

# Today's Bible Verses

9 FEBRUARY 2019

Today's 5 verses, read in order, are God's message and promises to His people Israel.

a "Indeed, your husband is your Maker — His name is Yahweh of Hosts — and the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer."

Isaiah 54:5 (1 of 5 for Feb 9)

b "[Your Redeemer] is called the God of all the earth."

Isaiah 54:5 (2 of 5 for Feb 9)

c "For Yahweh has called you, like a wife deserted and wounded in spirit, a wife of one's youth when she is rejected."

Isaiah 54:6 (3 of 5 for Feb 9)

d [Yahweh:] "I deserted you for a brief moment, but I will take you back with great compassion."

Isaiah 54:7 (4 of 5 for Feb 9)

e [Yahweh:] "In a surge of anger I hid My face from you for a moment, but I will have compassion on you with everlasting love."

Isaiah 54:8 (5 of 5 for Feb 9)

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The Bible verses above are those selected for today for my daily posting on both [FACEBOOK](#) and [TWITTER](#).

See also: [CHRISTOURPASSOVER.org](http://CHRISTOURPASSOVER.org)

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

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## Additional Verses and Bible Study

Dr. Grover B. Proctor, Jr.



*"I have told you these things so that in Me you may have peace.*

***You will have suffering in this world. Be courageous! I have conquered the world."***

Jesus, quoted in John 16:33

## PART 9

### HOLMAN CHRISTIAN STANDARD BIBLE

When they came to the disciples, they saw a large crowd around them and scribes disputing with them. All of a sudden, when the whole crowd saw Him, they were amazed and ran to greet Him. Then He asked them, "What are you arguing with them about?" Out of the crowd, one man answered Him, "Teacher, I brought my son to You. He has a spirit that makes him unable to speak. Wherever it seizes him, it throws him down, and he foams at the mouth, grinds his teeth, and becomes rigid. So I asked Your disciples to drive it out, but they couldn't."

He replied to them, "You unbelieving generation! How long will I be with you? How long must I put up with you? Bring him to Me." So they brought him to Him. When the spirit saw Him, it immediately convulsed the boy. He fell to the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth. "How long has this been happening to him?" Jesus asked his father.

"From childhood," he said. "And many times it has thrown him into fire or water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us."

Then Jesus said to him, "'If You can'? Everything is possible to the one who believes."

Immediately the father of the boy cried out, "***I do believe! Help my unbelief.***"

When Jesus saw that a crowd was rapidly coming together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You mute and deaf spirit, I command you: come out of him and never enter him again!"

### COMMENTARY

Yesterday we did what might be called a "case study" of three versions of the same story – that of a woman healed from a 12-year debilitating condition. We are told by no less credible source than Jesus Himself (a) that her faith made the healing possible, and (b) that the mechanism of the healing came solely by her touching the hem of His robe.

Today we will work through another such case study, this time concerning Jesus the Messiah casting out a demon in a rather dramatic fashion. Demons? Yes, of course. Is that really surprising? We have learned from other passages in this series that the root cause of our suffering, including that from medical and physical disabilities, is none other than Satan the Devil. Christ told us so, and it was confirmed later in the remainder of the New Testament. Let's see how this new incident unfolded, through the combined lenses of three Gospel writers, Mark, Luke, and Matthew.

It begins with a scene of confusion and disputing, between a crowd that had gathered and members of the Scribes. When they saw Jesus approaching, they ran to Him. He asked what the argument was about, and a man stepped forward and said that he had brought his only son to be healed by Jesus. His son "has a spirit," the man explained, that caused severe and frightening convulsions in the young man, the details of which sound similar to what is experienced by those today plagued with epilepsy.

The man went on to said that, in Jesus' absence, "I asked Your disciples to drive [the spirit] out, but they could not."

Yesterday we read of Christ's comforting tone He took with the woman, by which He assured her that her faith had healed her, Today, it was quite different. He turned on them with what reads like anger (or at least great frustration): "You unbelieving generation! How long will I be with you? How long must I put up with you?"

Then it came out, shrieking and convulsing him violently. The boy became like a corpse, so that many said, "He's dead." But Jesus, taking him by the hand, raised him, and he stood up.

After He went into a house, His disciples asked Him privately, "Why couldn't we drive it out?"

And He told them, "This kind can come out by nothing but prayer [and fasting]."

[Translator's note: Other manuscripts omit bracketed text.]

MARK 9:14-29

The next day, when they came down from the mountain, a large crowd met Him. Just then a man from the crowd cried out, "Teacher, I beg You to look at my son, because he's my only child.

Often a spirit seizes him; suddenly he shrieks, and it throws him into convulsions until he foams at the mouth; wounding him, it hardly ever leaves him. I begged Your disciples to drive it out, but they couldn't."

Jesus replied, "You unbelieving and rebellious generation! How long will I be with you and put up with you? Bring your son here."

As the boy was still approaching, the demon knocked him down and threw him into severe convulsions. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, cured the boy, and gave him back to his father. And they were all astonished at the greatness of God.

LUKE 9:37-43

When they reached the crowd, a man approached and knelt down before Him. "Lord," he said, "have mercy on my son, because he has seizures and suffers severely. He often falls into the fire and often into the water. I brought him to Your disciples, but they couldn't heal him."

Jesus replied, "You unbelieving and rebellious generation! How long will I be with you? How long must I put up with you? Bring him here to Me." Then Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him, and from that moment the boy was healed.

Then the disciples approached Jesus privately and said, "Why couldn't we drive it out?"

"Because of your little faith," He told them.

"For I assure you: If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will tell this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you. [However, this kind does not come out except by prayer and fasting.]"

[Translator's note: Other manuscripts omit bracketed text.]

MATTHEW 17:14-21

He commanded the boy be brought to Him, whereupon he had another seizure and fell to the ground. His father, in great distress, turned to Jesus and said, "*If you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us!*"

Christ spat the man's words back at him: "***If you can...?*** Everything is possible to the one who believes."

And next, brought on by Christ's admonition, came some of the most famous and often-quoted words in the Bible. "Immediately the father of the boy cried out, '***I do believe! Help my unbelief!***'"

Christ with power admonished the "mute and deaf spirit" and commanded it to leave the boy, which it did causing great violence to the boy. The boy once again collapsed, and all around assumed he had died.

But Jesus reached down and helped him up, no doubt to a joyous reunion with his father. Luke tells us that those in the crowd "were all astonished at the greatness of God." I should think so.

The story ends as the disciples asked Jesus privately why they were unable to drive the demon out of the boy. Christ's answer is partially in and partially out of some ancient manuscripts, so we don't know His exact word-for-word reply. But we know the sense of what He told them: "*This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting.*"

(We could have an entire series of studies aimed at gaining the full meaning of that answer, and we still might be lacking. Instead, we'll move on to other issues.)

Surely we see the major, instructive differences between yesterday's healing story and today's. Yes, in both the person who needed healing for his/her own terrible malady was delivered completely from it by the power of Jesus. Jesus felt the power leave Him when the woman touched his robe. And in this story, so much power (we assume "spiritual" power) was required that Christ's closest disciples, who had cast out demons before, were not capable of dislodging this one. "*This kind does not come out except by prayer and fasting,*" Christ explained. May we reasonably draw the conclusion, then, that much prayer and fasting are pathways to gaining the power of God for the worst of our sufferings?

To further that conclusion, we can read the additional quote from Jesus as part of His answer:

*"I assure you: If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will tell this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."*

Let's put all that we know from these two case studies of Christ's healing, and look that the reasonable, inevitable, and yet startling conclusions that have emerged.

The sufferings we endure in this world, large and small, can be defeated. We have God's inspired word to demonstrate that this is so. The Power of the Spirit, from God the Father and from Christ Himself, can be called upon, through faith, and asked for through prayer, to defeat even the tortures of Satan himself. And in the times of our deepest sufferings, when hope is fading, our strength is like tissue, and faith is a memory – if in our hearts we truly believe these words – we can turn to Christ and say, ***I do believe! Help my unbelief!!***

And we are promised God's power.

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TO DATE: THIS STUDY HAS EXAMINED **37** BIBLICAL PASSAGES IN **9** LESSONS.  
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#### USAGE OF THE NAME OF GOD IN THESE VERSES AND STUDIES

As I do in all my Daily and Additional Verses, whenever an OT passage contains the four-letter Name of God יהוה<sup>1</sup> (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 very persuasive arguments that the name was originally Yehovah.)

I don't make this change 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 context, **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  
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*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)

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–GBP2

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