

Scripture Readings

*The first New Testament Scripture reading is received from **Acts** chapter 1, verses 1-11, which can be found on page 147 in the **new testament** of your pew bible...*

¹ In the first part of my work, Theophilus, I wrote of all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning ² until the day when, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen, ³ he was taken up to heaven. He showed himself to these men after his death, and gave ample proof that he was alive: over a period of forty days he appeared to them and taught them about the kingdom of God. ⁴ While he was in their company he told them not to leave Jerusalem. 'You must wait', he said, 'for the promise made by my Father, about which you have heard me speak: ⁵ John, as you know, baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit, and within the next few days.' ⁶ So, when they were all together, they asked him, 'Lord, is this the time when you are to establish once again the sovereignty of Israel?' ⁷ He answered, 'It is not for you to know about dates or times, which the Father has set within his own control. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; and you will bear witness for me in Jerusalem, and all over Judaea and Samaria, and away to the ends of the earth.' ⁹ When he had said this, as they watched, he was lifted up, and a cloud removed him from their sight. ¹⁰ As he was going, and as they were gazing intently into the sky, all at once there stood beside them two men in white ¹¹ who said, 'Men of Galilee, why stand there looking up into the sky? This Jesus, who has been

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Debbie Bruce

taken away from you up to heaven, will come in the same way as you have seen him go.'

*The second New Testament Scripture reading is received from **Luke chapter 24, verses 44-53**, which can be found on page **110** in the **new testament** of your pew bible...*

⁴⁴ And he said to them, 'This is what I meant by saying, while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and in the prophets and psalms was bound to be fulfilled.' ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures. ⁴⁶ 'This', he said, 'is what is written: that the Messiah is to suffer death and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and that in his name repentance bringing the forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed to all nations. Begin from Jerusalem; ⁴⁸ it is you who are the witnesses to it all. ⁴⁹ And mark this: I am sending upon you my Father's promised gift; so stay here in this city until you are armed with the power from above.' ⁵⁰ Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and blessed them with uplifted hands; ⁵¹ and in the act of blessing he parted from them. ⁵² And they returned to Jerusalem with great joy, ⁵³ and spent all their time in the temple praising God.

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