

26th December

Memory verse

To every thing there is a season,
and a time to every purpose under the heaven.

Ecclesiastes 3:1

Younger children could learn the words in bold. More about today's memory verse in tomorrow's lesson.

Something to read¹



If you celebrate Christmas in your family, did anyone give you a *Daily Light* as a present?² If not you should definitely drop some hints next year or if you have a birthday coming up!³ What is *Daily Light* ?

Daily Light on the Daily Path is a little book with a selection of Bible verses for every day of the year. The verses are carefully chosen to form nothing less than a short Bible study for each morning and evening. The verses of Scriptures are compiled according to a biblical theme, with no anecdotes, commentary, or stories to distract the reader, but just the words of the scriptures, speaking for themselves.

Daily Light was compiled by members of the family of the bookseller and publisher, Samuel Bagster the elder (1772-1851).⁴

Samuel Bagster was born on 26th December and his family's publication *Daily Light* has been continuously in print since it was first brought out in 1875. Here is the *Daily Light* selection of verses for the morning of 26th December. Can you pick out the theme or topic that the compiler was thinking about?

DECEMBER 26.

Be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord. YE know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord. —As ye have ... received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving. —He that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. —That on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience. By faith ye stand. I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work. He that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

I Cor, 15. 58, I Cor, 15. 58.—Col. 2, 6, 7 — Mat. 24. 13. —Luke 8. 15, 2 Cor, 1, 24. John 9. 4. Gal. 6. 8-10. ⁵

Samuel Bagster (1772-1851) not only founded a publishing firm and bookshop but he founded a godly dynasty. He married Eunice Birch, and they had twelve children. He himself came from a

1 Information from <https://www.wholesomewords.org/resources/bbagster.html> and other sources.

2 Image of a modern copy of *Daily Light* appears by kind permission of the Trinitarian Bible Society.

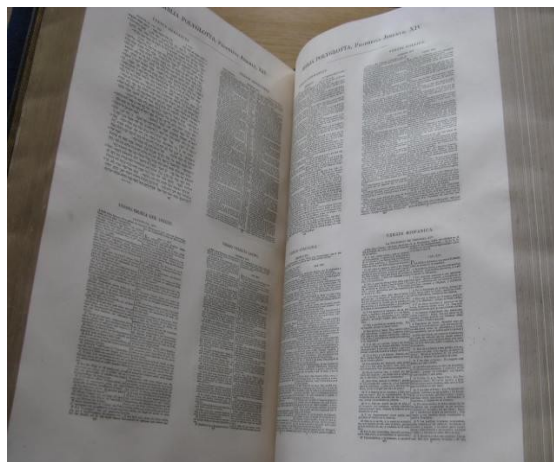
3 Available here: <https://www.tsbibles.org/store/viewproduct.aspx?id=9077742>

4 See the Lesson for 25th October for an example of *Daily Light* in use.

5 Standing by faith and doing good works in obedience to Christ.

Christian home. As a child he was sent to a school taught by John Ryland⁶ and then became a bookseller's apprentice. After completing his apprenticeship he opened his own bookshop. I cannot find out when he was converted but once he had his own shop, Samuel determined never to sell books of doubtful taste or morality.

Samuel moved his premises to a shop in Paternoster Row, London. He noticed that Polyglot Bibles were very costly and hard to obtain. Yet these books were in demand and useful, especially to ministers, preachers and Bible translators. If you did the lesson way back in January⁷ about that wonderfully titled book, the *Complutensian Polyglot*, you will already know exactly what a Polyglot Bible is. If you have not done the lesson yet, don't worry, it is coming up in a few days and meanwhile I will explain to you here that *poly* means “many” and *glot* means “tongues” or “languages” so a Polyglot Bible is one where you can read God's Word in more than one language.



Samuel Bagster decided to bring out his own Polyglot Bible.⁸ You can see how it was arranged in the picture above. It included the Hebrew Old Testament, the Samaritan Pentateuch, the Septuagint Greek version of the Old Testament, the Latin Vulgate, the Authorised English version, the Greek *Textus Receptus* of the New Testament, and the Peshito or ancient Syriac version. He carefully arranged these on folio pages in such a way that he could use the same printed sheets cut up to produce individual octavo editions of the various languages.

CHAP. I.
GOD creates heaven and earth, 1; the light, 3; the firmament, 6; separates the dry land, 9; forms the sun, moon, and stars, 14; fishes and fowls, 20; cattle, wild beasts, and creeping things, 24; creates man in his own image, blesses him, 26; grants the fruits of the earth for food, 29.
 1 beginning. Pr. 8. 22-24; 16. 4. Mar. 13. 19. Jno. 1. 1-3. He. 1. 10. 1 Jno. 1. 1. God. Ex. 20. 11; 31. 27. 1 Ch. 16. 26. Ne. 9. 6. Job 26. 13; 38. 4. Ps. 8. 3; 33. 6, 9; 89. 11, 12; 96. 5; 102. 25; 104. 24, 30; 115. 15; 121. 2; 124. 8; 134. 3; 136. 5; 146. 6; 148. 4, 5. Pr. 3. 19; 8. 22-30. Ec. 12. 1. Is. 37. 16; 40. 26, 28; 42. 5; 44. 24; 45. 18; 61. 13, 16; 65. 17. Je. 10. 12; 32. 17; 51. 15. Zec. 12. 1. Mat. 11. 25. Ac. 4. 24; 14. 15; 17. 24. Ro. 1. 19, 20; 11. 36. 1 Co. 8. 6. Ep. 3. 9. Col. 1. 16, 17. He. 1. 2; 3. 4; 11. 3. 2 Pe. 3. 5. Re. 3. 14; 4. 11; 10. 6; 14. 7; 21. 6; 22. 13.
 2 without. Job 26. 7. Is. 45. 18. Je. 4. 23. Na. 2. 10. Spirit. Job 26. 13. Ps. 33. 6; 104. 30. Is. 40. 12-14.
 3 God. Ps. 88. 6-9; 148. 5. Mat. 8. 3. Jno. 11. 43. Let. Job 36. 30; 38. 19. Ps. 97. 11; 104. 2; 118. 27. Is. 45. 7; 60. 19. Jno. 1. 5, 9; 3. 19. 2 Co. 4. 6. Ep. 5. 8, 14. 1 Ti. 6. 16. 1 Jno. 1. 5; 2. 8.
 4 that. ver. 10, 12, 18, 25, 31. Ec. 2. 13; 11. 7. the light from the darkness. Heb. between the light and between the darkness.
 5 Day, and. ch. 8. 22. Ps. 19. 2; 74. 16; 104. 20. Is. 45. 7. Je. 33. 20. 1 Co. 3. 13. Ep. 5. 13. 1 Th. 5. 5. And the evening and the morning were. Heb. And the evening was, and the morning was. ver. 3, 13, 19, 23, 31.
 6 Let there. ver. 14, 20; ch. 7. 11, 12. Job 26. 7, 8, 18; 37. 11, 18; 38. 22-26. Ps. 19. 1; 33. 6, 9; 104. 2; 136. 5, 6; 148. 4; 150. 1. Ec. 11. 3. Je. 10. 10, 12, 18; 51. 15. Zec. 12. 1. firmament. Heb. expansion.
 7 divided. Pr. 8. 28, 29. above. Job 26. 8. Ps. 104. 10; 148. 4. Ec. 11. 3. and it. ver. 9, 11, 15, 24. Mat. 3. 27.
 8 God. ver. 5, 10; ch. 5. 2. evening. ver. 5, 13, 19, 23, 31.

Samuel Bagster was convinced that the best way to study the Bible is to compare Scripture with Scripture. With that in mind he produced, together with his son, Samuel Bagster the Younger, one of the most helpful aids to Bible study there has ever been and which preachers and serious Bible students still find invaluable today. This is *The Treasury of Scripture Knowledge*, a huge set of cross-references. *The Treasury of Scripture Knowledge* is organised like a Bible beginning in Genesis and ending at Revelation. Each verse in the Bible is listed but, instead of the verse itself, Bagster prints a list of cross-references to that verse. You can see exactly how this works on the left. The book contains an average of twelve cross references for every verse. It is not however “just” a concordance, useful as concordances are.⁹ Every cross-reference list is a vast collection of citations, that has been placed there with thought by Bible interpreters with a vast knowledge of the contents of the Bible and an encyclopedic understanding of how Scripture relates to Scripture.

Daily Light was very much a Bagster family production. Jonathan (1813-1872) was Samuel Bagster's tenth child and he had the idea for the method by which *Daily Light* was put together. Jonathan Bagster would prepare carefully for each day's family worship in his household. He chose a Scripture text and the family were asked to illustrate that text with other texts of Scripture.

⁶ See 24th July (yet to come)

⁷ Lesson for January 10th.

⁸ Illustration by kind permission of Charles Russell <https://www.russellrarebooks.com/index.php>.

⁹ See lesson for 31st May.

The chosen texts were then “carefully considered, discussed and arranged by common consent of all those present, after which the manuscript would be laid aside for prayer and meditation to see if there would be any guidance for further improvement. Sometimes it was weeks before it was felt that the reading for a particular day could not be improved and then that page would be sent to the printer to be set in type. Later it would be read and corrected and all the references would be verified. Each day for two years the readings were compiled, corrected and improved in this way until the whole book was ready for publication in two volumes, one of the Morning readings and the other of the Evening readings.” In this task Jonathan Bagster was editor-in-chief, and his daughter Anne, (Samuel Bagster's granddaughter) was his chief assistant.

It was Robert Bagster (1847-1924), one of Samuel's grandsons, who first published *Daily Light*. “This book was prepared entirely within our family,” he explained, mostly by my father, Jonathan Bagster, his sister, and eldest daughter, while others of the younger ones (myself included), worked in a subordinate position. Few can appreciate the heart-searching care with which every text was selected, the days, nay weeks, of change, alterations, and improvements, until at last each page was passed.”

In the story above I have highlighted some words in purple for you to look up in your dictionary. Can you use them in sentences of your own?