

Scripture Readings

*The Old Testament Scripture reading is received from **Micah** chapter **6** verses **1-8**, which can be found on page **1132** in the **old testament** of your pew bible...*

¹Hear now what the Lord is saying: Up, state your case to the mountains; let the hills hear your plea. Hear the Lord's case, you mountains, you everlasting pillars that bear up the earth; for the Lord has a case against his people, and will argue it with Israel. O my people, what have I done to you? Tell me how I have wearied you; answer me this. I brought you up from Egypt, I ransomed you from the land of slavery, I sent Moses and Aaron and Miriam to lead you. Remember, my people, what Balak king of Moab schemed against you, and how Balaam son of Beor answered him; consider the journey from Shittim to Gilgal, in order that you may know the triumph of the Lord.

What shall I bring when I approach the Lord? How shall I stoop before God on high? Am I to approach him with whole-offerings or yearling calves? Will the Lord accept thousands of rams or ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I offer my eldest son for my own wrongdoing, my children for my own sin?

God has told you what is good; and what is it that the Lord asks of you? Only to act justly, to love loyalty, to walk wisely before your God.

*The New Testament Scripture reading is received from **Matthew** chapter **5** verses **1-12**, which can be found on page **6** in the **new testament** of your pew bible...*

¹When he saw the crowds he went up the hill. There he took his seat, and when his disciples had gathered round him he began to address them. And this is the teaching he gave:

‘How blest are those who know their need of God; the kingdom of Heaven is theirs. How blest are the sorrowful; they shall find consolation. How blest are those of a gentle spirit; they shall have the earth for their possession. How blest are those who hunger and thirst to see right prevail; they shall be satisfied. How blest are those who show mercy; mercy shall be shown to them. How blest are those whose hearts are pure; they shall see God. How blest are the peacemakers; God shall call them his sons. How blest are those who have suffered persecution for the cause of right; the kingdom of Heaven is theirs.

‘How blest you are, when you suffer insults and persecution and every kind of calumny for my sake. Accept it with gladness and exultation, for you have a rich reward in heaven; in the same way they persecuted the prophets before you.

May the Lord God help us to apply this scripture in our lives.