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Daily Manna devotions: Editor's Choice
Current archive for January to December 2025

Old and New Testament Bible teachings
as requested by the late Fred Morris, author and founder of Manna Publications
(USA), before he died in 2018

See: <http://manna-publications.org.uk/Daily-Weekly-Devotionals.shtml>

Bible quotations used by Fred Morris are mainly from the NIRV New International Readers Version (1998) published at that time by Hodder & Stoughton Ltd., London. Used with permission.

Use "CTRL F" to search for key words or phrases

1st January 2025.

Nehemiah 9:1-8. After the Jews returned to Jerusalem from exile, 'they stood and admitted they had sinned... They listened while the Levites read parts of the Book of the Law of the LORD God Almighty... They also worshiped the LORD. The Levites said to the people, "Stand up. Praise the LORD your God. He lives for ever and ever!" So the people said, "LORD, may Your glorious name be praised. May it be lifted high above every other name. You are the one and only LORD. You created Heaven and Earth and everything on it... You chose Abram out of Ur in the land of Babylon. You named him Abraham. You knew that his heart was faithful to You. And You made a covenant with him. You promised to give to his children after him a land of their own. It was the land of the Canaanites, Hittites and Amorites... You have kept Your promise. That is because You always do what is right and fair."'

Hebrews 11 records the great people of faith from the beginning. Abel (v.4), Noah (v.7), Abraham (v.11), Isaac and Jacob and Joseph (v.20-22), Moses (v.23) and many others (v.31-33). "All these people were praised because they had faith. But none of them received what God had promised. God had planned something better for us. So they would only be made perfect together with us." (v.39-40). In the next chapter, the writer of Hebrews says, "Let us keep looking to Jesus. He is the one who started this journey of faith. And He is the one who completed the journey of faith. He suffered on the cross because of the joy he was looking forward to. Then he sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." (12:2)

Father God thank You for the people of faith and the family of Abraham to whom You have revealed Your truth. Thank You for the privilege of receiving Your salvation through Christ Your Son our Saviour. Amen.

2nd January 2025.

Job 24. Job continues to complain that God does not act against the wicked people in order to help the poor and needy. "Why doesn't the Mighty One set a time for judging sinful people? Why do those who know Him have to keep waiting for that day? People move their neighbour's boundary stones. They steal their neighbour's flocks. They take away the donkeys that belong to children whose fathers have died. They take a widow's ox until she has paid what she owes. They push those who are needy out of their way... They have to go around looking for food." Job continues to complain until he admits that in God's timing, "God is powerful and drags away people who are strong. When He rises up against them, they can never be sure they are safe. God might let them rest and feel secure. But His eyes see how the wicked people live. For a little while they are honoured. Then they are gone."

2 Corinthians 12:7-10. Paul writes "So that I would not become proud of myself, I was given a problem. This problem caused pain in my body. It is a messenger from Satan to make me suffer. Three times I begged the Lord to take it away from me. But He said to me, 'My grace is all you need. My power is strongest when you are weak.' So ... I am glad that I am weak. I am glad in hard times. I am glad when people say bad things about me. I am glad when things are difficult. And I am glad when people make me suffer. When I am weak, I am strong."

Father God, we see that it took a long time for Job and Paul to understand how You allow the enemy to test us. Forgive us when we complain about our own needs and the needs of millions of others. May our hope be in You and in our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

3rd January 2025.

Daniel 2:31-35; 44-45. Daniel describes and interprets the dream of Nebuchadnezzar. "You looked up and saw a large statue... The head of the statue was made out of pure gold. Its chest and arms were made out of silver. Its stomach and thighs were made out of bronze. Its legs were made out of iron. And its feet were partly iron and partly baked clay. While you were watching, a Rock was cut out, but not by human hands. It struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and smashed them. Then the iron and clay were broken to pieces. So were the bronze, silver and gold... But the Rock that struck the statue became a huge mountain. It filled the whole Earth... In the time of those kings, the God of Heaven will set up a Kingdom. It will never be destroyed. And no other nation will ever take it over. It will crush all the other kingdoms and will last forever... The great God has shown you what will take place in days to come."

2 Thessalonians 2:1-8. Paul writes, "Regarding the return of our Lord Jesus Christ... We want to ask you not to become easily upset or alarmed... Do not let anyone deceive you in any way. That day will not come until people rise up against God. It will not come until the man of sin appears. He is a marked man. But He will be destroyed. He will oppose everything that is called God. He will oppose everything that is worshipped. He will give himself power over everything. He will set himself up in God's Temple. He will announce that he himself is God... The Lord Jesus will overthrow him with the breath of His mouth. The glorious brightness of the coming of Jesus will destroy the man of sin."

Help us Father God never to forget these prophecies given to Daniel and Paul. Keep us faithful and wise to the end. In Jesus' name. Amen.

6th January 2025.

6/1/24. Genesis 15:1-7. God's covenant with faithful Abram (Abraham) was greater than His covenant with faithful Noah. "The LORD God Almighty said to him, "Abram, do not be afraid. I am like a shield to you. I am your very great reward." But Abram said, "LORD and King, what can You give me? I still do not have any children. My servant Eliezer... will get everything I own." Then the LORD told Abram. "When you die, what you have will not go to this man. You will have a son of your own. He will get everything you have." The LORD took Abram outside and said, "Look up at the sky. Count the stars, if you can." Then He said to him, "That's how many children will be born into your family." Abram believed the LORD. The LORD was pleased with Abram because he believed. So Abram's faith made him right with the LORD. He also said to Abram, "I brought you out of Ur in the land of Babylon. I will give you this land to have as your very own." ' God extended His covenant with Abram further in Chapter 17. Mark 3:31-35. The mother of Jesus and His brothers came and stood outside. They sent someone in to fetch Him. A crowd was sitting around Jesus. They told Him, "Your mother and Your brothers are outside. They are looking for You." "Who is My mother? Who are My brothers?" He asked. Then Jesus looked at the people sitting in a circle around Him. He said, "Here is My mother! Here are My brothers! Anyone who does what God wants is My brother or sister or mother." *Thank You God for Your purpose and provision in Abraham, the father of the Jews and in Jesus, the Saviour of Jews and Gentiles. We thank You for the followers of Jesus in every nation of the world who are faithfully waiting for the return of Israel's Messiah to establish Your final covenant with mankind. Amen.*

7th January 2025.

Isaiah 43:10-13. This is what the LORD God Almighty said to His prophet Isaiah 700 years before the birth of Jesus Christ. "People of Israel, you are My witnesses. I have chosen you to be My servant. I wanted you to know Me and believe in Me. I wanted you to understand that I am the one and only God. Before Me, there was no other god at all. And there will not be any god after Me... I am the only one who can save you... You are My witnesses that I am God and I always will be."

Acts 26:2-9. Paul said, "King Agrippa, I am happy to be able to stand here today. I will answer all the charges brought against me by the Jews... The Jewish people all know how I have lived ever since I was a child... I have lived by the rules of the Pharisees. Those rules are harder to obey than those of any other Jewish group. But today I am on trial because of the hope I have. I believe in what God promised our people long ago... Because of this hope they serve God with faithful

and honest hearts day and night. King Agrippa, it is also because of this hope that these Jews are bringing charges against me. Why should any of you think it is impossible for God to raise the dead? But I too believed that I should oppose the name of Jesus of Nazareth. So I did everything I could to oppose His name." Paul then followed with his testimony of meeting Jesus personally on the road to Damascus.

LORD God Almighty, help us to take in the reality of what You revealed to Isaiah and Paul. From the calling of Noah 4300 years ago and the calling of Abraham 300 years later and the calling of Paul nearly 2000 years ago, we too testify You are LORD over all and brought salvation through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Hallelujah!

8th January 2025.

Amos chapters 1 to 5. Nearly 800 years before the birth of Christ, the prophet Amos told Judah and Israel, "The LORD God Almighty roars like a lion from Jerusalem. His voice sounds like thunder from Zion." (1:2). He then sends God's judgement on Israel's neighbours, Damascus, Gaza, Ashdod, Tyre, Edom, Ammon and Moab. But the LORD also sends judgement on Judah and Israel. "I know how many crimes you have committed. You have sinned far too much." (5:12) "Look to what is good, not to what is evil. Then you will live. And the LORD God who rules over all will be with you, just as you say He is." (5:14) "So let fair treatment roll on just as a river does! Always do what is right. Let righteousness flow like a stream that never runs dry!" (5:24)

Philemon. Paul, a prisoner in Rome, wrote a letter to his old friend Philemon. "I always thank my God when I remember you in my prayers. I hear about your love for all God's people. I also hear about your faith in the Lord Jesus." (v.4-5) He then asks Philemon to take back his former servant Onesimus "who became like a son to me while I was in chains" (v.10) "My brother, we both belong to the Lord Jesus. So I wish to receive some benefit from you. Renew my heart. We know that Christ is the One who really renews it. I am sure you will obey. This is why I am writing to you." (v.20-21)

Father God, thank you for the confidence You had in Your people Israel at the time of Amos to "do what is right". Thank You for the example of Paul's confidence in his Jewish friend Philemon to bless his servant Onesimus and not to punish him. We ask that Your people of today will be a blessing to their neighbours and not treat them as rebel servants but leave their judgement to You. Thank you for Paul's example in Christ. Amen.

9th January 2025.

Zephaniah 3. "The LORD God Almighty is good to Jerusalem. He never does anything that is wrong. Every morning He does what is fair. Each new day He does the right thing. But those who do what is wrong are not even ashamed of it." (3:5) "But inside your city I will leave those who are not proud. Those who are still left alive will trust in the LORD. They will not do anything wrong. They will not tell any lies. They will not say anything to fool other people. They will eat and lie down in peace. And no one will make them afraid. People of Zion, sing! Israel, shout loudly! People of Jerusalem, be glad! Let your hearts be full of joy. The LORD has stopped punishing you. He has made your enemies turn away from you. The LORD is the King of Israel. He is with you. You will never again be afraid that others will harm you." (3:12-15)

2 Thessalonians 2:8-10. "The man of sin will appear. The Lord Jesus will overthrow him with the breath of His mouth. The glorious brightness of Jesus' coming will destroy the man of sin. The coming of the man of sin will show how Satan works. The man of sin will reveal his power through all kinds of signs and wonders. These signs and wonders will lead people astray. So people who are dying will be fooled by this evil. These people die because they refuse to love the truth. The truth would save them."

Thank You Jesus for Your call to believe in You and Your second coming. Help us not to be deceived by "the man of sin" in these last days but to prepare the way for Your coming reign in Jerusalem. Encourage its inhabitants to know the LORD God Almighty "is good to Jerusalem... Each new day He does the right thing." May they and the rest of the world rejoice that You "will destroy the man of sin". Amen.

10th January 2025.

Genesis 25. Abraham's servant brought Rebekah from Abraham's relatives to marry his only son Isaac from his first wife Sarah (24:62-66). After Sarah's death, Abraham took a second wife who gave him six children (25:1-2). But Abraham left everything he owned to Isaac and sent his other children

away to live in the lands of the east (25:5-6). Abraham lived a long life (175 years) as did many of the early descendants of Noah. After the burial of Abraham, God blessed his son Isaac (25:11). Isaac lived near Beer-Lahai Roi which was near where Jerusalem is today. Ishmael, Abraham's son born to Sarah's servant, lived for 137 years and moved away from Isaac to live near the border with Egypt (25:12-18).

Acts 24:17-27. When Paul had been away preaching the Good News of Jesus Christ a number of years, he returned to Jerusalem. He was quickly arrested and put on trial for "preaching the resurrection of the dead" (24:17-21). Felix, the Roman Governor at that time, knew all about the "people of the Way" (followers of Jesus Christ) and looked after him well in prison. Two years later, Festus took over as Governor (24:27). He and King Agrippa were responsible for arranging Paul's trial in Rome where he was free to preach and encourage other "followers of the Way".

Thank You Father God for revealing to us the way You planned for the descendants of Isaac to be blessed and live in the land of Your choice around Jerusalem. We note how You moved his ungodly brothers far away to other lands. Thank you, too, for revealing how You blessed Paul in prison in Jerusalem and then sent him to Rome to end his preaching ministry there at the centre of the Roman Empire. Thank You God for establishing Your provision for salvation of the world through Jesus, Your resurrected Son born to Mary. May we continue to proclaim this truth, like Paul, in these "final days" before His return. For Your glory Amen.

13th January 2024.

2 Samuel 2. After David was anointed as king over Judah, Abner, the former commander of Saul's army, took one of Saul's sons and made him king of the region of Israel where he lived (2:8-9). However, the fighting that followed was very heavy and Abner and the Israelites lost the battle to David's men (2:17-18). The ongoing war between Saul's former royal house and David's royal house lasted a long time. But David's royal house was anointed by God and grew stronger and stronger. But the royal house of Saul grew weaker and weaker (3:1-2).

Matthew 21:28-32. Jesus asked His followers, "A man had two sons. He went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work today in the vineyard.' The son refused but later changed his mind and went. Then the father went to the other son. He said the same thing. The son answered, 'I will, sir.' But he did not go. Which of the two sons did what his father wanted?" "The first," they answered. Jesus said to them, "What I am about to tell you is true. Tax collectors and prostitutes will enter the Kingdom of God ahead of you. John came to show you the right way to live. And you did not believe him. But the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. You saw this. But even then you did not turn away from your sins and believe him."

Dear God, we see the good examples set by David and John in these Bible stories. And we see how You established Your kingdom in the whole of Israel, removing rebels from power in the land. We also see how Jesus has established the Kingdom of God through repentant sinners. Forgive us for the times we rebel against Your will and purpose for mankind. Help us not to lose faith as the battle between good and evil goes on. Help us also to be good examples like David and John in extending Your Kingdom on Earth. Amen.

14th January 2025.

Joshua chapter 12 lists the kingdoms defeated by Joshua in God's Promised Land. There were two kingdoms east and 31 kingdoms west of the River Jordan by the year 1445 BC. Chapters 14 to 19 list the land to be allocated to the twelve tribes of Israel. Chapter 20 describes how God provided six cities of refuge. "Anyone who kills a person by accident can run there for safety... The elders must let them come into their city and stay there until their case has been brought to court. Then they can go back to their home town."

1 John 4:1-18. "Dear friends, test the spirits to see if they belong to God. Many false prophets have gone out into the world... You belong to God and have not accepted the teachings of the false prophets. That is because the One who is in you is more powerful than the one who is in the world... Here is how God showed his love among us. He sent His one and only Son into the world so we could receive life through Him. It is not that we loved God. It is that He loved us and sent His Son to give His life to pay for our sins. Since God loved us this much, we should also love one another... The Father has sent His Son to be the Saviour of the world. We have seen it and are witnesses to it... When love is fulfilled among us we can be without fear on the day God judges the world... There is no fear in love. Instead, perfect love drives away fear."

Thank You Father God for the love You have shown to the world since the time of Adam and again at the time of Noah and yet again at the time of Abraham and his family whom You established in the Promised Land. Thank You for Your love shown in the cities of refuge and finally in our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

15th January 2025.

2 Samuel 19:42-43. The ten northern tribes of Israel rebelled against the rule of King David in Jerusalem. But after the sudden accidental death of their leader Absalom (18:9), they returned to supporting David. But there was anger amongst the close followers of David. The men from the north asked, "Why are you angry with us? We have ten shares in the kingdom and have a greater claim on David than you have! Why do you treat us with contempt?" But the men from Judah and Jerusalem responded even more harshly than the men of Israel.

2 Thessalonians 2:13-17. "Brothers and sisters, we should always thank God for you. The Lord loves you. That is because God chose you from the beginning to be saved. Salvation comes through the Holy Spirit's work. He makes people holy. It also comes through believing the truth. He chose you to be saved by accepting the Good News that we preach. And you will share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. Brothers and sisters, remain strong in the faith. Hold on to what we taught you. We passed our teachings on to you by what we preached and wrote. Our Lord Jesus Christ and God our Father loved us. By His grace God gave us comfort that will last forever. The hope He gave us is good. May our Lord Jesus Christ and God our Father comfort your hearts. May They make you strong in every good thing you do and say."

Father God in Heaven, You chose us "from the beginning to be saved". Help us to be loving and forgiving to all people who have faith in You and our Saviour Jesus Christ. May we welcome the readiness to repent of those who have caused problems in the past as at the time of Absalom's death 3000 years ago. May we respond with love and not deal harshly with them which prolongs disunity. Help us to listen to what the Spirit is saying. Amen.

16th January 2025.

Song of Songs 3:1-5. King Solomon wrote these words for young women to follow who lived in Jerusalem. "Get up and go about the city, through its streets and squares. Search for the one your heart loves... Ask the watchmen, 'Have you seen the one my heart loves?' When you find the one you desire, do not let him go until you have brought him to your mother's house, to the room of the one who conceived you. Daughters of Jerusalem, I charge you, do not arouse or awaken love until it so desires."

Ephesians 5:31-33 and 6:1-4. Paul writes, "A man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. It is the same profound mystery when we are talking about Christ and His church. However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband. Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honour your father and mother, which is the first commandment with a promise so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on Earth. Fathers, do not annoy your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord."

Heavenly Father, thank You for the wisdom of Solomon in advising young women to seek only one man to fulfil her God-given heart's desires. Thank You for the wisdom of Paul in advising men to seek marriage to one woman in his God-given role as Christ is to His church. Help us to understand this "profound mystery". Thank you also for Paul's advice regarding bringing up children to respect their parents and their belief in the Bible in a disciplined way without causing annoyance. Thank You for the responsibility You give to young women in seeking marriage and to young men in fulfilling your purposes in marriage and raising a family as an example of Christ. Amen.

17th January 2025.

Genesis 42:1-26. The ten sons of Jacob went to Egypt to buy grain for food because of the famine in the land of Canaan where they lived (now Israel). At that time their lost brother Joseph was in charge of grain supplies in Egypt and recognised his ten brothers. (They had left his favourite youngest brother at home.) Joseph told them "You are spies!" He put them in prison for three days. He then told them to leave one of them in prison while the rest travelled back to Canaan. Simon was kept as a prisoner and was tied up in chains. This happened in 1700 BC. Joseph's nine brothers returned to Canaan and fetched the youngest brother and their father Jacob. They and their families all settled in

Egypt for over 400 years as God promised to Abraham 200 years before (15:13). After 430 years in Egypt, Moses took the descendants of Jacob back to God's promised Land of Canaan (Exodus 12:31-42).

Acts 7:1-7. Stephen testified to the High Priest in Jerusalem, "The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham while he was still in Mesopotamia. God said, 'Leave your country and your people and go to the land I will show you.' So ... God sent him to this land where you are now living... God promised him that he and his descendants after him would possess the land, even though at that time Abraham had no child. God told him, 'For four hundred years your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own, and they will be enslaved and mistreated. But afterwards they will come out of that country and worship Me in this place.'

Father God, we value the evidence in Your Bible of the many events that led up to the family of Abraham possessing the land which is now Israel where Jesus Christ our Saviour, Israel's Messiah was born to the Virgin Mary. We thank You for Stephen's testimony after his persecution and arrest for preaching the Good News of Jesus. Amen.

20th January 2025.

Ruth 4:9-22. Boaz spoke to the elders and people of Bethlehem, "Today you are witnesses. I have bought land from Naomi. Also all that belonged to her husband Elimelek and their sons Kilion and Mahlon. I have also taken Ruth, who is from Moab, to become my wife. She is Mahlon's widow. I will marry her so the dead man's name will stay with his property." Then the people at the gate said... "May the Lord make Ruth like Rachel and Leah. Together they built up the tribes of Israel... May the LORD God Almighty give you children through this young woman. May your family be like the family of Judah." The local women said to Naomi, "We praise the LORD. Today He has provided a family protector for you. May her child become famous all over Israel!" Later, the local women named Ruth's son Obed. He became the father of Jesse. Jesse became the father of King David.

Acts 23:16-24. Paul's nephew heard about a plan to kill him. So he went into the fort where Paul was a prisoner and told him. Paul called one of the commanders. "Take this young man to the commanding officer." ...The boy said, "Some Jews have agreed to ask you to bring Paul to the Sanhedrin tomorrow. They will pretend they want more facts about him. Do not give in to them. More than 40 of them are waiting in hiding to attack him and kill him. They are ready now. All they need is for you to bring Paul to the Sanhedrin." The commanding officer let the young man go. He called for two of his commanders. "Gather a company of 200 soldiers.... Get them ready to go to Caesarea tonight so that Paul may be taken safely to Governor Felix." This action prepared the way for Paul's final ministry in Rome.

Praise You Father God for enabling Boaz and King David and the apostle Paul to establish Your amazing truth across the world! Amen.

21st January 2025.

Judges Chapters 9-10. After the reign of Gideon as king of Israel, his evil eldest son Abimelech took over. He murdered all his brothers except Jotham, the youngest, who hid himself. But Abimelech was murdered after Jotham predicted he would die. For the next 45 years, the good kings Tola then Jair reigned over Israel. But during the reign of the next king, Jephthah, the Israelites began to worship the gods of neighbouring tribes. In His anger, the LORD God Almighty allowed His people to suffer under the control of the Philistines and Ammonites for 18 years. The people repented and said to the LORD, "We have sinned. Do to us what you think is best. But please save us now." Then they got rid of their false gods. They served the LORD and He did not allow Israel to suffer any longer.

Acts 2:42-47. 'The believers studied what the apostles taught. They shared their lives together. They ate and prayed together. Everyone was amazed at what God was doing. They were amazed when the apostles performed many wonders and signs... They shared everything they had. They sold property and other things they owned. They gave to anyone who needed something. Every day they met together in the temple courtyard. They ate meals together in their homes. Their hearts were glad and sincere. They praised God. They were respected by all the people. Every day the Lord added to their group those who were being saved.' It was during this time that Peter and John healed the lame man outside the Temple in the name of Jesus Christ (3:6-7).

Father God, thank You again for Your examples of good and bad people who lived over 1000 years before Christ at the time of Gideon and Jephthah. Help us today to live by the examples of the

earliest followers of Christ at the time of Peter and John. May we share in reading the Bible together, praying together, and see signs and wonders performed in the name of Jesus. Amen.