

## Isaiah 51

<sup>12</sup> “I, even I, am he who comforts you.

Who are you that you fear mere mortals,  
human beings who are but grass,

<sup>13</sup> that you forget the LORD your Maker,

who stretches out the heavens  
and who lays the foundations of the earth,

that you live in constant terror every day

because of the wrath of the oppressor,  
who is bent on destruction?

For where is the wrath of the oppressor?

<sup>14</sup> The cowering prisoners will soon be set free;

they will not die in their dungeon,

nor will they lack bread.

<sup>15</sup> For I am the LORD your God,

who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar—  
the LORD Almighty is his name.

<sup>16</sup> I have put my words in your mouth

and covered you with the shadow of my hand—

I who set the heavens in place,

who laid the foundations of the earth,

and who say to Zion, ‘You are my people.’”

## 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 4

<sup>13</sup> Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. <sup>14</sup> For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. <sup>15</sup> According to the Lord’s word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. <sup>16</sup> For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup> After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. <sup>18</sup> Therefore encourage one another with these words.

## Matthew 24

<sup>15</sup> “So when you see standing in the holy place ‘the abomination that causes desolation,’ spoken of through the prophet Daniel—let the reader understand— <sup>16</sup> then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

<sup>17</sup> Let no one on the housetop go down to take anything out of the house. <sup>18</sup> Let no one in the field go back to get their cloak. <sup>19</sup> How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! <sup>20</sup> Pray that your flight will not take place in winter or on the Sabbath. <sup>21</sup> For then there will be great distress, unequalled from the beginning of the world until now—and never to be equaled again.

<sup>22</sup> “If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened. <sup>23</sup> At that time if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Messiah!’ or, ‘There he is!’ do not believe it.

<sup>24</sup> For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. <sup>25</sup> See, I have told you ahead of time.

<sup>26</sup> “So if anyone tells you, ‘There he is, out in the wilderness,’ do not go out; or, ‘Here he is, in the inner rooms,’ do not believe it. <sup>27</sup> For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>28</sup> Wherever there is a carcass, there the vultures will gather.