

All About Jesus: A Year-Long Bible Study

And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, [Jesus] expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself. ... Then He said to them, "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me." (Luke 24:27, 44)

The entire storyline of the Bible, not only in the New Testament but also in the Old, points to the Savior, the Messiah, Jesus Christ. This Bible study takes you through many Old Testament passages; in some, there is a foreshadowing of Christ, while in others, the preincarnate (before being born of Mary) Christ is actually present.

Then I said, "Behold, I come; in the scroll of the book it is written of me. I delight to do Your will, O my God, and Your law is within my heart." (Psalm 40:7-8)

Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: "Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, but a body You have prepared for Me. In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You had no pleasure. Then I said, 'Behold, I have come—in the volume of the book it is written of Me—to do Your will, O God.'" (Hebrews 10:5-7)

Day 1 - January 1

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness. (Genesis 1:1-4)

All of the words in the Bible (see Heb. 4:12), along with Jesus Christ, who is the Word made flesh (see John 1:5, 14), do the same thing that God did in the very beginning. He divided light from darkness; the Bible divides light from darkness to expose our sin.

Day 2 - January 2

...and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. ... Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. (Genesis 1:18, 26-27)

Again we see God dividing light from darkness (see John 3:19, 8:12, 12:35, and 12:46). Then in verse 26, we find the first allusion to the Trinity in the very first chapter of the Bible as God says "Let Us make man in Our image."

Day 3 - January 3

So the Lord God said to the serpent: "Because

you have done this, you are cursed more than all cattle, and more than every beast of the field; on your belly you shall go, and you shall eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel." ... Then the Lord God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever..." (Genesis 3:14-15, 22)

In verse 15, we find the very first prophecy of a coming Savior—One who will bruise Satan's head. Then, in verse 22, we find another allusion to the Trinity as God describes Himself as "Us."

Day 4 - January 4

Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': "Cursed is the ground for your sake; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, and you shall eat the herb of the field. In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for dust you are, and to dust you shall return." And Adam called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. Also for Adam and his wife the Lord God made tunics of skin, and clothed them. (Genesis 3:17-21)

Not only was this the occasion of the first sin, and the consequences that followed, but this was also

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the occasion of the very first sacrifice, made by God Himself when He had to kill an animal in order to make clothes for Adam and Eve.

Day 5 - January 5

And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the Lord. Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the Lord respected Abel and his offering ... Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him. Then the Lord said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" He said, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?" And He said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood cries out to Me from the ground." (Genesis 4:3-4, 8-10)

Abel's offering was from his flock of sheep—a picture of the sacrificial laws God would give to the Israelites, and ultimately, a very early picture of Jesus' sacrifice of Himself for His sheep. Abel was also the first martyr for Christ (see Matt. 23:35).

Day 6 - January 6

"Surely You have driven me out this day from the face of the ground; I shall be hidden from Your face; I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond on the earth, and it will happen that anyone who finds me will kill me." ... And as for Seth, to him also a son was born; and he named him Enosh. Then men began to call on the name of the Lord. (Genesis 4:14, 26)

Sadly, Cain did not know God's salvation through the coming Savior as his brother Abel did. As men multiplied, they worshipped together and called upon the name of the Lord—their Savior, though they did not yet know His name was Jesus.

Day 7 - January 7

But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord. This is the genealogy of Noah. Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God. ... So those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him; and the Lord shut him in. ... "Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. I have given you all things, even as the green herbs. But you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood." (Genesis 6:8-9; 7:16, 9:3-4)

Just like all believers, Noah was made righteous by the blood of Christ—we see how blood is significant to God (see Heb. 9:22). God Himself closed the

door of the ark, and the ark itself is a picture of Christ, in whom alone is salvation from death.

Day 8 - January 8

But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built. And the Lord said, "Indeed the people are one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them. Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another's speech." So the Lord scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they ceased building the city. (Genesis 11:5-8)

Here we find another reference to the Trinity, as God says "let Us go down" after the people tried to bring glory and fame to themselves by building what we now call the Tower of Babel.

Day 9 - January 9

Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High. And he blessed him and said: "Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; and blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand." And he gave him a tithe of all. (Genesis 14:18-20)

Melchizedek is a unique person in Scripture. He is a type of Christ because no genealogy is given for him, and it is as if he had no beginning or no end. In addition, he is used to prove that there can be a Priest greater than the Levites (see Heb. 7:1-10).

Day 10 - January 10

Then Abram said, "Look, You have given me no offspring; indeed one born in my house is my heir!" And behold, the word of the Lord came to him, saying, "This one shall not be your heir, but one who will come from your own body shall be your heir." Then He brought him outside and said, "Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be." And he believed in the Lord, and He accounted it to him for righteousness. (Genesis 15:3-6)

Once again (see Gen. 12:3, 13:16), God promises Abram that his physical descendants (Israel) and his spiritual descendants (those Jesus saves) will be numerous. But no one can earn their salvation. God gave Abram the righteousness of Christ.

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Day 11 - January 11

Now the Angel of the Lord found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, by the spring on the way to Shur. And He said, "Hagar, Sarai's maid, where have you come from, and where are you going?" She said, "I am fleeing from the presence of my mistress Sarai." The Angel of the Lord said to her, "Return to your mistress, and submit yourself under her hand." Then the Angel of the Lord said to her, "I will multiply your descendants exceedingly, so that they shall not be counted for multitude." And the Angel of the Lord said to her: "Behold, you are with child, and you shall bear a son. You shall call his name Ishmael, because the Lord has heard your affliction. He shall be a wild man; his hand shall be against every man, and every man's hand against him. And he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren." (Genesis 16:7-12)

This is the first instance in Scripture where we read of "the Angel of the Lord," which is the preincarnate Christ. Here, He appears to Hagar and gives her a promise concerning her son Ishmael, to whom we trace the ancestry of the Islam religion.

Day 12 - January 12

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless. And I will make My covenant between Me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly." Then Abram fell on his face, and God talked with him, saying: "As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you, and you shall be a father of many nations. No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you a father of many nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you." (Genesis 17:1-6)

God repeats His promise once more and changes Abram's name to Abraham, which means "father of a multitude." Notice that God makes His covenant with Abraham by His own choice, not because Abram did anything special to earn God's favor.

Day 13 - January 13

Then the Lord appeared to him by the terebinth trees of Mamre, as he was sitting in the tent door in the heat of the day. So he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing by him; and when he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them, and bowed himself to the ground, and said, "My Lord, if I

have now found favor in Your sight, do not pass on by Your servant." ... And He said, "I will certainly return to you according to the time of life, and behold, Sarah your wife shall have a son." ... Now the two angels came to Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. When Lot saw them, he rose to meet them, and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground. (Genesis 18:1-3, 10a; 19:1)

One of the three men who met Abraham in Mamre was the preincarnate Christ. We know this because Abraham bowed before Him, and angels would have told him not to (see Rev. 19:10). But Christ did not go with the two angels into sinful Sodom.

Day 14 - January 14

But Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." Then he said, "Look, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" And Abraham said, "My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering." So the two of them went together. Then they came to the place of which God had told him. And Abraham built an altar there and placed the wood in order; and he bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, upon the wood. And Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. But the Angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" So he said, "Here I am." And He said, "Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me." (Genesis 22:7-12)

The "Angel of the Lord" is the preincarnate Christ speaking to Abraham. In addition, this whole event is an early picture of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. Since we cannot pay for our own sins, God Himself had to provide the sacrifice—His Son, Jesus Christ.

Day 15 - January 15

Then Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind him was a ram caught in a thicket by its horns. So Abraham went and took the ram, and offered it up for a burnt offering instead of his son. And Abraham called the name of the place, The-Lord-Will-Provide; as it is said to this day, "In the Mount of the Lord it shall be provided." Then the Angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time out of heaven, and said: "By Myself I have sworn, says the Lord, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son— blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will

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multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies. In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.” (Genesis 22:13-18)

The Angel of the Lord, the preincarnate Christ, continues to speak to Abraham, and repeats the promise already given to Abraham, that his physical seed and his spiritual seed will multiply greatly.

Day 16 - January 16

And they blessed Rebekah and said to her: “Our sister, may you become the mother of thousands of ten thousands; and may your descendants possess the gates of those who hate them.” ... And I will make your descendants multiply as the stars of heaven; I will give to your descendants all these lands; and in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed.” ... And the Lord appeared to him the same night and said, “I am the God of your father Abraham; do not fear, for I am with you. I will bless you and multiply your descendants for My servant Abraham’s sake.” (Genesis 24:60; 26:4, 24)

Here, God gives Abraham’s son Isaac and his wife Rebekah the same promise He had given to Abraham—that He will multiply their descendants and that their physical and spiritual descendants will be victorious over those who hate them.

Day 17 - January 17

“Also your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed. Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you.” (Genesis 28:14-15)

Here, God gives the same promise to Jacob that He had given to Jacob’s father, Isaac, and his grandfather, Abraham. But God further promises to someday bring Jacob’s descendants back to the land that would eventually be known as Israel.

Day 18 - January 18

Then the Angel of God spoke to me in a dream, saying, ‘Jacob.’ And I said, ‘Here I am.’ And He said, ‘Lift your eyes now and see, all the rams which leap on the flocks are streaked, speckled, and gray-spotted; for I have seen all that Laban is doing to you. I am the God of Bethel, where

you anointed the pillar and where you made a vow to Me. Now arise, get out of this land, and return to the land of your family.’ ” (Genesis 31:11-13)

Here we find Christ, the “Angel of God,” speaking to Jacob in a dream, which God sometimes did before the written Bible was completed. He tells Jacob to leave Laban, his father-in-law, who was taking advantage of him, and return to his family.

Day 19 - January 19

Then Jacob was left alone; and a Man wrestled with him until the breaking of day. Now when He saw that He did not prevail against him, He touched the socket of his hip; and the socket of Jacob’s hip was out of joint as He wrestled with him. And He said, “Let Me go, for the day breaks.” But he said, “I will not let You go unless You bless me!” So He said to him, “What is your name?” He said, “Jacob.” And He said, “Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed.” Then Jacob asked, saying, “Tell me Your name, I pray.” And He said, “Why is it that you ask about My name?” And He blessed him there. So Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: “For I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved.” (Genesis 32:24-30)

The Man who wrestles with Jacob and who gives him a new name (Israel) was none other than the preincarnate Christ. But Christ chose to not prevail against Jacob, instead strengthening Jacob’s faith as Christ and Jacob struggled together.

Day 20 - January 20

And God said to him, “Your name is Jacob; your name shall not be called Jacob anymore, but Israel shall be your name.” So He called his name Israel. Also God said to him: “I am God Almighty. Be fruitful and multiply; a nation and a company of nations shall proceed from you, and kings shall come from your body. The land which I gave Abraham and Isaac I give to you; and to your descendants after you I give this land.” (Genesis 35:10-12)

Not only would the nation of Israel come from the descendants of Jacob, who has been renamed Israel, but so would its kings—and most significantly, the King of Kings, the Messiah Himself, would come from his descendants.

Day 21 - January 21

And he blessed Joseph, and said: “God, before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked,

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the God who has fed me all my life long to this day, the Angel who has redeemed me from all evil, bless the lads; Let my name be named upon them, and the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; and let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth.” (Genesis 48:15-16)

These verses give us a unique view of the Trinity. Jacob (now known as Israel) gives his son Joseph a blessing before he dies, and he asks both God the Father and “the Angel who has redeemed me” (who we know as Jesus) to bless Joseph’s children.

Day 22 - January 22

“The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh comes; and to Him shall be the obedience of the people. ... I have waited for your salvation, O Lord! ... But his bow remained in strength, and the arms of his hands were made strong by the hands of the Mighty God of Jacob (From there is the Shepherd, the Stone of Israel).” (Genesis 49:10, 18, 24)

In this chapter, Jacob (Israel) blesses the rest of his sons. The Messiah (“Shiloh”, which means peace) would come out of the tribe of Judah. In verse 24, Joseph receives a final blessing; he was a type of Christ, the Great Shepherd, the foundation stone.

Day 23 - January 23

And the Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed. Then Moses said, “I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn.” So when the Lord saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.” Then He said, “Do not draw near this place. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground.” Moreover He said, “I am the God of your father—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look upon God. (Exodus 3:2-6)

The One who appears to Moses in the midst of the bush is none other than the preincarnate Christ. We know that because He tells Moses that the place where he stands is holy ground. Then, Christ clearly states that He is God.

Day 24 - January 24

“For I will pass through the land of Egypt on

that night, and will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the Lord. Now the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.” (Exodus 12:12-13)

This is a strong foreshadowing of the work Jesus Christ would accomplish on the cross. For those whom Jesus saves, God sees the shed blood of Jesus and His righteousness instead of our sins, so God passes over us and does not destroy us.

Day 25 - January 25

Then Moses called for all the elders of Israel and said to them, “Pick out and take lambs for yourselves according to your families, and kill the Passover lamb. And you shall take a bunch of hyssop, dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and strike the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that is in the basin. And none of you shall go out of the door of his house until morning. For the Lord will pass through to strike the Egyptians; and when He sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the Lord will pass over the door and not allow the destroyer to come into your houses to strike you. And you shall observe this thing as an ordinance for you and your sons forever. It will come to pass when you come to the land which the Lord will give you, just as He promised, that you shall keep this service.” (Exodus 12:21-25)

Here we find a more detailed explanation of the Passover, which foreshadows how God passes over the sins of His children. Jesus Himself is the perfect Passover lamb, scarified for the sins of His people who are unable to pay that debt to God.

Day 26 - January 26

And the Angel of God, who went before the camp of Israel, moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud went from before them and stood behind them. So it came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel. Thus it was a cloud and darkness to the one, and it gave light by night to the other, so that the one did not come near the other all that night. Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the Lord caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea into dry land, and the waters were divided. So the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea on the dry ground, and the

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waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. (Exodus 14:19-22)

Israel left their enslavement in Egypt after the ten plagues, but the Egyptians foolishly pursue Israel. This night, the preincarnate Christ stands between the two nations to protect Israel, then the next day, He parted the Red Sea so they could cross safely.

Day 27 - January 27

And the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses, and said, "Why is it you have brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the Lord, saying, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me!" And the Lord said to Moses, "Go on before the people, and take with you some of the elders of Israel. Also take in your hand your rod with which you struck the river, and go. Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock in Horeb; and you shall strike the rock, and water will come out of it, that the people may drink." And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel. (Exodus 17:3-6)

This situation gives us another picture of the coming Messiah. People often complained against Jesus and tried to kill him. But Jesus is our Rock, and those who go to Him in true repentance receive living water for our souls (see John 4:7-14).

Day 28 - January 28

"Behold, I send an Angel before you to keep you in the way and to bring you into the place which I have prepared. Beware of Him and obey His voice; do not provoke Him, for He will not pardon your transgressions; for My name is in Him. But if you indeed obey His voice and do all that I speak, then I will be an enemy to your enemies and an adversary to your adversaries. For My Angel will go before you and bring you in to the Amorites and the Hittites and the Perizzites and the Canaanites and the Hivites and the Jebusites; and I will cut them off." (Exodus 23:20-23)

Here again is the preincarnate Christ, as God the Father sends Him to protect His people as they journey toward the promised land. Notice how He will not forgive sins except for those who truly have faith in Him, which is proven by obedience.

Day 29 - January 29

Then Moses returned to the Lord and said, "Oh, these people have committed a great sin, and have made for themselves a god of gold! Yet

now, if You will forgive their sin—but if not, I pray, blot me out of Your book which You have written." And the Lord said to Moses, "Whoever has sinned against Me, I will blot him out of My book. Now therefore, go, lead the people to the place of which I have spoken to you. Behold, My Angel shall go before you. Nevertheless, in the day when I visit for punishment, I will visit punishment upon them for their sin." So the Lord plagued the people because of what they did with the calf which Aaron made. (Exodus 32:31-35)

The names of those who have sinned are blotted out of God's book—at least, those who have not been forgiven by the shed blood of Christ, who is the same Angel who went before the Israelites to lead them into the Promised Land.

Day 30 - January 30

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Depart and go up from here, you and the people whom you have brought out of the land of Egypt, to the land of which I swore to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saying, 'To your descendants I will give it.' And I will send My Angel before you, and I will drive out the Canaanite and the Amorite and the Hittite and the Perizzite and the Hivite and the Jebusite. Go up to a land flowing with milk and honey; for I will not go up in your midst, lest I consume you on the way, for you are a stiff-necked people." (Exodus 33:1-3)

Again, God tells Moses that He will send His Angel, who is the preincarnate Christ, before His chosen people to lead them into the Promised Land, very much like how Jesus now leads His people into heaven when they pass away from this life.

Day 31 - January 31

"No grain offering which you bring to the Lord shall be made with leaven, for you shall burn no leaven nor any honey in any offering to the Lord made by fire. ... And every offering of your grain offering you shall season with salt; you shall not allow the salt of the covenant of your God to be lacking from your grain offering. With all your offerings you shall offer salt. ... Then he shall sprinkle some of the blood of the sin offering on the side of the altar, and the rest of the blood shall be drained out at the base of the altar. It is a sin offering." (Leviticus 2:11, 13; 5:9)

One purpose of the laws God gave to Israel was to set His people apart and cause others to see the difference. Similarly, Christians are called to be salt to the world, proclaiming God's truth among an

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otherwise dark and ungodly world (see Matt. 5:13).

Day 32 - February 1

“Moreover you shall not eat any blood in any of your dwellings, whether of bird or beast. Whoever eats any blood, that person shall be cut off from his people. ... And whatever man of the house of Israel, or of the strangers who dwell among you, who eats any blood, I will set My face against that person who eats blood, and will cut him off from among his people.” (Leviticus 7:26-27; 17:10)

In some cultures, eating blood along with their meat was part of devil worship, thus it is strictly forbidden for God's people. Also, blood is a special part of God's plan of redemption, as the shedding of blood is necessary for the forgiveness of sins (Heb. 9:22).

Day 33 - February 2

“And on the eighth day he shall take two male lambs without blemish, one ewe lamb of the first year without blemish, three-tenths of an ephah of fine flour mixed with oil as a grain offering, and one log of oil. Then the priest who makes him clean shall present the man who is to be made clean, and those things, before the Lord, at the door of the tabernacle of meeting. And the priest shall take one male lamb and offer it as a trespass offering, and the log of oil, and wave them as a wave offering before the Lord. Then he shall kill the lamb in the place where he kills the sin offering and the burnt offering, in a holy place; for as the sin offering is the priest's, so is the trespass offering. It is most holy.” (Leviticus 14:10-13)

The offerings and sacrifices that God instructed His people to give in the Old Testament were merely a shadow of the coming Christ who would offer a one-time sacrifice for sin, because the blood of animals cannot take away sins (see Heb. 10:4).

Day 34 - February 3

And he shall take from the congregation of the children of Israel two kids of the goats as a sin offering, and one ram as a burnt offering. “Aaron shall offer the bull as a sin offering, which is for himself, and make atonement for himself and for his house. He shall take the two goats and present them before the Lord at the door of the tabernacle of meeting. Then Aaron shall cast lots for the two goats: one lot for the Lord and the other lot for the scapegoat. And Aaron shall bring the goat on which the Lord's lot fell, and offer it as a sin offering. But the goat on which the lot fell to be the scapegoat

shall be presented alive before the Lord, to make atonement upon it, and to let it go as the scapegoat into the wilderness.” (Leviticus 16:5-10)

Both of these goats from the Day of Atonement represent the work that Jesus Christ alone would accomplish. He is our one-time and final sacrifice for sin, but He also lives and carries our sins away from us, as is symbolized here by the scapegoat.

Day 35 - February 4

“Then he shall kill the goat of the sin offering, which is for the people, bring its blood inside the veil, do with that blood as he did with the blood of the bull, and sprinkle it on the mercy seat and before the mercy seat. So he shall make atonement for the Holy Place, because of the uncleanness of the children of Israel, and because of their transgressions, for all their sins; and so he shall do for the tabernacle of meeting which remains among them in the midst of their uncleanness. ... Aaron shall lay both his hands on the head of the live goat, confess over it all the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions, concerning all their sins, putting them on the head of the goat, and shall send it away into the wilderness by the hand of a suitable man. The goat shall bear on itself all their iniquities to an uninhabited land; and he shall release the goat in the wilderness.” (Leviticus 16:15-16, 21-22)

Again we see the two goats that together represent the work Christ would later perform on the cross. This passage provides more details about the process. Thankfully, now, because of Christ, God's people no longer have to do all of these things.

Day 36 - February 5

“And he who released the goat as the scapegoat shall wash his clothes and bathe his body in water, and afterward he may come into the camp. The bull for the sin offering and the goat for the sin offering, whose blood was brought in to make atonement in the Holy Place, shall be carried outside the camp. And they shall burn in the fire their skins, their flesh, and their offal. Then he who burns them shall wash his clothes and bathe his body in water, and afterward he may come into the camp. ... This shall be an everlasting statute for you, to make atonement for the children of Israel, for all their sins, once a year.” And he did as the Lord commanded Moses. (Leviticus 16:26-28, 34)

The Jews were commanded to make this sacrifice outside the camp, foreshadowing how Christ would

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die on the cross outside the walls of Jerusalem, and further symbolizing how Christians are to live separate from the world (see Heb. 13:11-14).

Day 37 - February 6

“And you shall not walk in the statutes of the nation which I am casting out before you; for they commit all these things, and therefore I abhor them. But I have said to you, “You shall inherit their land, and I will give it to you to possess, a land flowing with milk and honey.” I am the Lord your God, who has separated you from the peoples. You shall therefore distinguish between clean animals and unclean, between unclean birds and clean, and you shall not make yourselves abominable by beast or by bird, or by any kind of living thing that creeps on the ground, which I have separated from you as unclean. And you shall be holy to Me, for I the Lord am holy, and have separated you from the peoples, that you should be Mine.” (Leviticus 20:23-26)

One reason why God gave Israel these rules is so they would be separated, noticeably different, from all the other nations. Similarly, those who have been born again in Christ should live differently from the way the rest of the world lives.

Day 38 - February 7

Whatever has a defect, you shall not offer, for it shall not be acceptable on your behalf. And whoever offers a sacrifice of a peace offering to the Lord, to fulfill his vow, or a freewill offering from the cattle or the sheep, it must be perfect to be accepted; there shall be no defect in it. (Leviticus 22:20-21)

This also foreshadows the coming Christ, because He was perfect and sinless, without any defect. Only a perfect sacrifice for sin can be acceptable to a holy, righteous God. Since Jesus never sinned, He was able to bear the sins of others on the cross.

Day 39 - February 8

Now when Moses went into the tabernacle of meeting to speak with Him, he heard the voice of One speaking to him from above the mercy seat that was on the ark of the Testimony, from between the two cherubim; thus He spoke to him. ... “They shall leave none of it until morning, nor break one of its bones. According to all the ordinances of the Passover they shall keep it. ... ‘And if a stranger dwells among you, and would keep the Lord’s Passover, he must do so according to the rite of the Passover and according to its ceremony; you shall have one

ordinance, both for the stranger and the native of the land.’ ” (Numbers 7:89; 9:12, 14)

It is believed that the voice Moses heard was that of Christ. Then the Passover meal recalls how God delivered Israel from Egypt and pictures Christ, who had none of His bones broken. Christ died for both strangers (Gentiles) and native people (Israel).

Day 40 - February 9

Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying: “Take the Levites from among the children of Israel and cleanse them ceremonially. Thus you shall do to them to cleanse them: Sprinkle water of purification on them, and let them shave all their body, and let them wash their clothes, and so make themselves clean. Then let them take a young bull with its grain offering of fine flour mixed with oil, and you shall take another young bull as a sin offering. And you shall bring the Levites before the tabernacle of meeting, and you shall gather together the whole congregation of the children of Israel.” (Numbers 8:5-9)

At this time, the Levites (one of the twelve tribes of Israel) were set apart by God to be Israel’s priests. Now, Jesus is our one, eternal Priest, who offered a sacrifice once and for all. Christians are all part of a holy priesthood (see Heb. 7 and 1 Peter 2).

Day 41 - February 10

...and he spoke to Korah and all his company, saying, “Tomorrow morning the Lord will show who is His and who is holy, and will cause him to come near to Him. That one whom He chooses He will cause to come near to Him.” ... “God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good? Behold, I have received a command to bless; He has blessed, and I cannot reverse it. He has not observed iniquity in Jacob, nor has He seen wickedness in Israel. The Lord his God is with him, and the shout of a King is among them.” (Numbers 16:5, 23:19-21)

Salvation in Jesus works in the same way: Those whom God chooses He causes to come near to Him as He makes them more like Jesus (see John 6:35-51, 15:16). God did not observe iniquity in His people because they were covered in Jesus’ blood.

Day 42 - February 11

Then God’s anger was aroused because he went, and the Angel of the Lord took His stand in the way as an adversary against him. And he was riding on his donkey, and his two servants

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were with him. Now the donkey saw the Angel of the Lord standing in the way with His drawn sword in His hand, and the donkey turned aside out of the way and went into the field. So Balaam struck the donkey to turn her back onto the road. Then the Angel of the Lord stood in a narrow path between the vineyards, with a wall on this side and a wall on that side. And when the donkey saw the Angel of the Lord, she pushed herself against the wall and crushed Balaam's foot against the wall; so he struck her again. (Numbers 22:22-25)

Balak, king of the Moabites, was afraid of Israel and hired Balaam to curse them. But God would not allow a curse to fall upon His people, so He sent the preincarnate Christ, again referred to as "the Angel of the Lord," to stop Balaam.

Day 43 - February 12

Then the Angel of the Lord went further, and stood in a narrow place where there was no way to turn either to the right hand or to the left. And when the donkey saw the Angel of the Lord, she lay down under Balaam; so Balaam's anger was aroused, and he struck the donkey with his staff. Then the Lord opened the mouth of the donkey, and she said to Balaam, "What have I done to you, that you have struck me these three times?" And Balaam said to the donkey, "Because you have abused me. I wish there were a sword in my hand, for now I would kill you!" So the donkey said to Balaam, "Am I not your donkey on which you have ridden, ever since I became yours, to this day? Was I ever disposed to do this to you?" And he said, "No." (Numbers 22:26-30)

The preincarnate Christ continues to block Balaam from placing a curse on Israel, God's chosen people. In an unusual display of God's power, He allows the donkey to speak to Balaam to try to get him to realize what is really happening here.

Day 44 - February 13

Then the Lord opened Balaam's eyes, and he saw the Angel of the Lord standing in the way with His drawn sword in His hand; and he bowed his head and fell flat on his face. And the Angel of the Lord said to him, "Why have you struck your donkey these three times? Behold, I have come out to stand against you, because your way is perverse before Me. The donkey saw Me and turned aside from Me these three times. If she had not turned aside from Me, surely I would also have killed you by now, and let her live." And Balaam said to the Angel of

the Lord, "I have sinned, for I did not know You stood in the way against me. Now therefore, if it displeases You, I will turn back." Then the Angel of the Lord said to Balaam, "Go with the men, but only the word that I speak to you, that you shall speak." So Balaam went with the princes of Balak. (Numbers 22:31-35)

Finally, God allows Balaam to see the preincarnate Christ standing before Him, which is why his donkey stopped. We know this is Christ because Balaam is not stopped from bowing. Also, notice how Christ causes Balaam to recognize his sin.

Day 45 - February 14

"I see Him, but not now; I behold Him, but not near; a Star shall come out of Jacob; a Scepter shall rise out of Israel, and batter the brow of Moab, and destroy all the sons of tumult. And Edom shall be a possession; Seir also, his enemies, shall be a possession, while Israel does valiantly. Out of Jacob One shall have dominion, and destroy the remains of the city." (Numbers 24:17-19)

Balaam gave four prophecies, as God gave him the words to speak. His final prophecy points to David but ultimately to Jesus Christ, the Star of Jacob, the One who has all power and dominion.

Day 46 - February 15

"Therefore say, 'Behold, I give to him My covenant of peace; and it shall be to him and his descendants after him a covenant of an everlasting priesthood, because he was zealous for his God, and made atonement for the children of Israel.' ... who may go out before them and go in before them, who may lead them out and bring them in, that the congregation of the Lord may not be like sheep which have no shepherd." (Numbers 25:12-13, 27:17)

The first passage pictures the covenant of peace that Christ, the eternal priest who made atonement for sin, has brought. The last verse pictures pastors who shepherd churches, and ultimately the Good Shepherd, Jesus (see Matt. 9:36 and John 10).

Day 47 - February 16

"The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear, according to all you desired of the Lord your God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, 'Let me not hear again the voice of the Lord my God, nor let me see this great fire anymore, lest I die.' And the Lord said to me: 'What they have spoken is good. I will raise up for them a Prophet like you

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from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him.” (Deuteronomy 18:15-18)

As Moses speaks to Israel shortly before his death, he gives a prophecy of the coming Prophet who we know as Jesus. When He came to earth, Jesus did indeed speak all that God commanded Him to speak, and He saves souls from the fire of hell.

Day 48 - February 17

“If a man has committed a sin deserving of death, and he is put to death, and you hang him on a tree, his body shall not remain overnight on the tree, but you shall surely bury him that day, so that you do not defile the land which the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance; for he who is hanged is accursed of God. ... ‘Cursed is the one who does not confirm all the words of this law by observing them.’ And all the people shall say, ‘Amen!’ ” (Deuteronomy 21:22-23, 27:26)

Jesus took the curse for sin that we deserve by hanging on the cross; in God’s law, anyone who hangs on a tree was cursed (see Gal. 3:13). None of us can perfectly keep the law of God, but true believers are covered in His perfect righteousness.

Day 49 - February 18

And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, a Man stood opposite him with His sword drawn in His hand. And Joshua went to Him and said to Him, “Are You for us or for our adversaries?” So He said, “No, but as Commander of the army of the Lord I have now come.” And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped, and said to Him, “What does my Lord say to His servant?” Then the Commander of the Lord’s army said to Joshua, “Take your sandal off your foot, for the place where you stand is holy.” And Joshua did so. (Joshua 5:13-15)

Prior to the battle of Jericho, Joshua encounters Christ. The place he stood is holy because Christ is there. It is interesting how Christ answers “no” to Joshua’s question. God doesn’t take our side; God is always right, and we must be on His side.

Day 50 - February 19

Then the Angel of the Lord came up from Gilgal to Bochim, and said: “I led you up from Egypt and brought you to the land of which I swore to your fathers; and I said, ‘I will never break My covenant with you. And you shall make no

covenant with the inhabitants of this land; you shall tear down their altars.’ But you have not obeyed My voice. Why have you done this? Therefore I also said, ‘I will not drive them out before you; but they shall be thorns in your side, and their gods shall be a snare to you.’ ” So it was, when the Angel of the Lord spoke these words to all the children of Israel, that the people lifted up their voices and wept. (Judges 2:1-4)

The Angel of the Lord (the preincarnate Christ) is speaking as if He is God—because He is. Those who teach false doctrines about Christ, claiming that He is not God, are in disagreement with this and many other passages of Scripture.

Day 51 - February 20

Now the Angel of the Lord came and sat under the terebinth tree which was in Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, while his son Gideon threshed wheat in the winepress, in order to hide it from the Midianites. And the Angel of the Lord appeared to him, and said to him, “The Lord is with you, you mighty man of valor!” Gideon said to Him, “O my lord, if the Lord is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all His miracles which our fathers told us about, saying, ‘Did not the Lord bring us up from Egypt?’ But now the Lord has forsaken us and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites.” Then the Lord turned to him and said, “Go in this might of yours, and you shall save Israel from the hand of the Midianites. Have I not sent you?” (Judges 6:11-14)

God had allowed the Midianites to defeat Israel and rule over them for seven years because of Israel’s disobedience. That period of time has ended, and here the Angel of the Lord (Christ) appears to Gideon, whom God will use to free His people.

Day 52 - February 21

So he said to Him, “O my Lord, how can I save Israel? Indeed my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father’s house.” And the Lord said to him, “Surely I will be with you, and you shall defeat the Midianites as one man.” Then he said to Him, “If now I have found favor in Your sight, then show me a sign that it is You who talk with me. Do not depart from here, I pray, until I come to You and bring out my offering and set it before You.” And He said, “I will wait until you come back.” (Judges 6:15-18)

Gideon questions the preincarnate Christ. Gideon

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Wonders why God chose him to free His people. But all things are possible through Christ who strengthens us (see Phil. 4:13), and God's power is made perfect in our weakness (see 2 Cor. 12:9).

Day 53 - February 22

So Gideon went in and prepared a young goat, and unleavened bread from an ephah of flour. The meat he put in a basket, and he put the broth in a pot; and he brought them out to Him under the terebinth tree and presented them. The Angel of God said to him, "Take the meat and the unleavened bread and lay them on this rock, and pour out the broth." And he did so. Then the Angel of the Lord put out the end of the staff that was in His hand, and touched the meat and the unleavened bread; and fire rose out of the rock and consumed the meat and the unleavened bread. And the Angel of the Lord departed out of his sight. Now Gideon perceived that He was the Angel of the Lord. So Gideon said, "Alas, O Lord God! For I have seen the Angel of the Lord face to face." (Judges 6:19-22)

Gideon did not know that this Angel's name would later be known as Jesus, but still he knew who this was, and Gideon was in awe at the sight of the preincarnate Christ. We also see one way here in which God is a consuming fire (see Heb. 12:29).

Day 54 - February 23

"For behold, you shall conceive and bear a son. And no razor shall come upon his head, for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb; and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines." So the woman came and told her husband, saying, "A Man of God came to me, and His countenance was like the countenance of the Angel of God, very awesome; but I did not ask Him where He was from, and He did not tell me His name. And He said to me, 'Behold, you shall conceive and bear a son. Now drink no wine or similar drink, nor eat anything unclean, for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb to the day of his death.' " Then Manoah prayed to the Lord, and said, "O my Lord, please let the Man of God whom You sent come to us again and teach us what we shall do for the child who will be born." And God listened to the voice of Manoah, and the Angel of God came to the woman again as she was sitting in the field; but Manoah her husband was not with her. Then the woman ran in haste and told her husband, and said to him, "Look, the Man who came to me the other day

has just now appeared to me!" (Judges 13:5-10)
This couple had been unable to have children, but the preincarnate Christ visited Manoah's wife to tell her that they would give birth to a boy (Samson) who would be dedicated to the service of God.

Day 55 - February 24

So Manoah arose and followed his wife. When he came to the Man, he said to Him, "Are You the Man who spoke to this woman?" And He said, "I am." Manoah said, "Now let Your words come to pass! What will be the boy's rule of life, and his work?" So the Angel of the Lord said to Manoah, "Of all that I said to the woman let her be careful. She may not eat anything that comes from the vine, nor may she drink wine or similar drink, nor eat anything unclean. All that I commanded her let her observe." Then Manoah said to the Angel of the Lord, "Please let us detain You, and we will prepare a young goat for You." And the Angel of the Lord said to Manoah, "Though you detain Me, I will not eat your food. But if you offer a burnt offering, you must offer it to the Lord." (For Manoah did not know He was the Angel of the Lord.) (Judges 13:11-16)

Christ declined Manoah's offer of food. Though He did eat at times during His time on earth, neither God nor angels need food. Instead, Christ focused on doing the work of His Father (see John 4:31-34).

Day 56 - February 25

Then Manoah said to the Angel of the Lord, "What is Your name, that when Your words come to pass we may honor You?" And the Angel of the Lord said to him, "Why do you ask My name, seeing it is wonderful?" So Manoah took the young goat with the grain offering, and offered it upon the rock to the Lord. And He did a wondrous thing while Manoah and his wife looked on— it happened as the flame went up toward heaven from the altar—the Angel of the Lord ascended in the flame of the altar! When Manoah and his wife saw this, they fell on their faces to the ground. When the Angel of the Lord appeared no more to Manoah and his wife, then Manoah knew that He was the Angel of the Lord. And Manoah said to his wife, "We shall surely die, because we have seen God!" But his wife said to him, "If the Lord had desired to kill us, He would not have accepted a burnt offering and a grain offering from our hands, nor would He have shown us all these things, nor would He have told us such things as these at this time." (Judges 13:17-23)

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The name “Jesus” was not to be known until the angel Gabriel visited Mary and Joseph. In addition, although no one can see God the Father and live (see Ex. 33:20), many people have seen angels as well as God’s Son, Jesus Christ.

Day 57 - February 26

Now there was a young man from Bethlehem in Judah, of the family of Judah; he was a Levite, and was staying there. The man departed from the city of Bethlehem in Judah to stay wherever he could find a place. Then he came to the mountains of Ephraim, to the house of Micah, as he journeyed. And Micah said to him, “Where do you come from?” So he said to him, “I am a Levite from Bethlehem in Judah, and I am on my way to find a place to stay.” Micah said to him, “Dwell with me, and be a father and a priest to me, and I will give you ten shekels of silver per year, a suit of clothes, and your sustenance.” So the Levite went in. Then the Levite was content to dwell with the man; and the young man became like one of his sons to him. So Micah consecrated the Levite, and the young man became his priest, and lived in the house of Micah. Then Micah said, “Now I know that the Lord will be good to me, since I have a Levite as priest!” (Judges 17:7-13)

This passage provides an interesting comparison to Jesus. This priest came from Bethlehem, where Jesus would be born, yet he had nowhere to stay, as Jesus once said about Himself (see Luke 9:58).

Day 58 - February 27

The name of the man was Elimelech, the name of his wife was Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion—Ephrathites of Bethlehem, Judah. And they went to the country of Moab and remained there. ... Now the two of them went until they came to Bethlehem. And it happened, when they had come to Bethlehem, that all the city was excited because of them; and the women said, “Is this Naomi?” ... Now behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem, and said to the reapers, “The Lord be with you!” And they answered him, “The Lord bless you!” ... And Boaz answered and said to her, “It has been fully reported to me, all that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband, and how you have left your father and your mother and the land of your birth, and have come to a people whom you did not know before.” (Ruth 1:2, 19; 2:4, 11)

Naomi and her daughter-in-law, Ruth, were both widowed. They returned to Naomi’s homeland of

Bethlehem where they knew there would be people there who would take care of them. The rest of Ruth’s story parallels the coming Messiah.

Day 59 - February 28

And he said, “Who are you?” So she answered, “I am Ruth, your maidservant. Take your maidservant under your wing, for you are a close relative.” Then he said, “Blessed are you of the Lord, my daughter! For you have shown more kindness at the end than at the beginning, in that you did not go after young men, whether poor or rich. And now, my daughter, do not fear. I will do for you all that you request, for all the people of my town know that you are a virtuous woman. Now it is true that I am a close relative; however, there is a relative closer than I. Stay this night, and in the morning it shall be that if he will perform the duty of a close relative for you—good; let him do it. But if he does not want to perform the duty for you, then I will perform the duty for you, as the Lord lives! Lie down until morning.” (Ruth 3:9-13)

Boaz (the person speaking first in this passage) is a shadow of Jesus, our Redeemer. In salvation, we are beggars with nothing to offer to a holy God. Jesus covers those who are His with His robe of righteousness and makes us His (see Ezek. 16:8).

February 29

On this extra day, which comes around just once every four years, I encourage you to read and meditate upon your favorite psalm. Look to see if anything in that psalm points to Christ.

Day 60 - March 1

So she lay at his feet until morning, and she arose before one could recognize another. Then he said, “Do not let it be known that the woman came to the threshing floor.” Also he said, “Bring the shawl that is on you and hold it.” And when she held it, he measured six ephahs of barley, and laid it on her. Then she went into the city. When she came to her mother-in-law, she said, “Is that you, my daughter?” Then she told her all that the man had done for her. And she said, “These six ephahs of barley he gave me; for he said to me, ‘Do not go empty-handed to your mother-in-law.’” Then she said, “Sit still, my daughter, until you know how the matter will turn out; for the man will not rest until he has concluded the matter this day.” (Ruth 3:14-18)

Mirroring the abundant grace given by God through Christ in salvation, Boaz gave Ruth abundant food

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to ensure she and Naomi were well provided for. Boaz did not rest until this matter was concluded, just as God works out every detail of our salvation.

Day 61 - March 2

Now Boaz went up to the gate and sat down there; and behold, the close relative of whom Boaz had spoken came by. So Boaz said, "Come aside, friend, sit down here." So he came aside and sat down. And he took ten men of the elders of the city, and said, "Sit down here." So they sat down. Then he said to the close relative, "Naomi, who has come back from the country of Moab, sold the piece of land which belonged to our brother Elimelech. And I thought to inform you, saying, 'Buy it back in the presence of the inhabitants and the elders of my people. If you will redeem it, redeem it; but if you will not redeem it, then tell me, that I may know; for there is no one but you to redeem it, and I am next after you.' " And he said, "I will redeem it." Then Boaz said, "On the day you buy the field from the hand of Naomi, you must also buy it from Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of the dead, to perpetuate the name of the dead through his inheritance." And the close relative said, "I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I ruin my own inheritance. You redeem my right of redemption for yourself, for I cannot redeem it." (Ruth 4:1-6)

As Ruth was to become the bride of the man who would redeem her, so the church—the true church, made up of those whom Christ has redeemed through His death on the cross—is called the bride of Christ. (see Eph. 5:25 and Rev. 21:1-9).

Day 62 - March 3

Now this was the custom in former times in Israel concerning redeeming and exchanging, to confirm anything: one man took off his sandal and gave it to the other, and this was a confirmation in Israel. Therefore the close relative said to Boaz, "Buy it for yourself." So he took off his sandal. And Boaz said to the elders and all the people, "You are witnesses this day that I have bought all that was Elimelech's, and all that was Chilion's and Mahlon's, from the hand of Naomi. Moreover, Ruth the Moabitess, the widow of Mahlon, I have acquired as my wife, to perpetuate the name of the dead through his inheritance, that the name of the dead may not be cut off from among his brethren and from his position at the gate. You are witnesses this day." And all the people who were at the gate, and the elders,

said, "We are witnesses. The Lord make the woman who is coming to your house like Rachel and Leah, the two who built the house of Israel; and may you prosper in Ephrathah and be famous in Bethlehem. May your house be like the house of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah, because of the offspring which the Lord will give you from this young woman." (Ruth 4:7-12)

Here, Boaz's redemption of Ruth is completed. In a similar way, Christ redeems His people so that the name of God might continue to be proclaimed. It is also no coincidence that this occurs in Bethlehem.

Day 63 - March 4

So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife; and when he went in to her, the Lord gave her conception, and she bore a son. Then the women said to Naomi, "Blessed be the Lord, who has not left you this day without a close relative; and may his name be famous in Israel! And may he be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age; for your daughter-in-law, who loves you, who is better to you than seven sons, has borne him." Then Naomi took the child and laid him on her bosom, and became a nurse to him. Also the neighbor women gave him a name, saying, "There is a son born to Naomi." And they called his name Obed. He is the father of Jesse, the father of David. Now this is the genealogy of Perez: Perez begot Hezron; Hezron begot Ram, and Ram begot Amminadab; Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon; Salmon begot Boaz, and Boaz begot Obed; Obed begot Jesse, and Jesse begot David. (Ruth 4:13-22)

The book of Ruth ends with a brief genealogy, pointing even more clearly toward Christ. King David, who was a type of Christ and who pictured Christ as much as anyone in the Old Testament, was to be Ruth's great-grandson (see Matt. 1:5-6).

Day 64 - March 5

And Hannah prayed and said: "My heart rejoices in the Lord; My horn is exalted in the Lord. I smile at my enemies, because I rejoice in Your salvation. ... The adversaries of the Lord shall be broken in pieces; from heaven He will thunder against them. The Lord will judge the ends of the earth. He will give strength to His king, and exalt the horn of His anointed." ... Then I will raise up for Myself a faithful priest who shall do according to what is in My heart and in My mind. I will build him a sure house, and he shall walk before My anointed forever. (1

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Samuel 2:1, 10, 35)

The first two verses are from Hannah's prayer of thanks when God gave her a son, Samuel, after such a long time of waiting. In the last verse, after rebuking unfaithful priests, God says one day He will raise up a faithful Priest—the Messiah, Jesus.

Day 65 - March 6

“When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be his Father, and he shall be My son. If he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men and with the blows of the sons of men. But My mercy shall not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I removed from before you. And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever.” According to all these words and according to all this vision, so Nathan spoke to David. (2 Samuel 7:12-17)

This prophecy is for Solomon, David's son, but it also finds later fulfillment in Christ. Solomon built God's temple in Jerusalem, but Jesus referred to Himself as the temple (see Matt. 12:6, 23:17). And only the kingdom of Christ will truly last forever.

Day 66 - March 7

Then King David went in and sat before the Lord; and he said: “Who am I, O Lord God? And what is my house, that You have brought me this far? And yet this was a small thing in Your sight, O Lord God; and You have also spoken of Your servant's house for a great while to come. Is this the manner of man, O Lord God? Now what more can David say to You? For You, Lord God, know Your servant. For Your word's sake, and according to Your own heart, You have done all these great things, to make Your servant know them. Therefore You are great, O Lord God. For there is none like You, nor is there any God besides You, according to all that we have heard with our ears. And who is like Your people, like Israel, the one nation on the earth whom God went to redeem for Himself as a people, to make for Himself a name—and to do for Yourself great and awesome deeds for Your land—before Your people whom You redeemed for Yourself from Egypt, the nations, and their gods? For You have made Your people Israel Your very own people forever; and You, Lord, have become their God.” (2 Samuel

7:18-24)

This is the first part of David's prayer to God, giving thanks and praising Him, after God revealed to David that his earthly kingdom would last for many generations, and ultimately, that the eternal King, Christ, would descend from the lineage of David.

Day 67 - March 8

“Now, O Lord God, the word which You have spoken concerning Your servant and concerning his house, establish it forever and do as You have said. So let Your name be magnified forever, saying, ‘The Lord of hosts is the God over Israel.’ And let the house of Your servant David be established before You. For You, O Lord of hosts, God of Israel, have revealed this to Your servant, saying, ‘I will build you a house.’ Therefore Your servant has found it in his heart to pray this prayer to You. And now, O Lord God, You are God, and Your words are true, and You have promised this goodness to Your servant. Now therefore, let it please You to bless the house of Your servant, that it may continue before You forever; for You, O Lord God, have spoken it, and with Your blessing let the house of Your servant be blessed forever.” (2 Samuel 7:25-29)

This is the conclusion of David's prayer of praise to God. David's kingdom has lasted forever because Jesus descended from the lineage of David, and Jesus is the eternal King who will rule forever.

Day 68 - March 9

And ten young men who bore Joab's armor surrounded Absalom, and struck and killed him. So Joab blew the trumpet, and the people returned from pursuing Israel. For Joab held back the people. And they took Absalom and cast him into a large pit in the woods, and laid a very large heap of stones over him. Then all Israel fled, everyone to his tent. Now Absalom in his lifetime had taken and set up a pillar for himself, which is in the King's Valley. For he said, “I have no son to keep my name in remembrance.” He called the pillar after his own name. And to this day it is called Absalom's Monument. Then Ahimaaz the son of Zadok said, “Let me run now and take the news to the king, how the Lord has avenged him of his enemies.” And Joab said to him, “You shall not take the news this day, for you shall take the news another day. But today you shall take no news, because the king's son is dead.” ... Then the king was deeply moved, and went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept. And as he

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went, he said thus: "O my son Absalom—my son, my son Absalom—if only I had died in your place! O Absalom my son, my son!" (2 Samuel 18:15-20, 33)

This is the story of how King David's son Absalom was killed, and it bears some similarity to the death of God's Son, Jesus. For those who are saved, God's precious Son Jesus Christ died in our place.

Day 69 - March 10

And David said to Gad, "I am in great distress. Please let us fall into the hand of the Lord, for His mercies are great; but do not let me fall into the hand of man." So the Lord sent a plague upon Israel from the morning till the appointed time. From Dan to Beersheba seventy thousand men of the people died. And when the angel stretched out His hand over Jerusalem to destroy it, the Lord relented from the destruction, and said to the angel who was destroying the people, "It is enough; now restrain your hand." And the angel of the Lord was by the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite. Then David spoke to the Lord when he saw the angel who was striking the people, and said, "Surely I have sinned, and I have done wickedly; but these sheep, what have they done? Let Your hand, I pray, be against me and against my father's house." (2 Samuel 24:14-17)

David knew he has sinned against God by counting the people in his own pride, but he rightly asked for God's wrath rather than the wrath of men, because He trusted God. The One who enacted the plague, David's consequence, was the preincarnate Christ.

Day 70 - March 11

"...then I will establish the throne of your kingdom over Israel forever, as I promised David your father, saying, 'You shall not fail to have a man on the throne of Israel.' But if you or your sons at all turn from following Me, and do not keep My commandments and My statutes which I have set before you, but go and serve other gods and worship them, then I will cut off Israel from the land which I have given them; and this house which I have consecrated for My name I will cast out of My sight. Israel will be a proverb and a byword among all peoples. And as for this house, which is exalted, everyone who passes by it will be astonished and will hiss, and say, 'Why has the Lord done thus to this land and to this house?' Then they will answer, 'Because they forsook the Lord their God, who brought their fathers out of the land of Egypt, and have embraced

other gods, and worshiped them and served them; therefore the Lord has brought all this calamity on them.' " (1 Kings 9:5-9)

God warns Israel through King Solomon what will happen if they fail to worship Him and go off and follow false idols instead. Nevertheless, God keeps His promises, so the kingdom of David will last forever, through his descendant Jesus Christ.

Day 71 - March 12

"Their blood shall therefore return upon the head of Joab and upon the head of his descendants forever. But upon David and his descendants, upon his house and his throne, there shall be peace forever from the Lord. ... But King Solomon shall be blessed, and the throne of David shall be established before the Lord forever." ... "However I will not tear away the whole kingdom; I will give one tribe to your son for the sake of My servant David, and for the sake of Jerusalem which I have chosen." (1 Kings 2:33,45; 11:13)

The first part of this passage has ultimate fulfillment in Christ, as the spiritual descendants of David receive true peace from Christ. The last part shows how God doesn't change, continuing the lineage of David even after Solomon had sinned against Him.

Day 72 - March 13

Then as he lay and slept under a broom tree, suddenly an angel touched him, and said to him, "Arise and eat." Then he looked, and there by his head was a cake baked on coals, and a jar of water. So he ate and drank, and lay down again. And the angel of the Lord came back the second time, and touched him, and said, "Arise and eat, because the journey is too great for you." So he arose, and ate and drank; and he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights as far as Horeb, the mountain of God. (1 Kings 19:5-8)

In this instance, where an angel is caring for the needs of Elijah, it is not certain whether the angel was the preincarnate Christ or if it was just another angel. Either way, this foreshadows the forty days and forty nights that Jesus fasted in the desert.

Day 73 - March 14

So Elijah answered and said to them, "If I am a man of God, let fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty men." And the fire of God came down from heaven and consumed him and his fifty. Again, he sent a third captain of fifty with his fifty men. And the third captain of fifty went up, and came and fell

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on his knees before Elijah, and pleaded with him, and said to him: "Man of God, please let my life and the life of these fifty servants of yours be precious in your sight. Look, fire has come down from heaven and burned up the first two captains of fifties with their fifties. But let my life now be precious in your sight." And the angel of the Lord said to Elijah, "Go down with him; do not be afraid of him." So he arose and went down with him to the king. (2 Kings 1:12-15)

This is another instance where the angel of the Lord may have been Christ, or just another angel; we aren't told for sure. We also see evidence of Elijah's strong faith, and of God's consuming fire against His enemies (see Heb. 12:29).

Day 74 - March 15

Now in the fifth year of Joram the son of Ahab, king of Israel, Jehoshaphat having been king of Judah, Jehoram the son of Jehoshaphat began to reign as king of Judah. He was thirty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned eight years in Jerusalem. And he walked in the way of the kings of Israel, just as the house of Ahab had done, for the daughter of Ahab was his wife; and he did evil in the sight of the Lord. Yet the Lord would not destroy Judah, for the sake of His servant David, as He promised him to give a lamp to him and his sons forever. (2 Kings 8:16-19)

We see here how God continues to keep His promise to David, by placing David's descendants on the throne to reign over Judah. But David's descendants are only able to truly rule forever because Christ is our eternal King.

Day 75 - March 16

"Therefore thus says the Lord concerning the king of Assyria: 'He shall not come into this city, nor shoot an arrow there, nor come before it with shield, nor build a siege mound against it. By the way that he came, by the same shall he return; and he shall not come into this city,' says the Lord. 'For I will defend this city, to save it for My own sake and for My servant David's sake.' " And it came to pass on a certain night that the angel of the Lord went out, and killed in the camp of the Assyrians one hundred and eighty-five thousand; and when people arose early in the morning, there were the corpses—all dead. (2 Kings 19:32-35)

Once again, this "angel of the Lord" may or may not have been Christ. Either way, this foreshadows the work of Christ. He saves, preserves, and protects

those who belong to Him while ultimately destroying those who are the enemies of God.

Day 76 - March 17

"...but the word of the Lord came to me, saying, 'You have shed much blood and have made great wars; you shall not build a house for My name, because you have shed much blood on the earth in My sight. Behold, a son shall be born to you, who shall be a man of rest; and I will give him rest from all his enemies all around. His name shall be Solomon, for I will give peace and quietness to Israel in his days. He shall build a house for My name, and he shall be My son, and I will be his Father; and I will establish the throne of his kingdom over Israel forever.' " (1 Chronicles 22:8-10)

King David's son, Solomon, would build the temple of the Lord in Jerusalem. But the last verse in this passage points to the true temple, Christ (see John 2:19), who is God's only begotten Son and who will rule as the eternal King over His people forever.

Day 77 - March 18

"Now He said to me, 'It is your son Solomon who shall build My house and My courts; for I have chosen him to be My son, and I will be his Father. Moreover I will establish his kingdom forever, if he is steadfast to observe My commandments and My judgments, as it is this day.' " (1 Chronicles 28:6-7)

David is recounting what God had told him about his son Solomon. God has chosen to adopt as children all those whom He saves, and He is our Father. This is also a picture of Christ, God's only begotten Son, who will reign as King forever.

Day 78 - March 19

Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him. Even so, I will defend my own ways before Him. He also shall be my salvation, for a hypocrite could not come before Him. (Job 13:15-16)

Since Job is considered to be the oldest book in the Bible, Job no doubt knew far less about His Savior than most other people in the Old Testament. Still, Job knew that his salvation could be found in God alone, and that God hates hypocrisy in religion.

Day 79 - March 20

Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? No one! ... If a man dies, shall he live again? All the days of my hard service I will wait, till my change comes. You shall call, and I will answer You; You shall desire the work of Your hands. For now You number my steps, but do not

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watch over my sin. My transgression is sealed up in a bag, and You cover my iniquity. (Job 14:4, 14-17)

Only through the righteousness of Christ can an unclean person be made clean; Job understood correctly that no one on earth can do that. Job also understood the work that Christ would accomplish, to cover over his transgressions against God.

Day 80 - March 21

For I know that my Redeemer lives, and He shall stand at last on the earth; and after my skin is destroyed, this I know, that in my flesh I shall see God, Whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. How my heart yearns within me! (Job 19:25-27)

Job 19:25 is one of the most amazing verses in the entire Bible. Job lived some 2,000 years before Christ walked in the earth and was crucified on the cross, yet Job knew that he had a Redeemer who would live and ultimately be victorious!

Day 81 - March 22

“Surely you have spoken in my hearing, and I have heard the sound of your words, saying, ‘I am pure, without transgression; I am innocent, and there is no iniquity in me.’ ... If there is a messenger for him, a mediator, one among a thousand, to show man His uprightness, then He is gracious to him, and says, ‘Deliver him from going down to the Pit; I have found a ransom...’ “ (Job 33:8-9, 23-24)

Here, Job’s friend Elihu correctly rebukes Job for believing that he is pure and innocent, since none of us is without sin. Christ, of course, is the only mediator between God and man (see 1 Tim. 2:5), who delivers His people from going down to the pit.

Day 82 - March 23

Moreover Elihu answered and said: “Do you think this is right? Do you say, ‘My righteousness is more than God’s’? For you say, ‘What advantage will it be to You? What profit shall I have, more than if I had sinned?’ “ (Job 35:1-3)

We fail to understand how holy God is. Even the good things we do are like filthy rags to Him because we are such sinful beings (see Isaiah 64:6). Only through Christ can we receive the perfect righteousness that is acceptable to God.

Day 83 - March 24

“I will declare the decree: The Lord has said to Me, ‘You are My Son, today I have begotten You. Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations

for Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter’s vessel.’ ” Now therefore, be wise, O kings; be instructed, you judges of the earth. Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and you perish in the way, when His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him. (Psalm 2:7-12)

For the first time in Scripture, God declares that the coming Messiah, the One often referred to as the “Angel of the Lord”, is actually God’s own begotten Son. All the nations of the earth are His inheritance, and those who are against God will face His wrath.

Day 84 - March 25

As for the saints who are on the earth, “They are the excellent ones, in whom is all my delight.” Their sorrows shall be multiplied who hasten after another god; their drink offerings of blood I will not offer, nor take up their names on my lips. ... Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices; my flesh also will rest in hope. For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption. You will show me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore. (Psalm 16:3-4, 9-11)

The Bible uses the word “saint” to refer to all those who believe, and God delights in all who are His. Only the Messiah, Jesus Christ, died but did not see corruption in the grave, because He rose again on the third day, and He is the path of life.

Day 85 - March 26

You have delivered me from the strivings of the people; You have made me the head of the nations; a people I have not known shall serve me. As soon as they hear of me they obey me; the foreigners submit to me. The foreigners fade away, and come frightened from their hideouts. The Lord lives! Blessed be my Rock! Let the God of my salvation be exalted. It is God who avenges me, and subdues the peoples under me; He delivers me from my enemies. You also lift me up above those who rise against me; You have delivered me from the violent man. Therefore I will give thanks to You, O Lord, among the Gentiles, And sing praises to Your name. Great deliverance He gives to His king, and shows mercy to His anointed, to David and his descendants forevermore. (Psalm 18:43-50)

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This passage is about King David, but it ultimately points to Christ. The Gentiles (“a people I have not known”) for the most part did not know God in Old Testament times, but are now among those who are blessed to be able to know and serve Him.

Day 86 - March 27

Their line has gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them He has set a tabernacle for the sun, which is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoices like a strong man to run its race. Its rising is from one end of heaven, and its circuit to the other end; and there is nothing hidden from its heat. (Psalm 19:4-6)

Christ, the Bridegroom, the Sun of Righteousness who rises with healing in His wings, is pictured in these verses as David expresses awe over God’s creation (see Mark 2:19-20 and Mal. 4:2). Christ is also judge, and nothing is hidden from Him.

Day 87 - March 28

The king shall have joy in Your strength, O Lord; and in Your salvation how greatly shall he rejoice! You have given him his heart’s desire, and have not withheld the request of his lips. Selah. For You meet him with the blessings of goodness; You set a crown of pure gold upon his head. He asked life from You, and You gave it to him—length of days forever and ever. His glory is great in Your salvation; honor and majesty You have placed upon him. For You have made him most blessed forever; You have made him exceedingly glad with Your presence. For the king trusts in the Lord, and through the mercy of the Most High he shall not be moved. (Psalm 21:1-7)

We should all rejoice for the salvation that comes through Christ Jesus. The heart’s desire of Jesus was and is for the redemption of His people (see Song of Sol. 7:10). Jesus gives His people rich blessings and makes us exceedingly glad.

Day 88 - March 29

My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? Why are You so far from helping Me, and from the words of My groaning? O My God, I cry in the daytime, but You do not hear; and in the night season, and am not silent. But You are holy, enthroned in the praises of Israel. Our fathers trusted in You; they trusted, and You delivered them. They cried to You, and were delivered; they trusted in You, and were not ashamed. But I am a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised by the people.

All those who see Me ridicule Me; they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying, “He trusted in the Lord, let Him rescue Him; Let Him deliver Him, since He delights in Him!” (Psalm 22:1-8)

This Psalm pictures Jesus on the cross in so many ways. Jesus said the words of the first sentence just before He died. On many occasions, during His ministry and while dying on the cross, Jesus was ridiculed, mocked, and despised by many people.

Day 89 - March 30

But You are He who took Me out of the womb; You made Me trust while on My mother’s breasts. I was cast upon You from birth. From My mother’s womb You have been My God. Be not far from Me, for trouble is near; for there is none to help. Many bulls have surrounded Me; strong bulls of Bashan have encircled Me. They gape at Me with their mouths, like a raging and roaring lion. I am poured out like water, and all My bones are out of joint; My heart is like wax; it has melted within Me. My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and My tongue clings to My jaws; You have brought Me to the dust of death. (Psalm 22:9-15)

God the Father brought Jesus out of Mary’s womb and into this life. He was always near His Son Jesus, even when Jesus was being attacked on all sides by those who hate Him.

Day 90 – March 31

For dogs have surrounded Me; the congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me. They pierced My hands and My feet; I can count all My bones. They look and stare at Me. They divide My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots. But You, O Lord, do not be far from Me; O My Strength, hasten to help Me! Deliver Me from the sword, My precious life from the power of the dog. Save Me from the lion’s mouth and from the horns of the wild oxen! You have answered Me. (Psalm 22:16-21)

Some of His followers watched as He was hung on the cross, but most of the people there were wicked and wanted Jesus to die. They pierced His hands and feet and cast lots to see who would win His clothes, but they did not break any of His bones.

Day 91 - April 1

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name’s sake. Yea, though I walk through

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the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; my cup runs over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. (Psalm 23:1-6)

Christ is our Great Shepherd. But why does God lead His children in the paths of righteousness? For the sake of His holy name. Why does the psalmist fear no evil? Because he is comforted by God's loving care and also by God's staff of chastisement.

Day 92 - April 2

The earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein. For He has founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the waters. Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, nor sworn deceitfully. He shall receive blessing from the Lord, and righteousness from the God of his salvation. This is Jacob, the generation of those who seek Him, who seek Your face. Selah (Psalm 24:1-6)

Those who belong to Christ receive righteousness from Him, the God of our salvation. Clean hands and a pure heart are a gift from Him. We cannot earn our own salvation. Only with the righteousness of Christ covering us can we be made clean.

Day 93 - April 3

Do not remember the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions; according to Your mercy remember me, for Your goodness' sake, O Lord. Good and upright is the Lord; therefore He teaches sinners in the way. The humble He guides in justice, and the humble He teaches His way. All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth, to such as keep His covenant and His testimonies. For Your name's sake, O Lord, pardon my iniquity, for it is great. (Psalm 25:7-11)

God's forgiveness and forgetting of our sin, and His pardoning of our iniquity, are all accomplished through Jesus Christ. In salvation, God humbles a person, then teaches that person the ways of God. He does all this so we can understand His mercy.

Day 94 - April 4

The Lord is their strength, and He is the saving refuge of His anointed. Save Your people, and bless Your inheritance; Shepherd them also,

And bear them up forever. ... Pull me out of the net which they have secretly laid for me, for You are my strength. Into Your hand I commit my spirit; You have redeemed me, O Lord God of truth. (Psalm 28:8-9; 31:4-5)

Jesus is our Great Shepherd who leads us along the way, and He alone is our Redeemer. "Into Your hands I commit My Spirit" were the very last words spoken by Jesus before He died on the cross, as He submitted fully to the Father (see Luke 23:46).

Day 95 - April 5

O Lord my God, I cried out to You, and You healed me. O Lord, You brought my soul up from the grave; You have kept me alive, that I should not go down to the pit. Sing praise to the Lord, you saints of His, and give thanks at the remembrance of His holy name. For His anger is but for a moment, His favor is for life; weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning. (Psalm 30:2-5)

For those who are true believers, God brought our souls up from the grave and saved us from an eternity in hell through the work that Jesus Christ accomplished on the cross. God's favor is for life; a true believer can never lose his or her salvation.

Day 96 - April 6

I am a reproach among all my enemies, but especially among my neighbors, and am repulsive to my acquaintances; those who see me outside flee from me. I am forgotten like a dead man, out of mind; I am like a broken vessel. For I hear the slander of many; fear is on every side; while they take counsel together against me, they scheme to take away my life. But as for me, I trust in You, O Lord; I say, "You are my God." My times are in Your hand; deliver me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me. (Psalm 31:11-15)

David is writing about himself in this psalm, but it also foreshadows Christ, who would be foolishly hated, slandered, and schemed against by many of the Jews. But both David and Christ fully trusted in deliverance from God the Father.

Day 97 - April 7

Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord does not impute iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit. ... Behold, the eye of the Lord is on those who fear Him, on those who hope in His mercy, to deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine. Our soul waits for the Lord; He is our

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help and our shield. (Psalm 32:1-2; 33:18-20)

Even though David wrote what we know as Psalm 32 hundreds of years before Jesus came and died on the cross, he knew that in some way, God would cover over and forgive sin. Only in Christ do we have the hope that can deliver souls from death.

Day 98 - April 8

Sacrifice and offering You did not desire; my ears You have opened. Burnt offering and sin offering You did not require. Then I said, "Behold, I come; in the scroll of the book it is written of me. I delight to do Your will, O my God, and Your law is within my heart." I have proclaimed the good news of righteousness in the great assembly; indeed, I do not restrain my lips, O Lord, You Yourself know. (Psalm 40:6-9)

In this psalm, Christ is directly speaking through David (see Heb. 10:5-9). Christ states that He is written about in the Old Testament (which was all we had at this time), and as we see throughout this study, the entire Bible does point to Jesus Christ.

Day 99 - April 9

I said, "Lord, be merciful to me; heal my soul, for I have sinned against You." My enemies speak evil of me: "When will he die, and his name perish?" And if he comes to see me, he speaks lies; his heart gathers iniquity to itself; when he goes out, he tells it. All who hate me whisper together against me; against me they devise my hurt. "An evil disease," they say, "clings to him. And now that he lies down, he will rise up no more." Even my own familiar friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted up his heel against me. (Psalm 41:4-9)

Much of this psalm could apply to the hatred toward Jesus from those around Him. But specifically, the last verse foreshadows the betrayal of Judas. In fact, Jesus quotes this very verse to His apostles shortly before dying on the cross (see John 13:18).

Day 100 - April 10

Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom. You love righteousness and hate wickedness; therefore God, Your God, has anointed You with the oil of gladness more than Your companions. All Your garments are scented with myrrh and aloes and cassia, out of the ivory palaces, by which they have made You glad. Kings' daughters are among Your honorable women; at Your right hand stands the queen in gold from Ophir. (Psalm 45:6-9)

This righteousness comes through Jesus Christ,

the One who will rule forever and ever in the eternal kingdom of God. In addition, because God loves righteousness and hates wickedness, and because He is a just judge, He must punish sin for eternity.

Day 101 - April 11

Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; according to the multitude of Your tender mercies, blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against You, You only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Your sight—that You may be found just when You speak, and blameless when You judge. Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me. Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts, and in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom. (Psalm 51:1-6)

David wrote this psalm after his sin with Bathsheba. David knows that he sinned against God, and that God alone, through the work that Christ would perform on the cross, is able to blot out all of his transgressions and cleanse him from his sin.

Day 102 - April 12

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me hear joy and gladness, that the bones You have broken may rejoice. Hide Your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me by Your generous Spirit. Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners shall be converted to You. (Psalm 51:7-13)

The purging and cleansing that David describes is only possible through the saving work of Jesus Christ. He is the only one who can blot out all of the sins we commit against a holy God. He alone can renew a sinful heart and make it clean.

Day 103 - April 13

Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, the God of my salvation, and my tongue shall sing aloud of Your righteousness. O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall show forth Your praise. For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it; You do not delight in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart—these, O God, You will not despise. Do good in Your

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good pleasure to Zion; build the walls of Jerusalem. Then You shall be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, with burnt offering and whole burnt offering; then they shall offer bulls on Your altar. (Psalm 51:14-19)

This is similar to Psalm 40:6, which is quoted in Hebrews 10:5-6. God has no interest in people who follow religious rituals. But someone who has truly repented of sin and been born again in Christ will sincerely love God with a broken and contrite heart.

Day 104 - April 14

Blessed is the man You choose, and cause to approach You, that he may dwell in Your courts. We shall be satisfied with the goodness of Your house, of Your holy temple. ... You have ascended on high, You have led captivity captive; You have received gifts among men, even from the rebellious, that the Lord God might dwell there. Blessed be the Lord, Who daily loads us with benefits, the God of our salvation! Selah (Psalm 65:4; 68:18-19)

God chose Jesus as our Mediator, who alone can approach God on our behalf. And in salvation, God chooses those whom are saved and are allowed to enter heaven for eternity (see John 6:44). And Christ has set the captives free (see Luke 4:18).

Day 105 - April 15

O God, You know my foolishness; and my sins are not hidden from You. Let not those who wait for You, O Lord God of hosts, be ashamed because of me; let not those who seek You be confounded because of me, O God of Israel. Because for Your sake I have borne reproach; shame has covered my face. I have become a stranger to my brothers, and an alien to my mother's children; because zeal for Your house has eaten me up, and the reproaches of those who reproach You have fallen on me. (Psalm 69:5-9)

Jesus Christ bore reproach in order to accomplish the work on the cross to satisfy the justice required by His Father. Also, Jesus quoted the last verse when He cleansed the temple from those who were dishonestly selling things inside (see John 2:14-17).

Day 106 - April 16

You know my reproach, my shame, and my dishonor; my adversaries are all before You. Reproach has broken my heart, and I am full of heaviness; I looked for someone to take pity, but there was none; and for comforters, but I found none. They also gave me gall for my food, and for my thirst they gave me vinegar to

drink. (Psalm 69:19-21)

This passage, continuing in this psalm written by David, also speaks of the reproach borne by Jesus on the cross. We also find a foreshadowing in this psalm of the vinegar (or wine) that Jesus was offered while on the cross (see Matt. 27:34, 48).

Day 107 - April 17

Let their table become a snare before them, and their well-being a trap. Let their eyes be darkened, so that they do not see; and make their loins shake continually. Pour out Your indignation upon them, and let Your wrathful anger take hold of them. Let their dwelling place be desolate; let no one live in their tents. For they persecute the ones You have struck, and talk of the grief of those You have wounded. Add iniquity to their iniquity, and let them not come into Your righteousness. Let them be blotted out of the book of the living, and not be written with the righteous. (Psalm 69:22-28)

The only way anyone's name can be written in the book of the living is to be born again through salvation in Jesus Christ, when a person who is unrighteous becomes mercifully covered in the robe of Christ's perfect righteousness.

Day 108 - April 18

Give the king Your judgments, O God, and Your righteousness to the king's Son. He will judge Your people with righteousness, and Your poor with justice. The mountains will bring peace to the people, and the little hills, by righteousness. He will bring justice to the poor of the people; He will save the children of the needy, and will break in pieces the oppressor. They shall fear You as long as the sun and moon endure, throughout all generations. (Psalm 72:1-5)

Only Christ, the eternal King, the Son of God, possesses perfect righteousness, which He graciously gives to those whom He saves. In addition, God alone is the only one who is able to judge with perfect righteousness and justice.

Day 109 - April 19

He shall come down like rain upon the grass before mowing, like showers that water the earth. In His days the righteous shall flourish, and abundance of peace, until the moon is no more. He shall have dominion also from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth. Those who dwell in the wilderness will bow before Him, and His enemies will lick the dust. The kings of Tarshish and of the isles will bring presents; the kings of Sheba and Seba will offer

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gifts. Yes, all kings shall fall down before Him; all nations shall serve Him. (Psalm 72:6-11)

This passage describes the eternal reign of Christ, who will reign over all creation and be King forever. He will bring peace like nothing we have ever seen. Everyone, even those who are now His enemies, will bow before Him and serve Him in eternity.

Day 110 - April 20

For He will deliver the needy when he cries, the poor also, and him who has no helper. He will spare the poor and needy, and will save the souls of the needy. He will redeem their life from oppression and violence; and precious shall be their blood in His sight. And He shall live; and the gold of Sheba will be given to Him; prayer also will be made for Him continually, and daily He shall be praised. (Psalm 72:12-15)

This psalm continues to speak about the work that Christ performs. He is our great Deliverer, Savior, and Redeemer, not only from troubles in this life, but ultimately from an eternity in hell. He will live and reign forever, and we will praise Him forever.

Day 111 - April 21

There will be an abundance of grain in the earth, on the top of the mountains; its fruit shall wave like Lebanon; and those of the city shall flourish like grass of the earth. His name shall endure forever; His name shall continue as long as the sun. And men shall be blessed in Him; all nations shall call Him blessed. Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, Who only does wondrous things! And blessed be His glorious name forever! And let the whole earth be filled with His glory. Amen and Amen. (Psalm 72:16-19)

This is the conclusion of the psalm about Christ's eternal reign. His name will indeed endure forever, and all He does is wondrous! What a wonderful picture of eternity this psalm is for those who have been saved and born again in Jesus Christ.

Day 112 - April 22

For God is my King from of old, working salvation in the midst of the earth. ... You caused judgment to be heard from heaven; the earth feared and was still, when God arose to judgment, to deliver all the oppressed of the earth. Selah (Psalm 74:12; 76:8-9)

Christ has always been King and has always been the author of salvation (see Heb. 12:2). Christ is also the great Judge, the only one who can judge with perfectly righteous judgment (see 2 Tim. 4:8).

Day 113 - April 23

You have with Your arm redeemed Your people, the sons of Jacob and Joseph. Selah ... Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, You who lead Joseph like a flock; You who dwell between the cherubim, shine forth! ... You prepared room for it, and caused it to take deep root, and it filled the land. (Psalm 77:15; 8:1, 9)

Redemption of God's people is the work that Christ has performed through His death and resurrection. Christ is our Great Shepherd who leads His people like a flock (see John 10:11-16). The gospel of salvation in Christ is sure and now fills the earth.

Day 114 - April 24

And the vineyard which Your right hand has planted, and the branch that You made strong for Yourself. It is burned with fire, it is cut down; they perish at the rebuke of Your countenance. Let Your hand be upon the man of Your right hand, upon the son of man whom You made strong for Yourself. Then we will not turn back from You; revive us, and we will call upon Your name. Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; cause Your face to shine, and we shall be saved! (Psalm 80:15-19)

The branch, which is in some versions of the Bible translated "son", is a reference to Christ (see Jer. 23:5, 33:15 and Zech. 3:8, 6:12). Christ is at the right hand of God (see Heb. 1:3) and is the one who revives and restores those whom He saves.

Day 115 - April 25

You have forgiven the iniquity of Your people; You have covered all their sin. Selah. You have taken away all Your wrath; You have turned from the fierceness of Your anger. Restore us, O God of our salvation, and cause Your anger toward us to cease. Will You be angry with us forever? Will You prolong Your anger to all generations? Will You not revive us again, that Your people may rejoice in You? Show us Your mercy, Lord, and grant us Your salvation. (Psalm 85:2-7)

This is the work of Christ. He is the one who has forgiven the sin of His people and has taken away the wrath of God which we all deserve. Because of Christ's sacrifice of Himself, sin can be forgiven and God is not angry with His children forever.

Day 116 - April 26

"I will make mention of Rahab and Babylon to those who know Me; behold, O Philistia and Tyre, with Ethiopia: 'This one was born there.' " And of Zion it will be said, this one and that one

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were born in her; and the Most High Himself shall establish her.” The Lord will record, when He registers the peoples: “This one was born there.” Selah ... For I have said, “Mercy shall be built up forever; Your faithfulness You shall establish in the very heavens. I have made a covenant with My chosen, I have sworn to My servant David: ‘Your seed I will establish forever, and build up your throne to all generations.’ ” Selah (Psalm 87:4-6; 89:2-4) People from all over the world have been and will be saved, with all those names being recorded in the Lamb’s Book of Life (see Rev. 13:8). The second passage points to the eternal covenant of salvation that God has made with His people.

Day 117 - April 27

Then You spoke in a vision to Your holy one, and said: “I have given help to one who is mighty; I have exalted one chosen from the people. I have found My servant David; with My holy oil I have anointed him, with whom My hand shall be established; also My arm shall strengthen him. The enemy shall not outwit him, nor the son of wickedness afflict him. I will beat down his foes before his face, and plague those who hate him.” ... With which Your enemies have reproached, O Lord, with which they have reproached the footsteps of Your anointed. (Psalm 89:19-23, 51)

This psalm speaks of David, but also finds ultimate fulfillment in Christ. God chose David to be king, but ultimately, God chose Christ and anointed Him, and God has exalted and strengthened Christ to defeat the enemy of Satan and death.

Day 118 - April 28

“But My faithfulness and My mercy shall be with him, and in My name his horn shall be exalted. Also I will set his hand over the sea, and his right hand over the rivers. He shall cry to Me, ‘You are my Father, My God, and the rock of my salvation.’ Also I will make him My firstborn, the highest of the kings of the earth. My mercy I will keep for him forever, and My covenant shall stand firm with him. His seed also I will make to endure forever, and his throne as the days of heaven.” (Psalm 89:24-29)

Though He has existed for all eternity (see John 1:1-5), Christ is referred to as God’s firstborn (see Col. 1:15 and Heb. 1:6) because everyone whom God saves become adopted children, after Jesus. Christ is the highest King and will endure forever.

Day 119 - April 29

“If his sons forsake My law and do not walk in My judgments, if they break My statutes and do not keep My commandments, then I will punish their transgression with the rod, and their iniquity with stripes. Nevertheless My lovingkindness I will not utterly take from him, nor allow My faithfulness to fail. My covenant I will not break, nor alter the word that has gone out of My lips. Once I have sworn by My holiness; I will not lie to David: His seed shall endure forever, and his throne as the sun before Me; it shall be established forever like the moon, even like the faithful witness in the sky.” Selah (Psalm 89:30-37)

This passage gives a beautiful picture of God’s fatherly chastisement when one of His children sins against Him. Just as any loving father would do, He chastens His children in order to teach them, but it is done in love. True salvation can never be lost.

Day 120 - April 30

Oh, sing to the Lord a new song! For He has done marvelous things; His right hand and His holy arm have gained Him the victory. The Lord has made known His salvation; His righteousness He has revealed in the sight of the nations. He has remembered His mercy and His faithfulness to the house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. ... That Your beloved may be delivered, save with Your right hand, and hear me. (Psalm 98:1-3; 108:6)

Who sits at the right hand of God? Who has won the victory? Who has made known salvation and righteousness? Only Jesus Christ, through whose sacrifice we see the mercy of God. Through Christ, God delivers from hell those whom He loves.

Day 121 - May 1

You will arise and have mercy on Zion; for the time to favor her, yes, the set time, has come. For Your servants take pleasure in her stones, and show favor to her dust. So the nations shall fear the name of the Lord, and all the kings of the earth Your glory. ... “The children of Your servants will continue, and their descendants will be established before You.” (Psalm 102:13-15, 28)

Through Christ, God has mercy on His people whom He favors, who are often referred to in the Bible as Zion. And because God is sovereign over all things, we know that He will continue to save people from every generation.

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Day 122 - May 2

Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name! Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases, Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies, Who satisfies your mouth with good things, so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. (Psalm 103:1-5)

What is the focus here? Yes, God can heal our diseases and He provides for our needs, but just like Jesus' ministry on earth, most of these verses focus on the most important thing—forgiveness from sin and salvation from eternal destruction.

Day 123 - May 3

The Lord executes righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed. He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the children of Israel. The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in mercy. He will not always strive with us, nor will He keep His anger forever. He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor punished us according to our iniquities. (Psalm 103:6-10)

Because each of us has sinned mightily against our perfect, holy God, we all earn eternal punishment. But God has saved some and has not given His children what we deserve, so that we might understand His mercy, graciousness, and love.

Day 124 - May 4

For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us. As a father pities his children, so the Lord pities those who fear Him. For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust. (Psalm 103:11-14)

Through Christ's sacrifice, God removed the sins of His people as far away as the east is from the west. Think about this: if you go north, you will eventually be going south. But east and west never meet; you can go that way forever. God's mercy never ends.

Day 125 - May 5

As for man, his days are like grass; as a flower of the field, so he flourishes. For the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place remembers it no more. But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him, and His righteousness to

children's children, to such as keep His covenant, and to those who remember His commandments to do them. (Psalm 103:15-18)

We are able to possess the perfect righteousness of God only through the work that Christ performed on the cross, because only Christ could perfectly obey God. His mercy has always existed, just as Christ has always existed (see John 1:1-5).

Day 126 - May 6

Remember me, O Lord, with the favor You have toward Your people. Oh, visit me with Your salvation, that I may see the benefit of Your chosen ones, that I may rejoice in the gladness of Your nation, that I may glory with Your inheritance. We have sinned with our fathers, we have committed iniquity, we have done wickedly. Our fathers in Egypt did not understand Your wonders; they did not remember the multitude of Your mercies, but rebelled by the sea—the Red Sea. Nevertheless He saved them for His name's sake, that He might make His mighty power known. (Psalm 106:4-8)

This passage covers several important doctrines. God initiates salvation and chooses whom He will save, although we have sinned wickedly against Him. God doesn't save because we deserve it; He saves to show forth His mercy and mighty power.

Day 127 - May 7

The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool." The Lord shall send the rod of Your strength out of Zion. Rule in the midst of Your enemies! Your people shall be volunteers in the day of Your power; in the beauties of holiness, from the womb of the morning, You have the dew of Your youth. (Psalm 110:1-3)

The only way the phrase "the Lord said to my Lord" (sometimes translated "the Lord said to His Word") could make sense is if it is God the Father speaking to Christ, His Son. Both are equal parts of the Godhead Trinity and both have always existed.

Day 128 - May 8

The Lord has sworn and will not relent, "You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek." The Lord is at Your right hand; He shall execute kings in the day of His wrath. He shall judge among the nations, He shall fill the places with dead bodies, He shall execute the heads of many countries. He shall drink of the brook by the wayside; therefore He shall lift up the head. (Psalm 110:4-7)

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The priest Melchizedek, to whom Abram paid tithes (see Gen. 14:17-24), lived before the Levites were priests in Israel. God used this example to show that Christ was superior to the Levitical priesthood. See Hebrews 7 for an in-depth explanation of this.

Day 129 - May 9

The works of His hands are verity and justice; all His precepts are sure. They stand fast forever and ever, and are done in truth and uprightness. He has sent redemption to His people; He has commanded His covenant forever: holy and awesome is His name. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; a good understanding have all those who do His commandments. His praise endures forever. (Psalm 111:7-10)

God's law never changes. Its purpose is to help us understand the nature of God and to help us see how sinful we are compared to God. Because none of us is able to keep God's law on our own, he sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to redeem His people.

Day 130 - May 10

Unto the upright there arises light in the darkness; He is gracious, and full of compassion, and righteous. A good man deals graciously and lends; he will guide his affairs with discretion. Surely he will never be shaken; the righteous will be in everlasting remembrance. He will not be afraid of evil tidings; his heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord. His heart is established; he will not be afraid, until he sees his desire upon his enemies. He has dispersed abroad, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever; his horn will be exalted with honor. (Psalm 112:4-9)

The first phrase here has multiple applications, one of which is Christ, who is the Light that arose in the darkness (see John 1:5). The last few verses apply to believers because of what Christ has done. He has given us His perfect, eternal righteousness.

Day 131 - May 11

What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits toward me? I will take up the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the Lord. I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people. Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints. O Lord, truly I am Your servant; I am Your servant, the son of Your maidservant; You have loosed my bonds. (Psalm 116:12-16)

The thankful spirit of this psalm is an attitude that

all Christians should have. For believers, God has given us innumerable benefits, from blessings in this life to eternal salvation through Jesus Christ. He has loosened the bondage of sin for us.

Day 132 - May 12

The Lord is my strength and song, and He has become my salvation. The voice of rejoicing and salvation is in the tents of the righteous; the right hand of the Lord does valiantly. The right hand of the Lord is exalted; the right hand of the Lord does valiantly. I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord. The Lord has chastened me severely, but He has not given me over to death. (Psalm 118:14-18)

Those who have been born again can joyfully say those words, "I shall not die, but live," because Jesus Christ paid the sin debt to God that each of us owes. Like any good father, God chastens and corrects His children out of love (see Heb. 12:5-11).

Day 133 - May 13

Open to me the gates of righteousness; I will go through them, and I will praise the Lord. This is the gate of the Lord, through which the righteous shall enter. I will praise You, for You have answered me, and have become my salvation. The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This was the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. (Psalm 118:19-23)

Jesus quoted the last two verses, applying them to Himself and using it against the Pharisees, the Jewish religious leaders who had rejected Him. But Jesus is the chief cornerstone of the foundation, and this is indeed marvelous in our eyes!

Day 134 - May 14

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! We have blessed you from the house of the Lord. God is the Lord, and He has given us light; bind the sacrifice with cords to the horns of the altar. You are my God, and I will praise You; You are my God, I will exalt You. Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever. (Psalm 118:26-29)

Not only has God given us the light of the sun to provide for our physical needs on this earth, He has also given us Christ, the light of the world, to shine in the darkness in order to reveal our sin to us and to save some of us from our sin (see John 8:12).

Day 135 - May 15

Let Your mercies come also to me, O Lord— Your salvation according to Your word. So shall

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I have an answer for him who reproaches me, for I trust in Your word. And take not the word of truth utterly out of my mouth, for I have hoped in Your ordinances. So shall I keep Your law continually, forever and ever. And I will walk at liberty, for I seek Your precepts. (Psalm 119:41-45)

The longest chapter in the Bible is all about God's law. His law is not a boring set of rules but it helps us to understand who God is. God's law shows us how sinful we are and how much we need a Savior who came to fulfill the law (see Matt. 5:17-20).

Day 136 - May 16

Remember the word to Your servant, upon which You have caused me to hope. This is my comfort in my affliction, for Your word has given me life. The proud have me in great derision, yet I do not turn aside from Your law. I remembered Your judgments of old, O Lord, and have comforted myself. Indignation has taken hold of me because of the wicked, who forsake Your law. (Psalm 119:49-53)

"Your word has given me life." Not only do we find the path to eternal life within the pages of the Bible, but the living Word, Jesus Christ, is Himself the way to eternal life (see John 1:1-5, 14 and Rev. 19:13). Literally, the Word, Jesus, gives us life.

Day 137 - May 17

Let the proud be ashamed, for they treated me wrongfully with falsehood; but I will meditate on Your precepts. Let those who fear You turn to me, those who know Your testimonies. Let my heart be blameless regarding Your statutes, that I may not be ashamed. My soul faints for Your salvation, but I hope in Your word. My eyes fail from searching Your word, saying, "When will You comfort me?" (Psalm 119:78-82)

Christ was treated wrongfully with falsehood during the trial prior to His crucifixion. Many believers have also endured mistreatment because they sought to spread the gospel. But our hope is in God's Word—the Bible as well as the living Word, Jesus.

Day 138 - May 18

Forever, O Lord, Your word is settled in heaven. Your faithfulness endures to all generations; You established the earth, and it abides. They continue this day according to Your ordinances, for all are Your servants. Unless Your law had been my delight, I would then have perished in my affliction. I will never forget Your precepts, for by them You have given me life. (Psalm 119:89-93)

God's word, the Bible, never changes, just as the Living Word, Jesus Christ, also never changes and now resides in heaven. We should delight in God's law because it shows us who He is, and also in the One who came to fulfill the law and give us life.

Day 139 - May 19

The entrance of Your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple. I opened my mouth and panted, for I longed for Your commandments. Look upon me and be merciful to me, as Your custom is toward those who love Your name. Direct my steps by Your word, and let no iniquity have dominion over me. Redeem me from the oppression of man, that I may keep Your precepts. (Psalm 119:130-134)

God's law shines a light on our darkness, showing us how sinful we are (John 3:19-21, 8:12; Rom. 7:7). The law acted as a tutor to bring us to Christ (Gal. 3:24), and only Christ could fully obey the law so He could take the punishment that we deserve.

Day 140 - May 20

Your word is very pure; therefore Your servant loves it. I am small and despised, yet I do not forget Your precepts. Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and Your law is truth. Trouble and anguish have overtaken me, yet Your commandments are my delights. The righteousness of Your testimonies is everlasting; give me understanding, and I shall live. (Psalm 119:140-144)

God's written Word, the Bible, is pure, in that it is a reflection of God Himself and it contains no errors. Similarly, the Living Word, Jesus Christ, is wholly pure, which is why His sacrifice is the only way we could ever receive God's perfect righteousness.

Day 141 - May 21

Hear my voice according to Your lovingkindness; O Lord, revive me according to Your justice. Plead my cause and redeem me; revive me according to Your word. Salvation is far from the wicked, for they do not seek Your statutes. Great are Your tender mercies, O Lord; revive me according to Your judgments. (Psalm 119:149, 154-156)

The revival of a dead heart, the completely pure justice of God, the redemption of lost souls, the tender mercies of God, the salvation of the Lord—all these wonderful, amazing benefits come to the believer through the Savior, Jesus Christ.

Day 142 - May 22

Consider how I love Your precepts; revive me,

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O Lord, according to Your lovingkindness. The entirety of Your word is truth, and every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever. Princes persecute me without a cause, but my heart stands in awe of Your word. I rejoice at Your word as one who finds great treasure. I hate and abhor lying, but I love Your law. (Psalm 119:159-163)

Jesus Himself was persecuted, and He told us that any of us who are His true followers should expect nothing different from unbelievers in the world (see John 15:20). But no matter what, we can always find comfort when we spend time in God's Word.

Day 143 - May 23

Great peace have those who love Your law, and nothing causes them to stumble. Lord, I hope for Your salvation, and I do Your commandments. My soul keeps Your testimonies, and I love them exceedingly. I keep Your precepts and Your testimonies, for all my ways are before You. Let my cry come before You, O Lord; give me understanding according to Your word. Let my supplication come before You; deliver me according to Your word. (Psalm 119:165-170)

Deliverance does come according to God's Word. His written word shows us our sinfulness and need of a Savior, and His Living Word, Christ, was sent to take our punishment. After salvation, obeying God's law shows the world that we are different.

Day 144 - May 24

My tongue shall speak of Your word, for all Your commandments are righteousness. Let Your hand become my help, for I have chosen Your precepts. I long for Your salvation, O Lord, and Your law is my delight. Let my soul live, and it shall praise You; and let Your judgments help me. I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek Your servant, for I do not forget Your commandments. (Psalm 119:172-176)

As the entirety of Psalm 119 reminds us, God's Word, God's law, God's Son are all one in the same. God's Son is the Living Word who came to fulfill God's law. In Him alone is salvation, and He seeks His people as a shepherd seeks lost sheep.

Day 145 - May 25

Out of the depths I have cried to You, O Lord; Lord, hear my voice! Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications. If You, Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You, that You may be feared. (Psalm 130:1-4)

Our sins against God are uncountable; no one can stand before our holy God on their own merits and expect to get into heaven. But we can be thankful that He offers forgiveness for our sins for those who repent and trust in Jesus Christ.

Day 146 - May 26

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in His word I do hope. My soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning—yes, more than those who watch for the morning. O Israel, hope in the Lord; for with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is abundant redemption. And He shall redeem Israel from all his iniquities. (Psalm 130:5-8)

God's Word never fails, so we must trust His Word (both His written Word, the Bible, and the living Word, Jesus Christ) and wait on the Lord, for His timing is always perfect. Our redemption from our iniquities comes only through salvation in Christ.

Day 147 - May 27

Let Your priests be clothed with righteousness, and let Your saints shout for joy. For Your servant David's sake, do not turn away the face of Your Anointed. The Lord has sworn in truth to David; He will not turn from it: "I will set upon your throne the fruit of your body. If your sons will keep My covenant and My testimony which I shall teach them, their sons also shall sit upon your throne forevermore." (Psalm 132:9-12)

David was anointed to be king of Israel for a time, but the eternal Anointed One to whom this psalm ultimately refers is Christ. David's descendants will continue to sit upon the throne forever because Christ, the eternal King, is a descendant of David.

Day 148 - May 28

For the Lord has chosen Zion; He has desired it for His dwelling place: "This is My resting place forever; here I will dwell, for I have desired it. I will abundantly bless her provision; I will satisfy her poor with bread. I will also clothe her priests with salvation, and her saints shall shout aloud for joy. There I will make the horn of David grow; I will prepare a lamp for My Anointed. His enemies I will clothe with shame, but upon Himself His crown shall flourish." (Psalm 132:13-18)

This passage refers to a combination of heaven and the church, which is the Lord's dwelling place as well as the people whom He blesses. The horn of David and His Anointed both refer to Christ, whose enemies will face God's wrath in shame.

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Day 149 - May 29

I will worship toward Your holy temple, and praise Your name for Your lovingkindness and Your truth; for You have magnified Your word above all Your name. ... Though the Lord is on high, yet He regards the lowly; but the proud He knows from afar. Though I walk in the midst of trouble, You will revive me; You will stretch out Your hand against the wrath of my enemies, and Your right hand will save me. The Lord will perfect that which concerns me; Your mercy, O Lord, endures forever; do not forsake the works of Your hands. (Psalm 138:2, 6-8)

Christ, the coming Messiah, is magnified by God above all things. He saves those who are humble, but resists those who are proud (see James 4:6 and 1 Peter 5:5). Salvation comes through Christ, who sits at the right hand of God (see Heb. 10:12).

Day 150 - May 30

Hear my prayer, O Lord, give ear to my supplications! In Your faithfulness answer me, and in Your righteousness. Do not enter into judgment with Your servant, for in Your sight no one living is righteous. ... Revive me, O Lord, for Your name's sake! For Your righteousness' sake bring my soul out of trouble. In Your mercy cut off my enemies, and destroy all those who afflict my soul; for I am Your servant. (Psalm 143:1-2, 11-12)

God saves people not because of anything we have done but for the sake of His name and His righteousness, so all may see how merciful He is. Those who are saved are covered in Christ's righteousness, so we are not judged by our deeds.

Day 151 - May 31

The One who gives salvation to kings, who delivers David His servant from the deadly sword. Rescue me and deliver me from the hand of foreigners, whose mouth speaks lying words, and whose right hand is a right hand of falsehood ... Happy are the people who are in such a state; happy are the people whose God is the Lord! (Psalm 144:10-11, 15)

God, through Christ, is the One who gives salvation and the one who delivers and rescues His people from their enemies. Those who have received that gift of salvation can be happy even in the midst of trouble because we have eternal joy in Christ.

Day 152 - June 1

For the Lord takes pleasure in His people; He will beautify the humble with salvation. Let the saints be joyful in glory; let them sing aloud on

their beds. Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a two-edged sword in their hand, to execute vengeance on the nations, and punishments on the peoples; to bind their kings with chains, and their nobles with fetters of iron; to execute on them the written judgment—this honor have all His saints. Praise the Lord! (Psalm 149:4-9)

The two-edged sword is the Word of God, through the power given to those all saints—everyone who is a true Christian—to use God's Word to rebuke sinners and share the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ (see Eph. 6:17 and Heb. 4:12).

Day 153 - June 2

Wisdom calls aloud outside; She raises her voice in the open squares. She cries out in the chief concourses, at the openings of the gates in the city She speaks her words: "How long, you simple ones, will you love simplicity? For scorers delight in their scorning, and fools hate knowledge. Turn at my rebuke; surely I will pour out my spirit on you; I will make my words known to you." (Proverbs 1:20-23)

Throughout the book of Proverbs, the preincarnate Christ is referred to by the name of "Wisdom", since Proverbs is full of wisdom and Christ possesses all wisdom and knowledge. Picture Christ saying these words, rebuking fools to turn from their sinful ways.

Day 154 - June 3

"Because I have called and you refused, I have stretched out my hand and no one regarded, because you disdained all my counsel, and would have none of my rebuke, I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your terror comes, when your terror comes like a storm, and your destruction comes like a whirlwind, when distress and anguish come upon you. Then they will call on me, but I will not answer; they will seek me diligently, but they will not find me." (Proverbs 1:24-28)

Christ, called Wisdom, speaks against those who refuse to come to the Savior (see Rom. 10:20-21 and Luke 7:30). Jesus warned that the time of salvation is now; a time will come when He will not answer (see John 7:34 and Luke 13:24-25).

Day 155 - June 4

"Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the Lord, they would have none of my counsel and despised my every rebuke. Therefore they shall eat the fruit of their own way, and be filled to the full with their own fancies. For the turning away of the simple will

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slay them, and the complacency of fools will destroy them; but whoever listens to me will dwell safely, and will be secure, without fear of evil.” (Proverbs 1:29-33)

Christ continues to speak here about those who do not repent, rejecting salvation in Him. But Christ ends His words on a positive note, reminding us that those who listen to Him and obey Him, those who are truly His, will be safe and should not fear.

Day 156 - June 5

When wisdom enters your heart, and knowledge is pleasant to your soul, discretion will preserve you; understanding will keep you, to deliver you from the way of evil, from the man who speaks perverse things, from those who leave the paths of uprightness to walk in the ways of darkness; who rejoice in doing evil, and delight in the perversity of the wicked; whose ways are crooked, and who are devious in their paths. (Proverbs 2:10-15)

This is a list of some things that take place when wisdom enters one's heart, when the Holy Spirit comes in through salvation in Jesus Christ. When that happens, a sinful person now has the new ability to choose good things that honor God.

Day 157 - June 6

...to deliver you from the immoral woman, from the seductress who flatters with her words, who forsakes the companion of her youth, and forgets the covenant of her God. For her house leads down to death, and her paths to the dead; none who go to her return, nor do they regain the paths of life—so you may walk in the way of goodness, and keep to the paths of righteousness. For the upright will dwell in the land, and the blameless will remain in it; but the wicked will be cut off from the earth, and the unfaithful will be uprooted from it. (Proverbs 2:16-22)

This is a continuation of the previous passage and explains how the indwelling Holy Spirit can help keep us from a sinful seductress. Instead, the now-reborn person can run away from such sin and run to God, walking in the paths of righteousness.

Day 158 - June 7

The Lord by wisdom founded the earth; by understanding He established the heavens; by His knowledge the depths were broken up, and clouds drop down the dew. My son, let them not depart from your eyes—keep sound wisdom and discretion; so they will be life to your soul and grace to your neck. (Proverbs 3:19-22)

The parallels in the first verse of this passage are fascinating. Not only did God use His all-knowing, perfect wisdom when He created everything, but in addition, God created everything through Wisdom Himself, Jesus Christ (see John 1:3).

Day 159 - June 8

“Get wisdom! Get understanding! Do not forget, nor turn away from the words of my mouth. Do not forsake her, and she will preserve you; love her, and she will keep you. Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom. And in all your getting, get understanding. Exalt her, and she will promote you; she will bring you honor, when you embrace her. She will place on your head an ornament of grace; a crown of glory she will deliver to you.” (Proverbs 4:5-9)

Solomon recounts the wisdom his father, David, gave him when he was young. But beyond just being wise, think again of “wisdom” as “Christ.” He will preserve those who truly follow and love Him. We exalt Him and He gives His people grace.

Day 160 - June 9

Hear, my son, and receive my sayings, and the years of your life will be many. I have taught you in the way of wisdom; I have led you in right paths. When you walk, your steps will not be hindered, and when you run, you will not stumble. Take firm hold of instruction, do not let go; keep her, for she is your life. (Proverbs 4:10-13)

The instruction of wisdom, pointing to the law of God and ultimately to Christ, is indeed the only source of eternal life. In addition, the wisdom we receive through Christ enables us to choose to do what is right so we can run without stumbling.

Day 161 - June 10

My son, keep your father's command, and do not forsake the law of your mother. Bind them continually upon your heart; tie them around your neck. When you roam, they will lead you; when you sleep, they will keep you; and when you awake, they will speak with you. For the commandment is a lamp, and the law a light; reproofs of instruction are the way of life, to keep you from the evil woman, from the flattering tongue of a seductress. (Proverbs 6:20-24)

While obeying the law of God can never earn someone salvation because no one can obey it perfectly, the law is a lamp and a light in two ways. It shines in the darkness of our hearts to show us our sin, and it leads us to the Light, Jesus Christ.

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Day 162 - June 11

Whoever commits adultery with a woman lacks understanding; he who does so destroys his own soul. Wounds and dishonor he will get, and his reproach will not be wiped away. For jealousy is a husband's fury; therefore he will not spare in the day of vengeance. He will accept no recompense, nor will he be appeased though you give many gifts. (Proverbs 6:32-35)

Sexual sin is so common yet it destroys families and dishonors God. Yet this passage, too, points to Christ, the husband or bridegroom of the church, who is jealous for His people in a godly way, desiring that we would cling to Him and forsake sin.

Day 163 - June 12

My son, keep my words, and treasure my commands within you. Keep my commands and live, and my law as the apple of your eye. Bind them on your fingers; write them on the tablet of your heart. Say to wisdom, "You are my sister," and call understanding your nearest kin, that they may keep you from the immoral woman, from the seductress who flatters with her words. (Proverbs 7:1-5)

Again, wisdom and understanding ultimately points to Christ. When He saves a person and the Holy Spirit comes to dwell within, only then are we able to love the law of God, flee from sins (sexual and otherwise), and live in such a way that honors God.

Day 164 - June 13

Does not wisdom cry out, and understanding lift up her voice? She takes her stand on the top of the high hill, beside the way, where the paths meet. She cries out by the gates, at the entry of the city, at the entrance of the doors: "To you, O men, I call, and my voice is to the sons of men. O you simple ones, understand prudence, and you fools, be of an understanding heart." (Proverbs 8:1-5)

The eighth chapter of Proverbs is amazing to read since the entire chapter consists of the preincarnate Christ, called Wisdom, speaking to us nearly 1,000 years before He came to earth. Unbelievers are "fools", as He also said later (see Matt. 23:17-19).

Day 165 - June 14

"Listen, for I will speak of excellent things, and from the opening of my lips will come right things; for my mouth will speak truth; wickedness is an abomination to my lips. All the words of my mouth are with righteousness; nothing crooked or perverse is in them. They are all plain to him who understands, and right

to those who find knowledge. Receive my instruction, and not silver, and knowledge rather than choice gold; for wisdom is better than rubies, and all the things one may desire cannot be compared with her." (Proverbs 8:6-11)

Christ continues to speak. As is always the case, He can only speak right things and truth. He alone is the only source of complete righteousness. True believers who know Him understand these things plainly, unlike those who desire worldly treasures.

Day 166 - June 15

"I, wisdom, dwell with prudence, and find out knowledge and discretion. The fear of the Lord is to hate evil; pride and arrogance and the evil way and the perverse mouth I hate. Counsel is mine, and sound wisdom; I am understanding, I have strength. By me kings reign, and rulers decree justice. By me princes rule, and nobles, all the judges of the earth." (Proverbs 8:12-16)

Christ calls Himself "Wisdom" here and continues to share godly wisdom. He reminds us of how much He hates evil, pride, arrogance, and the perverse mouth. All things that occur on earth, even choices made by kings and judges, are governed by Christ.

Day 167 - June 16

"I love those who love me, and those who seek me diligently will find me. Riches and honor are with me, enduring riches and righteousness. My fruit is better than gold, yes, than fine gold, and my revenue than choice silver. I traverse the way of righteousness, in the midst of the paths of justice, that I may cause those who love me to inherit wealth, that I may fill their treasuries." (Proverbs 8:17-21)

When Christ was on earth, He echoed the words that He had earlier said here (see John 14:21-23). His path of righteousness is far better than earthly treasures, and true spiritual fruit comes through Christ alone (see Matt. 7:15-20 and John 15:1-8).

Day 168 - June 17

"The Lord possessed me at the beginning of His way, before His works of old. I have been established from everlasting, from the beginning, before there was ever an earth. When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no fountains abounding with water. Before the mountains were settled, before the hills, I was brought forth; while as yet He had not made the earth or the fields, or the primal dust of the world." (Proverbs 8:22-26)
If you had any lingering doubts as to whether or not

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this is Christ speaking, this passage makes it totally clear. The speaker has always existed, even before the earth was created. That could be none other than Jesus Christ (see John 1:1-14 and Heb. 1:2).

Day 169 - June 18

“When He prepared the heavens, I was there, when He drew a circle on the face of the deep, when He established the clouds above, when He strengthened the fountains of the deep, when He assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters would not transgress His command, when He marked out the foundations of the earth, then I was beside Him as a master craftsman; and I was daily His delight, rejoicing always before Him, rejoicing in His inhabited world, and my delight was with the sons of men.” (Proverbs 8:27-31)

Christ continues to tell us how He has always existed, even before creation. Christ was the “master craftsman” through whom all things were created (see John 1:3 and Col. 1:16-17, and is His Father’s delight (see Isa. 42:1 and Matt. 3:17).

Day 170 - June 19

“Now therefore, listen to me, my children, for blessed are those who keep my ways. Hear instruction and be wise, and do not disdain it. Blessed is the man who listens to me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors. For whoever finds me finds life, and obtains favor from the Lord; but he who sins against me wrongs his own soul; all those who hate me love death.” (Proverbs 8:32-36)

His eternal existence firmly established, Christ tells us that we must listen and obey what He says in order to be wise and blessed. Whoever finds Christ finds eternal life (see John 14:6), while those who hate Him face eternal death (see John 15:23-24).

Day 171 - June 20

The mouth of the righteous is a well of life, but violence covers the mouth of the wicked. Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all sins. Wisdom is found on the lips of him who has understanding, but a rod is for the back of him who is devoid of understanding. ... When the whirlwind passes by, the wicked is no more, but the righteous has an everlasting foundation. (Proverbs 10:11-13, 25)

This reminds us that our words should point the way to eternal life. And not only does love between people help right the wrongs we commit against each other, but ultimately, Christ’s love and His shed blood cover all sins of those who trust in Him.

Day 172 - June 21

Riches do not profit in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death. The righteousness of the blameless will direct his way aright, but the wicked will fall by his own wickedness. The righteousness of the upright will deliver them, but the unfaithful will be caught by their lust. When a wicked man dies, his expectation will perish, and the hope of the unjust perishes. The righteous is delivered from trouble, and it comes to the wicked instead. The hypocrite with his mouth destroys his neighbor, but through knowledge the righteous will be delivered. (Proverbs 11:4-9)

How can we possess complete righteousness and be blameless before God? Only through salvation, when Christ gives us His perfect righteousness, is that made possible. Believers are delivered by our righteousness, which is given to us by Christ.

Day 173 - June 22

The merciful man does good for his own soul, but he who is cruel troubles his own flesh. The wicked man does deceptive work, but he who sows righteousness will have a sure reward. As righteousness leads to life, so he who pursues evil pursues it to his own death. Those who are of a perverse heart are an abomination to the Lord, but the blameless in their ways are His delight. Though they join forces, the wicked will not go unpunished; but the posterity of the righteous will be delivered. (Proverbs 11:17-21)

This passage again speaks of things God provides to His children through Christ as part of salvation. We receive righteousness, life, and deliverance, and through the sacrifice of Christ, we are made blameless before God and we become His delight.

Day 174 - June 23

In the way of righteousness is life, and in its pathway there is no death. ... The wrath of a king is like the roaring of a lion; whoever provokes him to anger sins against his own life. (Proverbs 12:28; 20:2)

The way of righteousness is to repent, believe, and follow Christ, and those who follow that path face no death but receive eternal life. The second verse is true for earthly kings but moreso for Christ; those who anger Him and do not repent sin unto death.

Day 175 - June 24

Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but when the desire comes, it is a tree of life. He who despises the word will be destroyed, but he who fears the commandment will be rewarded.

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The law of the wise is a fountain of life, to turn one away from the snares of death. ... He who spares his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him promptly. (Proverbs 13:12-14, 24)

Christ is alluded to as the tree of life in the new heaven and earth (see Rev. 22:2). Those who despise the living Word, Christ, will be sent to eternal destruction in hell. Like a good father, God disciplines His children in love (see Heb. 12:6-8).

Day 176 - June 25

A true witness delivers souls, but a deceitful witness speaks lies. In the fear of the Lord there is strong confidence, and His children will have a place of refuge. The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, to turn one away from the snares of death. ... The wicked is banished in his wickedness, but the righteous has a refuge in his death. (Proverbs 14:25-27, 32)

Christ is the source of the fountain containing the eternal water of life (see John 4:10 and Rev. 21:6) and is the only way to escape the snares of eternal death. Those who are saved have a refuge when they die because of Christ's righteousness.

Day 177 - June 26

All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes, but the Lord weighs the spirits. Commit your works to the Lord, and your thoughts will be established. The Lord has made all for Himself, yes, even the wicked for the day of doom. Everyone proud in heart is an abomination to the Lord; though they join forces, none will go unpunished. In mercy and truth atonement is provided for iniquity; and by the fear of the Lord one departs from evil. (Proverbs 16:2-6)

Atonement for our iniquities was provided by the sacrifice of Christ, through His mercy. God even created the wicked for the day of doom, to display His justice and wrath against sin (see Rom. 9:19-23). Following Christ is the way to depart from evil.

Day 178 - June 27

How much better to get wisdom than gold! And to get understanding is to be chosen rather than silver. The highway of the upright is to depart from evil; he who keeps his way preserves his soul. Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall. Better to be of a humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud. He who heeds the word wisely will find good, and whoever trusts in the Lord, happy is he. (Proverbs 16:16-20)

Christ, who is true wisdom and understanding, is indeed infinitely better than any earthly treasures. Repenting of pride and being humble is something Jesus preached about frequently during His time on earth (see Matt. 23:12 and Luke 14:11; 18:9-14).

Day 179 - June 28

He who mocks the poor reproaches his Maker; he who is glad at calamity will not go unpunished. Children's children are the crown of old men, and the glory of children is their father. Excellent speech is not becoming to a fool, much less lying lips to a prince. A present is a precious stone in the eyes of its possessor; wherever he turns, he prospers. He who covers a transgression seeks love, but he who repeats a matter separates friends. Rebuke is more effective for a wise man than a hundred blows on a fool. (Proverbs 17:5-10)

There is a wide array of good advice and wisdom in this passage, but the next-to-last verse is the one that especially points to Christ. In an act of amazing love and sacrifice, He paid the price that we owe in order to cover the transgressions of God's children.

Day 180 - June 29

Whoever rewards evil for good, evil will not depart from his house. The beginning of strife is like releasing water; therefore stop contention before a quarrel starts. He who justifies the wicked, and he who condemns the just, both of them alike are an abomination to the Lord. Why is there in the hand of a fool the purchase price of wisdom, since he has no heart for it? A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity. (Proverbs 17:13-17)

Jesus Christ is both the friend (see John 15:12-17) and the brother (see Mark 3:31-35). If you truly belong to Him, He will never fail to love you just as He has promised. He is also our Brother, and stands by us during the good and the bad.

Day 181 - June 30

The words of a man's mouth are deep waters; the wellspring of wisdom is a flowing brook. ... The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe. ... A man who has friends must himself be friendly, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother. ... He who keeps the commandment keeps his soul, but he who is careless of his ways will die. (Proverbs 18:4, 10, 24; 19:16)

Jesus is the friend who sticks closer than a brother (see John 15:12-17). If God has truly saved you,

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He will never leave nor forsake you (see Joshua 1:5 and Heb. 13:5). Keeping God's commandments is evidence that one's soul has been rescued.

Day 182 - July 1

He who gets wisdom loves his own soul; he who keeps understanding will find good. A false witness will not go unpunished, and he who speaks lies shall perish. Luxury is not fitting for a fool, much less for a servant to rule over princes. The discretion of a man makes him slow to anger, and his glory is to overlook a transgression. The king's wrath is like the roaring of a lion, but his favor is like dew on the grass. (Proverbs 19:8-12)

God receives glory in the forgiveness of sin, when He saves someone through the sacrifice of Christ and is able to overlook our transgressions because He paid the price that we owe. But those who remain lost in their sin face the wrath of the King.

Day 183 - July 2

The fear of the Lord leads to life, and he who has it will abide in satisfaction; he will not be visited with evil. ... A man who wanders from the way of understanding will rest in the assembly of the dead. ... He who follows righteousness and mercy finds life, righteousness, and honor. ... The horse is prepared for the day of battle, but deliverance is of the Lord. (Proverbs 19:23; 21:16, 21, 31)

The fear of the Lord leads to eternal life through Jesus Christ, and eternal life can only be found in the righteousness and mercy of Christ. Deliverance from trials and troubles in this life, but ultimately from eternal punishment, indeed is of the Lord.

Day 184 - July 3

The righteous man walks in his integrity; his children are blessed after him. A king who sits on the throne of judgment scatters all evil with his eyes. Who can say, "I have made my heart clean, I am pure from my sin"? Diverse weights and diverse measures, they are both alike, an abomination to the Lord. Even a child is known by his deeds, whether what he does is pure and right. The hearing ear and the seeing eye, the Lord has made them both. (Proverbs 20:7-12)

No one can say "I have made my heart clean, I am pure from my sin." We are unable to accomplish that on our own apart from salvation in Christ. But we are able to recognize our sinful condition when God grants us ears to hear and eyes to see.

Day 185 - July 4

A wise king sifts out the wicked, and brings the threshing wheel over them. The spirit of a man is the lamp of the Lord, searching all the inner depths of his heart. Mercy and truth preserve the king, and by lovingkindness he upholds his throne. The glory of young men is their strength, and the splendor of old men is their gray head. Blows that hurt cleanse away evil, as do stripes the inner depths of the heart. (Proverbs 20:26-30)

Jesus Christ is the wisest King of all, and He easily sifts out the saved from the lost (see Matt. 13:24-30 and Luke 3:16-17). God may chasten His children so much that it hurts because He loves us and wants us to be free from evil (see Heb. 12:5-11).

Day 186 - July 5

A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, loving favor rather than silver and gold. The rich and the poor have this in common, the Lord is the maker of them all. A prudent man foresees evil and hides himself, but the simple pass on and are punished. By humility and the fear of the Lord are riches and honor and life. ... He who loves purity of heart and has grace on his lips, the king will be his friend. (Proverbs 22:1-4, 11)

Just as Jesus frequently taught, eternal life is unimaginably better than earthly riches (see Matt. 6:19-24). Those of us who have received God's gift of grace and eternal life can call King Jesus our friend (see Matt. 5:8 and John 15:13-17).

Day 187 - July 6

Do not remove the ancient landmark, nor enter the fields of the fatherless; for their Redeemer is mighty; He will plead their cause against you. Apply your heart to instruction, and your ears to words of knowledge. Do not withhold correction from a child, for if you beat him with a rod, he will not die. You shall beat him with a rod, and deliver his soul from hell. (Proverbs 23:10-14)

Indeed, our Redeemer is mighty, and He is victorious over all who stand against Him. Good parents should chasten and discipline their children out of love, to teach them right from wrong, just as God does for His children (see Heb. 12:5-11).

Day 188 - July 7

My son, if your heart is wise, my heart will rejoice—indeed, I myself; yes, my inmost being will rejoice when your lips speak right things. Do not let your heart envy sinners, but be

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zealous for the fear of the Lord all the day; for surely there is a hereafter, and your hope will not be cut off. Hear, my son, and be wise; and guide your heart in the way. (Proverbs 23:15-19)

True wisdom comes from Christ, after a new birth within the heart. Sometimes believers foolishly envy sinners who seem to be prospering, but we must keep eternity in view and stay focused on bringing God the glory because our hope will not be cut off.

Day 189 - July 8

Listen to your father who begot you, and do not despise your mother when she is old. Buy the truth, and do not sell it, also wisdom and instruction and understanding. The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice, and he who begets a wise child will delight in him. Let your father and your mother be glad, and let her who bore you rejoice. My son, give me your heart, and let your eyes observe my ways. (Proverbs 23:22-26)

This passage can be understood of wisdom from a father to his children, or as wisdom from God to His children. The last verse, in particular, are the words of God to His children through Christ. He receives our hearts in salvation, and we follow His ways.

Day 190 - July 9

My son, eat honey because it is good, and the honeycomb which is sweet to your taste; so shall the knowledge of wisdom be to your soul; if you have found it, there is a prospect, and your hope will not be cut off. Do not lie in wait, O wicked man, against the dwelling of the righteous; do not plunder his resting place; for a righteous man may fall seven times and rise again, but the wicked shall fall by calamity. (Proverbs 24:13-16)

Anyone who has found true wisdom by receiving salvation in Christ can be assured that hope will not be cut off. We also see here how God always protects His people, but unrepentant people who remain enemies of God have no such promise.

Day 191 - July 10

Take away the wicked from before the king, and his throne will be established in righteousness. Do not exalt yourself in the presence of the king, and do not stand in the place of the great; for it is better that he say to you, "Come up here," than that you should be put lower in the presence of the prince, whom your eyes have seen. ... It is not good to eat much honey; so to seek one's own glory is not glory. (Proverbs 25:5-7, 27)

In eternity, there will be no more wickedness or sin, so the throne King Jesus will be established in righteousness. Before God, we have no right to exalt ourselves or seek our own glory; all exaltation, glory, and honor belongs to God alone.

Day 192 - July 11

The wicked flee when no one pursues, but the righteous are bold as a lion. Because of the transgression of a land, many are its princes; but by a man of understanding and knowledge right will be prolonged. A poor man who oppresses the poor is like a driving rain which leaves no food. Those who forsake the law praise the wicked, but such as keep the law contend with them. Evil men do not understand justice, but those who seek the Lord understand all. (Proverbs 28:1-5)

Though salvation cannot be earned by obeying God's law, those who have been saved love the law and seek to obey it in order to honor God. We see conflict in the world because God's enemies do not love the law and fail to understand justice.

Day 193 - July 12

Better is the poor who walks in his integrity than one perverse in his ways, though he be rich. Whoever keeps the law is a discerning son, but a companion of gluttons shames his father. One who increases his possessions by usury and extortion gathers it for him who will pity the poor. One who turns away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer is an abomination. Whoever causes the upright to go astray in an evil way, he himself will fall into his own pit; but the blameless will inherit good. (Proverbs 28:6-10)

Again we are reminded of how obeying God's law shows wisdom—not that we are saved through obedience, but that obeying God's law shows the world that Christians are different and uninterested in worldly things, and it brings glory to God.

Day 194 - July 13

The rich man is wise in his own eyes, but the poor who has understanding searches him out. When the righteous rejoice, there is great glory; but when the wicked arise, men hide themselves. He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy. Happy is the man who is always reverent, but he who hardens his heart will fall into calamity. ... He who trusts in his own heart is a fool, but whoever walks wisely will be delivered. (Proverbs 28:11-14, 26)

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This passage points to the significance of salvation. Attempting to cover our own sins is foolish and can never work, but repenting from our sins, forsaking them, and living for God instead is a testimony to the mercy that Christ gives those who follow Him.

Day 195 - July 14

Whoever loves wisdom makes his father rejoice, but a companion of harlots wastes his wealth. The king establishes the land by justice, but he who receives bribes overthrows it. A man who flatters his neighbor spreads a net for his feet. By transgression an evil man is snared, but the righteous sings and rejoices. The righteous considers the cause of the poor, but the wicked does not understand such knowledge. (Proverbs 29:3-7)

In this life, we hope for kings or presidents who rule with justice. In eternity, we know the one and only eternal King Jesus will rule with perfect justice. The other verses provide a comparison between those who are saved by Christ and those who are not.

Day 196 - July 15

A man's pride will bring him low, but the humble in spirit will retain honor. Whoever is a partner with a thief hates his own life; he swears to tell the truth, but reveals nothing. The fear of man brings a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord shall be safe. Many seek the ruler's favor, but justice for man comes from the Lord. An unjust man is an abomination to the righteous, and he who is upright in the way is an abomination to the wicked. (Proverbs 29:23-27)

Just as Jesus taught, pride, which God hates, is to our detriment, while true humility, which is possible through salvation, honors God. The other verses here continue to show the comparison between those who are saved and those who are not.

Day 197 - July 16

I neither learned wisdom nor have knowledge of the Holy One. Who has ascended into heaven, or descended? Who has gathered the wind in His fists? Who has bound the waters in a garment? Who has established all the ends of the earth? What is His name, and what is His Son's name, if you know? Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him. Do not add to His words, lest He rebuke you, and you be found a liar. (Proverbs 30:3-6)

Even in Old Testament times, God had revealed to His people that He had a Son. These people did not know His name, but we do. His name is Jesus,

the Christ. And not only is every word of God pure, but the living Word, Jesus, is also completely pure.

Day 198 - July 17

Two things I request of You (deprive me not before I die): remove falsehood and lies far from me; give me neither poverty nor riches—feed me with the food allotted to me; lest I be full and deny You, and say, "Who is the Lord?" Or lest I be poor and steal, and profane the name of my God. Do not malign a servant to his master, lest he curse you, and you be found guilty. (Proverbs 30:7-10)

All of us are guilty before God, the Master of the universe (see Rom. 3:19). We all deserve to be cursed for our sin. But praise be to God that He sent His innocent Son to take the curse of our guilt (see Gal. 3:13), so Christians are no longer guilty.

Day 199 - July 18

What, my son? And what, son of my womb? And what, son of my vows? Do not give your strength to women, nor your ways to that which destroys kings. It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine, nor for princes intoxicating drink; lest they drink and forget the law, and pervert the justice of all the afflicted. (Proverbs 31:2-5)

Not only does this passage contain good wisdom, as is true of all of the book of Proverbs, but it also brings to mind Christ on the cross. Jesus, the eternal King, refused the drink offered to Him on the cross. But Jesus will never pervert justice.

Day 200 - July 19

Open your mouth for the speechless, in the cause of all who are appointed to die. Open your mouth, judge righteously, and plead the cause of the poor and needy. Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth is far above rubies. (Proverbs 31:8-10)

We should seek to judge righteously as we follow Christ, the perfect Judge. The rest of Proverbs 31 is about the virtuous wife, but it can also be thought of in terms of what marriage is ultimately a picture of: Christ (the husband) and His church (the wife).

Day 201 - July 20

The heart of her husband safely trusts her; so he will have no lack of gain. She does him good and not evil all the days of her life. She seeks wool and flax, and willingly works with her hands. She is like the merchant ships, she brings her food from afar. She also rises while it is yet night, and provides food for her

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household, and a portion for her maidservants. She considers a field and buys it; from her profits she plants a vineyard. (Proverbs 31:11-16)

As a husband trusts his virtuous wife, so Christ trusts His church, which is not merely a building but consists of those whom He has truly saved. As the wife does her husband good and not evil, so the people of God should do the same to honor Christ.

Day 202 - July 21

She girds herself with strength, and strengthens her arms. She perceives that her merchandise is good, and her lamp does not go out by night. She stretches out her hands to the distaff, and her hand holds the spindle. She extends her hand to the poor, yes, she reaches out her hands to the needy. She is not afraid of snow for her household, for all her household is clothed with scarlet. (Proverbs 31:17-21)

Continuing the comparison between the virtuous wife and the church (the bride of Christ), we in the church should strengthen ourselves for any work that Jesus would have us to do. Just like Jesus, we should care for the needy and care for our own.

Day 203 - July 22

She makes tapestry for herself; her clothing is fine linen and purple. Her husband is known in the gates, when he sits among the elders of the land. She makes linen garments and sells them, and supplies sashes for the merchants. Strength and honor are her clothing; she shall rejoice in time to come. She opens her mouth with wisdom, and on her tongue is the law of kindness. (Proverbs 31:22-26)

The husband of the church is Christ, and we must make Him known to the people around us and all over the world. Those of us who have received salvation are able to speak with true wisdom from Christ and share unselfish kindness with others.

Day 204 - July 23

She watches over the ways of her household, and does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: "Many daughters have done well, but you excel them all." Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing, but a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her own works praise her in the gates. (Proverbs 31:27-31)

Like the virtuous wife, the people of the church should watch over one another and not be idle. A

church (not just a building but a group of believers) that truly fears the Lord and isn't just trying to please people should be praised and respected.

Day 205 - July 24

You are all fair, my love, and there is no spot in you. Come with me from Lebanon, my spouse, with me from Lebanon. Look from the top of Amana, from the top of Senir and Hermon, from the lions' dens, from the mountains of the leopards. You have ravished my heart, my sister, my spouse; you have ravished my heart with one look of your eyes, with one link of your necklace. (Song of Solomon 4:7-9)

Like Proverbs 31, the Song of Solomon compares a wife with the church (the bride of Christ). Because of the work Christ accomplished on the cross, those who have repented and received salvation can say there is no spot in us since He took our guilt away.

Day 206 - July 25

I sleep, but my heart is awake; it is the voice of my beloved! He knocks, saying, "Open for me, my sister, my love, my dove, my perfect one; for my head is covered with dew, my locks with the drops of the night." I have taken off my robe; how can I put it on again? I have washed my feet; how can I defile them? My beloved put his hand by the latch of the door, and my heart yearned for him. I arose to open for my beloved, and my hands dripped with myrrh, my fingers with liquid myrrh, on the handles of the lock. (Song of Solomon 5:2-5)

This is not Christ knocking on the door of the heart of an unbeliever—a mistaken picture of salvation (see Luke 13:24-25). Rather, He is knocking at the door of the heart of someone who is saved but who has become lazy, to reawaken them for His work.

Day 207 - July 26

I opened for my beloved, but my beloved had turned away and was gone. My heart leaped up when he spoke. I sought him, but I could not find him; I called him, but he gave me no answer. The watchmen who went about the city found me. They struck me, they wounded me; the keepers of the walls took my veil away from me. I charge you, O daughters of Jerusalem, if you find my beloved, that you tell him I am lovesick! The Daughters of Jerusalem what is your beloved more than another beloved, O fairest among women? What is your beloved more than another beloved, that you so charge us? (Song of Solomon 5:6-9)

While God will never permanently leave nor forsake

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anyone whom He has truly saved and brought into His family (see Heb. 13:5), He may leave in a way for a short time for the purpose of discipline and chastisement, as any good father would do.

Day 208 - July 27

My beloved is white and ruddy, chief among ten thousand. His head is like the finest gold; his locks are wavy, and black as a raven. His eyes are like doves by the rivers of waters, washed with milk, and fitly set. His cheeks are like a bed of spices, banks of scented herbs. His lips are lilies, dripping liquid myrrh. (Song of Solomon 5:10-13)

The wife answers the question asking what sets her beloved apart. No one is like Christ, represented by the colors white and ruddy (or red)—white for His purity and His robe of righteousness and red for the blood He shed to atone for the sins of His people.

Day 209 - July 28

His hands are rods of gold set with beryl. His body is carved ivory inlaid with sapphires. His legs are pillars of marble set on bases of fine gold. His countenance is like Lebanon, excellent as the cedars. His mouth is most sweet, yes, he is altogether lovely. This is my beloved, and this is my friend, O daughters of Jerusalem! (Song of Solomon 5:14-16)

Here, the wife concludes her description of her beloved, which can be applied to Christ. The true Christian should not behold anyone or anything else to be as lovely as our Savior. There is no one like Him, and He is our friend (see John 15:12-17).

Day 210 - July 29

Where has your beloved gone, O fairest among women? Where has your beloved turned aside, that we may seek him with you? My beloved has gone to his garden, to the beds of spices, to feed his flock in the gardens, and to gather lilies. I am my beloved's, and my beloved is mine. He feeds his flock among the lilies. (Song of Solomon 6:1-3)

Christ, the Good Shepherd (see Mark 6:34 and John 10:1-18), feeds His flock with His Word so that we might know and understand God's truth. If you have truly been born again in Christ, praise God that you are His and that He is yours!

Day 211 - July 30

I am my beloved's, and his desire is toward me. ... Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm; for love is as strong as death, jealousy as cruel as the grave; its flames are

flames of fire, a most vehement flame. Many waters cannot quench love, nor can the floods drown it. If a man would give for love all the wealth of his house, it would be utterly despised. (Song of Solomon 7:10; 8:6-7)

Christ loved His people so much that He went to the grave to take the punishment we deserve. God is jealous for His people in a proper way, because He knows best what is best for us. There is no substitute for God's love; nothing can quench it.

Day 212 - July 31

"Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean; put away the evil of your doings from before My eyes. Cease to do evil, learn to do good; seek justice, rebuke the oppressor; defend the fatherless, plead for the widow. Come now, and let us reason together," says the Lord, "though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool." (Isaiah 1:16-18)

The book of Isaiah gives us more clear prophecies about the coming Messiah than any other book in the Old Testament. Here, we are given a fuzzy picture of the atoning work of Christ, that He would cover our sins with His perfect righteousness.

Day 213 - August 1

And in that day seven women shall take hold of one man, saying, "We will eat our own food and wear our own apparel; only let us be called by your name, to take away our reproach." In that day the Branch of the Lord shall be beautiful and glorious; and the fruit of the earth shall be excellent and appealing for those of Israel who have escaped. And it shall come to pass that he who is left in Zion and remains in Jerusalem will be called holy—everyone who is recorded among the living in Jerusalem. (Isaiah 4:1-3)

Our reproach is taken away when God brings us into His family, calling us His children. Christ is sometimes called the Branch, referring to His lineage from David. Those who belong to Him are made holy because of His sacrifice on the cross.

Day 214 - August 2

Then he said, "Hear now, O house of David! Is it a small thing for you to weary men, but will you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel. Curds and honey He shall eat, that He may know to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the Child shall know to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land

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that you dread will be forsaken by both her kings. The Lord will bring the king of Assyria upon you and your people and your father's house—days that have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah.” (Isaiah 7:13-17)

This is the first specific prophecy in Scripture that reveals how the Messiah would come to us. We are told that He will be born of a virgin, an impossible act unless accomplished by God, and His name will be called Immanuel, which means “God with us.”

Day 215 - August 3

He will pass through Judah, he will overflow and pass over, he will reach up to the neck; and the stretching out of his wings will fill the breadth of Your land, O Immanuel. “Be shattered, O you peoples, and be broken in pieces! Give ear, all you from far countries. Gird yourselves, but be broken in pieces; gird yourselves, but be broken in pieces. Take counsel together, but it will come to nothing; speak the word, but it will not stand, for God is with us.” (Isaiah 8:8-10)

God would preserve this land for His people until the coming of His Son, Immanuel. No one can stand against God or against His people. God was with the Israelites of this time in a sense. Later, Jesus literally dwelled among us in human form.

Day 216 - August 4

For the Lord spoke thus to me with a strong hand, and instructed me that I should not walk in the way of this people, saying: “Do not say, ‘A conspiracy,’ concerning all that this people call a conspiracy, nor be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled. The Lord of hosts, Him you shall hallow; let Him be your fear, and let Him be your dread. He will be as a sanctuary, but a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense to both the houses of Israel, as a trap and a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem. And many among them shall stumble; they shall fall and be broken, be snared and taken.” (Isaiah 8:11-15)

Jesus is the stone of stumbling and rock of offense (see Rom. 9:30-33 and 1 Peter 2:6-8). In Romans, Paul writes that the Jews stumbled at the stumbling stone of Christ because they thought they could earn salvation through obedience to the law.

Day 217 - August 5

Nevertheless the gloom will not be upon her who is distressed, as when at first He lightly esteemed the land of Zebulun and the land of

Naphtali, and afterward more heavily oppressed her, by the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, in Galilee of the Gentiles. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined. (Isaiah 9:1-2)

Jesus left Nazareth and went to Galilee where many Gentiles lived, fulfilling this prophecy. In the Old Testament, only Jews and those with them had knowledge of God; everyone else was in darkness. Now, the light of Christ shines for all to see.

Day 218 - August 6

You have multiplied the nation and increased its joy; they rejoice before You according to the joy of harvest, as men rejoice when they divide the spoil. For You have broken the yoke of his burden and the staff of his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, as in the day of Midian. For every warrior's sandal from the noisy battle, and garments rolled in blood, will be used for burning and fuel of fire. (Isaiah 9:3-5)

The people of Old Testament Israel had the burden of keeping God's laws and ceremonies. Everyone carries the burden of sin. But Christ came and broke the yoke of our burdens, for His yoke is easy and His burden is light (see Matt. 11:28-30).

Day 219 - August 7

For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this. (Isaiah 9:6-7)

God gave us this very specific prophecy of the coming Savior through Isaiah. Unfortunately, many Jews misunderstood this and were looking for a political savior. Jesus told us that His kingdom is not of this world but is eternal (see John 18:33-37).

Day 220 - August 8

There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots. The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. ... “And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse, who shall stand

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as a banner to the people; for the Gentiles shall seek Him, and His resting place shall be glorious.” (Isaiah 11:1-2, 10)

This prophecy clearly says that the coming Messiah would descend from David, who was the son of Jesse (see Matt. 1:6). Because He would not be who many of the Jews were expecting, they hated Him and the Gentiles sought after Him instead.

Day 221 - August 9

His delight is in the fear of the Lord, and He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, nor decide by the hearing of His ears; but with righteousness He shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins, and faithfulness the belt of His waist. (Isaiah 11:3-5)

Jesus Christ is the only judge who is perfectly just and righteous in His judgments (see John 8:15-16 and Acts 10:42). Though we are flawed and cannot do so perfectly, His followers are also told to judge righteously in order to glorify God (see John 7:24).

Day 222 - August 10

And in that day you will say: “O Lord, I will praise You; though You were angry with me, Your anger is turned away, and You comfort me. Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid; ‘For Yah, the Lord, is my strength and song; He also has become my salvation.’ ” Therefore with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. (Isaiah 12:1-3)

This salvation only comes through Jesus Christ. God hates sin and is angry with the wicked every day (see Psalm 7:11). But He is able to turn away His anger for those who have received salvation in Christ because His righteousness covers our sin.

Day 223 - August 11

“Take counsel, execute judgment; make your shadow like the night in the middle of the day; hide the outcasts, do not betray him who escapes. Let My outcasts dwell with you, O Moab; be a shelter to them from the face of the spoiler. For the extortioner is at an end, devastation ceases, the oppressors are consumed out of the land. In mercy the throne will be established; and One will sit on it in truth, in the tabernacle of David, judging and seeking justice and hastening righteousness.” (Isaiah 16:3-5)

That One is King Jesus, in the lineage of David.

Jesus Christ alone is the perfect judge, and He alone possesses perfect righteousness. His throne is established in mercy—the mercy He showed when He sacrificed Himself to take our punishment.

Day 224 - August 12

In that day five cities in the land of Egypt will speak the language of Canaan and swear by the Lord of hosts; one will be called the City of Destruction. In that day there will be an altar to the Lord in the midst of the land of Egypt, and a pillar to the Lord at its border. And it will be for a sign and for a witness to the Lord of hosts in the land of Egypt; for they will cry to the Lord because of the oppressors, and He will send them a Savior and a Mighty One, and He will deliver them. Then the Lord will be known to Egypt, and the Egyptians will know the Lord in that day, and will make sacrifice and offering; yes, they will make a vow to the Lord and perform it. (Isaiah 19:18-21)

Jesus is the Savior and the Mighty One, the only one who can deliver any of us from the curse of sin. He is our sacrifice and our offering, sacrificing Himself on the cross and making the atonement for sin that we are unable to do ourselves.

Day 225 - August 13

And the Lord will strike Egypt, He will strike and heal it; they will return to the Lord, and He will be entreated by them and heal them. In that day there will be a highway from Egypt to Assyria, and the Assyrian will come into Egypt and the Egyptian into Assyria, and the Egyptians will serve with the Assyrians. In that day Israel will be one of three with Egypt and Assyria—a blessing in the midst of the land, whom the Lord of hosts shall bless, saying, “Blessed is Egypt My people, and Assyria the work of My hands, and Israel My inheritance.” (Isaiah 19:22-25)

Nations like Egypt and Assyria are mentioned here to represent all Gentiles, as the coming Messiah would usher in the spreading of the gospel beyond just Israel. God’s people are now all over the world, but all true Christians share fellowship in Christ.

Day 226 - August 14

And He will destroy on this mountain the surface of the covering cast over all people, and the veil that is spread over all nations. He will swallow up death forever, and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces; the rebuke of His people He will take away from all the earth; for the Lord has spoken. And it will be said in

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that day: “Behold, this is our God; we have waited for Him, and He will save us. This is the Lord; we have waited for Him; we will be glad and rejoice in His salvation.” (Isaiah 25:7-9)

Before Jesus came to earth, the world was covered in guilt due to sin, and all the world except for Israel had little or no knowledge of God. Christ took away death for His people and He also removed the veil as the gospel began to be preached in all the world.

Day 227 - August 15

For on this mountain the hand of the Lord will rest, and Moab shall be trampled down under Him, as straw is trampled down for the refuse heap. And He will spread out His hands in their midst as a swimmer reaches out to swim, and He will bring down their pride together with the trickery of their hands. The fortress of the high fort of your walls He will bring down, lay low, and bring to the ground, down to the dust. In that day this song will be sung in the land of Judah: “We have a strong city; God will appoint salvation for walls and bulwarks. Open the gates, that the righteous nation which keeps the truth may enter in.” (Isaiah 25:10-26:2)

That righteous nation is the New Jerusalem (see Rev. 21:12), which will be filled with those whom God has saved through repentance and faith in His Son, Jesus Christ. God will defeat all His enemies but He will never fail to protect all of His children.

Day 228 - August 16

“Behold, I lay in Zion a stone for a foundation, a tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation; whoever believes will not act hastily. Also I will make justice the measuring line, and righteousness the plummet; the hail will sweep away the refuge of lies, and the waters will overflow the hiding place. Your covenant with death will be annulled, and your agreement with Sheol will not stand; when the overflowing scourge passes through, then you will be trampled down by it.” (Isaiah 28:16-18)

Jesus Christ is this precious cornerstone, the only sure foundation upon which faith can rest (see Eph. 2:20 and 1 Peter 2:6-7). Through His sacrifice, the covenant with eternal death that we all deserve is annulled for all those who repent and follow Him.

Day 229 - August 17

Surely you have things turned around! Shall the potter be esteemed as the clay; for shall the thing made say of him who made it, “He did not make me”? Or shall the thing formed say of him who formed it, “He has no understanding”? Is it

not yet a very little while till Lebanon shall be turned into a fruitful field, and the fruitful field be esteemed as a forest? In that day the deaf shall hear the words of the book, and the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity and out of darkness. The humble also shall increase their joy in the Lord, and the poor among men shall rejoice in the Holy One of Israel. (Isaiah 29:16-19)

Paul uses the first part of this passage to explain salvation, which is begun and accomplished solely by God; He saves whomever He chooses (see Rom. 9:10-25). We also see another reference to salvation coming to Gentiles, who had been blind.

Day 230 - August 18

For thus the Lord has spoken to me: “As a lion roars, and a young lion over his prey (when a multitude of shepherds is summoned against him, he will not be afraid of their voice nor be disturbed by their noise), so the Lord of hosts will come down to fight for Mount Zion and for its hill. Like birds flying about, so will the Lord of hosts defend Jerusalem. Defending, He will also deliver it; passing over, He will preserve it.” Return to Him against whom the children of Israel have deeply revolted. For in that day every man shall throw away his idols of silver and his idols of gold—sin, which your own hands have made for yourselves. (Isaiah 31:4-7)

The Lord never fails to defend His people. Through the sacrifice of Christ, He also passes over the sins of His people, just as He passed over and saved His people from death in Egypt during the time of Moses and the tenth plague. Cling to Him, not idols.

Day 231 - August 19

Behold, a king will reign in righteousness, and princes will rule with justice. A man will be as a hiding place from the wind, and a cover from the tempest, as rivers of water in a dry place, as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land. The eyes of those who see will not be dim, and the ears of those who hear will listen. Also the heart of the rash will understand knowledge, and the tongue of the stammerers will be ready to speak plainly. (Isaiah 32:1-4)

This King is none other than Jesus Christ, who is the only king who can reign in righteousness and rule with perfect justice. Those who have been given eyes to see and ears to hear spiritual things can understand true knowledge (see Matt. 13:43).

Day 232 - August 20

Until the Spirit is poured upon us from on high,

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and the wilderness becomes a fruitful field, and the fruitful field is counted as a forest. Then justice will dwell in the wilderness, and righteousness remain in the fruitful field. The work of righteousness will be peace, and the effect of righteousness, quietness and assurance forever. (Isaiah 32:15-17)

This is the work of Christ. After his resurrection, the Holy Spirit was poured out on the Day of Pentecost (see Acts 2:1-4), and the same work happens to anyone who receives salvation. Then, God brings peace and assurance to the hearts of His children.

Day 233 - August 21

Your eyes will see the King in His beauty; they will see the land that is very far off. Your heart will meditate on terror: "Where is the scribe? Where is he who weighs? Where is he who counts the towers?" You will not see a fierce people, a people of obscure speech, beyond perception, of a stammering tongue that you cannot understand. (Isaiah 33:17-19)

Jesus is infinitely more beautiful than any other—not in a worldly sense, for we are told He has no beauty that we would desire Him (see Isaiah 53:2), but He is beautiful to those who have been saved because of what He did and continues to do for us.

Day 234 - August 22

Look upon Zion, the city of our appointed feasts; your eyes will see Jerusalem, a quiet home, a tabernacle that will not be taken down; not one of its stakes will ever be removed, nor will any of its cords be broken. But there the majestic Lord will be for us a place of broad rivers and streams, in which no galley with oars will sail, nor majestic ships pass by. (Isaiah 33:20-21)

This tabernacle that will not be taken down may refer to the true church, all those who belong to Jesus Christ, which will never fail (see Matt. 16:18). Or, it may refer to Christ Himself, who told us that He is the true Temple of God (see John 2:19-21).

Day 235 - August 23

(For the Lord is our Judge, the Lord is our Lawgiver, the Lord is our King; He will save us); Your tackle is loosed, they could not strengthen their mast, they could not spread the sail. Then the prey of great plunder is divided; the lame take the prey. And the inhabitant will not say, "I am sick"; the people who dwell in it will be forgiven their iniquity. (Isaiah 33:22-24)

Judge, Lawgiver, and King describe three of the things which Jesus has done and continues to do.

Interestingly, this passage was also known to the founding fathers of the United States, who made our three branches of government similar to this.

Day 236 - August 24

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are fearful-hearted, "Be strong, do not fear! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God; He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the dumb sing. For waters shall burst forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert. The parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water; in the habitation of jackals, where each lay, there shall be grass with reeds and rushes. (Isaiah 35:3-7)

Though Christ came to earth as a baby at first, He was not weak. He still possessed all the power of God. This also prophesies of His healing, to open blind eyes and deaf ears—not only physically, but spiritually, showing people their sinful condition.

Day 237 - August 25

A highway shall be there, and a road, and it shall be called the Highway of Holiness. The unclean shall not pass over it, but it shall be for others. Whoever walks the road, although a fool, shall not go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast go up on it; it shall not be found there. But the redeemed shall walk there, and the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing, with everlasting joy on their heads. They shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away. (Isaiah 35:8-10)

This Highway of Holiness is the way of salvation, which is through Jesus Christ alone (see John 14:6 and Acts 9:2). Salvation happens in an instant, but the path of holiness is lifelong, as a child of God is sanctified, gradually becoming more like Christ.

Day 238 - August 26

"Therefore thus says the Lord concerning the king of Assyria: 'He shall not come into this city, nor shoot an arrow there, nor come before it with shield, nor build a siege mound against it. By the way that he came, by the same shall he return; and he shall not come into this city,' says the Lord. 'For I will defend this city, to save it for My own sake and for My servant David's sake.' " Then the angel of the Lord went

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out, and killed in the camp of the Assyrians one hundred and eighty-five thousand; and when people arose early in the morning, there were the corpses—all dead. (Isaiah 37:33-36)

This momentous event, which was accomplished either by Christ or by an angel is recorded twice in Scripture (see 2 Kings 19:32-35). It is a reminder that God is in control of all things, even kings and empires who think they cannot be defeated.

Day 239 - August 27

“What shall I say? He has both spoken to me, and He Himself has done it. I shall walk carefully all my years in the bitterness of my soul. O Lord, by these things men live; and in all these things is the life of my spirit; so You will restore me and make me live. Indeed it was for my own peace that I had great bitterness; but You have lovingly delivered my soul from the pit of corruption, for You have cast all my sins behind Your back.” (Isaiah 38:15-17)

God Himself does this work. Through salvation in Jesus Christ, the sin debt of a child of God is paid. Therefore, God can be a perfectly just and fair judge while casting all the sins of His child behind His back because the penalty has been paid.

Day 240 - August 28

O Zion, you who bring good tidings, get up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, you who bring good tidings, lift up your voice with strength, lift it up, be not afraid; say to the cities of Judah, “Behold your God!” Behold, the Lord God shall come with a strong hand, and His arm shall rule for Him; behold, His reward is with Him, and His work before Him. He will feed His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom, and gently lead those who are with young. (Isaiah 40:9-11)

Jesus is the Good Shepherd (see John 10:1-18); His followers are called His lambs or His sheep. Those who belong to Him follow Him just as sheep follow their shepherd, and Jesus protects His flock and gave His life in exchange for His sheep.

Day 241 - August 29

Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand, measured heaven with a span and calculated the dust of the earth in a measure? Weighed the mountains in scales and the hills in a balance? Who has directed the Spirit of the Lord, or as His counselor has taught Him? With whom did He take counsel, and who instructed Him, and taught Him in the path of justice? Who taught Him knowledge, and showed Him the

way of understanding? (Isaiah 40:12-14)

Following the previous passage about how Christ shepherds His sheep, this reminds us of how the whole Godhead (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) never changes. God created all things and knows all things; no one has ever taught God anything.

Day 242 - August 30

“Who raised up one from the east? Who in righteousness called him to His feet? Who gave the nations before him, and made him rule over kings? Who gave them as the dust to his sword, as driven stubble to his bow? Who pursued them, and passed safely by the way that he had not gone with his feet? Who has performed and done it, calling the generations from the beginning? ‘I, the Lord, am the first; and with the last I am He.’ ” (Isaiah 41:2-4)

The first part of this passage refers to Abraham, whom God chose, granted salvation, and used to begin the nation of Israel. Though God doesn't interact with us in the same way today, salvation is still begun and completed by God through Christ.

Day 243 - August 31

“But you, Israel, are My servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, the descendants of Abraham My friend. You whom I have taken from the ends of the earth, and called from its farthest regions, and said to you, ‘You are My servant, I have chosen you and have not cast you away: fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.’ ” (Isaiah 41:8-10)

God can say these things to His people, those whom He has saved, because of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Without His shed blood, our sin would keep us out of God's presence and God would not do any of these things that He does for His people.

Day 244 - September 1

“Behold, all those who were incensed against you shall be ashamed and disgraced; they shall be as nothing, and those who strive with you shall perish. You shall seek them and not find them—those who contended with you. Those who war against you shall be as nothing, as a nonexistent thing. For I, the Lord your God, will hold your right hand, saying to you, ‘Fear not, I will help you.’ ” (Isaiah 41:11-13)

God protects those who belong to Him and fights against His enemies. Those who have been saved should be eternally thankful to Jesus Christ for His sacrifice. We are no better than God's enemies,

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and without Christ, we would all be as nothing.

Day 245 - September 2

“Fear not, you worm Jacob, you men of Israel! I will help you,” says the Lord and your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel. “Behold, I will make you into a new threshing sledge with sharp teeth; you shall thresh the mountains and beat them small, and make the hills like chaff. You shall winnow them, the wind shall carry them away, and the whirlwind shall scatter them; you shall rejoice in the Lord, and glory in the Holy One of Israel.” (Isaiah 41:14-16)

God does help in times of trouble during our lives, but the ultimate help He provides is to save His children from eternal punishment in hell. That is the great work of Christ, our Redeemer, and that is why those who have been saved do not need to fear.

Day 246 - September 3

“Behold! My Servant whom I uphold, My Elect One in whom My soul delights! I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the Gentiles. He will not cry out, nor raise His voice, nor cause His voice to be heard in the street. A bruised reed He will not break, and smoking flax He will not quench; He will bring forth justice for truth. He will not fail nor be discouraged, till He has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands shall wait for His law.” (Isaiah 42:1-4)

Jesus Christ is the Elect One of God, the One who brought salvation to the Gentiles. Though He unapologetically spoke God’s truth, He did not go around starting unnecessary arguments (see Matt. 12:15-21). Instead, He tenderly cared for others.

Day 247 - September 4

Thus says God the Lord, Who created the heavens and stretched them out, Who spread forth the earth and that which comes from it, Who gives breath to the people on it, and spirit to those who walk on it: “I, the Lord, have called You in righteousness, and will hold Your hand; I will keep You and give You as a covenant to the people, as a light to the Gentiles, to open blind eyes, to bring out prisoners from the prison, those who sit in darkness from the prison house.” (Isaiah 42:5-7)

Jesus healed some who were blind to prove that He possessed the power of God, but His ultimate purpose was to come and save those who had been spiritually blind, locked in the prison of sin. God gave Jesus to us to accomplish those things.

Day 248 - September 5

“I am the Lord, that is My name; and My glory I will not give to another, nor My praise to carved images. Behold, the former things have come to pass, and new things I declare; before they spring forth I tell you of them.” Sing to the Lord a new song, and His praise from the ends of the earth, you who go down to the sea, and all that is in it, you coastlands and you inhabitants of them! (Isaiah 42:8-10)

God deserves to receive all our praise and glory because He created everything, everything belongs to Him, and He alone grants salvation to unworthy sinners through Jesus Christ. It is foolish to bow down to idols or to put anything ahead of God.

Day 249 - September 6

The Lord shall go forth like a mighty man; He shall stir up His zeal like a man of war. He shall cry out, yes, shout aloud; He shall prevail against His enemies. “I have held My peace a long time, I have been still and restrained Myself. Now I will cry like a woman in labor, I will pant and gasp at once. I will lay waste the mountains and hills, and dry up all their vegetation; I will make the rivers coastlands, and I will dry up the pools.” (Isaiah 42:13-15)

We fail to realize just how holy and righteous God is and, therefore, we fail to realize how patient He is with all of us sinners. Specifically, this passage speaks about God’s patience with the ungodliness of the Gentiles prior to the coming of Christ.

Day 250 - September 7

“I will bring the blind by a way they did not know; I will lead them in paths they have not known. I will make darkness light before them, and crooked places straight. These things I will do for them, and not forsake them. They shall be turned back, they shall be greatly ashamed, who trust in carved images, who say to the molded images, ‘You are our gods.’ “ (Isaiah 42:16-17)

Those who were blind and in darkness were the Gentiles, who God led them in paths they had not known before when Jesus and His followers brought the gospel into Gentile lands, shaming those who had foolishly served false idols.

Day 251 - September 8

“Hear, you deaf; and look, you blind, that you may see. Who is blind but My servant, or deaf as My messenger whom I send? Who is blind as he who is perfect, and blind as the Lord’s servant? Seeing many things, but you do not

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observe; opening the ears, but he does not hear.” The Lord is well pleased for His righteousness’ sake; He will exalt the law and make it honorable. (Isaiah 42:18-21)

Here God rebukes Israel, His people, many of whom are just as blind and deaf to the truth of the gospel as the Gentiles were prior to the time when Jesus came to earth. Christ, who fulfilled the law, is highly exalted by God (see Matt. 5:17-20).

Day 252 - September 9

But now, thus says the Lord, who created you, O Jacob, and He who formed you, O Israel: “Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; you are Mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, nor shall the flame scorch you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior; I gave Egypt for your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in your place.” (Isaiah 43:1-3)

All these things are accomplished through the Holy One of Israel, our Savior, Jesus Christ. He is the One who has redeemed all those whom God has called by name and made to be His children. If that describes you, then these promises are to you.

Day 253 - September 10

“Since you were precious in My sight, you have been honored, and I have loved you; therefore I will give men for you, and people for your life. Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your descendants from the east, and gather you from the west; I will say to the north, ‘Give them up!’ And to the south, ‘Do not keep them back!’ Bring My sons from afar, and My daughters from the ends of the earth—everyone who is called by My name, whom I have created for My glory; I have formed him, yes, I have made him.” (Isaiah 43:4-7)

In Old Testament times, God focused on Israel and nearly all the people He saved were Israelites. This is a prophecy of how God would save people from all over the earth, which was fulfilled when Christ came to earth and is still being fulfilled today.

Day 254 - September 11

Bring out the blind people who have eyes, and the deaf who have ears. Let all the nations be gathered together, and let the people be assembled. Who among them can declare this, and show us former things? Let them bring out their witnesses, that they may be justified; or let

them hear and say, “It is truth.” “You are My witnesses,” says the Lord, “and My servant whom I have chosen, that you may know and believe Me, and understand that I am He. Before Me there was no God formed, nor shall there be after Me. (Isaiah 43:8-10)

This is a further prophecy of salvation coming to the Gentiles, as God would begin to save people out of nations all around the world. All those God saves are His servants whom He chose, but especially Christ, who came so that we might know God.

Day 255 - September 12

“I, even I, am the Lord, and besides Me there is no savior. I have declared and saved, I have proclaimed, and there was no foreign god among you; therefore you are My witnesses,” says the Lord, “that I am God. Indeed before the day was, I am He; and there is no one who can deliver out of My hand; I work, and who will reverse it?” (Isaiah 43:11-13)

God alone—specifically, Jesus Christ—is Savior. He has always existed and is sovereign over all things, including salvation. When God saves someone, there is nothing that person or anyone else can do to undo the work of God.

Day 256 - September 13

Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: “For your sake I will send to Babylon, and bring them all down as fugitives—the Chaldeans, who rejoice in their ships. I am the Lord, your Holy One, the Creator of Israel, your King.” Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea and a path through the mighty waters, who brings forth the chariot and horse, the army and the power (they shall lie down together, they shall not rise; they are extinguished, they are quenched like a wick). (Isaiah 43:14-17)

Jesus Christ is our Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel, the Creator (see Col. 1:15-17), and the only eternal King (see Matt. 27:11). We also see here that God protects His people—those who have been saved through the blood of Jesus Christ.

Day 257 - September 14

“Do not remember the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing, now it shall spring forth; shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The beast of the field will honor Me, the jackals and the ostriches, because I give waters in the wilderness and rivers in the desert, to give

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drink to My people, My chosen. This people I have formed for Myself; they shall declare My praise.” (Isaiah 43:18-21)

This new thing was the coming of the Messiah, Jesus Christ. Although He has always existed, He brought salvation to the Gentiles. He brought living water (see John 4:10-13) to areas where there had been a drought concerning the things of God.

Day 258 - September 15

“But you have not called upon Me, O Jacob; and you have been weary of Me, O Israel. You have not brought Me the sheep for your burnt offerings, nor have you honored Me with your sacrifices. I have not caused you to serve with grain offerings, nor wearied you with incense. You have bought Me no sweet cane with money, nor have you satisfied Me with the fat of your sacrifices; but you have burdened Me with your sins, you have wearied Me with your iniquities.” (Isaiah 43:22-24)

Before Jesus came to earth, many Israelites were performing religious rituals while their hearts were far from God (see Mark 6:7-9). God desires hearts that truly love and worship Him, not mindless rituals and sacrifices (see Matt. 12:7 and Heb. 10:1-9).

Day 259 - September 16

“I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake; and I will not remember your sins. Put Me in remembrance; let us contend together; state your case, that you may be acquitted. Your first father sinned, and your mediators have transgressed against Me. Therefore I will profane the princes of the sanctuary; I will give Jacob to the curse, and Israel to reproaches.” (Isaiah 43:25-28)

Adam passed down the curse of sin to all of us. God saves people for His own sake, so we might understand His love, grace, and mercy. God saves Gentiles to provoke Israel to jealousy because they disobeyed (see Deut. 32:21 and Rom. 10:19-21).

Day 260 - September 17

“Remember these, O Jacob, and Israel, for you are My servant; I have formed you, you are My servant; O Israel, you will not be forgotten by Me! I have blotted out, like a thick cloud, your transgressions, and like a cloud, your sins. Return to Me, for I have redeemed you.” ... Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer, and He who formed you from the womb: “I am the Lord, who makes all things, Who stretches out the heavens all alone, Who spreads abroad the earth by Myself.” (Isaiah 44:21-22, 24)

For anyone who has been truly saved by God, He has blotted out our transgressions, redeeming us through the shed blood of Jesus Christ, for there is no remission of sins without the shedding of blood from a perfect sacrifice (see Heb. 9:22 and 10:4).

Day 261 - September 18

“Come near to Me, hear this: I have not spoken in secret from the beginning; from the time that it was, I was there. and now the Lord God and His Spirit have sent Me.” Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: “I am the Lord your God, who teaches you to profit, who leads you by the way you should go. Oh, that you had heeded My commandments! Then your peace would have been like a river, and your righteousness like the waves of the sea.” (Isaiah 48:16-18)

Jesus Christ has always existed. He was always there, even before time began (see John 1:1-5, 14). For those who belong to Him, He is our Redeemer, the One who saves and then teaches His people how to live in a way that honors and glorifies God.

Day 262 - September 19

“And now the Lord says, who formed Me from the womb to be His Servant, to bring Jacob back to Him, so that Israel is gathered to Him (for I shall be glorious in the eyes of the Lord, and My God shall be My strength), indeed He says, ‘It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles, that You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth.’” (Isaiah 49:5-6)

The spiritual nation of Israel consists of all those whom God saves, and those are the people who are being gathered to Christ (see Rom. 2:28-29). Here is another prophecy that the coming Messiah would bring the light of the gospel to the Gentiles.

Day 263 - September 20

Thus says the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel, their Holy One, to Him whom man despises, to Him whom the nation abhors, to the Servant of rulers: “Kings shall see and arise, princes also shall worship, because of the Lord who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel; and He has chosen You.” Thus says the Lord: “In an acceptable time I have heard You, and in the day of salvation I have helped You; I will preserve You and give You as a covenant to the people, to restore the earth, to cause them to inherit the desolate heritages.” (Isaiah 49:7-8)

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The One whom God chose to Redeem His people, Jesus, was and still is despised by many (see Isa. 53:3). This was most obvious at the crucifixion, but is also evident anytime people speak against God or use the name of Jesus Christ in vain.

Day 264 - September 21

“That You may say to the prisoners, ‘Go forth,’ to those who are in darkness, ‘Show yourselves.’ They shall feed along the roads, and their pastures shall be on all desolate heights. They shall neither hunger nor thirst, neither heat nor sun shall strike them; for He who has mercy on them will lead them, even by the springs of water He will guide them. I will make each of My mountains a road, and My highways shall be elevated. Surely these shall come from afar; Look! Those from the north and the west, and these from the land of Sinim.” (Isaiah 49:9-12)

Like others we have seen recently, this passage also uses figurative language to speak of spiritual things. The idea is that Gentiles who have been in spiritual darkness, prisoners of sin, will receive the gospel during and after the time when Christ came.

Day 265 - September 22

Thus says the Lord: “Where is the certificate of your mother’s divorce, whom I have put away? Or which of My creditors is it to whom I have sold you? For your iniquities you have sold yourselves, and for your transgressions your mother has been put away. Why, when I came, was there no man? Why, when I called, was there none to answer? Is My hand shortened at all that it cannot redeem? Or have I no power to deliver? Indeed with My rebuke I dry up the sea, I make the rivers a wilderness; their fish stink because there is no water, and die of thirst. I clothe the heavens with blackness, and I make sackcloth their covering.” (Isaiah 50:1-3)

Most of God’s people, the Israelites, have left the worship of the one true God to worship false idols instead. But the fault does not lie with God; He never changed. The people of Israel turned away and chose to do things their own way instead.

Day 266 - September 23

“The Lord God has given Me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him who is weary. He awakens Me morning by morning, He awakens My ear to hear as the learned. The Lord God has opened My ear; and I was not rebellious, nor did I turn away. I gave My back to those who struck

Me, and My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide My face from shame and spitting.” (Isaiah 50:4-6)

The preincarnate Christ is speaking through Isaiah in this passage, which is why words like “Me” and “My” are capitalized. Christ is telling us what God the Father has given Him. In turn, Christ did not retaliate against those who led Him to the cross.

Day 267 - September 24

“For the Lord God will help Me; therefore I will not be disgraced; therefore I have set My face like a flint, and I know that I will not be ashamed. He is near who justifies Me; who will contend with Me? Let us stand together. Who is My adversary? Let him come near Me. Surely the Lord God will help Me; who is he who will condemn Me? Indeed they will all grow old like a garment; the moth will eat them up.” (Isaiah 50:7-9)

The preincarnate Christ continues to speak through Isaiah. God the Father was always with Him during His time on earth, and He was not disgraced, even though others treated Him cruelly. His adversaries tried to defeat Him, but no one can defeat God.

Day 268 - September 25

“Who among you fears the Lord? Who obeys the voice of His Servant? Who walks in darkness and has no light? Let him trust in the name of the Lord and rely upon his God. Look, all you who kindle a fire, who encircle yourselves with sparks: walk in the light of your fire and in the sparks you have kindled—this you shall have from My hand: You shall lie down in torment.” (Isaiah 50:10-11)

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and knowledge (see Prov. 1:7, 9:10). Jesus is the light of the world; He is the one we must follow in order to find the path to eternal life (see John 3:19, 8:12, 9:5, 12:46). We must obey and walk in His light.

Day 269 - September 26

Behold, My Servant shall deal prudently; He shall be exalted and extolled and be very high. Just as many were astonished at you, so His visage was marred more than any man, and His form more than the sons of men; so shall He sprinkle many nations. Kings shall shut their mouths at Him; for what had not been told them they shall see, and what they had not heard they shall consider. (Isaiah 52:13-15)

This is the beginning of one of the most powerful prophecies of Christ, the eternal Servant of God the Father. He was exalted by the people as He rode

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into Jerusalem, but not long after, His appearance was marred as He was taken to be crucified.

Day 270 - September 27

Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, and as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; and when we see Him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him. He is despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. (Isaiah 53:1-3)

Even though they saw Jesus perform miracles right before their eyes, many Jews were hard-hearted and prideful and refused to believe that He was the Son of God (see John 12:36-38). Christ has no physical beauty to attract those who reject God.

Day 271 - September 28

Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. (Isaiah 53:4-6)

Many who watched Jesus be crucified thought He was dying for His own sins, but He was afflicted and crucified for the transgressions of His people. Because He paid our penalty, we can have peace, even though we went astray and are undeserving.

Day 272 - September 29

He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth. He was taken from prison and from judgment, and who will declare His generation? For He was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgressions of My people He was stricken. And they made His grave with the wicked—but with the rich at His death, because He had done no violence, nor was any deceit in His mouth. (Isaiah 53:7-9)

Even while hanging on the cross, Jesus did not speak out against those who were blaspheming Him (see Luke 23:34). He died alongside wicked sinners but was buried in the tomb of a rich man

(see Matt. 27:57-60 and John 19:38-42).

Day 273 - September 30

Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in His hand. He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, for He shall bear their iniquities. Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, and He shall divide the spoil with the strong, because He poured out His soul unto death, and He was numbered with the transgressors, and He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors. (Isaiah 53:10-12)

It pleased God the Father to bruise Jesus Christ. Think about that for a moment. Why is that true? Because in sacrificing His Son to pay the penalty of sin, God is able to save many others, and show forth His love, mercy, and grace to all the world.

Day 274 - October 1

“For a mere moment I have forsaken you, but with great mercies I will gather you. With a little wrath I hid My face from you for a moment; but with everlasting kindness I will have mercy on you,” says the Lord, your Redeemer. “For this is like the waters of Noah to Me; for as I have sworn that the waters of Noah would no longer cover the earth, so have I sworn that I would not be angry with you, nor rebuke you. For the mountains shall depart and the hills be removed, but My kindness shall not depart from you, nor shall My covenant of peace be removed,” says the Lord, who has mercy on you. (Isaiah 54:7-10)

To all those who have truly received salvation from God—those who can call Jesus “my Redeemer”—these promises are given. His mercy and kindness will never end, and His promise of eternal peace in our hearts through Christ will endure forever.

Day 275 - October 2

“Why do you spend money for what is not bread, and your wages for what does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good, and let your soul delight itself in abundance. Incline your ear, and come to Me. Hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you—the sure mercies of David. Indeed I have given him as a witness to the people, a leader and commander for the people. Surely you shall call a nation

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you do not know, and nations who do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, and the Holy One of Israel; for He has glorified you.” (Isaiah 55:2-5)

Jesus Christ is the bread of life (see John 6:30-35, 47-58). Feasting on the Word of God, learning about God and growing closer to Christ, is what is meant here in a figurative sense. This passage also has another reference to the salvation of Gentiles.

Day 276 - October 3

So truth fails, and he who departs from evil makes himself a prey. Then the Lord saw it, and it displeased Him that there was no justice. He saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor; therefore His own arm brought salvation for Him; and His own righteousness, it sustained Him. For He put on righteousness as a breastplate, and a helmet of salvation on His head; He put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, and was clad with zeal as a cloak. Accordingly He will repay, fury to His adversaries, recompense to His enemies; the coastlands He will fully repay. (Isaiah 59:15-18)

Over time, as the Israelites drifted away from God, He observed that justice was not served among His people. So God brought salvation through His own Son, and those who are saved receive Christ's own righteousness. This whole passage is about Christ.

Day 277 - October 4

So shall they fear the name of the Lord from the west, and His glory from the rising of the sun; when the enemy comes in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord will lift up a standard against him. “The Redeemer will come to Zion, and to those who turn from transgression in Jacob,” says the Lord. “As for Me,” says the Lord, “this is My covenant with them: My Spirit who is upon you, and My words which I have put in your mouth, shall not depart from your mouth, nor from the mouth of your descendants, nor from the mouth of your descendants’ descendants,” says the Lord, “from this time and forevermore.” (Isaiah 59:19-21)

After the resurrection of Jesus Christ, the gospel spread throughout the world, especially the western part. The Redeemer, Jesus Christ, will come to all those who repent and turn away from their sins. God has made that promise and it will never fail.

Day 278 - October 5

“The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, because the Lord has anointed Me to preach

good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn, to console those who mourn in Zion, to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they may be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified.” (Isaiah 61:1-3)

After Jesus began His public ministry, He read this passage at the synagogue. Reading Scripture was common, but He added, “This day is this Scripture fulfilled in your ears.” Everyone was shocked, and many spoke out against Him (see Luke 4:14-30).

Day 279 - October 6

And they shall rebuild the old ruins, they shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the ruined cities, the desolations of many generations. Strangers shall stand and feed your flocks, and the sons of the foreigner shall be your plowmen and your vinedressers. But you shall be named the priests of the Lord, they shall call you the servants of our God. You shall eat the riches of the Gentiles, and in their glory you shall boast. Instead of your shame you shall have double honor, and instead of confusion they shall rejoice in their portion. Therefore in their land they shall possess double; everlasting joy shall be theirs. (Isaiah 61:4-7)

Those who were strangers and foreigners to the Israelites are now partakers of grace, as the gospel spread into Gentile lands after Christ came to earth. Jews who are saved are still honored, but Gentiles who were in confusion now hear the gospel as well.

Day 280 - October 7

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its bud, as the garden causes the things that are sown in it to spring forth, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations. (Isaiah 61:10-11)

All those who are saved can rejoice in the Lord, for our sins have been washed away and we have been clothed in the robe of Christ's righteousness.

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The bridegroom, Jesus Christ, adorns Himself with His bride, the church—all those that He has saved.

Day 281 - October 8

Who is this who comes from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah, this One who is glorious in His apparel, traveling in the greatness of His strength?—"I who speak in righteousness, mighty to save." Why is Your apparel red, and Your garments like one who treads in the winepress? "I have trodden the winepress alone, and from the peoples no one was with Me. For I have trodden them in My anger, and trampled them in My fury; their blood is sprinkled upon My garments, and I have stained all My robes. For the day of vengeance is in My heart, and the year of My redeemed has come." (Isaiah 63:1-4)

Who is this described at the beginning of this passage? It is none other than Jesus Christ, the mighty Savior. His apparel is red because it is stained with all the sins of those whom He died on the cross to forgive and give the gift of salvation.

Day 282 - October 9

I looked, but there was no one to help, and I wondered that there was no one to uphold; therefore My own arm brought salvation for Me; and My own fury, it sustained Me. I have trodden down the peoples in My anger, made them drunk in My fury, and brought down their strength to the earth." I will mention the lovingkindnesses of the Lord and the praises of the Lord, according to all that the Lord has bestowed on us, and the great goodness toward the house of Israel, which He has bestowed on them according to His mercies, according to the multitude of His lovingkindnesses. (Isaiah 63:5-7)

Jesus Christ accomplished our salvation Himself; He does not need any help. His fury, both to protect and save His people and also against His enemies, sustained Him as He died on the cross and accomplished what He came to earth to do.

Day 283 - October 10

For He said, "Surely they are My people, children who will not lie." So He became their Savior. In all their affliction He was afflicted, and the Angel of His Presence saved them; in His love and in His pity He redeemed them; and He bore them and carried them all the days of old. But they rebelled and grieved His Holy Spirit; so He turned Himself against them as an enemy, and He fought against them. (Isaiah

63:8-10)

God formed the nation of Israel as His special, chosen people, set apart from the rest of the world to be unique. Christ saved and redeemed them out of love and pity, as He does for all those whom He saves. But they repeatedly rebelled and disobeyed.

Day 284 - October 11

Then he remembered the days of old, Moses and his people, saying: "Where is He who brought them up out of the sea with the shepherd of His flock? Where is He who put His Holy Spirit within them, who led them by the right hand of Moses, with His glorious arm, dividing the water before them to make for Himself an everlasting name, who led them through the deep, as a horse in the wilderness, that they might not stumble?" As a beast goes down into the valley, and the Spirit of the Lord causes him to rest, so You lead Your people, to make Yourself a glorious name. (Isaiah 63:11-14)

This passage reminds us of the mercy of the Lord. The preincarnate Christ led the Israelites through the wilderness (see Ex. 14:19-22) and set them apart to bring glory to God. But their disobedience caused people to disrespect God (see Rom. 2:24).

Day 285 - October 12

"I was sought by those who did not ask for Me; I was found by those who did not seek Me. I said, 'Here I am, here I am,' to a nation that was not called by My name. I have stretched out My hands all day long to a rebellious people, who walk in a way that is not good, according to their own thoughts; a people who provoke Me to anger continually to My face; who sacrifice in gardens, and burn incense on altars of brick. ... Who say, 'Keep to yourself, do not come near me, for I am holier than you!' These are smoke in My nostrils, a fire that burns all the day. (Isaiah 65:1-3, 5)

In Old Testament times, those outside of Israel had little or no knowledge of God. Largely, Gentiles did not seek God. But Israel disobeyed repeatedly, so God began to save many Gentiles to provoke the Jews to jealousy (see Rom. 10:19-21, 11:11-16).

Day 286 - October 13

"Behold, you trust in lying words that cannot profit. Will you steal, murder, commit adultery, swear falsely, burn incense to Baal, and walk after other gods whom you do not know, and then come and stand before Me in this house which is called by My name, and say, 'We are

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delivered to do all these abominations'? Has this house, which is called by My name, become a den of thieves in your eyes? Behold, I, even I, have seen it," says the Lord. (Jeremiah 7:8-11)

God gave this warning to Israel in Old Testament times, when they were worshipping false idols. Jesus quoted the last verse when rebuking those who were misusing the temple to sell things and take advantage of people (see Luke 19:45-48).

Day 287 - October 14

"But I will gather the remnant of My flock out of all countries where I have driven them, and bring them back to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase. I will set up shepherds over them who will feed them; and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, nor shall they be lacking," says the Lord. "Behold, the days are coming," says the Lord, "that I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; a King shall reign and prosper, and execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell safely; now this is His name by which He will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS. (Jeremiah 23:3-6)

God will have people all over the world, and He will also place pastors over local churches to preach truth to His people. The Branch of righteousness, the eternal king and only perfect judge, is Jesus Christ. For the saved, He is our righteousness.

Day 288 - October 15

" 'For it shall come to pass in that day,' says the Lord of hosts, 'that I will break his yoke from your neck, and will burst your bonds; foreigners shall no more enslave them. But they shall serve the Lord their God, and David their king, whom I will raise up for them. 'Therefore do not fear, O My servant Jacob,' says the Lord, 'nor be dismayed, O Israel; for behold, I will save you from afar, and your seed from the land of their captivity. Jacob shall return, have rest and be quiet, and no one shall make him afraid. For I am with you,' says the Lord, 'to save you; though I make a full end of all nations where I have scattered you, yet I will not make a complete end of you. but I will correct you in justice, and will not let you go altogether unpunished.' " (Jeremiah 30:8-11)

The phrase "David their king" does not refer to King David in the Old Testament but to the descendant of David, Jesus Christ (see Matt. 1:1). God Himself has raised Him up, and He alone has the power to

save us from Satan, death, and the power of sin.

Day 289 - October 16

"For there shall be a day when the watchmen will cry on Mount Ephraim, 'Arise, and let us go up to Zion, to the Lord our God.' " ... "Set up signposts, make landmarks; set your heart toward the highway, the way in which you went. Turn back, O virgin of Israel, turn back to these your cities. How long will you gad about, O you backsliding daughter? For the Lord has created a new thing in the earth—a woman shall encompass a man." (Jeremiah 31:6, 21-22)

The first verse is a prophecy of the gospel coming to the Gentiles during and after the time of Christ. The second passage is a more vague prophecy of the virgin birth compared to what we saw in Isaiah. The eternal Son, Jesus, was in a woman's womb.

Day 290 - October 17

"Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah— not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more." (Jeremiah 31:31-34)

God communicated with His people directly in Old Testament times. He no longer does that; now, true believers have the Holy Spirit dwelling within. This passage is a prophecy of the coming of the Holy Spirit and the forgiveness of sin through Christ.

Day 291 - October 18

" 'They shall be My people, and I will be their God; then I will give them one heart and one way, that they may fear Me forever, for the good of them and their children after them. And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from doing them good; but I will put My fear in their hearts so that they will not depart from Me. Yes, I will rejoice over them to do them good, and I will assuredly plant them

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in this land, with all My heart and with all My soul.’ ” (Jeremiah 32:38-41)

Since the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and the subsequent coming of the Holy Spirit (see Acts 2:1-6), all Christians are united through the Holy Spirit, which dwells inside each true believer. All Christians, then, have “one heart and one way.”

Day 292 - October 19

“Behold, the days are coming,’ says the Lord, ‘that I will perform that good thing which I have promised to the house of Israel and to the house of Judah: ‘In those days and at that time I will cause to grow up to David a Branch of righteousness; He shall execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell safely. And this is the name by which she will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.’ ” (Jeremiah 33:14-16)

We recently looked at another passage in Jeremiah which is similar to this one (see Jer. 23:3-6). God gives this prophecy again, that a descendant of David, who is Jesus Christ, would execute perfect judgment and righteousness like none other.

Day 293 - October 20

“For thus says the Lord: ‘David shall never lack a man to sit on the throne of the house of Israel; nor shall the priests, the Levites, lack a man to offer burnt offerings before Me, to kindle grain offerings, and to sacrifice continually.’ ” ... In those days and in that time,” says the Lord, “the iniquity of Israel shall be sought, but there shall be none; and the sins of Judah, but they shall not be found; for I will pardon those whom I preserve.” (Jeremiah 33:17-18, 50:2)

Israel has not always been a sovereign nation, so this prophecy is only true of Christ, the descendant of David who is the eternal King and Priest. We are all sinners, but those who have been forgiven in Christ make up the true Israel (see Rom. 2:28-29).

Day 294 - October 21

I called on Your name, O Lord, from the lowest pit. You have heard my voice: “Do not hide Your ear from my sighing, from my cry for help.” You drew near on the day I called on You, and said, “Do not fear!” O Lord, You have pleaded the case for my soul; You have redeemed my life. (Lamentations 3:55-58)

This passage points to the work of Christ. For those whom God saves, Jesus is the Redeemer, the One who pleads our case before God. He takes away our sins and covers us with His righteousness so

that we no longer stand guilty before our holy God.

Day 295 - October 22

A voice came from above the firmament that was over their heads; whenever they stood, they let down their wings. And above the firmament over their heads was the likeness of a throne, in appearance like a sapphire stone; on the likeness of the throne was a likeness with the appearance of a man high above it. Also from the appearance of His waist and upward I saw, as it were, the color of amber with the appearance of fire all around within it; and from the appearance of His waist and downward I saw, as it were, the appearance of fire with brightness all around. Like the appearance of a rainbow in a cloud on a rainy day, so was the appearance of the brightness all around it. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord. So when I saw it, I fell on my face, and I heard a voice of One speaking. (Ezekiel 1:25-28)

The voice speaking to Ezekiel was the preincarnate Christ, and we will look at what He said to Ezekiel over the next five days. Fire accompanied Him, as He is not a weak little baby in a manger (see Isa. 66:15, 2 Thess. 1:8-10, and Heb. 12:29).

Day 296 - October 23

And He said to me, “Son of man, stand on your feet, and I will speak to you.” Then the Spirit entered me when He spoke to me, and set me on my feet; and I heard Him who spoke to me. And He said to me: “Son of man, I am sending you to the children of Israel, to a rebellious nation that has rebelled against Me; they and their fathers have transgressed against Me to this very day. For they are impudent and stubborn children. I am sending you to them, and you shall say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord God.’ As for them, whether they hear or whether they refuse—for they are a rebellious house—yet they will know that a prophet has been among them.” (Ezekiel 2:1-5)

Christ is sending Ezekiel as a prophet to the people of Israel, because they have been sinful and have rebelled against God’s commands. Whether or not they listened, the people would know a prophet was among them, because they would hear the truth.

Day 297 - October 24

“And you, son of man, do not be afraid of them nor be afraid of their words, though briars and thorns are with you and you dwell among scorpions; do not be afraid of their words or

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dismayed by their looks, though they are a rebellious house. You shall speak My words to them, whether they hear or whether they refuse, for they are rebellious. But you, son of man, hear what I say to you. Do not be rebellious like that rebellious house; open your mouth and eat what I give you." Now when I looked, there was a hand stretched out to me; and behold, a scroll of a book was in it. Then He spread it before me; and there was writing on the inside and on the outside, and written on it were lamentations and mourning and woe. (Ezekiel 2:6-10)

The responsibility of any servant of God, anyone who has been saved and redeemed, is to spread God's truth. People may listen or they may rebel, but our responsibility is to speak the truth about Jesus and the gospel and leave the rest up to God.

Day 298 - October 25

Moreover He said to me, "Son of man, eat what you find; eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel." So I opened my mouth, and He caused me to eat that scroll. And He said to me, "Son of man, feed your belly, and fill your stomach with this scroll that I give you." So I ate, and it was in my mouth like honey in sweetness. Then He said to me: "Son of man, go to the house of Israel and speak with My words to them. For you are not sent to a people of unfamiliar speech and of hard language, but to the house of Israel, not to many people of unfamiliar speech and of hard language, whose words you cannot understand. Surely, had I sent you to them, they would have listened to you." (Ezekiel 3:1-6)

First, Ezekiel figuratively eats God's words, an illustration of how we should all feast on and learn from God's Word (see Matt. 4:4 and John 6:26-58). Further, Christ implies that the Gentiles would have listened better than Israel, if He sent Ezekiel there.

Day 299 - October 26

"But the house of Israel will not listen to you, because they will not listen to Me; for all the house of Israel are impudent and hard-hearted. Behold, I have made your face strong against their faces, and your forehead strong against their foreheads. Like adamant stone, harder than flint, I have made your forehead; do not be afraid of them, nor be dismayed at their looks, though they are a rebellious house." Moreover He said to me: "Son of man, receive into your heart all My words that I speak to you, and hear with your ears. And go, get to the captives, to the children of your people, and speak to them

and tell them, 'Thus says the Lord God,' whether they hear, or whether they refuse." (Ezekiel 3:7-11)

Imagine being told my Christ that you were being called to preach God's truth, yet the people won't listen to you. That is what Christ told Ezekiel, and other prophets in the Bible were told similar things. Again, we must share God's truth, no matter what.

Day 300 - October 27

Then the Spirit lifted me up, and I heard behind me a great thunderous voice: "Blessed is the glory of the Lord from His place!" I also heard the noise of the wings of the living creatures that touched one another, and the noise of the wheels beside them, and a great thunderous noise. So the Spirit lifted me up and took me away, and I went in bitterness, in the heat of my spirit; but the hand of the Lord was strong upon me. Then I came to the captives at Tel Abib, who dwelt by the River Chebar; and I sat where they sat, and remained there astonished among them seven days. (Ezekiel 3:12-15)

After Christ had finished talking to Him, Ezekiel was simply astonished. And even though God does not communicate in the same way with us today, we should be similarly amazed and in awe of our God anytime we hear from Him, through His Word.

Day 301 - October 28

"Therefore say, 'Thus says the Lord God: "I will gather you from the peoples, assemble you from the countries where you have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel." ' And they will go there, and they will take away all its detestable things and all its abominations from there. Then I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within them, and take the stony heart out of their flesh, and give them a heart of flesh, that they may walk in My statutes and keep My judgments and do them; and they shall be My people, and I will be their God." ' ' (Ezekiel 11:17-20)

Though this prophecy was specifically intended for Israel at this time, it also points to the coming salvation of the Gentiles and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, who unites all true Christians with one heart and one spirit (see Acts 4:31-32).

Day 302 - October 29

"Nevertheless I will remember My covenant with you in the days of your youth, and I will establish an everlasting covenant with you. Then you will remember your ways and be ashamed, when you receive your older and your

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younger sisters; for I will give them to you for daughters, but not because of My covenant with you. And I will establish My covenant with you. Then you shall know that I am the Lord, that you may remember and be ashamed, and never open your mouth anymore because of your shame, when I provide you an atonement for all you have done,” says the Lord God.’ ” (Ezekiel 16:60-63)

In Old Testament Israel, priests regularly made sacrifices for sin. Yet none of them paid for even a single sin (see Heb. 10:1-18). Instead, God Himself had to provide the One perfect sacrifice, Christ, that atoned for all the sins of all His people for all time.

Day 303 - October 30

Thus says the Lord God: “I will take also one of the highest branches of the high cedar and set it out. I will crop off from the topmost of its young twigs a tender one, and will plant it on a high and prominent mountain. On the mountain height of Israel I will plant it; and it will bring forth boughs, and bear fruit, and be a majestic cedar. Under it will dwell birds of every sort; in the shadow of its branches they will dwell. And all the trees of the field shall know that I, the Lord, have brought down the high tree and exalted the low tree, dried up the green tree and made the dry tree flourish; I, the Lord, have spoken and have done it.” (Ezekiel 17:22-24)

This prophecy is more difficult to understand, but it is generally believed that the high cedar described here is a picture of Christ, whom God put in a high, prominent place to deliver His truth. He resists the proud but gives grace to the humble (see Jam. 4:6).

Day 304 - October 31

“When I say to the righteous that he shall surely live, but he trusts in his own righteousness and commits iniquity, none of his righteous works shall be remembered; but because of the iniquity that he has committed, he shall die. Again, when I say to the wicked, ‘You shall surely die,’ if he turns from his sin and does what is lawful and right, if the wicked restores the pledge, gives back what he has stolen, and walks in the statutes of life without committing iniquity, he shall surely live; he shall not die. None of his sins which he has committed shall be remembered against him; he has done what is lawful and right; he shall surely live.” (Ezekiel 33:13-16)

All of this was accomplished through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross. We are all sinners when compared to a holy God, so we cannot trust in our

own righteousness (see Matt. 5:20). With Christ's forgiveness, God no longer remembers our sin.

Day 305 - November 1

For thus says the Lord God: “Indeed I Myself will search for My sheep and seek them out. As a shepherd seeks out his flock on the day he is among his scattered sheep, so will I seek out My sheep and deliver them from all the places where they were scattered on a cloudy and dark day. ... I will feed My flock, and I will make them lie down,” says the Lord God. “I will seek what was lost and bring back what was driven away, bind up the broken and strengthen what was sick; but I will destroy the fat and the strong, and feed them in judgment.” (Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-16)

Jesus is the Good Shepherd, who seeks out and finds His sheep. This passage has a lot of similarity to John 10, when Jesus describes His work as the Good Shepherd (see John 10:1-18). He finds and will not lose all those who belong to Him.

Day 306 - November 2

Therefore thus says the Lord God to them: “Behold, I Myself will judge between the fat and the lean sheep. Because you have pushed with side and shoulder, butted all the weak ones with your horns, and scattered them abroad, therefore I will save My flock, and they shall no longer be a prey; and I will judge between sheep and sheep. I will establish one shepherd over them, and he shall feed them—My servant David. He shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the Lord, will be their God, and My servant David a prince among them; I, the Lord, have spoken.” (Ezekiel 34:20-24)

Jesus is not only the Shepherd of His people, He is also the Judge of all, the One who will judge each one of us at the end (see John 5:30 and 2 Tim. 4:1, 8). He will divide those who truly belong to Him and those who do not (see Matt. 13:30 and 1 Peter 4:5).

Day 307 - November 3

“I will make a covenant of peace with them, and cause wild beasts to cease from the land; and they will dwell safely in the wilderness and sleep in the woods. I will make them and the places all around My hill a blessing; and I will cause showers to come down in their season; there shall be showers of blessing. Then the trees of the field shall yield their fruit, and the earth shall yield her increase. They shall be safe in their land; and they shall know that I am the Lord, when I have broken the bands of their

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yoke and delivered them from the hand of those who enslaved them.” (Ezekiel 34:25-27)

Though this prophecy had a literal fulfillment when God returned the Israelites from their captivity, it also applies to Christ. He brings true peace, not to the world itself, but into the hearts of all those who follow and truly belong to Him (see John 14:27).

Day 308 - November 4

“And they shall no longer be a prey for the nations, nor shall beasts of the land devour them; but they shall dwell safely, and no one shall make them afraid. I will raise up for them a garden of renown, and they shall no longer be consumed with hunger in the land, nor bear the shame of the Gentiles anymore. Thus they shall know that I, the Lord their God, am with them, and they, the house of Israel, are My people,” says the Lord God. “You are My flock, the flock of My pasture; you are men, and I am your God,” says the Lord God. (Ezekiel 34:28-31)

Like the previous passage, this prophecy had a literal fulfillment for the nation of Israel but also has further fulfillment in Christ, the One whom God has raised up to save and protect His people. Those who are saved in Christ make up His flock.

Day 309 - November 5

“Therefore say to the house of Israel, ‘Thus says the Lord God: “I do not do this for your sake, O house of Israel, but for My holy name’s sake, which you have profaned among the nations wherever you went. And I will sanctify My great name, which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned in their midst; and the nations shall know that I am the Lord,” says the Lord God, “when I am hallowed in you before their eyes. For I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land.” ’ ” (Ezekiel 36:22-24)

Why does God save people? It is not because we are good people who deserve it. He saves people for the sake of His name, to display His grace, love, and mercy (see Isaiah 48:9-11 and Psalm 79:9). When Christians sin, we profane the name of God.

Day 310 - November 6

“Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My

statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them. Then you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; you shall be My people, and I will be your God.” (Ezekiel 36:25-28)

Only forgiveness and salvation from Jesus Christ can cleanse us from our sin so that we become righteous and clean in the sight of God. For those who receive salvation, God gives a new heart and a new spirit that desires to worship and serve God.

Day 311 - November 7

“I will deliver you from all your uncleannesses. I will call for the grain and multiply it, and bring no famine upon you. And I will multiply the fruit of your trees and the increase of your fields, so that you need never again bear the reproach of famine among the nations. Then you will remember your evil ways and your deeds that were not good; and you will loathe yourselves in your own sight, for your iniquities and your abominations. Not for your sake do I do this,” says the Lord God, “let it be known to you. Be ashamed and confounded for your own ways, O house of Israel!” (Ezekiel 36:29-32)

God saves people from our uncleanness through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. We also see in this passage how God protects and provides for His people and how the Holy Spirit causes us to hate and forsake sin; instead, we desire to serve God.

Day 312 - November 8

Thus says the Lord God: “On the day that I cleanse you from all your iniquities, I will also enable you to dwell in the cities, and the ruins shall be rebuilt. The desolate land shall be tilled instead of lying desolate in the sight of all who pass by. So they will say, ‘This land that was desolate has become like the garden of Eden; and the wasted, desolate, and ruined cities are now fortified and inhabited.’ Then the nations which are left all around you shall know that I, the Lord, have rebuilt the ruined places and planted what was desolate. I, the Lord, have spoken it, and I will do it.” (Ezekiel 36:33-36)

Notice how God says that He will cleanse His people from their iniquities. The only way that could have been accomplished was through the sacrifice of the Son of God, Jesus Christ, on the cross. And again we see how God provides for His people.

Day 313 - November 9

“Then say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord God: “Surely I will take the children of Israel from among the nations, wherever they have gone, and will gather them from every side and bring

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them into their own land; and I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king over them all; they shall no longer be two nations, nor shall they ever be divided into two kingdoms again. They shall not defile themselves anymore with their idols, nor with their detestable things, nor with any of their transgressions; but I will deliver them from all their dwelling places in which they have sinned, and will cleanse them. Then they shall be My people, and I will be their God.” ’ ’ (Ezekiel 37:21-23)

All of this is the work of Christ. He is the eternal King, ruling over and caring for all His people who are united together through the Holy Spirit. He is also the One who cleanses all His people from sin, and the Holy Spirit works to keep us free from sin.

Day 314 - November 10

“David My servant shall be king over them, and they shall all have one shepherd; they shall also walk in My judgments and observe My statutes, and do them. Then they shall dwell in the land that I have given to Jacob My servant, where your fathers dwelt; and they shall dwell there, they, their children, and their children’s children, forever; and My servant David shall be their prince forever.” (Ezekiel 37:24-25)

These different things all describe Jesus Christ, the descendant of David, the eternal King, the Good Shepherd (see Matt. 1:1, 27:11, and John 10:11-14). Jesus Christ is also called our great Prince who will rule forever (see Acts 3:15 and 5:31).

Day 315 - November 11

“Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them, and it shall be an everlasting covenant with them; I will establish them and multiply them, and I will set My sanctuary in their midst forevermore. My tabernacle also shall be with them; indeed I will be their God, and they shall be My people. The nations also will know that I, the Lord, sanctify Israel, when My sanctuary is in their midst forevermore.” (Ezekiel 37:26-28)

This is not merely referring to the tabernacle that Israel built by hand. That building was destroyed a few decades after Jesus walked on this earth. Rather, it refers to the Word of God that remains with us and the Holy Spirit that dwells within.

Day 316 - November 12

In the visions of God He took me into the land of Israel and set me on a very high mountain; on it toward the south was something like the structure of a city. He took me there, and

behold, there was a man whose appearance was like the appearance of bronze. He had a line of flax and a measuring rod in his hand, and he stood in the gateway. And the man said to me, “Son of man, look with your eyes and hear with your ears, and fix your mind on everything I show you; for you were brought here so that I might show them to you. Declare to the house of Israel everything you see.” (Ezekiel 40:2-4)

Though it would still be hundreds of years before Jesus would walk on this earth in the form of a man, the preincarnate Christ appears to Ezekiel with an appearance like bronze. He tells Ezekiel to declare what He sees to all those in Israel.

Day 317 - November 13

Afterward he brought me to the gate, the gate that faces toward the east. And behold, the glory of the God of Israel came from the way of the east. His voice was like the sound of many waters; and the earth shone with His glory. It was like the appearance of the vision which I saw—like the vision which I saw when I came to destroy the city. The visions were like the vision which I saw by the River Chebar; and I fell on my face. And the glory of the Lord came into the temple by way of the gate which faces toward the east. The Spirit lifted me up and brought me into the inner court; and behold, the glory of the Lord filled the temple. (Ezekiel 43:1-5)

The preincarnate Christ gives Ezekiel a detailed, divine tour of the eternal temple in Ezekiel 40-43. There are doors which symbolize how Christ is the only door to salvation, and walls that symbolize how the people of God are separated.

Day 318 - November 14

Then I heard Him speaking to me from the temple, while a man stood beside me. And He said to me, “Son of man, this is the place of My throne and the place of the soles of My feet, where I will dwell in the midst of the children of Israel forever. No more shall the house of Israel defile My holy name, they nor their kings, by their harlotry or with the carcasses of their kings on their high places. When they set their threshold by My threshold, and their doorpost by My doorpost, with a wall between them and Me, they defiled My holy name by the abominations which they committed; therefore I have consumed them in My anger. Now let them put their harlotry and the carcasses of their kings far away from Me, and I will dwell in their

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midst forever.” (Ezekiel 43:6-9)

This passage confirms that it is the preincarnate Christ who has been speaking to Ezekiel and showing Him the eternal temple. Only He will reign on the throne in the midst of His people forever, when sin will no longer have any power over us.

Day 319 - November 15

“And one lamb shall be given from a flock of two hundred, from the rich pastures of Israel. These shall be for grain offerings, burnt offerings, and peace offerings, to make atonement for them,” says the Lord God. “All the people of the land shall give this offering for the prince in Israel. Then it shall be the prince’s part to give burnt offerings, grain offerings, and drink offerings, at the feasts, the New Moons, the Sabbaths, and at all the appointed seasons of the house of Israel. He shall prepare the sin offering, the grain offering, the burnt offering, and the peace offerings to make atonement for the house of Israel.” (Ezekiel 45:15-17)

All of these sacrifices point forward to Christ, who has previously been called the “prince” by Ezekiel (see Ezek. 34:24, 37:25). When He died on the cross, He made the one and only perfect sacrifice that forever took the place of all of these sacrifices.

Day 320 - November 16

He said to me, “Son of man, have you seen this?” Then he brought me and returned me to the bank of the river. When I returned, there, along the bank of the river, were very many trees on one side and the other. Then he said to me: “This water flows toward the eastern region, goes down into the valley, and enters the sea. When it reaches the sea, its waters are healed. And it shall be that every living thing that moves, wherever the rivers go, will live. There will be a very great multitude of fish, because these waters go there; for they will be healed, and everything will live wherever the river goes.” (Ezekiel 47:6-9)

This river is a picture of Jesus, who is the one and only source of living water (see John 4:10-14). It symbolizes the gospel, which flows outward from Jesus, who gives spiritual healing and eternal life to everyone He reaches out to and saves from hell.

Day 321 - November 17

“It shall be that fishermen will stand by it from En Gedi to En Eglaim; they will be places for spreading their nets. Their fish will be of the same kinds as the fish of the Great Sea, exceedingly many. But its swamps and

marshes will not be healed; they will be given over to salt. Along the bank of the river, on this side and that, will grow all kinds of trees used for food; their leaves will not wither, and their fruit will not fail. They will bear fruit every month, because their water flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food, and their leaves for medicine.” (Ezekiel 47:10-12)

This passage provides us with a beautiful picture of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Many different types of people from all around the world are saved by Him, though others remain in their sin. True believers bear spiritual fruit and receive healing from Jesus.

Day 322 - November 18

“And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. Inasmuch as you saw that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold—the great God has made known to the king what will come to pass after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure.” (Daniel 2:44-45)

As God gave Daniel the interpretation of King Nebuchadnezzar’s dream, he concluded the interpretation with this description of the eternal kingdom of Jesus Christ that is to come. That is the only kingdom that can and will stand forever.

Day 323 - November 19

And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished; and he rose in haste and spoke, saying to his counselors, “Did we not cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?” They answered and said to the king, “True, O king.” “Look!” he answered, “I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.” (Daniel 3:23-25)

Though these men did not know salvation through Christ, they were correct—the fourth Man was the very Son of God. The preincarnate Christ protected these men, who were thrown into the fiery furnace for refusing to worship anyone other than God.

Day 324 - November 20

Nebuchadnezzar spoke, saying, “Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego,

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who sent His Angel and delivered His servants who trusted in Him, and they have frustrated the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they should not serve nor worship any god except their own God! Therefore I make a decree that any people, nation, or language which speaks anything amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made an ash heap; because there is no other God who can deliver like this." (Daniel 3:28-29)

Notice what can happen when followers of Christ stand up for Him, no matter what the consequences might be. God delivered these men from the fiery furnace, and King Nebuchadnezzar gained a new respect for God after seeing His power on display.

Day 325 - November 21

Then the magicians, the astrologers, the Chaldeans, and the soothsayers came in, and I told them the dream; but they did not make known to me its interpretation. But at last Daniel came before me (his name is Belteshazzar, according to the name of my god; in him is the Spirit of the Holy God), and I told the dream before him, saying: "Belteshazzar, chief of the magicians, because I know that the Spirit of the Holy God is in you, and no secret troubles you, explain to me the visions of my dream that I have seen, and its interpretation." (Daniel 4:7-9)

When King Nebuchadnezzar had another troubling dream, he again sent for Daniel to find out what it meant. Although Nebuchadnezzar did not follow God himself, he knew the spirit of God was within Daniel because of the evidence in Daniel's life.

Day 326 - November 22

And when he came to the den, he cried out with a lamenting voice to Daniel. The king spoke, saying to Daniel, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?" Then Daniel said to the king, "O king, live forever! My God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths, so that they have not hurt me, because I was found innocent before Him; and also, O king, I have done no wrong before you." Now the king was exceedingly glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no injury whatever was found on him, because he believed in his God. (Daniel 6:20-23)

Daniel's testimony was obvious to King Darius as well, just as it had been to King Nebuchadnezzar.

Although Daniel disobeyed the king's decree to not worship God, the king could tell that Daniel's God was real because of the evidence in Daniel's life.

Day 327 - November 23

Then King Darius wrote: To all peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth: Peace be multiplied to you. I make a decree that in every dominion of my kingdom men must tremble and fear before the God of Daniel. For He is the living God, and steadfast forever; His kingdom is the one which shall not be destroyed, and His dominion shall endure to the end. He delivers and rescues, and He works signs and wonders in heaven and on earth, Who has delivered Daniel from the power of the lions. (Daniel 6:25-27)

Because of the witness and testimony of Daniel, King Darius saw the love and power of God. Christ rescued Daniel's friends from the fiery furnace and Daniel was also saved from the lions. Today, Christ still delivers from hell those who repent and follow.

Day 328 - November 24

"I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him. Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed." (Daniel 7:13-14)

God gave Daniel this vision (though God no longer works in that way, since the Bible is complete) in which God the Father, the Ancient of Days, gives Christ, the Son of Man, His everlasting kingdom, which shall never pass away nor be destroyed.

Day 329 - November 25

"I was watching; and the same horn was making war against the saints, and prevailing against them, until the Ancient of Days came, and a judgment was made in favor of the saints of the Most High, and the time came for the saints to possess the kingdom. ... Then the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High. His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him." (Daniel 7:21-22, 27)

Here God sends Daniel a vision of the future, when God the Father (the Ancient of Days) protects His

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people from the antichrist. Then the saints (all those whom God has saved) will be part of God's everlasting kingdom, ruled by Jesus Christ.

Day 330 - November 26

“Seventy weeks are determined for your people and for your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sins, to make reconciliation for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the Most Holy. Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince, there shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublesome times.” (Daniel 9:24-25)

Who is the only one who can end sin and make reconciliation for iniquity? Who is the only one who possesses everlasting righteousness? It is the Messiah, also called the Prince, Jesus Christ.

Day 331 - November 27

“And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; and the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood, and till the end of the war desolations are determined. Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; but in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, even until the consummation, which is determined, is poured out on the desolate.” (Daniel 9:26-27)

People interpret this challenging prophecy in different ways, but there is no doubt that it is talking about Jesus Christ, the Messiah, who died for His people, putting an end to Old Testament sacrifices, and He will also ultimately destroy His enemies.

Day 332 - November 28

I lifted my eyes and looked, and behold, a certain man clothed in linen, whose waist was girded with gold of Uphaz! His body was like beryl, his face like the appearance of lightning, his eyes like torches of fire, his arms and feet like burnished bronze in color, and the sound of his words like the voice of a multitude. And I, Daniel, alone saw the vision, for the men who were with me did not see the vision; but a great terror fell upon them, so that they fled to hide themselves. Therefore I was left alone when I saw this great vision, and no strength remained in me; for my vigor was turned to frailty in me,

and I retained no strength. (Daniel 10:5-8)

Daniel was given a special vision by God as he was allowed to see the preincarnate Christ in this vision. In the verses that follow, Christ gave Daniel details about some future events that would take place concerning Israel and other surrounding kingdoms.

Day 333 - November 29

“At that time Michael shall stand up, the great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation, even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, every one who is found written in the book. And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever.” (Daniel 12:1-3)

Remember that no one knew the name of Jesus until the time of Joseph and Mary. Here, Christ is called by the name of Michael, and we are told that He will rise up in the end and deliver all His people, whose names are written in the Book of Life.

Day 334 - November 30

“But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase.” Then I, Daniel, looked; and there stood two others, one on this riverbank and the other on that riverbank. And one said to the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, “How long shall the fulfillment of these wonders be?” Then I heard the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand to heaven, and swore by Him who lives forever, that it shall be for a time, times, and half a time; and when the power of the holy people has been completely shattered, all these things shall be finished. (Daniel 12:4-7)

The prophecy from Christ to Daniel may refer to our time, considering the vast array of knowledge that is available to us via technology and the internet. In our day, we have tools to study and understand Scripture like no one has ever had before.

Day 335 - December 1

Although I heard, I did not understand. Then I said, “My lord, what shall be the end of these things?” And he said, “Go your way, Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed till the time

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of the end. Many shall be purified, made white, and refined, but the wicked shall do wickedly; and none of the wicked shall understand, but the wise shall understand. ... But you, go your way till the end; for you shall rest, and will arise to your inheritance at the end of the days.”
(Daniel 12:8-10, 13)

This concludes the words of prophecy that Christ gave to Daniel, and it concludes the book of Daniel as well. The wicked continue to stand against God, but some are “purified, made white, and refined” through the shed blood of Christ on the cross.

Day 336 - December 2

Then God said: “Call his name Lo-Ammi, for you are not My people, and I will not be your God. Yet the number of the children of Israel shall be as the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured or numbered. And it shall come to pass in the place where it was said to them, ‘You are not My people,’ there it shall be said to them, ‘You are sons of the living God.’ Then the children of Judah and the children of Israel shall be gathered together, and appoint for themselves one head; and they shall come up out of the land, for great will be the day of Jezreel!” (Hosea 1:9-11)

God repeats the promise He had given to Abraham so long ago, that through the coming Messiah, His people would be so numerous that they cannot be counted. Also, the “one head” that His people will appoint as their leader is a reference to Christ.

Day 337 - December 3

“And it shall be, in that day,” says the Lord, “That you will call Me ‘My Husband,’ and no longer call Me ‘My Master,’ For I will take from her mouth the names of the Baals, and they shall be remembered by their name no more. In that day I will make a covenant for them with the beasts of the field, with the birds of the air, and with the creeping things of the ground. Bow and sword of battle I will shatter from the earth, to make them lie down safely.” (Hosea 2:16-18)

Ephesians 5 is a well-known passage that can help strengthen a marriage, but marriage ultimately is intended as a picture of the relationship between Christ, the husband or bridegroom, and His church, the bride (see Eph. 5:32 and Rev. 19:7).

Day 338 - December 4

“I will betroth you to Me forever; yes, I will betroth you to Me in righteousness and justice, in lovingkindness and mercy; I will betroth you

to Me in faithfulness, and you shall know the Lord. It shall come to pass in that day that I will answer,” says the Lord; “I will answer the heavens, and they shall answer the earth. The earth shall answer with grain, with new wine, and with oil; they shall answer Jezreel. Then I will sow her for Myself in the earth, and I will have mercy on her who had not obtained mercy; then I will say to those who were not My people, ‘You are My people!’ And they shall say, ‘You are my God!’ ” (Hosea 2:19-23)

Again God proclaims the coming Messiah, in whom we find righteousness, justice, lovingkindness, and mercy. This is also a prophecy of salvation being extended beyond Israel to the Gentiles, who are those who were not His people before that time.

Day 339 - December 5

Afterward the children of Israel shall return and seek the Lord their God and David their king. They shall fear the Lord and His goodness in the latter days. ... “When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called My son.” ... “Ephraim shall say, ‘What have I to do anymore with idols?’ I have heard and observed him. I am like a green cypress tree; Your fruit is found in Me.” (Hosea 3:5, 11:1, 14:8)

This assortment of verses from Hosea all point to the coming Messiah, who is the descendant of King David. He came out of Egypt just as the Israelites did in the days of Moses (see Matt. 2:13-15). Those who are His bear spiritual fruit (see John 15:1-17).

Day 340 - December 6

“The Lord also brings a charge against Judah, and will punish Jacob according to his ways; according to his deeds He will recompense him. He took his brother by the heel in the womb, and in his strength he struggled with God. Yes, he struggled with the Angel and prevailed; he wept, and sought favor from Him. He found Him in Bethel, and there He spoke to us—that is, the Lord God of hosts. The Lord is His memorable name. So you, by the help of your God, return; observe mercy and justice, and wait on your God continually.” (Hosea 12:2-6)

Within the prophecy that He gives to Hosea, God recalls the struggle between the preincarnate Christ and Jacob that happened a thousand years before (see Gen. 32:22-32). In addition, followers of Christ are called to practice His traits of mercy and justice.

Day 341 - December 7

“Yet I am the Lord your God ever since the land of Egypt, and you shall know no God but Me;

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for there is no savior besides Me. ... I will be your King; where is any other, that he may save you in all your cities? And your judges to whom you said, 'Give me a king and princes'? ... I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death. O Death, I will be your plagues! O Grave, I will be your destruction! Pity is hidden from My eyes." (Hosea 13:4, 10, 14)

The Lord who brought His people out of Egypt, the one and only Savior, the only eternal King, the only One who can rescue souls from the power of the grave and redeem them from death, the One who destroyed the power of the grave, is Jesus alone.

Day 342 - December 8

"Then you shall know that I am in the midst of Israel: I am the Lord your God and there is no other. My people shall never be put to shame. And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions. And also on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days." (Joel 2:27-29)

This is another prophecy of salvation coming to the Gentiles after the time that Jesus was on the earth, but it is a specific reference to the initial coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Peter references this passage as he speaks that day (see Acts 2:16-21).

Day 343 - December 9

"And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be deliverance, as the Lord has said, among the remnant whom the Lord calls. ... But Judah shall abide forever, and Jerusalem from generation to generation. For I will acquit them of the guilt of bloodshed, whom I had not acquitted; for the Lord dwells in Zion." (Joel 2:32, 3:20-21)

The first verse is often misused (see Rom. 10:13). It does not mean that just calling to Jesus will save someone. That would contradict Jesus (see Matt. 7:21-23). Rather, that verse is part of this prophecy of salvation being extended to the Gentiles.

Day 344 - December 10

"But on Mount Zion there shall be deliverance, and there shall be holiness; the house of Jacob shall possess their possessions. The house of Jacob shall be a fire, and the house of Joseph a flame; but the house of Esau shall be stubble;

they shall kindle them and devour them, and no survivor shall remain of the house of Esau," For the Lord has spoken. ... Then saviors shall come to Mount Zion to judge the mountains of Esau, and the kingdom shall be the Lord's. (Obadiah 17-18, 21)

This deliverance will come through Jesus Christ, who will deliver His people from death and hell. These "saviors" proclaim the gospel truth to those around them. But those who reject God (the "house of Esau") will be devoured by death and hell.

Day 345 - December 11

"I will surely assemble all of you, O Jacob, I will surely gather the remnant of Israel; I will put them together like sheep of the fold, like a flock in the midst of their pasture; they shall make a loud noise because of so many people. The one who breaks open will come up before them; they will break out, pass through the gate, and go out by it; their king will pass before them, with the Lord at their head." (Micah 2:12-13)

"The one who breaks open" is believed to refer to Jesus Christ, who broke into this world in a most extraordinary manner when He was born of the virgin Mary. He is our eternal King, the Shepherd and ruler over all those who are saved in Him.

Day 346 - December 12

Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and peoples shall flow to it. Many nations shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths." For out of Zion the law shall go forth, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between many peoples, and rebuke strong nations afar off; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. (Micah 4:1-3)

Here we find another prophecy about salvation coming to the Gentiles, as the prophet Micah writes that many nations will come to be taught by God to follow His ways and walk in His paths once the gospel was sent out from Israel into all the world.

Day 347 - December 13

But everyone shall sit under his vine and under his fig tree, and no one shall make them afraid; for the mouth of the Lord of hosts has spoken.

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For all people walk each in the name of his god, but we will walk in the name of the Lord our God forever and ever. "In that day," says the Lord, "I will assemble the lame, I will gather the outcast and those whom I have afflicted; I will make the lame a remnant, and the outcast a strong nation; so the Lord will reign over them in Mount Zion from now on, even forever. And you, O tower of the flock, the stronghold of the daughter of Zion, to you shall it come, even the former dominion shall come, the kingdom of the daughter of Jerusalem." (Micah 4:4-8)

The coming of the Messiah, the spreading of His gospel, and the eventual everlasting kingdom of Jesus Christ are all prophesied within this passage. We are given a beautiful picture here of how Jesus saves many who seem to be outcasts in the world.

Day 348 - December 14

"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel, whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting." Therefore He shall give them up, until the time that she who is in labor has given birth; then the remnant of His brethren shall return to the children of Israel. And He shall stand and feed His flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord His God; and they shall abide, for now He shall be great to the ends of the earth; and this One shall be peace. (Micah 5:2-5a)

The Son of God, who has existed for all eternity, will be born in the small town of Bethlehem to rule over all His people. He feeds His flock with the Word of God and brings peace to the hearts of all His people. What an amazing prophecy this is!

Day 349 - December 15

Then the remnant of Jacob shall be in the midst of many peoples, like dew from the Lord, like showers on the grass, that tarry for no man nor wait for the sons of men. And the remnant of Jacob shall be among the Gentiles, in the midst of many peoples, like a lion among the beasts of the forest, like a young lion among flocks of sheep, who, if he passes through, both treads down and tears in pieces, and none can deliver. ... "And I will execute vengeance in anger and fury on the nations that have not heard." (Micah 5:7-8, 15)

This prophecy seems to refer to two things—the Jews who will be saved in the latter days, and the Gentiles who are being saved now. Both groups of people are small compared to all the people in the

world. Those who ignore God will face His wrath.

Day 350 - December 16

Do not rejoice over me, my enemy; when I fall, I will arise; when I sit in darkness, the Lord will be a light to me. I will bear the indignation of the Lord, because I have sinned against Him, until He pleads my case and executes justice for me. He will bring me forth to the light; I will see His righteousness. ... Shepherd Your people with Your staff, the flock of Your heritage, who dwell solitarily in a woodland, in the midst of Carmel; let them feed in Bashan and Gilead, as in days of old. "As in the days when you came out of the land of Egypt, I will show them wonders." (Micah 7:8-9, 14-15)

This passage provides a picture of several different attributes of Jesus. He is our Light in the darkness. Though we sin against Him, He pleads our case and covers His people with His own righteousness. He is the Great Shepherd as He leads His people.

Day 351 - December 17

Who is a God like You, pardoning iniquity and passing over the transgression of the remnant of His heritage? He does not retain His anger forever, because He delights in mercy. He will again have compassion on us, and will subdue our iniquities. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea. You will give truth to Jacob and mercy to Abraham, which You have sworn to our fathers from days of old. (Micah 7:18-20)

How does God pardon our iniquities and pass over our transgressions? Only through the shed blood of Jesus Christ, which atones for sin. For all those who truly belong to Jesus, our sins have been cast deep into the sea, never to be seen again.

Day 352 - December 18

For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea. ... You went forth for the salvation of Your people, for salvation with Your Anointed. You struck the head from the house of the wicked, by laying bare from foundation to neck. Selah (Habakkuk 2:14, 3:13)

The earth became "filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord" as the gospel was proclaimed throughout all the world after the resurrection of Jesus. God Himself provided salvation for His people through His Anointed Son, our Savior.

Day 353 - December 19

'... and I will shake all nations, and they shall come to the Desire of All Nations, and I will fill

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this temple with glory,' says the Lord of hosts. ... And again the word of the Lord came to Haggai on the twenty-fourth day of the month, saying, "Speak to Zerubbabel, governor of Judah, saying: 'I will shake heaven and earth. I will overthrow the throne of kingdoms; I will destroy the strength of the Gentile kingdoms. I will overthrow the chariots and those who ride in them; the horses and their riders shall come down, every one by the sword of his brother. 'In that day,' says the Lord of hosts, 'I will take you, Zerubbabel My servant, the son of Shealtiel,' says the Lord, 'and will make you like a signet ring; for I have chosen you,' says the Lord of hosts." (Haggai 2:7, 20-23)

Christ is referred to as "the Desire of All Nations" in whom all the nations of the world will be blessed (see Gen. 22:18). He is also called Zerubbabel, the leader of the tribe of Judah and an ancestor of Christ, like how Christ is sometimes called David.

Day 354 - December 20

So they answered the Angel of the Lord, who stood among the myrtle trees, and said, "We have walked to and fro throughout the earth, and behold, all the earth is resting quietly." Then the Angel of the Lord answered and said, "O Lord of hosts, how long will You not have mercy on Jerusalem and on the cities of Judah, against which You were angry these seventy years?" And the Lord answered the angel who talked to me, with good and comforting words. So the angel who spoke with me said to me, "Proclaim, saying, 'Thus says the Lord of hosts: "I am zealous for Jerusalem and for Zion with great zeal. I am exceedingly angry with the nations at ease; for I was a little angry, and they helped—but with evil intent." (Zechariah 1:11-15)

This passage also refers to this Angel as a Man (see Zech. 1:8-10), indicating that this seems to be another appearance of the preincarnate Christ. We also get to observe an interesting conversation between God the Father and God the Son.

Day 355 - December 21

For thus says the Lord of hosts: "He sent Me after glory, to the nations which plunder you; for he who touches you touches the apple of His eye. For surely I will shake My hand against them, and they shall become spoil for their servants. Then you will know that the Lord of hosts has sent Me. Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion! For behold, I am coming and I will dwell in your midst," says the Lord. "Many nations

shall be joined to the Lord in that day, and they shall become My people. And I will dwell in your midst. Then you will know that the Lord of hosts has sent Me to you. And the Lord will take possession of Judah as His inheritance in the Holy Land, and will again choose Jerusalem. Be silent, all flesh, before the Lord, for He is aroused from His holy habitation!" (Zechariah 2:8-13)

The preincarnate Christ speaks of God the Father sending His Son against His enemies, to protect those who belong to Him. He again foretells about the gospel being spread into Gentile lands and Christ foretells that He will dwell in their midst.

Day 356 - December 22

Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the Angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right hand to oppose him. And the Lord said to Satan, "The Lord rebuke you, Satan! The Lord who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is this not a brand plucked from the fire?" Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and was standing before the Angel. Then He answered and spoke to those who stood before Him, saying, "Take away the filthy garments from him." And to him He said, "See, I have removed your iniquity from you, and I will clothe you with rich robes." And I said, "Let them put a clean turban on his head." So they put a clean turban on his head, and they put the clothes on him. And the Angel of the Lord stood by. (Zechariah 3:1-5)

Joshua, the high priest when the temple was rebuilt (see Ezra), is used here by God to give a beautiful picture of the cleansing from sin that Christ was to accomplish several hundred years later. He takes away iniquity, covering sin with His righteousness.

Day 357 - December 23

Then the Angel of the Lord admonished Joshua, saying, "Thus says the Lord of hosts: 'If you will walk in My ways, and if you will keep My command, then you shall also judge My house, and likewise have charge of My courts; I will give you places to walk among these who stand here. Hear, O Joshua, the high priest, you and your companions who sit before you, for they are a wondrous sign; for behold, I am bringing forth My Servant the BRANCH. For behold, the stone that I have laid before Joshua: upon the stone are seven eyes. behold, I will engrave its inscription,' says the Lord of hosts, 'and I will remove the iniquity of that land in one day. In that day,' says the Lord of hosts,

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***'everyone will invite his neighbor under his vine and under his fig tree.'* ” (Zechariah 3:6-10)**

In this prophecy the coming Messiah, Jesus Christ, is called the BRANCH. Picture a family tree, and Jesus would be a branch (an offspring) in David's family. He is God's Servant and He is the One who will remove iniquity through His death on the cross.

Day 358 - December 24

So he answered and said to me: "This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' says the Lord of hosts. 'Who are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you shall become a plain! And he shall bring forth the capstone with shouts of "Grace, grace to it!" ' " Moreover the word of the Lord came to me, saying: "The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this temple; His hands shall also finish it. Then you will know that the Lord of hosts has sent Me to you. For who has despised the day of small things? For these seven rejoice to see the plumb line in the hand of Zerubbabel. They are the eyes of the Lord, which scan to and fro throughout the whole earth." (Zechariah 4:6-10)

Zerubbabel led the tribe of Judah as they returned from captivity and rebuilt the temple (see Ezra 5:2). This passage compares that temple with Christ, who brings grace to His people and who is the chief cornerstone of the temple (see Matt. 21:42).

Day 359 - December 25

"Then speak to him, saying, 'Thus says the Lord of hosts, saying: "Behold, the Man whose name is the BRANCH! From His place He shall branch out, and He shall build the temple of the Lord; yes, He shall build the temple of the Lord. He shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule on His throne; so He shall be a priest on His throne, and the counsel of peace shall be between them both." ' Now the elaborate crown shall be for a memorial in the temple of the Lord for Helem, Tobijah, Jedaiah, and Hen the son of Zephaniah. Even those from afar shall come and build the temple of the Lord. Then you shall know that the Lord of hosts has sent Me to you. And this shall come to pass if you diligently obey the voice of the Lord your God." (Zechariah 6:12-15)

Christ is again called the BRANCH but the meaning is expanded beyond David's family tree. Jesus was to be born in a stable in a small town, yet because He is the Son of God and He proclaimed the truth of God, He became known all across the world.

Day 360 - December 26

"Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, lowly and riding on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey. I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the horse from Jerusalem; the battle bow shall be cut off. He shall speak peace to the nations; His dominion shall be 'from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.' As for you also, because of the blood of your covenant, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit." ... The Lord their God will save them in that day, as the flock of His people. For they shall be like the jewels of a crown, lifted like a banner over His land. (Zechariah 9:9-11, 16)

This is a very clear prophecy of King Jesus, the One who brings salvation to His people. Yet Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a lowly young donkey (see Matt. 21:1-11). He is ruler over all the earth and is the One who can set us free from eternal death.

Day 361 - December 27

"My anger is kindled against the shepherds, and I will punish the goatherds. For the Lord of hosts will visit His flock, the house of Judah, and will make them as His royal horse in the battle. From him comes the cornerstone, from him the tent peg, from him the battle bow, from him every ruler together. ... In that day a fountain shall be opened for the house of David and for the inhabitants of Jerusalem, for sin and for uncleanness." (Zechariah 10:3-4; 13:1)

God's wrath is against all those rulers and leaders who are His enemies. Yet He would soon send the cornerstone, King Jesus (see Eph. 2:20). Jesus is the fountain of life who alone can atone for our sin and make us clean before God (see Titus 3:5-7).

Day 362 - December 28

In that day the Lord will defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; the one who is feeble among them in that day shall be like David, and the house of David shall be like God, like the Angel of the Lord before them. It shall be in that day that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. "And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn. In that day there shall be a great mourning in Jerusalem, like the mourning at

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***Hadad Rimmon in the plain of Megiddo.”
(Zechariah 12:8-11)***

Jewish religious leaders were focused on staying in control and keeping their power. So they had Jesus Christ, the firstborn over all creation (see Col. 1:15), arrested and subsequently hanged on the cross, where His body was pierced (see John 19:34-37).

Day 363 - December 29

“Awake, O sword, against My Shepherd, against the Man who is My Companion,” says the Lord of hosts. “Strike the Shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered; then I will turn My hand against the little ones. And it shall come to pass in all the land,” says the Lord, “that two-thirds in it shall be cut off and die, but one-third shall be left in it: I will bring the one-third through the fire, will refine them as silver is refined, and test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, and I will answer them. I will say, ‘This is My people’; and each one will say, ‘The Lord is my God.’ ” (Zechariah 13:7-9)

God Himself takes responsibility as the One who had Jesus crucified on the cross (see Isa. 53:10 and Matt. 26:31), as it was all part of His plan from the beginning. God refines His people, those who are saved, to make us more and more like Christ.

Day 364 - December 30

“Behold, I send My messenger, and he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple, even the Messenger of the covenant, in whom

you delight. Behold, He is coming,” says the Lord of hosts. “But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner’s fire and like launderers’ soap. He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; He will purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer to the Lord an offering in righteousness.” (Malachi 3:1-3)

The preincarnate Christ speaks one more time to say that He would send His messenger, John the Baptist (see Matt. 11:10), before He would come to His temple. But no one can endure Him unless we have been born again and refined to be made pure.

Day 365 - December 31

“Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasant to the Lord, as in the days of old, as in former years. And I will come near you for judgment; I will be a swift witness against sorcerers, against adulterers, against perjurers, against those who exploit wage earners and widows and orphans, and against those who turn away an alien—because they do not fear Me,” says the Lord of hosts. “For I am the Lord, I do not change; therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob.” (Malachi 3:4-6)

Only when we are saved and are covered in the righteousness of Christ can we become pleasing to God. And because God does not change, He will always keep His promises to those who belong to Him, no matter how much we deserve His wrath.

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