

Reading

Tobit 7:6–14

The Lord of heaven favour you, my child, and grant you his grace and peace.

A reading from the book of Tobit.

⁶ Raguel kissed Tobias and wept.

⁷ Then finding words, he said, ‘Blessings on you, child!
You are the son of a noble father.

How sad it is that someone so virtuous
and full of good deeds should have gone blind!’

He fell on the neck of his kinsman Tobias and wept.

⁸ And his wife Edna wept for him, and so did his daughter Sarah.

⁹ Raguel killed a sheep from the flock,
and they gave Tobias and Raphael a warm-hearted welcome.

They washed and bathed and sat down to table.

Then Tobias said to Raphael,

‘Brother Azarias, will you ask Raguel to give me my sister Sarah?’

¹⁰ Raguel overheard the words, and said to the young man,

‘Eat and drink, and make the most of your evening;
no one else has the right to take my daughter Sarah

— no one but you, my brother.

In any case I, for my own part, am not at liberty to give her to anyone
else, since you are her next of kin.

However, my boy, I must be frank with you:

¹¹ I have tried to find a husband for her seven times among our kinsmen,
and all of them have died the first evening, on going to her room.

But for the present, my boy, eat and drink;
the Lord will grant you his grace and peace.’

Tobias spoke out,

‘I will not hear of eating and drinking
till you have come to a decision about me.’

Raguel answered,
‘Very well. Since, as prescribed by the Book of Moses,
she is given to you, heaven itself decrees she shall be yours.
I shall therefore entrust your sister to you.
From now you are her brother and she is your sister.
She is given to you from today for ever.
The Lord of heaven favour you tonight, my child,
and grant you his grace and peace.’

¹² Raguel called for his daughter Sarah,
took her by the hand and gave her to Tobias with these words,
‘I entrust her to you;
the law and the ruling recorded in the Book of Moses
assign her to you as your wife.
Take her; take her home to your father’s house with a good conscience.
The God of heaven grant you a good journey in peace.’

¹³ Then he turned to her mother
and asked her to fetch him writing paper.
He drew up the marriage contract,
how he gave his daughter as bride to Tobias
according to the ordinance in the Law of Moses.

¹⁴ After this they began to eat and drink.

The word of the Lord.