

## Genesis 1

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup>The earth was barren, with no form of life; it was under a roaring ocean covered with darkness. But the Spirit of God was moving over the water.

## Psalms 99

<sup>1</sup>Our LORD, you are King! You rule from your throne above the winged creatures, <sup>[a]</sup> as people tremble and the earth shakes. <sup>2</sup>You are praised in Zion, and you control all nations. <sup>3</sup>Only you are God! And your power alone, so great and fearsome, is worthy of praise. <sup>4</sup>You are our mighty King, <sup>[b]</sup> a lover of fairness, who sees that justice is done everywhere in Israel. <sup>5</sup>Our LORD and our God, we praise you and kneel down to worship you, the God of holiness!

## Isaiah 6

<sup>1</sup>In the year that King Uzziah died, <sup>[a]</sup> I had a vision of the LORD. He was on his throne high above, and his robe filled the temple. <sup>2</sup>Flaming creatures with six wings each were flying over him. They covered their faces with two of their wings and their bodies with two more. They used the other two wings for flying, <sup>3</sup>as they shouted, "Holy, holy, holy, LORD All-Powerful! The earth is filled with your glory." <sup>4</sup>As they shouted, the doorposts of the temple shook, and the temple was filled with smoke. <sup>5</sup>Then I cried out, "I'm doomed! Everything I say is sinful, and so are the words of everyone around me. Yet I have seen the King, the LORD All-Powerful." <sup>6</sup>One of the flaming creatures flew over to me with a burning coal that it had taken from the altar with a pair of metal tongs. <sup>7</sup>It touched my lips with the hot coal and said, "This has touched your lips. Your sins are forgiven, and you are no longer guilty."

<sup>8</sup>After this, I heard the LORD ask, "Is there anyone I can send? Will someone go for us?" "I'll go," I answered. "Send me!"

## Ezekiel 1

<sup>26</sup>I then saw what looked like a throne made of sapphire, <sup>[i]</sup> and sitting on the throne was a figure in the shape of a human. <sup>27</sup>From the waist up, it was glowing like metal in a hot furnace, and from the waist down it looked like the flames of a fire. The figure was surrounded by a bright light, <sup>28</sup>as colorful as a rainbow that appears after a storm. I realized I was seeing the brightness of the LORD's glory! So I bowed with my face to the ground, and just then I heard a voice speaking to me.

## Revelation 5

<sup>1</sup>In the right hand of the one sitting on the throne I saw a scroll <sup>[a]</sup> that had writing on the inside and on the outside. And it was sealed in seven places. <sup>2</sup>I saw a mighty angel ask with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" <sup>3</sup>No one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or see inside it. <sup>4</sup>I cried hard because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or see inside it. <sup>5</sup>Then one of the elders said to me, "Stop crying and look! The one who is called both the 'Lion from the Tribe of Judah' <sup>[b]</sup> and 'King David's Great Descendant' <sup>[c]</sup> has won the victory. He will open the book and its seven seals."

<sup>6</sup>Then I looked and saw a Lamb standing in the center of the throne that was surrounded by the four living creatures and the elders. The Lamb looked as if it had once been killed. It had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits <sup>[d]</sup> of God, sent out to all the earth. <sup>7</sup>The Lamb went over and took the scroll from the right hand of the one who sat on the throne. <sup>8</sup>After he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders knelt down before him. Each of them had a harp and a gold bowl full of incense, <sup>[e]</sup> which are the prayers of God's people. <sup>9</sup>Then they sang a new song, "You are worthy to receive the scroll and open its seals, because you were killed. And with your own blood you bought for God people from every tribe, language, nation, and race. <sup>10</sup>You let them become kings and serve God as priests, and they will rule on earth."

## Daniel 12

<sup>1</sup> Michael, the chief of the angels, is the protector of your people, and he will come at a time of terrible suffering, the worst in all of history. And your people who have their names written in The Book [\[a\]](#) will be protected. <sup>2</sup> Many of those who lie dead in the ground will rise from death. Some of them will be given eternal life, and others will receive nothing but eternal shame and disgrace. <sup>3</sup> Everyone who has been wise will shine as bright as the sky above, and everyone who has led others to please God will shine like the stars. <sup>4</sup> Daniel, I now command you to keep the message of this book secret until the end of time, even though many people will go everywhere, searching for the knowledge to be found in it. [\[b\]](#)

## Revelation 20

<sup>11</sup> I saw a great white throne with someone sitting on it. Earth and heaven tried to run away, but there was no place for them to go. <sup>12</sup> I also saw all the dead people standing in front of that throne. Every one of them was there, no matter who they had once been. Several books were opened, and then the book of life [\[b\]](#) was opened. The dead were judged by what those books said they had done. <sup>13</sup> The sea gave up the dead people who were in it, and death and its kingdom also gave up their dead. Then everyone was judged by what they had done. <sup>14</sup> Afterwards, death and its kingdom were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death. [\[c\]](#) <sup>15</sup> Anyone whose name wasn't written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.



## Advent 2011



## Heaven and Hell