

Scripture Readings

*The first scripture reading is from **Isaiah 11**, verses **1-10**, which can be found on page **823** in the **old testament** of your pew bible....*

¹Then a shoot shall grow from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall spring from his roots. ²The spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, a spirit of wisdom and understanding, a spirit of counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. ³He shall not judge by what he sees nor decide by what he hears; ⁴he shall judge the poor with justice and defend the humble in the land with equity; his mouth shall be a rod to strike down the ruthless, and with a word he shall slay the wicked. ⁵Round his waist he shall wear the belt of justice, and good faith shall be the girdle round his body. ⁶Then the wolf shall live with the sheep, and the leopard lie down with the kid; the calf and the young lion shall grow up together, and a little child shall lead them; ⁷ the cow and the bear shall be friends, and their young shall lie down together. The lion shall eat straw like cattle; ⁸ the infant shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the young child dance over the viper's nest. ⁹They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for as the waters fill the sea, so shall the land be filled with the knowledge of the LORD. ¹⁰On that day a scion from the root of Jesse shall be set up as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall rally to it, and its resting-place shall be glorious.

Sunday, December 4th 2022

Debbie Bruce

*The second scripture reading is taken from **Romans 15**, verses **4-13**, which can be found on page **206** in the **new testament** of your pew bible.*

⁴For all the ancient scriptures were written for our own instruction, in order that through the encouragement they give us we may maintain our hope with fortitude. ⁵And may God, the source of all fortitude and all encouragement, grant that you may agree with one another after the manner of Christ Jesus, ⁶so that with one mind and one voice you may praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷In a word, accept one another as Christ accepted us, to the glory of God. ⁸I mean that Christ became a servant of the Jewish people to maintain the truth of God by making good his promises to the patriarchs, ⁹and at the same time to give the Gentiles cause to glorify God for his mercy. As Scripture says, 'Therefore I will praise thee among the Gentiles and sing hymns to thy name'; ¹⁰and again, 'Gentiles, make merry together with his own people'; ¹¹and yet again, 'All Gentiles, praise the Lord; let all peoples praise him.' ¹²Once again, Isaiah says, 'There shall be the Scion of Jesse, the one raised up to govern the Gentiles; on him the Gentiles shall set their hope.' ¹³And may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace by your faith in him, until, by the power of the Holy Spirit, you overflow with hope.

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*The last scripture reading is taken from **Matthew 3**, verses **1-12**, which can be found on page **5** in the **new testament** of your pew bible.*

¹ABOUT THIS TIME John the Baptist appeared as a preacher in the Judaeian wilderness; ²his theme was: 'Repent; for the kingdom of Heaven is upon you!' ³It is of him that the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, 'A voice crying aloud in the wilderness, "Prepare a way for the Lord; clear a straight path for him." ' ⁴John's clothing was a rough coat of camel's hair, with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵They flocked to him from Jerusalem, from all Judaea, and the whole Jordan valley, ⁶and were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷When he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them: 'You vipers' brood! Who warned you to escape from the coming retribution? ⁸Then prove your repentance by the fruit it bears; ⁹and do not presume to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father." I tell you that God can make children for Abraham out of these stones here. ¹⁰Already the axe is laid to the roots of the trees; and every tree that fails to produce good fruit is cut down and thrown on the fire. ¹¹I baptize you with water, for repentance; but the one who comes after me is mightier than I, and I am not fit to take off his shoes; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. ¹²His shovel is ready in his hand and he will winnow his threshing-floor; the wheat he will gather into his granary, but he will burn the chaff on a fire that can never go out.'