

# Diaspora, Wisdom, and Apocalyptic Writings

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*Diocese of Orange*  
**March 7, 2015**

*Loyola Institute for Spirituality*  
<http://catholic-resources.org>



*(Expulsion from the Garden, by Gustav Doré)*

- 8:30**    *Arrival & Setup*
- 8:45**    *Opening Prayer / Initial Announcements*
- 9:00**    **Session 1 – Diaspora Stories: Daniel 1–6 and Tobit**
- 10:00**    *Q & A*
- 10:15**    *Break*
- 10:30**    **Session 2 – Wisdom Literature, part 1**
- 11:30**    *Group Discussions: Why do you think Wisdom arose AFTER the Exile? What seems to be the connections between WISDOM and DIASPORA STORIES?*
- 11:45**    **Presentation – Esther** (by Sr. Christine Hilliard, CSJ)
- 12:00**    *Lunch*
- 1:00**    **Session 3 – Wisdom Lit., part 2 (Wisdom Ethics)**
- 2:00**    *Group Discussions: How does WISDOM encourage Christians to be comfortable with the spirit of Science? Why do some Christians still believe that science is an "enemy" of faith?*
- 2:15**    *Break*
- 2:30**    **Session 4 – Apocalyptic Writings, esp. Daniel 7–12**
- 3:30**    *Q & A*
- 3:45**    *Final Announcements / Closing Prayer*
- 4:00**    *Clean-up & Departure*

**Next Meeting: March 28, 2015 at the St. Joseph Center Auditorium**

# Catholic Bible Institute – March 7, 2015 – Opening Prayer

Samson Group

**Leader:** O God, grant that we may be aflame with you, Spirit of Love, and walk as your children this Lent.

**All:** O Sophia, Spirit of Wisdom, who speaks the language of God in our hearts, speak to us now; and infuse us with the courage to listen.<sup>1</sup>

## Opening Song:

### THIS DAY GOD GIVES ME

BUNESSAN



1. This day God gives me Strength of high heav - en, Sun and moon  
2. This day God sends me Strength as my guard - ian, Might to up -  
3. God's way is my way, God's shield is 'round me, God's host de -  
4. Ris - ing I thank you, Might - y and Strong One, King of cre -



1. shin - ing, Flame in my hearth, Flash - ing of light - ning, Wind in its  
2. hold me, Wis - dom as guide. Your eyes are watch - ful, Your ears are  
3. fend me, Sav - ing from ill. An - gels of heav - en, Drive from me  
4. a - tion, Giv - er of rest, Firm - ly con - fess - ing Three - ness of



1. swift - ness, Deeps of the o - cean, Firm - ness of earth.  
2. lis - t'ning, Your lips are speak - ing, Friend at my side.  
3. al - ways All that would harm me, Stand by me still.  
4. Per - sons, One - ness of God - head, Trin - i - ty blest.

Text: 55 54 D; Ascr. to St. Patrick, 372-466; adapted by James D. Quinn, SJ, © 1969.  
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## Reading: *The Prayer of Azariah in the Furnace* (Daniel 3:24-31)

They walked about in the flames, singing to God and blessing the Lord. Azariah stood up in the midst of the fire and prayed aloud:

Blessed are you, and praiseworthy,  
O Lord, the God of our ancestors,  
and glorious forever is your name.

For you are just in all you have done;  
all your deeds are faultless, all your ways right,  
and all your judgments proper.

You have executed proper judgments in all that you have brought upon us  
and upon Jerusalem, the holy city of our ancestors.

By a proper judgment you have done all this because of our sins;

For we have sinned and transgressed by departing from you,  
and we have done every kind of evil.

Your commandments we have not heeded or observed,  
nor have we done as you ordered us for our good.

Therefore all you have brought upon us,  
all you have done to us,  
you have done by a proper judgment.

## Responsorial: (Proverbs 4:10-17)

**Response:** *The path of the just is like shining light.*

Hear, my child, and receive my words, and the years of your life shall be many. On the way of wisdom I direct you, I lead you on straightforward paths. **(R)**

When you walk, your step will not be impeded, and should you run,  
you will not stumble.

Hold fast to instruction; never let it go. Keep it, for it is your life. **(R)**

The path of the wicked enter not, walk not on the way of evil;  
Shun it, cross it not, turn aside from it, and pass on. **(R)**

For they cannot rest until they have done evil; to have made no one stumble  
steals away from their sleep.

For they eat the bread of wickedness and drink the wine of violence. **(R)**

## Reflection for Saturday in the second week of Lent

Hold fast to God, the one true good.

Where one's heart is, there is treasure also. God is not accustomed to refusing a good gift to those who ask for one. Since God is good, especially to those who are faithful to him, let us hold fast to him with all our soul, our heart, our strength, and so enjoy his light and see his glory and possess the grace of supernatural joy. Let us reach out with our hearts to possess that good, let us exist in it and live in it, let us hold fast to it, that good which is beyond all we can know or see and is marked by perpetual peace and tranquility, a peace which is beyond all we can know or understand.<sup>2</sup>

## Closing Prayer:

**All:** O Holy Wisdom, Soaring Power,  
encompass us with wings unfurled, and carry us,  
encircling all, above, below, and through the world.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Opening and Closing Prayer taken from O Holy Spirit, Root of Life, by Hildegard von Bingen.

<sup>2</sup>Reflection taken from the treatise On Flight from the World, by Saint Ambrose, Bishop of Milan.

# Catholic Bible Institute – March 7, 2015 – Closing Prayer

Amos Group

## Gathering Prayer

<i>Leader</i>	<i>ALL</i>
O Holy Spirit...	<i>give us stillness of soul in you.</i>
Calm the turmoil within...	<i>with the gentleness of your peace.</i>
Quiet the anxiety within...	<i>with a deep trust in you.</i>
Strengthen the faith within...	<i>with the awareness of your presence.</i>
Confirm the hope within...	<i>with the knowledge of your strength.</i>

**ALL:** *Spirit of God, be to us the source of light, strength and courage, so that we may hear your call ever more clearly, and follow it more generously. Amen.*

## Reading: Sirach 17:1-15, 19

A reading from the Book of Sirach.

The Lord created human beings from the earth, and makes them return to earth again.  
A limited number of days he gave them, but granted them authority over everything on earth.  
He endowed them with strength like his own, and made them in his image.  
He put fear of them in all flesh, and gave them dominion over beasts and birds.  
Discernment, tongues, and eyes, ears, and a mind for thinking he gave them.  
With knowledge and understanding he filled them; good and evil he showed them.  
He put fear of him into their hearts to show them the grandeur of his works,  
that they might describe the wonders of his deeds and praise his holy name.  
He set before them knowledge, and allotted to them the law of life.  
An everlasting covenant he made with them, and his commandments he revealed to them.  
His majestic glory their eyes beheld, his glorious voice their ears heard.  
He said to them, "Avoid all evil"; to each of them he gave precepts about their neighbor.  
Their ways are ever known to him, they cannot be hidden from his eyes.  
All their works are clear as the sun to him, and his eyes are ever upon their ways.  
The word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

## Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 1

**Response:** *Happy are they who have placed their trust in the Lord.*

Happy indeed are they who follow not the counsel of the wicked;  
nor linger in the way of sinners nor sit in the company of scorners,  
but whose delight is the law of the Lord and who ponder his law day and night. **(Response)**

They are like a tree that is planted beside the flowing waters, that yields its fruit in due season  
and whose leaves shall never fade; and all that they do shall prosper. **(Response)**

Not so are the wicked, not so!

For they, like winnowed chaff, shall be driven away by the wind.

For the Lord guards the way of the just but the way of the wicked leads to doom. **(Response)**

## Closing Prayer

Leader: Lord, you are in this place, fill us with your power.

**ALL:** *Lord, help us to know we are in your hands, we are under your protection, we are covered by your love.*

Leader: Lord, we ask you this evening to deliver us from anxiety and confusion,  
to guard our learning, to defend us from all harm.

**ALL** *Lord, give us eyes to see the invisible, ears to hear your call, hands to do your work, and hearts to respond to your love. Amen.*