

Scripture Readings

*The Old Testament Scripture reading is received from **Jeremiah** chapter **31** verses **31-37**, which can be found on page **956** in the **old testament** of your pew bible.*

³¹The time is coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with Israel and Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers when I took them by the hand and led them out of Egypt. Although they broke my covenant, I was patient with them, says the Lord. But this is the covenant which I will make with Israel after those days, says the Lord; I will set my law within them and write it on their hearts; I will become their God and they shall become my people. No longer need they teach one another to know the Lord; all of them, high and low alike, shall know me, says the Lord, for I will forgive their wrongdoing and remember their sin no more.

These are the words of the Lord, who gave the sun for a light by day and the moon and stars for a light by night, who cleft the sea and its waves roared; the Lord of Hosts is his name: If this fixed order could vanish out of my sight, says the Lord, then the race of Israel too could cease for evermore to be a nation in my sight. These are the words of the Lord: If any man could measure the heaven above or fathom the depths of the earth beneath, then I could spurn the whole race of Israel because of all they have done. This is the very word of the Lord.

*The New Testament Scripture reading is received from **Ephesians** chapter **1** verses **1-14**, which can be found on page **245** in the **new testament** of your pew bible...*

¹From Paul, Apostle of Christ Jesus, commissioned by the will of God, to God's people at Ephesus, believers incorporate in Christ Jesus. Grace to you and peace from

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Trish Haycock

God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has bestowed on us in Christ every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms. In Christ he chose us before the world was founded, to be dedicated, to be without blemish in his sight, to be full of love; and he destined us – such was his will and pleasure – to be accepted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in order that the glory of his gracious gift, so graciously bestowed on us in his Beloved, might redound to his praise. For in Christ our release is secured and our sins are forgiven through the shedding of his blood. Therein lies the richness of God's free grace lavished upon us, imparting full wisdom and insight. He has made known to us his hidden purpose – such was his will and pleasure determined beforehand in Christ – to be put into effect when the time was ripe: namely, that the universe, all in heaven and on earth, might be brought into a unity in Christ.

In Christ indeed we have been given our share in the heritage, as was decreed in his design whose purpose is everywhere at work. For it was his will that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, should cause his glory to be praised. And you too, when you had heard the message of the truth, the good news of your salvation, and had believed it, became incorporate in Christ and received the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; and that Spirit is the pledge that we shall enter upon our heritage, when God has redeemed what is his own, to his praise and glory.

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