

DRAW NEAR TO GOD book one

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GOD

*My Book Of Topical Scriptures
Book One*

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## INTRODUCTION

Many years ago I began collecting scripture from the Bible pertaining to a certain topic which the Lord led me to search out. As I studied each topic, I learned to know the author of the Bible, the Lord, better and better. I began to absorb into my heart and mind what the Lord thought and felt about certain things or topics I studied.

I kept these in a computer file which I could return to when I wanted to renew my understanding of the Lord regarding that thought. Slowly I added to it over many, many years.

Sometimes I even went to the Concordance and read through the portions of scriptures on a topic I was curious about that day, and even that was inspiring and encouraging to me.

Why? Because when I encounter the Lord's words, I encounter the Lord Himself.

THAT is what I was searching for - the encounter with the Lord and to connect with Him. When you connect with a person you usually connect through what he says.

As I did this I grew to love the Lord more and more and learned what He is like.

Now the Lord is guiding me to organize those topical scriptures into a book for others (you) to read through and learn about who He is, what He is like, what He thinks, and how He loves you - to help you connect with Him also.

I allow a section at the end of each topic where you can write the thoughts He gives you as you read on that topic. You may put your favorite scripture there, or another scripture that speaks to you on that topic.

All of this is to enable you to know the Lord better, to love Him more, and to grow closer in your own personal relationship with Him.

*Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. (James 4:8 RSV)*

I bless you as you read His word.

(Scriptures are from the NIV Bible unless otherwise indicated.)

## PAY ATTENTION AND KEEP MY WORDS

When I read the Word of God, I find it very helpful to personalize the words and make them fit me. I make them my confession and declaration about who I am, who God is, what He will do for me, etc. I will use the following scriptures (which I like to read and declare at the beginning of my daily quiet time with the Lord) as examples and write after each scripture what I might declare.

**My son, pay attention to what I say; turn your ear to my words. Do not let them out of your sight, keep them within your heart; for they are life to those who find them and health to one's whole body. (Proverbs 4:20-22)**

Lord, I am paying attention to what You say. I turn my ear to Your words. I keep them within my sight. I keep Your words within my heart. Your words are life to me and they are health to my whole body.

**So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. (Isaiah 41:10)**

I do not fear because You, Lord, are with me. I am not dismayed, because You, Lord, are my God. You will strengthen me. You will help me. You will uphold me with Your righteous right hand.

**Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. (John 14:27)**

Lord, You leave Your peace with me. You give Your peace to me. I accept Your peace and receive it from You. You do not give me peace as the world gives. I do not let my heart be troubled or afraid.

**"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you," declares the Lord. - Jeremiah 29:11-14**

Lord, You know the plans You have for me. They are plans to prosper me and not to harm me. Your plans give me hope and a future. Then I will call upon You and come and pray to You, and You will listen to me. I will seek You and find You when I seek You with all my heart. Lord, You will be found by me. You declare it. Thank You, Lord!

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**Blessed is the man who listens to me, watching daily at my doors,
waiting at my doorway. For whoever finds me finds life, and receives
favor from the Lord.**

THE LORD'S WORDS TO ME

Come away My beloved. Be still and know that I am God.

My son, pay attention to what I say; turn your ear to my words. Do not let them out of your sight, keep them within your heart; for they are life to those who find them and health to one's whole body. Blessed is the man who listens to me, watching daily at my doors, waiting at my doorway. For whoever finds me finds life, and receives favor from the Lord.

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

For I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.

You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you. Call to me and I will answer you and show you great and unsearchable things which you do not know. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

I am leaving you with a gift - peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid. What I have said, that will I bring about; what I have planned, that will I do.

I am going to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

Listen, I tell you a mystery: You will not all sleep, but you will all be changed - in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and you will be changed. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut.

Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth. Yes, I am coming soon. Come away, my beloved.

(Song of Solomon 8:14 Psalm 46:10 Proverbs 4:20-22 Proverbs 8:34 Isaiah 41:10 Jeremiah 29:11-14 Jeremiah 33:3 John 15:11 John 14:27 NLT Isaiah 46:11 John 14:2-3 1 Corinthians 15:51-52 Revelation 3:8 Revelation 3:10 Revelation 22:20 Song of Solomon 8:14)

MY WORDS TO THE LORD

Show me your ways, O Lord, teach me your paths. (Psalm 25:4)

My heart says of you, "Seek his face!" Your face, Lord, I will seek. (Psalm 27:8)

Teach me your way, O Lord; led me in a straight path. (Psalm 27:11)

According to your love remember me, for you are good, O Lord. (Psalm 25:7)

Those who know your name will trust in you, for you, Lord, have never forsaken those who seek you. (Psalm 9:10)

You make me glad by your deeds, O Lord; I sing for joy at the works of your hands. How great are your thoughts! (Psalm 92:4)

I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust. (Psalm 91:2)

I will stand at my watch and station myself on the ramparts; I will look to see what he will say to me. (Habakkuk 2:1)

The Sovereign Lord has given me an instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary. He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being taught. (Isaiah 50:4)

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on Thee because he trusts in Thee. (Isaiah 26:3 KJV)

One thing I ask of the Lord, this is what I seek; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord, and to seek him in his temple. (Psalm 27:4)

Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. (Psalm 23:6)

~ 1 ~

ABIDING

Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell (abide) in the house of the Lord forever. (Psalm 23:6)

One thing I ask of the Lord, this is what I seek: that I may dwell (abide) in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple. For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling; he will hide me in the shelter of his tabernacle and set me high upon a rock. Then my head will be exalted above the enemies who surround me. (Psalm 27:4-6)

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. (Psalm 91:1)

The fear of the Lord leads to life; and he who has it rests (abides) satisfied; he will not be visited by harm. (Proverbs 19:23)

And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever. (John 14:16)

Abide in me, and I in you. As a branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in me, and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If a man does not abide in me, he is cast forth as a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you. (John 15:4-7)

As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain (abide) in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain (abide) in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain (abide) in his love. (John 15:9-10)

~ 2 ~

ACKNOWLEDGE THE LORD

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. - Proverbs 3:5-6

And you, my son Solomon, acknowledge the God of your father, and serve him with wholehearted devotion and with a willing mind, for the Lord searches every heart and understands every motive behind the thoughts. - 1 Chronicles 28:9

Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before men, I will disown him before my Father in heaven. - Matthew 10:32-33

I tell you, whoever acknowledges me before men, the Son of Man will also acknowledge him before the angels of God. But he who disowns me before men will be disowned before the angels of God. - Luke 12:8-9

This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. -1 John 4:2-3

~ 3 ~

AGE OF GRACE

And surely I am with you always to the very end of the age. - Matthew 28:20

GRACE OF GOD AND JESUS CHRIST

For the Lord God is our sun and our shield. He gives us grace and glory. The Lord will withhold no good thing from those who do what is right. - Psalm 84:11 NLT

And the child [Jesus] grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon him. - Luke 2:40

John testifies concerning him. He cries out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'" From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. - John 1:15-17

I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me - the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace. - Acts 20:24

So too, at the present time there is a remnant chosen by grace. And if by grace, then it is no longer by works; if it were, grace would no longer be grace. - Romans 11:5-6

But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them - yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me. - 1 Corinthians 15:10

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich. - 2 Corinthians 8:9

But join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God, who has saved us and called us to a holy life - not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time. - 2 Timothy 1:9

God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. - 1 Peter 5:5

SALVATION THROUGH GRACE

We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are. - Acts 15:11

There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. - Romans 3:24

But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions - it is by grace you have been saved. - Ephesians 2:5

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast. - Ephesians 2:8-9

May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word. - 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. - Titus 3:7

Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. - 1 Peter 1:10-11

EFFECTS OF GRACE

We have done so not according to worldly wisdom but according to God's grace. For we do not write you anything you cannot read or understand. - 2 Corinthians 1:12-13

For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. - Titus 2:11

Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. - 1 Peter 4:10

For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace. - Romans 6:14

PRAYER FOR GRACE

The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you. - Romans 16:20

To Timothy my true son in the faith: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. - 1 Timothy 1:2

Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. - Hebrews 4:16

DANGER OF ABUSING GRACE

Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey - whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? - Romans 6:15-16

For certain men whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are godless men, who change the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord. - Jude 4

DANGER OF DEPARTING FROM GRACE

You who are trying to be justified by law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace. - Galatians 5:4

EXHORTATIONS CONCERNING GRACE

But join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God, who has saved us and called us to a holy life - not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time. - 2 Timothy 1:9

See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many. - Hebrews 12:15

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen. - 2 Peter 3:18

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ALL THAT THE FATHER GIVES ME WILL COME TO ME

All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. - John 6:37-39

No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day. - John 6:44

"The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life. Yet there are some of you who do not believe." For Jesus had known from the beginning which of them did not believe and who would betray him. He went on to say, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled him." - John 6:63-65

You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire....He who belongs to God hears what God says. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God. - John 8:44, 47

I am the good shepherd. I know my sheep and my sheep know me. - John 10:14, 27

For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will. - Ephesians 1:4-5

For it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose. - Philippians 2:13

God's solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: "The Lord knows those who are his." - 2 Timothy 2:19

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. - 1 Peter 2:9

For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession. - Deuteronomy 7:6

~ 5 ~

ANGELS

ANGELS ARE CREATED BY GOD

Praise him, all his angels, praise him, all his heavenly hosts... let them praise the name of the Lord, for he commanded and they were created. - Psalm 148:2, 5

For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. - Colossians 1:16

ANGELS ARE IMMORTAL

Those who are considered worthy of taking part in that age and in the resurrection from the dead... they can no longer die, for they are like the angels. - Luke 20:36

ANGELS ARE HOLY

When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory. - Matthew 25:31 KJV

ANGELS ARE POWERFUL

Praise the Lord, you his angels, you mighty ones who do his bidding, who obey his word. Praise the Lord, all his heavenly hosts, you his servants who do his will. - Psalm 103:20-21

ANGELS ARE ELECT

I charge you, in the sight of God and Christ Jesus and the elect angels, to keep these instructions without partiality, and to do nothing out of favoritism. - 1 Timothy 5:21

ANGELS ARE MEEK

But even the archangel Michael, when he was disputing with the devil about the body of Moses, did not dare to bring a slanderous accusation against him, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!" - Jude 9

ANGELS ARE INVISIBLE

The angel of the Lord stood in the road to oppose him... The donkey saw the angel of the Lord standing in the road... she turned off the road into a field. Balaam beat her...Then the Lord opened Balaam's eyes, and he saw the angel of the Lord standing in the road with his sword drawn. - Numbers 22:22-31

ANGELS POSSESS EMOTIONS

In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents. - Luke 15:10

ANGELS ARE CONCERNED IN HUMAN THINGS

Even angels long to look into these things. - 1 Peter 1:12

ANGELS ARE NOT PERFECT

If God places no trust in his servants, if he charges his angels with error, how much more those who live in houses of clay. - Job 4:18

ANGELS ARE ORGANIZED IN RANKS OR ORDERS

Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory." At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke. - Isaiah 6:2-4

For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. - Colossians 1:16

For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. - 1 Thessalonians 4:16

MINISTRY OF ANGELS IN CHRIST'S LIFE

After he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit." - Matthew 1:20

When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him."

After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child's life are dead." - Matthew 2:13, 19

But the angel said to them [shepherds], "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people." - Luke 2:10-12

Then the devil left him and angels came and attended him [in the wilderness]. - Matthew 4:11

Beyond all question, the mystery of godliness is great: He appeared in a body, was vindicated by the Spirit, was seen by angels, was preached among the nations, was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory. - 1 Timothy 3:16

An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. (Jesus in the garden) - Luke 22:43

An angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it...The angel said to the woman, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples." - Matthew 28:5-7

After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven." - Acts 1:9-11

ANGELS HAVE GREAT STRENGTH AND WISDOM

My lord has wisdom like that of an angel of God - he knows everything that happens in the land. - 2 Samuel 14:20

Praise the Lord, you his angels, you mighty ones who do his bidding, who obey his word. Praise the Lord, all his heavenly hosts, you his servants who do his will. - Psalm 103:20-21

He makes winds his messengers, flames of fire his servants. - Psalm 104:4

"THE ANGEL OF THE LORD" USUALLY IMPLIES THE PRESENCE
OF DEITY IN ANGELIC FORM

The angel of the Lord found Hagar near a spring in the desert. - Genesis 16:7

God heard the boy crying, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, "What is the matter, Hagar?" - Genesis 21:17

The angel of the Lord called out to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!" - Genesis 22:11

The angel of God said to me in the dream, "Jacob." I answered, "Here I am." - Genesis 31:11

There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. - Exodus 3:2

The angel of the Lord went up from Gilgal to Bokim and said, "I brought you up out of Egypt and led you into the land that I swore to give to your forefathers. - Judges 2:1

When the angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon, he said, "The Lord is with you, mighty warrior." - Judges 6:12

The angel of the Lord appeared to her and said, "You are sterile and childless, but you are going to conceive and have a son." - Judges 13:3

THE WORD ANGEL IS USED OF MEN OR SPIRITUAL BEINGS

The mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand and of the seven golden lampstands is this: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches. - Revelation 1:20

To the angel of the church of Ephesus write. - Revelation 2:1

SOMETIMES ANGEL IS USED OF THE SPIRIT OF MAN

When she recognized Peter's voice, she was so overjoyed she ran back without opening it and exclaimed, "Peter is at the door!"

"You are out of your mind," they told her. When she kept insisting that it was so, they said, "It must be his angel." - Acts 12:15

ANGELS ARE SPIRITS

**[The Lord] who maketh his angels spirits; his ministers a flaming fire. - Psalm 104:4
KJV**

**Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation? -
Hebrews 1:14**

POWER IS GIVEN ANGELS TO BECOME VISIBLE IN THE LIKENESS OF HUMAN FORM

**The two angels arrived at Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gateway
of the city. - Genesis 19:1**

**The angel of the Lord went up from Gilgal to Bokim and said, "I brought you up
out of Egypt and led you into the land that I swore to give to your forefathers." -
Judges 2:1**

**The angel of the Lord came and sat down under the oak in Ophrah... And the angel
of the Lord disappeared. When Gideon realized that it was the angel of the Lord, he
exclaimed, "Ah, Sovereign Lord! I have seen the angel of the Lord face to face." -
Judges 6:11, 22**

**David looked up and saw the angel of the Lord standing between heaven and earth,
with a drawn sword in his hand extended over Jerusalem. - 1 Chronicles 21:16, 20**

**After he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and
said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife,
because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit." - Matthew 1:20**

**In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a
virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph. The virgin's name was Mary.
- Luke 1:26**

**As she [Mary Magdalene] wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two
angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at
the foot. - John 20:12**

**After forty years had passed, an angel appeared to Moses in the flames of a burning
bush in the desert near Mount Sinai. - Acts 7:30**

Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him up. "Quick, get up!" he said, and the chains fell off Peter's wrists." ...The iron gate opened for them by itself, and they went through it. When they had walked the length of one street, suddenly the angel left him. - Acts 12:7-10

SEX IN THE HUMAN SENSE IS NEVER ASCRIBED TO ANGELS

At the resurrection people will neither marry nor be given in marriage; they will be like the angels in heaven. - Matthew 22:30

When the dead rise, they will neither marry nor be given in marriage; they will be like the angels in heaven. - Mark 12:25

ANGELS ARE EXCEEDINGLY NUMEROUS

The chariots of God are tens of thousands and thousands of thousands. - Psalm 68:17

Do you not think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels? (At that time a Roman legion comprised between 3,000 and 6,000 men.) - Matthew 26:53

But you have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. - Hebrews 12:22

Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. - Revelation 5:11

THE POWER OF ANGELS IS INCONCEIVABLE

That night the angel of the Lord went out and put to death a hundred and eighty-five thousand men in the Assyrian camp. - 2 Kings 19:35

ANGELS ARE ABOUT THE THRONE OF GOD

Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. - Revelation 5:11

All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God.
- Revelation 7:11

ANGELS ARE MINISTERING SPIRITS SENT TO SERVE THOSE WHO WILL
INHERIT SALVATION

The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and he delivers them. -
Psalm 34:7

For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone. -
Psalm 91:11-12

My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, O king. - Daniel 6:22

When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him."

After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child's life are dead." - Matthew 2:13, 19

During the night an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the jail and brought them out. - Acts 5:19

The night before Herod was to bring him to trial, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries stood guard at the entrance. Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him up. "Quick, get up!" he said, and the chains fell off Peter's wrists.

Then the angels said to him "Put on your clothes and sandals." And Peter did so. "Wrap your cloak around you and follow me," the angel told him. Peter followed him out of the prison, but he had no idea that what the angel was doing was really happening; he thought he was seeing a vision. They passed the first and second guards and came to the iron gate leading to the city. It opened for them by itself, and they went through it. When they had walked the length of one street, suddenly the angel left him. - Acts 12:7-10

THE ANGELS OBSERVE US

His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. - Ephesians 3:10

CHRIST TOOK "FOR A LITTLE WHILE" THE PLACE
A LITTLE LOWER THAN THE ANGELS

What is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him? You made him a little lower than the angels; you crowned him with glory and honor and put everything under his feet. - Hebrews 2:7

ANGELS ARE TO ACCOMPANY CHRIST IN HIS SECOND ADVENT

When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. - Matthew 25:31-32

TO ANGELS ARE COMMITTED THE PREPARATION OF THE JUDGMENT
OF INDIVIDUAL GENTILES AMONG THE NATIONS

The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels...The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. They will throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. - Matthew 13:39, 41-42

MICHAEL IS MENTIONED AS HAVING A PARTICULAR
RELATION TO ISRAEL

But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia... no one supports me against them except Michael. - Daniel 10:13, 21

At that time Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will arise. There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. But at that time your people - everyone whose name is found written in the book - will be delivered. - Daniel 12:1-2

But even the archangel Michael, when he was disputing with the devil about the body of Moses, did not dare to bring a slanderous accusation against him, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!" - Jude 9

GABRIEL IS EMPLOYED IN THE MOST
DISTINGUISHED SERVICES

While I, Daniel, was watching the vision and trying to understand it, there before me stood one who looked like a man. And I heard a man's voice from the Ulai calling, "Gabriel, tell this man the meaning of the vision." - Daniel 8:15-16

While I was still in prayer, Gabriel, the man I had seen in the earlier vision, came to me in swift flight about the time of the evening sacrifice. He instructed me and said to me, "Daniel, I have now come to give you insight and understanding." - Daniel 9:21-22

In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph. - Luke 1:26

FALLEN ANGELS ARE CHAINED IN DARKNESS
WAITING JUDGMENT

And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their own home - these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day. - Jude 6

For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them into gloomy dungeons to be held for judgment, if he did not spare the ancient world when he brought the flood on its ungodly people, but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven others, if he condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah by burning them to ashes, and made them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly, and if he rescued Lot, a righteous man, who was distressed by the filthy lives of lawless men...if this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue godly men from trials and to hold the unrighteous for the day of judgment, while continuing their punishment. - 2 Peter 2:4-9

Do you not know that we will judge angels? - 1 Corinthians 6:3

EVERLASTING FIRE IS PREPARED FOR SATAN AND HIS ANGELS

Then he will say to those on his left, "Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. - Matthew 25:41

And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever. - Revelation 20:10

~ 6 ~

APOSTOSY

Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day [day of the Lord] will not come, until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God.

And now you know what is holding him back, so that he may be revealed at the proper time. For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming.

The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders, and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness. - 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4, 6-12

1. Secret power of lawlessness is already at work
2. The one who holds it back will continue to do so
3. The one who holds it back will be taken out of the way
4. Rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed
5. He will set himself up as God to be worshiped
6. The Lord Jesus will overthrow him with the breath of his mouth

The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron. They forbid people to marry and order them to abstain from certain foods, which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and who know the truth. - 1 Timothy 4:1-3

But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God - having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them...always learning but never able to acknowledge the truth. - 2 Timothy 3:1-7

Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so also these men oppose the truth - men of depraved minds, who, as far as the faith is concerned, are rejected. But they

will not get very far because, as in the case of those men, their folly will be clear to everyone. - 2 Timothy 3:8-9

For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. - 2 Timothy 4:3-4

It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have shared in the Holy spirit, who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age, if they fall away, to be brought back to repentance, because to their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace.

Land that drinks in the rain often falling on it and that produces a crop useful to those for whom it is farmed receives the blessing of God. But land that produces thorns and thistles is worthless and is in danger of being cursed. In the end it will be burned. - Hebrews 6:4-8

If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God. Anyone who rejected the law of Moses died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. How much more severely do you think a man deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God under foot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified him, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace? For we know him who said, "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," and again, "The Lord will judge his people." It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. - Hebrews 10:26-31

But there were false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them - bringing swift destruction on themselves. Many will follow their shameful ways and will bring the way of truth into disrepute. - 2 Peter 2:1-2

For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them into gloomy dungeons to be held for judgment; if he did not spare the ancient world when he brought the flood on its ungodly people, but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven others; if he condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah by burning them to ashes, and made them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly; and if he rescued Lot, a righteous man, who was distressed by the filthy lives of lawless men...if this is so, the Lord knows how to rescue godly men from trials and to hold the unrighteous for the day of judgment, while continuing their punishment. - 2 Peter 2:4-9

If they have escaped the corruption of the world by knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and are again entangled in it and overcome, they are worse off at the

end than they were at the beginning. It would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than to have known it and then to turn their backs on the sacred command that was passed on to them. - 2 Peter 2:20-21

Do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world...

They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood. - 1 John 4:1-6

For certain men whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are godless men, who change the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord. - Jude 4

These men speak abusively against whatever they do not understand; and what things they do understand by instinct, like unreasoning animals - these are the very things that destroy them.

Woe to them! They have taken the way of Cain; they have rushed for profit into Balaam's error; they have been destroyed in Korah's rebellion.

These men are blemishes at your love feasts, eating with you without the slightest qualm - shepherds who feed only themselves. They are clouds without rain, blown along by the wind; autumn trees, without fruit and uprooted - twice dead. They are wild waves of the sea, foaming up their shame; wandering stars, for whom blackest darkness has been reserved forever. - Jude 10-13

In the last times there will be scoffers who will follow their own ungodly desires. These are the men who divide you, who follow mere natural instincts and do not have the Spirit. - Jude 18

I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm - neither hot nor cold - I am about to spit you out of my mouth. You say, "I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing." But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes. So you can see. - Revelation 3:15-18

~ 7 ~

APPEARANCES OF THE LORD

AT SINAI

Moses and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and the seventy elders of Israel went up and saw the God of Israel. Under his feet was something like a pavement made of sapphire, clear as the sky itself. But God did not raise his hand against these leaders of the Israelites; they saw God and they ate and drank. - Exodus 24:9-12

IN THE TABERNACLE

Then the cloud covered the Tent of Meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. Moses could not enter the Tent of Meeting because the cloud had settled upon it, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle.

In all the travels of the Israelites, whenever the cloud lifted from above the tabernacle, they would set out; but if the cloud did not lift, they did not set out - until the day it lifted. So the cloud of the Lord was over the tabernacle by day, and fire was in the cloud by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel during all their travels. - Exodus 40:34-38

IN THE TEMPLE

When the priests withdrew from the Holy Place, the cloud filled the temple of the Lord. And the priests could not perform their service because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled his temple. - 1 Kings 8:10-11

TO ABRAHAM

The Lord appeared to Abram, and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built an altar there to the Lord, who had appeared to him. - Genesis 12:7

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to him and said, "I am God Almighty; walk before me and be blameless." - Genesis 17:1

The Lord appeared to Abraham near the great trees of Mamre while he was sitting at the entrance to his tent in the heat of the day. - Genesis 18:1

TO ISAAC

The Lord appeared to Isaac and said, "Do not go down to Egypt; live in the land where I tell you to live. Stay in this land for a while, and I will be with you and will bless you. - Genesis 26:2-3

That night the Lord appeared to him (Isaac) and said, "I am the God of your father Abraham. Do not be afraid, for I am with you. I will bless you and will increase the number of your descendants for the sake of my servant Abraham." Isaac built an altar there and called on the name of the Lord. - Genesis 26:24-25

TO JACOB

Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Haran. When he reached a certain place, he stopped for the night because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones there, he put it under his head and lay down to sleep. He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. There above it stood the Lord, and he said: "I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of of Isaac." - Genesis 28:10-13

"The angel of God said to me in the dream, 'Jacob.' I answered, 'Here I am.' And he said, 'Look up and see that all the male goats mating with the flock are streaked, speckled or spotted, for I have seen all that Laban has been doing to you. I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed a pillar and where you made a vow to me. Now leave this land at once and go back to your native land.'" - Genesis 31:11, 13

Then God said to Jacob, "Go up to Bethel and settle there, and build an altar there to God who appeared to you when you were fleeing from your brother Esau." - Genesis 35:1

After Jacob returned from Paddan Aram, God appeared to him again and blessed him. God said to him, "Your name is Jacob, but you will no longer be called Jacob; your name will be Israel." - Genesis 35:9-10

TO MOSES

Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the desert and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. - Exodus 3:1-2

Go, assemble the elders of Israel and say to them, "The Lord, the God of your fathers - the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob - appeared to me and said: 'I have watched over you and have seen what has been done to you.'" - Exodus 3:16

When Moses went up on the mountain, the cloud covered it, and the glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai. For six days the cloud covered the mountain, and on the seventh day the Lord called to Moses from within the cloud. To the Israelites the glory of the Lord looked like a consuming fire on top of the mountain. Then Moses entered the cloud as he went on up the mountain. And he stayed on the mountain forty days and forty nights. - Exodus 24:15-18

TO ISRAEL

While Aaron was speaking to the whole Israelite community, they looked toward the desert and there was the glory of the Lord appearing in the cloud. The Lord said to Moses, "I have heard the grumbling of the Israelites. Tell them, 'At twilight you will eat meat, and in the morning you will be filled with bread. Then you will know that I am the Lord your God.'" - Exodus 16:10

The angel of the Lord went up from Gilgal to Bokim and said, "I brought you up out of Egypt and led you into the land that I swore to give to your forefathers." - Judges 2:1-5

TO JOSHUA

Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua went up to him and asked, "Are you for us or for our enemies?"

"Neither," he replied, "but as commander of the army of the Lord I have now come." Then Joshua fell facedown to the ground in reverence, and asked him, "What message does my Lord have for his servant?"

The commander of the Lord's army replied, "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy." And Joshua did so. - Joshua 5:13-15

IN MERCY SEAT

The Lord said to Moses: "Tell your brother Aaron not to come whenever he chooses into the Most Holy Place behind the curtain in front of the atonement cover on the ark, or else he will die, because I appear in the cloud over the atonement cover." - Leviticus 16:2

IN TABERNACLE

Then the glory of the Lord appeared at the Tent of Meeting to all the Israelites. The Lord said to Moses, "How long will these people treat me with contempt? How long

will they refuse to believe in me, in spite of all the miraculous signs I have performed among them?" - Numbers 14:10

TO GIDEON

The angel of the Lord came and sat down under the oak in Ophrah that belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, when his son Gideon was threshing wheat in a wine-press to keep it from the Midianites. When the angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon, he said, "The Lord is with you, mighty warrior." - Judges 6:11, 12

TO MANOAH

A certain man of Zorah, named Manoah, from the clan of the Danites, had a wife who was sterile and remained childless. The angel of the Lord appeared to her and said, "You are sterile and childless, but you are going to conceive and have a son."

God heard Manoah, and the angel of God came again to the woman while she was out in the field, but her husband Manoah was not with her. The woman hurried to tell her husband, "He's here! The man who appeared to me the other day!"

Manoah got up and followed his wife. When he came to the man, he said, "Are you the one who talked to my wife?"

"I am," he said. - Judges 13:2-3, 9-11

TO SAMUEL

The Lord continued to appear at Shiloh, and there he revealed himself to Samuel through his word. - 1 Samuel 3:21

TO DAVID

Then Solomon began to build the temple of the Lord in Jerusalem on Mount Moriah, where the Lord had appeared to his father David. - 2 Chronicles 3:1

TO SOLOMON

At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon during the night in a dream, and God said, "Ask for whatever you want me to give you."

Solomon answered, "You have shown great kindness to your servant, my father David, because he was faithful to you and righteous and upright in heart. You have continued this great kindness to him and have given him a son to sit on his throne this very day.

Now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David. But I am only a little child and do not know how to carry out my duties. Your servant is here among the people you have chosen, a great people, too numerous to count or number. So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?" - 1 Kings 3:5-9

TO ISAIAH

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory."

At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.

"Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty."

Then one of the seraphs flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. With it he touched my mouth and said, "See, this has touched your lip; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for."

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?"

And I said, "Here am I. Send me!" - Isaiah 6:1-9

TO JEREMIAH

The word of the Lord came to me, saying, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."

"Ah, sovereign Lord," I said, "I do not know how to speak; I am only a child."

But the Lord said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a child.' You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you," declared the Lord.

Then the Lord reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, "Now, I have put my words in your mouth. See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant." - Jeremiah 1:4-10

TO EZEKIEL

He took me there, and I saw a man whose appearance was like bronze; he was standing in the gateway with a linen cord and a measuring rod in his hand. The man said to me, "Son of man, look with your eyes and hear with your ears and pay attention to everything I am going to show you, for that is why you have been brought here. Tell the house of Israel everything you see." - Ezekiel 40:3

While the man was standing beside me, I heard someone speaking to me from inside the temple. He said, "Son of man, this is the place of my throne and the place for the soles of my feet. This is where I will live among the Israelites forever. - Ezekiel 43:6-7

TO DANIEL

While I, Daniel was watching the vision and trying to understand it, there before me stood one who looked like a man. And I heard a man's voice from the Ulai calling, "Gabriel, tell this man the meaning of the vision." As he came near the place where I was standing, I was terrified and fell prostrate. "Son of man," he said to me, "understand that the vision concerns the time of the end." - Daniel 8:15-17

I looked up and there before me was a man dressed in linen, with a belt of the finest gold around his waist. His body was like chrysolite, his face like lightning, his eyes like flaming torches, his arms and legs like the gleam of burnished bronze, and his voice like the sound of a multitude. - Daniel 10:5-6

Then the one who looked like a man touched my lips, and I opened my mouth and began to speak. I said to the one standing before me, "I am overcome with anguish because of the vision, my lord, and I am helpless. How can I, your servant, talk with you, my lord? My strength is gone and I can hardly breathe."

Again the one who looked like a man touched me and gave me strength. "Do not be afraid, O man highly esteemed," he said. "Peace! Be strong now; be strong."

When he spoke to me, I was strengthened and said, "Speak, my lord, since you have given me strength." - Daniel 10:16-19

TO PAUL

As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"

"Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked.

"I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do." - Acts 9:3-6

TO STEPHEN

But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." - Acts 7:55-56

TO JOHN

I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet, which said, "Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea."

I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, and among the lampstands was someone "like a son of man," dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. In his right hand he held seven stars, and out of his mouth came a sharp double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.

When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One. I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades." - Revelation 1:9-18

TO PETER, JAMES, AND JOHN

After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus. - Matthew 17:1-3

TO THE DISCIPLES

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." - John 20:19

A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" - John 20:26

TO EVERYONE

Look, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of him. So shall it be! Amen. "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty." - Revelation 1:7-8

OF CHRIST

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth....No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father's side, has made him known. - John 1:14, 18

AN APPOINTED TIME

Write down the revelation and make it plain on tablets so that a herald may run with it. For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay. - Habakkuk 1:2-5

And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this? - Esther 4:14

It is time for you to act, Lord. - Psalm 119:126

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens. A time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing, a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away, a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak, a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace. - Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

For there is a proper time and procedure for every matter. - Ecclesiastes 8:6

I am the Lord; in its time I will do this swiftly. - Isaiah 60:22

For it is time to seek the Lord, until he comes and showers righteousness on you. - Hosea 10:12

My time is not yet here; for you any time will do...I am not going up to this festival, because my time has not yet fully come. - John 7:6, 8

For this is how the promise was stated: "At the appointed time I will return, and Sarah will have a son." - Romans 9:9

For it is time for judgment to begin with the family of God. - 1 Peter 4:17

~ 9 ~

ASK

Your Father knows what you need before you ask him. - Matthew 6:8

Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. -Matthew 7:7-8

How much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him! - Matthew 7:11

If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer. - Matthew 21:22

I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it. - John 14:13-14

If you remain in me, and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. - John 15:7

Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete. - John 16:24

If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt. - James 1:5-6

You do not have, because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures. - James 4:2-3

We... receive from him anything we ask, because we obey his commands and do what pleases him. - 1 John 3:22

This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us - whatever we ask - we know that we have what we asked of him. - 1 John 5:14-15

SUMMARY

Your Father knows what you need before you ask

Ask and you will receive

If you believe you will receive what you ask for in prayer

Ask for anything in His name
Remain in Him and His words remain in us
Ask in Jesus' name
Must believe and not doubt
Ask with right motives
Obey his commands and do what pleases him
According to His will

ASSURANCE AND SECURITY

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. - Psalm 23:1

You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance. - Psalm 32:7

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye upon you. - Psalm 32:8

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. - Psalm 91:1

I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust." - Psalm 91:2

If you say, "The Lord is my refuge" and you make the Most High your dwelling, no harm will overtake you, no disaster will come near your tent. For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways. - Psalm 91:9-11

He will call on me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble. - Psalm 91:15

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will direct your paths. - Proverbs 3:5-6

The Lord will be your confidence and will keep your foot from being caught. - Proverbs 3:26

I instruct you in the way of wisdom and lead you along straight paths. When you walk, your steps will not be hampered; when you run, you will not stumble. - Proverbs 4:10-11

In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength. - Isaiah 30:15

The fruit of righteousness will be peace; the effect of righteousness will be quietness and confidence forever. - Isaiah 32:17

Nevertheless, I will bring health and healing to it; I will heal my people and will let them enjoy abundant peace and security. - Jeremiah 33:6

He has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all men by raising him from the dead. - Acts 17:31

And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus. - Philippians 4:19

Those who have served well gain an excellent standing and great assurance in their faith in Christ Jesus. - 1 Timothy 3:13

Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. - Hebrews 10:22

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. - Hebrews 11:1

This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us - whatever we ask - we know that we have what we asked of him. - 1 John 5:14

~ 11 ~

BAPTIZED

Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him [John the Baptist] in the Jordan River. - Matthew 3:6

I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. - Matthew 3:11

Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. - Matthew 28:19

And this was his message: "After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." - Mark 1:8

"You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said. "Can you drink the cup I drink or be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with?" - Mark 10:38

Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. - Mark 16:16

John answered them all, "I baptize you with water, but one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. - Luke 3:16

All the people, even the tax collectors, when they heard Jesus' words, acknowledged that God's way was right, because they had been baptized by John. But the Pharisees and experts in the law rejected God's purpose for themselves, because they had not been baptized by John. - Luke 7:29

Then John gave this testimony: "I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him. I would not have known him, except that the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is he who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.'" - John 1:32

Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit. - Acts 1:4-5

Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Christ there...But when they believed Philip as he preached the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women....When the

apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. When they arrived, they prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, because the Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them; they had simply been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. - Acts 8:5, 12, 14-17

As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit came on them as he had come on us at the beginning. Then I remembered what the Lord had said, "John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." - Acts 11:15-16

Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples and asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" They answered, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." So Paul asked, "Then what baptism did you receive?" "John's baptism," they replied. Paul said, "John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus." On hearing this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. - Acts 19:1-6

Then he said: "The God of our fathers has chosen you to know his will and to see the Righteous One and to hear words from his mouth. You will be his witness to all men of what you have seen and heard. And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name." - Acts 22:14-16

Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. - Romans 6:3

For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. - 1 Corinthians 10:1-2

For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body - whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free - and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. - 1 Corinthians 12:13

You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. - Galatians 3:26-27

~ 12 ~

BAPTISMS

BAPTISM OF CHRIST

At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased. - Mark 1:9-11

BAPTISM BY JOHN WITH WATER FOR REPENTANCE

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BAPTISM TO WASH AWAY SINS

Then he said: "The God of our fathers has chosen you to know his will and to see the Righteous One and to hear words from his mouth. You will be his witness to all men of what you have seen and heard. And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name." - Acts 22:14-16

BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit. - Acts 1:4-5

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. When they arrived, they prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, because the Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them; they had simply been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. - Acts 8:14-17)

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Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Christ there...But when they believed Philip as he preached the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women....When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. When they arrived, they prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, because the Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them; they had simply been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. - Acts 8:5, 12, 14-17

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John answered them all, "I baptize you with water, but one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. - Luke 3:16

Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. - Ephesians 5:18

BAPTISM INTO JESUS' DEATH AND RESURRECTION

Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. - Romans 6:3

BAPTIZED INTO MOSES

For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. - 1 Corinthians 10:1-2

BAPTIZED INTO ONE BODY

For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body - whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free - and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. - 1 Corinthians 12:13

BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST

You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. - Galatians 3:26-27

BAPTISM JESUS COMMANDED

Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. - Matthew 28:19

Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. - Mark 16:16

BE READY

Matthew 24:44

So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

Luke 12:35-40

Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, like men waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him. It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. I tell you the truth, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them. It will be good for those servants whose master finds them ready, even if he comes in the second [9 p.m. to midnight] or third [midnight to 3 a.m.] watch of the night. But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

Matthew 24:36, 39-42

No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father...That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left. Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.

Matthew 24:45-46

Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time? It will be good for that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns.

Matthew 25:1-13

At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. The wise, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

At midnight the cry rang out: "Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!"

Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out."

"No," they replied, "there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves."

But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut.

Later the others also came, "Sir! Sir!" they said. "Open the door for us!"

But he replied, "I tell you the truth, I don't know you."

Therefore, keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-2, 4, 6, 9-10

Now, brothers, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night...But you brothers, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief...So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be alert and self-controlled...For God did not appoint us to wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him.

Revelation 16:15

Behold, I come like a thief! Blessed is he who stays awake and keeps his clothes with him, so that he may not go naked and be shamefully exposed.

Revelation 22:12, 20

"Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done"...He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon."

~ 14 ~

BEING STILL

Be still and know that I am God. - Psalm 46:10

The Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth be silent before him. - Habakkuk 2:20

Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him. - Psalm 37:7

Be silent before the Sovereign Lord, for the day of the Lord is near. - Zephaniah 1:7

Be still before the Lord, all mankind, for he has roused himself from his holy dwelling. - Zechariah 2:13

Exodus 13:13-14

Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still.

Zechariah 2:13

Be still before the Lord, all mankind, because he has roused himself from his holy dwelling.

BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD

Matthew 13:35

So he fulfilled what was spoken through the prophet: "I will open my mouth in parables, I will utter things hidden since the creation of the world."

Acts 15:18 KJV

Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world.

Romans 16:25 KJV

Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began, but now is made manifest.

Ephesians 1:4

For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will.

Ephesians 2:10

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Hebrews 4:3

And yet his work has been finished since the creation of the world.

1 Peter 1:20

He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake.

Revelation 3:14

All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast - all whose names have not been written in the book of life belonging to the Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world.

The inhabitants of the earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the creation of the world will be astonished when they see the beast, because he once was, now is not, and yet will come. (Revelation 17:8)

~ 16 ~

BEING HOLY

Exodus 3:5

"Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground."

Exodus 20:8

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

Leviticus 11:44-45

I am the Lord your God; consecrate yourselves and be holy, because I am holy...I am the Lord who brought you up out of Egypt to be your God; therefore be holy, because I am holy.

Leviticus 20:7

Consecrate yourselves and be holy, because I am the Lord your God.

Leviticus 20:26

You are to be holy to me because I, the Lord, am holy, and I have set you apart from the nations to be my own.

Deuteronomy 7:6

For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession.

1 Samuel 2:2

There is no one holy like the Lord; there is no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God.

Psalms 30:4

Sing the praises of the Lord, you his faithful people; praise his holy name.

Isaiah 6:3

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.

Isaiah 35:8

And a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness; it will be for those who walk on that Way.

Zechariah 14:5

Then the Lord my God will come, and all the holy ones with him.

Romans 12:1

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God - this is your true and proper worship.

Ephesians 1:4

For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.

1 Peter 1:15-16

But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do, for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."

Revelation 4:8

Day and night they never stop saying: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come."

~ 17 ~

BEING PERFECT

Psalm 18:30

As for God, his way is perfect.

Matthew 5:48

Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Matthew 19:21

Jesus answered, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

Romans 12:2

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - his good, pleasing and perfect will.

1 Corinthians 13:10

For our knowledge is imperfect and our prophecy is imperfect; but when the perfect comes, the imperfect will pass away.

Colossians 1:28

We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ.

Philippians 3:12

Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.

Hebrews 10:14

For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.

James 1:4 KJV

But let patience have her perfect (complete) work, that ye may be perfect (mature) and entire (finished), wanting (lacking) nothing.

James 3:2

We all stumble in many ways. If anyone who is never at fault in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to keep his whole body in check.

~ 18 ~

BELIEVE

2 Chronicles 20:20

Believe in the Lord your God, and you will be established; believe his prophets, and you will succeed.

Psalm 27:13

I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living!

Isaiah 43:10

"You are my witnesses," declares the Lord, "and my servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he. Before me no god was formed, nor will there be one after me."

Matthew 9:28-29

When he had gone indoors, the blind men came to him, and he asked them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" "Yes, Lord," they replied. Then he touched their eyes and said, "According to your faith let it be done to you;" and their sight was restored.

Mark 1:14-15

Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"

Mark 5:36

Jesus told them, "Don't be afraid; just believe."

Mark 9:23-24

"If you can?" said Jesus. "Everything is possible for him who believes." Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!"

Mark 11:24

Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.

Luke 24:25

He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken!"

John 2:11 (NLT)

This miraculous sign at Cana in Galilee was the first time Jesus revealed his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

John 2:21 (NLT)

But when Jesus said "this temple," he meant his own body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered he had said this, and they believed both the Scriptures and what Jesus had said.

John 3:16 (NLT)

For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:18

Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

John 6:69

We believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.

John 11:40

Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?"

John 13:19

I am telling you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe that I am He.

John 14:1

Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me.

John 16: 30

Now we can see that you know all things and that you do not even need to have anyone ask you questions. This makes us believe that you came from God.

John 19:35

The man who saw it has given testimony, and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth, and he testifies so that you also may believe.

John 20:29

Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Acts 16: 31

They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household."

Acts 27:25

So take courage! For I believe God. It will be just as he said.

Romans 3:25

For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood. This sacrifice shows that God was being fair when he held back and did not punish those who sinned in times past, for he was looking ahead and including them in what he would do in this present time. God did this to demonstrate his righteousness, for he himself is fair and just, and he declares sinners to be right in his sight when they believe in Jesus.

Romans 10:9

If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved.

Romans 10:14

But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them?

Romans 14:23

But if you have doubts about whether or not you should eat something, you are sinning if you go ahead and do it. For you are not following your convictions. If you do anything you believe is not right, you are sinning.

Romans 16:26

Now to him who is able to establish you by my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all nations might believe and obey him—

1 Corinthians 1:21

Since God in his wisdom saw to it that the world would never know him through human wisdom, He has used our foolish preaching to save those who believe.

1 Corinthians 15:2

It is this Good News that saves you if you continue to believe the message I told you—unless, of course, you believed something that was never true in the first place. (or unless you never believed it in the first place)

Ephesians 2:8 (NLT)

God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so

none of us can boast about it. For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

1 Thessalonians 4:14

For since we believe that Jesus died and was raised to life again, we also believe that when Jesus returns, God will bring back with him the believers who have died.

Hebrews 11:6

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

1 John 5:10

Anyone who believes in the Son of God has this testimony in his heart. Anyone who does not believe God has made him out to be a liar, because he has not believed the testimony God has given about his Son.

~ 19 ~

BELIEVING VERSUS BORN AGAIN

BELIEVE

Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. (John 3:18)

I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life. (John 5:24)

If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. (Romans 10:9-10)

Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. (John 3:14)

BORN AGAIN

I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again. (John 3:3)

I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. (John 3:5)

Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. (John 3:6)

The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit. (John 3:8)

But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. (Titus 3:4-7)

He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created. (James 1:18)

For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. (1 Peter 1:23)

But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted. You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness. (Romans 6:17-18)

FRUITS OF

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! (2 Corinthians 5:17)

We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin - because anyone who has died has been freed from sin.

Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. The death he died, he died to sin once for all, but the life he lives, he lives to God.

In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. (Romans 6:4-11)

No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in him; he cannot go on sinning, because he has been born of God. This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not a child of God, nor is anyone who does not love his brother. (1 John 3:9, 10)

If you know that he is righteous, you know that everyone who does what is right has been born of him. (1 John 2:29)

For everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God. (1 John 5:4-5)

CHILDREN/BABES

Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly - mere infants in Christ. I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. (1 Corinthians 3:1-2)

In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil. (Hebrews 5:12-14)

Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good. (1 Peter 2:2)

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BLAMELESS

May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it. - 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

He [our Lord Jesus] will keep you strong to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful. - 1 Corinthians 1:8-9

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to him and said, "I am God Almighty; walk before me and be blameless." - Genesis 17:1

For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord bestows favor and honor; no good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless. - Psalm 84:11

Blessed are they whose ways are blameless, who walk according to the law of the Lord. Blessed are they who keep his statutes, and seek him with all their heart. - Psalm 119:1-2

Better a poor man whose walk is blameless than a fool whose lips are perverse. - Proverbs 19:1

Just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. - Ephesians 5:25-27

Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life. - Philippians 2:14-16

May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones. - 1 Thessalonians 3:13

So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him. - 2 Peter 3:14

BLESSED HOPE

IN THE AIR - BEFORE THE TRIBULATION

We wait for the blessed hope - the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good. (Titus 2:13-14)

In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go there and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. - John 14:2-3

After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven. " - Acts 1:9-11

He will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him. - Hebrews 9:28

For in just a very little while "He who is coming will come and will not delay." - Hebrews 10:37

You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. - James 5:8

The Lord knows how to rescue godly men from trials and to hold the unrighteous for the day of judgment. - 2 Peter 2:9

Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed - in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. - 1 Corinthians 15:51-52

We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive

and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. - 1 Thessalonians 4:14-17

But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body. - Philippians 3:20-21

I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth. - Revelation 3:10

TO THE EARTH - AFTER THE TRIBULATION

At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory. And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds from one end of the heavens to the other. - Matthew 24:30-31

No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. For in those days in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. - Matthew 24:36-39

When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. All the nations will be gathered before him and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. - Matthew 25:31-32

I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. He will rule them with an iron scepter. He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. - Revelation 19:11-16

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BLESSING FROM THE LORD -
THOSE WHO RECEIVE IT

THOSE CHOSEN BY GOD

Blessed are those you choose to bring near to live in your courts! - Psalm 65:4

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. - Ephesians 1:3, 4

THOSE CALLED BY GOD

Look to Abraham, your father, and to Sarah, who gave you birth. When I called him he was but one, and I blessed him and made him many. - Isaiah 51:2

Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb! - Revelation 19:9

THOSE CHASTENED BY GOD

Blessed is the man you discipline, O Lord, the man you teach from your law. - Psalm 94:12

THOSE WHO TAKE REFUGE IN GOD

Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him. - Psalm 34:8

THOSE WHO TRUST IN GOD

O Lord Almighty, blessed is the man who trusts in you. - Psalm 84:12

But blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. - Jeremiah 17:7

THOSE WHO FEAR THE LORD

Blessed are all who fear the Lord, who walk in his ways. - Psalm 128:1

Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who finds great delight in his commands. - Psalm 112:1

THOSE WHO ARE BLAMELESS

Blessed are they whose ways are blameless, who walk according to the law of the Lord. - Psalm 119:1

THOSE WHO HEAR AND OBEY

Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it. - Luke 11:28

Blessed are they who keep his statutes, and seek him with all their heart. - Psalm 119:2

Blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear. - Matthew 13:16

But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it - he will be blessed in what he does. - James 1:25

Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near. - Revelation 1:3

Behold, I am coming soon! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy in this book. - Revelation 22:7, 14

THOSE WHO KNOW

Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven." - Matthew 16:16, 17

THOSE WHO BELIEVE

Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished! - Luke 1:45

So those who have faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith. - Galatians 3:9

THOSE WHO SUFFER FOR CHRIST

Blessed are you when men hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man. - Luke 6:22

Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me. - Matthew 11:6

THOSE WHO PERSEVERE UNDER TRIAL

Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him. - James 1:12

THOSE WHO WATCH AGAINST SIN

Behold, I come like a thief! Blessed is he who stays awake and keeps his clothes with him, so that he may not go naked and be shamefully exposed. - Revelation 16:15

THOSE WHO REBUKE SINNERS

But it will go well with those who convict the guilty, and rich blessing will come upon them. - Proverbs 24:25

THOSE WHO DIE IN THE LORD

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on. - Revelation 14:13

THOSE UNDEFILED

Blessed are they whose ways are blameless, who walk according to the law of the Lord. - Psalm 119:1

THOSE PURE

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. - Matthew 5:8

THOSE JUST

Blessed are they who maintain justice, who constantly do what is right. - Psalm 106:3

THOSE RIGHTEOUS

Blessings crown the head of the righteous. - Proverbs 10:6

For surely, O Lord, you bless the righteous; you surround them with your favor as with a shield. - Psalm 5:12

CHILDREN OF THE JUST

His children will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed. - Psalm 112:2

The righteous man leads a blameless life; blessed are his children after him. - Proverbs 20:7

THOSE FAITHFUL

A faithful man will be richly blessed. - Proverbs 28:20

THOSE POOR IN SPIRIT

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. - Matthew 5:3

THOSE MEEK

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. - Matthew 5:5

THOSE MERCIFUL

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. - Matthew 5:7

THOSE WHO ARE PEACEMAKERS

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God. - Matthew 5:9

THOSE BOUNTIFUL

Give generously to him and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to. - Deuteronomy 15:10

Blessed is he who has regard for the weak; the Lord delivers him in times of trouble. - Psalm 41:1

A generous man will himself be blessed, for he shares his food with the poor. - Proverbs 22:9

But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous. - Luke 14:13, 14

THOSE WHOSE SINS ARE FORGIVEN

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord will never count against him. - Romans 4:7

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BLESSINGS AND PROSPERITY

Psalm 1:1, 3

Blessed is the man...whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.

Genesis 12:3

I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse.

Genesis 22:14

So Abraham called that place The Lord Will Provide (Jehovah Jirah). And to this day it is said, "On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided."

Genesis 22:17-18

I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.

Leviticus 26:9 TLB

I will look after you, and multiply you, and fulfill my covenant with you.

Deuteronomy 11:13-15

So if you faithfully obey the commands I am giving you today - to love the Lord your God and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul - then I will send rain on your land in its season, both autumn and spring rains, so that you may gather in your grain, new wine and oil. I will provide grass in the fields for your cattle, and you will eat and be satisfied.

Deuteronomy 12:7, 18b, 19

There (the place where God wants you to worship Him) in the presence of the Lord your God, you and your families shall eat and shall rejoice in everything you have put your hand to, because the Lord your God has blessed you....and you are to rejoice before the Lord your God in everything you put your hand to. Be careful not to neglect the Levites (who have no allotment or inheritance of their own) as long as you live in your land.

Deuteronomy 28:8

The Lord will send a blessing on your barns and on everything you put your hand to. The Lord your God will bless you in the land he is giving you.

Deuteronomy 28:12-13

The Lord will open the heavens, the storehouse of his bounty, to send rain on your land in season and to bless all the work of your hands. You will lend to many nations but will borrow from none. The Lord will make you the head, not the tail. If you pay attention to the commands of the Lord your God that I give you this day and carefully follow them, you will always be at the top, never at the bottom.

1 Kings 17:14-16

For this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: "The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the Lord gives rain on the land." She went away and did as Elijah had told her (THAT'S THE KEY!). (So there was food every day for Elijah and for the woman and her family. For the jar of flour was not used up and the jug of oil did not run dry, in keeping with the word of the Lord spoken by Elijah.

Job 8:5-7

But if you will look to God and plead with the Almighty, if you are pure and upright, even now he will rouse himself on your behalf and restore you to your rightful place. Your beginnings will seem humble, so prosperous will your future be.

Job 22:21-22, 25

Submit to God and be at peace with him; in this way prosperity will come to you. Accept instruction from his mouth and lay up his words in your heart.....the Almighty will be your gold , the choicest silver for you.

Job 22:28 KJV

Thou shalt also decree a thing, and it shall be established unto thee; and the light shall shine upon thy ways.

Job 22:28 NIV

What you decide on will be done, and light will shine on your ways.

Job 42:12

The Lord blessed the latter part of Job's life more than the first.

Psalm 5:12

Surely, O Lord, you bless the righteous; you surround them with your favor as with a shield.

Psalm 16:6

Lord, you have assigned me my portion and my cup; you have made my lot secure. The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; surely I have a delightful inheritance.

Psalm 23:1-3

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters; he restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Psalm 23:5-6

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and love shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Psalm 29:11

The Lord gives strength to his people; the Lord blesses his people with peace.

Psalm 34:9-10

Fear the Lord, you his saints, for those who fear him lack nothing. Those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.

Psalm 37:3-4

Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture. Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Psalm 37:25-26

I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread. They are always generous and lend freely; their children will be blessed.

Psalm 103:2-5

Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits--who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

Psalm 111:5

He provides food for those who fear him; he remembers his covenant forever.

Psalm 112:1, 3, 7

Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who finds great delight in his commands. Wealth and riches are in his house, and his righteousness endures forever. He will have no fear of bad news; his heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord. (Psalm 112:1, 3, 7)

Psalm 115:14

The Lord shall increase you more and more, you and your children.

Psalm 121:1-8

I lift up my eyes to the hills--where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. He will not let your foot slip--he who

watches over you will not slumber; indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord watches over you--the Lord is your shade at your right hand; the sun will not harm you by day nor the moon by night. The Lord will keep you from all harm--he will watch over your life; the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.

Psalm 128:1-2

Blessed are all who fear the Lord, who walk in his ways. You will eat the fruit of your labor; blessings and prosperity will be yours.

Psalm 132:15

I will bless her with abundant provisions; her poor will I satisfy with food.

Proverbs 2:1-8

My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you, turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding, and if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God. For the Lord gives wisdom, and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding. He holds victory in store for the upright, he is a shield to those whose walk is blameless, for he guards the course of the just and protects the way of his faithful ones.

Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will direct your paths.

Proverbs 3:24

Long life is in her (Wisdom's) right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor. Her ways are pleasant ways, and all her paths are peace. She is the tree of life to those who embrace her; those who lay hold of her will be blessed.

Proverbs 8:17-21

I love those who love me, and those who seek me find me. With me are riches and honor, enduring wealth and prosperity. My fruit is better than fine gold; what I yield surpasses choice silver. I walk in the way of righteousness, along the paths of justice, bestowing wealth on those who love me and making their treasuries full.

Proverbs 10:6

Blessings crown the head of the righteous.

Proverbs 10:22

The blessing of the Lord brings wealth, and he adds no trouble to it.

Proverbs 10:24

What the righteous desire will be granted.

Proverbs 11:5

The righteousness of the blameless makes a straight way for them.

Proverbs 11:18

He who sows righteousness reaps a sure reward.

Proverbs 12:2

A good man obtains favor of the Lord.

Proverbs 13:9, 21

The light of the righteous shines brightly. Prosperity is the reward of the righteous.

Proverbs 13:22

A good man leaves an inheritance for his children's children, but a sinner's wealth is stored up for the righteous.

Proverbs 15:6

The house of the righteous contains great treasure.

Proverbs 21:21

He who pursues righteousness and love finds life, prosperity and honor.

Proverbs 22:4

Humility and the fear of the Lord bring wealth and honor and life.

Proverbs 28:20

A faithful man shall abound with blessings.

Ecclesiastes 2:26

To the man who pleases him, God gives wisdom, knowledge and happiness, but to the sinner he gives the task of gathering and storing up wealth to hand it over to the one who pleases God.

Ecclesiastes 3:12-13

I know that there is nothing better for men than to be happy and do good while they live. That everyone may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all his toil--this is the gift of God.

Ecclesiastes 5:18-19

Then I realized that it is good and proper for a man to eat and drink, and to find satisfaction in his toilsome labor under the sun during the few days of life God has given him--for this is his lot. Moreover, when God gives any man wealth and possessions, and enables him to enjoy them, to accept his lot and be happy in his work--this is a gift of God. He seldom reflects on the days of his life, because God keeps him occupied with gladness of heart.

Isaiah 3:10

Tell the righteous it will be well with them, for they will enjoy the fruit of their deeds.

Isaiah 5:16-17

But the Lord Almighty will be exalted by his justice, and the holy God will show himself holy by his righteousness. Then sheep will graze as in their own pasture; lambs will feed among the ruins of the rich.

Isaiah 65:21-23

They will build houses and dwell in them; they will plant vineyards and eat their fruit. No longer will they build houses and others live in them, or plant and others eat. For as the days of a tree, so will be the days of my people; my chosen ones will long enjoy the works of their hands. They will not toil in vain or bear children doomed to misfortune; for they will be a people blessed by the Lord.

Joel 2:25

I will repay you for the years the locusts have eaten.

Matthew 6:25-27

Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food and the body more important than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?

Matthew 6:31-33

So do not worry, saying, "What shall we eat?" or "What shall we drink?" or "What shall we wear?" Your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Matthew 14:15-21

As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food."

Jesus replied, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat."

"We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish," they answered.

"Bring them here to me," he said. And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over.

The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Luke 6:38

Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

John 12:26

Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.

Romans 8:32

He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all--how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

Galatians 3:6-9

Consider Abraham: "He believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness." Understand, then, that those who believe are children of Abraham. The Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: "All nations will be blessed through you." So those who have faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

Philippians 4:12-13

I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength.

Philippians 4:19

And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.

1 Timothy 6:17

God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.

BLESSING THE LORD

Psalm 103:1-5 RSV

Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless his holy name! Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the Pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

1 Kings 8:56

Blessed be the Lord who has given rest to his people Israel, according to all that he promised; not one word has failed of all his good promise, which he uttered by Moses his servant.

1 Chronicles 16:36

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting!

2 Chronicles 20:26

On the fourth day they assembled in the Valley of Beracah (blessing), for there they blessed the Lord; therefore the name of that place has been called the Valley of Beracah to this day.

Nehemiah 9:5

Then the Levites...said, "Stand up and bless the Lord your God from everlasting to everlasting. Blessed be thy glorious name which is exalted above all blessing and praise."

Job 1:20-21

Then Job arose, and rent his robe, and shaved his head, and fell upon the ground, and worshiped. And he said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return; the Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord."

Psalm 34:1

I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

Psalm 66:8

Bless our God, O peoples, let the sound of his praise be heard, who has kept us among the living, and has not let our feet slip.

Psalm 66:20

Blessed be God, because he has not rejected my prayer or removed his steadfast love from me!

Daniel 2:19

Then the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision of the night. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven.

Daniel 2:20

Daniel said, "Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever, to whom belong wisdom and might. He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings, he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding; he reveals deep and mysterious things; he knows what is in the darkness, and the light dwells with him."

Matthew 21:9

And the crowds that went before him (Jesus) and that followed him shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!"

Mark 11:9

And those who went before and those who followed (Jesus) cried out, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that is coming! Hosanna in the highest."

Luke 1:64

And immediately his (Zechariah's) mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God.

Luke 1:67-68

And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying, "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people."

Luke 2:28

And it had been revealed to him (Simeon) that he should not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And inspired by the Spirit he came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the law, he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word; for mine eyes have seen thy salvation which thou has prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to thy people Israel."

Luke 13:35

(Jesus said) O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, killing the prophets and stoning those who are sent to you! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not! Behold, your house is forsaken. And I tell you, you will not see me until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!'"

~ 25 ~

BODY FORMATION

Job 10:8-11 NLT

You formed me with your hands, you made me, yet now you completely destroy me. Remember that you made me from dust - will you turn me back to dust so soon? You guided my conception and formed me in the womb. You clothed me with skin and flesh, and you knit my bones and sinews together.

Job 14:15

You will call and I will answer you; you will long for the creature your hands have made.

Job 31:15

Did not he who made me in the womb make them? Did not the same one form us both within our mothers?

Job 34:18-19

Is he not the One who...does not favor the rich over the poor, for they are all the work of his hands?

Psalms 119:73

Your hands made me and formed me; give me understanding to learn your commands.

Psalms 138:8

The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me; your love, O Lord, endures forever - do not abandon the works of your hands.

Psalms 139:13

You created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

Psalms 139:15-16 NLT

You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion, as I was woven together in the dark of the womb. You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed.

Proverbs 22:2

Rich and poor have this in common: The Lord is the Maker of them all.

Isaiah 29:16

You turn things upside down, as if the potter were thought to be like the clay! Shall what is formed say to him who formed it, "He did not make me"?

Isaiah 43:6-7

Bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the ends of the earth - everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.

Isaiah 45:9

Woe to him who quarrels with his Maker, to him who is but a potsherd among the potsherds on the ground. Does the clay say to the potter, "What are you making?"

Isaiah 45:11-12

This is what the Lord says - the Holy One of Israel, and its Maker: Concerning things to come, do you question me about my children, or give me orders about the work of my hands? It is I who made the earth and created mankind upon it.

Isaiah 60:21

Then will all your people be righteous and they will possess the land forever. They are the shoot I have planted, the work of my hands, for the display of my splendor.

Isaiah 61:3

They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendor.

Isaiah 64:8

Yet, O Lord, you are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand.

Malachi 2:10

Have we not all one Father? Did not one God create us?

Romans 9:20-21

But who are you, O man, to talk back to God? Shall what is formed say to him who formed it, "Why did you make me like this?" Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for noble purposes and some for common use?

Ephesians 2:10

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Ephesians 4:24

You were taught...to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

Hebrews 10:5

A body you prepared for me.

SCRIPTURES ON BODY FORMED BY GOD IN SECRET PLACE

Job 10:8-11 KJV

Thine hands have made me and fashioned me together round about; yet thou dost destroy me. Remember, I beseech thee, that thou hast made me as the clay...Thou hast clothed me with skin and flesh, and hast fenced me with bones and sinews.

Job 10:8-11 NIV

Your hands shaped me and made me. Will you now turn and destroy me? Remember that you molded me like clay. Did you not pour me out like milk and curdle me like cheese, clothe me with skin and flesh and knit me together with bones and sinews?

Job 10:8-11 RSV

Thy hands fashioned and made me; and now thou dost turn about and destroy me. Remember that thou has made me of clay; and wilt thou turn me to dust again? ... Thou didst clothe me with skin and flesh, and knit me together with bones and sinews.

Job 10:8-11 NLT

You formed me with your hands, you made me, yet now you completely destroy me. Remember that you made me from dust - will you turn me back to dust so soon? You guided my conception and formed me in the womb. You clothed me with skin and flesh, and you knit my bones and sinews together.



Psalm 139:15-18 NIV

My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

Psalm 139:15-16 KJV

My substance was not hid from thee when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being imperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them.

Psalm 139:15-16 RSV

My frame was not hidden from thee, when I was being made in secret, intricately wrought in the depths of the earth. Thy eyes beheld my unformed substance; in thy book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.

Psalm 139:15-16 NLT

You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion, as I was woven together in the dark of the womb. You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed.



Ecclesiastes 11:5 NIV

As you do not know the path of the wind or how the body is formed in a mother's womb, so you cannot understand the work of God, the Maker of all things.

Ecclesiastes 11:5 NLT

Just as you cannot understand the path of the wind or the mystery of a tiny baby growing in its mother's womb, so you cannot understand the activity of God, who does all things.

~ 26 ~

BOW DOWN BEFORE HIM

Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker; for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care. - Psalm 95:6-7

By myself I have sworn, my mouth has uttered in all integrity a word that will not be revoked: Before me every knee will bow; by me every tongue will swear. They will say of me, "In the Lord alone are righteousness and strength." - Isaiah 45:23-24

It is written: "'As surely as I live,' says the Lord, 'every knee shall bow before me; every tongue will confess to God.'" Romans 14:11

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. - Philippians 2:10

Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing: "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!" The four living creatures said, "Amen," and the elders fell down and worshiped. - Revelation 5:13-14

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BREAD

Then the Lord said to Moses, "I will rain down bread from heaven for you. The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day. In this way I will test them and see whether they will follow my instructions." - Exodus 16:4

He humbled you causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your fathers had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord. - Deuteronomy 8:3

Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. - Joshua 1:8

I have not departed from the commands of his lips; I have treasured the words of his mouth more than my daily bread. - Job 23:12

Yet he gave a command to the skies above and opened the doors of the heavens; he rained down manna for the people to eat, he gave them grain of heaven. Men ate the bread of angels; he sent them all the food they could eat. - Psalm 78:23-25

Give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread. Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you and say, "Who is the Lord?" Or I may become poor and steal, and so dishonor the name of my God." - Proverbs 30:8-9

Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and your soul will delight in the richest of fare. - Isaiah 55:2

The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" - Matthew 4:3-4

Give us today our daily bread. - Matthew 6:11

They asked him, "What will you do? Our forefathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written: 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'"

Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

"Sir," they said, "from now on give us this bread."

Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty." - John 6:31-35

I am the bread of life. Your forefathers ate the manna in the desert, yet they died. But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which a man may eat and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world - John 6:48-51

The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life. - John 6:63

BREAKING INTIMIDATION

(Psalm 91:1) He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

(Psalm 18:19) He also brought me out into a broad place; He delivered me because He delighted in me.

(Psalm 26:12) My foot stands in an even place; in the congregations I will bless the Lord.

(Matthew 28:18-20) Before he returned to his Father, Jesus declared, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

(Ephesians 1:19-20) What is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe...which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places.

(Ephesians 2:2, 6) And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins...and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

Behold, I give you the authority...over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you. (Luke 10:19)

Do not give place to the devil" (Ephesians 4:27)

Raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus" (Ephesians 2:6)

Far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body. (Ephesians 1:21-23).

(1 Peter 4:10) As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

(Ephesians 4:7) But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.

(Jude 24-25) Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, to God our Savior, Who alone is wise, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen.

~ 29 ~

CALAMITIES AND GOOD THINGS - BOTH MAY COME FROM THE LORD

Is it not from the mouth of the Most High that both calamities and good things come? - Lamentations 3:38

See, it is I who created the blacksmith who fans the coals into flame and forges a weapon fit for its work. And it is I who have created the destroyer to work havoc. - Isaiah 54:16

When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he had compassion and did not bring upon them the destruction he had threatened. - Jonah 3:10

Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel. If at any time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be uprooted, torn down and destroyed, and if that nation I warned repents of its evil, then I will relent and not inflict on it the disaster I had planned. And if at another time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be built up and planted, and if it does evil in my sight and does not obey me, then I will reconsider the good I had intended to do for it. - Jeremiah 18:8

"Just as I watched over them to uproot and tear down, and to overthrow, destroy and bring disaster, so I will watch over them to build and to plant," declares the Lord. - Jeremiah 31:28

This is what the Lord says: "As I have brought all this great calamity on this people, so I will give them all the prosperity I have promised them." - Jeremiah 32:42

Then the Lord relented and did not bring on his people the disaster he had threatened. - Exodus 32:14

He replied... "Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?" - Job 2:10

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CALL UPON THE LORD

Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know. - Jeremiah 33:3

Call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you will honor me. - Psalm 50:15

He will call upon me, and I will answer him. - Psalm 91:15

The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. He fulfills the desires of those who fear him; he hears their cry and saves them. - Psalm 145:18-19

Then you will call, and the Lord will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I. - Isaiah 58:9

Before they call I will answer; while they are still speaking I will hear. - Isaiah 65:24

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you," declares the Lord. - Jeremiah 29:11-14

You will pray to him, and he will hear you. - Job 22:27

Then I will purify the lips of the peoples, that all of them may call on the name of the Lord and serve him shoulder to shoulder. - Zephaniah 3:9

I am the Lord their God and I will answer them. - Zechariah 10:6

They will call on my name and I will answer them. - Zechariah 13:9

CALLING GOOD EVIL AND EVIL GOOD

Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter. - Isaiah 5:20

The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness! - Matthew 6:22-23

I am sending you [Paul] to them to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me." - Acts 26:17-18

This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God. - John 3:19-21

This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his son, purifies us from all sin. - 1 John 1:5

Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates his brother is still in the darkness. Whoever loves his brother lives in the light, and there is nothing in him to make him stumble. But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness; he does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded him. - 1 John 2:9-11

CALLING ON THE NAME OF THE LORD

Genesis 4:26

Seth also had a son, and he named him Enosh. At that time men began to call on the name of the Lord.

Genesis 12:8

From there he [Abram] went on toward the hills east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the Lord and called on the name of the Lord.

Genesis 13:3-4

From the Negev he went from place to place until he came to Bethel, to the place between Bethel and Ai where his tent had been earlier and where he had first built an altar. There Abram called on the name of the Lord.

Genesis 21:33

Abraham planted a tamarisk tree in Beersheba, and there he called upon the name of the Lord, the Eternal God.

Genesis 26:24-25

That night the Lord appeared to him [Isaac] and said, "I am the God of your father Abraham. Do not be afraid, for I am with you. I will bless you and will increase the number of your descendants for the sake of my servant Abraham." Isaac built an altar there and called on the name of the Lord.

1 Kings 18:24, 38-39

"Then you call on the name of your god, and I [Elijah] will call on the name of the Lord. The god who answers by fire - he is God"...Then the fire of the Lord fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the soil, and also licked up the water in the trench. When all the people saw this they fell prostrate and cried, "The Lord - he is God! The Lord - he is God!"

1 Chronicles 21:25-26

David built an altar to the Lord there and sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings. He called on the Lord, and the Lord answered him with fire from heaven on the altar of burnt offering.

Psalm 34:6

This poor man called, and the Lord heard him; he saved him out of all his troubles.

Psalm 105:1

Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done.

Psalm 145:18

The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.

Isaiah 55:6

Seek the Lord while he may be found; call on him while he is near.

Jeremiah 33:3

Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.

Joel 2:32

And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved; for on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there will be deliverance, as the Lord has said, among the survivors whom the Lord calls.

Romans 10:12

The same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

WE CANNOT UNDERSTAND THE WORK OF GOD

1 Samuel 16:7

The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.

Job 26:14

Who then can understand the thunder of his power?

Job 37:14

Listen to this, Job; stop and consider God's wonders. Do you know how God controls the clouds and makes his lightning flash? Do you know how the clouds hang poised, those wonders of him who is perfect in knowledge?

Job 42:3

Surely I spoke of things I did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know.

Psalms 40:5

Many, O Lord my God, are the wonders you have done. The things you planned for us no one can recount to you; were I to speak and tell of them, they would be too many to declare.

Psalms 104:24

How many are your works, O Lord! In wisdom you made them all.

Psalms 136:4

To him who alone does great wonders, His love endures forever.

Psalms 139:5-6

You hem me in - behind and before; you have laid your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.

Psalms 139:17-18

How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand.

Psalms 147:5

Great is our Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit.

Ecclesiastes 8:16-17

When I applied my mind to know wisdom and to observe man's labor on earth - his eyes not seeing sleep day or night - then I saw all that God has done. No one can comprehend what goes on under the sun. Despite all his efforts to search it out, man

cannot discover its meaning. Even if a wise man claims he knows, he cannot really comprehend it.

Ecclesiastes 11:5

As you do not know the path of the wind, or how the body is formed in a mother's womb, so you cannot understand the work of God, the Maker of all things.

Isaiah 40:13-14

Who has understood the mind of the Lord, or instructed him as his counselor? Whom did the Lord consult to enlighten him, and who taught him the right way? Who was it that taught him knowledge or showed him the path of understanding?

Isaiah 40:28

Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired and weary, and his understanding no one can fathom.

Isaiah 55:8-9

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."

Jeremiah 10:12

But God made the earth by his power; he founded the world by his wisdom and stretched out the heavens by his understanding.

Mark 4:11-12

The secret of the kingdom of God has been given to you. But to those on the outside everything is said in parables so that, "they may be ever seeing but never perceiving, and ever hearing but never understanding."

Romans 11:33-34

Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor!

1 Corinthians 2:10-12

The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way, no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.

1 Corinthians 2:14

The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.

1 Corinthians 2:16

For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct him?

Philippians 4:7

And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Hebrews 1:10

In the beginning, O Lord, you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment. You will roll them up like a robe; like a garment they will be changed. But you remain the same, and your years will never end.

~ 34 ~

A CANOPY WILL BE OVER ALL THE GLORY

In that day the Branch of the Lord will be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the land will be the pride and glory of the survivors in Israel. Those who are left in Zion, who remain in Jerusalem, will be called holy, all who are recorded among the living in Jerusalem... Then the Lord will create over all of Mount Zion and over those who assemble there a cloud of smoke by day and a glory of flaming fire by night; over all the glory will be a canopy. It will be a shelter and shade from the heat of the day; and a refuge and hiding place from the storm and rain. - Isaiah 4:2-3, 5-6

The moon will shine like the sun, and the sunlight will be seven times brighter, like the light of seven full days, when the Lord binds up the bruises of his people and heals the wounds he inflicted. - Isaiah 30:26

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CHILDREN

Deuteronomy 4:9

Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them slip from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them.

Deuteronomy 11:18-19

Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Write them on the doorframes on your houses and on your gates, so that your days and the days of your children may be many in the land that the Lord swore to give your forefathers, as many as the days that the heavens are above the earth.

Psalms 8:2

From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise because of your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger.

Proverbs 22:6

Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.

Matthew 18:1-4

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" He called a little child and had him stand among them. And he said: "I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven."

Matthew 18:5-6

Whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me. But if anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a large millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea.

Mark 10:14-16

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them.

Luke 10:21

At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure."

Romans 8:16

The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.

1 Corinthians 13:11

When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me.

1 John 3:1

How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!

1 John 3:2

Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

~ 36 ~

CHOSEN

You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit - fruit that will last. (John 15:16)

You do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. (John 15:19)

He chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. (Ephesians 1:4)

From the beginning God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth. (2 Thessalonians 2:13)

1 Peter 1:20

He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake.

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. (1 Peter 2:9)

Matthew 22:14

For many are invited, but few are chosen.

1 Peter 5:13

She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you her greetings, and so does my son Mark.

Revelation 17:14

They will make war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will overcome them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings - and with him will be his called, chosen, and faithful followers.

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CHRISTMAS

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this. (Isaiah 9:6-7)

In the sixth month God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendent of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end."

"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. For nothing is impossible with God."

"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her. (Luke 1:28-38)

Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished! (Luke 1:45)

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. (Luke 2:4-7)

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you. You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.” (Luke 2:8-14)

But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart. (Luke 2:19 KJV)

Simeon: “Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.” (Luke 2:29-32)

Simeon: “This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed.” (Luke 2:34-35)

And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon him. (Luke 2:40)

CITY OF GOD

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells. - Psalm 46:4

Great is the Lord, and most worthy of praise, in the city of our God, his holy mountain. It is beautiful in its loftiness, the joy of the whole earth. Like the utmost heights of Zaphon is Mount Zion, the city of the Great King. - Psalm 48:1-2

As we have heard, so have we seen in the city of the Lord Almighty, in the city of our God: God makes her secure forever. - Psalm 48:8

Glorious things are said of you, O city of God. - Psalm 87:3

In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. - John 14:2

For he [Abraham] was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. - Hebrews 11:10

Here we do not have an enduring city, but we are looking for the city that is to come. - Hebrews 13:14

I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. - Revelation 21:2

He carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like jasper, clear as crystal. It had a great, high wall with twelve gates and with twelve angels at the gates. - Revelation 21:10-12

The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. - Revelation 22:3-4

Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city. - Revelation 22:14

A CLEAN HEART AND RIGHT SPIRIT

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. (Psalm 51:10)

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. (Matthew 5:8)

But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does. (James 1:6-8)

This is the one I esteem: he who is humble and contrite in spirit, and trembles at my word. (Isaiah 66:2)

This is what the high and lofty One says - he who lives forever, whose name is holy: "I live in a high and holy place, but also with him who is contrite and lowly in spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite." (Isaiah 57:15)

The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him - the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. (Isaiah 11:2)

Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you. (James 4:7)

CLOUD OF GLORY and PILLAR OF CLOUD

Exodus 13:21

By day the Lord went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel by day or night. Neither the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night left its place in front of the people.

Exodus 14:19

Then the angel of God, who had been traveling in front of Israel's army, withdrew and went behind them. The pillar of cloud also moved from in front and stood behind them, coming between the armies of Egypt and Israel. Throughout the night the cloud brought darkness to the one side and light to the other side; so neither went near the other all night long.

Exodus 24:15-17

When Moses went up on the mountain, the cloud covered it, and the glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai. For six days the cloud covered the mountain, and on the seventh day the Lord called to Moses from within the cloud. To the Israelites the glory of the Lord looked like a consuming fire on top of the mountain.

Exodus 34:5

Then the Lord came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed his name, the Lord. And he passed in front of Moses.

Leviticus 16:2

The Lord said to Moses: "Tell your brother Aaron that he is not to come whenever he chooses into the Most Holy Place behind the curtain in front of the atonement cover on the ark, or else he will die. For I will appear in the cloud over the atonement cover.

Numbers 11:25

Then the Lord came down in the cloud and spoke with him, and he took some of the power of the Spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders. When the Spirit rested on them, they prophesied - but did not do so again.

Numbers 12:5

Then the Lord came down in a pillar of cloud; he stood at the entrance to the tent and summoned Aaron and Miriam.

1 Kings 8:10-12

When the priests withdrew from the Holy Place, the cloud filled the temple of the Lord. And the priests could not perform their service because of the cloud, for the

glory of the Lord filled his temple. Then Solomon said, "The Lord has said that he would dwell in a dark cloud."

Nehemiah 9:19

Because of your great compassion you did not abandon them in the wilderness. By day the pillar of cloud did not fail to guide them on their path, nor the pillar of fire by night to shine on the way they were to take.

Psalm 78:14

He guided them with the cloud by day and with light from the fire all night.

Psalm 105:39

He spread out a cloud as a covering, and a fire to give light at night.

Isaiah 19:1

See, the Lord rides on a swift cloud and is coming to Egypt.

Ezekiel 10:4

Then the glory of the Lord rose from above the cherubim and moved to the threshold of the temple. The cloud filled the temple, and the court was full of the radiance of the glory of the Lord.

Daniel 7:13-14

I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.

Matthew 17:5

While he was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!"

Matthew 24:30 KJV

And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven; and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

Luke 9:34

While he was speaking, a cloud appeared and enveloped them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. A voice came from the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him."

Luke 21:27

At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

1 Corinthians 10:1

For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea.

Hebrews 12:1

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles.

Revelation 14:14

I looked, and there before me was a white cloud, and seated on the cloud was one like a son of man with a crown of gold on his head and a sharp sickle in his hand.

COME AWAY, MY BELOVED

Come away, my beloved. (Song of Solomon 8:14)

Come, my lover, let us go to the countryside. (Song of Songs 7:11)

Come with me from Lebanon, my bride, come with me from Lebanon. (Song of Songs 4:8)

Arise, come, my darling; my beautiful one, come with me. (Song of Songs 2:13)

My lover spoke and said to me, "Arise, my darling, my beautiful one, and come with me." (Song of Solomon 2:10)

Come to me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. (Matthew 11:28)

"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." (Mark 1:17)

COME UNTO ME

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, 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)

Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me. (Revelation 3:20)

After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this." (Revelation 4:1-2)

Then the King will say to those on his right, "Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world." (Matthew 25:34)

"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." (Matthew 4:19)

I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (John 14:6)

If anyone would be my disciple, he must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. (Luke 9:23)

Jesus told him, "Follow me, and let the dead bury their dead." (Matthew 8:22)

As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him. (Matthew 9:9)

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." (Matthew 19:14)

Jesus answered, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." (Matthew 19:21)

Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his servants to those who

**had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come."
(Matthew 22:1-3)**

All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. (John 6:37)

Everyone who listens to the Father and learns from him comes to me. (John 6:45)

If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. (John 7:37)

He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. (John 10:3-4)

I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. (John 10:9)

I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice. John 10:16)

My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. (John 10:27)

Then Jesus told them, "You are going to have the light just a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, before darkness overtakes you. The man who walks in the dark does not know where he is going. Put your trust in the light while you have it, so that you may become sons of light." (John 12:35-36)

The Lord had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you." (Genesis 12:1-2)

"Come now, let us reason together," says the Lord. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are as red as crimson, they shall be like wool." (Isaiah 1:18)

"Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come buy wine and milk without money and without cost... Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and your soul will delight in the richest of fare." (Isaiah 55:1-2)

COMFORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT

2 Chronicles 15:7

But as for you, be strong and do not give up, for your work will be rewarded.

Nehemiah 8:10

The joy of the Lord is your strength.

Psalms 32:8

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you.

Psalms 33:18

But the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him, on those whose hope is in his unfailing love.

Psalms 50:15

Call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you will honor me.

Psalms 119:11

I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.

Psalms 119:105

Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.

Proverbs 2:6

For the Lord gives wisdom, and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.

Proverbs 2:7-8

He holds victory in store for the upright, he is a shield to those whose walk is blameless, for he guards the course of the just and protects the way of his faithful ones.

Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him and he will make your paths straight.

Proverbs 3:9

The light of the righteous shines brightly.

Proverbs 14:30

A heart at peace gives life to the body.

Ecclesiastes 5:19

When God gives any man wealth and possessions, and enables him to enjoy them, to accept his lot and be happy in his work--this is a gift of God.

Isaiah 26:3

You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you.

Isaiah 32:17

The fruit of righteousness will be peace; the effect of righteousness will be quietness and confidence forever.

Isaiah 40:29

He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.

Isaiah 40:31

Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Isaiah 54:17

No weapon forged against you will prevail, and you will refute every tongue that accuses you. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and this is their vindication from me.

John 14:27

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

Romans 5:3-4

We also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.

Galatians 5:22

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Galatians 6:9

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

Ephesians 2:14

For he himself is our peace.

Philippians 4:6-7

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which

transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Colossians 1:11 TLB

We are praying, too, that you will be filled with his mighty, glorious strength so that you can keep going no matter what happens - always full of the joy of the Lord.

Colossians 3:15

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

Philippians 4:6-7

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:19

And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 4:11-12

Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business and to work with your hands, just as we told you, so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.

2 Thessalonians 3:16

Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way.

1 Timothy 4:16

Keep a close watch on all you do and think. Stay true to what is right and God will bless you and use you to help others.

James 1:2-4

Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

James 5:7-8

Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near.

Hebrews 10:23

Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.

1 Peter 5:7

Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

Revelation 12:11

They overcame him by the blood of the lamb and by the word of their testimony.

COMMUNION

Matthew 26:26

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat, this is my body." Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it anew with you in my Father's kingdom."

Mark 14:22

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take it; this is my body." Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, and they all drank from it. "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many," he said to them. "I tell you the truth, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it anew in the kingdom of God."

Luke 22:19

And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you."

Acts 2:42

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

Acts 20:7

On the first day of the week we came together to break bread.

1 Corinthians 10:16

Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ?

1 Corinthians 10:21

You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons too; you cannot have a part in both the Lord's table and the table of demons.

1 Corinthians 11:23

For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the

same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

1 Corinthians 11:27-29

Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself. That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep. But if we judged ourselves, we would not come under judgment.

CONTENTMENT

Luke 3:14

Be content with your wages.

2 Corinthians 12:10 RSV

For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities; for when I am weak, then I am strong.

Philippians 4:11-13

I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength.

1 Timothy 6:6-8

Godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that.

Hebrews 13:5

Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."

COVENANT

**In my faithfulness I will reward them and make an everlasting covenant with them.
- Isaiah 61:8**

"There is a time coming," declares the Lord, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them," declares the Lord. - Jeremiah 31:31-32

"This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time," declares the Lord. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God and they will be my people. No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the Lord. "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more." - Jeremiah 31:33-34

I will make an everlasting covenant with them: I will never stop doing good to them, and I will inspire them to fear me, so that they will never turn away from me. - Jeremiah 32:40

"In those days, at that time," declares the Lord, "the people of Israel and the people of Judah together will go in tears to seek the Lord their God. They will ask the way to Zion and turn their faces toward it. They will come and bind themselves to the Lord in an everlasting covenant that will not be forgotten." - Jeremiah 50:4-5

Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins." - Matthew 26:28

This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you. - Luke 22:20

And this is my covenant with them when I take away their sins. - Romans 11:27

I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. - 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant - not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life. - 2 Corinthians 3:6

For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance - now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant. - Hebrews 9:15

You have come to... Jesus the mediator of a new covenant. - Hebrews 12:22, 24

May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. - Hebrews 13:20-21

I see from scriptures that this covenant is:

- Everlasting
- New
- Not like the covenant He made with their forefathers
- Put in their minds
- Written on their hearts
- All will know Him
- Forgive their wickedness
- Remember their sins no more
- Never stop doing good to them
- Inspire them to fear Him
- They will never turn away from Him
- It will not be forgotten
- He will be their God
- They will be His people
- It is by His blood
- It is for the forgiveness of sins
- The cup of communion is in remembrance of His blood
- You proclaim His death until He comes again when you drink the cup
- We are ministers of the new covenant
- Jesus is the mediator of the new covenant
- Through the covenant God brought back Jesus from the dead
- The covenant is eternal

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CROSS

Luke 9:23

Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.

Luke 9:27

And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

1 Corinthians 1:18

For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Galatians 6:14

May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

Philippians 2:8

And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death - even death on a cross!

Philippians 3:18

Many live as enemies of the cross of Christ

Colossians 2:13-14

He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross.

Colossians 2:15

And having disarmed the powers and authorities he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

Hebrews 12:1-2

Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

CROWNS

Revelation 3:11

I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown.

Revelation 14:14

I looked, and there before me was a white cloud, and seated on the cloud was one like a son of man with a crown of gold on his head and a sharp sickle in his hand.

CROWN OF RIGHTOUSNESS

2 Timothy 4:8

Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on the Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

CROWN OF LIFE

James 1:12

Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.

Revelation 2:10

Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life.

CROWN OF GLORY

1 Peter 5:2-4

Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.

CROWN THAT WILL LAST FOREVER

1 Corinthians 9:25

Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.

CROWN OF SPLENDOR

Isaiah 62:3

You will be a crown of splendor in the Lord's hand, a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

VICTOR'S CROWN

2 Timothy 2:5

Similarly, if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not receive the victor's crown unless he competes according to the rules.

GLORIOUS CROWN

Proverbs 4:9

She (wisdom) will give you a garland to grace your head and present you with a glorious crown.

Isaiah 28:5

In that day the Lord Almighty will be a glorious crown, a beautiful wreath for the remnant of his people.

CROWN OF BEAUTY

Isaiah 61:3

He has sent me to...bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes.

CROWNS OF THE TWENTY-FOUR ELDERS

Revelation 4:4

Surrounding the throne were twenty-four other thrones, and seated on them were twenty-four elders. They were dressed in white and had crowns of gold on their heads.

JESUS' CROWNS

John 19:2, 5

The soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head...When Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe, Pilate said to them, "Here is the man!"

Revelation 19:12

I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns.

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DANIEL 2:20-22

Daniel 2:20-22

Daniel said, "Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever, to whom belong wisdom and might. He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings, he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding; he reveals deep and mysterious things; he knows what is in the darkness, and the light dwells with him."

Has wisdom
Has might
Changes times
Changes seasons
Remove kings
Sets up kings
Gives wisdom to the wise
Gives knowledge to those who have understanding
Reveals deep things
Reveals mysterious things
Knows what is in the darkness
Light dwells with Him.

HAS WISDOM

But where can wisdom be found? Where does understanding come from? Man does not comprehend its worth; it cannot be found in the land of the living...It cannot be bought with the finest gold, nor can its price be weighed in silver... God understands the way to it and he alone knows where it dwells...The fear of the Lord - that is wisdom, and to shun evil is understanding. (Job 28:12-13, 15, 23, 28)

His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. - Ephesians 3:10

HAS MIGHT

Psalm 66:7

He rules forever by his power.

Jeremiah 51:15

He made the earth by his power; he founded the world by his wisdom and stretched out the heavens by his understanding.

Matthew 6:13

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Matthew 28:18

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority (power) in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

Luke 4:14

Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside.

Luke 4:32

They were astonished at his doctrine, for his word was with power.

Luke 4:36

All the people were amazed and said to each other, "What words these are! With authority and power he gives orders to impure spirits and they come out!"

Luke 6:19

And the people all tried to touch him, because power was coming from him and healing them all.

CHANGES TIMES

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens. A time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing, a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away, a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak, a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace.

For every matter has its time and way. - Ecclesiastes 8:6

But I trust in thee, O Lord, I say, "Thou art my God." My times are in thy hand. - Psalm 31:14-15 RSV

The word of the Lord came to me: "Son of man, behold, they of the house of Israel say, 'The vision that he sees is for many days hence, and he prophesies of times far off.' Therefore say to them, this says the Lord God: None of my words will be delayed any longer, but the word which I speak will be performed, says the Lord God." - Ezekiel 12:27 RSV

CHANGES SEASONS

**And God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark seasons and days and years, and let them be lights in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth." And it was so.
- Genesis 1:14**

REMOVES KINGS

By me kings reign, and rulers decree what is just; by me princes rule, and nobles govern the earth. - Proverbs 8:15-16 RSV

The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel?" 1 Samuel 16:1

**But I will not take the whole kingdom out of Solomon's hand; I have made him ruler all the days of his life for the sake of David my servant, whom I chose and who observed my commands and statutes. I will take the kingdom from his son's hands and give you ten tribes. I will give one tribe to his son so that David my servant may always have a lamp before me in Jerusalem, the city where I chose to put my Name.
- 1 Kings 11:34-36**

SETS UP KINGS

By me kings reign, and rulers decree what is just; by me princes rule, and nobles govern the earth. - Proverbs 8:15-16 RSV

When you enter the land the Lord your God is giving you and have taken possession of it and settled in it, and you say, "Let us set a king over us like all the nations around us," be sure to appoint over you the king the Lord your God chooses. He must be from among your own brothers. - Deuteronomy 17:14-15

When Samuel caught sight of Saul, the Lord said to him, "This is the man I spoke to you about; he will govern my people." - 1 Samuel 9:17

The Lord said to him [Elijah], "Go back the way you came, and go to the Desert of Damascus. When you get there, anoint Hazael king over Aram. Also, anoint Jehu son of Numshi king over Israel." - 1 Kings 19:15

Yet the Lord, the God of Israel, chose me from my whole family to be king over Israel forever. - 1 Chronicles 28:4

GIVES WISDOM TO THE WISE

Blessed is the man who finds wisdom, the man who gains understanding, for she is more profitable than silver and yields better returns than gold. She is more precious than rubies; nothing you desire can compare with her. Long life is in her right

hand; and in her left hand are riches and honor. Her ways are pleasant ways, and all her paths are peace. She is a tree of life to those who embrace her; those who lay hold of her will be blessed. (Proverbs 3:13-18)

Lay hold on my words with all your heart; keep my commands and you will live. Get wisdom, get understanding; do not forget my words or swerve from them. Do not forsake wisdom, and she will protect you; love her, and she will watch over you. Wisdom is supreme; therefore get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding. (Proverbs 4:4-7)

My son, pay attention to my wisdom, listen well to my words of insight, that you may maintain discretion and your lips may preserve knowledge. (Proverbs 5:1-2)

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding. - Psalm 111:10

GIVES KNOWLEDGE TO THOSE WHO HAVE UNDERSTANDING

My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you, turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding, and if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God. (Proverbs 2:1)

And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ - to the glory and praise of God. - Philippians 1:9-11

REVEALS DEEP THINGS

1 Corinthians 4:1

So then, men ought to regard us as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the secret things of God.

Matthew 13:11

The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them.

Mark 4:11

He told them, "The secret of the kingdom of God has been given to you. But to those on the outside everything is said in parables."

REVEALS MYSTERIOUS THINGS

My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. - Colossians 2:2-3

Romans 16:25-27

Now to him who is able to establish you by my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all nations might believe and obey him - to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen!

1 Corinthians 15:51-52

Listen, I tell you a mystery. We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed - in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.

Ephesians 1:9

And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment - to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ.

Ephesians 3:3-5

That is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to men in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets.

Ephesians 3:6

This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise of Christ Jesus.

KNOWS WHAT IS IN THE DARKNESS

Psalm 139:12

Even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you.

Isaiah 45:7

I form the light and create darkness, I bring prosperity and create disaster; I, the Lord, do all these things.

LIGHT DWELLS WITH HIM

Psalm 104:2

He wraps himself in light as with a garment

Psalm 76:4

You are resplendent with light, more majestic than mountains rich with game.

John 1:9

The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.

John 3:19-21

This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God.

John 8:12

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

John 12:35-36 NLT

Jesus replied, "My light will shine for you just a little longer. Walk in the light while you can, so the darkness will not overtake you. Those who walk in the darkness cannot see where they are going. Put your trust in the light while there is still time; then you will become children of the light."

1 John 1:5

This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.



**During the night God explained the secret to Daniel in a vision. Then Daniel praised the God of heaven. Daniel said: "Praise God forever and ever, because he has wisdom and power. He changes the times and seasons of the year. He takes away the power of kings and give their power to new kings. He gives wisdom to those who are wise and knowledge to those who understand. He makes known secrets that are deep and hidden; he knows what is hidden in darkness, and light is all around him."
- Daniel 2:19-22 NCV**

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DARKNESS

You are my lamp, O Lord; the Lord turns my darkness into light. - 2 Samuel 22:29

Daniel said, "Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever, to whom belong wisdom and might. He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings, he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding; he reveals deep and mysterious things; he knows what is in the darkness, and the light dwells with him." - Daniel 2:20-22

Even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you. - Psalm 139:12

Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter. - Isaiah 5:20

I form the light and create darkness, I bring prosperity and create disaster; I, the Lord, do all these things. - Isaiah 45:7

The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness! - Matthew 6:22-23

Your eye is the lamp of your body. When your eyes are good, your whole body also is full on light. But when they are bad, your body also is full of darkness. See to it, then, that the light within you is not darkness. Therefore, if your whole body is full of light, and not part of it dark, it will be completely lighted, as when the light of a lamp shines on you. - Luke 11:34-36

This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God. - John 3:19-21

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I [Lord] am sending you [Paul] to them to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me. - Acts 26:17-18

Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? - 2 Corinthians 6:14

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light. - Ephesians 5:8

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. - 1 Peter 2:9

This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his son, purifies us from all sin. - 1 John 1:5

Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates his brother is still in the darkness. Whoever loves his brother lives in the light, and there is nothing in him to make him stumble. But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness; he does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded him. - 1 John 2:9-11

(Continued in book two)