

Scripture Readings

*The Old Testament Scripture reading is received from **Isaiah** chapter **45** verses **1-7**, which can be found on page **871** in the **old testament** of your pew bible.*

¹Thus says the Lord to Cyrus his anointed, Cyrus whom he has taken by the hand to subdue nations before him and undo the might of kings; before whom gates shall be opened and no doors be shut: I will go before you and level the swelling hills; I will break down gates of bronze and hack through iron bars. I will give you treasures from dark vaults, hoarded in secret places, that you may know that I am the Lord, Israel's God who calls you by name.

For the sake of Jacob my servant and Israel my chosen I have called you by name and given you your title, though you have not known me. I am the Lord, there is no other; there is no god beside me. I will strengthen you though you have not known me, so that men from the rising and setting sun may know that there is none but I: I am the Lord, there is no other; I make the light, I create darkness, author alike of prosperity and trouble. I, the Lord, do all these things.

*The New Testament Scripture reading is received from **Matthew** chapter **22** verses **15-22**, which can be found on page **31** in the **new testament** of your pew bible...*

¹⁵Then the Pharisees went away and agreed on a plan to trap him in his own words. Some of their followers were sent to him in company with men of Herod's party. They said, 'Master, you are an honest man, we know; you teach in all honesty the way of life that God requires, truckling to no man, whoever he may be. Give us your ruling on this: are we or are we not permitted to pay taxes to the Roman Emperor?' Jesus was aware

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of their malicious intention and said to them, 'You hypocrites! Why are you trying to catch me out? Show me the money in which the tax is paid.' They handed him a silver piece. Jesus asked, 'Whose head is this, and whose inscription?' 'Caesar's', they replied. He said to them, 'Then pay Caesar what is due to Caesar, and pay God what is due to God.' This answer took them by surprise, and they went away and left him alone.

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