

## **Scripture Readings**

"The Lord is my shepherd;  
shall not want.  
He makes me to lie down in green pastures;  
He leads me beside the still waters.  
He restores my soul;  
He leads me in the paths of righteousness  
For His name's sake.  
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil;  
For You are with me;  
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.  
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;  
You anoint my head with oil;  
My cup runs over.  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
All the days of my life;  
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord  
Forever."  
***(Psalm 23)***

"God is our refuge and strength,  
A very present help in trouble.  
Therefore we will not fear,  
Even though the earth be removed,  
And though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea;"  
***(Psalm 46:1-2)***

"Be still, and know that I am God;  
I will be exalted among the nations,  
I will be exalted in the earth!  
The Lord of hosts is with us;  
The God of Jacob is our refuge."  
***(Psalm 46:10-11)***

"The Lord is close to the broken hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit."  
***(Psalm 34: 18)***

The Lord is compassionate and gracious,  
Slow to anger, abounding in love.  
He will not always accuse,  
Nor will he harbor his anger for ever;  
He does not treat us as our sins deserve  
Or repay us according to our iniquities.  
For as high as the heavens are above the earth,  
So great is his love for those who fear him;  
As far as the east is from the west,  
So far has he removed our transgressions from us.  
As a father has compassion on his children,  
So the Lord has compassion on those who fear him;  
For he knows how we are formed,  
He remembers that we are dust.  
As for man, his days are like grass,  
He flourishes like a flower of the field;  
The wind blows over it and it is gone,  
And its place remembers it not more.  
But from everlasting to everlasting  
The Lord's love is with those who fear him.  
***(Psalm 103: 8-17)***

There is a time for everything,  
And a season for every activity under heaven:  
A time to be born and a time to die  
A time to plant and a time to uproot,  
A time to kill and a time to heal,  
A time to tear down and a time to build,  
A time to weep and a time to laugh,  
A time to mourn and a time to dance,  
A time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,  
A time to embrace and a time to refrain,  
A time to search and a time to give up,  
A time to keep and a time to throw away,  
A time to tear and a time to mend,  
A time to be silent and a time to speak,  
A time to love and a time to hate,  
A time for war and a time for peace.  
***(Ecclesiastes 3:1-8)***

Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness. . . . For I the LORD thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee.

***(Isaiah 41:10, 13)***

Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away; for I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day.'

***(John 6.35-40)***

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days.

Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.' Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' She said to him, 'Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.'

***(John 11.17-27)***

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.' Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

***(John 14.1-6)***

"Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."  
**(Romans 8:37-38)**

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."  
**(Romans 15:13)**

So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable; it is raised imperishable; It is sown in dishonour, it is raised in glory; It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body.

If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. So it is written: "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam, a life-giving spirit. The spiritual did not come first, but the natural, and after that, the spiritual. The first man was of the dust of the earth, the second man from heaven. As was the earthly man, so are those who are of the earth; and as is the man from heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. And just as we have borne the likeness of the earthly man, so shall we bear the likeness of the man from heaven.

I declare to you brothers, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed - in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with the immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory."

"Where, O death, is your victory?  
Where, O death, is your sting?"

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

**(1 Corinthians 15:42-57)**

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort,  
who comforts us in all our troubles,  
so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have  
received from God.

For just as the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives,  
so also through Christ our comfort overflows."

**(2 Corinthians 3:1-5)**

Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. Now we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands. Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling, because when we are clothed, we will not be found naked. For while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. Now it is God who has made us for this very purpose and has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come. Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. We live by faith, not by sight. We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord.

**(2 Corinthians 4:16-15:8)**

I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labour for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! I am torn between the two; I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far.

**(Philippians 1:20-23)**

"God's peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand,  
will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus...  
and this same God - will supply all your needs from His glorious riches,  
which have been given to us in Christ Jesus."

**(Phil 4:7,19,20)**

We do not want you to be uninformed about those who fall asleep,  
or to grieve like the rest of men who have no hope.  
We believe that Jesus died and rose again  
and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in  
Him.....  
Therefore comfort one another with these words."  
**(1 Thess. 4:13,14,18)**

"So God has given us both his promise and his oath.  
These two things are unchangeable because it is impossible for God to lie.  
Therefore, we who have fled to him for refuge can take new courage,  
for we can hold on to his promise with confidence.  
This confidence is like a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls.  
It leads us through the curtain of heaven into God's inner sanctuary."  
**(Hebrews 6:18-19)**

I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had  
passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem,  
coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.  
And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

'See, the home of God is among mortals.  
He will dwell with them;  
they will be his peoples,  
and God himself will be with them;  
he will wipe every tear from their eyes.  
Death will be no more;  
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,  
for the first things have passed away.'

And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.' Also  
he said, 'Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.' Then he said to me, 'It is  
done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will  
give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. Those who conquer will inherit  
these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children.'  
**(Revelation 21.1-7)**