

Recitations



Unless the LORD builds the house,
They labor in vain who build it.

Psalm 127:1

Why learn recitations?

1. "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart; and you shall teach them diligently to your children."
(Deut. 6:6-7)
2. In the New Testament, the Lord sets an example for us by often quoting Scripture.
3. By knowing actual statements from the Word, a person is equipped to fight when in temptation, as the Lord did in the wilderness.
4. Knowing scriptural passages is necessary to confirm and uphold the doctrine of genuine truth.
5. Having passages of Scripture in one's mind provides vessels in which to receive influx from the Lord and be conjoined with Him, for He is the Word made flesh.
6. During the process of learning and reciting passages from the Word, there is a direct association with angels. We have the opportunity to feel their delight, thus developing our affection for the Word.
7. The Word is the only way to learn about the Lord God, life after death, heaven and hell, and how to live and believe in order to be happy forever (AC 8939:3).

Translation

In Old Testament passages that are very familiar, we have used "LORD" with small capitals in place of Jehovah. Though the Heavenly Doctrine always uses Jehovah for this name, it also says that Jehovah is the Lord Himself (AC 14, TCR 82-83).

In modern English, we do not have a way to distinguish "you" - singular from "you" - plural ("you all"). The Writings say that the singular means love, affection and good, while the plural means wisdom, thoughts and truths. To note this difference, which is clear in the Hebrew and Greek, we use "thee, thou, thy" when it is singular.

Words in small italics are not found in the Hebrew or Greek. They are added to make the English easier to read.

1. Tuesday, Sept. 4 - Monday, Sept. 17

And the armies in heaven followed Him upon white horses, wearing fine linen, white and clean. And out of His mouth went forth a sharp sword, that with it He should smite the nations; and He shall shepherd them with a staff of iron; and He treads the wine-press of the wine of the wrath and anger of God Almighty. And He has on *His* garment and on His thigh a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.

Revelation 19:14-16

2. Tuesday, Sept. 18 - Monday, Oct. 1

Consider the lilies, how they grow; they do not labor, neither do they spin; but I say to you that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. And if God so clothes the grass, which today *is* in the field, and tomorrow is cast into the oven, how much more *shall He clothe you, O you* of little faith!

Rather seek the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added to you. Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

Luke 12:27-28, 31-32

3. Tuesday, Oct. 2 – Monday, Oct. 15

Unless the Lord builds the house,
They labor in vain who build it.

Unless the Lord keeps watch over the city,
The keeper watches in vain.

*It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late,
Eating the bread of grief;
So He gives to His beloved sleep.*

Psalm 127:1–2

4. Tuesday, Oct. 16 – Monday, Oct. 29

Thus says Jehovah, the King of Israel, and his
Redeemer, Jehovah of armies: I am the First, and I
am the Last, and beside Me there is no God.

Isaiah 44:6

5. Tuesday, Oct. 30 – Monday, Nov. 12

Do not treasure for yourselves treasures on earth,
where moth and rust consume, and where thieves
dig through and steal. But treasure for yourselves
treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust
consumes, and where thieves do not dig through
nor steal. For where your treasure is, there your
heart will be also.

Matthew 6:19–21

6. Tuesday, Nov. 12 – Monday, Nov. 26

All things whatever you want men to do for you, you should also do for them; for this is the Law and the Prophets. Matthew 7:12

7. Tuesday, Nov. 27 – Monday, Dec. 10

And He, answering, said to them, Have you not read that He who made them from the beginning made them male and female and said, On this account a man shall leave father and mother, and shall join¹ to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh? Wherefore they are no longer two, but one flesh. What, therefore, God has joined together, let not man pull apart. Matthew 19:4–6
(Genesis 1:27, 2:24)

8. Tuesday, Dec. 11 – Friday, Dec. 21

For, behold! Darkness shall cover the earth, and dense darkness the peoples; but on Thee Jehovah shall arise, and His glory shall be seen upon Thee. And the nations shall walk to Thy light, and kings to the brightness of Thy rising.

An abundance of camels shall cover thee, the dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; all of them from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and they shall proclaim the praises of Jehovah. Isaiah 60:2, 3, 6

¹ “...shall join to his wife... What therefore God has joined...” The first “join” literally means to “stick” or “be glued.” The second “joined” literally means “yoked.”

9. Monday, Jan. 7 – Tuesday, Jan. 22

Priest: And God spoke all these words, saying,

I am the LORD thy God, who brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of servitude.

Thou shalt have no other gods before My face. Thou shalt not make unto thee a carved *image*, or any likeness *of anything* that is in the heavens above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the waters under the earth.

Thou shalt not bow thyself down to them, nor serve them. For I, the LORD thy God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the sons, on the third and on the fourth generation of those who hate Me, and doing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

Exodus 20:1–6

10. Wednesday, Jan. 23 – Monday, Feb. 4

Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him innocent who takes His name in vain.

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor and do all thy work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God. *In it* thou shalt not do any work: thou, nor thy son nor thy daughter, thy manservant nor thy maidservant, nor thy beast, nor thy sojourner who is within thy gates. For *in* six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

Exodus 20:7–11

11. Tuesday, Feb. 5 - Monday, Feb. 18

Honor thy father and thy mother, that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God gives thee.

Thou shalt not murder.

Thou shalt not commit adultery.

Thou shalt not steal.

Thou shalt not answer false witness against thy neighbor.

Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house.

Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, or his manservant, or his maidservant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is thy neighbor's.

Exodus 20:12-17

12. Tuesday, Feb. 19 - Friday, March 1

That one's country should be loved, not as one loves himself, but more than himself, is a law inscribed on the human heart....

Those who love their country and render good service to it from good will, after death love the Lord's kingdom, for then that is their country; and those who love the Lord's kingdom love the Lord Himself, because the Lord is the all in all things of His kingdom.

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13. Monday, March 4 – Friday, March 8

Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean;
Put away the evil of your doings
from before My eyes.

Cease to do evil,
Learn to do good....

Though your sins be like scarlet,
They shall be as white as snow;
Though they be red like crimson,
They shall be like wool.

Isaiah 1:16, 18

14. Monday, March 18 – Monday, April 1

Minister: Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed in Him,

If you abide in My Word, you are truly My disciples,
and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall
make you free....

Amen, amen, I say to you, Everyone doing sin is the
servant of sin. And the servant does not abide in the
house forever; the Son abides forever. Therefore if
the Son shall make you free, you shall be free
indeed.

John 8:31–32, 34–36

15. Tuesday, April 2 - Monday, April 15

Rejoice exceedingly, O daughter of Zion!
Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem!
Behold, thy King comes to thee;
He is just and saving,
Afflicted and riding on a donkey,
And on a colt, the young of a female donkey.

Zechariah 9:9

16. Tuesday, April 16 - Monday, April 29

Pilate therefore says to Him, Art Thou a king then?
Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. For
this I was born, and for this I came into the world,
that I might bear witness to the truth. Everyone who
is of the truth hears My voice.

John 18:37

17. Tuesday, April 30 - Monday, May 13

אִמָּךְ	וְאֶתְ	אָבִיךָ	אֶתְ	כְּבֹד	
'im-me-kha; thy mother;	w 'eth- and	'a-vi-kha thy father	'eth-	kab-bedh Honor	IV
הָאָדָמָה	עַל	יְמֵיךָ	יֵאָרְכוּן	לְמַעַן	
ha-'adha-mah the ground	'al upon	yo-me-kha thy days	ya -'ari-khoon shall be long	l ma-'an to [the] end [that]	
לָךְ:	נִתֵּן	אֱלֹהֶיךָ	יְהוָה	אֲשֶׁר-	
lakh. to thee.	no-then giveth	'elo-he-kha thy Gods	YHOWAH the LORD	'asher- which	
		תִּרְצַח:	לֹא		
		tir-tsach. thou shalt murder.	lo' Not		V
		תִּנְאַף:	לֹא		
		tin-'aph. thou shalt commit adultery.	lo' Not		VI
		תִּגְנוֹב:	לֹא		
		tigh-nov. thou shalt steal.	lo' Not		VII
שֶׁקֶר:	עֵד	בְּרֵעֶךָ	תַּעֲנֶה	לֹא-	
sha-ker. a lie.	'edh witness of	v re -'akha unto thy neighbor	tha -'aneh thou shalt answer	lo'- Not	VIII
	רֵעֶךָ	בֵּית	תַּחְמֹד	לֹא	
	re-'e-kha. thy neighbor.	beth house of	thach-modh thou shalt covet	lo' Not	IX
וְעַבְדּוֹ	רֵעֶךָ	אִשְׁתּ	תַּחְמֹד	לֹא-	
w 'av-do, and his manservant,	re-'e-kha, thy neighbor,	'e-sheth wife of	thach-modh thou shalt covet	lo' - Not	X
לְרֵעֶךָ:	אֲשֶׁר	וְכֹל	וְחִמְרוֹ	וְשׂוֹרוֹ	וְאָמָתוֹ
l re-'e-kha. to thy neighbor.	'asher which [is]	w khol and all	wa -chamo-ro, and his ass,	w sho-ro and his ox,	wa -'ama-tho, and his maidservant,

18. Tuesday, May 14 - Tuesday, May 28

Thus says the LORD:

Let not the wise praise himself for his wisdom,
And let not the hero praise himself for his heroism;
Let not the rich praise himself for his riches;
But let him who praises himself praise himself
in this:

To understand and to know Me,
That I am the LORD, doing mercy, judgment, and
justice in the land;
For in these I delight, says the LORD.

Jeremiah 9:23-24

19. Wednesday, May 29 - Friday, June 7

I was seeing in the night visions,
And behold, *One* like the Son of Man
Was coming with the clouds of the heavens,
And came to the Ancient of Days;
And they brought Him near before Him.

And there was given Him dominion, and glory, and
a kingdom,
That all peoples, nations, and tongues
should serve Him.

His dominion is an eternal dominion,
Which shall not pass away,
And His kingdom *that* which shall not perish.

Daniel 7:13-14