

Today's Bible Verses

25 SEPTEMBER 2018

THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES

23 September (sundown) – 30 September (sundown), 2018

*These are Yahweh's appointed times,
the sacred assemblies you are to proclaim at their appointed times.*

Leviticus 23:4

Yahweh spoke to Moses: "Tell the Israelites:

The Festival of Tabernacles [Booths] to Yahweh begins on the fifteenth day of this seventh month and continues for seven days. There is to be a sacred assembly on the first day; you are not to do any daily work."

Leviticus 23:33–35 (HCSB)

The whole community that had returned from exile made booths and lived in them. They had not celebrated like this from the days of Joshua son of Nun until that day. And there was tremendous joy. Ezra read out of the book of the law of God every day, from the first day to the last. The Israelites celebrated the festival for seven days, and on the eighth day there was an assembly, according to the ordinance.

Nehemiah 8:17–18 (HCSB)

The Jewish Festival of Tabernacles was near,
so His brothers said to [Jesus], "Leave here and go to Judea
so Your disciples can see Your works that You are doing."

John 7:2–3 (HCSB)

Then all the survivors from the nations that came against Jerusalem
will go up year after year to worship the King, Yahweh of Hosts,
and to celebrate the Festival of Tabernacles [Booths].

Should any of the families of the earth not go up to Jerusalem
to worship the King, Yahweh of Hosts, rain will not fall on them.

Zechariah 14:16–17 (HCSB)

Today's 3 verses, read in order, comprise some of the most profound of Christ's teachings about living one's life.

a "Then Jesus said to His disciples, 'If anyone wants to come with Me, he must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me.'"

Matthew 16:24 (1 of 3 for Sep 25)

b "'For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life because of Me will find it.'"

Matthew 16:25 (2 of 3 for Sep 25)

c "'What will it benefit a man if he gains the whole world yet loses his life? What will a man give in exchange for his life?'"

Matthew 16:26 (3 of 3 for Sep 25)

(ALL VERSES ARE EXCERPTED FROM THE HOLMAN CHRISTIAN STANDARD BIBLE, HCSB.)

The Bible verses in the box above are this day's verses which I selected for my daily posting on both [FACEBOOK](#) and [TWITTER](#).

ADDITIONAL VERSES:

JESUS OF NAZARETH IS MESSIAH: OT PROPHECIES AND THEIR NT FULFILLMENT

Then Jesus told them, **"Everything written about Me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms must be fulfilled."**

LUKE 24: 44

"I'm Going to Send My Messenger. He Will Clear the Way Before Me"

Messiah was to have someone in the spirit of Elijah the prophet to herald His coming, and to prepare the way for Him.

Thanks to great works of art like Handel's *Messiah* oratorio, not to mention countless annual Christmas pageants, the prophecies about the one who would "prepare the way of Yahweh" are caught up in our collective Christian memories.

There is no question that both Jesus and the Gospel writers knew that John (the Baptist) was the Elijah for his day, the first advent of Messiah. John even confirmed that fact when pressed for answers about his identity by the Levites (priests).

In one passage in Matthew 11, Jesus not only identified John as the one prophesied by Malachi, but stated flatly that no one born of women was greater than he. Powerful.

Malachi prophesied that God would send Elijah before the "great and awesome" Day of Yahweh, which we have placed as an End Times event, just prior to the second coming of Christ.

When the angel Gabriel appeared in the Holy of Holies to Zechariah, he announced that the priest and his wife would have a son. They were to name him John. Zechariah undoubtedly knew Malachi's final prophecy: that God would send Elijah the prophet before the Day of the LORD [Yahweh]. Imagine Zechariah's almost certain stupefaction to be told that his future son, John, would be that Elijah.

And so he was.

MESSIAH WILL HAVE HIS WAY CLEARED BY A MESSENGER

[OT] "See, I am going to send My messenger, and he will clear the way before Me. Then the Lord you seek will suddenly come to His temple, the Messenger of the covenant you desire — see, He is coming," says Yahweh of Hosts. [Malachi 3:1]

MESSIAH WILL BE HERALDED BY A VOICE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS

[OT] A voice of one crying out: Prepare the way of Yahweh in the wilderness; make a straight highway for our God in the desert. Every valley will be lifted up, and every mountain and hill will be leveled; the uneven ground will become smooth and the rough places, a plain. And the glory of Yahweh will appear, and all humanity together will see it, for the mouth of Yahweh has spoken. [Isaiah 40:3-5]

MESSIAH WILL HAVE ELIJAH THE PROPHET TO ANNOUNCE HIS COMING

[OT] Look, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome Day of Yahweh comes. And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers. Otherwise, I will come and strike the land with a curse.”
[Malachi 4:5–6]

JESUS WAS ANNOUNCED BY JOHN THE BAPTIST

[NT] The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

Look, I am sending My messenger ahead of You,
who will prepare Your way.

A voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

Prepare the way for the Lord;

make His paths straight! [Isaiah 40:3; Malachi 3:1]

John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. [Mark 1:1–4]

JESUS WAS PRECEDED BY JOHN'S CALL TO REPENTENCE

[NT] In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the Wilderness of Judea and saying, “Repent, because the kingdom of heaven has come near!” For he is the one spoken of through the prophet Isaiah, who said:

A voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

Prepare the way for the Lord;

make His paths straight!

[Matthew 3:1–3]

JOHN TOLD THE LEVITES HE WAS THE VOICE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS

[NT] This is John’s testimony when the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him, “Who are you?”

He said, “I am a **voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Make straight the way of the Lord** — just as Isaiah the prophet said.” [John 1:19,23]

JESUS SAID NO GREATER HAD BEEN BORN TO A WOMAN THAN JOHN

[NT] Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John [the Baptist]:

“What did you go out into the wilderness to see?

A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and far more than a prophet.

This is the one it is written about:

Look, I am sending My messenger ahead of You;

he will prepare Your way before You.”

I assure you: Among those born of women no one greater than John the Baptist has appeared.” [Matthew 11:7,9–11]

JOHN CAME IN THE SPIRIT AND POWER OF ELIJAH

[NT] But the angel said to him:

Do not be afraid, Zechariah,

because your prayer has been heard.

Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son,

and you will name him John.

He will turn many of the sons of Israel

to the Lord their God.

And he will go before Him

in the spirit and power of Elijah,

to turn the hearts of fathers

to their children,

and the disobedient

to the understanding of the righteous,

to make ready for the Lord a prepared people. [Luke 1:13,16–17]

NOTES ON PROPHECIES AND FULFILLMENTS: OT prophecies are consistently shown against the left margin, with their NT fulfillments indented immediately underneath. In order to be included, each “fulfillment” must have been described as such in the works of at least one Biblical scholar. Therefore, not every OT reference will be joined to a NT verse. (See my current References list for this series, found at bottom.)

USAGE OF THE NAME OF GOD

As I do in all my Daily and Additional Verses, whenever an OT passage contains the four-letter Name of God יהוה (transliteration: YHVH or YHWH), I change the translation from The LORD to Yahweh. I don’t do this for reasons of doctrine (*or because I think my prayers won’t be heard if I don’t pronounce God’s name correctly!*) – but simply because in the original Hebrew, **the word is a proper name**. (See Exodus 3:15 below.)

And as such, I believe to read the text in a way that uses a proper name (and not a title, like Lord) conveys more accurate information. Paul told us that “All Scripture is inspired by God,” and so why wouldn’t we want to read it the way He inspired it? While it is true that the correct pronunciation of YHWH has been lost, “Yahweh” is probably our era’s most commonly used equivalent.

God also said to Moses, “Say this to the Israelites: Yahweh, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. This is My name forever; this is how I am to be remembered in every generation.” [Exodus 3:15]

*All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable
for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness,
so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*

2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17 (HCSB)

The additional verses which are below the Daily Verses will only appear in these emails (which are also posted on some websites). The current series (begun September 4, 2018) of these “extra” verses codifies and examines the Old Testament prophecies of Messiah, and matches them with their New Testament fulfillment. The series begins with a structured look at the earliest OT Messianic prophecies, and then examines aspects of Christ’s earthly ministry (e.g., birth, ministry, character, death, resurrection, etc.)

If you know of others who would like to receive these Daily Verses emails – free of charge, of course – just have them send me their email address.

I will never allow anyone but me to see or to use the email addresses entrusted to me, and I will use them only for the purpose of these Daily Verses. Promise.

–GBP2

How Did All of This Get Started?

In early 2017, I wrote a computer app that “knows” all 66 books and 1189 chapters which the Bible comprises. When run, it selects a totally random chapter in the Bible, and keeps track of the ones that have been selected. That way, I can work my way through all 1189 chapters, without the app ever giving me a duplicate.

I first used this for Bible study, and later decided that choosing one or more verses from each chapter would make a good series of Facebook posts.

I began posting them on December 8, 2017, and have been doing it daily ever since. I later added them to my Twitter account, and am now sending them by email, for those who prefer to get them this way.

If you do not wish to receive these daily emails, please feel free any time to hit “Reply” and tell me. I know that mailbox clutter is greatly annoying, and that is certainly not my intention for this!



Research for this publication was assisted by Faithlife Corporation's [Logos Bible Software 7](#).

Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture quotations are taken from the [Holman Christian Standard Bible \(HCSB\)](#). Copyright © 1999, 2000, 2002, 2003, 2009 by Holman Bible Publishers.

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