

From the Editor's Den

Whatchamacallit

(– also known as 'wotsit') I've been trying to come up with a name for our new online daily Bible readings for 2025, which I'm taking over from Richard who has faithfully posted our 'New Testament in a Year' on WhatsApp, now reaching its completion. Rather than whole chunks of Scripture to cover, we'll home in on daily verses of encouragement while still allowing those who like to read around it to study the context. I've found at least one verse from every book, so it will also take us through the whole Bible in a year.

Naming Our Group I've tried combinations of '365', like *Word365* – but Microsoft has already used that one! Alternatively, "36:5" offers two Bible reference possibilities: Psalm 36:5, "Your love, Lord, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies", or Job 36:5, "God is mighty, shuns no one, yet firm in his purpose."

66 Bible Books was my inspiration for last week's *Route 66*; a play on words (technically a homophone) could make it "Root 66", from Colossians 2:6b,7, "Continue to live your lives in Him, rooted and built up in Him." Perhaps *Highway 66* (or 365) instead? (*Isaiah 40:3 / Matthew 3:3*): "Prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God." This reminded me of when God provided daily food in the wilderness – which the Israelites didn't know what to call except "What is it?" or 'wotsit' (Hebrew *Manna*).

Manna appears in Exodus 16 when, "The Lord said to Moses, 'I will rain down bread from heaven for you. The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day.'" (v4) . . . But note v5: "In this way I will test them and see whether they will follow my instructions." . . . that's also a challenge for us!

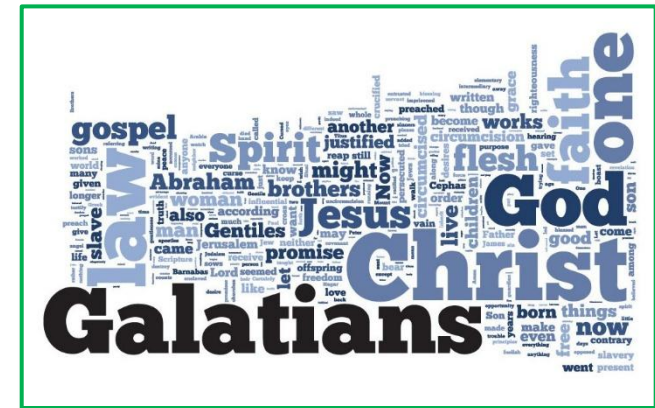
If you'd like to join our new 2025 daily WhatsApp 'Manna' group, please ask me.



WORD Cloud of the week

In the diagram, the larger the words the more often they appear. Look out for them when you read this Old Testament book.

Source:
BlueLetter Bible /
Apps & Tools /
Free Social Tools.



"TOP TWENTY" BIBLE TEXTS COUNTDOWN

Source:
BibleStudyTools.com

19. 2Corinthians 5:7

"For we live by faith,
not by sight."

Top 20 most popular Bible verses according to online search rankings.

COUNTDOWN . . . 25 DAYS to ALPHA
Taster Evening: Thursday 16th January at 7pm

Administrator
(am. Monday–Thursday)

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PREVIEWS, POINTERS & PRAYER

----- The Church Office will be closed for 2 weeks -----
reopening on Monday 6th January, 2025

Previews

THIS EVENING 6.30pm: Carols by Candlelight
CHRISTMAS EVE 11.30pm: Midnight Communion Service
CHRISTMAS DAY 10.30pm: Christmas Morning Worship
SUNDAY (29th) 6.30pm: Change of Evening Programme:
 - We will now be showing the exceptional video sermon by Alistair Begg called "Staying or Going". This replaces 'Pilgrim's Progress'
WEEKDAY ACTIVITIES: Check the Diary opposite for details.
NEW YEAR'S DAY: Launch of online daily Scripture verses
 (see front page)

Pointers

FREE CHRISTMAS MEAL



for anyone who will be on their own and would like somewhere to go, **Life Central Church in Halesowen** will be providing a free Christmas meal from 10.30am–3pm. To book a place phone Sam Hughes on 0121 501 3542 or through their website: <https://lifecentralchurch.org.uk/christmas/>

Prayer

May this Christmas be a Special one
for you and your loved ones
with the Peace, Joy and Love of the Lord Jesus

**Christmas Blessings
and a
Happy New Year**

to all our readers . . . from all our readers!

Today December 22	10.30am Service of the Word (<i>Advent 4</i>) 6.30pm CAROLS by CANDLELIGHT
Monday December 23	7.00pm (<i>No online Prayer Group</i>)
Tuesday December 24	11.30pm Midnight Communion Service
Wednesday December 25	10.30am CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE
Next Sunday December 29	10.30am Service of the Word 6.30pm Evening Fellowship Video: Alistair Begg: "Staying or Going"
Wednesday January 1	NEW YEAR'S DAY Launch of daily online Scripture verses
Thursday January 2nd	10am–5pm Lye Library 'Click & Collect'
Sunday January 5	10.30am Holy Communion 6.30pm Evening Fellowship Video
Monday January 6	Church Office Re-opens 10am–5pm Lye Library 'Click & Collect' 7.00pm Online Prayer Group
Tuesday January 7th	9.30am–4pm Lye Library 'Click & Collect'
Wednesday January 8	10.00am Lion Club
Thursday January 9th	10am –5pm Lye Library 'Click & Collect'
Friday January 10	10am – 2pm Warm Place 12.00 Midday Service

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