



# DAYBREAK WITH BIBLE READING

April - June, 2018.

"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work"  
(2 Timothy 3:16-17).





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English Standard Version (ESV)  
New International Version (NIV)  
Life Application Study Bible (LASB)  
New King James Version (NKJV)

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(2 Timothy 3:16-17 ESV).*





# INTRODUCTION

The All Saints Cathedral Kampala (ASCK) desires to have “**Christians rooted in Christ, growing in faith and abounding in fruitfulness**” (Colossians 2:7). This is intended to help the believer trust God’s will revealed and recorded in the Holy Scriptures. The Church is admonished not to be swayed by all kinds of false teachings. As a believer engages in the spiritual discipline of Bible reading and study, s/he gets daily nourishment. We encourage parishioners to read the Bible daily - that way, they may be rooted in the Word of God (Psalm 119:7-8, 11) in order to be fruitful wherever they are planted in the Lord’s world and vineyard.

In this season, we will go through the Bible book by book guided by Psalms or wisdom literature; Pentateuch and history of Israel; Chronicles and Prophets and lastly gospels and Epistles. Thus, we shall study a few chapters from; Exodus (Pentateuch); Psalms (Psalms); Esther (Chronicles); Acts (history); and Galatians (Epistles)

Please be equipped with a good Bible, preferably NIV, ESV, NKJV or LASB, a pen and note book. If you can, also have a good Bible dictionary, Commentary and a concordance. In all these, the BIBLE is the critical piece.

Always remember that the entire Bible is about God’s redemptive plan for mankind. Jesus Christ Himself told His disciples that, “*...These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that every thing written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled*” (Luke 24:44-ESV). Therefore, as you read the Bible every day, figure out what the passage teaches about the Person or work of Jesus Christ and apply that teaching to your own life.

As you read the Bible, look out for **a command to obey, a promise to claim, a rebuke to heed and a sin to repent of** and for an opportunity to share with another person. Most importantly, the essence of this publication is to

facilitate godly transformation by applying the Word of God in your life. Be expectant to hear your loving Father tenderly give you direction everyday!

May you enjoy time with God in the fellowship of the saints! Amen.



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**Rev. Canon Geoffrey Byarugaba**

The Vicar

**All Saints Cathedral, Kampala**







**2018.** BIBLE VERSES TO START YOUR DAY

## The Second Book of Moses Called Exodus

The Second Book of Moses is called Exodus. “Exodus” is a Greek word that means “departure or going out. The Book is called Exodus because it is the story of how the children of Israel went out of Egypt to the Promised Land, Canaan! Moses wrote this Book for the people of Israel between 1450 – 1410 BC in 15th Century BC. It contains the events of the deliverance of Israel from Egypt and her formation as a nation. Moses wrote the Book in the Sinai Peninsula as the Israelis wandered in the wildness.

While in Genesis we see God forming the world for Himself, in Exodus we see God forming Israel for Himself. In Exodus, we view the redemption of the world symbolically. This book contains two main themes: 1.The fulfillment of God’s promises that were made to Abraham, 2.The giving of the Laws which were to be observed by Israel (Chapters 20 – 40). In the Book of Exodus, there are symbols of Christ, probably more than in other Books of Old Testament. The Central theme of the book is God’s presence amongst His people.

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2018. The children of Israel are oppressed; Text: Exodus 1:1-22.**

*‘Then a new King, who did not know about Joseph, came to power in Egypt. “Look,” he said to his people, “the Israelites have become much too numerous for us. Come, we must deal shrewdly with them...if war breaks out, will join our enemies, fight against us and leave the country.”So they put slave masters over them to oppress them...’” verses 8 – 11 (NIV). The King who did not know about Joseph, meaning he did not know how Joseph had blessed Egypt, such a king must have been a Hyksos ruler. Hyksos were people who came from western Asia and settled in Nile delta before 1650 BC. This foreign*

ruler rose against the Egyptian establishment and seized power, no wonder he did not know about Joseph.

The Israelites were becoming numerous and this threatened Pharaoh for he thought they would organise and attack his Kingdom. So he oppressed them in order to kill their self esteem and also subdue their growth. The brutal slave drivers were meant to keep them working harder and faster, making their lives very miserable, instead the Hebrews increased in number (v.12).

The devil thought by working behind the scenes to kill Jesus Christ would frustrate God's plan to redeem mankind, far from it, instead the devil was conquered.

*Meditate on verse 17. How are you going to apply it to your life?*

**My heavenly Father, teach me to obey Your command to serve You with all You have given me. In the name of Jesus Christ I pray. Amen.**

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**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 2018. Moses is born in a hostile environment; Text: Exodus 2:1-25.**

*'...And when she saw that he was a beautiful child, she hid him three months. But when she could no longer hide him, she took an ark of bulrushes for him, daubed with asphalt and pitch, put the child in it... the daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river... she saw the child, and behold, the baby wept. So she had compassion on him, and said, "This is one of the Hebrews' children,"' verses 2 – 6 (NKJV).* Moses was born at a time when Pharaoh Thutmose 1 had issued a decree to kill every male baby of the Hebrews in order to contain their increasing numbers.

Moses was a symbol of Christ. Christ too was taken into exile in Egypt while the babies of His time were brutally murdered by the then King Herod. Moses delivered the children of Israel from bondage in Egypt and Jesus Christ delivers God's people from the bondage of sin. Receive and accept Jesus Christ as your Saviour and Lord, and you will be delivered.

*Meditate a verse 24. How are you going to apply it to your life?*

**Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, I pray that You hear the groaning of the people of our nation. Amen.**

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 2018. In humility, Moses was trained by God to lead the children of Israel; Text: Exodus 3:1-22.**

*“Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian. And he led the flock to the back of the desert, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God,”* verse 1 (NKJV). Moses who grew up as a prince in the palace of Pharaoh and was catered for in all aspects, was now a shepherd doing everything for himself. He was doing the very work he had been taught in Egypt to despise (Gen. 43:32; 46:33, 34). He grew up in the palace, he is now in the wilderness, living as an unknown foreigner!

This again is a symbol of Jesus Christ who left His glory in heaven and became man, subjected to the law He had made. Some times you need to pass through some difficult and humbling circumstances for your own growth. God uses such circumstances to make you what He wants you to be!

*Meditate on verse 12. How are you going to apply it to your life?*

**Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, I pray that You will always be with me. Amen.**

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**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> April, 2018. Moses is empowered by God to lead the children of Israel from Egypt; Text: Exodus 4:1-31.**

*‘So Moses went and returned to Jethro his father-in-law, and said to him, “Please let me go and return to my brethren who are in Egypt, and see whether they are still alive....”* verse 18 (NKJV). Much as Moses got a clear calling from God, he still maintained humility towards his father-in-law. Moses did not tell him the details of his mission like he did to his brother Aaron (v.28). The details of his mission, Moses kept them to himself.

The brothers of Jesus Christ urged Him to enter Judea with pomp (John.7:3) so that the world may know how great He was, but Jesus refused, claiming that His time was not yet (John 7:6). The time to reveal the details was not yet. Just like Moses, never rush to divulge your mission and its details before time. You must handle every mission with humility, however, important it may be.

*Meditate on verse 18. How are you going to apply it to your life?*

**Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, I pray for humility even when I receive a higher calling. Amen.**

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2018. Moses and Aaron encounter Pharaoh, Text: Exodus5:1-23.**

*'Afterward Moses and Aaron went in and told Pharaoh, "Thus says the LORD God of Israel: 'Let My people go, that they may hold a feast to Me in the wilderness,'"* verse 1 (NKJV). Here is when the confrontation between Moses and Pharaoh begins. Unfortunately Pharaoh was ignorant about the practice of worshiping one God. The Egyptians worshipped many gods, as we shall see later, and he had never heard of the One True God of Israel, that the slaves in his kingdom worshipped. Since Pharaoh had never experienced the powerful God of Israel, he took it to be a hoax, and instead increased the task burden upon the children of Israel (v.9).

Many people today underestimate the power of God through Jesus Christ. Many who have not experienced His grace dismiss Him, others abuse Him in many different ways. However, many who have received Him like Saul who became Paul, have great testimonies. If you have never received Jesus Christ as your Saviour and Lord, today is your day! (Heb.3:8).

*Meditate on verse 1. Are you one of those who still ask the same question today? Are you one of those who under estimate God's power to save? Repent!*

**Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, I pray that many people will be released from the hold of the devil and instead turn to worship You alone, the Almighty God. Amen.**

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**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> April, 2018. God promises Moses deliverance; Text: Exodus 6: 1-30.**

When the Israel foremen attacked Moses for the trouble he had caused them (Exod.5:21) God comforted him with a promise that *"...with a strong hand he will let them go, and with a strong hand he will drive them out of his land"* verse 1 (NKJV). God responds to Moses' prayer that the stage has been set for Pharaoh to release the children of Israel, and that he will soon urge them to leave. It is important to note that when the Israel foremen attacked Moses, Moses went to God in prayer and God answered him with a promise of deliverance. At the time when Jesus was under intense distress He cried to God in prayer at the Mount of Olives and an angel from heaven came to comfort and strengthen Him (Luke 22:43).

*Meditate on verse 1. When you are overwhelmed by stress, where do you go? What is God teaching you in this verse?*

**Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, let the wicked see Your power in this dark world. Amen.**

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**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> April, 2018. God begins to judge the gods of Egypt; Text: Exodus 7:1-25.**

God sent plagues as proof that He is the only One True God who was far greater than all the many gods of Egypt (Exod. 7:5). When Aaron stretched his rod over the waters of Egypt, over their streams, over their rivers, over their ponds and over all their pools of water following Moses' command, they became blood (v.19). Here God was judging *Hapi*, god of the Egyptians. The Egyptian god, Hapi, was an ancient god of River Nile. Hapi was a popular god whom Egyptians believed brought fertility to the river Nile banks for agriculture. So when the River Nile, the lifeline for the Egyptians became blood, the Egyptians were thrown in total disarray! The god, Hapi, was rendered useless in the face of God's judgement.

Our God is all-powerful, no one compares to Him. And it is only in Christ that you can fellowship with Him.

*Meditate on verse 20. Is there anything you have worshipped other than God of the Bible, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ? Repent.*

**Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, we ask for forgiveness as a nation for we have worshiped other gods other than You. We repent of this wickedness. Amen.**

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**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> April, 2018. More plagues as God judges the other gods of Egypt; Text; Exodus 8:1-32.**

*“So Aaron stretched out his hand over the waters of Egypt, and the frogs came up and covered the land of Egypt”* verse 6 (NKJV). A frog represented the Egyptian god, Heqt. Heqt was a god of birth. Frogs were sacred in Egypt, and therefore for them to be everywhere and being stepped on, God was

judging a god that the Egyptians revered (vv.3-4). When Pharaoh begged Moses to pray for him so that frogs go away, He was acknowledging that the God of Israel who authored the plague was far Superior to their Egyptian god. The God of Israel is the eternal God who created and controls everything. Thus, do not worship the created things or any other objects, instead worship the true God, the triune God, the Creator.

Through the plague of lice (v.17), God was judging the Egyptian god, Geb, their god of the earth who failed to stop the dust from becoming lice. The Egyptian magicians were equally impotent in the face of the God's judgement as they could not duplicate the plague, instead they recognised that "...*this is the finger of God...*" (v.19). The fourth plague of flies was God judging the Egyptian god, Khepri. This god failed to tame the multiplication of flies.

*Meditate on verse 15. How do you relate this verse to yourself? Do you take God for granted?*

**Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, forgive me whenever I have taken You for granted. I repent. Amen.**

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**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> April, 2018. God inflicts the fifth plague on live stock; Text: Exodus 9:1-35.**

*"behold, the hand of the LORD will be on your cattle in the field, on the horses, on the donkeys, on the camels, on the oxen, and on the sheep – a very severe pestilence,"* verse 3 (NKJV). Here God was judging the Egyptian god called Apis, which was in form of a bull. God wanted to show Pharaoh and his henchmen that if animals could die in that way, then their god, Apis, was useless, otherwise it should have saved their animals. Do you worship a god that you carry around yourself or any other object that is created? Worship the Creator. You are only able to worship God, the Creator when you are in Christ, the Way, the Truth and the Life. When you are in Christ, you will not die! (v.6).

Through the sixth plague, God was judging the Egyptian god, Isis, which was the god of medicine. This god failed to reverse the boils on all Egyptians. The boils were so severe that the magicians could not stand before Pharaoh for two reasons mainly: 1.They were very sick and in pain so they could not stand. 2. They were "defiled" and therefore could not stand before Pharaoh.

The seventh plague God was judging the Egyptian god, Nut, that controlled the sky. This god failed to control the hail as it was believed it could by the Egyptians.

*Meditate on verse 4. What encouragement do you get from this verse?*

**Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, I pray for the protection of Your children. Give them victory over the devil's temptations. Amen.**

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**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> April, 2018. The eighth plague was that of locusts; Text: Exodus 10:1-29.**

On the eighth plague of locusts, God was judging the Egyptian god, Seth, god of vegetation and agriculture. The locusts would destroy fields, verse 4 – 6. This was to show Pharaoh that his god, Seth, was useless for it could not protect the fields from plagues of locusts. And indeed Pharaoh's servants were equally frustrated and fearful. They now urged Pharaoh to let the Israelites go away (v.7).

The ninth plague of darkness was God judging the Egyptian god, Ra, god of the sun. Ra was one of the greatest of the gods in Egypt. God wanted to show Pharaoh, and indeed the Egyptians that if Ra was creator and controlled the Sun, he should have been able to have control over light and darkness (v.23). On this plague, Pharaoh issued death threats to Moses (v.28). As you come close to victory, the devils' threats may seem real but persist, the victory is yours in Christ!

*Meditate on verse 26. What is God teaching you in this verse? How are you going to apply it to your life?*

**Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, fill me with the desire to worship You with all that I have. Amen.**

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**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> April, 2018. The Lord promises one more plague; Text: Exodus 11:1-10.**

The Lord promises Moses to bring one more plague upon Pharaoh and Egypt. This tenth and last plague will bring Pharaoh to his senses. He will then be forced to drive the children of Israel out of Egypt. (v.1). The children of Israel

are assured of plundering the Egyptians (3:22). The tenth and last plague, will cause the death of all the first borns of Egyptians and their animals, including the first born of Pharaoh, the crown prince (vs 5). The first born represented several special qualities including that of life and strength (Gen. 49:3). It carried religious, social, dynastical and political significance. While there was turmoil and grief among the Egyptians, not even a dog barked in the Israelite territory (v.7). In Christ, we do not fear what others fear.

*Meditate on verse 7. What is God teaching you in this verse?*

**My heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, let every one know that You are leading and fighting for Your Church. Amen.**

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**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> April, 2018. The tenth plague was the dying of the first borns; Text: Exodus 12:1-51.**

In preparation for the tenth and final plague, the Passover ceremony is established. The picking of the Passover lamb symbolised Christ, the perfect Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29). In the whole process, faith was key. They had to put on belts, sandals and hold a staff ready to go. This was faith gesture that indeed they were getting out of Egypt (v.11).

This last plague announced will be the last straw that will break the horse's back; there would be death of first borne males in the land (vv.5 – 6). This plague symbolised God judging Pharaoh who was considered a god. Now here is a god that cannot protect "his people" including his own son. All this was because Pharaoh could not believe that there was God who was greater than he.

*Meditate on verse 38. What other things are you leaning on that may be a stumbling block to you!*

**Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, I pray for those who are burdened by many things, that they shall find rest in You. Amen.**

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**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> April, 2018. God's will is always the best for you; Text: Exodus 13:1-22.**

God took the children of Israel through the long route rather than the direct one to Canaan in order to protect His children from the onslaught of their

enemies (vv. 17-18). In the same way Jesus Christ passed through a painful ordeal in order to save you and me from the bondage of sin.

*Meditate on verse 21. How does it encourage you in your Christian journey?*

**Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, thank You for Your promise that You will not leave or forsake me. Forgive me for not trusting You fully. Amen.**

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**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2018. The Lord will fight for you; Text: Exodus 14:1-31.**

The LORD who encouraged the children of Israel to stand still and see the salvation of the Lord (vv. 13-14) does not change. He is the same God who today is encouraging you to be still and hold your peace. He has been fighting for you and continues to fight for you! Throughout their journey to the Promised Land, God fought for His children.

*Meditate on verses 13 – 14. How are you going to apply them to your life?*

**My heavenly Father, thank You for the battles You have fought for me. Through You and in You I am always confident of victory. In the name of Jesus Christ I pray. Amen.**

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**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2018. Trust the Lord even in hard times; Text: Exodus 15:1-27.**

The children of Israel who had earlier sung songs of victory (vv.1-18) soon forgot the victory that the LORD had handed them and began to grumble due to lack of water (v.24). Many times the devil draws our attention to challenges that we are facing other than the victories that God has given us over time. Are you discouraged? Please count your blessings, one by one, you will be amazed!

*Meditate on verse 25. How are you going to apply it to your life?*

**My heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, I cry to You for deliverance, provision and protection. Amen.**

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**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April, 2018. God offers bread to Israelites from heaven; Text: Exodus 16:1-36.**

The spirit of grumbling was rife amongst the Israelites. Despite the wonders that they had witnessed both in Egypt and along the way they still were unplacated. They reminisced with nostalgia the pots of meat and bread that they fed on in slavery (vv.2-3). This was very unfortunate, as God offered them bread and meat. The bread, manna, was symbolic of Jesus Christ who is the bread of life (John 6:48).

*Meditate on verse 2. What complaints do you have against God? Turn your complaints into prayer items.*

**Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, I pray against discontentment and greed in our society. Amen.**

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**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> April, 2018. God offers water from the rock; Text: Exodus 17:1-16.**

With every need, the Israelites grumbled. In essence, they declared their lack of confidence in Moses and God. “...*Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?*” Verse 3 (ESV). They went on to question if God was with them (v. 7). These were the people who had witnessed plagues in Egypt, the Passover and had crossed the Red Sea on dry ground, but still doubted! They could still see a pillar of cloud, depicting God’s presence (13:21), but they did not believe that God was with them.

Jesus Christ had performed miracles before multitudes, proving that indeed He was the Messiah, but instead of embracing Him, they cried to Pilate, “...*crucify him*” (Mark 15:13). The choice is yours; you can receive and believe in Christ and receive eternal life or you reject Him and suffer the effects of sin.

*Meditate on verse 4. How are you going to apply it to your life?*

**My heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, I cry to You to save my nation. Amen.**

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**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> April, 2018. Jethro gives counsel to Moses: Text: Exodus 18:1-27.**

Jethro advised Moses to delegate part of his work load to others so that he could “...*Stand before God for the people, so that you may bring the difficulties to God,*” verse 19 (NKJV). It was important that Moses prays for the people before God. As a leader, he could not under rate or delegate prayer! This is also what the apostles did, they delegated the service of tables to others and concentrated on prayer and the ministry of the Word (Acts 6:1-7). Moses was given the qualities of leaders to choose, able men, men who fear God, trustworthy and who hate bribe (v.21). You will fear God if you are dependant on Him through prayer. Jesus Christ, God Himself depended on His Father to accomplish His mission (Luk.6:12). In your family and ministry prayer is very critical, and you should never delegate it!

*Meditate on verse 21. How are you going to apply it to your life?*

**Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, I pray that You give us leaders who fear You and are men and women of integrity. Amen.**

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**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> April, 2018. Finally, the Israelites reached Mount Sinai; Text: Exodus 19:1-25.**

God had promised Moses that when they come out of Egypt they would serve Him on this mountain (3:12). And God promised them they will be a treasured nation above all other nations on the condition that they obeyed His law and kept His covenant! (v.5). You will become a special child of God only if you receive and believe in His son, Jesus Christ! (John 1:12). You will “become” is properly used in the previous sentence. This sentence indicates that as one matures she/he becomes special child of God when one obeys the leading of the Holy Spirit moment by moment (John 14:21).

*Meditate on verse 5. How are you going to apply it to your life?*

**Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, teach me how to obey You and keep Your covenant. Amen.**

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**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> April, 2018. The Ten Commandments are given; Text: Exodus 20:1-26.**

It is important to note that the children of Israel had come from Egypt, a country where Egyptians worshiped many idols as gods, and each god had its area of jurisdiction. Therefore they needed to be reminded outright that there is only One True God. This is the reason that this commandment is number one on the list of the Ten Commandments handed over to the Israelites through Moses. Today many people have embraced idol worship, both overtly and covertly.

Money and riches have become gods for many. Yet the Bible advises us to seek God's Kingdom and His righteousness and the rest that we crave for would be added to us (Matt. 6:33).

*Meditate on verses 1-17. How are you going to apply them to your life?*

**My heavenly Father, teach me how to obey and apply Your Commandments. Amen.**

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**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> April, 2018. The moral law is enacted; Text: Exodus 21:1-36.**

In this chapter, the fifth and sixth commandments are enlarged and moral law established. Some of the Ten Commandments that had already been given are repeated for emphasis, for example, "And he who strikes his father or his mother shall surely be put to death" verse 15 (NKJV). This shows disrespect to your parents in any way: physical or verbal is a grave act, punishable by death!

*Meditate on verse 15. How are you going to apply it to your life?*

**Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, I thank You for the gift of parents. Keep and provide for them and help me to respect them. Amen.**

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**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2018. Moses enacts the principle of restitution; Text: Exodus 22:1-31.**

In this chapter, we see the scope of several commandments extended, for example, first, seventh and eighth commandments. As part of the first

commandment, we see that “*You shall not permit a sorceress to live*” verse 18 (NKJV). This was a crime against God and was punishable by death. Sorcery was and is still rebellion against God and His authority. By indulging in sorcery, you are clearly indicating that you are on the team of the devil instead of that of God.

*Meditate on verse 18. Are you in any way practicing witchcraft? Do you see witchcraft in your community? How are you going to tame it?*

**Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, forgive us as a nation for a lot of witchcraft that goes on every day. We repent as a nation. Amen.**

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**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2018. The extension of the Ten Commandments is concluded; Text: Exodus 23:1-33.**

The explaining or enlargement of the commandments is concluded. The ninth commandment states, “*You shall not circulate a false report. Do not put your hand with the wicked to be an unrighteous witness,*” verse 1 (NKJV). False reporting includes: gossip, slander and false witness. It undermines unity in the family and society, creating chaos! This applies to us today. You need to avoid rumour mongering. Do not participate in gossiping. Walk in light with another (Eph. 5:8), and let your yes be yes! (James 5:12).

*Meditate on verse 1. What is God teaching you in this verse? How are you going to apply it to your life and family?*

**Father, I pray for forgiveness when I have participated in gossiping and has caused division. In the name of Jesus Christ I pray. Amen.**

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**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2018. Israel ratifies the covenant; Text: Exodus 24:1-18.**

The people answered “*...All that the LORD has said we will do...*,” verse 7 (NKJV). The people pledged to obey God’s Word, and this was beautiful. The LORD was pleased with this and permitted the seventy elders to see Him (v.10). By seeing God this meant, they saw a visible manifestation of the Lord, and not the fullness of His glory and power. The covenant was sealed with the sprinkling of blood of an animal. This was symbolic in that later, the blood of Jesus Christ was shed once for all to wash away the sin of man.

*Meditate on verse 7. How are you going to apply it to your life?*

**My heavenly Father, I pray that You will permit me to always see Your visible manifestation. In the name of Jesus Christ I pray. Amen.**

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**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> April, 2018. God gives instructions to Moses on how to erect and furnish the tabernacle; Text: Exodus 25: 1 – 40.**

In this chapter, God gave instructions to Moses on how to erect and furnish the tabernacle that will contain God's presence among His people. Remember they had questioned His presence with them (17:7). God gave the opportunity for people, through Moses, to contribute materials needed to construct the tabernacle (v.2). The materials to offer were mentioned; fourteen items in all (v.v. 3-7). The people responded willingly and enthusiastically (35:21-29; 36:3-7).

As people gave these precious items and built the tabernacle, their actions were symbolic, God is the best giver, and He gave His only Son, Jesus Christ, Emmanuel – God with us!

*Meditate on verse 2. How are you going to apply it to your life?*

**My heavenly Father, thank You for Your Son Jesus Christ, for He is with me always until the end of the time when I will see Him face to face in Jesus' name. Amen.**

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**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2018. Moses receives the instructions concerning the inner decor of the tabernacle; Text: Exodus: 26:1-37.**

The ark was placed behind the veil. The veil was between the holy place and the most holy (vv.31-33). This means that even after performing the ceremonial law people were still not perfectly cleansed to relate with God. By observing the law it could not take any one to heaven. It is only the blood of Jesus Christ that makes one clean to enter the throne of grace with confidence. The reason why at the time of Jesus' death the veil of the temple got torn into two (Matt.27:51). You fellowship intimately with God through Christ only!

*Meditate on verses 36 – 37. What is God teaching you in those verses?*

**Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, teach me diligence as I follow through Your instructions. Amen.**

**Moses gets instructions detailing how the tabernacle should look inside.**

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> April, 2018. Moses get instructions concerning the Bronze altar; Text: Exodus 27:1-21.**

Moses is instructed to make a bronze altar on which to burn sacrifices (v.1). It was situated in the courtyard of the tabernacle and it was the first item the Israelites would see as they entered the Tabernacle courtyard. It stood as a reminder to the people that they would come to God through sacrifice only. It was symbolic of Jesus Christ as the one-off perfect sacrifice. In Christ you access God without the cumbersomeness of repetitive sacrifices. Jesus Christ is God's perfect sacrifice which was done once for all.

*Meditate on verse 1. What is God teaching you in this verse?*

**Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, I thank You for Jesus Christ, the perfect sacrifice that atoned for my sins. Amen.**

## **The Book of PSALMS**

The name "Psalms" means songs. It comes from Greek word, "Psalmoi". The author of psalms is God Himself. God composed the psalms through more than seven people. King David composed at least seventy three (73) of the one hundred fifty (150) psalms; the sons of Korah accounted for ten (10) and Asaph composed 12; Solomon 2; Moses 2; Ethan 2. The composers of the remaining 50 psalms remain anonymous much as Ezra is considered to have written some. It took about 900 years to have all the psalms composed.

The Book of psalms is the largest book in the Bible and most quoted Old Testament Book in the New Testament. Psalm 117 represents the middle chapter (out of 1,189) in the Bible and is also the shortest chapter in the Bible. Psalm 119 is the largest chapter in the whole Bible.

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> April, 2018. The Blessed man and the ungodly man; Text: Psalm 1:1-6.**

*“Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night,”* verses 1-2 (ESV). This is one of the two psalms referred to as “orphan psalms” for they do not have titles. The second one is the second psalm. To be blessed, means to have a deep contented joy and satisfaction from God. A blessed person does not entertain evil ways, neither is he anxious. However, the ungodly man is like chaff, meaning, the ungodly man is without value, unsubstantial and not worthy of anything, but to be discarded and blown about by the wind. You will have value and not be counted as chaff only when you are in Christ. In Him there is eternal life.

*Meditate on verses 1-2. How are you going to apply them to your life and family?*

**My heavenly Father, In the name of Jesus Christ, help me not to be in the association of wicked people. Amen.**

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**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2018. The Lord’s anointed one; Text: Psalm 2:1-12.**

This is messianic psalm, a psalm pointing to Christ. *“... the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against his anointed...,”* verse 2 (ESV). King David is believed to have composed this psalm. Much as it seems to talk about David himself, the psalm was symbolic, it was ultimately fulfilled by the Messiah, Jesus Christ, the King of kings! He is the anointed one of God.

*Meditate on verses 10 – 11. How are you going to apply them to your life?*

**Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, I pray for wisdom and to rejoice in You. Amen.**

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**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2018. The Lord will deliver you from all your troubles; Text: Psalm 3:1-8.**

You may be facing several challenges, some dire. However, trust the Lord. The Lord is more than able to help you! He will answer you from His holy hill (v.4)

*Meditate on verse 6. How are you going to apply it to your life?*

**My heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, thank You for delivering me from severe challenges I have gone through. Father deliver the families that are with challenges. Amen.**

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## 2018. BIBLE VERSES TO START YOUR DAY

The Book of Psalms continued...

**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> May, 2018. The Lord will strengthen you when you face challenges; Text: Psalm 4:1-8.**

You the child of God, may face many difficulties but God will deliver you from them all. The Lord will hear you when you call on Him (v.3).

*Meditate on verse 3. How are you going to apply it to your life?*

**Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, give me the strength to stand firm when I am faced with difficult situations in life. Amen.**

---

**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2018. Trust the Lord in all situations, especially difficult ones Text: Psalm 5:1-12.**

The Lord will deliver you from all your troubles, for He blesses the righteous and covers him with favour as with a shield, (v.12). Trust the Lord as you walk in the righteousness of Jesus Christ. Seek holiness and righteousness and the Lord will answer your needs.

*Meditate on verse 6. What warning do you get from the Lord?*

**Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, destroy those who trade lies in our society. Uplift the rights of Your children. Amen.**

---

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 2018. In distress cry to God; Text: Psalm 6:1-10.**

The Bible shows that David, like Jeremiah was a weeping prophet. This extract depicts one of his lamentations. King David wrote this Psalm at a time when

he was in great distress. It is a good Psalm to read and sing when you are sick or in affliction. When you are under pressure and distress trust and cry to God (v.9). The Lord will hear your groaning! Do not listen to the devil that you have hit a dead end, cry to God, He will rescue you!

*Meditate on verses 8-9. How are you going to apply them to your life?*

**My heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, heal me and take away all my troubles. Amen.**

---

**Friday 4<sup>th</sup> May, 2018. Let the injustice you encounter strengthen you in the Lord; Text: Psalm 7:1-17.**

David wrote this psalm when he was under false accusations from his enemies. He took the case to God in prayer. When you encounter injustice, your defense is in the Lord, your God (v.10). Do not be discouraged, trust the Lord, He will deliver you! Many enemies may rise, but the victory is yours in Christ Jesus.

*Meditate on verse 10. How are you going to apply it to your life?*

**Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, I pray for justice to prevail in our country. Give hope to the hopeless and the poor. Amen.**

---

**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> May, 2018. The creation gives glory to God; Text: Psalm 8:1-9.**

The psalm concentrates on the glory and greatness of God. David goes ahead to extol the goodness of God using the weakest of children (v.2) to serve His purposes and for creating heavenly bodies as they serve man (vv. 3-4). For man to have dominion over other creatures, yet little lower than the angels (vv. 5-8). The whole of creation; the stars, sun, moon, mountains, valleys, deserts and oceans are all awesome, they all point to God Almighty, the unseen God.

*Meditate on verse 2. What is God teaching you in this verse?*

**My heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, how excellent Your name is in all the earth! Amen.**

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**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> May, 2018. God rules over all nations; Text: Psalm 9:1-20.**

The Lord rebuked and continues to rebuke nations for the evils they commit. He is able to do it because He created them. Unless they repent, they will be destroyed forever (v.5).

*Meditate on verse 11. How are you going to apply it to your life and family?*

**My heavenly father, in the name of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us as we spread Your Word! Amen.**

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**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> May, 2018. The Lord is with you always; Text: Psalm 10:1-18.**

In difficult circumstances, the devil deceives you that your God is not interested in you and is far from you. (v.1). Do not swallow the bait, the Lord is always near you, just obey and trust Him!

*Meditate on verse 17. How are you going to apply it to your life?*

**Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, break the arm of the wicked in this country. Liberate Your people. Amen.**

---

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> May, 2018. Always trust in the Lord; Text: Psalm 11:1-7**

This Psalm is about David and Saul who chose to be the enemy of the former. Saul, in a fit of rage attempted to spear David for the second time. David was then advised by his friend to flee the country. David refused to go and instead placed his trust in the Lord's protection. *'In the LORD I take refuge; how can you say to my soul, "Flee like a bird to your mountain,"'*? (v.1) (ESV). In life there will be threatening situations to you or to the body of Christ. The remedy is to trust in the Lord and not fret!

*Meditate on verse 1. How are you going to apply it to your life and family?*

**My heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, I choose to trust in You always. Amen.**

---

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> May, 2018. Man's words hurt but God's Words heal; Text: Psalm 12:1-8.**

Many times men's words are hurtful, but God's words bring healing. Out of frustration, David under the leadership of King Saul thought that all the godly people had perished and disappeared (v.1). David was concerned that every one was uttering lies (v.2). This very sin is rampant these days. Listen to the lies being told in the community around you, from the media, leaders, young and old. You realise that the devil is at work, for he is the father of lies (John 8:44).

*Meditate on verses 6-7. How are you going to apply them to your life and church?*

**Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, preserve Your children's descendants from generation to generation. Wash away the sin of lying. Amen.**

---

**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> May, 2018. Always pray to God for victory and comfort; Text: Psalm 13:1-6.**

David wrote this psalm complaining to God about the challenges he was going through. It seemed to him that God had forsaken him but he still went a head to present his case before God in prayer while also seeking comfort (vv.3-4). He goes on to reaffirm his faith in the Lord and believes that he will be delivered from his enemies (v.6). Like David, trust in God and walk in victory by faith!

*Meditate on verses 5 – 6. How are you going to apply them to your life?*

**My heavenly, Father, because of Your mercy, let my heart rejoice in Your salvation. In the name of Jesus Christ I pray. Amen.**

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**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> May, 2018. The depravity of human nature; Text: Psalm 14:1-7.**

When God had created the world, everything was very good (Gen.1:31), but some time later He regretted that He had made man (Gen.6:6). None of us can boast of any goodness when subjected to God's perfect standard. *"They have all turned aside; together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good, not even one,"* verse 3 (ESV). Only Jesus Christ lived a perfect life.

We need to receive and believe in Him, only then can we attain righteousness, of Jesus Christ, not of our own.

*Meditate on verse 3. How are you going to respond to this verse?*

**Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, I pray that You arise and fight for us. Give us victory. Amen.**

---

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May, 2018. Live a life that pleases God; Text: Psalm 15:1-5.**

This Psalm, though short, prescribes the way a Christian should live (vv.2-5). The Psalm ends with a promise that “...*He who does these things shall never be moved*, verse 5 (ESV). Your daily activities should reflect God’s perfect standards mentioned in this chapter, in particular, and else where. You will be able to practice the set standard mentioned effectively when you are in Christ, who lived a perfect life on earth.

*Meditate on verses 2-5. How are you going to apply them to your life and family?*

**My heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, enable me to live by Your perfect standard, and not that of this world. Amen.**

---

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2018. In Christ you have eternal life; Text: Psalm 16: 1-11.**

This Psalm much as it seems to talk about David like being rescued from his enemies or death, it is symbolic. It points to the resurrection of Jesus Christ. “*For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption,*” verse 10 (ESV). Indeed the tomb could not hold Christ, He rose from the dead and by faith in Him you and I can have eternal life. In Christ alone you will never perish!

*Meditate on verses 7 – 8. How are you going to apply them to your life?*

**My heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ I pledge to bless You always, to the glory of Your name. Amen.**

---

**Monday 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2018. Develop confidence in the Lord; Text: Psalm 17:1-15.**

David was under distress probably due to Saul's relentless pursuit and he was sincere to God that he was indeed in trouble (v.1). He trusted in the LORD that He would answer and rescue him (v.15). God looks for a sincere heart that trusts in Him. Such character develops as one accepts Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord.

*Meditate on verse 15. How are you going to apply it to your life?*

**Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, hear my cry for this nation. Rescue us from ungodliness. Amen.**

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**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018. Develop a heart of gratitude; Text: Psalm 18:1-50.**

David composed this Psalm as a thanksgiving message to God who had rescued him from his many enemies who included Saul (vv.1-19). This psalm is almost the same with 2 Samuel 22, with some few minor changes. At the end it points to Jesus Christ (v.50), as a confirmation of the Davidic covenant. Always thank God for all He has done for you: the gift of life, family, miracle of salvation etc. Thank God through Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour.

*Meditate on verses 1 – 3. How are you going to apply them to your life?*

**My heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, I pledge to love You, my Rock, my Fortress and my Strength! Amen.**

---

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2018. The Lord has revealed Himself to us through both general and special revelation; Text: Psalm 19:1-14.**

God has revealed Himself by general revelation through nature. When you look at the heavens and the earth, you get to sense that indeed there is Creator behind it all (vv.1-6). God has revealed Himself by special revelation through His Word, the Bible, which reveals to us His will (vv.7-14). He has finally revealed Himself through His Son, so there is no excuse for you not knowing God. Nature reveals that there is God (Rom 1:19). God's Law and Commandments show the existence of God (Rom.7:12; Matt 11:25, Tim.3:15). God has revealed Himself through Jesus Christ as written in Scripture.

*Meditate on verse 1 and 7. What is God teaching you in these verses?*

**My heavenly Father, thank You for revealing Yourself to us. It is by grace that You have done that. I thank You in the name of Jesus Christ, my Saviour and Lord. Amen.**

---

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2018. Pray to God for victory over the schemes of the enemy; Text: Psalm 20:1-9.**

In this chapter, we see people praying for the king to obtain victory while at war (vv.1-4). These prayers apply to us today. We need the grace to overcome the enemy, the devil. In Christ alone we are more than conquerors. Never trust in your preparations or readiness or any other objects because they will disappoint you! (vv.7-8).

*Meditate on verse 7. How are you going to apply it to your life?*

**My heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, I pray that I will always remember You as my Lord and my God. Amen.**

---

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> May, 2018. Experience joy in the strength of the LORD; Text: Psalm 21:1-13.**

In this psalm King David is thanking God for the successes He has accorded him. God has offered him his heart's desire and has answered his prayer requests (v.2). Trust the Lord, He will answer your requests and you will experience joy in His strength. This is only possible through Jesus Christ our Saviour and Lord!

*Meditate on verse 13. How are you going to apply it to your life?*

**My heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, I desire to exalt You, to sing to You and to praise You. Amen.**

## **The Book of ESTHER**

Esther's Hebrew name was Hadassah, meaning "myrtle" Her parents died when she was young, her father was Abihail. Esther grew up as an orphan in Persia, and was raised by her cousin, Mordecai.

The Book of Esther was written approximately 470B.C. It is unique, as it is one of two books in the Bible named after a lady, the second being that of Ruth. It is one of the three books in the Bible which New Testament does not quote or refer to. (The other three are Song of Solomon, Obadiah and Nahum). In the Book of Esther, the name of God and prayer are not mentioned. (It is like God had hidden Himself from Israelites while in exile, only revealed Himself through His timely providence). The purpose of the Book is to emphasise God's sovereignty and concern for His people. The Book of Esther introduces to us three important characters; 1. Mordecai, a hero and saviour of King Ahaseurus. 2. Haman, a villain, a man rotten to the core whose evil plan to kill all the Jews was foiled, 3. Esther, a beautiful heroine who God used to save her people, the Jews.

**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May, 2018. Queen Vashti loses her royal position; Text; Esther 1:1-22.**

The Bible warns against over indulgence in wine (Prov. 23:29-33). Under the influence of wine, "... *King Xerxes was in high spirits from wine...*," verse 10 (NIV) he commanded his wife, Vashti to be brought in and display her beauty to the audience (v.11). The queen refused for reasons not mentioned. But you can imagine a beautiful lady, a queen, to be displayed as an object of entertainment. The King gets quick counsel from his advisers; probably who are equally drunk to dethrone his wife. Ladies, world over deserve dignity, and men are commanded to love their wives. However, wine took away his sanity and sense of caution leading him trying to embarrass his wife, the queen in such a manner. Avoid wine, avoid alcohol! Embrace Christ! Be filled with the Holy Spirit instead (Eph. 5:18).

*Meditate on verse 10. How can you avoid such scenarios in your life and that of your family?*

**Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, I pray for men and women who are perpetually under the influence of alcohol and wine to be saved and delivered from them and instead be filled with the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2018. Esther becomes queen; Text: Esther 2:1-23.**

At some point, King Ahaseurus's wrath had gone down and probably out of the effects of wine, now a sober king, remembered his former queen Vashti (v.1). However, he could not reverse his decree. Now God's providential control came in when Esther pleased and won the favour of Hegai, the king's official in charge of women (v.9). Despite her beauty and new status, Esther continued to obey her cousin, Mordecai (v.20). As part of God's providence to rescue His people Esther continues to conceal her Jewish identity and out of obedience to her cousin, Mordecai, reports to the king the conspiracy to assassinate him (v.22). The perpetrators were arrested and killed. The event was recorded, and five years later God used it to save the Jews (6:1-2).

*Meditate on verse 20. What is God teaching you in this verse?*

**Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, give me the grace to always obey Your godly counsel. Amen.**

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**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> May, 2018. Haman plans to kill all the Jews; Text: Esther 3:1-15.**

Haman was an Agagite, a descendant of Amalekites, the archenemies of the Jews (Exod. 17:8-16). Amalek was Esau's grandson. Haman was promoted and the king ordered all servants who were within the king's gate to bow down and pay homage to him, but Mordecai as a Jew refused to bow before Haman (v.4). Mordecai as a Jew would only bow down to God and not to anybody or anything, whatever the circumstances would be. He trusted His God to rescue him. As for Haman, because of historical enmity towards the Jews, he planned not only to kill Mordecai but every Jew in the land. His evil plans initially seemed to succeed and was happy while the Jews were thrown into turmoil and fear (v.15). Stand firm for the truth, and the gospel for that matter, trust God in the name of Jesus Christ, and your liberation is at hand!

*Meditate on verse 4. How are you going to apply it to your life and family?*

**Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, help me to stand firm in the face of severe attacks from the enemy. Amen.**

---

**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2018. Esther responds to the call of Mordecai; Text: Esther 4:1-17.**

All along Mordecai had been telling Esther to conceal her identity (2:10), but in the face of this catastrophe he advises her to reveal who she was (v.8). Mordecai gave her information of the meticulously planned extermination of the Jews (v.8). He requested her to use her position as queen to foil the plot. At first Esther hesitated, but with firm words from Mordecai, she was obliged to act. Now with conviction and faith in an atmosphere of fear, Esther ordered a fast on her behalf. Mordecai went and did what Esther told him. Though there is no mention of prayer, it was a standard Jewish practice that prayer would go hand in hand with religious fasting. In the midst of severe challenges, in family, church or the nation you must mobilise for prayer and fasting. God will make a way where there seems to be no way!

*Meditate on verses 13-14. How are you going to apply them to your life?*

**Father, in the name of Jesus Christ give me the urge to always be in Your presence through regular prayer and fasting. Amen.**

---

**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2018. Haman finalises plans to hang Mordecai; Text: Esther 5:1-14.**

Haman's obsession with getting rid of the Jews, and Mordecai in particular, deprived him of the excitement due to Esther's planned banquet (v.13). God gave Esther wisdom which she used by delaying the revelation of the enemy of the Jews. This gave Haman ample time to make fool of himself through boasting. He was provided with all sorts of counsel from his friends, including his wife, Zeresh, who advised him to kill Mordecai first and go for the feast with the King and Esther. Haman liked the idea, gallows were raised ready to hang Mordecai, the very gallows he was hanged on later. Surround yourself with godly friends, not puppets, sycophants and "suckers". Friends who can give you "an unpopular" advice. Friends who will ask you hard questions as you account for your life. Put Christ in control of your life and the spirit of pride in you will be killed!

*Meditate on verse 11-12. How can you avoid such scenarios in your life and family?*

**Father, I pray that You turn the joy of my enemies especially the enemies of Your church into misery. In the name of Jesus Christ I pray. Amen.**

---

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> May, 2018. Mordecai is honoured by the King; Text Esther 6:1-14.**

God responded to help save the Jews as they cried to Him through fasting. The King had a sleepless night and ordered the records of the Chronicles to be read to him and Mordecai was honoured (vv.1 and 10). Mordecai clad in royal robes of the King, was paraded at the city square (v.9) where a few days before was in distress, in sackcloth and ashes (vv.4:1, 6)! After the drive, in humility Mordecai went back to the King's gate and in shame Haman went back home in a hurry. At this time when things had already gone bad, Haman received a true advice from his friends that he will fall before Mordecai the Jew (v.13), an advice they should have given him earlier! As a child of God stand firm in Christ, and the Lord will surely deliver you from all your enemies and troubles. Haman's friends remembered in history that the Jews under their Almighty God have and will always conquer! In Christ, you will always conquer! Amen.

*Meditate on verse 12. What is God teaching you in this verse?*

**Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, give victory to Your church, deliver Your church. Amen.**

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**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2018. Haman is hanged; Text: Esther 7:1-10.**

The feast went on for the second day, Esther reveals Haman as a foe and enemy of Jews (v.6) who wanted to destroy, kill and annihilate the Jews (v.4). She quoted the exact words used by Haman (3:13). Haman's honour then turned into shame and then to horror! Haman was then hanged on the very gallows he had made for Mordecai (v.9). As a child of God walk in the Spirit, walk in repentance and light with others. Trust God for He is not limited by anything, not even time or space. Your deliverance is at hand!

*Meditate on verse 9. What is God teaching you in this verse?*

**Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, give me the grace to trust You always. Amen.**

**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> May, 2018. Jews are saved and other people became Jews; Text: Esther 8:1-17.**

As it was the custom in Persian tradition, a traitor's property would return to the King and in this case the King gave Haman's property (5:11) to queen Esther, who also put it under the custody of Mordecai (vv.1-2). Mordecai was more honoured than the first instance by matching out in royal colours (white and blue) of the Persian Empire (v.15). Haman's killer decree was thwarted (v.8) and the Jews saved. The Jews everywhere in the province of Persia rejoiced and many none Jews became Jews! (v.17). Let your life style as a Christian cause many to turn to Christ!

*Meditate on verse 17. How are you going to apply it to your life and family?*

**Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, forgive me for many I have stopped from getting saved by the way I behave. Amen.**

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**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> May, 2018. The Jews over powered their enemies; Text: Esther 9:1-32.**

Since Haman had decreed that Jews should be killed and their property confiscated, this decree as per the laws of Persians and Medes could not be reversed, instead Mordecai made the King sign a new one to counter what Haman had written against the Jews so as to protect themselves from their enemies. No one could stand up to the Jews (v.2). The Jews never took any property that belonged to their slain enemies. The ten sons of Haman were also killed. As a Christian no one will stand against you, to the glory of God! As a head of the family be careful how you live. Your evil plans and actions will lead to destruction of innocent members of your family (v.10), (Jos.7:24-25).

*Meditate on verse 2. What is God teaching you in this verse in relation to fasting and prayer?*

**My heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, let Your fear fall on my enemies and the enemies of Your church. Amen.**

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**Monday 28<sup>th</sup> May, 2018. Mordecai, the Jew, became great; Text: Esther 10:1-3.**

Mordecai was once a man who stood at, and could not be allowed beyond the gate, God raised him up to become second in command of the vast Persian Empire (8:9). The secret was; he honoured God, he maintained he was of a Jewish identity even when it meant his death (3:4). Mordecai was great because he was not greedy, he thought of the welfare of the people he led and peace for all (v.3).

*Meditate on verse 3. How are you going to apply it to your life and community?*

**Father, in the name of Jesus Christ I pray that I will seek the welfare of the people I lead and strive to be a peacemaker. Amen.**

## THE ACTS of the Apostles

The Book of the Acts of the Apostles was written by Luke, a Gentile Doctor between AD 63 and 70. The “we” passages in the book, especially the latter half of it (16:10-17; 20:5-15; 21:1-18; 27:1-28 clearly affirm that Dr. Luke is the author of the Acts of the Apostles. The early church fathers like Irenaeus, Clement of Alexandria, Tertullian and Jerome also confirm that indeed Dr. Luke wrote the Acts of the Apostles. The purpose of the book is to state a correct and accurate account of the beginning of Christian church and her growth. It is a continuation of the gospel accordingly.

**Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> May, 2018. The work of Christ through His Church; Text: Acts 1:1-26.**

The book of Acts is written by Luke, the same man who wrote the Gospel we call “*Luke*”. Though this book is often called *The Book of the Acts of the Apostles* (which it is), verse 1 tells us that *Acts* is actually the continuing work of Jesus Christ (vv. 4-5,8). It is also important to note that the work of the Church will only be enabled by the power of God the Holy Spirit. Is the Church (the people of God) involved at all? Of course we are. But let us always bear in mind, as we make our plans and persevere through the challenging work that we do so humbly, never trusting in our own wisdom and strength. The important task which the Lord has called us to (v.8) is the work of God, and we are His tools.

*Meditate on verse 8. How are you going to apply it to your life?*

**My heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, give me the ability to witness for You in my family and beyond. Amen.**

**Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> May, 2018. The gift of tongues; Text: Acts 2:1-47.**

This chapter has caused a lot of division among Christians. Those who call themselves “Pentecostals” have a certain understanding and application of “tongues” which may be incorrect (4-8,11b, 32-33, 42). What the Bible means by tongues is “known human languages that were not known by the speakers but were understood by the listeners” (2:7-8). Tongues are not languages of angels, nor are they private prayer languages. The purpose of tongues is to show that the message of Christ is to go out beyond the boundary of Judaism, out to all tribes, languages, nations, and people. Tongues also show the necessity of translating the Bible into other languages. Wycliffe Bible Translators estimate that there are 1,860 languages, about 180 million people that do not have any form of Bible translation (Wikipedia.org).

If you know a language that does not have a Bible nor a portion of it, perhaps the Lord is calling you to do the work of translation! Remember, salvation is found only in the message of the Bible, the message about the person and work of Jesus Christ.

*Meditate on verse 38. How are you going to apply it to your life?*

**My heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, I pray for the repentance of this nation. Forgive us for the wrongs we have committed. Amen.**

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**Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2018. The healing of the lame man; Text: Acts 3:1-26.**

It’s important to notice that this miraculous healing took place at the temple (vv.1-8, 16). Even though God was doing something new, it started first with His people – Israel, right at their place of worship. For 1,000 years the temple was the place that symbolised God’s forgiving grace. The animals that were sacrificed there symbolically paying the penalty for the sin of the worshipper, thus bringing healing to the soul and reconciliation to God.

The miraculous healing of the lame man, by the name and the power of Jesus Christ, was a sign that true healing of the soul had finally arrived (cf. Matt.9:2-7). The miracle is also a pointer beyond our present existence. Everyone gets

sick and dies, but those who belong to Christ and His sacrifice will live with Him eternally, perfectly whole in soul and body.

*Meditate on verse 16. What is God teaching you in this verse?*

**My heavenly Father, thank You for the gift of Your Son Jesus Christ, for at His name demons tremble and flee. Amen.**

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# JUNE

**2018.** BIBLE VERSES TO START YOUR DAY

## The Acts of Apostles continued...

### Friday 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2018. The message of salvation in Jesus Christ alone; Text: Acts 4:1-37.

In this chapter we see the beginnings of opposition to the Church of Jesus (vv.1-4, 12). Opposition to God and His people has always existed (ever since Satan attacked Adam, Cain killed Abel, Egypt enslaved Israel, etc.) but here opposition rises against the newly born Church. Jesus promised it (John15:20). Interestingly, the opposition was coming from Israel, the people of God, especially the leaders. Why? Shouldn't they have been supporting the fulfillment of their religion? Yes, but there are two main reasons for their opposition: 1- the change meant that their "jobs" and their status were coming to an end; 2- the former religion of Judaism was no longer the truth. Judaism was symbolic, and Jesus Christ is the reality.

In this world there is much opposition to the truth of the message of Christ, especially from other religions, because "...*there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved*" (4:12 - NKJV). All other religions are lies. Only biblical Christianity has the truth about how we can be saved from God's wrath against our sin, it's by the Person and work of Jesus Christ alone.

*Meditate on verse 4. How are you going to apply it to your life?*

**My heavenly Father, I pray that many will receive and believe in Jesus Christ and receive eternal life. Amen.**

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**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2018. The personhood of God the Holy Spirit; Text: Acts 5:1-42.**

The last part of chapter 4 teaches about the devotion of the new church to one another (vv. 1-4). People were even selling their properties and distributing the money among the believers who were in need. Ananias and Sapphira also sold property. They kept some of the money (which is fine), but when they gave the rest of the money to the apostles, they lied and said it was the full amount of the sale. Peter asked why they had lied to the Holy Spirit. He said they did not lie to men but to God. Peter teaches us two things about the Holy Spirit: 1- the Holy Spirit is God, God the Holy Spirit; 2- the Holy Spirit is a person and not an im-person-al force, as the Jehovah's Witnesses teach. You cannot lie to a force, just as you cannot lie to an animal, nor to a machine, etc. You can only lie to a person. The Holy Spirit is a divine person, the third person of the trinity, same in substance and equal in power and glory with God the Father and God the Son.

*Meditate on verse 4. Who is the Holy Spirit?*

**Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, thank You for the Holy Spirit, who convicts us of sin. Help me to obey Him. Amen.**

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**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2018. Establishing the office of Deacon; Text: Acts 6:1-15.**

The common sharing of the Church in chapter 4-5 became a problem in chapter 6 (vv.1-4). This shows that such sharing was not intended to be a permanent feature for all generations but only for that very early group. But in God's providence the dispute was designed for the development of the Church, in particular, the establishment of the office of the Deacon. The deaconate is intended to be an office of service to the physical needs of God's people. Though Christians disagree about a few of the qualifications, there are five listed in v3: deacons are to be men, from the congregation, with good reputations, filled with the Holy Spirit, and full of wisdom. The deaconate is for those who are spiritually mature, and those who serve as deacons are to reflect the compassionate service of the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. Though only a few are called by the Lord to hold the office of Deacon, we all can help them when possible.

*Meditate on verses 3-4. How are you are going to apply it to your life?*

**My heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, give me the ability to pray for Your people, study and apply Your Word. Amen.**

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**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June, 2018. Opponents of the Gospel accuse a preacher of blasphemy; Text: Acts: 7:1-60.**

In the previous chapter we read that Stephen is a powerful preacher of the Gospel (vv.1-5), and his enemies cannot stand against him. So, the Jewish leaders have him accused falsely. In his defense, Stephen recites the history of Israel to prove that the Jews themselves are the blasphemers. God's chosen leaders were always opposed by God's people: Joseph by his brothers; Moses by the people of Israel; lastly the Christ was murdered by them. Stephen will be the first of Christ's disciples to be murdered. We could add to that list: Cain and Abel, Esau and Jacob, Judas and Jesus, etc. Two quick lessons we can take from this: 1- by God's design there will always be opposition within the Church. It is meant for our improvement (1 Cor.11:19). 2- Let's be careful that we are not the cause of opposition, that we will not love the Church benefits more than we will love Christ and His people. Stay close to the Word of God and let it be your guide in all things.

*Meditate on verse 55. What is God teaching you in this verse?*

**My heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, in the midst of false accusations, let me see Your power and glory. Amen.**

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**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> June, 2018. Persecution moves the Gospel into the world; Text: Acts 8:1-40.**

Jewish leaders were hoping to destroy the new "sect", but persecution and the murder of Stephen actually caused the Church increase (vv.1-4). As the disciples are scattered abroad, they preach the gospel, the good message of salvation in Jesus Christ. In this chapter we see a special focus on Philip, one of the seven Deacons, who is also an evangelist (Acts 21:8). Philip goes to the region of Samaria (people who are hated by Jews) and has a successful ministry among them. Later in this chapter he will teach about Jesus to an Ethiopian government official. The officer will believe and be baptised and take the message of Jesus into the continent of Africa.

*Meditate on verses 1-4. What is God teaching you in this verse?*

**My heavenly Father, in the midst of challenges, let Your Word be preached to all nations. In the name of Jesus Christ I pray, Amen.**

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**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> June, 2018. The conversion of Saul from a persecutor to a preacher; Text: Act 9:1-43.**

Many Christians today read this account of Saul and feel envious of his dramatic conversion (vv. 1-6). They may have been raised in a Christian family, in a good church, and always knew about Jesus and always trusted Him for their salvation. That is a great testimony, because that is the way God generally does covenant. Sure, He converts persons later in life, but also in quiet ways. But understand this, that every believer, whenever he/she believed, all had a radical conversion, even though it may not have been experienced as Saul had. All human beings are sinners, enemies of God by nature (Eph.2:3). When God the Holy Spirit brings a person from spiritual death (Eph.2:1) into spiritual life, a violent, drastic, radical event has occurred, just as dramatic as when Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead (John11), and as when dry bones were brought to life by the Holy Spirit (Ezek.37). You may not have been aware, but your conversion was radical! Now live like a person brought out of death and joined to the radical resurrection of Christ.

*Meditate on verse 20. Who is Jesus Christ?*

**My heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, let the enemies of the Church be convicted of sin, repent and be saved. Amen.**

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**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> June, 2018. God's people are drawn from every tribe and language; Text: Acts 10:1-48.**

For many centuries God's covenant of saving grace was found inside of the nation of Israel. But ever since the resurrection of Christ, salvation has gone outside of ethnic Israel and beyond their borders to be spread over all the earth (vv.9-16). Peter, though a disciple of Jesus, was still thinking like a Jew, excluding other people groups. In this vision, and the encounter he will have with the gentile (non-Jew) afterward, the Lord will change Peter's

understanding of who God's people are. Christ's mission, our commission, is world-wide.

You would surely agree that the good message of Christ must go to all nations. But in Uganda there is still a lot of tribalism. Business deals, marriages, politics, etc. rarely cross tribal lines. There is still much nepotism, favoritism, and bias. That kind of thinking is not expected; especially among the disciples of Christ, who are brethren with persons from every tribe and language and nation. Jesus does not treat His people that way, and neither should we.

*Meditate on verses 34-35. How are you going to apply it to your life?*

**Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, give me the ability to preach Your Word beyond my family. Amen.**

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**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> June, 2018. Peter explains the gentile conversions, and Paul begins the early stages of his mission work: Text: Acts 11:1-30.**

When Peter returns to Jerusalem, he tells the fellow Christians (who used to be religious Jews) about how salvation had come to the gentiles (vv. 15-18, 22, 25-26). When they heard that the gentiles not only trusted in Jesus, but that their belief was confirmed by Christ's gift of the Holy Spirit, they accepted that salvation was going beyond Judaism. That's us also in Uganda and around the world!

Also in this chapter we see the beginning of the mission of Saul/Paul. Barnabas, the encourager (4:36) is called to preach in Antioch, an important city in that part of the world. Barnabas could have done the work himself, but he recognised God's call on Saul's life, and so he took Saul along. If you are a leader, be willing to disciple others. Do not seek to have "glory" for yourself. And even if you are not an "official" leader, encourage others in their faith. This is what Jesus did for His disciples, and we must do the same for one another.

*Meditate on verse 21. How are you going to apply it to your life?*

**Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, increase the number whom You call to Yourself every day. Amen.**

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**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2018. The Lord rescues Peter from prison and execution; Acts 12:1-25.**

Herod was a wicked man whom Rome had allowed to be king in Jerusalem (vv. 1-5). Herod wanted to please the Jews, so he began to destroy the Christians, beginning with James (the brother of John). Herod then arrested Peter. But during the night the Lord sent an angel to rescue Peter. The prison doors were opened, Peter's chains fell off, and he walked out. The Lord prevented the guards from seeing it.

Why didn't the Lord rescue James? Why didn't he rescue Stephen? The Bible frequently does not answer the "why" questions. But the Bible does teach that God is the absolute Sovereign – absolutely! All things happen according to His good eternal plan and work (Act 4:28). All things are God's creatures, and He does with us whatever He desires. His work with Stephen and James was finished, but not yet with Peter. As long as you live, it is for God's reasons. When He is ready, He will end your life and bring you to Himself. While you have breath, love and serve the Lord with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength.

*Meditate on verse 5. How are you going to apply it to your life?*

**My heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, increase my commitment to prayer. Amen.**

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**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2018. The first mission into the gentile world; Text: Acts 13:1-52.**

In this passage, the most important thing to notice about mission is that it is the work of Christ through His Holy Spirit (John20:22). In v2 it is the Holy Spirit who calls Barnabas and Saul. Of course, the Church is involved, they laid their hands on the men, meaning, the Church ordained them. Ordination is a serious business. The men were well known by the Church, but even though the Holy Spirit called the men, and before the ordination took place, the Church fasted and prayed.

We should never see ordination as an ordinary thing. For yourself, please do not ever decide that you are going to be a pastor and then appoint yourself. Having a desire to serve in this way is good, but the call is from the Holy

Spirit through His people. And even if you are not called to be an evangelist, a pastor, a teacher, etc., what you do in the Church is still the calling of God!

*Meditate on verse 2-3. Who has appointed you to do what you do?*

**My heavenly Father, I pray that the Holy Spirit will always direct my ways. In the name of Jesus Christ I pray. Amen.**

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### **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> June, 2018. The pattern of Paul's mission; Acts 14:1-28.**

Whenever Paul entered a new city, his habit was to go first to the Jews, meeting with them in a synagogue, the Jewish Sabbath gathering (vv. 1-7). It was right to do so, because the promise of the Messiah came through the Jews, so they should be the first to hear about the fulfillment. But Christ is for all nations, so Paul took the message to them, as well. But along with the proclamation came persecution, as Jesus promised (John15:20).

The message of Christ is contrary to all other religions. It is not enough for unbelievers to ignore the message. They, and the evil one, seek to close the ears of others, and to kill and to destroy the message, even if that means killing the messengers. Often in our day opposition is very slight, because we live in a polite society. But if you talk to someone about the details of the gospel, you will see hatred directly. Remember, if a person does not trust Christ's work, they cannot be saved from sin. Please be brave and reach out to others with the message of salvation.

*Meditate on verse 15. How are you going to apply it to your life?*

**My heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, I pray for the many who are lost to come to You and receive eternal life. Amen.**

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### **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2018. The Church's decision about circumcision; Acts 15:1-41.**

The Lord is extending His kingdom beyond the nation of Israel to include persons from other nations. In Acts 15 we read that a question was asked about these gentile converts to Christ: do they need to become Jews (which included circumcision) as part of becoming a Christian? (vv.1-5). It seemed to make sense, and God used to require circumcision for His people (Gen.17:14).

But the decision of the council was, “circumcision is ended”. God’s purpose for the nation of Israel, for the temple, for circumcision, etc., all of it was finished. Jesus fulfilled everything required in the Old Testament.

The question of circumcision is still debated in many churches today, but the answer is this: Circumcision is not commanded by God for any reason; not for salvation, not for church membership, not for marriage, not for any reason. If you want to be circumcised, you are free to do so. If you don’t want to be circumcised, then do not. It is your choice. If your clan has a certain practice that you feel duty bound to follow, then go a head as long as it does not go against the beliefs and practices of Christianity. But God no longer requires circumcision, as a condition of covenant relationship.

*Meditate on verse 6. To whom are you accountable?*

**Father, I pray for men and women of integrity who can give godly counsel no the affairs of the Church, and communities. In the name of Jesus Christ I pray, Amen.**

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**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2018. God makes covenants with families; Text: Acts 16:1-40).**

When the Holy Spirit converts a person, s/he is brought into a covenant relationship with God. But God does not covenant with individuals only. He includes families (vv. 14-15, 30-33). The greatest example of that is found in Gen.17:14. God covenanted with Abraham, gave him the sign of the covenant (circumcision) and commanded that all the males be given that sign, beginning with those who are 8 days old! God still includes families in His covenant.

There is a lot of debate about baptism in the churches – who should be baptised and how. There is even disagreement about the verses read for today. When Lydia believed, she was baptised, and so was her household, though nothing is said about their faith. When God puts a child into your home, the child is part of the covenant community and is disciplined by the covenant God, so put the new covenant sign upon the child – baptism. That child belongs to God.

*How are you going to apply verse 25 to your life?*

**My heavenly Father; I pray that I will always praise You even in the midst of difficult situations. Amen.**

## Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> June, 2018. Paul takes an opportunity to preach; Acts 17:1-34.

When Paul was in Athens, Greece, as usual he taught among Jews and gentiles (vv.22-28). Some of the gentiles brought Paul to the Areopagus, also called Mars' Hill, a place of teaching and philosophy. He noticed how "religious" they were with all their idols, including an altar "To the unknown god". Paul took that opportunity to speak about the true God and His work in creation and about the resurrection of Christ. They refused to listen, but Paul spoke the Word!

Let's give special attention to Paul's quote in v.28. Everything about humanity is from God and in God. We are not independent beings who are watched by God, as He sits far away. God is our everything, according to His eternal design and work (Act4:28). Therefore, live humbly before God and with God. And look for those opportunities to speak to others about His greatness.

*Meditate on verse 11. How are you going to apply it to your life?*

**Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, I pray against the spirit of laziness in many of Your children, so that they can be able to subject every teaching they receive to the Bible. Amen.**

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## Friday 15<sup>th</sup> June, 2018. Ministers and missionaries are to be provided with financial support; Text: Acts 18:1-28.

The apostle Paul, left Athens and went to the nearby city of Corinth, an important Roman city. He found Aquilla and his wife Priscilla (Jews who became Christians) and stayed with them. They were tent makers, as was Paul, so he was able to work and support himself (vv. 1-5). But when his friends Silas and Timothy arrived, they brought money, donations from the Christians in Macedonia. Therefore, Paul was able to leave his job and do the ministry full-time.

In Uganda a great many ministers struggle financially because their churches do not support them. There are several reasons for that (some bad reasons). But it must be understood that churches should be supporting their pastors as much as possible. Paul teaches this principle in 1 Cor.9:8-14 and 1Tim.5:17-18. Even Jesus and His disciples received financial assistance (Luk.8:3). Please, for the well-being and growth of your Church, help your minister devote himself to the ministry.

*Meditate on verses 9-10. What is God teaching you in these verses? How are you going to apply them to your life and Ministry?*

**Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, drive away the spirit of fear from me. Amen.**

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**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> June, 2018. The baptism of the Holy Spirit; Text: Acts 19:1-41.**

This passage is often mis-understood (vv.1-7). So, because it is about the ministry of the Holy Spirit, we should consider it. The “disciples” Paul met in Ephesus were of John the Baptist, not of Jesus. They heard and believed John’s message of repentance and of preparation for the Messiah, but they did not know that Messiah Jesus had come. Their ignorance of the Holy Spirit does not mean that Christians need a separate experience of baptism in the Holy Spirit. They did not have the Holy Spirit because they did not yet know the message of Christ and had not yet trusted Jesus for salvation, which is the converting work of the Holy Spirit. Verse 4, “telling the people” means that Paul explained the gospel to them, which they then believed. They then had Christian baptism with water. When Paul laid his hands on them to receive the Holy Spirit (apostolic authority), they then spoke in tongues, which gave the Ephesians confidence that they also belonged to the truth Paul had preached.

*Meditate on verse 5. How are you going to apply it to your life?*

**My heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, I pray that many will receive Your miracle of saving grace. Amen.**

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**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> June, 2018. A man dies and is brought back to life; Text: Acts 20:1-38.**

In this passage Paul meets with a Church for worship on the first day of the week, Sunday, the Lord’s Day. Because the Church had an opportunity to hear directly from an apostle, Paul spoke all through the night. A certain man, Eutychus, sitting in an open window, drifted into sleep, and fell out of the window, falling three floors, died when he hit the ground (vv.7-12). Paul went down to him and, by God’s grace, brought the man back to life. The details are not given. Paul would have been teaching about Jesus and how He gives life to our dead souls (Ep.2:1), and giving life to the dead man’s body was a

sign that Jesus gives life to our spiritual deadness. (Please read Matt.9:4-6.)

Do miracles exist today? The purpose of miracles was to validate new revelation, and because the Scriptures are now finished, much as God still does supernatural things, every healing is from God, etc., and all things are provided according to His eternal plan and work, and in accordance to His will.

*Meditate on verse 27-30. What is God telling you in these verses?*

**Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, I pray against the savage wolves who are attacking Your church. Amen.**

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**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> June, 2018. Paul is warned of his certain arrest; Text: Acts 21:1-40.**

As Paul travelled to Jerusalem after a mission journey, he stayed in Caesarea for several days. While he was there, a certain prophet said that Paul was going to be arrested in Jerusalem (vv.10-14). The fellow believers grieved over this news and begged him not to go. But Paul was adamant and not willing to change his mind. He had to take donations to the poor Christians in Jerusalem, money collected from believers on his mission. Besides that, he was willing to die for the sake of Christ.

Are you willing to die for Jesus Christ? I think we all would say, “YES”. But the sad fact is that, every day we refuse to die for Jesus. Every time you disobey Jesus (sin), you have chosen not to die for Him, not to live for Him. Thankfully, our salvation is not based on our faithfulness – we would be lost. He died so that you could have eternal life. Let us give our lives to Him in daily obedience, dying to self and living for Christ.

*Meditate on verse 19. How are you going to apply it to your life?*

**Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, give me courage to witness for You by my words and lifestyle. Amen.**

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**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> June, 2018. Paul gives his testimony to the Jews; Text: Acts 22:1-30.**

In the previous chapter Paul is arrested, and in this chapter Paul gives his testimony to the Jews about his conversion and call (vv. 3-4, 6-7, 21-22). He knew that the Jews would be angry, but he spoke the truth any way. As it was in yesterday's reading, so there is a similar principle today. Will you speak the truth about the message of Christ, even though the consequences may be difficult? There are so many persons around us each day who will not enter eternal life, because they do not have someone to save them from their sins. There is only one Saviour in the world, Jesus Christ, and only Christians have the saving message about Him. As Paul says in Romans 10:13-17, "... *faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ*" (NKJV). We must not be afraid, nor embarrassed, nor too busy, etc. At least be ready to give a tract. If we keep silent, some people may not be saved from eternity in hell.

*Meditate on verse 21. How are you going to apply it to your life?*

**Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, I pray that You clarify my calling. Amen.**

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**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> June, 2018. Paul begins his journey to Rome, the capital of the empire; Text: Acts 23:1-35.**

The apostle Paul is being sent by God to the city of Rome (v.11). It will be a strategic move because from there believers will be properly trained by him, and they can go out to all the known world. Remember the story of Joseph in Egypt. God showed him in a dream that he would be a ruler, but he got there in a very undignified way: abused by his brothers, sold into slavery, and finally imprisoned. After many years he finally became the Prime Minister of Egypt, the most powerful nation in the world at that time.

This kind of strange path is what will happen to Paul. In a vision, Jesus told Paul that he (Paul) will go to Rome. Paul will also be abused, imprisoned, and face many dangers. But he will be a teacher of the Word in Rome. Following the same principle, it was in dying that Jesus gained life for His people. Do not judge God's purpose in your life by the circumstances you see. Your life might be very unpleasant, but at some point, possibly even at the point of death, you will understand it all.

*Meditate on verse 11. How are you going to apply it to your life?*

**Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, give me the courage to stand firm in the midst of distress and harassment. Amen.**

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> June, 2018. Paul testifies to Governor Felix; Text: Acts 24:1-27.**

The meditation for today is similar to yesterday's – persevering in difficult circumstances. Paul was imprisoned and examined in court (vv. 24-27). But he does not compromise his beliefs, as if that would set him free. Regardless of what happens to him, he speaks the truth. Notice v. 25, what Paul said to Felix made the Governor very uncomfortable. Paul spoke the truth, because the truth is always necessary. Luke also points out that the Governor was hoping that Paul would pay a bribe in exchange for his freedom, which Paul also would not do. Does that speak to your life in Uganda?! So, Paul continued in prison for two more years, even though he had done nothing wrong. Jesus faced the same sorts of things and remained true to His Father. By God's grace, may it be that we all become persons of integrity.

*Meditate on verse 25. How are you going to apply it to your life?*

**Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, fill me with boldness to preach the gospel of repentance and forgiveness. Amen.**

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**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 2018. Paul appears before the court of Governor Festus and King Agrippa; Acts 25:1- 26:1-32.**

The Lord Jesus Christ is using the civil governments to accomplish His plan and purpose in bringing Paul to the city of Rome (23:11). We should remember that Jesus is Lord over all things – He is the Creator and Sustainer of all things. In fact, Paul says that the civil governments are instituted by God (Rom.13:1), they are His servants (Rom.13:4) and His ministers (Rom.13:6)! The Lord Jesus Christ is using His civil servants for the advancement of His gospel and His Church.

It's easy to think that the civil government and the Church are completely separate and should never interact. But this passage shows that there is overlap (although the details are for another time). However, it is not the place for the civil authorities to govern the Church, and it is not the business of the Church to govern society. The Church also should not be relying on the

civil authorities for religious governance. Jesus is Lord and Governor of His Church, through the work of God the Holy Spirit, through the Lord's ordained Church ministers.

*Meditate on verse 25:7 and 26:25. How are you going to apply these verses to your life?*

**Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, I pray that the devil will never find any stronghold on me. Amen.**

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**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2018. On the way to Rome, Paul and the others go through a violent storm; Text: Acts 27:1-44.**

Paul the Apostle is headed for Rome, and in his days travel by sea was faster than over land. He and his friends were put aboard a ship that was going to sail close to the northern shore of the Mediterranean Sea. A great storm blew up and for a long time the crew was uncertain about their safety (vv.1-2, 14, 18-20). But Paul was certain they would make it because the Lord Jesus Christ had already told him he would speak in Rome.

In our daily lives the world around us often seems to be out of control. But as followers of Christ, we must trust that all things are in God's Sovereign plan and control. We may not understand very well, but it is not possible that anything in creation can operate outside of God's plan and control. Knowing and remembering that God is absolutely Sovereign should bring us great comfort in the face of any difficulty.

*Meditate on verse 35. How are you going to apply it to your life?*

**Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, I thank You for everything You have done for me. Amen.**

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**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> June, 2018. Paul imprisoned and preaches; Text: Acts 28:1-31.**

When Paul finally arrived in Rome, he was allowed to stay under house arrest rather than in a prison. He contacted the local Jews and invited them to come to his residence so that he could speak to them about Jesus (vv.17, 20-22). On a certain day, the Jews came to him and listened to him for an entire day, as he explained from Moses and the Prophets (which is the entire Scriptures)

that Jesus is the Messiah, the One the Jews had been expecting for about 20 centuries. Some believed Paul, and some did not. For two years Paul preached about the Kingdom of God and about Jesus Christ.

If you had the opportunity to explain Jesus from the Bible, as Paul did, would you be able to do it? We must become more familiar with the Bible and its message so that we can lead others to Jesus for salvation. You do not have to be holding the Bible to do what Paul did. But you must know the Bible and its message about Christ.

*Meditate on verse 31. How are you going to apply it to your life?*

**Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, give me boldness to preach Your Word. Amen.**

## The Epistle of Paul to the GALATIANS

### Introduction

St. Paul wrote the Epistle to the Galatians approximately in AD 49. The occasion of the epistle is evident; some fickle Galatians, who were not Greeks, had become prey to some legalistic Jews from Palestine. There was great debate and confusion ensued regarding Jews and Greeks, law and grace; and Spirit and flesh. He explains all and puts the gospel into its proper perspective.

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> June, 2018. Preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ; Text: Galatians 1:1-24.**

Paul goes right into the gist of the matter. He marvels at the Galatians who soon had lost the "Grace of Christ"! He states that whoever should preach any other gospel is and should be accursed! (vv. 8, 9). He states like in Romans 16:18, that the perversion of the gospel had been entertained by those who are naïve and simple. He wonders how the Christians had even to listen to the perversion of the very gospel that Paul had earlier preached in power. He calls the Galatians to wake up!

*Meditate on verses 8-9. How are you going to apply them to your life?*

**Lord help me to preach and listen to only the true gospel of repentance and forgiveness. I pray against those who pervert the gospel for their own sake. In the name of Jesus Christ I pray, Amen.**

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**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> June, 2018. The true Gospel of Jesus Christ; Text: Galatians 2:1-21.**

Paul reminds the Galatians that the true gospel does not depend on circumcision. He appeals to Peter and John to follow suit and in a move of gospel boldness rebukes 'Peter to his face'. The true gospel of Christ is to know that one is justified by faith in Christ, and not by the law (v. 16).

*Meditate on verse 16. How are you going to apply them to your life?*

**God Almighty, I pray that I will defend the true gospel of Jesus Christ. Help me to focus on You. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

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**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> June, 2018. The gospel of grace not Law; Text: Galatians 3:1-29.**

Paul now asks Galatians who could have bewitched them (v.1) partly because they had forsaken the true gospel and had embraced the law once again! They became ritualistic and legalistic, almost negating the grace that comes by faith through Jesus Christ. He affirms that through the law there is a rift but through grace we have equity.

*Meditate on verse 7. How are you going to apply them to your life?*

**Almighty God, in the name of Jesus Christ, I thank You for the grace You gave me to have faith in Your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

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**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> June, 2018. You are an heir of God through Christ; Text: Galatians 4:1-31.**

Paul introduces believers as heirs of God and because of that God, offered a gift of His Spirit and poured out His love through His Son into our hearts and His Spirit cries out Abba (Father) (v.6) in recognition of our common heritage. He therefore warns the believers against lapsing into legalities and thus losing

the blessings. There is the law and there is grace and the two cannot co-exist.

*Meditate on verse 10-11. What is God teaching you in these verses?*

**My heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, thank You for adopting me as Your child through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

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**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> June, 2018. There is liberty in Christ; Text: Galatians 5:1-26.**

Grace brings liberty, not liberty to sin (as some profess these days) but to love and serve one another (v.13). Walking in the spirit leads to satisfaction and character is produced by the Holy Spirit not self- effort. The outcome is working of a new life in and through Jesus Christ.

*Meditate on verses 25-26. How are you going to apply them to your life?*

**Heavenly Father, I thank You that You called me to liberty in Christ. Enable me to live a life of faith and to promote love among brethren, in Jesus' name. Amen**

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**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2018. Bear each others' burden; Text: Galatians 6:1-18.**

Paul ends by stating that believers will have burdens and loads. He exhorts Christians to carry one another's burdens (v.2). That those who have the burden of work should share in its fruits. And that he carries the scars of Christ as a burden to remind him to remain focused on the heavenly glory. In your spiritual journey do not mock God (v.7).

*Meditate on verse 10. How are you going to apply them to your life?*

**Lord Almighty, I thank You that I have brethren to share my burdens. May You inspire me to carry other people's burdens too through Jesus Christ my Lord and Saviour. Amen.**

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Psalms Chapters 1-21, by Mr. Apollo Mwehamiza

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