

ISSUE **05**

January – March 2021

LIGHT

Jesus: "I am the light of the world." (John 8:12)

**TRUE SATISFACTION
10 PRAYERS FOR 2021**

JOCHEBED

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CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP CENTRE

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BLESSED NEW YEAR

"But the land, whither ye go to possess it, is a land of hills and valleys, and drinketh water of the rain of heaven: A land which the LORD thy God careth for: the eyes of the LORD thy God are always upon it, from the beginning of the year even unto the end of the year." (Deut. 11:11,12)

This is the land of promise; to us it means Christ. If you are in this land, spiritually, wherever you may live and whatever your burdens may be, God's eyes will be upon you from the beginning of the year to the end of it. His grace, mercy and peace will be showered abundantly upon you and you will be given the strength you need to overcome all your trials. If you are a child of God you must claim His promises by faith, otherwise they will remain mere words.

The land of Canaan did not require any watering or artificial irrigation. It was a land that drank water of the rain of heaven (verse 11). When the children of Israel entered the land it was very fertile from one end to the other. The Lord Jesus Christ is an antitype of that land. In Him we have all sufficiency and we have no need to get troubled or anxious about anything, because He supplies all our needs, provided we know how to obey Him and bring all our needs to Him in prayer.

God had told the children of Israel very clearly, again and again, that He would bless them if they obeyed His commandments, and punish them if they went after other gods (vs 27,28 and ch. 6:13,14). The people knew that God

wanted them to love Him with all their heart, and with all their soul and with all their might; yet we see that again and again they went after strange gods either openly or secretly. Therefore, although they were actually in the promised land, they were not able to enjoy its fulness.

For us this means that unless we honour our Lord whole heartedly, and keep our hearts free from strange gods, we will not be able to understand and enjoy the fulness of the Lord Jesus Christ. When we love any person or any thing more than the Lord Jesus Christ, that person or thing becomes a strange god to us, and consequently we lose our joy and peace. Some may love their houses and their properties more than the Lord, and neglect their times of devotion, prayer, worship and service for the Lord. Others spend hours looking after their motor cars, cleaning and admiring them. Yet others worship their friends and relations and have so much desire to be popular with them that they will willingly cut short or cancel their times of prayer and attending of special meetings, and even Sunday worship. Many others have worldly friendships or even defiling friendships by which they fall into sin. Love of money may become a strange god too. Some people are not satisfied with what they

have and wish to increase their income by some means, and they have no time for private prayer or even family prayer and they completely neglect the House of God. Some wives keep gold and silver as their strange gods. For some people their radios (nowadays TV) are their strange gods, and thus lose even their desire for Bible reading and prayer and Sunday worship. They say that they get all they need through those programmes but ultimately they find themselves spiritually barren. Such strange gods are responsible for all your spiritual loss including the loss of your peace and joy.

God's Word says that if you will keep your hearts and homes free from strange gods, then His eyes will be upon you (Deut.11:12). In order to be sure that we begin the new year without any strange gods in our hearts, we have to spend much time examining our hearts. Thus we trust that the eyes of the Lord will be always upon us from the beginning of the year to the end of it.

Taken from:

“A word in Season to the Weary”
Daily meditations from the ministry of
Brother Bakht Singh
January 1



The Seven “Eternal” Things in Hebrews

A Priest for ever
Hebrews 5:6

Eternal Salvation
Hebrews 5:9

Eternal Judgment
Hebrews 6:2

Eternal Redemption
Hebrews 9:12

Eternal Spirit
Hebrews 9:14

Eternal Inheritance
Hebrews 9:15

Everlasting Covenant
Hebrews 13:20



**BUT ON THAT DAY YOU WILL BE
AMAZINGLY ABLE TO RISE DEFYING THE
LAWS OF GRAVITY. THIS IS CALLED THE
RAPTURE OF THE SAINTS.**

- HELP FROM ABOVE -

JOCHEBED

The Mother of 3 Prophets

I wish you a blessed New Year full of the choicest Blessings of the Lord. The Lord will give us special grace to enjoy His faithfulness and goodness in uncertain times such as this.

Please read the following three verses of scripture.

Exodus 2:1 & 2. "There went a man of the house of Levi, and took to wife a daughter of Levi. And the woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw him that he was goodly child, she hid him three months".

Numbers 26:59. "And the name of Amram's wife was Jochebed the daughter of Levi, whom her mother bore to Levi in Egypt; and she bore unto Amram, Aaron and Moses, Miriam, their sister".

Hebrews 11:23. "By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents, because they saw he was a proper child, and they were not afraid of the king's commandment".

I am sure that most of you know the name MOSES. He was a man chosen by God to do great things. He delivered Israel from slavery in Egypt. He received the Law and the Ten Commandments from God. He spoke to God face to face. To Him was given the pattern of the Tabernacle of God. Though we have learnt much about Moses the great man of God, we have not taken the time to think as to how he became a great man.

Every good building must have a strong foundation. When we see the building as a strong one, we should know that unseen to us there is a good foundation. It is the same with us human beings. We see a great character and should know that that character has been built on a good foundation. Very often it is the training that the person receives at home becomes the foundation. This was very much true of Moses. The good foundation in the life of Moses was laid by none other than his mother. Her name was JOCHEBED. This name is only found twice in the Bible. But her influence can be seen all over the Bible. She was a great woman from whom we can learn so much.

I would like to divide the study of this character under 4 headings.

1. **Jochebed the Woman of faith.**
2. **Jochebed the mother of 3 prophets.**
3. **Jochebed the co-labourer with God.**
4. **Jochebed the glory of Jehovah.**

Jochebed the Woman of faith

First thing we learn about this woman is that she belonged to the tribe of Levi. Levi is one of the 12 tribes of Israel. It is significant that she married also a Levite man. His name was Amram. It is written in Exodus 2:1. We may see this marriage as just a normal one. But you must see that she had married the right person chosen by God. This we say because that he also is included in the list of heroes of faith.

See in Hebrews 11:23: “By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his PARENTS”. Naturally the mother would want to hide the son. But here the father also was exercising faith together with the mother. Exodus 2:2 tells us that it was Jochebed who hid the child. But the husband fully supported this plan. In many families today, we do not see spiritual unity. Many young believers make hasty decisions to get married. They go by some outward attraction. Later they realize that they have made a mistake. Here is a message for our unmarried young girls. Please make sure that you marry a husband who could unite with you spiritually. Take time before you make up your mind. God’s plans cannot be accomplished through you if you marry the wrong person.

Secondly, we learn that she had a spiritual vision that other mothers did not have at that time. Three times it is recorded that she saw the child as goodly or fair. Exodus 2:2, Acts 7:20 and Hebrews 11:23. The word ‘fair’ in Acts 7:20 means ‘fair unto God’. It is very likely that Jochebed realized that this child was not like the other two children she had. They were Miriam and Aaron. They were older to Moses.

God can see the faith in your heart. She had faith that this child could be used of God to deliver Israel from Egyptian slavery. God says that it was “By Faith” she hid the child not fearing the wrath of the king. Faith is willing to take risks. Faith actually means to fully depend on God. Hiding the child, placing the child in a basket & leaving on the banks of the river and sending Miriam to keep watch were all done by faith. Hoping and believing that God will

do something extra-ordinary. This is where we fall short. We do not expect God to do something unusual. In times of trouble, all we know is to cry. Let us learn to trust God. Weeping and crying in times of trouble will not help anybody. As women of God we must have a strong character. We must learn to exercise faith.

Jochebed the mother of 3 prophets

We read of Miriam that she was a prophetess in Exodus 15:20; “And Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a timbrel in her hand;”. Then we read that Aaron was also a prophet in Exodus 7:1; “The Lord said unto Moses, See, I have made thee a god to Pharaoh and Aaron, thy brother, shall be thy prophet”. And in Deuteronomy 34:10 Moses is also called a prophet; “There arose not a prophet since in Israel like unto Moses”.

Now please think about this unique situation. We do not find such a thing commonly in the scriptures. We have one more reference in the New Testament about the 4 daughters of Phillip the evangelist who prophesied. That is Acts 21:9. Here is a message for all the mothers. Do you want your children to become prophets? In today’s context it is to become those who serve God in the ministry of the Word. We want our children to become great people doing good jobs. We take great pride in boasting about our children saying ‘he is an engineer, doctor or manager’. But do you wish that your children be involved in the ministry of the Word? Sunday school ministry, Youth ministry or Church ministry? Then you must train up your children in the proper way. That is

exactly what Jochebed had done. She gave the right spiritual foundation to her 3 children and they were greatly used by God. We know that Aaron later became also the first High Priest of Israel.

The Bible tells us that a mother should train up the children in the way that they should go. In Proverbs 22:6, you find that exhortation. Dear mothers, you must take the lead at home in having regular family prayer and Bible reading. The husband may be busy. The mother must teach the children how to trust in God. We should show by our example. We should not waste our time gossiping with others and doing useless things like making ourselves more beautiful. Let us show our fear of God in the family and the children will learn the same. Many mothers are crying today because their children are not walking with God. Let us do our part as trainers of children before it is too late. We need to train our children in Personal time of devotion, Family prayer and Church fellowship. We should also have a godly rule of the home. For an example, at home we should never speak evil of others. We should never criticize Church leaders and preachers in front of our children. Parents should never argue and fight in front of the children. If we do these things it might affect the faith of the children.

Jochebed the Co-labourer with God

We all know the story how she was given the opportunity by God to nurse Moses. He was actually to be killed because that was the king's decree. But God could do the impossible thing. When God honoured her faith and saved his life, God gave her the great

privilege of preparing him for the future ministry. That is what we call becoming a Co-labourer with God. She is the one who taught Moses about the difference between Egyptians and Israelites. Later in life we read of him that "he went out to his brethren". That is recorded in Exodus 2:11. Though he grew up like Pharaoh's daughter's son, he knew where he belonged. His mother would have told him everything. From this time there started a series of incidents which finally resulted in bringing Israel out of Egypt. It took a long time for everything to be completed but what Jochebed did was laying the strong foundation for Moses. He learnt faith through his mother. Though he had to be in the wilderness for 40 years before God could use him, he still had the strong foundation of mother's teaching and training. What we learn as kids, we never forget.

Those who are engaged in children's ministry, please remember, whatever you deposit in the lives of children today will prepare them for their future responsibility in the work of God. God is looking for such partners in His service. Can you remember Hannah the mother of Samuel? She was such a partner with God. God was planning to bring back the glory in the midst of Israel. He worked through 4 individuals. Hannah, Samuel, David and Solomon. Finally, you know that glory of God came in the midst of Israel. God is not in a hurry. But He needs whom He could depend on. God needs people of dedicated lives. People who are dedicated to the plan of God.

Now let us consider the final and the fourth point about Jochebed. She brought glory to the name of Jehovah.

Jochebed the glory of Jehovah

The meaning of the name Jochebed is “glory of Jehovah” or “Jehovah is our glory”. Can you remember the name “Ichabod”?

That word is found in 1 Sam. 4:21,22. That means “glory departed” or “No glory”. See Jochebed’s name was the right opposite of that. “Glory of Jehovah” or “Jehovah is our glory”.

We do not know as to how long Jochebed lived. Most probably she would have died before Moses went away in to the wilderness. There is no possibility that she saw the great Exodus. That is Israel leaving Egypt. Moses having lived a few years of his life with the mother had to go to live in the palace. He had to keep the name of the true mother as a secret. Neither could mother go about saying, my son is the adopted son of Pharaoh’s daughter. She had to just let him go after her part of the ministry was over. This was a great sacrifice on her part. She only could have prayed for the son.

After that we do not hear of Jochebed as to what happened to her. There was no earthly glory for her. There were no thanksgiving services for her ministry. Today even for those who have not served the Lord, we want to have thanksgiving services. But she had none. She would have died like any other slave woman of Israel. But we should all know that God will never forget His faithful servants. All her glory and rewards were kept reserved for her to be given after she is promoted to glory. One day we will also meet her. And she will introduce herself to us saying ‘I am the mother of Moses’! Oh,

what a great honour when that happens. We must know that we all will receive a reward for our work and ministry. We should not expect any reward now. But when the Lord comes, He will bring His reward. Please read Revelation 22:12. “Behold I come quickly, my reward is with me to give to everyone according to his work”.

Furthermore, she was instrumental in bringing God’s glory among the people of Israel. Do you know how? Can you remember what happened after Moses brought the people of Israel out of Egypt? God revealed His heart’s desire to Moses. Please read Exodus 25:8. “Let them make me a sanctuary that I may dwell among them”. That is the desire of God’s heart. So, building that Sanctuary was the greatest work accomplished by Moses. That is to build the dwelling place of God. What was the final outcome? Exodus 40:34. “Then a cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle”. So that is how the glory of God came among the people of Israel. The strong foundation Moses needed to accomplish such a great work was laid by the mother of Moses. She herself might not have known what great things her son would do in the future. But God used her faith and action to prepare Moses for such a great work.

- Anne Jayasundara -





TEST OF TIMES

Part 3

[Click here to read Part 2](#)

In the previous edition of this magazine under the theme **TEST OF TIMES**, the 2nd area of test we considered was the test of our **FEAR OF GOD**. And we looked at the first aspect of it, that our **FEAR OF GOD in CONDUCT** is tested. We were reminded that our conduct in the fear of God results in **HOLINESS, HONESTY & HUMILITY**.

In this issue secondly we are going to consider the **test of our FEAR OF GOD in COMMITMENT** (Devotion) using Acts 2:42 as the basis *"And they continued steadfastly in the **apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.**"*

By experience we all know that when we go through difficult experiences in life that these experiences do enhance our spiritual

exercise and it does test our commitment in this regard.

1) **COMMITMENT to the WORD OF GOD**

I personally believe that to most of us these periods of lockdowns, isolation, work from home and stay safe at home times were God given opportunities to take time away from our high speed busy lifestyles and to slow down and find enough time to spend in the presence of God with His precious Word.

- Did you make good use of these God given opportunities and blessings in disguise to spend more quality time in reading, meditating and studying the Bible?

- Did these tests of times draw you back to the Bible?

Dearly beloved please do examine your own life and see whether you have done well in this test.

2) COMMITMENT to FELLOWSHIP

This global pandemic has had a very negative impact in the lives of believers in terms of being unable to gather together and fellowship one with another. But nevertheless this tested our attitude and opinion in relation to the fellowship of God's people. What would be your answer to the following questions?

- During the times that you were not able to gather together as a body of believers, did you miss the fellowship and was there a passionate longing to meet together?
- Did you ever feel that it was better to have distant fellowship than close fellowship?
- Even though you had enough time & facility to browse the internet and to spend much time online on social media platforms, did you keenly follow the online programs that were telecasted by the Church?

Hebrews 10:25 *"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."* The test of times surely does test our commitment in relation to our fellowship and I wonder how you fared.

3) COMMITMENT to BREAKING OF BREAD

Breaking of bread is one of the most sacred and precious event for a believer. The early Church practiced this by breaking bread from house to house on a daily basis when they gathered together.

Talking about the test of times, when we are faced with trials it gives us an opportunity to look into our lives and examine our lives and put things right before God, thereby making us worthy before the Lord to partake of the emblems of bread & wine worthily as mentioned in 1 Corinthians 11.

So the test of times does test our commitment to breaking of bread. But now what about when we are not able to gather together as a body of believers to break bread?

We as individuals & families can remember the Lord in the breaking of bread even in our own homes as we Worship the Lord. Our Church conducted and continues to conduct online Worship services and we encourage believers to be prepared with some bread & juice to partake and remember the Lord as part of our Worship while following the service online.

How about you? Were you able to remember the Lord in the breaking of bread by yourself or as families?

4) COMMITMENT to PRAYER

When it comes to prayer the most famous common excuse we hear is "I don't have time". But this pandemic gave most of us enough time to spare. Usually when there are trials in our lives it pushes us to pray more than we may usually do. So, even this test of times of global pandemic tested our commitment to prayer.

- Was there an increase in your prayer life?
- Were you able to take time to pray for one another by name and also for the perishing world?
- Just as much as you want others to pray for you during these difficult times, did you pray for others?

I believe that God gave us a wonderful opportunity during this pandemic time to wrestle in prayer and to draw closer to God in prayer. Was your prayer life tested?

Thirdly we are also going to consider briefly the test of our **FEAR OF GOD in CHARITY (Love)**

God is testing our Fear of God in relation to our LOVE. We all do have different measures of love in us, but it has to be energized by God's love and should be in the framework of His love. Else our love will be a mere natural, human and worldly love. God tests our love to see whether it is within His criteria. 1 Corinthians 13 is commonly

known as the love chapter but I call it the "LOVE CHECK" chapter. When we cross examine our love with this chapter, we can assess our love, and that is what is needed than checking it in relation to one another. I have not taken the whole passage for consideration today but I have chosen 7 statements that mention what love **DOES NOT DO**. As we briefly go through these statements let us allow the Lord to test us and see whether our love has been in the fear of God. And I acknowledge and confess that I find myself falling way too short in this regard and sincerely strive hard to live up to God's expected standard.

1) Charity ENVIETH NOT

Envy/jealousy is the cancer found among many believers, and its final result is death (example Cain in the Old Testament and Lord Jesus in the New Testament). It is very interesting and noteworthy to note that Paul mentions Jealousy in almost all his epistles addressed to Christian believers. So we can safely say that if there is true love of the Lord Jesus in our lives, there shouldn't be any room for jealousy/envy.

2) Charity VAUNTETH/ BOASTETH NOT itself

True love will never have room for boasting about self and what he/she has done. According to 1 Corinthians 4:7 we have nothing to boast about and nothing to show off because all what we have and all what we are, are God

given by His Mercy and Grace. So love will not do good works and publicize it.

3) Charity is NOT PUFFED up

Pride is a sin directly coming from Satan and that is mentioned in Isaiah 14. The opposite of pride is Humility. The Lord Jesus Christ is the only one who could have ever been proud, yet he was humble so much so, that He humbled himself to die like a criminal on the cross. As we read the scriptures we find that there is strong rebuke against pride and the Lord does not tolerate pride.

4) Charity Doth NOT BEHAVE ITSELF UNSEEMLY/ RUDE/ DISHONOUR OTHERS

Love will not **talk** ill of others. How much we talk behind the back when a person is not around without any fear of God in our lives, and a reason for that is because there is no love in us. Love does not **do** things that are harmful to others and against others, it neither does **think** evil of others. True love energized by the love of Jesus will not do any harm or hurt in thought, word and deed.

5) Charity SEEKETH NOT her own / NOT SELFISH

Another clear feature of mature true love is it gives away and gives in. It's not selfish and does not demand its own way. It is always considerate of the wellbeing and blessing of others and not self.

6) Charity is NOT EASILY PROVOKED

The love of Christ in our hearts should be accommodative and not governed by our passions. A closer look at the life of the Lord Jesus and how he reacted to situations proves this point well. The things that were done against Him did not have a negative impact in the way he ministered, taught and cared for people, even to those who were against Him.

7) Charity THINKETH NO EVIL

In true Christ like love there are no maintaining records of wrong done, and no room for suspicions.

So dear brother/sister let us remember that through the TEST OF TIMES our Lord is testing our FEAR OF GOD in the areas of CONDUCT, COMMITMENT & CHARITY. Let us be mindful of these testing, and let us not only learn the lessons that it teaches us, but let us also come out victoriously by the help of our Merciful & Gracious Saviour Jesus Christ.

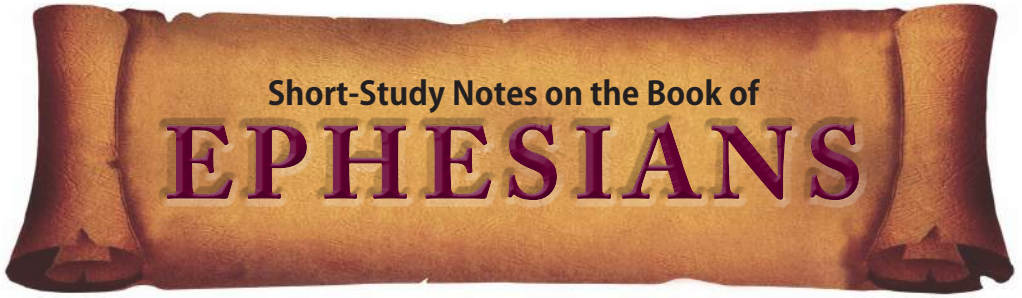
To be continued...

- Dinesh Malcolm Paul -

**WE SHALL NOT LONG HAVE LOVE TO MAN IF
WE DO NOT FIRST AND CHIEFLY CULTIVATE
LOVE TO GOD.**

- CHARLES SPURGEON -

LINGQUOTES



Chapters 1 to 3 – Wealth of the Believer
Chapters 4, 5 – Walk of the Believer
Chapter 6 – Warfare of the Believer

WEALTH OF THE BELIEVER

1. All Spiritual Blessings in Heavenly Places – 1:3
2. Exceeding Riches of His Grace – 2:7
3. The Unsearchable Riches of Christ – 3:8

WALK OF THE BELIEVER

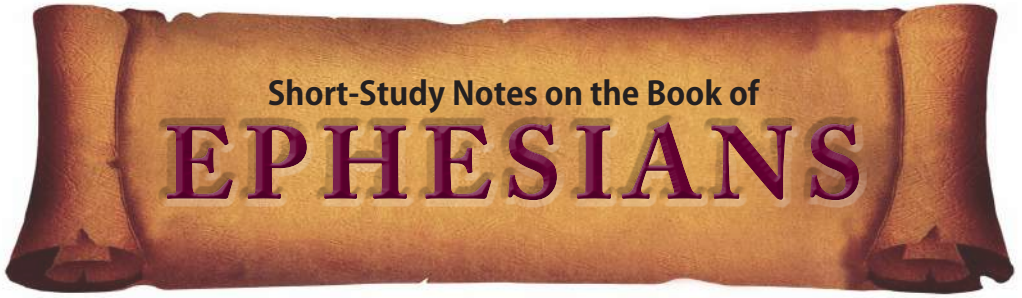
1. Walk Worthy of the Calling – 1:1
2. Walk not in the Vanity of Unregenerated Mind – 4:17
3. Walk in Love – 5:2
4. Walk as Children of Light – 5:8
5. Walk Circumspectly – 5:15

WARFARE OF THE BELIEVER

1. Be Strong in the Lord and the Power of His Might – 6:10
2. Put on the Whole Armour of God – 6:11
3. Fight the Spiritual Warfare with Prayer – 6:12,18

7 THINGS GOD DID BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD

1. Chose us in Christ – 1:4
2. Predestinated us to the Adoption of Children – 1:5
3. Predestinated us to the Obtaining of an Inheritance – 1:11
4. Prepared our Good Works – 2:10
5. Ordained the Unity of Jew and Gentile in the Body of Christ – 3:4-6
6. Purposed that the Manifold Wisdom of God should be shown to the angels by the Church – 3:10,11
7. Loved the Church and prepared the plan of Salvation – 5:25



Continued...

7 DESCRIPTIONS GIVEN TO THE SAINTS

1. The Church – 1:22
2. The Body of Christ – 1:23
3. The Workmanship of God – 2:10
4. The Household of God – 2:19
5. The Building of God – 2:21
6. The Holy Temple of God – 2:21,22
7. The Bride of Christ – 5:25

7-FOLD ONENESS OF BELIEVERS 4:4-6

1. One Hope
2. One Body
3. One Spirit
4. One Lord
5. One Faith
6. One Baptism
7. One God the Father

7 IMPORTANT THEMES TO STUDY AND REMEMBER

1. Power of Resurrection of Christ – 1:19
2. Exceeding Riches of His Grace – 2:7
3. The Habitation of God – 2:22
4. The Unsearchable Riches of Christ – 3:8
5. The Eternal Purposes of God – 3:10,11
6. Walk of The Believer – 4:1-5
7. The Whole Armour of God – 6:11-17

- Neville Jayasundara -

Quest of God

In this world there are so many things that we seek after. We do everything possible to keep our dear ones near us. But, have you ever thought of someone God would seek after?

There are three kinds of people God is seeking after.

According to Luke 19:10, we find that God is seeking the lost to save them. Who are these lost ones? They are the people who lost their way to God. They are the people who don't know where they are heading to. They are the people ignorant of God and the life after death.

Yea, remember that once we were separated from Christ, having no hope and without God, and far off walking according to the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience, living in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind .

But, it was God who first loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins . The Lord Jesus Christ came seeking after us to give His life as a ransom for us so that we might believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and have eternal life .

No matter how cruel your sins are. God is inviting you for an encounter with Him to reason together, with a challenging call saying, "Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool". If you be willing and obedient , God is faithful to forgive and accept you as His child .

Secondly in the well-known passage regarding worship which is recorded in John 4: 23, we find that God is seeking for the true worshippers who shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth.

False worshippers are the people who worship with their lips while their hearts are far from God and follow the traditions of men forsaking the commandments of God. But God is not pleased with this kind of people and is seeking for individuals who would worship Him truthfully, with all their heart, soul and mind filled with love .

Our love towards God should not be a mere emotion of our souls. Rather it is a decisive act of will, understanding the love of God manifested through the Lord Jesus Christ when He died on the cross .

Thirdly and timely, God is seeking for people after God's own heart. God gave a unique testimony about David saying,

“A man after Mine own heart, who shall fulfill all My will” (Acts 13:22). And, 1 Samuel 13:14 describes that God hath sought Him a man after His own heart, which indicates that God was seeking for such people.

The verse in 2 Chronicles 16:9, “For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward Him.”, also indicates that God is seeking throughout the whole earth for people whose hearts are perfect toward Him.

Even among our close circles, we find it very difficult to know each other's heart and how much more would it be difficult for us to know the heart of God? Yet, it is not altogether impossible.

In Genesis 18:17, God said, “Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do?” which shows that God was always revealing to Abraham the things that God was about to do. And we know that Abraham was called a friend of God three times in the Holy Bible. Similarly in John 15:15, the Lord Jesus Christ is calling us as His friends and He explains it saying, “I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.”

But pathetically, we are too busy to take the yoke from the Lord Jesus Christ and to learn from Him .

While God is seeking for those who would do according to God's own heart,

we seek our own interests, not the things of Jesus Christ .

We are advised to seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God . But what do we seek for? Do we seek for wealth, health and fame? What are we living for? What are we going to carry forward into eternity? Make friends for yourselves by unrighteous mammon, that when you fail, they may receive you into an everlasting home .

See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is .

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God .

Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness.

- S. Varaprasath -



True Satisfaction

“He maketh me to lie down in Green Pastures”
Psalm 23:2



Psalm 23 written by king David is one of the most well-known passages of the Holy Bible. “The LORD is my Shepherd and I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures. He leadeth me beside the still waters” (Ps.23:1,2). I am sure that most of you are quite familiar with these words of scripture. In this passage the Psalmist is comparing himself to a sheep that is lying down on green pastures. The common sight is that of sheep feeding on green pastures and not lying down there. When they are let loose out of the pen, they start feeding upon the tender green grass and enjoy eating as much as they want. Only after they had eaten to their heart’s content, they lie down on their own food that is the green pastures for the rest of the day. They are full and cannot eat any more and they are fully satisfied. Even if you force them to eat again they will not be interested because they are now fully satisfied.

Isn’t it remarkable that David uses this allegory to explain to us his inner satisfaction that he had in the Lord? Any other person would have said “he maketh me to feed upon green pastures”. Please note that he emphatically says “He maketh me to *lie down* in green pastures”. This undoubtedly speaks to us of the satisfaction that we could

experience if we make the Lord Jesus Christ our Lord and Shepherd. As a young person it is not unusual to seek for true satisfaction. Nevertheless many young people have found out to their sorrow and disappointment that the lust of the flesh and gratification of the flesh do not bring lasting satisfaction but only leave a guilty conscience. Sinful habits bring sadness, fear and death at the end. The Bible says “then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death” (James 1:15).

In your pursuit after true satisfaction, you must find the Lord Jesus Who alone can give you what you are looking for. Have you confessed your sins to the Lord Jesus and invited Him to be your Lord and Saviour? Those who have taken this step can truly enter into David’s experience of full satisfaction. You will be like sheep lying down in green pastures fully satisfied. Your search will be over when you have found the Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord Jesus makes a remarkable statement in John 4:14. “**Whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life**”. Just think of what the Lord Jesus is offering you. No one or nothing else in this world offers

you anything like this. Again in John 6:35 He said : **“I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst”**. In both these passages the Lord Jesus is not speaking about literal water or bread. He wants us to trust in Him, and surrender our lives to Him. This is the secret of true satisfaction. The Psalmist says “The LORD is my Shepherd”. Please surrender your life today to the Lord Jesus and make Him the LORD of your life.

- Neville Jayasundara -



*HOW WELL DO YOU
KNOW YOUR
BIBLE?*

1. On Which mountain did Noah's Ark rest after the floods?
2. Who was the youngest king in the Bible?
3. How many years older was Aaron than Moses?
4. What animal was the first to be let out of Noah's ark?
5. Which book of the Bible has the same amount of Chapters as the amount of Books in the Bible?

1. Ararat (Genesis 8:4)
2. Jehoshaphat (2 Kings 12:1)
3. Three (Exodus 7:7)
4. A Raven (Genesis 8:7)
5. Isaiah

Answers



Compound Names of God

Jehovah Rohi (Raah)

The LORD is my Shepherd
Psalm 23:1

Jehovah Jireh

The LORD who Provides
Genesis 22:14

Jehovah Shalom

The LORD our Peace
Judges 6:24

Jehovah Rapha

The LORD our Healer
Exodus 15:26

Jehovah Tsidkenu

The LORD our Righteousness
Jeremiah 23:6

Jehovah Nissi

The LORD our Banner
Exodus 17:15

Jehovah Shammah

The LORD is Present
Ezekiel 48:35

[Click here to find them all in](#)

[Psalm 23](#)

[\(The LORDSHIP of the Shepherd\)](#)

TEN PRAYERS FOR 2021

1. GRACE me

"For the **grace of God** has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It trains us to renounce ungodly living and worldly passions so that we might live sensible, honest, and godly lives in the present age, as we wait for the blessed hope and the glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour, Jesus the Messiah". (Titus 2:11)

2. GUIDE me

"**Show me** your ways, LORD, **teach me** your paths. **Guide me** in your truth and **teach me**, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long." (Psalm 25:4, 5)

"I will **instruct you** and **teach you** in the way you should go; I will **counsel you** with my loving eye on you." (Psalm 32:8)

3. GUARD me

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

"Because he loves me," says the Lord, "I will rescue him; I will **protect him**, for he acknowledges my name." (Psalm 91:14)

"**Deliver us** from the evil one" (Matt 6:13b)

4. GRIEVE me

"**Streams of tears** flow from my eyes, for Your Law is not obeyed" (Psalm 119:136)

"I have **great sorrow** and **unceasing anguish** in my heart" (Rom 9:2)

To pray with tears is to make an eternal investment. To pray with tears is to sow your tears with eternal harvest. No tear shed in burdened intercession for others is ever forgotten by God, unrecorded, or in vain. Intercession watered with your tears is one of the most powerful forms of prayer known.

As surely as God is in heaven, "Those who sow in **tears** will reap with songs of joy. He who goes out **weeping**, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with him" (Psa. 126:5-6).

5. GLADDEN me

"Make us **glad** for as many days as You have afflicted us, for as many years as we have seen trouble" (Psalm 90:15)

"Weeping may tarry for the night, but **joy** comes with the morning" (Psalm 30:5)

"...in Your presence there is **fullness of joy**; at Your right hand are **pleasures forevermore**." (Psalm 16:11)

6. GIVE me

“Give us today our daily bread”
(Matt 6:11)

“Give Your servant a discerning heart to govern Your people and to distinguish between right and wrong” (1 Kings 3:9)

7. GRATIFY me

“Satisfy us in the morning with Your unfailing love, that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days” (Psalm 90:14)

“With long life will I satisfy Him and show him My salvation” (Psalm 91:16)

8. GLUE me

“A man will leave his father and mother and be united (glued) to his wife, and they will become one flesh” (Gen 2:24)

“Be devoted (glued) to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.” (Rom 12:10)

9. GROUND me

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.” (Col 3:16)

“Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You.” (Psalm 119:11)

10. GOAD me

The goad is an instrument used by ploughmen for guiding their oxen. Shamgar slew six hundred Philistines with an ox-goad. The goad is a formidable weapon. It is sometimes ten feet long, and has a sharp point.

“After Ehud came Shamgar son of Anath, who struck down six hundred Philistines with an ox goad. He too saved Israel.” (Judges 3:31)

“I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads.” (Acts 9:5)

“Like an eagle that stirs up its nest, that flutters over its young, spreading out its wings, catching them, bearing them on its pinions” (Deut 32:11, ESV)

[Watch the full sermon here](#)

- Benjamin Devadason -

“**I have called upon
You, for You will hear
me, O God;**

Psalm 17:6

Promises 2021

Dear brothers and sisters, we have this practice of picking up a couple of promises from the Word of God for the New Year. It is a scriptural practice because in 2 Peter 1:4 we are given the exhortation that the promises of God are given to us so that by believing them we can be partakers of the divine nature. As always it has been, this time also we realize that there is the guidance and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit because when we take these three promises together, they bring before us a very important threefold message.



If you meditate on these promises in the given order, you will begin to see the connection.

The first promise is an exhortation for the individual believer and the families. The second promise is relevant to the whole Church; as a local church we can claim that promise. The third promise relates to the whole world and it is a prophecy concerning the future.

PROMISE 1

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness". Matthew 6:33

Our problem as individual believers and families is not that we do not seek the kingdom of God and His righteousness but we do not seek it as the first priority. If I have time to spare, I will go to Church or I will get involved in the work of the

Lord. If I have money to spare, I will give to God. If my children do not have extra classes or other educational activities I will send them to Church. Always we give God the leftovers.

Our attitude should change. We are not following the Lord as we should. Yes, we seek the Lord; His kingdom; His righteousness. But we have given it the second, third or the last place.

The context in which the Lord said these words relate to the food and clothing. So they are very basic to our existence. Even regarding those very basic, food and clothing, the Lord said, "You should seek the kingdom of God and His righteousness first, and all these things will be added unto you". So if this promise is going to bring any blessing in your life, you need to fall in line with this promise. Give priority to meditation of God's Word, prayer and family prayer. All other activities should be planned having given the priority of place to church fellowship.

How proudly we say that "I cannot come for fellowship because I have some other work" or I cannot do this ministry because I have some other activity"? What a sad situation this is?

Our Lord Jesus Christ has given the standards and He will not change. He has said, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness". If we actually begin to do this today, our whole programme for the coming week has to

be changed; giving first place to God; His work; His righteousness; His kingdom. Yes dear brothers and sisters, believers need to do that.

In the days we were born again, when we were challenged to do this, we were willing to give up so many other things making room and time for God's work.

Dear brothers and sisters, listen to the Word; follow the Word; believe the promise.

PROMISE 2

"The Lord thy God in the midst of thee is mighty". Zephaniah 3:17

The second promise is about the Lord working in the Church; "in the midst of thee is mighty". This is a very unique thing that God works in the midst of His people as they gather in fellowship. Yes, performing the great miracle of transformation of life. We had a time when people coming to the gospel meeting openly repented and turned to Christ. Now we are not expecting the Lord to work mightily among us. So the Lord is not able to work.

Church fellowship has become a place for gossip and for joking and for just talking about politics and other matters. But, God wants to work among us; in the midst of us mightily bringing His divine power among us.

So this year we have to believe this

promise that God may begin to work among us again. We must desire to see when the gospel is preached people repenting of their sins and turning to Christ. It was a clear-cut separation and transformation of life in the early days. Such times must visit us again; the Lord must visit us with that power.

PROMISE 3

"For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord" Habakkuk 2:14

The third promise is a prophecy concerning the future. Habakkuk might have been quoting from Isaiah because Isaiah had given this prophecy in Isaiah 11:9 regarding the Millennial Reign. It is not by preaching the gospel. This is a sovereign act of God. When the Lord

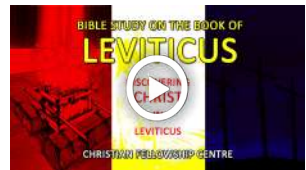
Jesus comes to reign on the face of the Earth, reigning for thousand years, at that time the knowledge of the glory of the Lord will fill the whole Earth.

This promise reminds us that we are on the victory side; final victory belongs to the Lord. There are many kings, queens, presidents and prime ministers in the world, but at the second coming of the Lord Jesus – at revelation – He will take the place of the supreme king. Yes, our Lord will be higher than the kings of the Earth.

So dear brothers and sisters, we are on the victory side. God is preparing His people to reign together with the Lord Jesus Christ.

So knowing the future we must now consecrate our lives to the Lord.

Online Bible Studies:



CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP CENTRE



(+94) 112581901
(+94) 773595533
cfellowship@sltnet.lk



www.christianfellowshipcentre.com



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