

Manna Publications (UK)

Affiliated to Avail www.availmission.com Registered UK Charity 1017386

Daily Manna: Editor's Choice Current Archive for 2021

Old and New Testament teachings

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

Bible quotations used by the late Fred Morris, author of Manna Publications, are from the NIV New International Version (1984) or NIrV New International Readers Version (1998) published at that time by Hodder & Stoughton Ltd., London.

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

1st January 2021. Malachi 2:17 to 3:4. The word of the Lord God Almighty given to Malachi in 400 BC says, "You have wearied the Lord with your words ... 'Where is the God of justice?' See, I will send My messenger who will prepare the way for Me ... the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the LORD God Almighty... "He will be like a refiner's fire or a launder's soap... So I will come near to you for judgment." Revelation 3:24-28 gives the words of Jesus to John for the churches. "To you who have not learned Satan's so-called deep secrets... hold on to what you have until I come. To him who overcomes and does My will to the end, I will give authority over the nations... just as I have received authority from My Father. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." *Thank you Father for revealing your truth and purpose to your servants Malachi and John. Encourage the desire in Your people to see Your justice at work in today's society under Your new covenant, whatever the personal cost it takes to grow in your righteousness through Your refining fire. We ask for Your mercy in stopping Satan from perverting this generation with his deep evil secrets. Enable us in 2021 to build on Your faith and righteousness in Christ and to overcome and do Your will to the end with His authority and*

compassion at work in us over individuals, institutions and nations. To Your glory. Amen.

4th January 2021. 1 Samuel 30:9-31 records the instructions of the future King David to share plunder from battles equally between his followers. Some trouble makers disagreed with this decision and wanted to withhold the plunder from those who did not join the battle with them (v.22) but David said, "No my brothers, you must not do that with what the Lord God has given us... All shall share alike" (v.23-24). 2 Corinthians 12:19-20 records Paul's concern for the church in Corinth. "We have been speaking in the sight of God as those in Christ; and everything we do, dear friends, is for your strengthening. For I am afraid that when I come I may not find you as I want you to be, and you may not find me as you want me to be. I fear that there may be quarrelling, jealousy, slander, gossip, arrogance and disorder." *Dear God, we see clearly in the Bible records of God's people behaving badly despite the righteous leadership of David and Paul. Send Your refining fire so that the Church of Jesus Christ today is obedient to You and compassionate towards others as we trust You in the ministry of Your calling to establish righteousness in the land. Help us to be examples of Christ-like caring for others, with wisdom in interpreting Your guidelines and with obedience towards those You have given in authority over us. Amen.*

5th January 2021. 2 Chronicles 34:19-33 records the time when the prophetess Huldah was consulted by government officials during a period when God's people were severely judged because of the sins of their fathers (v.21). She said, "This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says... 'I am going to bring disaster on this place and its people... because they have forsaken Me...'" (v.24-28). The King called the people together and 'read in their hearing all the words of the Book of the Covenant' and on their behalf 'renewed the covenant in the presence of the LORD God Almighty' (v.30-31). 'As long as he lived, they did not fail to follow the LORD' (v.33). Hebrews 2:17-18 says, "He [Jesus] had to be made like His brothers in every way, in order that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God and that He might make atonement for the sins of the people. Because He Himself suffered when He was tempted, He is able to help those who are being tempted." *Thank You Heavenly Father, that You sent Your Son in the form of human flesh to live as our example and to suffer as our redeemer and*

scapegoat and to rise from death to bring us everlasting resurrection life through Your mercy. Provide us Your prophets and prophetesses, priests, government officials and kings and queens to seek Your forgiveness, withhold Your judgement and lead our nations back into righteousness. For the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ who died as a punishment for our sins and the sins of previous generations. Amen.

Genesis 49:8-12 gives the words of Jacob's blessing on his son Judah whom the rest of the family of Israel "will bow down to" (v.8). "The right to rule will not depart from Judah. It will be his until the King it belongs to comes. [Then] it will be His until the nations obey Him (v.10, NIrV). Galatians 2:6-10 Paul warns, "As for those who seemed to be important, whatever they are makes no difference to me. God does not judge by external appearance... On the contrary, they saw that I had been entrusted with the task of preaching the Gospel to the Gentiles, just as Peter had been to the Jews" (v.6-7). The church leaders in Jerusalem agreed to this, asking Paul to continue to remember the poor (v.9-10). *We thank You God for these historical and prophetic words recorded for us to see Your purposes in the family of Abraham through Judah in preparing the way for the Christ-child to be born and brought up 1700 years later by Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem then Egypt then Nazareth before His ministry as King of the Jews. We thank you that Paul accepted Jesus as Israel's Messiah and was called to preach the Good News to the rest of the world. May the whole of the Bible speak clearly the truth from God for today and see the nations repent and bless You and bring salvation to the poor and needy and to all, regardless of "whatever they are". In the name of Jesus our Lord and Saviour. Amen.*

7th January 2021. Psalm 138 is a psalm of David. "I will praise You O LORD God Almighty with all my heart... I will praise Your name for Your love and faithfulness... When I called, You answered me... Though the LORD is on high, He looks upon the lowly, but the proud He knows [only] from afar. Though I walk in the midst of trouble, You preserve my life... The LORD will fulfil His purpose for me; Your love, O LORD, endures for ever. Do not abandon the works of Your hand!" 1 Corinthians 10:23-33. Paul quotes a familiar saying of believers, "Everything is permissible" for those who have been freed from the Old Testament covenant. However, Paul adds "not everything is beneficial" and "not everything is constructive" (v.23). He gives an example about not

eating meat offered to idols, "for why should my freedom be judged by another's conscience?" (v.27-29). "So... whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. Do not cause anyone to stumble, whether Jews, Greeks [Gentiles] or the church of God" (v.31). "I am not seeking my own good but the good of many, so that they may be saved" (v.33). *Dear Father, while heeding the warnings of Paul, we thank You for the new life and freedom given by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for our sins. We also thank You for King David's belief of Your purpose being fulfilled in him through praise and worship and testifying of Your love and safekeeping "in the midst of trouble". Establish us in Your everlasting mercy through the cross of Christ for Your glory and for "the good of many, so that they may be saved". Amen.*

8th January 2021. Isaiah 52:5-10 gives God's words to Isaiah, "All day long My name is constantly blasphemed." Yet God assures Isaiah that "My people will know My name" (v.5-6). God continues, "How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion 'Your God reigns'... When the Lord returns to Zion, they will see it with their own eyes" (v.7-8). "The Lord God Almighty will bare His holy arm in the sight of all nations and all the ends of the earth will see the salvation of our God" (v.10). Romans 10:8-11 gives Paul's explanation that under the new covenant, "the word [of God's law] is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart (Deuteronomy 30:14), which is the word of faith we are proclaiming, that if you confess with your mouth 'Jesus is Lord' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from death, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved." *Dearest Father, in these days when Your name is blasphemed, assure us we will know You personally and know Your delight in us as we proclaim Your Good News of salvation in Jesus Christ for people to see for themselves that our God reigns. Bring on the time when "all the ends of the earth will see the salvation of our God". Help us to realise the truth is within us to confess "Jesus is Lord" and to know we are saved. Amen.*

11th January 2021. Psalm 38:10-15 echoes the longings of King David to be delivered from persecution, fear and isolation, which echoes today's plague

situation. "My heart pounds, my strength fails me; even the light has gone from my eyes. My friends and companions avoid me... my neighbours stay away" (v.10-11). "I have become like a man who does not hear, whose mouth can offer no reply. I wait on You O Lord God Almighty" (v.14-15). Romans 16:1-20 mentions at least 28 people by name whom Paul sends special greetings to at the end of his letter to the Roman church (v.1-16). He concludes by warning them to keep away from those "who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned" (v.17) and to "be wise about what is good and innocent about what is evil. The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet" (v.19-20). *Father God, grant the love, compassion, wisdom and conviction of Paul so that we may be strong in supporting believers today who are in ministry and who may be oppressed by persecution, fear and isolation or who find themselves unable to worship, listen or speak in the way they are accustomed to. Overrule those who play into the hands of the enemy in hindering the Good News of Jesus Christ or who cause disagreement between believers. Comfort those who are prevented from meeting with friends and companions. In the name of Jesus. Amen.*

12th January 2021. 1 Samuel 28:8-25 describes the sad end of Saul's reign as the first king of Israel. He knew that he had disobeyed God which had resulted in the loss of communication with the Almighty (v.15). He unwisely consulted the spirit of Samuel through a medium for advice on how to defeat the enemies of Israel and was told it was too late to repent and God would give the kingdom over to David (v.17). Further, he and his sons would be destroyed the next day in battle and would end up in Heaven with Samuel (v.19). So God blessed David in battle against the Amalekites (Chapter 29) but Saul was destroyed in battle against the Philistines (Chapter 30). Acts 13:4-12 records the opposition to the Good News from God preached by Paul and Barnabas on the island of Cyprus. Paul accused Elymas of "perverting the right ways of the Lord" and told him he would become blind for a time (v.10-11). Because of this the Roman governor of Cyprus believed the Good News of Jesus Christ (v.12) and later on, some of the Jews there also believed in Jesus as their Messiah. *Father God, encourage us to remain obedient believers, not disobedient believers, that we will be richly rewarded in Heaven and leave a legacy of success for Your Kingdom on Earth. Enable us to get things right by*

walking in the light of Your truth at all times so that Your Spirit will not depart from us and that many will be saved by our works, witness and worship. Encourage us to persevere and see victory for Your people and restoration of true faith in You whilst there is time. In the name of Jesus and for His sake, Amen.

13th January 2021. Joel 2:17-32 says "Let the priests who minister before the Lord God Almighty weep [and] say 'Spare Your people O Lord. Do not make Your inheritance an object of scorn [fun]. Why should they say among the peoples, "Where is their God?" ' (v.17). Then Joel assured his readers that "the Lord will take pity on His people" (v.18). They will never be ashamed again and in the last days God will "pour out My spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, you young men will see visions" (v.27-28). "And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved" (v.32). Luke 18:17 gives the words of warning from Jesus, "I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the Kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." This warning follows on from His question, "When the Son of Man comes [returns] will He find faith on earth?" (18:8). *Heavenly Father thank you for these encouraging words prompted by questions that are relevant for today. Many wonder "Where is God?" and "Where are the people of faith awaiting Christ's return?" May our leaders of church and state humble themselves and weep before You so that Your name and Your church are glorified and Your Spirit can freely minister to the believers, young and old alike, in power. Take pity on us and strengthen our faith and enable us to extend Your Kingdom as we await our Saviour's return. Amen.*

14th January 2021. 1 Chronicles 8 confirms the genealogy of Israel's first king chosen by God from the smallest tribe, Benjamin (8:33). Sadly, this record is followed by the testimony that "Saul died because he was unfaithful to the LORD God Almighty. He did not keep the word of the LORD and even consulted a medium for guidance and did not enquire of the LORD" (10:13-14). Revelation 2:12-17 gives the words of Jesus to the apostle John regarding the church in Pergamum. "I know where you live, where Satan has his throne. Yet you remain true to My name... Nevertheless, I have a few things against you... Repent, therefore!" (v.13-16). "To him who overcomes, I will give some of the hidden manna", the food of Christ (v.17). *Dear God, the words of our Saviour reveal how a few people in the church at Pergamum brought*

judgement on all the people. This was ever true, as with Saul's disobedience which brought judgement on all of God's people. We thank you for the written word expressing your mercy in anointing David as Saul's successor who in turn brought Your light and salvation to Israel and whose family line gave birth to the opportunity of salvation for the world through Jesus Christ. Help us at all times to heed your word and not risk unholy behaviour nor let unrighteous decisions hinder the spiritual growth of those around us. May our example bring glory to Your name and blessings to Your people and our nation. Amen.

15th January 2021. Psalm 86 is a prayer from a "poor and needy believer" who is devoted to God Almighty, seeking His mercy and joy (v.1-3. "Teach me Your way O LORD, and I will walk in Your truth; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear Your name. I will praise You O LORD with all my heart; I will glorify Your name for ever. For great is Your love towards me; you have delivered me from the depths of the grave" (v.11-13). So, "give me a sign of your goodness, that my enemies may see it and be put to shame" (v.17). Matthew 17:14-23 describes the power of Jesus over demons and the lack of faith of His disciples who were unable to do the same. Jesus told them they needed faith even if it was as tiny as a mustard seed (v.20). This was the time that Jesus revealed to His followers that men "will kill Him and on the third day He will be raised to life" which further upset the disciples (v.23). *Father God, forgive us for not reaching out to You in greater faith to meet the spiritual, mental and physical needs of those around us, even if we ourselves are "poor and needy believers". Increase our faith beyond that of a mustard seed, to "glorify Your name for ever". Help us to understand more of Your provision which was fulfilled in the sacrifice of Christ our Saviour, who died for our sins and was resurrected to eternal life with You, that He might intercede on behalf of all who believe. So may we reach out in faith to others in the name of Jesus and through the power of Your Holy Spirit within us. Amen.*