

**THE OLD TESTAMENT — Jeremiah 15:19–21**

*The Protection of God*

Therefore thus says the LORD:

“If you return,  
Then I will bring you back;  
You shall stand before Me;  
If you take out the precious from the vile,  
You shall be as My mouth.  
Let them return to you,  
But you must not return to them.  
And I will make you to this people a fortified bronze wall;  
And they will fight against you,  
But they shall not prevail against you;  
For I am with you to save you  
And deliver you,” says the LORD.  
“I will deliver you from the hand of the wicked,  
And I will redeem you from the grip of the terrible.” (NKJV)

GRADUAL

P: Be my rock of refuge,  
C: **A fortress of defense to save me.**  
P: In You, O LORD, I put my trust,  
C: **Let me not be ashamed.**  
P: Give ear, O my people, to my law;  
C: **Incline your ears to the words of my mouth.**  
P: Your Word is a lamp to my feet  
C: **And a light to my path.**

**THE EPISTLE — Romans 8:12–17**

*The Testimony of the Holy Spirit*

Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.” The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together. (NKJV)

**THE HOLY GOSPEL — St. Matthew 7:15–23**

*Watch Out for False Prophets*

“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Therefore by their fruits you will know them. “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’ (NKJV)