



## SELECTED BIBLE READINGS

### *Readings for Daily Reflection*

We have selected a few key passages from the Bible to help you guide you into a meaningful time of reflection on scripture.

Psalm 1 & Genesis 1:1-2:3

Psalm 8 & John 1:1-14,18

Psalm 13 & Genesis 12:1-3

Psalm 19 & Mark 1:1-15

Psalm 22 & Exodus 32:7-14

Psalm 23 & Matthew 5:1-12

Psalm 36 & Numbers 6:22-27

Psalm 39 & Luke 6:27-36

Psalm 40 & Deut. 6:1-9

Psalm 42 & Matthew 22:37-40

Psalm 43 & Joshua 1:6-9

Psalm 47 & Matthew 28:16-20

Psalm 51 & Joshua 24:14-15

Psalm 57 & Acts 2:42-47

Psalm 61 & Ezekiel 36:22-27

Psalm 62 & Romans 8:35-39

Psalm 67 & Isaiah 2:2-4

Psalm 84 & Ephesians 3:14-21

Psalm 100 & Isaiah 52:4-12

Psalm 121 & Colossians 1:15-20

Psalm 142 & Isaiah 53

Psalm 146 & 2 Corinthians 5:14-21

Psalm 148 & Micah 6:6-8

Psalm 150 & Rev. 21:1-7

If you are new to reading scripture, consider reviewing our *Bible Reading Basics* resource.

# Psalm 1 & Genesis 1

## Psalm 1

Oh, the joys of those who do not  
follow the advice of the wicked,  
or stand around with sinners,  
or join in with mockers.

But they delight in the law of the LORD,  
meditating on it day and night.

They are like trees planted along the riverbank,  
bearing fruit each season.

Their leaves never wither,  
and they prosper in all they do.

But not the wicked!

They are like worthless chaff, scattered by the wind.  
They will be condemned at the time of judgment.

Sinners will have no place among the godly.  
For the LORD watches over the path of the godly,  
but the path of the wicked leads to destruction.

## **Genesis 1:1-5**

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters. Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. And God saw that the light was good. Then he separated the light from the darkness.

God called the light “day” and the darkness “night.” And evening passed and morning came, marking the first day.

## **Genesis 1:26-2:3**

Then God said, “Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground.” So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. Then God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground.” Then God said, “Look! I have given you every seed-bearing plant throughout the earth and all the fruit trees for your food. And I have given every green plant as food for all the wild animals, the birds in the sky, and the small animals that scurry along the ground—everything that has life.” And that is what happened. Then God looked over all he had made, and he saw that it was very good! And evening passed and morning came, marking the sixth day. So the creation of the heavens and the earth and everything in them was completed. On the seventh day God had finished his work of creation, so he rested from all his work. And God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy, because it was the day when he rested from all his work of creation.

# Psalm 8 & John 1

## Psalm 8

O LORD, our Lord, your majestic name fills the earth!

Your glory is higher than the heavens.

You have taught children and infants to tell of your strength,  
silencing your enemies and all who oppose you.

When I look at the night sky and see the work of your fingers—  
the moon and the stars you set in place—

what are mere mortals that you should think about them,  
human beings that you should care for them?

Yet you made them only a little lower than God  
and crowned them with glory and honor.

You gave them charge of everything you made,  
putting all things under their authority— the flocks and the  
herds and all the wild animals, the birds in the sky, the fish in  
the sea, and everything that swims the ocean currents.

O LORD, our Lord, your majestic name fills the earth!

## **John 1:1-14,18**

In the beginning the Word already existed.

The Word was with God,  
and the Word was God.

He existed in the beginning with God.

God created everything through him,  
and nothing was created except through him.

The Word gave life to everything that was created,  
and his life brought light to everyone.

The light shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness can never extinguish it.

God sent a man, John the Baptist, to tell about the light so that everyone might believe because of his testimony. John himself was not the light; he was simply a witness to tell about the light. The one who is the true light, who gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He came into the very world he created, but the world didn't recognize him. He came to his own people, and even they rejected him. But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God.

So the Word became human and made his home among us.

He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son.

No one has ever seen God. But the unique One, who is himself God, is near to the Father's heart. He has revealed God to us.

# Psalm 13 & Genesis 12

## Psalm 13

O LORD, how long will you forget me? Forever?

How long will you look the other way?

How long must I struggle with anguish in my soul,  
with sorrow in my heart every day?

How long will my enemy have the upper hand?

Turn and answer me, O LORD my God!

Restore the sparkle to my eyes, or I will die.

Don't let my enemies gloat, saying, "We have defeated him!"

Don't let them rejoice at my downfall.

But I trust in your unfailing love.

I will rejoice because you have rescued me.

I will sing to the LORD

because he is good to me.

## Genesis 12:1-3

The LORD had said to Abram,

"Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father's family, and go to the land that I will show you. I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others. I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt. All the families on earth will be blessed through you."

# Psalm 19 & Mark 1

## Psalm 19

The heavens proclaim the glory of God. The skies display his craftsmanship. Day after day they continue to speak; night after night they make him known. They speak without a sound or word; their voice is never heard. Yet their message has gone throughout the earth, and their words to all the world.

God has made a home in the heavens for the sun. It bursts forth like a radiant bridegroom after his wedding. It rejoices like a great athlete eager to run the race. The sun rises at one end of the heavens and follows its course to the other end. Nothing can hide from its heat.

The instructions of the LORD are perfect, reviving the soul. The decrees of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple. The commandments of the LORD are right, bringing joy to the heart. The commands of the LORD are clear, giving insight for living. Reverence for the LORD is pure, lasting forever. The laws of the LORD are true; each one is fair. They are more desirable than gold, even the finest gold. They are sweeter than honey, even honey dripping from the comb.

They are a warning to your servant, a great reward for those who obey them. How can I know all the sins lurking in my heart? Cleanse me from these hidden faults. Keep your servant from deliberate sins! Don't let them control me. Then I will be free of guilt and innocent of great sin.

May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

## **Mark 1:1-15**

This is the Good News about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God. It began just as the prophet Isaiah had written:

“Look, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, and he will prepare your way. He is a voice shouting in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord’s coming! Clear the road for him!’”

This messenger was John the Baptist. He was in the wilderness and preached that people should be baptized to show that they had repented of their sins and turned to God to be forgiven. All of Judea, including all the people of Jerusalem, went out to see and hear John. And when they confessed their sins, he baptized them in the Jordan River. His clothes were woven from coarse camel hair, and he wore a leather belt around his waist.

For food he ate locusts and wild honey.

John announced: “Someone is coming soon who is greater than I am—so much greater that I’m not even worthy to stoop down like a slave and untie the straps of his sandals. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit!”

One day Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee, and John baptized him in the Jordan River. As Jesus came up out of the water, he saw the heavens splitting apart and the Holy Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice from heaven said, “You are my dearly loved Son, and you bring me great joy.”

The Spirit then compelled Jesus to go into the wilderness, where he was tempted by Satan for forty days. He was out among the wild animals, and angels took care of him. Later on, after John was arrested, Jesus went into Galilee, where he preached God’s Good News. “The time promised by God has come at last!” he announced. “The Kingdom of God is near! Repent of your sins and believe the Good News!”



## Psalm 22 & Exodus 32

### Psalm 22:1-8, 22-31

My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?  
Why are you so far away when I groan for help?  
Every day I call to you, my God, but you do not answer.  
Every night I lift my voice, but I find no relief.  
Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.  
Our ancestors trusted in you, and you rescued them.  
They cried out to you and were saved.  
They trusted in you and were never disgraced.

But I am a worm and not a man.  
I am scorned and despised by all!  
Everyone who sees me mocks me.  
They sneer and shake their heads, saying,  
“Is this the one who relies on the LORD?  
Then let the LORD save him!  
If the LORD loves him so much, let the LORD rescue him!”

I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters.  
I will praise you among your assembled people.  
Praise the LORD, all you who fear him!  
Honor him, all you descendants of Jacob!  
Show him reverence, all you descendants of Israel!  
For he has not ignored or belittled the suffering of the needy.  
He has not turned his back on them, but has listened to their  
cries for help.  
I will praise you in the great assembly.  
I will fulfill my vows in the presence of those who worship you.  
The poor will eat and be satisfied.

All who seek the LORD will praise him.  
Their hearts will rejoice with everlasting joy.  
The whole earth will acknowledge the LORD and return to him.  
All the families of the nations will bow down before him.  
For royal power belongs to the LORD. He rules all the nations.  
Let the rich of the earth feast and worship.  
Bow before him, all who are mortal, all whose lives will end as  
dust. Our children will also serve him.  
Future generations will hear about the wonders of the LORD.  
His righteous acts will be told to those not yet born.  
They will hear about everything he has done.

## **Exodus 32:7-14**

The LORD told Moses, “Quick! Go down the mountain! Your people whom you brought from the land of Egypt have corrupted themselves. How quickly they have turned away from the way I commanded them to live! They have melted down gold and made a calf, and they have bowed down and sacrificed to it. They are saying, ‘These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you out of the land of Egypt.’”

Then the LORD said, “I have seen how stubborn and rebellious these people are. Now leave me alone so my fierce anger can blaze against them, and I will destroy them. Then I will make you, Moses, into a great nation.”

But Moses tried to pacify the LORD his God. “O LORD!” he said.

“Why are you so angry with your own people whom you brought from the land of Egypt with such great power and such a strong hand? Why let the Egyptians say, ‘Their God rescued them with the evil intention of slaughtering them in the mountains and wiping them from the face of the earth’?

Turn away from your fierce anger. Change your mind about this terrible disaster you have threatened against your

people! Remember your servants Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

You bound yourself with an oath to them, saying, ‘I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars of heaven. And I will give them all of this land that I have promised to your descendants, and they will possess it forever.’”

So the LORD changed his mind about the terrible disaster he had threatened to bring on his people.

# Psalm 23 & Matthew 5

## Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd;

I have all that I need.

He lets me rest in green meadows;

he leads me beside peaceful streams.

He renews my strength.

He guides me along right paths,

bringing honor to his name.

Even when I walk

through the darkest valley,

I will not be afraid,

for you are close beside me.

Your rod and your staff

protect and comfort me.

You prepare a feast for me

in the presence of my enemies.

You honor me by anointing my head with oil.

My cup overflows with blessings.

Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me

all the days of my life,

and I will live in the house of the LORD

forever.

## **Matthew 5:1-12**

One day as he saw the crowds gathering, Jesus went up on the mountainside and sat down. His disciples gathered around him, and he began to teach them.

“God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for him,  
for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.

God blesses those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

God blesses those who are humble,  
for they will inherit the whole earth.

God blesses those who hunger and thirst for justice,  
for they will be satisfied.

God blesses those who are merciful,  
for they will be shown mercy.

God blesses those whose hearts are pure,  
for they will see God.

God blesses those who work for peace,  
for they will be called the children of God.

God blesses those who are persecuted for doing right,  
for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.

God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers. Be happy about it! Be very glad!

For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, the ancient prophets were persecuted in the same way.”

# Psalm 36 & Numbers 6

## Psalm 36

Sin whispers to the wicked, deep within their hearts.

They have no fear of God at all.

In their blind conceit,

they cannot see how wicked they really are.

Everything they say is crooked and deceitful.

They refuse to act wisely or do good.

They lie awake at night, hatching sinful plots.

Their actions are never good.

They make no attempt to turn from evil.

Your unfailing love, O LORD, is as vast as the heavens;

your faithfulness reaches beyond the clouds.

Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains,

your justice like the ocean depths.

You care for people and animals alike, O LORD.

How precious is your unfailing love, O God!

All humanity finds shelter

in the shadow of your wings.

You feed them from the abundance of your own house,

letting them drink from your river of delights.

For you are the fountain of life,

the light by which we see.

Pour out your unfailing love on those who love you;

give justice to those with honest hearts.

Don't let the proud trample me

or the wicked push me around.

Look! Those who do evil have fallen!

They are thrown down, never to rise again.

## **Numbers 6:22-27**

Then the LORD said to Moses,

“Tell Aaron and his sons to bless the people of Israel with this special blessing:

‘May the LORD bless you  
and protect you.

May the LORD smile on you  
and be gracious to you.

May the LORD show you his favor  
and give you his peace.’

Whenever Aaron and his sons bless the people of Israel in my name, I myself will bless them.”

## Psalm 39 & Luke 6

### Psalm 39

I said to myself, “I will watch what I do and not sin in what I say. I will hold my tongue when the ungodly are around me.”

But as I stood there in silence—not even speaking of good things—the turmoil within me grew worse.

The more I thought about it, the hotter I got, igniting a fire of words:

“LORD, remind me how brief my time on earth will be.

Remind me that my days are numbered— how fleeting my life is. You have made my life no longer than the width of my hand.

My entire lifetime is just a moment to you; at best, each of us is but a breath.”

We are merely moving shadows, and all our busy rushing ends in nothing. We heap up wealth, not knowing who will spend it.

And so, LORD, where do I put my hope? My only hope is in you. Rescue me from my rebellion. Do not let fools mock me.

I am silent before you; I won't say a word, for my punishment is from you. But please stop striking me! I am exhausted by the

blows from your hand. When you discipline us for our sins, you consume like a moth what is precious to us.

Each of us is but a breath.

Hear my prayer, O LORD! Listen to my cries for help!

Don't ignore my tears. For I am your guest—a traveler passing through, as my ancestors were before me.

Leave me alone so I can smile again before I am gone and exist no more.



## **Luke 6:27-36**

*Jesus said:*

“But to you who are willing to listen, I say, love your enemies! Do good to those who hate you. Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who hurt you. If someone slaps you on one cheek, offer the other cheek also. If someone demands your coat, offer your shirt also. Give to anyone who asks; and when things are taken away from you, don’t try to get them back. Do to others as you would like them to do to you. If you love only those who love you, why should you get credit for that? Even sinners love those who love them! And if you do good only to those who do good to you, why should you get credit? Even sinners do that much! And if you lend money only to those who can repay you, why should you get credit? Even sinners will lend to other sinners for a full return. Love your enemies! Do good to them. Lend to them without expecting to be repaid. Then your reward from heaven will be very great, and you will truly be acting as children of the Most High, for he is kind to those who are unthankful and wicked. You must be compassionate, just as your Father is compassionate.”

# Psalm 40 & Deuteronomy 6

## Psalm 40

I waited patiently for the LORD to help me,  
and he turned to me and heard my cry.

He lifted me out of the pit of despair,  
out of the mud and the mire.

He set my feet on solid ground  
and steadied me as I walked along.

He has given me a new song to sing,  
a hymn of praise to our God.

Many will see what he has done and be amazed.

They will put their trust in the LORD.

Oh, the joys of those who trust the LORD,  
who have no confidence in the proud  
or in those who worship idols.

O LORD my God, you have performed many wonders for us.

Your plans for us are too numerous to list. You have no equal.

If I tried to recite all your wonderful deeds,

I would never come to the end of them.

You take no delight in sacrifices or offerings.

Now that you have made me listen, I finally understand—  
you don't require burnt offerings or sin offerings.

Then I said, "Look, I have come.

As is written about me in the Scriptures:

I take joy in doing your will, my God,

for your instructions are written on my heart."

I have told all your people about your justice.

I have not been afraid to speak out,  
as you, O LORD, well know.

I have not kept the good news of your justice hidden in my heart; I have talked about your faithfulness and saving power. I have told everyone in the great assembly of your unfailing love and faithfulness.

LORD, don't hold back your tender mercies from me.

Let your unfailing love and faithfulness always protect me.

For troubles surround me—  
too many to count!

My sins pile up so high

I can't see my way out.

They outnumber the hairs on my head.

I have lost all courage.

Please, LORD, rescue me!

Come quickly, LORD, and help me.

May those who try to destroy me

be humiliated and put to shame.

May those who take delight in my trouble

be turned back in disgrace.

Let them be horrified by their shame,

for they said, "Aha! We've got him now!"

But may all who search for you

be filled with joy and gladness in you.

May those who love your salvation

repeatedly shout, "The LORD is great!"

As for me, since I am poor and needy,

let the LORD keep me in his thoughts.

You are my helper and my savior.

O my God, do not delay.

## **Deuteronomy 6:1-9**

“These are the commands, decrees, and regulations that the LORD your God commanded me to teach you. You must obey them in the land you are about to enter and occupy, and you and your children and grandchildren must fear the LORD your God as long as you live. If you obey all his decrees and commands, you will enjoy a long life. Listen closely, Israel, and be careful to obey. Then all will go well with you, and you will have many children in the land flowing with milk and honey, just as the LORD, the God of your ancestors, promised you.

Listen, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD alone. And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength. And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today. Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up. Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders. Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”

## Psalm 42 & Matthew 22

### Psalm 42

As the deer longs for streams of water,  
so I long for you, O God.

I thirst for God, the living God.

When can I go and stand before him?

Day and night I have only tears for food,  
while my enemies continually taunt me, saying,  
“Where is this God of yours?”

My heart is breaking

as I remember how it used to be:

I walked among the crowds of worshipers,  
leading a great procession to the house of God,  
singing for joy and giving thanks  
amid the sound of a great celebration!

Why am I discouraged? Why is my heart so sad?

I will put my hope in God!

I will praise him again—my Savior and my God!

Now I am deeply discouraged,

but I will remember you—

even from distant Mount Hermon, the source of the Jordan,  
from the land of Mount Mizar.

I hear the tumult of the raging seas

as your waves and surging tides sweep over me.

But each day the LORD pours his unfailing love upon me,  
and through each night I sing his songs,  
praying to God who gives me life.

“O God my rock,” I cry, “Why have you forgotten me?

Why must I wander around in grief,  
oppressed by my enemies?”

Their taunts break my bones.

They scoff, “Where is this God of yours?”

Why am I discouraged?

Why is my heart so sad?

I will put my hope in God!

I will praise him again—  
my Savior and my God!

### **Matthew 22:37-40**

Jesus said,

“‘You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment.

A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.”

# Psalm 43 & Joshua 1

## Psalm 43

Declare me innocent, O God!

Defend me against these ungodly people.

Rescue me from these unjust liars.

For you are God, my only safe haven.

Why have you tossed me aside?

Why must I wander around in grief,  
oppressed by my enemies?

Send out your light and your truth;  
let them guide me.

Let them lead me to your holy mountain,  
to the place where you live.

There I will go to the altar of God,  
to God—the source of all my joy.

I will praise you with my harp,  
O God, my God!

Why am I discouraged?

Why is my heart so sad?

I will put my hope in God!

I will praise him again—  
my Savior and my God!

## **Joshua 1:6-9**

“Be strong and courageous, for you are the one who will lead these people to possess all the land I swore to their ancestors I would give them. Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the instructions Moses gave you. Do not deviate from them, turning either to the right or to the left. Then you will be successful in everything you do. Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do. This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”



# Psalm 47 & Matthew 28

## Psalm 47

Come, everyone! Clap your hands!

Shout to God with joyful praise!

For the LORD Most High is awesome.

He is the great King of all the earth.

He subdues the nations before us,

putting our enemies beneath our feet.

He chose the Promised Land as our inheritance,

the proud possession of Jacob's descendants, whom he loves.

God has ascended with a mighty shout.

The LORD has ascended with trumpets blaring.

Sing praises to God, sing praises;

sing praises to our King, sing praises!

For God is the King over all the earth.

Praise him with a psalm.

God reigns above the nations,

sitting on his holy throne.

The rulers of the world have gathered together

with the people of the God of Abraham.

For all the kings of the earth belong to God.

He is highly honored everywhere.

## **Matthew 28:16-20**

Then the eleven disciples left for Galilee, going to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him—but some of them doubted!

Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

# Psalm 51 & Joshua 24

## Psalm 51

Have mercy on me, O God,  
because of your unfailing love.  
Because of your great compassion,  
blot out the stain of my sins.  
Wash me clean from my guilt.  
Purify me from my sin.  
For I recognize my rebellion;  
it haunts me day and night.  
Against you, and you alone, have I sinned;  
I have done what is evil in your sight.  
You will be proved right in what you say,  
and your judgment against me is just.  
For I was born a sinner—  
yes, from the moment my mother conceived me.  
But you desire honesty from the womb,  
teaching me wisdom even there.  
Purify me from my sins, and I will be clean;  
wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.  
Oh, give me back my joy again;  
you have broken me—  
now let me rejoice.  
Don't keep looking at my sins.  
Remove the stain of my guilt.  
Create in me a clean heart, O God.  
Renew a loyal spirit within me.  
Do not banish me from your presence,  
and don't take your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and make me willing to obey you.  
Then I will teach your ways to rebels,  
and they will return to you.  
Forgive me for shedding blood, O God who saves;  
then I will joyfully sing of your forgiveness.  
Unseal my lips, O LORD,  
that my mouth may praise you.  
You do not desire a sacrifice, or I would offer one.  
You do not want a burnt offering.  
The sacrifice you desire is a broken spirit.  
You will not reject a broken and repentant heart, O God.  
Look with favor on Zion and help her;  
rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.  
Then you will be pleased with sacrifices offered in the right  
spirit—  
with burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings.  
Then bulls will again be sacrificed on your altar.

### **Joshua 24:14-15**

So fear the LORD and serve him wholeheartedly. Put away forever the idols your ancestors worshiped when they lived beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt. Serve the LORD alone. But if you refuse to serve the LORD, then choose today whom you will serve. Would you prefer the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates? Or will it be the gods of the Amorites in whose land you now live? But as for me and my family, we will serve the LORD.”

## Psalm 57 & Acts 2

### Psalm 57

Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy!

I look to you for protection.

I will hide beneath the shadow of your wings  
until the danger passes by.

I cry out to God Most High,

to God who will fulfill his purpose for me.

He will send help from heaven to rescue me,  
disgracing those who hound me.

My God will send forth his unfailing love and faithfulness.

I am surrounded by fierce lions

who greedily devour human prey—  
whose teeth pierce like spears and arrows,  
and whose tongues cut like swords.

Be exalted, O God, above the highest heavens!

May your glory shine over all the earth.

My enemies have set a trap for me. I am weary from distress.

They have dug a deep pit in my path,

but they themselves have fallen into it.

My heart is confident in you, O God; my heart is confident.

No wonder I can sing your praises!

Wake up, my heart! Wake up, O lyre and harp!

I will wake the dawn with my song.

I will thank you, LORD, among all the people.

I will sing your praises among the nations.

For your unfailing love is as high as the heavens.

Your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.

Be exalted, O God, above the highest heavens.

May your glory shine over all the earth.

## **Acts 2:42-47**

All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer.

A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity—all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.

# Psalm 61 & Ezekiel 36

## Psalm 61

O God, listen to my cry!

Hear my prayer!

From the ends of the earth,

I cry to you for help

when my heart is overwhelmed.

Lead me to the towering rock of safety,

for you are my safe refuge,

a fortress where my enemies cannot reach me.

Let me live forever in your sanctuary,

safe beneath the shelter of your wings!

For you have heard my vows, O God.

You have given me an inheritance reserved for those who  
fear your name.

Add many years to the life of the king!

May his years span the generations!

May he reign under God's protection forever.

May your unfailing love and faithfulness watch over him.

Then I will sing praises to your name forever

as I fulfill my vows each day.

## **Ezekiel 36:22-27**

“Therefore, give the people of Israel this message from the Sovereign LORD: I am bringing you back, but not because you deserve it. I am doing it to protect my holy name, on which you brought shame while you were scattered among the nations. I will show how holy my great name is—the name on which you brought shame among the nations. And when I reveal my holiness through you before their very eyes, says the Sovereign LORD, then the nations will know that I am the LORD. For I will gather you up from all the nations and bring you home again to your land.

Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean. Your filth will be washed away, and you will no longer worship idols. And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart. And I will put my Spirit in you so that you will follow my decrees and be careful to obey my regulations.”



## Psalm 62 & Romans 8

### Psalm 62

I wait quietly before God, for my victory comes from him.

He alone is my rock and my salvation,  
my fortress where I will never be shaken.

So many enemies against one man—  
all of them trying to kill me.

To them I'm just a broken-down wall or a tottering fence.  
They plan to topple me from my high position.

They delight in telling lies about me.

They praise me to my face but curse me in their hearts.

Let all that I am wait quietly before God, for my hope is in him.

He alone is my rock and my salvation,  
my fortress where I will not be shaken.

My victory and honor come from God alone.

He is my refuge, a rock where no enemy can reach me.

O my people, trust in him at all times.

Pour out your heart to him, for God is our refuge.

Common people are as worthless as a puff of wind,  
and the powerful are not what they appear to be.

If you weigh them on the scales,  
together they are lighter than a breath of air.

Don't make your living by extortion  
or put your hope in stealing.

And if your wealth increases,  
don't make it the center of your life.

God has spoken plainly, and I have heard it many times:

Power, O God, belongs to you; unfailing love, O LORD, is yours.

Surely you repay all people according to what they have done.

## **Romans 8:35-39**

Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? (As the Scriptures say, "For your sake we are killed every day; we are being slaughtered like sheep.")

No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.

And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love.

No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

# Psalm 67 & Isaiah 2

## Psalm 67

May God be merciful and bless us.

May his face smile with favor on us.

May your ways be known throughout the earth,  
your saving power among people everywhere.

May the nations praise you, O God.

Yes, may all the nations praise you.

Let the whole world sing for joy,

because you govern the nations with justice  
and guide the people of the whole world.

May the nations praise you, O God.

Yes, may all the nations praise you.

Then the earth will yield its harvests,  
and God, our God, will richly bless us.

Yes, God will bless us,  
and people all over the world will fear him.

## **Isaiah 2:2-4**

In the last days, the mountain of the Lord's house  
will be the highest of all—  
the most important place on earth.

It will be raised above the other hills, and people from all over  
the world will stream there to worship.

People from many nations will come and say,  
“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,  
to the house of Jacob's God.

There he will teach us his ways,  
and we will walk in his paths.”

For the LORD's teaching will go out from Zion;  
his word will go out from Jerusalem.

The LORD will mediate between nations  
and will settle international disputes.

They will hammer their swords into plowshares  
and their spears into pruning hooks.

Nation will no longer fight against nation,  
nor train for war anymore.

# Psalm 84 & Ephesians 3

## Psalm 84

How lovely is your dwelling place,

O LORD of Heaven's Armies.

I long, yes, I faint with longing

to enter the courts of the LORD.

With my whole being, body and soul,

I will shout joyfully to the living God.

Even the sparrow finds a home,

and the swallow builds her nest and raises her young  
at a place near your altar,

O LORD of Heaven's Armies, my King and my God!

What joy for those who can live in your house,

always singing your praises.

What joy for those whose strength comes from the Lord,  
who have set their minds on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem.

When they walk through the Valley of Weeping,

it will become a place of refreshing springs.

The autumn rains will clothe it with blessings.

They will continue to grow stronger,

and each of them will appear before God in Jerusalem.

O LORD God of Heaven's Armies, hear my prayer.

Listen, O God of Jacob.

O God, look with favor upon the king, our shield!

Show favor to the one you have anointed.

A single day in your courts

is better than a thousand anywhere else!

I would rather be a gatekeeper in the house of my God  
than live the good life in the homes of the wicked.

For the LORD God is our sun and our shield.

He gives us grace and glory.

The LORD will withhold no good thing  
from those who do what is right.

O LORD of Heaven's Armies,  
what joy for those who trust in you.

### **Ephesians 3:14-21**

When I think of all this, I fall to my knees and pray to the Father, the Creator of everything in heaven and on earth.

I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit.

Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong. And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.

Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. Glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever! Amen.

# Psalm 100 & Isaiah 52

## Psalm 100

Shout with joy to the LORD, all the earth!

Worship the LORD with gladness.

Come before him, singing with joy.

Acknowledge that the LORD is God!

He made us, and we are his.

We are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving;

go into his courts with praise.

Give thanks to him and praise his name.

For the LORD is good.

His unfailing love continues forever,

and his faithfulness continues to each generation.

## **Isaiah 52:4-12**

This is what the Sovereign LORD says:

“Long ago my people chose to live in Egypt. Now they are oppressed by Assyria. What is this?” asks the LORD.

“Why are my people enslaved again? Those who rule them shout in exultation. My name is blasphemed all day long. But I will reveal my name to my people, and they will come to know its power. Then at last they will recognize that I am the one who speaks to them.”

How beautiful on the mountains

are the feet of the messenger who brings good news,  
the good news of peace and salvation,  
the news that the God of Israel reigns!

The watchmen shout and sing with joy,  
for before their very eyes

they see the LORD returning to Jerusalem.

Let the ruins of Jerusalem break into joyful song,  
for the LORD has comforted his people.

He has redeemed Jerusalem.

The LORD has demonstrated his holy power  
before the eyes of all the nations.

All the ends of the earth will see  
the victory of our God.

Get out! Get out and leave your captivity,  
where everything you touch is unclean.

Get out of there and purify yourselves,  
you who carry home the sacred objects of the LORD.

You will not leave in a hurry,  
running for your lives.

For the LORD will go ahead of you;  
yes, the God of Israel will protect you from behind.



# Psalm 121 & Colossians 1

## Psalm 121

I look up to the mountains—

does my help come from there?

My help comes from the LORD,

who made heaven and earth!

He will not let you stumble;

the one who watches over you will not slumber.

Indeed, he who watches over Israel

never slumbers or sleeps.

The LORD himself watches over you!

The LORD stands beside you as your protective shade.

The sun will not harm you by day,

nor the moon at night.

The LORD keeps you from all harm

and watches over your life.

The LORD keeps watch over you as you come and go,

both now and forever.

## **Colossians 1:15-20**

Christ is the visible image  
of the invisible God.

He existed before anything was created  
and is supreme over all creation,  
for through him God created everything  
in the heavenly realms and on earth.

He made the things we can see  
and the things we can't see—  
such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers,  
and authorities in the unseen world.

Everything was created  
through him and for him.

He existed before anything else,  
and he holds all creation together.

Christ is also the head of the church,  
which is his body.

He is the beginning,  
supreme over all who rise from the dead.  
So he is first in everything.

For God in all his fullness  
was pleased to live in Christ,  
and through him God reconciled  
everything to himself.

He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth  
by means of Christ's blood on the cross.

# Psalm 142 & Isaiah 53

## Psalm 121

I cry out to the LORD;

I plead for the Lord's mercy.

I pour out my complaints before him  
and tell him all my troubles.

When I am overwhelmed,  
you alone know the way I should turn.

Wherever I go,  
my enemies have set traps for me.

I look for someone to come and help me,  
but no one gives me a passing thought!

No one will help me;  
no one cares a bit what happens to me.

Then I pray to you, O LORD.

I say, "You are my place of refuge.

You are all I really want in life.

Hear my cry,  
for I am very low.

Rescue me from my persecutors,  
for they are too strong for me.

Bring me out of prison  
so I can thank you.

The godly will crowd around me,  
for you are good to me.

## Isaiah 53

Who has believed our message?

To whom has the LORD revealed his powerful arm?

My servant grew up in the Lord's presence like a tender green shoot, like a root in dry ground.

There was nothing beautiful or majestic about his appearance,  
nothing to attract us to him.

He was despised and rejected—

a man of sorrows, acquainted with deepest grief.

We turned our backs on him and looked the other way.

He was despised, and we did not care.

Yet it was our weaknesses he carried;

it was our sorrows that weighed him down.

And we thought his troubles were a punishment from God,  
a punishment for his own sins!

But he was pierced for our rebellion,  
crushed for our sins.

He was beaten so we could be whole.

He was whipped so we could be healed.

All of us, like sheep, have strayed away.

We have left God's paths to follow our own.

Yet the LORD laid on him  
the sins of us all.

He was oppressed and treated harshly,  
yet he never said a word.

He was led like a lamb to the slaughter.

And as a sheep is silent before the shearers,  
he did not open his mouth.

Unjustly condemned,  
he was led away.

No one cared that he died without descendants,  
that his life was cut short in midstream.

But he was struck down  
for the rebellion of my people.  
He had done no wrong  
and had never deceived anyone.  
But he was buried like a criminal;  
he was put in a rich man's grave.  
But it was the LORD's good plan to crush him  
and cause him grief.  
Yet when his life is made an offering for sin,  
he will have many descendants.  
He will enjoy a long life,  
and the LORD's good plan will prosper in his hands.  
When he sees all that is accomplished by his anguish,  
he will be satisfied.  
And because of his experience,  
my righteous servant will make it possible  
for many to be counted righteous,  
for he will bear all their sins.  
I will give him the honors of a victorious soldier,  
because he exposed himself to death.  
He was counted among the rebels.  
He bore the sins of many and interceded for rebels.

# Psalm 146 & 2 Corinthians 5

## Psalm 146

Praise the LORD!

Let all that I am praise the LORD.

I will praise the Lord as long as I live.

I will sing praises to my God with my dying breath.

Don't put your confidence in powerful people;

there is no help for you there.

When they breathe their last, they return to the earth,  
and all their plans die with them.

But joyful are those who have the God of Israel as their helper,  
whose hope is in the LORD their God.

He made heaven and earth,  
the sea, and everything in them.

He keeps every promise forever.

He gives justice to the oppressed  
and food to the hungry.

The LORD frees the prisoners.

The LORD opens the eyes of the blind.

The Lord lifts up those who are weighed down.

The LORD loves the godly.

The LORD protects the foreigners among us.

He cares for the orphans and widows,  
but he frustrates the plans of the wicked.

The LORD will reign forever.

He will be your God, O Jerusalem, throughout the  
generations.

Praise the LORD!

## **2 Corinthians 5:14-21**

Christ's love controls us. Since we believe that Christ died for all, we also believe that we have all died to our old life. He died for everyone so that those who receive his new life will no longer live for themselves. Instead, they will live for Christ, who died and was raised for them.

So we have stopped evaluating others from a human point of view. At one time we thought of Christ merely from a human point of view. How differently we know him now! This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him. For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!" For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.

# Psalm 148 & Micah 6

## Psalm 148

Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens!

Praise him from the skies!

Praise him, all his angels! Praise him, all the armies of heaven!

Praise him, sun and moon! Praise him, all you twinkling stars!

Praise him, skies above!

Praise him, vapors high above the clouds!

Let every created thing give praise to the LORD,

for he issued his command, and they came into being.

He set them in place forever and ever.

His decree will never be revoked.

Praise the LORD from the earth,

you creatures of the ocean depths,

fire and hail, snow and clouds, wind and weather that obey him,

mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars,

wild animals and all livestock,

small scurrying animals and birds,

kings of the earth and all people, rulers and judges of the earth,

young men and young women, old men and children.

Let them all praise the name of the LORD.

For his name is very great;

his glory towers over the earth and heaven!

He has made his people strong,

honoring his faithful ones—

the people of Israel who are close to him.

Praise the LORD!



## **Micah 6:6-8**

What can we bring to the Lord?

Should we bring him burnt offerings?

Should we bow before God Most High  
with offerings of yearling calves?

Should we offer him thousands of rams  
and ten thousand rivers of olive oil?

Should we sacrifice our firstborn children  
to pay for our sins?

No, O people, the Lord has told you what is good,  
and this is what he requires of you:

to do what is right, to love mercy,  
and to walk humbly with your God.

# Psalm 150 & Revelation 21

## Psalm 150

Praise the Lord!

Praise God in his sanctuary;

praise him in his mighty heaven!

Praise him for his mighty works;

praise his unequalled greatness!

Praise him with a blast of the ram's horn;

praise him with the lyre and harp!

Praise him with the tambourine and dancing;

praise him with strings and flutes!

Praise him with a clash of cymbals;

praise him with loud clanging cymbals.

Let everything that breathes sing praises to the Lord!

Praise the Lord!

## **Revelation 21:1-7**

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven and the old earth had disappeared. And the sea was also gone. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying,  
“Look, God’s home is now among his people!  
He will live with them, and they will be his people.  
God himself will be with them.

He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain.

All these things are gone forever.”

And the one sitting on the throne said,

“Look, I am making everything new!”

And then he said to me,

“Write this down, for what I tell you is trustworthy and true.”

And he also said,

“It is finished! I am the Alpha and the Omega—the Beginning and the End. To all who are thirsty I will give freely from the springs of the water of life. All who are victorious will inherit all these blessings, and I will be their God, and they will be my children.”