

Scripture Readings

*The Old Testament Scripture reading is received from **The First Book of Samuel** chapter **1** verses **3-10**, which can be found on page **302** in the **old testament** of your pew bible.*

³This man (Elkanah) used to go up from his own town every year to worship and to offer sacrifice to the Lord of Hosts in Shiloh. There Eli's two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, were priests of the Lord. On the day when Elkanah sacrificed, he gave several shares of the meat to his wife Peninnah with all her sons and daughters; but, although he loved Hannah, he gave her only one share, because the Lord had not granted her children. Further, Hannah's rival used to torment her and humiliate her because she had no children. Year after year this happened when they went up to the house of the Lord; her rival used to torment her. Once when she was in tears and would not eat, her husband Elkanah said to her, 'Hannah, why are you crying and eating nothing? Why are you so miserable? Am I not more to you than ten sons?' After they had finished eating and drinking at the sacrifice at Shiloh, Hannah rose in deep distress, and stood before the Lord and prayed to him, weeping bitterly.

*The New Testament Scripture reading is received from **Acts** chapter **1** verses **21-26**, which can be found on page **148** in the **new testament** of your pew bible...*

²¹'The text I have in mind', Peter continued, 'is in the Book of Psalms: "Let his homestead fall desolate; let there be none to inhabit it"; and again, "Let another take over his share." Therefore one of those who bore us company all the while we had the

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Trish Haycock

Lord Jesus with us, coming and going, from John's ministry of baptism until the day when he was taken up from us – one of those must now join us as a witness to his resurrection.'

Two names were put forward: Joseph, who was known as Barsabbas, and bore the added name of Justus; and Matthias. Then they prayed and said, 'Thou, Lord, who knowest the hearts of all men, declare which of these two thou hast chosen to receive this office of ministry and apostleship which Judas abandoned to go where he belonged.' They drew lots and the lot fell on Matthias, who was then assigned a place among the twelve apostles.

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