

2021 BIBLE DISCOVERY GUIDE

MAY

JOB — PSALMS



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..... MAY 2021

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A Time of Distress

Pain is an amazing motivator. If we assess how much money we spend on reducing or avoiding pain in our lives, we would be surprised how much of our resources are used.

This month, we begin the journey through the book of Job. There are three points that we will address: (1) How do we respond to pain? (2) How do we react when we lose control? (3) Do we trust God? All three of these questions are answered beautifully in one of the oldest books of the Bible.

The time of Job was likely set before Moses had been given the Law. Job was a great man of faith, a faithful husband, and an amazing father. He had such concern for his children that Job frequently sacrificed to the LORD on their behalf for protection and provision. Clearly, Job was a man of God. So, how did Job lose everything: his children, his health, his reputation, his status? The most important question is: why did Job lose everything? Job was a man

of God. Isn't God supposed to protect those who love and cherish Him?

The story of Job is also set outside the confines of this world. While the main stage takes place here on earth, there is a spiritual backdrop for why these things are happening. God Himself is the One who brought Job up to satan, to which satan responds, '*You're just protecting him!*' God claims that Job will love and serve Him no matter what.

As we read this story, pray that the Holy Spirit moves in our mind, in our heart, in our soul, and gives us strength to hear what God is saying. This is the story of God's overcoming power in a time of great distress, and then is followed by the revitalizing and soothing power of the Psalms.



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How to use this Guide

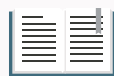
Make the most of your devotional time with our Guide to the Bible in a year. Each Guide provides valuable context and theological insight to help strengthen your faith and dig deeper into the richness of God's Word every day.

The following three tips will help you make the most of your daily Bible reading and Guide:



SPOTLIGHT ON...

In every Guide, you'll find a section with specific highlights from the perspectives of history, apologetics, theology, and more. These viewpoints provide a holistic context from which to view the month's Bible reading, giving us a greater understanding of the Word, and equipping us to grasp the impact of the Bible in these important fields.



DAILY READING

The readings are in traditional order, with a date corresponding to the Hebrew calendar. Each reading consists of a daily insight and a focus on three major takeaways from the day's Bible passage. Challenge yourself to meditate on the *Discovering The Truth* and *Today's Prayer* sections as you go about your day.



WATCH THE DAILY SHOW

Catch our companion TV series for even more valuable insight and theological discussion, hosted daily by the Hembree family. Join Rod, Janice, Ryan and Corie in this thirty-minute devotional show that will change the way you see and read the Bible. Visit **BibleDiscoveryTv.com** to watch our show online or to find a TV channel in your area.

Relativity vs. Revelation

by Ryan Hembree



Although Albert Einstein's theories of general and special relativity were very important developments in our understanding of how the universe operates, infinitely more important is God's unveiling of Himself through both general and special *revelation*—that is, revelation through Creation as well as revelation through His Word, the Bible.

One of the places in Scripture these two modes of revelation are beautifully displayed is in Psalm 19. In fact, in this Psalm there is a very clear division between verses 1-6 and verses 7-14 which are, by design, placed in juxtaposition in order to compare and contrast general revelation (v.1-6) and special revelation (v.7-14). According to this Psalm, both modes of revelation are legitimate ways in which God reveals Himself, yet special revelation is undoubtably greater than general revelation.¹ This is because while general revelation only provides basic and broad information *about* God (i.e., God exists), the special revelation of God's Word gives us the specific information we need to *know* God (i.e., Trinity). Because nature speaks no words it is naturally subjective or relative and must be interpreted.

Psalm 19:3 seems to especially attest to the silent witness of Creation. Indeed,

although the NKJV translation of this verse implies otherwise—"There is no speech nor language *where* their voice is not heard"—the italicized word "where" isn't present in the original Hebrew. Though added for clarity, many translators believe it shouldn't be there and thus be rendered, "There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard" (NASB). In other words, "the testimony of the heavens is a silent, non-verbal, witness. In contrast, the Bible gives us the very words of God, dynamically transforming words."² Additionally, while the Scriptures are "perfect" and "pure" (PSALMS 19:7, PROVERBS 30:5), the current Creation is imperfect and impure because it is under God's curse (GENESIS 3).

Of course, even in its current state, studying nature and God's creation through science remains a legitimate mode of revelation, to know that God is real. However, this awareness about God should lead a person to want to know God and, therefore, it must be subject to and interpreted in light of the authoritative Scriptures. ■

SPOTLIGHT FOOTNOTES

¹ Dr. Danny Faulkner, *The Created Cosmos*, 268

² *Ibid.*, 269

Ancient Pottery

by Corie Bobeckko



A very natural association is made in the Bible between God and the professional potter. The Biblical belief of God creating man from the dirt of the ground (GEN 2:7) mimicked the creative act of the potter, who after sourcing natural clay, then formed it and fired it to make a useful thing. This creative comparison between potters and God is made in books like Job coming from the mouth of Elihu, “I am just like you before God; I was also pinched off from a piece of clay.” (JOB 33:6) and Jeremiah coming from the mouth of God, “Just like clay in the potter’s hand, so are you in My hand, house of Israel.” (JEREMIAH 18:6)

The craft of forming and firing pottery is extremely ancient, the raw clay is either dug from the ground or settled out of clay sediment rich waters, depending on where you were in the world. The clay would then be hand cleared of any impurities like stones or sticks, mixed with water to the perfect consistency and kneaded by foot in large piles, to rid it of air bubbles and achieve good forming texture. The potter would then form his vessels. There were several ways to do this: by hand and with scrapers and sticks to beat, while using mats or wheels to turn, and/or holes in the ground to help shape the clay.

During the Biblical time period, potters in the

ancient Middle East generally used wheels, some turned by apprentices for the potter and others turned by the foot of the potter. Once a vessel was just the way the potter wanted, it was pinched off of the wheel by hand, knife, or string and set aside to dry for several days, leaving a leathery type of vessel. Next, it would be fired in a kiln. In the Biblical Levant many remains of permanent kilns have been found that show this was the preferred and most often used method there. These permanent kilns were composed of a fire box underneath that would be tended by the potter and pottery apprentices, above the firebox pottery could be stacked in the enclosed kiln and baked until perfectly durable.

Clay pottery was economical and tremendously useful to ancient man, and today it helps the modern archaeologist to assign dates to excavation sites. ■

<http://www.biblearchaeology.org/post/2011/07/05/The-Master-Potter-Pottery-Making-in-the-Bible.aspx> The Master Potter: Pottery making in the Bible Bryant Wood

<https://www.baslibRARY.org/biblical-archaeology-review/16/4/7> Small Inventions? They Changed How People Lived in the Hellenistic Age By Abraham Levy

<http://www.newton.k12.in.us/art/archive/07-08/3d/images/historyofwheel/index.html> The Origins of the Potter’s Wheel by Victor Bryant

http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Potter%27s_wheel Potter’s wheel

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oGQm3136pzg>

<https://www.penn.museum/sites/canaan/Pottery.html> Economy Pottery



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JOB — PSALMS



Job's Trial

JOB 1-3

DISCOVERING THE WORD

The book of Job does not come with a claim of authorship or a date attached to it, but it is often thought that it represents a very old time in history. One of the theories is that it comes from around the second millennium BC, roughly the time of the patriarchs Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. This date would make sense of many of the things we see in Job's life; the offering of personal sacrifices and lack of centralized worship, the measuring of his wealth by his livestock, and the total lack of references to Israel or any of her tribes. Job's friends Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar are leaders who come and pontificate about the plight of Job. Chapter 1 explains that Job was a great man, concerned about his children and trying to honour God. From our privileged position, we can see into heaven, we know that what is really happening is a testing of Job. But to Job and his friends there is no obvious reason for suffering to so overtake him. So, the question they wrestle with is that familiar, "Why?"

DISCOVERING GOD – JOB 3:1-10

– 1 –

Job is convinced that his life is a waste of time!

When things are very bad, remember that we do not see the entire picture.

(v. 1-5)

– 2 –

Job speaks of the great evil of Leviathan, the most terrifying animal there was.

God can keep us close to Him, despite our emotions and feelings.

(v. 6-8)

– 3 –

Job does not have the ability to navigate through difficult times.

The troubles of life can overtake us; we need Jesus Christ to bring us through and be healed. (v. 9-10)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

God is the only One who gives us the ability to navigate through life and continually be helped and healed as we have trouble. We should remember that the LORD uses events in our lives to show us that He can heal us.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, HELP ME TO RELEASE MY LIFE TO YOUR HEALING AND HELP. I NEED IT!

Eliphaz

JOB 4-7

DISCOVERING THE WORD

In Job 5, Eliphaz tried to encourage Job with a long speech about the correction of God bringing healing. But these ideas are easy to misunderstand when we are hurting. When the present is devastated, no one has a clear view of the future. Job had been a great man who loved the LORD with all he had. So, when everything failed there seemed to be only one way to explain what was happening: God had forsaken him. We, the reader, are given the inside story, we know that Job has been swept up in a spiritual battle of sorts, but how could Job know this? Or his “wise” friends? For us today, we live in a time when God has changed the conditions of the world through Jesus Christ. We have a clearer picture, a more explained plan of God for the world. God knows our future, past and present. Help and hope is available to us as we trust in God and develop our relationship with Him. Long ago, Eliphaz attempted to paint Job a similar picture of God’s mercy and justice, but Job was hurting too much to listen to arguments.

DISCOVERING GOD – JOB 6:1-10

– 1 –

Job tries to explain the weight of his troubles.

When things are awful, we are often consumed with feelings of horror.

(v. 1-3)

– 2 –

Job speaks of God as if He is the one who struck him.

We often blame God when terror comes, but remember that evil is from satan, not God.

(v. 4-7)

– 3 –

Job claims that God has not answered him.

We must wait for God to speak.

(v. 8-10)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

Believers in Jesus Christ have experienced great joy and wonder. When our life takes a difficult turn, we should remember our faith in God and choose to hold on to Him. If we can accept times of great joy, then we can accept times of distress with God’s help. He has conquered all!

TODAY’S PRAYER

LORD, HELP ME TO FOLLOW YOU FAITHFULLY THROUGH THE HARD TIMES AND THE GOOD TIMES.

Bildad

JOB 8-11

DISCOVERING THE WORD

Job's second friend, Bildad, claims that Job should repent! The problem was that Job was not hiding some secret sin, and he had been careful to give offerings to God as a sign of his daily repentance and concern for righteousness. It is a very easy thing to claim to know what's what and pronounce judgment on a situation. None of us like it when we are on the receiving end of an unjust judgment, so we should be careful how we proceed. A serious breach of common sense is to not pay attention to the needs of others, keeping their well-being and interests in mind. Bildad, in his attempted common-sense method actually fails to consider the true position of Job, putting what he believes to be true above the reality of the situation. This is easy to see in Bildad's case, but harder to see in our own lives. There are many people who are hurt and in damaging positions today. Can we see them?

DISCOVERING GOD – JOB 10:1-12

– 1 –

Job opens his heart and tells God of his complaint. We should be patient with people who speak in pain.

(v. 1-3)

– 2 –

Job tells the truth, which he will later discover. We must be careful what we pray and how we talk. God always hears us.

(v. 4-7)

– 3 –

Job tells us that he is alive because of God! We are alive because of the LORD, and His plan for us is greater than pain and suffering.

(v. 8-12)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

This life, very obviously, comes with struggles and troubles. We may not be able to achieve God's heavenly perspective, but we can stand strong in our trust of God. He loves us, brings us through all things and has a future for us that is not even worth comparing to our present sufferings.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, I MUST LEARN TO LOVE YOU AND WHAT YOU HAVE MADE.

Zophar

JOB 12-15

DISCOVERING THE WORD

How should we communicate God's life-giving power? Zophar chose to tell Job that it was time for him to repent; that the troubles he was having was due to his own problems and inadequacy when measured against the holiness of God. These friends of Job are great examples for us. When we discover that someone is going through terrible suffering, what will we do? Zophar's tactic pushed Job into a discussion about life and death. Job seems to assume that man is finished when he dies, but Christ tells us something different. Jesus promises that those who follow Him will live with Him eternally. We have a higher purpose than what we can fulfill here on earth. Let's follow Him in the here and now because that affects the way we will live the rest of our lives after death.

DISCOVERING GOD – JOB 14:1-12

– 1 –

Job says in his heart, that man is hopeless!

We are nothing without the healing of Jesus Christ.

(v. 1-4)

– 2 –

Job believes that when a man dies, he is done. Jesus Christ explains that when a Christian dies, he is with the LORD in his eternal life.

(v. 5-6)

– 3 –

Job tells us that man's life is limited and he will not come back. God tells us about eternity through Jesus Christ!

(v. 7-12)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

Eternity is a hard concept to grasp. One thing we know for sure is that our decision to follow Jesus and then all of our decisions afterwards to follow Jesus, do affect our entrance into eternal life. Let's follow Christ with all of our lives and spread the message to all those around us.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, I WILL EXPLAIN MY TESTIMONY OF JESUS CHRIST, YOUR SON, PLEASE HELP ME.

Terror

JOB 16–19

DISCOVERING THE WORD

There is a time when terror is good for us! It's good for us to know and feel that we should dodge away from a car travelling fast; being hit by a speeding vehicle is good for us to avoid. It would be even better that next time we do not walk on the road! Fear can be a powerful force of motivation in the right direction. Fear and terror can also be unhelpful. These emotions can become motivators in the wrong direction. It's up to us to determine between helpful and unhelpful fear. In our reading this week we see Job's friend Bildad attempting to apply fear to Job in the wrong way. He assumed Job's guilt and was trying to motivate a confession through the terror of what, in his opinion, would still occur to Job. The problem is that Bildad was wrong. In the next chapter, Job answers him harshly. The story of Job is a test for humanity. There is hardship and evil in this world that is created by satan. The only way to survive is through Jesus Christ.

DISCOVERING GOD – JOB 18:1–12

– 1 –

Bildad claims that Job is wrong, he has done wrong and should repent! We often make fast judgments; we should not.
(v. 1–4)

– 2 –

Bildad says that evil will overtake those who do evil. The truth is more complicated; sometimes evil happens to the righteous, but we are delivered through Christ. (v. 5–9)

– 3 –

Bildad says that destruction will happen to Job if he does not repent. We must be very careful with the kind of judgment we give. Remember that God is the only true Judge. (v. 10–12)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

The Old and New Testament were terms used by a minister named Tertullian in the third century AD. Today, we use these terms to distinguish between God's covenant with Israel through the law and God's covenant with all mankind through Jesus Christ. Job is a part of that Old Covenant. Thank God the conditions today are set by Jesus Christ, our strength!

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, I NEED TO SEE THE DIFFERENCE THAT YOU SET THROUGH JESUS CHRIST, GOD ON EARTH.

Thinking We're Helping

JOB 20-23

DISCOVERING THE WORD

What does it mean to be in the right or righteous? Is it obeying the law or being spiritual? A prevalent theme throughout the Old and New Testament is law and spirit are married like our thought and behaviour, and it is impossible to be right with God without the promise and provision of Messiah: Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ came as truly man and truly God, died on the cross and paid the price of sin for us. This is not about the institution of the Church; it's about your relationship with Jesus Christ: God. In a similar way, Eliphaz poses a rhetorical question: "Can a man be profitable to God?" The short and obvious answer is no, but how is this relevant to the situation that Job finds himself in? Like following the law without spirit, or being spiritual without law, there are times when we make statements that are true, but they are irrelevant to the circumstance we are applying them to. We, too, are disconnected from the situation and do not understand. Don't react like Eliphaz, act wise in Christ.

DISCOVERING GOD – JOB 22:1-7

– 1 –

Eliphaz tells the truth, but that truth is not applicable to Job. Too many times we apply statements that are true but not applicable to what we are speaking to. (v. 1-3)

– 2 –

Eliphaz speaks the obvious truth, but out of context. We must never speak God's truth out of context!
(v. 4-5)

– 3 –

Eliphaz accuses Job of injustice without knowing Job's situation. Remember, when we are comforting someone, do so with gentleness and respect. (v. 6-7)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

When someone is in the midst of suffering, it does not help to hypothesize or point out why they're suffering. Instead, we have to help them see that God loves them and He will help them. We do that by pointing to sin and our sinfulness, and telling them how Jesus Christ forgave us and helped us.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, I MUST ALWAYS LIVE OUT YOUR GRACE! STEER ME AWAY FROM SIN.

Understanding God

JOB 24–28

DISCOVERING THE WORD

One of the ways we learn about God is to look at nature. Through His creation, we know that we cannot even grasp the edges of God's unlimited power. But, through the power of His Word, we are able to learn about and listen to God's character. This is the amazing thing about the LORD. God, through His Holy Spirit teaches us who He is and what is important to Him. The will of God is the best thing for humanity. But many times, we do not want the will of God, we desire to do our own things our own way. The greatest mind in the universe is the mind of God. You cannot know who God is through the study of nature or observing the stars, but you can know what you are not: God. Too often we rely on our brains and not our heart. The sciences can only look at the world from the bottom up, whereas the spirit looks at the world from the top down. Job begins to highlight the edges of God's power, when Job is in a great deal of loss and pain. It is in these moments of suffering and desperation that we learn about who God truly is.

DISCOVERING GOD – JOB 26:1–14

– 1 –

Job continues to suffer because his so-called friends do not understand God. We learn more about God when we suffer than when we are in a good place. (v. 1–4)

– 2 –

Job speaks to us about the matrix of God's creation. Science can never understand the limitless mysteries of God's creation, the universe. (v. 5–8)

– 3 –

Job says that God's Holy Spirit adorns His heavens! When Jesus Christ came, died and rose again, He gave us the same Holy Spirit! (v. 9–14)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

The Holy Spirit is critical to understanding the ways and will of God. We must seek to do the ways of God and begin to learn about His will in our life. It is not a one-time thing. How God works in our life is an ongoing learning experience.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, I MUST LEARN TO KNOW YOUR WILL AND YOUR WAYS OF DOING THINGS. THANK YOU FOR HELPING ME.

Job's Defense

JOB 29–32

DISCOVERING THE WORD

As one of the world's oldest stories, and testimonies, we hear a vivid account of a person who had everything and yet lost everything because he did things the right way. This is extremely counter-intuitive to ancient Near Eastern theology. In Job's world, it was believed that evil things happen to evil people, and good things to good people, sort of like the Hindu concept of karma. Job gives one last defense of his character, pleading to God as his final Judge, as One with "honest scales" (v. 6). But Job pushes a bit too far, however, pleading his absolute innocence as if God is his witness. In Chapter 38, we will see that the LORD confronts Job's sense of justice, and Job repents. God's justice is greater than ours and much "too wonderful" for us to fully know (JOB 42:1-6). Unlike God, our world is compromised by sin. Sin came into the world through us, but forgiveness of sin came into the world through God. Job is being tested by God because the LORD's plan is always greater, and His purpose is always good.

DISCOVERING GOD – JOB 31:1–12

– 1 –

Job reminds us that God sees everything around us. We are not apart from sin, the Holy Spirit covers us in the blood of Christ because of sin.

(v. 1-4)

– 2 –

Job's position is like ours: a sinner saved from and forgiven of sin. We know how to act as we live in this world through Christ our LORD.

(v. 5-8)

– 3 –

Job says that he has acted well in God's view, as a sinner. God is perfect, we are not. But we are working with God's help against sin!

(v. 9-12)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

The Holy Spirit sanctifies our soul if we have accepted Jesus Christ as our LORD. But sanctification is hard-hitting to our selfish attitudes. As we get older we need to learn that this world is not about us, it is about helping others find Jesus Christ.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, HELP ME TO SHOW OTHERS HOW YOU HAVE CHANGED ME.

Who Is God?

JOB 33–36

DISCOVERING THE WORD

Elihu is the fourth person to come against Job's character in his suffering. He is an arrogant young man who claims to speak for God. He begins talking in chapter 32 after Job presents his final defense, and says he is going to correct everything that has been said. But, interestingly, and not coincidentally, God interrupts Elihu in chapter 38. In fact, the LORD never even acknowledges him after He judges Job and his friends (JOB 42:7-9). Some have felt this is because Elihu is Jesus Christ before He came to earth in the flesh. But this is clearly not true. Elihu is recorded as the son of Barachel the Buzite, of the family of Ram, and every time the Scripture identifies Jesus Christ before His earthly ministry, He is called the Angel of the LORD. Jesus was not a reincarnated Elihu, nor was He born twice. Elihu is clearly conceited, from the moment he first speaks; it's all about how important it is that he speaks! His knowledge multiplies words.

DISCOVERING GOD — JOB 34:1–12

– 1 –

Elihu begins to define justice as something we can decide ourselves.

God's choices are always better than ours!

(v. 1–4)

– 2 –

Elihu states the obvious about man and God; he does not help Job.

We must keep our perspective relevant when we are talking with others.

(v. 5–9)

– 3 –

Elihu again states the obvious about God; He is not pleased with man's ways.

Jesus Christ has made us righteous. Remember this in hard times. (v. 10–12)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

The Holy Spirit may give us words to say or things to do in times of difficulty or when dealing with others in hardship. We do not need to sound right or always be correct. There are times when we have no answers, and we cry with those who cry.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, HELP ME TO HEAR THE HEART OF OTHERS IN ORDER TO HELP THEM.

God Answers

JOB 37-39

DISCOVERING THE WORD

When God unexpectedly confronts Job, He more than fulfills Job's demands by asking him 83 rhetorical questions. That is, God is asking Job question after question that he clearly cannot answer. Job is claiming to be the servant of God who, it seems at first glance, has offended God through his demands that God hear his case. Job had forgotten, in his pain, that God was watching and listening to everything that was said and claimed by him and his companions. But the LORD is confronting evil in the mind of Job. Further, the questions are not merely for Job to answer, but to bring about more questions for God in eternity. We have much to learn and know from the LORD, because we do not understand the spiritual world. This is where the problems began for Job, he was being tested by God.

DISCOVERING GOD – JOB 39:1-12

– 1 –

God has ordained the behavioural patterns of all the animals in the world. God is the Creator and Designer, and sin has really messed things up!

(v. 1-4)

– 2 –

God is the true Shepherd of every animal on earth, we are not. There is a bigger plan afoot that we cannot ignore, and it includes all of creation!

(v. 5-8)

– 3 –

Not every animal can be tamed or domesticated; God is the only One who is truly in control.

Humans are not the most powerful in the world – God is! (v. 9-12)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

Without God, there is no life – period. We need God to live. All of our strength, spiritual and physical, comes from Him. Therefore, we should use it for Him. We should use our life and strength to do God's will. That is *true* justice. God never loses strength – God is life!

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, I NEED TO HEAR YOU AND SEE YOU WORK IN MY LIFE.

Through Suffering

JOB 40–42

DISCOVERING THE WORD

Often, when faced with trouble, we are quick to question God about the *how* and *why* we are suffering rather than realizing that, in this life, there *will be* trouble (JOHN 16:33). As Christians, followers of Christ, we willingly give up our personal wants to do what God desires. In today's world, many do not. Most just do what they desire, because they are ignorant of God's ways or choose to go against God's plan. But Job did not follow his personal plan; he always desired to fulfill what God wanted and, as a result, he suffered. From the beginning, we knew that God was testing him, but we also knew Job would not betray Him. Job didn't know anything except that he was suffering. But God was working. And when God continues to speak to us, He brings a level of clarity that goes beyond earthly things.

DISCOVERING GOD — JOB 40:1–14

– 1 –

Job admitted he spoke too soon. He did not know what God was doing through his suffering. We must be careful *when* and *what* we say about God.
(v. 1–5)

– 2 –

God tells Job to “Brace yourself like a man!” Do not let *your* words speak on God's behalf.
(v. 6–9)

– 3 –

Only God can save us from sin – *sin is devastating!* We cannot save ourselves from it.
(v. 10–14)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

Only the LORD is worthy to cleanse us from sin. Jesus Christ came from Heaven and lived in the midst of us. He gave Himself and we crucified Him. Then He rose from death to free us from sin!

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, THANK YOU FOR SAVING ME! HELP ME NOT TO BECOME PROUD, BUT TO TRUST IN YOU MORE AND MORE.

Music & Purpose

PSALM 1-8

DISCOVERING THE WORD

Everything we do on earth affects our life in eternity. This includes the music we listen to and why we listen to it. Music is not neutral. God made us musical for a reason, and He has given us 150 Psalms to read and meditate on. Sing a new song – a common phrase in Scripture – highlights the meaning of music. The new song is the music of Jesus Christ, the Son of God! He came from Heaven, lived on earth, died for the sins of the world and rose again to life. His life paid the cost of sin for all and gives the gift of eternal life to any, and all, who believe, and receive Jesus as LORD! Music is an amazing way to identify ourselves with the meaning and message of God, it helps bring our eternal purpose to the forefront of our hearts. When we give our life to Jesus Christ and ask God to “BE MY LORD,” we give Him control of our life. This affects us deeply, and music is an expression of that depth.

DISCOVERING GOD – PSALM 1:1-6

– 1 –

The law of God is the Word of God – the Bible.

We are blessed when we know it intimately and live it out in our lives.

(v. 1-2)

– 2 –

God compares us to a tree planted by the water, bearing fruit in its season.

God is the source and the strength of our life. As we follow the LORD, our spiritual fruit will grow. (v. 3)

– 3 –

Those who pay no attention to God are called “ungodly”.

The righteous are known by God.

(v. 4-6)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

Music magnifies our relationship with Jesus Christ. If we are Christians, we follow God. If we follow Jesus Christ, we must learn to praise Him with our life and His Word. God writes music *through us* with inspiration from the Holy Spirit, not from our spirit alone.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, THANK YOU FOR BEING THE SOURCE AND STRENGTH OF MY LIFE. I PRAISE YOU WITH ALL MY HEART AND SOUL!

Faith & Righteousness

PSALM 9–14

DISCOVERING THE WORD

Music reveals the *truths* of God but not in a subtle, insignificant or casual way. The LORD's character is indescribably beautiful. God's ways are right, *totally right*, and never, ever false or evil. Music is an amazing way to communicate this, and the Psalms make it clear that God is miraculous, magnificent and meaningful. Psalm 11 is a stunning example of those who have faith in the LORD because of *His* righteousness. God's will, works, words, and ways are a testimony of His enduring righteousness – His character harmonizes with those who faithfully seek His face and desire to do His will. In this world, we learn to accept things that are imperfect. In the next world (eternity), there is only perfection. God's perfection cannot tolerate imperfection. The Bible is absolutely clear about that, as Paul said, "...flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption" (1 CORINTHIANS 15:50).

DISCOVERING GOD – PSALM 11:1–7

– 1 –

The wicked are bent on destruction. But the foundations of the righteous cannot be destroyed!
(v. 1-3)

– 2 –

The eyes of God test the righteous. The wicked will never succeed!
(v. 4-6)

– 3 –

The LORD is righteous. All who follow Him are highlighted by the countenance and presence of God!
(v. 7)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

God is magnificent. We cannot truly understand the power of His righteousness. Maybe in Heaven we can. Until then, we must always be ready for Christ's return through the power of God's unyielding presence, the Holy Spirit. As Christians, we call this the *Day of the LORD*.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, YOU ARE GREAT AND RIGHTEOUS! HELP ME TO UNDERSTAND THIS - EVERY DAY OF MY LIFE.

Worthy vs. Worthless

PSALMS 15-18

DISCOVERING THE WORD

It seems like people are programmed today to judge each other without any context. Social media forums encourage and celebrate 'calling out' people who are wrong, different or strange without looking in the mirror. But God speaks clearly to everyone, no matter where they are: about who is worthy to live in His Tabernacle; the place He chose as His dwelling. It has nothing to do with the personality of a person, but speaks about the character of one who seeks the LORD God with all his heart, soul, strength and mind. One thing the Bible speaks clearly about is judgment of others.

As Christ-followers, we are commanded not to condemn another person – we know that we, too, are depraved or worthless without God. The Bible tells us the truth about both; the Word of God is designed for each and every one of us. As we read, it speaks about how we should treat others and love God with all that we are, all that we have, and in all that we can.

DISCOVERING GOD – PSALM 15:1-5

– 1 –

We must live a life of integrity. The truth of God is not something we just talk about, it must be in our heart.

(v. 1-2)

– 2 –

We must not destroy with our words or desire to harm others. We must love what God loves and hate what He hates.

(v. 3-4)

– 3 –

We must never take advantage or profit from someone else's hardship. We must be honest with all God has entrusted to us.

(v. 5)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

The LORD speaks to us about our actions, when we seek and serve Him. It is not just what we say, it is what we do in the world. Are we who we say we are? Do we mean what we say and say what we mean?

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, HELP TO LIVE A LIFE OF INTEGRITY, AS I FOLLOW YOU WITH ALL OF MY HEART.

Established By God

PSALM 19–23

DISCOVERING THE WORD

A common downfall of human thought is to assume that consensus among many is true for everyone. Simply put: *When the majority rules, it does not make the majority right!* The hope of evil is intertwined in democratic culture. If satan upsets the ideas of the majority, he can establish a country ruled by the worst. When that happens, we see evil displayed in very dramatic ways. A nation then begins to fail and fall.

When a ruler is established by God, something different happens. Psalm 21 tells what happens when a king, or leader, loves God. Psalm 21 is subtitled, “*To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David,*” and one thing is very clear: David was a king who loved God deeply. In the future, there will come a King who rules perfectly – *the rule of Messiah*.

DISCOVERING GOD – PSALM 21:1–13

– 1 –

The king rejoiced in the LORD’s strength and salvation. We should give God thanks for the victory and salvation we have through the LORD Jesus Christ. (v. 1–4)

– 2 –

The king would not be moved because he trusted in God. Our trust in the LORD makes us strong and immovable with Him. (v. 5–7)

– 3 –

The plans of the wicked will not succeed. God Himself has the ultimate victory in all things. Praise the LORD! (v. 8–13)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

God speaks to us so that He can move *through* us. We must never let our guard down but always keep our thoughts in line with the Word of God to succeed. Rest comes and goes, but our attitude and spirit must always be carefully focused on God’s Word, work and will.

TODAY’S PRAYER

LORD, CONTINUE TO ESTABLISH YOUR GOOD WORK IN MY LIFE. I PRAISE YOU FOR THE JOY OF MY SALVATION THROUGH JESUS CHRIST!

A Religion of Selfishness

PSALMS 24–28

DISCOVERING THE WORD

Many believe that God judges us solely on what we do. God wants us to do right in our life – it is better for us, and we are accountable. But there is something much deeper than what we do *for us*. In the Western world, pride has become the center of how we direct our life. *Selfies* are a perfect example of what we consider important – a religion of selfishness. God desires we do well – not because it is better for us (which it is!) but because His will is at work in this world every second of every day. We must turn from selfishness toward transforming ourselves into a *living sacrifice* (ROMANS 12:1) and becoming self-less. Scriptures speak to this idea, and Psalm 25 is just one example.

DISCOVERING GOD – PSALM 25:1–11

– 1 –

When we invite Christ into our life as LORD, He is our ALL. We must turn away from selfishness and trust in God.

(v. 1–3)

– 2 –

God has been on a worldwide mission since sin came into our lives.

As Christians, we are on that same mission!

(v. 4–7)

– 3 –

We must recognize that God has a plan. As followers of Christ, we are called to fulfill His plan.

(v. 8–11)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

It is critical, through our commitment to Jesus Christ as the LORD of our life, to realize that the Church must work in accordance with God's plan. We each have roles to fulfill and work to do in His plan. We must pray and seek the LORD for what His plan is for each of us.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, I AM EASILY TAKEN UP BY SELFISHNESS. HELP ME TO UNDERSTAND THAT ONLY YOU CAN HELP US ALL OVERCOME IT.

To Be Right With God

PSALM 29–32

DISCOVERING THE WORD

What does it mean to be “right with God”? For starters, being right with God is not something we can do in ourselves. We are not holy by nature. It is a gift from the LORD through Jesus Christ. We depend upon God for everything good. So, we have to pay close attention to our reasoning and emotions, because it is inherently evil without God. As humans, it is no surprise that we are prone to stumbling. However, if we have the “mind of Christ”, He will help correct all those things we experience in our mind: feelings, emotions, reasoning. When we give our life to the LORD Jesus Christ, He makes us right with God the Father – we are free from the bondage of sin, we are no longer destined for wrath. So, what does it mean to be “right with God”? It means we are in right standing, like a Judge declaring us innocent in a court of law. We are *in the right* because the Ultimate Authority of good and evil, right and wrong, has declared us righteous through faith in His Son, Jesus Christ. Not by our own doing, lest we should boast, but by trusting in God’s goodness above all things.

DISCOVERING GOD – PSALM 31:1–16

– 1 –

When we are redeemed by God, He is our Rock and Saviour. He promises to protect us from evil.

(v. 1–5)

– 2 –

Our foundations are firmly planted in the LORD Jesus Christ.

We must focus our life on the LORD, and trust in Him.

(v. 6–8)

– 3 –

In times of deep trouble, our strength will fail.

But God shines in our life and mercifully delivers us!

(v. 9–16)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

Humility is recognizing weakness in our life. Especially because sin has destroyed us! But, as we build our life with Jesus Christ, we learn God protects us even though we cannot.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, I AM WEAK, BUT YOU ARE STRONG! YOU HELP ME TO STAND AGAINST EVIL WHEN I SUBMIT TO YOU.

Wickedness & Perfection

PSALMS 33–36

DISCOVERING THE WORD

When the Bible says God is perfect, it means more than just perfectly good. God is perfect in *all* things – logic, emotion, action, purpose, judgment, truth, etc. But the meaning of perfection is lost on a lot of people, if not everyone. We have a sense of it, like how eternity is written on our hearts, but we do not grasp it – not yet anyways. Perfection is something unique to God, and we are sinners saved by grace.

But what about those who reject God? Psalm 36 is a great example of those who willfully ignore the work of the LORD. When David says, “An oracle within my heart...” he is referring to something observable to those who have *discernment*, being able to perceive the implicit pattern of evil deep within the human heart.

DISCOVERING GOD – PSALM 36:1–12

– 1 –

When we do not serve God, we think wrongly and selfishly. Choose wisely, serve the LORD.

(v. 1–4)

– 2 –

God’s mercy, faithfulness and righteousness are eternal. God sees eternity; we do not.

(v. 5–9)

– 3 –

Sin is out to devour us, if we believe in God and have given our life to Jesus Christ. We must pray daily for God’s help *against sin.*

(v. 10–12)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

When we give our life to Jesus Christ, we have given our life away. We do not make our own decisions but rather invite Jesus Christ to help us make the right ones. God hears and helps us, if we are sincere. God is ready to help, if we ask! We must pray as never before.

TODAY’S PRAYER

LORD, THANK YOU THAT YOU ARE PERFECT IN ALL THINGS. HELP ME TO BE IN TUNE WITH CHRIST.

Going Against Evil

PSALM 37–40

DISCOVERING THE WORD

If we pursue evil inwardly, and hold every thought captive, it will change our perspective and attitude. We are called to change how we think, to find the righteousness of God through Jesus Christ.

Interestingly, this inward call of salvation and sanctification is expressed in how we engage with others. Jesus commissions our minds and hearts to: “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you” (MATTHEW 28:19-20). We must never stop at salvation! God tells us to pursue the things of Christ. We must observe all the things God has taught us, the things that come through the Word of God.

DISCOVERING GOD — PSALM 40:1–10

– 1 –

The new song placed within us is a new way of thinking. We have been set free. Praise the LORD.

(v. 1-3)

– 2 –

God’s thoughts about us are more than can be numbered. We cannot even begin to understand His love for us!

(v. 4-5)

– 3 –

We must not be silent about our faith! We must live it out before others.

(v. 6-10)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

We must never wish for a secret faith. We must live what we believe because God has changed us. He has given us eternal life! If ever you wanted to live your faith in silence, you were wrong. God desires to be known among us!

TODAY’S PRAYER

LORD, HELP ME TO REALLY KNOW YOU, TO LIVE FOR YOU AND SHARE WHAT I BELIEVE ABOUT JESUS CHRIST TO OTHERS.

Survival vs. Sacrifice

PSALMS 41-44

DISCOVERING THE WORD

When we pursue God, nothing else should be in view. We can easily become overwhelmed by the things of this world, even if they are necessary for survival. Jesus Christ said, "Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?" (MATTHEW 6:25-26) Likewise, the Psalms also tell us that, when we yearn for God, He fills our heart with His Truth and Love. Thirsting for God is a *good* thing! *He is Food for our soul.* God is eternal life! Praise God!

DISCOVERING GOD – PSALM 42:1-8

– 1 –

Seeking the LORD is good. We must strive to find God, earnestly seeking His will.
(v. 1-3)

– 2 –

No matter what or how we feel, God will help us. The LORD always takes care of those who are His; He is our hope.
(v. 4-5)

– 3 –

Oh LORD how deep is Your glory! God knows our needs and helps us when we're overcome by the depth the sin. Call to Him.
(v. 6-8)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

Jesus Christ fulfilled our needs by living among us for thirty-three years, allowing Himself to be crucified on the cross then rising again to life. We must remember that God is holy. And only a perfectly holy God can truly make us whole.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, I REMEMBER YOU! KEEP ME CLOSE TO WHO YOU ARE AND WHAT YOU HAVE CALLED ME TO DO.

Coming of Christ

PSALM 45-49

DISCOVERING THE WORD

The second coming of Christ should be a constant theme for believers everywhere. It should underpin our thought and behaviour. His promise to return should resound in our ears when we ponder the moral direction of how the world is moving. Soon, Jesus Christ will return! And, ready or not, He will overtake and rule the nations: “Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron...” (REVELATION 19:11-15).

DISCOVERING GOD – PSALM 45:1-11

– 1 –

God will rule the earth, soon. We must be ready, now!
(v. 1-5)

– 2 –

Everyone will be ruled by God’s Son, Jesus Christ. We must get ready.
(v. 6-9)

– 3 –

We must worship the LORD Jesus Christ with all our heart, soul, mind and strength. As Christians, our lives and loyalty belong to Him.
(v. 10-11)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

God is our LORD! He rules and will, one day soon, clarify in people’s minds who He truly is. Some will desire Him; others will not. Christians truly follow Jesus Christ. We must understand that He is coming – soon. We must tell others how to find Him before it is too late.

TODAY’S PRAYER

LORD, HELP ME TELL OTHERS ABOUT YOU!

The Perfect Judge

PSALMS 50–54

DISCOVERING THE WORD

Some judge political leaders even though they say they believe no one is perfect or can rightly judge, because we are all biased. This is pretty hypocritical if you ask me! But they're not wrong to believe we are imperfect judges. In this, God gave us hope. Jesus Christ came to earth two thousand years ago – He was perfect! And because He was perfect, we cringed and crucified Him. The cost of sin was paid by His crucifixion. Jesus rose from the dead – in spirit *and flesh* – something no one expected! It was the final sign of new creation and what true redemption will look like. God achieved this through His Only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ, the perfect ability to judge sin. Today, we conquer sin each day by coming under the authority of God's Son through prayer; we invite Him to be the LORD of our life and take our moral imperfections from us. This does not mean we are wholly perfect like God, but it does mean that God sees us differently than before. We are washed and cleansed in the precious blood of the Lamb! So, when God the Father looks at us, He sees His Son, Jesus Christ!

DISCOVERING GOD – PSALM 50:1–11

– 1 –

**God speaks from Zion –
the perfection of beauty!**

We must look to Israel
for what is happening
in the world.

(v. 1–3)

– 2 –

**God will gather all the
saints to Himself before
He judges the world!**

We must come to
Jesus Christ.

(v. 4–6)

– 3 –

**God will deal with Israel
once He judges the earth.**

We must understand that
God is not interested in the
things we do, but in *us!*

(v. 7–11)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

The LORD speaks to everyone about who He is and what He is doing. The last verse of Psalm 50 says, “Whoever offers praise glorifies Me; and to him who orders his conduct aright I will show the salvation of God” (v. 23). We must confess our sin to the LORD for His forgiveness.

TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, I AM SORRY. I CONFESS MY
SINS TO YOU. HELP ME, LORD!**

Praise God in Your Heart

PSALM 55–59

DISCOVERING THE WORD

We must always praise the LORD, no matter what is happening to us. Throughout the Psalms, God speaks to us about the value and benefit of praising the LORD. In fact, the Psalms are a collection of 150 songs singing praises to the glory of God the Most High. This is the longest book in the Bible! It also contains the longest chapter in the Bible (176 verses) – Psalm 119. It's interesting to think that the Psalms are songs without any musical notes. It's telling because it means that the emotional quality of the song – pacing, rhythm, beat – is not the most important aspect of music. Yet, like all music, the Psalms speak to the heart of those who memorize it. It makes you think about David, who was running from King Saul for no good reason and writing psalms of praise at the same time. Psalm 57 is one of those songs. In that time, David fully committed himself to the LORD. He learned to praise God, no matter what was happening to him.

DISCOVERING GOD – PSALM 57:1–11

– 1 –

God Most High delivers us in His mercy and truth.

David knew this, and he sang about it. We must trust in God!

(v. 1–3)

– 2 –

Only God can save us when men are against us.

The spiritual world is real and alive. We must call on God.

(v. 4–6)

– 3 –

We must trust God, no matter what. This is not easy to do when surrounded by evil. But God will give you strength.

(v. 7–11)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

As Christians, we must desire and understand the necessity of praising God. We must learn how to trust in our LORD, when we pray and do what the Spirit says. This is how we avoid destruction and evil.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, PLEASE WATCH OVER ME.
KEEP EVIL FAR AWAY FROM ME!

The Protection of God

PSALMS 60–64

DISCOVERING THE WORD

God's protection is subtle yet overwhelming. Sometimes it goes unseen, and other times it couldn't be more apparent. When we consider that, as disciples of Jesus Christ, we are enemies of this world – spiritual, mental, emotional, physical enemies – God's protection is just *awesome!* When we come to the LORD, we put our life in His hands. David knew and wrote about this. Psalm 61 is a testimony about God's protection over our life. God is our fortress. He is our refuge. Our Saviour. Our Redeemer. What can be a greater praise than to know that the Creator of all things loves us so much. Praise God!

DISCOVERING GOD – PSALM 61:1–8

– 1 –

God hears your voice when you call on Him.

God made us to be in communion with Him. Call on Him today.

(v. 1–2)

– 2 –

When we trust in God, we have the assurance of His eternal protection.

God protects us from everything spiritually evil and unholy.

(v. 3–4)

– 3 –

God hears us when we pray.

God wants us to come near Him with our requests. We have security in Him. Praise God!

(v. 5–8)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

Believers in Jesus Christ know and trust in the work of God. His work is about healing and helping. The world is full of sin and destruction, but God will help us, if we call on Him.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, I TRUST YOU. PROTECT ME.
LORD. KEEP ME FAR FROM EVIL.

Praising His Name

PSALM 65–68

DISCOVERING THE WORD

God does not reject repentance, nor does He neglect praise. God loves a sincere, humble prayer warrior. When you think about it, David was the ultimate prayer warrior. In spite of all of his faults, and he had many, he always repented and gave praise to God. And God did not withhold His love from him (v. 20). Is our heart right with God? If you cherish sin in your heart, as trophies in your memory, God will not listen. This is what repentance means – fully giving your life over to God. And through repentance, God conquers the evil within you. Likewise, our daily devotion in God’s Word is not about making us *feel* good. It’s to reveal within us who God is, and what we are not. We are not good, but God is.

DISCOVERING GOD – PSALM 66:1–12

– 1 –

Sing praises of His name! Even God’s *name* is amazingly powerful. Thank You Jesus Christ for saving my life!
(v. 1–4)

– 2 –

God has done things only He can take credit for. We can try to take credit, but this is rebellion. Give God all the credit in your life.
(v. 5–7)

– 3 –

God has refined His people like silver. This is not just Israel, “all peoples” will praise His name!
(v. 8–12)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

Praise God! Praise God! Praise God! We must always praise God. Thank Him for all the things He has done and will do. Only God is worthy of such praise.

TODAY’S PRAYER

LORD, I PRAISE YOUR NAME FOR YOUR AWESOME WORKS. YOU ARE GOD OVER EVERYTHING!

Ceaseless Prayer

PSALMS 69–72

DISCOVERING THE WORD

In times of deep trouble, sorrow, or despair, it is a gut reaction to cry out to God. In these traumatic moments or crises, we may feel like we're trapped or spiralling out of control. We're just sinking deeper and deeper into darkness and chaos. But no matter how deep you go, God is always listening, waiting to pull you out. Our emotions may flare up, our discernment may be cloudy, and our ability to make the right decision may waver. As Christians, we can rest in knowing Who is in control. We can all fall back on Him, the only Person who's *truly* stable: God. If you do not know Jesus Christ, I urge you to call on His name today. Cry out without ceasing! He is your only hope in a world that's spiralling out of control.

DISCOVERING GOD – PSALM 69:1–13

– 1 –

True Christians often suffer through deep persecution. We must pray that God helps us through it.
(v. 1–4)

– 2 –

When we do things for Christ, we may be ridiculed – even by those who claim to love us. But God is our help in time of trouble.
(v. 5–10)

– 3 –

Mercy and salvation come from God. We must live to worship our LORD!
(v. 11–13)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

Persecution is terrible. There are more persecuted Christians now than ever before. But with suffering and persecution, comes good theology – one that's lived out as well as thought out. Every decision you make *really* matters. Ceaseless prayer is the Godly response to persecution.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, PLEASE ENCOURAGE THE PERSECUTED CHURCH.

The Just Wrath of God

PSALM 73-76

DISCOVERING THE WORD

There is a vast difference between the wrath of man and the wrath of God. Our emotions are fallible and inconsistent, but God's emotions are the expression of perfection. You cannot compare the two. There is absolutely nothing evil about His emotions. Even His anger, His wrath, comes from a place of perfect justice. This is hard for us to understand. Our anger, or fits of rage, is flawed, unjustified, vicious and envious. *God's is not!* His emotions are always Perfect and Right. As a believer in Jesus Christ, I know there has never been, and will never be, anyone who is perfect – *except Jesus Christ*. Psalm 76 explains the Majesty of God which includes His wrath and judgment of the earth.

DISCOVERING GOD – PSALM 76:1-12

– 1 –

No weapons will thwart against God's purpose.

Take rest in knowing God is perfect.

(v. 1-3)

– 2 –

Everyone fears the judgment of God.

No matter how mighty or little we are, God's just wrath is on those who do not love Him.

(v. 4-8)

– 3 –

God conquers and rebukes the mighty. God

saves the oppressed and afflicted. God cares for those who cannot help themselves.

(v. 9-12)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

Our LORD Jesus Christ is the God of everything – He is the Perfect Judge! We must remember this when praying and praising God. We must never, ever treat God as if He *needs* us in order to correct others. Because, God is not only our Judge, He is also our Saviour.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, GIVE ME GOOD JUDGEMENT.
I WANT TO BE MORE LIKE YOUR
SON, JESUS CHRIST!

Cry Out to God!

PSALMS 77-79

DISCOVERING THE WORD

Sometimes when we are so discouraged, distressed, or depressed, our souls feel depleted and it is difficult to have any hope. Within this anguish, the fear that God has left you and will never return grows stronger and stronger. It feels like your heart is surrounded by an enemy army sieging a city, and we are trapped inside, left to die. But know this, it is not true. It is a lie. It is propaganda created by the enemy who surrounds you. So, know this: God is bigger. God is stronger. And, through the power of Jesus Christ, you are more than a conqueror. You are heirs according to His promise. We may live in a world cursed by sin, but God has given us the Holy Spirit to be a light onto the world, so that everyone may know there is hope beyond this world. That God is real. That He loves you. Put your hope in Jesus Christ, and no matter how strong that siege may appear, it will never prevail against you. The hope you have in Christ will conquer all things!

DISCOVERING GOD – PSALM 77:1-14

– 1 –

At times, no one can help us except God. Call out to God in prayer.
(v. 1-3)

– 2 –

God's mercy is eternal. His *truth* is eternal. We must *always* be honest with God.
(v. 4-9)

– 3 –

We would do well to remember the miracles of God. God is our strength. He is faithful.
(v. 10-14)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

The LORD has placed us here to do His work and fulfill His plans. Satan knows how to trip us up and how to trick us into thinking that God is no more. But God is the same – yesterday, today and forever. We must never doubt but always praise the LORD for His work in our life – whatever it may be.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, PULL ME OUT OF THE DARKNESS, BRING ME INTO YOUR LIGHT!

Grafted Into the Vine

PSALM 80-84

DISCOVERING THE WORD

Jesus Christ, rejected by many Israelites, was Himself an Israelite. Many Israelites embraced Jesus Christ as LORD and continued the Church. Unlike Judaism, however, the New covenant is not a new Mosaic Law. Church teachings do not prioritize rules or rituals as essential for righteousness, instead we teach that living by faith is the continuation of God's promise to Abraham: *We are justified as righteous by faith in Jesus Christ, the Son of God.* The Holy Spirit, then, taught Jews to accept Gentiles, with the Church becoming a broad mixture of both. After all, Abraham's son Jacob was renamed Israel after the promise was given. The Church does not break the continuity of God's promise to Abraham, it fulfills it. Paul reminds us in Romans 11 that God is still not done with Israel. We are watching God restore her today! For further study, compare Genesis 12:1-9 with Galatians 3, and then Romans 11 with Psalm 80.

DISCOVERING GOD – PSALM 80:1-15

– 1 –

Israel comes to Christ through prayer. We learn that God has plans for all of us – Jew or Gentile!
(v. 1-3)

– 2 –

Israel is a nation today! God is working on restoring Israel – right now.
(v. 4-7)

– 3 –

God has planted Israel to be His people. He plucked them out of Egypt and transplanted them in the Promised Land. We have been grafted in – Praise God! (v. 8-15)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

Israel was re-planted in the Promised Land after the Nazis attempted to systematically exterminate them as a nation. I don't think this is a coincidence. It has the hand of God and His sense of irony written all over it. God still moves today. Pay attention!

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, I AM WATCHING AND PRAYING FOR ISRAEL. PLEASE LEAD THEM TO CHRIST!

Prophecy vs. Prediction

PSALMS 85–89

DISCOVERING THE WORD

Everything will come to an end. But to those who believe in Jesus Christ, we are a new creation and heirs to the new heavens and new earth to come. Praise God! The way things are right now will come to an end. Sin will stop. Sorrow will fade. Tears will be wiped away. The universe looks a certain way, the earth responds in a specific pattern, so things are predictable. But, as time moves on and the end comes closer, we will notice things do not happen the way we expect. There are two ways to view the world: (1) Without God – we believe we have outgrown Him. (2) With God – we know things are getting worse and only He can fix it. When things become unpredictable, we must pay attention. God is getting ready to make a move. Psalm 87 speaks about this end time in a powerful yet subtle way.

DISCOVERING GOD – PSALM 87:1–7

– 1 –

God gave His Son, Jesus Christ, authority over all things. We must serve God!

(v. 1–4)

– 2 –

Jesus Christ established the earth. We must lean on Him and follow His lead.

(v. 5)

– 3 –

Everything depends upon God for all things. We must surrender everything to the LORD Jesus Christ.

(v. 6–7)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

Jesus Christ invites everyone to be part of the new creation. It is our duty to send out invitations through the Gospel and guide people into understanding who God is

(MATT. 28:18-20).

TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, I HEAR WHAT YOU SAID.
I WILL FOLLOW YOUR WORD!**

Wisdom vs. Foolishness

PSALM 90-94

DISCOVERING THE WORD

There is no such thing as wisdom without God. Why is that? There are clearly very intelligent people out there, much more intelligent than I am. So why is wisdom reserved for the Godly, and foolishness is for those who ignore God's way? For one, intelligence, shrewdness and rationality alone do not amount to wisdom. You can be book smart but totally lack discernment of the heart. But intelligence does not make you unwise, it's specifically if you ignore or reject God's ways. Why? Well, true wisdom is a form of moral intelligence, it involves a sense of justice, mercy, faithfulness and love, a strong discernment between good and evil. Without wisdom, Godly wisdom, what's the point in reason if not for self-gain? It becomes selfish. Intelligence and wisdom are incomplete without God because only God can make wisdom good. And if your wisdom is only half good, then it's foolishness. You don't need to be a logician to be wise, but you need goodness to be wise, and that goodness can only come from God.

DISCOVERING GOD – PSALM 94:1-13

- 1 -

The wicked may appear triumphant right now, but God is the final Judge. Do

not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. (MATT. 10:28)

(v. 1-3)

- 2 -

People who ignore God have made themselves believe that He doesn't see them. But God sees everything we do in this life.

(v. 4-7)

- 3 -

You can trust the LORD!

His judgment is built on righteousness and truth, and the humble of heart will follow His instructions.

(v. 8-13)

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.... But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere" – JAMES 1:5, 3:17.

TODAY'S PRAYER

LORD, GRANT ME GODLY WISDOM.
SHOW ME YOUR WAYS!

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