



**BIBLICAL READINGS TO BE USED IN  
THE RITE OF MARRIAGE AND IN  
THE MASS FOR THE  
CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE**

*The passages that follow may be used in the Mass “For the Celebration of Marriage” and in the celebration of Marriages without Mass. At least one reading that explicitly speaks of Marriage must always be chosen. These readings are designated by an asterisk.*

**READINGS FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT**

**(Lectionary for Mass, no. 801)**

**\*\*Genesis 1:26-28, 31a**

**A reading from the Book of Genesis**

**Male and female he created them.**

**Then God said:**

**“Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.  
Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea,  
the birds of the air, and the cattle,  
and over all the wild animals  
and all the creatures that crawl on the ground.”**

**God created man in his image;  
in the image of God he created him;  
male and female he created them.**

**God blessed them, saying:**

**“Be fertile and multiply;  
fill the earth and subdue it.  
Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air,  
and all the living things that move on the earth.”  
God looked at everything he had made, and he found it  
very good.**

**The word of the Lord.**

**\*\*Genesis 2:18-24**

**A reading from the Book of Genesis**

*The two of them become one body.*

**The LORD God said: “It is not good for the man to be alone.**

**I will make a suitable partner for him.”**

**So the LORD God formed out of the ground various wild animals and various birds of the air, and he brought them to the man to see what he would call them; whatever the man called each of them would be its name.**

**The man gave names to all the cattle, all the birds of the air, and all wild animals; but none proved to be the suitable partner for the man.**

**So the LORD God cast a deep sleep on the man, and while he was asleep, he took out one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh.**

**The LORD God then built up into a woman the rib that he had taken from the man.**

**When he brought her to the man, the man said:**

**“This one, at last, is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh;**

**This one shall be called ‘woman,’**

**for out of ‘her man’ this one has been taken.”**

**That is why a man leaves his father and mother and clings to his wife, and the two of them become one body.**

**The word of the Lord.**

*\*\*Genesis 24:48-51, 58-67*

**A reading from the Book of Genesis**

*In his love for Rebekah, Isaac found solace after the death of his mother.*

**The servant of Abraham said to Laban: “I bowed down in worship to the LORD, blessing the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me on the right road to obtain the daughter of my master’s kinsman for his son.**

**If, therefore, you have in mind to show true loyalty to my master, let me know; but if not, let me know that, too. I can then proceed accordingly.”**

**Laban and his household said in reply: “This thing comes from the LORD; we can say nothing to you either for or against it. Here is Rebekah, ready for you; take her with you, that she may become the wife of your master’s son, as the LORD has said.”**

**So they called Rebekah and asked her, “Do you wish to go with this man?” She answered, “I do.”**

**At this they allowed their sister Rebekah and her nurse to take leave, along with Abraham’s servant and his men. Invoking a blessing on Rebekah, they said:**

**“Sister, may you grow  
into thousands of myriads;  
And may your descendants gain possession  
of the gates of their enemies!”**

**Then Rebekah and her maids started out;  
they mounted their camels and followed the man.  
So the servant took Rebekah and went on his way.**

**Meanwhile Isaac had gone from Beer-lahai-roi  
and was living in the region of the Negeb.  
One day toward evening he went out . . . in the field,  
and as he looked around, he noticed that camels  
were approaching.**

**Rebekah, too, was looking about, and when she saw him,  
she alighted from her camel and asked the servant,  
“Who is the man out there, walking through the fields  
toward us?”**

**“That is my master,” replied the servant.  
Then she covered herself with her veil.**

**The servant recounted to Isaac all the things he had done.  
Then Isaac took Rebekah into his tent;  
he married her, and thus she became his wife.  
In his love for her Isaac found solace  
after the death of his mother Sarah.**

**The word of the Lord.**

**A reading from the Book of Tobit**

*May the Lord of heaven prosper you both.  
May he grant you mercy and peace.*

**Raphael and Tobiah entered the house of Raguel and greeted him.**

**Raguel sprang up and kissed Tobiah, shedding tears of joy. But when he heard that Tobit had lost his eyesight, he was grieved and wept aloud.**

**He said to Tobiah:**

**“My child, God bless you!**

**You are the son of a noble and good father.**

**But what a terrible misfortune**

**that such a righteous and charitable man should be afflicted with blindness!”**

**He continued to weep in the arms of his kinsman Tobiah.**

**His wife Edna also wept for Tobit;**

**and even their daughter Sarah began to weep.**

**Afterward, Raguel slaughtered a ram from the flock and gave them a cordial reception.**

**When they had bathed and reclined to eat,**

**Tobiah said to Raphael, “Brother Azariah, ask Raguel to let me marry my kinswoman Sarah.”**

**Raguel overheard the words;**

**so he said to the boy:**

**“Eat and drink and be merry tonight,**

**for no man is more entitled to marry my daughter Sarah than you, brother.**

**Besides, not even I have the right to give her to anyone  
but you,**

**because you are my closest relative.**

**But I will explain the situation to you very frankly.**

**I have given her in marriage to seven men,**

**all of whom were kinsmen of ours,**

**and all died on the very night they approached her.**

**But now, son, eat and drink.**

**I am sure the Lord will look after you both.”**

**Tobiah answered, “I will eat or drink nothing**

**until you set aside what belongs to me.”**

**Raguel said to him: “I will do it.**

**She is yours according to the decree of the Book of  
Moses.**

**Your marriage to her has been decided in heaven!**

**Take your kinswoman**

**from now on you are her love,**

**and she is your beloved.**

**She is yours today and ever after.**

**And tonight, son, may the Lord of heaven prosper you both.**

**May he grant you mercy and peace.”**

**Then Raguel called his daughter Sarah, and she came to  
him.**

**He took her by the hand and gave her to Tobiah with the  
words:**

**“Take her according to the law.**

**According to the decree written in the Book of Moses  
she is your wife.**

**Take her and bring her back safely to your father.**

**And may the God of heaven grant both of you peace and  
prosperity.”**

**He then called her mother and told her to bring a scroll,  
so that he might draw up a marriage contract  
stating that he gave Sarah to Tobiah as his  
wife according to the decree of the Mosaic law.**

**Her mother brought the scroll,  
and he drew up the  
contract,  
to which they affixed their seal.**

**Afterward they began to eat and  
drink.**

**The word of the Lord.**



**A reading from the Book of Tobit**

*Allow us to live together to a happy old age.*

**On their wedding night Tobiah arose from bed and said to his wife,**

**“Sister, get up. Let us pray and beg our Lord to have mercy on us and to grant us deliverance.” Sarah got up, and they started to pray and beg that deliverance might be theirs. They began with these words:**

**“Blessed are you, O God of our fathers;  
praised be your name forever and  
ever. Let the heavens and all your  
creation  
praise you forever.**

**You made Adam and you gave him his wife  
Eve to be his help and support;  
and from these two the human race  
descended. You said, ‘It is not good for the man to  
be alone;**

**let us make him a partner like himself.’**

**Now, Lord, you know that I take this wife of mine  
not because of lust,  
but for a noble purpose.**

**Call down your mercy on me and on her,  
and allow us to live together to a happy old age.”**

**They said together, “Amen, Amen.”**

**The word of the Lord.**

*\*\*Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31*

**A reading from the Book of Proverbs**

*The woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.*

**When one finds a worthy wife, her  
value is far beyond pearls.  
Her husband, entrusting his heart to her,  
has an unfailing prize.  
She brings him good, and not evil,  
all the days of her life.  
She obtains wool and flax  
and makes cloth with skillful hands.  
She puts her hands to the distaff,  
and her fingers ply the spindle.  
She reaches out her hands to the poor,  
and extends her arms to the needy.  
Charm is deceptive and beauty fleeting;  
the woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.  
Give her a reward of her labors,  
and let her works praise her at the city gates.**

**The word of the Lord.**

*Song of Songs 2:8-10, 14, 16a; 8:6-7a*

**A reading from the Song of Songs**

*Stern as death is love.*

**Hark! my lover—here he comes  
springing across the mountains,  
leaping across the hills.**

**My lover is like a gazelle  
or a young stag.**

**Here he stands behind our wall,  
gazing through the windows,  
peering through the lattices.**

**My lover speaks; he says to me,  
“Arise, my beloved, my dove, my beautiful one, and  
come!**

**“O my dove in the clefts of the rock,  
in the secret recesses of the cliff,  
Let me see you,  
let me hear your voice,  
For your voice is sweet,  
and you are lovely.”**

**My lover belongs to me and I to him.  
He says to me:**

**“Set me as a seal on your heart,  
as a seal on your arm;  
For stern as death is love,  
relentless as the nether world is devotion;  
its flames are a blazing fire.  
Deep waters cannot quench love,  
nor floods sweep it away.”**

**The word of the Lord.**

**\*\*Sirach 26:1-4, 13-16 (Vg. 26:1-4, 16-21)**

**A reading from the Book of Sirach**

**Like the sun rising in the LORD's heavens,  
the beauty of a virtuous wife is the radiance of her home.**

**Blessed the husband of a good wife,  
twice-lengthened are his days;**

**A worthy wife brings joy to her husband,  
peaceful and full is his life.**

**A good wife is a generous gift  
bestowed upon him who fears the LORD;**

**Be he rich or poor, his heart is content,  
and a smile is ever on his face.**

**A gracious wife delights her husband,  
her thoughtfulness puts flesh on his bones;**

**A gift from the LORD is her governed speech,  
and her firm virtue is of surpassing worth.**

**Choicest of blessings is a modest wife,  
priceless her chaste soul.**

**A holy and decent woman adds grace upon grace;  
indeed, no price is worthy of her temperate soul.**

**Like the sun rising in the LORD's heavens,  
the beauty of a virtuous wife is the radiance of her  
home.**

**The word of the Lord.**



Jeremiah 31:31-32a, 33-34a

**A reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah**

**I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah.**

**The days are coming, says the LORD,  
when I will make a new covenant with the house of  
Israel  
and the house of Judah.**

**It will not be like the covenant I made with their fathers:  
the day I took them by the hand  
to lead them forth from the land of Egypt.**

**But this is the covenant which I will make  
with the house of Israel after those days, says the  
LORD.**

**I will place my law within them, and write it upon their  
hearts;**

**I will be their God, and they shall be my people.**

**No longer will they have need to teach their friends and  
relatives**

**how to know the LORD.**

**All, from least to greatest, shall know me, says the  
LORD.**

**The word of the Lord.**