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**Daily Manna devotions: Editor's Choice**  
**Current archive for January to December 2025**

**Old and New Testament Bible teachings**  
**as requested by the late Fred Morris, author and founder of Manna Publications**  
**(USA), before he died in 2018**

See: <http://manna-publications.org.uk/Daily-Weekly-Devotionals.shtml>

**Bible quotations used by Fred Morris are mainly from the NIRV New International Readers Version (1998) published at that time by Hodder & Stoughton Ltd., London. Used with permission.**

**Use "CTRL F" to search for key words or phrases**

#### **1<sup>st</sup> January 2025.**

Nehemiah 9:1-8. After the Jews returned to Jerusalem from exile, 'they stood and admitted they had sinned... They listened while the Levites read parts of the Book of the Law of the LORD God Almighty... They also worshiped the LORD. The Levites said to the people, "Stand up. Praise the LORD your God. He lives for ever and ever!" So the people said, "LORD, may Your glorious name be praised. May it be lifted high above every other name. You are the one and only LORD. You created Heaven and Earth and everything on it... You chose Abram out of Ur in the land of Babylon. You named him Abraham. You knew that his heart was faithful to You. And You made a covenant with him. You promised to give to his children after him a land of their own. It was the land of the Canaanites, Hittites and Amorites... You have kept Your promise. That is because You always do what is right and fair.' "

Hebrews 11 records the great people of faith from the beginning. Abel (v.4), Noah (v.7), Abraham (v.11), Isaac and Jacob and Joseph (v.20-22), Moses (v.23) and many others (v.31-33). "All these people were praised because they had faith. But none of them received what God had promised. God had planned something better for us. So they would only be made perfect together with us." (v.39-40). In the next chapter, the writer of Hebrews says, "Let us keep looking to Jesus. He is the one who started this journey of faith. And He is the one who completed the journey of faith. He suffered on the cross because of the joy he was looking forward to. Then he sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." (12:2)

*Father God thank You for the people of faith and the family of Abraham to whom You have revealed Your truth. Thank You for the privilege of receiving Your salvation through Christ Your Son our Saviour. Amen.*

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> January 2025.**

Job 24. Job continues to complain that God does not act against the wicked people in order to help the poor and needy. "Why doesn't the Mighty One set a time for judging sinful people? Why do those who know Him have to keep waiting for that day? People move their neighbour's boundary stones. They steal their neighbour's flocks. They take away the donkeys that belong to children whose fathers have died. They take a widow's ox until she has paid what she owes. They push those who are needy out of their way... They have to go around looking for food." Job continues to complain until he admits that in God's timing, "God is powerful and drags away people who are strong. When He rises up against them, they can never be sure they are safe. God might let them rest and feel secure. But His eyes see how the wicked people live. For a little while they are honoured. Then they are gone."

2 Corinthians 12:7-10. Paul writes "So that I would not become proud of myself, I was given a problem. This problem caused pain in my body. It is a messenger from Satan to make me suffer. Three times I begged the Lord to take it away from me. But He said to me, 'My grace is all you need. My power is strongest when you are weak.' So ... I am glad that I am weak. I am glad in hard times. I am glad when people say bad things about me. I am glad when things are difficult. And I am glad when people make me suffer. When I am weak, I am strong."

*Father God, we see that it took a long time for Job and Paul to understand how You allow the enemy to test us. Forgive us when we complain about our own needs and the needs of millions of others. May our hope be in You and in our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.*

### **3<sup>rd</sup> January 2025.**

Daniel 2:31-35; 44-45. Daniel describes and interprets the dream of Nebuchadnezzar. "You looked up and saw a large statue... The head of the statue was made out of pure gold. Its chest and arms were made out of silver. Its stomach and thighs were made out of bronze. Its legs were made out of iron. And its feet were partly iron and partly baked clay. While you were watching, a Rock was cut out, but not by human hands. It struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and smashed them. Then the iron and clay were broken to pieces. So were the bronze, silver and gold... But the Rock that struck the statue became a huge mountain. It filled the whole Earth... In the time of those kings, the God of Heaven will set up a Kingdom. It will never be destroyed. And no other nation will ever take it over. It will crush all the other kingdoms and will last forever... The great God has shown you what will take place in days to come."

2 Thessalonians 2:1-8. Paul writes, "Regarding the return of our Lord Jesus Christ... We want to ask you not to become easily upset or alarmed... Do not let anyone deceive you in any way. That day will not come until people rise up against God. It will not come until the man of sin appears. He is a marked man. But He will be destroyed. He will oppose everything that is called God. He will oppose everything that is worshipped. He will give himself power over everything. He will set himself up in God's Temple. He will announce that he himself is God... The Lord Jesus will overthrow him with the breath of His mouth. The glorious brightness of the coming of Jesus will destroy the man of sin."

*Help us Father God never to forget these prophecies given to Daniel and Paul. Keep us faithful and wise to the end. In Jesus' name. Amen.*

### **6<sup>th</sup> January 2025.**

6/1/24. Genesis 15:1-7. God's covenant with faithful Abram (Abraham) was greater than His covenant with faithful Noah. 'The LORD God Almighty said to him, "Abram, do not be afraid. I am like a shield to you. I am your very great reward." But Abram said, "LORD and King, what can You give me? I still do not have any children. My servant Eliezer... will get everything I own." Then the LORD told Abram. "When you die, what you have will not go to this man. You will have a son of your own. He will get everything you have." The LORD took Abram outside and said, "Look up at the sky. Count the stars, if you can." Then He said to him, "That's how many children will be born into your family." Abram believed the LORD. The LORD was pleased with Abram because he believed. So Abram's faith made him right with the LORD. He also said to Abram, "I brought you out of Ur in the land of Babylon. I will give you this land to have as your very own." ' God extended His covenant with Abram further in Chapter 17. Mark 3:31-35. The mother of Jesus and His brothers came and stood outside. They sent someone in to fetch Him. A crowd was sitting around Jesus. They told Him, "Your mother and Your brothers are outside. They are looking for You." "Who is My mother? Who are My brothers?" He asked. Then Jesus looked at the people sitting in a circle around Him. He said, "Here is My mother! Here are My brothers! Anyone who does what God wants is My brother or sister or mother." *Thank You God for Your purpose and provision in Abraham, the father of the Jews and in Jesus, the Saviour of Jews and Gentiles. We thank You for the followers of Jesus in every nation of the world who are faithfully waiting for the return of Israel's Messiah to establish Your final covenant with mankind. Amen.*

### **7<sup>th</sup> January 2025.**

Isaiah 43:10-13. This is what the LORD God Almighty said to His prophet Isaiah 700 years before the birth of Jesus Christ. "People of Israel, you are My witnesses. I have chosen you to be My servant. I wanted you to know Me and believe in Me. I wanted you to understand that I am the one and only God. Before Me, there was no other god at all. And there will not be any god after Me... I am the only one who can save you... You are My witnesses that I am God and I always will be."

Acts 26:2-9. Paul said, "King Agrippa, I am happy to be able to stand here today. I will answer all the charges brought against me by the Jews... The Jewish people all know how I have lived ever since I was a child... I have lived by the rules of the Pharisees. Those rules are harder to obey than those of any other Jewish group. But today I am on trial because of the hope I have. I believe in what God promised our people long ago... Because of this hope they serve God with faithful

and honest hearts day and night. King Agrippa, it is also because of this hope that these Jews are bringing charges against me. Why should any of you think it is impossible for God to raise the dead? But I too believed that I should oppose the name of Jesus of Nazareth. So I did everything I could to oppose His name." Paul then followed with his testimony of meeting Jesus personally on the road to Damascus.

*LORD God Almighty, help us to take in the reality of what You revealed to Isaiah and Paul. From the calling of Noah 4300 years ago and the calling of Abraham 300 years later and the calling of Paul nearly 2000 years ago, we too testify You are LORD over all and brought salvation through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Hallelujah!*

### **8<sup>th</sup> January 2025.**

Amos chapters 1 to 5. Nearly 800 years before the birth of Christ, the prophet Amos told Judah and Israel, "The LORD God Almighty roars like a lion from Jerusalem. His voice sounds like thunder from Zion." (1:2). He then sends God's judgement on Israel's neighbours, Damascus, Gaza, Ashdod, Tyre, Edom, Ammon and Moab. But the LORD also sends judgement on Judah and Israel. "I know how many crimes you have committed. You have sinned far too much." (5:12) "Look to what is good, not to what is evil. Then you will live. And the LORD God who rules over all will be with you, just as you say He is." (5:14) "So let fair treatment roll on just as a river does! Always do what is right. Let righteousness flow like a stream that never runs dry!" (5:24)

Philemon. Paul, a prisoner in Rome, wrote a letter to his old friend Philemon. "I always thank my God when I remember you in my prayers. I hear about your love for all God's people. I also hear about your faith in the Lord Jesus." (v.4-5) He then asks Philemon to take back his former servant Onesimus "who became like a son to me while I was in chains" (v.10) "My brother, we both belong to the Lord Jesus. So I wish to receive some benefit from you. Renew my heart. We know that Christ is the One who really renews it. I am sure you will obey. This is why I am writing to you." (v.20-21)

*Father God, thank you for the confidence You had in Your people Israel at the time of Amos to "do what is right". Thank You for the example of Paul's confidence in his Jewish friend Philemon to bless his servant Onesimus and not to punish him. We ask that Your people of today will be a blessing to their neighbours and not treat them as rebel servants but leave their judgement to You. Thank you for Paul's example in Christ. Amen.*

### **9<sup>th</sup> January 2025.**

Zephaniah 3. "The LORD God Almighty is good to Jerusalem. He never does anything that is wrong. Every morning He does what is fair. Each new day He does the right thing. But those who do what is wrong are not even ashamed of it." (3:5) "But inside your city I will leave those who are not proud. Those who are still left alive will trust in the LORD. They will not do anything wrong. They will not tell any lies. They will not say anything to fool other people. They will eat and lie down in peace. And no one will make them afraid. People of Zion, sing! Israel, shout loudly! People of Jerusalem, be glad! Let your hearts be full of joy. The LORD has stopped punishing you. He has made your enemies turn away from you. The LORD is the King of Israel. He is with you. You will never again be afraid that others will harm you." (3:12-15)

2 Thessalonians 2:8-10. "The man of sin will appear. The Lord Jesus will overthrow him with the breath of His mouth. The glorious brightness of Jesus' coming will destroy the man of sin. The coming of the man of sin will show how Satan works. The man of sin will reveal his power through all kinds of signs and wonders. These signs and wonders will lead people astray. So people who are dying will be fooled by this evil. These people die because they refuse to love the truth. The truth would save them."

*Thank You Jesus for Your call to believe in You and Your second coming. Help us not to be deceived by "the man of sin" in these last days but to prepare the way for Your coming reign in Jerusalem. Encourage its inhabitants to know the LORD God Almighty "is good to Jerusalem... Each new day He does the right thing." May they and the rest of the world rejoice that You "will destroy the man of sin". Amen.*

### **10<sup>th</sup> January 2025.**

Genesis 25. Abraham's servant brought Rebekah from Abraham's relatives to marry his only son Isaac from his first wife Sarah (24:62-66). After Sarah's death, Abraham took a second wife who gave him six children (25:1-2). But Abraham left everything he owned to Isaac and sent his other children

away to live in the lands of the east (25:5-6). Abraham lived a long life (175 years) as did many of the early descendants of Noah. After the burial of Abraham, God blessed his son Isaac (25:11). Isaac lived near Beer-Lahai Roi which was near where Jerusalem is today. Ishmael, Abraham's son born to Sarah's servant, lived for 137 years and moved away from Isaac to live near the border with Egypt (25:12-18).

Acts 24:17-27. When Paul had been away preaching the Good News of Jesus Christ a number of years, he returned to Jerusalem. He was quickly arrested and put on trial for "preaching the resurrection of the dead" (24:17-21). Felix, the Roman Governor at that time, knew all about the "people of the Way" (followers of Jesus Christ) and looked after him well in prison. Two years later, Festus took over as Governor (24:27). He and King Agrippa were responsible for arranging Paul's trial in Rome where he was free to preach and encourage other "followers of the Way".

*Thank You Father God for revealing to us the way You planned for the descendants of Isaac to be blessed and live in the land of Your choice around Jerusalem. We note how You moved his ungodly brothers far away to other lands. Thank you, too, for revealing how You blessed Paul in prison in Jerusalem and then sent him to Rome to end his preaching ministry there at the centre of the Roman Empire. Thank You God for establishing Your provision for salvation of the world through Jesus, Your resurrected Son born to Mary. May we continue to proclaim this truth, like Paul, in these "final days" before His return. For Your glory Amen.*

### **13<sup>th</sup> January 2024.**

2 Samuel 2. After David was anointed as king over Judah, Abner, the former commander of Saul's army, took one of Saul's sons and made him king of the region of Israel where he lived (2:8-9). However, the fighting that followed was very heavy and Abner and the Israelites lost the battle to David's men (2:17-18). The ongoing war between Saul's former royal house and David's royal house lasted a long time. But David's royal house was anointed by God and grew stronger and stronger. But the royal house of Saul grew weaker and weaker (3:1-2).

Matthew 21:28-32. Jesus asked His followers, "A man had two sons. He went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work today in the vineyard.' The son refused but later changed his mind and went. Then the father went to the other son. He said the same thing. The son answered, 'I will, sir.' But he did not go. Which of the two sons did what his father wanted?" "The first," they answered. Jesus said to them, "What I am about to tell you is true. Tax collectors and prostitutes will enter the Kingdom of God ahead of you. John came to show you the right way to live. And you did not believe him. But the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. You saw this. But even then you did not turn away from your sins and believe him."

*Dear God, we see the good examples set by David and John in these Bible stories. And we see how You established Your kingdom in the whole of Israel, removing rebels from power in the land. We also see how Jesus has established the Kingdom of God through repentant sinners. Forgive us for the times we rebel against Your will and purpose for mankind. Help us not to lose faith as the battle between good and evil goes on. Help us also to be good examples like David and John in extending Your Kingdom on Earth. Amen.*

### **14<sup>th</sup> January 2025.**

Joshua chapter 12 lists the kingdoms defeated by Joshua in God's Promised Land. There were two kingdoms east and 31 kingdoms west of the River Jordan by the year 1445 BC. Chapters 14 to 19 list the land to be allocated to the twelve tribes of Israel. Chapter 20 describes how God provided six cities of refuge. "Anyone who kills a person by accident can run there for safety... The elders must let them come into their city and stay there until their case has been brought to court. Then they can go back to their home town."

1 John 4:1-18. "Dear friends, test the spirits to see if they belong to God. Many false prophets have gone out into the world... You belong to God and have not accepted the teachings of the false prophets. That is because the One who is in you is more powerful than the one who is in the world... Here is how God showed his love among us. He sent His one and only Son into the world so we could receive life through Him. It is not that we loved God. It is that He loved us and sent His Son to give His life to pay for our sins. Since God loved us this much, we should also love one another... The Father has sent His Son to be the Saviour of the world. We have seen it and are witnesses to it... When love is fulfilled among us we can be without fear on the day God judges the world... There is no fear in love. Instead, perfect love drives away fear."

*Thank You Father God for the love You have shown to the world since the time of Adam and again at the time of Noah and yet again at the time of Abraham and his family whom You established in the Promised Land. Thank You for Your love shown in the cities of refuge and finally in our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.*

### **15<sup>th</sup> January 2025.**

2 Samuel 19:42-43. The ten northern tribes of Israel rebelled against the rule of King David in Jerusalem. But after the sudden accidental death of their leader Absalom (18:9), they returned to supporting David. But there was anger amongst the close followers of David. The men from the north asked, "Why are you angry with us? We have ten shares in the kingdom and have a greater claim on David than you have! Why do you treat us with contempt?" But the men from Judah and Jerusalem responded even more harshly than the men of Israel.

2 Thessalonians 2:13-17. "Brothers and sisters, we should always thank God for you. The Lord loves you. That is because God chose you from the beginning to be saved. Salvation comes through the Holy Spirit's work. He makes people holy. It also comes through believing the truth. He chose you to be saved by accepting the Good News that we preach. And you will share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. Brothers and sisters, remain strong in the faith. Hold on to what we taught you. We passed our teachings on to you by what we preached and wrote. Our Lord Jesus Christ and God our Father loved us. By His grace God gave us comfort that will last forever. The hope He gave us is good. May our Lord Jesus Christ and God our Father comfort your hearts. May They make you strong in every good thing you do and say."

*Father God in Heaven, You chose us "from the beginning to be saved". Help us to be loving and forgiving to all people who have faith in You and our Saviour Jesus Christ. May we welcome the readiness to repent of those who have caused problems in the past as at the time of Absalom's death 3000 years ago. May we respond with love and not deal harshly with them which prolongs disunity. Help us to listen to what the Spirit is saying. Amen.*

### **16<sup>th</sup> January 2025.**

Song of Songs 3:1-5. King Solomon wrote these words for young women to follow who lived in Jerusalem. "Get up and go about the city, through its streets and squares. Search for the one your heart loves... Ask the watchmen, 'Have you seen the one my heart loves?' When you find the one you desire, do not let him go until you have brought him to your mother's house, to the room of the one who conceived you. Daughters of Jerusalem, I charge you, do not arouse or awaken love until it so desires."

Ephesians 5:31-33 and 6:1-4. Paul writes, "A man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. It is the same profound mystery when we are talking about Christ and His church. However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband. Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honour your father and mother, which is the first commandment with a promise so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on Earth. Fathers, do not annoy your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord."

*Heavenly Father, thank You for the wisdom of Solomon in advising young women to seek only one man to fulfil her God-given heart's desires. Thank You for the wisdom of Paul in advising men to seek marriage to one woman in his God-given role as Christ is to His church. Help us to understand this "profound mystery". Thank you also for Paul's advice regarding bringing up children to respect their parents and their belief in the Bible in a disciplined way without causing annoyance. Thank You for the responsibility You give to young women in seeking marriage and to young men in fulfilling your purposes in marriage and raising a family as an example of Christ. Amen.*

### **17<sup>th</sup> January 2025.**

Genesis 42:1-26. The ten sons of Jacob went to Egypt to buy grain for food because of the famine in the land of Canaan where they lived (now Israel). At that time their lost brother Joseph was in charge of grain supplies in Egypt and recognised his ten brothers. (They had left his favourite youngest brother at home.) Joseph told them "You are spies!" He put them in prison for three days. He then told them to leave one of them in prison while the rest travelled back to Canaan. Simon was kept as a prisoner and was tied up in chains. This happened in 1700 BC. Joseph's nine brothers returned to Canaan and fetched the youngest brother and their father Jacob. They and their families all settled in

Egypt for over 400 years as God promised to Abraham 200 years before (15:13). After 430 years in Egypt, Moses took the descendants of Jacob back to God's promised Land of Canaan (Exodus 12:31-42).

Acts 7:1-7. Stephen testified to the High Priest in Jerusalem, "The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham while he was still in Mesopotamia. God said, 'Leave your country and your people and go to the land I will show you.' So ... God sent him to this land where you are now living... God promised him that he and his descendants after him would possess the land, even though at that time Abraham had no child. God told him, 'For four hundred years your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own, and they will be enslaved and mistreated. But afterwards they will come out of that country and worship Me in this place.'

*Father God, we value the evidence in Your Bible of the many events that led up to the family of Abraham possessing the land which is now Israel where Jesus Christ our Saviour, Israel's Messiah was born to the Virgin Mary. We thank You for Stephen's testimony after his persecution and arrest for preaching the Good News of Jesus. Amen.*

### **20<sup>th</sup> January 2025.**

Ruth 4:9-22. Boaz spoke to the elders and people of Bethlehem, "Today you are witnesses. I have bought land from Naomi. Also all that belonged to her husband Elimelek and their sons Kilion and Mahlon. I have also taken Ruth, who is from Moab, to become my wife. She is Mahlon's widow. I will marry her so the dead man's name will stay with his property." Then the people at the gate said... "May the Lord make Ruth like Rachel and Leah. Together they built up the tribes of Israel... May the LORD God Almighty give you children through this young woman. May your family be like the family of Judah." The local women said to Naomi, "We praise the LORD. Today He has provided a family protector for you. May her child become famous all over Israel!" Later, the local women named Ruth's son Obed. He became the father of Jesse. Jesse became the father of King David.

Acts 23:16-24. Paul's nephew heard about a plan to kill him. So he went into the fort where Paul was a prisoner and told him. Paul called one of the commanders. "Take this young man to the commanding officer." ...The boy said, "Some Jews have agreed to ask you to bring Paul to the Sanhedrin tomorrow. They will pretend they want more facts about him. Do not give in to them. More than 40 of them are waiting in hiding to attack him and kill him. They are ready now. All they need is for you to bring Paul to the Sanhedrin." The commanding officer let the young man go. He called for two of his commanders. "Gather a company of 200 soldiers.... Get them ready to go to Caesarea tonight so that Paul may be taken safely to Governor Felix." This action prepared the way for Paul's final ministry in Rome.

*Praise You Father God for enabling Boaz and King David and the apostle Paul to establish Your amazing truth across the world! Amen.*

### **21<sup>st</sup> January 2025.**

Judges Chapters 9-10. After the reign of Gideon as king of Israel, his evil eldest son Abimelech took over. He murdered all his brothers except Jotham, the youngest, who hid himself. But Abimelech was murdered after Jotham predicted he would die. For the next 45 years, the good kings Tola then Jair reigned over Israel. But during the reign of the next king, Jephthah, the Israelites began to worship the gods of neighbouring tribes. In His anger, the LORD God Almighty allowed His people to suffer under the control of the Philistines and Ammonites for 18 years. The people repented and said to the LORD, "We have sinned. Do to us what you think is best. But please save us now." Then they got rid of their false gods. They served the LORD and He did not allow Israel to suffer any longer.

Acts 2:42-47. 'The believers studied what the apostles taught. They shared their lives together. They ate and prayed together. Everyone was amazed at what God was doing. They were amazed when the apostles performed many wonders and signs... They shared everything they had. They sold property and other things they owned. They gave to anyone who needed something. Every day they met together in the temple courtyard. They ate meals together in their homes. Their hearts were glad and sincere. They praised God. They were respected by all the people. Every day the Lord added to their group those who were being saved.' It was during this time that Peter and John healed the lame man outside the Temple in the name of Jesus Christ (3:6-7).

*Father God, thank You again for Your examples of good and bad people who lived over 1000 years before Christ at the time of Gideon and Jephthah. Help us today to live by the examples of the*

*earliest followers of Christ at the time of Peter and John. May we share in reading the Bible together, praying together, and see signs and wonders performed in the name of Jesus. Amen.*

### **22<sup>nd</sup> January 2025.**

Psalms 42:1-5. "A deer longs for streams of water. God, I long for you in the same way, I am thirsty for the living God. People say to me, 'Where is your God?' I remember how I used to walk to the house of God. We shouted with joy and praised God with the joyful crowd. Why am I so upset deep down inside me? But my hope is in God and I will have reason to praise Him. He is my Saviour!"

Acts 7. The apostle Stephen was arrested in Jerusalem for preaching the Good News of Jesus Christ, Israel's Messiah. He then spoke to the Sanhedrin about the call by the LORD God Almighty to Abraham to move to Canaan which became God's Promised Land for his descendants (7:1-5). There God said to Abraham, 'For 400 years your family after you will be strangers in a country not their own... After that, they will leave and worship Me here.' Stephen then described what happened to the family of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the land of Egypt and how God enabled them through Moses to travel back to Canaan after 430 years. By this time there were at least one million Israelites whose twelve tribes settled in the land between Egypt and Lebanon, mainly to the west of the River Jordan. Stephen finished his speech by saying, "You stubborn people! You refuse to listen and obey! You are just like your people of long ago! You always oppose the Holy Spirit! Was there ever a prophet your people did not persecute? They even killed those who told about the coming of the Righteous One. And now you have handed Him over to His enemies. You have betrayed and murdered him. God's Law you received was given by angels. But you have not obeyed it!"

*Father God, help us to "listen and obey". Help us to thirst for "the living God" and trust in Your salvation through Jesus Christ, "the Righteous One". Amen.*

### **23<sup>rd</sup> January 2025.**

Nehemiah 1:1-8. Visitors from Jerusalem went to Nehemiah who was in exile in Babylon. They told him, "The wall of Jerusalem is broken down. Its gates have been burned with fire." Nehemiah sat down and wept and prayed. "LORD God Almighty, You keep the covenant you made with those who love You and obey Your commandments. You show them Your love. I pray for the people of Israel. We have committed sins against You. We have not obeyed the commands, rules and laws You gave to Your servant Moses. You said, 'If you are not faithful, I will scatter you among the nations. But if you return to Me, I will bring you back. If you obey My commands, I will gather you together again. I will bring you back from the farthest places on Earth. I will bring you to the special place where I have chosen to put my Name.' "

Ephesians 5:8-17. "At one time you were in the dark. But now you are in the light because of what the Lord has done. Live like children of the light. The light reveals what is good, right and true. Find out what pleases the Lord. Have nothing to do with the work of darkness which cannot produce anything good. It is shameful even to talk about what some people do in secret. But everything the light shines on can be seen... So be very careful how you live. Do not live like people who are unwise. Make the most of every opportunity. The days are evil. So do not be foolish. Instead, understand what the Lord wants."

*Thank You God that You reveal "what is good, right and true". You did this through Nehemiah in the fifth century B.C. and through Paul in the first century A.D. We pray for Your wisdom in these last days before Christ returns. Thank You for restoring Your people to their Promised Land. May we all live in the light of Jesus Christ Your Messiah. Amen.*

### **24<sup>th</sup> January 2025.**

Psalms 44:1-8. "O God, we have heard what You did. Those who came before us have told us what You did in days long ago. By Your power You drove out the nations. You gave our people homes in the land. You crushed the people who were there. And you made our people do well. They did not gain success by their own power. Your powerful right hand and Your mighty arm gave them victory. You gave them success because You loved them. You give victories to the people of Jacob. With Your help we push back our enemies... My sword does not bring me victory. But You give us victory over our enemies. You put them to shame... We will praise Your name forever!"

1 Corinthians 1:18-24. "The message of the cross seems foolish to those who are lost and dying. But it is God's power to us who are saved. It is written, 'I will destroy the wisdom of those who think they are wise. I will discourage those who think they are clever.' ([Isaiah 29:14](#)) Has not God

made the wisdom of the world foolish? God wisely planned that the world would not know Him through its own wisdom. It pleased God to use 'the foolish things' we preach to save those who believe. Jews require signs. Gentiles look for wisdom. But we preach about Christ and His death on the cross. That is very hard for Jews to accept. (It is a stumbling block.) And everyone else thinks it is foolishness. But there are those whom God has chosen, both Jews and Gentiles. And to them, Christ is God's power and God's wisdom."

*Father God we thank You for the evidence of Your love for Your chosen people who put their trust in You over the centuries and not in their own strength and wisdom. We pray that Jews and Gentiles today will find Your wisdom through trusting in Jesus Christ our Saviour and Messiah. For His sake. Amen.*

### **27<sup>th</sup> January 2025.**

Job 33:6-14 records the words of Elihu. Unlike Job's three critical friends, Elihu wanted to say only what the Spirit of God wanted Job to hear. Elihu said, "I hear you say, 'I am pure. I have done no wrong. I am clean. I am free from sin. But God has found fault with me. He thinks I am His enemy. He puts my feet in chains. He watches every step I take.' I am telling you that you are not right when you talk like that! After all, God is greater than any human being. Why do you claim that God never answers anybody's questions? He speaks in one way and then another." Elihu then prepared the way for God Himself to talk to Job.

Titus 2:10-15 encouraged his readers to "make the teaching about God our Saviour appealing in every way... By His grace, God offers to save all people. His grace teaches us to say no to godless ways and sinful desires. We must control ourselves. We must do what is right. We must lead godly lives in today's world as we wait ... for Jesus Christ to appear in His glory. He is our great God and Savior. He gave Himself for us. By doing that, He set us free from all evil. He has made us pure. He wants us to be His very own people. He wants us to desire to do what is good. These are the things you should teach. Encourage people and give them hope. Correct them with full authority."

*Thank You Father God for the way you used Elihu over 3500 years ago. He rejected the worldly wisdom of Job's three older friends and instead spoke the words given him by Your Spirit. Thank You that this prepared the way for Your truth to be revealed to Job and to all who read the Old Testament today. Thank you also for the wisdom of Titus given us to read in the New Testament. Amen.*

### **28<sup>th</sup> January 2025.**

Amos 6:4-8. The LORD God Almighty hated the pride of Israel before their exile to Babylon. "You lie down on beds that are decorated with ivory... You eat the best lambs and the fattest calves... You drink wine by the bowlful. You use the finest lotions. You are not even sad about it. So Jospheh's people will be among the first to be taken away as prisoners. You will not be able to enjoy good food. You will not lie around on couches anymore. The Lord and King has made a promise in His own name... I hate the pride of Jacob's people." The exile began when the city of Samaria was handed over to their enemies.

Galatians 3:14-22. "Christ Jesus set us free so that the blessing given to Abraham would come to the Gentiles through Christ. He did it so that we might receive the promise of the Holy Spirit. The promised Spirit comes by believing in Christ... The covenant had already been made by God. So the Law [given to Moses] does not do away with the promise... God gave it to Abraham as a free gift through a promise... The promise is fulfilled through faith in Jesus Christ."

*Thank You Father God for revealing that faith in You and Your Son our Saviour is more important than faith in worldly riches. Your word has reminded us that Israel's trust in riches was followed by the exile. We have also been reminded, on the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the holocaust, that the Jews in Europe had put their trust in their great financial power at that time. Thank you that in Your mercy, a Jewish remnant was able to return to the Promised Land in 538 BC. Thank You that in your mercy, a Jewish remnant was able to return to Palestine in AD 1948. We ask for Your mercy today upon Israel in their need to prepare for the return of their Messiah, our Saviour. In the name of Jesus (Yeshua). Amen.*

### **29<sup>th</sup> January 2025.**

Joel 3:1-4, 20. God said, "I will bless Judah and Jerusalem with great success again. I will gather together all the nations... I will judge them for what they have done to My people Israel. They



scattered them among the nations. They divided up my land among themselves. They cast lots for my people and then traded boys into slavery for prostitutes. They also sold girls to buy wine to drink... My people will live in Judah and Jerusalem forever. The land will be their home for all time to come."

James 2:14-26. "What good is it if a person claims to have faith but does not act on their faith? Can this kind of faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister has no clothes or food. If you say to them, "Go. I hope everything turns out well for you. Keep warm. Eat well." What good have you done? If faith does not cause us to do something good, it is dead... Do you want proof that faith without good deeds is useless? Our father Abraham offered his son Isaac on the altar. He was considered to be right with God because of what he did. So you see that what he believed and what he did were working together. What he did made his faith complete. Scripture says, "Abraham believed God. God accepted Abraham because he believed. So his faith made him right with God." God also called Abraham his friend. So you see that a person is considered right with God by what they do. It doesn't happen only because they have faith... Faith without good deeds is dead."

*Heavenly Father, we want to be "made right with God". We want You to be our friend! Forgive our sins and make our faith complete! Enable all who put their trust in You to receive what You have planned. Deliver us from our enemies in the nations around us. But help us to be a blessing to all in need. Amen.*

### **30<sup>th</sup> January 2025.**

1 Kings 11:9-13. The LORD God Almighty became angry with King Solomon. His heart had turned away from the LORD... He had commanded Solomon not to worship other gods. But Solomon did not obey the LORD. So He said to Solomon, "You have chosen not to keep My covenant nor obey My rules. I commanded you what to do but you did not do it. So you can be certain I will take the kingdom away from you... But I will not do it while you are still living. Because of your father David I will wait. Then I will take the kingdom out of your son's hand. However, I will not take the whole kingdom away from him. I will give him one of the tribes for the sake of My servant David. I will also do it for the sake of Jerusalem, the city that I have chosen."

John 6:37-40. Jesus said, "Everyone the Father gives Me will come to Me. I will never send away anyone who comes to Me. I have not come down from Heaven to do what I want to do. I have come to do what the One who sent Me wants Me to do. The One who sent Me does not want Me to lose anyone He has given Me. He wants Me to raise them up on the last day. My Father wants all who look to the Son and believe in Him to have eternal life."

*Dear Father God in Heaven, we thank You for Your love and provision for the people You call to worship You and to lead Your people. You blessed Solomon and his father David, even when they disobeyed You at times. And You confirmed that Jerusalem is the place You have chosen even though its people have sinned like the rest of us. We praise You for Your patience and desire to save all the millions who believe in Jesus Christ as Your Messiah and Saviour of the world. Amen.*

### **31<sup>st</sup> January 2025.**

Psalms 107 begins, "Give thanks to the LORD for He is good. His love endures for ever. He saved us from our enemies." The psalmist then mentions how some of God's people went the wrong way and got lost in the desert. And some were suffering because they had disobeyed God. Some also suffered because of their sins. Some wanted to be rich and became traders and travelled across the seas. But they were tossed by storms. However, they all cried out to the LORD God Almighty and were saved. He encouraged them to "give thanks to the LORD for His unfailing love". Then the LORD blessed them but He also humbled them. And He also helped the needy. "Let those who are wise think about these things. Let them think about the loving deeds of the LORD."

Romans 6:1-8. In the previous chapter, Paul said that where sin increased, God's grace and mercy increased. "What should we say then? Should we keep on sinning so that God's grace can increase? No! ...By being baptized, we are buried with Christ into His death. Christ was raised from death by the Father's glory. And like Christ we also can live a new life. By being baptized, we are joined with Him in a death like His. So we are joined with Him in a resurrection like His. We know that what we used to be was nailed to the cross with Him... So we are no longer slaves of sin. Those who have died have been set free from sin to live like Him."

*Thank You Father for saving us. Forgive us when we go the wrong way and try to do things in our own strength or disobey You. We "give thanks to the LORD for Your unfailing love". Help us to*

*remember that You have given us a new life through the sacrifice and resurrection of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Keep us humble and also encourage us to "help the needy". Amen.*

### **3<sup>rd</sup> February 2025.**

Proverbs 25:21-22. Solomon says, "If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat. If he is thirsty, give him water to drink. By doing these things, you will pile up burning coals on his head. And the LORD God Almighty will reward you."

1 Timothy 6:10-15. Paul says, "Love for money causes all kinds of evil. Some people want to get rich. They have wandered away from the faith. They have many sorrows. But you are a man of God. Run away from all these things. Try hard to do what is right and godly. Have faith, love and gentleness. Hold on to what you believe. Fight the good fight along with all other believers. Take hold of eternal life. You were chosen for it when you openly told others what you believe. Many witnesses heard you. God gives life to everything. Christ Jesus told the truth when he was a witness in front of Pontius Pilate. In the sight of God and Christ, I give you a command. Obey it until our Lord Jesus Christ appears. Obey it completely. Then no one can find fault with it or you. God will bring Jesus back at a time that pleases him. God is the blessed and only Ruler. He is the King of kings."

*Father in Heaven, enable us to fulfil these important words from Solomon. Let us love our enemies with Your love and mercy in our hearts and not for selfish gain. Help us also to obey the words of Paul. Help us to avoid the love of money and "wandering away from the faith". We acknowledge that You have chosen us from the beginning and planned for us to receive eternal life. Remind us to "do what is right and godly". Help us to be ready to witness our faith to others "until our Lord Jesus Christ appears". Help us to "fight the good fight" with "faith, love and gentleness" in the power of Your indwelling Holy Spirit. Amen.*

### **4<sup>th</sup> February 2025.**

Leviticus 4:13-21. God told Moses, "If the whole community of Israel sins without meaning to... then they must bring a young bull as a sin offering... The elders must place their hands on the bull's head and be killed in the sight of the LORD God Almighty. Then the priest must take some of the bull's blood into the tent of meeting. He must dip his finger into the blood and sprinkle it seven times in the sight of the LORD... He must put some of the blood on the altar... The priest must pour out the rest of the blood at the bottom of the altar... He must then remove all the fat from the bull and burn it on the altar as a sacrifice for sin. This will pay for the sin of the community and they will be forgiven... It is the sin offering for the whole community."

Luke 16:16-18. Jesus said, "The teachings of the Law and the Prophets were preached until John the Baptist came. Since then, the Good News of God's Kingdom is being preached. And everyone is trying very hard to enter it. However, it is easier for Heaven and Earth to disappear than for the smallest part of a letter to drop out of the Law. [For example] anyone who divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery. Also, the man who marries a divorced woman commits adultery."

*Father God, thank You for revealing Your everlasting principle to forgive sin through the sacrifice of innocent blood. Thank You that since the sacrifice of the innocent blood of Jesus Your Messiah, You have established Your salvation in the hearts of all baptised believers. Thank You that Jesus has fulfilled all the requirements of the Law so that we may obey them through the Holy Spirit at work within us. Thank You that this means there is no need for any more blood sacrifices, provided Your gift of faith remains strong. Thank You Jesus. Amen.*

### **5<sup>th</sup> February 2025.**

Amos 2:6-16. In 787 B.C. the prophet Amos warned Israel what will happened to them because of their terrible sins at that time. The LORD God Almighty says, "The people of Israel have sinned again and again." He then describes some of their sins which are too terrible to print here! "I brought you up out of Egypt. I led you in the desert for 40 years. I gave you the land of the Amorites." God's desire for His people Israel is for "justice to flow as a river that never runs dry!" (5:24) He also promised after their punishment and exile, "I will bring my people Israel back home. I will bless them with great success again. They will rebuild the destroyed cities and live in them. They will make gardens and eat their fruit... They will never again be removed from the land I have given them." (9:14-15)

James 43:13-18. "The wise person should show wisdom by living a good life... But wisdom that does not come from the Holy Spirit comes from the devil. Are you concerned only about getting ahead? Then your life will be a mess! You will be doing all kinds of evil things. But the wisdom that comes from Heaven is pure... It also loves peace. It thinks about others. It obeys God. It is full of mercy and good fruit. It is fair. It doesn't pretend to be what it is not. Those who make peace plant it like a seed. They will harvest a crop of righteous living."

*Heavenly Father, thank You for restoring Your people to Israel in 1948. We pray today that world leaders will respect and follow the guidance from Your word given in the Old and New Testaments through Your prophets and apostles. We pray that Jewish and Christian believers alike will seek to live righteous lives and have peace under Your provision and protection. Help us and those around us not to make a mess of our lives! Amen.*

#### **6<sup>th</sup> February 2025.**

Ecclesiastes 12:1,13-14. This unknown author advises, "Remember your Creator. Remember Him while you are still young. Think about Him before your times of difficulty arrives. The years will come when you will say, 'I do not find any pleasure in them.' ...Here is the final thing I want to say. Have respect for God and obey His commandments. This is what He expects of all human beings. God will judge everything people do. That includes everything they try to hide. He will judge everything, whether it is good or evil."

Philemon verses 15-17 is part of Paul's letter from prison to his friend of many years, Philemon. "Onesimus was separated from you for a little while. Perhaps that was so you could have him back forever. And not as a slave. Instead, as a dear brother. He is very special to me but even more special to you as a brother in the Lord. Do you think of me as a believer who works together with you? Then welcome Onesimus as you would welcome me!"

*Thank You Father for the example of Paul. He not only helped to bring salvation through Christ to the former slave Onesimus, but wanted to encourage Philemon to forgive and welcome Onesimus back home. In doing this, Paul lost a companion to visit him in prison. We ask for divine wisdom in our "times of difficulty" to help us become a blessing to others without counting the cost for ourselves. Help us especially to be an example to young believers to prepare them for the difficult days ahead. Help us all to put our trust in You when we "do not find any pleasure" in life. May we remember at all times the importance of "respect for God and obey His commandments". May we at all times be open to the prompting of Your Holy Spirit to bless others, whether slaves or free, before considering our own needs. In the name of Jesus who suffered much to see us free. Amen.*

#### **7<sup>th</sup> February 2025.**

Genesis 1:20-31. God created every kind of living thing that fills the seas and skies. He said, "Have little ones so that there will be many of you." It was day five. God also said, "Let the land produce livestock, and creatures that move along the ground, and wild animals." Then God said, "Let **us** make human beings so that they are like **us**. Let them rule over the fish and the birds and the livestock and all the wild animals." So God created human beings in His own likeness as male and female. God said, "Have children so that there will be many of you. Fill the Earth and bring it under your control." It was day six.

Matthew 1:1-22 records the family line of Jesus the Messiah from Abraham to Joseph and Mary. This is how the birth of Jesus came about. His mother Mary and Joseph had promised to get married. However, Mary became pregnant by the power of the Holy Spirit. Joseph did not want to put her to shame. But an angel of the Lord spoke to him. "Joseph, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife. The baby inside her is from the Holy Spirit. She is going to have a Son. You must give him the name Jesus which means He will save His people from their sins."

*Thank You Father God for these amazing words of truth regarding the creation of the Universe including planet Earth. We note that our Saviour Jesus was with you in Heaven at that time. Thank You that despite Your anger in destroying mankind because of their sin, you saved Noah and his family. Thank You that despite Your anger with the family of Jacob, You chose to send Jesus in the form of a human being to suffer and die for the punishment of our sins. Help us to obey Your purpose in marriage of men and women to raise children to worship only You! Amen.*

10<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

Esther 3:12-15. Five hundred years before Israel's Messiah was born, a persecution of Jews began in the huge Persian empire. Because of the hatred of one man, Haman, the king sent orders to all the provinces. "The orders commanded people to destroy, kill and wipe out all the Jews. That included young people and old people alike. It included women and children. The king planned to kill all the Jews on a single day. The orders also commanded people to take everything that belonged to the Jews. A copy of the order was sent out as law... Then the king and Haman sat down to drink wine. But the people in the city were confused." God used one woman, Queen Esther, to stop this order. Haman was hung and the Jews were given full freedom across the vast empire to live in peace and destroy any of their enemies (8:11-12).

Acts 7:51-53. During the early years of the first century after Christ's death and resurrection, the Jewish leaders persecuted the followers of Jesus. The apostle Stephen told them, "You stubborn people! You refuse to obey! You refuse to listen! You always oppose the Holy Spirit! Was there ever a prophet your people did not try to hurt? They even killed those who spoke about the coming of the Blameless One (Jesus Christ, Israel's Messiah). And now you have handed Him over to His enemies. You have murdered Him. The Law you received was given by angels. But you have not obeyed it."

*Father God, history records how Your people again and again were blessed and then punished for disobeying you. But we also see how at times they were persecuted. We pray that today, Your people will show obedience and also compassion as we prepare for the return of Your Messiah, the Saviour of the world. Raise up leaders who support Your people and help to avoid any confusion they might cause. Establish Your protection for persecuted Jews and Christians. Remove evil dictators! Amen.*

#### **11<sup>th</sup> February 2025.**

Micah 2:6-7. Before the punishment and exile of Israel, Micah warned God's people what the false prophets were saying. "Do not prophesy about bad things! Nothing shameful is going to happen to us. O House of Jacob, is the Spirit of the LORD God Almighty really angry with us?" Micah then confirmed the words of the LORD: "What I promise will bring good things to those who lead honest lives."

1 Thessalonians 1:5-10. 800 years after the prophet Micah, Paul wrote to the persecuted new believers in Israel's Messiah, both Jews and Gentiles: "Our Good News of Jesus Christ did not come to you only in words. It came with power. It came with the Holy Spirit's help. He gave you complete faith in what we were preaching... You followed our example. You welcomed our message even when you were suffering terribly. You welcomed it with the joy that the Holy Spirit gives. So you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and Greece. The Lord's message rang out from you... Your faith in God has also become known to others everywhere... They tell others about how you turned away from statues of gods. And you turned to serve the living and true God. They tell about how you are waiting for his Son to return from Heaven. God raised Him from death. He is Jesus, who saves us from God's anger and His punishment to come."

*We thank You Father God for Micah and Paul. You sent them to encourage Your people to live by faith in the promises of God and to "lead honest lives". Keep us strong today when tempted to sin. Keep us strong when persecuted for our faith. Encourage us to rejoice in the Holy Spirit's help and witness His work within us as promised by Jesus our Saviour. As we await His return, save us from Your anger and punishment in the world You created for His future Kingdom here on planet Earth. Amen.*

#### **12<sup>th</sup> February 2025.**

Psalms 146. "Praise the LORD! I will praise the LORD all my life. I will sing praises to my God as long as I live. Do not put your trust in human leaders. Do not trust in people who cannot save you. When they die, their plans come to nothing. Blessed are those who depend on the God of Jacob for help. Blessed are those who put their hope in the LORD God Almighty. He is the Maker of Heaven and Earth. He remains faithful for ever. He stands up for those who are treated badly. He gives food to hungry people. The LORD sets prisoners free. The LORD gives sight to those who are blind. The LORD lifts up those who feel helpless. The LORD loves those who do what is right. The LORD watches over the strangers who live in our land. He takes good care of children whose fathers have died. He also takes good care of widows. But he causes evil people to fail in everything they do. The LORD rules forever. Praise the LORD!"

Luke 10. After Jesus warned His followers about the cost of serving Him (9:57-62), He sent 72 of them to witness in the neighbouring towns. "The harvest is plentiful but the labourers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest field. Go! I am sending you like lambs among wolves." (10:2-3) "Heal the sick and tell them the Kingdom of God is near." (10:9) "He who listens to you, listens to Me. He who rejects you, rejects Me." The 72 followers of Jesus returned with joy and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in Your name!" (10:16-17)

*Thank you Father for the fulfilment of the faithful words in Psalm 146 through Jesus and His followers. May we today praise You and trust You as His followers to share His Good News and experience miracles through the Holy Spirit. Help us care for strangers, orphans and widows. Amen.*

### **13<sup>th</sup> February 2025.**

2 Samuel 17:25-59 is the story of David and Goliath which began the story of David and Saul. David, the young shepherd, heard about the giant Goliath who opposed the armies of Israel. David's brother tried to stop him from attacking the giant. King Saul also tried to stop him. But David said, "The LORD God Almighty who delivered me from the lion and the bear will deliver me from this Philistine." David refused to wear the king's armour and walked out to meet the giant, taking with him his sling and stones. The giant cursed David in the name of his gods but David said, "I am coming against you in the name of the LORD who rules over all. He is the one you have dared to fight against. This day the LORD will give me the victory over you... Then the whole world will know there is a God in Israel. The LORD does not rescue people by using a sword or a spear. Everyone here will know the battle belongs to the LORD. He will hand all of you Philistines over to us." After David killed the giant, Saul became jealous of David.

Mark 3:20-22 is at the beginning of the ministry of Jesus in teaching, preaching, healing and casting out demons. His family heard about this. So they went to take charge of him. They said, "He is out of his mind." Some teachers of the Law of Moses were there from Jerusalem. They said, "He is controlled by Beelzebul! He is driving out demons by the power of the prince of demons."

*Father in Heaven we see how Your servant David and Your Son Jesus were hindered in their calling and ministry by family members and by gods and demons and by the leaders in Israel. Help us this day to walk and talk in the light of Your purpose and truth. Help us to share in preparing the way for righteous leaders and for Christ Himself! Amen.*

### **14<sup>th</sup> February 2025.**

Obadiah verses 15-21. God's prophet said 2,600 years ago, "The day of the LORD God Almighty is near for all the nations. Others will do to you what you have done to them. Your evil deeds will return upon your own heads... The Israelites who were forced to leave their homes will come back and occupy all the land to the town of Zarephath [on the Mediterranean coast]. People from Jerusalem will return and possess the towns in the Negev Desert. Leaders from Mount Zion will rule over the mountains of Esau and the kingdom will belong to the LORD."

Philemon verses 20-21. Paul wrote from prison in Rome, to his fellow-believer, "My brother, we both belong to the Lord Jesus Christ. So I wish to receive some benefit from you. Renew my heart. We know that Christ is the one who really renews it... So I am writing to you, believing you will do even more than I ask! Prepare a guest room ready for me. I hope to return to all of you in answer to your prayers."

*Father God, these writings are from the smallest books of the Bible which demonstrate great faith in You and Your people! Obadiah did not see the fulfilment of the restoration of Israel. Paul did not receive freedom from prison to share fellowship with fellow-believers. But give us their faith and vision of Your righteous purposes for Your people Israel and for followers of Jesus Christ. May we say in faith to those who have returned to Israel the closing words of Obadiah, "And the kingdom will be the LORD's." May we say in love the closing words of Paul, "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit." We are increasingly aware of living in "the last days". Even if we do not live to see Jesus return to Jerusalem to establish Your Kingdom, help us to be loving and faithful to those around us to prepare the way for His return. Amen.*

### **17<sup>th</sup> February 2025.**

Exodus 23:20-33. After God's Law or Covenant for Israel was given to Moses, God comforted His people on their way to the Promised Land. He promised to guide and guard and bless them. But they must do all that God said and not rebel. Sadly, many rebelled and it was their descendants who

entered the Promised Land. God promised to destroy their enemies but they must destroy their idols and sacred stones and altars. Sadly, many disobeyed and married the Canaanites and worshipped their gods. God also described the borders of the Promised Land from the Red Sea to the Mediterranean Sea, from the desert to the Euphrates river. Sadly, this did not happen until the time of King Solomon. That was before the destruction of Jerusalem and the exile to Babylon.

Matthew 24:1-14. After teaching the Law of Moses, Jesus severely judged the Jewish leaders. He warned them their Temple would be destroyed. "Nation will fight against nation... People will go hungry. There will be earthquakes in many places. All these are the beginning of birth pains. Then people will hand you over to be treated badly and killed. All nations will hate you because of Me. At that time, many will turn away from their faith... Many false prophets will appear. They will fool many people. Because evil will grow, most people's love will grow cold. But the one who remains strong in the faith will be saved. The good news of the Kingdom will be preached in the whole world. It will be a witness to all nations. Then the end will come."

*Father God, thank you for declaring Your purposes for Your people Israel and recording what happened when they failed to obey You. Help us to remember to avoid mixing with ungodly people and worshipping their gods including worldly riches and pleasures. Help us to fulfil Your commandments by putting our faith in Jesus our Saviour. Make us strong during these last days and a "witness to all nations". Amen.*

### **18<sup>th</sup> February 2025.**

Psalms 147:1-7. Praise the LORD! How good it is to sing praises to our God! The LORD builds up Jerusalem. He gathers the scattered people of Israel. He heals those who have broken hearts. He takes care of their wounds... Great is our LORD. His power is mighty. There is no limit to His understanding. The LORD gives strength to those who are not proud. But He throws evil people down to the ground. Sing to the LORD and give Him grateful praise!

Revelation 18:1 to 19:2. A mighty angel in Heaven told the apostle John about Babylon, which today is in Iraq near Iran. "Then a mighty angel picked up a huge rock and threw it into the sea. He said, 'That is how the great city of Babylon will be thrown down. Never again will it be found. The songs of musicians will never be heard in you again... No worker of any kind will ever be found in you again... The light of a lamp will never shine in you again. The voices of brides and grooms will never be heard in you again. Your traders were among the world's most important people. By your magic spell all the nations were led astray. You were guilty of the murder of prophets and God's holy people. You were guilty of the blood of all you have killed on the Earth.'" After these things I heard a roar in Heaven. It sounded like a huge crowd shouting. "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God. The way He judges is true and fair. He has judged the great prostitute (Babylon). She made the Earth impure with her terrible sins. God has paid her back for killing those who served Him. Hallelujah!"

*Father God in Heaven, grant us the wisdom of Your Holy Spirit to understand Your purposes and provision, past, present and future. May our trust be in Your Saviour, Jesus our Christ and Messiah. Come soon, Lord Jesus! Amen.*

### **19<sup>th</sup> February 2025.**

Ruth 1:1-7. "There was a time when Israel had leaders called judges." In those days Israel had no king and everyone did what they thought was right (Judges 21:25). "At that time there was not enough food in the region of Judah. So a certain man went to live in the country of Moab. His wife and two sons went with him. The man's name was Elimelek. His wife's name was Naomi... Elimelek died so Naomi was left with her two sons. They married women from Moab, Orpah and Ruth. Then the sons also died. While Naomi was in Moab, she heard that the LORD God Almighty had begun to provide food again. So Naomi and her two daughters-in-law prepared to go from Moab back to her home. They began to travel on the road to Bethlehem in Judah." Orpah returned home. Ruth and Naomi carried on.

Luke 9:44-48. Jesus said, "Listen carefully to what I am about to tell you. The Son of Man is going to be handed over to men." Later, the disciples began to argue about which one of them would be the most important person. Jesus knew what they were thinking. So He took a little child and made him stand beside Him. "Anyone who welcomes this little child in My name welcomes Me. And anyone who welcomes Me welcomes the One who sent Me. The least important among all of you is

really the most important." After this, Jesus prepared to travel towards Jerusalem to be crucified and rise from death to return to Heaven (verse 51).

*Father, forgive us when "everyone does what they thought was right". Help us believe we are "the least important among all." Help us, like Naomi, to do what is right and trust You to meet our needs. Thank you that through her family in Bethlehem, Your Saviour Jesus was born 1300 years later, also in Bethlehem. May we yield our lives fully to Him to use for your glory and purposes. Amen.*

#### **20<sup>th</sup> February 2025.**

Jeremiah 23:1-8. The prophet Jeremiah warned the people what God said 2600 years ago which still applies today. "How terrible it will be for the shepherds who lead My people astray and scatter the sheep that belong to My flock... I will punish you for the evil things you have done. And I Myself will gather together those who are left alive in My flock... I will bring them back to their own land." Jeremiah looks beyond the exile in Babylon he prophesied in Chapter 25 and speaks of Israel's coming Messiah. "A new day is coming. At that time I will raise up for David's royal line a godly Branch... He will be called 'The Lord who makes us right with Himself'. Other days are also coming. At that time people will no longer say, 'The LORD brought the Israelites out of Egypt. Instead, they will say, 'The LORD brought the Israelites out of the land of the north.' Then they will live in their own land."

Romans 13:8-14. "Pay everything you owe. However, you can never pay back all the love you owe to each another. Whoever loves other people has done everything the Law requires... All commands are included in this one commandment. 'Love your neighbour as you love yourself.' Love does everything the Law requires. When you do these things, keep in mind the times we are living in... The day of Christ's return is almost here. So let us get rid of the works of darkness that harm us. Let us do the works of light that protect us... Have nothing to do with wild parties... Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ as if He were your clothing. Do not think about how to satisfy sinful desires."

*Lord Jesus, thank You for submitting in love to Father's plan to suffer on the cross to save not only Jews but Gentiles. We praise God that Jeremiah and Paul were given understanding of the future for our benefit today. Amen.*

#### **21<sup>st</sup> February 2025.**

Micah 4:1-5. After God's judgement on Israel, Micah prophesies, "In the last days the mountain where the LORD's Temple is located will be famous... People from many nations will go there. They will say, 'Come, let us go up to the LORD's mountain... He will teach us how we should live.' The Law of the LORD will be taught at Zion. His message will go out from Jerusalem. He will judge between people from many nations. He will settle problems among powerful nations everywhere. They will hammer their swords into ploughs and their spears into pruning tools. Nations will not go to war against each another and no-one will make them afraid... Other nations worship and trust in their gods. But we will worship and obey the LORD God Almighty. He will be our God for ever."

Titus 2:1-8. "What you teach must be true teaching. Tell the older men that in anything they do... they must be worthy of respect. They must control themselves. They must have true faith. They must love others. They must not give up. In the same way, teach the older women to lead a holy life. They must not tell lies about others. They must not let wine control them. Instead, they must teach what is good. Then they can advise the younger women to love their husbands and children. The younger women must control themselves and be pure. They must take good care of their homes. They must be kind. They must follow the lead of their husbands. Then no-one will be able to speak evil things against God's word. In the same way, help the young men to control themselves. Do what is good. Set an example for them in everything. When you teach, be honest and serious. No-one can question truth so teach what is true."

*Lord Jesus, help us to follow the teachings of Your servant Titus. We look forward to Your return to Jerusalem and witness "the many nations who will go there". Amen.*

#### **24<sup>th</sup> February 2025.**

Psalms 111. "Praise the LORD! I will praise the LORD with all my heart. I will praise Him where honest people gather for worship. The LORD has done great things. All who take delight in those things think deeply about them. What He does shows His glory and majesty. He will always do what is right. The LORD causes His wonders to be remembered. He is kind and tender. He provides food for those who

have respect for Him. He remembers His covenant forever. He set His people free. He made a covenant with them that will last forever. His name is holy and wonderful. To become wise, you must begin by having respect for the LORD God Almighty. All those who follow His rules have good understanding. He deserves our praise forever!"

Acts 8:30-35. An angel told the apostle Philip to speak to an Ethiopian official who was reading the Scriptures. 'So Philip ran up to the man's chariot. He heard him reading from Isaiah the prophet about God's promised Messiah. "He was led like a sheep to be killed. Just as lambs are silent while their wool is being cut off, He did not open His mouth. When He was treated badly, he was refused a fair trial... His life was cut off from Earth." (Isaiah 53:7,8) The official said to Philip, "Tell me, please. Who is the prophet talking about?" Then Philip told him the Good News about Jesus the Christ.'

*Heavenly Father, thank You for Your covenant of love with us. Thank You for the great things You have done. May more and more people "delight in those things". Thank You that Your Holy Spirit is at work through Your angels today. May we be open to the opportunities to preach the Good News of Jesus our Saviour. May we grow in divine wisdom "by having respect for our LORD God Almighty" and witness to people who can reach many others with the Gospel, as with the Ethiopian official. Amen.*

### **25<sup>th</sup> February 2025.**

Malachi 4. The LORD God Almighty spoke through His prophet Malachi 400 years before the birth of Christ. "The day is coming when My anger will burn like a furnace. All those who are proud will burn like straw. So will all those who do what is evil... But here is what will happen for you who have respect for Me... You will go out and leap for joy, like calves that have just been fed... That will happen on the day I bring judgement. Remember the Law my servant Moses gave you and the rules and laws I gave him at Mount Horeb... I will send the prophet Elijah before the day of the Lord arrives. It will be a great and terrifying day but will bring peace between parents and their children and between children and their parents."

Revelation 22:14-21. These words of Jesus were given to His disciple John nearly 500 years later. "Blessed are those who wash their robes. They will have the right to come to the Tree of Life. They will be allowed to go through the gates into the City. Outside the City are those who are impure. These people include those who practice witchcraft and those who commit sexual sins and murder. Also those who worship statues of gods and all who does what is false. I, Jesus, have sent My angel to give you this witness for the churches. I am the Root and the Son of David. I am the bright Morning Star. The Holy Spirit and the bride [the Church of Christ] say, 'Come!' And the person who hears should say, 'Come!' Everyone who is thirsty should come. Anyone who wants to take the free gift of the water of life should do so. I am warning everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book." Jesus is a witness about these things. He says, "Yes. I am coming soon".

*Come soon Lord Jesus, and in the meantime, purify Your Church. Amen.*

### **26<sup>th</sup> February 2025.**

Hosea 3 is where God shows His love and forgiveness for Israel and asks His prophet Hosea to do the same for his wife as an example to all. "The LORD said to me, 'Go, show your love to your wife again. She has committed adultery. But I want you to love her just as I love the people of Israel.' So I bought Gomer for six ounces of silver and 430 pounds of barley. Then I told her, 'You must not be a prostitute... And I will be faithful to you too.' So, the people of Israel will return to the LORD their God. They will look to Him and to a King from the family line of David. In the last days, they will tremble with fear as they come to the LORD. And they will receive His full blessing."

1 Timothy 1:9-14. "We know that the Law is made for... murderers and those who commit sexual sins and homosexual acts. It is for people who buy and sell slaves. It is for liars... And it is for anything else that is the opposite of true teaching. True teaching agrees with the Good News of Christ Jesus our Lord. He has given me strength. I thank Him that He considered me faithful. I thank Him for appointing me to serve Him. I used to speak evil things against Jesus. I tried to hurt His followers... But God showed me mercy. I did those things without knowing any better. I was not a believer. Our Lord poured out more and more of His grace upon me. Along with it came faith and love from Christ Jesus."

*Father God, we thank You for these examples of Your love for Your people and the forgiveness You want us have in our hearts for each other. Thank You that You allowed Hosea to*



*suffer for the sake of Israel's salvation as did Paul in different ways over 800 years later for the salvation of the world through Jesus Christ. Amen.*

**27<sup>th</sup> February 2025.**

Ezekiel 16:44-48; 59-63. God tells Ezekiel that His people have become like the sinful tribes who lived around them. "All those who use proverbs will use this one about you: 'Like mother, like daughter.' You are a true daughter of your mother... Your mother was a Hittite. Your father was an Amorite. Your older sister was from Samaria. Your younger sister was from Sodom. You lived exactly the way they did. I hate those ways. Everything you did was so sinful that you soon became even worse than they were." The LORD and King says, "I will punish you in keeping with what you have done. I sealed with a promise the covenant I made with you. You hated and broke My covenant. But I will remember My covenant with you. Now I will make a new covenant with you which will last forever... Then you will know that I am the LORD God Almighty. I will pay for all the sins you have committed. Then you will remember what you have done. You will be ashamed of it. Because of your shame, you will never speak against Me again."

Hebrews 2:17-18 and 3:1-3. "So Jesus had to be made fully human in every way to serve God as a kind and faithful High Priest. Then He could pay for the sins of the people by dying for them. He himself suffered when He was tempted. Now he is able to help others who are being tempted. Holy brothers and sisters, God chose you to be His people. So keep thinking about Jesus... Moses was faithful in everything he did in the house of God. In the same way, Jesus was faithful to God who appointed Him... And Jesus has been found worthy of greater honour than Moses."

*Thank you Father God for Your everlasting covenant with us through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Thank You Jesus for suffering whilst "fully human in every way to serve God as a kind and faithful High Priest". Amen.*

**28<sup>th</sup> February 2025.**

1 Kings 10:23 to 11:6. 'King Solomon was richer than all the other kings on Earth. He was also wiser than they were. People from the whole world wanted to meet Solomon in person. They wanted to see for themselves how wise God had made him. Year after year, everyone who came to him brought a gift. They brought gifts made out of silver and gold... King Solomon loved many women besides Pharaoh's daughter. They were from other lands. The LORD God Almighty had warned Israel about women from other nations. He had said, "You must not marry them. If you do, you can be sure they will turn your hearts toward their gods." But Solomon continued to love them anyway. He would not give them up... His wives led him astray. As Solomon grew older, his wives turned his heart toward other gods. He did not follow the LORD his God with all his heart. So he was not like his father David... He did what was evil in the sight of the LORD.'

Luke 17:1-5. Jesus spoke to his disciples. "Things that make people sin are sure to come," he said. "But how terrible it will be for anyone who causes those things to come! Suppose people lead one of these little ones to sin. It would be better for those people to be thrown into the sea with a millstone tied around their neck. So watch what you do. If your brother or sister sins against you, tell them they are wrong. Then if they turn away from their sins, forgive them. Suppose they sin against you seven times in one day. And suppose they come back to you each time and say, 'I am sorry', you must forgive them." The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!"

*Lord God, grant us wisdom but also faith to trust and obey Your truth and provision. Thank You for Your forgiveness when we go astray. Help us also to forgive others. Amen.*

**3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025.**

Deuteronomy 3:1-9 describes the final stage of Israel's journey to possess God's Promised Land of Canaan. Moses recorded, "We went along the road that leads to the Red Sea as the LORD directed me. 'You have made your way around this hill country long enough. So now turn north. You are about to pass through the territory of your relatives from the family of Esau. They will be afraid of you. But be very careful. Do not make them angry. If you do, they will go to war against you. I will not give you any of their land. I have given Esau's people the hill country of Seir as their own... The LORD your God has blessed you in everything your hands have done. He watched over you when you travelled through that huge desert. For these 40 years the LORD your God has been with you.' We went on past our relatives and travelled along the desert road of Moab. The LORD said to me, 'Do not

attack the Moabites... I will not give you any part of their land. I have given Moab to the people in the family line of Lot as their own.' "

John 19:23-27. At the crucifixion of Jesus, the Roman soldiers took His clothes and divided them among themselves. This had been prophesied 1000 years before in Psalm 22:18. Then Jesus saw His mother standing nearby with His favourite disciple John. He said, "Dear woman, here is your son." He said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, the disciple took her into his home.

*Heavenly Father thank you for recording Your instructions for the care of other tribes of Abraham's family and relatives. Thank You also for recording what happened to Jesus, Your Son, our Saviour, before He died on the cross. Despite His persecution at the hands of the Roman soldiers, He gave instructions for the care of His mother. Help us to show compassion to others despite the risk of persecution. Amen.*

#### **4<sup>th</sup> March 2025.**

Habakkuk 2:1-3; 3:17-19. Habakkuk longs for God to do something about unpunished evil in the world. "I will go up to the lookout tower. I will wait to see how the LORD will reply to me."

The LORD replies, "Write down the message I am giving you... The message I give you waits for the time I have appointed. It speaks about what is going to happen. And all of it will come true... It will happen when I want it to." Then the LORD God Almighty reveals some of His plans for the future of His people. Habakkuk then speaks out against the evil with more hope of God's intervention. Finally, he rejoices, "The fig trees might not bud. The vines might not produce any grapes. The olive crop might fail. The fields might not produce any food... But I will still be glad because of what the LORD has done. God my Saviour fills me with joy. The Lord and King gives me strength. He makes my feet... walk on the highest places!"

Hebrews 10. "The Law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming... The Law can never make perfect those who come near to worship... But those offerings remind people of their sins every year. So when Christ came into the world, He said to His Father, 'You did not want sacrifices and offerings. Instead, You prepared a body for Me. Then I said, "Here I am. It is written about Me in the book. I have come to do what you want, my God."' (Psalm 40:6-8) Christ fulfilled the good things that were coming. He did it to put in place the good things themselves. We have been made holy by what God wanted. We have been made holy because Jesus Christ offered His body once and for all time."

*We rejoice Father God that despite our disobedience and the sins of the world, You have fulfilled what You promised in Christ our Saviour. Amen.*

#### **5<sup>th</sup> March 2025.**

Judges 9:52 to 10:7. This records the time when Israel's evil leader Abimelech was defeated. 'Abimelech went to the tower and attacked it. He approached the entrance to set it on fire. But a woman dropped a large millstone on his head. He quickly called out to the man carrying his armour. "Pull out your sword and kill me. Then people cannot say, 'A woman killed him.'" So his servant stuck his sword through him. And Abimelech died. When the Israelites saw he was dead, they went home. That is how God punished Abimelech for the evil thing he had done to his father by murdering his 70 brothers.' Then followed 23 years of righteous leadership under Tola followed by 22 years under Jair. However, under the leadership of Jephthah, 'once again the Israelites did what was evil in the sight of the LORD God Almighty. They served gods that were named Baal. They served female gods that were named Ashtoreth... They also worshiped the gods of the Philistines. The Israelites deserted the LORD. They did not serve Him anymore. So the LORD became very angry with them and gave them over to the Philistines.'

Philippians 4:8-9. Paul writes, "Finally, my brothers and sisters, always think about what is true. Think about what is noble, right and pure. Think about what is lovely and worthy of respect. If anything is excellent or worthy of praise, think about those kinds of things. Do what you have learned or received or heard from me. Follow my example. The God who gives peace will be with you."

*Father God in Heaven, thank You for this reminder from the Old Testament of the wickedness caused by evil leaders and the people who supported them. Also for the peace You bring when we worship You and put our trust in Your provision. May we at all times, "think about what is true, noble, right and pure" and experience the peace You bring through faith in Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.*

### **6<sup>th</sup> March 2025.**

Psalms 2. "Why do the nations plan evil together and make useless plans? The kings of the Earth rise up against the LORD God Almighty. The rulers of Earth join together against His anointed King. 'Let us break free from their chains,' they say. The God who sits on His throne in Heaven laughs. The LORD makes fun of those rulers and their plans. When He is angry, He warns and terrifies them. He says to them, 'I have placed My King on My holy mountain of Zion... You are my Son. Today I have become Your Father. Ask Me, and I will give the nations to You. All nations on Earth will belong to You. You will break them with an iron sceptre. You will smash them to pieces like clay pots.' Kings, be wise! Rulers of Earth, be warned! Serve the LORD and have respect for Him. Celebrate His rule with trembling. Obey His Son completely, or He will be angry. Your way of life will lead to your death. His anger can blaze out at any moment. Blessed are all those who go to Him for safety."

Romans 5:12-15. "Sin entered the world because one man sinned. And death came because of sin... Before the Law was given, sin was in the world... Death ruled from the time of Adam to the time of Moses. Death ruled even over those who did not sin as Adam did. He broke God's command... The Messiah was the one who was going to come. God's gift cannot be compared with Adam's sin. Many people died because of the sin of that one man. However, it was even more certain that God's grace would also come through one man. That man is Jesus Christ. God's gift of grace was more than enough for the whole world."

*We give praise to You our God and Father for the promise of Jesus our Saviour, fulfilled 2000 years ago. We wait with faith and excitement for His return. Amen.*

### **7<sup>th</sup> March 2025.**

2 Samuel 23:1-4. The last words of King David. "I am David, the son of Jesse. God has given me a message. The Most High God has greatly honoured me. The God of Jacob anointed me as king. I am the hero of Israel's songs. The Spirit of the LORD God Almighty spoke through me. I spoke His word with my tongue. The God of Israel spoke. The Rock of Israel said to me, 'A king must rule over people in a way that is right. He must have respect for God when he rules. Then he will be like the light of morning at sunrise when there are no clouds. He will be like the bright sun after rain that makes grass grow on Earth.' "

John 14:1-7. Jesus told His disciples, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God. Believe also in Me. There are many rooms in My Father's house. If this were not true, would I have told you that I am going there? Would I have told you that I would prepare a place for you there? If I go and do that, I will come back. And I will take you to be with Me. Then you will also be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going. So how can we know the way?" Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. If you really know Me, you will know my Father also. From now on, you do know Him. And you have seen Him."

*Father in Heaven we pray for Israel today to "rule over people in a way that is right" and "have respect for God". Help us to know more of You through believing in Your Son, Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that our hearts will not "be troubled". Amen.*

### **10<sup>th</sup> March 2025.**

Jeremiah 3:12-19. "You people have not been faithful," announces the LORD God Almighty. "Return to Me... and I will bring you to the city of Zion... In those days there will be many more of you in the land... At that time they will call Jerusalem 'The Throne of the LORD'. All the nations will gather together there to honour Me. They will no longer do what their stubborn and evil hearts want them to do. Judah will join the people of Israel and come from a land in the north to the land I gave to your people long ago to have as their very own. I Myself said, 'I would gladly treat you like My children. I would give you a pleasant land. It is the most beautiful land any nation could have.' "

Philippians 2:2-11. Paul wrote, "Be one in spirit in the way you think and act. Do this and make my joy complete. Do not do anything just to get ahead. Do not be proud but humble. Value others more than yourselves... Think and act as Jesus did. In His very nature He was equal with God. But Jesus did not take advantage of that. Instead, He made Himself nothing. He took on the nature of a servant... He appeared as a man. He was humble and obeyed God completely. He did this even though it led to His death on a cross! So God lifted Him up to the highest place. God gave Him the name that is above every name. When the name of Jesus is spoken, everyone will kneel down to

worship Him. Everyone in Heaven and on Earth will kneel down to worship Him and say that Jesus Christ is Lord. Then Father God will receive the glory."

*Thank You Father God for your fulfilment of promises to Your people Judah and Israel back in 1948. Thank you that through their Messiah we have been given the faith to accept "Jesus Christ is Lord". Amen.*

### **11<sup>th</sup> March 2025.**

Psalm 25. David writes, "In you, LORD my God, I put my trust. Do not let me be put to shame. Do not let my enemies win over me. Those who put their hope in You will never be put to shame. But those who lie for no reason will be put to shame. LORD God Almighty, show me Your ways. Teach me how to follow You. Guide me in Your truth. Teach me. You are God my Saviour. I put my hope in You all day long. LORD, remember Your great mercy and love to Your people for a long time. Do not remember the sins I committed when I was young. Do not remember how often I refused to obey You. Remember me because You love me. LORD, you are honest and good... All the LORD's ways are loving and faithful toward those who obey what His covenant commands. LORD, be true to Your name and forgive my sin, even though it is great."

Luke 21:24-28. Jesus said, "Jerusalem will be taken over by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles come to an end... The nations of Earth will be in terrible pain. They will be puzzled by the roaring and tossing of the sea. Terror will make people faint. They will be worried about what is happening in the world. The sun, moon and stars will be shaken from their places. At that time people will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud. He will come with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand up. Hold your head up with joy and hope. The time when you will be set free will be very close."

*Thank You Jesus for Your words and the awareness they give of the 'end times' we are living through. In the meantime, we read the words of Your servant David and rejoice at his example of faith in our heavenly Father, The LORD God Almighty. Amen.*

### **12<sup>th</sup> March 2025.**

Leviticus 25:1-12. God's instructions to Moses for Sabbath and Jubilee years. "You must honour the LORD every seventh year by not farming the land that year. For six years plant your fields. Trim the branches in your vineyards and gather your crops. But the seventh year must be a year of Sabbath rest for the land and to honour the LORD. Count off seven Sabbath years. Set the 50th year apart. Announce freedom all over the land to everyone who lives there. It will be a Year of Jubilee for you. Each of you must return to your own family property. And each of you must return to your own tribe. Do not plant anything. It will be a holy year for you."

Hebrews 9:1-12. "The first covenant had rules for worship. A holy tent was set up. Behind the second curtain was a room called the Most Holy Room. It had the golden altar for incense and the Ark of the Covenant. God showed His glory there where sin was paid for. The priests entered into the outer room to do their work for God and others. The high priest went in only once a year. He offered the blood sacrifices for himself and for the sins the people had committed. The Holy Spirit was showing us that God had not yet shown the way into the Most Holy Room. It is an example for the present time. Christ came to be the High Priest of the good things already here. When He came, He did not enter by spilling the blood of goats and calves. He entered the Most Holy Room by spilling His own blood. He did it once and for all time. In this way, He paid the price to set us free from sin forever."

*We thank you Father for the divine wisdom of the Mosaic laws to apply today. But above all we thank You for the fulfilment of the Mosaic sacrifices in Christ our Saviour. Amen.*

### **13<sup>th</sup> March 2025.**

1 Samuel 24:8-14. 'Then David went out of the cave and called out to Saul, "King Saul! My master!" When Saul looked behind him, David bowed down. He said to Saul, "Why do you listen when men say, 'David is trying to harm you'? This day you have seen with your own eyes how the LORD handed you over to me in the cave. Some of my men begged me to kill you. But I said, 'I will never lay my hand on my master. He is the LORD's anointed king.' Look at this piece of your robe in my hand! I cut off the corner of your robe but I did not kill you. I have not turned against you. But you are hunting me down and want to kill me. May the LORD judge between you and me." '

Acts 3:11-16. 'The man who had been healed was holding on to Peter and John. All the people were amazed... Peter asked, "Why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us? It is not as if we have made this man walk by our own power or godliness. The God of our fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, has done this. God has brought glory to Jesus, who serves Him. But you handed Jesus over to be killed. Pilate had decided to let Him go. But you spoke against Jesus when he was in Pilate's court. You spoke against the Holy and Blameless One. You asked for a murderer to be set free instead. You killed the One who gives life. But God raised Him from death. We are witnesses of this. This man whom you see and know was healed because of faith in the name of Jesus. You can see it with your own eyes." '

*We praise You God for raising up David as King through whose family You brought Jesus our Saviour into the world 1000 years later. Help us to prepare the way for His second coming. Amen.*

#### **14<sup>th</sup> March 2025.**

Ezekiel 34:27-31. A prophecy for God's people recorded 2600 years ago. "The people will be secure in their land. I will break the chains that hold them. I will save them from the power of those who made them slaves. Then they will know that I am the LORD God Almighty. The nations will not carry them off any more... They will live in safety. And no-one will make them afraid. I will give them a land that is famous for its crops. They will never again be hungry there. The nations will not make fun of them anymore. Then they will know that I am with them. I am the LORD their God. And the Israelites will know that they are My people. You are My sheep. You belong to My flock. And I am your God."

Philippians 1:27-30. Paul writes, "Remain strong together in the one Spirit.... Work together as one person. I will then know that you work to spread the teachings about the Good News of Salvation through Christ. So do not be afraid in any way of those who oppose you. This will show them that they will be destroyed and that you will be saved. That is what God will do. Here is what He has given you to do for Christ. You must not only believe in Him, you must also suffer for Him. You are going through the same struggle you saw me go through."

*LORD God Almighty, thank You for Your everlasting truth. May the words You gave to Your people Israel through Ezekiel many years ago be read and understood and fulfilled this day and every day. Grant freedom from persecution for them and for all who believe in Israel's Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ. We also note that Paul continued in his next chapter, "None of you should act just for your own good. Each of you should also act for the good of others. You should think and act as Jesus did." Amen.*

#### **17<sup>th</sup> March 2025.**

Jeremiah 12:1,14-17. God's prophet Jeremiah had complained and asked, "Why does the way of the wicked prosper?" God answered: "All the evil neighbours have taken over the land I gave my people Israel. So I will pull them up by their roots from the lands they live in... But after I pull up those nations, I will give my tender love to My people again. I will bring all of them back to their own lands."

John 1:1-14. "In the beginning, the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. All things were made through Him... Life was in Him, and that life was the light for all people... There was a man sent from God. His name was John. He came to be a witness about that light so that all people might believe... The world was made through Him. But the world did not recognize Him. He came to what was His own. But some of His own people did not accept Him... He gave them the right to become children of God. To be a child of God has nothing to do with human parents. Children of God are not born because of human choice or because a husband wants them to be born. They are born because of what God does. The Word became a human being. He made His home with us. We have seen His glory. It is the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father. And the Word was full of grace and truth."

*Thank You again Father God for re-establishing Your people back in Your Promised Land. May they worship You and seek to follow Your Messiah our Saviour Jesus the Christ. May we all share together in the responsibility of being "a witness about that light... so that all people might believe." May we all claim "the right to become children of God" and live lives "full of grace and truth". Amen.*

#### **18<sup>th</sup> March 2025.**

2 Kings 14:1-6. This happened after the time when King Joash restored the Temple in Jerusalem. 'Amaziah, son of Joash, began to rule as king over Judah... He ruled in Jerusalem for 29 years...

Amaziah did what was right in the eyes of the Lord... But the high places were not removed and the people continued to offer sacrifices [to idols] there. The kingdom was firmly under his control. He put to death the officials who had murdered his father, the former King Joash. But he did not put their children to death. He obeyed what is written in the Book of the Law of Moses. There the LORD God Almighty commanded, "Parents must not be put to death because of what their children do. And children must not be put to death because of what their parents do. Each person should die because of their own sins." (Deuteronomy 24:16)

John 22:19-23. This happened after the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. 'On the evening of that first day of the week, the disciples were together. They had locked the doors because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. Jesus came in and stood among them. He said, "May peace be with you!" Then he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were very happy when they saw the Lord. Jesus said, "The Father has sent Me. So now I am sending you out." He then breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven. If you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."'

*We thank You Father in Heaven for one of the many laws you gave to Your servant Moses to spare and forgive those whose parents or children do wrong. Help Your people to do this and fulfill the teaching of Your Messiah to show mercy to innocent people through the prompting of Your Holy Spirit within us. Guide us as You send us out. Amen.*

### **19<sup>th</sup> March 2025.**

Hosea 3:1-5. The LORD God Almighty said to me, "Go. Show your love to your wife again. She is loved by another man and has committed adultery. But I want you to love her just as I love the people of Israel. They have turned to other gods... But I love My people." So I bought Gomer back for six ounces of silver and 430 pounds of barley. Then I told her, "You must not be a prostitute. Then I will be faithful to you. So also the people of Israel will live for a long time... and not make sacrifices or sacred stones... The people of Israel will return to the LORD their God. They will look forward to a King from the family line of David. In the last days, they will tremble with fear as they come to the LORD and receive His full blessing."

James 1:19-27. "Everyone should be quick to listen but slow to speak and slow to get angry. Human anger does not produce the holy life God wants. Get rid of everything that is sinful. Reject the evil that is all around us. The word that is planted in you can save you. Do not just listen to the word but do what it says... Whoever takes a good look at God's perfect Law that gives freedom and does not forget what the Law says, then that person will be blessed in what they do. But if they do not control what they say, then they are fooling themselves. Their beliefs and way of life are worthless. Here is an example of the way of life that God our Father accepts as pure and without fault. When widows are in trouble, take care of them. Do the same for orphans. Do not let the world make you impure."

*Loving heavenly Father, thank You for Your examples of righteous living portrayed by Your servants Hosea and James. Enable us to do this at a personal and national level. Amen.*

### **20<sup>th</sup> March 2025.**

Esther 2:5-23 is the story of Mordecai the Jew and his adopted cousin Esther who lived in Persia around 520 B.C. during Israel's exile. 'Esther was taken to the king's palace where the virgins stayed... Esther did not tell anyone who her people were... Everyone who saw Esther was pleased with her. She was taken to King Xerxes. The king liked Esther more than he liked any of the other women. So he put a royal crown on her head. He made her queen in Vashti's place... Later, Mordecai heard about a plot to kill the king and told Queen Esther. She reported it to the king and it was true. So the two officials were put to death.' The following chapters describe how God used Queen Esther to save the Jews in Persia from being persecuted and killed.

Acts 7:30-39, 51-53. The apostle Stephen told the Jewish leaders, "When Moses saw the burning bush, he was amazed. He heard the LORD God Almighty say, 'I am the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.' Then the LORD said to him, 'I have seen the oppression of My people in Egypt and heard their groans. I have come down to set them free.' God sent Moses to rule the people of Israel. He led them out of Egypt. He did wonders and signs in Egypt, at the Red Sea, and for 40 years in the desert... This is the same Moses who spoke to the Israelites, 'God will send you a Prophet. He will come from your own people.' ...You stubborn people! You do not obey or listen! You are just like your

people of long ago! You always oppose the Holy Spirit! You even killed those who told about the coming of their Messiah. You have handed Him over to His enemies and murdered Him."

*Father God, save the Jewish leaders today from doing wrong and from persecution. Prepare them and the rest of us for their coming Messiah. Come soon Lord Jesus! Amen.*

### **21<sup>st</sup> March 2025.**

Joshua 15. This is part of the division of the Promised Land given to Israel in the 14<sup>th</sup> century B.C. It records the land allocated to the tribe of Judah which had the largest share. The boundary stretched down to the desert of Zin in the south from the southern end of the Dead Sea and joined the wadi of Egypt as far as the Mediterranean Sea. The eastern boundary was at the Dead Sea and the northern boundary was from the mouth of the River Jordan to Jerusalem and on to the Mediterranean Sea. The western boundary was the Mediterranean Sea. "This is the inheritance of the tribe of Judah" (verse 20).

Acts 8:1-8. This was at the time of the early persecution of Jewish people who were followers of Jesus their Messiah. The apostle Stephen had just been martyred by stoning. 'On that day the church in Jerusalem began to be attacked and treated badly. All except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria... Saul began to destroy the church. He went from house to house. He dragged away men and women and put them in prison. The believers who had been scattered preached the word everywhere they went. Philip went down to a city in Samaria. There he preached about the Messiah. The crowds listened to Philip and saw the signs he did. All of them paid close attention to what he said. Evil spirits screamed and came out of many people. Many people who were disabled or who could not walk were healed. So there was great joy in that city.'

*We praise You Father God for the detailed record of land allocation for Your people Judah nearly 3500 years ago. We are also amazed how the prophecy of Jesus was fulfilled regarding the persecution of the Jewish churches "in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the Earth". (Acts 1:8). Establish Your church, Lord Jesus, even in the midst of sounds of war! Amen.*

### **24<sup>th</sup> March 2025.**

1 Samuel 22:1-5. God was guiding David, the future king of Israel, all the time Saul was pursuing him to kill him. 'David left Gath and escaped to the cave of Adullam. His brothers and the other members of his family heard about it. So they went down to join him there... About 400 men were with him. From there David went to Mizpah in Moab. He spoke to the king of Moab. He said, "Please let my father and mother come and stay with you. Let them stay until I learn what God will do for me." So David left his parents in the care of the king of Moab... The prophet Gad spoke to David. "Go back into the land of Judah." So David left and went to the forest of Hereth.' This was in the land belonging to the tribe of Judah.

Acts 23:12-24. After Paul was imprisoned in Jerusalem, 'some Jews gathered secretly to make plans to kill Paul... But Paul's nephew heard about the plan and told Paul. Paul spoke to one of the prison commanders. "Take this young man to the commanding officer. He has something to tell him." So the commander took Paul's nephew to the officer... He said, "Some Jews have agreed to ask you to bring Paul to the Sanhedrin tomorrow... More than 40 of them are waiting in hiding to attack him. They have promised that they will not eat or drink anything until they have killed him." The officer immediately arranged to take Paul in safety to the Governor Felix in Caesarea.

*Thank You Father God for these true stories of how You kept Your servants David and Paul safe through the care of family members. Thank You also for the example of how Paul cared for the safety of his parents. May we too trust in Your safe keeping and guidance and observe Your provision through family members. May we also learn how to provide for our vulnerable family members. Amen.*

### **25<sup>th</sup> March 2025.**

Jeremiah 2:29-31 records one of the many times when the LORD God Almighty lamented over His people Israel. "Why do you bring charges against Me? All of you have refused to obey Me," announces the LORD. "I punished My people, but it did not do them any good. They did not pay attention when they were corrected. You have killed your prophets with swords. You have swallowed them up like a hungry lion. You who are now living, consider My message. I am saying, "Have I been like a desert to Israel? Have I been like a land of deep darkness? Why do My people say, 'We are free to wander but we will not come to You anymore?'"

Mark 11:15-18. 'When Jesus reached Jerusalem, He entered the Temple courtyard. He began to drive out those who were buying and selling there. He turned over the tables of the people who were exchanging money. He also turned over the benches of those who were selling doves. He would not allow anyone to carry items for sale through the Temple courtyard. Then He taught them. He told them, "It is written that the LORD said, 'My house will be called a house where people from all nations can pray.' (Isaiah 56:7) But you have made it a 'den for robbers'." (Jeremiah 7:11) The chief priests and the teachers of the Law heard about this. They began looking for a way to kill Jesus. They were afraid of Him, because the whole crowd was amazed at his teaching.'

*Father God, forgive us once again for the times we fail to take seriously all the Bible teachings of righteous living and accept Your mercy and forgiveness through Your Son, Israel's Messiah. Help us to "pay attention" and trust your Spirit's guidance, knowing "we are free to wander". Thank You for affirming Your desire for Your people to meet in places of worship "where people from all nations can pray". To Your glory and for Christ's sake. Amen.*

### **26<sup>th</sup> March 2025.**

Daniel 11:35. Here Daniel is given understanding of what would happen to God's people. "Those who are godly and wise will suffer. But they will be made pure in the fire. They will be made spotless." Those who survive persecution will have a big impact on the rest of the world "at God's appointed time".

2 Thessalonians 2:13-17. Paul writes to the early believers in Christ Jesus. "Brothers and sisters, we always thank God for you. The Lord loves you. God chose you from the beginning to be saved. Salvation comes through the work of the Holy Spirit. He makes people holy. It also comes through accepting and believing the truth. God chose you to be saved by accepting the Good News [of salvation in Christ] that we preach. You will share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. Remain strong in the faith. Hold on to what we taught you through what we preached and wrote. Our Lord Jesus Christ and God our Father loved us [from the beginning]. And by His grace God gave us comfort that will last forever. The hope He gave us is good. May our Lord Jesus Christ and God our Father comfort your hearts. May they make you strong in every good thing you do and say."

*Heavenly Father, make us strong in times of persecution. Open our eyes to see how You have upheld those who are faithful to Your truth in the past and will do so now and in the future. Refine us and prepare us to suffer as we uphold Your truth. May we show Your compassion to others and "have a big impact on the rest of the world". Help us to prepare the way for the second coming of our Lord and Saviour Jesus the Christ. We look forward to sharing "in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ". Thank You for loving us from the beginning. Help us to be "strong in every good thing we do or say". Amen.*

### **27<sup>th</sup> March 2025.**

Genesis 46 is the record of the people of Israel God sent to Egypt for over 400 years. God told Jacob, "I am the LORD God Almighty... Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt. There I will make you into a great nation. I will go down to Egypt with you. I will surely bring you back again." Israel's sons put their father Jacob and their families in the carts that Pharaoh had sent to carry him and his whole family to Egypt. They took their livestock with them. The total number of sons and grandsons who went to Egypt with Jacob was 70 including Joseph and his sons who were already living in Egypt. Then Joseph went to Goshen [in the Nile delta] to meet his father Jacob. Joseph threw his arms around him and wept for a long time. He said, "Pharaoh will let you settle in the area of Goshen."

Luke Chapter 1 says that Luke wrote down all he knew about the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, Israel's long-promised Messiah, and His ministry on Earth. Luke begins by saying, "Many people have attempted to write about the things that have taken place among us. Reports of these things were handed down to us. They saw them and then passed the word on. I myself have carefully looked into everything from the beginning to write down an orderly report of exactly what happened. Most excellent Theophilus, I want you to know that the things you have been taught are true." Luke then records what God's angel said about the birth of John the Baptist whom God called to prepare the way for Jesus. Also what God's angel said to the virgin Mary who would have a baby. "He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High God. He will rule forever over His people from the family line of Jacob. That kingdom will never end."

*Praise God for these amazing records! Amen.*



### **28<sup>th</sup> March 2025.**

Judges 10:9-16. 'The Ammonites went across the Jordan to fight against Israel. The Israelites suffered terribly and cried out to the LORD God Almighty. "We have sinned against You. We have deserted our God. We have served the gods of Baal." The LORD replied, "The Egyptians and Amorites treated you badly. So did the Ammonites and Philistines. And so did the Amalekites and the people of Sidon and Maon. Each time you cried out to Me for help, I saved you from their power. But you have deserted Me and served other gods. I will not save you anymore. Go and cry out to the gods you have chosen. Let them save you when you get into trouble!" But the Israelites replied to the LORD, "We have sinned. Do to us what you think is best but please save us now." Then they got rid of the false gods that were among them. They served the LORD. And He could no longer bear to see Israel suffer.'

Romans 3:9-24. Paul writes, "Jews and Gentiles are sinners. Everyone is under the power of sin." (v.9) He then quotes many verses from the Psalms and Isaiah of examples of unrighteousness. Paul then declares, "We are made right with God by putting our faith in Jesus Christ. This happens to all who believe. It is no different for the Jews than for the Gentiles. Everyone has sinned. No one measures up to God's glory. The free gift of God's grace makes us right with Him. Christ Jesus paid the price to set us free." (v.22-24)

*Dear Lord and Father we are shocked to read how mankind has turned away so many times from You and done evil things which resulted in so much suffering. Thank You that You chose to send Your Son and Messiah, the Christ Jesus, "to pay the price to set us free". Help us never to forget that "we are made right with God by putting our faith in Jesus Christ". Amen.*

### **31<sup>st</sup> March 2025**

Ezra 8 tells what happened when Ezra was given permission to take the Israelites back home to Jerusalem from exile. Ezra found there were no priestly Levites among the men. So he sent a message requesting for priests and temple servants to join them. "God was gracious to us and helped us." 258 men volunteered. "Then I announced a fast... and we humbled ourselves in God's sight. We prayed that He would give us and our children a safe journey... I was ashamed to ask King Artaxerxes for soldiers and horsemen to keep us safe from enemies on the road. We had told the king that our God would keep us safe... So we prayed about these matters and He answered our prayers. On the twelfth day of the first month we started out for Jerusalem. Our God helped us. He kept us safe from enemies and robbers along the way. So we arrived in Jerusalem." In the following chapter, Ezra describes his shock at discovering the Jews who had been left behind in Jerusalem during the exile had married some of the heathen women nearby. He wept before the LORD God Almighty and the people repented.

1 Peter 1:6-9. "You have great joy even though you may have suffered... sadness in all kinds of trouble. Your troubles have come in order to prove that your faith is real. Your faith is worth more than gold... Your faith brings praise, honour and glory to God. This will happen when Jesus Christ returns. Even though you have not seen Him, you love Him. Though you do not see Him now, you believe in Him. You are filled with a glorious joy that cannot be put into words. You are receiving the salvation of your souls because of your faith."

*Thank You God for the Old Testament records that show how Your people remained faithful to You whilst suffering in exile. May we too remain faithful and experience "great joy even though you may have suffered". Amen.*

### **1<sup>st</sup> April 2025.**

Numbers Chapters 6 and 7. The LORD God Almighty established His blessing for His people. He told Moses to say these famous words which have been repeated now for over 3500 years: "May the LORD bless you and keep you. May the LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. May the LORD turn His face towards you and give you His peace." (6:24-26) Then Moses anointed and blessed the new Tabernacle and everything in it. The leaders of Israel then brought oxen and carts for the Levite priests to use when moving the Tabernacle through the desert (7:1-11). Then each leader of the twelve tribes of Israel brought silver plates and bowls with grain offerings to the LORD as an offering (7:12-83). After this the priests offered the blood of innocent animals as sin offerings for the people. Then Moses entered the Tabernacle to speak to the LORD and God spoke to him from the Ark within (7:84-89).

Hebrews 10:5-10. "When Christ came into the world, He said to His Father in Heaven, 'You did not want sacrifices and offerings. You did not want burnt offerings and sin offerings... even though they were offered in obedience to the Law. Here I am. I have come to do what You want.' The animal offerings were the shadow of the good things that were coming... We have been made holy by what God wanted. We have been made holy because Jesus Christ offered His body once and for all time."

*Thank You Father God that from the time of Noah, Your covenant with us was confirmed through the ancient sacrifice of innocent animal blood. This covenant was renewed through Moses and finally fulfilled through the blood sacrifice of Your own Son's body, Jesus Christ our Saviour, Israel's Messiah. Help us to understand that Your new covenant is now established within all who put their faith in Christ's sacrifice of His own innocent blood on the cross. Thank You Jesus for doing Your Father's will. Amen.*

## **2<sup>nd</sup> April 2025.**

Genesis 47 records God's provision in Egypt for the Israelites through Jacob's persecuted son Joseph. This is the fulfilment of God's promise that they would all live in a foreign land for 400 years (Genesis 15:3). Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Your father and your brothers have now come to you... Let your father and brothers live in the best pasture land in Goshen. And put them in charge of my own flocks." (47:5-6) Joseph then provided food for his father and brothers and the rest of his father's family (47:12). Jacob lived in Egypt for a further 17 years. Before he died, Jacob asked that Joseph would bury his body with his ancestors in the land of Canaan that God has promised to give to Abraham and his descendants (47:31). Then all the Israelites worshipped God (47:31).

Matthew 7:12-14. Jesus said, "In everything, do to others what you would want them to do to you. This is what is written in the Law and in the Prophets. Enter God's kingdom through the narrow gate. The gate is large and the road is wide that leads to ruin. Many people go that way. But the gate is small and the road is narrow that leads to life. Only a few people find it."

*Thank You again Father in Heaven, for the biblical records given in the first books of the Old and New Testaments. Thank You that You provided for Abraham's family despite the times of persecution they experienced. Thank you for telling us how Jesus told us to obey the old covenant in "the Law and in the Prophets" given through Moses. Enable Jews and Gentiles to "do to others what you would want them to do to you" despite the persecution we experience today. Remind us how to benefit from living under the new covenant fulfilled through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins. This means that His compassionate Spirit is living within all believers. Amen.*

## **3<sup>rd</sup> April 2025.**

Ezekiel 43:1-5 describes God's vision of the new Temple given to Ezekiel in 574 B.C. "I saw the glory of the God of Israel. He was coming from the east. His voice was like the roar of rushing waters. His glory made the land shine brightly. The vision I saw was like the one I had when He came to destroy the city... I fell with my face towards the ground. The glory of the LORD God Almighty entered the Temple through the east gate. Then the Spirit lifted me up. He brought me into the inner courtyard. The glory of the Lord filled the Temple." This is followed by God's instructions regarding the sharing of the land for the 12 tribes of Israel. The boundaries are also described ending with, "The southern border of Gad will run south from Tamar to the waters of Meribah Kadesh. It will continue along the Wadi of Egypt and end at the Great Sea (Mediterranean Sea)." (48:28)

1 Corinthians 3:7-9; 16-17. "The one who plants or waters is not important. It is God who makes things grow. He is the important one. The one who plants and the one who waters have the same purpose. The Lord will give each of them a reward for their work. We work together to serve God. You are like God's field or building... Do you not know that you yourselves are God's Temple? Do you not know that God's Spirit lives within you? If anyone destroys God's Temple, God will destroy that person. God's Temple is holy. And you all together are that Temple."

*Thank You Father God for Your vision given to Ezekiel of the new Temple in Jerusalem. Also the importance of the east gate through which Jesus Christ, Israel's Messiah, will by tradition enter in the last days to establish His Kingdom on Earth. Through Christ living within us, You have made us into Your holy Temple. Help us all to "work together to serve God". Amen.*

#### **4<sup>th</sup> April 2025.**

1 Samuel 16. The LORD God Almighty arranged for His prophet Samuel to go to Bethlehem to meet Jesse (16:1). There, he anointed his youngest son David as the future king of Israel. God had warned Samuel, "Do not consider how handsome or tall he is. The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outside of a person. But the LORD looks at what is in the heart." (16:7) Soon after this, "The Spirit of the Lord left Saul. And Saul's attendants said to him, "An evil spirit sent by God is terrifying you. Give us an order to look for someone who can play the harp. He will play it when the evil spirit sent by God comes on you. Then you will feel better." They sent for David to play the harp for Saul. The next chapter tells the famous story of David and Goliath.

Matthew 18:1-4. The disciples asked Jesus "Who is the most important person in the Kingdom of Heaven?" Jesus called a child over to Him and said, "You need to change and become like little children. If you do not, you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Anyone who takes the humble position of this child is the most important in the Kingdom of Heaven."

*Thank You heavenly Father for reminding us of the importance of giving respect to the youngest or the least important people as much as the mature and well-known people. Warn us like You did Samuel to "look at what is in the heart". Thank You that You also honoured the unimportant town of Bethlehem where Your chosen King David lived, and the unimportant town of Nazareth where Your Messiah Jesus lived. Open our eyes to see as You see the true potential in people and places where they live. Help us to be aware that the people around us could be potential harp players or giant killers! Or indeed Spirit-filled believers in Christ our Saviour. Amen.*

#### **15<sup>th</sup> April 2025.**

2 Chronicles 35:1-6. King Josiah celebrated the Passover Feast in Jerusalem to honour the LORD God Almighty... Josiah appointed the Levite priests to their duties. He encouraged them as they served the LORD at His Temple. The Levites taught all the people of Israel... Josiah said to them, "Serve the LORD your God and His people Israel. Prepare yourselves by families in your groups. Do it as instructed by David, king of Israel, and by his son Solomon. Stand at the Temple with a group of Levites for each group of families among your people. Kill the Passover lambs. Cleanse yourselves to serve the LORD and prepare the lambs for your people."

Ephesians 5:8-14. Paul wrote, "Your minds were completely in the dark. But now you belong to the Lord and have become full of light. Live as people who belong to the light. Live in a way that is good, right and true. Learn more and more to do the things that please the Lord. People whose minds are in the dark do things that have no good purpose. Keep away from wrong things like that. Instead, show how bad those things really are. People like that should be ashamed of the things that they do secretly. Those things are too bad for us even to talk about. But when God's light shines on something, we can see clearly its true nature. Everything that is clear to see is in the light. That is why we say: 'Wake up, you people who are asleep! Rise up from among the people who are dead! Then Christ will shine His light on you.' "

*Father God in Heaven, thank You for the Spirit of Christ at work among your people today to raise us up from those who are dead. Thank you for the example of King Josiah to remember how they were saved from the angel of death in Egypt at the time of the Passover. Cleanse us to serve You and Your people. Amen.*

#### **16<sup>th</sup> April 2025.**

Ezekiel 22:1-8 is part of the prophecy of the destruction of Jerusalem 600 years before the ministry of Israel's Messiah. Ezekiel wrote down a message from the LORD God Almighty. 'Tell the people they have done many evil things I hate... Your city brings death on itself. You spill blood inside its walls. You make yourselves unclean by building statues of gods... You have brought your own days to an end. The nations will make fun of you... The leaders of Israel have ... crushed outsiders and treated badly their own widows and orphans. You have despised and misused my Sabbath days.' "

Revelation 3:14-22. John writes down the words of Jesus to the church in Laodicea. "I know what you are doing. I know you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! But you are lukewarm. So I am going to spit you out of My mouth. You say, 'I am rich. I have become wealthy and do not need anything.' But you do not realize how pitiful and worthless you have become. You are poor, blind and naked. Buy from Me gold made pure by fire. Then you will become rich. Buy from Me white clothes to wear. Then you will be able to cover the shame of your naked bodies. And buy from Me healing lotion to put on your eyes. Then you will be able to see clearly. I

warn and correct those I love. Turn away from your sins. I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in... To anyone who has victory over sin, I will give that person the right to sit with Me on My throne."

*Thank You God for the words written by Your persecuted believers Ezekiel and John many years ago. For centuries we have misused Your holy days as holidays. Forgive us for the same old sins Your people are guilty of today, and more! Amen.*

#### **17<sup>th</sup> April 2025.**

Nehemiah 8:1-15. There were 42,360 Israelites who returned from exile in Babylon (7:66). In the seventh month they assembled to listen to Ezra reading from the book of the Law of Moses which the LORD God Almighty had given. They all bowed down to worship the LORD. Then the Levites (priests) "read to the people parts of the Book of the Law of God. They made it clear to them and told them what it meant. So the people understood what was being read." This was done to obey what the LORD had commanded through Moses "to spread the message all through their towns as well as in Jerusalem."

Acts 8:26-39 records the time when an official of Ethiopia was returning home from Worshipping God in Jerusalem. The Holy Spirit sent the apostle Philip to speak to him. The man was in a chariot reading from the book of Isaiah. Philip asked him if he understood what he was reading. "How can I understand unless someone explains to me?" Philip explained the words of Isaiah 53:7-8. "He was led like a sheep to the slaughter." Then Philip told him about the Good News of Jesus Christ. As a result, the officer asked to be baptised before he continued his journey to Ethiopia.

*Father God, thank You for reminding us of the amazing times of revival in Jerusalem and beyond at the time of Ezra and Philip. Today, there are 16 million Jews and 2.6 billion Christians in the world with over 50 million Christians in Ethiopia alone! As we prepare for Easter, we pray that all Jews and Christians will remember to celebrate the Passover as Jesus Himself did on the eve of His crucifixion. Thank You for saving your people in Egypt from death and thank You that You prepared Jesus for death in order to take the punishment for our sins. Encourage us to understand and teach Your truth from the Bible and witness this weekend the full meaning of Passover and Easter. For Your glory and Christ's sake. Amen.*

#### **18<sup>th</sup> April 2024.**

Isaiah 12. In the previous chapters, God's prophet tells of judgement, salvation and Israel's promised Messiah. He then gives this song of praise to the LORD God Almighty. "LORD, we will praise You. You were angry with us. But now Your anger has turned away from us. And you have brought us comfort. God, you are the one who saves us. We will trust in You. Then we will not be afraid. LORD, You are the one who gives us strength. You are the one who keeps us safe. LORD, You have saved us... Sing to the LORD. He has done glorious things. Let it be known all over the world. Sing for joy! The Holy One of Israel is among you. And He is great."

Matthew 24:12-14, 23-24. In the hours leading up to His crucifixion, Jesus warned His followers, "Because evil will grow, most people's love will grow cold. But the one who remains strong in the faith will be saved. This Good News of the Kingdom of God will be preached in the whole world. It will be a witness to all nations. Then the end will come... At that time some may say to you, 'Look! Here is the Messiah!' Or, 'There he is!' Do not believe it! False messiahs and false prophets will appear. They will do great signs and miracles. They will try to fool God's chosen people if possible."

*Thank You Father God for Your Old and New Testament prophecies. You have "done glorious things". "Your anger has turned away from us" and brought us salvation through Israel's Messiah. In these days when "evil will grow" help us to remember the warning of Jesus to "remain strong in the faith" and not be deceived by false prophets or messiahs. Help us to uphold the teaching of Jesus in Revelation 3:11, "I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have. Then no-one will take away your crown." Thank You Jesus for suffering on the cross for our salvation. Amen.*

#### **21<sup>st</sup> April 2025.**

Isaiah 61:10-11. Isaiah wrote, "We take great delight in the LORD God Almighty. We are joyful because we belong to our God. He has dressed us with His salvation as if it were our clothes. He has put robes of godliness on us. We are like a groom who is dressed for His wedding. We are like a bride who decorates herself with her jewels. The soil makes the seeds to grow. In the same way, the LORD and King will make godliness grow. And all the nations will praise Him."

1 Corinthians 4:1-6. Paul wrote, "We serve Christ. We are trusted with the mysteries God has shown us. Those who have been given this must prove that they are faithful. I care very little if I am judged by you or by any human court... But that does not mean I am not guilty. It is the Lord who judges me. So do not judge anything... He will bring to light what is hidden in the dark. He will show the real reasons why people do what they do. Each person will receive their praise from God. Brothers and sisters, I have used myself and Apollos as examples to help you. You can learn from us the meaning of the saying, 'Do not go beyond what is written'. Then you will not be proud of who you follow. Remember who makes you different from everyone else. So why do you boast? You have everything you need!"

*Thank You Father God for the spiritual understanding You gave Isaiah 2700 years ago. This enabled him to praise and worship You for the salvation and godliness You offer Your people with the desire that "the nations will praise You". Thank you for the warning Paul gives to be faithful and not proud. "We are trusted with the mysteries God has shown us" in our salvation through Christ alone. Help us "not to go beyond what is written" in Your word. Amen.*

## **22<sup>nd</sup> April 2025.**

Daniel 3:26-30. Three faithful Jews were thrown into a fiery furnace for disobeying the command to worship King Nebuchadnezzar. The king said, "Look! I see four men walking around in the fire. They are not tied up. And the fire has not harmed them. The fourth man looks like a son of the gods." Then the king shouted, "Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, come out! You who serve the Most High God, come here!" So they came out of the fire. The royal rulers, high officials, governors and advisers crowded around them. They saw that the fire had not harmed their bodies. Not one hair on their heads was burned. Their robes did not even smell of smoke. Then Nebuchadnezzar said, "May the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego be praised! He has sent His angel and saved His servants. They trusted in Him. They refused to obey my command. They were willing to give up their lives. They would rather die than serve or worship any god except their own God. No other god can save people this way. So I am giving an order about the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. No-one may say anything against Him."

1 Corinthians 3:11-16. Paul wrote, "No-one can lay any other foundation than what has already been laid. That foundation is Jesus Christ... Each person's work will be shown for what it is. On Judgment Day it will be put through fire. The fire will test how good each person's work is. If it does not burn up, God will give the builder a reward for his work. If it burns up, the builder will lose everything. He will be saved as someone escaping through the flames."

*We thank You Almighty God that Your Messiah, our Saviour Jesus Christ, protected Your three servants 600 years before His ministry on Earth began! This amazing story brings out new light to the teachings of Paul. May we too remain obedient in our calling to worship and serve You. Amen.*

## **23<sup>rd</sup> April 2025.**

Psalms 15. King David wrote, "LORD God Almighty, who can live in Your sacred tent or on Your holy mountain? Those who live without blame and do what is right. Those who speak the truth from their heart. Those who do not tell lies. Those who do no wrong to their neighbours or say bad things about them. Those who hate evil, but honour people who have respect for the LORD. Those who keep their promises even when it hurts. Those who lend their money to poor people without charging interest. Those who refuse to harm others who are not guilty. They will not be taken away from God's blessing and security."

Hebrews 11:22-28. "By faith, Joseph spoke to the people of Israel about how they would leave Egypt... By faith, the parents of Moses hid him after he was born. They saw he was a special child. They were not afraid of the king's command. Moses also had faith and refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter. He chose to be treated badly together with the people of God. He chose not to enjoy sin's pleasures which only last for a short time. He suffered shame because of Israel's future Messiah and believed it better than the riches of Egypt... Because of his faith, Moses left Egypt. It was not because he was afraid of the king's anger. He persevered because he saw the invisible God. By faith, Moses was the first to keep the Passover Feast. By faith, he commanded the people of Israel to sprinkle the blood of an innocent lamb on their doorways so that God's angel of death would not touch their oldest sons."

*Dear God, help us to live by faith as the anointed King David or the persecuted Joseph or the fearful parents of Moses. Thank you for the Passover sacrifice of the innocent blood of the lamb which was later fully fulfilled in the sacrifice of the Lamb of God, our Saviour, Jesus Messiah. Amen.*

#### **24<sup>th</sup> April 2025.**

Obadiah 17-20. The LORD God Almighty spoke to Obadiah 2600 years ago. "I will save My people. Zion will be My holy mountain once again. And the people of Jacob will again receive the land as their own... Israelites from the west will possess the land of the Philistines. They will take over the territories of Ephraim and Samaria. Israelites from the tribe of Benjamin will possess the land of Gilead. Other Israelites will return to Canaan and possess it all the way to the town of Zarephath.

Titus 2:11 to 3:1-4. "By God's grace, He offers to save all people. His grace teaches us to say no to godless ways and sinful desires and do what is right in today's world, as we wait for the blessed hope God has given us for Jesus Christ to appear in His glory. He is our great God and Saviour. He gave Himself for us. He set us free from all evil. He made us pure and wanted us to be His very own people. He wanted us to desire to do what is good. Remind God's people to obey rulers and authorities. Remind them to be ready to do what is good. Tell them not to speak evil things against anyone and live in peace. They must consider the needs of others and be gentle towards everyone. At one time we too acted like fools. We did not obey God. We were deceived. We were controlled by all kinds of desires and pleasures. We were full of evil. We wanted what belongs to others. People hated us, and we hated one another. But the kindness and love of God our Saviour appeared. He saved us. Not because of the good things we had done but because of His mercy. He saved us by washing away our sins. We were born again. The Holy Spirit gave us new life. God poured out His Spirit on us freely through what Jesus Christ our Saviour has done."

*Halleluiah!*

#### **25<sup>th</sup> April 2025.**

Ezra 7:6-14. Ezra lived in exile in Babylon. He was a priest and teacher who knew the Law of Moses well. Some of the Israelites went with him to Jerusalem, including priests, Levites and musicians... Ezra wanted to teach the LORD's rules and laws in Israel... The letter King Artaxerxes had given to Ezra said, "I, Artaxerxes, am writing this letter... I have given it to Ezra the priest and teacher of the Law of the God of Heaven. Ezra, I am giving an order about the Israelites in my kingdom. Any of them who want to go to Jerusalem with you may go with the priests and Levites. I and my seven advisers are sending you to see how things are in Judah and Jerusalem. Find out whether the people there are obeying the Law of your God."

Luke 12:8-12. In the previous chapter, Jesus had warned the experts in the Law of God who hindered the people who wanted greater understanding (11:52). Jesus then told His disciples, "Whoever admits to others that he knows Me, I, the Son of Man will say in front of God's angels that I know that person. But if someone who says in front of others that he does not know me, I, the Son of Man, will say in front of God's angels that I do not know him. However, everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven. But anyone who speaks evil things against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven... The Holy Spirit will teach you what you should say."

*Thank You God in Heaven for re-establishing Your truth in Israel through King Artaxerxes and Your servant Ezra. Thank You that nearly 500 years later, Luke recorded that Jesus warned the teachers of the Law not to hinder the people from understanding Your truth. May Your Spirit reveal the truth we need for today. Please stop those who hinder Your truth and establish rulers who support Your truth. Amen.*

#### **28<sup>th</sup> April 2025.**

Genesis 41:49-57. After Joseph interpreted Pharaoh's dream, he stored up huge amounts of grain... The seven years of famine began, just as Joseph said it would. There was not enough food in any of the other lands. But in the whole land of Egypt there was food. When all the people of Egypt began to get hungry, Pharaoh told all the Egyptians, "Go to Joseph. Do what he tells you." So Joseph opened the storerooms. He sold grain to the Egyptians because people were very hungry. People also came from all over the world to buy grain from Joseph. This was the time when Joseph's family came to live in Egypt.

Acts 1:3-8. After His suffering and death, Jesus appeared to His disciples. In many ways he proved that he was alive over a period of 40 days. He also spoke about God's Kingdom. He gave them a command. "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised. John baptized with water. But in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." Then the apostles gathered around Jesus and asked him a question. "Lord," they said, "are you going to give the kingdom back to Israel now?" He said to them, "You should not be concerned about times or dates. The Father has

set them by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you. Then you will tell people about me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria. And you will even tell other people about Me from one end of Earth to the other."

*Dear God, it is amazing how you provide for Your people the physical and spiritual food they need. Thank you for the Scriptures which reveal Your preparation of the provision for Israel's people in Egypt before living in the Promised Land. Thank You for the provision of Your Holy Spirit for Israel and all the world for those who believe in Jesus Christ Your Saviour. Amen.*

### **29<sup>th</sup> April 2025.**

Hosea 8:1-3 and 14:9. "The LORD said to me, 'Give a warning to My people! My people have broken the covenant I made with them. They have refused to obey My Law. Israel shouts to Me, "We recognize You as our God!" But they have turned away from what is good.' " At the end of his writings, Hosea says, "Those who are wise will realize that what I have said is true. If they have understanding, they will know what it means. The ways of the LORD God Almighty are right. People who are right with God live the way He wants them to. But those who refuse to obey Him trip and fall."

1 Corinthians 11:25-33. Paul quoted the words of Jesus at the Last Supper. He then explains, "When you eat the bread and drink the cup, you are announcing the Lord's death until He comes again. Eat the bread and drink the cup of the Lord in the right way. Do not do it in a way that is not worthy of Him. If you do, you will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. Everyone should take a careful look at themselves before they eat the bread and drink from the cup. Whoever eats and drinks must recognize the body of Christ. If not, judgment will come upon them. That is why many of you are weak and sick. That is why a number of you have died. We should think more carefully about what we are doing. Then we would not be found guilty for this. When the Lord judges us in this way, he corrects us. Then in the end we will not be judged along with the rest of the world." Paul adds, "When I come, I will give you more directions."

*Thank You Father God for Your servants Hosea and Paul. Help us to be wise and understand what they are saying to us today. For Christ's glory, Amen.*

### **30<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

Leviticus 1:1-9. The LORD God Almighty called out to Moses. "Speak to the Israelites. Tell them, 'If anyone among you brings an offering to the LORD, they must offer a male animal. It must be perfect without any fault. Then the LORD will accept it. They must place their hand on the head of the burnt offering. Then the LORD will accept it in place of themselves. It will pay for their sin. Then the priests in Aaron's family line must bring its blood to the altar. Then the animal must be cut into pieces. The priests in Aaron's family line must build a fire on the altar. The priest must burn all of it on the altar. It is a burnt offering. It is a food offering. Its aroma pleases the LORD.' "

Hebrews 2:14-18. "So Jesus became human like us in order to die for us. By doing this, He could break the power of Satan. The devil is the one who rules over the kingdom of death. Jesus sets people free who are afraid of death. All their lives they were held as slaves by that fear. It is certainly Abraham's children that He helps. He does not help angels. So Jesus had to be made like us, fully human in every way. Then He could serve God as a kind and faithful high priest. And then He could pay for the sins of the people by dying for them. He himself suffered when He was tempted. Now he is able to help others who are tempted."

*Thank You Father God for your purpose and forgiveness in the sacrifice of innocent animal blood 1500 years before Your Son our Saviour was sacrificed for our sins. Thank You that You have made us part of Abraham's family to benefit from the shedding of the innocent blood of Israel's Messiah, the perfect Lamb of God. Thank You Jesus that You "became human like us in order to die for us." Amen.*

### **5<sup>th</sup> May 2025.**

1 Chronicles 13. 'David gathered together all the priests and the Levites. He said, "From them, 24,000 will be priests in charge of the work of the LORD's Temple. 6,000 will be officials and judges. 4,000 will guard the gates. And 4,000 will praise the LORD with the instruments of music I have provided... The LORD is the God of Israel. He has given peace and rest to His people. He has come to Jerusalem to live there forever."

Acts 10:34-43. The apostle Peter testified, "I now realize how true it is that God accepts people from every nation... You know the message God sent to the people of Israel. It is the Good News of peace through Jesus Christ. He is Lord of all. You know what has happened started in Galilee after John preached about baptism. You know how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit power. Jesus went around doing good. He healed all who were under the devil's power. God was with Him. We are witnesses of everything He did in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed Him by nailing Him to a cross. But on the third day God raised Him from death. God allowed Jesus to be seen. But not by all the people. He was seen only by us. We are witnesses whom God had already chosen. We ate and drank with Him after He rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people. He told us to tell people that He is the one appointed by God to judge the living and the dead. All the prophets spoke about Him. They say that all who believe in Him have their sins forgiven through His name."

*Thank You Father God for revealing through Your servant David the importance to You of Jerusalem. Thank You for Peter's witness of what happened there over 1000 years later which established Your Son our Saviour as our future King on Earth. Amen.*

### **6<sup>th</sup> May 2025.**

"Shepherd of Israel, hear us. You lead the people like a flock. You sit on Your throne between the cherubim. Show Your glory... and call Your strength into action! Come and save us God and make us new again. May You be pleased with us. Then we will be saved. LORD God Almighty, You rule over all. How long will You be angry? Will you be angry with Your people even when they pray to You? You have given us tears as our food. You have made us drink tears by the bowlful. You have let our neighbours mock us and laugh at us. God who rules over all, make us new again. May You be pleased with us. Then we will be saved."

Hebrews 11:29-39. "The people of Israel had faith. They passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land... Israel's army had faith. So the walls of Jericho fell down after they marched around the city for seven days. Rahab, the prostitute, had faith. So she welcomed the spies and was not killed with those who did not obey God. What more can I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David and Samuel and the prophets. Because of their faith they took over kingdoms and ruled fairly. They received the blessings God had promised... Their weakness was turned to strength. They became powerful in battle. They beat back armies from other countries... All these people were praised because they had faith. But none of them received what God had promised because God had planned something better for us. So they would only be made perfect together with us."

*Heavenly Father we note that the writer of Hebrews says Your people Israel "took over kingdoms and ruled fairly". We pray for Israel today that they will be given Your divine wisdom to be a blessing to the innocent lives across their borders and repress leaders who seek to harm Your people. Amen.*

### **7<sup>th</sup> May 2025.**

Amos 5:23-24. The LORD God Almighty says, "Away with the noise of your songs! I will not listen to the music of your harps. Instead, let justice roll on like a river, and righteousness like a never-failing stream!"

Titus 2:11-15. "God's grace has now appeared. By His grace, God offers to save all people. His grace teaches us to say no to godless ways and sinful desires. We must control ourselves. We must do what is right. We must lead godly lives in today's world. That is how we should live as we wait for the blessed hope God has given us. We are waiting for Jesus Christ to appear in His glory. He is our great God and Saviour. He gave Himself for us. By doing that, He set us free from all evil. He wanted to make us pure. He wanted us to be His very own people. He wanted us to desire to do what is good. These are the things you should teach. Encourage people and give them hope. Correct them with full authority. Do not let anyone look down on you."

*Thank You heavenly Father for the teachings from these small books of the Bible. May our worship be heart-felt and glorify You and our Lord and Saviour Jesus our Christ and Messiah! Help us to live godly and righteous lives, free from sinful desires in today's world, as we wait for "Jesus Christ to appear in His glory". Thank You Jesus for Your costly sacrifice for our salvation to "set us free from all evil". Increase our "desire to do what is good" and teach others to do the same. Show us how we can take "full authority" so that "justice will roll on like a river, and righteousness like a never-failing*



*stream". Thank You God for our new covenant in Christ our Saviour who has enabled us to fulfil all the Old Testament commandments by faith. Come soon, Lord Jesus in all Your glory! Amen.*

#### **8<sup>th</sup> May 2025.**

Genesis 41:15-40 records Joseph's interpretation of Pharaoh's dream. Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I had a dream. No-one can tell me what it means." "I can't do it," Joseph replied to Pharaoh. "But God will give Pharaoh the answer he wants." Then Pharaoh told Joseph what he had dreamed... "God has shown Pharaoh what he is about to do. The seven good cows are seven years. And the seven good heads of grain are seven years. The seven thin, ugly cows that came up later are also seven years. So are the seven worthless heads of grain dried up by the east wind. They are seven years when there won't be enough food in Egypt... God will do it soon... So Pharaoh should give authority to store up the grain and keep it in the cities for food to use later. Pharaoh said to Joseph, "God has made all this known to you... You will be in charge of my palace. All my people must obey your orders."

Matthew 6:25-34. Jesus said, "Do not worry about your life and what you will eat or drink. And do not worry about your body and what you will wear. Is not there more to life than eating? Are there not more important things for the body than clothes? Look at the birds of the air. They do not plant or gather crops. They do not put away crops in storerooms. But your Father who is in Heaven feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they are? ...Your faith is so small! Do not say, 'What will we eat?' Or, 'What will we drink?' Or, 'What will we wear?' People who are ungodly run after all those things. Your Father who is in Heaven knows that you need them. But put God's Kingdom first. Do what He wants you to do. Then all those things will also be given to you. So do not worry about tomorrow. Each day has enough trouble of its own."

#### **9<sup>th</sup> May 2025.**

Jermiah 10:1-10. "Do not follow the practices of other nations... The practices of these nations are worthless. People cut a tree out of the forest. A skilled worker shapes the wood with a sharp tool. Others decorate it with silver and gold. But the statues of their gods cannot speak. They are like scarecrows in a field of melons. Their statues have to be carried around because they cannot walk. So do not be afraid of their gods. They cannot do you any harm. And they cannot do you any good either. LORD, no-one is like You. You are great. You are mighty and powerful. King of the nations, everyone should have respect for You. Among all the wise leaders of the nations there is no-one like You. No-one can compare with You in all their kingdoms. All of them are foolish. They do not have any sense. They think they are taught by worthless wooden gods. People skilled in working with wood and gold make a statue. Then they put blue and purple clothes on it. The whole thing is made by skilled workers. But You are the only true God. You are the only living God. You are the King who rules forever."

Titus 1:6-8. "An elder must be without blame. He must be faithful to his wife. His children must be believers. They must not give anyone a reason to say that they are wild and do not obey. A church leader takes care of God's family. That is why he must be without blame. He must not look after only his own interests. He must not get angry easily. He must not get drunk. He must not push people around. He must not try to get money by cheating people. Instead, a church leader must welcome people into his home. He must love what is good. He must control his mind and feelings. He must do what is right. He must be holy. He must control the desires of his body."