

Today's Bible Verses

14 DECEMBER 2018

Today's 5 verses, read in order, describe the triumphant entry of Jesus the Christ into Jerusalem.

a "A very large crowd spread their robes on the road; others were cutting branches from the trees and spreading them on the road."

Matthew 21:8 (1 of 5 for Dec 14)

b "Then the crowds who went ahead of Him and those who followed kept shouting:"

Matthew 21:9 (2 of 5 for Dec 14)

c "Hosanna to the Son of David! He who comes in the name of the Lord is the blessed One! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

Matthew 21:9 (3 of 5 for Dec 14)

d "When He entered Jerusalem, the whole city was shaken, saying, 'Who is this?'"

Matthew 21:10 (4 of 5 for Dec 14)

e "And the crowds kept saying, 'This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee!'"

Matthew 21:11 (5 of 5 for Dec 14)

(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

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 12

HOLMAN CHRISTIAN STANDARD BIBLE

On the Sabbath day we went outside the city gate by the river, where we thought there was a place of prayer. We sat down and spoke to the women gathered there. A woman named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God, was listening. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was spoken by Paul. After she and her household were **baptized**, she urged us, “If you consider me a believer in the Lord, come and stay at my house.” And she persuaded us.

ACTS 16:13-15

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the jail were shaken, and immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone’s chains came loose. When the jailer woke up and saw the doors of the prison open, he drew his sword and was going to kill himself, since he thought the prisoners had escaped. But Paul called out in a loud voice, “Don’t harm yourself, because all of us are here!” Then the jailer called for lights, rushed in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. Then he escorted them out and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” So they said, “Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved — you and your household.” Then they spoke the message of the Lord to him along with everyone in his house. He took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds. Right away he and all his family were **baptized**. He brought them into his house, set a meal before them, and rejoiced because he had believed God with his entire household.

COMMENTARY

In yesterday’s Additional Verses Bible Study, we examined the story of Paul’s dramatic and decisive first meeting with Jesus the Messiah, and his subsequent baptism.

We are given to understand (without very many details, alas) that Paul most likely spent some considerable time thereafter with the Risen Christ, during which he unlearned the errors of the Pharisees and learned the truth of salvation through faith in God and His Messiah.

Afterward, Paul’s story begins again in the Book of Acts, written and often narrated in the first person by Luke. There are five distinct stories in Acts which give us information about Paul’s missionary efforts to the Gentiles on behalf of Christ, and which specifically mention the rite of baptism. These stories begin in Acts 16, by which time Saul of Tarsus had changed his name to Paul.

(1) The first story confirms that Paul continued to observe the Sabbath, for it was on one of them that he and others of his group met with a group of women in the city of Philippi. Luke tells specifically of one woman, named Lydia, whose heart was opened by Christ to understand Paul’s teachings. And as had become the Christian order of things, once she had received and believed the Truth, she (and her household) were baptized. This act of “fulfilling all righteousness,” as Jesus called it, is now firmly entrenched, even among the Gentiles.

(2) Next, Paul and Silas were being held as prisoners, when a large earthquake shook the foundations of the jail, the doors were flung open, and everyone’s chains “came loose.” When their jailer came to see what had happened, he was ready to take his own life because he assumed all the prisoners had escaped on his watch. But Paul called out to him, stopped him from harming himself, and assured him that (though loosed from their chains) they were still there. The jailer understood what their presence meant for him, and he asked what was needed for him to be saved from the penalties of his sins. “Believe on the Lord

When Silas and Timothy came down from Macedonia, Paul was occupied with preaching the message and solemnly testified to the Jews that Jesus is the Messiah. But when they resisted and blasphemed, he shook his robe and told them, "Your blood is on your own heads! I am innocent. From now on I will go to the Gentiles." So he left there and went to the house of a man named Titius Justus, a worshiper of God, whose house was next door to the synagogue. Crispus, the leader of the synagogue, believed the Lord, along with his whole household. Many of the Corinthians, when they heard, believed and were **baptized**.

Then the Lord said to Paul in a night vision, "Don't be afraid, but keep on speaking and don't be silent. For I am with you, and no one will lay a hand on you to hurt you, because I have many people in this city." And he stayed there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

ACTS 18:5-11

A Jew named Apollos, a native Alexandrian, an eloquent man who was powerful in the use of the Scriptures, arrived in Ephesus. This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught the things about Jesus accurately, although he knew only John's **baptism**. He began to speak boldly in the synagogue. After Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him home and explained the way of God to him more accurately. When he wanted to cross over to Achaia, the brothers wrote to the disciples urging them to welcome him. After he arrived, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace. For he vigorously refuted the Jews in public, demonstrating through the Scriptures that Jesus is the Messiah.

ACTS 18:24-28

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul traveled through the interior regions and came to Ephesus. He found some disciples and asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?"

"No," they told him, "we haven't even heard that there is a Holy Spirit."

"Then what baptism were you **baptized** with?" he asked them.

"With John's **baptism**," they replied.

Paul said, "John **baptized** with a **baptism** of repentance, telling the people that they should believe in the One who would come after him, that is, in Jesus."

When they heard this, they were **baptized** in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul

Jesus," Paul told him, "and you will be saved." The jailer and his entire family were baptized that night.

(3) As Paul was beginning the process of forming what we would come to know as the Church at Corinth (Greece), Luke's narrative tells us of the names of some of the first converts to "the Way" of Christ (as Paul often called it). Titius Justus and his whole household became believers, and they were all baptized. Christ appeared to Paul to assure him that there were "many people in this city" who belonged to Him. Obviously, the baptisms continued in great numbers.

(4) Luke felt the need to give us many details about a man named Apollos, who came to be one of Paul's most trusted disciples in Corinth. (He figures strongly in Paul's first letter to the Corinthians.) Apollos knew and believed much about Jesus the Messiah, but Luke tells us "he knew only John's baptism." Learning more from Priscilla and Aquila (two tentmakers with whom Paul stayed and practiced this same occupation in Corinth) took Apollos under their tutelage and increased his knowledge greatly. He became a strong preacher on behalf of Jesus the Messiah, and Paul will later tell us that he baptized many in Corinth, as well.

(5) And in the final of these stories, Paul went to Ephesus and met with 12 Christ believers there. He asked them if they had received the Holy Spirit when they were baptized, and no doubt to his amazement, they told him they did not know what the Holy Spirit was. They explained that they (like Apollos) had only been baptized with John's baptism. Paul explained to them, "John baptized with a baptism of repentance, telling the people that they should believe in the One who would come after him – that is, in Jesus." On hearing this, all 12 of these believers were then baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus, and when Paul laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came into them and brought forth great miracles.

Through Paul's missionary work with the Gentiles, the integration of baptism as part of Messiah's overall plan of belief, repentance, conversion, forgiveness, and salvation became universal. At first, John preached a baptism into repentance, in anticipation of the arrival of Christ. Then, as Jesus began to teach, His followers baptized into the Holy Spirit. But at that time, it was predominately something carried to the Jews of Judea.

Christ put the next part of His universal plan for salvation into effect, by calling Paul and commissioning him to take all of these messages and teachings to "the nations." (The word translated "Gentiles" in the New Testament is *ethnos*. It also has the broader meaning of "the nations," which makes sense in this usage. Any peoples that are not defined as part of Israel at large, and in Jesus' day Jews living in Judea, were all considered "Gentiles.")

As we have read in several passages in these Studies, in God's plan for salvation and entry into the Kingdom of God, "There is no Jew or Greek, slave or free, male or female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus." [*Galatians 3:28*] And with each progressive step outward toward the entire world and for all of earth's population, the process is identical. Jews are not (and never have been)

had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began to speak in other languages and to prophesy. Now there were about 12 men in all.

ACTS 19:1-7

justified in one way and, say, Bolivians a different way.

Belief, repentance, conversion, forgiveness, and salvation – with baptism for the Holy Spirit – is now open to everyone who is called by and comes to God through Christ.

John 14:6 and Acts 4:12

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 (begun 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](#).

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