

## **Manna Publications (UK)**

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### **Daily Manna: Editor's Choice Current archive from January 2022**

#### **Old and New Testament teachings**

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

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

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> January 2022.**

Numbers 33 gives the stages in the journey of the Children of Israel (Jacob) from slavery in Egypt through the wilderness on their way to possess God's Promised Land of Canaan. God had promised this to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. "The LORD God Almighty commanded Moses to record their journey. Here are the places where they stopped. The people of Israel started out from Rameses... It was the day after the Passover Feast. They marched out boldly in sight of all of the Egyptians. The Egyptians were burying all of their oldest sons. The LORD had struck them down. He had done it when He punished their gods" (v.2-4). Over 40 camp sites are written down by Moses, ending on the east bank of the River Jordan overlooking Canaan (v.49).

Galatians 3:26 to 4:7 gives Paul's teaching how all children of God are no longer slaves to their old ways. "You are all children of God by believing in Christ Jesus. All of you who were baptized into Christ have 'put on Christ'... There is no Jew or Greek [Gentile]. There is no slave or free person. There is no male or female. Because you belong to Christ Jesus, you are all one. You who belong to Christ are Abraham's seed. You will receive what God has promised... God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts. He is the Holy Spirit. By His power we call God 'Abba', our Father. So you are no longer slaves. You are God's children. Because you are His children, He gives you what He promised to give His people."

*Thank You Father God for the written records of Moses and Paul which help confirm our amazing inheritance as Your adopted children through Your promises to Abraham and fulfilled in Jesus Christ, Israel's Messiah. Amen.*

#### **4<sup>th</sup> January 2022.**

Joshua 1:16-17 records the commitment of the Israelites to their new leader, Joshua, as they waited on the east bank of the River Jordan. They were ready to

serve Joshua and to serve God to fulfil His purpose to establish God's Kingdom in the land of Canaan. It had been promised to the Israelites, the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, over 500 years before. "We will do what you have commanded us to do. We will go where you send us. We obeyed Moses completely. And we will obey you just as completely. But may the LORD your God be with you, just as He was with Moses."

Mark 13 gives the many warnings of Jesus about the troubled days ahead and the "end of the age" before He returns to Earth. It ends with Jesus warning His followers to keep watch and pray because we will not know when these things will happen. He also warns, "You will be arrested and brought to trial. But do not worry ahead of time about what you will say. Just say what God brings to your mind at the time. It is not you speaking, but the Holy Spirit" (v.11).

*Dear heavenly Father, thank You again for the evidence in Your word of difficult times ahead that are part of Your plan to establish Your Kingdom on Earth. As we go forward, raise up spiritual leaders like Moses and Joshua whom we can support. Help us to discern those who are not true believers. Help us also to believe we have the promised Holy Spirit of Christ Jesus at work in our lives and in our ministries to stand against all forms of persecution. Grant us boldness and peace to declare Your truth. May we prove the promises of Jesus that we will be given the right words to say. Amen.*

### **5<sup>th</sup> January 2022.**

1 Kings 21 records the evil of King Ahab and his wife Jezebel who arranged false testimony against Naboth, the king's neighbour. This resulted in his arrest and death so that Jezebel was free to tell Ahab to take over Naboth's vineyard for himself. Elijah, the prophet of God at that time (900 BC), told Ahab, "You did what was evil in the sight of the LORD God Almighty. So the LORD says, 'I am going to bring disaster on you. I will destroy your children after you... You have made Me very angry. You have caused Israel to commit sin... Dogs will [also] eat up Jezebel near the wall of Jezreel.' "

1 John 5:9-15 says, "The witness of God is more important [than the witness of mankind] because it is God who gives it. He has given witness about His Son. Those who believe in the Son of God have accepted that witness in their hearts... He has given us eternal life. That life is found in His Son. Those who belong to the Son have life. Those who do not belong to the Son of God do not have life. I am writing these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God. I am doing it so you will know that you have eternal life... If we ask anything in keeping with what He wants, He hears us. If we know that God hears what we ask for, we know that we have it."

*Father God, thank You for John's testimony of faith in Jesus Your Son, our Saviour. Spare us from the destructive false testimony of non-believers which leads our nation "to commit sin". Raise up "prophets of God" in these evil times and grant us strong personal faith in our eternal salvation through Jesus Christ who ensures You "hear what we ask for and have it." Amen.*

### **6<sup>th</sup> January 2022.**

Daniel 11:28-35 describes the way a "king from the north" would try to destroy the kingdom of Israel. "He will make evil plans against the holy Temple in

Jerusalem. He will do a lot of harm to the Temple and the people who worship there. Then he will return to his own country. At God's appointed time, he will march south again. But this time ... ships from the west will oppose him... [But] he will take out his anger against the holy Temple. And he will show favour to the Jews who desert it... He will lead them to do what is evil. But the people who know their God will firmly oppose him. Those who are wise will teach many others [the truth from God]. But for a while, some of the wise will be killed with swords. Others will be burned to death. Still others will be made prisoners. Or they will be robbed of everything they have... They will be made pure in the fire. They will be made spotless until the time of the end. It will still come at God's appointed time."

Luke 2:27-32 describes how God's Spirit sent Simeon to the Temple in Jerusalem to meet the Jewish Messiah, Jesus Christ, when He was only eight days old. Simeon prophesied, "LORD God Almighty, my eyes have seen Your salvation. You have prepared it in the sight of all people. It is a light to be given to those who are not Jews. It will bring glory to your people Israel."

*Thank You Father God for reminding us of the persecution of Your people Israel, past, present and future. Thank You for confirming in Your word that their Messiah is Jesus the Christ whom Gentile believers worship. May all true believers remain "spotless until the time of the end". Amen.*

### **7<sup>th</sup> January 2022.**

Numbers Chapter 1 gives the amazing record of the numbers of Israelite men above 20 years of age as instructed by the LORD God Almighty. This happened when "the LORD spoke to Moses in the Tent of Meeting in the Desert of Sinai... on the first day of the second month in the second year after the people of Israel came out of Egypt" (v.1). The total was 603,550, which means there must have been around 1.5 million Israelites altogether including the women and children. "But the families of the tribe of Levi were not counted along with the others... God said, 'Instead, put the Levites [as priests] in charge of the holy Tent. That is where the tablets of the covenant [Law] are kept' " (v.47-50). They were told to "set up their tents around the Tabernacle" so that only true believers could approach the meeting place with God, "so that My anger will not fall on the community of Israel" (v.53).

2 Peter 3:11-18 warns that in the end days, "You should lead holy and godly lives" (v.11)... So try your best to be found pure and without blame... Remember that while our Lord is waiting patiently to return, people are being saved" (v.14-15). "So be on your guard. Then you will not be led down the wrong path by the mistakes of people who do not obey the Law... Grow in the grace of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Get to know him better" (v.17-18).

*Thank You Father for Your warnings in both Old and New Testaments to keep ourselves holy and refuse to be influenced by ungodly people. Keep us obedient to Your Ten Commandments as we draw close to Jesus our Lord and Saviour who fulfilled every detail of the Law. Help us to prepare the way for His second coming. Amen.*

### **10<sup>th</sup> January 2022.**

Genesis 18:20-33 records the time when the LORD God Almighty took note of the great sin that was happening in Sodom and Gomorrah. Abraham asked God to spare the two cities from His punishment for the sake of the true believers who lived

there – including the family of his nephew Lot. God promised Abraham that He would spare them if there were only 10 believers living there.

Revelation 19:1-10 gives John's vision of those who remained faithful to God Almighty. In Heaven there was a great multitude shouting "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to Him who is true and just in His judgement of mankind" (v.1-2). Then from Heaven a voice ordered, "Praise our God all you servants who fear Him, both great and small" (v.5). This was part of John's revelation for all who are invited to the great wedding feast of Jesus, the sacrificial Lamb of God (v.9).

*Heavenly Father, thank You for Your love and mercy for those who remain faithful in these days of great sin and departure from Your truth. Encourage us again and again with Your promise given to Abraham and Your vision given to John that You will save the families of true believers when You bring punishment on Earth in these last days. Thank you for your enfolding compassion towards us and the power of Your Spirit promised to us by Jesus Himself through His resurrection power at work in our lives. May we in turn portray His compassion and power in our lives towards our loved ones and towards those whom you are seeking to save. We give thanks for Jesus who suffered so much on our behalf. Hallelujah!*

### **11<sup>th</sup> January 2022.**

Isaiah 45:20-25 records the commands of the LORD God Almighty after the prophesy to restore Jerusalem for the remnant of exiles in Babylon. "Come together... Talk it over together... I am the One who saves. There is no God but Me. All of you who live anywhere on Earth, turn to Me and be saved... I have made a promise... The LORD will help all the people of Israel. He will make them right with Himself and they will praise Him."

Acts 1:12-14 records what happened after Jesus prophesied (1:5) that they would be baptised by the Holy Spirit when His disciples and followers returned to Jerusalem. They would "be My witnesses from one end of the Earth to the other" (1:8). "When they arrived, they went to an upper room... to pray. The women joined them too. So did Mary the mother of Jesus and His brothers [her other sons]." Before the Spirit came on the Day of Pentecost, they appointed Matthias as replacement for Judas who had betrayed Jesus (1:21-26).

*Heavenly Father, thank you for the prophecies recorded by Isaiah for Jews to be established in Jerusalem to worship You. Also that "all of you who live anywhere on Earth, turn to Me and be saved." Thank You for the prophecies of Jesus that His Jewish followers would receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit in Jerusalem and they would "be My witnesses from one end of the Earth to the other". We praise You for including non-Jews in Your plan of salvation. Forgive us when we appoint replacement leaders like Matthias in our churches instead of waiting for the Spirit of Christ as we "talk it over together". Help us to serve others with His compassion and Spirit power as we proclaim Your truth to the world. You are "the One who saves". Amen.*

### **12<sup>th</sup> January 2022.**

Joshua 24 records the time after the conquest of Canaan under Joshua's leadership when he sent for the other leaders of Israel. They came and stood there in the sight of God... He reminded them, "Yahweh, is the LORD God of Israel. He says, 'Long ago your people lived east of the Euphrates River. They worshiped other

gods there. Your people included Terah. He was the father of Abraham and Nahor. I took your father Abraham from the land that is east of the Euphrates. I led him all through Canaan. I gave him many children and grandchildren. I gave him Isaac. To Isaac I gave Jacob and Esau. I gave the hill country of Seir to Esau. But Jacob and his children went down to Egypt. Then I sent Moses and Aaron. I made the people of Egypt suffer because of the plagues I sent on them. But I saved you out of Egypt' " (v.1-5). Joshua then challenged the leaders to "choose for yourselves right now whom you will serve. You can choose the gods your people served east of the Euphrates River or the gods of Canaan... But as for me and my family, we will serve the LORD" (v.15).

1 Timothy 3:13 gives Paul's testimony for church leaders who have chosen to serve God and the followers of Christ. "Those who have served well earn the full respect of others. They also will become more sure of their faith in Christ Jesus."

*Father God, help us to choose this day to put behind us for ever the old life of sin. May we see clearly the way You have led us and our forefathers over the years. As we serve You and our Saviour and our fellow believers, may we put behind us guilt and doubts and instead grow in honour and faith as we lead and teach others Your truth. Amen.*

### **13<sup>th</sup> January 2022.**

Psalms 73 begins, "God is good to those who have pure hearts." But the psalmist then confesses, "I had almost tripped and fallen." Why? "I saw that proud and wicked people were doing well and I began to long for what they had" (v.1-3). He says, "I tried to understand it all... It troubled me until I entered God's Temple. Then I understood what will happen to bad people in the end. You will make them slip and fall" (v.16-18). Then the psalmist acknowledged, "I am always with You. You hold me by Your right hand. You give me wise advice to guide me. And when I die, You will take me away into the glory of Heaven" (v.23-24). He then renews his commitment to God Almighty. "I have made You my place of safety and I will talk about everything You have done" (v.28).

Acts 27-28 records the shipwreck when Paul was on his way to Rome as a prisoner for preaching the Good News of Christ. "The soldiers planned to kill the prisoners... But the commander wanted to save Paul's life. So he stopped the soldiers from carrying out their plan... everyone reached land safely (27:42-44). The Maltese people showed them much kindness" (28:2) and when they arrived in Rome, the believers from the church met them. Paul "thanked God and was cheered up" (28:14-16).

*Heavenly Father, thank you for the testimony of the psalmist who nearly tripped and fell in his walk of faith. Help us to believe You will make our enemies "slip and fall". Make us Your "place of safety" and guard us from falling, as You did Your servant Paul, while we finish our witness to the world with "pure hearts" to prepare for the return of Jesus our Saviour. Amen.*

### **14<sup>th</sup> January 2022.**

Ezekiel 10 describes the vision of the glory of the LORD God Almighty filling the Temple, with cherubim moving on "wheels within wheels" and a man dressed in linen. It was at the time of great sin in Jerusalem and God told the man to scatter burning coals of fire from the Temple over the city. Then the presence of the Lord

departed from the Temple with the cherubim and their wheels. Six years later, Jerusalem was burned to the ground. Before that happened, Ezekiel prophesied that after the people of God had been cleansed, His presence would return through the east gate of Jerusalem (43:1-9).

James 4:4-10 warns, "Do you not know that to be a friend of the world is to... become an enemy of God? ...The spirit that God caused to live in us wants us to belong only to God... Scripture says, 'God opposes those who are proud. But he gives grace to those who are not' (Proverbs 3:34). So obey God. Stand up to the devil. He will run away from you. Come near to God, and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners. Make your hearts pure, you who cannot make up your minds. Be full of sorrow. Weep and change your laughter to crying. Change your joy to sadness. Bow down to the Lord. He will lift you up."

*Heavenly Father, cleanse us and lift us up into the joy of knowing Your salvation through repentance and obedience. In these days of great sinning by Your church of Jesus Christ, refine us with Your fire. Do not depart from us but fulfil the vision of Ezekiel for Messiah's return. Help us to stand up against the devil with the power of the Spirit of Jesus living in our lives. Amen.*

### **17<sup>th</sup> January 2022.**

Nehemiah 9 records what happened soon after the Israelites returned to Jerusalem after their exile in Babylon. They separated themselves from non-believers to confess "they had sinned and their people before them had done evil things" (v.2). Then the Book of the Law of God was read. "They listened for a quarter of the day. They spent another quarter of the day admitting their sins and worshipped the LORD their God" (v.3). The people said, "Blessed be Your glorious name. May it be lifted high above every other name" (v.5). They went on to give thanks to God for choosing Abraham and for making a covenant with him to provide the land of the Canaanites for the children of Israel (Jacob) (v.7-8). Even when they sinned, "because You loved them so much You did not abandon them" (v.19).

Jude 17-23 warns, "Dear friends, remember what the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ said was going to happen. 'In the last days, some people will make fun of the truth.' ...They are the people who separate you from one another... They are not led by the Holy Spirit. Dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith. Let the Holy Spirit guide and help you when you pray... Show mercy to those who doubt. Pull others out of the fire."

*Heavenly Father, thank you for guiding us to separate ourselves from non-believers and not allow them to separate us from each other. As we meet together, encourage us to listen to the Bible and confess our sins and worship You. Guide us as we pray for those who doubt and for those You wish to save from everlasting fire to everlasting glory. Make us strong to persevere in these last days before Christ's return to Jerusalem. Amen.*

### **18<sup>th</sup> January 2022.**

Judges 4 occurs at the time when Israel "again did evil in the eyes of the Lord God Almighty" (v.1). The prophetess Deborah was judge over Israel. She sent for Barak and told him, "The LORD the God of Israel is giving you a command to take 10,000 men to Mount Tabor... I will draw Sisera into a trap... I will hand him over to you" (v.4-7). But Barak refused to go to war without Deborah going with him. So Deborah

told him, "I will go with you but you will not receive the honour... The Lord will hand Sisera over to a woman" (v.8-9). Barak with Deborah successfully defeated Israel's enemy. Before that time, Israel had chosen to worship new gods and war had come to them (5:8). After the death of Sisera, the land had peace for forty years (5:31).

Philippians 2:12-16. Paul says, "My dear friends, you have always obeyed God... So continue to work out your own salvation. Do it with fear and trembling. God is working in you. He wants your plans and your acts to be in keeping with His good purpose. Do everything without finding fault or arguing. Then you will be pure and without blame. You will be children of God without fault in a sinful and evil world... You shine as you hold out to them the word of life."

*Heavenly Father, when we seek to go forward to do Your will, choose for us the believers to work with who know Your Spirit's guidance. Also reveal to us the needs of the sinful world around us at this time. Make us obedient in serving You to bring salvation, hope and peace whilst proclaiming Your truth revealed through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.*

### **19<sup>th</sup> January 2022.**

2 Chronicles 16 records the reign of Asa, king of Judea and Jerusalem, 900 BC. He took the silver from God's Temple and his palace to gain support from the king of Aram in Damascus (v.2-3). Hanani, the prophet of Almighty God, spoke to Asa, "You trusted the king of Aram. You didn't trust in the LORD your God... He gives strength to those who commit their lives completely to Him. You have done a foolish thing. From now on you will be at war" (v.7-9). Asa was angry with Hanani and put him in prison and persecuted some of the people (v.10). Then Asa fell ill. But even though he was suffering, he didn't look to the LORD for help. He died two years later (v.12-13). His son Jehoshaphat ruled after him in Jerusalem. God blessed him and his kingdom because he walked in the ways of King David (17:3).

John 20:9-18 records that two of the disciples of Jesus found the empty tomb of Jesus but "they still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead. Then the disciples went back to their homes. But Mary stood outside the tomb crying... Then she turned around and saw Jesus standing there... Jesus said, 'Go to those who believe in Me. Tell them, I am returning to my Father [who is] your Father, to my God [who is] your God.' Mary went to the disciples with the news. 'I have seen the Lord!'"

*Lord God, forgive us for not turning to You and believing Scripture when times are difficult. Deliver us from those who refuse to believe in Your mercy, love and provision and even persecute other believers. Fill us with Christ's resurrection glory and power and His compassion for the lost as we prepare for His return. Amen.*

### **20<sup>th</sup> January 2022.**

Malachi 3 gives God's words to Israel 400 years before the birth of Christ. "I am the LORD. I do not change. [But] you have turned away from My rules. You have not obeyed them... Return to Me. Then I will return to you" (v.6-7). Those who had respect for the LORD talked with each another. And the LORD heard them... "I will spare them just as a loving father spares his son who serves him. Then once again you will see the difference between godly people and sinful people." (v.16,18). "Remember the Law My servant Moses gave you" (4:4).

Acts 5:17-42 records what happened when the apostles were persecuted by the religious leaders. "They arrested them and put them in the public prison. But during the night an angel of the Lord came. He opened the prison doors and brought the apostles out. 'Go! Stand in the Temple courtyard,' the angel said. 'Tell the people all about this new life' " (v.18-20). So, "Peter and the other apostles spoke out. 'We must obey God instead of people!' " (v.29). Then Gamaliel ordered the leaders to leave the apostles alone. "If their plans and actions are only human, they will fail. But if their plans come from God, you won't be able to stop these men. You will only find yourselves fighting against God" (v.38-39).

*Father God, encourage Your people to obey the Ten Commandments You gave to Moses to encourage them to "return to Me, then I will return to you." Also, free us from the fear of persecution, even imprisonment, to "tell the people all about this new life" in Jesus and His "plans which come from God". May the people "see the difference" in those who serve You. Amen.*

### **21<sup>st</sup> January 2022.**

Nehemiah 2:1-10 records the time in Babylon around 450 BC when King Artaxerxes saw how sad Nehemiah was. He told the king about Jerusalem. "The city where my people of long ago are buried has been destroyed." He then prayed to the God of Heaven before speaking to the king. "If it pleases you, let me go to the city of Jerusalem where my people are buried. I want to rebuild it." ...Then Sanballat and Tobiah heard about what was happening. They were very upset that someone had come to work for the good of Israel's people.

Hebrews 9:11-15 reminds us about the blood of Christ sacrificed in the newly built Jerusalem for our sins. "Christ came to be our high priest... He did not enter by spilling the blood of goats and calves. He entered the Most Holy Room by spilling His own blood. He did it once and for all time. He paid the price to set us free from sin forever... He did this through the power of the eternal Holy Spirit... So now we can serve the living God... He died to set us free from the sins committed under the first covenant."

*Dear God, thank You for these records of what happened to rebuild Jerusalem and prepare the way for Jesus our Redeemer, Israel's Messiah. May we understand the truth about Your special people Israel and the eternal salvation offered to the world through Your new covenant fulfilled in Christ. We "pray to the God of Heaven" in our sadness for the state of the world today, to provide us with the means to prepare for Christ's return to Jerusalem and defeat those who oppose the "work for the good of Israel's people" and Your plans of salvation for the rest of the world through their Messiah. Amen.*

### **24<sup>th</sup> January 2022.**

2 Samuel 20 records the time when much of Israel rebelled against King David. The rebels were led by "a troublemaker named Sheba from the tribe of Benjamin". His rebellion did not last long, however, when David ordered Joab to pursue Sheba. (v.7.) A wise woman in the town of Abel Beth Maaeah asked Joab why David should want to destroy their loyal town, "the Lord's inheritance", just to capture Sheba. She then arranged to obtain the head of Sheba to save her God-fearing town and its people. (v.18-21.)

Acts 26:1-23 records how Paul defended himself before King Agrippa against the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem who wanted him put to death because he preached the Good News of Jesus Christ as Messiah. He explained that on the road to Damascus, Jesus Himself stopped him to tell him, "I will save you from your own people and from those who are not Jews. I am sending you to them to open their eyes. I want you to turn them from darkness to light. I want you to turn them from Satan's power to God. I want their sins to be forgiven. They will be forgiven when they believe in Me. They will have their place among God's people." (v.17-18.)

*We thank You Father God for upholding Your truth and purpose through King David, his leader Joab and the wise woman to save righteous believers. We thank you that over 1000 years later, You upheld Your truth and purpose in Israel and its Messiah through King Agrippa and Your servant Paul. Thank You that nearly two millennia later, You are asking us to protect "the Lord's inheritance" and prepare for the return of Jesus to Jerusalem. Keep us bold and faithful as we declare Your truth and purpose and salvation in Jesus. Amen.*