# My Utmost for His Highest – 7/21/20

# The Doorway to the Kingdom



Blessed are the poor in spirit… —[Matthew 5:3](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=Matthew+5%3A3)

Beware of thinking of our Lord as only a teacher. If Jesus Christ is only a teacher, then all He can do is frustrate me by setting a standard before me I cannot attain. What is the point of presenting me with such a lofty ideal if I cannot possibly come close to reaching it? I would be happier if I never knew it. What good is there in telling me to be what I can never be— to be “pure in heart” ([Matthew 5:8](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+5:8)), to do more than my duty, or to be completely devoted to God? I must know Jesus Christ as my Savior before His teaching has any meaning for me other than that of a lofty ideal which only leads to despair. But when I am born again by the Spirit of God, I know that Jesus Christ did not come only to teach— He came to make me what He teaches I should be. The redemption means that Jesus Christ can place within anyone the same nature that ruled His own life, and all the standards God gives us are based on that nature.

The teaching of the Sermon on the Mount produces a sense of despair in the natural man— exactly what Jesus means for it to do. As long as we have some self-righteous idea that we can carry out our Lord’s teaching, God will allow us to continue until we expose our own ignorance by stumbling over some obstacle in our way. Only then are we willing to come to Him as paupers and receive from Him. “Blessed are the poor in spirit….” This is the first principle in the kingdom of God. The underlying foundation of Jesus Christ’s kingdom is poverty, not possessions; not making decisions for Jesus, but having such a sense of absolute futility that we finally admit, “Lord, I cannot even begin to do it.” Then Jesus says, “Blessed are you…” ([Matthew 5:11](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+5:11)). This is the doorway to the kingdom, and yet it takes us so long to believe that we are actually poor! The knowledge of our own poverty is what brings us to the proper place where Jesus Christ accomplishes His work.

**Wisdom From Oswald Chambers**

It is impossible to read too much, but always keep before you why you read. Remember that “the need to receive, recognize, and rely on the Holy Spirit” is before all else. Approved Unto God, 11 L

# CCEL – 7/21/20

What profit is there of circumcision?—[ROM. 3:1.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rom.3.html" \l "Rom.3.1)

Much every way.—Circumcise yourselves to the Lord, and take away the foreskins of your heart.—If . . . their uncircumcised hearts be humbled, and they then accept of the punishment of their iniquity: then will I remember my covenant with Jacob, and also my covenant with Isaac, and also my covenant with Abraham will I remember.

Jesus Christ was a minister of the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made unto the fathers.—In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ.—You, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses.

Put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; and be renewed in the spirit of your mind; and . . . put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness.

[Rom. 3:2](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rom.3.html" \l "Rom.3.2). -[Jer. 4:4](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Jer.4.html" \l "Jer.4.4). -[Lev. 26:41,42](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Lev.26.html" \l "Lev.26.41).[Rom. 15:8](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rom.15.html" \l "Rom.15.8). -[Col. 2:11](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Col.2.html" \l "Col.2.11). -[Col. 2:13](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Col.2.html" \l "Col.2.13).[Eph. 4:22-24](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Eph.4.html" \l "Eph.4.22).

“The daughter of Jerusalem hath shaken her head at thee.” [Isaiah 37:22](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Isa.37.html" \l "Isa.37.22)

Reassured by the Word of the Lord, the poor trembling citizens of Zion grew bold, and shook their heads at Sennacherib’s boastful threats. Strong faith enables the servants of God to look with calm contempt upon their most haughty foes. We know that our enemies are attempting impossibilities. They seek to destroy the eternal life, which cannot die while Jesus lives; to overthrow the citadel, against which the gates of hell shall not prevail. They kick against the pricks to their own wounding, and rush upon the bosses of Jehovah’s buckler to their own hurt.

We know their weakness. What are they but men? And what is man but a worm? They roar and swell like waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame. When the Lord ariseth, they shall fly as chaff before the wind, and be consumed as crackling thorns. Their utter powerlessness to do damage to the cause of God and his truth, may make the weakest soldiers in Zion’s ranks laugh them to scorn.

Above all, we know that the Most High is with us, and when he dresses himself in arms, where are his enemies? If he cometh forth from his place, the potsherds of the earth will not long contend with their Maker. His rod of iron shall dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel, and their very remembrance shall perish from the earth. Away, then, all fears, the kingdom is safe in the King’s hands. Let us shout for joy, for the Lord reigneth, and his foes shall be as straw for the dunghill.

“As true as God’s own word is true;

Nor earth, nor hell, with all their crew,

Against us shall prevail.

A jest, and by-word, are they grown;

God is with us, we are his own,

Our victory cannot fail.”

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# Word Live – 7/21/20

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

# Scripture Union – 7/21/20

# <https://scriptureunion.org/encounters/>

# Today in the Word – 7/21/20

# Five Slaughtered Kings

**Read:-** [**Joshua 10:16 – 27**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua+10%3a16+%e2%80%93+27)

### Five Amorite Kings Killed

16Now the five kings had fled and hidden in the cave at Makkedah. 17When Joshua was told that the five kings had been found hiding in the cave at Makkedah, 18he said, “Roll large rocks up to the mouth of the cave, and post some men there to guard it. 19But don’t stop; pursue your enemies! Attack them from the rear and don’t let them reach their cities, for the Lord your God has given them into your hand.”

20So Joshua and the Israelites defeated them completely, but a few survivors managed to reach their fortified cities. 21The whole army then returned safely to Joshua in the camp at Makkedah, and no one uttered a word against the Israelites.

22Joshua said, “Open the mouth of the cave and bring those five kings out to me.” 23So they brought the five kings out of the cave—the kings of Jerusalem, Hebron, Jarmuth, Lachish and Eglon. 24When they had brought these kings to Joshua, he summoned all the men of Israel and said to the army commanders who had come with him, “Come here and put your feet on the necks of these kings.” So they came forward and placed their feet on their necks.

25Joshua said to them, “Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Be strong and courageous. This is what the Lord will do to all the enemies you are going to fight.” 26Then Joshua put the kings to death and exposed their bodies on five poles, and they were left hanging on the poles until evening.

27At sunset Joshua gave the order and they took them down from the poles and threw them into the cave where they had been hiding. At the mouth of the cave they placed large rocks, which are there to this day.

When we think about war, we may tend to either romanticize it or discard it altogether. But those who have served in the armed forces know it is brutal. Today’s text recalls the graphic reality of war for Joshua and his army. After capturing the five opposing kings, he ordered them to be executed and their bodies exposed. In the time before artillery, war was gritty, up close and personal.

On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.Revelation 19:16

Joshua 10 recounts such a gruesome account that it may make you ask questions about the mercy and compassion of the Lord. However, it’s important to remember the bigger picture. Like a general, Yahweh led His people to take over the Promised Land. This quest was a part of the fulfillment of His promises. Professor Robert Hubbard writes, “This is a one-time-only event to achieve a specific purpose: to provide Israel a homeland and God a geographical base from which He eventually blesses the world.” But God did not take delight in the destruction of others . . . quite the contrary.

We know from Scripture that God takes “no pleasure in the death of the wicked” (Ezek. 33:11). Rather, He desires for them to turn from their ways and live. However, the five kings defied the Lord and their fate was written with their denials. The Lord would have gladly let them live and prosper if they had turned to Him, just as He had with the Gibeonites, Rahab, and her family. Sadly, the kings refused to turn to God, even when death was imminent. This was a lesson for Joshua’s commanders: Yahweh was the only king who would reign.

**Apply the Word**

It doesn’t matter whether you are a millionaire or an inmate in prison, you still have a kingdom: things, events, or people that are important to you. But that doesn’t make you the king or queen. We should surrender our personal kingdom to God. Allow Him to reign in your life.

### Pray with Us

Today’s devotional reminds us that only the Lord is King and only His kingdom is the true one. During your prayer time, ask: Who reigns in my life? Have I surrendered my personal “kingdoms” to God’s will?

## BY Chris Rappazini

# Our Daily Bread – 7/21/20

# A Royal Role

# Today's Devotional Read:- [John 1:9–14](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/John%201.9%E2%80%9314)

9The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. 10He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. 11He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. 12Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— 13children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God.

14The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

To all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. [John 1:12](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/John%201.12)

The closer someone in a royal family is to the throne, the more the public hears about him or her. Others are almost forgotten. The British royal family has a line of succession that includes nearly sixty people. One of them is Lord Frederick Windsor, who’s forty-ninth in line for the throne. Instead of being in the limelight, he quietly goes about his life. Though he works as a financial analyst, he’s not considered a “working royal”—one of the important family members who are paid for representing the family.

David’s son Nathan ([2 Samuel 5:14](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/2%20Sam%205.14)) is another royal who lived outside the limelight. Very little is known about him. But while the genealogy of Jesus in Matthew mentions his son Solomon (tracing Joseph’s line, [Matthew 1:6](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Matt%201.6)), Luke’s genealogy, which many scholars believe is Mary’s family line, mentions Nathan ([Luke 3:31](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Luke%203.31)). Though Nathan didn’t hold a scepter, he still had a role in God’s forever kingdom.

As believers in Christ, we’re also royalty. The apostle John wrote that God gave us “the right to become children of God” ([John 1:12](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/John%201.12)). Though we may not be in the spotlight, we’re children of the King! God considers each of us important enough to represent Him here on earth and to one day reign with Him ([2 Timothy 2:11–13](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/2%20Tim%202.11%E2%80%9313)). Like Nathan, we may not wear an earthly crown, but we still have a part to play in God’s kingdom.

By:  [Linda Washington](https://odb.org/author/lindawashingtonodb/)

#### Reflect & Pray

How does knowing you’re royalty—God’s child—make you feel? As a child of the King, what do you see as your responsibilities to the people around you?

Heavenly Father, I’m grateful that You adopted me into Your forever family.

#### Insight

The opening words of John’s gospel give us one of the most stunning claims of the New Testament. After spending three years with Jesus and then several decades reflecting on what he saw with his own eyes, John envisions his Teacher in the first moments of creation. Whereas the first words of Genesis say that in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth, John sees Jesus as the Eternal Word by whom all was created (vv. 1–3, 14). The only thing more astounding is the subsequent drama of rescue that’s more incomprehensible than creation itself. According to John, Jesus—the Son of God who created us in His likeness—took on the flesh of our likeness to allow us to mock, slander, and crucify Him. Why? According to John’s gospel, He did this to show us how much we’re loved (3:14–17).

# God Calling – 7/21/20

# The Way of Praise

I am teaching you both My Way of removing mountains. The way to remove mountains is the way of Praise. When a trouble comes think of all you have to be thankful for. Praise, praise, praise.

Say "Thank you" all the time. This is the remover of mountains, your thankful hearts that praise.

I will praise thee with my whole heart; before the gods will I sing praise unto thee. Psalm 138:1

# My Utmost for His Highest – 7/22/20

# Sanctification (1)



This is the will of God, your sanctification… —[1 Thessalonians 4:3](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=1+Thessalonians+4%3A3)

**The Death Side**. In sanctification God has to deal with us on the death side as well as on the life side. Sanctification requires our coming to the place of death, but many of us spend so much time there that we become morbid. There is always a tremendous battle before sanctification is realized— something within us pushing with resentment against the demands of Christ. When the Holy Spirit begins to show us what sanctification means, the struggle starts immediately. Jesus said, “If anyone comes to Me and does not hate…his own life…he cannot be My disciple” ([Luke 14:26](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+14:26)).

In the process of sanctification, the Spirit of God will strip me down until there is nothing left but myself, and that is the place of death. Am I willing to be myself and nothing more? Am I willing to have no friends, no father, no brother, and no self-interest— simply to be ready for death? That is the condition required for sanctification. No wonder Jesus said, “I did not come to bring peace but a sword” ([Matthew 10:34](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+10:34)). This is where the battle comes, and where so many of us falter. We refuse to be identified with the death of Jesus Christ on this point. We say, “But this is so strict. Surely He does not require that of me.” Our Lord is strict, and He does require that of us.

Am I willing to reduce myself down to simply “me”? Am I determined enough to strip myself of all that my friends think of me, and all that I think of myself? Am I willing and determined to hand over my simple naked self to God? Once I am, He will immediately sanctify me completely, and my life will be free from being determined and persistent toward anything except God (see [1 Thessalonians 5:23-24](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Thessalonians+5:23-24)).

When I pray, “Lord, show me what sanctification means for me,” He will show me. It means being made one with Jesus. Sanctification is not something Jesus puts in me— it is Himself in me (see [1 Corinthians 1:30](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Corinthians+1:30)).

**Wisdom From Oswald Chambers**

Crises reveal character. When we are put to the test the hidden resources of our character are revealed exactly.  Disciples Indeed, 393 R

# CCEL – 7/22/20

In that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.—[ROM. 6:10.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rom.6.html" \l "Rom.6.10)

He was numbered with the transgressors.—Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many.—Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.—By one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.

This man, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood. Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.—While we were yet sinners Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

Forasmuch . . . as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin; that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.

[Isa. 53:12](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Isa.53.html" \l "Isa.53.12). -[Heb. 9:28](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Heb.9.html#Heb.9.28).[I Pet. 2:24](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iPet.2.html" \l "iPet.2.24). -[Heb. 10:14](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Heb.10.html" \l "Heb.10.14).[Heb. 7:24,25](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Heb.7.html" \l "Heb.7.24). -[Rom. 5:8,9](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rom.5.html" \l "Rom.5.8).[I Pet. 4:1,2](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iPet.4.html" \l "iPet.4.1).

“I am married unto you.” [Jeremiah 3:14](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Jer.3.html" \l "Jer.3.14)

Christ Jesus is joined unto his people in marriage-union. In love he espoused his Church as a chaste virgin, long before she fell under the yoke of bondage. Full of burning affection he toiled, like Jacob for Rachel, until the whole of her purchase-money had been paid, and now, having sought her by his Spirit, and brought her to know and love him, he awaits the glorious hour when their mutual bliss shall be consummated at the marriage-supper of the Lamb. Not yet hath the glorious Bridegroom presented his betrothed, perfected and complete, before the Majesty of heaven; not yet hath she actually entered upon the enjoyment of her dignities as his wife and queen: she is as yet a wanderer in a world of woe, a dweller in the tents of Kedar; but she is even now the bride, the spouse of Jesus, dear to his heart, precious in his sight, written on his hands, and united with his person. On earth he exercises towards her all the affectionate offices of Husband. He makes rich provision for her wants, pays all her debts, allows her to assume his name, and to share in all his wealth. Nor will he ever act otherwise to her. The word divorce he will never mention, for “He hateth putting away.” Death must sever the conjugal tie between the most loving mortals, but it cannot divide the links of this immortal marriage. In heaven they marry not, but are as the angels of God; yet there is this one marvellous exception to the rule, for in Heaven Christ and his Church shall celebrate their joyous nuptials. This affinity as it is more lasting, so is it more near than earthly wedlock. Let the love of husband be never so pure and fervent, it is but a faint picture of the flame which burns in the heart of Jesus. Passing all human union is that mystical cleaving unto the Church, for which Christ left his Father, and became one flesh with her.

# Word Live – 7/22/20

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

# Scripture Union – 7/22/20

# <https://scriptureunion.org/encounters/>

# Today in the Word – 7/22/20

# The Lord Prevails

**Read:-** [**Joshua 10:28 - 12:24**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua+10%3a28+-+12%3a24)

### Southern Cities Conquered

28That day Joshua took Makkedah. He put the city and its king to the sword and totally destroyed everyone in it. He left no survivors. And he did to the king of Makkedah as he had done to the king of Jericho.

29Then Joshua and all Israel with him moved on from Makkedah to Libnah and attacked it. 30The Lord also gave that city and its king into Israel’s hand. The city and everyone in it Joshua put to the sword. He left no survivors there. And he did to its king as he had done to the king of Jericho.

31Then Joshua and all Israel with him moved on from Libnah to Lachish; he took up positions against it and attacked it. 32The Lord gave Lachish into Israel’s hands, and Joshua took it on the second day. The city and everyone in it he put to the sword, just as he had done to Libnah. 33Meanwhile, Horam king of Gezer had come up to help Lachish, but Joshua defeated him and his army—until no survivors were left.

34Then Joshua and all Israel with him moved on from Lachish to Eglon; they took up positions against it and attacked it. 35They captured it that same day and put it to the sword and totally destroyed everyone in it, just as they had done to Lachish.

36Then Joshua and all Israel with him went up from Eglon to Hebron and attacked it. 37They took the city and put it to the sword, together with its king, its villages and everyone in it. They left no survivors. Just as at Eglon, they totally destroyed it and everyone in it.

38Then Joshua and all Israel with him turned around and attacked Debir. 39They took the city, its king and its villages, and put them to the sword. Everyone in it they totally destroyed. They left no survivors. They did to Debir and its king as they had done to Libnah and its king and to Hebron.

40So Joshua subdued the whole region, including the hill country, the Negev, the western foothills and the mountain slopes, together with all their kings. He left no survivors. He totally destroyed all who breathed, just as the Lord, the God of Israel, had commanded. 41Joshua subdued them from Kadesh Barnea to Gaza and from the whole region of Goshen to Gibeon. 42All these kings and their lands Joshua conquered in one campaign, because the Lord, the God of Israel, fought for Israel.

43Then Joshua returned with all Israel to the camp at Gilgal.

### Northern Kings Defeated

11 When Jabin king of Hazor heard of this, he sent word to Jobab king of Madon, to the kings of Shimron and Akshaph, 2and to the northern kings who were in the mountains, in the Arabah south of Kinnereth, in the western foothills and in Naphoth Dor on the west; 3to the Canaanites in the east and west; to the Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites and Jebusites in the hill country; and to the Hivites below Hermon in the region of Mizpah. 4They came out with all their troops and a large number of horses and chariots—a huge army, as numerous as the sand on the seashore. 5All these kings joined forces and made camp together at the Waters of Merom to fight against Israel.

6The Lord said to Joshua, “Do not be afraid of them, because by this time tomorrow I will hand all of them, slain, over to Israel. You are to hamstring their horses and burn their chariots.”

7So Joshua and his whole army came against them suddenly at the Waters of Merom and attacked them, 8and the Lord gave them into the hand of Israel. They defeated them and pursued them all the way to Greater Sidon, to Misrephoth Maim, and to the Valley of Mizpah on the east, until no survivors were left. 9Joshua did to them as the Lord had directed: He hamstrung their horses and burned their chariots.

10At that time Joshua turned back and captured Hazor and put its king to the sword. (Hazor had been the head of all these kingdoms.) 11Everyone in it they put to the sword. They totally destroyed[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua+10%3a28+-+12%3a24#fen-NIV-6119a)] them, not sparing anyone that breathed, and he burned Hazor itself.

12Joshua took all these royal cities and their kings and put them to the sword. He totally destroyed them, as Moses the servant of the Lord had commanded. 13Yet Israel did not burn any of the cities built on their mounds—except Hazor, which Joshua burned. 14The Israelites carried off for themselves all the plunder and livestock of these cities, but all the people they put to the sword until they completely destroyed them, not sparing anyone that breathed. 15As the Lord commanded his servant Moses, so Moses commanded Joshua, and Joshua did it; he left nothing undone of all that the Lord commanded Moses.

16So Joshua took this entire land: the hill country, all the Negev, the whole region of Goshen, the western foothills, the Arabah and the mountains of Israel with their foothills, 17from Mount Halak, which rises toward Seir, to Baal Gad in the Valley of Lebanon below Mount Hermon. He captured all their kings and put them to death. 18Joshua waged war against all these kings for a long time. 19Except for the Hivites living in Gibeon, not one city made a treaty of peace with the Israelites, who took them all in battle. 20For it was the Lord himself who hardened their hearts to wage war against Israel, so that he might destroy them totally, exterminating them without mercy, as the Lord had commanded Moses.

21At that time Joshua went and destroyed the Anakites from the hill country: from Hebron, Debir and Anab, from all the hill country of Judah, and from all the hill country of Israel. Joshua totally destroyed them and their towns. 22No Anakites were left in Israelite territory; only in Gaza, Gath and Ashdod did any survive.

23So Joshua took the entire land, just as the Lord had directed Moses, and he gave it as an inheritance to Israel according to their tribal divisions. Then the land had rest from war.

### List of Defeated Kings

12 These are the kings of the land whom the Israelites had defeated and whose territory they took over east of the Jordan, from the Arnon Gorge to Mount Hermon, including all the eastern side of the Arabah:

2Sihon king of the Amorites, who reigned in Heshbon.

He ruled from Aroer on the rim of the Arnon Gorge—from the middle of the gorge—to the Jabbok River, which is the border of the Ammonites. This included half of Gilead. 3He also ruled over the eastern Arabah from the Sea of Galilee[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua+10%3a28+-+12%3a24#fen-NIV-6134b)] to the Sea of the Arabah (that is, the Dead Sea), to Beth Jeshimoth, and then southward below the slopes of Pisgah.

4And the territory of Og king of Bashan, one of the last of the Rephaites, who reigned in Ashtaroth and Edrei.

5He ruled over Mount Hermon, Salekah, all of Bashan to the border of the people of Geshur and Maakah, and half of Gilead to the border of Sihon king of Heshbon.

6Moses, the servant of the Lord, and the Israelites conquered them. And Moses the servant of the Lord gave their land to the Reubenites, the Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh to be their possession.

7Here is a list of the kings of the land that Joshua and the Israelites conquered on the west side of the Jordan, from Baal Gad in the Valley of Lebanon to Mount Halak, which rises toward Seir. Joshua gave their lands as an inheritance to the tribes of Israel according to their tribal divisions. 8The lands included the hill country, the western foothills, the Arabah, the mountain slopes, the wilderness and the Negev. These were the lands of the Hittites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. These were the kings:

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| --- | --- |
| 9the king of Jericho | one |
| the king of Ai (near Bethel) | one |
| 10the king of Jerusalem | one |
| the king of Hebron | one |
| 11the king of Jarmuth | one |
| the king of Lachish | one |
| 12the king of Eglon | one |
| the king of Gezer | one |
| 13the king of Debir | one |
| the king of Geder | one |
| 14the king of Hormah | one |
| the king of Arad | one |
| 15the king of Libnah | one |
| the king of Adullam | one |
| 16the king of Makkedah | one |
| the king of Bethel | one |
| 17the king of Tappuah | one |
| the king of Hepher | one |
| 18the king of Aphek | one |
| the king of Lasharon | one |
| 19the king of Madon | one |
| the king of Hazor | one |
| 20the king of Shimron Meron | one |
| the king of Akshaph | one |
| 21the king of Taanach | one |
| the king of Megiddo | one |
| 22the king of Kedesh | one |
| the king of Jokneam in Carmel | one |
| 23the king of Dor (in Naphoth Dor) | one |
| the king of Goyim in Gilgal | one |
| 24the king of Tirzah | one |
| thirty-one kings in all. |  |

#### Footnotes

1. [Joshua 11:11](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua+10%3a28+-+12%3a24#en-NIV-6119) The Hebrew term refers to the irrevocable giving over of things or persons to the Lord, often by totally destroying them; also in verses 12, 20 and 21.
2. [Joshua 12:3](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua+10%3a28+-+12%3a24#en-NIV-6134) Hebrew Kinnereth

In Tolkien’s The Lord of the Rings, Sauron the Dark Lord of Mordor amasses enormous armies to take over middle earth and spread hate and evil. Peter Jackson’s films capture the scope and scale of these armies like never before, illuminated on the big screen. Numerous times, it appears as if the enemy is too great for Gandalf, Aragorn, and the rest of the Fellowship. However, because of their unwavering hope and courage, they consistently prevail as victors.

The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you. Deuteronomy 31:8

Joshua and the Israelites were outnumbered and outmatched. Yet, with God’s help, they would be victorious. After defeating the southern villages, Joshua turned his attention to the Northern kings who had formed a massive alliance. The coalition was “as numerous as the sand on the seashore” (11:4). This was the largest army Joshua and the Israelites had ever faced. If this were an action film, the dramatic music would begin to play with an enormous army of soldiers marching toward Joshua. What were they to do? Could this be the end of Joshua and the Israelites?

The northern cities were not fighting merely Joshua’s army, but the Lord’s army. Yahweh promised Joshua, “By this time tomorrow I will hand all of them, slain, over to Israel” (11:6). When Joshua saw the countless number of soldiers he faced, doubt may have crept into his mind. The insecurities he once had as young leader might have returned. But like before, the Lord commanded him, “Do not be afraid” (11:6). As the narrative continues, Joshua mustered the courage needed for his quest. The Lord would prevail. He always does.

**Apply the Word**

Fear has the ability to paralyze us. Fear of failure. Fear of the future. Fear of loss. Whatever it may be, fear can grip us and never let go. Like Joshua, we often need to be reminded to be strong and courageous. Allow the Lord to fight your battles. Regardless of how big the enemy may seem, in the end, the Lord prevails.

### Pray with Us

Ask the Lord to help you overcome fear and anxiety. Personalize today’s key verse, from Deuteronomy 31: The Lord himself goes before me and will be with me.

## BY Chris Rappazini

# Our Daily Bread – 7/22/20

# A Wide, Sweeping Grace

 **Read:-** [**Isaiah 44:21–23**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Isa%2044.21%E2%80%9323)

21“Remember these things, Jacob,  
    for you, Israel, are my servant.  
I have made you, you are my servant;  
    Israel, I will not forget you.  
22I have swept away your offenses like a cloud,  
    your sins like the morning mist.  
Return to me,  
    for I have redeemed you.”

23Sing for joy, you heavens, for the Lord has done this;  
    shout aloud, you earth beneath.  
Burst into song, you mountains,  
    you forests and all your trees,  
for the Lord has redeemed Jacob,  
    he displays his glory in Israel.

I have swept away your offenses. [Isaiah 44:22](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Isa%2044.22)

Alexa, Amazon’s voice-controlled device, has an interesting feature: it can erase everything you say. Whatever you’ve asked Alexa to do, whatever information you’ve asked Alexa to retrieve, one simple sentence (“Delete everything I said today”) sweeps it all clean, as if it never happened. It’s too bad that the rest of our life doesn’t have this capability. Every misspoken word, every disgraceful act, every moment we wish we could erase—we’d just speak the command, and the entire mess would disappear.

There’s good news, though. God does offer each of us a clean start. Only, He goes far deeper than merely deleting our mistakes or bad behavior. God provides redemption, a deep healing that transforms us and makes us new. “Return to me,” He says, “I have redeemed you” ([Isaiah 44:22](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Isa%2044.22)). Even though Israel rebelled and disobeyed, God reached out to them with lavish mercy. He “swept away [their] offenses like a cloud, [their] sins like the morning mist” (v. 22). He gathered all their shame and failures and washed them away with His wide, sweeping grace.

God will do the same with our sin and blunders. There’s no mistake He can’t mend, no wound He can’t heal. God’s mercy heals and redeems the most painful places in our soul—even the ones we’ve hidden for so very long. His mercy sweeps away all our guilt, washes away every regret.

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

#### Reflect & Pray

Where are you most aware of your failures? How does the image of God sweeping away all your mistakes give you hope?

So many regrets, so many things I’d do differently. God, You tell me that You can forgive and heal me. Thank You for Your mercy and grace.

#### Insight

Isaiah was the most prolific of the writing prophets, but the great size of his book is eclipsed in importance by its content. Commentator John Gill wrote: “He should rather be called an evangelist than a prophet . . . certain it is that no one writes so fully and clearly of the person, offices, grace, and kingdom of Christ; of his incarnation and birth of a virgin; of his sufferings and death, and the glory that should follow, as [Isaiah] does.” Isaiah’s focus on Messiah and His mission was vital to preparing the way for Jesus’ coming, for it provided Israel with critical identifiers of Him and certain hope in His promised victory.

For more on Isaiah, check out Knowing God through Isaiah at [discoveryseries.org/sb151.](https://discoveryseries.org/sb151.)

# God Calling – 7/22/20

# Miracle of The Ages

Abide in Me. "The works that I do shall ye do also and greater works than these shall ye do because I go to My Father."

"Greater Works!" The blind received their sight, the lame walked, the lepers were cleansed, the poor had the Gospel preached to them. "And greater works than these shall ye do because I go unto My Father."

Wonder of the World! Miracle of the Ages! God's Power manifest in believing man! God's Power going out to bless, through the agency of the man actuated by the Holy Spirit. Arise from the grave of sickness, poverty, doubt, despondency, limitation. "Arise, shine for the Light is come and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee."

A wonderful future is before you both. A future of unlimited power to bless others. Just be channels. Be used. Ask. Ask. "Ask what ye will and it shall be done unto you," and unto those for whom you pray.

Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine, no more can ye except ye abide in me. John 15:4

# My Utmost for His Highest – 7/23/20

# Sanctification (2)



But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us…sanctification… —[1 Corinthians 1:30](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=1+Corinthians+1%3A30)

**The Life Side.** The mystery of sanctification is that the perfect qualities of Jesus Christ are imparted as a gift to me, not gradually, but instantly once I enter by faith into the realization that He “became for [me]…sanctification….” Sanctification means nothing less than the holiness of Jesus becoming mine and being exhibited in my life.

The most wonderful secret of living a holy life does not lie in imitating Jesus, but in letting the perfect qualities of Jesus exhibit themselves in my human flesh. Sanctification is “Christ in you…” ([Colossians 1:27](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Colossians+1:27)). It is His wonderful life that is imparted to me in sanctification— imparted by faith as a sovereign gift of God’s grace. Am I willing for God to make sanctification as real in me as it is in His Word?

Sanctification means the impartation of the holy qualities of Jesus Christ to me. It is the gift of His patience, love, holiness, faith, purity, and godliness that is exhibited in and through every sanctified soul. Sanctification is not drawing from Jesus the power to be holy— it is drawing from Jesus the very holiness that was exhibited in Him, and that He now exhibits in me. Sanctification is an impartation, not an imitation. Imitation is something altogether different. The perfection of everything is in Jesus Christ, and the mystery of sanctification is that all the perfect qualities of Jesus are at my disposal. Consequently, I slowly but surely begin to live a life of inexpressible order, soundness, and holiness— “…kept by the power of God…” ([1 Peter 1:5](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Peter+1:5)).

**Wisdom From Oswald Chambers**

When we no longer seek God for His blessings, we have time to seek Him for Himself.  The Moral Foundations of Life, 728 L

# CCEL – 7/23/20

Then cometh the end.—[I COR. 15:24.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iCor.15.html" \l "iCor.15.24)

Of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father. Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is. And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.—The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.—The coming of the Lord draweth nigh. The judge standeth before the door.—Surely I come quickly.

Seeing . . . that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness?

The end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.—Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning; and ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately.

[Matt. 13:32,33](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Matt.13.html" \l "Matt.13.32),[37](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Matt.13.html" \l "Matt.13.37). –[II Pet. 3:9](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iiPet.3.html" \l "iiPet.3.9). -[Jas. 5:8,9](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Jas.5.html" \l "Jas.5.8). -[Rev. 22:20](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rev.22.html#Rev.22.20).[II Pet. 3:11](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iiPet.3.html" \l "iiPet.3.11).[I Pet. 4:7](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iPet.4.html" \l "iPet.4.7). -[Luke 12:35,36](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Luke.12.html" \l "Luke.12.35).

“Even thou wast as one of them.” **[Obadiah 1:11](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Obad.1.html" \l "Obad.1.11)**

Brotherly kindness was due from Edom to Israel in the time of need, but instead thereof, the men of Esau made common cause with Israel’s foes. Special stress in the sentence before us is laid upon the word thou; as when Caesar cried to Brutus, “and thou Brutus”; a bad action may be all the worse, because of the person who has committed it. When we sin, who are the chosen favourites of heaven, we sin with an emphasis; ours is a crying offence, because we are so peculiarly indulged. If an angel should lay his hand upon us when we are doing evil, he need not use any other rebuke than the question, “What thou? What dost thou here?” Much forgiven, much delivered, much instructed, much enriched, much blessed, shall we dare to put forth our hand unto evil? God forbid!

A few minutes of confession may be beneficial to thee, gentle reader, this morning. Hast thou never been as the wicked? At an evening party certain men laughed at uncleanness, and the joke was not altogether offensive to thine ear, even thou wast as one of them. When hard things were spoken concerning the ways of God, thou wast bashfully silent; and so, to on-lookers, thou wast as one of them. When worldlings were bartering in the market, and driving hard bargains, wast thou not as one of them? When they were pursuing vanity with a hunter’s foot, wert thou not as greedy for gain as they were? Could any difference be discerned between thee and them? Is there any difference? Here we come to close quarters. Be honest with thine own soul, and make sure that thou art a new creature in Christ Jesus; but when this is sure, walk jealously, lest any should again be able to say, “Even thou wast as one of them.” Thou wouldst not desire to share their eternal doom, why then be like them here? Come not thou into their secret, lest thou come into their ruin. Side with the afflicted people of God, and not with the world.

# Word Live – 7/23/20

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

# Scripture Union – 7/23/20

# <https://scriptureunion.org/encounters/>

# Today in the Word – 7/23/20

# God's Not Finished

**Read:-** [**Joshua 13:1–7**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua+13%3a1%e2%80%937)

### Land Still to Be Taken

13 When Joshua had grown old, the Lord said to him, “You are now very old, and there are still very large areas of land to be taken over.

2“This is the land that remains: all the regions of the Philistines and Geshurites, 3from the Shihor River on the east of Egypt to the territory of Ekron on the north, all of it counted as Canaanite though held by the five Philistine rulers in Gaza, Ashdod, Ashkelon, Gath and Ekron; the territory of the Avvites 4on the south; all the land of the Canaanites, from Arah of the Sidonians as far as Aphek and the border of the Amorites; 5the area of Byblos; and all Lebanon to the east, from Baal Gad below Mount Hermon to Lebo Hamath.

6“As for all the inhabitants of the mountain regions from Lebanon to Misrephoth Maim, that is, all the Sidonians, I myself will drive them out before the Israelites. Be sure to allocate this land to Israel for an inheritance, as I have instructed you, 7and divide it as an inheritance among the nine tribes and half of the tribe of Manasseh.”

You are never too old (or too young) for God to use you! Evangelist Billy Graham noted that God’s plan for us is not limited by our age: “Scripture is filled with examples of men and women whom God used late in life, often with great impact. These men and women refused to use old age as an excuse to ignore what God wanted them to do.”

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

At this point of Joshua’s story, scholars estimate that he was roughly 90 years old. But even though he had more years behind him than in front of him, the Lord was not finished using him. Joshua had completed the first half of his mission, conquering the land. Now, the second portion of his task was to distribute the land as the Lord saw fit. The first verse signals the end of battles and triggers a new part of Joshua’s quest, the distribution of the land. God’s promises would be fulfilled. However, the conquests have taken their toll on Joshua, emotionally and physically. The author notes: Joshua has grown old (v. 1).

I am surprised Joshua did not respond: “God, I’ve done a good job. I’d like to start my retirement and take it easy. Can’t you find someone else to do the job?” Joshua had given his life to the cause. He had fought in more battles than he probably cared to remember. Perhaps his wounds had turned to wrinkles, and his dark hair had become gray. But when the Lord looked at Joshua, He did not see an old man, past his useful capacity. Instead, God saw a devoted leader with whom He was not finished yet.

**Apply the Word**

A former pastor of mine said, “If you are still breathing, it means God is not done with you yet.” Your age doesn’t disqualify you from serving the Lord, only your lack of faith does. How can you serve the Lord in a new way today? Or maybe look for ways to create ministry opportunities for those older than you.

### Pray with Us

We can serve God and be useful at any age. In our reading, the Lord used Joshua even when he was old and wrinkled! Thank God that neither age nor social or economic status can disqualify us from service.

## BY Chris Rappazini

# Our Daily Bread – 7/23/20

# A Glimmer on the Sea

 **Read:-** [**Ephesians 2:1–5**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Eph%202.1%E2%80%935)

### Made Alive in Christ

2 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, 2in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. 3All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh[[a](https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians+2%3A1%E2%80%935+%2C+11%E2%80%9313&version=NIV#fen-NIV-29233a)] and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. 4But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

#### Footnotes:

1. [Ephesians 2:3](https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians+2%3A1%E2%80%935+%2C+11%E2%80%9313&version=NIV#en-NIV-29233) In contexts like this, the Greek word for flesh (sarx) refers to the sinful state of human beings, often presented as a power in opposition to the Spirit.

**Read:-** [**Ephesians 2:**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Eph%202.1%E2%80%935)[**11–13**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Ephesians%202.11%E2%80%9313)

### Jew and Gentile Reconciled Through Christ

11Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called “uncircumcised” by those who call themselves “the circumcision” (which is done in the body by human hands)— 12remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. 13But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

At that time you were separate from Christ. . . . without hope and without God in the world. [Ephesians 2:12](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Eph%202.12)

“I lay on my bed full of stale liquor and despair,” wrote journalist Malcolm Muggeridge of a particularly dismal evening during his work as a World War II spy. “Alone in the universe, in eternity, with no glimmer of light.”

In such a condition, he did the only thing he thought sensible; he tried to drown himself. Driving to the nearby Madagascar coast, he began the long swim into the ocean until he grew exhausted. Looking back, he glimpsed the distant coastal lights. For no reason clear to him at the time, he started swimming back toward the lights. Despite his fatigue, he recalls “an overwhelming joy.”

Muggeridge didn’t know exactly how, but he knew God had reached him in that dark moment, infusing him with a hope that could only be supernatural. The apostle Paul wrote often about such hope. In Ephesians he noted that, before knowing Christ, each of us is “dead in [our] transgressions and sins . . . . without hope and without God in the world” (2:1, 12). But “God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead” (vv. 4–5).

This world tries to drag us into the depths, but there’s no reason to succumb to despair. As Muggeridge said about his swim in the sea, “It became clear to me that there was no darkness, only the possibility of losing sight of a light which shone eternally.”

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

#### Reflect & Pray

What has been your darkest moment? In what places have you glimpsed the “light that shines eternally”?

Father, You’re the source of all my genuine hope. Fill me with Your light and joy.

#### Insight

The Israelites believed they alone were saved and chosen by God “out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession” ([Deuteronomy 7:6](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Deut%207.6); [14:2](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Deuteronomy%2014.2)). Circumcision, marking them out as God’s people ([Genesis 17:10](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Gen%2017.10)), soon became a badge of their spiritual and national superiority, creating an exclusivism that hindered them from becoming “a light for the Gentiles” bringing His salvation to the world ([Isaiah 42:6](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Isa%2042.6); [49:6](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Isaiah%2049.6)). The Jews pejoratively labeled the gentiles the “uncircumcised” ([Ephesians 2:11](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Eph%202.11)), erroneously believing that God would never love the gentiles. Correcting this, Paul says that “through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body” (3:6). Both Jews and gentiles are saved by grace through faith (2:1–9; [Romans 3:29–30](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Rom%203.29%E2%80%9330)). Through the cross Jesus tore down the wall of hostility that separated Jews and non-Jews, placing both into one body, God’s household—the church ([Ephesians 2:14–22](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Eph%202.14%E2%80%9322)).

# God Calling – 7/23/20

# Stop All Work Until --

Our Lord, grant us that wonderful inward Peace.

My children that Peace does truly pass all understanding. That Peace no man taketh from you. No man has the power to disturb that Peace, but you yourselves can let the world and its worries and distractions in.

You can give the entrance to fears and despondency. You can open the door to the robber who breaks in upon, and destroys, your peace.

Set yourselves this task to allow nothing to disturb your peace, your heart calm with Me. Stop all work, stop all intercourse with others -- until this is restored. Do not let those about you spoil your peace of heart and mind. Do not let anyone without, any trouble, any irritation, any adversity, disturb it for one moment.

Look on each difficulty as training to enable you to acquire this peace. Every work, every interruption -- set yourself to see that none of it touches the harmony of the real you, that is hid with Me in the Secret Place of the Father.

Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them. Psalm 119:165

# My Utmost for His Highest – 7/24/20

# His Nature and Our Motives



…unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. —[Matthew 5:20](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=Matthew+5%3A20)

The characteristic of a disciple is not that he does good things, but that he is good in his motives, having been made good by the supernatural grace of God. The only thing that exceeds right-doing is right-being. Jesus Christ came to place within anyone who would let Him a new heredity that would have a righteousness exceeding that of the scribes and Pharisees. Jesus is saying, “If you are My disciple, you must be right not only in your actions, but also in your motives, your aspirations, and in the deep recesses of the thoughts of your mind.” Your motives must be so pure that God Almighty can see nothing to rebuke. Who can stand in the eternal light of God and have nothing for Him to rebuke? Only the Son of God, and Jesus Christ claims that through His redemption He can place within anyone His own nature and make that person as pure and as simple as a child. The purity that God demands is impossible unless I can be remade within, and that is exactly what Jesus has undertaken to do through His redemption.

No one can make himself pure by obeying laws. Jesus Christ does not give us rules and regulations— He gives us His teachings which are truths that can only be interpreted by His nature which He places within us. The great wonder of Jesus Christ’s salvation is that He changes our heredity. He does not change human nature— He changes its source, and thereby its motives as well.

**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 – 7/24/20

Patient in tribulation.—[ROM. 12:12.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rom.12.html" \l "Rom.12.12)

It is the Lord: let him do what seemeth him good.—Whom, though I were righteous, yet would I not answer, but I would make supplication to my judge.—The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.—What? shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil?

Jesus wept.—A man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief. Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows.

Whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.—Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness.—In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

[I Sam. 3:18](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iSam.3.html" \l "iSam.3.18). -[Job 9:15](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Job.9.html" \l "Job.9.15). -[Job 1:21](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Job.1.html" \l "Job.1.21). -[Job 2:10](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Job.2.html" \l "Job.2.10).[John 11:35](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.John.11.html" \l "John.11.35). -[Isa. 53:3,4](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Isa.53.html" \l "Isa.53.3).[Heb. 12:6](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Heb.12.html" \l "Heb.12.6),[11](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Heb.12.html" \l "Heb.12.11). –[Col. l:11](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Col.1.html" \l "Col.1.11). -[John 16:33](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.John.16.html" \l "John.16.33).

“Stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord.” **[Exodus 14:13](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Exod.14.html" \l "Exod.14.13)**

These words contain God’s command to the believer when he is reduced to great straits and brought into extraordinary difficulties. He cannot retreat; he cannot go forward; he is shut up on the right hand and on the left; what is he now to do? The Master’s word to him is, “Stand still.” It will be well for him if at such times he listens only to his Master’s word, for other and evil advisers come with their suggestions. Despair whispers, “Lie down and die; give it all up.” But God would have us put on a cheerful courage, and even in our worst times, rejoice in his love and faithfulness. Cowardice says, “Retreat; go back to the worldling’s way of action; you cannot play the Christian’s part, it is too difficult. Relinquish your principles.” But, however much Satan may urge this course upon you, you cannot follow it if you are a child of God. His divine fiat has bid thee go from strength to strength, and so thou shalt, and neither death nor hell shall turn thee from thy course. What, if for a while thou art called to stand still, yet this is but to renew thy strength for some greater advance in due time. Precipitancy cries, “do something. Stir yourself; to stand still and wait, is sheer idleness.” We must be doing something at once—we must do it so we think—instead of looking to the Lord, who will not only do something but will do everything. Presumption boasts, “If the sea be before you, march into it and expect a miracle.” But Faith listens neither to Presumption, nor to Despair, nor to Cowardice, nor to Precipitancy, but it hears God say, “Stand still,” and immovable as a rock it stands. “Stand still;”—keep the posture of an upright man, ready for action, expecting further orders, cheerfully and patiently awaiting the directing voice; and it will not be long ere God shall say to you, as distinctly as Moses said it to the people of Israel, “Go forward.”

# Word Live – 7/24/20

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

# Scripture Union – 7/24/20

# <https://scriptureunion.org/encounters/>

# Today in the Word – 7/24/20

# The Long-Awaited Inheritance

**Read:-** [**Joshua 14:6–15**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua+14%3a6%e2%80%9315)

### Allotment for Caleb

6Now the people of Judah approached Joshua at Gilgal, and Caleb son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite said to him, “You know what the Lord said to Moses the man of God at Kadesh Barnea about you and me. 7I was forty years old when Moses the servant of the Lord sent me from Kadesh Barnea to explore the land. And I brought him back a report according to my convictions, 8but my fellow Israelites who went up with me made the hearts of the people melt in fear. I, however, followed the Lord my God wholeheartedly. 9So on that day Moses swore to me, ‘The land on which your feet have walked will be your inheritance and that of your children forever, because you have followed the Lord my God wholeheartedly.’[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua+14%3a6%e2%80%9315#fen-NIV-6197a)]

10“Now then, just as the Lord promised, he has kept me alive for forty-five years since the time he said this to Moses, while Israel moved about in the wilderness. So here I am today, eighty-five years old! 11I am still as strong today as the day Moses sent me out; I’m just as vigorous to go out to battle now as I was then. 12Now give me this hill country that the Lord promised me that day. You yourself heard then that the Anakites were there and their cities were large and fortified, but, the Lord helping me, I will drive them out just as he said.”

13Then Joshua blessed Caleb son of Jephunneh and gave him Hebron as his inheritance. 14So Hebron has belonged to Caleb son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite ever since, because he followed the Lord, the God of Israel, wholeheartedly. 15(Hebron used to be called Kiriath Arba after Arba, who was the greatest man among the Anakites.)

Then the land had rest from war.

#### Footnotes

1. [Joshua 14:9](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua+14%3a6%e2%80%9315#en-NIV-6197) Deut. 1:36

Have you ever received an inheritance? Maybe you were left a special memento or a sum of cash from a parent, grandparent, or friend? While the gift itself is important, the most significant part of the inheritance is whom it came from. In chapters 13–19, the author records the various allotments of land given to each of the Israelite tribes. These portions of the land were their inheritance from the Lord. An extraordinary snapshot of God’s promise coming into fruition is in our text today when Caleb finally received his inheritance from God.

An inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you. I Peter 1:4

You may not have noticed that Joshua’s former spy companion, Caleb, has been missing for a number of chapters. We last saw him when he and Joshua were reporting back to Moses (Numbers 13–14). The two spies insisted that even though the enemies were large, with God, they were confident that they could overtake them and seize the Promised Land. We don’t read any other mention of Caleb—until now. Caleb reminded Joshua of that day when they spied out the land. More importantly, Caleb noted that he had followed the Lord wholeheartedly for 45 years (vv. 8–10). The word “wholeheartedly” is used three times to describe Caleb’s faith. The word literally means “to be full.” Caleb was passionate about fully and completely following the Lord.

Now that he was 85 years old, he requested his long-awaited inheritance. His zeal for the Lord had not faded. He insisted he was still as strong and vigorous as when Moses sent him out 45 years earlier (v. 11). Joshua was probably not surprised by Caleb’s appeal and passion. He granted Caleb his request and gave him the land promised to him.

**Apply the Word**

Even if you have never received an inheritance, one is waiting for you in heaven! The apostle Peter reminds us that because of Jesus’ work on the cross and His resurrection power over the grave, all those who believe will one day share in an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading (1 Peter 1:4).

### Pray with Us

Lord Jesus, thank you for your sacrifice that opened the way to God for all who believe. Thank you for making us heirs to your kingdom, “an inheritance that never perishes, spoil or fade” (1 Peter 1:4).

## BY Chris Rappazini

# Our Daily Bread – 7/24/20

# His Scars

 **Read:-** [**John 20:24–29**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/John%2020.24%E2%80%9329)

### Jesus Appears to Thomas

24Now Thomas (also known as Didymus[[a](https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+20%3A24%E2%80%9329&version=NIV#fen-NIV-26892a)]), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. 25So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!”

But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.”

26A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” 27Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.”

28Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!”

29Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

#### Footnotes:

1. [John 20:24](https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+20%3A24%E2%80%9329&version=NIV#en-NIV-26892) Thomas (Aramaic) and Didymus (Greek) both mean twin.

He was pierced for our transgressions, . . . and by his wounds we are healed. [Isaiah 53:5](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Isa%2053.5)

After my conversation with Grady, it occurred to me why his preferred greeting was a “fist bump” not a handshake. A handshake would’ve exposed the scars on his wrist—the result of his attempts to do himself harm. It’s not uncommon for us to hide our wounds—external or internal—caused by others or self-inflicted.

In the wake of my interaction with Grady, I thought about Jesus’ physical scars, the wounds caused by nails pounded into His hands and feet and a spear thrust into His side. Rather than hiding His scars, Christ called attention to them.

After Thomas initially doubted that Jesus had risen from the dead, He said to him, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe” ([John 20:27](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/John%2020.27)). When Thomas saw those scars for himself and heard Christ’s amazing words, he was convinced that it was Jesus. He exclaimed in belief, “My Lord and my God!” (v. 28). Jesus then pronounced a special blessing for those who haven’t seen Him or His physical wounds but still believe in Him: “Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed” (v. 29).

The best news ever is that His scars were for our sins—our sins against others or ourselves. The death of Jesus is for the forgiveness of the sins of all who believe in Him and confess with Thomas, “My Lord and my God!”

By:  [Arthur Jackson](https://odb.org/author/arthurjackson/)

#### Reflect & Pray

What circumstances led you to believe that Jesus' scars were for you? If you haven’t believed in Him for the forgiveness of your sins, what keeps you from trusting Him today?

Father, I believe that Christ’s scars were for my sin. I’m grateful!

#### Insight

We can learn much about the resurrection of Jesus by piecing together the gospel accounts of the event. Prior to Christ’s appearing to Thomas in [John 20:24–29](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/John%2020.24%E2%80%9329), He appeared to Mary Magdalene and “the other Mary” (see [Matthew 28:1](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Matt%2028.1)), the two men on the road to Emmaus ([Luke 24:13–32](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Luke%2024.13%E2%80%9332)), and all of the disciples except for Thomas ([John 20:19–24](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/John%2020.19%E2%80%9324)). Luke reports Jesus saying, “Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have” ([Luke 24:39](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Luke%2024.39)). The disciples watched Him eat a piece of broiled fish. [John 20:19](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/John%2020.19) tells us “the doors [were] locked for fear of the Jewish leaders” and that “Jesus came and stood among them.” One week later, Thomas would see the physically resurrected Christ (vv. 26–27), resulting in Thomas’ convinced declaration of belief. Taken together, these passages show the human and divine nature of Jesus and affirm the fact of His bodily resurrection.

To learn more about the historical evidence for Jesus’ resurrection, visit [christianuniversity.org/ca206.](https://christianuniversity.org/ca206.)

# God Calling – 7/24/20

# Keep Close

Our Lord, guide us. Show us Thy Will and Way in everything.

Keep close to Me and you shall know The Way because, as I said to My disciples, I am The Way. That is the solution to all earth's problems.

Keep close, very close to Me. Think, act, and live in My Presence.

How dare any foe touch you, protected by Me! That is the secret of all Power, all Peace, all Purity, all influence, the keeping very near to Me.

Abide in Me. Live in My Presence. Rejoice in My Love. Thank and Praise all the time. Wonders are unfolding.

And He said, My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest. Exodus 33:14

# My Utmost for His Highest – 7/25/20

# Am I Blessed Like This?



Blessed are… —[Matthew 5:3-11](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=Matthew+5%3A3-11)

When we first read the statements of Jesus, they seem wonderfully simple and unstartling, and they sink unnoticed into our subconscious minds. For instance, the Beatitudes initially seem to be merely soothing and beautiful precepts for overly spiritual and seemingly useless people, but of very little practical use in the rigid, fast-paced workdays of the world in which we live. We soon find, however, that the Beatitudes contain the “dynamite” of the Holy Spirit. And they “explode” when the circumstances of our lives cause them to do so. When the Holy Spirit brings to our remembrance one of the Beatitudes, we say, “What a startling statement that is!” Then we must decide whether or not we will accept the tremendous spiritual upheaval that will be produced in our circumstances if we obey His words. That is the way the Spirit of God works. We do not need to be born again to apply the Sermon on the Mount literally. The literal interpretation of the Sermon on the Mount is as easy as child’s play. But the interpretation by the Spirit of God as He applies our Lord’s statements to our circumstances is the strict and difficult work of a saint.

The teachings of Jesus are all out of proportion when compared to our natural way of looking at things, and they come to us initially with astonishing discomfort. We gradually have to conform our walk and conversation to the precepts of Jesus Christ as the Holy Spirit applies them to our circumstances. The Sermon on the Mount is not a set of rules and regulations— it is a picture of the life we will live when the Holy Spirit is having His unhindered way with us.

**Wisdom From Oswald Chambers**

The Christian Church should not be a secret society of specialists, but a public manifestation of believers in Jesus.  Facing Reality, 34 R

# CCEL – 7/25/20

We know that we have passed from death unto life.—[I JOHN 3:14.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iJohn.3.html" \l "iJohn.3.14)

He that heareth my word and believeth on him that sent me hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.—He that hath the Son hath life, and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

He which stablisheth us with you in Christ and hath anointed us, is God; who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.—Hereby we know that we are of the truth and shall assure our hearts before him. Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God.—We know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness.

You hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sin.—Quickened . . . together with Christ.—Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom his dear Son.

[John 5:24](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.John.5.html" \l "John.5.24). -[I John 5:12](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iJohn.5.html" \l "iJohn.5.12).[II Cor. 1:21,22](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iiCor.1.html" \l "iiCor.1.21). -[I John 3:19](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iJohn.3.html" \l "iJohn.3.19),[21](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iJohn.3.html" \l "iJohn.3.21). -[I John 5:19](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iJohn.5.html" \l "iJohn.5.19).[Eph. 2:1](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Eph.2.html" \l "Eph.2.1). -[Eph. 2:5](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Eph.2.html" \l "Eph.2.5). -[Col. 1:13](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Col.1.html" \l "Col.1.13).

“He left his garment in her hand, and fled, and got him out.” **[Genesis 39:12](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Gen.39.html" \l "Gen.39.12)**

In contending with certain sins there remains no mode of victory but by flight. The ancient naturalists wrote much of basilisks, whose eyes fascinated their victims and rendered them easy victims; so the mere gaze of wickedness puts us in solemn danger. He who would be safe from acts of evil must haste away from occasions of it. A covenant must be made with our eyes not even to look upon the cause of temptation, for such sins only need a spark to begin with and a blaze follows in an instant. Who would wantonly enter the leper’s prison and sleep amid its horrible corruption? He only who desires to be leprous himself would thus court contagion. If the mariner knew how to avoid a storm, he would do anything rather than run the risk of weathering it. Cautious pilots have no desire to try how near the quicksand they can sail, or how often they may touch a rock without springing a leak; their aim is to keep as nearly as possible in the midst of a safe channel.

This day I may be exposed to great peril, let me have the serpent’s wisdom to keep out of it and avoid it. The wings of a dove may be of more use to me today than the jaws of a lion. It is true I may be an apparent loser by declining evil company, but I had better leave my cloak than lose my character; it is not needful that I should be rich, but it is imperative upon me to be pure. No ties of friendship, no chains of beauty, no flashings of talent, no shafts of ridicule must turn me from the wise resolve to flee from sin. The devil I am to resist and he will flee from me, but the lusts of the flesh, I must flee, or they will surely overcome me. O God of holiness preserve thy Josephs, that Madam Bubble bewitch them not with her vile suggestions. May the horrible trinity of the world, the flesh, and the devil, never overcome us!

# Word Live – 7/25/20

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

# Scripture Union – 7/25/20

# <https://scriptureunion.org/encounters/>

# Today in the Word – 7/25/20

# Cities of Refuge

**Read:-** [**Joshua 20:1–9**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua+20%3a1%e2%80%939)

### Cities of Refuge

20 Then the Lord said to Joshua: 2“Tell the Israelites to designate the cities of refuge, as I instructed you through Moses, 3so that anyone who kills a person accidentally and unintentionally may flee there and find protection from the avenger of blood. 4When they flee to one of these cities, they are to stand in the entrance of the city gate and state their case before the elders of that city. Then the elders are to admit the fugitive into their city and provide a place to live among them. 5If the avenger of blood comes in pursuit, the elders must not surrender the fugitive, because the fugitive killed their neighbor unintentionally and without malice aforethought. 6They are to stay in that city until they have stood trial before the assembly and until the death of the high priest who is serving at that time. Then they may go back to their own home in the town from which they fled.”

7So they set apart Kedesh in Galilee in the hill country of Naphtali, Shechem in the hill country of Ephraim, and Kiriath Arba (that is, Hebron) in the hill country of Judah. 8East of the Jordan (on the other side from Jericho) they designated Bezer in the wilderness on the plateau in the tribe of Reuben, Ramoth in Gilead in the tribe of Gad, and Golan in Bashan in the tribe of Manasseh. 9Any of the Israelites or any foreigner residing among them who killed someone accidentally could flee to these designated cities and not be killed by the avenger of blood prior to standing trial before the assembly.

Embassies throughout the world provide a safe haven for their nation’s citizens. In times of trouble, the embassy is one place where citizens can seek help. In our text today, the Lord requested Joshua to build cities of refuge (v. 1). These cities would provide safe places for people who accidentally or unintentionally killed someone (v. 2). The Lord laid out rules and regulations to provide fair and just treatment (vv. 4–6). This command was not new to the Israelites, it was first given to Moses (Ex. 21:13). Joshua now designated six specific cities throughout the nation.

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

This legislation demonstrates God’s mercy and the sanctity of human life. It’s true the Pentateuch commands such actions as “an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth” (Exodus 21; Leviticus 24), but what Yahweh is addressing here falls under different circumstances. God recognizes that we live in a fallen world and tragedies happen. Therefore, He willingly pours out His mercy on people who unintentionally kill, even when the world might prefer a different outcome. God’s commands to let them live under certain conditions and mandates affirm the sanctity and dignity of every human life. The person who caused the accidental death still had value and worth in God’s eyes but was not free to return home until he was found innocent and waited for some time (v. 6).

These rules may seem odd to us today in our somewhat “over-legalized” world, but they were a clear sign of God’s character and justice. God was initiating order, grace, and mercy into the world. Much of which is seen today, but there is still more to be done.

**Apply the Word**

As recipients of God’s grand mercy, we ought to be a place of refuge for those who carry the heavy burden of tragedy. How can your home or life be a sanctuary for those who need mercy from God and the world? Be on the lookout for those who need a safe place.

### Pray with Us

Today’s devotional gives us a beautiful picture of God’s protection and refuge. We invite you to pray together with the Psalmist: “You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble” (Ps. 32:7).

## BY Chris Rappazini

# Our Daily Bread – 7/25/20

# Plod On!

 **Read:-** [**Judges 6:7–16**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Judg%206.7%E2%80%9316)

7When the Israelites cried out to the Lord because of Midian, 8he sent them a prophet, who said, “This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: I brought you up out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. 9I rescued you from the hand of the Egyptians. And I delivered you from the hand of all your oppressors; I drove them out before you and gave you their land. 10I said to you, ‘I am the Lord your God; do not worship the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you live.’ But you have not listened to me.”

11The angel of the Lord came and sat down under the oak in Ophrah that belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, where his son Gideon was threshing wheat in a winepress to keep it from the Midianites. 12When the angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon, he said, “The Lord is with you, mighty warrior.”

13“Pardon me, my lord,” Gideon replied, “but if the Lord is with us, why has all this happened to us? Where are all his wonders that our ancestors told us about when they said, ‘Did not the Lord bring us up out of Egypt?’ But now the Lord has abandoned us and given us into the hand of Midian.”

14The Lord turned to him and said, “Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian’s hand. Am I not sending you?”

15“Pardon me, my lord,” Gideon replied, “but how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family.”

16The Lord answered, “I will be with you, and you will strike down all the Midianites, leaving none alive.”

“Am I not sending you?” [Judges 6:14](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Judg%206.14)

God loves to use people the world might overlook. William Carey was raised in a tiny village in the 1700s and had little formal education. He had limited success in his chosen trade and lived in poverty. But God gave him a passion for sharing the good news and called him to be a missionary. Carey learned Greek, Hebrew, and Latin and eventually translated the first New Testament into the Bengali language. Today he is regarded as a “father of modern missions,” but in a letter to his nephew he offered this humble assessment of his abilities: “I can plod. I can persevere.”

When God calls us to a task, He also gives us strength to accomplish it regardless of our limitations. In [Judges 6:12](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Judg%206.12) the angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon and said, “The Lord is with you, mighty warrior.” The angel then told him to rescue Israel from the Midianites who were raiding their towns and crops. But Gideon, who hadn’t earned the title of “mighty warrior,” humbly responded, “How can I save Israel? . . . I am the least in my family” (v. 15). Still, God used Gideon to set His people free.

The key to Gideon’s success was in the words, “the Lord is with you” (v. 12). As we humbly walk with our Savior and rely on His strength, He will empower us to accomplish what’s only possible through Him.

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

#### Reflect & Pray

What’s God calling you to do that you can’t do in your own strength? How can you rely on His power today?

Thank You for empowering me, my Savior and my strength! Please help me to follow You closely.

#### Insight

The time of the Judges is an approximately 330-year period after Joshua’s death ([Judges 2:8](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Judg%202.8)) to the beginning of Saul’s reign as king ([1 Samuel 13:1](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/1%20Sam%2013.1)). This was a chaotic time when a new generation of Israelites who didn’t know God turned from Him to worship idols ([Judges 2:10–14](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Judg%202.10%E2%80%9314)). “Everyone did as they saw fit” (17:6; 21:25), so God raised various neighboring nations to discipline them. When they repented, God raised judges—political and military leaders—to lead them. Gideon is the fifth of thirteen judges in this book (Othniel, Ehud, Shamgar, Deborah, Gideon, Abimelek, Tola, Jair, Jephthah, Ibzan, Elon, Abdon, and Samson).

# God Calling – 7/25/20

# Wonderful Life

I am your Lord. Lord of your lives, Controller of your days, your present and your future. Leave all plans to Me. Only act as I bid you.

You have entered now, both of you, upon the God-guided life. Think what that means. God-taught, God-guided.

Is anything too wonderful for such a life? Do you begin to see how wonderful life with Me can be?

Do you see that no evil can befall you?

A man's heart deviseth his way; but the Lord directeth his steps. Proverbs 16:9

# My Utmost for His Highest – 7/26/20

# The Way to Purity



Those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart….For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. These are the things which defile a man… —[Matthew 15:18-20](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=Matthew+15%3A18-20)

Initially we trust in our ignorance, calling it innocence, and next we trust our innocence, calling it purity. Then when we hear these strong statements from our Lord, we shrink back, saying, “But I never felt any of those awful things in my heart.” We resent what He reveals. Either Jesus Christ is the supreme authority on the human heart, or He is not worth paying any attention to. Am I prepared to trust the penetration of His Word into my heart, or would I prefer to trust my own “innocent ignorance”? If I will take an honest look at myself, becoming fully aware of my so-called innocence and putting it to the test, I am very likely to have a rude awakening that what Jesus Christ said is true, and I will be appalled at the possibilities of the evil and the wrong within me. But as long as I remain under the false security of my own “innocence,” I am living in a fool’s paradise. If I have never been an openly rude and abusive person, the only reason is my own cowardice coupled with the sense of protection I receive from living a civilized life. But when I am open and completely exposed before God, I find that Jesus Christ is right in His diagnosis of me.

The only thing that truly provides protection is the redemption of Jesus Christ. If I will simply hand myself over to Him, I will never have to experience the terrible possibilities that lie within my heart. Purity is something far too deep for me to arrive at naturally. But when the Holy Spirit comes into me, He brings into the center of my personal life the very Spirit that was exhibited in the life of Jesus Christ, namely, the Holy Spirit, which is absolute unblemished purity.

**Wisdom From Oswald Chambers**

We should always choose our books as God chooses our friends, just a bit beyond us, so that we have to do our level best to keep up with them. Shade of His Hand, 1216 L

# CCEL – 7/26/20

**By faith Abraham, . . . called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed.**—[HEB. 11:8.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Heb.11.html" \l "Heb.11.8)

He shall choose our inheritance for us.—He led him about, he instructed him, he kept him as the apple of his eye. As an eagle stirreth up her nest, fluttereth over her young, spreadeth abroad her wings, taketh them, beareth them on her wings: so the Lord alone did lead him, and there was no strange god with him.

I am the Lord thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way that thou shouldest go.—Who teacheth like Him?

We walk by faith, not by sight.—Here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come.—Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul.—Arise ye and depart; for this is not your rest: because it is polluted, it shall destroy you, even with a sore destruction.

[Psa. 47:4](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Ps.47.html" \l "Ps.47.4). -[Deut. 32:10-12](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Deut.32.html" \l "Deut.32.10).[Isa. 48:17](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Isa.48.html" \l "Isa.48.17). -[Job 36:22](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Job.36.html" \l "Job.36.22).[II Cor. 5:7](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iiCor.5.html#iiCor.5.7). -[Heb. 13:14](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Heb.13.html" \l "Heb.13.14). -[I Pet. 2:11](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iPet.2.html" \l "iPet.2.11). -[Mic. 2:10](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Mic.2.html" \l "Mic.2.10).

“Giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge, etc.” **[2 Peter 1:5, 6](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iiPet.1.html" \l "iiPet.1.5)**

If thou wouldest enjoy the eminent grace of the full assurance of faith, under the blessed Spirit’s influence, and assistance, do what the Scripture tells thee, “Give diligence.” Take care that thy faith is of the right kind—that it is not a mere belief of doctrine, but a simple faith, depending on Christ, and on Christ alone. Give diligent heed to thy courage. Plead with God that he would give thee the face of a lion, that thou mayest, with a consciousness of right, go on boldly. Study well the Scriptures, and get knowledge; for a knowledge of doctrine will tend very much to confirm faith. Try to understand God’s Word; let it dwell in thy heart richly.

When thou hast done this, “Add to thy knowledge temperance.” Take heed to thy body: be temperate without. Take heed to thy soul: be temperate within. Get temperance of lip, life, heart, and thought. Add to this, by God’s Holy Spirit, patience; ask him to give thee that patience which endureth affliction, which, when it is tried, shall come forth as gold. Array yourself with patience, that you may not murmur nor be depressed in your afflictions. When that grace is won look to godliness. Godliness is something more than religion. Make God’s glory your object in life; live in his sight; dwell close to him; seek for fellowship with him; and thou hast “godliness”; and to that add brotherly love. Have a love to all the saints: and add to that a charity, which openeth its arms to all men, and loves their souls. When you are adorned with these jewels, and just in proportion as you practise these heavenly virtues, will you come to know by clearest evidence “your calling and election.” “Give diligence,” if you would get assurance, for lukewarmness and doubting very naturally go hand in hand.

# Word Live – 7/26/20

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# Scripture Union – 7/26/20

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# Today in the Word – 7/26/20

# Behind the Scenes

**Read:-** [**Joshua 21**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua+21)

### Towns for the Levites

21 Now the family heads of the Levites approached Eleazar the priest, Joshua son of Nun, and the heads of the other tribal families of Israel 2at Shiloh in Canaan and said to them, “The Lord commanded through Moses that you give us towns to live in, with pasturelands for our livestock.” 3So, as the Lord had commanded, the Israelites gave the Levites the following towns and pasturelands out of their own inheritance:

4The first lot came out for the Kohathites, according to their clans. The Levites who were descendants of Aaron the priest were allotted thirteen towns from the tribes of Judah, Simeon and Benjamin. 5The rest of Kohath’s descendants were allotted ten towns from the clans of the tribes of Ephraim, Dan and half of Manasseh.

6The descendants of Gershon were allotted thirteen towns from the clans of the tribes of Issachar, Asher, Naphtali and the half-tribe of Manasseh in Bashan.

7The descendants of Merari, according to their clans, received twelve towns from the tribes of Reuben, Gad and Zebulun.

8So the Israelites allotted to the Levites these towns and their pasturelands, as the Lord had commanded through Moses.

9From the tribes of Judah and Simeon they allotted the following towns by name 10(these towns were assigned to the descendants of Aaron who were from the Kohathite clans of the Levites, because the first lot fell to them):

11They gave them Kiriath Arba (that is, Hebron), with its surrounding pastureland, in the hill country of Judah. (Arba was the forefather of Anak.) 12But the fields and villages around the city they had given to Caleb son of Jephunneh as his possession.

13So to the descendants of Aaron the priest they gave Hebron (a city of refuge for one accused of murder), Libnah, 14Jattir, Eshtemoa, 15Holon, Debir, 16Ain, Juttah and Beth Shemesh, together with their pasturelands—nine towns from these two tribes.

17And from the tribe of Benjamin they gave them Gibeon, Geba, 18Anathoth and Almon, together with their pasturelands—four towns.

19The total number of towns for the priests, the descendants of Aaron, came to thirteen, together with their pasturelands.

20The rest of the Kohathite clans of the Levites were allotted towns from the tribe of Ephraim:

21In the hill country of Ephraim they were given Shechem (a city of refuge for one accused of murder) and Gezer, 22Kibzaim and Beth Horon, together with their pasturelands—four towns.

23Also from the tribe of Dan they received Eltekeh, Gibbethon, 24Aijalon and Gath Rimmon, together with their pasturelands—four towns.

25From half the tribe of Manasseh they received Taanach and Gath Rimmon, together with their pasturelands—two towns.

26All these ten towns and their pasturelands were given to the rest of the Kohathite clans.

27The Levite clans of the Gershonites were given:

from the half-tribe of Manasseh,

Golan in Bashan (a city of refuge for one accused of murder) and Be Eshterah, together with their pasturelands—two towns;

28from the tribe of Issachar,

Kishion, Daberath, 29Jarmuth and En Gannim, together with their pasturelands—four towns;

30from the tribe of Asher,

Mishal, Abdon, 31Helkath and Rehob, together with their pasturelands—four towns;

32from the tribe of Naphtali,

Kedesh in Galilee (a city of refuge for one accused of murder), Hammoth Dor and Kartan, together with their pasturelands—three towns.

33The total number of towns of the Gershonite clans came to thirteen, together with their pasturelands.

34The Merarite clans (the rest of the Levites) were given:

from the tribe of Zebulun,

Jokneam, Kartah, 35Dimnah and Nahalal, together with their pasturelands—four towns;

36from the tribe of Reuben,

Bezer, Jahaz, 37Kedemoth and Mephaath, together with their pasturelands—four towns;

38from the tribe of Gad,

Ramoth in Gilead (a city of refuge for one accused of murder), Mahanaim, 39Heshbon and Jazer, together with their pasturelands—four towns in all.

40The total number of towns allotted to the Merarite clans, who were the rest of the Levites, came to twelve.

41The towns of the Levites in the territory held by the Israelites were forty-eight in all, together with their pasturelands. 42Each of these towns had pasturelands surrounding it; this was true for all these towns.

43So the Lord gave Israel all the land he had sworn to give their ancestors, and they took possession of it and settled there. 44The Lord gave them rest on every side, just as he had sworn to their ancestors. Not one of their enemies withstood them; the Lord gave all their enemies into their hands. 45Not one of all the Lord’s good promises to Israel failed; every one was fulfilled.

Hidden Figures, a book and then movie released in 2016, tells the true story of three female African American mathematicians who worked for NASA and played a pivotal role in launching astronaut John Glenn into orbit. Even though they quietly worked behind the scenes, their contribution changed history. Throughout Joshua’s quest, there was another group of hidden figures who played a crucial role in Israel’s journey. Today’s text highlights the significant contribution of the Levites and God’s fulfilled promises to them.

Not one of all the Lord’s good promises to Israel failed; every one was fulfilled. Joshua 21:45

After the lands were allocated and cities of refuge established, the Levites requested towns to live in as promised during Moses’ time. These people, from the tribe of Levi, were the keepers and teachers of the Law (Deut. 33:10). Notice that, for the Levites, their inheritance was not land; their inheritance was Yahweh alone (13:33). Therefore, instead of requesting land, they reminded Joshua that the Lord had promised to give them towns to live in and pastures for their flocks. These were scattered throughout the region so they could more easily teach people about the Lord and His ways. Similar to the cities of refuge, their allotment of towns was in fulfillment of the Mosaic legislation.

This chapter highlights the nation’s obedience to God. For a relatively new nation, following the Lord’s commands wasn’t easy. But the Israelites recognized they would not be where they were but for Yahweh’s protection and provision. The nation learned to care for God’s servants, the Levites. They would not be able to serve the Lord and do His work if it were not for the help and support of the surrounding tribes. From tribe to tribe, everyone contributed to helping the Levites find a home.

**Apply the Word**

In today’s Christian culture, the teachers of the law are our ministers, Sunday School teachers, small group leaders, etc. These godly servants may be overlooked when it comes to their roles in shaping our society, but they play a pivotal part. Today, thank one of these servants of God.

### Pray with Us

You’ve never met a Levite (the teacher of the Law), but most likely you remember who first brought the Word of God into your life. Pray for that teacher, parent, professor, or your first pastor today.

## BY Chris Rappazini

# Our Daily Bread – 7/26/20

# Betrayed

**Read:-** [**John 13:18–22**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/John%2013.18%E2%80%9322)

### Jesus Predicts His Betrayal

18“I am not referring to all of you; I know those I have chosen. But this is to fulfill this passage of Scripture: ‘He who shared my bread has turned[[a](https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+13%3A18%E2%80%9322+%3B+Psalm+41%3A9%E2%80%9312&version=NIV#fen-NIV-26649a)] against me.’[[b](https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+13%3A18%E2%80%9322+%3B+Psalm+41%3A9%E2%80%9312&version=NIV#fen-NIV-26649b)]

19“I am telling you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe that I am who I am. 20Very truly I tell you, whoever accepts anyone I send accepts me; and whoever accepts me accepts the one who sent me.”

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.

#### Footnotes:

1. [John 13:18](https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+13%3A18%E2%80%9322+%3B+Psalm+41%3A9%E2%80%9312&version=NIV#en-NIV-26649) Greek has lifted up his heel
2. [John 13:18](https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+13%3A18%E2%80%9322+%3B+Psalm+41%3A9%E2%80%9312&version=NIV#en-NIV-26649) Psalm 41:9

**Read:-** [**Psalm 41:9–12**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Ps%2041.9%E2%80%9312)

9Even my close friend,  
    someone I trusted,  
one who shared my bread,  
    has turned[[a](https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+13%3A18%E2%80%9322+%3B+Psalm+41%3A9%E2%80%9312&version=NIV#fen-NIV-14552a)] against me.

10But may you have mercy on me, Lord;  
    raise me up, that I may repay them.  
11I know that you are pleased with me,  
    for my enemy does not triumph over me.  
12Because of my integrity you uphold me  
    and set me in your presence forever.

#### Footnotes:

1. [Psalm 41:9](https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+13%3A18%E2%80%9322+%3B+Psalm+41%3A9%E2%80%9312&version=NIV#en-NIV-14552) Hebrew has lifted up his heel

Even my close friend, someone I trusted, one who shared my bread, has turned against me. [Psalm 41:9](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Ps%2041.9)

In 2019, art exhibitions worldwide commemorated the five hundredth anniversary of the death of Leonardo da Vinci. While many of his drawings and scientific discoveries were showcased, there are only five finished paintings universally credited to da Vinci, including The Last Supper.

This intricate mural depicts the final meal Jesus ate with His disciples, as described in the gospel of John. The painting captures the disciples’ confusion at Jesus’ statement, “One of you is going to betray me” ([John 13:21](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/John%2013.21)). Perplexed, the disciples discussed who the betrayer might be—while Judas quietly slipped out into the night to alert the authorities of the whereabouts of his teacher and friend.

Betrayed. The pain of Judas’ treachery is evident in Jesus’ words, “He who shared my bread has turned against me” (v. 18). A friend close enough to share a meal used that connection to harm Jesus.

Each of us has likely experienced a friend’s betrayal. How can we respond to such pain? [Psalm 41:9](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Ps%2041.9), which Jesus quoted to indicate His betrayer was present during the shared meal ([John 13:18](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/John%2013.18)), offers hope. After David poured out his anguish at a close friend’s duplicity, he took solace in God’s love and presence that would uphold and set him in God’s presence forever ([Psalm 41:11–12](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Ps%2041.11%E2%80%9312)).

When friends disappoint, we can find comfort knowing God’s sustaining love and His empowering presence will be with us to help us endure even the most devastating pain.

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

#### Reflect & Pray

How have you experienced the betrayal of a friend? How has the reassurance of God’s love and presence sustained you?

Heavenly Father, I'm thankful that Your love is stronger than any betrayal. When I face rejection, help me find strength in the knowledge that You are always with me.

#### Insight

Both [Psalm 41:9](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Ps%2041.9) and [John 13](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/John%2013) point to Jesus’ betrayal. In John we learn the betrayer is Judas, one of Jesus’ twelve disciples (13:26–27). His name is the Greek form of the Hebrew name Judah; and he’s believed to be from Kerioth, a town located south of Jerusalem in Judea. As such, he’s the only non-Galilean of the disciples. Judas was the group’s treasurer (v. 29) and “used to help himself to what was put into [the money bags]” (12:6). Although he sold out Jesus to the authorities for thirty pieces of silver, it’s likely that his motive was his disappointment that Jesus didn’t conform to the popular idea of a Messiah who would free the Jews from their Roman oppressors.

# God Calling – 7/26/20

# Forget -- Forgive

**Our Lord, we thank Thee for so much. We bless Thee and praise Thy Glorious Name.**

Fill your world with Love and laughter. Never mind what anguish lies behind you.

Forget, forgive, love, and laugh.

Treat all as you would treat Me, with Love and consideration.

Let nothing that others do to you alter your treatment of them.

Forbearing one another; and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any, even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. Colossians 3:13

# My Utmost for His Highest – 7/27/20

# The Way to Knowledge



If anyone wills to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine… —[John 7:17](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?version=31&search=John+7%3A17)

The golden rule to follow to obtain spiritual understanding is not one of intellectual pursuit, but one of obedience. If a person wants scientific knowledge, then intellectual curiosity must be his guide. But if he desires knowledge and insight into the teachings of Jesus Christ, he can only obtain it through obedience. If spiritual things seem dark and hidden to me, then I can be sure that there is a point of disobedience somewhere in my life. Intellectual darkness is the result of ignorance, but spiritual darkness is the result of something that I do not intend to obey.

No one ever receives a word from God without instantly being put to the test regarding it. We disobey and then wonder why we are not growing spiritually. Jesus said, “If you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift” ([Matthew 5:23-24](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+5:23-24)). He is saying, in essence, “Don’t say another word to me; first be obedient by making things right.” The teachings of Jesus hit us where we live. We cannot stand as impostors before Him for even one second. He instructs us down to the very last detail. The Spirit of God uncovers our spirit of self-vindication and makes us sensitive to things that we have never even thought of before.

When Jesus drives something home to you through His Word, don’t try to evade it. If you do, you will become a religious impostor. Examine the things you tend simply to shrug your shoulders about, and where you have refused to be obedient, and you will know why you are not growing spiritually. As Jesus said, “First…go….” Even at the risk of being thought of as fanatical, you must obey what God tells you.

**Wisdom From Oswald Chambers**

Jesus Christ can afford to be misunderstood; we cannot. Our weakness lies in always wanting to vindicate ourselves.  The Place of Help, 1051 L

# CCEL – 7/27/20

**Christ, who is the image of God.**—[II COR. 4:4.](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iiCor.4.html" \l "iiCor.4.4)

The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together.—No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.—He that hath seen me hath seen the Father.—The brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person.—God was manifest in the flesh.

In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature.—Whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

As we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.

[Isa. 40:5](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Isa.40.html" \l "Isa.40.5). -[John 1:18](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.John.1.html" \l "John.1.18),[14](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.John.1.html" \l "John.1.14). -[John 14:9](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.John.14.html" \l "John.14.9). -[Heb. 1:3](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Heb.1.html" \l "Heb.1.3). -[I Tim. 3:16](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iTim.3.html" \l "iTim.3.16).[Col. 1:14,15](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Col.1.html" \l "Col.1.14). -[Rom. 8:29](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.Rom.8.html" \l "Rom.8.29).[I Cor. 15:49](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iCor.15.html" \l "iCor.15.49).

“Exceeding great and precious promises.” **[2 Peter 1:4](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bible/asv.iiPet.1.html" \l "iiPet.1.4)**

If you would know experimentally the preciousness of the promises, and enjoy them in your own heart,meditate much upon them. There are promises which are like grapes in the wine-press; if you will tread them the juice will flow. Thinking over the hallowed words will often be the prelude to their fulfilment. While you are musing upon them, the boon which you are seeking will insensibly come to you. Many a Christian who has thirsted for the promise has found the favour which it ensured gently distilling into his soul even while he has been considering the divine record; and he has rejoiced that ever he was led to lay the promise near his heart.

But besides meditating upon the promises, seek in thy soul to receive them as being the very words of God. Speak to thy soul thus, “If I were dealing with a man’s promise, I should carefully consider the ability and the character of the man who had covenanted with me. So with the promise of God; my eye must not be so much fixed upon the greatness of the mercy—that may stagger me; as upon the greatness of the promiser—that will cheer me. My soul, it is God, even thy God, God that cannot lie, who speaks to thee. This word of his which thou art now considering is as true as his own existence. He is a God unchangeable. He has not altered the thing which has gone out of his mouth, nor called back one single consolatory sentence. Nor doth he lack any power; it is the God that made the heavens and the earth who has spoken thus. Nor can he fail in wisdom as to the time when he will bestow the favours, for he knoweth when it is best to give and when better to withhold. Therefore, seeing that it is the word of a God so true, so immutable, so powerful, so wise, I will and must believe the promise.” If we thus meditate upon the promises, and consider the Promiser, we shall experience their sweetness, and obtain their fulfilment.

# Word Live – 7/27/20

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

# Scripture Union – 7/27/20

# <https://scriptureunion.org/encounters/>

# Today in the Word – 7/27/20

# Inquire, Don't Infer

**Read:-** [**Joshua 22**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua+22)

### Eastern Tribes Return Home

22 Then Joshua summoned the Reubenites, the Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh 2and said to them, “You have done all that Moses the servant of the Lord commanded, and you have obeyed me in everything I commanded. 3For a long time now—to this very day—you have not deserted your fellow Israelites but have carried out the mission the Lord your God gave you. 4Now that the Lord your God has given them rest as he promised, return to your homes in the land that Moses the servant of the Lord gave you on the other side of the Jordan. 5But be very careful to keep the commandment and the law that Moses the servant of the Lord gave you: to love the Lord your God, to walk in obedience to him, to keep his commands, to hold fast to him and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul.”

6Then Joshua blessed them and sent them away, and they went to their homes. 7(To the half-tribe of Manasseh Moses had given land in Bashan, and to the other half of the tribe Joshua gave land on the west side of the Jordan along with their fellow Israelites.) When Joshua sent them home, he blessed them, 8saying, “Return to your homes with your great wealth—with large herds of livestock, with silver, gold, bronze and iron, and a great quantity of clothing—and divide the plunder from your enemies with your fellow Israelites.”

9So the Reubenites, the Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh left the Israelites at Shiloh in Canaan to return to Gilead, their own land, which they had acquired in accordance with the command of the Lord through Moses.

10When they came to Geliloth near the Jordan in the land of Canaan, the Reubenites, the Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh built an imposing altar there by the Jordan. 11And when the Israelites heard that they had built the altar on the border of Canaan at Geliloth near the Jordan on the Israelite side, 12the whole assembly of Israel gathered at Shiloh to go to war against them.

13So the Israelites sent Phinehas son of Eleazar, the priest, to the land of Gilead—to Reuben, Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh. 14With him they sent ten of the chief men, one from each of the tribes of Israel, each the head of a family division among the Israelite clans.

15When they went to Gilead—to Reuben, Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh—they said to them: 16“The whole assembly of the Lord says: ‘How could you break faith with the God of Israel like this? How could you turn away from the Lord and build yourselves an altar in rebellion against him now? 17Was not the sin of Peor enough for us? Up to this very day we have not cleansed ourselves from that sin, even though a plague fell on the community of the Lord! 18And are you now turning away from the Lord?

“‘If you rebel against the Lord today, tomorrow he will be angry with the whole community of Israel. 19If the land you possess is defiled, come over to the Lord’s land, where the Lord’s tabernacle stands, and share the land with us. But do not rebel against the Lord or against us by building an altar for yourselves, other than the altar of the Lord our God. 20When Achan son of Zerah was unfaithful in regard to the devoted things,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua+22" \l "fen-NIV-6447a" \o "See footnote a)] did not wrath come on the whole community of Israel? He was not the only one who died for his sin.’”

21Then Reuben, Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh replied to the heads of the clans of Israel: 22“The Mighty One, God, the Lord! The Mighty One, God, the Lord! He knows! And let Israel know! If this has been in rebellion or disobedience to the Lord, do not spare us this day. 23If we have built our own altar to turn away from the Lord and to offer burnt offerings and grain offerings, or to sacrifice fellowship offerings on it, may the Lord himself call us to account.

24“No! We did it for fear that some day your descendants might say to ours, ‘What do you have to do with the Lord, the God of Israel? 25The Lord has made the Jordan a boundary between us and you—you Reubenites and Gadites! You have no share in the Lord.’ So your descendants might cause ours to stop fearing the Lord.

26“That is why we said, ‘Let us get ready and build an altar—but not for burnt offerings or sacrifices.’ 27On the contrary, it is to be a witness between us and you and the generations that follow, that we will worship the Lord at his sanctuary with our burnt offerings, sacrifices and fellowship offerings. Then in the future your descendants will not be able to say to ours, ‘You have no share in the Lord.’

28“And we said, ‘If they ever say this to us, or to our descendants, we will answer: Look at the replica of the Lord’s altar, which our ancestors built, not for burnt offerings and sacrifices, but as a witness between us and you.’

29“Far be it from us to rebel against the Lord and turn away from him today by building an altar for burnt offerings, grain offerings and sacrifices, other than the altar of the Lord our God that stands before his tabernacle.”

30When Phinehas the priest and the leaders of the community—the heads of the clans of the Israelites—heard what Reuben, Gad and Manasseh had to say, they were pleased. 31And Phinehas son of Eleazar, the priest, said to Reuben, Gad and Manasseh, “Today we know that the Lord is with us, because you have not been unfaithful to the Lord in this matter. Now you have rescued the Israelites from the Lord’s hand.”

32Then Phinehas son of Eleazar, the priest, and the leaders returned to Canaan from their meeting with the Reubenites and Gadites in Gilead and reported to the Israelites. 33They were glad to hear the report and praised God. And they talked no more about going to war against them to devastate the country where the Reubenites and the Gadites lived.

34And the Reubenites and the Gadites gave the altar this name: A Witness Between Us—that the Lord is God.

#### Footnotes

1. [Joshua 22:20](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua+22#en-NIV-6447) The Hebrew term refers to the irrevocable giving over of things or persons to the Lord, often by totally destroying them.

Have you ever been misunderstood? Or, have you ever misunderstood someone else, in particular, what they believe about God? I know I have. It is easy to jump to assumptions about others. We need to remind ourselves to inquire and not infer.

It is to be a witness between us and you and the generations that follow, that we will worship the Lord. Joshua 22:27

We are not the only ones who jump to conclusions without first asking all the right questions. After everything that had transpired, the time had come for the remaining tribes to return to the land they inherited on the opposite side of the Jordan River. Their land and families had been waiting for them since chapter 1 of this unforgettable quest. But before they left for their new homeland, Joshua implored them to keep the commandments of God and to serve Him all the days of their lives (v. 5).

The men’s devotion to Yahweh was seemingly short-lived. Not long after leaving, they built an altar near the Jordan (vv. 10, 19). Leaders of Israel were sent to persuade these men to repent and tear down their altar. They warned that the consequences of their actions would fall on everyone, just as they had before with Peor (Numbers 25) and Achan (Joshua 7).

The leaders of the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and the half-tribe of Manasseh were shocked and realized they had been misunderstood. They clarified that they had indeed built the altar for the Lord as a reminder to surrounding tribes that they worshiped Yahweh (vv. 21–29). The altar was to be a witness between the two parts of Israel and represented unity between the eastern and western tribes. What appeared to be an act of defiance was really an attempt to create unity and glorify God.

**Apply the Word**

Is there someone you may have misunderstood? Even if you think you know where they stand on issues about God and faith, perhaps it is worth taking a second look and listen before speaking. Your conversation may open doors. Even if you disagree, you will know how to pray for and help them along their journey.

### Pray with Us

Together with Joshua, we say, “We will worship the Lord” (Josh. 22:27). We pray that we will boldly share our story of salvation as a testimony of God’s love and mercy, and as an act of faith and worship.

## BY Chris Rappazini

# Our Daily Bread – 7/27/20

# Cultivating God’s World

 **Read:-** [**Genesis 1:26–27**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Gen%201.26%E2%80%9327)

26Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals,[[a](https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+1%3A26%E2%80%9327+%3B+2%3A15&version=NIV" \l "fen-NIV-26a" \o "See footnote a)] and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”

27So God created mankind in his own image,  
    in the image of God he created them;  
    male and female he created them.

#### Footnotes:

1. [Genesis 1:26](https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+1%3A26%E2%80%9327+%3B+2%3A15&version=NIV#en-NIV-26) Probable reading of the original Hebrew text (see Syriac); Masoretic Text the earth

**Read:-** [**Genesis**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Gen%201.26%E2%80%9327) [**2:15**](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Genesis%202.15)

15The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.

The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. [Genesis 2:15](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Gen%202.15)

“Dad, why do you have to go to work?” The question from my young daughter was motivated by her desire to play with me. I would have preferred to skip work and spend time with her, but there was a growing list of things at work that required my attention. The question, nevertheless, is a good one. Why do we work? Is it simply to provide for ourselves and for the people we love? What about labor that’s unpaid—why do we do that?

[Genesis 2](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Gen%202) tells us that God placed the first human in the garden to “work it and take care of it” (v. 15). My father-in-law is a farmer, and he often tells me he farms for the sheer love of land and livestock. That’s beautiful, but it leaves lingering questions for those who don’t love their work. Why did God put us in a particular place with a particular assignment?

[Genesis 1](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Gen%201) gives us the answer. We’re made in God’s image to carefully steward the world He made (v. 26). Pagan stories of the way the world began reveal “gods” making humans to be their slaves. Genesis declares that the one true God made humans to be His representatives—to steward what He’d made on His behalf. May we reflect His wise and loving order into the world. Work is a call to cultivate God’s world for His glory.

By:  [Glenn Packiam](https://odb.org/author/glennpackiam/)

#### Reflect & Pray

What’s the work God has given you to do? How could you cultivate this “field” by bringing order into it and bringing good from it, by His grace?

Dear God, thank You for the honor of joining You in Your work in the world. Help me to reflect Your love, wisdom, and order in my life and in the place where I work.

#### Insight

On the first four days of creation, God created the physical infrastructures—the galaxies and earth—sky, land, and seas ([Genesis 1:1–19](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Gen%201.1%E2%80%9319)). On days five and six, God created the living creatures—birds, fish, and land animals to populate the three realms (vv. 20–25). However, the epitome of creation was on day six when God created human beings. Humans were given prominence, purpose, and special placement in God’s plan; the only creature created “in [God’s] image, in [God’s] likeness” (v. 26). Only humans have the attributes of personhood, self-consciousness, will, reason, knowledge, emotions, creativity, morality, and spirituality, just as God Himself. Speaking of the crowning distinction of humans in creation, the patriarch Job asked of God, “What is mankind that you make so much of them, that you give them so much attention?” ([Job 7:17](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Job%207.17); see [Psalms 8:4–6](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Ps%208.4%E2%80%936); [144:3](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Psalms%20144.3)).

# God Calling – 7/27/20

# My Consolation

**Oh Jesus, come and walk with us and let us feel Thy very nearness.**

I walk with you. Oh! think, My children, not only to guide and comfort you and strengthen and uphold, but for solace and comfort for Myself.

When a loving child is by you, is the nearness only that you may provide protection and help for that little one?

Rather, too, that in that little child you may find joy and cheer and comfort in its simplicity, its Love, its trust.

So, too, is it in your power to comfort and bring joy to My Heart.

And I will walk among you, and will be your God, and ye shall be my people Leviticus 26:12