# My Utmost for His Highest – 4/12/22

# Complete and Effective Dominion



Death no longer has dominion over Him.…the life that He lives, He lives to God. Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God… —[Romans 6:9-11](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=Romans+6%3A9-11)

**Co-Eternal Life.** Eternal life is the life which Jesus Christ exhibited on the human level. And it is this same life, not simply a copy of it, which is made evident in our mortal flesh when we are born again. Eternal life is not a gift from God; eternal life is the gift of God. The energy and the power which was so very evident in Jesus will be exhibited in us by an act of the absolute sovereign grace of God, once we have made that complete and effective decision about sin.

“You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you…” (Acts 1:8)— not power as a gift from the Holy Spirit; the power is the Holy Spirit, not something that He gives us. The life that was in Jesus becomes ours because of His Cross, once we make the decision to be identified with Him. If it is difficult to get right with God, it is because we refuse to make this moral decision about sin. But once we do decide, the full life of God comes in immediately. Jesus came to give us an endless supply of life— “…that you may be filled with all the fullness of God” ([Ephesians 3:19](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians+3:19)). Eternal life has nothing to do with time. It is the life which Jesus lived when He was down here, and the only Source of life is the Lord Jesus Christ.

Even the weakest saint can experience the power of the deity of the Son of God, when he is willing to “let go.” But any effort to “hang on” to the least bit of our own power will only diminish the life of Jesus in us. We have to keep letting go, and slowly, but surely, the great full life of God will invade us, penetrating every part. Then Jesus will have complete and effective dominion in us, and people will take notice that we have been with Him.

**WISDOM FROM OSWALD CHAMBERS**

It is perilously possible to make our conceptions of God like molten lead poured into a specially designed mould, and when it is cold and hard we fling it at the heads of the religious people who don’t agree with us. Disciples Indeed, 388 R

# CCEL – 4/12/22

**What the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh.**—[ROM. 8:3.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rom.8.html" \l "Rom.8.3)

The law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect. For then would they not have ceased to be offered?—By him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.

Forasmuch . . . as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is the devil; and deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham. Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren.

[Heb. 10:1,2](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Heb.10.html" \l "Heb.10.1). -[Acts 13:39](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Acts.13.html" \l "Acts.13.39).[Heb. 2:14-17](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Heb.2.html" \l "Heb.2.14).

“My heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels.” **[Psalm 22:14](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.22.html" \l "Ps.22.14)**

Our blessed Lord experienced a terrible sinking and melting of soul. “The spirit of a man will sustain his infirmity, but a wounded spirit who can bear?” Deep depression of spirit is the most grievous of all trials; all besides is as nothing. Well might the suffering Saviour cry to his God, “Be not far from me,” for above all other seasons a man needs his God when his heart is melted within him because of heaviness. Believer, come near the cross this morning, and humbly adore the King of glory as having once been brought far lower, in mental distress and inward anguish, than any one among us; and mark his fitness to become a faithful High Priest, who can be touched with a feeling of our infirmities. Especially let those of us whose sadness springs directly from the withdrawal of a present sense of our Father’s love, enter into near and intimate communion with Jesus. Let us not give way to despair, since through this dark room the Master has passed before us. Our souls may sometimes long and faint, and thirst even to anguish, to behold the light of the Lord’s countenance: at such times let us stay ourselves with the sweet fact of the sympathy of our great High Priest. Our drops of sorrow may well be forgotten in the ocean of his griefs; but how high ought our love to rise! Come in, O strong and deep love of Jesus, like the sea at the flood in spring tides, cover all my powers, drown all my sins, wash out all my cares, lift up my earth-bound soul, and float it right up to my Lord’s feet, and there let me lie, a poor broken shell, washed up by his love, having no virtue or value; and only venturing to whisper to him that if he will put his ear to me, he will hear within my heart faint echoes of the vast waves of his own love which have brought me where it is my delight to lie, even at his feet forever.

# Word Live – 4/12/22

# <https://content.scriptureunion.org.uk/wordlive/>

# Scripture Union – 4/12/22

[**https://scriptureunion.org/encounters/**](https://scriptureunion.org/encounters/)

# Today in the Word – 4/12/22

# Facing Discouragement

**Read:** [**Jeremiah 20:7–18**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jeremiah+20%3a7%e2%80%9318)

### **Jeremiah’s Complaint**

7You deceived[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jeremiah+20%3A7%E2%80%9318+&version=NIV#fen-NIV-19430a)] me, Lord, and I was deceived[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jeremiah+20%3A7%E2%80%9318+&version=NIV#fen-NIV-19430b)];  
    you overpowered me and prevailed.  
I am ridiculed all day long;  
    everyone mocks me.  
8Whenever I speak, I cry out  
    proclaiming violence and destruction.  
So the word of the Lord has brought me  
    insult and reproach all day long.  
9But if I say, “I will not mention his word  
    or speak anymore in his name,”  
his word is in my heart like a fire,  
    a fire shut up in my bones.  
I am weary of holding it in;  
    indeed, I cannot.  
10I hear many whispering,  
    “Terror on every side!  
    Denounce him! Let’s denounce him!”  
All my friends  
    are waiting for me to slip, saying,  
“Perhaps he will be deceived;  
    then we will prevail over him  
    and take our revenge on him.”

11But the Lord is with me like a mighty warrior;  
    so my persecutors will stumble and not prevail.  
They will fail and be thoroughly disgraced;  
    their dishonor will never be forgotten.  
12Lord Almighty, you who examine the righteous  
    and probe the heart and mind,  
let me see your vengeance on them,  
    for to you I have committed my cause.

13Sing to the Lord!  
    Give praise to the Lord!  
He rescues the life of the needy  
    from the hands of the wicked.

14Cursed be the day I was born!  
    May the day my mother bore me not be blessed!  
15Cursed be the man who brought my father the news,  
    who made him very glad, saying,  
    “A child is born to you—a son!”  
16May that man be like the towns  
    the Lord overthrew without pity.  
May he hear wailing in the morning,  
    a battle cry at noon.  
17For he did not kill me in the womb,  
    with my mother as my grave,  
    her womb enlarged forever.  
18Why did I ever come out of the womb  
    to see trouble and sorrow  
    and to end my days in shame?

#### **Footnotes**

1. [Jeremiah 20:7](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jeremiah+20%3A7%E2%80%9318+&version=NIV#en-NIV-19430) Or persuaded
2. [Jeremiah 20:7](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jeremiah+20%3A7%E2%80%9318+&version=NIV#en-NIV-19430) Or persuaded

The famous artist Donatello completed a life-size marble sculpture of the prophet Jeremiah in 1427. If you visited the museum in Florence, Italy, you’d note that Jeremiah looks fatigued, even exhausted. His face suggests profound sadness and frustration as well as a hint of inner turmoil.

The word of the LORD has brought me insult and reproach all day long. Jeremiah 20:8

After reading today’s passage, we can understand why God’s prophet would be profoundly discouraged. On the one hand, he was regularly receiving and preaching messages from the Lord. These words burned in him like fire, but he felt like a hammer trying to break rocks (v. 9; Jer. 5:14; 23:29). No one was listening! Even worse, despite great effort, his ministry was bearing no apparent fruit. Earlier in chapter 20, a priest named Pashhur had Jeremiah beaten and put in the stocks for his prophecy in chapter 19.

So we are not surprised that Jeremiah complained (vv. 7–10): The word of the Lord had brought him only “insult and reproach all day long.” In a sense, God was to blame for His prophet’s suffering. But Jeremiah felt compelled or even coerced to continue proclaiming the word of the Lord. His calling was overpowering, even though he knew what it would cost him (see also Mark 8:34–35).

Despite his discouragement, Jeremiah expressed confidence in the Lord to save him (Jer. 20:11–13). The LORD is a “mighty warrior.” The prophet may be discouraged and weary of the battle, but his faith had not weakened. He even called on his hearers, “Sing to the LORD!” (v. 13).

Jeremiah ended his reflections with a complaint (vv. 14–18): “Cursed be the day I was born!” he cried, expressing his anguish at knowing he’d see Jerusalem and the Temple burn in judgment.

**Apply the Word**

There were no easy answers for Jeremiah’s situation, but he did the right thing by taking it to the Lord in prayer. There may be no easy answers for the situation you are facing either but remember that no problem is too big for God!

## **Pray with Us**

Lord God, it’s true that man is born unto suffering (Job 5:7). But in Revelation 15:2–4 we see a picture of victory, those who have suffered for Your name worshiping You in heaven. We are reminded that it’s all worth it!

### BY Brad Baurain

# Our Daily Bread – 4/12/22

# Like Us, for Us

**Read:** [**Hebrews 2:10–18**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Heb%202.10%E2%80%9318)

10In bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through what he suffered. 11Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters.[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews+2%3A10%E2%80%9318&version=NIV#fen-NIV-29989a)] 12He says,

“I will declare your name to my brothers and sisters;  
    in the assembly I will sing your praises.”[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews+2%3A10%E2%80%9318&version=NIV#fen-NIV-29990b)]

13And again,

“I will put my trust in him.”[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews+2%3A10%E2%80%9318&version=NIV#fen-NIV-29991c)]

And again he says,

“Here am I, and the children God has given me.”[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews+2%3A10%E2%80%9318&version=NIV#fen-NIV-29991d)]

14Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil— 15and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. 16For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham’s descendants. 17For this reason he had to be made like them,[[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews+2%3A10%E2%80%9318&version=NIV#fen-NIV-29995e)] fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. 18Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

#### **Footnotes**

1. [Hebrews 2:11](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews+2%3A10%E2%80%9318&version=NIV#en-NIV-29989) The Greek word for brothers and sisters (adelphoi) refers here to believers, both men and women, as part of God’s family; also in verse 12; and in 3:1, 12; 10:19; 13:22.
2. [Hebrews 2:12](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews+2%3A10%E2%80%9318&version=NIV#en-NIV-29990) Psalm 22:22
3. [Hebrews 2:13](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews+2%3A10%E2%80%9318&version=NIV#en-NIV-29991) Isaiah 8:17
4. [Hebrews 2:13](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews+2%3A10%E2%80%9318&version=NIV#en-NIV-29991) Isaiah 8:18
5. [Hebrews 2:17](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews+2%3A10%E2%80%9318&version=NIV#en-NIV-29995) Or like his brothers

For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human in every way. [Hebrews 2:17](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Heb%202.17)

Derek noticed his son didn’t want to take off his shirt to swim and realized it was because he was self-conscious about a birthmark that covers parts of his chest, belly, and left arm. Determined to help his son, Derek underwent a lengthy and painful tattooing process to create an identical mark on his own body.

Derek’s love for his son reflects God’s love for His sons and daughters. Because we, His children, “have flesh and blood” ([Hebrews 2:14](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Heb%202.14)), Jesus became like us and took on a human form and “shared in [our] humanity” to free us from the power of death (v. 14). “He had to be made like [us], fully human in every way” (v. 17) to make things right with God for us.

Derek wanted to help his son overcome his self-consciousness and so made himself “like” him. Jesus helped us overcome our far greater problem—slavery to death. He overcame it for us by making Himself like us, bearing the consequence of our sin by dying in our place.

Jesus’ willingness to share in our humanity not only secured our right relationship with God but enables us to trust Him in our moments of struggle. When we face temptation and hardship, we can lean on Him for strength and support because “he is able to help” (v. 18). Like a loving father, He understands and cares.

By:  [Kirsten Holmberg](https://odb.org/author/kirstenholmberg/)

#### **Reflect & Pray**

How might Jesus relate to the struggle you’re facing right now? What keeps you from leaning on Him in this moment?

Thank You, Jesus, for taking on a human form to relate to me in my struggles and pay for my wrongdoings. I want to trust You more.

#### **Insight**

In [Hebrews 2](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Heb%202), the writer points to the “pioneer” of salvation—Jesus Himself (v. 10). [Hebrews 12:2](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Heb%2012.2) uses the same word (archēgos) to speak of Him as the pioneer of our faith. Other translations render the term as “author,” “originator,” “founder,” or “captain.” The term connotes one who initiates. In [Romans 8:29](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Rom%208.29), the apostle Paul calls Jesus “the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.” Integral to His pioneering work is the fact that “both the one who makes people holy [Christ] and those who are made holy [those who believe in Him] are of the same family. So, Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters” ([Hebrews 2:11](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Heb%202.11)). Not only are we brothers and sisters with each other, but also with Christ Himself.

By: [**Tim Gustafson**](https://odb.org/author/timgustafson/)

# God Calling – 4/12/22

# Golden Opportunity

I am your Guide. Strength and help will come to you; just trust Me wholly.

Fear not. I am evermore ready to hear than you to ask. Walk in My ways, and know that help will come.

Man's need is God's chance to help. I love to help and save. Man's need is God's golden opportunity for him of letting his faith find expression. That expression of faith is all that God needs to manifest His Power. Faith is the Key that unlocks the storehouse of God's resources.

My faithful servants, you long for perfection and see your bitter failures. I see faithfulness, and as a mother takes the soiled, imperfect work of her child and invests it with perfection because of the sweet love, so I take your poor faithfulness and crown it with perfection.

"Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us." Ephesians 3:20

# My Utmost for His Highest – 4/13/22

# What To Do When Your Burden Is Overwhelming



Cast your burden on the Lord… —[Psalm 55:22](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=Psalm+55%3A22)

We must recognize the difference between burdens that are right for us to bear and burdens that are wrong. We should never bear the burdens of sin or doubt, but there are some burdens placed on us by God which He does not intend to lift off. God wants us to roll them back on Him— to literally “cast your burden,” which He has given you, “on the Lord….” If we set out to serve God and do His work but get out of touch with Him, the sense of responsibility we feel will be overwhelming and defeating. But if we will only roll back on God the burdens He has placed on us, He will take away that immense feeling of responsibility, replacing it with an awareness and understanding of Himself and His presence.

Many servants set out to serve God with great courage and with the right motives. But with no intimate fellowship with Jesus Christ, they are soon defeated. They do not know what to do with their burden, and it produces weariness in their lives. Others will see this and say, “What a sad end to something that had such a great beginning!”

“Cast your burden on the Lord….” You have been bearing it all, but you need to deliberately place one end on God’s shoulder. “…the government will be upon His shoulder” ([Isaiah 9:6](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah+9:6)). Commit to God whatever burden He has placed on you. Don’t just cast it aside, but put it over onto Him and place yourself there with it. You will see that your burden is then lightened by the sense of companionship. But you should never try to separate yourself from your burden.

**WISDOM FROM OSWALD CHAMBERS**

We never enter into the Kingdom of God by having our head questions answered, but only by commitment.

[The Highest Good—Thy Great Redemption](http://www.dhp.org/Products/Quotable-Oswald-Chambers--The__BW382.aspx?affid=RBCHAMB)

# CCEL – 4/13/22

**Honour the Lord with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase.**—[PROV. 3:9.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Prov.3.html" \l "Prov.3.9)

He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.—Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him.

God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints and do minister.

I beseech you . . . brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.—The love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: and that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.—Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

[II Cor. 9:6](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iiCor.9.html" \l "iiCor.9.6). -[I Cor. 16:2](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iCor.16.html" \l "iCor.16.2).[Heb. 6:10](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Heb.6.html" \l "Heb.6.10).[Rom. 12:l](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rom.12.html" \l "Rom.12.1). -[II Cor. 5:14,15](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iiCor.5.html" \l "iiCor.5.14). -[I Cor. 10:31](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iCor.10.html" \l "iCor.10.31).

“A bundle of myrrh is my well-beloved unto me.” **[Song of Solomon 1:13](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Song.1.html" \l "Song.1.13)**

Myrrh may well be chosen as the type of Jesus on account of its preciousness, its perfume, its pleasantness, its healing, preserving, disinfecting qualities, and its connection with sacrifice. But why is he compared to “a bundle of myrrh”? First, for plenty. He is not a drop of it, he is a casket full. He is not a sprig or flower of it, but a whole bundle. There is enough in Christ for all my necessities; let me not be slow to avail myself of him. Our well-beloved is compared to a “bundle” again, for variety: for there is in Christ not only the one thing needful, but in “him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily;” everything needful is in him. Take Jesus in his different characters, and you will see a marvellous variety—Prophet, Priest, King, Husband, Friend, Shepherd. Consider him in his life, death, resurrection, ascension, second advent; view him in his virtue, gentleness, courage, self-denial, love, faithfulness, truth, righteousness—everywhere he is a bundle of preciousness. He is a “bundle of myrrh” for preservation—not loose myrrh to be dropped on the floor or trodden on, but myrrh tied up, myrrh to be stored in a casket. We must value him as our best treasure; we must prize his words and his ordinances; and we must keep our thoughts of him and knowledge of him as under lock and key, lest the devil should steal anything from us. Moreover, Jesus is a “bundle of myrrh” for speciality; the emblem suggests the idea of distinguishing, discriminating grace. From before the foundation of the world, he was set apart for his people; and he gives forth his perfume only to those who understand how to enter into communion with him, to have close dealings with him. Oh! blessed people whom the Lord hath admitted into his secrets, and for whom he sets himself apart. Oh! choice and happy who are thus made to say, “A bundle of myrrh is my well-beloved unto me.”

# Word Live – 4/13/22

# <https://content.scriptureunion.org.uk/wordlive/>

# Scripture Union – 4/13/22

[**https://scriptureunion.org/encounters/**](https://scriptureunion.org/encounters/)

# Today in the Word – 4/13/22

# False Faith

**Read:** [**Jeremiah 21:1–10**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jeremiah+21%3a1%e2%80%9310)

### **God Rejects Zedekiah’s Request**

21 The word came to Jeremiah from the Lord when King Zedekiah sent to him Pashhur son of Malkijah and the priest Zephaniah son of Maaseiah. They said: 2“Inquire now of the Lord for us because Nebuchadnezzar[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jeremiah+21%3A1%E2%80%9310+&version=NIV#fen-NIV-19443a)] king of Babylon is attacking us. Perhaps the Lord will perform wonders for us as in times past so that he will withdraw from us.”

3But Jeremiah answered them, “Tell Zedekiah, 4‘This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: I am about to turn against you the weapons of war that are in your hands, which you are using to fight the king of Babylon and the Babylonians[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jeremiah+21%3A1%E2%80%9310+&version=NIV#fen-NIV-19445b)] who are outside the wall besieging you. And I will gather them inside this city. 5I myself will fight against you with an outstretched hand and a mighty arm in furious anger and in great wrath. 6I will strike down those who live in this city—both man and beast—and they will die of a terrible plague. 7After that, declares the Lord, I will give Zedekiah king of Judah, his officials and the people in this city who survive the plague, sword and famine, into the hands of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and to their enemies who want to kill them. He will put them to the sword; he will show them no mercy or pity or compassion.’

8“Furthermore, tell the people, ‘This is what the Lord says: See, I am setting before you the way of life and the way of death. 9Whoever stays in this city will die by the sword, famine or plague. But whoever goes out and surrenders to the Babylonians who are besieging you will live; they will escape with their lives. 10I have determined to do this city harm and not good, declares the Lord. It will be given into the hands of the king of Babylon, and he will destroy it with fire.’

#### **Footnotes**

1. [Jeremiah 21:2](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jeremiah+21%3A1%E2%80%9310+&version=NIV#en-NIV-19443) Hebrew Nebuchadrezzar, of which Nebuchadnezzar is a variant; here and often in Jeremiah and Ezekiel
2. [Jeremiah 21:4](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jeremiah+21%3A1%E2%80%9310+&version=NIV#en-NIV-19445) Or Chaldeans; also in verse 9

In the early church, believers shared whatever they had to meet one another’s needs. Barnabas sold some property and gave the money to the apostles to distribute. Noticing the praise he received, Ananias and his wife Sapphira decided to do the same...almost. They gave part of the money, but kept the rest, saying they’d given it all. Because they lied to God, they were both punished with death (Acts 4:32–5:11).

I am setting before you the way of life and the way of death. Jeremiah 21:8

God hates hypocrisy. Ananias and Sapphira pretended to be generous but were not. Similarly, King Zedekiah appeared to be full of faith but was not. He rebelled against Babylon in 588 B.C., inquired of a true prophet, and expressed hope in God’s wonder- working power for victory (Jer. 21:1–2). Weren’t these “steps of faith”? No. This was his idea, not God’s. Zedekiah was merely wishing that God would get on board. It was an attempt to manipulate the Almighty. There had been no change in the king’s heart in response to any of Jeremiah’s messages.

Therefore, there was no change in God’s answer: Judah would still be conquered by Babylon (vv. 3–7). There would be plague, famine, and a total military defeat. Even worse, it would be as if God Himself was fighting against them. Ironically, Zedekiah’s name means “The Lord is my righteousness,” but he didn’t live up to it, nor did any of the political and religious leaders of that day. As a group, they were primarily to blame for the coming judgment.

Jeremiah presented the king with a familiar choice (vv. 8–10; see also Deut. 11:26–28). They could listen and live, or not listen and die. If they believed God, they should surrender to the Babylonians and save many lives. If not, they could keep fighting and pay the price.

**Apply the Word**

It’s safe to say that many people who call themselves Christians today are not following the true gospel or the Word of God. With God on our side, let’s pray for revival!

## **Pray with Us**

Father, we ask for personal revival. Deepen our thirst for Scripture and for knowing You! Revive our nation’s churches. Commend and correct our churches so that they can be powerful tools in Your hands.

### BY Brad Baurain

# Our Daily Bread – 4/13/22

# Carried by Love

 **Read:** [**Isaiah 46:1–10**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Isa%2046.1%E2%80%9310)

### **Gods of Babylon**

46 Bel bows down, Nebo stoops low;  
    their idols are borne by beasts of burden.[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah+46%3A1%E2%80%9310&version=NIV#fen-NIV-18588a)]  
The images that are carried about are burdensome,  
    a burden for the weary.  
2They stoop and bow down together;  
    unable to rescue the burden,  
    they themselves go off into captivity.

3“Listen to me, you descendants of Jacob,  
    all the remnant of the people of Israel,  
you whom I have upheld since your birth,  
    and have carried since you were born.  
4Even to your old age and gray hairs  
    I am he, I am he who will sustain you.  
I have made you and I will carry you;  
    I will sustain you and I will rescue you.

5“With whom will you compare me or count me equal?  
    To whom will you liken me that we may be compared?  
6Some pour out gold from their bags  
    and weigh out silver on the scales;  
they hire a goldsmith to make it into a god,  
    and they bow down and worship it.  
7They lift it to their shoulders and carry it;  
    they set it up in its place, and there it stands.  
    From that spot it cannot move.  
Even though someone cries out to it, it cannot answer;  
    it cannot save them from their troubles.

8“Remember this, keep it in mind,  
    take it to heart, you rebels.  
9Remember the former things, those of long ago;  
    I am God, and there is no other;  
    I am God, and there is none like me.  
10I make known the end from the beginning,  
    from ancient times, what is still to come.  
I say, ‘My purpose will stand,  
    and I will do all that I please.’

#### **Footnotes**

1. [Isaiah 46:1](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah+46%3A1%E2%80%9310&version=NIV#en-NIV-18588) Or are but beasts and cattle

I have made you and I will carry you. [Isaiah 46:4](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Isa%2046.4)

My four-year-old grandson sat on my lap and patted my bald head, studying it intently. “Papa,” he asked, “What happened to your hair?” “Oh,” I laughed, “I lost it over the years.” His face turned thoughtful: “That’s too bad,” he responded. “I’ll have to give you some of mine.”

I smiled at his compassion and pulled him close for a hug. Reflecting later on his love for me in that cherished moment also caused me to ponder God’s selfless, generous love.

G. K. Chesterton wrote: “We have sinned and grown old, and our Father is younger than we.” By this he meant that the “Ancient of Days” ([Daniel 7:9](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Dan%207.9)) is untainted by sin’s decay—God is ageless and loves us exuberantly with a love that never falters or fades. He’s fully willing and able to fulfill the promise He made to His people in [Isaiah 46](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Isa%2046): “Even to your old age and gray hairs I am he, I am he who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you” (v. 4).

Five verses later He explains, “I am God, and there is none like me” (v. 9). The great “I am” ([Exodus 3:14](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Exod%203.14)) loves us so deeply that He went to the extreme of dying on the cross to bear the full weight of our sin, so that we might turn to Him and be free of our burden and gratefully worship Him forever!

By:  [James Banks](https://odb.org/author/jamesbanks/)

#### **Reflect & Pray**

In what ways does God carry you through each day? How can you draw new strength from Him in this moment?

Beautiful Savior, I’m so thankful Your love for me never grows old! Help my love for You to grow ever deeper.

#### **Insight**

Through the words of Isaiah, God compares the strength of Babylonian gods to Himself. The specific gods mentioned are Bel and Nebo ([Isaiah 46:1–2](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Isa%2046.1%E2%80%932)). Bel, also known as Marduk ([Jeremiah 50:2](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Jer%2050.2)), was the chief god of the city of Babylon and the national god of Babylonia. He was the considered to be the god of order and destiny. Nabu was believed to be the son of Marduk and the one who knows all and sees all. With a twist of irony, God says that He does what these two gods can’t do—rescue His people ([Isaiah 46:3–7](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Isa%2046.3%E2%80%937)).

By: [**J.R. Hudberg**](https://odb.org/author/jrhudberg/)

# God Calling – 4/13/22

# Gentle With All

Love and laugh. Make your world the happier for your being in it. Love and rejoice on the gray days.

There are wilderness days for My Disciples as well as Mountains of Transfiguration, but on both it is duty, persistently, faithfully done, that tells.

Be gentle with all. Try to see the heart I see, to know the pain and difficulty of the other life, that I know. Try, before you interview anyone, or speak to anyone, to ask Me to act as interpreter between you two.

Just live the spirit of prayer. In speaking to Me, you find soul-rest. Simple tasks, faithfully done and persisted in, bring their own reward, and are mosaics being laid in the pavement of success.

Welcome all who come here. I love you.

"Let love be without dissimulation." Romans 12:9

# My Utmost for His Highest – 4/14/22

# Inner Invincibility



Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me… —[Matthew 11:29](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=Matthew+11%3A29)

“Whom the Lord loves He chastens…” ([Hebrews 12:6](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews+12:6)). How petty our complaining is! Our Lord begins to bring us to the point where we can have fellowship with Him, only to hear us moan and groan, saying, “Oh Lord, just let me be like other people!” Jesus is asking us to get beside Him and take one end of the yoke, so that we can pull together. That’s why Jesus says to us, “My yoke is easy and My burden is light” ([Matthew 11:30](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+11:30)). Are you closely identified with the Lord Jesus like that? If so, you will thank God when you feel the pressure of His hand upon you.

“…to those who have no might He increases strength” ([Isaiah 40:29](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah+40:29)). God comes and takes us out of our emotionalism, and then our complaining turns into a hymn of praise. The only way to know the strength of God is to take the yoke of Jesus upon us and to learn from Him.

“…the joy of the Lord is your strength” ([Nehemiah 8:10](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Nehemiah+8:10)). Where do the saints get their joy? If we did not know some Christians well, we might think from just observing them that they have no burdens at all to bear. But we must lift the veil from our eyes. The fact that the peace, light, and joy of God is in them is proof that a burden is there as well. The burden that God places on us squeezes the grapes in our lives and produces the wine, but most of us see only the wine and not the burden. No power on earth or in hell can conquer the Spirit of God living within the human spirit; it creates an inner invincibility.

If your life is producing only a whine, instead of the wine, then ruthlessly kick it out. It is definitely a crime for a Christian to be weak in God’s strength.

**WISDOM FROM OSWALD CHAMBERS**

Jesus Christ is always unyielding to my claim to my right to myself. The one essential element in all our Lord’s teaching about discipleship is abandon, no calculation, no trace of self-interest.Disciples Indeed, 395 L

# CCEL – 4/14/22

**My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness; and my mouth shall praise thee with joyful lips: when I remember thee upon my bed, and meditate on thee in the night watches.**—[PSA. 63:5,6.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.63.html" \l "Ps.63.5)

How precious . . . are thy thoughts unto me, O God! how great is the sum of them! If I should count them, they are more in number than the sand: when I awake, I am still with thee.—How sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth!—Thy love is better than wine.

Whom have I in heaven but thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee.—Thou art fairer than the children of men.

As the apple tree among the trees of the wood, so is my beloved among the sons. I sat down under his shadow with great delight, and his fruit was sweet to my taste. He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me was love.—His countenance is as Lebanon, excellent as the cedars. His mouth is most sweet: yea, he is altogether lovely. This is my beloved, and this is my friend.

[Psa. 139:17,18](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.139.html" \l "Ps.139.17). -[Psa. 119:103](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.119.html" \l "Ps.119.103). -[Song 1:2](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Song.1.html" \l "Song.1.2).[Psa. 73:25](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.73.html" \l "Ps.73.25). -[Psa. 45:2](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.45.html" \l "Ps.45.2).[Song 2:3,4](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Song.2.html" \l "Song.2.3). -[Song 5:15,16](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Song.5.html" \l "Song.5.15).

“All they that see me laugh me to scorn: they shoot out the lip, they shake the head.” **[Psalm 22:7](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.22.html" \l "Ps.22.7)**

Mockery was a great ingredient in our Lord’s woe. Judas mocked him in the garden; the chief priests and scribes laughed him to scorn; Herod set him at nought; the servants and the soldiers jeered at him, and brutally insulted him; Pilate and his guards ridiculed his royalty; and on the tree all sorts of horrid jests and hideous taunts were hurled at him. Ridicule is always hard to bear, but when we are in intense pain it is so heartless, so cruel, that it cuts us to the quick. Imagine the Saviour crucified, racked with anguish far beyond all mortal guess, and then picture that motley multitude, all wagging their heads or thrusting out the lip in bitterest contempt of one poor suffering victim! Surely there must have been something more in the crucified One than they could see, or else such a great and mingled crowd would not unanimously have honoured him with such contempt. Was it not evil confessing, in the very moment of its greatest apparent triumph, that after all it could do no more than mock at that victorious goodness which was then reigning on the cross? O Jesus, “despised and rejected of men,” how couldst thou die for men who treated thee so ill? Herein is love amazing, love divine, yea, love beyond degree. We, too, have despised thee in the days of our unregeneracy, and even since our new birth we have set the world on high in our hearts, and yet thou bleedest to heal our wounds, and diest to give us life. O that we could set thee on a glorious high throne in all men’s hearts! We would ring out thy praises over land and sea till men should as universally adore as once they did unanimously reject.

“Thy creatures wrong thee, O thou sovereign Good!

Thou art not loved, because not understood:

This grieves me most, that vain pursuits beguile

Ungrateful men, regardless of thy smile.”

# Word Live – 4/14/22

# <https://content.scriptureunion.org.uk/wordlive/>

# Scripture Union – 4/14/22

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# Today in the Word – 4/14/22

# The Righteous Branch

**Read:** [**Jeremiah 23:1–8**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jeremiah+23%3a1%e2%80%938)

### **The Righteous Branch**

23 “Woe to the shepherds who are destroying and scattering the sheep of my pasture!” declares the Lord. 2Therefore this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says to the shepherds who tend my people: “Because you have scattered my flock and driven them away and have not bestowed care on them, I will bestow punishment on you for the evil you have done,” declares the Lord. 3“I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the countries where I have driven them and will bring them back to their pasture, where they will be fruitful and increase in number. 4I will place shepherds over them who will tend them, and they will no longer be afraid or terrified, nor will any be missing,” declares the Lord.

5“The days are coming,” declares the Lord,  
    “when I will raise up for David[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jeremiah+23%3A1%E2%80%938+&version=NIV#fen-NIV-19490a)] a righteous Branch,  
a King who will reign wisely  
    and do what is just and right in the land.  
6In his days Judah will be saved  
    and Israel will live in safety.  
This is the name by which he will be called:  
    The Lord Our Righteous Savior.

7“So then, the days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when people will no longer say, ‘As surely as the Lord lives, who brought the Israelites up out of Egypt,’ 8but they will say, ‘As surely as the Lord lives, who brought the descendants of Israel up out of the land of the north and out of all the countries where he had banished them.’ Then they will live in their own land.”

#### **Footnotes**

1. [Jeremiah 23:5](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jeremiah+23%3A1%E2%80%938+&version=NIV#en-NIV-19490) Or up from David’s line

In 2013, Pakistan set a world record by planting 847,275 trees in a single day. In 2016, India broke that record by planting an astounding 49.3 million trees in one day. In 2019, Ethiopia shattered the record by planting 350 million trees across the country in just twelve hours! Their goal was to repopulate the forests and preserve natural life!

A King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land. Jeremiah 23:5

Trees are a powerful symbol of life. In today’s reading, the coming Messiah is called “a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land” (v. 5; see also Isa. 11). The message Jeremiah gives here is not new: Judgment was coming (Jer. 23:1–2). The shepherds, that is, Judah’s political and religious leaders, had utterly failed. Instead of taking care of the sheep, they’d destroyed and scattered them (see also Ezek. 34).

But despite the approaching conquest and exile, God was not done with His people. He is more than faithful! He Himself would become their shepherd (Jer. 23:3–4). Though they didn’t deserve it, He promised that He would one day restore them to the land (see April 17). At that time, He would provide better human shepherds to guide them, men such as Nehemiah, Ezra, and Zerubbabel.

Even more, He promised to raise up a “righteous Branch” from the line of David (vv. 5–8; Jer. 33:15–16). If you are thinking this foretells the promised Messiah, you are right! The perfect King, unlike the “shepherds” above—will do what is wise, just, and right. His name is “The LORD Our Righteous Savior,” also translated “The LORD has provided us with justice.” The Messiah’s reign will be an incredible work of God, greater even than Israel’s Exodus from slavery in Egypt.

**Apply the Word**

In case you missed it, in [July 2021](https://moodybible.canto.com/direct/document/8fol2sdtat5i361a9aak80rs7d/Z4o5Cn5cb4cB-uRQyUlLdvTHoyI/original?content-type=application%2Fpdf&name=TIW_Jan-2021.pdf), Today in the Word did an entire issue on sheep and shepherd imagery in the Bible. Did you know you have free online access to past studies?

## **Pray with Us**

Once again, we are reminded of Your ultimate victory, an already-not-yet reality. As we encounter joy and pain in our lives, remind us that the Messiah is coming again and that we have an eternity of knowing You ahead of us!

### BY Brad Baurain

# Our Daily Bread – 4/14/22

# “And It Was Night”

 **Read:** [**John 13:21–32**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/John%2013.21%E2%80%9332)

21After he had said this, Jesus was troubled in spirit and testified, “Very truly I tell you, one of you is going to betray me.”

22His disciples stared at one another, at a loss to know which of them he meant. 23One of them, the disciple whom Jesus loved, was reclining next to him. 24Simon Peter motioned to this disciple and said, “Ask him which one he means.”

25Leaning back against Jesus, he asked him, “Lord, who is it?”

26Jesus answered, “It is the one to whom I will give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish.” Then, dipping the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. 27As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him.

So Jesus told him, “What you are about to do, do quickly.” 28But no one at the meal understood why Jesus said this to him. 29Since Judas had charge of the money, some thought Jesus was telling him to buy what was needed for the festival, or to give something to the poor. 30As soon as Judas had taken the bread, he went out. And it was night.

### **Jesus Predicts Peter’s Denial**

31When he was gone, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man is glorified and God is glorified in him. 32If God is glorified in him,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+13%3A21%E2%80%9332&version=NIV#fen-NIV-26663a)] God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once.

#### **Footnotes**

1. [John 13:32](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+13%3A21%E2%80%9332&version=NIV#en-NIV-26663) Many early manuscripts do not have If God is glorified in him.

As soon as Judas had taken the bread, he went out. And it was night. [John 13:30](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/John%2013.30)

Elie Wiesel’s book Night starkly confronts us with the horrors of the Holocaust. Based on his own experiences in Nazi death camps, Wiesel’s account flips the biblical story of the Exodus. While Moses and the Israelites escaped slavery at the first Passover ([Exodus 12](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Exod%2012)), Wiesel tells of the Nazis arresting Jewish leaders following Passover.

Lest we criticize Wiesel and his dark irony, consider that the Bible contains a similar plot twist. On the night of Passover, Jesus, expected to free God’s people from suffering, instead permits Himself to be arrested by those who would kill Him.

John ushers us into the holy scene before Jesus’ arrest. “Troubled in spirit” over what awaited Him, at the Last Supper Jesus predicted His betrayal ([John 13:21](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/John%2013.21)). Then, in an act we can scarcely comprehend, Christ served His betrayer bread. The account reads: “As soon as Judas had taken the bread, he went out. And it was night” (v. 30). History’s greatest injustice was underway, yet Jesus declared, “Now the Son of Man is glorified and God is glorified in him” (v. 31). In a few hours, the disciples would experience panic, defeat, and dejection. But Jesus saw God’s plan unfolding as it should.

When it seems as though the darkness is winning, we can recall that God faced His dark night and defeated it. He walks with us. It won’t always be night.

By:  [Tim Gustafson](https://odb.org/author/timgustafson/)

#### **Reflect & Pray**

When have you experienced panic, loss of hope, and despair? How would you describe how you felt after you came through that dark experience?

Thank You, Jesus, for keeping Your Father’s plan in view when You went through the steps to the cross. Thank You for conquering death for us.

#### **Insight**

John is the only gospel writer who tells us that Jesus washed the feet of His disciples on the eve of His crucifixion (13:1–5). John is also the only one who tells us that Jesus knew from the beginning which of His disciples would betray Him (v. 11). Yet Judas was so trusted by the group that they allowed him to be the keeper of their money. In fact, even when Jesus identified Judas as the one who would betray Him, the group may have trusted him so much that they didn’t even understand what Jesus was saying (v. 29).

By: [**Mart DeHaan**](https://odb.org/author/martdehaan-2/)

# God Calling – 4/14/22

# Equally Yoked

My children, I guide you always. The walking in the way may not be always carried out, but the guiding is always so sure. God is using you both in marvelous ways. Go on gladly. You will see.

To be a perfect gymnast you must learn balance. It is balance and poise, perfect balance and poise, I am teaching you now. This will give you power in dealing with the lives of others, and that power is already being marvelously manifested.

The vision you both have is the means of clearing the obstacles away. When My disciple sees My purpose ahead, that very sight is the power that clears away every obstacle along the range of vision. You will both have mighty power to do this. Spiritual Light is in itself a miracle-worker.

People waste so much time in seeking to work out what they see. I declare to you that in the seeing My purpose all is done. Truly I said to My Disciples, "I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now." But to you, and the twos who gather to hear Me as you do, I can declare those things now, that then I left unsaid.

Is not the message of My servant Paul now plain: "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers," because My Guidance is intensified immeasurably in power, when the two are one in desire to be with Me -- but so few have understood.

"And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left." Isaiah 30:21

# My Utmost for His Highest – 4/15/22

# The Failure To Pay Close Attention



The high places were not removed from Israel. Nevertheless the heart of Asa was loyal all his days. —[2 Chronicles 15:17](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=2+Chronicles+15%3A17)

Asa was not completely obedient in the outward, visible areas of his life. He was obedient in what he considered the most important areas, but he was not entirely right. Beware of ever thinking, “Oh, that thing in my life doesn’t matter much.” The fact that it doesn’t matter much to you may mean that it matters a great deal to God. Nothing should be considered a trivial matter by a child of God. How much longer are we going to prevent God from teaching us even one thing? But He keeps trying to teach us and He never loses patience. You say, “I know I am right with God”— yet the “high places” still remain in your life. There is still an area of disobedience. Do you protest that your heart is right with God, and yet there is something in your life He causes you to doubt? Whenever God causes a doubt about something, stop it immediately, no matter what it may be. Nothing in our lives is a mere insignificant detail to God.

Are there some things regarding your physical or intellectual life to which you have been paying no attention at all? If so, you may think you are all correct in the important areas, but you are careless— you are failing to concentrate or to focus properly. You no more need a day off from spiritual concentration on matters in your life than your heart needs a day off from beating. As you cannot take a day off morally and remain moral, neither can you take a day off spiritually and remain spiritual. God wants you to be entirely His, and it requires paying close attention to keep yourself fit. It also takes a tremendous amount of time. Yet some of us expect to rise above all of our problems, going from one mountaintop experience to another, with only a few minutes’ effort.

**WISDOM FROM OSWALD CHAMBERS**

God engineers circumstances to see what we will do. Will we be the children of our Father in heaven, or will we go back again to the meaner, common-sense attitude? Will we stake all and stand true to Him? “Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.” The crown of life means I shall see that my Lord has got the victory after all, even in me.  The Highest Good—The Pilgrim’s Song Book, 530 L

# CCEL – 4/15/22

**Their Redeemer is strong.**—[JER. 50:34.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Jer.50.html" \l "Jer.50.34)

I know your manifold transgressions and your mighty sins.—I have laid help upon one that is mighty.—TheLord. . . thy Saviour and thy Redeemer, the mighty one of Jacob.—Mighty to save.—Able to keep you from falling.—Where sin abounded, grace did much more abound.

He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.—He is able . . . to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him.

Is my hand shortened at all, that it cannot redeem?

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? . . . I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

[Amos 5:12](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Amos.5.html" \l "Amos.5.12). -[Psa. 89:19](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.89.html" \l "Ps.89.19). -[Isa. 49:26](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Isa.49.html" \l "Isa.49.26). -[Isa. 63:1](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Isa.63.html" \l "Isa.63.1). -[Jude 24](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Jude.1.html" \l "Jude.1.24). -[Rom. 5:20](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rom.5.html" \l "Rom.5.20).[John 3:18](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.John.3.html" \l "John.3.18). -[Heb. 7:25](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Heb.7.html" \l "Heb.7.25).[Isa. 50:2](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Isa.50.html" \l "Isa.50.2).[Rom. 8:35](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rom.8.html" \l "Rom.8.35),[38,39](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rom.8.html" \l "Rom.8.38).

“My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?” **[Psalm 22:1](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.22.html" \l "Ps.22.1)**

We here behold the Saviour in the depth of his sorrows. No other place so well shows the griefs of Christ as Calvary, and no other moment at Calvary is so full of agony as that in which his cry rends the air—“My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?” At this moment physical weakness was united with acute mental torture from the shame and ignominy through which he had to pass; and to make his grief culminate with emphasis, he suffered spiritual agony surpassing all expression, resulting from the departure of his Father’s presence. This was the black midnight of his horror; then it was that he descended the abyss of suffering. No man can enter into the full meaning of these words. Some of us think at times that we could cry, “My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?” There are seasons when the brightness of our Father’s smile is eclipsed by clouds and darkness; but let us remember that God never does really forsake us. It is only a seeming forsaking with us, but in Christ’s case it was a real forsaking. We grieve at a little withdrawal of our Father’s love; but the real turning away of God’s face from his Son, who shall calculate how deep the agony which it caused him?

In our case, our cry is often dictated by unbelief: in his case, it was the utterance of a dreadful fact, for God had really turned away from him for a season. O thou poor, distressed soul, who once lived in the sunshine of God’s face, but art now in darkness, remember that he has not really forsaken thee. God in the clouds is as much our God as when he shines forth in all the lustre of his grace; but since even the thought that he has forsaken us gives us agony, what must the woe of the Saviour have been when he exclaimed, “My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?”

# Word Live – 4/15/22

# <https://content.scriptureunion.org.uk/wordlive/>

# Scripture Union – 4/15/22

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# Today in the Word – 4/15/22

# Success in God's Eyes

**Read:** [**Jeremiah 26:1–16**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jeremiah+26%3a1%e2%80%9316)

### **Jeremiah Threatened With Death**

26 Early in the reign of Jehoiakim son of Josiah king of Judah, this word came from the Lord: 2“This is what the Lord says: Stand in the courtyard of the Lord’s house and speak to all the people of the towns of Judah who come to worship in the house of the Lord. Tell them everything I command you; do not omit a word. 3Perhaps they will listen and each will turn from their evil ways. Then I will relent and not inflict on them the disaster I was planning because of the evil they have done. 4Say to them, ‘This is what the Lord says: If you do not listen to me and follow my law, which I have set before you, 5and if you do not listen to the words of my servants the prophets, whom I have sent to you again and again (though you have not listened), 6then I will make this house like Shiloh and this city a curse[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jeremiah+26%3A1%E2%80%9316+&version=NIV#fen-NIV-19579a)] among all the nations of the earth.’”

7The priests, the prophets and all the people heard Jeremiah speak these words in the house of the Lord. 8But as soon as Jeremiah finished telling all the people everything the Lord had commanded him to say, the priests, the prophets and all the people seized him and said, “You must die! 9Why do you prophesy in the Lord’s name that this house will be like Shiloh and this city will be desolate and deserted?” And all the people crowded around Jeremiah in the house of the Lord.

10When the officials of Judah heard about these things, they went up from the royal palace to the house of the Lord and took their places at the entrance of the New Gate of the Lord’s house. 11Then the priests and the prophets said to the officials and all the people, “This man should be sentenced to death because he has prophesied against this city. You have heard it with your own ears!”

12Then Jeremiah said to all the officials and all the people: “The Lord sent me to prophesy against this house and this city all the things you have heard. 13Now reform your ways and your actions and obey the Lord your God. Then the Lord will relent and not bring the disaster he has pronounced against you. 14As for me, I am in your hands; do with me whatever you think is good and right. 15Be assured, however, that if you put me to death, you will bring the guilt of innocent blood on yourselves and on this city and on those who live in it, for in truth the Lord has sent me to you to speak all these words in your hearing.”

16Then the officials and all the people said to the priests and the prophets, “This man should not be sentenced to death! He has spoken to us in the name of the Lord our God.”

#### **Footnotes**

1. [Jeremiah 26:6](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jeremiah+26%3A1%E2%80%9316+&version=NIV#en-NIV-19579) That is, its name will be used in cursing (see 29:22); or, others will see that it is cursed.

Most people place a high value on success. We judge ourselves and others by the things we have achieved, the house we live in, or the clothes we wear. If we’ve done well, we feel our lives should reflect our success. But the fact is that God defines “success” differently than we do. Jeremiah is a case in point: No one worried about the judgments proclaimed in his prophecies. No one repented in response to his faithful messages. He sparked no lasting revival. His enemies openly mocked him, plotted to assassinate him, threw him in prison, and tried to destroy his writings. Yet because Jeremiah was obedient, God considered him a success.

The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever. 1 John 2:17

Today’s incident from 609 B.C. begins with a message we know well at this point in the study: The people can repent of their sin, or they can face God’s judgment (vv. 1–6). What does “like Shiloh” mean (vv. 6, 9)? Shiloh was the home of the tabernacle from the time of Joshua to the days of Samuel. In response to Israel’s sinfulness, God allowed Shiloh to be destroyed by the Philistines (1 Sam. 4; Ps. 78:59–61).

Since Jeremiah preached this message in the courtyard of the Temple, he’d walked right into the mouth of the lion! Angered, the priests and false prophets arrested him (vv. 7–9). A legal hearing followed (vv. 10–16). Jeremiah’s enemies accused him of prophesying against the Temple and demanded the death penalty. They’d confused a building with God. Jeremiah’s defense was that the Lord had sent him to speak the truth. He boldly repeated the message and called everyone to repent! The fickle crowd switched sides and he, as a genuine prophet under God’s protection, was found innocent.

**Apply the Word**

As Christians, we should not be surprised when we face persecution (1 Peter 4:12–16). Today, pray for your brothers and sisters in Christ around the world who are enduring suffering.

## **Pray with Us**

Lord, we ask for your mercy upon the persecuted church around the world. Sustain their faith and bless their faithfulness. Give them joy and hope, if not for this world, then for the world to come.

### BY Brad Baurain

# Our Daily Bread – 4/15/22

# His Cross of Peace

[**Mark 15:16–24**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Mark%2015.16%E2%80%9324)

### **The Soldiers Mock Jesus**

16The soldiers led Jesus away into the palace (that is, the Praetorium) and called together the whole company of soldiers. 17They put a purple robe on him, then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on him. 18And they began to call out to him, “Hail, king of the Jews!” 19Again and again they struck him on the head with a staff and spit on him. Falling on their knees, they paid homage to him. 20And when they had mocked him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

### **The Crucifixion of Jesus**

21A certain man from Cyrene, Simon, the father of Alexander and Rufus, was passing by on his way in from the country, and they forced him to carry the cross. 22They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means “the place of the skull”). 23Then they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. 24And they crucified him. Dividing up his clothes, they cast lots to see what each would get.

A certain man from Cyrene . . . was passing by . . . and they forced him to carry the cross. [Mark 15:21](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Mark%2015.21)

Somber eyes peer out from the painting Simon of Cyrene by contemporary Dutch artist Egbert Modderman. Simon’s eyes reveal the immense physical and emotional burden of his responsibility. In the biblical account from [Mark 15](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Mark%2015), we learn that Simon was pulled from the watching crowd and forced to carry Jesus’ cross.

Mark tells us that Simon was from Cyrene, a big city in North Africa with a large population of Jews during Jesus’ time. Most likely Simon had journeyed to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. There he found himself in the middle of this unjust execution but was able to perform a small but meaningful act of assistance to Jesus ([Mark 15:21](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Mark%2015.21)).

Earlier in the gospel of Mark, Jesus tells His followers, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me” (8:34). On the road to Golgotha, Simon literally did what Jesus figuratively asks His disciples to do: he took up the cross given to him and carried it for Jesus’ sake.

We too have “crosses” to bear: perhaps an illness, a challenging ministry assignment, the loss of a loved one, or persecution for our faith. As we carry these sufferings by faith, we point people to the sufferings of Jesus and His sacrifice on the cross. It was His cross that gave us peace with God and strength for our own journey.

By:  [Lisa M. Samra](https://odb.org/author/lisasamra/)

#### **Reflect & Pray**

What “cross” have you been asked to carry? How can you use this struggle to point others to Jesus?

Jesus, thank You that You understand and sympathize with the pain I experience as I take up my cross and follow You. Give me courage and strength even when the journey is difficult.

#### **Insight**

Though Simon of Cyrene is mentioned in each of the three Synoptic Gospels ([Matthew 27:32](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Matt%2027.32); [Mark 15:21](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Mark%2015.21); [Luke 23:26](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Luke%2023.26)), we know very little about him. Aside from his hometown being in Cyrene, all we know of Simon is that he had two sons, Alexander and Rufus ([Mark 15:21](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Mark%2015.21)). This small piece of information, however, takes on possible significance when considered in the light of the belief of many that Rome was Mark’s primary audience for his gospel record. Why? First, it seems unlikely that Mark would’ve mentioned the sons’ names unless they were somewhat known to the early Christian community. Second, Paul mentioned a person named Rufus in his letter to Rome: “Greet Rufus, chosen in the Lord, and his mother, who has been a mother to me, too” ([Romans 16:13](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Rom%2016.13)). It may be that the Rufus of the church at Rome was one of the sons of the man who carried Jesus’ cross.

By: [**Bill Crowder**](https://odb.org/author/billcrowder/)

# God Calling – 4/15/22

# Never Feel Inadequate

Obey My demands. They are steps in the ladder that lead to success. Above all, keep calm, unmoved.

Go back into the silence to recover this calm when it is lost even for one moment. You accomplish more by this than by all the activities of a long day. At all cost keep calm, you can help nobody when you are agitated. I, your Lord, see not as man sees.

Never feel inadequate for any task. All work here is accomplished by My Spirit, and that can flow through the most humble and lowly. It simply needs an unblocked channel. Rid yourself of self and all is well.

Pray about all, but concentrate on a few things until those are accomplished. I am watching over you. Strength for your daily, hourly task is provided. Yours is the fault, the sin, if it is unclaimed, and you fail for lack of it.

"And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness" 2 Corinthians 12:9

# My Utmost for His Highest – 4/16/22

# Can You Come Down From the Mountain?



While you have the light, believe in the light… —[John 12:36](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=John+12%3A36)

We all have moments when we feel better than ever before, and we say, “I feel fit for anything; if only I could always be like this!” We are not meant to be. Those moments are moments of insight which we have to live up to even when we do not feel like it. Many of us are no good for the everyday world when we are not on the mountaintop. Yet we must bring our everyday life up to the standard revealed to us on the mountaintop when we were there.

Never allow a feeling that was awakened in you on the mountaintop to evaporate. Don’t place yourself on the shelf by thinking, “How great to be in such a wonderful state of mind!” Act immediately— do something, even if your only reason to act is that you would rather not. If, during a prayer meeting, God shows you something to do, don’t say, “I’ll do it”— just do it! Pick yourself up by the back of the neck and shake off your fleshly laziness. Laziness can always be seen in our cravings for a mountaintop experience; all we talk about is our planning for our time on the mountain. We must learn to live in the ordinary “gray” day according to what we saw on the mountain.

Don’t give up because you have been blocked and confused once— go after it again. Burn your bridges behind you, and stand committed to God by an act of your own will. Never change your decisions, but be sure to make your decisions in the light of what you saw and learned on the mountain.

**WISDOM FROM OSWALD CHAMBERS**

Am I becoming more and more in love with God as a holy God, or with the conception of an amiable Being who says, “Oh well, sin doesn’t matter much”?  Disciples Indeed, 389 L

# CCEL – 4/16/22

**I said in my haste, I am cut off from before thine eyes: nevertheless thou heardest the voice of my supplications when I cried unto thee.**—[PSA. 31:22.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.31.html" \l "Ps.31.22)

I sink in deep mire, where there is no standing: I am come into deep waters, where the floods overflow me.—Waters flowed over mine head; then I said, I am cut off. I called upon thy name, O Lord, out of the low dungeon. Thou hast heard my voice: hide not thine ear at my breathing, at my cry. Thou drewest near in the day that I called upon thee: thou saidst, Fear not.

Will the Lord cast off for ever? and will he be favourable no more? Is his mercy clean gone for ever? doth his promise fail for evermore? Hath God forgotten to be gracious? hath he in anger shut up his tender mercies? And I said, This is my infirmity: but I will remember the years of the right hand of the most High. I will remember the works of the Lord: surely I will remember thy wonders of old.—I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

[Psa. 69:2](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.69.html" \l "Ps.69.2). -[Lam. 3:54-57](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Lam.3.html" \l "Lam.3.54).[Psa. 77:7-11](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.77.html" \l "Ps.77.7). -[Psa. 27:13](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.27.html" \l "Ps.27.13).

“The precious blood of Christ.” **[1 Peter 1:19](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iPet.1.html" \l "iPet.1.19)**

Standing at the foot of the cross, we see hands, and feet, and side, all distilling crimson streams of precious blood. It is “precious” because of its redeeming and atoning efficacy. By it the sins of Christ’s people are atoned for; they are redeemed from under the law; they are reconciled to God, made one with him. Christ’s blood is also “precious” in its cleansing power; it “cleanseth from all sin.” “Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow.” Through Jesus’ blood there is not a spot left upon any believer, no wrinkle nor any such thing remains. O precious blood, which makes us clean, removing the stains of abundant iniquity, and permitting us to stand accepted in the Beloved, notwithstanding the many ways in which we have rebelled against our God. The blood of Christ is likewise “precious” in its preserving power. We are safe from the destroying angel under the sprinkled blood. Remember it is God’s seeing the blood which is the true reason for our being spared. Here is comfort for us when the eye of faith is dim, for God’s eye is still the same. The blood of Christ is “precious” also in its sanctifying influence. The same blood which justifies by taking away sin, does in its after-action, quicken the new nature and lead it onward to subdue sin and to follow out the commands of God. There is no motive for holiness so great as that which streams from the veins of Jesus. And “precious,” unspeakably precious, is this blood, because it has an overcoming power. It is written, “They overcame through the blood of the Lamb.” How could they do otherwise? He who fights with the precious blood of Jesus, fights with a weapon which cannot know defeat. The blood of Jesus! sin dies at its presence, death ceases to be death: heaven’s gates are opened. The blood of Jesus! we shall march on, conquering and to conquer, so long as we can trust its power!

# Word Live – 4/16/22

# <https://content.scriptureunion.org.uk/wordlive/>

# Scripture Union – 4/16/22

[**https://scriptureunion.org/encounters/**](https://scriptureunion.org/encounters/)

# Today in the Word – 4/16/22

# An Important Letter

**Read:** [**Jeremiah 29:1–14**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jeremiah+29%3a1%e2%80%9314)

### **A Letter to the Exiles**

29 This is the text of the letter that the prophet Jeremiah sent from Jerusalem to the surviving elders among the exiles and to the priests, the prophets and all the other people Nebuchadnezzar had carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon. 2(This was after King Jehoiachin[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jeremiah+29%3A1%E2%80%9314+&version=NIV#fen-NIV-19638a)] and the queen mother, the court officials and the leaders of Judah and Jerusalem, the skilled workers and the artisans had gone into exile from Jerusalem.) 3He entrusted the letter to Elasah son of Shaphan and to Gemariah son of Hilkiah, whom Zedekiah king of Judah sent to King Nebuchadnezzar in Babylon. It said:

4This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: 5“Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. 6Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease. 7Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.” 8Yes, this is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says: “Do not let the prophets and diviners among you deceive you. Do not listen to the dreams you encourage them to have. 9They are prophesying lies to you in my name. I have not sent them,” declares the Lord.

10This is what the Lord says: “When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my good promise to bring you back to this place. 11For 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. 12Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. 13You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. 14I will be found by you,” declares the Lord, “and will bring you back from captivity.[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jeremiah+29%3A1%E2%80%9314+&version=NIV#fen-NIV-19650b)] I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have banished you,” declares the Lord, “and will bring you back to the place from which I carried you into exile.”

#### **Footnotes**

1. [Jeremiah 29:2](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jeremiah+29%3A1%E2%80%9314+&version=NIV#en-NIV-19638) Hebrew Jeconiah, a variant of Jehoiachin
2. [Jeremiah 29:14](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jeremiah+29%3A1%E2%80%9314+&version=NIV#en-NIV-19650) Or will restore your fortunes

I served for two years as a Christian English teacher in China. In those days before email and Skype, handwritten letters meant a lot. Each letter took about three weeks one way, so even if the recipient wrote back immediately it was a six-week turnaround. Being far from home, I wrote about two dozen letters every month.

I know the plans I have for you . . . plans to give you hope and a future. Jeremiah 29:11

An initial group of Jewish exiles had been taken to Babylon in 597 B.C. Jeremiah wrote them a letter from home, a letter with a word from the Lord (vv. 1–3). Perhaps they were excited to read it...until they opened it. The message wasn’t at all what they wanted to hear. They’d been hoping to return home soon.

Jeremiah, however, told them to build houses, get their children married, and settle down in Babylon (vv. 4–7). God had decreed they’d be there for 70 years (v. 10; see also Dan. 9:2). Furthermore, they were to “seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile” (v. 7). If it prospered, so would they. Since all authority is ordained by God (Rom. 13:1), good citizenship applied even under these circumstances.

Jeremiah also instructed them to stop listening to false prophets and pagan diviners (vv. 8–9). This is part of what had gotten Judah into trouble in the first place! Why were they continuing to sin in this way? Apparently, they hadn’t really gotten the message that sin leads to judgment. So the prophet sent them the same message he was proclaiming back home.

Despite all this, Jeremiah’s letter ended with hope (vv. 10–14). After the 70 years, the relationship between God and His people would be renewed. They would seek Him and find Him. He would gather them from their places of exile and bring them home!

**Apply the Word**

Today’s verse is well known— and unfortunately, often quoted out of context. Now that you know the historical and literary context, how will you interpret and apply this verse?

## **Pray with Us**

In today’s passage, we see the love that tempers Your discipline. Even when You were punishing Your people, You still made a way for them to prosper and promised them eventual deliverance. We praise You for Your compassion!

### BY Brad Baurain

# Our Daily Bread – 4/16/22

# Not So

 **Read:** [**Luke 23:49–56**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Luke%2023.49%E2%80%9356)

49But all those who knew him, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

### **The Burial of Jesus**

50Now there was a man named Joseph, a member of the Council, a good and upright man, 51who had not consented to their decision and action. He came from the Judean town of Arimathea, and he himself was waiting for the kingdom of God. 52Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus’ body. 53Then he took it down, wrapped it in linen cloth and placed it in a tomb cut in the rock, one in which no one had yet been laid. 54It was Preparation Day, and the Sabbath was about to begin.

55The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed Joseph and saw the tomb and how his body was laid in it. 56Then they went home and prepared spices and perfumes. But they rested on the Sabbath in obedience to the commandment.

All those who knew him . . . stood at a distance, watching these things. [Luke 23:49](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Luke%2023.49)

“I wanted somehow to make it not so,” lamented the man, eulogizing a friend who died young. His words gave poignancy to humanity’s ageless heart-cry. Death stuns and scars us all. We ache to undo what can’t be undone.

The longing to “make it not so” might well describe how Jesus’ followers felt after His death. The Gospels say little about those awful hours, but they do record the actions of a few faithful friends.

Joseph, a religious leader who secretly believed in Jesus (see [John 19:38](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/John%2019.38)), suddenly found the courage to ask Pilate for Jesus’ body ([Luke 23:52](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Luke%2023.52)). Ponder for a moment what it would take to remove a body from a grisly crucifixion and tenderly prepare it for burial (v. 53). Consider too the devotion and bravery of the women who stayed with Jesus every step of the way, even to the tomb (v. 55).

These followers weren’t anticipating a resurrection; they were coming to terms with grief. The chapter ends without hope, merely a somber, “Then they went home and prepared spices and perfumes [to embalm Jesus’ body]. But they rested on the Sabbath in obedience to the commandment” (v. 56).

Little did they know the Sabbath intermission was setting the stage for history’s most dramatic scene. Jesus was about to do the unimaginable. He would make death itself “not so.”

By:  [Tim Gustafson](https://odb.org/author/timgustafson/)

#### **Reflect & Pray**

Where do you turn for comfort when the worst happens? How do you live as though the resurrection is real?

Today, Father, I pause to remember how it must have been that day between Your Son’s crucifixion and His resurrection. I’m so grateful that He’s reversed sin’s curse for me.

Learn more about the [resurrection of Jesus](https://odbu.org/lessons/ca101-04-the-question-of-the-resurrection-of-christ/?utm_source=April+16+ODB+article+&utm_medium=email%2C+app%2C+web&utm_campaign=Apologetics+Basics+ODBU-ODB).

#### **Insight**

The Romans normally left the decaying bodies of crucified criminals, especially those convicted of treason, on their crosses for birds to devour as a warning that this same fate awaited those who dared to rebel against Rome. Because it was a “special Sabbath” in that it was also the day of Passover/Unleavened Bread, the Jewish leaders asked Pilate to have the crucified bodies taken down ([John 19:31](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/John%2019.31)). Corpses left hanging overnight would desecrate the land ([Deuteronomy 21:22–23](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Deut%2021.22%E2%80%9323)). Family members weren’t permitted to give their deceased a decent burial. Instead, the bodies were unceremoniously and unbecomingly dumped in a graveyard outside the city. Corpses left unburied as food for carrion birds and wild animals was the severest form of contempt and humiliation ([Psalm 79:2–4](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Ps%2079.2%E2%80%934)). Because Joseph of Arimathea intervened and asked Pilate for Jesus’ body, He was buried in Joseph’s “own new tomb” ([Matthew 27:60](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Matt%2027.60)), an unused rich man’s tomb, fulfilling [Isaiah 53:9](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Isa%2053.9).

By: [**K. T. Sim**](https://odb.org/author/ktsim/)

# God Calling – 4/16/22

# Love Your Servants

Love, love, love. Tender Love is the secret. Love those you are training, love those who work with you, love those who serve you.

Dwell on that thought -- God is Love. Link it up with My "I and my Father are one." Dwell on My actions on earth. See in them Love in operation.

If it was God who so acted, then it was Love, Perfect Love, performed those actions, those wonders. Then you, too, must put Love (God) into action in your lives. Perfect Love means perfect forgiveness. Lo, my children, you see that where God is there can be no lack of forgiveness, for that is really lack of love.

God is Love . . . no judging.   
God is Love . . . no resentment.   
God is Love . . . all patience.   
God is Love . . . all power.   
God is Love . . . all supply.

All you need to have is love to God and man. Love to God ensures obedience to every wish, every command. Love is the fulfilling of all law.

Pray much for love.

"And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him." 1 John 4:16

# My Utmost for His Highest – 4/17/22

# All or Nothing?



When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment…and plunged into the sea. —[John 21:7](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=John+21%3A7)

Have you ever had a crisis in your life in which you deliberately, earnestly, and recklessly abandoned everything? It is a crisis of the will. You may come to that point many times externally, but it will amount to nothing. The true deep crisis of abandonment, or total surrender, is reached internally, not externally. The giving up of only external things may actually be an indication of your being in total bondage.

Have you deliberately committed your will to Jesus Christ? It is a transaction of the will, not of emotion; any positive emotion that results is simply a superficial blessing arising out of the transaction. If you focus your attention on the emotion, you will never make the transaction. Do not ask God what the transaction is to be, but make the determination to surrender your will regarding whatever you see, whether it is in the shallow or the deep, profound places internally.

If you have heard Jesus Christ’s voice on the waves of the sea, you can let your convictions and your consistency take care of themselves by concentrating on maintaining your intimate relationship to Him.

**WISDOM FROM OSWALD CHAMBERS**

The emphasis to-day is placed on the furtherance of an organization; the note is, “We must keep this thing going.” If we are in God’s order the thing will go; if we are not in His order, it won’t.  Conformed to His Image, 357 R

# CCEL – 4/17/22

**Whoso offereth praise glorifieth me.**—[PSA. 50:23.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.50.html" \l "Ps.50.23)

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. And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.—Glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

Ye are a royal priesthood . . . that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.—Ye . . . as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.—By him . . . let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to his name.

My soul shall make her boast in the Lord: the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad. O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together.

[Col. 3:16,17](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Col.3.html" \l "Col.3.16). -[I Cor. 6:20](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iCor.6.html" \l "iCor.6.20).[I Pet. 2:9](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iPet.2.html" \l "iPet.2.9). -[I Pet. 2:5](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iPet.2.html" \l "iPet.2.5). -[Heb. 13:15](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Heb.13.html" \l "Heb.13.15).[Psa. 34:2,3](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.34.html" \l "Ps.34.2).

“Ye are come to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.” **[Hebrews 12:24](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Heb.12.html" \l "Heb.12.24)**

Reader, have you come to the blood of sprinkling? The question is not whether you have come to a knowledge of doctrine, or an observance of ceremonies, or to a certain form of experience, but have you come to the blood of Jesus? The blood of Jesus is the life of all vital godliness. If you have truly come to Jesus, we know how you came—the Holy Spirit sweetly brought you there. You came to the blood of sprinkling with no merits of your own. Guilty, lost, and helpless, you came to take that blood, and that blood alone, as your everlasting hope. You came to the cross of Christ, with a trembling and an aching heart; and oh! what a precious sound it was to you to hear the voice of the blood of Jesus! The dropping of his blood is as the music of heaven to the penitent sons of earth. We are full of sin, but the Saviour bids us lift our eyes to him, and as we gaze upon his streaming wounds, each drop of blood, as it falls, cries, “It is finished; I have made an end of sin; I have brought in everlasting righteousness.” Oh! sweet language of the precious blood of Jesus! If you have come to that blood once, you will come to it constantly. Your life will be “Looking unto Jesus.” Your whole conduct will be epitomized in this—“To whom coming.” Not to whom I have come, but to whom I am always coming. If thou hast ever come to the blood of sprinkling, thou wilt feel thy need of coming to it every day. He who does not desire to wash in it every day, has never washed in it at all. The believer ever feels it to be his joy and privilege that there is still a fountain opened. Past experiences are doubtful food for Christians; a present coming to Christ alone can give us joy and comfort. This morning let us sprinkle our door-post fresh with blood, and then feast upon the Lamb, assured that the destroying angel must pass us by.

# Word Live – 4/17/22

# <https://content.scriptureunion.org.uk/wordlive/>

# Scripture Union – 4/17/22

[**https://scriptureunion.org/encounters/**](https://scriptureunion.org/encounters/)

# Today in the Word – 4/17/22

# Promise of Restoration

**Read:** [**Jeremiah 31:1–14**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jeremiah+31%3a1%e2%80%9314)

31 “At that time,” declares the Lord, “I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they will be my people.”

2This is what the Lord says:

“The people who survive the sword  
    will find favor in the wilderness;  
    I will come to give rest to Israel.”

3The Lord appeared to us in the past,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jeremiah+31%3A1%E2%80%9314+&version=NIV#fen-NIV-19695a)] saying:

“I have loved you with an everlasting love;  
    I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.  
4I will build you up again,  
    and you, Virgin Israel, will be rebuilt.  
Again you will take up your timbrels  
    and go out to dance with the joyful.  
5Again you will plant vineyards  
    on the hills of Samaria;  
the farmers will plant them  
    and enjoy their fruit.  
6There will be a day when watchmen cry out  
    on the hills of Ephraim,  
‘Come, let us go up to Zion,  
    to the Lord our God.’”

7This is what the Lord says:

“Sing with joy for Jacob;  
    shout for the foremost of the nations.  
Make your praises heard, and say,  
    ‘Lord, save your people,  
    the remnant of Israel.’  
8See, I will bring them from the land of the north  
    and gather them from the ends of the earth.  
Among them will be the blind and the lame,  
    expectant mothers and women in labor;  
    a great throng will return.  
9They will come with weeping;  
    they will pray as I bring them back.  
I will lead them beside streams of water  
    on a level path where they will not stumble,  
because I am Israel’s father,  
    and Ephraim is my firstborn son.

10“Hear the word of the Lord, you nations;  
    proclaim it in distant coastlands:  
‘He who scattered Israel will gather them  
    and will watch over his flock like a shepherd.’  
11For the Lord will deliver Jacob  
    and redeem them from the hand of those stronger than they.  
12They will come and shout for joy on the heights of Zion;  
    they will rejoice in the bounty of the Lord—  
the grain, the new wine and the olive oil,  
    the young of the flocks and herds.  
They will be like a well-watered garden,  
    and they will sorrow no more.  
13Then young women will dance and be glad,  
    young men and old as well.  
I will turn their mourning into gladness;  
    I will give them comfort and joy instead of sorrow.  
14I will satisfy the priests with abundance,  
    and my people will be filled with my bounty,”  
declares the Lord.

#### **Footnotes**

1. [Jeremiah 31:3](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jeremiah+31%3A1%E2%80%9314+&version=NIV#en-NIV-19695) Or Lord has appeared to us from afar

Does God always give us what we deserve? Thankfully, no! Jeremiah chapters 30 to 33 are often called “the Book of Consolation.” Pastor and author Dane Ortlund explains this is “because God reveals to his people in these chapters his final response to their sinfulness, and it is not what they deserve. Expecting judgment, he surprises them with comfort. Why? Because he had pulled them into his heart, and they cannot sin their way out of it.” Despite their repeated sinful behavior, God tells them, “I have loved you with an everlasting love” (Jer. 31:3).

I will turn their mourning into gladness; give them comfort and joy instead of sorrow. Jeremiah 31:13

Even though Jeremiah delivered chapter after chapter of judgment of sin, our God is ever faithful! He was not faithful in the way the people of Judah assumed. They thought they could presume on their “chosen” status and escape the consequences of their sin. Instead, God is ever faithful in His own way and in His own time.

Israel’s sin would indeed lead to judgment, but God promised to one day restore them to the land. Even with Jerusalem and the Temple lost, He would be their God and they would be His people (v. 1). Even while disciplining them, He never stopped loving them, just as He does with us today (Heb. 12:5–11).

Today’s passage paints a beautiful picture of what Israel’s restoration will be like. God will provide for them and give them rest (vv. 2, 9, 12–14). They will again experience His love and kindness (v. 3). Cities will be rebuilt, the land will flourish (vv. 4–5). They will dance and sing as they worship Him (vv. 4, 6–7, 12–13). These images look forward not only to the return from exile (starting in 538 B.C.) but also to the Messianic Age.

**Apply the Word**

From all of us on the Today in the Word team, Happy Resurrection Sunday! What was good news for Israel is good news for us as well. God loves you. Please accept His gift of salvation today!

## **Pray with Us**

“Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his” (Ps. 100:1–3).

### BY Brad Baurain

# Our Daily Bread – 4/17/22

# This Changes Everything

 **Read:** [**1 Corinthians 15:12–26**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/1%20Cor%2015.12%E2%80%9326)

### **The Resurrection of the Dead**

12But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? 13If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. 14And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. 15More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. 16For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. 17And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. 18Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. 19If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

20But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. 22For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. 23But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. 24Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. 25For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. 26The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. [1 Corinthians 15:20](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/1%20Cor%2015.20)

Jaroslav Pelikan, longtime Yale professor considered one of “his generation’s preeminent authorities on Christian history,” was renowned for his extensive academic career. He published more than thirty books and won the esteemed Kluge Prize as a lifetime award for his voluminous writing. One of his students, however, recounted what he considered his teacher’s most important words, spoken from his deathbed: “If Christ is risen, nothing else matters. And if Christ is not—nothing else matters.”

Pelikan echoed Paul’s conviction: “If Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith” ([1 Corinthians 15:14](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/1%20Cor%2015.14)). The apostle made such a bold statement because he knew that the resurrection was not merely a one-off miracle but rather the pinnacle of God’s redeeming work in human history. The promise of resurrection wasn’t only His assurance that Jesus would rise from the dead but His bold affirmation that other dead and ruined things (lives, neighborhoods, relationships) would also one day be brought back to life through Christ. If there’s no resurrection, however, Paul knew that we’re in deep trouble. If there’s no resurrection, then death and destruction win.

But, of course, “Christ has indeed been raised from the dead” (v. 20). Destroyed by the Victor, death loses. And Jesus is the “firstfruits” of all the life that will follow. He conquered evil and death so that we could live bold and free. This changes everything.

By:  [Winn Collier](https://odb.org/author/wcollier/)

#### **Reflect & Pray**

What difference does it make to understand the expansive hope of Jesus’ resurrection? Where do you need resurrection in your life?

Dear God, allow me to see how Jesus’ resurrection changes everything about my life now and forever.

#### **Insight**

For Paul, the reality of the resurrection was paramount ([1 Corinthians 15](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/1%20Cor%2015)), and he seized every opportunity to tell others about it. We see this when he stood in chains before King Agrippa in [Acts 26](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Acts%2026). As Paul made the case for the resurrection, Festus, the governor who’d sent him to Agrippa, interrupted and said, “You are out of your mind, Paul!” (v. 24). The apostle immediately appealed to direct evidence. “The king [Agrippa himself] is familiar with these things,” he said. “I am convinced that none of this has escaped his notice, because it was not done in a corner” (v. 26).

By: [**Tim Gustafson**](https://odb.org/author/timgustafson/)

# God Calling – 4/17/22

# The Two Joys

My children, I come. Hearts eager to do My Will, send out a call that ever I find irresistible. I know no barrier then.

Resignation to My Will keeps Me barred out from more Hearts than does unbelief. Can anything be such a crime against Love as being resigned? My Will should be welcomed with a glad wonder if I am to do My Work in the heart and life.

The only resignation that could possibly be acceptable to Me is when Self, ousted by My claims, accepts the inevitable and resigns the throne for Me, leaving My Disciple free to carry out My Will, to welcome My Will gladly, rapturously.

In all true discipleship, and in the true spiritual development of each disciple, there is first the wonder and the joy of first acquaintance, then comes the long plain stretch of lesson-learning and discipline, when Joy seems so much a thing of the past as never to be recaptured again.

But the constant experience of Me, the constant persistent recognition of My Work  in daily happenings — the ever accumulating weight of evidence in support of My Guidance —  the numberless instances in which seeming chance or wonderful coincidence can be, must be, traced back to My loving forethought -- all these gradually engender a feeling of wonder, certainty, gratitude, followed in time by Joy.

Joy is of two kinds. The Joy born of Love and Wonder, and the Joy born of Love and Knowledge, and between the experience of the two Joys lie discipline, disappointment, almost disillusion.

But combat these in My Strength, or rather cling blindly, helplessly to Me and let Me combat them, persevere in obeying My Will, accept My discipline, and the second Joy will follow .

And of this second Joy it was that I said, "Your joy no man taketh from you."

Do not regret the first, the second is the greater gift.

If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make your free." John 8:31, 32

# My Utmost for His Highest – 4/18/22

# Readiness



God called to him….And he said, "Here I am." —[Exodus 3:4](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=Exodus+3%3A4)

When God speaks, many of us are like people in a fog, and we give no answer. Moses’ reply to God revealed that he knew where he was and that he was ready. Readiness means having a right relationship to God and having the knowledge of where we are. We are so busy telling God where we would like to go. Yet the man or woman who is ready for God and His work is the one who receives the prize when the summons comes. We wait with the idea that some great opportunity or something sensational will be coming our way, and when it does come we are quick to cry out, “Here I am.” Whenever we sense that Jesus Christ is rising up to take authority over some great task, we are there, but we are not ready for some obscure duty.

Readiness for God means that we are prepared to do the smallest thing or the largest thing— it makes no difference. It means we have no choice in what we want to do, but that whatever God’s plans may be, we are there and ready. Whenever any duty presents itself, we hear God’s voice as our Lord heard His Father’s voice, and we are ready for it with the total readiness of our love for Him. Jesus Christ expects to do with us just as His Father did with Him. He can put us wherever He wants, in pleasant duties or in menial ones, because our union with Him is the same as His union with the Father. “…that they may be one just as We are one…” ([John 17:22](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+17:22)).

Be ready for the sudden surprise visits of God. A ready person never needs to get ready— he is ready. Think of the time we waste trying to get ready once God has called! The burning bush is a symbol of everything that surrounds the person who is ready, and it is on fire with the presence of God Himself.

**Wisdom From Oswald Chambers**

To read the Bible according to God’s providential order in your circumstances is the only way to read it, viz., in the blood and passion of personal life. Disciples Indeed, 387

# CCEL – 4/18/22

**I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee.**—[DEUT. 18:18.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Deut.18.html" \l "Deut.18.18)

[Moses] stood between the Lord and you at that time, to shew you the word of the Lord: for ye were afraid.—There is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.

Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth.—Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.—Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: but made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men.

Moses verily was faithful in all his house, as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after; but Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.

[Deut. 5:5](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Deut.5.html" \l "Deut.5.5). -[I Tim. 2:5](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iTim.2.html" \l "iTim.2.5).[Num. 12:3](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Num.12.html" \l "Num.12.3). -[Matt. 11:29](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Matt.11.html" \l "Matt.11.29). -[Phi. 2:5-7](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Phil.2.html" \l "Phil.2.5).[Heb. 3:5,6](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Heb.3.html" \l "Heb.3.5).

“She bound the scarlet line in the window.” **[Joshua 2:21](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Josh.2.html" \l "Josh.2.21)**

Rahab depended for her preservation upon the promise of the spies, whom she looked upon as the representatives of the God of Israel. Her faith was simple and firm, but it was very obedient. To tie the scarlet line in the window was a very trivial act in itself, but she dared not run the risk of omitting it. Come, my soul, is there not here a lesson for thee? Hast thou been attentive to all thy Lord’s will, even though some of his commands should seem non-essential? Hast thou observed in his own way the two ordinances of believers’ baptism and the Lord’s Supper? These neglected, argue much unloving disobedience in thy heart. Be henceforth in all things blameless, even to the tying of a thread, if that be matter of command.

This act of Rahab sets forth a yet more solemn lesson. Have I implicitly trusted in the precious blood of Jesus? Have I tied the scarlet cord, as with a Gordian knot in my window, so that my trust can never be removed? Or can I look out towards the Dead Sea of my sins, or the Jerusalem of my hopes, without seeing the blood, and seeing all things in connection with its blessed power? The passer-by can see a cord of so conspicuous a colour, if it hangs from the window: it will be well for me if my life makes the efficacy of the atonement conspicuous to all onlookers. What is there to be ashamed of? Let men or devils gaze if they will, the blood is my boast and my song. My soul, there is One who will see that scarlet line, even when from weakness of faith thou canst not see it thyself; Jehovah, the Avenger, will see it and pass over thee. Jericho’s walls fell flat: Rahab’s house was on the wall, and yet it stood unmoved; my nature is built into the wall of humanity, and yet when destruction smites the race, I shall be secure. My soul, tie the scarlet thread in the window afresh, and rest in peace.

# Word Live – 4/18/22

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# Scripture Union – 4/18/22

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# Today in the Word – 4/18/22

# A Field, a Jar, and a Prayer

**Read:** [**Jeremiah 32:6–25**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jeremiah+32%3a6%e2%80%9325)

6Jeremiah said, “The word of the Lord came to me: 7Hanamel son of Shallum your uncle is going to come to you and say, ‘Buy my field at Anathoth, because as nearest relative it is your right and duty to buy it.’

8“Then, just as the Lord had said, my cousin Hanamel came to me in the courtyard of the guard and said, ‘Buy my field at Anathoth in the territory of Benjamin. Since it is your right to redeem it and possess it, buy it for yourself.’

“I knew that this was the word of the Lord; 9so I bought the field at Anathoth from my cousin Hanamel and weighed out for him seventeen shekels[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jeremiah+32%3A6%E2%80%9325+&version=NIV#fen-NIV-19741a)] of silver. 10I signed and sealed the deed, had it witnessed, and weighed out the silver on the scales. 11I took the deed of purchase—the sealed copy containing the terms and conditions, as well as the unsealed copy— 12and I gave this deed to Baruch son of Neriah, the son of Mahseiah, in the presence of my cousin Hanamel and of the witnesses who had signed the deed and of all the Jews sitting in the courtyard of the guard.

13“In their presence I gave Baruch these instructions: 14‘This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says: Take these documents, both the sealed and unsealed copies of the deed of purchase, and put them in a clay jar so they will last a long time. 15For this is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says: Houses, fields and vineyards will again be bought in this land.’

16“After I had given the deed of purchase to Baruch son of Neriah, I prayed to the Lord:

17“Ah, Sovereign Lord, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you. 18You show love to thousands but bring the punishment for the parents’ sins into the laps of their children after them. Great and mighty God, whose name is the Lord Almighty, 19great are your purposes and mighty are your deeds. Your eyes are open to the ways of all mankind; you reward each person according to their conduct and as their deeds deserve. 20You performed signs and wonders in Egypt and have continued them to this day, in Israel and among all mankind, and have gained the renown that is still yours. 21You brought your people Israel out of Egypt with signs and wonders, by a mighty hand and an outstretched arm and with great terror. 22You gave them this land you had sworn to give their ancestors, a land flowing with milk and honey. 23They came in and took possession of it, but they did not obey you or follow your law; they did not do what you commanded them to do. So you brought all this disaster on them.

24“See how the siege ramps are built up to take the city. Because of the sword, famine and plague, the city will be given into the hands of the Babylonians who are attacking it. What you said has happened, as you now see. 25And though the city will be given into the hands of the Babylonians, you, Sovereign Lord, say to me, ‘Buy the field with silver and have the transaction witnessed.’”

#### **Footnotes**

1. [Jeremiah 32:9](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jeremiah+32%3A6%E2%80%9325+&version=NIV#en-NIV-19741) That is, about 7 ounces or about 200 grams

When we “closed” on the sale of our house, it was a tedious affair. My wife and I, as well as our realtor, the seller, and a title expert, sat at a conference table stacked with papers. We signed and signed and signed, until my hand was cramping.

Nothing is too hard for you. Jeremiah 32:17

At the end, we placed the title and mortgage papers in a clay jar and sealed it up. Wait, what? No, of course we didn’t. So why did Jeremiah do that after buying a field from his cousin? God told him to buy the property, located near his hometown of Anathoth (vv. 6 10). Even though he was imprisoned, apparently, he had some freedom and was still on duty as a prophet.

Before witnesses, Jeremiah purchased the field and sealed up the deeds in a clay jar (vv. 11–15). The purpose was long-term storage. Considering the imminent Babylonian conquest, this was an object lesson in faith and hope. From a human perspective, it made no sense to buy a field that would soon be “owned” by the Babylonians. By doing so, Jeremiah expressed faith in God’s promise. One day they would return. One day they would buy and sell land there again.

Jeremiah also prayed a public prayer of praise to the Lord (vv. 16–25). He proclaimed God to be powerful, loving, just, and sovereign (vv. 17–19). He praised God for His mighty deeds in the past and confessed the people’s unfaithfulness (vv. 20–23). He admitted that the coming conquest was deserved (vv. 24–25). His faith and hope, as symbolized in his purchase, were not based in any human factor, but entirely on the Lord!

**Apply the Word**

We don’t know what you’re going through in your life, but we know where you can find hope: “Set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming” (1 Peter 1:13).

## **Pray with Us**

Suffering, rejoicing, deliverance—these things are much more potent in reality than in theory. That’s also true of the joy we’ll know in the Second Coming. In the intensity of life on earth, remind us of our future with You.

### BY Brad Baurain

# Our Daily Bread – 4/18/22

# Witness in the Workplace

 **Read:** [**1 Peter 2:11–21**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/1%20Pet%202.11%E2%80%9321)

### **Living Godly Lives in a Pagan Society**

11Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. 12Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

13Submit yourselves for the Lord’s sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, 14or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. 15For it is God’s will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people. 16Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God’s slaves. 17Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor.

18Slaves, in reverent fear of God submit yourselves to your masters, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh. 19For it is commendable if someone bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because they are conscious of God. 20But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. 21To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

If you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. [1 Peter 2:20](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/1%20Pet%202.20)

“Are you still upset that I want to reduce the size of your favorite department?” Evelyn’s manager asked. “No.” She tightened her jaw. She was more frustrated that he seemed to be teasing her about it. She’d been trying to help the company by finding ways to draw in different interest groups, but limited space made this nearly impossible. Evelyn fought back tears, but she made the decision to do whatever her manager asked. Maybe she couldn’t bring about the changes she’d hoped, but she could still do her job to the best of her ability.

In the apostle Peter’s first letter, he urged first-century believers in Jesus to submit “to every human authority” ([1 Peter 2:13](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/1%20Pet%202.13)). Maintaining integrity in a tough work situation isn’t easy. But Peter gives us a reason to continue doing good: “Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God” (v. 12). Additionally, this helps us set a godly example for other believers who are watching.

If we’re in a truly abusive work situation, it may be best to leave if at all possible ([1 Corinthians 7:21](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/1%20Cor%207.21)). But in a safe environment, with the Spirit’s help we can continue to do good in our work remembering “this is commendable before God” ([1 Peter 2:20](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/1%20Pet%202.20)). When we submit to authority, we have an opportunity to give others reason to follow and glorify God.

By:  [Julie Schwab](https://odb.org/author/jschwab95/)

#### **Reflect & Pray**

What do you typically do when you’re in a difficult situation under someone else’s authority? How might God be trying to work in you through this?

Heavenly Father, help me to continue to honor You in my response to those in authority despite the difficult situations I may face. Help me to live each day in a way that glorifies You.

#### **Insight**

Encouraging believers in Jesus living in an unbelieving and hostile world, Peter exhorted them to live godly lives—to submit to authorities, respect everyone, love fellow believers, fear God, do good works, and persevere when unjustly treated. We’re called to do good and to follow Christ’s example in enduring suffering. Paul made similar calls to live such God-honoring lives in a pagan world in [Romans 13:12–14](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Rom%2013.12%E2%80%9314); [Philippians 2:15](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Phil%202.15); [1 Thessalonians 4:9–12](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/1%20Thess%204.9%E2%80%9312); and [Titus 2:7–8](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Titus%202.7%E2%80%938); [3:8](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Titus%203.8), [14](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Titus%203.14). His instructions for the slave-master relationship in [Ephesians 6:5–8](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Eph%206.5%E2%80%938); [Colossians 3:22–24](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Col%203.22%E2%80%9324); [1 Timothy 6:1–3](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/1%20Tim%206.1%E2%80%933); and [Titus 2:9–10](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Titus%202.9%E2%80%9310) would have resonated with Peter’s audience ([1 Peter 2:18–21](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/1%20Pet%202.18%E2%80%9321)).

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# God Calling – 4/18/22

# No Dark Days

Such light, such joy flows out from this house. It affects all who come here.

Do not feel that you have to try and help them. Just love them, welcome them, shower little courtesies and love-signs on them, and they must be helped.

Love is God. Give them Love, and you give them God. Then leave Him to do His Work. Love all, even the beggars. Send no one away without a word of cheer, a feeling that you care. I may have put the impulse to come here into some despairing one's heart. Think if you failed Me!

Besides, you have no choice. You told Me it was My Home. I shall use it. Remember this. There would be no dark winter days were Love in the hearts of all My children.

Oh! My children, can you not feel the joy of knowing, loving, and companying with Me?

"Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law." Roman 13:10