

EAT · BREATHE · & PRAY



JOURNAL

Prioritise your day around God's word and His presence



VOLUME 2

This Journal Belongs To...

'This book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for Yahweh your God is with you wherever you go.' Joshua 1:8-9

Welcome

To your Thematic Journey Through The Bible In One Year
Journal!

I'm so excited to be bringing this Eat Breathe & Pray Journal to
you!

You are about to embark on an exciting journey into a much
greater understanding of, and familiarity with the Word of God,
and a deeper awareness of His presence, both with you and in
you.

I've designed this journal to help you prioritise the time You
spend in God's Word and in His presence, as you read through
God's Word in one year; and to help you keep a record of the
focus of your prayer life from day to day, and throughout the
year, so you can see how that focus changes as you spend
more time in His word and in His presence; and begin to co-
labour with Abba Father in prayer.

I love and appreciate you so much!
Be blessed, and be a blessing!

Jenner

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Undated Planner

This planner has been left undated so that you can start your Thematic Journey Through The Bible In One Year at any time. You can pick up wherever we're at with the live broadcasts, or start from the beginning, and listen along with the recordings.

The year is broken up into 4 quarters of 3 Journals: 31 days, 30 days and 30 days; Journal 12 will have 30 days +1 to make up 365 calendar days.

When starting at the beginning, the date that you start your journey on becomes Day 1 in your journal.

There are five **The Week Of** pages at the end of each journal; these give you the week-in-view on one side and an I Get To Do list on the other, and can be placed at the beginning of each calendar week throughout the journal.

Day 1 – Genesis 1-3

Daily Planner *Satur day: July 19*

You will need to fill in the **Year**-in View and **Month**-in-View based on the Year and month that you start.

Month *July* Year *2026*

Many of the journals will need to incorporate dates from two months, either starting with a few days from the previous month, or ending with days from the next month.

Start your thematic journey through the Bible whenever you are ready!

How To Use

24-Hour Planner

The 24-Hour Day Planner is to help you prioritize your day around spending time in God's Word and in His presence; and to provide a place for you to record the times God calls you to pray with Him, no matter what the time, day or night.

Use your planner to schedule the journal elements you want to include in your day.

Start slowly with as many as you're comfortable with, and build from there.

The more time you spend in God's word and in His presence, the more elements you will want to incorporate into your day.

Prayer Focus

A Prayer Focus is the conversation that is going on throughout the day between your spirit and the Spirit of God. This conversation occurs in the background as we go about our day, but by intentionally bringing that conversation to the forefront of our attention, we start to actively co-labor with Yahweh to pray what is on His heart for that day.

There are two pages at the end of each day to record the focus of your prayers, so that over the year, as you spend more time in God's word and His presence, you can see how the focus of your prayers change from being needs/requests focused to praying from the heart of the Father God.

Bible Reading

This is a daily thematic journey through the Bible in one year. These readings are divided up into seven themed groups; the books of the Law, The books of History, the Psalms, The Books of Poetry, The books of Prophecy, the Gospels, and The Epistles. Read the daily passages from Scripture in your own time or join us online on the Eat Breathe & Pray Journal YouTube Channel, Facebook page, or Podcast.

Memory Verse

There is a memory verse provided for each day; You choose how many you want to memorize. One per week equals 52 verses by the end of the year; one per day will be 364 verses. You choose what works for you.

Bible Study

These Bible studies are not designed to spoon-feed you what we want you to know about the Word of God, but rather to stimulate a hunger for the Word, and encourage you to delve into the study of the Word for yourself. Each Bible study gives you the opportunity to delve deeper into the readings for that day. Please give yourself time to make notes of what Yahweh highlights to you, and to read the verses that are mentioned in each study, as well as researching and answering the questions for each day.

Daily Devotion

Make time for the Devotional when you can still yourself in God's presence and meditate on His word. There are scripture references in each devotion that you will need to look up and read for yourself; these are key verses for gaining understanding in each devotion.

Year At

January

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February

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March

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April

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May

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June

S	M	T	W	T	F	S

A Glance

July

S	M	T	W	T	F	S

August

S	M	T	W	T	F	S

September

S	M	T	W	T	F	S

October

S	M	T	W	T	F	S

November

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December

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Month:

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Year:

Thursday	Friday	Saturday

My Focus:

[illegible]

This Month

Personal Goals

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Health Goals

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Important Dates

To Do List

Day 32 – Job 9–10

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*To know God is to know that you are loved
by Him. Be still and know I AM God.*

Notes:

Memory Verse:

'The One who says for the sun not to shine, and sets a seal upon the stars; Who alone stretches out the heavens, and tramples down the waves of the sea; Who makes the Bear, Orion, and the Pleiades, and the chambers of the south; Who does great things, unsearchable, and wondrous works, innumerable.' Job 9:7-10

Daily Devotion

"How then can I answer Him, and choose my words before Him? For though I were right, I could not answer; I would have to plead for the grace of my judge." Job 9:14-15

Job knows God, he knows His character and His greatness. Job also knows that God is just and that there is no unrighteousness in Him. He has listened to the arguments of his friends and knows they can't be right in what they say, because he is convinced of his own righteousness by faith before God and yet God has afflicted him (Job 9:19-22). He also knows that God is just even in this, though he doesn't understand why (Job 10:1-2). Even after all that Job has gone through and is going through, he continues to declare the greatness of God (Job 9:5-12). Although he knows he is right, he also knows that God is just and can do as He desires, so how can he argue with God (Job 9:2-4, 14-16)? Job's faith is evident in that he declares the greatness and justice of God even when God appears to be acting unjustly toward him; because he knows that God is just, despite the evidence of his circumstances. How does your faith in the character of God stack up against that of Job's? Do you find yourself declaring the justice and greatness of God even when you are under affliction? Or do you find yourself offended at God for allowing you to go through it?

Prayer: Abba Father, I can't say that Job was exulting in his affliction, but he does declare Your greatness and justice. Help me to learn from the example of Job, to know that affliction brings perseverance, and perseverance, godly character, and godly character, hope, which does not disappoint. Help me to recognize Your justice and righteousness in the midst of my trials and to declare Your greatness before men. Amen.

Bible Study

"So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three:but the greatest of these is love." 1 Corinthians 13:13

Love Bears All Things:

Job's love for God is what makes all that he is going through all that much harder to bear (Exodus 20 5b-6; Job 1:1,8,2-22; John 14:1). But it is also what sustains him and helps him to bear it (1 John 5:3). Job knows that God is just in all that He does and that's what makes the seeming injustice of what he is going through that much more galling. Job knows that injustice cannot be ascribed to God so God must be just in afflicting him without cause. Job can't understand why God would do it or how it is just. He simply knows that because of the greatness and character of God, it is.

Job knows God - His character, His attributes, and His works; therefore he loves God. It is because he knows and loves God that he cannot bring himself to ascribe any injustice or unrighteousness to God, and he knows that by declaring the rightness of his own cause, that God is just even in afflicting him unjustly, that he is honoring the character and righteousness of God more than his friends, who are ascribing injustice to God with their words when they ascribe sin and unrighteousness to Job without evidence or proof, just because of what they see him going through. Job loves God, and that is why he can't understand why God is afflicting him the way He is, crying out to God to turn His face from him and let him be. It is also why Job would rather despise his own life and existence rather than ascribe injustice to God.

Job's love of God makes his situation harder to bear because of the apparent injustice on God's part that Job cannot reconcile with what He knows of God.

Because of his love for God, he holds to both the justice of God and the justness of his own cause, knowing that though they seem incompatible, they are both true.

Discuss:

Questions:

1. Job's knowledge of the character of God comes from the place of intimacy with God. How does that knowledge of and intimacy with God lead to love of, and for God?
2. How can you cultivate a knowledge of and intimacy with God in your own life?

Answers:

[illegible]

date:

Prayer Focus

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Prayer Focus

date:

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Day 33 – Isaiah 23–28

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Stillness of mind, soul and spirit may require movement of the body to be achieved. Go for a walk in the woods, or by the ocean or a lake. Ride your bike or do some stretching or strength and mobility exercises. Whatever works for you to allow the rest of your being come to stillness before God.

Notes:

Memory Verse:

"O YHWH, You are my God: I will exult You, I will give thanks to Your name: for You have worked wonders, counsels formed long ago, with perfect faithfulness." Isaiah 25:1

Daily Devotion

"The steadfast of mind You will keep in perfect peace because he trusts in You." Isaiah 26:3

This verse is more frequently translated as, "You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You." Which is a little more comfortable and puts the emphasis on God imparting peace, rather than our decision to remain steadfast. We call on YHWH for peace – peaceful lives, peace in our time, peace for our nation, for Israel, in our home. Putting the onus for peace externally. But this verse deals with our internal attitude. A steadfast mind that trusts in God; and God's response is to keep us in perfect peace. That peace is a peace that transcends the external circumstances of our lives. How often are we looking for God to work on our external circumstances, to change them or remove us from them, when what He is wanting to do is to use those circumstance as a catalyst to deal with our internal circumstance? It is our steadfastness amid our circumstances as we trust in God that causes Him to act on our behalf.

Prayer: Abba Father, thank You for Your promise of perfect peace. Help me to be steadfast in my trials and trust in You despite what I'm going through or seeing in the world around me. Because I know that steadfastness produces proven character, and proven character, hope; and hope does not disappoint. Amen.

Bible Study

Love Instructs (Disciplines):

"This also comes from YHWH of hosts, who has made His counsel wonderful and His wisdom great." Isaiah 28:29

As we read through Isaiah, we read one judgement after another – judgement against the nations, judgements against Israel; and interspersed among these, we see the blessings that God has in store for His people. But it's really easy as we're reading Isaiah to lose sight of those blessings, of the goodness of God, of His great love! To lose sight of the fact that His judgement is always tempered by mercy, that His love and mercy extends to all mankind, the righteous and the wicked alike.

Our reading today is no different, and it's easy to think 'where is the love of God in all this'? But the truth is, it's everywhere. We can get so focused on the judgements that we forget that each and everyone of them is a call to repentance, to turn back to God. Every one of these judgements is a declaration of God's great love (Proverbs 3:12).

In Isaiah 28, we read about how a farmer doesn't overwork his land but plants his seed in the appropriate way and the appropriate place, how he knows how to thresh and winnow each grain and seed, knowing the right tool to use and when to stop before the grain is damaged. He knows how to separate the grain and seed from the worthless chaff without causing damage to the good seed. How does he know how to do this? Because YHWH Himself instructs him and teaches him properly (Isaiah 28:23–28, Psalm 19:7). Why is this nugget of agricultural wisdom here? To let the reader know that God knows how to discipline without causing damage to the good seed, that He knows how to separate the grain from the chaff without damaging the grain. That He knows what He's doing in Isaiah 27:12–13 where we read, "And it will be in that day, that YHWH will start His threshing from the flowing stream of the River to the brook of Egypt, and you will be gathered up one by one, O sons of Israel. And it will be in that day, that a great trumpet will be blown, and those who were perishing in the land of Assyria and who were banished in the land of Egypt will come and worship YHWH in the holy mountain at Jerusalem." It is this verse the John the Baptist is referencing in Matthew 3:11–12, when he is telling the people about the One who will come after him.

"For whom YHWH loves He reproves, even as a father reproves the son in whom he delights." Proverbs 3:12

Dsicuss:

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Questions:

1. How do the prophecies of Isaiah show God's love for everyone, the righteous and the unrighteous alike?
2. When did the prophecy in Isaiah 27: 12-13 start to come to pass?

Answers:

[illegible]

date:

Prayer Focus

[illegible]

Prayer Focus

date: _____

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Day 34 – Matthew 11-13

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When you don't feel the presence of God, that is when you must 'know' it. Know what the Bible says about God's presence, speak the Word to yourself, and choose to believe it despite your feelings or circumstances.

Notes:

Memory Verse:

"Come to Me all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light." Matthew 11:28-30

Daily Devotion

"And blessed is he who does not take offense at Me." Matthew 11:6

Today's reading in Matthew begins and ends with offense – at the very beginning of Matthew 11, John the Baptist sends his disciples to ask Jesus if He is, in fact, the Messiah or if they should look for another. Jesus' response is to tell them to go tell John about all the miracles they have witnessed Him perform and then He says something odd – "And blessed is he who does not take offense at me" (Matthew 11:6). This statement seems incongruous under the circumstances. Why would John take offense at Jesus?

The clue to the answer comes at the end of Matthew chapter 13. When Jesus returns to his hometown and the people who He grew up around take offense at Him because He is teaching with authority and yet they know Him as the carpenter's son, saying *"Who is He to speak with such authority; don't we know Him and His whole family"* (Matthew 13:54-57)? The offense comes from expectations: John expected Jesus to come bringing the judgement of God with Him (Matthew 3:7-12, John 12:47). And the people of His hometown expected Him to conform to their expectations of "the carpenter's son" (Matthew 13:55).

How often do we miss the blessing of God because we expected God to move or act in a certain way? When we've expected God to move within a certain time frame, and been offended when He is "late"? Or when we've expected a word or prayer from the 'great' preacher or minister, but instead God sends a humble member of the congregation with His word, or maybe even that strange, awkward person that makes people uncomfortable.

"Blessed is he who does not take offense at Me" (Luke 7:23).

Prayer: Abba Father, thank You that You come in unexpected ways, that Your messengers are not always what or who I think they should be. Help me open my eyes and my heart to see You in all the ways You meet me, and to not take offense at You. Amen.

Bible Study

Love Breaks The Rules:

"But if you had known what this means, 'I desire compassion, and not a sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the innocent." Matthew 12:7

Throughout this passage, Jesus is confronting the attitudes of the people – John the Baptist and the people of His hometown – about their perceptions of who He should be and how He should act (Matthew 11:1-6, 13:53-58). Also, the people of the cities and towns where He had done most of His miracles, for their unwillingness to repent (Matthew 11:20-24). Lastly, the Pharisees for their hardness of heart. The Pharisees have been trying to catch Jesus on a point of Law, but all their attempts fail because although they are experts on the letter of the Law, He shows them through His words and His actions that they do not know the heart of the Father as revealed in the Law.

The Pharisees first accuse Jesus' disciples of breaking the Law when they see them picking heads of grain and eating them as they pass through a field (Matthew 12:1-8). But rather than getting drawn into an argument on a point of Law, He reminds them of the precedents in Scripture where people had "broken" the Law and yet remained innocent. Then He says, *"But if you knew what this means, 'I desire compassion, and not a sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the innocent"* (Matthew 12:7).

Jesus is quoting Hosea, "For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of GOD rather than burnt offerings" (Hosea 6:6 ESV). There is much more to this quote than meets the eye. In doing so, He's not just telling them that they don't understand the Law, but He's telling them that He is the one that Hosea is referring to in the passage this quote comes from. He's also reminding them of what the prophet is saying in the rest of Hosea's prophecy (Hosea 6:1-11). He then tells them that He, the Son of Man, is Lord of the Sabbath. The Pharisees are so focused on the letter of the Law that they have forgotten the love and compassion of God. Jesus demonstrates this again in Matthew 12:9-14. And again they question Him on a point of Law, and His response is to demonstrate the Law of the love of God by breaking the rules of man.

Discuss:

Questions:

1. Which Law is Jesus referring to when He quotes Hosea?
2. How does the Law of love supersede the rules of man?

Answers:

[illegible]

date:

Prayer Focus

[illegible]

Prayer Focus date:

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Day 35 – Romans 9-10

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'I have been crucified with Christ and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. And the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.' Galatians 2:20

Notes:

Memory Verse:

"And what if God, wanting to demonstrate His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much patience vessels of wrath having been prepared for destruction, and in order that He might make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He prepared beforehand for glory - even us, whom He also called, not from among Jews only, but also from among Gentiles!" Romans 9:22-24

Daily Devotion

"What shall we say then? That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, attained righteousness, even the righteousness which is by faith." Romans 9:30

What a great privilege we have, to have obtained righteousness by faith in Christ Jesus. The very righteousness that those under the Law have been trying to attain to but have not, rather having sought to attain it by their own works rather than by faith (Romans 9:30-32). Can we, like Paul, say that we would wish ourselves accursed, separated from God for the sake of those "who are Israelites, to whom belongs the adoption as sons, and the glory and the covenants and the giving of the Law and the temple service and the promises, whose are the fathers, and from whom is the Christ according to the flesh, who is God over all, blessed forever" (Romans 9:4-5). What a rich heritage of faith and promises we have been grafted into, and what a great sense of gratitude we ought to share for the people of Israel, for salvation is from the Jews (John 4:22).

Prayer: Abba Father, it is with a grateful heart that I thank You for all that You have done for me. All the rich heritage of faith that I have been grafted into by faith in Christ Jesus (Yeshuah, our Messiah). I pray for Your people Israel, that their eyes would be opened to see their Messiah (Who came at the appointed time, and fulfilled the requirements of the Law and the prophecies of Scripture), whose eyes have been blinded for a time, until the fulness of the Gentiles is complete. It is with a grateful heart that I pray for the peace of Jerusalem and for Your blessing over the people of Israel. Amen.

Bible Study

The theme of this Bible study is “but God”. It’s about those times when God steps into our situation and does for us what we cannot do for ourselves.

Today’s reading in Romans 9-10 is a perfect example of this. In fact, “but God” could be the theme for the whole letter to the Romans. There are multiple examples of God intervening in these two chapters but the overall theme can be summed up in Romans 9:30-33 and 10:12-13. Those who tried to attain righteousness by the works of the Law did not attain it and stumbled over the One sent to attain righteousness on their behalf. But everyone who believes in Him will be saved and have attained righteousness by faith in Him, even those who did not know the Law. Those who had been excluded from the promise, because of this “but God” moment have attained the promise by faith (Romans 10:6-11).

The promise was received by faith and accounted to Abraham as righteousness. The promise to Sarah, who could not bear a child, “but God” – she bore a son (Romans 9:7,9). The promise that a remnant of Israel would be saved, and despite thousands of years of different nations trying to destroy the Jewish people, “but God” – a remnant has always remained (Romans 9:27-29). And a remnant has always followed the Messiah.

Dsicuss:

Questions:

1. There are other examples of “but God” in these chapters, what is one example that you can see?
2. What is an example of “but God” in your life?
3. Who are the prophets that Paul quotes in these chapters?

Answers:

[illegible]

date:

Prayer Focus

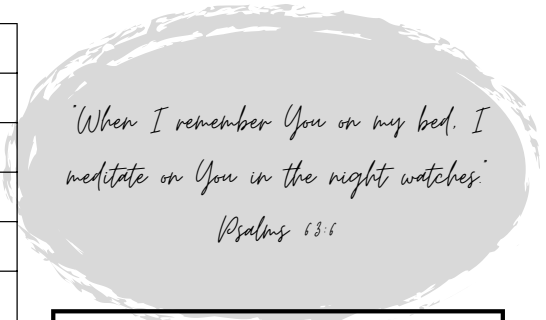
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Day 36 – Genesis 20–23

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Notes:

Memory Verse:

"Now YHWH visited Sarah as He had said, and YHWH did for Sarah as He had promised. So Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the appointed time of which God had spoken to him." (Genesis 21:1-2)

Daily Devotion

"Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water..." Genesis 21:19a

In her despair, Hagar has put her son under a bush and gone and sat at a distance from him so that she will not see him die because they have run out of food and water as they've wandered in the wilderness. And I just love God's response, "What is the matter with you, Hagar" (Genesis 21:17)? God sees Hagar, tells her to stand up and take her son by the hand, and He reminds her of the promises He has already spoken to her concerning her son (Genesis 21:17-18, 16:9-12). How often do we get so caught up in our circumstances that we can't keep moving forward? We're paralyzed by unbelief. Has God ever come to you and said, "What is the matter with you? Stand up and remember what I've told you!"? Hagar was in so much despair that she couldn't see the well that was right beside her. It wasn't until she stood up that God opened her eyes to see it. In the same way, it's not until we stand up and remember His promises that God will open our eyes to see the provision that has been there all along (Genesis 21:19).

Prayer:

Abba Father, thank You for Your exceedingly great, abundant provision. Help me to stay focused on You and the words that You've spoken to me so that I don't become despondent, despairing, and unable to see what is right in front of me. Open my eyes, YHWH, to see Your provision. Amen.

Bible Study

In our reading today, we have 4 examples of “but God” – each involving a different person.

In Genesis 20, we read the account of Abimelech’s “but God” moment. Now there are many remarkable things that happen in this chapter that we could discuss at length, not the least of which is that Sarah, who is 90 years old and well beyond the age of childbearing, is so beautiful and youthful that Abimelech takes her to be part of his harem. Yes, Abraham and Sarah have played the “She’s my sister” card again, despite the problems it caused previously. In verses 3–6, we see Abimelech’s “but God” experience.

In Genesis 21, we see the account of both Sarah’s and Hagar’s “but God” moments. As previously stated, Sarah was 90 years old when God said she would bear a son. She is well past the age of child bearing and has been infertile her whole life. In verse 1–7, we see Sarah’s “but God” pregnancy.

This is followed shortly thereafter by Hagar’s “but God” moment. Hagar and her son Ishmael have been sent away with food and water, and have wandered in the wilderness until they have run out of both, and are now dying of thirst. Hagar puts her son under a bush and goes a distance from him so that she won’t see him die (verse 17–19), “but God” intervenes to rescue them both.

And in Genesis 22, we see Abraham’s “but God” moment. God has decided to test Abraham – He tells him to take his son Isaac, his only son, the son of the promise, and to sacrifice him on a mountain that God will show him. The difference between this account and the others is that Abraham is expecting the “but God” moment. He’s looking for it to happen at any moment but is willing to be completely obedient to God knowing that even if he does sacrifice Isaac that God can raise him up again. So when Abraham’s “but God” moment happens (verses 11–14), he is not surprised by it because he has already declared (twice) that it will take place (verses 4–5, 7–8).

Discuss:

Questions:

1. In these four different accounts of “but God” moments, what is it that prompts God to act in each case?
2. Have you ever expected a “but God” moment, or are you expecting one now?

Answers:

[illegible]

date:

Prayer Focus

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Prayer Focus

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Day 37 – Judges 1-6

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It is our whole being that we present to God in stillness: body, mind, soul and spirit. Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely, and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ' 1 Thessalonians 5:23

Notes:

Memory Verse:

'Then Gideon said to God, 'If You will save Israel by my hand, as You have spoken, behold, I will put a fleece of wool on the threshing floor. If there is dew on the fleece only, and it is dry on all the ground, then I will know that You will save Israel by my hand, as You have spoken.'" Judges 6:36-37

Daily Devotion

"Now Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel at that time. " Judges 4:4

What a fascinating sentence this is.

It is generally agreed that the name Deborah means "Bee" or "Pursuer", but what is fascinating is that the Hebrew letters that make up the name Deborah also make up the word, "Word". Also, the Hebrew word that is translated as "wife" appears twice in this sentence in the original text - once after Deborah and once before Lappidoth, and it is most commonly translated as "woman" in the Scriptures. Now let's take a look at Lappidoth. It is commonly assumed that this is the name of Deborah's husband but the word has a feminine plural ending "oth", so it is not a man's name. If we read it as the woman of Lappidoth, it changes the meaning quite a bit. Lapid is a word meaning "torches" or "lights", also "lightnings".

So, in light of these observations, this sentence could read, "Now Deborah, the woman of the Word, a prophetess, the woman of lights (or lightnings), was judging Israel at that time." Now this gives us a very different picture of who she is than the original sentence. She is a woman of the Word, a prophetess, a woman of brilliance who shines the light of the Father of lights (James 1:17, Psalms 136:7, 1 John 1:5), and is judge over Israel.

Prayer: Abba Father, thank You that as I look deeply into Your eyes, I see myself and others in a different light. Help me to see myself in the light of who I am in You, so I can learn to walk in that likeness as I am being transformed into the image of Your Son. I want to be a person of the Word who shines the light of Your glory and uses the gifts You have given me to fulfill Your calling on my life. Amen.

Bible Study

The book of Judges is full of “but God” moments. Each one of the judges that God raises up to deliver Israel is a “but God” moment. Each time the people of Israel have forgotten YHWH their God and gone after other gods and disobeyed the commands of YHWH, they have acted wickedly and God has given them into the hands of their enemies. But each time they cry out to Him, God raises up a deliverer for them, to deliver them from the hand of their enemy and judge them, and teach them the ways of YHWH.

Then each time the judge dies, the pattern repeats.

In Judges 3, we see Othniel the son of Kenaz, Caleb’s younger brother, then Ehud the son of Gerar the Benjamite.

Then in Judges 4 and 5, we read the account of Deborah, the woman of the Word, a prophetess, the woman of lights and/or lightnings.

However, the “but God” moment that we will focus on is in Judges 6 when we’re introduced to Gideon, who is threshing wheat while hiding in a wine press so the Midianites won’t find him. Gideon is a fearful, timid man, “but God”. “And the angel of YHWH appeared to him and said to him, ‘YHWH is with you, O mighty man of valor’” (Judges 6:12). This was the beginning of God transforming Gideon into the man that He declared him to be.

We then see a back and forth between Gideon and the angel of YHWH – Gideon declaring how he sees himself and the angel of YHWH declaring who he is in God. And Gideon asking for signs over and over. And instead of reprimanding Gideon for his lack of faith, God continues to give him those signs over and over, each time building Gideon’s faith and courage.

This transformation of Gideon from the timid and fearful youngest son from Israel’s smallest tribe to the leader and judge over Israel is a series of “but God” moments that we just see the beginning of in Judges 6.

Discuss:

Questions:

1. How many “but God” moments do you see in Judges 6?
2. Have you ever had a “but God” moment when God has declared you to be something very different to how you see yourself in the moment?

Answers:

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Prayer Focus

[illegible]

Prayer Focus

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Day 3rd 8 – Psalms 15–17

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*present your bodies as a sacrifice -
living, holy and pleasing to God, which is
your spiritual service of worship.*

Romans 12:1b

Notes:

Memory Verse:

"I will bless YHWH who has counseled me; indeed my mind instructs me in the night. I have set YHWH continually before me; because He is at my right hand, I will not be shaken." Psalms 16:7-8

Daily Devotion

"Marvelously show Your lovingkindness, O Savior of those who take refuge at Your right hand..." Psalm 17:7a

What is it to take refuge at the right hand of God? The right hand of the king is symbolic of his power to defeat or to conquer. When we take refuge at the right hand of God, we take refuge in His power to conquer whatever is coming against us. So, He is the Savior of all those who take refuge in His power to conquer. But that's not all! In that place of refuge, we get to call on Him to wondrously show us His lovingkindness! This is not presumptuous on our part, it is a loving response to being in proximity to Him. It's like the response of a small child on seeing the strength of their father, crying out, "Daddy, catch me!" And leaping into his arms.

Prayer: Abba Father, I cry out with the Psalmist, wondrously show Your lovingkindness to me as I take refuge at Your right hand. I long to see You move in power, not to prove Yourself to me, but so I can continue to boast in how big, how great, and how strong my GOD is. Amen

Bible Study

“But God” moments are a pattern that runs throughout the Psalms. In fact, the thing I love about the Psalms is that the Psalmist very often calls out to God to perform “but God” moments. He cries out to God to move miraculously on his behalf, to transform both his own heart and his circumstances.

The greatest “but God” moment we see in Psalm 17 is in verses 13-15, and it comes when David realizes that he doesn’t have to begrudge the wicked the good he has in this life, because David’s treasure is far greater, and he will be satisfied with the likeness of God when he awakes.

Discuss:

Questions:

1. Discuss the “but God” moment in Psalm 17:13-15.
2. Have you had a “but God” moment when He has transformed the way you see others?

Answers:

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Prayer Focus

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Prayer Focus

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Day 39 – Job 11-12

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*Speak softly to yourself the words of the
LORD. encourage yourself in Him.*

Notes:

Memory Verse:

"But now ask the beasts, and let them instruct you; and the birds of the sky, and let them tell you. Or muse to the earth, and let it instruct you; and let the fish of the sea recount it to you. Who among all these does not know that the hand of YHWH has done this, in whose hand is the life of every living thing, and the breath of all the flesh of man?" Job 12:7-10

Daily Devotion

"As for upheaval, there is only contempt by the one who is at ease, but it is prepared for those whose feet slip." Job 12:5

When we are comfortable and at ease, it's easy to think that our circumstances are an indication of God's love for us; that calamity is reserved only for those who have turned from God's way. This can lead us to make two faulty conclusions: One, that blessing in this life is for those who fear God only, and calamity for the ungodly. And two, that God's love for us is expressed through what He gives us materially and the ease of our life. The parable of Lazarus and the rich man is a good example that dispels these attitudes (Luke 16:19-31). *"...for man looks at the outward appearance, but YHWH looks at the heart"* (1 Samuel 16:7b).

Prayer: Abba Father, help me to look for Your hand and to see Your love in every circumstance of my life, and help me to see others through Your eyes also so I won't fall into the trap of judging others by their circumstances, instead of the fruit of their life. Amen.

Bible Study

I was struggling to find a “but God” moment in Job 11-12, as we tend to think of the “but God” moments happening at the end of the book, but the revelations that Job has throughout his conversations with his friends are “but God” moments that strengthen his resolve and encourage him to continue in his convictions. The one we see in Job 12 is when he realizes that the creation itself knows more about the character of God than his learned friends (Job 12:7-10). He then goes on to declare the character of God that is beyond the comprehension of his friends to understand (Job 12:13-25).

Job, despite suffering greatly in body, mind and soul, is able to articulate with great clarity and wisdom the ways and character of God.

Discuss:

Question:

1. Have you ever had a moment when, in the midst of your suffering or difficulty, God reveals a great truth to you that you can articulate in a way that is beyond your capability in the moment?

Answer:

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Prayer Focus

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Day 40 – Isaiah 29-33

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*And the work of righteousness will be peace,
and the service of righteousness quietness and
confidence forever. Isaiah 32:17*

Notes:

Memory Verse:

'Therefore YHWH waits with longing to be gracious to you, and therefore He is on high to have compassion on you. For YHWH is a God of justice: how blessed are all those who wait for Him.' Isaiah 30:18

Daily Devotion

"...in repentance and rest you will be saved; in quietness and trust is your strength..." Isaiah 30:15b

How often do we have our own plans, and rush around trying to make things happen the way we want, and then get upset with God because He didn't bring our will to pass? I don't know about you, but I've done this. God is saying to us, in the place of repentance and rest, quietness and trust we will find His counsel and get to know His plans. And from that place, we can go forth in His power and authority as we co-labour with Him to bring His plans to pass. Then we will have success, and then He will move on our behalf and we will be blessed in all we do (Isaiah 15:15b, 18-21). Verse 15 goes on to say, *"...But you were not willing..."*.

Prayer: Abba Father, I long for You, for Your presence; that place of repentance and rest, of quietness and trust; where my hope is in You and You alone. Help me not to rush around in my own strength and plans that come from a place of anxiety or fear, but rather let me come to You and find rest and counsel. Amen.

Bible Study

The prophecies of Isaiah are riddled with “but God” moments. In fact, some of them are the things that makes reading through Isaiah possible without becoming full of despair.

It is those “but God” moments that remind us of His compassion and goodness.

In these chapters, there are seven “but God” moments where we see the goodness and promises of God (Isaiah 29:22-24, Isaiah 30:18-26, Isaiah 31:4-5, Isaiah 32:1-5, 15-20, Isaiah 33: 2-6, 13-24). The rest is all about the “but God” moments where we see the judgement and anger of God revealed due to the wickedness of mankind. Man sinned against God and acted wickedly toward his neighbor, “but God” brought justice and judgement. The righteous cried out to God in their distress, “but God” met them with compassion and love, and poured out His goodness upon them. We often think of the “but God” moments as being the positive and uplifting moments in life but they can also be the tough, difficult times that bring justice and judgement when it is needed.

Discuss:

Questions:

1. The prophecies of Isaiah can be difficult reading especially when we see the headlines that seem to indicate we're in the midst of these prophecies being fulfilled; how do the "but God" moments listed above mitigate the rest of the prophecies?
2. Can you read these prophecies and honestly pray, "Even so come, Lord Jesus?"

Answers:

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Prayer Focus

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Day 41 – Matthew 14-16

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Sometimes stillness comes from allowing ourselves to feel or experience that thing that we've been pushing away, whatever it is. To allow our selves to feel it, thank God for it, and then give it to Him as an act of worship.

Notes:

Memory Verse:

'But seeing the wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, saying, 'Lord, save me!' And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and took hold of him, and said to him, 'You of little faith, why did you doubt?'" Matthew 14:30-31

Daily Devotion

"Now when Jesus heard about John, He withdrew from there in a boat to a desolate place by Himself..." Matthew 14:13a

When Jesus heard of John's death, He withdrew, most likely to grieve the loss of His cousin and the one who paved the way for His ministry. He wanted to go somewhere isolated, to be alone. We've all been there, I'm sure. When you just need to be alone. But when Jesus came ashore, He found a large crowd waiting for Him. Now if that had been you or me, we probably would have turned right around and got back on the boat, while having a good gripe about how demanding and inconsiderate people can be. But His response was to feel compassion for the people. So Jesus healed their sick, spoke to them and fed them miraculously. He spent all day with them and it wasn't until the crowds departed and His disciples had gone on ahead of Him in the boat, that Jesus was able to go up on the mountain by Himself to pray. And to be alone with His Father... It is important to take time out, to be alone with the Father and pray. If Jesus needed this time, how much more do we? But may our own desire for solitude never overrule our compassion for others.

Prayer: Abba Father, thank You that we can learn from the example of Jesus just how important it is to take time out, to be alone with You and pray. Thank You also that His need for solitude never outweighed His compassion. May I be moved by compassion for those around me and always know when it is time to step away to be with You alone. Amen.

Bible Study

Matthew 14-16 is full of the sort of “but God” accounts that we like to read – they encourage us in our faith and remind us that with God anything is possible.

In these chapters, we read about the feeding of the 5,000 men, women and children (Matthew 14:15-21).

We see Jesus walking on the water and calming the storm (Matthew 14:23-33).

And we see the faith and boldness of the Canaanite woman and the healing of her daughter (Matthew 15:21-28), as well as the feeding of the 4,000 men, women and children (Matthew 15:32-38).

Discuss:

Questions:

1. In each of these examples, what was it that was overcome to make it a “but God” moment?
2. In this study, what took the most “but God” moments to overcome?

Answers:

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Day 42 – Romans 11-12

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'The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty One who will save. He will rejoice over you with gladness; He will quiet you by His love; He will exult over you with loud singing.' Zephaniah 3:17 ESV

Notes:

Memory Verse:

"Therefore I exhort you, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a sacrifice - living, holy, and pleasing to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may approve what the will of God is, that which is good and pleasing and perfect." Romans 12:1-2

Daily Devotion

"So we who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another" Romans 12:5

I never could understand Scriptures that said we are all members of one body (1 Corinthians 12:12-31). People would say, "I want to be the eye", or, "I want to be the ears", and I had this image in my mind of a very strange creature indeed. It wasn't until I studied cell theory that I began to understand. Each cell is individual, but cells come together to form tissue, tissue comes together to form organs, and organs come together to form systems that together form our bodies. Each one of us is uniquely different but together we form one body. We each have a role to play, a job to do, for the body to function optimally. Not one of us is more important than the other; we are all tiny, microscopic parts of a much greater whole (Romans 12:3-5). We are but dust, but we are also the apple of His eye (Psalm 17:8, Zechariah 2:8)!

Prayer: Abba Father, thank You that You have created me uniquely in every way and with a role that only I can fulfill. Help me to not become conceited or think more highly of myself than I ought to. Help me also to not let my own self-doubt, or the words of the accuser, keep me from fulfilling the essential role in the body that You have created me for. Thank You that though I am but dust, I am the apple of Your eye as well. Amen.

Bible Study

"Behold then the kindness and severity of God; to those who fell, severity, but to you, God's kindness, if you continue in His kindness; otherwise you also will be cut off. " Romans 11:22

In the Western church today, we tend to talk about the love of God, along with His compassion and forgiveness. We rarely talk about His severity and judgment, unless you have one of those "fire and brimstone" type of preachers who want to scare people into heaven. Neither of these gives a balanced picture of the character of God.

In Romans, Paul is talking about the kindness and severity of God – kindness to those who have attained righteousness through faith in Christ, and severity to those who, through having tried to attain righteousness through works, have stumbled over Christ (Romans 9:30–33).

In Romans 11:1a Paul asks, *"I say then, has God rejected His people?...?"*

This is a question that is often not asked in the churches, it's considered answered. Some will say that God has rejected His people; this is particularly prevalent within some Catholic circles. In Protestant churches, it tends to be more subtle and comes more in the form of, 'God hasn't rejected His people, they're just not a high priority right now'. But Paul answers his own question by saying, *"...May it never be!..."* and *"God has not rejected His people whom He foreknew"* (Romans 11:1–6). God has kept a remnant of the people of Israel for Himself; the rest were hardened, and because of their hardness of heart we have found favour with God (Romans 11:7–16). But this hardening of hearts is only for a time (Romans 11:25–28).

We as the Church have fallen into the error that Paul warns us about – becoming arrogant toward the natural branches and becoming wise in our own estimation (Romans 11:17–21, 25). We have moved so far from our Jewish roots that we no longer consider ourselves grafted into the "vine" of Israel but believe that it is the Jews who must now be converted to Christianity. We are in danger of moving from the kindness of God to His severity.

"Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgements and unfathomable

Discuss:

Questions:

1. How has the attitude of the church towards the people of Israel changed?
2. How can we provoke our Jewish brothers and sisters to jealousy by our faith?

Answers:

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Prayer Focus

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Prayer Focus

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Day 43 – Genesis 24–27

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How blessed are these Your servants who
stand before You continually and hear
Your wisdom. 1 Kings 10:16

Notes:

Memory Verse:

'Then he moved away from there and dug another well, and they did not contend over it; so he named it Rehoboth, and he said, 'At last YHWH has made room for us, and we will be fruitful in the land.'" Genesis 26:22

Daily Devotion

"And he said to me, 'YHWH, before whom I have walked, will send His angel with you and will make your journey successful,...'" Genesis 24:40a

There are two things about this verse that strike me. First, the similarity between the source of authority with which Abraham speaks, "YHWH, before whom I have walked,..." and the examples of Elijah and Elisha (1 Kings 17:1, 18:5, 2 Kings 5:16). The second stems from the first, and that is the confidence with which he speaks, and declares the success of the journey (Genesis 24:7, 40). Abraham doesn't say, "If you do this, maybe God will do that" or

"God willing, this will happen". No, he declares it!

The authority and confidence that Abraham speaks with comes from walking before YHWH; just as Elijah's and Elisha's authority and confidence to speak comes from standing before YHWH. By what authority do you speak? We, as believers, have the privilege to enter into God's presence at any time, to stand in His presence, and to walk before Him. It is up to us alone to prioritise our time with YHWH.

Prayer: Abba Father, thank You for the example of Abraham, who walked with You and spoke with authority because he knew You, Your character and faithfulness, and he believed Your promises to him and his descendants. Thank You that I have Your word available to me, and access into Your very presence, to stand before You and hear Your voice; help me to make spending time in Your presence and in Your word my first priority, before everything else. Amen.

Bible Study

"And YHWH said to her, 'Two nations are in your womb; and two peoples will be separated from your body; and one people shall be stronger than the other; and the older shall serve the younger.' " Genesis 25:23

"...Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated. " Romans 9:13b

In Genesis 25-27, we read the account of Jacob and Esau up to the point where Rebekah sends Jacob away for fear of his brother. These two men were destined, before they were born, for Esau the older brother to serve Jacob the younger. But why did God love Jacob but hate Esau (Malachi 1:2-3, Romans 9:13)? It seems unfair that before either of them had been born or had the chance to do anything either good or bad, that God would have already decided that He loved one and not the other (Romans 9:6-13). The difficulty with this is that we who live within time are trying to comprehend the perspective of God who lives outside of time, in the eternal NOW. God knew Jacob and Esau before they were conceived, He knew what kind of men they would become. He knew that Esau would despise his birthright (Genesis 25:29-34), and He knew that Jacob would usurp his brother's blessing (Genesis 27:1-38). He knew that Jacob would be a man of peace and contentment, while Esau would be a hunter and a man of the field (Genesis 25:27). God knew the hearts of both men before they were born and it is this knowledge that causes Him to love Jacob but hate Esau (1 Samuel 16:7). We see the kindness and blessing of God at work in Jacob's life and the severity and curse of God in Esau's. Though they are both men with flaws, and brothers, God knew their hearts fully and rewarded them accordingly.

Discuss:

Questions:

1. How do we see the severity God in Esau's life?
2. How do we see the kindness of God in Jacob's life?
3. How have you seen the kindness and severity of God at work in your own life, or the life of others?

Answers:

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Day 44 - Judges 7-11

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'Peace I leave with you: My peace I give to you: not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.' John 14:27

Notes:

Memory Verse:

"And YHWH said to Gideon, 'The people who are with you are too many for me to give Midian into their hands, lest Israel honor themselves, saying, 'My own power has saved me.'"' Judges 7:2

Daily Devotion

"But Gideon said to them, 'I will not rule over you, nor shall my son rule over you; YHWH shall rule over you.'" Judges 8:23

After all that God had done through Gideon, ensuring that the victory was won by Gideon and the 300 warriors with him versus the entire Midianite army, so that the people of Israel would know that it was YHWH alone who had delivered them and not their own strength (Judges 7:1-8:12). Despite this great victory, and perhaps because of it, the first thing the Israelites did after the battle was won was to try to make Gideon king over them. Gideon, knowing God and finally knowing who he was in God, and understanding the fickleness of the people very wisely refused, declaring, "...YHWH shall rule over you". (Judges 8:23c) There are many times when we can choose who we will serve, and who is enough for us. At those times, do we choose YHWH to be our King, our Husband, our Provider; or do we seek after other things?

Prayer: Abba Father, Your great love for me is beyond measure but so many times I act like it's not enough, like You're not enough. Forgive me, O YHWH, when I seek after the things of this world to fill the gap that only You can fill. Soften my heart toward You and cause me to yearn for You and Your presence, to seek You and Your kingdom first, above all else. Amen.

Bible Study

"...Did I not save you... Yet you have forsaken Me and served other gods..."
Judges 10:11a, 13a

In Judges 10:10-16, we see a snapshot of Israel's interactions with God throughout the book of Judges. Each time they turn from Him to serve other gods, He brings an enemy to oppress them, and each time they turn back to Him, He raises up a judge to deliver them. As we read through Judges, it seems like God keeps changing His mind - one moment blessing Israel, and the next moment cursing them. But God is not changeable, is He? (James 1:16-17, Malachi 3:5-7)

The kindness and severity of God toward the people of Israel is a direct result of their attitude toward Him. They took upon themselves both the blessings and the curses before they entered the land that God had promised them (Deuteronomy 11:26-28). And what they receive from God is based on their choices to serve Him and keep His commandments, or to turn from Him to serve other gods (Joshua 24:14-27, Deuteronomy 30:15-20).

Discuss:

Questions:

1. What is the significance of the layout of the camp of the Israelites?
2. What is central to your life?

Answers:

[illegible]

date:

Prayer Focus

[illegible]

Prayer Focus

date: _____

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Day 45 – Psalms 18–20

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Surrender your whole self to God in stillness (body, mind, soul and spirit) as an act of adoration and worship.

Notes:

Memory Verse

The heavens are telling of the glory of God; and the expanse is declaring the work of His hands. Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night reveals knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard. Their line has gone out through all the earth, and their utterances to the end of the world." Psalms 19:1-4

Daily Devotion

"Some boast in chariots and some in horses, but we will boast in the name of YHWH, our God." Psalm 20:7

This Psalm starts with, "May YHWH answer you in the day of distress! May the name of the God of Jacob set you securely on high" (Psalm 20:1)! It continues with a series of declarations of blessing on those who are hearing the Psalm (verses 2-5). Where does the Psalmist find the confidence to declare these blessings over all who will hear them? From his experiential knowledge of the goodness of God. That God saves and He answers in power on behalf of His anointed is something that David knows firsthand, because the One who David boasts in has remained the same since his youth (1 Samuel 17:26, Psalm 20:6). David is declaring these blessings over those who will hear, so we too can boast in the name of YHWH, our God. David knows Who he is boasting in and he knows that although he is king over Israel, YHWH is his King, and King over all (Psalm 20:9).

Prayer: Abba Father, thank You for all the blessings contained in this Psalm. I receive these blessings so I can testify of Your goodness, and so that I too can boast in Your name. Amen.

Bible Study

In Psalm 18, we see the kindness of God to the one who cries out to Him and takes refuge in Him, and His severity to their oppressor. This is a recurring theme throughout the Psalms, and one that deserves our attention. We have a God who hears our cry (Psalm 18:6), and answers on our behalf in power if we take refuge in Him (Psalm 18:30). He is also a God who executes vengeance on those who come against His anointed, or the apple of His eye (Psalm 18:7-9, 47-48, 105:14-15, 1 Chronicles 16:22, Zechariah 2:8).

One thing I've noticed in my own life is that, although I'm happy to cry out to God for His kindness in a time of trouble, I am more reluctant to ask Him to act in vengeance on my behalf or have Him act in vengeance on behalf of His people. I always hope for their repentance - that they would turn from their ways and find forgiveness and healing. Although we should never delight in the downfall of others, we do need to recognise that God is a righteous Judge; we must not take offence when He executes judgement against the oppressors of His people (Psalm 7:11, 18:30).

Discuss:

Questions:

1. When the Psalmist declares that God defeated his enemies before him, what does he say that God did for him personally?
2. How is God training you for battle?

Answers:

This image shows a full page of primary-ruled notebook paper. It features multiple sets of horizontal lines designed to help young learners write neatly. Each set consists of three lines: two solid horizontal lines forming the top and bottom boundaries, and a dashed horizontal line centered between them to indicate where to form the middle of uppercase letters. The pattern repeats down the entire page, providing ample space for handwriting practice.

date:

Prayer Focus

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Day 46 – Job 13–14

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A simple exercise to bring stillness to your body - starting at your toes, tense and relax them then move up to your feet, then ankles, etc., moving up your body until you reach your neck and head. This can help release tension and stress you may be unaware of.

Notes:

Memory Verse:

"Man, who is born of woman, is short-lived and full of turmoil. Like a flower he comes forth and withers. He also flees like a shadow and does not stand." Job 14:1-2

Daily Devotion

"But I would speak to the Almighty, and I desire to argue with God." Job 13:3

Have you ever argued with God, or wanted to? To bring your case before Him, to lay out all the injustices you've been experiencing? To ask Him why you're going through it? Why He doesn't do something about it? I have, on several occasions, and this is where Job is at – he just wants to lay out his case before YHWH. And even in this, his intimacy with God is shown. Our God is big enough and secure enough to be able to handle it when we pour out our hurts and the injustices we feel at His feet, but it takes an intimate relationship with Him be able to do this (Job 13:15-16).

Prayer: Abba Father, I thank You that You are able to handle all that I bring to You – my pain and grief and sense of injustice. I thank You that You love me enough to allow me to pour out my case before You, to hear me out and allow me to express my full range of emotions. And that once I have emptied myself, You answer me in Your justice and compassion. Amen.

Bible Study

Job is very aware of both the kindness and severity of God but in Job's case, it's a little harder to comprehend.

In most of the examples we've read so far, the kindness of God is toward the righteous and those who take refuge in Him, while His severity is toward the unrighteous and those who forget YHWH their God, or come against God's anointed, or His chosen people. But in Job's case, the severity of God is toward the righteous, not as punishment, but due to His pleasure and pride in Job (Job 1:8, 2:3).

This can send us for a bit of a loop, and we might fall into the trap of trying to explain Job's afflictions; that in some way, he must have brought them on himself or that God allowed it to train Job for the next phase in his life. However, this is not what Scripture says. So we need to be willing to receive this understanding – that the severity of God can come on the righteous, not to build their character, but to prove and showcase their character to others (Job 1:8, 2:3, Romans 5:3–4).

Discuss:

Questions:

1. Is your relationship with YHWH dependent on His kindness toward you, or can you, like Job, say, *"Shall we indeed accept good from God, and not accept calamity?"* (Job 2:10b)

Answers:

[illegible]

date:

Prayer Focus

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Prayer Focus

date: _____

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Day 47 – Isaiah 34–39

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*It is good that one should wait quietly for
the salvation of the LORD. Lamentations
3:26 (ESV)*

Notes:

Memory Verse

"And the ransomed of YHWH will return and come with joyful shouting to Zion, with everlasting gladness upon their heads. They will attain delight and gladness, and sorrow and sighing will flee away." Isaiah 35:10

Daily Devotion

"Now it happened that when King Hezekiah heard it, he tore his clothes, covered himself with sackcloth, and entered the house of YHWH." Isaiah 37:1

Hezekiah's immediate response when Jerusalem was besieged by the king of Assyria was to humble himself before YHWH and to seek His counsel (Isaiah 37:2-4). And when the King of Assyria's emissary put his boastful words against the God of Israel in writing, his response was the same (Isaiah 37:14-20). What is your response when things go seriously wrong? Is your immediate response to humble yourself and seek God's face in prayer (2 Chronicles 7:14)?

Prayer: Abba Father, I thank You that when Your people cry out to You, You hear our voice and respond to the cry of our heart. O YHWH, I want to be so close to You that my first response in time of trouble is to humble myself and pray and seek Your face. Help me to trust in You with my whole heart, to not rely on my own understanding but to seek Your counsel in everything. Amen.

Bible Study

In Isaiah 34-35, we read about the coming kindness and severity of God, His judgement against all the nations of the earth (Isaiah 34:8), and His ultimate plan for the restoration and blessing of the people of Israel and the righteous of the earth who stand with them (Isaiah 33:17-24, 34:16-35:10).

The prophecies of Isaiah can be difficult to read, as they are fairly graphic in their description of the coming judgement on the nations and their armies (Isaiah 34:2-15). How much more difficult will it be to see these things come to pass and not take offence at the LORD, or let our love grow cold (Luke 7:23, Matthew 11:6, 24:12)?

This is why Jesus said in Luke 21:28, *“But when these things begin to take place, straighten up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”*

Our focus needs to be on Him and on His promises that He is about to fulfill. We hope in the kindness and goodness of God, even in the midst of tribulation.

The thought of living through these end times prophecies can shake our faith. At times like that, there are three questions I encourage people to ask themselves –

What do I believe?

Why do I believe it? and

What does the Bible say?

Discuss:

Questions:

1. What do you believe will happen to Christians in the end times?

Answers:

[illegible]

date:

Prayer Focus

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Prayer Focus

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Day 48 – Matthew 17–19

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'YHWH will fight for you, and you will keep silent.' Exodus 14:14

Notes:

Memory Verse:

Again I say to you, that if two of you agree on earth about anything that they may ask, it shall be done for them by My Father who is in heaven. For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst." Matthew 18:19-20

Daily Devotion

"While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and behold, a voice out of the cloud said, 'This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!'" Matthew 17:5

This is one of the two times in Scripture where we are given a direct command about how we are to respond to Jesus. This one comes at the end of His earthly ministry, just before He is about to offer Himself as a living sacrifice for our sins, and it comes from His Father.

The only other time we are given a direct command about how to respond to Jesus was at the very beginning of His earthly ministry, when His mother said to the servants, *"Whatever He says to you, do it"* (John 2:1-12).

These two statements, from His Father and mother that bookend His ministry on the earth, are a master class in how to live out our faith: *"This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him"* and *"Whatever He says to you, do it"*!

Prayer: Abba, Father, help me to comprehend the beauty and simplicity of this statement – that when things seem complicated and confusing and I'm not sure how I should move forward, or what I should do, please remind me of these simple directions. Amen.

Bible Study

"But when the young man heard this statement, he went away grieving; for he was one who owned much property. " Matthew 19:22

In Matthew 19:16-26, we read the account of the rich young man. He comes to Jesus to inquire what he must do to obtain eternal life. Jesus is very gentle with the young man and tells him he must keep the commandments. When he asks which ones, Jesus goes through the list but with one significant exclusion. When the rich young man responds that he has kept all of the commands Jesus mentioned, but wants to know what he is still lacking, Jesus replies, *"If you wish to be complete, go and sell all your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me"*. At this response, he went away grieving... (Matthew 19:21-22a)

This account of the kindness and severity of God is one that we can take to heart. In this case, the kindness and severity of God go hand in hand. Jesus' command to the young man was both an expression of His kindness and His severity. To follow Jesus and serve the Father, the young man had to let go of his wealth, the thing he treasured, give it away and follow Jesus, so that his treasure would be in heaven. No matter what he chose, he would be giving up so much that the very thought grieved him. Sometimes God calls us to give up something that we treasure so we can serve Him fully. In this, we experience both His kindness and severity.

Discuss:

Questions:

1. What is the command that Jesus omits?
2. How was it both the kindness and severity of God when Jesus told the young man to sell all his possessions and give to the poor?

Answers:

[illegible]

date:

Prayer Focus

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Prayer Focus

date: _____

This image shows a full page of white paper with horizontal dotted lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, providing a guide for handwriting or typing. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the page.

Day 49 – Romans 13–14

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*"The most important thing in the world is to be
always present to God." Brother Lawrence
(The Practice of the Presence of God)*

Notes:

Memory Verse:

Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist have been appointed by God. Romans 13:1

Daily Devotion

"Therefore it is necessary to be in subjection, not only because of that wrath, but also because of conscience." Romans 13:5

This verse really sums up Romans 13-14: To be in subjection to the earthly authorities (Romans 13: 1-8), in subjection to our conscience (Romans 14:1-4, 22-23), in subjection to each other (Romans 14:13-21), and ultimately in subjection to YHWH (Romans 14:5-12).

All for conscience sake.

Prayer: Abba Father, thank You that in You all things are permissible, but not all things are profitable. Help me to walk before You with a clean conscience, fulfilling the Law of Love in all that I do. Amen.

Bible Study

An Accounting of Love:

"So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God." Romans 14:12

Each one of us will be called to give and accounting before God, but we are also called to keep short accounts with each other, to *"owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbour has fulfilled the law"* (Romans 13:8).

In Romans 13:8-14, we see what could best be described as an accounting of love. Paul lays out some simple steps to hold ourselves accountable to the law of love. I say simple but that does not necessarily mean they are easy. He also explains why we need to be doing this.

First, let's look at these steps:

Owe nothing to anyone (vs. 8a): We need to be completely free to serve YHWH fully, so we are answerable to Him and Him alone. But if we have debt, then we are answerable to whoever holds that debt; we are literally enslaved to them until the debt is paid (Romans 13:8a, Proverbs 22:7, Deuteronomy 15:6, Matthew 6:24).

Love your neighbour (vs. 9c): The ongoing debt to love one another is the only acceptable debt we can owe. If we love truly, we will not sin against each other, or God. "Love does not work evil against a neighbour; therefore love is the fulfillment of the Law" (Romans 13:8b-10, Matthew 7:12, John 13:34, Leviticus 19:18).

Put on Jesus Christ (vs. 14a): We are to clothe ourselves in Christ Jesus (Galatians 3:27) and His righteousness (Ephesians 4:24, 2 Corinthians 5:21, Job 29:14, Isaiah 61:10).

Walk as children of the light, making no provision for the flesh (vs. 12b, 14b): As the days grow darker, we need to be walking in the light all the more (1 John 1:5-7, John 8:12, 12:35-36, Isaiah 2:5, Psalm 56:13, Matthew 5:14-16), and not giving any room for the lusts of the flesh (Romans 8:1-8, Ephesians 4:27-5:1).

We need to clear all of our earthly debts so that we can be accountable to God alone, putting on Christ and walking in the light of God, and the righteousness of Christ, as an act of love for one another.

Discuss:

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Questions:

1. Why is it time for us to wake up?
2. What is the reason Paul gives for why we should be doing these things?

Answers:

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Prayer Focus

[illegible]

Prayer Focus

date:

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Day 50 – Genesis 28–31

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Therefore humble yourself under the mighty hand of God, that He might exalt you at the proper time, casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you. 1 Peter 5:6-7

Notes:

Memory Verse:

"Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go. And I will bring you back to this land: for I will not forsake you until I have done what I have promised you." Genesis 28:15

Daily Devotion

"...How fearsome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven." Genesis 28:17b

Jacob has left his father's house and set out on his journey. On the first night, he has a dream (Genesis 28:10-15). Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, *"Surely YHWH is in this place, and I did not know it"*. He was afraid and said, *"How fearsome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven"* (verses 16-17). Jacob awoke from the dream to the revelation of God's presence.

It's time for us to wake up to the revelation of who we are in Christ. Even as believers, too often we go about our days oblivious to that fact that the Spirit of the Living God dwells in us. That we carry the presence of the Creator of the universe with us, and that we have entry into the Most Holy Place at any time. We need to wake up and be able to look ourself in the mirror, place our hand on our chest and say, *"Surely YHWH is in this place and I did not know it"*. To allow the fear of YHWH to rise up in us as we say, *"How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven"*.

Prayer: Abba Father, open my eyes to the revelation of who I am in You. Help me to recognise that You are with me, that You will not leave me until You have done all that You promised. That You are in me, and I am Your dwelling place, and that I am an access point into the heavenly realms. Amen.

Bible Study

An Accounting of Actions:

Jacob has left his father-in-law's house secretly out of fear for his safety, and that Laban may once again try to cheat him. But Laban, with all his kinsmen, has pursued him for seven days and has finally overtaken him.

God warns Laban to be careful of what he says to Jacob but he still accuses Jacob of being foolish and stealing his children from him, as well as his household gods. Jacob submits to the search of all his belongings but when Laban comes up empty handed, he becomes angry and defends himself, and all of his actions for the last twenty years.

In Genesis 31:36-42, we read Jacob's accounting to Laban and his calling Laban to account. That Laban and his flocks have benefitted from the blessing that is upon his life, and that he has in no way defrauded Laban (verses 38-40); that in fact, Laban has tried to defraud him on multiple occasions (verse 41, Genesis 29:27-30, 31:6-8); and that if it wasn't for the fact that the God of his fathers was for him, Laban would have sent him away empty-handed (verse 42, Genesis 31:9-13). Because Jacob's actions while he was with his father-in-law were honest, and he is able to give an accounting of himself before his kinsmen and God, Laban is unable to answer Jacob but chooses rather to make a covenant with him there (Genesis 31:43-49).

Discuss:

Question:

1. In what way are Jacob's actions towards Laban an example of Jesus' admonition to be as wise as a serpent and as innocent as a dove (Matthew 10:16)?
2. How does God hold Laban accountable for his actions toward Jacob?

Answer:

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date:

Prayer Focus

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Prayer Focus

date: _____

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Day 51 – Judges 12–16

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*Not until we take the place of a servant
can He take His place as LORD.
Watchman free*

Notes:

Memory Verse:

'Then the angel of YHWH appeared to the woman and said to her, 'Behold now, you are barren and have borne no children, but you shall be with child and give birth to a son. So now, be careful not to drink wine or strong drink, nor eat any unclean thing. For behold, you shall be with child and give birth to a son, and no razor shall come upon his head, for the boy shall be a Nazarite to God from the womb and he shall begin to save Israel from the hand of the Philistines.' Judges 13:3-5

Daily Devotion

"Then Manoah entreated YHWH and said, "O Lord, please let the man of God whom You have sent come to us again that he may instruct us what to do for the boy who is to be born. " Judges 13:8

Manoah's response to his wife's news that an angel has appeared to her is interesting; he believes that she has indeed received a message from God and that she will bear a child. But he doesn't believe that it was an angel that spoke to her, and he needs to hear for himself the instructions that were given to her. I love that God's response to his prayer is to appear to her again, and when she goes to fetch him and he asks for instructions, the reply is, "...Let the woman be careful in all that I said" (Judges 13:13b).

We never learn the woman's name, but it is evident that she is a woman of faith and wisdom, who knew God in a way her husband did not. She never doubted the word that she received or the One who spoke to her, but for Manoah, God repeated all that he'd spoken to his wife, performed signs and wonders and spoke great things to them. Then He ascended in a pillar of fire and Manoah finally realises that this was YHWH.

I love the lengths that God goes to to build up Manoah's faith. God answered Manoah's prayer but not in the way he expected. In answering his question, He first validates Manoah's wife in His presence, but then He gives Manoah what he needs to be able to believe. He meets them both where they are at.

Prayer: Abba Father, I thank You that You know each one of us better than we know ourselves. Thank You that You meet us where we are but You don't leave us there, You give us what we need to grow in our faith and our relationship with You. Amen.

Bible Study

An Accounting of a Life:

When looking at this reading, I was struggling to find anything for this Bible study because, to my mind, there is very little that is redeemable about Samson. He seems like a petulant baby of a man, whose first response in any situation is to resort to violence, not to mention his poor taste in women. And yet, this is the man that God raised up to be judge over Israel at that time. This was the man that was needed to begin to deliver Israel from the Philistines. Sometimes the man or woman that God raises up to achieve His goals is not the one we would choose; they may be objectionable to us; they may stir up trouble, or they may live a lifestyle that we don't approve of. But they are exactly the ones who will bring about the result that God intends.

In Judges 14-16, we read the account of Samson's life – of his being set aside to God from the womb. How the Spirit of YHWH would stir him up, and he would perform feats of super-human strength. We also read how he was drawn to all the wrong women. We see this first in Judges 14, where Samson sees a woman of Timnah, a daughter of the Philistines, and demands that his parents get her for him as a wife, because she looks good to him (Judges 14:1-3). And here we start to see God's purpose behind calling Samson to judge Israel (Judges 14:4). We then see a series of events where Samson's anger is stirred up against the Philistines, and he takes vengeance on them for their actions or insults toward him. This leads the Philistines to seek to find a way to destroy him.

Samson's life culminates with him in chains in a Philistine prison, with both his eyes gouged out and being used as entertainment for the Lords and Ladies of the Philistines. He calls on YHWH one last time in that place and asks that he might die with his enemies as he pushes over the building's supporting pillars that held up the roof – about 3,000 men and women of the Philistines died. In fact, we're told, "...So the dead whom he killed in his death were more than those whom he killed in his life" (Judges 16:30b).

The accounting of Samson's life was one life given to take the lives of thousands of the enemies of Israel.

Discuss:

Questions:

1. What appears to be the reason that God raised up Samson as a judge in Israel?

Answers:

[illegible]

date:

Prayer Focus

[illegible]

Prayer Focus

date: _____

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Day 52 – Psalms 21-23

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"But YHWH is in His holy temple. Let all the earth be silent before Him." Habakkuk 2:20

Notes:

Memory Verse:

'Yet You are holy, enthroned upon the praises of Israel. In You our fathers trusted: they trusted and You rescued them. To You they cried out and were granted escape: in You they trusted and were not disappointed.' Psalm 22:3-5

Daily Devotion

"Their seed will serve Him; it will be recounted about the LORD to the coming generation. " Psalm 22:30

What is it that we are passing on to the next generation? What is our testimony of the great works and goodness of God that we are passing on to our children and our children's children? Do we speak of the things of YHWH to the next generation? Do we pass on both His great works that He has done for us and the promises that He has given us?

I see this verse as both a command and a promise. Now we know that God fulfills all His promises, but are we fulfilling the command? I know that this is something that I have failed to do in the past - I've allowed the enemy to silence my voice when it comes to speaking about the things of YHWH with my children. That is something that is changing, by the grace of God.

Prayer: Abba Father, thank You for the next generation, and the generations to come. Thank You for the testimony of Your goodness and Your mighty works that I am able to share with them, and for Your promises to me and to Your people that I can pass on to them. Give me a voice to speak clearly from a place of compassion for them, and awe at the wonders You have performed on my behalf. Amen.

Bible Study

The Accounting of the Sacred Space:

*"You have given him his hearts desire, and You have not withheld the request of his lips.
Selah. " Psalm 21:2*

In Psalm 21:1-6, we read as David declares the goodness of God toward him, all the good that God has done for him, and the blessings he has received from God's hand. This is a theme that runs throughout the Psalms, and the reason for that outpouring of blessing and good things is also fairly consistent. It is because David delights himself in YHWH and in His presence; he knows YHWH and knows that YHWH delights in him (Psalm 21:6, 18:19, 91:14, 147:11).

YHWH blesses those He delights in and pours out good things upon them. He delights in those who take delight in Him, in His presence, and in His word. He delights in those who walk in His ways. The good things of YHWH come to those who delight in Him, not as something earned but because God delights to give good things to those He loves (Isaiah 62:4, Zephaniah 3:17, Micah 7:18, Numbers 14:8).

The currency of the kingdom of God is love, and the accounting is one of delight (Psalm 37:4-6).

Discuss:

Questions:

1. How does the accounting of the kingdom of God compare with that of the world?
2. How does this study change your understanding of Matthew 6:19-21 and Luke 12:33-34?

Answers:

[illegible]

date:

Prayer Focus

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Prayer Focus

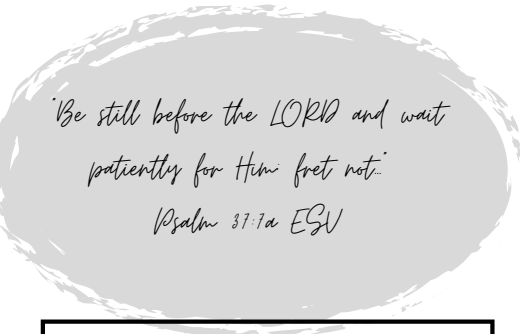
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Day 53 – Job 15-16

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Notes:

Memory Verse:

"I too could speak like you, if your soul was in the place of my soul. I could compose words against you and shake my head at you. I could encourage you with my mouth, and the solace of my lips could lessen your pain." Job 16:4-5

Daily Devotion

"Even now, behold, my witness is in heaven, and my advocate is on high." Job 16:19

Moses and Aaron and Samuel knew the voice of God. He spoke with them Job has been through emotional and financial torment, and is suffering physically in a way that is beyond our comprehension. Now he is also enduring the psychological torment of his friends' baseless accusations. He knows that all that he is going through can only have come upon him because God allowed it; that God is just, and a righteous Judge, even though he feels like his suffering is unjust. And yet he is able to say, "Even now, behold, my witness is in heaven, and my advocate is on high" (Job 16:19). He knows that when he stands before God he will be vindicated; Job's faith is steadfast despite his circumstances.

The steadfast love of YHWH never ceases. We know this because the word of God tells us so. Our response to His steadfast love, along with loving Him, needs to be our steadfast faith in Him.

Prayer: Abba Father, I thank You for the example of Job, for his steadfast faith in You despite all that he's going through. I want to know You so well that my faith in You remains steadfast whatever comes my way. Amen.

Bible Study

The Accounting of Words:

"Your own mouth condemns you and not I; and your own lips answer against you." Job 15:6

In Job 15, Eliphaz the Temanite responds to Job and takes him to account for his words (Job 15:1-6). But what he doesn't realise is that God will turn his words back on himself (Matthew 7:1-2).

Eliphaz is quite right - God does hold us to account for our words; not just the words spoken, but the heart from which they come forth (Matthew 12:34-36).

Eliphaz is judging Job based on what he is going through rather than on the evidence of his life; and because his words come from a judgmental heart, they become the measure by which he will be judged. His own words will condemn him; whereas by his own words, Job will be vindicated.

Dicuss:

Question:

1. Why are words so important in God's economy?

Answer:

[illegible]

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Prayer Focus

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Prayer Focus

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Day 54 – Isaiah 40–44

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O YHWH, in the morning, You will hear my voice in the morning I will order my prayer to You and eagerly watch.

Psalms 5:3

Notes:

Memory Verse

Thus says the God, YHWH. Who created the heavens and stretched them out. Who spread out the earth and its offspring. Who gives breath to the people on it and spirit to those who walk in it. I am YHWH. I have called You in righteousness. I will also take hold you by the hand and guard you, and I will give You as a covenant to the people, as a light to the nations, to open blind eyes, to bring out prisoners from the dungeon and those who inhabit darkness from the prison." Isaiah 42:5-7

Daily Devotion

"I, even I, am the one who wipes out your transgressions for My own sake, and I will not remember your sins." Isaiah 43:25

I don't know about you, but I've always thought about the forgiveness of God as being for my benefit, but this verse says that God wipes out our transgressions for His own sake. And this got me thinking about a saying that I've heard and used, "Forgiveness is not for the other person, forgiveness is for you". This means that forgiving someone else is not for their peace of mind or benefit, but so that you can stop reliving the transgression and move forward. I had never thought that God needed to forgive us for His own sake, so that He can move forward with us. The Scriptures do say that God cannot look upon sin; so for His own sake, He has wiped out our transgressions by the blood of His Son, so that He could move forward with us. Any benefits that we receive, as awesome as they are, are secondary to that. God's desire to be with us, and it is so great that He forgave our sins so that we could be with Him.

Prayer: Abba Father, thank You that although You wipe out my transgressions for Your own sake, I reap the benefits. It blows my mind that Your love for me is so great, that You have forgiven me just so that I can be with You. May I never take Your love for me for granted again. Amen.

Bible Study

God's Accounting of Himself:

"That they may see and know, and establish and gain insight as well, that the hand of YHWH has done this, and the Holy One of Israel has created it. "
Isaiah 41:20

In these passages from Isaiah, we see YHWH giving an account of Himself before His people Israel. He is also calling them to give an account of their idols and false gods that they have turned to. Why would YHWH do this, when truly He is accountable to no one but Himself? The answer lies in Isaiah 41:20 – YHWH gives an accounting of Himself, so that they might see and know; and establish and gain insight; that He is the One true and living God. He wants us to not just see Him, but to recognise Him; to not just consider Him, but to gain insight into who He is.

In Isaiah 40:18, he writes, *"To whom then will you liken God? Or what likeness will you compare with Him?"* God has given an accounting of Himself, and now He is calling on their idols; that the people of Israel have chosen to serve instead of Him, to give an accounting of themselves (Isaiah 41:21-24).

We can see something clearly and even describe it in detail, but it's not until we recognise it that a connection is established and "the light goes on" in our mind. In the same way, we can consider something indefinitely without gaining insight or understanding. It's not until that connection is made that things fall into place and we comprehend.

This is why God gives an accounting of Himself – He wants His people to see and recognise Him, and to gain insight into who He is. He wants them to connect with Him so that the "light will go on" in our hearts. He is saying to them, "Look at who I am, see Me and know Me, just as you are both seen and fully known" (1 Corinthians 13:12).

Discuss:

Question:

1. What motivates God to give an accounting of Himself?

Answer:

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Prayer Focus

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Prayer Focus

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Day 55 – Matthew 20–22

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*You will make known to me the path of life:
in Your presence is fullness of joy; in Your
right hand there are pleasures forever.*

Psalms 16:11

Notes:

Memory Verse:

"But Jesus called them to Himself and said, 'You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. It is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to be great among you shall be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave: just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.' Matthew 20:25-28

Daily Devotion

"And Jesus stopped and called them, and said, 'What do you want Me to do for you?'" Matthew 20:32

I am deaf in one ear, I have been since birth. The ear functions normally, there's just no connection between the ear and the brain. I have been prayed for by many, many people but only one of those people stopped and firstly, asked God about my deafness, and secondly, came and asked me what I wanted. When she asked YHWH about my deafness, His response was, "She has one ear for man and one ear for Me."; when she came and asked me what I wanted, my response was that I believed God would heal my deafness at the right time but until then, I had one ear just for God. How often do we, in our enthusiasm to see God heal, stop to ask Him for His thoughts on the subject? But if Jesus considered it necessary to stop and ask the question, how much more important is it for us?

Prayer: Abba Father, thank You that You are the God who heals as You are moved with compassion for us. When I feel led to pray for another person, before I open my mouth to pray, help me to stop and ask what You desire for that person, and also to ask them what they want You to do for them. Let my prayers come from a place of compassion, and not my own desire to see You move in power. Amen.

Bible Study

The Accounting of the Kingdom:

In Matthew 20:1-16, we read the account of a landowner who goes into the marketplace to hire workers. He hires people at different times throughout the day and when it's time to pay the workers for their labor, he pays those hired last first, and pays them the same amount as the workers he hired first had agreed to work for. The workers who were hired first were offended when they come to be paid and receive the same "paycheck" as those who only worked one hour.

What comes to mind when I think about this passage? That the accounting of the kingdom can appear unjust or unfair at first glance? That God doesn't care how hard you've worked, or how long? That He plays favourites?

No, what comes to mind is *"... for man looks at the outward appearance, but YHWH looks at the heart"* (1 Samuel 16:7c). Only the first workers to be hired had agreed to a defined wage (Matthew 20:2); all of the others came to work on the word of the land owner that he would pay them a fair wage (verses 4-5). And he was more than fair, giving each worker a day's wages no matter when they were hired. Those who had agreed to work for a specific wage received what they had agreed to, and those who had come to work based on trust received the same amount (verses 8-10). The laborers in this parable all wanted to work; they all waited in the marketplace until they were hired, and the landowner paid them based on their desire to work (verses 6-7).

Just as we attain righteousness by faith and not by works, the accounting of the kingdom of God is based on our heart's attitude towards God, not on our works.

Discuss:

Questions:

1. How have you seen the accounting of the kingdom of God at work in your life?
2. What other examples of kingdom accounting do we find in Scripture?

Answers:

[illegible]

date:

Prayer Focus

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Prayer Focus

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Day 56 – Romans 15–16

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*'Be glad in YHWH, you righteous ones,
and give thanks to His holy name.'*

Psalms 97:12

Notes:

Memory Verse

"Now may the God of perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus, so that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Romans 15:5-6

Daily Devotion

"Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Romans 15:13

I don't know about you, but this verse always makes me want to do a little happy dance! It makes me feel like a puppy let loose in a room full of balls!

There is so much exuberance and enthusiasm in this benediction from the apostle Paul. How often are we filled with ALL joy and peace in believing? I know that for me, it's not nearly often enough. I want to be SO filled with joy, peace and love that it spills over and sloshes on every one I come near. How often do you abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit? Again, for me, it's nowhere near enough. Hope is contagious, and I want to spread it around and "contaminate" as many people as possible.

Prayer: Abba Father, I ask You to fill me to overflowing with ALL joy and peace, so that I can ABOUND in hope by the power of Your Holy Spirit that dwells in me, who raised Jesus from the dead. Amen.

Bible Study

"That which has been is that which will be, and that which has been done is that which will be done. So there is nothing new under the sun. "
Ecclesiastes 1:9

"For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through the perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. " Romans 15:4

When we read Ecclesiastes 1:9, there is a melancholy sense about it; but when we read it together with Romans 15:4, it takes on a whole new meaning. There is nothing that you are going through or will encounter that has not happened before, and there is always something in the Scriptures that will help you through your particular situation. There are three elements in Romans 15:4 that I want to look at:

Perseverance: We've looked at perseverance before – it is a part of the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23) and a part of the exhortations we find in James 1:2-4 and Romans 5:3-5. Perseverance and endurance through trials works in us proven character, and equips us so that we can be perfect and complete and lacking nothing.

The encouragement of the Scriptures: To be encouraged by the Scriptures, we need to be reading them regularly and memorising them for recall when needed in the moment. We can't be encouraged by something we have no knowledge of and no interaction with. The very term, the encouragement of the Scriptures, indicates an intimacy with and love of the Scriptures, and that is what we need to cultivate (Psalms 119:16, Hebrews 4:12, 2 Timothy 3:16).

Hope: We did a series of Bible studies on hope recently, so I encourage you to look back to those studies. What I will say here is that hope does not disappoint. Whereas Solomon in the writing of Ecclesiastes seems to have lost hope, we can take courage from knowing that there is nothing new under the sun; that there is nothing we can go through that others haven't endured before. We can learn from their example and be encouraged by their stories in Scripture. And as we persevere and spend time in God's word, there is a work that is being done in us by the Word and the Spirit.

Discuss:

Questions:

1. Does Ecclesiastes 1:9 cause you to feel melancholy or hopeful?
2. When Paul talks about the Scriptures, what is he referring to?

Answers:

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Prayer Focus

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Day 57 – Genesis 32–35

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but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; and He who searches the heart knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. Romans 8:26-27

Notes:

Memory Verse:

'And Jacob said, 'O God of my father Abraham and God of my father Isaac. O YHWH, who said to me, 'Return to your land and to your kin and I will prosper you.' I am unworthy of all the lovingkindness and of all the faithfulness which you have shown to Your slave: for with my staff only I crossed this Jordan, and now I have become two camps.' Genesis 32:9-10

Daily Devotion

"Then God said to Jacob, 'Arise go up to Bethel and live there, and make an altar there to God...' " Genesis 35:1a

There are several elements to this command that God speaks to Abraham, and I want to break them down so that we can apply them to our own lives:

Arise: We are to recognise that we are not where God wants us to be (Philippians 1:6).

Go up to Bethel: Our direction is UP and our destination is Bethel, the house of God, for we, as living stones, are being built up into the house of God (1 Peter 2:4-5a, Ephesians 2:22, 1 Corinthians 6:19).

And live there: We are to live in the place of God's presence, the place of intimacy with Him, to live our lives with the awareness that the Spirit of the living God dwells in us (Romans 8:11).

Make an altar there to God: We are to make ourselves an altar to God and offer ourselves as a sacrifice (1 Peter 2:5b, Romans 12:1, 6:8-11).

I want to share with you a vision I once had while I was in prayer. In the vision, I saw people building altars of uncut stones, as described in Scripture. Then they lay themselves upon the altars and fire came down from heaven and consumed both the people and the altars. But as I watched, they arose from the flames and the people and the altars had become one; and they walked around, beings of living stone, ablaze with the fire of God.

"Now those who belong to Christ Jesus crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk in step with the Spirit." Galatians 5:24-25

Prayer: Abba Father, I thank You that You meet me where I am, but that You love me enough not to leave me there. Today I choose to stand and go up, as You do Your work building us up together, as living stones into the place of Your dwelling. Lord, I want to live there in that place of Your presence and I humble myself before You, and present myself a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to You, as my reasonable service of worship. Amen.

Bible Study

"That which has been is that which will be, and that which has been done is that which will be done. So there is nothing new under the sun"
Ecclesiastes 1:9

"So Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him, 'Put away the foreign gods which are among you, and cleanse yourselves and change your garments; and let us arise and go up to Bethel, and I will make an altar there to God, who answered me in the day of my distress and has been with me wherever I have gone.' " Genesis 35:2-3

Here we see Jacob has come full circle. He left his father's house with nothing but the clothes on his back and a staff, and has returned as two companies of people (Genesis 32:9-10). And God is bringing him back to the place where He spoke to Jacob on the first night of his journey. That first night Jacob used a stone for a pillow, and after he woke from the dream stood it up and poured oil on it for an offering to YHWH, and named the place where he had slept Bethel (the house of God). This time around he's going there deliberately, at the command of God, with the intention of building an altar to YHWH (Genesis 28:10-19, 35:1-3). When he first came to Bethel, he was in fear for his life, fleeing from his brother Esau; this time, the fear of YHWH is on all the cities of the land around them and no one pursues them (Genesis 27:41-43, 35:5). When he first left, it was with the blessing of his father and the blessing of Abraham given to him; this time, he receives the blessing of God Himself (Genesis 27:27-29, 28:1-4, 32:22-28, 35:9-12). What has been will be again, but sometimes it's different the next time around.

Discuss:

Questions:

1. Has YHWH ever brought you back to the same place, only it was different the next time around?
2. Where else in Scripture do we see an example of this?

Answers:

[illegible]

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Prayer Focus

[illegible]

Prayer Focus

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Day 58 – Judges 17–21

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*And the work of righteousness will be
peace, and the service of righteousness,
quietness and confidence forever.*

Isaiah 32:17

Notes:

Memory Verse:

Then all the sons of Israel from Dan to Beersheba, including the land of Gilead, came out, and the congregation assembled as one man to YHWH at Mizpah. Judges 20:1

Daily Devotion

"Then the five men went forth and came to Laish and saw the people who were in it living in security, after the manner of the Sidonians, quiet and secure; for there was no oppressive conqueror dishonoring them for anything in the land, and they were far from the Sidonians and had no dealings with anyone." Judges 18:7

Dan, the last tribe of Israel to claim their possession in the land, has sent out spies to search the land for their portion and they have come across the people of Laish. They are described as living in security, quiet and secure, without anyone ruling over them, far from their relatives and having no dealings with anyone. But the things they find comfort and security in are the very things that make them vulnerable. They are not prepared for war - they have no one to defend them and they have no one to call on for help.

Sometimes the things we find security and comfort in are the very things that make us vulnerable to the enemy. When we feel comfortable and secure, we can let our guard down and if we stay that way for too long, we can become unprepared to fight when the time comes. If we have no authority over us or no accountability to others, we can do as we please but we also don't have any covering or anyone to fight on our behalf. If we isolate ourselves, we won't have anyone rubbing us the wrong way or offending us, but we will also fail to grow spiritually and will not have the support network we need to be all that God has called us to be, or to support us in times of need.

The people of Laish did not survive. They were completely destroyed by the tribe of Dan (Judges 18:27-29). The enemy of your soul wants to keep you comfortable, without a covering or authority over you, and isolated from the rest of the body of Christ. Because then you will be both unfit for service in the kingdom of God and vulnerable to attack, without defence.

Prayer: Abba Father, stir me up from my place of comfort. Like David, I ask you to train my hands for battle and my arm to bend a bow of bronze. Give me a humble and teachable spirit so that I will submit myself to godly authority and be faithful to gather together with other believers to worship You and praise Your holy name. Amen.

Bible Study

"That which has been is that which will be, and that which has been done is that which will be done. So there is nothing new under the sun"
Ecclesiastes 1:9

"In those days there was no king in Israel; every man did what was right in his own eyes. " Judges 17:6, 18:1a, 19:1a, 21:25

Here in Judges, we see the people of Israel coming back to the same place over and over again – it definitely feels like, "Wash, Rinse, Repeat". They turn away from YHWH their God and go after foreign gods, He raises up one of their enemies to oppress them, they cry out to YHWH in their distress, and God raises up a judge to deliver them and teach them His ways.

But unlike with Jacob, the Israelites keep coming back to the same place. They haven't learned, they haven't grown, they haven't prospered. As soon as the judge passes away, they turn away from YHWH again. And we keep hearing the same refrain over and over, *"In those days there was no king in Israel; every man did what was right in his own eyes."*

YHWH, the God of their fathers, is supposed to be their King. They are a people set apart for Him but they have rejected Him and His rule over them and turned to other gods. They are without an earthly king because their society is supposed to be a theocracy. And so, they are like sheep without a shepherd, a ship without a captain or an anchor.

They keep repeating the same patterns without ever learning.

Discuss:

Questions:

1. Are there areas in your life that you seem to keep coming back to?
2. Is it different each time? Or do you, like the Israelites, seem to be going in circles around the issue?
3. How is the account in the book of Judges encouraging?

Answers:

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Prayer Focus

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Day 59 – Psalms 24–26

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*O YHWH. I love the habitation of Your
house and the place where Your glory
dwells.
Psalm 26:8*

Notes:

Memory Verse:

"Make me know Your ways, O YHWH: teach me Your paths. Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation for You I hope all the day." Psalms 25:4-5

Daily Devotion

"Who is the man who fears YHWH? He will instruct him in the way he should choose." Psalm 25:12

Throughout Scripture, we read that the fear of YHWH is the beginning of wisdom (Proverbs 1:7, 9:10, Deuteronomy 4:6, 6:24-25, Psalm 111:10, Job 28:28), but here we start to understand why that is. *"He [YHWH] will instruct him in the way he should choose" (Psalm 25:12b)*

So why is this just the start of wisdom?

Because this becomes a cyclical pattern of reverence and awe of YHWH; His instructing us in the way and our choosing to follow His instruction. Our reverence and awe of YHWH (Deuteronomy 10:12) causes Him to respond by instructing us in the way (Isaiah 30:21). Our choosing to obey those instructions from a place of reverence and awe (Deuteronomy 30:19-20) spur more instruction from YHWH, and so on... But if we choose not to follow, the "cycle" breaks and instructions will stop until we once again turn to Him in awe and reverence. This paradigm is also modeled in Moses' request to YHWH in Exodus 33:13a, *"So now, I pray You, if I have found favour in Your sight, let me know Your ways that I may know You, so that I might find favour in Your sight..."*

How YHWH responds to us is dependent on how we respond to Him.

Prayer: Abba Father, stir up in me a sense of awe and wonder at who You are and the great things You have done. Give me ears so tuned in to Your voice that I hear the quietest of instructions that You whisper to me, and a heart so soft toward You that I obey Your instructions without hesitation. I pray as Moses did, *"If I have found favour in Your sight, let me know Your ways that I may know You, so that I might find favour in Your sight"*. Amen.

Bible Study

"That which has been is that which will be, and that which has been done is that which will be done. So there is nothing new under the sun"
Ecclesiastes 1:9

"The earth is YHWH's, as well as its fullness, the the world, and those who dwell in it. " Psalm 24:1

There may be nothing new under the sun, but compared to our Creator God, the sun and stars and all the planets have barely been birthed. And we are but a breath (Psalm 39:5, James 4:14). To Him, all things are new and yet He delights in us (Psalm 37:23-24, 149:4, Micah 6:8).

Our faith and trust in God is based in part on the fact that He does not change (Malachi 3:6). He is the same yesterday, today and forever (Hebrews 13:8). From everlasting to everlasting, He is God (Psalm 90:1-2)! The unchanging character of God sustains us and gives us hope (James 1:17).

Discuss:

Question:

1. What is one unchanging thing about God that gives you hope?

Answer:

[illegible]

date:

Prayer Focus

[illegible]

Prayer Focus

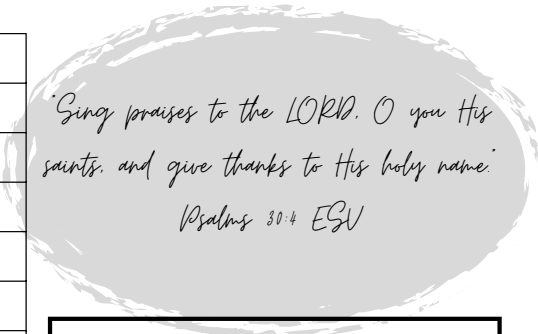
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Day 60 – Job 17-18

Daily Planner _____ day: _____

12 am		
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Notes:

Memory Verse:

"Nevertheless the righteous will hold to his way, and he who has clean hands will grow mightier and mightier." Job 17:9

Daily Devotion

"My days are past, my plans are torn apart, even the wishes of my heart. "
Job 17:11

Even the most righteous and godly people can come to the place where they can't see their way forward, where their future seems bleak and without hope. Earlier in Job, God Himself commends Job by saying, *"For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and an upright man, fearing God and turning away from evil"* (Job 1:8, 2:3). But here, Job is desiring death rather than to continue in His torment. Even Job, who there is none like him on the earth, can despair of a future and hope (Job 17:15-16). But only God knows what the future holds for us, and He says, *"For I know the plans I have for You, plans for peace and not for calamity, to give you a future and a hope"* (Jeremiah 29:11). Job was unaware of God's future plans for him and thought that his current situation would last until he died and went to be in the presence of YHWH. He knew that he would see death and thought it would be sooner rather than later, but he never lost sight of who God is and who he was in God. He exemplifies what Paul is describing in 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 - for though his affliction was by no means light, it was momentary.

Prayer: Abba Father, help me to keep my eyes fixed firmly on You even in the midst of affliction and trial, to remember that what I'm going through will come to an end, and that Your plans for me are peace and not for calamity, to give me a future and hope. I thank You for the weight of glory that affliction is producing in me as I look to You, the Author and Finisher of my faith. Amen

Bible Study

"That which has been is that which will be, and that which has been done is that which will be done. So there is nothing new under the sun."
Ecclesiastes 1:9

Job most certainly feels like what has been will be again, there is nothing new under the sun; that from now on, this is all he will know until he goes down to the grave. His pain and suffering seems endless and unchanging. And yet, he still calls on YHWH saying, *"Establish, now, a pledge for me with Yourself; Who is there that will clap my hand in pledge" (Job 17:3)?* This cry is echoed in Psalm 119:122 and Isaiah 38:14 – a cry by both David and Isaiah for YHWH to protect him from the arrogant accusations of his friends, to keep securely what is left of him, his integrity. Job also cries out to the only unchanging thing in his life, the One he knows is the same yesterday, today and forever. His faith and trust in YHWH is unwavering, even now.

Discuss:

Questions:

1. Have you ever been in the position where the only person you can call on is God, even though He seems to have removed His favor from you?
2. What is one question you would ask Job if you had the chance?

Answers:

[illegible]

date:

Prayer Focus

[illegible]

Prayer Focus

date:

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Day 61 – Isaiah 45–50

Daily Planner day:

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How can you know the voice of YHWH? He says of Himself 'I, YHWH, speak righteousness, declaring things that are upright.' Isaiah 45:11b

Notes:

Memory Verse:

'Hear Me, O house of Jacob, and all the remnant of the house of Israel, you who have been burdening Me from birth and have been carried from the womb; even to your old age I will be the same, and even to your graying years I will bear you! I have done it, and I will carry you, and I will bear you, and I will rescue you.' Isaiah 46:3-4

Daily Devotion

"Those who hope in Me will not be put to shame." Isaiah 49:23b

I love this verse, and it is one that is often quoted. But like many verses, it is rarely quoted in context with the rest of the verse, or the rest of the passage as a whole. It's important to know what it is you are patiently waiting on God for. Are you waiting on Him to fulfill the promises and prophecies in His Word? Are you waiting on Him to fulfill His personal promises to you? Are you waiting on Him to meet your daily needs? Are you waiting on Him to move in power on your behalf, or on behalf of someone you're praying for? Or are you waiting on God to bless your plans and the work of your own hands? If we read Isaiah 49:22-23, we see what it is that Israel is to be waiting hopefully for. These are very specific promises of God to His people, Israel. And if we go back further in the passage (to verse 14), we see the attitude of heart in His people, that God is responding to with these promises, and the verses that precede them. If we're waiting on God to bless our own plans or the work of our hands, but have not sought His face or consulted Him with regard to what we should do or how we should do it, then we could be waiting in vain. If we are waiting on Him to meet our daily needs or move in power on our behalf, we need to ask ourselves: Am I meeting the requirements for this promise to be fulfilled? Am I seeking first, before everything else, God's kingdom and His righteousness" (Matthew 6:33)? Am I submitting all my ways to Him, so that He can direct my path (Proverbs 3:6)? Some of the promises of God are conditional - if you do this, I will do that. Others, like the one in this verse, are based solely on the character of God and are for His names' sake.

These we can know, without a doubt, that He will fulfill them.

Prayer: Abba Father, my desire is to seek Your face, to submit my ways to You, and to seek first Your kingdom and righteousness; to know Your word and Your promises for Your people Israel, and for me, so that I can wait hopefully for You and not be put to shame. Amen.

Bible Study

"I have awakened him in righteousness, and I will make all his ways smooth; he will build My city and will let My exiles go, without any payment or reward, ' says YHWH of hosts (YHWH Tzava'ot). " Isaiah 45:13

God has raised up Cyrus the Persian for His own purposes: To defeat the Babylonian empire, to rebuild Jerusalem, and to let God's people go free (Isaiah 45:1-7). Of Cyrus God says, *"He is My anointed" (45:1)*, and *"I have awakened him in righteousness..." (Isaiah 45:13a)*. But God's predominant purpose for raising up Cyrus is so that His name will be glorified and His glory revealed (Isaiah 45:2-7).

In Exodus, we see another ruler that God raised up for the same purpose, but He treated him very differently. While God blesses Cyrus and raises him in righteousness, makes his way smooth and softens his heart toward God's people, in the beginning of Exodus, we see God harden Pharaoh's heart, put stumbling blocks in his way, and bring one curse after another upon him and his people (Exodus 9:16, Romans 9:17, Exodus 7: 3, 13-14) . ' In both cases, God's purpose was to display His glory and power as He set His people free; but He brought about that purpose in very different ways.

Discuss:

Questions:

1. What is the difference between Cyrus and Pharaoh?
2. How can this study be applied to your own life?

Answers:

[illegible]

date:

Prayer Focus

[illegible]

Prayer Focus

date: _____

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Month:

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday

Year:

Thursday	Friday	Saturday

My Focus:

Notes

[illegible]

The Week Of:

☐ Sunday

☐ Monday

☐ Tuesday

☐ Wednesday

☐ Thursday

☐ Friday

☐ Saturday

Notes

I Get To Do List

No.	To Do	Y/N	

The Week Of:

☐ Sunday

☐ Monday

☐ Tuesday

☐ Wednesday

☐ Thursday

☐ Friday

☐ Saturday

Notes

I Get To Do List

No.	To Do	Y/N	

The Week Of:

☐ Sunday

☐ Monday

☐ Tuesday

☐ Wednesday

☐ Thursday

☐ Friday

☐ Saturday

Notes

I Get To Do List

No.	To Do	Y/N	

The Week Of:

☐ Sunday

☐ Monday

☐ Tuesday

☐ Wednesday

☐ Thursday

☐ Friday

☐ Saturday

Notes

I Get To Do List

[illegible]

The Week Of:

☐ Sunday

☐ Monday

☐ Tuesday

☐ Wednesday

☐ Thursday

☐ Friday

☐ Saturday

Notes

I Get To Do List

No.	To Do	Y/N	



