

# Today's Bible Verses

10 DECEMBER 2018

Today's 4 verses are part of David's song of praise to God for His salvation.

"I will exalt You, Yahweh, because You have lifted me up and have not allowed my enemies to triumph over me."

Psalms 30:1 (1 of 4 for Dec 10)

"Yahweh my God, I cried to You for help, and You healed me."

Psalms 30:2 (2 of 4 for Dec 10)

"Yahweh, You brought me up from Sheol [grave]; You spared me from among those going down to the Pit [grave]."

Psalms 30:3 (3 of 4 for Dec 10)

"What gain is there in my death, if I go down to the Pit [grave]? Will the dust praise You? Will it proclaim Your truth?"

Psalms 30:9 (4 of 4 for Dec 10)

---

(ALL VERSES ARE EXCERPTED FROM THE HOLMAN CHRISTIAN STANDARD BIBLE, HCSB.)

The Bible verses in the box above are this day's verses which I selected for my daily posting on both [FACEBOOK](#) and [TWITTER](#).

SEE ALSO:

[ChristOurPassover.org](http://ChristOurPassover.org)

ADDITIONAL VERSES BIBLE STUDY:

**THIS SERIES DEDICATED TO MY WIFE, ADRIANNE**

---

CHRISTIAN  
**Baptism**  
βάπτισμα

There is one body and one Spirit — just as you were called to one hope at your calling — one Lord, one faith, **one baptism**, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

Ephesians 4:4–6

## PART 8

HOLMAN CHRISTIAN  
STANDARD BIBLE

## COMMENTARY

[Jesus:] “I assure you [*Amēn amēn legō* \*]: Unless someone is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.... I assure you [*Amēn amēn legō* \*]: Unless someone is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. Whatever is born of the flesh is flesh, and whatever is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be amazed that I told you that you must be born again.”

JOHN 3:3,5-7

[Paul:] “From [David]’s descendants, according to the promise, God brought the Savior, Jesus, to Israel. Before He came to public attention, John had previously proclaimed a **baptism** of repentance to all the people of Israel.

ACTS 13:23-24

[Peter:] “You know the events that took place throughout Judea, beginning from Galilee after the **baptism** that John preached: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how He went about doing good and healing all who were under the tyranny of the Devil, because God was with Him.”

ACTS 10:37-38

[Peter:] “I remembered the word of the Lord, how He said, ‘John **baptized** with water, but you will be **baptized** with the Holy Spirit.’”

ACTS 11:16

Until now in these studies, we’ve skirted around the differences between the baptism of John and the baptism that Jesus would bring. When the Bible speaks of those differences, it is almost always framed similar to these: “I [John] baptize you with water, but One is coming who will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire” [Luke 3:16] and “John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” [Acts 1:5]

In John 3, Jesus has a conversation with a Pharisee named Nicodemus, and because of repetition, we can see how Jesus equates two thoughts. Entry into the Kingdom of God depends on these two, presumably equivalent, things: being “born again” and “born of water and the Spirit.”

Being “born again” has taken on the meaning of “being saved” in our time. But I wonder, given the entire context of Jesus’ teaching to Nicodemus, if He meant our being “born again” as in “becoming a spirit being” at the time of one’s resurrection. I will leave it to you to read the context (see *left column*) and decide.

I have included the excerpt from John 3, even though there is no overt reference to “baptism” in it, because the “physical vs. spiritual” theme is exactly how the difference between John’s baptism and the baptism of Jesus is framed.

Paul reminds us in Acts 13 of the “baptism of repentance” that John brought. Peter recounts the baptism of Jesus by John, and how (this one and only time in John’s ministry) the Holy Spirit descended upon the One being baptized. And Peter later will recall Jesus’ words from Acts 1:5 about John’s water baptism, and the baptism of the Holy Spirit which was to come to all of Christ’s followers.

\* We’ve seen in the KJV many of Jesus’ statements begin with “Verily, verily I say unto you...” (See *John 3 quote at left*.) Of course, “verily” isn’t a word that has stayed in common usage in English, so modern translators have attempted to find a way to phrase this in a way that will (a) sound natural to the modern ear and (b) most accurately say to us what Christ said.

The Gospel writers translated the Aramaic words that Jesus actually said into the common Greek of the time. This figure of speech, as used here, comprises 2 Greek words: amen (truth, this is true) and lego (I am saying; I say to you). The phrase appears this way in the Greek manuscripts: **amen amen lego**. You can see how the KJV translators rendered it almost literally for their day. “Amen” = “verily” and “lego” = “I say (unto you).”

In modern translations, you will see these phrases: “I assure you” (HCSB); “Truly I tell you” (CSB); “Very truly I tell you” (NIV & NRSV); “Truly, truly, I say to you” (NASB, ESV & RSV); “I am telling you the truth” (GNT); and “I tell you for certain” (CEV).

Therefore, when one ends a prayer with “Amen,” the intent is to say, “This finishes my prayer.” But what the word literally means is, “This is the truth.”

## MORE ON THIS BIBLE STUDY OF BAPTISM

*Now I want you to know, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, all passed through the sea, and **all were baptized** into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. They all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from a spiritual rock that followed them, and that rock was Christ.*

1 Corinthians 10:1–4

The rite (sacrament) of baptism is one of the most fundamental and unique tenets of Christianity there is. And yet, its origins are shrouded in mystery. Where did it come from? Did it begin with the ministry of John the Baptist? If not, from where did he get it? Some have said it is a modification of the Jewish tradition of *tevilah*, or full-body immersion for religious dedication purposes. But since scholars cannot agree on when that began, it is difficult to know whether Christian baptism inspired the *tevilah*, or vice versa, or neither.

As has been our practice all along, this **Additional Verses Bible Study** will focus solely on Scripture (OT and NT, where applicable) to learn what is said there about the subject we are studying – in this case, baptism. There are 43 single verses or extended passages in which some form of the Greek word *baptisma* is found, and we will examine every one of them.

---

### USAGE OF THE NAME OF GOD IN THESE STUDIES

As I do in all my Daily and Additional Verses, whenever an OT passage contains the four-letter Name of God יהוה (transliteration: YHVH or YHWH), I change the translation from The LORD to Yahweh. (Yahweh seems to be the most common transliteration of the name, but I have recently come across some persuasive arguments that the name was originally Yehovah.)

I don't do this for reasons of doctrine (*or because I think my prayers won't be heard if I don't pronounce God's name correctly!*) – but simply because in the original Hebrew, **the word is a proper name**. (See Exodus 3:15 below.)

And as such, I believe to read the text in a way that uses a proper name (and not a title, like Lord) conveys more accurate information. Paul told us that “All Scripture is inspired by God,” and so why wouldn't we want to read it the way He inspired it? While it is true that the correct pronunciation of YHWH has been lost, “Yahweh” is probably our era's most commonly used equivalent.

*God also said to Moses, “Say this to the Israelites: Yahweh, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. This is My name forever; this is how I am to be remembered in every generation.”*

Exodus 3:15

---

*All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable  
for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness,  
so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*

2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17 (HCSB)

***The additional verses which are below the Daily Verses will only appear in these emails (which are also posted on some websites).*** The current series (began 31 October 2018) of these “Additional Verses” takes the Scriptural words from the great choral work *Messiah* by Handel and uses them as a springboard to examine the context of the birth, ministry, character, death, and Kingdom of Jesus the Christ.

***If you know of others who would like to receive these Daily Verses emails – free of charge,*** of course – just have them send me their email address. I will never allow anyone but me to see or to use the email addresses entrusted to me, and I will use them only for the purpose of these Daily Verses. Promise.

–GBP2

## **How Did All of This Get Started?**

*In early 2017, I wrote a computer app that “knows” all 66 books and 1189 chapters which the Bible comprises. When run, it selects a totally random chapter in the Bible, and keeps track of the ones that have been selected. That way, I can work my way through all 1189 chapters, without the app ever giving me a duplicate.*

*I first used this for Bible study, and later decided that choosing one or more verses from each chapter would make a good series of Facebook posts.*

*I began posting them on December 8, 2017, and have been doing it daily ever since. I later added them to my Twitter account, and am now sending them by email, for those who prefer to get them this way.*

## **TO UNSUBSCRIBE:**

If you do not wish to receive these daily emails, please feel free any time to hit “Reply” and tell me. I know that mailbox clutter is greatly annoying, and that is certainly not my intention for this!



Research for this publication was assisted by Faithlife Corporation's [Logos Bible Software 7](#).

Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture quotations are taken from the [Holman Christian Standard Bible \(HCSB\)](#). Copyright © 1999, 2000, 2002, 2003, 2009 by Holman Bible Publishers.