

## CHAPTER SEVEN

1. I will tell the world **how** wonderful the Lord my God is (Ps. 66:1); my Beloved, Who appears like the dawn, fair as the moon, **bright** as the sun, majestic as the stars in procession (SS 6:10); Christ Jesus Who came in the flesh (1 John 4:3), because of the tender mercy of our God; the One I love came to us from heaven as does the rising sun, to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death; to give His people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins, and to guide our feet into the path of peace (Luke 1:77-79); for there will be a time of anguish greater than any since nations first came into existence (Dan. 12:1a); a time of **trouble** and distress for every human being who is self-seeking and who rejects the truth and follows evil (Rom. 2:8); however, everyone whose name is written in the book at that time will be rescued (Dan. 12:1b).
2. Our righteous God, Who searches minds and hearts, will bring an end to the violence of the wicked, and make the righteous **secure** (Ps. 7:9), **free** of worry, and without fear, because our God is love, and where God's love is, there is no fear; God's perfect love banishes fear, for it is crippling; and what **makes** a person fearful is death and judgment and punishment (1 John 4:16-18); however, a person can be sure God's perfect love is working in them, if they obey His Word, for then they are living in truth; and as they do what the Lord tells them to, they will learn to love God more and more; indeed, this is the way for a person to know they are a Christian, and are on their way to heaven - when they are living their lives as Jesus did - they are living in God because they belong to Christ (1 John 2:4-6); sadly, those who do not belong to the One I love will hear Him say, '**Depart** from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels,' (Matt. 25:41).

3. Everyone on the **side** of truth will listen to the One I love (John 18:37); for the word of the Lord is right and **true**; my Beloved is faithful in all He does (Ps. 33:4); so listen now; the Lord's arm is not **too weak** or short to save; He isn't deaf, when a person calls He can hear them; do you or anyone you know truly care about being fair and honest; are you willing to turn from your **sins** and iniquities, for they have caused a separation between you and your God; you cannot know the love He has for you, because guilt and shame has turned His face away (Isa. 59:1-3).
  
4. God will not listen to those whose delight is to conceive mischief and give birth to sin; the way of peace cannot be established in their life, they don't even know where to find peace or what it means to be just and good; their behavior can be likened to a spider weaving its web, their time and energy is spent spinning evil plans to cheat and steal; all because their feet run straight toward evil, justice and right living are far from them; misery and sorrow trail close behind, because devastation and destruction are in the paths they follow; transgressing against the Lord, denying and turning away from the living God; for they have set rebellion and oppression decisively in their speech, uttering lies their heart conceived; not taking a moment to consider, their sins are multiplying before God, they testify against them; forcing them to walk in obscurity and gloom **waiting** expectantly for light; groping the wall as if they were blind, stumbling at noon as though it were dark; since justice has been driven back, and righteousness is opposed; truth lies fallen in the street, while honesty and uprightness have been barred; the Lord looked and was displeased to find **truth** and justice gone, and those who tried to depart evil, to find a better way, were preyed upon and plundered; so Jehovah M'Kaddesh, the One Who Sanctifies, saw there was no one helping, and wondered why someone did not intervene in behalf of His people; therefore, the Host of Heaven's Armies rose up Himself to save (Isa. 59:4-16a).

5. Anyone who refuses to accept the fact that Jesus Christ came to earth and became a man is a false teacher and the **enemy** of Christ (2 John 7); for this reason we must contend for faith, by defending the truth that God entrusted once for all to the saints; because there are godless people whose condemnation was written about long ago, who say that after we become Christians we can do just as we like without fear of God's punishment, for they refuse to follow, the Word of God, Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord (Jude 3-4); do they not know those who love the Lord, hate evil; and that my Beloved preserves and protects the souls of His godly ones (Ps. 97:10); do they not realize fire goes before Him, and burns up His adversaries **round about** (Ps. 97:3); how grateful I am to the One I love, because He has saved me (Ps. 80:3); and delivered me from the hand of the wicked; therefore, I will rejoice in the Lord, for He has given me righteousness and right standing with God, so light and joy can be sown in my heart and spread along my pathway (Ps. 97:10-12).
6. I will see God's face and shout for joy (Job 33:26); the Lord's name will be on my forehead; there will be no more night, because there will be no need for the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the One I love will give us light; and we will reign forever and ever (Rev. 22:4), because kingship has come to the Daughter of Zion (Micah 4:8); my Beloved has restored me to my righteous state (Job 33:26b); He has taken away my punishment; the Lord Jesus has turned back my enemy; the One I love, the King of Israel, is with me; no more will I fear any harm (Zeph. 3:15); Selah; instead, I will pause and listen for the melody of God's love, which can be heard in His words: 'I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you; I will protect you from trouble, and surround you with **songs** of deliverance' (Ps. 32:7-8); the love and faithfulness of my Beloved will **never** leave me, (Prov. 3:3).

7. How grateful I am to the Lord Jesus, because of His grace I have been enriched in every way – in all my speaking and in all my knowledge – I am not **lacking** any spiritual gift because the testimony of Christ is established and confirmed in me (1 Cor. 1:4-7); and though my Beloved is in heaven in His holy temple, He watches everything that is happening on earth (Ps. 11:4a); to see if His people, who **mingle** with unbelievers, are picking up their evil ways (Hosea 7:8); so the One I love tests and proves every person on the earth, both the righteous and the wicked, to examine each one inside and out, not missing a thing; because His soul abhors the wicked who practice violence (Ps. 4b-5); for they have become as good-for-nothing as a half-baked cake; worshiping idols while foreign gods have sapped their strength, but they don't even know it; their pride in these other gods has openly condemned them; they don't return to God, nor do they even try to find Him (Hosea 7:8b-10); for they enjoy hurting others; upon them God will rain down a hail of firestones and burning sulfur, punishing them with scorching winds; for the Lord came to do God's business (Ps. 11:6).
8. The Lord came (Ps. 11:6) *(to turn things upside down and all around; exactly what my Beloved has done in my life; when I turned to Him in repentance and experienced His great magnificence, I was left completely speechless and head over heels in love with Him; and)* I will continue to shout my praise even when I am hemmed in with troubles, because I know how trouble can develop patience in me, and how patience in turn will forge the **tempered** steel of virtue, keeping me alert for whatever God will do next; and as long as I remain in an attitude of alert expectancy, I will never be left feeling shortchanged; quite the contrary is true, for as it was with the woman God blessed through Elisha (2 Kings 4:3), I can't round up enough containers to hold everything God generously pours into my life through Holy Spirit (Rom. 5:3-5).

9. How frail are those **born** of woman; How short is life, how full of trouble; we blossom like a flower and then wither away; like the shadow of a passing cloud, we quickly disappear; yet, God fixes His eyes on us, and will bring us before Him for judgment; who can bring purity out of an impure person (Job 14:1-4); the Lord, Christ Jesus, Whose perfection of beauty shines forth out of Zion; and calls to the heavens above and to the earth, that He may judge His people; His saints He will **gather together**, those who have found grace in His sight, those who have made a covenant with Him by sacrifice; and the heavens declare the righteousness of my Beloved (Ps. 50:2-6); for God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin (Rom. 3:25a); and the One I love works righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed (Ps. 103:4); for Jesus is the Mediator of God's new covenant, the blood of my Beloved was poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins (Matt. 26:28).
10. My Beloved betroths those like me (Hosea 2:19a), who believe if we live, we live to the Lord (Rom. 14:8), because we are betrothed to Him forever; indeed, the Lord betroths us in righteousness and justice, in **love and compassion** (Hosea 2:19b-20); and the whole earth will acknowledge the Lord and return to Him; all the families of the nations will bow down before the One I love (Ps. 22:27).

11. How I pray the nations would **turn** to the Lord (6:4a); that they would **turn** from evil and do good, and seek peace with God and pursue it (1 Peter 3:11); like the prodigal son, if only people would come to their senses, and realize without the Father their spirit man is starving, for they too have sinned against heaven and against God (Luke 15:17); for they are ignorant of the righteousness that God ascribes, which makes a person acceptable to Him in word, thought and deed; they don't understand that Christ has died to make them right with God; instead, they are trying to make themselves good enough to gain God's favor by keeping religious laws and customs; however, that is not God's way of salvation; and because they do not know the righteousness that comes from God, and they seek to establish their own, they do not submit to God's righteousness; they don't understand that my Beloved, Jesus Christ, gives to those who trust in Him everything they are trying to get by keeping their own religious principles and traditions (Rom. 10:3-4); their hearts are not right before God, for they are held captive to sin (Acts 8:21).
12. I pray God grant the prodigals repentance, for this would lead them to a knowledge of the truth (2 Tim. 2:25); I pray in their distress they would seek God's favor, and humble themselves **greatly** so they too could know the Lord is God (2 Chron. 33:12), and not remain godless like Esau, who for a single meal sold his inheritance rights as the oldest son; afterward, when he wanted to inherit this blessing, he was rejected, and was unable to bring about a **change** of mind, though he sought the blessing with tears (Heb. 12:16-17).
13. The Lord is about to **devastate** the surface of the earth and scatter the people (Isa. 24:1); however, the One I love, Who is the First and the Last, Who died and came to life again, sent this message because He knows our troubles, our bitter afflictions and our poverty – but we have heavenly riches (Rev. 2:8-9a); our lives are the sweet fragrance of Christ which exhales unto God (2 Cor. 2:15); and everything is ours as a gift, whether the world or life or death or things present or things to come; all things belong to us, and we belong to Christ; and Christ belongs to God (1 Cor. 3:21-23).

14. This is discernible among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing; to those being saved we are a life-giving aroma, a vital fragrance; to the latter we are a fatal odor, a dreadful smell of doom; (2 Cor. 2:15-16); for though they say they are a child of God, they are not because they support the cause of Satan by opposing and slandering the Church; they refuse to listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches – those who remain faithful even when facing death, shall win the victory and will not be hurt by the **second** death (Rev. 2:9b-11).
15. My Beloved will see His people get justice; the Lord will protect and defend and avenge us; however, when the Son of Man comes, will He find persistence in faith on the **earth** (Luke 18:8); people standing firm on the pledge God made to support us, for He has given it to us in writing, with His **signature**; God is the only one who could (Job 17:3) set aside the old requirement, which was weak and useless because the law never made anything perfect; the One I love has introduced a better hope, through which we draw near to God; this new system was established with a solemn oath, and the One I love, Christ Jesus, has become the guarantee of a better covenant (Heb. 7:18-22); my Beloved is great; He is most worthy of praise; the One I love is to be feared and worshiped above all gods; for the gods of other nations are merely idols, but the Lord made the heavens – majestic **splendor** radiates from Him, a powerful beauty sets Him apart (Ps. 96:5-6).
16. God's truth stands firm on a great foundation (2 Tim. 2:19a) Rock, and I will proclaim the name of the Lord Jesus; I will praise the greatness of my God; for His works are perfect, and all His ways are just; my Beloved is a faithful God Who does no wrong; upright and just is He (Deut. 32:3-4); the Lord Himself will tend His sheep and have them lie down; He will search for the lost and bring back the strays; the One I love will **bind up** the injured and strengthen the weak, but the sleek and the strong He will destroy; the Lord God will shepherd the flock with justice (Ezek. 34:15-16); and nothing can move the foundation of God's truth; these words are engraved on it: 'The Lord knows those who are really His; a person who calls themselves a Christian should spurn evil, and not be doing things that are wrong (2 Tim. 2:19b).

17. Those who believe in the Son of God know in their heart that God's testimony is true; Jesus, the Divine Christ, was revealed as God's Son Who came by water and by blood; not only was my Beloved birthed from the womb, but by the baptismal birth of His ministry and sacrificial death, when His blood was shed on the cross; the One I love came not by water only, but by water and blood; and the Spirit, Who is truth, confirms the reality of God's presence at Jesus' baptism and crucifixion, bringing those occasions alive for us; God has given us a triple testimony – the Spirit, the water and the blood – and all three in perfect agreement; we accept the testimonies of people at face value, how much more should we be assured by a testimony that is far **greater** because it is the testimony of God, which He has given concerning His Son (1 John 5:6-10a); Who was **pierced** for our transgressions and rebellion; He was crushed for our guilt and iniquities; the One I love took the punishment we all deserved; the punishment that brought us peace with God was upon my Beloved; Who was beaten so we could be made whole, and whipped so we could be healed (Isa. 53:5).
18. Those who refuse to believe God's own testimony regarding His Son are in effect calling Him a liar; surely, they will not receive eternal life for which God has testified is in His Son; however, those who have the Son have life (1 John 5:11-12); because God has united us and made us part of Christ Jesus, His Son (1 Cor. 1:30a), Who Himself is the **fountain** of life (Ps. 36:9); so I **kneel** and pray to the Father for this **reason**, that out of His glorious, unlimited resources He will give us the mighty inner strengthening of His Holy Spirit; so that through faith, the One I love can live in our hearts as we open the **door** and invite Him in; and that my Beloved will be more and more at home in our hearts, living within us as our trust in Him grows and through faith as our trust in Him grows and grows (Eph. 3:14,16-17).

19. I ask the Father, from Whom every family in heaven and on earth gets its true name, that each of us who are being rooted and established deep into the soil of Christ's love, would be able to feel and understand, as all God's **children** should, how long, how wide, how deep, and how high this love is; so we can reach out and experience the breadth of Christ's love, which surpasses knowledge; that we could test its length, plumb its depths, and rise to its heights; to live full lives, being filled to the measure with all the fullness of God (Eph. 3:15,18-19); living a life **worthy** of God's calling, so that every purpose and act that is prompted by our faith would bring honor and glory to my Beloved (2 Thess. 1:11-12).
20. So I call to the Lord, Who is worthy of praise; my Beloved, for He is my Shield and the Horn of my salvation, my Stronghold; the One I love is my Rock, my Fortress and my Deliverer; my God is my Rock, in Whom I take refuge (Ps. 18:2-3); and I will praise the name of Jesus, for the Lord's name is very great; His radiance **exceeds** anything in earth and sky; as the Horn of Salvation, the One I love built a monument – His very own people – which God has lifted up; my Beloved has made us strong– giving us power, prosperity, dignity and preeminence – to be as a song of praise honoring His faithful and godly ones, who are near to Him (Ps. 148:13-14); who keep their eyes on Jesus, for He is our Leader and Instructor; Who was **willing** to die a shameful death on the cross because of the joy He knew would be His afterwards (Heb. 12:2).
21. God put everything under the control of my Beloved; nothing is left out, though we have not yet seen all of this take place; however, we do see Jesus Who was made a little lower than the angels, but now my Beloved is wearing a crown of glory and honor because He suffered and died; and in that death, by God's grace, the One I love fully experienced death in every **person's** place; because of God's great kindness, He wanted many people to be His children and share His glory; so He did what He needed to do; God made perfect the One Who leads the people to salvation; He made Jesus a perfect Savior through His suffering (Heb. 2:8-10).

22. Although Jesus was a Son, He learned obedience from what He suffered, and once made perfect, He became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey Him (Heb. 5:8-9); for it was not possible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins; that is why, when the One I love came into the world, He said to God, 'You did not want animal sacrifices or sin offerings; but you have given Me a body to offer; You were not **pleased** with burnt offerings or other offerings for sin; so I have come to do Your will, O God, as it is written about Me in the Scriptures' (Heb. 10:4-7); the same Scriptures that speak of a physical place, a mountain, that could be seen but not touched, as the Israelites did at Mount Sinai, which was **burning** with fire and covered with darkness, gloom and storms; they heard an awesome trumpet blast and a voice so terrible they begged God to stop speaking; they staggered back under God's command: 'If an animal even touches the mountain, it must be stoned to death,' (Heb. 12:18-20).
23. Moses himself was so frightened by what they saw at Mount Sinai that he said, 'I am terrified and trembling;' conversely, we have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem; we have come to a place where thousands of angels have gathered to celebrate; we have come to those who assembled as God's **firstborn** children; we have come to **God** Himself, Who is the Judge over all things; we have come to the spirits of the righteous ones in heaven who have now been made perfect; we have come to Jesus, the One Who mediates the new covenant between God and people, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks of forgiveness (Heb. 12:21-24).
24. God went forth before His people, He marched through the wilderness; the earth trembled, the heavens poured down rain at the presence of God; yonder Sinai quaked at the presence of God, the God of Israel; God did send a **plentiful** rain; He did restore and confirm His heritage when it languished and was weary; His flock found a dwelling place in it; God in His goodness did provide for the poor and needy; for the Lord gives the word of Power (Ps. 68:7-11).

25. So I keep right on praying to the One I love; for now is the time He is bending down to hear; He is ready with a plentiful supply of love and kindness (Ps. 69:13); yes, my Beloved takes care of me, because His mercy is so abundant, His unfailing love so wonderful (Ps. 69:16); the One I love came **to deliver** His people, to save His anointed ones; the Lord, Christ Jesus, crushed the leader of the land of wickedness, He stripped him from head to foot (Hab. 3:13); God took the list of sins, and canceled the record of charges against us and destroyed it by nailing it to Christ's cross; in this way, He took away Satan's power to accuse us of sin; God disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities, and openly displayed to the whole world Christ's triumph at the cross where our sins were all taken away; God has made us alive with Christ, for He forgave all our sins (Col. 2:13-15); and gives more and more grace continually to those who are humble **enough** to receive it (James 4:6).
26. How important it is for us to be clear-minded and self-controlled so that we can pray (1 Pet. 4:5a), and praise my Beloved for His mighty deeds and His **excellent** greatness (Ps. 150:2); because the end of all things is near; and everyone will have to give account to Him (1 Peter 4:5a&7), Who clothes Himself with splendor and **majesty**; for the One I love in His **majesty** rides forth victoriously (Ps. 45:3-4); and is ready to judge the living and the dead; for this reason the Gospel was preached to those who are now dead, so that they might be judged in fleshly bodies as people are, but live according to God in regard to the spirit (1 Peter 4:5-6); because we have learned and acknowledge the Most High God is sovereign over the kingdoms of men, and appoints anyone He desires **to reign** over them (Dan. 5:21).

27. Yes, the Lord, Christ Jesus, Who has **commanded** each morning since time began, and has caused the dawn to know its place; the Light of the World, Who could grab hold of the corners of the earth, and shake all the wicked from their hiding places; my Creator, Who uses the sun as His pallet to shade the dawn in red, and adorn the earth so it is robed with brilliant colors (Job 38:12); Jehovah-Rophe, Who laid health and healing upon me, and revealed to me the abundance of His mercy, peace and truth (Jer. 33:6); for sickness had affected my head, making my heart feeble and faint; from the soles of my feet to my head there was no soundness or health, for I had forsaken the Lord my God, and was utterly estranged from Him because of the ungodly counsel I once sought; counsel that caused me to stagger under the heavy yoke of shame and guilt and sin that I was forced to carry; I was covered by sin's dark bruising, welts and open sores infected by unforgiveness, bitterness and rancor; wounds that were untended and unwashed – without soothing ointments and unbound, all because my life was filled with detestable disobedience and indifference, which can only produce an aching **hollowed out** way of living, one that is mean and spiteful and very self-serving; that is, until I heard the voice of Holy Spirit saying, 'Must you rebel forever,' (Isa. 1:4-6).
28. I am very comforted by this truth, **which** is worthy of our confidence: if we become weak and unfaithful to the Lord, my Beloved will remain faithful to us and continue to help us, for He cannot disown us for we have become a part of Himself; and the One I love will always carry out His promises to us; so if you are suffering or are even forced to die because of Christ, remember, it only means that you will also live with Him in heaven; and if you think that your present service for Him is hard, be encouraged and continue to endure for one day you are going to sit with Him and rule with my Beloved; however, those who give up and turn against the Lord will discover the One I love must also turn against them (2 Tim 2:11); this cannot be any **clearer**, that is **why** I have chosen to give myself completely to magnify and glorify God, and work to do things His way serving His good purposes with all my heart; for I am sure of this God raised Christ from the dead, and my Beloved will never die again (Rom. 6:7-9).

29. Death has no power over Christ Jesus; therefore, I lean forward into my Beloved, considering my old way of life as being nailed to the Cross, safe and secured by those arms that have revealed to me God's unconditional love; for when my Beloved died, He died once to break the power of sin; and through His death, the One I love has freed me from sin's power; and through His resurrection I can forever **enjoy** unbroken fellowship with my heavenly Father; this is why I consider my old sin-filled nature to be dead and unresponsive to sin, for the One I love has included me in His victory over sin and death so He could administer God's version of CPR, **C**hrist **P**owered **R**esuscitation, to revive my spirit with His saving-breath of life; I will never again be counted among the walking dead; no longer will death have control, for when my Beloved died, He took sin down with Him, but now that He is alive the One I love has brought God down to me; and I will gratefully offer and yield myself to my **loving** Father as one who has been freed from sin's allure; I will no longer be forced to face life as a slave to sin, for its dominion over me has ended; the Lover of my soul has given me freedom to live under God's abundant mercy, favor and grace (Rom. 6:10-14).
30. The Lord gives wisdom, and from the mouth of my Beloved comes knowledge and understanding (Prov. 2:6); that I may know the Lord my God is with me; the One I love is a mighty Savior; He takes great **delight** in me with gladness; with His love, He calms all my fears; He rejoices over me with joyful songs (Zeph. 3:17); yes, the One I love stepped in to save me (Isa. 59:16b); His strong arm is **raised** in victory (Ps. 118:16); therefore, I **consider** myself to be dead to the power of sin, and alive to God through Christ Jesus (Rom. 6:11); for God arose **to establish** judgment, to save all the meek and oppressed of the earth (Ps. 76:9); even now the One I love will rouse Himself on our behalf, and restore us to our rightful place, for He has made us pure and **upright** (Job 8:6).

31. Jehovah-Tsidkenu, robed in righteousness as His armor; salvation the helmet worn upon His head to seize retribution for Himself; clothed with garments of vengeance, wrapped in a cloak of divine passion; the face of my Beloved remains firmly pointed toward His adversaries, to repay with wrath their evil deeds; **to devastate** them with His fury, to the ends of the earth He will make recompense, to repay them for the evil doings they **amassed** (Isa. 59:17-18); again, my Beloved will judge and **determine** and settle the cause and the cases of His people (Heb. 10:30); then at last they will reverence and glorify the name of God; from the west, men will fear the name of the Lord, and from the rising of the sun, they will revere His glory; and when the enemy comes in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord will lift up a standard against him; and the One I love, our Redeemer, will **come** to Zion, and to those who turn from transgressions in Israel (Isa. 59:19-20).
32. Yes, it is a fearful and terrible thing to incur the divine penalties and be cast into the hands of the living God (Heb. 10:31); Who makes the path of the righteous level, for the Lord, the **upright** One, makes our way smooth so it is not steep and rough; my Beloved, my God, does what is right; and we show our trust in Him by obeying His commands (Isa. 26:7-8); for the One I love was called to demonstrate God's **righteousness**; God **took hold** of His hand to guard the Lord, and give Him to His people, Israel, as a symbol of His covenant with them; my Beloved has become a light to guide the nations, to open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness (Isa. 42:6-7); so they too can press on to **possess** that perfection for which Christ Jesus saved them; as they focus on this one thing, and not on achievements – forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead; and press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us (Philp. 3:12-14).

33. Why then have these people turned away; why does Jerusalem always turn away (Jer. 8:5a); they do not offer heartfelt surrender to the Lord (Jer. 14:12); therefore, the Lord does not accept them; because in the manner and to the degree already **pointed out** have they loved to wander (Jer. 14:10a); their iniquities testify against them; their backslidings are many; how they have sinned against God (Jer. 14:7), for they have not restrained their feet (Jer. 14:10a); my Beloved will now seriously remember their iniquity and punish them for their sins (Jer. 114:10b); for they cling to deceit, and refuse to return; although the One I love has listened attentively, they do not say what is right; nor do they repent of their wickedness; my Beloved says, 'What have I done;' each pursues their own course like a horse charging into battle (Jer. 8:5b-6).
34. In a vision, John was taken to a towering mountain peak, and from there watched the holy Jerusalem, that wondrous city, descend out of the skies from God; it was filled with the glory of God and flashed and glowed like a precious gem (Rev. 21:10); nothing evil will be permitted in it-no one immoral or dishonest-but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life (Rev. 21:27); a river of pure water, the Water of Life was **pointed out**, clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and the Lamb, coursing down the center of the main street; on each side of the river stood the Tree of Life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations (Rev. 22:1).

35. I **pray** that as I share my faith with others it will grip their lives too, and produce full recognition and appreciation and understanding about the wealth of good things in me, and in all who believe, because they come from my Beloved, Christ Jesus (Phm. 6); I **pray** they will hear the word of the Lord, and turn back from their evil paths and do what is right (Jer. 18:11); for the time is approaching when a loud voice will be heard: 'Woe! Woe! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the trumpet blasts about to be sounded,' (Rev. 8:13); Woe to them, because they have strayed from God; they will perish because they have rebelled against the One I love, Who longs to redeem them, but they speak lies against Him; they do not cry out to my Beloved from their hearts (Hosea 7:13); instead, they reply: 'Don't **waste** your breath; we have no intention whatsoever of doing what God says; we will continue to live as we want to, free from any restraint, full of stubbornness and wickedness (Jer. 18:12).
36. The One I love has given this warning: 'Do not touch my anointed ones, do my prophets no harm,' (1 Chron. 16:22); for these are the brethren who praise the Lord; these the sons of God will bow down to my Beloved; for He is the Lion of the tribe of Judah; and like a lion He crouches and lies down, finished from eating its prey; the scepter will not depart from the One I love; nor the ruler's staff from between His feet; for my Beloved - Shiloh, the Messiah, the Peaceful One - has come and to Him do they belong; the One Whom all the nations will honor and obey (Gen. 49:8-10); all the earth shall sing to the Lord, and proclaim His salvation day after day; this is why I will declare the glory of my Beloved among the nations; His marvelous deeds among all peoples; for great is the One I love and most worthy of praise; He is to be feared above all gods; for all the gods of the nations are idols, but the Lord my God made the heavens; splendor and majesty are before Him; strength and joy in His dwelling place; I pray for all His people to cry out, 'Save us, O God our Savior; **gather** us and deliver us from the nations; that we may give thanks to Your holy name, that we may glory in Your praise' (1 Chron. 16:23-27&35).

37. How grateful I am to Holy Spirit for opening my eyes to Truth, and giving me the privilege **to bend** my knee in allegiance to the One, Who is my Righteousness and Strength; Who helps me **to know** and to enjoy peace with God through this faith I have in Him (Rom. 5:1); Who has firmly established the earth, so it cannot be moved; yes, the Lord reigns; let the families of nations recognize the Lord; let them recognize my Beloved is glorious and strong; let them give to the Lord the glory due His name; and bring an offering (1 Chron. 16:28,29a,30), a sacrifice of praise, which can be continually offered to God, for it is the fruit of lips that confess the name of Jesus; and do not forget the promise made to do good, and to share with others; for God takes particular pleasure in acts of worship – a different kind of “sacrifice” – that takes place in kitchens and workplaces and on the streets (Heb. 13:15-16); yes, bring these offerings and come before God worshiping the Lord in the splendor of His holiness; giving thanks to my Beloved, for He is good; His love endures forever (1 Chron. 16:29b&34).
38. The One I love came from God with this promise: **You may have life, and have it in all its fullness** (John 10:10); so I praise the One I love, for His **long-suffering** and His patience have given people time to hear God’s promise of salvation (2 Peter 3:15); so don’t procrastinate – there’s no time **to lose**; run like a deer from the hunter, fly like a bird from the trapper (Prov. 6:4); from the evil one who hates Christ Jesus for telling people they are doing wrong, and exposing the wickedness behind the world’s pretensions (John 7:6); like the one my Beloved called friend, who betrayed and delivered up the Son of Man with a **kiss** (Luke 22:48); pretensions such as this are implemented by those who lack the faith to recognize and understand that every good thing is ours in our identification with Christ Jesus (Phm. 6); and so I pray all the world would look to the One I love for salvation; For there is no other God but Him, a righteous God and Savior; My Beloved is the magnificent I AM, there is no other; the Lord has sworn by His own name; He has spoken the truth; He will never go back on His word; every knee will bend to Jesus, and every tongue will confess allegiance to Him; the people will declare, ‘The Lord is the source of all our righteousness and strength;’ and all who are angry at Him will come to Him and be ashamed; in the Lord all the generations of Israel will be justified, and in Him they will boast (Isa. 45:21-25);

39. Now is the time of God's **favor**, now is the day of salvation (2 Cor. 6:2); so I give thanks to Yah, the Lord my God, for He is my Strength and my Song; I shout praises to the name of Jesus, for the One I love has given me victory; yes, my Beloved is my Salvation; He made it possible for me to drink deeply and **joyfully** from the Fountain of Salvation (Isa. 12:2-3).
40. The Lord said on that greatest Feast day, Yom Kippur, 'If anyone is thirsty, let them **come** to Me and drink; whoever believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within them;' by this He meant the Spirit, Whom those who believed in Jesus were later to receive; because up to that time the Spirit had not yet been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified (John 7:37-39); and God worked all this out in a way that allows Him to judge people fairly and still **make right** any person who has faith in His Son, Christ Jesus (Rom. 3:25); so I will tell the world of His wondrous **love**, for the Lover of my soul offered to take upon Himself, and bear as a burden the sins of the world once and once for all; and the One I love will come a second time bringing salvation to all those who patiently wait for Him (Heb. 9:28).
41. God's faithful Son is in complete charge of His Father's house, and I am a member of this house along with all those who place their faith in my Beloved; yes, I am God's house, for the One I love lives in me, encouraging me to hold fast and firm to the end and keep my joy in Him, Jehovah-Shammah, the One Who is there in my heart (Heb. 3:6); for it is God who arms me with **strength**, and makes my way perfect (Ps. 18:32), by making me know the certainty of His words of truth, and share them with others (Prov. 22:21); and there is a mysterious miraculous event, decreed by the hidden purpose and counsel of God, that causes me **to speak** out (1 Cor. 15:51a); so others might **join** me, and testify to the power of Christ's resurrection (Acts 1:22).

42. The One I love came to reveal God's strange and wonderful secret – soon all will see the might, the power of God's love; in a moment this will happen, we shall not all **fall asleep**, but we shall all be transformed in the twinkling of an eye, at the sound of the last trumpet call; for there will be a trumpet blast from the sky, and the dead in Christ will be raised to live forever; yes, in the time it takes to blink our eyes, our bodies will be changed imperishable, free and immune from decay; raised beyond the reach of death, never to die again (1 Cor. 15:51-52); because the One I love ransomed us from the power of the grave; my Beloved redeemed us from death (Hosea 13:14).
43. Our bodies will always be dead because of sin; but, if Christ is in us, then the Spirit gives us life, because the One I love made us right with God; and God raised Jesus from death; therefore, if God's Spirit lives in us, He will also give life to our bodies that die; yes, God is the One Who raised Christ from death, and He will raise us to life through His Spirit, Who is living in us (Rom. 8:10-11); so I speak out with hope that people will not be ignorant about those who **fall asleep**, or grieve like unbelievers who have no hope; since I believe that Jesus died and rose again, I also believe that God will bring with Jesus all who have **fallen asleep** in Him; because according to the Lord's own word, those who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the One I love, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep; for the Lord Himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first; after that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with my Beloved forever; I pray these words encourage (1 Thess. 4:13-18).
44. When there is hope, we can be secure; we can look about us and take our rest in safety; we can lie down with no one to make us afraid (Job 11:18-19); because we know that now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face; now we know in part; then we shall know fully, even as we are fully known; however, three things will last forever – faith, hope and **love** – and the greatest of these is love (1 Cor. 13:12-13).

45. God showed how much He loved us by sending His one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through Him; this is real love – not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins (1 John 4:9-10); and my Beloved wanted to come and reveal the **longing** of God's heart, that we would **come** seeking relationship with Him; that we would be willing to place our faith and trust and hope in God alone, for every heart that sincerely desires to serve the Lord will certainly be changed (Isa. 40:31).
46. Surely, the Lord has made known His willingness to refresh and restore our lives so we can discover the perfection and purity of God's **love**; for it is our heavenly Father's aspiration to see our strength renewed by His loving-kindness; for then, His Holy Spirit can guide us along right paths for the sake of His name; a name bestowed upon my Beloved, Christ Jesus, the only **begotten** Son of God, for He is our Good Shepherd (John 10:11); our Surety of a Better Testament (Heb. 7:22), delivered to us by God to be a Witness to the People (Isa. 55:4) to the greatness of His grace and mercy and compassion (Rev. 3:14)
47. The One I love, the Faithful and True Witness (Rev. 3:14) sent by God to renew our strength and set us upright, He alone gives people right standing with the Father; for sin set a great expanse, which caused God's sheep to **spread out**; forcing us to walk through the darkness of this world, our lives alienated from our Father, and drastically affected by the shadows of loneliness, despair and sorrow that death casts among us; so God satisfied the deep yearning of His heart, and revealed my Beloved, as the Prince of Life (Acts 3:15) **to stop** us from being driven away from Him by the worries, anxieties and concerns fear stirs; God revealed His Christ, as the Savior of the World (John 4:42) to draw us near to Him so we could **dwell** with peace and safety in His presence (Ps. 23:3-4a).

48. God chose Christ Jesus, as His Lamb without blemish, to be the Mercy Seat set before the eyes of all, so those who desire to seek Him could recognize and acknowledge the great sacrifice of **atonement** and reconciliation He made for our partaking with sin; yes, our God chose my Beloved to be the Author of Our Faith (Heb. 12:2), and loaded upon Him the **burden** of all our transgressions to appease His wrath; the One I love died once and once for all (Heb. 9:28), a Ransom (Mark 10:25), chosen long before the world began (1 Peter 1:19b), to be the sinless, spotless Lamb, slain (Rev. 13:8) to cover sin's hostility toward God by the shedding of His own precious blood (1 Peter 1:19a).
49. My Beloved has become a Friend of Sinners (Matt. 11:19), for in Him we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins (Col. 1:14); how amazing, for we are justified freely by God's grace through the redemption that came by the One I love (Rom. 3:24); Who says, 'Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest; take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls; for My yoke is easy and My **burden** is light,' (Matt. 11:28-30).
50. Once we were not a people, but now we are the **people of God**; once we had not received mercy, but now we have received mercy (1 Peter 2:10); for Christ has made us free (Gal. 5:1a); my Beloved draws us with bands of love and kindness; He is to us as One Who lifts up and eases the yoke from our neck, and stoops to nourish (Hosea 11:3) and shepherd us and carry us forever (Ps. 28:9); therefore, **make sure** you stay free, and **don't** get all tied up again in the chains of slavery to religious doctrines, traditions and ceremonies (Gal. 5:1).

51. The grace of God that brings deliverance from sin and eternal salvation has appeared for all mankind; teaching us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives (Titus 2:11-12); **turning** our ear to wisdom and applying our heart to understanding (Prov. 2:2); because fools die when they refuse to follow wisdom; they are content to follow their foolish ways, and that will destroy them; but those who listen to the One I love will live in safety and comfort; they will have nothing to fear (Prov. 1:32-33); for our God gives us ample reason to rejoice and give thanks because The Word (John 1:1) has come to dwell within our hearts to fill us with His joy, for the joy of the Lord is our strength and our stronghold (Neh. 8:10).
52. My Beloved does what God wants, so we can know the truth, and learn to express it lovingly at all times; for when we humbly submit ourselves to our heavenly Father (James 4:7), we become more and more like Christ in every way; we **grow** in all things into Jesus Who is the Head of His body, the Church; for it is under the direction of Christ Jesus, the whole body of believers are fitted together perfectly; and each part of the Body of Christ in their own special way helps the other parts because the very breath of God, Holy Spirit, flows through us; while the blood of God's Christ flows through our veins because we partake in the One Who Fills All In All (Eph. 1:23), and enables us to **grow** up healthy in God, and be filled with Love (Eph. 4:15-16), Who revitalizes and restores our lives (Ps. 23:3) so we can find delight as Holy Spirit directs us in the path of the Lord's commands (Ps. 119:35); for now we know that God is not just with us, His Spirit also dwells within us helping us to become a true child of God (Rom. 8:9).

53. So open wide your mouth, and see if my Beloved won't fill it (Ps. 81:10a); **open wide** your heart also (2 Cor. 6:13), and you will receive every blessing you can use (Ps. 81:10b); for God has given to us His Son, Christ Jesus, a Rod of Iron (Ps. 23:3) to be a scepter of authority for ruling (Matt. 28:18); and to Holy Spirit He has given a Staff of Power to impart more and more grace so we can stand against our evil tendencies and desires (James 4:6); for God desires **to lift** us into the **glory** of His presence (1 Cor. 2:7).
54. In this you can greatly rejoice, **though** now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials; these have come so that your faith – of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire – may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed; though you have not seen Him, you love Him; and even though you do not see my Beloved now, you believe in Him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your soul (1 Peter 1:6-9).
55. **No doubt** about it – God will redeem His people (Ps. 130:7:8); for His Son paid the price to make us free; in my Beloved we have forgiveness of our sins (Col. 1:14); so we wait and watch for the One I love (Ps. 130:7a), we wait for the blessed hope – the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ (Titus 2:13-14a); for with God's arrival comes **love**, with God's arrival comes generous redemption (Ps. 130:7b); because my Beloved gave Himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for Himself a people that are His very own, eager to do what is good (Titus 2:13-14); as Holy Spirit teaches us Wisdom's way, and leads us along straight paths; so when we walk, our steps will not be **hampered**; and when we run, we will not stumble; because we have taken hold of God's instructions, and refuse to let them go; instead, we guard them well, for they are the key to life (Prov. 4:11-13).

56. My Beloved, the Word of Life (1 John 1:1), **made** it possible for me to respond to God, to share my thoughts and feelings with my heavenly Father; for the One I love is the Resurrection and the Life (John 11:25a), Who God made of **quick understanding**, so He could delight in the reverential and obedient fear of the Lord; He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, neither decide by the hearing of His ears; but with righteousness shall my Beloved judge the poor, and decide with fairness and equity for the meek, the poor and the downtrodden of the earth; the One I love shall smite the earth and the oppressor with the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips shall He slay the wicked; and righteousness shall be the girdle of His waist, and faithfulness the girdle of His loins (Is. 11:3-6); in Him I believe and trust that though I may one day die, yet I will live (John 11:25a).
57. **God** gave me new life with Christ when I was dead in my sins, held captive by my sinful nature; God made me alive, and has given me everything I need because I belong to Christ; He gave me new life in Christ, Who performed a different kind of circumcision on me by cutting away my sinful nature; because I believe and was baptized in Christ, buried with my Beloved, and raised up with Him because of my faith in the power of God, Who raised Jesus from the dead (Col. 2:10-13).
58. God Who forgave me of all my sins, and made me complete by giving me the fullness of the Deity that lives in Christ (Col. 2:9), also subjected creation to frailty, to futility, condemned to frustration; not because of some intentional fault on its part, but by the will of Him Who so subjected it – yet, with hope, creation itself, looks forward to the day when it will be set free from its bondage to death and decay, and gain an **entrance** into the glorious freedom of God's children (Rom. 8:20-21); whose ways are made **perfect** by the One I love, for He arms us with strength; my Beloved is a shield for all to take refuge in Him; for who is God besides the Lord; and who is the Rock except our God (2 Sam. 22:31-33).

59. Where is another God like Him; Who wipes our slate clean of transgression and guilt; turning a blind eye, a deaf ear, to the past sins of His purged and **precious** people; my Beloved couldn't stay angry with His people, for mercy is His specialty; that's what He loves most; again and again He has compassion on us; the One I love treads our sins beneath His feet; He throws them into the depths of the ocean; the Lord our God blesses us as He promised our ancestors so long ago; He has stayed true to His word, and continues the compassion He showed to our father Abraham (Micah 7:18-20);
60. Because the Lord is my Shepherd, I have everything I need; He gives me green pastures to lie down in; He leads me beside peaceful streams; the One I love **renews** my strength, and leads me along right paths, bringing honor to His name; helping me to do what glorifies Him the most; and though I may walk through a valley as dark as **death**, I will not be afraid, for the One I love is close beside me; His rod **to protect**, and His staff to guide, they comfort me (Ps. 23:1-4); because God is **love**, and everyone who loves has been born of God and knows Him (1:4:8b&7b); Who prepares a table before us in the presence of our enemies, and honors us by anointing our head with oil (Ps. 23:5a); our heavenly Father gave my Beloved Holy Spirit to pour out upon us, as He promised (Acts 2:33), making our cup to overflow with blessings; for surely goodness and mercy shall be with us all of our lives, and we will live in the house of the Lord forever (Ps. 23:5b-6); for El-Shaddai, Almighty God, has shown His love among us, when He sent His one and only Son into the world so we might live through Him (1 John 4:9); God sent His Son to be the Light of Men (John 1:4) to give us sight into the depths of His love (Philp. 1:9) – for greater love has no one than this – that they lay down their life for their friends (John 15:12-13).

