

Scripture Readings

*The Old Testament Scripture reading is received from **Isaiah** chapter **50** verses **4-9a**, which can be found on page **880** in the **old testament** of your pew bible...*

4 The Lord GOD has given me
 the tongue of a teacher
 and skill to console the weary
 with a word in the morning;
 he sharpened my hearing
 that I might listen like one who is taught.

 The Lord GOD opened my ears
and I did not disobey or turn back in defiance. 5
 I offered my back to the lash, 6
 and let my beard be plucked from my chin,
I did not hide my face from spitting and insult;
 but the Lord GOD stands by to help me; 7
 therefore no insult can wound me.
I have set my face like flint,
 for I know that I shall not be put to shame,
 because one who will clear my name is at my side. 8
Who dare argue against me? Let us confront one another.
Who will dispute my cause? Let him come forward.
The Lord GOD will help me; 9
 who then can prove me guilty?

*The New Testament Scripture reading is received from **Luke** chapter **23** verses **1-25**, which can be found on page **107** in the **new testament** of your pew bible...*

With that the whole assembly rose, and they brought him before Pilate. 23
 They opened the case against him by saying, 'We found this man subvert- 2
 ing our nation, opposing the payment of taxes to Caesar, and claiming to be
 Messiah, a king.'^b Pilate asked him, 'Are you the king of the Jews?' He 3
 replied, 'The words are yours.'^c Pilate then said to the chief priests and 4
 the crowd, 'I find no case for this man to answer.' But they insisted: 'His 5
 teaching is causing disaffection among the people all through Judaea. It
 started from Galilee and has spread as far as this city.'
 When Pilate heard this, he asked if the man was a Galilean, and on 6 7
 learning that he belonged to Herod's jurisdiction he remitted the case to
 him, for Herod was also in Jerusalem at that time. When Herod saw Jesus 8
 he was greatly pleased; having heard about him, he had long been wanting
 to see him, and had been hoping to see some miracle performed by him.
 He questioned him at some length without getting any reply; but the chief 9 10
 priests and lawyers appeared and pressed the case against him vigorously.
 Then Herod and his troops treated him with contempt and ridicule, and 11
 sent him back to Pilate dressed in a gorgeous robe. That same day Herod 12
 and Pilate became friends; till then there had been a standing feud between
 them.
 Pilate now called together the chief priests, councillors, and people, and 13 14
 said to them, 'You brought this man before me on a charge of subversion.
 But, as you see, I have myself examined him in your presence and found
 nothing in him to support your charges. No more did Herod, for he has 15
 referred him back to us. Clearly he has done nothing to deserve death. I 16
 therefore propose to let him off with a flogging.' But ^d there was a general 18
 outcry, 'Away with him! Give us Barabbas.' (This man had been put in 19
 prison for a rising that had taken place in the city, and for murder.) Pilate 20
 addressed them again, in his desire to release Jesus, but they shouted back, 21
 'Crucify him, crucify him!' For the third time he spoke to them: 'Why, 22
 what wrong has he done? I have not found him guilty of any capital offence.
 I will therefore let him off with a flogging.' But they insisted on their 23
 demand, shouting that Jesus should be crucified. Their shouts prevailed 24 25
 and Pilate decided that they should have their way. He released the man
 they asked for, the man who had been put in prison for insurrection and
 murder, and gave Jesus up to their will.

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