

PSALMS

REVEALS JESUS CHRIST
AS THE SONG IN THE NIGHT



THE GOLDEN THREAD SERIES: E-BOOKLET SIXTEEN
LARRY M. JAYNES

The Golden Thread

Tracing Jesus through the Books of the Bible

An Anthology and Layman's Commentary of Jesus of Nazareth

Larry M. Jaynes

Psalm

Reveals Jesus Christ as the Song in the Night

E-Booklet Sixteen of The Golden Thread Series



The Golden Thread

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Why this eBooklet is free:

We are so glad that you chose to download this eBooklet as our gift to you. Jesus taught us in Acts 20:35, "It is more blessed to give than to receive," and we aspire to follow our Lord's teaching. The Apostle Paul also understood this concept, "What is my reward then {for preaching and giving the gospel away freely}? *Verily* that, when I preach the gospel, I may make the gospel of Christ without charge" (I Corinthians 9:18). Paul came to realize that to serve the Word *without charge* was both a blessing to those who received the Word and to himself personally because he understood that God Himself is the reward, "I *am* thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward" (Genesis 15:1, and see Hebrews 11:6). When you have God in your life as your *exceeding great reward*, then being *with God* you will have everything you need to begin enjoying the more than abundant life. Our prayer for you is that you come to know experientially that "with God all things are possible" (Mark 10:27).

Enjoy, and God Bless You!

Scripture Notes:

Number one:

The verses quoted in this book are either from the King James Version of the Bible, or the Amplified Bible — Expanded Edition. When explicatory additions are used by the author in any of the Scripture verses they are enclosed in {braces}. Any other (parentheses) and/or [brackets] found in the Scriptures in this book have already been inserted by the Bible translators.

Example:

John 3:16 (The Amplified Bible):**

For God so greatly loved and dearly praised the world {the people in the world} that He [even] gave up His only begotten (unique) Son, so that whoever believes in (trusts in, clings to, relies on) Him {God's Son, who is Jesus Christ} shall not perish (come to destruction, be lost) but have eternal (everlasting) life.

Number two:

All Hebrew and Greek words quoted in this book are transliterated into English, and will be typed in *italics*.

Example:

The verb "loved" in John 3:16 (above) is the Greek word *agapaō* and indicates God's love applied.

Number three:

In the Bible the words *son of God* and *sons of God* is an all-inclusive biblical language and includes men and women, boys and girls, young and old.

Example:

Romans 8:14 (The Amplified Bible):**

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

Preamble

"All things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me." Jesus Christ

Have you ever asked yourself, What is the subject of the Bible? If we were to pose this question to any number of people, responses would be numerous. But what if we could honestly find one single thread of truth in the Bible that would satisfy the question and prove the subject beyond any doubt? We would benefit immensely by having the clearest understanding of God's opened will when reading His Scriptures. The Golden Thread answers this question; Jesus Christ is that one thread, and thus, he is the illustrated subject and theme through both the Old and New Testaments.

This Golden Thread Bible study series can be briefly summarized with three verses of Scripture, two of which are found in the first chapter of the Gospel of John, *"And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us,"* and *"we have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth."* The third verse is found in the seventh chapter of the Book of Hebrews, *"Wherefore he {Jesus} is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them."*

When comparing these three verses, it is evident that Jesus is, first, according to the Bible itself, the incarnate Word of God; secondly, Jesus is the living subject and focal point of all that the Prophets wrote, and thirdly, Jesus is unquestionably the only way to, not only salvation, but to God Himself. Consequently bypassing Jesus in one's search into the Bible is the main reason that so many people do not understand the heart of the Scriptures. Jesus of Nazareth confessed, *"I am the way, the truth, and the life, no man cometh unto the Father but by me."* When a man or a woman can come to know Jesus as he is, this is when coming to know the Father and His way, His love, and His truth is assured by Jesus!

So the questions that one must ask and answer when looking for God the Father is: *"Have we followed Jesus along his way, have we discovered that he is the truth, and have we received the life that he himself is?"* These questions are brought to light and then answered from beginning to end in this series as we follow Jesus through every Book in the Bible, commencing in Genesis, so that you will be able to say with believing confidence, *"I have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth."*

Preface:

"THE truth of the Lord's coming runs like a golden thread from Genesis to Revelation. It is not a new doctrine, but an old truth . . . May we see how full the Scripture is of it, and how it runs like a golden thread." William G. Carr / June 1894

Our intent in this series is to find and then highlight Scripture and follow its woven course through the Bible concerning Jesus Christ, noticing how these Scriptures relate to the whole of the Golden Thread who is Jesus Christ, thereby uncovering the inherent knitted tapestry of Christ that is displayed throughout God's Word.

Our aim through this approach is in the pursuit of the thread that holds the living Word together, for then the larger mural of the life of Christ and what he has accomplished for humanity is brought clearly into focus.

In the course of this series as we pass through all of the books of the Bible, we will highlight a theme from each book, such as this study in the Book of Genesis. Our focal point will be to emphasize the singular aspect of Jesus Christ as the Promised Seed. Indeed, there are hundreds of thousands of subjects in Genesis and all of them do relate to Christ in various meaningful ways. However, our endeavor is to "figuratively" point a telescope at a single thread and bring this into a clear focus. Then we will hold a microscope over that particular focused concept to clearly view a detail of our wonderful Savior. With this approach, we will actually be magnifying, one by one, biblical concepts, concepts that were previously unclear or totally unrealized, and these will be cataloged for you throughout this series.

As an example, in Genesis we will begin following the thread of the Promised Seed who is Jesus Christ, searching for wherever the path itself leads and thereon we will be guided into both the Gospels and the New Testament; this research method will be followed through from Genesis to Revelation.

Learning about Jesus Christ from only the Gospels can greatly confine and blur one's complete vision of him. Often the Gospels give a summation of the life of Jesus, whereas the why and the purpose and the reason for God sending His Son are largely offered to us in extraordinary details throughout the Old Testament Scriptures and further ahead in the New Testament Scriptures. If we were to only look at the Gospels in a search for Jesus Christ, we may end up drawing conclusions devoid of all the contributing factors and perhaps only understanding about half of the story of his life's purpose as it relates to you — personally.

In The Golden Thread series, we will bring out new insight regarding Jesus by viewing him through both the Old and New Testaments to see the purpose, the prophecies, and the reason why God sent His Son into the world, and then a more palpable representation of him comes into the spotlight to enlighten our day-to-day walks with God which is our goal as believing Christians.

Honestly now, consider this with me; Would it benefit you and me if I framed only a small part of a great masterpiece and still call it a priceless work of art? Oh, let us say for illustration, what if I framed only one square inch of Vincent van Gogh's "Sunflowers" masterpiece, viewing only a piece of one sunflower and some of the background, and placed this up on my wall? How would any of the guests in my home recognize what I had framed? Could you honestly enjoy and appreciate the scope and beauty of the whole artwork with ninety-five percent of the master's brushstrokes missing? How could that inspire a connection to his masterwork, and to the brilliance of the artist himself?

In The Golden Thread, we view Jesus of Nazareth through the entire Bible (a widescreen version), rather than viewing him from just the Gospels because the Gospels are only a part of the whole portrait of our Redeemer, and then we present to you a most clear and enlarged illustration of him that will enlighten you with opened windows allowing in the fresh air and light to reveal hidden truths that reflect upon his heart and purpose that connects you — to him.

Our endeavor will be to discover for ourselves the comfort provided by *The Comforter* as we come to know the Son of God who will truly link our searching thoughts together with those of — our Creator.

The inlayed thread-mark of Christ has no end, for he is woven contiguously back and forth through the fibrous pages of Holy Writ, ever rejuvenating the human heart with revelations and godly insights. Thus, the revelation of Jesus Christ being the Golden Thread starts at the borders of prophecy as he forms cords of a safety net that secures man's entrance into eternity. As we proceed through the books of the Bible, we will be examining within the Scriptures its inherent story showcased within to discover and enjoy the embrace of the living Christ.

The Golden Thread is written as a layman's commentary to guide the reader through the accomplishments of Jesus of Nazareth for the redemption of searching men and women.

Jesus is the principle figure, holding every fragment of the Scripture together in perfect harmony, for he is "the power of God, and the wisdom of God" (I Corinthians 1:24). Thus, without him there is no spiritual power or wisdom that may be truly gained in regards to heavenly ordained truths that are imparted to believers through understanding the complete Christ of Scripture.

As we discover the Redeemer in the Scriptures, he then reveals true hope and joy within our souls and gives soothing relief from confusion and uncertainty regarding the individual believer's ultimate destiny.

The Golden Thread is not written to cater to any particular set of religious beliefs, but rather crosses religious boundaries and preset dogmas in the exploration to enlighten searching souls with the Bible's inherent narrative of our Savior.

This series highlights the Bible with understandable passages to augment biblical perimeters of thought and provide avenues into Christ's life to portray what he accomplished for the salvation of the world.

The Golden Thread presents Jesus Christ as a true and totally complete Savior and allows his-story to come alive within the heart of one's understanding.

Our goal through the Scriptures is to equip the reader with the keys to make a spiritual connection with the living Christ and the God of heaven and creation.

With the Just One as our guide, we will also find him to be our open Door, and through him we discover heavenly love, peace, joy, grace, and hope as is revealed throughout the Scriptures.

"The God of our fathers hath chosen thee, that thou shouldest know his will, and see that Just One, and shouldest hear the voice of his mouth" Acts 22:14

I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture." Jesus Christ

Psalms

Reveals Jesus Christ as the Song in the Night

The Books of Psalms is filled with references and revelations about Jesus Christ that detail his coming, his conflict with the Adversary, his resurrection, and his coming with salvation. For King David, Christ was his strength and the lively hope of his heart and this gave to him a spiritual Song in the Night.

One could easily spend an entire lifetime in the study of the Books in Psalms for they are totally awe-inspiring. It is a joy to discover the exactitude of inspiring poetry, the inherent accuracy, the precision of the structures, even the brilliant positioning of every word down to the exacting details of all the jots and tittles that are so precisely placed with divine inspiration. Psalms inspires one to be a compassionate, Christ-like person.

Throughout Judean and Christian history, the Psalms have inspired countless songs of delight, hymns of praise, and verse upon verse of soulful poetry and worship. When considering the immensity of the Psalms we have also added for your reading pleasure the bonus chapter, **A Psalm of David** placed at the conclusion of this chapter.

Discovering Christ in the Scriptures also gives us today, thousands of years after David, a spiritual Song in the Night that emanates directly from the heart of God to our hearts, being heard by our spiritual ears to comfort our inner souls.

The song of Christ replaces fears of uncertainty, encourages our endeavors to truly know the God of creation, exhorts our hearts in love, and consoles our lives through times of distress with the peace of Christ. As well, in times of happiness and abundance his song causes us to be joyfully thankful that we are at all times living in the graces of God (Philippians 4:11-13, II Timothy 6:6, and Hebrews 13:5).

Psalms 42:8:

Yet the LORD will command his lovingkindness in the daytime, and in the night his song *shall be* with {*within*} me, and my prayer unto the God of my life.

In the *daytime* God gives His children *lovingkindness* and in the *night* His song can be in our hearts. Do we deserve the actual *lovingkindness* and the song in the *night*? Yes! In truth, God COMMANDED it to be so and He spoke it into Law. This is not a law of something harsh, but of His wonderful *lovingkindness* for it is His desire and will for men and women to enjoy the Song in the Night.

David recalls that with his new song which blessed him throughout his nights, he could pray to *the God of his life*. *The God of his life* means the living God, for David's song revealed that in his inner heart he recognized the realities of God, bringing Him out of the stratosphere of doubt, guesswork, and abstract theories and into a genuine focused presence in his life. God's Song in the Night grew in David's soul, forming harmonious symphonies that soothed his mind and heart with the knowledge of Christ.

Psalms 89:15:

Blessed *is* the people that know the joyful sound {i.e., the Song in the Night}: they shall walk, O LORD, in the light of thy countenance. {*Countenance* means face or facial expression, i.e., it is walking in the light of God's own expressions of joy which is felt within the human heart.}

Psalms 95:1-2:

-1: O COME, let us sing unto the LORD: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.

-2: Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms.

The word *psalms* in verse 2 literally means songs sung from a "sweet psalmist" (II Samuel 23:1). When a man or a woman resounds with a *joyful noise* to the LORD, they become the voices heard in Heaven, in God's own

ears, as being offered to Him by a *sweet psalmist* — YOU, and your Heavenly Father also becomes totally inspired in your delight.

In viewing the verses above, there is enlightening detail for they show that God is in you, in your *countenance*, and you are in God when making a *joyful noise unto him with psalms*. This is the *joyful noise* of our song extending to Him simultaneously as He extends His love to us; it is to know for a certainty that, “our fellowship *is* with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ” (I John 1:3). “And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him” (I John 4:16).

Many, if not all of the Psalms were originally put to both music and sung, “Sing unto him, sing psalms unto him, talk ye of all his wondrous works” (I Chronicles 16:9, Psalms 105:2). The Psalms were sung to God, and the words heard would motivate the people as they talked *of all his wondrous works* which in turn inspired heartfelt worship. People normally sing to inspire emotions in other people; the Psalms were to be sung exclusively to God, “Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to {TO} the Lord” (Ephesians 5:19). “David and all the house of Israel played before the LORD {i.e., they were playing the composed music of Psalms} on all manner of *instruments made of fir wood*, even on harps, and on psalteries, and on timbrels, and on cornets, and on cymbals” (II Samuel 6:5).

II Chronicles 29:30:

Moreover Hezekiah the king and the princes commanded the Levites to sing praise unto the LORD with the words of David, and of Asaph the seer {Asaph wrote twelve Psalms and was featured on the “cymbals,”— I Chronicles 16:5; Hezekiah commanded the people to sing the Psalms that were written, composed, and originally conducted by both David and Asaph}. And they sang praises with gladness, and they bowed their heads and worshipped.

The Book of Hebrews gives us a wonderful arrangement relating to our heavenly relationship with Jesus from his unique perspective of us, “For both he {Jesus} that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified {you and me}

are all of one {ONE, See Galatians 3:28}: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren, Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee. {Have you heard, have you realized, Jesus sings praise to you (you are Jesus' song — you, individually are His Psalm)?}" (Hebrews 2:11-12). Wow, it is true! Not only does Christ Jesus sing praise to us, in heaven, God Himself sings with joy in harmonious melodies of love for us as He displays that all of life really was formed, made, and created for man.

Zephaniah 3:17:

The LORD thy God in the midst of thee *is* mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he {GOD} will joy over thee with singing. {Have you heard, have you realized, God sings of joy over you (you are God's song — you, individually are His Psalm)?}

Thus, you truly are the epistle of Christ as God's personal conductors of truth!

II Corinthians 3:3:

Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.

What response can we offer other than to recognize them, to learn of them, and to respect that our standing is the pinnacle of love's design, and perhaps sing back with thankfulness (Ephesians 6:5, Colossians 3:15), "Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing" (Psalms 100:2).

In the seventy-seventh Psalm, the singer, musician, and Prophet Asaph wrote:

Psalms 77:6:

I call to remembrance my song in the night: I commune with mine own heart: and my spirit made diligent search.

Asaph in Psalms 77 was greatly troubled (verses 1-5), but then, he remembered his God-given *song in the night* and he became blessed within his *own heart*. *My spirit made diligent search* represents his *search* in God's Word for his Savior who is found throughout, and who uplifts the *spirit* within.

Psalms 89:1:

I WILL sing of the mercies of the LORD for ever: with my mouth will I make known thy faithfulness to all generations.

God gives His children a song of hope, a song of deliverance, a song of spiritual inspiration, and within this song we will discover that Jesus is our eternal song, our symphony that harmonizes our lives with the heart of God (Ezekiel 36:26).

Psalms 28:7:

The LORD *is* my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise him.

The believer has an edge in this life: for *the LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped* — this is our refuge. “The wicked” has no access to the help of God, but rather, “THE wicked flee when no man pursueth” (Proverbs 28:1). *THE wicked* indeed have fear and hide without any real reason, always looking over their shoulders, but we have the privilege of knowing the Song in the Night that gives encouragement to our souls and a fearless heart to be as “bold as a lion” (Proverbs 28:1b), while we look forward to our gathering together.

Titus 2:13:

Looking for that blessed hope, and {which is} the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

In Psalms 53:4-5 we find that those who have not called upon God have “great fear, *where* no fear was,” because fear is incubated and grows in and throughout the night for the wicked and ungodly, and unfortunately because fear has no discrimination it can pursue all of us; though (God's)

perfect love casts out fear (I John 4:18). Proverbs 13:21 states, “Evil pursueth sinners: but to the righteous good shall be repayed {*good shall be repayed* means *good* will follow the *righteous* as they are rewarded simply for being *righteous*, and they will be *repaid* for being good by God now and through eternity}.” God delivers us from any and all fear through Christ, whether the fear is real or imaginary (II Timothy 1:7), and that is receiving the goodness of God.

Psalms 34:4 further states, “I sought the LORD, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears.” What an awesome comfort we receive when seeking the LORD — deliverance from *fear*, and in grace, because of the work of Christ, we are permanently delivered (Galatians 1:4, Colossians 1:13).

To have fear is to have restraints upon our believing and receiving from God, not to mention the restraints fear can place on our abilities — thank God for His perfect love, “There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love” (I John 4:18). Imagine, perfect love will torment that which used to torment us, and this love we have. Therefore, God “hath put a new song in my mouth” (Psalms 40:3) — this *new song* is a gift enjoyed as we seek the LORD. God can and does smooth out “the things that go bump in the night,” and the worldly deceptions that are out there because with our Song in the Night we need not fret and worry or be concerned in the nighttime because our future is ordained to be glorious, let alone our present situation in this life (Hebrews 13:5). Thus the Prophet encourages, “Sing unto the LORD a new song” (Isaiah 42:10).

In the continuing present tense, our God “giveth his beloved {you and I} sleep” (Psalms 127:2). The *sleep* that is given according to the Word of God becomes so very “sweet.”

Proverbs 3:24:

When thou liest down, thou shalt not be afraid: yea, thou shalt lie down, and thy sleep shall be sweet.

Jeremiah 31:26:

Upon this I awaked, and beheld; and my sleep was sweet unto me.

Psalms 3:5:

I laid me down and slept {and then – IN THE MORNING}; I awaked; for the LORD sustained me {all night long}.

God does not wake up with you – He is with you when you sleep just as much as He is with you when you wake up and you may recognize Him throughout your waking day as you invite Him into your heart and life. “For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of *them* whose heart *is* perfect toward him {whose heart is looking to God as his or her refuge from the storms of life}” (II Chronicles 16:9). “He maketh the storm a calm, so that the waves thereof are still” (Psalms 107:29), “For thou hast been a strength to the poor, a strength to the needy in his distress, a refuge from the storm, a shadow from the heat, when the blast of the terrible ones {evil people, wickedly motivated people who would like to do harm} *is* as a storm *against* the wall {of your mind, heart, and life}” (Isaiah 25:4). King David recalled that, “when I awake, I am still with thee” (Psalms 139:18), meaning his fellowship with God was still intact because he had God in his life throughout the night; oh, what a peaceful comfort – *I am still with thee!*

So please do not add to Psalms 3:5 “And if I shall die before I wake, I pray the Lord my soul to take,” because this is something no one really wants to be requesting, for in the grave there is no remembrance until the gathering together. (See Ecclesiastes 9:4–10, and the study, **Job – Reveals Jesus Christ as the Arbitrator** in this series.) Please – do not encourage the kids to say or pray that ill-inspired amendment to Psalm 3:5 on their knees before their bedtime – please! As well, that prayer request is a direct denial of *for the LORD sustained me*, and *I am still with thee!*

Psalms 4:8:

I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for thou, LORD, only makest me dwell in safety {praise and thank the LORD}.

Fear can imprison even worse than any physical prison, and the fears of the night can be downright terrifying, especially without knowing the Song in the Night that accompanies our Savior's love that dispel the fears of life. Our God can deliver us from all fear as we continue looking to His healing Word and discover His love and our loving Savior who assures us that we are never alone. David wrote, "If I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there" (Psalms 139:8), meaning that our loving God is with you and me wherever we are.

Psalms 139:1-4:

-1: O LORD, thou hast searched me, and known *me*.

-2: Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off.

-3: Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted *with* all my ways.

-4: For *there is* not a word in my tongue, *but*, lo, O LORD, thou knowest it altogether.

Jesus Christ gives to us a spiritual song of love that nonchalantly casts out all our fears and replaces them with a song of safety in the nighttime, and this is a peaceful message we can share with others with Christ's love as we bring them into the fellowship of our Song of the Night.

Psalms 139:12:

Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light *are* both alike *to thee*.

It really makes no difference whatsoever to God what time it is, day or night, He enlightens our path, for when God delivers a person, then he or she will have the light of Him and of Christ who is the light of the world. Seeing then that we have this light resident within us, we also are then able to hear and appreciate our new song which can be enjoyed both in the night and in the day. "My times {day or night} *are* in thy hand: deliver me from the hand of mine enemies, and from them that persecute me" (Psalms 31:15).

I John 4:18a:

There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear:
because fear {itself} hath torment. . .

As love casteth out fear, so the light in our song casts out darkness, for “God is light, and in him is no darkness at all” (I John 1:5). Thus, we are encouraged to “walk as children of light” (Ephesians 5:8).

Psalms 100:1-2:

-1: MAKE a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands.

-2: Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing.

Psalms 149:1:

PRAISE ye the LORD. Sing unto the LORD a new song, *and* his praise in the congregation of saints.

He Giveth His Beloved Sleep. . .

I wanted to take a little space here to show you some verses about worrying and fear, and to display for you God’s perspective on how He can deliver His children from such devastating confinements caused by fear.

Psalms 127:1-2:

-1: EXCEPT the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh *but* in vain.

-2: *It is* vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows {anxious toiling}: *for* so he giveth his beloved sleep.

Verse 1 we will look at later, but I wanted to add it here so that you will see the context in which verse 2 is set; we will look at verse 1 when we come across the “night watches” a little further below. In the Hebrew Text, the last phrase of verse 2 reads, “so He {God} giveth unto His beloved in sleep,” meaning when man releases all of his toils, worries, and fears to

God, then he or she will sleep with peace in mind. (Recall in **Genesis - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Promised Seed**, we read about casting all our cares up to God — for He cares for you.)

The believer can sleep in the restful reality that his Song in the Night provides assurance in the consolation that God is not sleeping, but is ever working towards blessing His beloved children, even while they sleep in the night. (*His beloved* is YOU, “Beloved, now are we the sons of God”— I John 3:2. See, **The Song of Solomon - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Beloved**, in this series, as you and Christ are both God’s beloved.) You see, all too often man defeats himself in his mind, he frequently paces into the night (when he should be asleep), wakes up way too early (when he should be asleep), and he tosses and turns through the night (when he should be asleep) as troublesome worries stir and rouse him while he churns and mills over his troubles. People often worry about how things have not been going so right or how things are going at that present moment or how things may go wrong tomorrow; this is the meaning of *the bread of sorrows*, which people eat (or stomach) with anxious toiling in the night — and for some, their days are spent consumed in these same toils as well.

Sometimes, life can be such a struggle and it seems really difficult to maintain a positive outlook about one’s personal hopes and dreams, especially when one looks around at all the confusion or strife in his or her life or lack of any abundance that he or she sees in his or her life or out there in the world for his or her future prospects. He or she so often feels totally helpless, but in sleep - the believer can finally be at rest - because God is still there in his or her life, and as we read, “He giveth unto His beloved in sleep,” and He works to bless him or her without the interference of his or her own personal doubts getting in his or her way. Believers cannot prevent God from blessing them when he or she is sleeping, and trust me, “sometimes” we are so messed up - up to two-thirds of any given day (our waking hours), that this is often the only option God has to intervene and assist us - and that is grace magnified, as it is true, He completes us while rejuvenating us. In sleep, man’s daily infirmities or negativisms cannot spoil the waters, as we are still God’s beloved even in the night; these are soothing affirmations to ponder over while we lay ourselves down with trustful peace in God’s hands and drift off into His patient care. . .

Beneficially, it is wise to meditate (rather than medicate) ourselves off to sleep with some positive thoughts because when we hold something positive in our minds as we go to sleep, we will automatically wake more positive. The Song in the Night demonstrates the power of a *sweet sleep* because our sleep becomes a relaxing panacea, a nightly balm, and a morning remedy as we rise positively refreshed. Proverbs 16:24 reads, "Pleasant words *are as* an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones," and in chapter 17, verse 22 we find that "A merry heart doeth good *like* a medicine." A believer can actually change his or her surroundings and even the environment he or she lives in just by feeding the mind on the truths and positives of God's Word because the Word is living and real.

Psalms 63:1-8:

-1: O GOD, thou *art* my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is;

-2: To see thy power and thy glory, so as I have seen thee in the sanctuary.

-3: Because thy lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise thee.

-4: Thus will I bless thee while I live: I will lift up my hands in thy name.

-5: My soul shall be satisfied as *with* marrow and fatness; and my mouth shall praise *thee* with joyful lips:

-6: When I remember thee upon my bed, *and* meditate on thee in the *night* watches.

-7: Because thou hast been my help, therefore in the shadow of thy wings will I rejoice.

-8: My soul followeth hard after thee: {and the reason why is because} thy right hand upholdeth me.

Verse 6 refers to two different times of the night, one, *upon my bed*, and two, *in the night watches*. We have seen some the benefits for remembering God when we lay down to sleep, and now we will look at the night watches. During the Old Testament times, the nights were divided into approximately twelve hours, and within those twelve hours, they had three separate watches of just about four hours that made up each watch when

sentinels, wards, or gatekeepers were posted for security and lookouts. The first watch was called the evening watch, spanning the time from sunset until more or less 10 PM, then, the middle watch covering the time from the end of the evening watch until around 2 AM, and lastly the morning watch covering the time from the end of the middle watch until sunrise.

Many of the watches were used for quiet times wherein people could collect their thoughts, meditate, and pray without the distractions of the hustle and bustle of daily life. Having done some watches in an actual 8-hour nightly security job in Chicago, IL, I was paid to keep a keen eye out for mischief at a very busy chain hotel, and I have learned how important these watches are with the enormous responsibility to protect property and the lives of people at rest in bed. I have also participated in several watches as an eager volunteer during Christian events, and many other times on my own, just to get an understanding and feeling of what a person goes through from a biblical perspective. To actually wake up in the middle of the night, on the second or third watch while my wife and children slept and then four hours later go back to bed, just to experience what the Psalmist experienced when he wrote that he meditated on God in the night watches. All I can say is that it was an awesome experience and I will never forget the things I learned from above that were meant just for me.

I can attest that these watchful experiences were very refreshing and enriching as I stood under the heavenly expanse and noticed the subtle movements of life all around, the stars slowly moving through the heavenly amphitheater above as the earth turns. I observed the moon passing by as a new day slowly approached and viewed such spectacular sunsets and sunrises that are too awesome for words to describe. The privilege of knowing that I am looking into the Creator's creation – wow, awesome – feeling I'm not just on, but in the creation; you see, "For in him we live, and move, and have our being" (Acts 17:28)! I also had the time to think about my life and the direction I was heading, and I had unforgettable moments to meditate on God's Word as He downloaded inspirations within my heart that were meant just to bless me! "Mine eyes prevent {anticipate} the *night* watches, that I might meditate in thy word" (Psalms 119:148).

Then, after a watch when back in the comfort of my bed, the remainder of sleep just seemed so much more precious, and the next night's sleep was great, too. This experience does leave one with the feeling of having a certain amount of kinship with the Psalmist who hundreds of years ago anticipated his night watches. "Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer" (Psalms 19:14).

I wanted to briefly give you the New Testament night watches in Jesus' times when you are reading your Gospels (we will discuss these times in much more detail when we enter the life of Jesus in this series of The Golden Thread).

By the time of the Gospels, the three night watches were changed to four night watches, each lasting about three hours each. The first watch was called the evening watch, spanning the time from sunset until approximately 9 p.m. The second watch was called the midnight watch, covering the time from the end of the evening watch until around midnight. The third watch was called the cock crowing watch and covered the time from the end of the midnight watch until about 3 a.m. Then the last, or the fourth watch was called the morning watch, covering the time from the end of the cock crowing watch until sunrise.

Jesus refers to all four watches in Mark 13:35 "Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even {the first watch}, or at midnight {the second watch}, or at the cockcrowing {the third watch}, or in the morning {the fourth watch}." These four night watches were how the Romans set their night watches and more than likely this is also the reason why the three watches that were used in the Old Testament times were changed into the four watches of the Gospels.

I always get a chuckle when I read Mark 6:48, which records, "And he {Jesus} saw them {his disciples} toiling in rowing; for the wind was contrary unto them: and about the fourth watch of the night {sometime between 3 a.m. and sunrise} he cometh unto them, walking upon the sea, and would have passed by them." If the disciples who were *toiling in rowing* did not notice Jesus walking on the sea he was just going to walk

right on past them as he was literally on his night watch; anyway, I cannot help but to smile as I imagine Jesus had a wonderful sense of humor.

Psalms 63:1-7:

-1: O GOD, thou *art* my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is {spiritual water — the Word of God};

-2: To see thy power and thy glory, so *as* I have seen thee in the sanctuary.

-3: Because thy lovingkindness *is* better than life, my lips shall praise thee.

-4: Thus will I bless thee while I live: I will lift up my hands in thy name.

-5: My soul shall be satisfied as *with* marrow and fatness; and my mouth shall praise *thee* with joyful lips:

-6: When I remember thee upon my bed, *and* meditate on thee in the *night* watches.

-7: Because thou hast been my help, therefore in the shadow of thy wings will I rejoice.

Now back to Psalms 127:1 for a moment, “EXCEPT the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep {or watch} the city, the {night} watchman waketh *but* in vain.” There were times in my life that this verse was so true to me when I did not walk with God, when I heard no heavenly Song in my heart, and the nights were somewhat frightening. I have learned that to not walk with God is a lonely walk even in the company of multitudes. I felt that my labor was in *vain* or empty wherein the expanses of night appeared as a mere shadow of something unobtainable, and all that was left to be seen was an unidentifiable mother earth, void of my heavenly Father — God. We read, “*It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows {anxious toiling}: for so he giveth his beloved sleep.*” You see, when one finally — finally turns to Him, Who “giveth unto His beloved in sleep,” then the emptiness in one’s heart begins to fill in with blessings and with visions accompanying the compositions of the sweetest Song in the Night!

So often, I go to sleep leaving my life, hopes, and dreams in God’s hands (purposely), and so often, I pray for help and guidance, and then I advance

off into that peaceful promised land of sleep. Then in the morning, I come to the waking realization that God blessed me as an answer was recognized, or a problem that I had does not seem so difficult anymore, or another way to achieve my personal goals seems to come to me without the baggage of yesterday's worries (which when seen in hindsight seems quite inconsequential) and I assuredly know that God gave to me and blessed me (while I was out) throughout my night's sleep!

Proverbs 6:22:

When thou goest, it {God's Word, His wisdom, and light} shall lead thee; when thou sleepest, it {God's Word, His wisdom, and light} shall keep thee {*shall* safeguard you}; and *when* thou awakest, it {God's Word, His wisdom, and light} shall talk with thee {the *talk* is the answer sought and received}.

Never doubt that there is a God in the night and He walks with you, and is there for you, and blesses you day and night. Adam was given a bride in his sleep (Genesis 2:21-22), think how thankful he must have been — in the morning, and ready to go! Abraham's everlasting covenant was offered to him in the night (Genesis 15:17-18), imagine how thankful he must have been to look around at all his land — in the morning! Jacob's ladder vision was in the night (Genesis 28:11-16), consider how thankful he must have been that he did not literally need to climb up that high — in the morning! Solomon was blessed with wisdom and unfathomable treasures in the night, in his sleep (I Kings 3:5-15), grasp how thankful he was that he did not need to go out in toil and earn all this — in the morning! Daniel's prophetic visions came in the night (Daniel 8:18, 10:9-13), envision how thankful he must have been that those terrible visions of the end-times did not come to pass — in the morning! Paul (Acts 16:9) and others had blessed visits in the night, as God inspired His people in restful moments, "thou hast visited *me* in the night" (Psalms 17:3), and these visits caused their days to be not only anticipated, but exciting.

What connects all of these men together is that they answered God's chosen call and were beloved and blessed of God, and at the time of their blessings, they knew this in their hearts. "O Daniel, a man greatly beloved" (Daniel 10:11), "and he called his name Solomon: and the LORD loved him" (II Samuel 12:24), "Jacob have I loved" (Romans 9:13). To Abraham God

said, "That in blessing I will bless thee" (Genesis 22:17), and Adam was created in God's image, and He "blessed" him (Genesis 5:3). And to us in grace, we are the chosen, blessed, and beloved of God (Ephesians 1:3-6) in this, our day and time to know, accept, and enjoy all of this in the here and now!

Often the believer toils away in "the bread of sorrows," thinking the tasks before him or her are just too difficult and way too challenging, and often he or she cannot clearly see the direction he or she should take to complete the tasks or his or her reasons for even being the person with the challenges. However, in sleep, in that glorious sleep, God can pick up the slack if or when the believer allows Him that privilege, that pleasure He desires to give, the goodness that He shall *giveth unto His beloved in sleep*. Wow, this is definitely worth our sleeping on!

The only difficult part for us is to actually allow Him in, to trust in Him, and to let Him work on our behalf, to let go of our doubts and fears and let God bless us, and to simply learn to enjoy our Song in the Night. The struggle so often that sits in our hearts is our feeling worthy enough to allow God's grace in, to stop trying so hard to work for what God already promises in grace because it is by grace, and not by works (Romans 11:6, Ephesians 2:9). Then, "after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us" (Titus 3:5-6), and that is the truth.

Let us take notice of Jesus' parable that some people refer to as The Prodigal Son; all that this stray son actually did was to come back home to his father and expecting the worst, a life of servitude to his father and his father's wrath, he instead received unexpected blessings. His "father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put *it* on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on *his* feet: And {the father said} bring hither the fatted calf, and kill *it*; and let us eat, and be merry" (Luke 15:22-23). This son wanted to work (toil and labor) for what was his already by his father's grace and birthright. However, on the flip side of that coin we also have the second, the older son who already had access to everything his father owned, but never looked up to receive, never asked, never expected, but rather he spent all of his time in toil and labor (Mark 15:11-32).

Life's true party, its true joy and its true abundance is to have a worry-free life by coming to God and allowing Him and your Song to be the life and sound of the celebration by living the life that was always meant to be yours. This is already ordained for you by your heavenly Father by just looking to Him and accepting His grace, this is the kind of life that either of the sons in the parable could and should had enjoyed their whole lives in their father's household if either had just asked and partook! "I know, that even now, whatsoever thou wilt ask of God, God will give *it* thee" (John 11:22), "whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name {said Jesus}, he may give it you" (John 15:16). "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all *men* liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him" (James 1:5).

Ecclesiastes 2:24:

There is nothing better for a man, than that he should eat and drink, and that he should make his soul enjoy good in his labour {rather than the vainness of his labour}. This also I saw, that it was from the hand of God.

The Song In The Day (as in the night). . .

Now as we have seen that God takes care of the night, let us take a few moments to see how the day will go, when we are awake and have experienced a refreshing night of sweet sleep.

Offering prayers to God in the morning is a wonderful key that helps open up a day of blessings in a believer's life. Prayer is the fulcrum to the more abundant life, to the start of a great day, God is the force that backs up our prayers and our believing raises the bar up to a godly level, and the receiving is the weight lifted or the blessing received.

Our prayers connect the individual to Him Who created life, and made this day to be a blessing for His children.

Psalms 118:24 reads, "This *is* the day *which* the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it." In the Hebrew Text, Psalms 118:24 poses this question: **Will we rejoice and be glad in it?** The answer is, yes, when we

recognize this day's Maker, for then rejoicing and gladness in this day bubbles up from within! Note the ending word in the verse is "it," and when we realize that *This is the day which the LORD hath made*, then the "it" becomes HIM because we become *glad* to be in and with HIM!

According to God's Word, each and every day can become a day to rejoice and be glad because the LORD made this day especially for us and encourages us to rejoice and to be glad in this day as we still have our Song in the Night — even in the daytime.

Recognizing God via our morning prayer with Him brings singing, gladness, and joy into our lives for we have invited Him into our lives — early, before heading out into the world. When we walk with God and become aware that He is with us from our waking moments, we become thankful for even the simple things in life, such as for the air we breathe, and the joy in our hearts. Then we will become ever more cognizant and in tune to realize that the LORD our God indeed made this day to be enjoyed by His children.

Psalms 5:1-3:

- 1: GIVE ear to my words, O LORD, consider my meditations.
- 2: Hearken unto the voice of my cry, my King, and my God: for unto thee will I pray.
- 3: My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O LORD; in the morning will I direct *my prayer* unto thee, and will look up.

David, in praying to God articulates *consider my meditations*. He is asking God to take notice that he has meditated, as David's thoughts were upon the Scriptures and his belief in the promises of God for a wonderful day. Then he further asks God to hear the *voice of his cry*. This does not mean that King David was literally crying, but a man in need (as we all are when we look to God's help and deliverance throughout the day). David's voice was humble, solemn, and constant in the morning for God to hear his prayer. Maintaining believing-faith in our prayers affords us the advance receipts of what we will receive, "And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive" (Matthew 21:22, and See Hebrews 11:1). King David set a wonderful example for believers to follow; to remember

our God in the morning starts our day's journey off with God in our hearts, thus commencing our Song in harmony with God for this day.

Inviting God to hang out with us first in the morning and to accompany us on our day's journey by way of our prayers can set the pattern for the whole day, for it will be a day to enjoy the blessings of God in our life. In David's prayer from Psalms 5:1-3, above, the phrase, *and will look up* illustrates a twofold meaning. First, David would look to God Who answers prayer, and secondly because David prayed, he would be looking up (or out) for the blessings of God that he prayed for in the morning to return to him throughout his day.

Time spent with God in the morning is always fruitful and permits the mind of the Christian to believe that he or she is walking with God; this comforts men and women who will then accept that this day will be filled with great expectations of deliverance in victorious living.

Psalms 143:8-9:

-8: Cause me to hear thy lovingkindness in the morning; for in thee do I trust: cause me to know the way wherein I should walk; for I lift up my soul unto thee {in prayer}.

-9: Deliver me, O LORD, from mine enemies: I flee unto thee to hide me. {What a wonderful prayer offered in the rousing moments of David's new day; *the day which the LORD hath made!*}

David confessed to God, *I flee unto thee to hide me* because David understood that in fellowship with the LORD his God, there was safety to be found away from his *enemies*, and an inner peace to be thoroughly enjoyed in each and every day.

From time to time, there are spiritual forces inspiring evil men and happenings against the believers, and therefore David knowing this prayed (as we can) that his God would *hide me*, that He would watch over David from the beginning of his day with *lovingkindness in the morning*.

True, “They {antagonists with evil-inspired intentions} have taken crafty counsel against thy {God’s} people, and consulted against thy hidden ones” (Psalms 83:3), and knowing this, David prayed and therefore he expected a wonderful day. David knew that evil waited for him at every turn, but because he prayed, he was enabled to experience days full of joy because his God was not only with him, but David also knew He had hidden him. David knew this because he prayed, *for in thee do I trust: cause me to know the way {in this day} wherein I should walk.*

Psalms 31:20:

Thou shalt hide them in the secret of thy presence from the pride of man: thou shalt keep them secretly in a pavilion from the strife of tongues.

Psalms 61:3:

For thou hast been a shelter for me, *and* a strong tower from the enemy.

David wrote, “If I ascend up into heaven, thou *art* there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou *art there*. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me” (Psalms 138:8-10). David knew that wherever his daily path would lead him, he had his God with him even when he was encompassed by his enemies, unknown dangers, or unseen catastrophes; David knew: *Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me!*

Psalms 91:1-2:

-1: HE that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

-2: I will say of the LORD, *He is* my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.

This Psalm begins with the word *HE*, and *HE* is the Author of the Scriptures, the Author is God, God is Spirit, and God’s Spirit is sending out an unrestricted and open-ended invitation to come and *dwell* with Him.

God is encouraging us in this first verse that He will enlighten the heart that accepts His invitation and then begins following His guidance to receive the blessings that are revealed to believers. To *dwell* is to be at peace immersed in quietude of heart over what the Scriptures identify as *the secret place of the most High* .

This *place* is in a state of peace between *the most High* and the person who accepts, remains, and appreciates the serenity tendered through this heavenly offer. The *secret place* is what I like to call the sweet spot of life where one walks with God through His Son who “is our peace” (Ephesians 3:14), and knows this to be true in his heart. This is known and enjoyed because the believer is benefiting from daily blessings along with an unparalleled relationship of fellowship with God in Christ Jesus, giving each believer evermore reasons to *abide* with Him. Oh! What a Song in the Night we have been visited and vested with!

The most High means the Possessor of heaven and earth and He is the dispenser of blessings to the dweller in His *secret place* . *Abide under the shadow of the Almighty* is not that bad of a concept when you think about it because the Almighty’s true brilliance is that of being perfect light, as we read in I John 1:5: “God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.” Therefore, being *under the shadow of the Almighty* is very enlightening and uplifting to the soul and as the Psalmist wrote “in thy light {in God’s light} shall we see light” (Psalms 36:9).

To *abide* is first being in and then remaining in a state of fellowship with the *most High* . “The fear {respect and honor} of the LORD *tendeth* to life: and *he that hath it* shall abide {ABIDE} satisfied; he shall not be visited with evil” (Proverbs 19:23). *Under the shadow* also means to be shaded from the heat that rises up from the pressures of life which can oftentimes overwhelm and melt away one’s hopes and dreams, but he or she that is abiding *under the shadow* is enjoying the sweet fellowship of being under a peaceful covenant of graceful living in thankfulness with *the Almighty* . *The Almighty* is the giver of all grace because He is “the God of all grace” (I Peter 5:10), as He is the allbountiful supplier to those who walk with Him in their hearts.

Psalms 84:11-12:

-11: For the LORD God *is* a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good *thing* will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.

-12: O LORD of hosts, blessed *is* the man that trusteth in thee.

II Corinthians 9:8:

And God *is* able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all *things*, may abound to every good work:

Philippians 4:19:

But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Above, in verse 1 of Psalms 91 is a brilliant reflecting pool of understanding in that as one begins walking with God in His *secret place*, then the recipient of the Author's blessings comes to know that - the LORD *is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust*. The reason why we know and believe this to be true in our hearts is because we have been dwelling *in the secret place of the most High*, fellowshiping with Him, and as a result are abiding *under the shadow of the Almighty!*

Psalms 18:2-3:

-2 The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower. {In this verse we read of eight wonderful attributes that the LORD became to the Psalmist, eight qualities that He desires to also be for you. He can be your *rock*, your *fortress*, your *deliverer*, your *God*, your *strength*, and in His *strength* you *will trust*, and He can become your *buckler*, your *salvation*, and your *high tower* where the views are always spectacular!}

-3: I will call upon the LORD, *who is worthy* to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies. {If there ever was a dire time and age where these promises of God can be claimed in

Christ's name to great advantage, this is certainly that time!
"But the salvation of the righteous is of the LORD: he is their strength in the time of trouble" (Psalms 37:39).}

Psalms 9:9:

The LORD also will be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble.

Psalms 27:5:

For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock.

Psalms 62:8:

Trust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him {in prayer}: God is a refuge for us. Selah.

Psalms 31:19-21:

-19: *Oh* how great is thy goodness, which thou hast laid up for them that fear {reverence and respect} thee; *which* thou hast wrought for them that trust in thee before the sons of men!

-20: Thou shalt hide them in the secret of thy presence from the pride of man: thou shalt keep them secretly in a pavilion from the strife of tongues.

-21: Blessed be the LORD: for he hath shewed me his marvellous kindness in a strong city.

Psalms 32:7:

Thou *art* my hiding place; thou shalt preserve me from trouble; thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance. Selah.

Psalms 46:1:

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Psalms 119:114:

Thou art my hiding place and my shield: I hope in thy word.

Taking the time to start our day with God, taking a moment to perhaps read a verse or two (like these above or one or two of your favorites), and meditating on them before we enter out into the hustle and bustle of daily life, and to set a little time aside to pray in the morning will indeed bring great things to pass in our lives. Whenever trouble, danger, or fear arises, the average instinct is to recoil, to withdraw, and to become incarcerated in fear, but with God in our lives we are encouraged to continue standing with Him on His promises. This is the meaning of God not only being your refuge, but also His setting you “in a large place,” or *up upon a rock*.

Even in times when you are out there on a ledge and exposed, God is with you, you who have called upon Him. “I sought the LORD, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears” (Psalms 34:4), and thus, even though David was out there — he was safe. “I called upon the LORD in distress: the LORD answered me, *and set me* in a large place. The LORD *is* on my side; I will not fear: what can man do unto me” (Psalms 118:56). You and I can expect to have a great day with meaningful purpose as we take time to acknowledge our God by reading His Word and in our prayer life as this forms a loving bond and relationship that will last through eternity.

Mark 1:35:

And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he {Jesus} went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed.

Jesus, *a great while before day*, took the time to be alone with his thoughts, to be alone with God, and to pray for his day. This set the pattern for a wonderful day at the very start. Note: this was not Jesus being fearful and pacing away the night for worries, but this is in the wee hours of the morning and with a deliberate decision to wake, be alone and pray on his own; this was his “morning watch” like we discussed above. When we follow the example of Jesus, we will increase our believing trust in our God, and this will help us to recognize that God is always with us. Remembering that we are God’s children is easier as we acknowledge Him and place the promises of His Word in our hearts — in the early hours.

One other note that we should look at for a moment is that not everyone works a dayshift. Some people work the second, others the third, and others who are in the services or professions of medical, emergency, police, fire departments, maintenance, etcetera, work weekends and in offbeat and flexible hours and shifts, and they all wake up and go to bed at all hours of the day and night. The biblical point is not that we must wake up or go to bed at a special one-fits-all time because God is a personal God, and He is always available, ready, and willing to bless His children, so for some people doing a morning watch or an early prayer could be anytime of the day, but the principle remains untouched, “*I am the LORD, I change not*” (Malachi 3:6).

Five or ten minutes spent with God can still make a world of difference as our time is often the most valuable thing we have to spend. Quality time with God is more desirable than just quantity of hours logged (Ephesians 2:9). God is not counting the minutes, and the value of our time is much more important to Him than the mass of time one could spend because one very well could out-spend another, while it is heart that God sees as we learn to redeem the time available to us (Ephesians 5:16, Colossians 4:5).

You see, God desires that our lives be balanced, “To do justice and judgment *is* more acceptable to the LORD than sacrifice” Proverbs 21:3).

I Samuel 15:22:

And Samuel said, Hath the LORD *as great* delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, *and* to hearken than the fat of rams {the sweet-smelling savors given off from burning sacrifices, yet so often it was a mindless act, rather than being a forethought towards one’s blessings and being right with God}.

Jesus Christ has given you and me permission to use his name in our prayers to God as he taught us in the Gospels, “Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give *it* you” (John 16:23).

Daily prayer offered in the name of our risen Lord and Savior places one in the receiving line, and initiates the ebb and flow of God-enhanced spirituality.

You see, Jesus' name is as a golden thread that connects our hearts to the Father's and His promised treasures of *whatsoever ye shall ask!* The more one comes to know Jesus Christ, who he was, who he is, and who he can become to the individual in the present tense is the theme of The Golden Thread that leads the reader to an understanding of Christ who is the clear way to our heavenly Father. Jesus Christ is the subject of the Bible, and he guides searching hearts up on the path that leads to the daily promises of God and in tune with the heavenly Song.

Jesus took the time to explain to just one man the way to God's heart, the way to His secret place, and this is it: "Jesus saith unto him {Thomas}, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6). Today this way is still open and readily available to you and me, it is through Christ who said, *I am the way*, for he is the hope of life everlasting and our entrance into the loving arms of our heavenly Father.

I Peter 5:10 states that our God is, "the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by {or *through*} Christ Jesus," for he is, as he confessed, *the way* that leads men and women to God's *eternal glory!* "Christ also received us to the glory of God" (Romans 15:7), because "Jesus Christ is Lord {he is the *Lord* because he is *the way*}, to the glory of God" (Philippians 2:11). As Jesus told Thomas that he was *the way*, he still is *the way* for us, individually, as we are all personally invited into the glorious "household of God."

Ephesians 2:18-19:

-18: For through him {*through* Jesus Christ} we both {you and me} have access by one Spirit unto the Father.

-19: Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God.

Jesus Christ is Our Song in the Night. . .

Whenever a believer is having trouble finding their way to God, His loving embrace, and His refuge from the storms of this life, we always encourage him or her to try going with Jesus by following his lead through the Scriptures because as he taught, “he that hath seen me hath seen the Father” (John 14:9).

The more one sees and recognizes Jesus in the Word, the more clearly he or she will see the Father, and the easier it becomes to believe in God’s awarded promises. Jesus is the “author and finisher” of our personal faith, as his faith can help carry the load we have been trying to carry alone.

Matthew 11:28–30:

-28: Come unto me, {Jesus pronounced to} all *ye* that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

-29: Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

-30: For my yoke *is* easy, and my burden is light.

Ephesians 3:12:

In whom {*in* Christ} we have boldness and access {to approach God and His promises} with confidence by the faith of him.

Hebrews 12:2:

Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. {Jesus is already there at God’s side, seated at His right hand, therefore, Jesus who is *the way*, is our guide, and he blazed the trail for us to follow him into daily victorious living.}

Coming to personally know Jesus Christ certainly leads to the open doors of an amazing spiritual abundance along with insights and heavenly gifts that we can believe and pray for and receive in Jesus Christ’s powerful name.

John 14:12-14:

-12: Verily, verily, I {Jesus Christ} say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater *works* than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father {and he has, and so we can — do}.

-13: And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

-14: If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do *it*.

David in summing up the 5th Psalm shows to us the joys and blessings that can travel with us throughout the day as we permit God into our life.

Psalms 5:11-12:

-11: But let all those that put their trust in thee {God} rejoice: let them ever shout for joy, because thou defendest them {God covers and protects us with grace}: let them also that love thy name be joyful in thee. {In this one verse alone we have the words, *rejoice*, *joy*, and *joyful*; this is the result from permitting God, His healing Word, and His Son into our lives.}

-12: For thou, LORD wilt bless the righteous; with favor wilt thou compass him as *with* a shield. {The *shield* that compasses us is God's loving favor upon His children as He watches over them.}

Whenever we read such powerful promises such as – God will defend those who trust in Him and that He will equip them with a shield and that they may experience this while being uplifted with heavenly joy – is such an awesome blessing. Yet, for so many confessing Christians, these promises seem to be so distant from their present reality.

The link that bridges the gap between a promise of God and one's receiving the promise is in knowing what it is to actually have the certainty of the living Christ in one's life. Christ Jesus is our connecting point to the God of heaven and His promises. You see, God's will is to "have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. For *there is one*

God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time” (I Timothy 2:4-6).

It certainly is *due time* to testify of our loving Savior and of his powerful name because he is our *mediator* to heaven’s throne, to God Himself.

Jesus commenced his day with prayer; we are also instructed to pray in his name because he is the master key to ensure not only the start of a great day, but a great day with the Song in the Night!

Peter wrote, “For the eyes of the Lord *are* over the righteous, and his ears *are open* unto their prayers” (I Peter 3:12), so this is a good reason to pray as this gets one’s voice heard in heaven. Just maybe no one will hear you down here, but you will be heard up above all these commotions down here.

John 15:15-16:

-15: Henceforth I {Jesus} call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.

-16: Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you {so in truth you never “found Jesus” like so many like to boast, but much more so, Jesus found you. You see, Jesus was never lost}, and {I} ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit {i.e., the promises of God}, and that your fruit should remain: *that* whatsoever {WHATSOEVER} ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

In the Gospel of Mark 14:26 we read “And when they {Jesus and his disciples} had sung an hymn {*a Psalm* is the Text}, they went out into the Mount of Olives.” The timing of this hymn was on one of the darkest evenings and fearful moments in all of human history because the light of the world (John 12:46), Jesus Christ was on his way to redeem humanity by giving his very life over to cruel tormentors on our behalf. Yet, Jesus and his disciples had a Song in the Night which gave them hope — this same

song of hope is our song, for it is having Christ Jesus in our hearts and minds at all times throughout our days and nights.

Even when things appear to be bleak, try singing in your heart (not necessarily aloud), as singing turns sorrow into joy (as quickly as light chases darkness away). Even if one does not feel like being joyful, it is a great way to stay in touch or reconnect with heaven's Holiest. Isaiah 51:11 records, "they shall obtain gladness and joy; and sorrow and mourning shall flee away," and Jesus said, "your sorrow shall be turned into joy" (John 16:20), and of course all sorrow wholly ends by the time Revelation 21:4 because an eternity of joy will become a living reality, and we may start enjoying this truth right now.

Revelation 21:4:

And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

Psalms 66:1-2:

-1: MAKE a joyful noise unto God, all ye lands:

-2: Sing forth the honour of his name: make his praise glorious.

Jesus Christ is our Song in the Night and God's Word encourages us to be "teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord" (Colossians 3:16).

Psalms 30:4:

Sing unto the LORD, O ye saints of his, and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness.

Psalms 69:30:

I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify him with thanksgiving.

Within the song, God becomes magnified in our hearts, bringing Him ever more closely to our understanding the ways of God and of Christ, allowing us to become genuinely humble with *thanksgiving*.

There is no doubt that the Psalm Jesus and his disciples sang in the Gospel of Matthew 26:30 and Mark 14:26 were inspiring to them even on that dark and gloomy evening. Just being with Jesus was inspiring as his miraculous life was a living Psalm, and today this Psalm lives within as our golden thread that leads us to the Father and eternal life. Even though the actual words of this living Psalm are not recorded for us to read (but could have been almost any one of the Psalms), still there can be no doubt that our Song in the Night is written upon our hearts and equally becomes the uplifting of our souls as it was for them. The Prophet proclaimed, "Sing unto the LORD; for he hath done excellent things" (Isaiah 12:5).

The music sheet is the Scripture, the melody is in the saintly sweet voice of our Savior, the tone is supernatural for it is eternal and therefore emanates from the joyous life God has given us, the chorus is heard in the ears of the righteous, and is only discovered by those who have found the Redeemer of lost souls (Luke 19:10).

Psalms 98:4-6:

-4: Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise.

-5: Sing unto the LORD with harp; with the harp, and the voice of a psalm.

-6: With the trumpets and sound of cornet make a joyful noise before the LORD, the King.

When we recall our deliverance by the generous work of our Savior, then we will indeed know the Composer and feel the warmth He inspires in our hearts while enjoying our unique song expressed within every note and beat of its heavenly melody. The Song in the Night resonates wholeheartedly with lovely chords of praise to God that reverberate out from our soul's inner delight.

Life enjoyed with God's love in Christ harmonizes us perfectly to their joyful melody of love.

John 16:27:

For the Father himself loveth you, because ye have loved me {Jesus}, and have believed that I came out from God.

To simply enjoy the spiritual songs that we sing with grace in our hearts to the LORD is as wonderful as the hymn (Psalm) Jesus sang with his disciples. It is a song of hope, thankfulness, and praise to know that our Savior who is reflected in the 150 individual Books of Psalms is the inspiration of our Song in the Night.

A Bonus Chapter

A Psalm of David

(Note: All bonus chapters relate to the subject of The Golden Thread)

There are 150 separate Books some refer to as chapters that we today call The Book of Psalms. Many refer to the Psalms as “The Psalms of David,” which is somewhat misleading, because David did not write all of the Psalms.

In the Psalms, we have seven named writers, and the books they wrote are listed below.

One: David with his name above seventy-three Psalms.

They are Psalm 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 68, 69, 70, 86, 101, 103, 108, 109, 110, 122, 124, 131, 133, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, and 145.

Two: Asaph with his name above twelve Psalms.

They are Psalm 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, and 83.

Three: The sons of Korah with nine Psalms.

They are Psalm 42, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 84, 85, and 87.

Four: For Solomon, with his name above two Psalms.

They are Psalm 72 and 127.

Five: Moses with his name above one Psalm.

Psalm 90.

Six: Hemon the Ezrahite with his name above one Psalm.

Psalm 88.

Seven: Ethon the Ezrahite with his name above one Psalm.

Psalm 89.

Totaling up the above seven names and their Books, we have one-hundred-one Psalms identified by the pen and hand of Prophets. The remaining other forty-nine Psalms are unnamed, such as Psalms 137, yet they are all God’s Word and are inspired by Him (II Timothy 3:16, II Peter 1:21). King

David had a large part in the forming of the Psalms, writing more than any other.

We thought it only fitting to enliven your interest in David by peeking into one of his Psalms, to view how he walked with God and had such a wonderful heightened level of understanding his Savior.

David not only walked with God, but he was also known as a man after God's own heart and we today have his Psalms as an inspiration to help us aspire to also be a man or woman after God's own heart.

Did you know that after Jesus who is the subject of the whole Word, David is the most written about person in the Bible as an archetype of Christ? Jesus would inherit not only David's kingdom, but all the kingdoms of the world when he returns to reign over all the earth. Jesus is called the son of David fourteen times in the Gospels.

The following is the entire thirty-second Psalm — A Psalm of David:

Psalms 32:1:

BLESSED *is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.*

In this Psalm we notice the first word *BLESSED*; this word means to have happiness in our life's journey as God blesses our ways because we have not only found the *Promised Seed*, but through Christ we walk with God and is a reason to be both blessed and happy. *Transgression* in the Hebrew Text relates to the thoughts and intents of the heart that lead away from the instructions of Scripture, yet thankfully Scripture shows us how to journey on a direct path that leads us to His wondrous Word through knowing Jesus Christ as our True *Passover*.

When we realize our faults have taken us away from God, as the sin nature does "so easily beset us" (Hebrews 12:1), and we then realize that we have an advocate in His Son because "the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin" (I John 1:7), and we come back to God in prayer to receive our cleansing and forgiveness, God is always willing, ready, and able to forgive.

I John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he {God} is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Then the Psalm goes on to say, whose *sin is covered*. In the Old Testament times sins were only *covered*, it is like tying a trash bag or putting refuse into an underground septic tank, we know there is something not so pleasant under there, but at least it is out of sight. Thankfully today in grace, God cleanses *us from all unrighteousness*, leaving the inside washed completely clean rather than simply covering them up. This is because of the blessed work of the *Offering of the High Priest*, on man's behalf.

Psalms 32:2:

Blessed *is* the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit *there is* no guile {or deceit}.

David shares in the first two verses that the believers are "blessed." *The LORD* considered this important enough to reiterate the truth of our being *blessed* by Him by repeating it to show we have blessings upon blessings (Ephesians 1:3). The reason that we are so *blessed* is because the LORD *Jehovah* sees the Christ in us, and that most important part of us (our hearts and inner consciousness) is not deceitful before the LORD where we are totally sinless and pure and guileless. So when and where we may experience condemnation because of our sins, it is pretty much a waste of our time and energy because what *Jehovah imputes* to us is forgiveness and cleansing rather than *iniquity*.

In our *spirit* (our inner heart), the LORD sees *no guile*, because within we have the *Bright and Morning Star*, this is what He really sees as we are the children of light — His light. Having *no guile* means that the LORD sees absolutely no deceit, but only His children with Christ within, for we may always stand before Him, and confess, thus being forgiven, cleansed, and knowing that He has not *imputed* (or *held*) our shortcomings against us (Psalms 32:1-2 are also recorded in the first church Epistle, Romans 4:7-8). For Christ the *Prophet* of all prophecy "was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification" (Romans 4:25). Jesus is not going to be crucified again – for you, he is not going to die again – for you, and he is

not going to get up again – for you, once was enough to last an eternity – for you – for your justification!

Psalms 32:3:

When I kept silence, my bones waxed old through my roaring
all the day long.

Silence represents our not asking for forgiveness in prayer from our God (I wrote a study once titled, “Ask: and it shall be given,” and as I like to say, “Ask, and it shall be **forgiven!**”). Sometimes we may feel so awful about our past sins that we become too fearful to even consider daring to ask for God’s forgiveness, and this is something David had experienced in his life.

Consequently, when we forget our *Captain of Salvation*, then we do not ask God for forgiveness, and we may feel as though we are standing all alone, when all along our heavenly Father wants us to accept our forgiveness and walk again with Him. We can because of the Captain of our salvation gave his all in all in order that we may come to God at any time to accept our forgiveness and begin enjoying life with both our Savior and our heavenly Father. Life on the other side of forgiveness is quite wonderful, it beats the hell out of condemnation, so please come on over and join the sanctified at the sweet spot of life. “*There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus*” (Romans 8:1).

Romans 8:34:

Who *is* he that condemneth? *It is* Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

Bones in Psalms 32:3 represents the inner structure of man’s physical life, and yet feeling so very old and bending under the pressures of life. David’s meaning here is that when we try and hold ourselves up on our own merits without God being a vibrant part of our life’s foundation, then we forfeit God’s blessed privilege of spiritually holding us up through the power of our *Wonderful Secret*. “Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up” (James 4:10). This is God’s desire — to hold men and women up with His loving strength.

The *roaring* also in Psalms 32:3 represents man's inner unfeigned sorrow or groaning by his own self-pity, the inner result when he does not allow himself to ask God for forgiveness or help, when all along God's poised will and desire is to do so (when we ask), and Jesus, our *Redeemer*, gave his life and now he intercedes, clearing the path to Him so that we could go to God unfettered in our minds.

Psalms 32:4:

For day and night thy hand was heavy upon me: my moisture is turned into the drought of summer. Selah.

I have heard this verse explained as one who is living under the thumb of God, as one who is receiving His rebuking correction; however, this is simply an untrue statement in relationship to the Creator of Heaven and Earth. Trust me; if God was that kind of God with unimaginable threatening power at His disposal and His hand of vengeance was upon us, then mankind would have ended with the fall from grace on Paradise back in the time of Genesis.

God would have never given man the hope of a *Deliverer*, and the Deliverer would never have given his life, except for one thing, God has loved mankind, including you (Ephesians 1:4), even before Adam and Eve were formed, made, and created.

Christ certainly loved enough to die in that horrible torturous way for you and me. Then, why in the world would some unduly high-pitched, shrieking voices jump out from behind teaching pulpits crying out, "God could squash you at His whimsical leisure and pleasure as you live a lowly and meager existence under His terrible hand?" Oh, come on now, that is just plain wrong, for God loves you as is heard within the gentleness of our *Still Small Voice*! He has graven (tattooed) you upon the palms of His hands (Isaiah 49:16), and when He opens up His arms and hands, it is you He sees in His loving arms and written on His palms. It is you He loves, come what may, it is you He is committed to, and continually overjoyed with (Psalms 73:22-25)!

Thus David realized that, "Though he {a righteous man or woman} fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth *him with his hand*" (Psalm 37:24).

Psalms 80:17:

Let thy hand be upon the man of thy right hand, upon the son of man *whom* thou madest strong for thyself.

Here is the biblical interpretation of *for day and night thy hand was heavy upon me*. Whenever we carry our own burdens around without releasing them to our God in prayer, then we may feel heavy (spiritually), and weak in our personal faith. We may experience feelings similar to the statue of Atlas who is portrayed carrying the weight of the world upon his shoulders, or David the King who cared and watched over the Nation of Israel, or the Apostle Paul who cared for the entire First Century church of God (II Corinthians 11:28). Jesus Christ, the *King's Son and Eternal Answer* bore the sins of the whole world and lifted you and me up to our heavenly Father and He can release one and all from the burdens of the sin nature while revealing to us our new divine nature in Christ (II Peter 1:2-8).

Oftentimes the burden of carrying our sins around is something believers experience and what John calls "an unction from the Holy One" (I John 2:20) when God is working overtime to inspire us to come back to Him (and why?), so we may enjoy His fellowship and our *Spiritual Revival*. This is the true meaning of *day and night thy hand was heavy upon me*, for today in grace we deserve our *Heavenly Pardon*. God is beseeching us to come back in order that we may enjoy our *Good Day* in fellowship with Him. "Even there {at any place} shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me {so I will not fall}" (Psalms 139:10).

My moisture is turned into the drought of summer is referring to a spiritual drought and is the absence of the spiritual refreshing that can come to us only when we accept God's healing will of forgiveness. It is man himself who singularly grapples within his mind to rise up to believing in his worthiness given to him in Christ. These are some of the emotions David went through hundreds of years ago and are most common to men and women of today. It is man alone who oscillates in and out of fellowship

with his God. It is Christ our *Arbitrator* who catapults men and women up to receiving God's refreshing, and it is Christ who has lead the way for man to receive the graces of God. The expression, *Selah* essentially means to pause and calmly think about what was just written (and then rethink it through again and again, or, in other words — meditate on God's Word, grace, and love)!

In this Psalm, David finally realized he was not acknowledging God in his life and thus he was lacking the refreshing that came by having fellowship with God once again, and so he then continues:

Psalms 32:5-6:

-5: I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid {from God}. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD {Unto who? *Unto the LORD*, rather than to any man}; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. {Not just the sin committed, but the *iniquity* in the thought process and actions that caused the sin in the first place, this also God will totally forgive and cleanse.} *Selah*. {So please — Pause: and calmly think on what we just read — that God forgives us completely, even from the conception of a sin (James 1:15) to one's commitment to follow through with it all the way to its ultimate completion and degradation — Wow, that is magnified grace given to you and I in spades!}

-6: For this shall every one that is godly pray unto thee in a time when thou mayest be found: surely in the floods of great waters they shall not come nigh unto him.

The word *shall* represents that we may, whenever we desire, reach all the way up to our God's ears in prayer. Believers may come to experience their forgiveness, acknowledging that God does cleanse us of our sins. Take God's Word for your forgiveness; whenever you do — you have literally believed God in all His beckoning of you to accept His forgiveness!

The word *godly* means to have and enjoy a true and vital relationship with God, which is necessary to enjoying freedom in Christ. Believers, you and I, are the *godly*, and when praying we have an uninterrupted connection with

God (spiritual-optics), which are never disconnected at God's end, and His communication lines are free and always in good working order.

When is a time that God may *be found*? This is a very good question, and the answer is straightforward — it is always a good time to come to God in prayer, there is never a bad time for we always have our *Song in the Night* and this awards rest and peace to our souls.

Psalms 69:13:

But as for me {David}, my prayer *is* unto thee, O LORD, *in* an acceptable time: O God, in the multitude of thy mercy hear me, in the truth of thy salvation.

Hebrews 4:16:

Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

II Corinthians 6:2:

For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now *is* the accepted time; behold, now *is* the day of salvation.

Even when we are feeling down or if we feel that we are no darn good and are living in self-condemnation and sin (even then — even now), God encourages us as His children to go to Him without hesitation or fear.

Our loving, heavenly Father will always embrace us in His love. “If God *be* for us, who *can be* against us” (Romans 8:31)? God is always on our side (and no one is bigger than God is), and Christ gave himself so we could be on God's side, for we are eternally on the winning team. It is God in Christ cheering us on to the finishing line, where and when true perfection will be awarded (I Corinthians 15:51–58), wherein we will receive, “The prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:14).

Surely in the floods of great waters they {the spiritual storms of this life} *shall not come nigh unto him*, because God watches over us. He is indeed our “refuge from the storm” (Isaiah 25:4), delivering ever brighter tomorrows, “in whom {in God} we trust that he will yet deliver *us*” (II Corinthians

1:10). Amazing, God is saying in II Corinthians 1:10 that He is going to deliver us from things in the future that have yet to happen, oh what a God we have to learn of and enjoy!

Through all of God's healing Word, He directs our spiritual steps to safer and higher ground on our *Path of Righteousness*. His Word encourages us to build our spiritual lives on the rock, Christ Jesus (I Corinthians 3:11, Ephesians 2:20). The spiritual winds may "beat" from one direction and "blow" from even another direction, but we shall not be blown away, as promised us by Jesus himself (Matthew 7:24-25). As we learn to build our spiritual lives upon the rock, indeed, stormy rains (negatives) may fall down, floods (of unbelief) may come up, and the winds (of doubt) may bellow across the bows (boughs) of our hopes and dreams in an attempt to stimulate fear. Yet God has already guaranteed to us that He will hold us up and continue to keep us afloat, as we continue looking to Him and His healing Word through our wonderful Savior who is the anchor of our souls (Hebrews 6:19).

Psalms 32:7:

Thou *art* my hiding place; thou shalt preserve me from trouble;
thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance. Selah.

God is our *hiding place*, because in (fellowship with) God there is refuge, there is sanctuary, and there is peace of mind. "HE that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty" (Psalms 91:1). It is our God Who preserves us from impending trouble; it is our heavenly Father Who watches over our lives and assures us of victory in Christ who reveals the *Wholeness of Man*, and it is our God Who enables us to pass through all the storms of life.

Thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance can be experienced in contrast to feeling as though we are drying up from the inside out without spiritual edification, nourishment, and inspiration. And instead of being flooded with negatives from every direction, God encompasses, encircles, and covers us, giving to our soul's spiritual songs of His deliverance. This is when our souls sing for joy, and because of our deliverance, we can be overflowing with rejoicing, for from the depths of our inner souls we can

become ever more thankful for our complete standing as God's redeemed children.

Today, as we rejoice in our calling from God, we may spiritually and experientially realize our unique place with God being spiritually seated at His very own right hand in and with Christ in the heavenlies (Ephesians 2:5-7). Recall how much love the Father has for us, "that we should be called the sons {and daughters} of God" (I John 3:1).

In Psalm 32, David begins by expressing how blessed we are when we receive forgiveness, and then he goes on to show what happens when we do not ask for forgiveness as he did for a time. Finally, David got to the place in his life that he realized that all he had to do was acknowledge the error of his ways. It was then that David came to grasp that his God totally forgave him. "David said unto Nathan {the Prophet}, I have sinned against the LORD {this is David, he was not confessing his sins to Nathan, but admitting that he sinned when he was confronted by the Prophet}. And Nathan said unto David, The LORD also hath put away thy sin" (II Samuel 12:13). What could be more comforting to a sinner than to hear that God has already *put away* his or her sin?

Psalms 51:1-3:

-1: Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. {This asked David of God in regards to what David had done to Uriah the Hittite and Bathsheba his wife; you can read the story from II Samuel chapter 11:1-24 on how David got Uriah killed so that he could get Bathsheba to be his wife.}

-2: Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin {David asks God}.

-3: For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin *is* ever before me.

Well, once the thing is done then it is done and one could live in condemnation a lifetime or admit to God that a sin has occurred and accept His forgiveness and get back into fellowship with God. The thing that

helped David was his humbleness in accepting that “The LORD also hath put away thy sin” and then he wrote “my sin *is* ever before me.”

I wanted to discuss a little about the Old Testament and the New in the light of understanding what we talked about in the first verse on this Psalm in which we saw that God forgave by covering or putting away sins in the times of the old covenant, while in grace all our sins are washed away completely. David’s sins and transgressions were, as written, *put away*, and even though his sins were *put away* they were still within David’s mind as he wrote *my sin is ever before me*. Have you ever heard it said that people can forgive but they cannot always forget, well the same was true for David, he could accept his forgiveness but it was a lot harder for him to forget, which only made him a better person, afterwards.

Following is a spiritual assessment of King David, he “did *that which was* right in the eyes of the LORD, and turned not aside from any *thing* that he {the LORD} commanded him all the days of his life, save only {*except only*} in the matter of Uriah the Hittite” (I Kings 15:5). Note in this verse that something was remembered, a thousand things were good for David and still something remained — a sin in his mind. Although forgiven by God it was not washed away or blotted out. However, today in grace all of our sins are cleansed and we have this wonderful verse of understanding, “For I {your God} will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more” (Hebrews 8:12). You see, in the Old Testament the repentant sinner could not forget his or her sin and because of that his or her God could not forget them either because the Redeemer of sin had yet to come and die for the sin of the world. However, because of the complete redeeming work of Jesus Christ, who became sin — for us, “For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him” (II Corinthians 5:21).

Today our sins are completely washed away and we are now as righteous as God is, and not only can we know that our sins are forgiven, but it is also possible to forget them altogether along with God Who already has — *I remember no more!* Paul taught “*this* one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:13-14). I Corinthians 1:30 reveals that “of him

{of God} are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption" (I Corinthians 1:30), and if or when we can think on such things as *wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption* rather than on our already forgiven sins, then God can go to work helping us beyond the past as we are pointed to Christ and our eternity.

Philippians 4:6-9 (The Amplified Bible):**

-6: Do not fret *or* have any anxiety about anything, but in every circumstance *and* in everything, by prayer and petition (definite requests), with thanksgiving, continue to make your wants known to God.

-7: And God's peace [shall be yours, that tranquil state of a soul assured of its salvation through Christ, and so fearing nothing from God and being content with its earthly lot of whatever sort that is, that peace] which transcends all understanding shall garrison *and* mount guard over your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

-8: For the rest, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is worthy of reverence *and* is honorable *and* seemly, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely *and* lovable, whatever is kind *and* winsome *and* gracious, if there is any virtue *and* excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think on *and* weigh *and* take account of these things [fix your minds on them].

-9: Practice what you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, *and* model your way of living on it, and the God of peace (of untroubled, undisturbed well-being) will be with you.

David's sin is written in Holy Writ, right there in I Kings 15:5 (and in other Scriptures), which means that the verse will abide as an integral part of the Word of God which liveth and abideth forever (John 1:1, I Peter 1:23). However, our sins are gone forever, washed completely away and therefore they cannot live and abide forever but are eternally gone — from us! This is part of the "mystery of godliness" (I Timothy 3:16), afforded to us through Christ's perfecting work for us (Colossians 1:28), and his cleansing work in us (I John 1:7).

Do **yourself** a favor, try and read all about **your** sins in the New Testament (as we were able to read David's in the Old Testament) and **you** will find that **you** as a sinner are completely absent, *dead* to sin (a few examples: Romans 6:11, I Corinthians 15:3, and II Corinthians 5:14-15), but as a redeemed *saint and child of God* **you** will find **yourself** on every page *alive* in Christ (a few examples: Romans 6:11-14, and Colossians 3:3-4). **You** will discover this especially when **you** read along in and with Christ who is **your** guide and Golden Thread who leads you to absolute enlightenment, "For now we live {enjoy the more abundant life}, if {since} ye stand fast in the Lord" (I Thessalonians 3:11). As David was able to receive forgiveness and did amazing exploits for God, we are also even more enabled (Philippians 4:13)! Our sins are completely cleansed and will never be remembered or read about and thankfully only the good that we do by believing the Word will be known to us along with every being in heaven as our believing shall provide our heavenly rewards!

Psalms 32 now continues on with God's response to David's on account of his opening up his heart to Him:

Psalms 32:8:

I {God} will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go. I will guide thee with mine eye.

Jesus is "the way, the truth, and the life" to the Father (John 14:6), it is only through finding the Son of God, our *Beloved*, that one truly receives the instructions and teachings and guidance from God's heart. *Guide thee with mine eye* is something that a servant in the biblelands would completely understand, because when their master would perhaps raise one eyebrow in a certain way or move his hand with a subtle gesture, the master would be directing his servant to do something for him, perhaps bring a cup of water or bring him a pillow. The meaning here is that God can direct us with inspirations that are not forceful but much rather are very gently given to us through the loving motions of inspired thoughts of comfort from Him in Love.

Psalms 32:9:

Be ye not as the horse, *or* as the mule, *which* have no understanding {who are stubborn}: whose mouth must be held in with bit and bridle, lest they {otherwise, they will not} come near unto thee {to receive their instructions and guidance}.

God's lesson here is that we may walk with His guidance and allow Him to inspire our life's path through the inspiration of our Savior who gave his all in all so that we could receive all of God's abundance.

Psalms 32:10:

Many sorrows *shall be* to the wicked: but he that trusteth in the LORD, mercy shall compass him about.

The *wicked* do experience *many sorrows* because they reap the wickedness that they sow. Nevertheless, we who trust the LORD can be delivered from all of our *sorrows* and be continuously encompassed in God's loving *mercy*. *Mercy* biblically means that God withholds judgment and punishment that perhaps are rightfully due, yet because of God's divine grace upon our lives, judgments are repelled away.

Often, when we blow it and sin (for no man is perfect), we may be justly deserving of condemnation, judgment, and punishment; however, God's *mercy* holds these off, keeping us in a life with Him that is full of *mercy* from every direction and dimension.

Psalms 32:11:

Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, ye righteous: and shout for joy, all *ye that are* upright in heart.

When we are *glad in the LORD* for His *mercy* upon our lives, then genuine rejoicing in the LORD will manifest itself, whelping up into thankfulness that we know God. Even David lived his life as one forgiven and who was enabled to *shout for joy*. We may rejoice because God has made us righteous, as completely righteous as God is (II Corinthians 5:21, Philippians 3:9), because of His Son, Jesus Christ. So *shout for joy!*

We who continue to come to our God in prayer with thankfulness and with believing that He does indeed answers us, will (without a doubt) also absolutely recognize that God sees us as His *upright in heart*. The life that Christians can enjoy in knowing God's healing will reveals to us life more abundantly. God sees you in Christ, as His *upright in heart* who has received His spiritual refreshing.

Oh, what a marvelous song we have!

Acts 20:32:

And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.

Reference Table:

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The Embryo of The Golden Thread Series

Between the dates of November 13, 2000 and January 8, 2001 we posted the first of fifty-eight short Bible Bytes illustrating Jesus Christ as The Golden Thread on our website, biblebyte.org. Every day we posted another instalment until we went through all the books of the Bible. Below is the Byte we posted about Psalms on Tuesday, November 28, 2000, and for nostalgia and preservation of the original, the Byte appears just as it was posted without any additional edits or corrections. We had such an enormous response from our readers at that time that we were encouraged to begin the groundwork for the complete study of The Golden Thread series. We have used our original Bytes for our pattern and guide to make the fuller text of the series for you to enjoy.

Psalms – Revealing Our Song in the Night

The Book of Psalms is filled with references and revelations about Jesus Christ, detailing his coming, his conflict with the Adversary, his resurrection, and his coming with salvation. For King David, Christ was his strength and lively hope, which gave him a spiritual song in the night.

Discovering Christ in the Scriptures also gives us today, thousands of years after David, a spiritual song in the night that emanates from the heart of God and is heard in our spiritual ears and comforts our inner souls.

The song replaces fears, encourages our endeavors to walk with God, exhorts our hearts in love, and comforts our lives with the peace of God in Christ in us.

Psalms 42:8 – *Yet* the LORD will command his lovingkindness in the daytime, and in the night his song *shall be* with {within} me, *and* my prayer unto the God of my life.

In the daytime God gives His children lovingkindness, and in the night His song can be in our hearts. David recalls that with his new song, which blessed him throughout his nights, he could pray to the God of his life.

In the seventy-seventh Psalm, the singer and Prophet Asaph wrote:

Psalms 77:6 – I call to remembrance my song in the night: I commune with mine own heart: and my spirit made diligent search.

Asaph in Psalms 77 was troubled, but then, he remembers his God-given song in night and he became blessed within his own heart.

God gives His children a song of hope, a song of deliverance, a song of spiritual inspiration and within this song we will discover that Jesus Christ is our eternal song, our symphony who harmonizes our lives with the heart of God.

In Psalms 53:4-5 we find that those who have not called upon God have “great fear, *where* no fear was,” because fear grows in and throughout the night for the fearful. It is God who delivers us from any and all fear, whether the fear is real or imaginary. Thankfully Psalms 34:4 states “I sought the LORD, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears.”

To have fear is to have restraints upon our believing and receiving from God. Fear can imprison even worse than any physical prison, yet our God can deliver us from all fear as we continue looking to His healing Word and discover His love and our loving Saviour Jesus Christ who gives to us a spiritual song of love that indeed will cast out all our fears and replace them with a song in the night.

I John 4:18a – There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear {itself} hath torment. . .

In Mark 14:26 we read “And when they {Jesus and his disciples} had sung an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives.” The timing of this hymn was one of the darkest and most fearful times in all of human history because Jesus was on his way to redeem humanity by giving his very life over to cruel tormentors and murderers on our behalf. But he and his disciples had a song in the night, which gave them strength – that same song is our song for it is having Jesus Christ in our hearts at all times throughout our days and nights. He is our song in the night, and God’s Word encourages us to be “teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord” (Colossians 3:16).

The hymn that Jesus sang in Luke is not recorded for us, yet there can be no doubt that our song in the night is written upon our hearts. When we recall our deliverance by the generous work of our Saviour we will indeed know the composer, and enjoy the spiritual songs that we sing with grace in our hearts to the Lord, it is as wonderful as the hymn Jesus sang with his disciples. It is a song of thankfulness and praise with joy to know that Jesus Christ, the inspiration of “Our Song in the Night” is in our hearts.

The Golden Thread - Chapter Titles

The Old Testament:

1. Genesis - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Promised Seed
2. Exodus - Reveals Jesus Christ as the True Passover
3. Leviticus - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Offering and the High Priest
4. Numbers - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Bright and Morning Star
5. Deuteronomy - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Prophet
6. Joshua - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Captain of Salvation
7. Judges - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Wonderful Secret
8. Ruth - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Redeemer
9. First and Second Samuel - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Deliverer
10. First and Second Kings - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Still Small Voice
11. First and Second Chronicles - Reveals Jesus Christ as the King's Son, and Eternal Answer
12. Ezra - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Spiritual Revival
13. Nehemiah - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Heavenly Pardon
14. Esther - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Good Day
15. Job - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Arbitrator
16. Psalms - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Song in the Night
17. Proverbs - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Path of Righteousness
18. Ecclesiastes - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Wholeness of Man
19. The Song of Solomon - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Beloved
20. Isaiah - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Refuge from the Storms of Life
21. Jeremiah - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Righteous One
22. Lamentations - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Hope
23. Ezekiel - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Covenant of Peace
24. Daniel - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Power and Wisdom of God
25. Hosea - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Ransom
26. Joel - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Heavenly Standing
27. Amos - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Sure Salvation
28. Obadiah - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Day of Deliverance
29. Jonah - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Sign of Resurrection
30. Micah - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Breaker and the Spiritual Strength
31. Nahum - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Stronghold
32. Habakkuk - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Joy in God
33. Zephaniah - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Eternal Rest
34. Haggai - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Desire of all Nations
35. Zechariah - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Total Forgiveness
36. Malachi - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Messenger of the Covenant and a Delight

The Gospels:

37. The Gospel of Matthew – Reveals Jesus Christ as the Shepherd King
“A righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper”
38. The Gospel of Mark – Reveals Jesus Christ as the Servant
“I will bring forth my servant the BRANCH”
39. The Gospel of Luke – Reveals Jesus Christ as the Man
“Behold the man whose name is The BRANCH”
40. The Gospel of John – Reveals Jesus Christ as the Son of God
“In that day shall the branch of the LORD be beautiful and glorious”

Parchments of Transition

(Treaties from the Beloved Physician to “YOU” the Beloved of God):

41. The Book of Acts – Reveals **Our** Timeless Spiritual Love in Christ
An upward calling – reaching, appreciating, and enjoying the mystery of God in Christ in you!

The New Testament:

42. Romans – Reveals **Our** Justification in Christ
43. First and Second Corinthians – Reveals **Our** Sufficiency in Christ
44. Galatians – Reveals **Our** Liberty in Christ
45. Ephesians – Reveals **Our** Standing in Christ
46. Philippians – Reveals **Our** Joy in Christ
47. Colossians – Reveals **Our** Completeness in Christ
48. Thessalonians – Reveals **Our** Comfort of Hope in Christ
49. First and Second Timothy – Reveals **Our** Faithful Witness in Christ
50. Titus – Reveals **Our** Promise of Eternal Life in Christ
52. Philemon – Reveals **Our** Forgiving Love for the Individual in Christ
53. Hebrews – Reveals **Our** Substitute for Sin in Christ
54. James – Reveals **Our** Believing Faith in Christ
55. First and Second Peter – Reveals **Our** Pastoral Stewardship of Grace in Christ
56. First, Second, and Third John – Reveals **Our** Fellowship in Christ
57. Jude – Reveals **Our** unCommon Salvation in Christ
58. Revelation – Reveals the Revelation of Jesus Christ and **Our** Destiny in Christ