

AUGUST

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The studies are taken from the New Kings James Version. There are no right or wrong answers; just fill in the blanks from the Scripture used, write out an occasional verse and answer some very simple questions from the text.

- 1) 16:2 What did Asa do with the silver and gold from the treasury?
- 2) 16:9 What was the consequence of Asa relying on man instead of God?
- 3) 16:12-13 Who did Asa again trust before God in his time of need (verse 12):
What was the consequence (verse 13)?
- 4) 17:3-4 Why was God with Jehoshaphat?
- 5) 17:7-9 What did Jehoshaphat have all these men teaching to the cities of Judah?
- 6) 18:7 Why did Israel's king hate Micaiah?
- 7) 18:14 What was Micaiah's message to the king? Was he telling the truth?
- 8) 18:31 What happened when Jehoshaphat became surrounded?

Daily Thought

How crazy to think of a lying spirit. A lying spirit from God (18:22). The king of Israel was so stubborn and hardened he would not of listened to Micaiah either way. "I hate him, he never says what I want to hear!" Jehoshaphat knew this was a very foolish thing to say against a man of God. "Let not the king say such things" (16:7). Whether God says something we want to hear or not, He is God!

- 1) 19:2 What did Jehu, the seer (prophet) have to tell Jehoshaphat upon his return to Jerusalem?
- 2) 19:11 Where will the Lord forever be?
- 3) 20:2-3 Why did Jehoshaphat seek God and call a fast?
- 4) 20:12 When all odds seem to be against Israel, the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir were approaching to destroy Israel. To whom did they look? (How often in our faith do we remember this?)
- 5) 20:17 “What a minute,” God said, “Go out against them tomorrow but you don’t need to fight this battle.” What was Israel to do?
- 6) 21:10 Why were there revolts against Jeroram and his authority in Judah?
- 7) 21:15 Elijah said, “God will strike you with a disease of your intestines.” Did this come to pass (verse 18?)

Daily Thought

Even after Jehoshaphat heard God’s wrath was upon him for assisting an evil man (19:1-2) he kept the faith. In verse 4 we find Jehoshaphat went to the people of Beersheba even to the mountains of Ephraim and “brought them to God.” Is God’s wrath permanent? No! God is merciful and forgiving. Always recall this. God’s wrath will burn upon sin. Leave it behind you – He is able to forgive you and He will.

Psalm 30:5

For His anger *is but for a moment*,
His favor *is for life*;
Weeping may endure for a night,
But joy *comes in the morning*.

- 1) 22:1 The oldest son would normally receive his father's inheritance.
Why did Jehoram's youngest son reign in his father's place as king instead of his oldest son?
- 2) 22:3 Why did Ahaziah follow the ways of Ahab?
- 3) 22:9 Why did the people bury Ahaziah?
- 4) 23:1-11 Why was it so big of a deal to protect the king? (22:10-12, also 23:13). Also he was only seven years old (24:1).
- 5) 23:16-17 What did the people do after they made a covenant (promise) to serve God? Was this excessive or was it according to God's Word (see Deuteronomy 13:6-10).
- 6) 24:21 What did King Joash command to be done to Zechariah, son of Jehoiada?
- 7) 24:24-25 Why were the Syrians able to overcome such a large troop of men? Who also conspired against Joash?

Daily Thought

Jehoshaphat, a man righteous before God, sought the Lord with all his heart (22:9). Ahaziah, son of Jehoshaphat, so evil not one would bury him if not for the sake of his father. How does this happen one wonders? Then we read Athaliah: his mother kills all the royal heirs in Judah to fill the position as king for herself. A queen without a king to answer to – what an evil woman. Things now make sense.

Proverbs 22:6

Train up a child in the way he should go,
And when he is old he will not depart from it.

Word of Growth

Position yourself – stand still and witness the salvation of the Lord:

Just imagine a great number of people – three armies coming against you. Numbers in which you and all the people with you could never stand against. Heirs, Jehoshaphat and God’s children, Judah. “Ahh...what will be do? We can’t fight them, we can’t outrun them...” Jehoshaphat had previously sinned against God by helping the wicked. Jehu, the seer (prophet) told him God’s wrath was upon him. In Chapter 20:3 we see Jehoshaphat seeks the Lord; he called a fast and gathered Judah to seek the help of God. Though Jehoshaphat sinned, acting as a fool, he now proves wiser than many.

Often we get lost in abrupt action and in times of great distress. In excitement we act in our human ability not in patient faith. Jehoshaphat, Judah, all of Judah’s men, women and children stood before God’s temple and awaited His answer. That’s faith!

Armies coming and they awaited God. God answers, “Go out but you will not have to fight, be still and see the salvation of your Lord.” Be still before an approaching army? In faith they stood and awaited. But not in fear. They stood courageously in their faith, singing beautiful praise to God. “Praise the Lord, for His mercy endures forever.”

As they sang praise God went to work. Ammon and Moab attacked Mount Seir and defeated that whole army. Then they turned and battled each other until they were utterly destroyed. Not one escaped. God delivered Judah as they sang praise to Him in the midst of war. Such a large number of men had fallen in this battle that the spoils were collected for three days. Then Judah returned to Jerusalem in such high spirits they sang hymns and played their instruments before the Lord.

Jehoshaphat knew he had wronged God and yet he pushed on to do right before Him (19:2). He went out among the people of Beersheba to the mountains of Ephraim and brought them back to God (19:4). He placed judges over these people to guide and judge them according to God’s righteousness (19:5-7). In time of great need Jehoshaphat brought Judah before God in fasting and prayer, trusting God for His great deliverance (20:3-4). In his faithfulness Jehoshaphat allowed God to be glorified in His work. Often we fail in this as we look to human ways instead of trusting our Heavenly Father. Let Him work well – you praise Him in your faithfulness. The outcome may surprise those who wait rather than react.

God blesses those who remain patient in faith.

Keep this faith, not for a short while, but always.

Be patient, don’t expect it now.

Position yourselves, stand in the faith, and prepare to witness such great deliverance and blessing that is beyond belief. That only of the Divine.

- 1) 25:2 Though Amaziah did what was right before God, what was he lacking?
- 2) 25:6-10 Amaziah hired a troop of mighty men, but a man of God came and told him not to use them. “God is not with these men,” said the man. Amaziah listened; of what was he concerned?
- 3) 25:11-12 Did Amaziah’s obedience to God’s Word reward him?
- 4) 26:5 What happened as long as Uzziah sought God?
- 5) 26:8 Uzziah was blessed by God to what extent? (verses 8, 15)
- 6) 26:16-23 Explain what became of Uzziah after his fame.
- 7) 28:3 What did Ahaz do in the valley of Hinnom?
- 8) 28:25 Did Ahaz ever learn his lesson? Did he ever return to God?

Daily Thought

Many today I believe no longer realize our government system is a creation from God, from His Word (our Bible). Our forefathers founded this country upon God’s Word. As one studies God’s Word things very familiar start to appear. Things very similar to our laws and the ways of our legal system. Judges set over 100s, over 50s, and over 10s. Judges to guide us in righteousness (2 Chronicles 19:5-7). Legal system?

Ahaz sins against God by leading Judah to other gods. God delivers them over to Israel who killed them with such rage that reached heaven (28:9). Oded, God’s prophet, brings this fact to Israel’s attention (28:9-10). Israel sees their guilt (28:13). They not only release the captives but clothe them, feed them, anoint them and provides donkeys for the weak among them (28:9-15). Does this sound familiar? Have we in the past gone to war, destroyed a nation, then repaired what we’ve destroyed? Perhaps time changes some things and it may not be apparent as it once was, but the fear of God still remains in this land. We do still abide in and obey His words. His commands. Maybe not as thorough as we once did but the marks remain to the glory of our father.

- 1) 29:3-7 Hezekiah began to repair God's temple when he began his reign as king. In what condition was the temple? Why was this so?
- 2) 29:25 Where did King Hezekiah station the Levites and with what did he equip them? Who commanded this?
- 3) 29:36 Why was there such rejoicing?
- 4) 30:1 To whom did Hezekiah send letters concerning the Passover? How did these letters reach the people (verse 6)?
- 5) 30:10 How did the people respond to these letters?
(We see the same promise in verses 11, 12).
- 6) 30:18 Though many people of Ephraim, Manasseh, Issachar and Zebulun did not sanctify themselves for the Passover what did Hezekiah do for them? And God (verse 20)?
(Intercession is a very big part of Christian living, pray for those in need.)
- 7) 31:4 What was commanded the people in Jerusalem? How did the people respond (verses 5 and 6)?
- 8) 31:9-10 When Hezekiah asked the priests and the Levites about the heaps (donations so abundant they placed them in mounds) what did he find?

Daily Thought

At the command of King Hezekiah the priests and Levites received abundances of such gifts they could not use. Gifts so numerous they could not use them up. Think about that for a moment.

How could they offer so much? How was there such blessing in Jerusalem? I could share my belongings with you though you would not find an unusable abundance in them. Donations or tithes are not usually this extreme.

Malachi 3:10

Bring all the tithes into the storehouse,
That there may be food in My house,
And try Me now in this,”
Says the LORD of hosts,
“If I will not open for you the windows of heaven
And pour out for you *such* blessing
That *there will not be room enough to receive it.*

They brought their tithes to the priests and Levites. “God made heaps.” Such blessings which could not be used up. Try God at His word. If He said it to His prophet – God cannot lie. One only finds truth in His word.

- 1) 32:1 Who came to Judah? What was his intentions there?
- 2) 32:7-8 Hezekiah told those of Judah to be strong and courageous.
What did he say to strengthen Judah?
- 3) 32:21 After Sennacherib boasted so “this god and that god, this nation, that nation, no god or nation has stopped me”
How did he return home? (God’s angel destroyed all his mighty men in one night!)
- 4) 33:1 Who became king after Hezekiah’s death?
- 5) 33:9 What did Manasseh cause Judah to do?
- 6) 33:11 How did Assyria’s king take Manasseh to Babylon?
- 7) 33:16 How did Manasseh change?
- 8) 34:14 What was found by Hilkiyah?
- 9) 34:19 What did king Josiah do after hearing those words which were written in the law?

Daily Thought

Imagine if Jesus did not take away all those laws while their abilities to condemn us anyway. If we had no forgiveness, if Jesus didn’t pay that price. Thankfully He did, but if not tearing my clothes would only be a small part of my actions.

Word of Growth

Law vs. Christ:

Law: can we find salvation in the law?

Romans 3:20

Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law *is* the knowledge of sin.

Deuteronomy 27:26

‘Cursed *is* the one who does not confirm *all* the words of this law by observing them.’ “And all the people shall say, ‘Amen!’”

Psalms 143:2

Do not enter into judgment with Your servant,
For in Your sight no one living is righteous.

Okay, no one will ever be justified in God’s sight from the law. Anyone who tries to find justification in the law will find the curse. Miss just one law and you are cursed. This is why no one living is righteous before God. We cannot keep all these laws. However, as we read in Romans 3:2 the law leads to our knowledge of sin. How else would we know our sins and our need of a Savior? The law then was our tutor to teach us of right and wrong.

Galatians 3:24

Therefore the law was our tutor *to bring us* to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

If one cannot meet the standards of God’s law while knowing them, imagine King Josiah’s position when he heard the law. He tore his clothes at the thought of all the sin. At the thought of the following curse. Thank God for His mercy and grace.

Christ: can we find salvation in Christ?

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

God sent His Son to die for our salvation, thus paying for all our sins. I know, “Okay, that sounds good, but how do I get in on this deal?” That is the simple part.

1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. And having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

To be a part of this deal one needs to know their need of Christ. It is up to a Christian to know God’s law, to know sin so in turn we can address these sins. How do we address sin? Through Jesus. Once we know what sin truly is we just confess our wrongs to Jesus, of course doing our best not to sin any more.

So what about the law (see Colossians 2:11-23)?

That law was spiked to the cross with our very own Jesus Christ. This does not mean we now can freely do whatever we want. This only means Jesus knows of our short comings. Jesus gives two new commands for us to live by.

Matthew 22:37-40

Jesus said to him, “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is *the* first and great commandment. And *the* second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

The law then is covered in these two commandments, only when believing on Christ. We will always have some law though with Jesus we also find forgiveness in our faults.

Salvation only comes through Jesus Christ, though He also holds us to certain standards, He will assist us in these. He understands our needs and loves us always.

Law: Curse unto death for all, only used for a guide in the Christian.

Christ: Savior from above, bringing salvation to all who will receive Him.

The Answer to all who miss the mark.

- 1) 35:1 What was kept – and on what day and month did God’s people slaughter their lambs?
- 2) 35:12 How did the burnt offerings get offered? According to what?
- 3) 35:18 How long had it been since such a Passover had been kept?
- 4) 36:4 What did Necho, king of Egypt, do with Jehoahaz?
- 5) 36:6 What did Nebuchadnezzar do with Jehoiakim, brother of Jehoahaz?
- 6) 36:10 Jehoiakim’s son, Jehoiachin, did evil before God as his father had. What became of him as a result?
- 7) 36:22-23 After the fall of Jerusalem, what did God do to Cyrus’ spirit?
- 8) 1:3 Who did Cyrus call to build God’s temple?
- 9) 1:7 What did King Cyrus bring out?
- 10) 1:11 Along with these articles what else was sent with Sheshbazar to Jerusalem?

Daily Thought

After all of King Josiah’s righteous work before God, Jerusalem took a turn from God. Jehoahaz, son of Josiah, became king and then was replaced by his brother, Eliakim, at King Necho’s command. Necho also changed Eliakim’s name to Jehoiakim. Jehoiakim did evil before God and was carried to Babylon as his son, Jehoiachin, after him. Zedekiah, his brother, took his place and also did evil leading all of Jerusalem to evil. Thus leading to the destruction of Jerusalem. All who lived were carried to Babylon because of their sins before God.

Now these kings led their people to sin against God. Lead or follow is sin either way. Our Bible teaches us sin must be accounted for. God allowed His children to go captive to Babylon in their sins, then we read in the end of 2 Chronicles and the first of Ezra God opens the door once more for His children in His mercy. King Cyrus sent out a proclamation saying he was to rebuild God’s house. He released God’s people to

God once again. How often do we have to go captive to sin before seeking better things? God has known this from the beginning.

- 1) 2:1 Who are all these people listed in Chapter 2?
- 2) 2:63 What was the priest to consult with?
(These were stones on the breastplate of the priest used to decide God's will. Exodus 28:29-30)
- 3) 3:1 How did Israel gather together in Jerusalem?
- 4) 3:6 When did Israel begin to make offerings to God?
- 5) 3:10 What was taking place as the builders laid the foundation of the temple? What did heads of the priests and Levites do as they watched (verse 12)?
- 6) 4:4 What did the enemies of Judah and Benjamin do after they were denied a part in building God's temple?
- 7) 4:24 After these men (enemies) wrote the king what happened in Jerusalem?

Daily Thought

Question #3: When God's people gathered to Jerusalem they came as one man. One man, one mind, one goal – one! In unity as God desires His children to be. Does this describe you and me – our brothers and sisters in Christ? In and out of church? This is God's intention . . .

- 1) 5:1 At whose word did Zerubbabel and Jeshua begin work on the temple?
- 2) 5:12 Why were these men (their fathers) given over to Nebuchadnezzar?
- 3) 5:15 Where was the new temple being built?
(See 2 Chronicles 3:1 for the location.)
- 4) 6:4 In King Cyrus' decree note who covered all the expense of this work.
- 5) 6:8-11 Instead of hindering the building of God's temple with a letter what did these men hear from the king?
- 6) 7:1-6 Here we see a short genealogy showing Ezra's credibility. See verse 5 – Who did Ezra descend from? And what was his skill (verse 6)?
- 7) 7:10 What did Ezra set his heart to do? (Big, big responsibility.)
- 8) 7:27 Who was responsible for all this?

Daily Thought

Ezra 7:10

...or Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the Law of the LORD, and to do *it*, and to teach statutes and ordinances in Israel.

1 Corinthians 9:14

Even so the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should live from the gospel

Are we living by the Gospel? Even if one doesn't take on the pulpit, they preach by their conduct. Others are watching. Live by faith, follow all God's word. Set the example.

- 1) 8:1-14 Who are the men Ezra lists here in this genealogy?
Why does he speak of them?
- 2) 8:15 Where did Ezra gather the people?
- 3) 8:21 What did Ezra do at this place and why?
- 4) 9:1 What did the leaders bring to Ezra's attention?
- 5) 9:12-14 With what sin was Ezra so shamed before God (verse 14)?
- 6) 10:1 What took place as Ezra was weeping in prayer before God's temple?
- 7) 10:7-8 How serious was this meeting in Jerusalem?
What were the consequences for not showing up (verse 8)?
- 8) 10:11 We see from verses 18 – 44 many had made this choice and transgressed against God.

In verse 11 what was to be done about this?

Daily Thought

Chapter 10:1 Ezra in prayer, confessing the sins made against God, weeping, bowed down before God's house. This perfect intercession was enough to draw a large number of sinners – men, women, and children – back to God. All the people wept bitterly before God's house. What a repentance one man made. The actions of one can change those of many.

James 5:20

...let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.

Word of Growth

Chief among sinners:

Saul, Christian killer to the saint. See Acts 7:54-60. Saul was not only at the stoning of Stephen but was the overseer of the whole ordeal. Acts 7:58 speaks first of Stephen:

...and they cast *him* out of the city and stoned *him*. And the witnesses laid down their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul.

Acts 8:1-3, we find not only was Saul consenting to the martyring of Stephen but he was causing all followers of Christ trouble. He was dragging men and women to prison.

All Stephen had done was proclaim all the wrong done against our Lord by these stubborn men and their fathers. “Your fathers rejected and killed God’s prophets; you have never heard God’s word, you have killed the Just One whom the word told of.” Stephen spoke of the truth in righteousness. Men don’t always like to hear the truth. Paul didn’t wish to hear this nor did he believe it. Acts 9:1-2 – Paul seeks letters from the high priest to kill or imprison any he may find of the Way (Christians).

Paul was dead set against these so-called followers of Christ – they taught against all Paul had ever known.

See Acts 9:1-9 for Paul’s conversion. Jesus appeared to Saul on the Damascus road. He corrected Saul from his way. Paul was the name Saul used while preaching to the Gentiles. This was his Roman name. He used the name Saul in his Jewish surroundings. We know him better as Paul. Acts 9:20 says Paul immediately preached Christ in the synagogues; he preached Jesus is the Son of God. Paul traveled and taught all who would hear of Christ.

Paul moved with his correction from sinner to teacher. Paul wrote almost half of our New Testament. Thirteen of twenty-seven books. Paul made three large missionary journeys. He was also put to death for preaching the Gospel. He was full of faith, passed death, preaching all he believed, all he was shown in the great revelation from Jesus Himself. As our daily thought topic, through one comes forgiveness of a multitude of sins, Jesus corrected one – Paul. How many did Paul reach? That can’t be counted. He is still reaching and saving souls through his remaining letters. Perfect example of one making a difference. What glory to God.

1 Timothy 1:12-17

And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting *me* into the ministry, although I was formerly a blasphemer,

a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did *it* ignorantly in unbelief. And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant, with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. This *is* a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, *be* honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

The chief sinner shows the works of our Lord who came to save sinners. One at a time if need be. Everyone counts and one word or action maybe just the thing. As we go on in life let us remember one word, one action, one correction even the salvation of one soul is a huge thing and leaves potential.

- 1) 1:3 What was the condition of Jerusalem and its people as told by Nehemiah?
- 2) 1:8-10 What was Nehemiah seeking of God in his prayer and what did he remind God of?
- 3) 1:11 What was Nehemiah's previous position (job)?
- 4) 2:3 What was Nehemiah's concern and what caused his great sorrow?
- 5) 2:5 Why did Nehemiah request to go to Jerusalem?
- 6) 2:20 What was Nehemiah's reply to the laughter of Sanballat, Tobiah, and Geshem?
- 7) 3:5 Who did not work on the repairs of God's city?
- 8) Can you think of – or do you know – why it was such a shame or a reproach to Israel to have no walls around their city?

Daily Thought

During these times a city's strength was a must. People were not safe just anywhere. Raiders and bandits would cause great distress to anyone weak and vulnerable. We've covered enough Old Testament stories to know cities were also at risk. Many were taken and destroyed in war. The city walls showed strength in the city and honor to its people.

- 1) 4:8 What was conspired against Jerusalem because of their progress on the wall?
- 2) 4:17 How were these men forced to work?
- 3) 4:21-22 How many hours a day was put into this project?
When did the people go home?
- 4) 5:12 Much of the nation had found themselves in debt, even to the point of slavery. Also they had been held to usury (interest) on their debts. The laws prohibited these two things. A Jewish person was not to hold his fellow brethren to either of these.
What was the resolve of this situation?
- 5) 5:14-15 What had Nehemiah been appointed to?
Why did he not take of the perks of the position?
- 6) 6:12-13 Why had Shemaiah prophesied such a thing?
- 7) 6:15 How long did it take to build this great wall?
What did the outsiders perceive took place – who did they believe built this wall?

Daily Thought

Question #2 While building the walls of Jerusalem the builders were forced to work with one hand and hold a weapon in the other. Times are not so different for us today. As we work towards our goals we also have hindrances in life.

We are forced to remember in these times, not all these men and women are as we are. Not all share in our inheritance. We too should be working one-handed while keeping the other on our Bibles. God's word is our weapon and it's all that separates us from the things of this world. In hard times we are to remember God's word, use this weapon, "don't react as they do". Make the example – live by the word.

- 1) 7:2 To whom did Nehemiah give charge of Jerusalem?
Why was Hanniah placed over the charge of the citadel (palace)?
- 2) 7:4 Jerusalem was a large and spacious city with only few people.
With the wall complete what was lacking?
- 3) 7:6-7 Who are all these people listed here and what was their total population (verse 66)?
- 4) 8:1-3 Ezra read the law to the people. How long did he read?
How were the people while hearing the law (verse 3b)?
- 5) 8:9 Why do you think they wept at the hearing of the law?
- 6) 8:18 How many days passed while the law was read before the people?
- 7) 9:5-15 Did God make Himself known before man? How?
Name the things He did.
- 8) 9:16 How did our fathers of old respond to this?
- 9) 9:38 What was done?

Daily Thought

As Ezra read the law the people wept. Conviction? Maybe they were overwhelmed or felt burdened? Perhaps they were full of joy? The law is back. God is with us once again. I think the greatness of God was upon them, a feeling they longed for.

Word of Growth

As one:

In Chapter 3 we read of unity. What a work of the brotherhood. A wall around a city, no construction equipment, manual labor, rocks, sand or slime for mortar. What a work they had ahead of themselves. As they began there was no hesitation – they attacked this as a group. So and so built and repaired this and next to him this was

being done, beyond that so and so and so on. This can be a great example for the Christian. We are to gather all the lost souls amongst the wolves and tares. The harvest is ripe! What a work we have.

What a task, so many souls. How? Lord, how do we begin?

Well, we don't wait until we set our minds to it. And then as a group we work miracles. As the wall of Jerusalem once we get going, others may see these great feats as only acts of God. And that's exactly right – once we move together in God's will. Now God's will is that none shall perish but have everlasting life (2 Peter 3:9). That's a goal! How do we reach this mark? Well, I write, Bob can preach, Joe can explain and teach for better understanding for the listener, Beth teaches our children in Sunday, Marie plays the organ and we all show up for the support of our congregation to service. As this wall began one stone at a time, we can gain one soul at a time! God has equipped us all for this work (2 Timothy 3:16-17). As each stone added became a wall each souls adds to the glory of the kingdom. Once again we often worry of the big instead of just going as we have opportunity. One does not need to be licensed to work this business. One does not need to do the whole work alone. One does not need to write a book, preach, teach, sing, or be anything other than God made them. We only need to follow the Book. One can't swim without first getting their feet wet and one cannot save a drowning man until he gives up the fight.

First speak the word if you find ears. Keep speaking, move slow, what is speech without hearing? Move on.

Walk the walk, others will notice. A ministry can't be conducted alone. People were meant to follow – it is in their nature, sheep and shepherd. Make a goal with me if you have not already, save one soul. Start there, that one may save one and so on before you know it we'll be a kingdom.

Matthew 18:12-14

What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them goes astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine and go to the mountains to seek the one that is straying? And if he should find it, assuredly, I say to you, he rejoices more over that *sheep* than over the ninety-nine that did not go astray. Even so it is not the will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

Hebrews 1:14

Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?

Though we each have our own way I pray we all work for the same goal. Work in love, He has for you. Amen.

- 1) 10:29 What did all the listed people here enter into?
- 2) 10:29-39 After this oath what all was being done? According to?
And what wouldn't be neglected?
- 3) 11:1 How was it decided who would live in Jerusalem?
What was the ratio (as the tithe)?
- 4) 11:23-25 Notice who is still overseeing God's people. God only allows a certain level of responsibility at a time, not wanting His children to fail. Israel still apparently needed a leader to make certain decisions. With all the king has done for Jerusalem and the temple do you believe he was being guided by God?
- 5) 12:22 What did Darius, king of Persia, keep record of for us?
- 6) 12:31 What was done?
Where did these thanksgiving choirs end up (verse 40)?
- 7) 12:43 Why was there such great rejoicing?

Daily Thought

The thanksgiving choir sang and played all the way to the temple where all rejoiced in such a great noise that could be heard afar. God had made them rejoice this way (verse 43). The shame of sin can only be covered by love. God brought His family home – what a great reason to rejoice. What great love.

- 1) 13:1-3 Why was such a separation necessary?
- 2) 13:8-9 Priest Eliashib was allied with Tobiah, God’s enemy, and allowed him a room in the temple.
What did Nehemiah do upon his knowledge of this?
- 3) 13:18 What was upon Isreal – why? (See Exodus 20:8-11)
- 4) 1:12 Queen Vahti was called to the king but what did she do?
- 5) 1:19 What decision was made about the queen’s conduct?
- 6) 2:14 How did the king intend to find a new queen?
- 7) 2:7 Who had Mordecai raised (both of her names) and why did he do so?
- 8) 2:12 How many months of preparation was needed before going before the king?
- 9) 2:17 What did the king think of Esther?

Daily Thought

I enjoy this book. This is a great love story as well as an example of the Christian way. We will soon read of Esther’s selfless action to save her people. We see as well Esther is a self-controlled proper young woman.

- 1) 3:2 What did Mordecai refuse to do? Why? (See Exodus 20:4)
- 2) 3:6 What was Haman's solution to Mordecai's decision?
- 3) 4:1-3 Because of this decree against the Jewish nation what did the Jews do?
- 4) 4:10-11 What was Esther's concern about seeing the king?
- 5) 4:16 Did Esther agree to make supplication before the king always?
- 6) 5:4 What was Esther's request to the king?
- 7) 5:14 What was Haman's wife and friends thoughts for Mordecai?

Daily Thought

Christians are not to bow or pay homage to any other than God. Even the angels rebuke God's children for bowing down before them (Revelation 22:8-9). Mordecai stood firm in this, he fasted and called to God pleading for his brethren though he would not bow before Haman. We will see God's response soon.

- 1) 6:6-9 Who did Haman think this delight and honor was for and what did he suggest be done for this man?
- 2) 6:10-11 Who was this honor given to? By whom?
- 3) 6:2 Why was this honor given to Mordecai?
How did Haman feel about this (verse 12)?
- 4) 7:3 King Ahasuerus again asked Esther, "What is your petition?"
He offered her up to half of his kingdom.
What did Esther want more than that?
- 5) 7:7 How did the king feel about all this?
- 6) 7:10 After hearing of the gallows Haman had built for Mordecai, what did the king decide for Haman?
- 7) 8:2 What was done for Mordecai?
- 8) 8:8 Who wrote the letters revoking Haman's decree against the Jews?

Daily Thought

What a great turn of events. Regardless of man's decisions, God does as pleasing to Him for His people. A king, governor, president, mayor, emperor, or whoever can be as they are. God has say over that and He will adjust what pleases Him. Even what seems to be set in stone.

Word of Growth

Spiritual Two-by-Four:

Nehemiah upon his return to Jerusalem (Chapter 13) found some horrendous sins. Tobiah, enemy to Jerusalem, having a room in God's temple. The Levites not receiving their portion. The Sabbath day being profaned. Well, God had Nehemiah come by once again to see how His children were acting without supervision. Just as your

parents drive around the block and come back acting as if they forgot something just to check in.

God's ways don't always line up with our thoughts. Tobiah was high among men and knew people that knew people. The Levites didn't receive their portion, ahh . . . but I've got mine! And Sabbath, well, who is looking right? Wrong. God is watching always. This was a bad case of backsliding.

Backsliding is what happens when one takes their mind off God and goes back to sinful living. You know better but it is so easy to go back to that flow of life. Paul speaks of spiritual food in a few places in our New Testament.

1 Corinthians 3:2

I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able *to receive it*, and even now you are still not able;

Peter in 1 Peter 2:2 – “as new born babies desire the pure milk of the word that you may grow thereby.”

Well, I too like to relate God's word to spiritual food. Think of our eating habits. If one eats a large amount of food what happens? Their stomach expands; they now can eat more. And if one only eats little? Their stomach shrinks; they cannot eat as much. If one stops eating? They then die. Of course this is through a process – starvation. Backsliding is one in the same. If I don't read, I will lose the desire to and as I continue I can even forget what was already known. Spiritual starvation. Before I realize it I am only human again. Spiritual death. A new believer can do this very fast – they have not yet been fully nourished. Starvation is much quicker in this case than for one who has been sustained for a longer period. This was the case in Jerusalem. We too should look out for God's youths (new believers); protect them from the acts of humanity. I've a few youths that I place under my wing. I find they go in streaks – sometimes they hunger. I enjoy to witness God's nourishment. I watch as they read God's word in satisfaction. Sometimes they are not so hungry. As one who cares I will feed them a verse here and there to help hold them over. How did your parents act if you didn't eat? “Why don't you eat? It's past dinner – at least have a sandwich or something.” We need to remember to eat even if we must first snack and build hunger.

Proverbs 14:14

The backslider in heart will be filled with his own ways,
But a good man *will be satisfied* from above.

Two desires in our chest – one is cursed, one is blessed. One we love, one we hate.
The one we feed will dominate. – Author Unknown

Spiritual two-by-four? I used this title simply because it seems the perfect tool (if a Christian was not to be full of love) to keep the backslider in line. Sometimes I feel I could use a whack or two.

Keep your mind on God. He never stops thinking of you.

- 1) 9:1 What happened when the enemies of the Jews thought to destroy them? How many of their enemies did they destroy (verse 16)?
- 2) 9:26 The two days which were decided to be celebrated every year in remembrance of how the Jews overcame Haman's decree was named what?
- 3) 10:3 Mordecai was second to whom?
And what was his heart towards his countrymen?
- 4) In this entire book, what's missing? The author never uses God's name. Do a little research of your own on this. This is the only biblical book which does not mention God in our Bible: why?
- 5) 1:1 What kind of a man was Job and where was he from?
- 6) 1:7 When God questioned Satan what had he been doing?
(Then and now alike.)
- 7) 1:12 Why do you think God pointed out Job before Satan (verse 8)?
What was the one condition?
- 8) 1:20 After Job had lost everything what did he do?

Daily Thought

Job lost all he had in such a short time. Notice what he does after this. He does what most people forget in these times or even the opposite of most people. He worshipped God! One may be in such distress after such a thing they would just go numb to life. One may question God or even curse Him in those times.

Job worshipped. God, Lord, Father above all, thank You for all You have done for me. You give and You take. Nothing have I had without You. Blessed be Your Name.

Amen to that.

- 1) 2:4-5 What was Satan's new plan to get Job to curse God?
- 2) 2:10 Job's life looked grim and his wife said "Curse God and die."
What did Job ask his wife?
- 3) 3:1 Seven days Job and his friends sat silent; then what did Job do?
- 4) 3:14-19 What is Job explaining here in his distress? (Kings, counselors, princes are there; the wicked no longer trouble; no one there; the small and great are there and the servant is free. Revelation 21 – notice verse 27.)
- 5) 4:4 Who is the "You" in this verse?
- 6) 4:7-8 What was Eliphaz accusing Job of because of his condition?
- 7) 4:12-21 Again this word brought in secret whisper to Eliphaz was saying what concerning Job?

But what had God said of Job (Chapter 1:1)?

Daily Thought

If one suffers is it always because of their sin? Are there other reasons for suffering?

Hebrews 5:8

...though He was a Son, *yet* He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.

Jesus Himself suffered. Was He in sin?

1 John 3:5

And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin.

Jesus never sinned yet He suffered to learn obedience. It can be a challenge but praise God in these times of suffering.

Praise Him for your education. Learning is not always fun but it is necessary.

- 1) 5:2 What comes from envy and wrath?
- 2) 5:6 Eliphaz does not believe affliction to just occur for no reason.
What does he say he would do because of it (verse 8)?
- 3) 5:17 In what condition is the man God corrects?
- 4) 6:10 Even in Job's anguish what would he not do?
- 5) 6:24, 29 Job now contests with his friend, "Show me how I've erred."
What does Job still have (verse 29)?
- 6) 7:1 What did Job consider this suffering?
- 7) 7:15-16 How terrible was Job's sufferings?
What did he desire?

Daily Thought

Job was in a great time of suffering. He even asked God, "Have I sinned? What have I done?" But at the same moment he wonders if a man should not have a hard time of service on the earth. Job was obviously a very wise man. His life of suffering will show us what great faith can lead to as well as the glory it brings to God if while in suffering one still praises Him.

Word of Growth

To and fro:

Job 1:7

And the LORD said to Satan, "From where do you come?"
So Satan answered the LORD and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it."

1 Peter 5:8

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

John 10:10

The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.

Luke 22:31-32

And the Lord said, "Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift *you* as wheat. But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to *Me*, strengthen your brethren."

The devil is here and he seeks those who he can test and corrupt just as he is doing to Job. Don't allow it and pray for your brethren. Jesus has overcome him.

John 16:33

These things I have spoken to you, that in *Me* you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

1 Peter 5:9

Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.

James 4:7

Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

Keep faith! Life is full of suffering. Not much good on earth. That devil will not reach eternity with us. We who keep faith in all odds will surpass his reach if only we endure for this short while.

P.U.S.H.

(Pray Until Something Happens)

- 1) 8:5-6 What also did Bildad think Job's suffering was caused from?
- 2) 8:22 What will happen to those who hate the follower of God?
- 3) 9:3 If one argued with God what would be the outcome?
- 4) 9:19 What was Job in need of (verse 33)?
- 5) 10:8-12 How did God create Job (man)?
- 6) 11:6 What also does Zophar accuse Job of?
- 7) 11:8-9 How are the things (wisdom) of God?
- 8) 11:20 What is the hope of the wicked?

Daily Thought

Mediator:

Job seeks a mediator to intercede for him before God. He knew he could not plead his own case before the Lord. "He is God, I am but a man. Who can be appointed to help me?"

1 Timothy 2:5

For *there* is one God and one Mediator between God and men, *the* Man Christ Jesus...

We have what Job longed for – he knew man's need. God delivered just that. A mediator was always the plan (see Genesis 3:15).

- 1) 12:2-3 “No doubt you are the people, and wisdom will die with you!”
What a rebuke Job gives his friends.
Of what does he remind them in the next verse?
- 2) 12:6 Why do you think this statement seems so true?
- 3) 12:24 What will God do with the chief men of the world?
(These are the higher-ups who trust in self.)
- 4) 13:15 How strong is Job’s faith: he will do what even when?
- 5) 14:15 Why will God call? (Who does not take heart in their work?)
- 6) 14:17 How does Job see God keeping his transgressions?
- 7) 15:31 What will become of those who trust in foolishness?

Daily Thought

Job 13:5

Oh, that you would be silent,
And it would be your wisdom!

Silence is wisdom. Speech often leads to trouble; one should use their words wisely. If one speaks in folly are they not considered a fool? Don’t use that speech. If one speaks wisely are they considered so? Not necessarily. One would need to be wise or at least humble in heart to recognize it. However if you hold your speech how can one know which you are? Those of wisdom listen more than they speak; they retain the knowledge of others. This is why God gives us two ears and one mouth. We are to hear and see twice as much as we speak.

- 1) 16:5 Though Job's friends keep speaking against him and treating him as a sinful man, what does Job say would happen if he were in their shoes? (Is this what a friend should do?)
- 2) 16:11 Did Job figure out what has been happening to him?
- 3) 17:1 Job's spirit – how was it?
- 4) 17:11 How about Job's heart?
- 5) 18:21 What has Bildad once again explained Job's affliction as?
- 6) 19:10 Job's hope has become as what?
- 7) 19:25 What did Job proclaim?
- 8) 19:29 What did Job warn of and what may we know?

Daily Thought

Job complained against his friends, "If I were where you are, and you as me, I would not treat you so but show you compassion." Even when a brother is in the wrong compassion and love is still the answer. If we show concern with correction a person with ears will hear. If we show correction in a not so loving manner even those with ears will harden their hearts.

- 1) 20:4 How long have the ways of the wicked been known?
- 2) 20:29 Why do these things happen to the wicked?
- 3) 21:30 What are the wicked reserved for?
- 4) 21:34 What remains in Job's friends?
- 5) 22:17-18 Those who don't want anything to do with God, God still seems to allow them to have much.
Why do you think that is?
- 6) 22:22 Write out this verse – this is for more than just Job:

- 7) 23:11-12 How was God's words and ways to Job?
- 8) 23:13 How does Job explain God?

Daily Thought

Unique:

Isaiah 55:8-9

“For My thoughts *are* not your thoughts,
Nor *are* your ways My ways,” says the LORD.
“For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth,
So are My ways higher than your ways,

And My thoughts than your thoughts. Yes. You are beyond us and Your ways are not our ways nor Your thoughts as our thoughts. In this You are unique and deserving of our praise.

Word of Growth

Job 22:30

He will *even* deliver one who is not innocent;
Yes, he will be delivered by the purity of your hands.”

How can anyone save someone who is guilty? A sinner can be saved by someone else? A non-sinner? Now, I’ve read no one can be put to death for the sins of another. You cannot be charged with the sins of your father, mother, brother, sister, or that of a friend (Deuteronomy 24:16). But how do you save someone else?

Intercession:

Romans 8:26

Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

Hebrews 7:25

Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

The Spirit and Jesus both intercede for us. Job in Job 1:5 intercedes for his children. In Job 42:7-8 he intercedes for his friends. We, too, can intercede for those who we care for and those who we love.

James 5:16

Confess *your* trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

We can pave the way for another; our prayers may change them greatly. Our Father loves us as we walk in His light. He sees our hearts and He too yearns for these things, things we want. He does. I’ll tell you another thing – He loves sinners – He only dislikes their sins.

Pray for those in need even before they need it. “Father, perhaps John has trespassed against You; please forgive him. God look after my family, my friends, my loved ones, even those I don’t know – guide them to Your light.”

Well, you get the idea. I wish I knew more of you. I do pray for you and I do love you. You and I are God’s creation. My brothers and my sisters. And yes, believe me, when I say I am concerned for you.

I take the time to write to you as a form of intercession. I once did not know what I do now. I once did not accept God. Now I seek how I may bring honor and glory to Him. I know Him and wish for you to be as well acquainted as I.

God bless you.

- 1) 24:12 Although the wicked are so, God does not charge them, Job says.
This does seem so as we watch evil men prosper.
Why do you think this is?
- 2) 24:19 When will the wicked suffer for the faults of their way
(see also verse 20)?
- 3) 25:2 Where will peace be found?
- 4) 26:14 All we hear of God and all His greatness – how much do we truly
know of our Lord?
- 5) 27:8 Why do the belongings of the hypocrite and his gain not really
matter?
- 6) 27:13 What happens to the portion of the wicked?
 - a. His children though numerous in number (verse 14)?
 - b. Though they eat well (verse 14)?
 - c. When they die (verse 15)?
 - d. Though they gain wealth (verse 17)?

Daily Thought

Free will – this is why the wicked seem to prosper here on earth. God will not charge the wicked until his end; until death he can be as evil as he pleases. “I know, I know. I can’t be wicked without consequences even here on earth.”

God loves you. You are His son, His daughter, we are His children. He corrects those who He loves. God has blessed us.

- 1) 28:12 Of all that can be found on the earth, what one thing is missing?
- 2) 28:13-19 What is the value of wisdom?
- 3) 28:23 Who knows wisdom?
What did He tell man wisdom is?
- 4) 29:2 What did Job long for?
- 5) 29:1-25 What kind of person does Job describe himself as?
- 6) 30:9 In verses 1 – 8 Job describes the foolish youth and with all their folly. How does Job view himself?
- 7) 30:21-22 How often does this seem true? Job cries out to God without an answer or when he is noticed it seems he finds cruelty.
Why do you think this is so?

Daily Thought

When God seems not to answer – be patient. If it is in His will, then He will answer. The time may not always be right. He may want to see some growth in you first. Or an adversary could be prolonging a response to tempt you. If you seek and know God's will and pray accordingly – be prepared and know what you are requesting. He is going to answer. Make sure you really want what you are requesting.

- 1) 31:1 What did Job make a covenant with? (See Matthew 5:27-28)
- 2) 31:23 Why has Job so kept his ways?
- 3) 32:1 Why did Job's friends stop their words?
- 4) 32:6 Why had Elihu held his peace this long?
- 5) 32:9 Read 1 Corinthians 1:26-31. This verse in Job is a good memory verse. Never forget God is your wisdom. No man can match God's wisdom, great or noble.
- 6) 33:13-14 Why does God not have to give account for His words?
- 7) 33:25 What will God do for the righteous?
- 8) 33:33 How does one take in wisdom?
What must they first do?

Daily Thought

We are not always wise because of age, rank, or placement in this world. Wisdom comes from above. This is a gift of God. One wise in worldly things is but a fool before God's elect. We see past this life and know peace. We don't rush around with an expiration date. God says we have eternity – why live as them? Know God. This is wisdom. Love Him and move toward His kingdom.

Word of Growth

Ready and Waiting:

One does not know the things of God. All we can do is prepare ourselves for His use. Job had many great things. He was a man of wealth. He was looked up to by those around him. He had a family, much land, a great amount of livestock. For his time Job had it all.

Job 1:1

There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name *was* Job; and that man was blameless and upright, and one who feared God and shunned evil.

Job was a righteous and blameless man. He never crossed God. He did well in good times. Satan attacked Job; he tested him. He wished Job would curse God, and boy, did he ever try to do just that. Job did not curse God; he did have some questions, but curse God he would not.

He worshiped God even in his trials. He clothes himself in sackcloth and ashes; he fasted; he prepared himself for that situation. Job was in such a time of suffering his spirit was broken, his heart he humbled and he looked to God for the answers. He would not heed the words of his friends. Only God could answer his needs. Job has prepared himself even in despair.

Psalm 51:17

The sacrifices of God *are* a broken spirit,
A broken and a contrite heart—
These, O God, You will not despise.

Job had again offered God a perfect sacrifice. Knowing what each time calls for and then acting upon that knowledge – that is being ready.

Once we've acted as that situation has called for we then wait for our next time or situation in life. As we wait we are to continue looking to God in patience. Life is a test – don't fall of course. Continue looking upward.

- 1) 34:10 What two things are not with God?
- 2) 34:21 On what does God keep His eyes and when does He look away?
- 3) 35:6-7 Answer these verses:

35:6

If you sin, what do you accomplish against Him?
Or, *if* your transgressions are multiplied, what do you do to Him?

35:7

If you are righteous, what do you give Him?
Or what does He receive from your hand?
- 4) 36:11 When shall we find prosperity?
- 5) 36:18 Can one buy their way out of God's wrath?
- 6) 37:5 What does God do?
- 7) 37:22-23 God is awesome in His majesty and excellent in what?

Daily Thought

Job 36:26

Behold, God *is* great, and we do not know *Him*;
Nor can the number of His years *be* discovered.

All we know of God is what we have in His word. There is no number to His years. He has always been. Man seeks much but who is the creation to understand the Creator? We did not design Him, but He us. All we can know is what He has given us to know.

- 1) 38:1 Where did Job hear God speak from?
- 2) 38:2-41 How did Job answer God?
Could he, or did he, try?
- 3) 40:4 What did Job finally answer God with?
- 4) 40:7 If God told you such how would you feel?
“Prepare yourself; I’m going to ask you some questions. You better straighten yourself, suck in those tears, and answer Me.”
(I’m glad Jesus will be standing with me.)
- 5) 40:8-24 Could you answer these questions?
- 6) 41:11 What does God rule?
- 7) 41:1-34 What do you think a leviathan is?

Daily Thought

Job has no answers for God’s questioning. Who could answer these questions? Only God has the ability to do all this and know all these things. Someday perhaps He will share these with us.

- 1) 42:3 When Job finally answers God he says God can do everything – nothing can be held from Him.
Job did not understand what (verse 3)?
Therefore what did Job do (verse 6)?
- 2) 42:7-8 What did Job’s friends have to do?
- 3) 42:12-16 How greatly did God bless Job in his later days?
- 4) 1:1 Who is blessed?
- 5) 2:12 Who is blessed?
- 6) 3:8 Who is blessed?
- 7) 4:4 Write out this verse. Meditate on it.

- 8) 5:11-23 Who can rejoice and be joyful and why?

Daily Thought

Blessed are those who walk not in the counsel of the ungodly. Blessed are those who put their trust in God. Blessed are God’s people.

Numbers 6:24-26

“The LORD bless you and keep you;
The LORD make His face shine upon you,
And be gracious to you;
The LORD lift up His countenance upon you,
And give you peace.”

God bless you.

- 1) 6:9 Read this verse aloud and know for sure God has heard you.
(If your child calls upon you, do you listen?)
- 2) 7:15 What becomes of the wicked?
- 3) 8:2 Where has God ordained (chosen to place) strength?
(Don't ever think that you can't – He gives strength to the simple.)
- 4) 9:8 How is our Lord's judgment?
- 5) 10:17 Who has the Lord heard?
- 6) 11:5 Who does the Lord test?
- 7) 12:6 How are God's words?
- 8) 13:5 What shall those who trust in God do?
- 9) 14:5 Where is God?

Daily Thought

Psalm 14:2

The LORD looks down from heaven upon the children of men,
To see if there are any who understand, who seek God.

Be aware.

Word of Growth

Blessings:

How can one find their blessings before the Lord?

Through obedience one will find God's blessing.

Deuteronomy 28:1-6

“Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the LORD your God will set you high above all nations of the earth. ²And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the LORD your God:

“Blessed *shall you be* in the city, and blessed *shall you be* in the country.

“Blessed *shall be* the fruit of your body, the produce of your ground and the increase of your herds, the increase of your cattle and the offspring of your flocks.

“Blessed *shall be* your basket and your kneading bowl.

“Blessed *shall you be* when you come in, and blessed *shall you be* when you go out.

Matthew 22:37-39

Jesus said to him, “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is *the* first and great commandment. And *the* second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’

One will find great blessings in these. Jesus said all hangs on these two commands. If you love God you will know and seek what He desires of you. If you love your neighbor as yourself, you will never offend or trespass against them. If you follow these commands all who are around you will find great blessing in knowing you as well as all the blessings you will receive.

God bless you.