

Good News Daily

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Sunday, June 6

Revelation 12:1-12 *The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray.* (v.9a NIV)

I was struck by the phrase saying it is Satan who leads the whole world astray—struck by the fact that if we look closely at our own lives, the lives of those we know, as well as world events, what we've read in novels, etc., we begin to see that it is the turning away from God that results in down-falls. And behind everyone's turning is the subtle, mostly unseen, prompting of the devil himself.

When I was new to Bible study, many years ago, I had no concept of Satan, thinking like many uninformed churchgoers that he wasn't "real." But I soon learned that he is not the red creature with horns, a tail, and a pitchfork in his hand. He is a fallen creature who frequently operates by planting thoughts and doubts in our minds. Anything that will keep us from believing and trusting in the Lord and His Son, Jesus Christ. When I read C.S. Lewis' book, *The Screwtape Letters*, I began to understand how this works.

Dearest Lord Jesus, thank you for your mercy in forgiving me when I take my eyes off you, and help me to grow in grace as I walk with you.

Deuteronomy 29:16-29; Psalms 24, 29; Matthew 15:29-39

Include in your prayers: Our country; for wisdom and guidance for our leaders and the leaders of all nations; for our armed forces, especially those now in danger, including Sarah Fitch, Gregory Campbell, Lieutenant Ryan Morie, Houston, General John Shepherd, Russell Clark, Peniel Reid, and their families; for our enemies; for peace, justice and reconciliation in all places where there is conflict, especially among the peoples of the Middle East; for Haiti and Bondeau; and for Todd and Patsy McGregor and their work with SAMS training missionaries.

Monday, June 7

Psalms 56 *When I am afraid I will trust in you. In God, whose word I trust; I will not be afraid. What can mortal man do to me?* (v.3)

Easier said than done, as the cliché goes. Fear is such a common problem that it's no wonder that there are so many verses throughout the entire Bible that address fear. Even in Psalm 56 these words are repeated in verse 11. References to fear and trusting God are found in Proverbs, Isaiah, and the words of Jesus in the Gospels, to mention a few. It makes you realize that fear is common to mankind in every generation.

In my own life, I have found that the more I trust God, the less afraid I am—of people, the dark, current events. As I write this devotional, the entire

world is in the midst of a pandemic. Most people are fearful of catching this horrid COVID-19 virus, which can be fatal. So, I have found that if I trust the Lord completely with my unseen future, it allays my fear and brings me peace. I shared this with a friend the other day and it comforted her.

Dear Father, Abba, help us all to trust You more and more each day and to remember that You are worthy of such trust.

Deuteronomy 30:1-10; Psalms 57, 58; 2 Corinthians 10:1-18; Luke 18:31-43

Include in your prayers: Ricardo Acuña, Joanna Aras, Karin Armbruster, Kay Bailey, Liz Bardin, Todd Baron, Wally and Evelyne Bates, James Baur, Nicholas Beswick, Joe Bishop, Lance Block, Kelly Bonneau, Brad Brett and Linda Johnson-Brett, Abigail Browne, Bill Browne, Gloria Chung, Nico Clothier, the sister of Nancy Cole and her family

Tuesday, June 8

Psalm 62 *My soul finds rest in God alone; my salvation comes from him. He alone is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will never be shaken.* (vv.1-2)

Notice how the word “my” is repeated here. And also, in verses 5-7, it is used 9 times! This certainly speaks to a very personal relationship with God, doesn’t it? These verses also remind me that no person or thing can ever supply for us what God can. Just looking at the first phrase, “My soul finds rest in God alone,” prompts me to remember that no matter what I pursued in the past, nothing ever supplied rest for my soul. I used to think that if I did everything “right,” like regularly attending church, serving on church committees, etc., that my soul would be satisfied and find rest. But it didn’t. Only when I opened my heart and stopped trying to earn my way into heaven did I find rest for my soul.

And along with rest, I found God to be my rock, salvation, and fortress. As long as I trust the Lord for these things, I am able to say with David, “I will never be shaken.” So please help me, Jesus, to stay always connected to you. Thank you for your unconditional love and never-ending patience with me.

Deuteronomy 30:11-20; Psalm 61; 2 Corinthians 11:1-21a; Luke 19:1-10

Include in your prayers: Martin Conlon, Robert Connell, Stan and Shirley Connell, Mark Connell, Alan Costa, Cindy Croushore, Joe and Connie D’Alessandro, Ruth Dans, Joseph Devan, Lynn Duncan, Richard Dunstan, Suzie Dudas, Rachel Dwyer, George Dzama III, Nolan Eicher, Susan Feldman, Mary Fietze, Sherry Follayttar, Drew Fogg, the French family, and John Fullager.

Wednesday, June 9

Deuteronomy 31:30—32:14 *He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he.* (v.4)

This verse describes so many attributes of our Lord that set Him apart from all others, and certainly shows us that we human beings are *so* imperfect. Think about the fact that “all his ways are just.” I wish I could say that about myself, but I know it would be a lie. I have not always treated other people justly, even though I would like to think that I have. What I can say honestly is that I have tried to do this, wanted to be thought of as a fair and just person, but have failed on numerous occasions.

And then there is the phrase, “faithful God who does no wrong.” All of us have done wrong in our lives and I don’t believe anyone could ever say that they have not! Just another reminder that we are sinners in need of a Savior! “He is the Rock, his works are perfect.”

Thank You, Lord, for being our rock and being perfect, something that I could never be. You know that about us, Lord, and You love us regardless—so much so that You gave Your one and only Son to die for us and redeem us. Thank You for who You are.

Psalms 72; 2 Corinthians 11:21b-33; Luke 19:11-27

Include in your prayers: Charlie Gasperino, Anne Gibb, Jake Graybill, Janie Greene, Dennis and Janet Grote, Joe Hagerty, Leslie Hahn, Patty Hart, Shirley Hazen, Pam Heatley, Mike and Alicia Howard and family, Mary Imle, Tindy Islip, Stephen Johnson, Jr. and Jennifer Corson, Kristian Joseph, Patrick Knowlton, Jeffrey Lail, Angie & Jeff Lefevre, Sarah Lawler, Frank Lepore, and Greg Lowe

Thursday, June 10

2 Chronicles 6:18-31 *Forgive, and deal with each man according to what he does, since you know his heart (for you alone know the hearts of men).* (v.30b)

Only God knows my heart and your heart. Even I don’t fully know my own heart, but He does. I may think that I know what’s in another person’s heart, but I can’t fully know. I do believe that a person’s words and actions reveal a lot about his or her heart, but they don’t reveal everything. When we hear of someone showing love for a seemingly unlovable person, we might say, “He has a good heart.” And that is probably a true statement.

I have found in my life that many of the people I could describe as having a good heart are humble people who don’t want accolades, and because they know that God sees everything they do, and that He knows their hearts, His praise is the only accolade that matters to them. They love the Lord because He is the one who has given them their good heart. He alone is the giver of good gifts, and what better gift to receive than a good heart!

Thank You, Father, that you know my heart. Please forgive me when my life is not indicative of a good heart.

Psalms 70, 71; 2 Corinthians 12:1-10; Luke 19:28-40

Include in your prayers: Becky Mahoney and family, Patricia Malloy, Priscilla Marshall, Steve McCue, Joey Mitchell, Julia Montgomery, Bob

Montheard, Ashley Munoz, Mindy Nash, Bernie Parker, Peter Pawlikowski, Joe Pellegrini, Sal & Colleen Perrone, Chris Peters, Brook Pitman, Jim and Jerre Rannie, Debbie Rannie, Jay Rex and family

Friday, June 11

2 Chronicles 26:1-22 *But Uzziah became powerful, his pride led to his downfall.* (v.16a)

Pride leads to many people's downfalls. Oswald Chambers writes in his beloved daily devotional, *My Utmost for His Highest*, that "Pride is the deification of self." I think that is an excellent way to describe pride, because when we are prideful, we are taking credit for something that God should be credited with. I am putting myself on the throne of my life instead of the person who should rightly be the king, God. Thereby I am deifying myself, and a downfall is sure to follow!

I personally believe that pride is at the root of most, if not all, sin. The times I know that I have sinned are the times when I became prideful and took my eyes completely off Jesus. Today's passage begins with Uzziah becoming king when he was only 16 years old, then for most of his 52-year reign he sought and received God's help until as we read in verse 15, "he was greatly helped until he became powerful." Then his pride led to his downfall.

Oh Lord, help us not to be prideful, but to always keep You on the throne of our lives.

Psalm 69; 2 Corinthians 12:11-21; Luke 19:41-48

Include in your prayers: Carlos Salmán, Jessica Sanchez, Nancy Scarpa, Arnie Selna, Tammy Simpson, Amanda Smith, Brian Smith and family, Howard Smith, Kathryn Smith, Melissa Smith, Philip Smith, Bob and Audrey Sprague, Rob Steiner, Roger Thomas, Phil Toren, Keith van Cleave, Patricia Vreeland, Grace Wasko, Karen Weitz, George Whiteley, Joan Williams, Wendy Williams, Mirabelle Wrist, Ali Zygmunt

Saturday, June 12

2 Chronicles 31:2-10, 20-21 *In everything he undertook in the service of God's temple and in obedience to the law and the commands, he sought his God and worked whole-heartedly. And so, he prospered.* (v.21)

This is a description of Hezekiah, the king of Judah, who was king three generations after Uzziah, whom we encountered in yesterday's passage. Not surprisingly, 2 Chronicles devotes 3 full chapters to the reign of Hezekiah, compared with one chapter for Uzziah. We see a stark contrast between these two men. In 29:2, we read this description of King Hezekiah: "He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord." And in 30:20, "And the Lord heard Hezekiah and healed the people." What a wonderful king he was, blessed because he loved his Lord.

We probably can't fully appreciate reading about the kings of the Bible since in America we aren't ruled by a king, but we certainly can understand the importance of having good leaders in government. Remind us, Lord, to pray for not only the leaders in our country, but throughout the world. Please guide and strengthen them.

Psalms 75, 76; 2 Corinthians 13:1-14; Luke 20:1-8

Include in your prayers: Bunny, Clay, Dale Anne, Dave and Marion, Laurette, Leo, Lindy, Marilyn, Mark, Marty, Meg and family, Nancy and Stan, Pat, Trish

by Anna Cash

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