

## Scriptures July 26, 2026

### Modern Testimony

*The Miracle of Morning* by Amanda Gorman

I thought I'd awaken to a world in mourning.  
Heavy clouds crowding, a society storming.  
But there's something different on this golden morning.  
Something magical in the sunlight, wide and warming.

I see a dad with a stroller taking a jog.  
Across the street, a bright-eyed girl chases her dog.  
A grandma on a porch fingers her rosaries.  
She grins as her young neighbor brings her groceries.

While we might feel small, separate, and all alone,  
Our people have never been more closely tethered.  
The question isn't if we will weather this unknown,  
But how we will weather this unknown together.

So on this meaningful morn, we mourn and we mend.  
Like light, we can't be broken, even when we bend.

As one, we will defeat both despair and disease.  
We stand with healthcare heroes and all employees;  
With families, libraries, schools, waiters, artists;  
Businesses, restaurants, and hospitals hit hardest.

We ignite not in the light, but in lack thereof,  
For it is in loss that we truly learn to love.  
In this chaos, we will discover clarity.  
In suffering, we must find solidarity.

For it's our grief that gives us our gratitude,  
Shows us how to find hope, if we ever lose it.  
So ensure that this ache wasn't endured in vain:  
Do not ignore the pain. Give it purpose. Use it.

Read children's books, dance alone to DJ music.  
Know that this distance will make our hearts grow fonder.  
From a wave of woes our world will emerge stronger.

We'll observe how the burdens braved by humankind  
Are also the moments that make us humans kind;  
Let every dawn find us courageous, brought closer;

Heeding the light before the fight is over.  
When this ends, we'll smile sweetly, finally seeing  
In testing times, we became the best of beings.

~silence is kept~

**Ancient Testimony**     Genesis 29:15-28 NRSV

### **Jacob Marries Laban's Daughters**

<sup>15</sup> Then Laban said to Jacob, 'Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?' <sup>16</sup> Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. <sup>17</sup> Leah's eyes were lovely,<sup>[a]</sup> and Rachel was graceful and beautiful. <sup>18</sup> Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, 'I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel.' <sup>19</sup> Laban said, 'It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me.' <sup>20</sup> So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her.

<sup>21</sup> Then Jacob said to Laban, 'Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed.' <sup>22</sup> So Laban gathered together all the people of the place, and made a feast. <sup>23</sup> But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her. <sup>24</sup> (Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.) <sup>25</sup> When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, 'What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?' <sup>26</sup> Laban said, 'This is not done in our country—giving the younger before the firstborn. <sup>27</sup> Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me for another seven years.' <sup>28</sup> Jacob did so, and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife.

**Ancient Testimony**     Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

### **The Parable of the Mustard Seed**

<sup>31</sup> He put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; <sup>32</sup> it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.'

### **The Parable of the Yeast**

<sup>33</sup> He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with<sup>[a]</sup> three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.'

### **Three Parables**

<sup>44</sup> 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

<sup>45</sup> 'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; <sup>46</sup> on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

<sup>47</sup> 'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; <sup>48</sup> when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. <sup>49</sup> So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous <sup>50</sup> and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

### **Treasures New and Old**

<sup>51</sup> 'Have you understood all this?' They answered, 'Yes.' <sup>52</sup> And he said to them, 'Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.'