ❖ The seal on our heart and soul, who marks us and writes therein: “You are my beloved; you belong to no other.”

The Spirit is God’s own hand, resting upon our heart: writing, and sealing, and signing, and guiding, and pointing the way to the true God alone.

And this same Spirit, the Hand of God, takes our hand, and would lay it upon the heart of the divine.

For we say,

‘Unless I put my hand into his side,
I will not believe...’⁷⁰

So the Spirit of Christ impels us to touch the heart of God.

‘Peace be with you...
Bring your finger here and see my hands,
and bring your hand and put it into my side,
and be not unbelieving, but believing.’⁷¹

The Finger of God guides our finger to touch the very heart of God.

The Hand of God, reaching out, and resting upon us,
would have us place our hand within the divine.

The Finger guides our finger; the Hand guides our hand.

This interplay between the hands of the creature and the divine is beautifully described by Wisdom in the Song of Songs, where she says:

My beloved put his hand through the keyhole,
and my bowels were moved at his touch.

I rose up to open to my beloved.

⁷⁰ John 20:25

⁷¹ Cf. John 20:25-27

My hands dripped with myrrh,
and my fingers were full of the choicest myrrh.

I opened the bolt of my door to my beloved
but he had turned aside, and was gone.
My soul melted when he spoke.
I sought him, and found him not.
I called, and he did not answer me.⁷²

Alas, man is the faulty partner in this divine romance,
disappearing into the night and abandoning the one
who truly loves him.

As Wisdom says in another place,

‘I called, and you refused;
I stretched out my hand,
and none took it.’⁷³

But if Wisdom had her way,

His left hand is under my head,
and his right hand embraces me.⁷⁴

Like Eve as a rib in the bosom of Adam, like Abishag
nestled in the bosom of David, like a seal on the heart,
like the bride of the Canticles, Wisdom abides as God’s
hand on our heart.

⁷² Song of Songs 5:4-6

⁷³ Proverbs 1:24

⁷⁴ Song of Songs 2:2

And Wisdom, the Hand of God, resting upon our heart, writing her law of love, sealing our soul for God, calls us to place our hand over her dwelling place, where, deep in our heart, we might touch the divine.

The sign of Wisdom: the hand touching the heart.

And I Am says to Moses,
'Put in, I pray thee, your hand into your bosom.'⁷⁵

The hand upon the heart: a sign of the Spirit.

Now, if the hand upon the bosom is a sign of the Spirit, what of the sign in the river? Might we find there as well, a sign of the Spirit?



*I will climb up into the palm tree.
I will take hold of its fruit.⁷⁶*

⁷⁵ Exodus 4:6

⁷⁶ Song of Songs 7:8

Day 10:

Wisdom, River of Life

*The angel showed me a river of water of life,
clear as crystal,
proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.
(Revelation 22:1)*

The Spirit proceeds from the Father and Son, like a river of life, flowing out to creation.

The angel showed me a river of water of life, clear as crystal, going out from the throne of God and of the Lamb.

And, in another place,

I, Wisdom, have poured out rivers.

I, like a brook of a river of a mighty water,
I, like a channel of a river, like an aqueduct,
came out of paradise.

I said, 'I will water my garden of plants,
and I will water abundantly the fruits of my meadow.'

And behold my brook became a great river,
and my river became near to a sea.

For I make doctrine to shine forth to all as the
morning light,
and will declare it afar.

I will penetrate to all the lower parts of the earth
and behold all who sleep,
and will enlighten all who hope in I Am.

I will pour out doctrine as prophecy
and leave it to those who seek wisdom
and will not cease to instruct their offspring
even to the holy age.⁷⁷

As a river, Wisdom fills the faithful, that they might
partake of her stream. In this way she filled Solomon:

Solomon reigned in days of peace,
and God brought all his enemies under him
that he might build a house in his name,
and prepare a sanctuary for ever.

O, how wise you were in your youth!
You were filled as a river with Wisdom.⁷⁸

And our Lord spoke of Wisdom, the Spirit, as a
wellspring within us:

‘He who shall drink of the water that I will give him

⁷⁷ Sirach 24:40-46

⁷⁸ Sirach 47:15-16

shall not thirst for ever,
but the water that I will give him
shall become in him a fountain of water
springing up into life everlasting.⁷⁹

Solomon likewise described her as a fountain enclosed:

My sister, my bride, is a garden enclosed,
a garden enclosed, a fountain sealed up.⁸⁰

Wisdom is the river of life: the wellspring of eternal life
deep within us.

Now, the Egyptians considered their river, the Nile, the
“river of life,” making fruitful their land. But Wisdom,
the Water of Life, will remind them that she is the one
whom their river reflects, and apart from her graces,
their river brings death.

‘Take of the water of the river
and pour it upon the dry land,
and the water which you take out of the river
shall become blood upon the dry land.’⁸¹



⁷⁹ John 4:13-14

⁸⁰ Song of Songs 4:12

⁸¹ Exodus 4:9

I Am,
how many are your works!
In Wisdom you have made them all.
The earth is full of your riches.

There is the sea, great and wide
in which are innumerable living things
animals both large and small.
There the ships go
and leviathan, whom you formed to play there.

All these wait for you
that you might give them their food in due season.
You give it to them; they gather it up.
You open your hand; they are satisfied with good.

You hide your face; they are troubled.
You take away their breath;
they die, and return to the dust.

You send forth your Spirit; they are created.
You renew the face of the ground.⁸²

⁸² Psalm 104:24-30

Day 11:

Wisdom, Life-Giving Tree

She is the Tree of Life.
(Proverbs 3:18)

Three wonders the burning bush gave unto Moses:

1. The sign of the hand: a sign of the Spirit, the Finger of God
2. The sign of the water: a sign of the Spirit, the Water of Life
3. The sign of the staff and serpent...

Might the staff of Moses be also a sign of the Spirit?

The most sacred of trees, which I Am had brought forth, is the Tree of Life, planted by God within Eden.

I Am, God, made to grow out of the ground every tree that is pleasant to see, and good for food; the Tree of Life also, in the center of the garden.⁸³

⁸³ Genesis 2:9

Now, this tree brought forth fruit which bestowed life eternal:

I Am, God, said,
‘Behold, the man is become as one of us
knowing good and evil.
And now, lest he put forth his hand
and take also of the Tree of Life
and eat, and live forever...’⁸⁴

This life-giving fruit is our Lord, as he said,

‘I am the living bread which came down from heaven.
If any man eat of this bread, he shall live forever.’⁸⁵

Christ is the fruit. Who, then, is the tree?

If Christ is the Fruit, then who stands as the Tree which brings Christ to our world, like a fruit from its blossom? Who brings forth Jesus, and makes him incarnate, and clothes him in flesh, bringing fruit to fruition?

The Tree of Life bearing Christ into the world is the Spirit of Wisdom, who made him incarnate. As the angel explained to St. Joseph:

‘That which was begotten
is of the Holy Spirit.’⁸⁶

And the Church duly professes:

⁸⁴ Genesis 3:22

⁸⁵ John 6:51

⁸⁶ Cf. Matthew 1:20

[Christ] took flesh,
of the Holy Spirit and Mary the virgin,
and became man.⁸⁷

Wisdom bears Christ into the world, like the Tree of
Life bearing forth life-giving fruit.

And Mary, as well, is an image of Wisdom, and stands
as a little branch, bearing a blossom. Together with
Wisdom, she brings forth the messiah:

A shoot (Mary) shall sprout from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch (Mary) from his roots shall bear fruit
(Jesus).
The Spirit of I Am will rest upon him (the fruit).⁸⁸

The Tree of Life, the River of Life, and the Giver of
Life, are all images of the one Spirit.

As our Lord said,

‘The Spirit gives life,’⁸⁹

And Wisdom herself says, in Proverbs,

‘He who finds me, finds life.’⁹⁰

⁸⁷ “σαρκωθέντα ἐκ Πνεύματος Ἁγίου καὶ Μαρίας τῆς παρθένου,
καὶ ἐνανθρωπήσαντα,” First Council of Constantinople, 381.

⁸⁸ Cf. Isaiah 11:1-2

⁸⁹ John 6:63

⁹⁰ Proverbs 8:35

In particular, Wisdom describes herself at length as a life-giving tree:

I took root in an honorable people,
and in the portion of my God, his inheritance,
and my abode is in the full assembly of the saints.

I was exalted like a cedar in Lebanon
and as a cypress tree on mount Sion.
I was exalted like a palm tree in Cades
and as a rose plant in Jericho.
As a fair olive tree in the plains
and as a plane tree by the water in the streets
was I exalted...

I have stretched out my branches as the elm tree
and my branches are of honor and grace.
As the vine I have brought forth a pleasant odor
and my flowers are the fruit of honor and riches.

Come over to me, all you who desire me,
and be filled with my fruits.
For my spirit is sweet above honey
and my inheritance above honey and the honeycomb.
My memory is unto everlasting generations.

Those who eat me, shall yet hunger,
and those who drink me, shall yet thirst.
He who harkens to me, shall not be confounded,
and those who work by me, shall not sin.

They that express me shall have life everlasting.⁹¹

⁹¹ Sirach 24:16-19,22-31

Day 12:

Wisdom, Wise Above Serpents

“Be ye therefore wise as serpents, and simple as doves.”
(Matthew 10:16)

Scripture notes the peerless acumen of the serpent.

The serpent was subtile above every beast of the field
which I Am, God, had made.⁹²

For God had created the serpent with surpassing
excellence.

By his Spirit, the heavens were made beautiful,
and his Hand formed the swift serpent.⁹³

The highest of angels surrounding the throne of God
are called “seraphim,” the same word⁹⁴ used for the fiery
serpents in the desert of Exodus.

⁹² Genesis 3:1

⁹³ Job 26:13

⁹⁴ שָׂרָפִים Cf. Isaiah 6:2, Isaiah 6:6, Numbers 21:6

I see the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train is filling the temple. Seraphim are standing above it.⁹⁵

One of the highest angels who fell, continues to be seen in the form of a fiery serpent.

There was seen another sign in the heaven:
lo, a great fiery (*pyrros*) dragon.⁹⁶

I Am commands Moses to lift up a fiery serpent upon a standard for the healing of the people.

I Am said to Moses,
‘Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole.
And it shall come to pass, that everyone who is
bitten, when he sees it, shall live.’⁹⁷

And our Lord finds in the serpent an image of himself.

‘As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness,
so it behooves the Son of Man to be lifted up,
that everyone who believes in him may not perish,
but may have life everlasting.’⁹⁸

And so it is, that the fiery serpent is an image of good things, like our Lord and the angels and the swift serpents God made, and of good things turned bad, like the angels who fell.

⁹⁵ Isaiah 6:1-2

⁹⁶ Revelation 12:3

⁹⁷ Numbers 21:8

⁹⁸ John 3:14-15

Our Lord recommends what is most good in serpents:
their brilliant sagacity, which he bids us to emulate.

‘Be shrewd as the serpents,
and guileless as the doves.’⁹⁹

As St. Paul says,

I want you to be wise about what is good
and innocent about what is evil.¹⁰⁰

Now the Dove, who is Wisdom, gave Moses the sign of
a staff and a serpent - one brought forth the other. And
this sign foreshadowed the Lord’s incarnation, for the
staff is an image of Wisdom - a branch, like the Tree of
Life, bringing forth Christ, who himself is the serpent
who will be lifted up, and he will defeat all the serpents
gone bad, as the serpent of Moses devoured the others.

The sign of the staff and the serpent: a remembrance of
the fall of man - the tree of Knowledge of Good and
Evil, and the Serpent who tempted. A remembrance of
the snake bite.

The sign of the staff and the serpent: a foreshadowing
of the redemption of man - the Tree of Life bringing
forth Christ, the Redeeming Serpent. And all who
look upon him and believe will be healed and restored
to life. A foreshadowing of the healing of the bite.

⁹⁹ Matthew 10:16

¹⁰⁰ Romans 16:19

The sign of the staff and the serpent foretells the victory of Christ, the Redeeming Serpent, and the doom of the ancient serpent who led us astray.

The sign of the serpent who swallows the others, spells imminent doom on the false gods of Egypt. Anyone wicked - Egyptian or Hebrew - will soon be devoured and swallowed alive.



*As soon as Moses finished speaking,
the earth broke asunder under the blasphemers' feet,
and opening her mouth, devoured them,
with their tents and all their substance.*

*And they went down alive into hell,
the ground closing upon them,
and they perished from among the people.*

*But all Israel that was standing around
fled at the cry of those who were perishing, saying,
'Lest perhaps the earth swallow us also.'*

*And a fire coming out from I Am
destroyed the two hundred and fifty men
who had offered the unholy incense.¹⁰¹*

¹⁰¹ Numbers 16:31-35

Day 13:

Wisdom, Fiery Spirit

*The appearance of the Glory of I Am
was like devouring fire on the top of the mountain
in the eyes of the children of Israel.
(Exodus 24:17)*

The dove and the serpent share a special relationship; they are similar in excellence, they are different in their nature, they are both praised by the Savior: “Be like one, and like the other.”

The interplay between the dove and the serpent, between subtlety and innocence, played itself out at the foot of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil.

Now, the Serpent succeeded in tempting our parents to eat of the Tree of Knowledge, which brought them to death. But the fall of mankind was turned into a “happy fault” by Wisdom, who brought to earth Christ, our Redeemer.

Where sin abounded, grace abounded the more.

And at every turn of the sinister Serpent, the Dove got the better, and turned fault to glory. For likewise when Satan had entered in Judas, the death of the Savior became our redemption.

And when Judas had eaten the morsel, Satan entered into him. Then Jesus said to Judas,
‘What you are about to do, do quickly.’¹⁰²

However unwillingly, whatever the malice, the devil cannot help but serve God’s own purpose.

We know that all things work together for good to those who love God.¹⁰³

As Joseph, the patriarch, said to his brothers who had sold him to slavery:

‘As for you, you devised evil against me, but God devised it for good, in order to bring about as it is today: to save the lives of a numerous people.’¹⁰⁴

And so Wisdom uses the plots of the wicked to serve divine purposes and render God glory: to test and prove virtue, to manifest justice, to show forth the height and the depth of God’s mercy.

¹⁰² John 13:27

¹⁰³ Romans 8:28

¹⁰⁴ Genesis 50:20

And even so, Pharaoh would serve holy Wisdom. His crown bore the serpent, his heart bore the devil, but Wisdom would use him to show forth God's glory.

She hardened his heart till her signs were accomplished; she made him unyielding while wonders were worked. She stood against terrible kings and the serpent, in signs and in wonders, through Moses her servant.

‘And I will harden Pharaoh’s heart,
and multiply my signs and my wonders
in the land of Egypt.’¹⁰⁵

All this she did for the sake of her children, to free them from bondage, and give them new birth. Wiser than serpents, the Dove hatched her egg, and she brought forth her firstborn, from darkness to light.

“When you go back to Egypt, see that you do before Pharaoh all the wonders which I have put in your hand. But I will harden his heart, and he will not let the people go.

“And you will say to Pharaoh,
‘Thus says I Am:
Israel is my child, my firstborn. And I told you -
Send away my son, so he may worship me.’”¹⁰⁶

¹⁰⁵ Exodus 7:3

¹⁰⁶ Exodus 4:22-23



I will rescue you from your own people and from the Gentiles.

I am sending you to them

to open their eyes,

that they may be converted from darkness to light,

and from the power of Satan to God,

that they may receive forgiveness of sins,

and a lot among the holy.¹⁰⁷

¹⁰⁷ Acts 26:17-18

Day 14:

Wisdom, Staff of Moses

*Wisdom shall rain down knowledge
and discerning comprehension,
and she increases the glory of those who hold her.
The root of Wisdom is to fear I Am,
and the branches thereof are long-lived.
(Sirach 1:24-25)*

Now the serpent was patroness of all lower Egypt: their goddess, the cobra, on whom they relied. But Wisdom would show she herself ruled creation: all creatures, all nature - they all do her bidding.

And Moses goes in, Aaron also, unto Pharaoh, and they do as I Am had commanded, and Aaron casts his staff before Pharaoh and before his servants, and it becomes a serpent.

And Pharaoh calls for wise men and for sorcerers and the scribes of Egypt; they too, by their lights, do likewise, and they cast down each his rod, and they become serpents.

And the rod of Aaron swallows their rods.¹⁰⁸

Serpent-worshippers, beware: my serpent eats your serpents for lunch.

I Am has arrived, in the form of a trinity: Moses and Aaron, and the third is the Staff. An earthly reflection of God comes to Egypt, an image of Father and Son and the Spirit:

- ❖ Moses is chosen to stand as the Father, the leader who looks after all of his children.
- ❖ Aaron is chosen to act as the Son, to speak and to act on the Father's behalf.
- ❖ The Spirit, the giver of life, tree of life, is the Staff in their hands, holy wood, working signs.

As I Am said to Moses:

‘Aaron shall be your spokesman to the people, and it shall come to pass that he shall be for you like a mouth, and you shall be to him like God. And you shall take in your hand this Staff, wherewith you shall do the signs.’¹⁰⁹

- ❖ Moses, like God, gives his word to the Son.
- ❖ Aaron, like the Son, reveals the word of the Father.
- ❖ The Staff of Moses and Aaron, like the Spirit of Wisdom: through whom and in whom they work signs and wonders.

¹⁰⁸ Exodus 7:10-12

¹⁰⁹ Exodus 4:16-17

These three are coming, like I Am, to Egypt.

How fitting an image of Wisdom, a staff is. The staff is the helper, defender, and guide. The staff keeps the flock in good order, directing them, just like the Spirit is guide of the Church.

The Spirit of Wisdom abides in the Church, like the staff of a shepherd, both guiding and guarding: the sheep feel the tap of the staff on their shoulder, the wolves feel the blow of the staff on their head.

The staff is a comfort to those who would follow it - showing the way and defending the flock. The staff is a sign that the shepherd is near at hand, confirming his presence among those he tends.

As expressed in the Psalms,

You are with me.

Your rod and your staff - they comfort me.¹¹⁰

Like the staff of a shepherd, the Spirit is the sign of the presence of God. Like the rod of the Good Shepherd, the Spirit is our guide, and our comfort.

‘The Comforter, the Holy Spirit,
whom the Father will send in my name,
will teach you all things.’¹¹¹

¹¹⁰ Psalm 23:4

¹¹¹ John 14:26

Wisdom is comforter, guide, and our constant companion, as Solomon wrote:

I resolved therefore to take her to me to live with me,
knowing that she would give me good counsel
and be a comfort in my cares and grief.¹¹²

The Spirit of Wisdom is the Good Shepherd's staff: the one who is with us, our comfort and guide.



*The word of I Am came to me, saying,
‘Jeremiah, what do you see?’*

*And I said,
‘I see a rod, watching.’*

*Then I Am said to me,
‘You have seen well, for I am watching.’¹¹³*

¹¹² Wisdom 8:9

¹¹³ Jeremiah 1:11-12

Day 15:

Wisdom, Staff of the Good Shepherd

*Keep watch, therefore, on yourselves, and over all the flock,
among whom the Holy Spirit made you overseers
to feed the Church of God.
(Acts 20:28)*

The staff of Moses was a shepherd's staff - the staff with which he was tending the sheep.

Moses pastured the sheep of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Madian, and he drove the flock to the inner parts of the desert, and came to the mountain of God, Horeb. And I Am appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush...

‘What is that you hold in your hand?’

He answered, ‘A staff.’

And I Am said, ‘Cast it down upon the ground...’¹¹⁴

¹¹⁴ Exodus 3:1-2,4:2-3

The Staff is the Comforter, Helper, Companion, the One at the Side who will give us direction.

‘The Helper [Comforter, Advocate, Intercessor, Counselor, Strengtheners, One at the Side], the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name...’¹¹⁵

Like Eve is for Adam, like Wisdom for Solomon, like Wisdom who helps, guides, and comforts the Church, the staff borne by Moses, a sign of the Spirit, is helper, companion, protector and guide.

The Spirit, the rod of God, is what we need most on our way. As our Lord commanded his apostles:

‘Take nothing on the way
except a staff only,
no bag, no bread, no brass in the girdle.’¹¹⁶

And later, Jesus asked them,

‘When I sent you out without purse or bag or sandals, did you lack anything?’

‘Nothing,’ they answered.¹¹⁷

Who walks with the Spirit, is wanting for nothing.
“Take nothing to travel, except for a Staff.”¹¹⁸

¹¹⁵ John 14:26

¹¹⁶ Mark 6:8

¹¹⁷ Luke 22:35

¹¹⁸ Mark 6:8

The apostles' successors still carry the crosier, the staff of a shepherd, a staff much like Moses'. The ones in the West bear a hook like a shepherd; the ones in the East show forth serpents, like Moses'.



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They both are a symbol of Wisdom, the Spirit, who works with the bishops to govern the Church. She strengthens, supports, and she walks alongside them, and through them she brings forth God's word, amidst wonders.

Wisdom prospers the Church, the New Israel, as once she prospered Jacob, who was called "Israel," of old.

She guided a righteous man [Jacob] in right ways
when he fled from his brother's wrath;
she showed him the kingdom of God
and gave him knowledge of holy things.

She prospered him in his toiling
and increased the fruit of his labors.
She stood by him against the greed of his defrauders,
and made him rich.

She preserved him from foes
and secured him against ambush,
and she gave him the prize for his hard struggle
that he might know that devotion to God
is mightier than all else.¹¹⁹

And Jacob prayed:

‘I am not worthy of all of the kindness and fidelity
with which you have treated your servant,
for with my staff I passed over this Jordan
and now I am become two camps.’¹²⁰



¹¹⁹ Wisdom 10:10-12

¹²⁰ Genesis 32:10

Day 16:

Wisdom, Rod of God

*He shall smite the land with the Rod of his mouth,
and with the Breath of his lips he shall slay the wicked.
(Isaiah 11:4)*

Wisdom is the breath of God. As she says,

I came forth from the mouth of the Most High
and covered the earth like a mist.¹²¹

Indeed, the word “Spirit”¹²² means also “Breath” and
“Wind.”

This breath of the Most High brings life:

The Spirit of God has made me,
and the Breath of the Almighty gives me life.¹²³

But it also brings death to the wicked:

His breath is like a rushing torrent

¹²¹ Sirach 24:3

¹²² In Hebrew, רִיחַ (*rûach*) and Greek, πνεῦμα (*pneúma*)

¹²³ Job 33:4

that rises to the neck.
He comes to sift the nations
in a sieve of destruction.¹²⁴

In particular, the Lord slays the antichrist by the breath
of his mouth.

Then the lawless one will be revealed,
whom the Lord will kill with the breath of His mouth.¹²⁵

This deadly Breath of God is likened to a sword or rod.

From His mouth proceeds a sharp sword
with which to strike down the nations.¹²⁶

The prophet Isaiah equates the breath of God with the
rod of God.

He shall strike the earth with the Rod of his mouth,
and with the Breath of his lips he shall slay the
wicked.¹²⁷

The Spirit is this rod of God, proceeding from the
mouth of God; the Spirit, at times, is the breath of
God's wrath which discomforts the wicked.

Smoke rose from his nostrils;
consuming Fire came from his mouth.¹²⁸

¹²⁴ Isaiah 30:28

¹²⁵ 2 Thessalonians 2:8

¹²⁶ Revelation 19:15

¹²⁷ Isaiah 11:4

¹²⁸ Psalm 18:8

And,

Grass withers, the flowers fall,
when the Breath of I Am blows on them;
indeed, the people are grass.¹²⁹

This fiery Spirit, proceeding from the mouth of the
Most High, proceeds also from the mouth of his people,
the prophets.

‘I will give you a mouth and wisdom,
which none of your adversaries shall be able to resist.’¹³⁰

St. John describes this Spirit proceeding from the
mouth of the two witnesses in Revelation, as fire.

I will give power to my two witnesses
and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred
sixty days
clothed in sackcloth.
These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands,
standing before the Lord of the earth.

If anyone desires to harm them
fire proceeds out of their mouth
and devours their enemies.
If anyone desires to harm them
he must be killed in this way.

These have power to shut up the sky

¹²⁹ Isaiah 40:7

¹³⁰ Luke 21:15

that it may not rain during the days of their prophecy.
They have power over the waters
to turn them to blood
and to strike the earth with every plague
as often as they desire.¹³¹

...Moses has come to Egypt, with the rod of God in his hand. Like the Father who chastises the wicked with the rod of his mouth, Moses comes to bring judgment by the breath of his mouth and the staff in his hand.



*Moses returned to the land of Egypt
and Moses took the rod of God in his hand...*

*And I Am says to Moses,
'Behold, I have made you as God to Pharaoh,
and Aaron your brother shall be your prophet...'*

*Moses and Aaron do as I Am had commanded
and he lifts up the rod
and strikes the waters in the river
in the sight of Pharaoh.¹³²*

¹³¹ Revelation 11:3-6

¹³² Exodus 4:20,7:1,20

Day 17:

Wisdom, Mistress of Water

*Darkness was upon the face of the deep
and the Spirit of God fluttered over the face of the waters.
(Genesis 2:1)*

God is sovereign over all creation: over the water, the land, the air, and the fire.

I Am, my God, you are very great...
who make winds your messengers,
and flaming fire your ministers,
who established the earth upon its foundations
that it should not be moved for ever and ever.
You covered it with the deep as with a garment;
the waters stood higher than the mountains.
At your rebuke they fled.¹³³

As the Father is master of creation, so too is the Son.

¹³³ Psalm 104:1,4-7

‘Who, then, is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?’¹³⁴

For the Son

is the image of the invisible God, first-born of all creation, because in him were all things created, those in the heavens and those upon earth, those visible and those invisible, whether thrones, dominions, principalities, or authorities; all things through him and for him have been created, and he himself is before all, and all things in him have consisted.¹³⁵

Like the Father and Son, the Spirit of Wisdom is also sovereign of all creation. For,

Wisdom is more active than all active things and reaches everywhere by reason of her purity.¹³⁶

And,

She reaches therefore from end to end mightily and orders all things well.¹³⁷

Of herself, Wisdom says:

I made that in the heavens there should rise light that never fails
and as a cloud I covered all the earth.

¹³⁴ Mark 4:41

¹³⁵ Colossians 1:15-17

¹³⁶ Wisdom 7:24

¹³⁷ Wisdom 8:1

I dwelt in the highest places
and my throne was in the pillar of cloud.

I alone have compassed the circuit of heaven
and have penetrated into the depth of the abyss
and have walked in the waves of the sea
and have stood in all the earth.

And in every people and in every nation
I am sovereign.¹³⁸

I Am has come to Egypt, to remind them who rules.

“Go to Pharaoh in the morning, lo, he is going out to the water, and you shall stand to meet him by the edge of the river, and the rod which was turned into a serpent you shall take in your hand, and say to him,

‘...I am smiting with the rod which is in my hand, on the waters which are in the river, and they are turned into blood...’

“And say to Aaron,

‘Take your rod, and stretch out your hand against the waters of Egypt, against their streams, against their rivers, and against their ponds, and against all their collections of waters, and they are blood.’”¹³⁹

Moses and Aaron exercise mastery over creation, as an image of the Father and Son, who rule over all.

¹³⁸ Sirach 24:6-10

¹³⁹ Exodus 7:15-17,19

Moses, like the Father, pronounces doom on the wicked; Aaron, like the Son, does what the Father is doing, and they both work their wonders with the Staff in their hand - a sign of the Spirit, who works signs and wonders.



*She entered into the soul of the servant of God
and stood against dreadful kings
in wonders and in signs.¹⁴⁰*

¹⁴⁰ Wisdom 10:16

Day 18:

Wisdom, Mistress of Earth

*I have stood in all the earth,
and in every people and in every nation
I am sovereign.
(Sirach 24:10)*

And I Am says to Moses,
“Say to Aaron,
‘Stretch out your hand, with your rod,
against the streams, against the rivers, and against
the ponds,
and cause the frogs to come up against the land of
Egypt.’”

And Aaron stretches out his hand against the waters
of Egypt, and the frog comes up and covers the land
of Egypt.¹⁴¹

Like the Father who exercises authority over all the
earth by means of the Spirit through Christ the Son, so

¹⁴¹ Exodus 8:5-6

Moses strikes the land by means of a Staff, through Aaron.

Moses and Aaron act together as one, as an image of the Father and Son who work together as one.

‘Whatever the Father does
the Son also does.’¹⁴²

Indeed,

‘The Father and I are one.’¹⁴³

The Father and the Son work together in the Spirit, who belongs to them both. Similarly, Moses and Aaron work together by their staff, which belongs to them both.

For the Son says,

‘All things that the Father has are mine.’¹⁴⁴

And the Spirit of the Father is likewise the Spirit of the Son.

So, similarly, the Staff of Moses is called the Staff of Aaron, for, the one Staff is said to belong to them both.

Now, the Spirit of Wisdom is sovereign over all the earth:

¹⁴² John 5:19

¹⁴³ John 10:30

¹⁴⁴ John 16:15

I have stood in all the earth,
and in every people and in every nation
I am sovereign.¹⁴⁵

Wisdom is sovereign over all lands and peoples. She
comes to remind all, that Egypt is hers.

And I Am says to Moses,
“Say to Aaron,
‘Stretch out your rod,
and smite the dust of the land,
and it will become gnats in all the land of Egypt.’”

And they do so, and Aaron stretches out his hand with
his rod, and smites the dust of the land, and the gnats
are on man and on beast. All the dust of the land has
been gnats, in all the land of Egypt.

And the scribes try likewise, by their lights, to bring out
the gnats, and they have not been able. And the gnats
are on man and on beast, and the scribes say to
Pharaoh,

‘This is the Finger of God.’¹⁴⁶



¹⁴⁵ Sirach 24:10

¹⁴⁶ Exodus 8:16-19

Some said,
“He casts out demons by Beelzebul,
the prince of the demons.”

Others, testing him,
sought from him a sign from heaven.

But he, knowing their thoughts, said to them,
“Every kingdom divided against itself is desolate.
A house divided against itself falls.
If Satan also is divided against himself,
how will his kingdom stand?

“For you say that I cast out demons by Beelzebul.
But if I cast out demons by Beelzebul,
by whom do your children cast them out?
In this, they will be your judges.

“But if I, by the Finger of God, cast out demons,
then the Kingdom of God has come upon you.

“When the strong man, fully armed, guards his own dwelling,
his goods are safe.
But when someone stronger attacks him and overcomes him,
such a one takes from him his whole armor in which he trusted,
and divides the spoils of him.”¹⁴⁷

¹⁴⁷ Luke 11:15-22

Day 19:

Wisdom, Mistress of Fire

*He shall baptize you in the Holy Spirit and fire.
(Matthew 3:11)*

And I Am says to Moses,
‘Stretch forth your hand toward the heavens
and there is hail in all the land of Egypt
on man, and on beast
and on every herb of the field in the land of Egypt.’

And Moses stretches out his rod towards the heavens
and I Am has given voices and hail
and fire goes toward the earth
and I Am rains hail upon the land of Egypt
and there is hail
and fire catching itself in the midst of the hail,
very grievous.¹⁴⁸

See how the Rod is equated with the Hand, for God says, “Stretch forth your hand,” and Moses “stretches out his rod.”

¹⁴⁸ Exodus 9:22-24

Indeed, the rod or the staff is an extension of the hand, as an extension of its power, and an extension of its action.

The Spirit is called the “Finger of God,” and, by extension, is called “the Hand of God” as well. And by further extension, the Spirit is both “Rod and Staff” of God, for the rod and the staff are extensions of the hand.

In this way, Finger, Hand, and Rod are all used as images of the Spirit, who is sent among men, to touch and to hold, to guide and to comfort, to lead and admonish, and to stay by our side.

Now Wisdom has manifested herself in the form of fire at Pentecost, when her arrival was accompanied by tongues of flame which settled upon the apostles. For, she came to guide and direct the Church, the New Israel, as she had guided the children of Israel of old.

At the time of the exodus, she led forth her children in the form of a pillar of cloud and of fire. She walked alongside them, to show them the way.

She led them in a wonderful way
and she was for them a cloud cover by day,
and a starry flame by night.¹⁴⁹

And then, she who “dwelt in the highest heavens, and [whose] throne was in a pillar of cloud” came to accompany likewise the Church, the New Israel, in a

¹⁴⁹ Wisdom 10:17

whirlwind of fire, just as she had accompanied the Israel of old.

And during the arrival of the day of Pentecost,
they were all together at the same place
and there came suddenly out of heaven
a sound as of a violent wind, rushing,
and it filled the whole house where they were sitting,
and there appeared to them divided tongues
as it were of fire
which rested upon each one of them,
and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit.¹⁵⁰

The Spirit is our fiery guide, leading us to heaven. The Spirit is a fiery presence, engulfing the throne of the Father, in fire, as the prophet Daniel saw:

I beheld till thrones were placed
and one who was Ancient of Days did sit.
His raiment was as white snow
and the hair of his head, like pure wool.
His throne was fiery flames,
and the wheels thereof, burning fire.¹⁵¹

St. John witnessed likewise this fire of the Spirit surrounding God's throne:

From the throne proceed lightnings, and thunders,
and voices
and seven lamps of fire are burning before the throne,

¹⁵⁰ Acts 2:1-4

¹⁵¹ Daniel 7:9

which are the sevenfold Spirit of God.¹⁵²

Wisdom is this Spirit of Fire who dwells by the throne of God, and who guides us thither.

Send her forth from the holy heavens,
and from the throne of your glory send her,
that she may labor at my side,
that I may learn what is pleasing to you.
For she knows and understands all things,
and she will guide me wisely in my actions
and guard me with her glory.¹⁵³



*And as they went on, walking and talking together,
lo, a chariot of fire, and horses of fire
parted them both asunder,
and Elijah goes up to the heavens in a whirlwind.¹⁵⁴*

¹⁵² Revelation 4:5

¹⁵³ Wisdom 9:9-11

¹⁵⁴ 2 Kings 2:11

Day 20:

Wisdom, Mistress of Air

*Suddenly there came a sound from heaven
as of a mighty wind rushing
and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.
(Acts 2:2)*

And Moses stretches out his rod against the land of Egypt, and I Am brings an east wind over the land all that day and all the night. In the morning, the east wind lifts up the locust, and the locust goes up against all the land of Egypt, and rests within all the border of Egypt, very grievous.¹⁵⁵

Wisdom rules the air, and makes the wind blow,
bringing death or new life:

And Pharaoh hastens to call for Moses and for Aaron,
and says,

‘I have sinned against I Am, your God, and against you, and now forgive my sin, I pray you, only this time, and make ye supplication to I Am, your God, to turn aside from me this death.’

¹⁵⁵ Exodus 10:13-14

And he goes out from Pharaoh, and makes supplication to I Am, and I Am turns a very strong sea wind and it lifts up the locust and blows it into the Red Sea; there has not been left one locust in all the border of Egypt.¹⁵⁶

The sin of Pharaoh is forgiven, and the punishment of death is blown away by the wind.

He breathed on them, and said to them,
‘Receive the Holy Spirit;
whose sins you shall forgive
they are forgiven them,
and whose sins you shall retain
they are retained.’¹⁵⁷

The same breath of the Spirit can set free or hold bound.

And I Am strengthened the heart of Pharaoh,
and he did not let the children of Israel go.¹⁵⁸

The Spirit is a two edged sword, proceeding from the mouth of the Lord: setting free or holding bound, bringing death or bringing life.

As Wisdom says,

Whoever finds me, has found life
and enjoys favor from I Am.

¹⁵⁶ Exodus 10:16-19

¹⁵⁷ John 20:23

¹⁵⁸ Exodus 10:20

But whoever sins against me
hurts his own soul.
All hating me, have loved death.¹⁵⁹

The Spirit forgives and holds bound. The Spirit blows
the locusts of death upon Egypt, and then blows them
away.

The wind blows where she will;
you hear her voice
but know not from whence she comes
or whither she goes.
The same for everyone who is born of the Spirit.¹⁶⁰

The Spirit is a will o' the wisp, a life-giving breath, a
sigh: as gentle as the dawn, as serene as the moon, as
terrible as an army set in battle array.

Who is she who comes forth as the morning, rising,
fair as the moon, clear as the sun,
terrible as an army flying banners of war?¹⁶¹

The Spirit is peaceable and battle-ready, as our Lord
said,

'Repent! Otherwise, I come to you quickly,
and will fight against them with the sword of my
mouth.'¹⁶²

¹⁵⁹ Proverbs 8:35-36

¹⁶⁰ John 3:8

¹⁶¹ Song of Songs 6:10

¹⁶² Revelation 2:16

And, in another place,

He will slay him with the Breath of his mouth.¹⁶³

The Spirit is the breath of God, bringing life or bringing death, setting free or holding bound; the Spirit is a two edged sword, proceeding from the mouth of the Lord.

And from his mouth proceeds a sharp two edged sword that with it he may strike the nations, and he shall rule them with a rod.¹⁶⁴



*I came forth from the mouth of the Most High.*¹⁶⁵

¹⁶³ Cf. 2 Thessalonians 2:8

¹⁶⁴ Revelation 19:15

¹⁶⁵ Sirach 24:3

Day 21:
Wisdom, Two Edged
Sword

*The good and the bad,
life and death,
poverty and riches:
all are from I Am.
(Sirach 11:14)*

The Father, the Son, and the Spirit of Wisdom are sovereign over all creation. Their mastery is absolute, and inscrutable to man. Their rule is neither random nor capricious; it is beyond all reproach.

I Am answers Job, from out of the whirlwind, and says,

‘Who is this who darkens my counsel by words without knowledge? Gird, I pray thee, as a man, thy loins, and I will ask you, and you cause me to know.

‘Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell me if you know.

Who placed its measures, if you know?
Or who stretched out a line upon it?
On what have its sockets been sunk?
Or who has cast its cornerstone
with the stars of morning all singing together
and all the sons of God shouting for joy,
as He shuts up the sea with doors
at its coming forth
at its breaking forth from the womb,
at my making a cloud its clothing
and thick darkness its swaddling band?
And I measure over it my statute
and place bar and doors,
and say,
To here you will come, and no further,
and here you will break your swelling waves.

‘In any of your days, did you command the morning
and show the dawning of the day its place?

‘Did you take hold of the skirts of the earth,
and shake the wicked out of it?
It turns itself like clay on a seal,
and they stand clothed,
and withheld from the wicked is their light,
and the arm lifted up is broken.

‘Have you entered into the depths of the sea
and walked in the deepest parts of the abyss?
Have the gates of death been opened to you
and have you seen the darksome doors?

‘You have understanding, even of the vast places of earth! Speak if you know everything.

‘Where is the way where light dwells?
And darkness, where is its boundary,
that you might bring everything to its own place
and understand the paths of the house thereof.

‘Did you know when you would be born,
and how many are the number of your days?

‘Have you come in, to the treasure of snow?
Do the treasures of hail see you,
which I have kept back for a time of distress,
for a day of conflict and battle?’¹⁶⁶

Ours is not to question why. We look to the Father and Son, as servants look to their Masters. We look to the Spirit, as a handmaid looks to her Mistress. As the Psalm says:

Like the eyes of slaves on the hand of their masters,
like the eyes of a maid on the hand of her mistress,
so our eyes are on I Am.¹⁶⁷

St. Jerome comments on this Psalm:

...and in the text, ‘as the eyes of a maid look to the hand of her mistress,’ the maid is the soul, and the mistress is the Holy Spirit.¹⁶⁸

¹⁶⁶ Job 3:1-23

¹⁶⁷ Psalm 123:2

¹⁶⁸ St. Jerome, Commentary on Isaiah 11, 40, 9

The Father and Son are the masters of creation, and the Spirit is its mistress, whom all things obey. They rule all together, without contradiction, in perfect agreement, all things, in due season.



*To everything, a season
and a time to every desire under the heavens:
A time to bring forth, and a time to die.
A time to plant, and a time to eradicate the planted.*

*A time to slay, and a time to heal,
a time to tear down, and a time to build up.
A time to weep, and a time to laugh.
A time to mourn, and a time to dance.*

*A time to cast away stones, and a time to heap up stones.
A time to embrace, and a time to be far from embracing.
A time to seek, and a time to destroy.
A time to keep, and a time to cast away.*

*A time to rend, and a time to sew.
A time to be silent, and a time to speak.
A time to love, and a time to hate.
A time of war, and a time of peace.¹⁶⁹*

¹⁶⁹ Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

Day 22:

Wisdom, Slayer of Antichrist

*Then the lawless one will be revealed,
whom the Lord Jesus will slay with the Breath of His mouth.
(2 Thessalonians 2:8)*

Wisdom cannot abide false gods and goddesses.
Those who would stand in the place of the Most High,
and give themselves out like some brazen impostor, are
cut down to size by the Breath of I Am.

You heard that the antichrist is coming, and indeed
many antichrists have arisen... This is antichrist -
whoever denies the Father and the Son.¹⁷⁰

And again,

He exalts himself above all that is called God, or that
is worshipped, so that he sits in the temple of God,
showing himself off as though he were God.¹⁷¹

¹⁷⁰ 1 John 2:18,22

¹⁷¹ 2 Thessalonians 2:4

Now Pharaoh was worshipped as god by his people, and Pharaoh refused to acknowledge I Am:

Pharaoh said,
‘Who is I Am,
whose voice I should listen to and let Israel go?
I know not I Am.’¹⁷²

In this he continued the sin of his forefathers, who, throughout generations, had made slaves of Israel.

The Egyptians made the children of Israel serve as slaves, and made their lives bitter with hard service, in mortar and in brick and in all manner of service in the field, and in all their service, wherein they made them serve with rigor.¹⁷³

And they killed, in particular, the sons of the Hebrews.

And the king of Egypt spoke to the Hebrew midwives...
‘If it be a son, you shall kill him.’¹⁷⁴

And the children of Wisdom were forced to bow down to a host of rude beasts who were false gods and goddesses; they were made to give worship to idols of gold, and they learned to adore the snake, buzzard, and calf.

¹⁷² Exodus 5:2

¹⁷³ Exodus 1:13

¹⁷⁴ Exodus 1:15-16

He makes the earth, and those who dwell in it, to worship the beast...saying to those who dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast...and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed.¹⁷⁵

For over two centuries, Israel sojourned in Egypt, and slowly abandoned the true God for beasts.

And the herald proclaimed loudly,
'To you it is commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages, that at what time ye hear the sound of the horn, pipe, harp, trigon, psaltery, bagpipe, and all kinds of music, ye fall down and worship the golden image...and whoso falls not down and worships shall the same hour be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.'

Therefore at that time, when all the peoples heard the sound of the horn, pipe, harp, trigon, psaltery, and all kinds of music, all the peoples, the nations, and the languages, fell down and worshipped the golden image.¹⁷⁶

Wisdom cannot abide false gods and goddesses. She is jealous, she feels scorned, and she will fight for the heart of her people.

And so holy Wisdom, who dwells by the throne of God, leapt from the heavens to make good God's word, indeed,

¹⁷⁵ Revelation 13:12,14-15

¹⁷⁶ Daniel 3:4-7

leaped from heaven, from the royal throne,
into the midst of the land that was doomed,
a stern warrior, bearing the sharp sword of your
authentic command,
and stood on the earth, stretching up to the heavens,
and filled all things with death.¹⁷⁷

Wisdom - slayer of beasts.

And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet
who did the signs before him, in which he led astray
those who had received the mark of the beast and those
who bowed down before his image; living they were cast
- the two - into the lake of fire that is burning with
brimstone, and the rest were killed, by the sword which
proceeds from the mouth of the One.¹⁷⁸



*Elymas the sorcerer withstood them, seeking to turn aside the
proconsul from the faith. But Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit,
fastened his eyes on him, and said, 'You son of the devil...
Now behold, the Hand of the Lord is on you, and you will be
blind, not seeing the sun for a season!' Immediately a mist
and darkness fell on him. He went around seeking someone to
lead him by the hand.*¹⁷⁹

¹⁷⁷ Wisdom 18:14-16

¹⁷⁸ Revelation 19:20-21

¹⁷⁹ Acts 13:8-11

Day 23:

Wisdom, Virgin Most Powerful

*For she is a spirit...undefiled...having all power.
(Wisdom 7:22-23)*

I Am uses the weak to humble the strong.

God chose the foolish things of the world
that the wise he might put to shame,
and the weak things of the world, God chose,
that he might put to shame the strong.¹⁸⁰

In battle, I Am chooses weakness, to bring forth the
victory.

I Am said to Gideon,
“You have too many men. I cannot deliver Midian
into their hands, or Israel would boast against me,
‘My own strength has saved me.’ Now announce to
the army, ‘Anyone who trembles with fear may turn
back and leave Mount Gilead.’ ”

¹⁸⁰ 1 Corinthians 1:27

So twenty-two thousand men left, while ten thousand remained.

But I Am said to Gideon, “There are still too many men...”¹⁸¹

Indeed, it often pleases I Am to win the victory by the hand of a single woman.

As I Am told the serpent:

‘I will put enmity between you and the woman...
She shall crush your head.’¹⁸²

And thenceforth the prophecy echoes in every age, bringing forth heroines slight and victorious. They stand as a preview, a prefiguration - a promise of what, one day, Wisdom would do.

The woman crushes the head of the serpent, again and again, in Scripture, like Yael who slew Sisera, the Canaanite general:

Yael takes a tent-pin, and takes a hammer in her hand, and goes softly unto him, and strikes the pin into his temples, and it pierces through into the ground, for he was in a deep sleep, so he fainted and died.¹⁸³

And, in another place, a wise woman saves the city by beheading an evil doer:

¹⁸¹ Judges 7:2-4

¹⁸² Genesis 3:15

¹⁸³ Judges 4:21

Then cried a wise woman out of the city, ‘...We are the peaceful and faithful in Israel; why do you seek to destroy a city and a mother in Israel? Why will you devour the inheritance of I Am?’

And Joab answers and says, ‘Far be it from me, that I should devour or destroy. But there is a man of the hill-country of Ephraim, Sheba the son of Bichri by name, who has lifted up his hand against the king, even against David. Deliver him only, and I will depart from the city.’

And the woman said to Joab, ‘Behold, his head shall be thrown to you over the wall.’¹⁸⁴

And so it was.

And still in our time, God chose St. Joan of Arc to deliver her country, and crown its new head.

‘I answered the voice, that I was a poor girl who knew nothing of riding and warfare.’

And yet, with the wind of the Spirit behind her, she bravely commanded an army to victory.

‘Courage! Do not fall back! In a little, the place will be yours. Watch! When the wind blows my banner against the bulwark, you shall take it.’

¹⁸⁴ 2 Samuel 20:16,19-21

All of these women reveal holy Wisdom: the breath of the Most High, who executes justice - the zephyr, the soft breeze, the unlikely warrior, the Breath who can burn like a torrent of fire.

By the Breath of God they perish,
and by the spirit of his wrath they are consumed.¹⁸⁵

And,

I will gather you,
and blow on you with the fire of my wrath,
and you shall be melted.¹⁸⁶

Indeed,

The Breath of I Am,
like a torrent of brimstone,
sets it ablaze.¹⁸⁷



*This will be a glorious monument for thy name,
when he shall fall by the hand of a woman.
For thy power, I Am, is not in a troop,
nor is thy pleasure in the strength of horses.¹⁸⁸*

¹⁸⁵ Job 4:9

¹⁸⁶ Ezekiel 22:21

¹⁸⁷ Isaiah 30:32-33

¹⁸⁸ Judith 9:15-16

Day 24:

Wisdom, Model of Judith

*The God of Israel
who avenges himself upon his enemies
has cut off the head of all the unbelievers this night
by my hand.
(Judith 13:27)*

Judith is an image of Wisdom. By her hand, I Am executes justice. By her hand, the head of the one who would sit in the place of God is cast down.

King Nebuchadnezzar had commanded Holofernes to destroy all the gods of the earth, that only he might be called God by those nations which could be brought under him by the power of Holofernes.¹⁸⁹

Like all antichrists, Holofernes and his king deny the Most High. Like all antichrists, their head will be humbled by the blow of a woman.

Now Holofernes, the serpent, encircled the city, and cut off their water, like a strangling constrictor. Like the

¹⁸⁹ Judith 3:13

devil who blocks man from drinking the Spirit,
Holofernes prevented the drinking of water.

As St. Paul says,

We have all been given to drink of one Spirit.¹⁹⁰

But Holofernes, as an image of the evil one, sought to
cut man off from the water of life.

Now Holofernes found that the fountains which
supplied them with water ran through an aqueduct
outside the city on the south side, and he commanded
their aqueduct to be cut off.

Nevertheless there were springs not far from the
walls, out of which they were seen to secretly draw
water, to refresh themselves a little, though not to
drink their fill...

So Holofernes stationed about a hundred men at each
spring.

And when they had kept this watch for full twenty
days, the cisterns and the reserve of waters failed
among all the inhabitants of Bethulia, so that there
was not within the city enough to satisfy them, no,
not for one day, for water was daily given out to the
people by measure.¹⁹¹

¹⁹⁰ 1 Corinthians 12:13

¹⁹¹ Judith 7:6-7, 10-11

How generous is the Father who gives us the Spirit, the water of life, without measure.

God does not give the Spirit by measure.¹⁹²

And how eager is Wisdom that we should drink of her.

She will give him the water of wholesome wisdom to drink
and she shall be made strong in him
and he shall not be moved.¹⁹³

And in another place,

Come over to me, all ye that desire me
and be filled with my fruits.
For the memory of me is sweeter than honey
and the possession of me, sweeter than the
honeycomb.
Those who eat of me will hunger for more,
and those who drink of me will thirst for more.¹⁹⁴

And in the heavenly city:

He who is thirsty, let him come.
He who desires, let him take the water of life freely.¹⁹⁵

Our Lord testified that the Spirit flows within the faithful.

¹⁹² John 3:34

¹⁹³ Sirah 15:3

¹⁹⁴ Sirach 24:26-29

¹⁹⁵ Revelation 22:17

‘Out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.’

This he said of the Spirit.¹⁹⁶

Now, the people of Bethulia despaired, and said,

‘There is no one to help us while we are cast down
before their eyes in thirst and sad destruction. And
now assemble all who are in the city, that we may of
our own accord yield ourselves up to the forces of
Holofernes.’¹⁹⁷

But Wisdom would deliver them, by Judith, her image.



*I, Wisdom, gush rivers.*¹⁹⁸

¹⁹⁶ John 7:38-39

¹⁹⁷ Judith 7:14-15

¹⁹⁸ Sirach 24:40

Day 25:

Wisdom, Wellspring of Life

*The water that I will give him
shall become in him a fountain of water
springing up unto life everlasting.
(John 4:14)*

It came to pass that Judith heard these words... She had set up a tent for herself on the roof of her house where she abode with her maidens. And she wore sackcloth upon her loins, and fasted all the days of her life, except for the sabbaths and new moons and the feasts of the house of Israel. And she was exceedingly beautiful... She was greatly renowned among all, because she feared I Am very much, nor was there anyone who spoke an ill word of her.¹⁹⁹

Judith had heard of the people's despair, and she counseled them wisely to hope in I Am:

¹⁹⁹ Judith 8:1,5-8

‘What is this word by which Ozias has consented to give up the city to the Assyrians, if within five days there come no aid to us? Who are you to tempt I Am?

‘This is not a word that would draw down mercy, but rather stirs up wrath, and enkindles indignation. You have set a time for the mercy of I Am, and you have appointed a day, according to your pleasure.

‘But whereas I Am is patient, let us be penitent for this same thing, and with many tears let us beg pardon. For God will not threaten like man, nor be inflamed to anger like a son of Adam.

‘Therefore let us humble our souls, and continue to serve in a humble spirit. Let us ask I Am, with tears, to show us mercy, so that as our heart is distressed by their pride, we may glory in our humility.’²⁰⁰

As an image of Wisdom, Judith hears the cry of her people, and inspires them to persevere in humility and in hope. She reminds them that God does not mean to destroy them, but only chastises them by way of admonishment.

‘Esteeming these very punishments to be less than our sins deserve, let us believe that these scourges of I Am, with which we are chastised, like servants, have happened for our amendment, and not for our destruction.’²⁰¹

²⁰⁰ Judith 8:10-17

²⁰¹ Judith 8:27

And whereas the people accepted her words, and humbly amended, she makes plans to save them from the pride of their enemies.

And the people said,

‘All things which you have spoken are true, and there is nothing to be reprehended in your words. Now therefore pray for us, for you are a holy woman, and one fearing God.’

And Judith said to them, ‘You know that what I have been able to say is from God, and now - what I intend to do - see if it be from God, and pray that God may strengthen my design:

‘You shall stand at the gate this night, and I will go out with my maidservant, and pray ye, that in five days, as you have said, I Am may look down upon his people Israel. But I desire that you do not search into what I am doing, and until I bring you word, let nothing else be done but to pray for me to I Am, our God.’

And Ozias the prince of Judah said to her, ‘Go in peace, and may I Am be with you to take revenge upon our enemies.’²⁰²

Like Wisdom, Judith brings the word of God to the people. Like Wisdom, the ways of Judith are inscrutable, and not to be questioned. Like Wisdom, Judith is the woman by whom I Am will win victory.

²⁰² Judith 8:28-34



*'Look upon the camp of the Assyrians now,
as you looked upon the camp of the Egyptians
when they pursued, armed, after your servants
trusting in their chariots and in their horsemen
and in a multitude of warriors...*

*'Bring it to pass, I Am,
that his pride may be cut off with his own sword.
Let him be caught in the net of his own eyes in my regard
and do thou smite him by the grace of the words of my lips.
Give me constancy in my mind that I may despise him
and fortitude that I may overthrow him.*

*'For this will be a glorious monument to your name
when he shall fall by the hand of a woman.'²⁰³*

²⁰³ Judith 9:6,12-15

Day 26:

Wisdom, Spirit of Justice

*I Am shall wash away the filth
of the sons and daughters of Sion
and shall purge the blood of Jerusalem from its midst
by the Spirit of justice
and by the Spirit of fire.
(Isaiah 4:4)*

Judith likens her present plight to the plight of the children of Israel when they left Egypt.

‘Look upon the camp of the Assyrians now,
as you looked upon the camp of the Egyptians
when they pursued, armed, after your servants
trusting in their chariots and in their horsemen
and in a multitude of warriors.’²⁰⁴

In both cases, the children of Israel were sorely oppressed by those who deny the Most High, and who intended to replace Him.

In both cases, I Am struck with vengeance: presently, by the hand of Judith; in Egypt, by Wisdom herself.

²⁰⁴ Judith 9:6

So many are the parallels between Judith and Wisdom:

Judith and Wisdom, both dwelling in tents - for
Wisdom indeed dwelt in the tent of the covenant, in
the form of cloud and of fire:

On the day the tabernacle, the tent of the covenant
law, was set up, the Cloud covered it. And during the
evening there was, over the tent, as it were, the
appearance of Fire, until morning.²⁰⁵

Judith and Wisdom, both known for their beauty:

For she is more beautiful than the sun
and above all the order of stars.
Being compared with light,
she is found before it.²⁰⁶

Judith and Wisdom, by whom God executes justice:

She brought them through the Red Sea
and bore them across a great water.
But their enemies she drowned in the sea,
and from the depth of the abyss she dredged them up.²⁰⁷

Judith and Wisdom speak the words they are given:

The Spirit will teach you all truth:
not speaking of its own accord,

²⁰⁵ Numbers 9:15

²⁰⁶ Wisdom 7:29

²⁰⁷ Wisdom 10:18-19

but whatsoever things it shall hear, it shall speak.²⁰⁸

And in the prayer of Judith, we can hear the voice of Wisdom.

‘Remember, O Lord, thy covenant
and put thou words in my mouth
and strengthen the resolution in my heart
that thy house may continue in thy holiness
and all nations may acknowledge that thou art God
and there is no other besides thee.’²⁰⁹

Judith and Wisdom, intercede for the people:

The Spirit intercedes for us with inexpressible
groans... The Spirit intercedes for the saints.²¹⁰

Let us watch Judith, this image of Wisdom, and see in her person a glimpse of the Spirit.

It came to pass, when she had finished crying to the Lord, that she rose from the place wherein she lay prostrate before the Lord. And she called her maid, and going down into her house she took off her haircloth, and put away the garments of her mourning, and she washed her body, and anointed herself with the best ointment, and plaited the hair of her head, and put a bonnet upon her head, and clothed herself with the garments of her gladness, and put sandals on her feet, and took her bracelets, and

²⁰⁸ John 16:13

²⁰⁹ Judith 9:18-19

²¹⁰ Romans 8:26-27

lilies, and earlets, and rings, and adorned herself with all her ornaments.

And the Lord gave her also more beauty lent from virtue, because all this dressing up did not proceed from sensuality, and therefore the Lord increased this her beauty, so that she appeared to all men's eyes incomparably lovely.

And she gave to her maid a bottle of wine to carry, and a vessel of oil, and parched corn, and dry figs, and bread and cheese, and went out.

And when they came to the gate of the city, they found Ozias and the ancients of the city, waiting. And when they saw her, they were astonished and admired her beauty exceedingly.

But they asked her no question, only they let her pass, saying, 'The God of our fathers give thee grace, and may he strengthen all the counsel of thy heart with his power, that Jerusalem may glory in thee, and thy name may be in the number of the holy and just.'

And they that were there said, all with one voice, 'Amen, amen.'²¹¹

I Am is marching into battle: an army of one, in sandals and bracelets.

²¹¹ Judith 10:1-9

Day 27:

Wisdom, Friend

*In kinship with Wisdom there is immortality,
and in friendship with her, pure delight.
(Wisdom 8:17-18)*

Judith praying to the Lord, passed through the gates,
she and her maid.²¹²

Judith sets out on her mission accompanied by her
maid. Wisdom likewise, is surrounded by her maiden
companions.

Wisdom has killed her beasts;
she has mixed her wine in a vessel
and prepared her table.
She has sent forth her maidservants.²¹³

And Solomon noted her company of damsels:

You who dwell in the gardens
the companions listen to your voice.

²¹² Judith 10:10

²¹³ Proverbs 9:2-3

Let me hear it too.²¹⁴

And our Lord spoke of her friends:

Who is the woman who has ten coins and will lose one of them, and does not light a lamp and sweep the house and search for it carefully until she finds it? And when she finds it, she calls together her friends.²¹⁵

The woman is Wisdom, and her friends are the angels. They are her servants, her maiden companions, who listen for her voice and are swift to obey. She sends them out looking, to find a lost soul, and with them she rejoices when one lost is found. They likewise accompany her into the battle, when Wisdom the Spirit must bring down the haughty.

And it came to pass, when she went down the hill, about the break of day, that the watchmen of the Assyrians met her and stopped her, saying, 'Where have you come from, and where are you going?'²¹⁶

Indeed Wisdom too is stopped by watchmen on her mission to find the one she has lost.

The watchman that go their rounds found me.²¹⁷

Judith speaks to them, as shrewdly as a serpent.

²¹⁴ Song of Songs 8:13

²¹⁵ Luke 15:8-9

²¹⁶ Judith 10:11

²¹⁷ Song of Songs 5:7

‘I am a daughter of the Hebrews, and I am fled from them, because I knew they would be made a prey to you, because they despised you, and would not of their own accord yield themselves up, that they might find mercy in your sight.

‘For this reason I thought to myself, saying: I will go to the presence of the prince Holofernes, that I may tell him their secrets, and show him by what way he may take them, without the loss of one man of his army.’

And when the men had heard her words, they beheld her face, and their eyes were amazed, for they wondered exceedingly at her beauty.

And they said to her, ‘You have saved your life by taking this resolution, to come to our lord. And be assured of this, that when you shall stand before him, he will treat you well, and you will be most acceptable to his heart.’

And they brought her to the tent of Holofernes, telling him of her. And when she was come into his presence, forthwith Holofernes was caught by his eyes.²¹⁸

Now, the Tree of Life and the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil were also images of Wisdom, for she is the giver of life, and bestower of the gift of knowledge. And these trees would likewise hold captive the eyes of the one who beheld them.

²¹⁸ Judith 10:12-17

And the woman saw that the tree was good for food
and that it was pleasant to the eyes to look upon
and beautiful to contemplate,
and having taken of its fruit, she ate.²¹⁹

Wisdom and her many images, like Judith, and the
Trees of Eden: they capture the eyes, but be wary
approaching them.

There is a time to eat fruit, and a time not to eat,
and woe to whomever would touch fruit forbidden.



²¹⁹ Genesis 3:6

Day 28:

Wisdom, Desired

*I loved her and sought her from my youth.
I desired to take her for my bride
and became enamored of her beauty.
(Wisdom 8:2)*

Judith stands before Holofernes like a forbidden fruit.

Now, it was the intention of Holofernes to violate the sanctuary, rape the city, and disgrace the woman. As Judith knew when she prayed:

‘...they promise themselves to violate thy sanctuary, and defile the dwelling place of thy name, and to beat down with their sword the horn of thy altar.’²²⁰

Indeed, the spirit of antichrist seeks to besmirk not only every image of Wisdom, but Wisdom herself, if that were possible. To begin with, they call her unclean.

‘Whoever blasphemes the Holy Spirit shall never be forgiven, but is guilty of an eternal sin.’

²²⁰ Judith 9:11

He made this statement because they had said, 'He has an unclean Spirit.'²²¹

And they seek to buy her for money, as though she were a harlot.

There was a certain man, Simon by name, who used to practice sorcery in the city... When he saw that the Holy Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money, saying, 'Give me also this power, that whoever I lay my hands on may receive the Holy Spirit.'

But Peter said to him, 'May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the Gift of God with money! You have neither part nor lot in this matter, for your heart is not right before God. Repent therefore of this your wickedness, and ask God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you. For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and in the bondage of iniquity.'²²²

On the contrary, scripture says of Wisdom:

She is more precious than rubies,
and all things that are desired
are not to be compared with her.²²³

And,

²²¹ Mark 3:29-30

²²² Acts 8:9,18-23

²²³ Proverbs 8:11

Wisdom cannot be bought with the finest gold,
nor can her price be weighed out in silver.
She cannot be bought with the gold of Ophir,
with precious onyx or lapis lazuli.
Neither gold nor crystal can compare with her,
nor can she be had for jewels of gold.
Corals and jasper are no more remembered;
the price of Wisdom is beyond rubies.
The topaz of Cush cannot compare with her;
she cannot be bought with pure gold.²²⁴

And Wisdom explains herself in the Song of Songs,

‘If a man would offer all his wealth for love
he would be utterly scorned.’²²⁵

How then, would Wisdom be approached?

Behold how Wisdom introduces the one whom she
loves, to her companions, the daughters of Jerusalem.
See how she describes, him, and with what expressions
she names him. Blessed is he who has approached her
thus, and whom she describes in this way - not the one
who bought her, nor the one who assailed her, but:

‘This is my beloved -
this is *my friend*,
O daughters of Jerusalem.’²²⁶

²²⁴ Job 28:15-19

²²⁵ Song of Songs 8:7

²²⁶ Song of Songs 5:16



Do not grieve the Spirit.²²⁷

²²⁷ Ephesians 4:30

Day 29:

Wisdom, Faithful

*You shall know that I Am, your God, is God,
a faithful God,
who keeps covenant and mercy
for those who love and keep the commandments.
(Deuteronomy 7:9)*

Judith serves the true God, even in the face of
Holofernes.

‘I, your handmaid, worship God even now that I am
with you, and your handmaid will go out, and I will
pray to God.’²²⁸

Holofernes invites her to dine with him, but she
remains faithful to the dietary rules of the Law.

He commanded them to bring her in where his silver
dinnerware was kept, and ordered them to set a table
for her with some of his own delicacies, and with
some of his own wine to drink.

²²⁸ Judith 11:14

But Judith said, 'I cannot partake of them, or it will be an offense; but I will have enough with the things I have brought with me.'²²⁹

And when Holofernes asks Judith what she will do when her supplies have run out, she replies prophetically:

'As surely as you live, my lord, your servant will not use up the supplies I have with me before the Lord carries out by my hand what he has determined.'²³⁰

And so,

She desired that she might have liberty to go out at night and before day, to prayer, and to beseech the Lord. And Holofernes commanded his chamberlains that she might go out and in, to adore her God as she pleased, for three days.

And she went out in the nights into the valley of Bethulia, and bathed herself in a fountain of water. And as she came up, she prayed to the Lord, the God of Israel, that he would direct her way to the deliverance of his people.

And going in, she remained pure in the tent, until she took her own meat in the evening.²³¹

²²⁹ Judith 12:1-2

²³⁰ Judith 12:4

²³¹ Judith 12:5-9

See with what fidelity Judith observes the Law of I Am;
see how closely united she is with Wisdom, for Wisdom
herself is identified with the Law:

Wisdom shall praise her own self
and shall be honored in God
and shall glory in the midst of her people...
‘Whoever obeys me will not be put to shame
and those who work with me will not sin.’
All these things are the book of life,
the covenant of the Most High God,
the Law that Moses commanded us
as an inheritance for the congregations of Jacob.²³²

Judith is immersed in the Spirit just as she is immersed
in the fountain of water, a symbol of the Spirit.

She remains faithful to the Law, even to the end.

And it came to pass on the fourth day, that
Holofernes made a supper for his servants, and said to
Vagao his eunuch, ‘Go, and persuade that Hebrew
woman to consent of her own accord to dwell with
me,’ for it is looked upon as shameful among the
Assyrians, if a woman should mock a man, by doing
so as to pass free from him.

Then Vagao went in to Judith and said, ‘Let not my
good maid be afraid to go in to my lord, that she may
be honored before his face, that she may eat with him
and drink wine and be merry, and be made this day as

²³² Sirach 24:1,23

one of the daughters of the Assyrians, which serve in the house of Nebuchadnezzar.'

And Judith answered him, 'Who am I, that I should refuse my lord? All that shall be good and best before his eyes, I will do. And whatsoever shall please him, that shall be a joy to me all the days of my life.'

And she arose and dressed herself up with her garments, and her maid went and laid soft lambskins on the ground for her over against Holofernes, which she had received from Vagao for her daily use, that she might sit and eat upon them.

Now when Judith came in and reclined, Holofernes' heart was ravished with her and his mind was moved, and he greatly desired her company, for he had been waiting for an opportunity to seduce her from the day he had seen her.

And Holofernes said to her, 'Drink now, and sit down and be merry, for you have found favor before me.'

And Judith said, 'I will drink, my lord, because my life is magnified this day above all my days.'

And she took and ate and drank before him what her maid had prepared for her.²³³

²³³ Judith 12:10-19



*When I go into my house, I shall repose myself with her,
for her conversation has no bitterness
nor her company any tediousness,
but joy and gladness.²³⁴*

²³⁴ Wisdom 8:16

Day 30:

Wisdom, Who Strikes the Head

*I Am, God, said to the serpent,
‘...I will put enmity between you and the woman.
...She shall strike your head.’
(Genesis 3:14-15)*

And so,

Holofernes was greatly pleased with her, and drank more wine than he had drunk at any time in one day since he was born.

Now when the evening was come, his servants made haste to depart, and Vagao closed the tent outside, and dismissed the waiters from the presence of his lord, and they went to their beds, for they were all weary, because the feast had been long. And Judith was left alone in the tent, and Holofernes lying alone upon his bed, for he was filled with wine.

Now Judith had commanded her maid to stand outside her bedchamber and to wait for her coming

forth, as she did daily, for she said she would go forth to her prayers, and she said likewise to Vagao.

So all went forth and none were left in the bedchamber, neither little nor great. Then Judith, standing by his bed, said in her heart, 'O Lord God of all power, look now upon the works of my hands for the exaltation of Jerusalem. For now is the time to help thy inheritance, and to execute thy enterprises to the destruction of the enemies which are risen against us.'

Then she came to the pillar of the bed, which was at Holofernes' head, and took down his scimitar from thence, and drew near to his bed, and took hold of the hair of his head, and said, 'Strengthen me, O Lord God of Israel, this day.'

And she smote twice upon his neck with all her might, and she took away his head from him.

She rolled his body down from the bed, and pulled down the canopy from the pillars, and then went forth, and she gave Holofernes' head to her maid, who put it in her bag of meat.

So the two of them went together, according to their custom, to prayer, and when they passed the camp, they compassed the valley, and went up the mountain of Bethulia, and came to the gates thereof.

Then said Judith afar off, to the watchmen at the gate, 'Open, open now the gate. God, even our God, is

with us, to show his power yet in Jerusalem, and his forces against the enemy, as he has done even this day.'

Now when the men of her city heard her voice, they made haste to go down to the gate of their city, and they called the elders of the city. And then they ran all together, both small and great, for it was strange unto them that she was come, so they opened the gate and received them, and made a fire for light, and stood round about them.

Then she said to them with a loud voice, 'Praise, praise God, praise God, I say, for he has not taken away his mercy from the house of Israel, but has destroyed our enemies by my hands this night.'²³⁵



*'That night, I will pass through the land of Egypt
and strike down every firstborn male
both man and beast
and I will execute judgment against all the gods of Egypt.'*²³⁶

²³⁵ Judith 12:20, 13:1-14

²³⁶ Exodus 12:12

Day 31:

Wisdom, Inviolable

*In her is a spirit...undefiled.
(Wisdom 7:22)*

So she took the head out of the bag, and showed it, and said to them, 'Behold the head of Holofernes, the chief captain of the army of Assyria, and behold the canopy wherein he did lie in his drunkenness. The Lord has smitten him by the hand of a woman.'²³⁷

It pleases God to humble the haughty by reducing them to nothing at the hand of the delicate: the hand of a woman, a child, a soft breath of air.

He blows on them, and they wither away.²³⁸

I Am strikes vengeance by the Spirit, the unlikely warrior.

Now, Revelation records how the antichrist too will be struck in the head.

²³⁷ Judith 13:15

²³⁸ Isaiah 40:24

I saw one of its heads as slain to death
and its deadly stroke was healed
and all the earth did wonder after the beast,
and they did bow before the dragon
who gave authority to the beast,
and they bowed before the beast, saying,
‘Who is like to the beast? who is able to make war with
it?’²³⁹

The Spirit of Wisdom, the Breath of the Lord, will slay
it.

The lawless one will be revealed
whom the Lord will slay
with the Breath of his mouth.²⁴⁰

And so resolves the ancient enmity between the
Serpent and the Woman, with the Woman victorious
and the Serpent defeated. For the Serpent was foiled in
assailing the woman, as Judith likewise revealed:

‘My countenance seduced him to his destruction,
and yet he has not committed sin with me
to defile and shame me.’²⁴¹

Meanwhile, in the camp of the Assyrians,

Vagao went in and knocked at the door of the tent,
for he thought that Holofernes had slept with Judith.
But because no one answered, he opened it and went

²³⁹ Revelation 13:4

²⁴⁰ 2 Thessalonians 2:8

²⁴¹ Judith 13:16

in to the bedchamber and found him cast upon the floor, dead, and his head taken from him.

Therefore he cried with a loud voice, with weeping and sighing and a mighty cry, and rent his garments, and he went into the tent where Judith lodged, and when he found her not, he ran out to the people and cried,

‘These slaves have dealt treacherously: one woman of the Hebrews has brought shame upon the house of king Nebuchadnezzar, for behold, Holofernes lies upon the ground without a head.’²⁴²

One woman - one Breath. I Am uses the tenderest champion to fight the battle, as if to taunt the enemy: *my little sister can beat you up*. And indeed, Wisdom’s “big brothers,” the Father and Son, nickname her such in the Song of Songs:

“We have a ‘little sister.’”²⁴³

Nebuchadnezzar is an image of the ancient serpent, the king of evil; he gives authority to Holofernes, his henchman, who is an image of the beast who is struck in the head. The victorious blow is struck by Judith, an image of Wisdom, the breath of the Lord, who discomfits them both.

She is the breath of the power of God.²⁴⁴

²⁴² Judith 14:14-18

²⁴³ Song of Songs 8:8

²⁴⁴ Wisdom 7:25

She is the sword which proceeds from his mouth.



*Put on the whole armor of God
that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.
For our wrestling is not against flesh and blood
but against the principalities, against the powers,
against the world's rulers of the darkness of this age,
and against the spiritual forces of wickedness
in the heavenly places.*

*Therefore, put on the whole armor of God
that you may be able to resist in the day of evil,
and when you have finished the whole fight, still be standing.*

*Stand therefore, stand firm,
with the belt of truth buckled around your waist,
having put on the breastplate of righteousness
and having fitted your feet with the equipment
of the Good News of peace.*

*Above all, take up the shield of faith
with which you will be able to quench
all the fiery darts of the evil one.
And take the helmet of salvation,
and the sword of the Spirit
who is the utterance of God.²⁴⁵*

²⁴⁵ Ephesians 6:11-17

Day 32:

Wisdom, Last Breath

*Into your Hand
I commend my spirit.
(Psalm 31:5)*

God said,
‘Let us make man in our image and likeness.’
...And God saw all the things that he had made
and, behold, they were very good.²⁴⁶

There is a certain reverence which creation commands,
in virtue of the image of God in which it was made,
even when it has gone astray.

The Father shows this compassion and respect to all
creation, sending his blessing of rain, even upon the
unjust.

‘But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those
who persecute you, that you may be sons of your
Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil

²⁴⁶ Genesis 1:26,31

and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.²⁴⁷

The Son likewise washes the feet of his betrayer, and hails him as “friend.”

He came to Jesus, and said, ‘Hail, Rabbi!’ and kissed him.

Jesus said to him, ‘Friend, why are you come?’ Then they came and laid hands on Jesus, and led him away.²⁴⁸

The Spirit, too, honors the image of God in all creation. Indeed, Wisdom herself is found in all things:

I Am, how good and how sweet is your Spirit in all things.²⁴⁹

Even at its worst, creation is still honored by God with the grace of existence.

For you love all things that are,
and abhor nothing that you have made,
for never would you have made any thing
if you had hated it.

And how could any thing have endured
if it had not been your will?
or been preserved, if not called by you?

²⁴⁷ Matthew 5:44-45

²⁴⁸ Matthew 26:49-50

²⁴⁹ Wisdom 12:1

But you spare all, for they are yours,
O, I Am, you, lover of souls,
for your incorruptible Spirit is in all things.²⁵⁰

Wisdom sees in each soul an image of the Father and the Son. She sees in every eye the reflection of herself.

His eyes are like doves.²⁵¹

Judith, as an image of Wisdom, shows reverence to Holofernes, for the sake of God who created him, who preserves him, and who maintains him in being.

And when Judith was come before him and his servants, they all marvelled at the beauty of her countenance. And she fell down upon her face, and did reverence unto him.²⁵²

David, an image of the Father, weeps for the death of his son Absalom, the usurper, who had rebelled and was waging war against him.

‘O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom!
Would God I had died in your stead,
O Absalom, my son, my son!’²⁵³

And so Wisdom softly approaches the deathbed of each son of Adam, to make good the sentence which God spoke against them:

²⁵⁰ Wisdom 11:24-26, 12:1

²⁵¹ Song of Songs 5:12

²⁵² Judith 10:23

²⁵³ 2 Samuel 18:33

‘You will surely die.’²⁵⁴

She reverences the creature, who was made in God’s image. And then the deed is done.

The silver cord is cut
the golden bowl is broken
the pitcher shattered at the fountain
the wheel, broken at the well.

The dust returns to the earth from whence it came
and the spirit returns to God who gave it.²⁵⁵

A time to be born, a time to die.

The Giver of Life is the taker of life, all in due season.

‘I Am has given, and I Am has taken away;
blessed be the name: “I Am.”’²⁵⁶



*If he were to withdraw his Spirit and Breath,
all flesh would perish.*²⁵⁷

²⁵⁴ Genesis 2:17

²⁵⁵ Ecclesiastes 12:6-7

²⁵⁶ Job 1:21

²⁵⁷ Job 34:14-15

Day 33:

Wisdom, Fire and Dreams

*I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy
and your old men shall dream dreams
and your young men shall see visions.
(Joel 2:28)*

Fire and dreams are both hallmarks of the Spirit.

At about sunset a trance fell upon Abram, and lo! a great gloomy terror falls upon him. And it was said to Abram,

‘Know for certain that your seed shall be a sojourner in a land not their own, and they shall enslave them and mistreat them, four hundred years. And the nation which they shall serve I will judge, and after this, they shall come forth hither with much property. But you shall depart to your fathers in peace, nourished in a good old age. And in the fourth generation they shall return hither, for the

sins of the Amorites are not yet filled up, even until now.'

And when the sun was about to set, there was a Flame, and behold a smoking furnace and lamps of fire, which passed between these divided pieces [of the sacrifice of the covenant].²⁵⁸

Four hundred years later, on the night when the children of Abraham finally left Egypt, a similar scene unfolded: with dreams and with visions, and a Fire afoot.

Wisdom, the Flame, has come down from the throne of God, to execute judgment, as had been foretold:

For when lawless people supposed that they held the holy nation in their power, they themselves lay as captives of darkness and prisoners of a long night, shut in under their roofs, exiles from eternal providence. For thinking that in their secret sins they were unobserved behind a dark curtain of forgetfulness, they were troubled with exceedingly great astonishment, and appalled by specters. For not even the inner chamber which held them could protect them from fear, but terrifying sounds rang out around them, and dismal phantoms with grim faces appeared. And no power of fire was able to give light, nor could the bright flames of the stars illumine that horrible night. There only appeared to them a Fire, kindled of itself, very dreadful.

²⁵⁸ Genesis 15:12-16

And being struck with fear of that face, which they could not see, they thought the things which they could see to be much worse. The delusions of their magic arts were put down, and their boasted wisdom was scornfully rebuked. For they, who promised to drive away terrors and troubles from a sick soul, were themselves sick with laughable fear, for even if nothing disturbing frightened them, yet, scared by the passing of wild animals and the hissing of snakes, they perished in trembling fear, refusing to look even at the air, though it could nowhere be avoided...

The slave was punished with the same penalty as the master, and the common man suffered the same loss as the king. So all alike had innumerable dead, with the same kind of death. Neither were the living sufficient to bury them, for in one moment the noblest offspring of them was destroyed. For though they had disbelieved everything because of their magic arts, yet, upon the destruction of the firstborn, they acknowledged this people to be the children of God.

For while gentle silence enveloped all things, and night in her swift course was now half gone, your all-powerful utterance leaped from heaven, from the royal throne, into the midst of the land which was doomed, a stern warrior carrying the sharp sword of your authentic command, and stood and filled all things with death, and touched heaven while standing on the earth.

Then at once apparitions in dreadful dreams greatly troubled them, and unexpected fears assailed them; and one here and another there, hurled down, half dead, made known why they were dying, for the dreams that disturbed them forewarned them of this, that they might not perish without knowing why they so suffered.²⁵⁹



*'I told you to let my son go, so that he may worship me.
If you refuse to let him go,
I will slay your firstborn son.'*²⁶⁰

²⁵⁹ Wisdom 17:2-10, 18:11-19

²⁶⁰ Exodus 4:23

Day 34:

Wisdom, Pillar of Fire

*Who is she that goes up by the desert
as a pillar of smoke of aromatic spices
of myrrh and frankincense
and of all the powders of the perfumer?
(Song of Songs 3:6)*

Wisdom has executed the judgment of the Most High upon the Egyptians, and as a pillar of cloud and of fire, she leads out her firstborn, from death to new life.

She delivered a just nation and blameless seed from the nation that oppressed them.

She entered into the soul of the servant of God and stood against dreadful kings in wonders and in signs.

And she rendered to the just the wages of their labors and conducted them in a wonderful way and she was for them a cloud cover by day and a starry flame by night.

And she brought them through the Red Sea,

and bore them over, across a great water.

Now, the birth of the nation of Israel through the Red Sea happened in this manner:

I Am says to Moses,

‘Lift up your rod
and stretch forth your hand over the sea
and divide it.’²⁶¹

And so,

Moses stretches forth his hand over the sea
and I Am drives back the sea
with a strong burning wind all the night
and makes the sea dry, and the water is divided.²⁶²

See how the signs of the Spirit are everywhere: the
Wind and the Hand and the Rod which works wonders.

And so Wisdom “brought them through the Red Sea,
and bore them over, through a great water.”

And the children of Israel go into the midst of the sea
on dry land, and the water of it is a wall on the right
hand and a wall on the left.²⁶³

The birth of Israel through the Red Sea is a
prefiguration of the birth of the New Israel through

²⁶¹ Exodus 14:16

²⁶² Exodus 14:21

²⁶³ Exodus 14:22

baptism. Each soul passes through the cleansing waters, and emerges as a child of God, born of the Spirit.

‘Amen, amen, I say to you,
no one can enter the kingdom of God
unless they are born of water and the Spirit.’²⁶⁴

Water and Wisdom give birth to new life. As a mother she opens the passage before them, and they, like a baby, pass through the canal. Water and Wind work together in labor, bringing forth life, while the curse they drown out.

And I Am says to Moses,
‘Stretch forth your hand over the sea, and let the water be turned back to its place, and let it cover the Egyptians, coming both upon the chariots and the riders.’

And Moses stretches forth his hand over the sea, and the water returns to its place toward day. And the Egyptians are fleeing from the water, and I Am shakes up the Egyptians in the midst of the sea, and the water returns and covers the chariots and the riders, and all the forces of Pharaoh who entered after them into the sea, and there is not left of them even one.²⁶⁵

²⁶⁴ John 3:5

²⁶⁵ Exodus 14:26-28



*I Am shall wash away the filth
of the sons and daughters of Sion
and shall purge the blood of Jerusalem from its midst
by the Spirit of justice
and by the Spirit of fire
who will come upon every dwelling place on mount Sion
and upon her assemblies:
a cloud and smoke by day
and the shining of a flaming fire by night.
For over all, the Glory shall be a shelter.²⁶⁶*

²⁶⁶ Isaiah 4:4-5

Day 35:

Wisdom, Despoiler

*She drowned their enemies,
then dredged them up from the bottom of the deep
that the righteous might despoil the ungodly.
(Wisdom 10:19-20)*

The Egyptians pursued the Israelites into the Red Sea.

The enemy boasted,
‘I will pursue, I will overtake them.
I will divide the spoils,
I will gorge myself on them.
I will draw my sword
and my hand will destroy them.’

But you blew with your Breath,
and the sea covered them.
They sank like lead
in the mighty waters.²⁶⁷

After the Egyptians sank to the bottom of the sea,
Wisdom brought them up again and cast them upon

²⁶⁷ Exodus 15:9-10

the seashore, so the Israelites might despoil them,
taking their weapons and armor, for their future battles.

But their enemies she drowned in the sea
and from the depth of the abyss she cast them up
so that the just could take the spoils of the wicked.²⁶⁸

The wicked, who thought they would despoil the
children of God, were themselves despoiled.

Our Lord speaks of the Finger of God who despoils the
evil one, and takes away his armor.

If Satan is divided against himself, how will his
kingdom stand?

...But if I, by the Finger of God, cast out demons, then
the Kingdom of God has come upon you.

When the strong man, fully armed, guards his own
dwelling, his goods are safe. But when Someone
stronger attacks him and overcomes him, such a one
takes from him his whole armor in which he trusted,
and divides his spoils.²⁶⁹

The Finger of God, holy Wisdom, the Spirit, is that
Someone who is stronger than Satan, who “attacks him
and overcomes him” and who “takes from him his
whole armor.”

²⁶⁸ Wisdom 10:19-20

²⁶⁹ Luke 11:18, 20-22

Our Lord bore witness to the power and efficacy of the Spirit over the devil when he said,

‘It is by the Finger of God that I cast out demons.’²⁷⁰

When the devil suffers his final defeat, it is the Spirit - the Fire sent by God - who executes the sentence.

After the thousand years, Satan will be released from his prison, and he will come out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to the war, the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. They went up over the breadth of the earth, and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city.

Fire came down out of heaven from God, and devoured them.

The devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet also are. They will be tormented day and night forever and ever.²⁷¹

The despoiling of the Egyptians at the Red Sea is a prefiguration of the despoiling of Satan by the Finger of God. In both events:

❖ Wisdom is present, aflame as a fire: be it in the pillar of fire or the fire sent from heaven

²⁷⁰ Luke 11:20

²⁷¹ Revelation 20:7-10

- ❖ The enemy is cast into the sea or the lake
- ❖ The sea gives up its holdings, that God may pick what he wants, and take the good for himself

The sea gave up the dead who were in it. Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them. They were judged, each one according to his works.²⁷²

Like the Israelites sorting through the Egyptian debris by the seaside, God collects the good for himself, but the bad he tosses back in the sea:

Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. If anyone was not found written in the book of life, he was cast into the lake of fire.

And thus Wisdom conquers her enemy Satan, and brings to a closure their long standing enmity. She burns up his army and casts him in bondage, and shatters his weapon, the old curse of Death.

She empties his fortress, Sheol, of its shadows, and takes all the good souls, judged worthy of God. The bad, she casts back to the gaping abyss, and in this way, despoiled was Satan, by Wisdom.

²⁷² Revelation 20:13

Day 36:

Wisdom, Faint

*Strengthen me with raisins
refresh me with apples
for I am faint with love.
(Song of Songs 2:5)*

To destroy evil is easy.

To flood the world, to slay the antichrist, to imprison the devil, to rout an army with the bat of an eye...

And it comes to pass, in the morning watch, that I Am casts a glance at the camp of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and of cloud, and throws them into confusion, taking off their chariot wheels and overturning them grievously, so that the Egyptians say, 'Let us flee from the face of Israel, for I Am fights for them against the Egyptians.'²⁷³

To destroy creation is easy for Wisdom - but can she win its love?

²⁷³ Exodus 14:24-25

Can she gain the devotion of man? Will creation
embrace her of its own free will? Can she win the heart
of a single creature?

This is a battle she cannot win - alone. This is a battle
she cannot win without your help.

The all-powerful Spirit is powerless before the free will
of man. When it comes to love, Wisdom is faint.

As the apple tree among the trees of the wood
so is my beloved among the sons.
I sat down under his shadow, whom I desired,
and his fruit was sweet to my palate.

He brought me to the banquet hall.
His banner over me is love.

Strengthen me with raisins
refresh me with apples
for I am faint with love.

His left hand is under my head
and his right hand shall embrace me.

I adjure you, O daughters of Jerusalem,
by the roes, or by the hinds of the field,
that you not stir up, nor awaken love,
until it so desires.²⁷⁴

²⁷⁴ Song of Songs 2:3-7

Love cannot be forced. Worship cannot be commanded. To stir up love against its will is folly; it will awaken of its own accord, only when it so desires.

Wisdom tells her damsels, the angels, “Do not try to force love. The creature and I, we must do this alone.”

Wisdom has a plan. She will lead her beloved people to the holy mountain. She will win their heart - they must love her already for the marvels she has done for them. She will bring them to the mount of the burning bush, mount Horeb, the mountain of God, and there she and her people will make a covenant of love.

I will take you for my people
and I will be your God,
and you will know that I am I Am, your God,
who brought you out from under the burdens of the
Egyptians.²⁷⁵

She will write out their pact in her own flaming hand,
they will sign it in blood and then throw a great party.
She will lead them straight home, give them milk and
sweet honey.

They will be hers. She alone will be theirs.

My beloved is mine
and I am his.²⁷⁶

²⁷⁵ Exodus 6:7

²⁷⁶ Song of Songs 2:16

This is the plan of I Am - the plan of the Father, the Son, and the Spirit: to betrothe mankind.



The Daughters of Jerusalem:

*Who is this coming up from the wilderness
leaning on her beloved?*

Wisdom, the Bride:

*Under the apple tree I roused you,
there, where your mother conceived you,
where she who was in labor gave you birth.*

*Set me as a seal on your heart,
as a seal upon your arm,
for love is strong as death,
jealousy as cruel as Sheol.
Its flashes are flashes of fire:
the very Flame of I Am.
Many waters cannot quench love,
nor will rivers drown it.²⁷⁷*

²⁷⁷ Song of Songs 8:5-7

Day 37:

Wisdom, Dewfall

*I came forth from the mouth of the Most High
and covered the earth as a mist.
(Sirach 24:3)*

Wisdom is the dewfall which brings forth the manna.
Wisdom is the Spirit who brings forth the Messiah.

The giving of manna to the Israelites in the desert
prefigures of the giving of the Messiah - the Bread of
Life.

‘Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, as it is
written: he gave them bread from heaven to eat.’

But Jesus said to them, ‘Amen, I say to you, it was not
Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my
Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For
the bread of God is that which comes down from
heaven and gives life to the world.’

They said to him therefore, ‘Lord, give us always this
bread.’

Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life.'²⁷⁸

Now, the manna came to the Israelites by way of the dew:

And when the dew fell in the night upon the camp, the manna also fell with it.²⁷⁹

And,

In the morning it came to pass, as the dew evaporated round about the camp, that, behold, on the face of the desert was a small thing like white coriander seed, as frost upon the earth.

And when the children of Israel saw it, they said to one another, 'Manhu?' which means, 'What is this?''²⁸⁰

As the manna came by the dew, the Messiah came by the Spirit:

'That which has been begotten in her is of the Holy Spirit.'²⁸¹

Indeed, the Spirit of Wisdom is that dewfall which brings forth the manna, the Messiah, the Son incarnate, the Bread of Heaven, the Eucharist.

As the Church prays:

²⁷⁸ John 6:31-35

²⁷⁹ Numbers 11:9

²⁸⁰ Exodus 16:14-15

²⁸¹ Matthew 1:20

Make holy, therefore, these gifts, we pray, by sending down your Spirit upon them like the dewfall, so that they may become for us the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.²⁸²

Now, Mary is an image of Wisdom, and a collaborator in her works. Together, Wisdom and Mary bring forth the Savior.

Wisdom is the heavenly cloud of dew; Mary is the creature of earth. Together they bring forth the Savior, as described by Isaiah:

Drop down dew, ye heavens, from above
and let the clouds rain the just.
Let the earth be opened
and bud forth a Savior.²⁸³

Dew and earth are fruitful together. But without the dew, the earth cannot bear fruit; that is, without the Spirit, God's people on earth cannot be fruitful:

The heavens over you were stayed from giving dew
and the earth was hindered from yielding her fruits.²⁸⁴

On the last day, the Spirit who gave life to the Messiah, will bring to life his people - born of dew and the earth.

Your dead shall rise

²⁸² *Roman Missal, Epiclesis*

²⁸³ Isaiah 45:8

²⁸⁴ Haggai 1:10

and they that are in the tombs shall be raised.
For your dew is healing to them
and the earth will give birth to the dead.²⁸⁵

Wisdom waits for us to arrive, laden with dew.

I sleep, and my heart keeps watch for the voice of my
beloved knocking:

‘Open to me, my sister,
my love, my Dove, my undefiled,
for my head is full of dew,
and my locks of the drops of the nights.’²⁸⁶



*I will heal their breaches,
I will love them freely
for my wrath is turned away from them.
I will be as the dew.*²⁸⁷

²⁸⁵ Isaiah 26:19

²⁸⁶ Song of Songs 5:2

²⁸⁷ Hosea 14:5-6

Day 38:

Wisdom, Water from the Rock

*The water of life, clear as crystal,
was proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.
(Revelation 22:1)*

I Am says to Moses,
‘...take in your hand the rod you used to smite the
river, and you shall go - behold, I am standing there
before you come, on the rock in Horeb - and you will
smite the rock, and water will come out from it, and
the people will drink.’²⁸⁸

Now, Christ is the rock:

They drank from the rock
of the Spirit accompanying them,
and that rock was Christ.²⁸⁹

And Wisdom, the Spirit, who proceeds from the Son, is
the water of life, flowing from the rock.

²⁸⁸ Exodus 17:5-6

²⁸⁹ 1 Corinthians 10:4

‘I, Wisdom, gush rivers.’²⁹⁰

Indeed, Wisdom is described as a river: in paradise, in the heavenly Jerusalem, and here in the desert. She flows forth to water her people:

I, like a brook out of a river of a mighty water,
I, like a channel of a river, like an aqueduct, came out
of paradise.

I said, ‘I will water my garden of plants, and I will
water abundantly the fruits of my meadow.’

And behold my brook became a great river,
and my river became nearly a sea.²⁹¹

Solomon describes her in the Song of Songs:

My sister, my spouse is a garden enclosed,
a garden enclosed, a fountain sealed...
a fountain of a garden, and a well of water
springing and bubbling.²⁹²

She refreshes her people in the desert with water.

She prospered their works
in the hand of the holy prophet [Moses].
They went through the wilderness
that was not inhabited

²⁹⁰ Sirach 24:40

²⁹¹ Sirach 24:41-43

²⁹² Song of Songs 4:12,15

and pitched tents in places where there was no path.
They stood against their enemies
and were avenged of their adversaries.

When they were thirsty, they called upon you
and water was given them out of the flinty rock
and their thirst was quenched out of the hard stone.²⁹³

Wisdom pours herself out to refresh her people; she
gives of herself for them to drink.

She shall give him the water of wisdom to drink.²⁹⁴

As St. Paul writes,

We were all given to drink of the one Spirit.²⁹⁵

She who made the great river of Egypt undrinkable by
her wonders, now makes a dry rock the fountain of
water for all her people.

On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus
stood and said in a loud voice,
'Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink.
Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers
of living water will flow from within him.'

By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed
in him were later to receive.²⁹⁶

²⁹³ Wisdom 11:1-4

²⁹⁴ Sirach 15:3

²⁹⁵ 1 Corinthians 12:13

²⁹⁶ John 7:37-39

The children of Israel approached the rock and drank of the water flowing from it. In this they prefigured us who approach Christ and drink of the Spirit.

Now these things happened to them as a prefiguration, and were recorded for our instruction upon whom the ends of the ages have arrived.²⁹⁷



The Beloved:

Your mouth is like the best wine.

Wisdom, the Bride:

*May the wine go straight to my beloved,
flowing gently over lips and teeth.
I belong to my beloved,
and his thirst is for me.²⁹⁸*

²⁹⁷ 1 Corinthians 10:11

²⁹⁸ Song of Songs 7:8-10

Day 39:

Wisdom, Betrothed to Man

*As a virgin bride she will receive him.
(Sirach 15:2)*

The time has come to enter into covenant. The time has come for the betrothal of man and the divine.

In the third month of the departure of the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt, on the same day, they came into the wilderness of Sina. And they departed from Raphidin, and came into the wilderness of Sina, and there Israel encamped before the mountain.

And Moses goes up to the mount of the Divine, and the Divine calls to him from the mountain, saying, 'These things you will say to the house of Jacob, and you will relay them to the children of Israel: You have seen all that I did to the Egyptians, and I took you up as upon eagles' wings, and I brought you near to me. And now if you will hear my voice, and keep my covenant, you will be to me a special people above all nations, for the whole earth is mine. And you will be

to me a royal priesthood and a holy nation. These words you will say to the children of Israel.'

And Moses comes and calls the elders of the people, and he sets before them all these words, which the Divine directed to them. And all the people answer with one accord, and say, 'All things which the Divine has spoken, we will do and harken to.'

And Moses relays these words to the Divine. And I Am says to Moses, 'See, I come to you in a pillar of cloud, that the people may hear me speaking to you, and may always believe you.' And Moses relays the words of the people to I Am.

And I Am says to Moses, 'Go down and solemnly charge the people, and sanctify them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their garments. And let them be ready against the third day, for, on the third day, I Am will descend upon mount Sina before all the people. And you will separate the people round about, saying, Take heed to yourselves that you go not up into the mountain, nor touch any part of it: every one who touches the mountain shall surely die. A hand shall not touch it, for everyone who touches shall be stoned with stones or shot through with a dart. Whether man or beast, it shall not live. When the voices and trumpets and cloud depart from off of the mountain, they can come up on the mountain.'

And Moses goes down from the mountain to the people, and sanctifies them, and they wash their

clothes. And he says to the people, 'Be ready; for three days come not near to a woman.'²⁹⁹

In preparation for the covenant with the divine, man abstains from his earthly relations. And when the heavenly marriage is consummated in the world to come, our earthly marriage - the prefiguration of the divine - will pass away entirely.

'When the dead rise,
they will neither marry nor be given in marriage,'³⁰⁰

because they will be God's alone; they will be God's completely. The prefiguration passes away when its completion is fulfilled.

We are members of his body,
of his flesh and of his bones.

[As it is written,]

'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother,
and will be joined to his wife,
and they shall be - the two - one flesh.'

This is a great mystery:

I am speaking about Christ and the church.³⁰¹

Now, the covenant between man and I Am is a covenant of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Spirit, with man.

For, it is the will of the Father to wed his people.

²⁹⁹ Exodus 19:1-15

³⁰⁰ Mark 12:25

³⁰¹ Ephesians 5:30-32

Your Creator is your husband.³⁰²

And it is the will of the Son to wed his church.

The marriage of the Lamb has come
and his bride has made herself ready.³⁰³

And it is the will of the Spirit of Wisdom to wed
mankind.

As a mother she shall meet him
and as a virgin bride she shall receive him.³⁰⁴



*Wisdom reaches from one end to another mightily,
and sweetly doth she order all things.
I loved her, and sought her out from my youth.
I desired to make her my spouse.³⁰⁵*

³⁰² Isaiah 54:5

³⁰³ Revelation 19:7

³⁰⁴ Sirach 15:2

³⁰⁵ Wisdom 8:1-2

Day 40:

Wisdom, Jealous

I am my beloved's, and my beloved is mine.
(Song of Songs 6:3)

To be clear: I Am does not marry I Am.

The Father does not marry the Spirit.

The Son does not marry the Spirit.

The Spirit is not the wife of the Father.

The Spirit is not the wife of the Son.

Rather, the Father, the Son and the Spirit marry man -
their creation.

Marriage rejoins what was split asunder, as Eve was
taken from Adam's rib, and then rejoined to him by
marriage, so that what was one flesh to begin with
might return to one flesh.

And man, having separated himself from the favor of
God via sin, now rejoins the Divine via the wedding of
God and man, to restore man to that communion with
God which was lost.

But the Father, the Son, and the Spirit, who are one God from all eternity, and have never been split asunder, have no need to be rejoined amidst themselves via any similitude of marriage. And thus the Three who are One are never said to marry among themselves.

But they do marry their creation: mankind. The Father marries his people; the Son marries his church; the Spirit of Wisdom is given to man as his helpmate and bride.

But only if man agrees. And that free agreement of love is something no deity can force.

Now, to approach the Divine, and to draw near to the most holy, can be a perilous thing, akin to playing with fire.

And it came to pass on the third day, as the morning drew nigh, there were thunders and lightnings and a dark cloud on mount Sina, and the voice of the trumpet resounds loudly, and all the people in the camp tremble. And Moses leads forth the people, out of the camp, to meet the Divine, and they stand at the foot of the mountain.

The mount of Sina was altogether in smoke, because the Divine had descended upon it in fire, and the smoke goes up as the smoke of a furnace, and the people are exceedingly amazed. And the sounds of the trumpet wax louder and louder. Moses speaks, and the Divine responds to him with a voice. And I Am comes down upon mount Sina on the top of the

mountain, and I Am calls Moses to the top of the mountain, and up goes Moses.

And the Divine speaks to Moses, saying, 'Go down, and solemnly charge the people, lest at any time they draw nigh to the Divine to gaze, and a multitude of them fall. And let the priests that draw nigh to I Am, the Divine, sanctify themselves, lest they be destroyed.'

And Moses says to the Divine, 'The people will not be able to get near to the mount of Sina, for you have solemnly charged us, saying, Set bounds to the mountain and set it apart.'

And I Am says to him, 'Go, descend, and come up, you and Aaron with you, but let not the priests and the people force their way to come up to the Divine, lest I Am destroy some of them.'

And Moses goes down to the people, and speaks to them.

And I Am speaks all these words, saying:

'I am I Am, your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

'You will have no other gods beside me.

'You will not make for yourself an idol, nor a likeness of anything, whatever things are in the heaven above, and whatever are in the earth beneath, and whatever

are in the waters under the earth. You will not bow down to them, nor serve them, for I am I Am, your God - a jealous God - recompensing the sins of the fathers upon the children, to the third and fourth generation to them that hate me, and bestowing mercy on them that love me to thousands of generations, and on them that keep my commandments.³⁰⁶

The Father, the Son, and the Spirit of Wisdom - the jealous God - have named their terms to their beloved mankind: you will have no one but me.

Just as a man shall not unite with, nor desire, the wife of his neighbor, you will have naught to do with any other god but me.

Wisdom holds her breath, awaiting the response of man.

Are we agreed?

Do you love me?



*Show me, O you whom my soul loves,
where you pasture, where you lie at midday,
lest I begin to wander after the flocks of your companions.³⁰⁷*

³⁰⁶ Exodus 19:16-25, 20:1-6

³⁰⁷ Song of Songs 1:7

Day 41:

Wisdom, Shavuot

*As a young bride she will welcome him.
(Sirach 15:2)*

And Moses goes and relates to the people all the words and ordinances of the Divine, and all the people answer with one voice, saying,

‘All the words which I Am has spoken, we will do.’

And Moses writes down all the words of I Am.

And Moses rises up early in the morning, and builds an altar at the foot of the mountain, and sets up twelve stones for the twelve tribes of Israel. And he sends forth the young men of the children of Israel, and they offer whole burnt-offerings, and they sacrifice young calves as a peace-offering to the Divine.

And Moses takes half the blood and pours it into bowls, and half the blood he pours out upon the altar. And he takes the book of the covenant and reads it in the ears of the people, and they say,

‘All things whatsoever I Am has spoken we will do,
and harken thereunto.’

And Moses takes the blood and sprinkles it upon the
people, and says,

‘Behold the blood of the covenant, which I Am has
made with you concerning all these words...’

And Moses and Joshua go up to the mountain, and
the cloud covers the mountain, and the Glory of God
comes down upon mount Sina, and the Cloud covers
it six days, and I Am calls Moses on the seventh day
from the midst of the cloud. And the appearance of
the Glory of I Am is as burning fire on the top of the
mountain, before the children of Israel. And Moses
goes into the midst of the cloud, and goes up the
mountain, and is there in the mountain forty days
and forty nights.³⁰⁸

The traditional wedding feast of the Hebrews was seven
days.³⁰⁹ At the mount of Sina, Israel says their “I do” to
the covenant, and Wisdom, in the form of cloud and of
fire, comes down to them like a bride adorned for her
groom, and on the seventh day she bids Moses, the
representative of her people, to come to her.

And Moses goes into the midst of the cloud,
and goes up the mountain.³¹⁰

³⁰⁸ Exodus 24:3-8,15-18

³⁰⁹ Cf. Judges 14:17

³¹⁰ Exodus 24:18

Indeed, Wisdom calls man, whom she loves:

‘Come away, my beloved,
like a gazelle or a young stag
on the mountains of spices.’³¹¹

And scripture commands us to attend to Wisdom:

Come to her like one plowing and sowing
and wait for her good harvest.
For when you cultivate her, you will toil but little
and soon you will eat of her fruits.³¹²

And, in another place,

Pursue her as one on the hunt
and lie in wait on her paths.
He that looks in at her windows
shall listen also at her doors.
He who encamps near her house
shall also drive his tent-peg in her walls.³¹³

It is the honeymoon of the Divine and the creature.
Like the entrance of the Lord into Jerusalem amidst the
praises of his people, for a moment, all is well between
God and man.

³¹¹ Song of Songs 8:14

³¹² Sirach 6:19

³¹³ Sirach 14:23-25

Wisdom anxiously awaited, and her beloved responded; with a head full of dew, he drew near, as she hoped.



*The voice of my beloved!
Behold, he comes leaping over the mountains,
bounding over the hills.*

*My beloved is like a roe or a young hart upon the mountains.
Behold, he is behind our wall looking through the windows
peeping through the lattices.
My beloved calls, and says to me:*

*'Rise up, come, my companion, my fair one, my Dove.
For, behold, the winter is past,
the rain is gone, it has departed.
The flowers are seen in the land
the time of pruning has arrived.
The voice of the turtle-dove has been heard in our land
the fig-tree has put forth its young figs
the vines put forth the tender grape; they yield a fragrance.*

*'Arise, come, my companion, my fair one, my Dove,
yea, come.
You are my Dove, in the shelter of the rock, near the wall.
Show me your face, and cause me to hear your voice
for your voice is sweet, and your countenance is beautiful.'*³¹⁴

³¹⁴ Song of Songs 2:8-14

Day 42:

Wisdom, Artisan

*Wisdom has built her house.
(Proverbs 9:1)*

From the beginning, Wisdom has been a master craftsman. From the creation of the world, she has lent her artistry and inspiration to the fashioning of the cosmos.

When he prepared the heaven,
I was present with him,
and when he prepared his throne upon the winds
and when he strengthened the clouds above
and when he strengthened the fountains of the deep
and when he strengthened the foundations of the earth,
then I was by his side, as a master artisan.

I was that wherein he took delight
and daily I rejoiced in his presence continually,
rejoicing in his whole world
and delighting in mankind.³¹⁵

³¹⁵ Proverbs 8:27-31

And now that the covenant has been sealed between Israel and the Divine, Wisdom is quick to begin planning their house and its furnishings, and everything they will need for their dwelling place together. She who collaborated in the creation of the whole world, now lays out the design for her house with her people.

‘Have them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them.’³¹⁶

‘Have them make an ark...’³¹⁷

‘Make a table of acacia wood...’³¹⁸

‘Make a lampstand of pure gold...’³¹⁹

‘Then make its seven lamps and set them up...’³²⁰

‘Make the tabernacle with ten curtains of finely twisted linen, and blue, purple and scarlet yarn...’³²¹

‘Make curtains of goat hair...’³²²

‘Make upright frames of acacia wood for the tabernacle...’³²³

³¹⁶ Exodus 25:8

³¹⁷ Exodus 25:10

³¹⁸ Exodus 25:23

³¹⁹ Exodus 25:31

³²⁰ Exodus 25:37

³²¹ Exodus 26:1

³²² Exodus 26:7

³²³ Exodus 26:15

‘Make a curtain of blue, purple and scarlet yarn and finely twisted linen, with cherubim woven into it...³²⁴

‘For the entrance to the tent make a curtain of blue, purple and scarlet yarn and finely twisted linen - the work of an embroiderer...³²⁵

‘Build an altar of acacia wood...³²⁶

‘Make a courtyard for the tabernacle...³²⁷

‘For the entrance to the courtyard, provide a curtain twenty cubits long, of blue, purple and scarlet yarn and finely twisted linen - the work of an embroiderer - with four posts and four bases...³²⁸

‘Tell the Israelites to bring you clear oil of pressed olives for the light so that the lamps may be kept burning...³²⁹

‘Make sacred garments for your brother Aaron to give him dignity and honor...so he may serve me as priest.³³⁰

‘Take two onyx stones and engrave on them the names of the sons of Israel in the order of their birth...³³¹

³²⁴ Exodus 26:31

³²⁵ Exodus 26:36

³²⁶ Exodus 27:1

³²⁷ Exodus 27:9

³²⁸ Exodus 27:16

³²⁹ Exodus 27:20

³³⁰ Exodus 28:2-3

³³¹ Exodus 28:9

‘Fashion a breastpiece for making decisions...’³³²

‘Make linen undergarments...’³³³

For forty days and nights, the list goes on. Wisdom is setting up house, and she knows what she wants.

I Am finished speaking to Moses on Mount Sina, and gave him the two tablets of the covenant law, the tablets of stone written by the Finger of God.³³⁴

She has so many hopes and dreams for their life together...



*Wisdom has built a house for herself
and set up seven pillars.*

*She has slaughtered her beasts
she has mingled her wine in a bowl
and prepared her table.*

*She has sent forth her servants to call to the supper.*³³⁵

³³² Exodus 28:15

³³³ Exodus 28:42

³³⁴ Exodus 31:18

³³⁵ Proverbs 9:1-3

Day 43:

Wisdom, Innocent

“Surely they will respect my son.”
(Mark 12:6)

The Divine, all perfect, seems sometimes surprised by the evil of man.

The Father says, “Surely they will respect my Son,”³³⁶ but they put his Son to death.

The Son begins his ministry, proclaiming good news in the synagogue of his hometown, proclaiming good news which had been awaited for centuries: “Today, in your ears, this scripture is fulfilled.”³³⁷ But they ran him out of town and threw him over the cliff.

The Spirit of Wisdom, the Finger of God, writes out the Law on two tablets of stone, writing out the pact which is written on her heart. She would write it on our heart as well.

³³⁶ Matthew 21:37

³³⁷ Luke 4:21

And the people see that Moses is taking a long time to come down from the mountain, and the people assemble against Aaron, and say to him, 'Get up and make us gods who shall go before us. As for this Moses, the man who brought us out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.'

And Aaron says to them, 'Take off the golden earrings which are in the ears of your wives and daughters, and bring them to me.'

And all the people take off the golden earrings that were in their ears, and bring them to Aaron. And he receives them at their hands, and forms them with a graving tool, and he makes them a molten calf, and says, 'These are your gods, O Israel, which have brought you up out of the land of Egypt.'

And Aaron sees it, and builds an altar before it, and Aaron proclaims, 'Tomorrow is a feast of I Am.' And having risen early on the morrow, he offers whole burnt-offerings, and a peace-offering. And the people sit down to eat and drink, and rise up to revel in debauchery.³³⁸

While Wisdom is laying out her plans for their future together, her people are fornicating with foreign gods.

Her beloved had come to her with a head full of dew, and now he has abandoned her and slunk out into the night.

³³⁸ Exodus 32:1-6

I sleep, and my heart watches.
The voice of my beloved knocking:
‘Open to me, my sister,
my love, my dove, my undefiled,
for my head is full of dew
and my locks of the drops of the nights.’

‘I have put off my garment, how shall I put it on?
I have washed my feet, how shall I defile them?’

My beloved put his hand through the keyhole,
and my bowels were moved at his touch.

I rose up to open to my beloved;
my hands dripped with myrrh
and my fingers were full of the choicest myrrh.
I opened the bolt of my door to my beloved,
but he had turned aside, and was gone.
My soul melted when he spoke;
I sought him, and found him not.
I called, and he did not answer me.

The keepers that go around the city found me.
They struck me and wounded me;
the keepers of the walls lifted up my veil from me.³³⁹

Wisdom has been done wrong by her people; they have
bruised her and grieved her. They have left her for a
graven image.

³³⁹ Song of Songs 5:2-7



*Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God
by whom you were sealed.³⁴⁰*

³⁴⁰ Ephesians 4:30

Day 44:

Wisdom, Destroyer of Evil

*And Fire coming out from I Am
destroyed the two hundred and fifty men
who offered the [unholy] incense.
(Numbers 16:35)*

Once, before the Flood, the Father determined to wipe clean the face of the earth.

Having seen that the wicked actions of men were multiplied upon the earth, and that every one in his heart was intently contemplating evil continually, then God repented that he had made man upon the earth, and he reconsidered it, carefully.

And God said, 'I will destroy man, whom I have created, from the face of the earth, from man even to beasts, from the creeping thing even to the fowls of the air, for it grieves me that I have made them.'

But Noah found favor before I Am.³⁴¹

And God repopulated the earth from one man and his offspring.

Now similarly, Wisdom, betrayed, considers the destruction of all Israel. She says to Moses,

‘Go quickly, get down from here, for your people whom you brought out of the land of Egypt have transgressed: they have quickly gone out of the way which you commanded. They have made for themselves a calf, and worshipped it, and sacrificed to it, and said, These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt. Now let me alone, and I will be very angry with them and consume them, and I will make you a great nation.’³⁴²

Indeed, Wisdom, the sevenfold Spirit, backs up her covenant with a sevenfold threat:

‘If you despise my laws, and condemn my judgments so as not to do those things which are appointed by me, and to make void my covenant, I also will do these things to you:

‘I will quickly visit you with poverty and burning heat which will waste your eyes and consume your lives. You will sow your seed in vain, which will be devoured by your enemies.

³⁴¹ Genesis 6:5-8

³⁴² Exodus 32:7-10

‘I will set my face against you, and you will fall down before your enemies, and be made subject to them that hate you; you will flee when no man pursues you.

‘But if, after all this, you will not listen to me, I will chastise you seven times more for your sins, and I will break the pride of your stubbornness, and I will make the heaven above be like iron to you, and the earth as brass. Your labor will be spent in vain; the ground will not bring forth her increase, nor the trees yield their fruit.

‘If you walk contrary to me, and will not listen to me, I will bring seven times more plagues upon you for your sins, and I will send upon you the beasts of the field, to destroy you and your cattle, and make you few in number, that your highways may be empty.

‘If, in spite of these things, you do not accept my correction, but continue to walk against me, I myself will walk against you, and will strike you seven times for your sins.

‘And I will bring upon you the sword that will avenge my covenant. And when you flee to the cities, I will send the pestilence in your midst, and you will be delivered into the hands of your enemies. Then I will break the staff of your bread so that ten women shall bake your bread in one oven, and give it out by measure, and you will eat, and will not be filled.

‘But if you will not for all this harken to me, but will walk against me, I myself will go up against you with

opposing fury, and I will chastise you with seven plagues for your sins, so that you shall eat the flesh of your sons and your daughters.

‘I will destroy your high places, and break your idols! You will fall among the ruins of your idols, and I will hate you.’³⁴³



*I saw another sign in heaven, great and wonderful:
seven messengers having the seven last plagues,
for in them is filled up the wrath of the Divine.*³⁴⁴

³⁴³ Leviticus 26:15-30

³⁴⁴ Revelation 15:1

Day 45:

Wisdom, Crying

*His Spirit, as rushing water in the valley,
comes up to the neck
to destroy the nations
and the bridle of error that was in the jaws of the people.
(Isaiah 30:28)*

Wisdom cries aloud in the byways
and in the broad places she speaks boldly...

‘Since I called, and you did not harken
and I spoke at length, and you gave no heed,
but you set at nought my counsels
and disregarded my reproofs,
therefore I will likewise laugh at your destruction
and I will rejoice when ruin comes upon you,
yea, when dismay suddenly comes upon you
and your downfall shall arrive like a tempest,
and when tribulation and distress shall come upon you,
or when ruin shall come upon you.

‘For it shall be that when you call upon me
I will not harken to you.
Wicked men shall seek me, but shall not find me.

For they hated wisdom
and did not choose the fear of I Am,
neither would they attend to my counsels,
but derided my reproofs.

‘Therefore they shall eat the fruits of their own way
and be filled with their own ungodliness.
Because they wronged the simple, they shall be slain,
and the complacency of fools will ruin them.

‘But he who harkens to me will dwell in confidence
and will rest securely from all evil.’³⁴⁵

Wisdom has said her peace. Her prophet, Moses,
delivers the message to the people.

And Moses turns and goes down from the mountain,
and the two tables of the covenant are in his hands,
tables of stone written on both their sides: they were
written within and without. And the tablets are the
work of the Divine, and the writing is the writing of
the Divine, written upon the tablets.³⁴⁶

The tablets contained all the hopes and dreams of
Wisdom for her people. They describe the plan for
their life together.

And upon nearing the camp, he sees the calf and the
dances, and Moses, being very angry, casts out of his
hands the two tablets, and breaks them to pieces at

³⁴⁵ Proverbs 1:20,24-33

³⁴⁶ Exodus 32:15-16

the foot of the mountain. And he takes the calf which they made, and consumes it with fire.³⁴⁷

Wisdom has found Israel dancing with another god. Her heart is broken like the tablets she wrote. Her plans and her dreams - they lay shattered in fragments at the foot of the mountain.

The Israelites will carry them, the broken tablets of the Law - the broken heart of Wisdom - wherever they travel, throughout all their journeys. They keep them in the Ark as a constant reminder of the pain they caused I Am when they strayed from the covenant.

Like Magdalene breaking her vessel of ointment, and pouring her tears on the feet of her beloved, Wisdom has broken her heart for her people, and poured out her all, at the foot of the mountain.

Moses stands at the gate of the camp, and says, 'Who is on the side of I Am? Let him come to me.'

Then all the sons of Levi come to him, and he says to them, 'Thus says I Am, God of Israel: Put every one his sword on his thigh, and go back and forth from gate to gate throughout the camp, and slay every one his brother, and every one his neighbor, and every one him that is nearest to him.'

And the sons of Levi do as Moses says to them, and there fall of the people in that day to the number of three thousand men.

³⁴⁷ Exodus 32:19-20

And Moses says to them, 'You have dedicated your hands this day to I Am, for a man is against his son, and against his brother, so that blessing should be given to you.'³⁴⁸

The Spirit came at Pentecost and was well received, and three thousand souls were baptised that day.

The Spirit came at Sinai and was betrayed, and three thousand souls perished that day.



*They angered I Am
and trouble came to Moses because of them
for they rebelled against His Spirit.³⁴⁹*

³⁴⁸ Exodus 32:26-29

³⁴⁹ Psalm 106:32-33

Day 46:

Wisdom, Easily Persuaded

*Wisdom, from above, is first of all chaste,
then peaceable, modest,
easy to be persuaded.
(James 3:17)*

Abraham persuaded I Am to spare the city of Sodom if ten good souls could be found therein, just by asking.

And Abraham said, 'May my Lord not weary of me if I speak yet one more time. And, what if there should be found ten good souls therein?'

And I Am replied, 'For the sake of the ten, I will not destroy it.'³⁵⁰

Our Lord taught us to ask with confidence.

'Ask and it will be given to you,
seek and you will find,

³⁵⁰ Genesis 18:32

knock and the door will be opened to you.
For everyone who asks, receives,
whoever seeks finds,
and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.’³⁵¹

And again,

‘Whatever you shall ask the Father in my name,
he shall give it to you.’³⁵²

If the Father and Son are easily persuaded by petition,
so is the Spirit, as St. James testifies:

Wisdom, from above, is...
easy to be persuaded.³⁵³

Moses makes ready to go before Wisdom, to talk her
down from destroying the nation.

Moses says to the people, ‘You have sinned a great
sin! And now I will go up to the Divine, that I may
make atonement for your sin.’

And Moses returns to I Am and says, ‘I pray, O, I Am,
this people has sinned a great sin, and they have made
for themselves golden gods. And now, if you will
forgive their sin, forgive it, and if not, blot me out of
your book which you have written.’

³⁵¹ Matthew 7:7-8

³⁵² John 15:16

³⁵³ James 3:17

And I Am says to Moses, 'If anyone has sinned against me, I will blot them out of my book. And now go, descend, and lead this people into the place I told you about. Look, my angel will go before your face, and in the day when I visit, I will bring upon them their sin... I will not go up with you, because you are a stiff-necked people, lest I consume you on the way.'

And the people hear this grievous saying, and they mourn in mourning apparel, for I Am had said to the children of Israel: You are a stiff-necked people; take heed lest I bring on you another plague, and destroy you; now then put off your glorious apparel, and your ornaments, and I will show you what I will do to you. So the sons of Israel took off their ornaments and their array at the mount of Horeb.

And Moses takes his tent and pitches it outside the camp, at a distance from the camp, and it was called the Tent of Meeting. And everyone who sought I Am, came to the tent which is outside the camp. And whenever Moses went into the tent outside the camp, all the people stand, every one, watching by the doors of his tent. And when Moses leaves, they keep watch until he enters the tent.

And when Moses enters into the tent, the pillar of cloud descends and stands at the door of the tent, and the Divine talks to Moses. And all the people see the pillar of cloud standing by the door of the tent, and all the people stand and worship, every one, at the door of his tent.

And I Am speaks to Moses face to face, as one might speak to a friend. And he retires into the camp, but his servant Joshua the son of Naue, a young man, departs not from the tent.

And Moses says to I Am, 'If you do not go with us yourself, bring me not up from here.'

And I Am says to Moses, 'Even this thing which you have asked, I do. For you have found favor in my eyes, and I know you by name.'³⁵⁴

The Spirit knows when to hold bound, and when to forgive.



'Receive the Holy Spirit.

*Whose sins you shall forgive, they are forgiven them,
and whose sins you shall hold bound, they are held bound.'*³⁵⁵

³⁵⁴ Exodus 32:30-34, 33:3-II, 15, 17

³⁵⁵ John 20:22-23

Day 47:

Wisdom, Clement

*A time to tear down, and a time to build up,
a time to weep, and a time to laugh,
a time to lament, and a time to dance,
a time to throw stones, and a time to gather stones together.
(Ecclesiastes 3:3-5)*

The covenant is broken, the tablets of the Law are broken, Wisdom's heart is broken...

But now it is time to rebuild.

I Am says to Moses, 'Chisel out two stone tablets like the first ones, and I will write on them the words that were on the first tablets, which you broke. Be ready in the morning, and then come up on Mount Sina. Present yourself to me there on top of the mountain. No one is to come with you or be seen anywhere on the mountain, not even the flocks and herds may graze in front of the mountain.'

So Moses chisels out two stone tablets like the first ones and goes up Mount Sina early in the morning, as I Am had commanded him, and he carries the two

stone tablets in his hands. Then I Am comes down in the cloud and stands there with him, and proclaims the name, 'I Am,' and passes in front of Moses, proclaiming:

'I Am! I Am! The compassionate and gracious Deity, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet not leaving the guilty unpunished - punishing the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation.'

Moses bows to the ground at once and worships. 'I Am,' he says, 'if I have found favor in your eyes, then let I Am go with us. Although this is a stiff-necked people, forgive our wickedness and our sin, and take us as your inheritance.'

Then I Am says, 'I am making a covenant with you. Before all your people I will do wonders never seen before in any nation of all the world. The people you live among will see how awesome is the work that I, I Am, will do for you. Obey what I command you today. I will drive out before you the Amorites, Canaanites, Hittites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. Be careful not to make a treaty with those who live in the land where you are going, or they will be a snare among you. Break down their altars, smash their sacred stones and cut down their Asherah poles. Do not worship any other god, for I Am, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God.'³⁵⁶

³⁵⁶ Exodus 34:1-14

The tablets are made anew, the covenant is made anew,
and Wisdom herself will now build up her house, if
Israel will help her.

And Moses speaks to all the congregation of the
children of Israel, saying, 'This is the thing which I
Am has appointed to you, saying: Take up among
yourselves an offering for I Am. Everyone who is of a
willing heart shall bring the first-fruits to I Am: gold,
silver, brass, blue, purple, double scarlet spun, and
fine linen spun, and goats' hair, and rams' skins dyed
red, and skins dyed blue, and incorruptible wood, and
onyx stones, and stones for engraving for the
shoulder-piece and the full-length robe.

'And every man who is wise in heart among you, let
him come and craft all the things whatsoever I Am
has commanded: the tabernacle, and the cords, and
the coverings, and the rings, and the bars, and the
posts, and the ark of the covenant, and its staves, and
its mercy seat, and the veil, and the curtains of the
court, and its posts, and the emerald stones, and the
incense, and the anointing oil, and the table and all of
its furniture, and the lampstand for the light and all
its furniture, and the altar and all its furniture, and
the holy garments of Aaron the priest, and the
garments in which they shall do service, and the
garments of priesthood for the sons of Aaron, and the
anointing oil, and the compound incense.'

And all the congregation of the children of Israel
went out from Moses, and they brought - everyone

whose heart so prompted them, and everyone to whom it seemed good in their mind - each an offering. And they brought an offering to I Am for all the works of the tabernacle of witness, and all of its services, and for all the robes of the sanctuary.

And the men, every one to whom it seemed good in his heart, brought from the women seals and earrings, and finger-rings, and necklaces, and bracelets - every article of gold. Everyone with whom was found blue, purple, scarlet, fine linen, goats' hair, rams' skins dyed red, and sea cow hides, brought them. Everyone who made an offering of silver and brass brought an offering to I Am, and everyone with whom was found acacia wood for any work of the service, brought it.

All the women who were wise-hearted spun with their hands, and brought that which they had spun: the blue, the purple, the scarlet, and the fine linen. All the women whose heart inspired them in wisdom spun the goats' hair. The rulers brought the onyx stones and the stones to be set for the ephod and for the breastplate, and the spice, and the oil for the light, for the anointing oil, and for the sweet incense. And every man and woman whose mind inclined them to come in and do all the works as many as I Am appointed them to do by Moses - they, the children of Israel, brought an offering to I Am.³⁵⁷

³⁵⁷ Exodus 35:4-29

Day 48:

Wisdom, Artist

*Who is a more artful worker than she -
the fashioner of all things that are.
(Wisdom 8:6)*

The raw materials are there, but who will give life to them? Who is the Spirit who will order all things sweetly together?

And Moses says to the children of Israel, 'Behold, God has called by name Beseleel the son of Urias the son of Or, of the tribe of Juda, and has filled him with the divine Spirit of wisdom and understanding and knowledge of all things, to labor skillfully in all works of cunning workmanship, to form the gold and the silver and the brass, and to work in stone, and to fashion the wood, and to work in every work of wisdom. And God gave improvement in understanding both to him, and to Eliab the son of Achisamach of the tribe of Dan, and filled them with wisdom, understanding, and perception, to understand how to work all the works of the sanctuary, and to weave the woven and embroidered

work with scarlet and fine linen, to do all the work of intricate workmanship and embroidery.³⁵⁸

Wisdom has entered in Beseleel and Eliab, that together they might begin the work of creating. They stand as an image of the Father, the Son, and the Spirit, who fashioned creation a long time ago. So stand three artisans - Beseleel, Eliab, and Wisdom herself - who will fashion the dwelling of God upon earth.

Indeed, the name Beseleel means “In the divine shadow” which is a fitting homage to the Father, who is ever wrapt in the Spirit - the Shadow of God.

And the name Eliab means “God is my Father,” which is a fitting moniker for the Son.

And “the divine Spirit of wisdom” who fills them and inspires them and works through them and with them: this Spirit is Wisdom, the Spirit most Holy.

The dwelling they fashion on earth will resemble the heavenly dwelling place, the very throne of I Am.

Now, in heaven, the sevenfold Spirit of Wisdom dwells by the throne of God, like the light, warmth, and fire of a lampstand, as St. John described:

There were seven lamps of fire
burning before the throne,
which are the sevenfold Spirit of God.³⁵⁹

³⁵⁸ Exodus 35:30-35

³⁵⁹ Revelation 4:5

So on earth they fashion the seven branched lampstand, the menorah, to give light and warmth before the cherubim throne. This lampstand was in the form of a seven branched almond tree - a symbol of Wisdom: the fiery tree, aflame yet unconsumed.

‘You shall make a lampstand of pure gold, of beaten work is the lampstand to be made: its base, and its branch, its calyxes, its bulbs, and its flowers are of the same.

‘And six branches are coming out of its sides, three branches of the lampstand out of the one side, and three branches of the lampstand out of the other side: three calyxes made like almonds on the one branch - a bulb and a flower - and three calyxes made like almonds on the other branch - a bulb and a flower... Their bulbs and their branches are of the same, all of it one beaten work of pure gold, and you shall make its seven lamps.’³⁶⁰

This seven branched lampstand, standing before the Inner Sanctum, is an image of the sevenfold Spirit who dwells by the throne of God.

Indeed, all of the plans revealed to Moses on the mountain were reflections of the heavenly realm.

[They are] a copy and shadow of the heavenly things, even as Moses was warned by the Divine when he was about to make the tabernacle, saying, ‘See that you

³⁶⁰ Exodus 25:31-37

make everything according to the pattern which was shown to you on the mountain.³⁶¹

So they fashion the Table of the Bread of the Presence, as an image of Wisdom who will bring forth the true bread which comes down from heaven.

And they fashion the Altar of Incense, an image of Wisdom who offers the prayers of the saints before God.

And they make the Altar of bloody Sacrifice, outside the Holy Place, as an image of Christ who would die on the earth as a sacrifice for sin.

And lastly they fashion the Ark of the Covenant, the throne of the Most High, in the holy of holies. As an image of Wisdom, who is the throne of God, it contains:

- ❖ the broken fragments of the Law - the very heart of Wisdom, shattered for mankind
- ❖ the rod of Aaron, a symbol of Wisdom, the fruitful Tree of Life and the worker of wonders
- ❖ the golden pot containing manna - a symbol of Wisdom who would bear into the world Christ, the true bread which comes down from heaven

Wisdom has built her house upon earth to look like heaven, so her children on earth would have an idea of the heavenly home to which she was leading them.

*The Tent of the Covenant was opened in heaven...*³⁶²

³⁶¹ Hebrews 8:5

³⁶² Revelation 15:5

Day 49:

Wisdom, Promised Land

*Thy lips, my spouse, are as a dropping honeycomb,
honey and milk are under thy tongue...
I am come into my garden, O my sister, my spouse,
I have gathered my myrrh, with my aromatical spices,
I have eaten the honeycomb with my honey,
I have drunk my wine with my milk.
(Song of Songs 4:11,5:1)*

The journey to the Promised Land is a reflection of the journey to Heaven. Wisdom wants to bring her people not just to their home in Israel, but to the Heavenly Kingdom. More than anything, she wants to bring them to herself.

She wants to bring them to the land flowing with milk and honey. She herself is their destination: she is the land who is flowing with milk; she is the Spirit who is sweeter than honey.

We were all given to drink of one Spirit.³⁶³

And,

³⁶³ 1 Corinthians 12:13

Like newborn infants, desire the pure spiritual milk,
that by it you may grow up into salvation.³⁶⁴

Wisdom is that Spirit sweeter than honey, better to
have than the honeycomb, as she says:

Come to me, all ye that desire me
and be filled with my fruits.
For my spirit is sweet above honey
and my remembrance above honey and the
honeycomb.
My memory is unto everlasting generations.
They that eat me, shall yet hunger
and they that drink me, shall yet thirst.³⁶⁵

She is the land who will nurture her children, and give
them their sustenance, harvest and bounty. She is the
hills and the pastures and meadows, the dewfall and
rain, giving life to all things.

She is the river which cleanses and purifies; she is the
fire which gladdens the hearth. She is the breeze which
refreshes the soul of man - free and unseen, as she
moves where she will.

She is the brightness which helps man to work at day;
she is the shadow which gives rest at night. She is the
tree throwing shade with its canopy; she is lampstand
which scatters the dark.

³⁶⁴ 1 Peter 2:2

³⁶⁵ Sirach 24:26-29

I chose her, rather than light,
because her radiance never ceases...

Compared with light, she is found to be superior,
for light gives way to night,
but against Wisdom, evil can never prevail.³⁶⁶

Moses concludes the book of Exodus with what he considers most important: Wisdom has built her house in the midst of her people.

In the first month, in the second year after their going forth out of Egypt, at the new moon, the Tent was set up. And Moses raises up the tent, and lays its bases, and puts the crossbars into their places, and sets up the pillars. And he stretches out the curtains over the tent, and puts the veil of the tent on it above, as I Am commanded Moses.

And he takes the testimonies, and puts them into the ark, and he puts the staves by the sides of the ark. And he brings the ark into the tabernacle, and puts on it the covering of the veil, and covers the ark of the testimony, as I Am commanded Moses.

And he puts the table in the tent of witness, on the north side, by the veil of the tabernacle, and he puts on it the bread of the presence, before I Am, as I Am commanded Moses.

And he puts the lampstand into the tent of witness, on the side of the tent toward the south. And he puts

³⁶⁶ Wisdom 7:10,29-30

on it its lamps before I Am, as I Am had commanded Moses.

And he puts the golden altar in the tent of witness before the veil, and he burns aromatic incense upon it, as I Am commanded Moses.

And he puts the altar of the burnt-offerings before the entrance to the tent. And he makes the laver, that at it Moses and Aaron and his sons might wash their hands and their feet when they go into the tent of witness, or whensoever they should advance to the altar to do service, they wash at it, as I Am commanded Moses.

And he sets up the court round about the tabernacle and the altar.

And so Moses completed all the works.³⁶⁷

Moses concludes Exodus with these lines - what is most important of all: Wisdom dwells with her people, and she herself goes with them, and leads them, and the people follow her, wherever she will.

And when everything was set up, the Cloud covered the tent of witness, and the tent was filled with the Glory of I Am. And Moses was not able to enter into the tent of testimony, because the Cloud overshadowed it, and the tent was filled with the Glory of I Am.

³⁶⁷ Exodus 40:17-33

And when the Cloud went up from the tent, the children of Israel prepared to depart with their baggage. And if the Cloud went not up, they did not prepare to depart, until the day when the Cloud went up. For the Cloud was on the tent by day, and Fire was on it by night before all Israel, in all their journeys.³⁶⁸

Indeed,

She conducted them in a wonderful way
and she was for them a sheltering Cloud by day
and a starry Flame by night.³⁶⁹

That whole generation died in the desert,³⁷⁰ even Moses. But failing to enter the Promised Land was not such a curse. For they were with Wisdom, and she was with them, and that was more important than any hills and fields which they may have been seeking. They dwelt under the Cloud, and ate the manna each day, and lived and died in the company of Wisdom. And if they were with Wisdom, wherever they were, they were already home.



³⁶⁸ Exodus 40:34-38

³⁶⁹ Wisdom 10:17

³⁷⁰ Cf. Numbers 14:29, Joshua 5:6

*Jesus answered, and said to them,
'The kingdom of God cannot be meticulously surveyed.
Nor will they say, Look, here! or, Look, there!
For behold, the Kingdom of God is in your midst.'*³⁷¹

* * *

*The Kingdom of God is not eating and drinking,
but righteousness, peace, and joy,
in the Holy Spirit.*³⁷²

³⁷¹ Luke 17:20-21

³⁷² Romans 14:17

Day 50:
Wisdom, Jordan

*All these things are the book of the covenant
of the most high God,
the very Law which Moses commanded
for a heritage unto the congregations of Jacob.
Faint not to be strong in I Am, that he may confirm you.
Cleave unto him, for I Am, the Almighty, is God alone,
and beside him there is no other savior.
He fills all things with his Wisdom,
as Phison and as Tigris in the time of the new fruits;
he makes understanding to abound like the Euphrates,
and as Jordan in the time of the harvest.
(Sirach 24:23-26)*

There was one man who did not die in the desert. His name was Joshua, which means, “I Am saves.” It was the same name which would one day be given to Jesus.

Joshua was a prefiguration of Jesus - the only man worthy to enter the heavenly realm. The one,

who ascended into heaven: Jesus, the Son of God.³⁷³

³⁷³ Hebrews 4:14

For indeed, all mankind had angered I Am through their disobedience and rebellion, and they could not restore themselves to God's favor by the sacrifice of goats and lambs.

So likewise, the Spirit said that all the Israelites who left Egypt with Moses "tested and tried me," and therefore they did not come to rest in the Promised Land.

As the Holy Spirit says, "Today, if you hear his Voice, harden not your hearts, as in the rebellion, as in the day of the trial in the wilderness, where your fathers tested my patience and tried me, though they saw my works for forty years. Therefore I was displeased with that generation, and said, 'They always err in their heart, and they do not know my ways.' So I swore in my anger, 'They will not enter into my rest.'"³⁷⁴

But one man found favor, through his obedience. He was on the mountain with Moses, while the Israelites below were worshipping the golden calf.

And Moses turns to go down from the mountain, and...Joshua hearing the voice of the people crying, says to Moses, 'There is noise of war in the camp.'

And Moses says, 'It is not the voice of those who begin battle, nor the voice of those who cry in defeat, but the voice of drunken singing do I hear.'³⁷⁵

³⁷⁴ Hebrews 3:7-11

³⁷⁵ Exodus 32:15,17-18

Joshua is the faithful minister of Moses. As Moses is an image of the Father, Joshua is an image of the Son, more faithful than Aaron.

Now, the Father bestows the Spirit on the Son.

Here is My Servant, whom I uphold,
My Chosen One, in whom My soul delights.
I will put My Spirit on Him.³⁷⁶

As so, an image of the Father, Moses bestows the Spirit upon Joshua, who is an image of the Son:

Joshua, the son of Naue, was filled with the Spirit of Wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands upon him.³⁷⁷

Filled with the Spirit of Wisdom, Joshua leads a nation reborn - not the nation which had marched out of Egypt with Moses and had died in the desert for their sins, but a nation who had been born in the desert, born under the Cloud, born of Wisdom. He leads this nation reborn, into the promised kingdom.

Amen, amen I say to you,
no one can enter the kingdom of Heaven
unless he be reborn
of water and the Holy Spirit.³⁷⁸

The Father is not sent. But the Father sends the Son and the Spirit. So too, Moses is not sent into the

³⁷⁶ Isaiah 42:1

³⁷⁷ Deuteronomy 34:9

³⁷⁸ John 3:5

Promised Land, but he sends Joshua, and the Spirit of Wisdom with him.

Moses calls to Joshua, and says to him in the sight of all Israel,

‘Be strong and courageous, for you shall go with this people into the land which I Am has sworn to their fathers to give them, and you shall cause them to inherit it.

‘It is I Am who goes before you
and will be with you
and never fail you
nor forsake you.’³⁷⁹

As the Spirit is with the Father, the Spirit is with the Son.

Joshua rises up early in the morning, and departs from Sattin, and they come as far as Jordan, and lodge there, before they cross over...

And I Am says to Joshua, ‘This day do I begin to exalt you before all the children of Israel, that they may know that as I was with Moses, so I am with you.’³⁸⁰

³⁷⁹ Deuteronomy 31:7-8

³⁸⁰ Joshua 3:1,7

Conclusion:

Wisdom, Deliverer

*She delivered a holy people, a blameless race,
from the nation that oppressed them.
(Wisdom 10:15)*

Scripture describes the Father as a warrior.

I Am is a man of war.

I Am is his name.³⁸¹

And likewise the Son:

Behold, a white horse, and he that sat upon him was called faithful and true, and with justice he judges and makes war. And his eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many diadems. And he had a name written which no man knows but himself. And he was clothed with a garment sprinkled with blood, and his name is called: the Word of God. And the armies that are in heaven followed him on white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.³⁸²

³⁸¹ Exodus 15:3

³⁸² Revelation 19:11-14

The gentle Spirit of Wisdom is likewise a warrior.

Who is this, looking forth like the dawn,
fair as the moon,
clear as the sun,
terrible as armies set in battle array?³⁸³

This Spirit of Wisdom, the Breath of I Am, does battle
for God.

The lawless one will be revealed,
whom the Lord will slay with the Breath of his mouth.³⁸⁴

This Breath is likened to a club or sword.

He shall smite the earth with the Rod of his mouth,
and with the Breath of his lips
he shall destroy the ungodly one.³⁸⁵

Indeed, the Spirit is the chosen weapon of God - the
club by which he strikes, the fiery Breath by which he
consumes his enemies.

And with every stroke of the appointed staff that I
Am brings down, the tamborines and lyres will sound
as he battles with weapons brandished. For the place
of burning has long been prepared; it has been made
ready for the king. Its funeral pyre is deep and wide,

³⁸³ Song of Songs 6:10

³⁸⁴ 2 Thessalonians 2:8

³⁸⁵ Isaiah 11:4

with plenty of fire and wood. The Breath of I Am, like a torrent of brimstone, sets it ablaze.³⁸⁶

Scripture presents many images of this warrior Spirit, such as Judith, and Yael, and every woman who strikes against the head of the Serpent, since Eden. As God declared:

I will set enmity between you and the woman...
She will strike your head.³⁸⁷

As it pleases God to wage war through the Spirit, it pleases the Spirit, in turn, to wage war through man. She enters into her champions, and together, they fight for good.

She entered into the soul of a servant of God and stood against dreadful kings.³⁸⁸

And,

The Spirit of I Am came powerfully upon him and he tore apart the lion with his bare hands.³⁸⁹

And,

The Spirit of I Am came upon him and he judged Israel and he went out to war.³⁹⁰

³⁸⁶ Isaiah 30:32-33

³⁸⁷ Genesis 3:15

³⁸⁸ Wisdom 10:16

³⁸⁹ Judges 14:6

³⁹⁰ Judges 3:10

And,

The Spirit of I Am came upon Gedeon,
and he sounded the horn
and rallied the Abiezerites behind him.³⁹¹

Moses conferred this Spirit of Wisdom upon Joshua by the laying on of hands, and Joshua, filled with the Spirit, proceeded to conquer the promised land. Or indeed, the Spirit conquered the promised land through Joshua.

I Am, your Deity, goes ahead of you as a consuming Fire to destroy them, and will bring them down before you. Thus you shall drive them out, and make them to perish swiftly, as I Am has told you.³⁹²

Wisdom is looking for collaborators: holy souls whom she will fill, and through whom she can work.

She passes into holy souls
and makes of them friends of God, and prophets.³⁹³

She fills Mary, and together they bring forth the Incarnate Word.

She fills Jesus, and together they topple the reign of Satan, and bring on the Kingdom of God:

³⁹¹ Judges 6:34

³⁹² Deuteronomy 9:3

³⁹³ Wisdom 7:27

Jesus said to them,
‘Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand. If Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself - how then will his kingdom stand? ...But if I by the Spirit of God cast out demons, then the Kingdom of God has come upon you.’³⁹⁴

The Spirit of Wisdom delivers her children from evil.

She delivered Lot from Sodom:

She delivered the just man who fled from the wicked that were perishing, when fire came down upon Pentapolis, whose land is desolate and smokes to this day, as a testimony to their wickedness, and the trees bear fruits that ripen not, and a standing pillar of salt is a monument of an incredulous soul.³⁹⁵

She delivered Jacob from Esau:

Wisdom delivered from sorrow those who attend upon her. She conducted the just through the right ways when he fled from his brother’s wrath, and showed him the kingdom of God.³⁹⁶

She delivered Joseph when he was sold by his brothers:

³⁹⁴ Matthew 12:25-28

³⁹⁵ Wisdom 10:6-7

³⁹⁶ Wisdom 10:9-10

She forsook not the just when he was sold, but
delivered him from sinners; she went down with him
into the pit, and in chains she left him not, till she
brought him the scepter of the kingdom, and power
against those who oppressed him.³⁹⁷

She delivered her people from Egypt:

She delivered the just people, the blameless seed,
from the nations that oppressed them.
She entered into the soul of the servant of God
and stood against dreadful kings
in wonders and in signs.
She rendered to the just the wages of their labors,
and conducted them in a wonderful way,
and she was to them for a cover by day
and for the light of stars by night.
And she brought them through the Red Sea
and bore them over, through a great water.
But their enemies she drowned in the sea
and from the depth of hell she dredged them up
that the just might take the spoils of the wicked.³⁹⁸

But most of all, she delivers herself. Wisdom wishes to
deliver herself into the arms and into the heart of the
one who loves her. Wisdom is Gift, and she is eager to
be given.

She rushes to rush upon those whom she rushes on.
She waits at the doorstep of those who are seeking her.

³⁹⁷ Wisdom 10:13-14

³⁹⁸ Wisdom 10:15-19

Wisdom is glorious, and never fades away.
Yea, she is easily seen by those who love her
and found by those who seek her.
She anticipates those who desire her
by making herself known to them first.
Whoever seeks her early, shall not search for long,
for he shall find her sitting at his doorstep.

To think upon her therefore
is the perfection of wisdom,
and whosoever watches for her
shall quickly be without care.
For she goes about seeking such as are worthy of her
and shows herself favorably to them in the ways,
and meets them in every thought.³⁹⁹

Wisdom delights in man. She wants to collaborate: to
live and to work with man. She wants to be his
Paraclete - the one at the side, the one who inspires and
strengthens - the one within. She is the Gift: the divine
helpmate given to man.

She is the woman at enmity with the Serpent. And she
wants to help man to fight the good fight.

A time to love, and a time to hate.
A time for war, and a time for peace.

But mostly, what she wants to make, is not war, but
love.

I am my beloved's, and on me is his desire.

³⁹⁹ Wisdom 6:12-16

Come, my beloved, let us go forth into the field,
let us lodge in the villages,
let us go early into the vineyards.
Let us see if the vine has flowered,
if the blossoms have appeared,
if the pomegranates have blossomed;
there will I give thee my breasts.
The mandrakes send out their fragrance
and at our doors are all kinds of choice fruits
new and old.
O my beloved, I have kept them for thee.⁴⁰⁰



*I gave a sweet smell like cinnamon and aspalathus
and I yielded a pleasant odor like the best myrrh
as galbanum, and onyx, and sweet storax,
and as the fume of frankincense in the tabernacle.*

*As the elm tree I stretched out my branches
and my branches are branches of honor and grace.
As the vine I brought forth pleasant savor
and my flowers are the fruit of honor and riches.*

*I am the mother of fair love, and of fear,
and knowledge, and holy hope.
I therefore, being eternal,
am given to all my children who are named of him.*

⁴⁰⁰ Song of Songs 7:10-13

*Come to me, all ye that be desirous of me
and fill yourselves with my fruits.*

*For my memorial is sweeter than honey
and mine inheritance than the honeycomb.*

*They that eat me shall yet be hungry
and they that drink me shall yet be thirsty.
He that obeys me shall never be confounded
and they that work by me shall not do amiss.⁴⁰¹*

⁴⁰¹ Sirach 24:15-22

Epilogue:
Wisdom Says, “Come”

*“Come to me,
you who yearn for me,
and be filled with my fruits.”
(Sirach 24:19)*

Joshua stands before the Jordan as once Moses stood before the Red Sea. It is the beginning of the Great Do-Over, and this time Wisdom and her people will get it right.

She parts the Jordan before them, so that the new generation, which had not beheld her former signs, might be witness to her power.

Joshua assembles the people (twice, even) and reads the Law of the Covenant to them, and they all say “I do,” to I Am alone.

Noticeably missing is the golden calf, this time.

All the men who had not been circumcised in the desert are here circumcised - what serious covenanting! They march on the strongest city in the promised land,

Jericho with its massive walls, and having circled it seven times in honor of the sevenfold Spirit, they blow it down with a puff of air - the trumpet blast.

This new generation is an image of the Son, shedding their blood for the covenant. They are an image of the Father, vanquishing evil with the breath of their mouth. They are the people of Wisdom, born under the Cloud, born into the kingdom.

Wisdom leads them. There is no king; there is no capital. She moves her tabernacle wherever she will; there is no temple of stone. Wisdom fights for them, entering into heroes like Joshua and Samson, Gideon and David. She has no need of an army; if she can work through a single man, it is enough to win the victory.

Little by little, her people take possession of the land. Generation by generation, her people multiply, and take possession of the gates of their enemies. The kingdom is growing, and I Am is their king.

But Wisdom knew it would not last for long. The people turn to other gods, and ask to have a human king "like the other nations." They fall into all manner of abominations, polluting the temple with foreign gods, so much so that Wisdom could stand it no longer. She abandoned the temple as Ezekiel witnessed, and marched against her city, as she said she would. She brought in foreign armies to punish the land, and she led her people away, into exile.

But she could never stay angry for long. After the people had paid for their sins seven times over, she brought them back, to try again. It was the do-over, all over again. Ezra read the covenant, and the returning exiles, with tears in their eyes, said “I do,” once again, to the covenant with I Am.

The cycle of sin and repentance repeated repeatedly. Things would never be perfect, until the world to come.

The final go-round of apostasy, chastisement, and repentance, involved the whole world, the antichrist, and Wisdom’s old friends Moses and Elijah, who returned to bear witness to the true God: I Am. There were plagues, and darkness, and rivers turning to blood - a grand reenactment of what had transpired in Egypt at the time of the Exodus. And in the end, Wisdom delivered her people, and led them into the perfect kingdom - the Kingdom of Heaven - under the leadership of Jesus, the new Joshua, who blew away evil with the Breath of his mouth, until there was no one left to beat. And the last enemy was death, and death too was defeated.

And then there was peace, true inviolable peace. The time for war had finished. Wisdom hung up her sword, and all that was left was love.

The Church called to her husband, Christ, “Come.” And Wisdom calls to her beloved mankind, “Come.” The Spirit and the bride: they both say “Come.”

The Spirit and the bride say, ‘Come!’

He who hears, let him say, 'Come!'
He who is thirsty, let him come.
He who desires, let him take, freely, the Water of Life.⁴⁰²

Amen. We, the thirsty, are coming - to take the Water of Life, the Spirit of Wisdom, freely and willingly.

There is no need to ask twice. We are coming. Soon - as soon as possible.

St. John the apostle, who witnessed the Revelation, speaks for all of us when he responds to the call of the Spirit.

He who is witness to these things, says,
'Yes, I will come, quickly!'⁴⁰³

We respond to the call of Wisdom: I am coming!

Christ likewise responds to the call of the Church: I am coming!

Behold a holy chiasmus:
the Divine calls to man,
and man calls to the Divine.

The Spirit and the bride, they both say, "Come."

Man and Christ, they both respond, "I am coming."

⁴⁰² Revelation 22:17

⁴⁰³ Revelation 22:20

Holy double wedding! Christ is wed to his bride, the Church, and Wisdom is wed to her beloved mankind.

Holy triple wedding! For, who can deny that the Father, who created creation in love from the beginning, is likewise at last wed to his chosen people?

For your Creator is your husband;
'I Am of Armies' is his name,
and the Holy One of Israel is the one who claims you,
the God of the whole earth.⁴⁰⁴

The covenant is complete, between man and the Divine. The Father, the Son, and the Spirit of Wisdom are united with their creation, man, at last, in faithfulness, in truth, and in love.

So says I Am - the Father, the Son, and the Spirit:

And I will make for them in that day a covenant
with the wild beasts of the field
and with the birds of the sky
and with the reptiles of the earth,
and I will break the bow and the sword and the battle
from off the earth,
and will cause you to dwell safely.

And I will betroth you to myself forever;
yes, I will betroth you to myself
in righteousness and in judgment
and in mercy and in tender compassions
and I will betroth you to myself in faithfulness

⁴⁰⁴ Isaiah 54:5

and you shall know I Am.⁴⁰⁵

The Spirit of Wisdom, calls to us: “Come.”

“Come with me, into the desert.”

“Come with me, to the Promised Land.”

“Come with me, to the Kingdom of Heaven.”

“Come to...*me*.”



“Come to *me*.”⁴⁰⁶

⁴⁰⁵ Hosea 2:18-20

⁴⁰⁶ Sirach 24:19

Postscript:

Wisdom, Home at Last

*The Creator of all things commanded
and said to me,
and he that poured me forth, rested in my tent
and said to me:
'Let your dwelling be in Jacob
and your inheritance in Israel
and take root in my elect.'
(Sirach 24:12-13)*

Wisdom is at home with her beloved people, in the
Promised Land, in every heart which welcomes her, in
the Kingdom of Heaven.

And we - we are at home in her.

Wisdom exalts her children
and lays hold of those who seek her.
He who loves her, loves life,
and those who seek her early shall be filled with joy.

He who holds her fast shall inherit glory
and wheresoever she enters, the Lord will bless.
Those who serve her, serve the Holy One,

and those who love her, the Lord loves.

Whosoever gives ear to her shall judge the nations
and who attends her shall dwell securely.
If a man commit himself to her, he shall inherit her,
and his generation shall hold her in possession.

For at first she will walk with him upon a winding road
and bring fear and dread upon him
and test him with her discipline
until she may trust his soul
and try him by her laws.

Then she will return the straight way unto him
and comfort him, and show him her secrets.
But if he go wrong, she will forsake him
and give him over to his own ruin...

She is very unpleasant to the unlearned;
he that lacks understanding will not remain with her.
She will lie upon him as a mighty stone of trial
and he will cast her from him before long.
For Wisdom is according to her name,
and she is not manifest to many.

Give ear, my son, receive my advice
and refuse not my counsel:
put your feet into her fetters
and your neck into her chain.
Bow down your shoulder and bear her,
and be not grieved with her bonds.

Come to her with your whole heart

and keep her ways with all your power.

Search, and seek, and she shall be made known to you
and when you have laid hold of her
never let her go.

For in the end, you shall find rest in her,
and she will be your joy.⁴⁰⁷

We find our rest in Wisdom. She is our final resting
place; she is our destination.

She who is the Promise of the Father, is for us our
Promised Land.

She is home.



*Entering my house, I shall take my repose beside her,
for her company has no bitterness
and life with her, no grief,
but only joy.⁴⁰⁸*

⁴⁰⁷ Sirach 4:11-19, 6:20-28

⁴⁰⁸ Wisdom 8:16

Index

Prologue	7
Introduction: Wisdom in the Desert	9
Day 1: Wisdom, I Am	12
Day 2: Wisdom, Who Sends the Prophets	16
Day 3: Wisdom, Voice of the Prophets	20
Day 4: Wisdom, Guiding the Prophets	24
Day 5: Wisdom, Wonder Worker	28
Day 6: Wisdom, Teacher of Moses	32
Day 7: Wisdom, Finger of God	36
Day 8: Wisdom, Hand of God	40
Day 9: Wisdom, Hand Upon the Heart	44
Day 10: Wisdom, River of Life	48
Day 11: Wisdom, Life-Giving Tree	52
Day 12: Wisdom, Wise Above Serpents	56
Day 13: Wisdom, Fiery Spirit	60

Day 14: Wisdom, Staff of Moses	64
Day 15: Wisdom, Staff of the Good Shepherd	68
Day 16: Wisdom, Rod of God	72
Day 17: Wisdom, Mistress of Water	76
Day 18: Wisdom, Mistress of Earth	80
Day 19: Wisdom, Mistress of Fire	84
Day 20: Wisdom, Mistress of Air	88
Day 21: Wisdom, Two Edged Sword	92
Day 22: Wisdom, Slayer of Antichrist	96
Day 23: Wisdom, Virgin Most Powerful	100
Day 24: Wisdom, Model of Judith	104
Day 25: Wisdom, Wellspring of Life	108
Day 26: Wisdom, Spirit of Justice	112
Day 27: Wisdom, Friend	116
Day 28: Wisdom, Desired	120
Day 29: Wisdom, Faithful	124
Day 30: Wisdom, Who Strikes the Head	129

Day 31: Wisdom, Inviolable	132
Day 32: Wisdom, Last Breath	136
Day 33: Wisdom, Fire and Dreams	140
Day 34: Wisdom, Pillar of Fire	144
Day 35: Wisdom, Despoiler	148
Day 36: Wisdom, Faint	152
Day 37: Wisdom, Dewfall	156
Day 38: Wisdom, Water from the Rock	160
Day 39: Wisdom, Betrothed to Man	164
Day 40: Wisdom, Jealous	168
Day 41: Wisdom, Shavuot	172
Day 42: Wisdom, Artisan	176
Day 43: Wisdom, Innocent	180
Day 44: Wisdom, Destroyer of Evil	184
Day 45: Wisdom, Crying	188
Day 46: Wisdom, Easily Persuaded	192
Day 47: Wisdom, Clement	196

Day 48:	
Wisdom, Artist	200
Day 49:	
Wisdom, Promised Land	204
Day 50:	
Wisdom, Jordan	210
Conclusion:	
Wisdom, Deliverer	214
Epilogue:	
Wisdom Says, "Come"	223
Postscript:	
Wisdom, Home at Last	229

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