

Scripture Readings

*The first Old Testament Scripture reading is received from **Judges** chapter 16, verses 23-31, which can be found on page 290 in the **old testament** of your pew bible...*

²³The lords of the Philistines assembled together to offer a great sacrifice to their god Dagon and to rejoice before him. They said, 'Our god has delivered Samson our enemy into our hands.' ²⁴The people, when they saw him, praised their god, chanting: Our god has delivered our enemy into our hands, the scourge of our land who piled it with our dead. ²⁵When they grew merry, they said, 'Call Samson, and let him fight to make sport for us.' So they summoned Samson from prison and he made sport before them all. They stood him between the pillars, ²⁶and Samson said to the boy who held his hand, 'Put me where I can feel the pillars which support the temple, so that I may lean against them.' ²⁷The temple was full of men and women, and all the lords of the Philistines were there, and there were about three thousand men and women on the roof watching Samson as he fought. ²⁸Samson called on the Lord and said, 'Remember me, O Lord God, remember me: give me strength only this once, O God, and let me at one stroke be avenged on the Philistines for my two eyes.' ²⁹He put his arms round the two central pillars which supported the temple, his right arm round one and his left round the other, ³⁰and braced himself and said, 'Let me die with the Philistines.' Then Samson leaned forward with all his might, and the temple fell on the lords and on all the people who were in it. So the dead whom he killed at his death were more than those he had killed in his life. ³¹His brothers and all his father's family

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came down, carried him up to the grave of his father Manoah between Zorah and Eshtaol and buried him there. He had been judge over Israel for twenty years.

*The first New Testament Scripture reading is received from **Matthew** chapter 5, verses 38-45, which can be found on page 8 in the **new testament** of your pew bible...*

³⁸You have learned that they were told, "Eye for eye, tooth for tooth." ³⁹But what I tell you is this: Do not set yourself against the man who wrongs you. If someone slaps you on the right cheek, turn and offer him your left. ⁴⁰If a man wants to sue you for your shirt, let him have your coat as well. ⁴¹If a man in authority makes you go one mile, go with him two. ⁴²Give when you are asked to give; and do not turn your back on a man who wants to borrow. ⁴³You have learned that they were told, "Love your neighbour, hate your enemy." ⁴⁴But what I tell you is this: Love your enemies and pray for your persecutors; ⁴⁵only so can you be children of your heavenly Father, who makes his sun rise on good and bad alike, and sends the rain on the honest and the dishonest.

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