

LIGHT

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

Days of Heaven

Promises 2022

The Lord is at hand

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Days of Heaven

"That your days may be multiplied, and the days of your children... as the days of heaven upon the earth" (Deut. 11:21)

If we obey the Lord and keep away from every kind of strange god, He will give us everything in plenty from the beginning of the year even unto the end of the year (Deut. 11:12). In sickness or in poverty, He will give you all that you need; perhaps not too early, but never too late; perhaps not too much, but never too little. The Lord promised to give enough not only for the children of Israel, but also for their cattle (Deut. 11:15). This means that we need not be anxious about anything, for the Lord will supply not only our obvious needs, but also our smaller unknown needs.

Then the Lord gave a warning to them that they should not be deceived. I have seen many cases where people have prospered and their income has increased, and then they have drifted away from the Lord. At one time they were full of zeal, but now they have become cold. When they were in need they used to come regularly for the meetings and again and again they would ask for prayer, we do not see

much of them, not even on Sundays! They have evidently been deceived by prosperity. So, I would warn those of you who are prosperous, never cut short your time of prayer, and never keep away from the House of God.

Some people have been in the practice of giving their tithes regularly to the Lord. But now that their income has increased they wonder, "How can I give so much as tithe? It is such a large amount!" When we fail to give God's portion to Him, we are actually robbing God! (Malachi 3:8-10). Do not rob God of His time either. Perhaps before you got married you used to spend hours in prayer but now that you are married, you have no time for Him at all! This kind of robbing will bring you into spiritual barrenness. If you take God's warning and see that you are not deceived by the attractions of the world, He will bless you richly.

We can take many valuable lessons from the instructions given to the children of Israel in Deut.

11:18. They were asked to lay up His words in their heart and in their soul; we also should let the Word of God dwell richly in our hearts (Col. 3:16). They were to bind them for a sign upon their hands, we too should carry our Bibles with us wherever we go. They were to keep the words of God as frontlets before their eyes; we too should keep God's promises before us always and claim them daily for all our needs. They were to teach the Word of God diligently to their children. "And thou shalt teach them ...unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest... and when thou walkest... when thou liest down, and when thou risest up" (Deut. 6:7). We also have to do the same.

If we obey God in all these matters, the Lord promises to multiply our days and give us days of heaven upon earth (Deut. 11:21). All these promises can be our experience the whole year round, not only on Sundays but everyday of the week. The grace of God will come flowing down upon us from heaven.

- Bro. Bakht Singh -

The Great I AM

The bread of life

John 6:35

The light of the world

John 8:12

The door

John 10:9

The good shepherd

John 10:11

The resurrection and the life

John 11:25

The way, the truth, and the life

John 14:6

The vine

John 15:5

Promises 2022

We have this practice of picking up some promises for the promises and we have got three promises this year as well. It is good to pick up promises from the Bible, any part of the scripture, that would impress upon your heart, you could accept as God speaking to you in a special way and believe it, and claim it, live by it.



Promise 1

The first promise is taken from Matthew 17:5, only a portion of that verse, "This is my beloved Son... hear ye Him."

It is more a exhortation though we call it a promise. We know this incident. Our Lord being trans-

figured on the mountain and the voice of the Father came. "The voice of the Father" has a threefold meaning and application.

According to the context and the historical event, it was an exhortation to the disciples to listen to this person, "Hear ye Him", confirming the identity of the Lord Jesus, "This is my beloved Son".

Then secondly this can be accepted literally by all the believers, all the disciples, the Church today. We all know about the teaching of the Lord Jesus in the gospels we find. We need to go back to the basic teachings of our Lord and follow them. We have some basic teachings, the body of truth that He has preached such as "Loving the enemy", "Taking up the cross and following Him", "You are the light of the world", "You are the salt of the earth". We must hear Him. We need to get back to the basics and hear Him and hold on to His teachings and follow them.

Hebrews 1:1-2 tell us that there is nothing more that God can speak to us; He has spoken through His Son. "God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son". So, the Father has spoken to us by His Son. So, we have to follow those basic teachings.

Then we have thirdly, this exhortation should be taken spiritually that each one of us through our daily reading of the scriptures, should desire to hear the voice of the Son of God.

Song of Solomon 2:8, "The voice of my beloved". We must

hear His voice and leap up saying, "I have heard the voice of my beloved". To all our problems spiritually, our hard heartedness, our lukewarmness, and our stubbornness, there is only one answer; we must hear the voice of the Son of God.

I recommend you to read Psalm 29:3-9. "The Voice of God" is mentioned there seven times.

If we can do this one thing every day to read the scriptures and seek to hear God speaking to your heart. Are you willing to do that?

Promise 2

As we look back at the past 2 years, and the events that surrounded our lives, one thing has been clearly and strongly proved to us. If I may quote that in scriptural language it is summed up in *Psalm 60:11,12* – "*For vain is the help of man, but through God we shall do valiantly*". A careful and deep meditation of the 3 promises for the year 2022 and its context has this common thought brought about, and that is **TOTAL DEPENDENCE ON GOD ALONE!**

I feel that the Lord wants us to take note of this seriously as we face this New Year ahead of us. As

individuals, families and a body of believers we have been going through unprecedented experiences in life and we face a future full of uncertainties. And it is in this juncture of time we have this promise of the Lord for 2022 in ***Psalm 60:12 – "THROUGH GOD WE SHALL DO VALIANTLY"***

In order to help us to understand the spiritual instruction conveyed by this promise I want to present **3 SECRETS TO DO VALIANTLY THROUGH GOD**

1) RESTORATION of commitment to God – Psalm 60:1

The first secret to do valiantly is RESTORATION. The road to true victory begins here. If we need to succeed victoriously we cannot continue in the way we are now. As we read Psalm 60, we understand from the context the need for restoration and the means of restoration. We need to realize the chastening of the Lord through the things that happens to us and around us – Vs.3. We need to yield ourselves to the demands of God. Let us not conveniently think that justbecause all is well with our lives at present that we are right before God. *Romans 2:4 – "The goodness of God leads us to repentance"*. We need to take note of the

faithfulness of God in our lives in spite of all our failures and unfaithfulness – Vs. 4.

Unless and until we come to the experience of Restoration we will not be able to experience the Victory in God. So dear brothers and sisters, God is giving us another chance tonight as we are at the threshold of another new year to be restored back to Him. Let us not harden our hearts tonight, but through the circumstances that surround us let us understand the prompting of the Lord to be restored unto Him, and let us be restored and experience the working of God in our lives. RESTORATION is the first secret to do valiantly through God!

2) RENOUNCE confidence in man & flesh – Psalm 60:11

The 2nd secret to experience true victory and do valiantly is to RENOUNCE our confidence in man and flesh. As long as we rely on the arm of flesh, God cannot and will not work mightily in and through us. *2 Chronicles 32:8 – "With him is an arm of flesh, but with us is the Lord our God to help us"*. This was Hezekiah's experience when surrounded by the Assyrian host. We do need the fellowship and friendship of one another in this

pilgrim journey. But if we make that our strength and security then we will not be able to experience the power of God at work in our lives.

The middle verse of the Bible reads thus in *Psalm 118:8* – *"It is better to trust in the Lord, than to put confidence in man"*. Even if you have to stand alone for the right & for God's sake, are you willing & able to do so? *Romans 8:31* – *"If God be for us who can be against us?"*.

Don't swear allegiance to someone or some group, and think that you are well set, but rather stand for God and with God! Make sure you are on God's side and God is on your side. David the Psalmist knew by prior experience the futility of depending & trusting in man.

We need to fully acknowledge that in all our life circumstances unless God intervenes and help us that there is no other way out or solution. Today are you ready and willing to renounce the dependence on man and decide to totally depend on God and trust God to take you through 2022. Only then you could come into that wonderful experience where you could say "through God we shall do valiantly"

3) RELIANCE in the PROMISES, PLAN & PURPOSES of God Psalm 60:4, 6-10

The 3rd secret to do valiantly is our strong reliance in the PROMISES, PLAN & PURPOSES of God. If we want to experience true victory then we need to reassure ourselves with the PROMISES, PLAN & PURPOSE of God. We need to regard God's promises as facts and not fiction. We need to believe that no matter what happens to us and around us, that God will fulfill His faithful PROMISES, PLAN & PURPOSES in our lives. Such faith in them will help us to live above our circumstances.

We do not know what the days ahead hold for us. We may have to go through unexpected and uncertain experiences in life. But if we reassure ourselves with the PROMISES, PLAN & PURPOSES of God, then we can be assured of victory.

Hebrews 10:23 – *"Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)"*

Isaiah 14:24,27 – *"The LORD of hosts hath sworn, saying, Surely as I have thought, so shall it come to pass; and as I have purposed, so*

shall it stand: For the LORD of hosts hath purposed, and who shall disannul it? and his hand is stretched out, and who shall turn it back?"

If we know and believe the promises, plan & purposes of God for our lives, then we don't need to feel threatened by those around us and their successes and service. Dear brothers and sisters, let us consecrate ourselves to the Lord afresh this day. Let us exhibit our reliance in God's dealings in our life and come into that blessed experience and declare boldly "through God we shall do valiantly".

Promise 3

Then also we have the third promise taken from 2 Chronicles 15:7, "Your work shall be rewarded". In the English promise card we have dropped the word "For" unfortunately but that word is very important. When we go through discouraging situations we must think, "Why should we still go on serving the Lord?" then we will get the answer as, "because our work shall be rewarded".

Our Lord encouraged us to look at the reward; again and again He spoke about the reward. So, please

never say, "What's the use of me doing this?". Because, we serve God and God will reward.

2 Chronicles 15: 7 was spoken to Asa the king of Judah. He wanted to bring about the reform. But he faced difficulties in doing so in his country. But we read that King Asa depended on the promise of God and did not give up. All the people followed him and sought the Lord and God rewarded in their works.

That is what the Lord has promised us in this new year; He is promising you to reward your work. So, do you want to claim this promise for yourself in 2022? It is upto you to claim it or not. Keep being faithful in the things of the Lord. God sees your deeds.

When you look at these promises, the first promise is like a command. The second promise is like a response to that command. And the third promise is the result you receive when you faithfully obey. When you listen to the Lord Jesus Christ, the beloved Son of God, and do valiantly through His strength then you will be rewarded.

Please read these promises and apply them in your lives and you will see the results at the end of this year.

The Steadfast Love

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his loyal love endures.

Give thanks to the God of gods, for his loyal love endures.

Give thanks to the Lord of lords, for his loyal love endures,

to the one who performs magnificent, amazing deeds all by himself, for his loyal love endures,

to the one who used wisdom to make the heavens, for his loyal love endures,

to the one who spread out the earth over the water, for his loyal love endures,

Psalm 136:1-6

The God that we worship is a God of Love. This phrase, "For His steadfast love endures for ever" is repeated throughout this chapter. There are many verses in the Bible that talk about God's love and that His love endures forever. The Bible does not talk in a similar way about

God's anger. Maybe there is someone who thinks God is perfect, and that's true, but because of that you may think that God's attributes are kind of symmetrical; on one side you've got God's love and then beautifully balanced on the other side is God's anger. The Bible does not present God's love and God's anger as kind of equal and opposite kind of attributes.

Please read Psalm 103:8,9, "The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always chide, nor will He keep His anger forever." Do you see, God's love endures for ever but, He is slow to anger and He will not keep His anger forever.

1 John 4:8 says, "God is love". This does not merely mean that God does a little bit of loving things here and there; He loves people. It's more than that; God's nature is love.

But God's anger is provoked. Please read Deuteronomy 9:7, "Remember and do not forget how you provoked the LORD your God to wrath in the wilderness." God's anger can be provoked; it can be kindled. Samuel said, it can be aroused; God's anger can be aroused. God's anger is provoked by sin.

There was a time when there was no sin to provoke God into anger. Before the creation of the world, God lived as Father, Son and Holy Spirit in perfect harmony and love. There was no bitterness or rivalry or anger between the persons of the Trinity.

How does this affect us as we worship God? We are God's children; we are a community of love and in some way we reflect that community of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit; and the love that they shared.

When we come to worship, we need to be reconciled not just with God but with our fellow brothers and sisters too. We need to be

people of love who love everybody, everywhere.

Matthew 5:23,24, " So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift."

Here is a man who has come to offer his gift at the altar; he's come to worship God. But there is something that he needs to do first. "Leave your gift at the altar; go and be reconciled with your brother."

Let us be like this; let us be a community of love that gathers to worship God fully reconciled, loving everybody everywhere and worshipping the God of love together.

- Kumar Abraham -

Lord in the MIDST

TRIUMPHANT REIGNING KING

Zephaniah 3:15



Click here to read about the RIGHTEOUS JUDGE

We find that in Zephaniah 3:5,15 &17 that the Lord being in the midst of His chosen people reflects 3 important characteristics.

Vs. 5 – Lord the **RIGHTEOUS JUDGE** in the midst of His people

Vs. 15 – Lord the **TRIUMPHANT KING** in the midst of His people

Vs. 17 – Lord the **MIGHTY WARRIOR** in the midst of His people

Today we are going to consider from Vs. 15 – Lord as the **TRIUMPHANT REIGNING KING** in the midst of His people. It is of utmost importance to us as believers to know and to believe that our Lord is a triumphant and reigning king who has His reign from eternity past to eternity future. This is the eternal state of God – Psalm 93:1/95:1/97:1. Whether we know it or not, accept it or not this is His perpetual state and it will not change based on our knowledge and acceptance or rejection of it. As we consider this point, we are reminded of 3 truths

found in this context when the Lord is in our midst as TRIUMPHANT REIGNING KING. There is

- **VICTORY**
- **PROTECTION**
- **REJOICING**

1) **VICTORY**

*“He hath cast out thine enemy”
Zephaniah 3:15*

For a king to remain and reign in his territory he has to fight battles and win battles. Even though there was no need for the Lord to fight battles to secure His position as King, yet he fought the battle for us and gave us the victory and made us partakers of that victory. This battle was fought on Calvary’s Cross when the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sin and rose again sealing the victory for us. If the Lord Jesus Christ is reigning in our hearts and lives then we don’t need to live defeated lives anymore. We should always be standing on victory ground. Consider the following fragments of Scripture in the light of this truth.

1 Corinthians 15:57 – *“But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

1 Corinthians 2:14 – *“Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ”*

Romans 8:37 – *“In all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us.”*

So let us assuredly know and believe that our enemy is a defeated foe and that we are partakers of the victory that Christ gained for us. Let us now consider 3 aspects of the victory that we have in the Lord Jesus Christ.

We have victory over

- **SIN** (1 John 5:18) and **SELF** (Romans 6:6)
- **DEVIL** (Hebrews 2:14/ Revelations 12:11) and **DEATH** (Romans 6:23)
- **WORLD** (John 16:33) and **WORLDLINESS** (1 John 5:4-5)

So dearly beloved let us be conscious of these truths and let us live above these by standing on the victory of Calvary.

2) PROTECTION

“Thou shall not see evil anymore”
Zephaniah 3:15

When the king is reigning and is in the midst of his people there is protection assured. It is the

responsibility of the king to ensure the safety of his people and nation. In the same manner the Lord our King in our midst takes the full responsibility of protecting us. Let me place before you 3 aspects of that protection we enjoy when the Lord Jesus our triumphant reigning king is in our midst.

a) Protection from the ENEMY & ENMITY – Zephaniah 3:15

No matter how strong the enemy is, if the Lord is our King and if He's in our midst and reigning in our lives then we have nothing to fear. The battle is the Lord's, He will fight for us and protect us. 1 John 4:4 – *“Greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world.”* In the New Testament our enemy is Satan and his angels and not man – Ephesians 6:12. We need to very clearly understand this truth. But we know that in practical life that we do face the enmity of those around us. Even in such a case we need to believe in this truth and understand that we have nothing to do, that it is the Lord who will put to silence all enmity against us.

b) Protection from EVIL/HARM/ DISASTER – Zephaniah 3:15

This verse does not mean to say that we will be spared from evil and harm. But as we face these situations in life, the storms of life, the Lord our King will make sure to protect us. Examples – Job and his calamity, disciples in the midst of a

storm (Mark 4:35-41). Today you may be facing various kinds of evil, harm and disaster in your life. But be assured if the Lord is the King of your life, and is reigning in your life and is in your midst, then you have nothing to fear. The King is in control of your circumstances. Psalm 27:4 – “Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me”

c) Protection from EVICTION
Zephaniah 3:16

1When the Lord is reigning as King and is in our midst, we will not be evicted from the inheritance He has given us. In a spiritual view point when anyone else is reigning in our lives instead of the Lord, then there is a possibility of facing eviction from spiritual inheritance due to sin. But when the Lord is reigning, we can be assured that nothing can evict us from enjoying the inheritance of God’s chosen people. Romans 8:31 – “If God be for us who can be against us”

3) REJOICING
“Be glad and rejoice”
Zephaniah 3:14

When the Lord our King is reigning in our lives there is always rejoicing in our hearts and lives. That rejoicing is in the King and what He does. When the Lord as the triumphant reigning King is in our midst there are 3 reasons for us to rejoice. I’m only quoting these

verses and they are self-explanatory. There is rejoicing because of

a) His MAJESTY & MIGHT
Psalm 145:11,12

“They shall speak of the glory of Your kingdom, and talk of Your power, to make known to the sons of men His mighty acts, and the glorious majesty of His kingdom.”

b) His JUSTICE & JUDGMENT
Psalm 89:14

“Justice and judgment are the habitation of thy throne: mercy and truth shall go before thy face.”

c) His PEACE & PROSPERITY
Psalm 147:14

“He maketh peace in thy borders, and filleth thee with the finest of the wheat.”

So dear brothers and sisters, as we consider the Lord in our midst as the triumphant reigning King, the most important things we need to be mindful about and examine in our life are

- Is the Lord IN OUR MIDST?
- Is the Lord KING OF OUR LIFE?
- Have we given the Lord TOTAL CONTROL AND AUTHORITY OVER OUR LIVES?

- Dinesh Malcolm Paul -

THE LORD IS AT HAND

Philippians 4: 5, "Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand."

If you look at this verse in different translations, you will get a better picture of what it means. The Philips translation puts it this way, "Have a reputation for gentleness"

Two dear sisters at Philippian church, Euodias and Syntyche, and their names mean, "Friendly" and "Fragrant" sadly had a fall out. And there was a bad odor that was emanating from their relationship that was causing the whole church to stink.

Paul, upon hearing this, deals with it and says to the two sisters and to all of us today that the best way to subdue explosive tempers and stubborn wills is to show to everyone our sweet reasonableness and gentleness.

The forbearing person is not spineless but selfless; it is slow to take offence and swift to forgive. If I

have this gentleness and forbearance, I will be slow to take offence and I will be very swift to forgive. Let sweet reasonableness be seen in your conduct thus others will experience its blessings too. It is contagious and it will spread to others.

So, here is a question that we all need to ask and answer, "How do I respond when I am offended, misunderstood or mistreated? Do I forbear?" All of us in this new year, we are going to have this challenge because life is all about relationships.

When we learn to stay calm in conflict and be kind in conduct, that reduces anxiety; it reflects Christ; it gets things done; and it pleases God. Gentleness is strength, self-control, and maturity.

The Holy Spirit forms Christ in us and unleashes the incredible power of a gentle spirit. The fruit of the Spirit is gentleness and if the Holy Spirit is indwelling us and

active in each one of our lives, we must allow Him, through the circumstances of life, to produce this beautiful fruit called, "Gentleness".

And then Paul says, "The Lord is near". That can be taken to mean two things. The first it can refer to His second coming. His coming may occur at any moment. In fact, in Matthew 24:33 we are told that His imminent return is at the very doors. He has almost shown up at the door. And He is near so that He can help us; He stands right by our side to help us.

One of the verses that has become very precious to me is Psalm 34:18 and the first part of that verse says, "The Lord is near to the broken hearted". Yes, we all experience a broken heart through the circumstances of life. For me, it was the sudden home call of my beloved wife. and I was broken hearted and continue to be broken hearted. But this verse says, "The Lord is near to the broken hearted".

In Psalm 119: 115 the psalmist says, "You are near, O Lord!". Yes, He is standing right by my side.

Psalm 145:18, "The Lord is near to all who call upon Him; to all who call upon Him in truth". That's prayer language. When we talk to the Lord, when we commune with Him, we experience the nearness of God.

So when Paul says that the Lord is at hand, it can mean in position or approach. The near coming of the Lord Jesus to prevent all His people from cherishing an undue anxiety. The Lord is coming soon, that is one meaning; and the Lord is standing right by my side to help me that's the second meaning.

If I know that the Lord is right next to me, it should help me to overcome all anxiety.

Look at the way the nearness of God is described in the Bible! "He is not a God a far off". He is not a distant, aloof, disinterested God; He is very very concerned about what goes on in your life and my life.

In Psalm 139:5 the psalmist said, "God hems us in before and behind". In Exodus 13:21 we are told, "God goes before and He also follows". Isn't that beautiful! God

goes before you in this new year; but He also comes behind us to protect us in the rear.

Colossians 3:3 we are told, "Our lives are hidden with Christ in God". And in Matthew 28:20 the Lord Jesus promised, "I am with you always even to the end of the age". Now if you take that verse in context, it talks about evangelizing and discipling. And as we engage in evangelizing and discipling, the Lord promises to be near us; He is going to be with us.

And in Deuteronomy 4:7 we are told, "What other nation is so great as to have their god near them the way the Lord our God is near us when we pray to Him". Yes, all the gods of the nations are false gods; they are idols. But our God is the true and the living God and He is so

near to us, He even catches our faintest whisper. And so, we can be greatly encouraged and comforted by the nearness of God.

And we need to practice the presence of God day-by-day, moment-by-moment. And that is done through our quiet time. Each day as we spend time alone with the Lord, reading His Word, meditating on His Word and praying then we will encounter the presence of the Lord. We can sense His presence in a very powerful, dynamic way. He will stand right next to us.

He is coming soon. Yes, we eagerly look forward to His return but right now, He is present by my side to listen to me and to help me.

- Benjamin Devadason -



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