

Texts used by Christians to comfort the bereaved

Psalm 23 (words of David)

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want; ²he makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters; ³he restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. ⁴Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.

⁵Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of my enemies; thou anointest my head with oil, my cup overflows. ⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

מִזְמוֹר לְדָוִד יְהוָה רֹעִי לֹא אֶחְסָר׃
בְּנֵאֻת דָּשָׂא יִרְבִּיצֵנִי עַל־מִי מִנְחֹת יִנְהַלְנִי׃
נַפְשִׁי יִשְׁׁבֵב יִנְחֵנִי בְּמַעְגְּלֵי־צֶדֶק לְמַעַן שְׁמִי׃
גַּם כִּי־אֵלֶךְ בְּגֵיא צְלֻמֹת לֹא־אֵירָא רָע כִּי־אֲתַה
עִמָּדִי שִׁבְטְךָ אִמְשַׁעֲנֶתְךָ הַמָּה יִנְחַמְנִי׃
תַּעֲרֹךְ לִפְנֵי שְׁלֹחַן נֶגְד צַרְרִי דִשְׁנֶת בְּשִׁמְךָ רֹאשִׁי׃
כּוֹסֵי רַחֲמֶיךָ׃
אֲךָ טוֹב וְחַסֵּד יִרְדְּפוּנִי כָל־יְמֵי חַיִּי וְשִׁבְתִּי׃
בְּבֵית־יְהוָה לְאַרְךָ יָמִים׃

John 14:1-7 (words of Jesus)

‘Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ²In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going.’ ⁵Thomas said to him, ‘Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?’ ⁶Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.’

Μὴ ταρασσεσθῶ ὑμῶν ἡ καρδιά· πιστεύετε εἰς τὸν θεόν, καὶ εἰς ἐμὲ πιστεύετε. ² ἐν τῇ οἰκίᾳ τοῦ πατρὸς μου μοναὶ πολλαὶ εἰσιν· εἰ δὲ μὴ, εἶπον ἂν ὑμῖν ὅτι πορεύομαι ἐτοιμάσαι τόπον ὑμῖν. ³ καὶ ἐὰν πορευθῶ καὶ ἐτοιμάσω τόπον ὑμῖν, πάλιν ἔρχομαι καὶ παραλήμψομαι ὑμᾶς πρὸς ἐμαυτὸν, ἵνα ὅπου εἰμι ἐγὼ καὶ ὑμεῖς ἦτε. ⁴ καὶ ὅπου ἐγὼ ὑπάγω οἴδατε τὴν ὁδόν. ⁵ λέγει αὐτῷ Θωμᾶς· Κύριε, οὐκ οἶδαμεν ποῦ ὑπάγεις· πῶς δυνάμεθα τὴν ὁδὸν εἰδέναι; ⁶ λέγει αὐτῷ ὁ Ἰησοῦς· Ἐγὼ εἰμι ἡ ὁδὸς καὶ ἡ ἀλήθεια καὶ ἡ ζωὴ· οὐδεὶς ἔρχεται πρὸς τὸν πατέρα εἰ μὴ δι’ ἐμοῦ. ⁷ εἰ ἐγνώκετέ με, καὶ τὸν πατέρα μου ἂν ᾔδειτε· ἀπ’ ἄρτι γινώσκετε αὐτὸν καὶ ἐωράκατε αὐτόν.

Revelation 20:1-7 (words of John)

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; ⁴ he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.”

⁵And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” ⁶ Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. ⁷ Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children.

Καὶ εἶδον οὐρανὸν καινὸν καὶ γῆν καινὴν· ὁ γὰρ πρῶτος οὐρανὸς καὶ ἡ πρώτη γῆ ἀπῆλθαν, καὶ ἡ θάλασσα οὐκ ἔστιν ἔτι. ² καὶ τὴν πόλιν τὴν ἁγίαν Ἰερουσαλὴμ καινὴν εἶδον καταβαίνουσαν ἐκ τοῦ οὐρανοῦ ἀπὸ τοῦ θεοῦ, ἡτοιμασμένην ὡς νύμφην κεκοσμημένην τῷ ἀνδρὶ αὐτῆς. ³ καὶ ἤκουσα φωνῆς μεγάλης ἐκ τοῦ θρόνου λεγούσης·

Ἴδου ἡ σκηνὴ τοῦ θεοῦ μετὰ τῶν ἀνθρώπων, καὶ σκηνώσει μετ’ αὐτῶν, καὶ αὐτοὶ λαοὶ αὐτοῦ ἔσονται, καὶ αὐτὸς ὁ θεὸς μετ’ αὐτῶν ἔσται, ⁴ καὶ ἐξαλείψει πᾶν δάκρυον ἐκ τῶν ὀφθαλμῶν αὐτῶν, καὶ ὁ θάνατος οὐκ ἔσται ἔτι· οὔτε πένθος οὔτε κραυγὴ οὔτε πόνος οὐκ ἔσται ἔτι. τὰ πρῶτα ἀπῆλθαν.

⁵ Καὶ εἶπεν ὁ καθήμενος ἐπὶ τῷ θρόνῳ· Ἴδου καινὰ ποιῶ πάντα. καὶ λέγει· Γράψον, ὅτι οὗτοι οἱ λόγοι πιστοὶ καὶ ἀληθινοὶ εἰσιν. ⁶ καὶ εἶπέν μοι· Γέγοναν. ἐγὼ τὸ Ἄλφα καὶ τὸ Ὠ, ἡ ἀρχὴ καὶ τὸ τέλος. ἐγὼ τῷ διψῶντι δώσω ἐκ τῆς πηγῆς τοῦ ὕδατος τῆς ζωῆς δωρεάν. ⁷ ὁ νικῶν κληρονομήσει ταῦτα, καὶ ἔσομαι αὐτῷ θεὸς καὶ αὐτὸς ἔσται μοι υἱός.