

Scripture Readings

*The first scripture reading is from **Jeremiah** chapter **32**, verses **1-3 and 6-15**, which can be found on page **957** in the old testament of your pew bible....*

¹The word which came to Jeremiah from the LORD in the tenth year of Zedekiah king of Judah (the eighteenth year of Nebuchadrezzar). ²At that time the forces of the Babylonian king were besieging Jerusalem, and the prophet Jeremiah was imprisoned in the court of the guard-house attached to the royal palace. ³Zedekiah king of Judah had imprisoned him after demanding what he meant by this prophecy: 'These are the words of the LORD: I will deliver this city into the hands of the king of Babylon, and he shall take it.

⁶Jeremiah said, The word of the LORD came to me: ⁷Hanamel son of your uncle Shallum is coming to see you and will say, 'Buy my field at Anathoth; you have the right of redemption, as next of kin, to buy it.' ⁸As the LORD had foretold, my cousin Hanamel came to the court of the guard-house and said, 'Buy my field at Anathoth in Benjamin. You have the right of redemption and possession as next of kin; buy it.' I knew that this was the LORD's message; ⁹so I bought the field at Anathoth from my cousin Hanamel and weighed out the price, seventeen shekels of silver. ¹⁰I signed and sealed the deed and had it witnessed; then I weighed out the money on the scales. ¹¹I took my copies of the deed of purchase, both the sealed and the unsealed, ¹²and gave them to Baruch son of Neriah, son of Mahseiah, in the presence of Hanamel my cousin, of the witnesses whose names were on the deed of purchase, and of the Judaeans sitting in the court of the guard-house. ¹³In the presence of them all I gave my instructions to

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Baruch: ¹⁴These are the words of the LORD of Hosts the God of Israel: Take these copies of the deed of purchase, the sealed and the unsealed, and deposit them in an earthenware jar so that they may be preserved for a long time. ¹⁵For these are the words of the LORD of Hosts the God of Israel: The time will come when houses, fields, and vineyards will again be bought and sold in this land.

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*The second scripture reading is taken from **Luke**, chapter **16**, verses **19-31** which can be found on page **97** in the new testament of your pew bible...*

¹⁹There was once a rich man, who dressed in purple and the finest linen, and feasted in great magnificence every day. ²⁰At his gate, covered with sores, lay a poor man named Lazarus, ²¹who would have been glad to satisfy his hunger with the scraps from the rich man's table. Even the dogs used to come and lick his sores. ²²One day the poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried, ²³and in Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up; and there, far away, was Abraham with Lazarus close beside him. ²⁴"Abraham, my father," he called out, "take pity on me! Send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water, to cool my tongue, for I am in agony in this fire." ²⁵But Abraham said, "Remember, my child, that all the good things fell to you while you were alive, and all the bad to Lazarus; now he has his consolation here and it is you who are in agony. ²⁶But that is not all: there is a great chasm fixed between us; no one from our side who wants to reach you can cross it, and none may pass from your side to us." ²⁷"Then, father," he replied, "will you send him to my father's house, ²⁸where I have five brothers, to warn them, so that they too may not come to this place of torment?" ²⁹But Abraham said, "They have Moses and the prophets; ³⁰let them listen to them." "No, father Abraham," he replied, "but if someone from the dead visits them, they will repent." ³¹Abraham answered, "If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets they will pay no heed even if someone should rise from the dead."

This is the word of the Lord, thanks be to God.