

CHAPTER THREE

1. The Lord my God lives (2 Sam. 4:9a); my Beloved came into the world as light, so that no one who believes in Him should have to **stay** in darkness (John 12:46); Jesus redeems my life out of all **adversity** (2 Sam. 4:9), the One I love opens my ears to His voice (Job 36:15); He reminds me that my heavenly Father, to Whom I pray, will show no favoritism when He judges; He will judge me with perfect justice for everything I do; my God paid a ransom to save me; and now my faith and hope can rest in Him alone; yes, my faith and hope rest in Him, Who raised Christ from the dead and gave to Him great glory; so I can enjoy real love for everyone, for my Beloved is cleansing my soul of selfish **desire**, because I trust Him with all my heart to save me (1 Pet. 1:17-22).
2. My Beloved, He is my God, and I earnestly search for Him; my soul thirsts for Him in this parched and weary land (Ps. 63:1); **whatever** it takes, I will be one who lives in the fresh newness of **life** along with those Holy Spirit has made alive to experience the resurrection from the dead; I may not be perfect, nor have I learned all that I should, but I keep working toward that day when finally, I will be all that my Beloved saved me for and wants me to be; I am bringing all my energies to bear on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead of me (Phil. 3:11-13); I am seeking God's kingdom and His righteousness (Matt. 6:33), until I reach the end of the race, when God, through Christ Jesus, calls me up to heaven to receive that heavenly prize (Phil. 3:14), which is the result of my faith, the salvation of my soul (1 Pet. 9); yes, I will ask of the giving God, Who gives wisdom to everyone in need; He gives me Wisdom liberally and ungrudgingly, without reproach or rebuke for the asking; however, I must keep my faith resting in God alone; I need not waver; for a person with divided loyalty is as unsettled as a wave of the sea blown and tossed by the wind; such should not expect to find the Lord or receive anything from Him, for they are of two minds, divided between God and the world, making them unstable in all they do (James 1:5-7).

3. My Beloved, the Lord Jesus Christ Himself and Father God, they **love** me, and have given to me everlasting comfort and encouragement and a wonderful hope by their grace; the One I love comforts my heart with all comfort, and helps me in every good thing I do and say (2 Thess. 2:16-17); yet, there was a time when I did not consider to say to my heart and mind that God is watching me; my sinful deeds were all around me, and God could see them all (Hosea 7:2); I was ensnared by my own evil deeds, for the cords of my sins caught me and held me fast (Prov. 5:22), bringing upon me their own punishment and shame; I praise God Who allowed me to see what an evil, bitter thing it is to abandon the Lord my God and not to fear Him (Jer. 2:19).

4. Yet, because of His heart of tender mercy and loving-kindness, my God sent forth a Light from on high that dawned upon me (Luke 1:78), and I could see how sinful I was (Rom. 5:20); my God had mercy on me because I was in ignorance and unbelief; how generous and gracious my Beloved, forgiving my wickedness (Heb. 8:12a), filling me with faith and love (1 Tim. 1:13-14); and remembering my sins no more (Heb. 8:12b); enabling my love for others to overflow more and more, and extend to its fullest development as I grow in spiritual knowledge and insight (Phil. 1:9); repentant, I have turned about and set my heart to know and **to search out** and seek true wisdom, for I have discovered wickedness is folly and foolishness sheer madness (Eccl. 7:25).

5. I have discovered the One I love **comes** from heaven and is far greater than all others; I am of the earth, and can only speak of earthly things; however, my Beloved comes from heaven and is far above anyone else; therefore, it is essential for Him to increase in my life, so I can decrease (John 3:30), and praise the Lord God, the God of Israel, Who alone does marvelous deeds; all nations are blessed through Him, and they will call Him blessed (Ps. 72:17-18); for the dominion of the world will soon come into the possession and become the kingdom of the Lord God and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever (Rev. 11:15); how vital for all to hear the testimony of my Beloved, Who speaks about what He actually has seen and heard, though few believed what He told them; however, those who do believe are sure to discover God is a fountain of truth (John 3:30-33), and His words are so refreshing (Matt. 5:13a).

6. My darling, know you not, you are the world's light, don't hide; instead, let your good deeds glow for all to see and glorify your heavenly Father; is it possible you misunderstand why the Son of Man came, it was not to do away with the law of Moses and the warnings of the prophets; no, the Son of God came to complete and fulfill them; this truth I share: until the sky and earth pass away and perish, the smallest detail of God's law will continue until its purpose is accomplished (Matt. 5:13-18); until all attain oneness in faith regarding their Savior and their salvation, and become full-grown in my Beloved, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ; no longer being as a little child, forever changing their mind, and being tossed about because someone tells them something different or cleverly makes a lie sound like the truth; because you, My darling, are to speak the truth in love, and **continue** to grow in every way more and more like Christ, the One Who loves you (Eph. 4:13-15).

7. The One Who has helped me to discover it is for my benefit that God made Him, Whom my soul loves, to be Wisdom itself (1 Cor. 1:30a); to keep me safe on my way; for the Lord is my security; therefore, I can **go to** bed without fear; I can lie down and sleep soundly; for my Beloved will keep my foot from being caught in a trap (Prov. 3:23-24,26); (*I possess this confidence*) because God has united me with Christ Jesus, Who Himself made me right with God; and my heart overflows with affection and gratitude for my Beloved has **made** me pure and holy, freeing me from sin (1 Cor. 1:30).
8. I will forever praise the Lord my God Who blesses me; His hand is ever with me to help me in all I do; He keeps me and protects me from evil and its disaster so I am not hurt (1 Chron.4:10); for it is in the Lord my God that I have found refuge, and in Him do I put my trust and hide myself; for I have come to realize every good thing I have comes from Him, the One I love (Ps. 16:1-2); Who has forgiven my sins (Mark 2:7); so God could give me life in His Christ, for God made Him, Whom my soul loves, my Redemption, my Ransom from the eternal penalty for sin (1 Cor. 1:30); and my Beloved, Who is the Glory of Israel, will not lie, nor will He change His mind, for He is not human that He should **change** His mind! (1 Sam 15:29); therefore, now is the time for all **to be wakened** from sleep and be roused to reality; for the coming of my Beloved is nearer now than ever before; the night is almost gone; the day of salvation will soon be here; time is running out; so I will clothe myself with the Lord Jesus Christ, Whom I love, and make no provision for indulging my flesh and gratifying its evil desires (Rom. 13:11-12,14).

9. I know my Beloved will never, ever fail me or leave me without support; no, never would the Lord ever forsake me or relax His hold on me (Heb. 13:5); for His eyes **run to** and fro throughout the earth to show Himself strong in behalf of those whose hearts are blameless toward Him (2 Chron. 16:9); therefore, I will hold fast to the sure and trustworthy Word of God to encourage others with wholesome teaching and to show those who oppose it where they are wrong; for there are many rebellious people who engage in idle and misleading talk, self-deceivers, deceiving others (Titus 1:9-10); I pray they too would seek God eagerly, because He will surely be found by them; and the Lord my God would give them rest on every side, as He has given me for seeking Him (2 Chron. 15:15).
10. My Beloved has opened **the way** for me to draw near to God; and I **desire** to have the boldness that I might dare to approach my heavenly Father (Jer. 30:21; for the One I love is making my life large with strength; so I thank God for His love; I thank Him for His faithfulness, from the moment I called out, He stepped in; Most Holy is His name, Most Holy is His Word (Ps. 138:2-3); Who is helping me not to run off as the wicked even **when** no one is after them, because they are edgy with guilt (Prov. 28:1); instead, God's Word keeps me in perfect peace (Isa. 26:3) so I can minister before His Anointed One, His Christ, always; yes, God has raised up for Himself a faithful Priest, Who will do according to what is in His Father's heart and mind; God has firmly established His house (1 Sam. 2:35); because Jesus lives forever, He has a permanent priesthood; therefore, He is able to save completely those who come to God through Him, because He always lives to intercede for us (Heb. 7:24-25); I write this so that you will not sin; however, if someone does sin, we have One Who speaks to the Father in our defense – Jesus Christ – the Righteous One (1 John 2:1); Who has built for us a sure house (1 Sam. 2:35); for He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world (1 John 2:2).

11. The One I love suffered for me, leaving me His personal example, so I could follow in His footsteps; my Beloved was guilty of no sin, neither was deceit ever found on His lips; He was abused and suffered; yet, made no threats of vengeance; instead, He trusted **Himself** and everything to the One Who judges fairly (1 Pet. 2:21); making it possible for me to receive a wisdom that was hidden; a wisdom God destined for my glory before time began; none understood it, for if they had, they would not have taken Jesus' life; they would not have crucified Him Whom my soul loves; they could not recognize the Lord of glory for no eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him (1 Cor. 2:7-9); this is why I desire to possess the same attitude of humility as Christ Jesus, for though He is God, my Beloved did not demand and cling to His rights as God, but laid aside His mighty power and glory, taking the guise of a servant and becoming like man; Jesus humbled **Himself** even further, going so far as to die a criminal's death on a cross (Phil. 2:5-8).

12. So I ask, do you know the One God **loves**, in Whom He delights; the One He put His Spirit upon (Matt. 12:18); do you know God's Servant, the One I love, Whom God upholds; His Elect in Whom His soul delights; for God has put His Spirit upon my Beloved (Isa. 42:1a); the Spirit of God Who **searches out** all things, even the deep things of God, and God reveals them to us (1 Cor. 2:10); Holy Spirit reveals to us God's Servant, and Jesus will **bring forth** justice and right, while revealing truth to all the nations (Isa. 4:2:1b); do you know, My Beloved, He did not cry or shout aloud or cause His voice to be heard in the street; a bruised reed He would not break, nor would He snuff out a smoldering wick; the One I love encourages the fainthearted, those tempted to despair; He will see full justice given to all who have been wronged; the One God loves won't be satisfied until truth and righteousness prevail throughout the earth, nor until distant lands beyond the seas have put their hope in Him (Isa. 42:3-5).

13. I have placed my hope in Jesus, and keep His words written deep within my heart (Prov. 7:1&3); yes, I work diligently to obey God's Word so I can learn to love Him more and more (1 John 2:5a); for my heart's desire is to show the world how completely I love my God; so I do what Christ tells me to (1 John 2:5) living in obedience to God's commands; **guarding** His teachings as the apple of my eye (Prov. 7:2), that I may **walk** as my Beloved (1 John 6:6), for a gentle and peaceful spirit is very precious in the sight of God (1 Pet. 3:4); so I seek the Lord; I seek righteousness and humility (Zeph. 2:3a); that I may see the glory of the Lord, the majesty and splendor and excellency of my God (Isa. 35:2), and that I may be hidden in the day of the Lord's anger (Zeph. 2:3b).

14. In my heart, I have **set** apart the One I love (1 Pet. 3:15); that I may know the truth, for the Lord, the Mighty One, (Joshua 22:22); is the true God and the God of truth; my Beloved is the living God and the everlasting King, the God Who is Truth (Jer. 10:10); to Whom I spread forth my hands to call on every day (Ps. 88:9); to help me study and consider how I may **stir myself up** to love and helpful deeds and noble activities (Heb. 10:24); for such things are not only excellent and right in themselves, but they are good and profitable for everyone (Titus 3:8), and a delight to the One I love, Christ Jesus (Prov. 12:22).

15. The Lord Christ Jesus **comes** from God (John 6:46a); armed with strength for battle, and will one day **see** God make His adversaries bow at His feet (2 Sam.22:40); my Beloved will punish those who do not know the Father, and who ignore and refuse to obey the Gospel; these defiant ones will pay the penalty and suffer the punishment of everlasting ruin and eternal exclusion from the presence of the One I love and from the glory of His power on the day when my Beloved comes to be glorified in His holy people, to be marveled at and admired among all who have believed (2 Thess. 1:8-10).

16. The One I love has set His dwelling in and among all **who** believe, and His **soul** shall not reject or separate itself from us; for He walks with and among us as our God, and we are His people; the Lord our God brought us forth out of the wilderness (Lev. 26:11-13a), He called each of us out of darkness into His wonderful light (1 Peter 2:9) so we would no longer be slaves of sin (Rom. 6:6); my Beloved has broken our chains so that we can walk erect (Lev. 26:13b); Christ has truly set us free; therefore, I must stand firm to ensure I remain free, and not allow myself to get tied up again with the yoke of bondage (Gal. 5:1); my Beloved cleared a way for everyone who believes to come and become acquainted with and understand and know the One true God, Who knows and understands each and every person; with faith in the Lord Jesus, I no longer am a slave to those weak and worthless principles of religion which I once practiced (Gal. 4:9); because I am God's son (Gal. 4:6).
17. My Beloved has purchased my freedom; He has redeemed me from the curse of the Law and from its condemnation by Himself becoming a curse for me, for it is written, Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree (Deut. 21:23) & (Gal. 3:13); for these things I weep; my eyes overflow with tears, because a Comforter is no longer far from me; in fact, the One I love draws me close to Him; He has sent a Comforter to dwell within my heart, One who will refresh and restore my soul; my children and I are no longer desolate and perishing, for the Lord Jesus has prevailed against the enemy (Lam. 1:16); and I know in Him I have peace and confidence; I can be of good cheer even as I face tribulation and trials, distress and frustration in this world, for my Lord Jesus has overcome the world; my Beloved has conquered the world for me, depriving it of power to harm me (John 16:33); how amazing a realization that in this union with Christ Jesus, God is living in me; and as I live with Christ, my love grows more perfect and complete; making it possible for me to face Him with confidence and joy at the day of judgment not being ashamed and embarrassed, knowing He truly **loves** me and I love Him too (1 John 4:16-17).

18. I will not throw away this confident trust I have in my Beloved, for it carries a great and glorious compensation of reward; what I need now is steadfast patience and endurance, so that I continue to do God's will, and receive and enjoy to the full what He has promised (Heb. 10:35-36), living as His righteous ones by faith; for in a **little** while, the Coming One will come and not delay; but know, my Beloved takes no pleasure in those who draw back and shrink in fear, (Hab. 2:3-4); praise God, for my way is not like those who draw back from God to their own destruction and eternal misery (Heb. 10:39a); for I have been washed clean; purified by a complete atonement for my sins and made free from the guilt of those sins; I have been consecrated, **set apart** and justified; I have been pronounced righteous by trusting in the name of the One I love, the Lord Jesus Christ and in God's Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 6:11).
19. It is clear that no one can be made right with God by trying to keep the law; for the Scriptures say, 'It is through faith that a righteous person has life;' this way of faith is very different from the way of law, **which** says, 'It is through obeying the law that a person has life;' but Christ has rescued us from the curse (Gal. 3:11); and I am among those who believe and are faithful; who **take hold on** and trust and rely on God through Christ Jesus, and by faith my soul will be saved (Heb. 10:39b).
20. I tell you this, these physical bodies of flesh and blood cannot become partakers of eternal salvation, they cannot inherit the Kingdom of God; these dying bodies cannot inherit what will last forever; but the One Whom my soul loves (SS 3:4) has revealed a wonderful secret truth, a mystery, an event decreed by the hidden purpose and counsel of God; we will not all die, but we will all be transformed; in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the sound of the last trumpet call; for a trumpet will sound, and the dead in Christ will be raised imperishable to live forever; and we **who** are living will be changed (1 Cor. 15:50-52).

21. 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 will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever; I write these words to encourage (1 Thess. 4:16-18); for when this perishable part of us has put on the imperishable nature, when these **mortal** bodies have put on immortality, when our dying bodies have been transformed into bodies that will never die, then this Scripture will be fulfilled, "Death is swallowed up in victory; O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting," (Hos. 13:14); sin is the sting that results in death, and it is the law that gives sin its power; but thanks be to God, Who gives us the victory making us conquerors through our Lord Jesus Christ; and this is why I work enthusiastically for the One I love, with faith that is strong and immovable, for I know that nothing I do for my Beloved is ever useless (1 Cor. 15:50-58).

22. So while it is still called Today, when I hear the voice of my Beloved, I will not harden my heart; I will remain faithful to the end, for I belong to Christ, and I will share in all He has for me because I am determined to hold firmly, until the end, to the sure faith and confidence I had in the beginning (Heb. 3:14); for I know the One I love will ensure my **love** will overflow more and more, and I will continue to grow in knowledge and understanding; for my Beloved wants me to know what really matters, so I can live a pure and blameless life until the day of His return, and be filled with the fruit of my salvation – the righteous character produced in my life by Christ Jesus – which will bring much glory and praise to God (Phil. 1:9-11); for the Lord is going to come from far away burning with anger, surrounded by thick, rising smoke; His lips filled with fury; His words shall consume like fire; His hot breath will pour out like a flood up to the necks of His enemies; He will sift out the proud nations for destruction; He will bridle them and lead them away to ruin and destruction, but the people of God will sing a song of joy; for the Lord shall cause His glorious voice to be heard and the descending blow of His arm to be seen, coming down with indignant anger and with the flame of a devouring fire, amid crashing blast and cloudburst, tempest and hailstones (Isa. 30:27-30); the strong shall become as tinder; their evil deeds the spark that sets the tinder on fire, and no one will be able to put it out (Isa. 1:31); for the strong brag about being wise and good, when they are bitter with selfish pride and ambition in their heart; defiant and far from Truth they engage in a superficial wisdom, that is earthly, inspired by the devil; for wherever there is envy and contention, there will also be confusion, rebellion and all sorts of evil and vile practices (James 3:14-16).

23. The Light of Israel shall become a fire, and His Holy One a flame; My Beloved will burn and devour in one day (Isa. 10:17), those who refuse to hear His words, who walk in the stubbornness of their own hearts, for they have gone after and have **taken possession** of other gods to serve and worship (Jer. 13:10); causing the place of death to enlarge its appetite and open its mouth without measure, to swallow and **consume** many; the noisy crowds, the beautiful people happy and comfortable will die, and **go down** into the grave; for those people pull their guilt and sins behind them with ropes made of lies, bringing punishment to themselves as they drag wickedness with them like a cart; what sorrow for them who say evil is good and good is evil; who put darkness for light and light for darkness; who think they are so smart, so clever; what sorrow for those famous for drinking wine, and boast about all the alcohol they can consume; this is why the Lord's anger burns against these people, and why He has raised His fist to punish them so the holiness of God and His righteousness and justice can be seen exalted (Isa. 5:14-25); for my Beloved is seated upon a great white throne; the dead, great and small will stand before Him when the books are opened; the One I love will judge the dead by their deeds in accordance to what was recorded in the books; the sea, death and Hades will surrender the dead in them, and all will be tried and their cases determined by what they have done; death and Hades will be thrown into the lake of fire, the second death; and those whose names are not found written in the Book of Life will be hurled into the lake of fire (Rev. 20:11-15).
24. Those who have an ear, I pray they hear what the Spirit says to the churches; **Repent! Otherwise, the Lord will soon come to you and will fight against those who teach strange doctrines with the sword of His mouth.** (Rev. 2:16-17); those who refuse to **follow** the example of Christ (1 Cor. 11:11); who are in fact ashamed of Jesus and His words; sinful generations, unfaithful to the One I love, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His **Father** with His holy angels (Mark 8:36-37a).

25. Lord, that such as these would think what profit is there to gain the whole world, and forfeit life in the eternal kingdom of God; would they consider what exchange could be made for a blessed life in God's eternal **kingdom** (Mark 8:37b-38); to know and understand my Beloved, Who is ready to respond, but they ask not for help from the One I love; yet He is ready to be found, but they are not looking for Him, Who calls out Here I am, here I am; they refuse to call on the name of Jesus, Whose hands are spread out all the day long to these rebellious people, who walk in a way that is not good, after their own crooked schemes; they provoke the One I love, insulting Him to His face with evil desires that are lodged in secret, **inner places** of their heart; while they say to one another, 'Don't come too close and defile me, for I am holier than you'; these people are a stench in the nostrils of my Beloved, an acrid smell of fire burning all day; the Lord will never go away, nor will He keep silent; He will repay them in full; yes, He will repay them for their own sins (Isa. 65:1-7); yet, for those who believe and trust in and rely on the Lord, we shall enter God's rest (Heb. 4:3); for God purposed that through what His Son did that He would clear a path for all things to be completely reconciled back to Himself, for Christ's death on the cross has made peace with God for all by His blood; this includes all who are so far away from Him, for I too, was once God's enemy and was separated from Him by my evil thoughts and actions, but He has brought me back as a friend (Col. 1:20-21).

26. My Beloved brought me back reconciling me to God by His physical body through death on the cross so I can enter into the presence of God, and stand before Him with no charges against me; He did this because I fully believe the Truth; I am standing in it steadfast and firm, strong in the Lord, convinced of the Good News that Jesus died for me, never shifting in faith, trusting the One I love to save me (Col. 1:22-23); by keeping my eyes on Jesus, looking away from all that can distract me to my Beloved, heaven's Champion, Who initiates and perfects my faith; He endured the cross, disregarding its shame for the joy of obtaining the prize that was set before Him (*me and you*) (Heb. 12:2); being exalted to God's own right hand as Prince and Savior and Deliverer in order to grant repentance and to bestow forgiveness and release of sins (Acts 5:31) to all nations through the preaching of His name (Luke 24:47); causing salvation **to surround** me and all who believe as the walls of a city; for my Beloved exchanged the harsh judgment of my sins so I could know the outflowing Power of His resurrection (Phil. 3:10).

27. The One I love exchanged my corruptibility for God's just and right judgment that deemed me deserving of His kingdom (2 Thess. 1:5); He exchanged my lack of clarity for the truth of His love, which constrains me (2 Cor. 5:14); at last I know the Lord, the Mighty One of Israel, is my Savior and my Redeemer (Isa. 60:16-18); and through Jesus I can come to possess this knowledge: There is only one God, the Father, Who is the Source of all things and for Whom I live; and there is one Lord, Jesus Christ, through Whom God made everything, and through Whom I have been given life (1 Cor. 8:6); my Beloved gives to those who love Him a river of peace and prosperity; making hearts rejoice and bones to flourish, for His powerful hand has been revealed and is known to be with His servants, but His indignation is against His enemies; with fire the Lord will come, and His chariots will be like the stormy wind, to render His anger with fierceness, and His rebuke with flames of fire (Isa. 66:12-15); the nations that are far away, and those who are near listen and acknowledge God's might; people will be burnt as if to lime, like thorns cut down and tossed in a fire; for they **conceive** chaff, they produce nothing but dry grass and stubble; their own breath will turn to fire and consume them (Isa. 33:11-13); yes, by fire and by His sword the Lord will execute judgment upon all flesh, and the slain of the Lord will be many (Isa. 66:16).

28. Therefore, those who are wise will heed these things, and they will diligently consider the mercy and loving-kindness of the Lord (Ps. 107:43); for by means of His own blood, my Beloved entered the Holy of Holies once and for all time and secured a **complete** redemption (Heb. 9:12); so we can draw strength from Him, and become strong in Him and in His mighty power; for we are not battling against flesh and blood enemies, but against spiritual beings without bodies – evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against great evil princes of darkness who rule this world, and against vast numbers of evil spirits in heavenly places (Eph. 6:10-12); we must take up the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God (Eph. 6:17); for the Word of God is living and active; sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart (Heb. 4:12); and helps us to hold our ground with the belt of truth tightened around our loins (Eph. 6:14).
29. *(The One I love gives us this assurance), 'I am with you; therefore, My servant do not fear,'* (Jer. 46:28); fear keeps us trusting in and depending on ourselves instead of on God, Who raises the dead; we must stop relying on ourselves and learn to rely only on God, for He will rescue and save us, and deliver us from danger and destruction and draw us to Himself (2 Cor. 1:9-10); for the sin of one man, Adam, caused death to rule over many; but, even greater is God's wonderful grace and His gift of righteousness, for all who receive these gifts of God will reign as kings in life through the **One Man**, Jesus Christ (Rom. 5:17); Who will **recompense** us (Ruth 2:12a), for working willingly at whatever we do, working for the Lord rather than for people; remember my Beloved will give us our full portion of all He owns; for He is the One we are really working for (Col. 3:23-24); yes, a full reward will be given to us by the Lord, the God of Israel, under Whose wings we come to take refuge (Ruth 2:12b)

30. Yes, I will worship God; Him alone will I serve (Luke 4:8); I will bless the Lord, Whom my soul loves, for He is very great; my Beloved is **glorious**, clothed with honor and majesty; He covers Himself with light as with a garment; He stretches out the heavens like a tent, and makes the clouds His chariot; He walks upon the wings of the wind, for He makes winds His messengers, and flames of fire His servants (Ps. 104:1-4); God has clothed (Isa. 22:21a) the One I love with a robe of vengeance; a cloak of divine passion wrapped about Him (Isa. 59:17); He wears righteousness as the girdle of His waist, and faithfulness as the girdle of His loins (Isa. 11:5); God committed His authority to the hand of Jesus, and laid upon His shoulder the key to the house of David; what He shall open, no one shall shut; what He shall shut, no one shall open; driven like a nail in a firm place, my Beloved has become a throne of honor and glory for the house of His Father; all the glory of His family hangs on my Beloved (Isa. 22:21-24),
31. From Judah, the Cornerstone came forth (Zech. 10:4a), the children of God now stand on a foundation of the apostles and the prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself the Chief Cornerstone (Eph. 2:20); my Beloved is the Tent Peg on which all hope hangs (Zech. 10:4b); for now we have this hope as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul; it cannot slip and it cannot be broken down by those who step upon it; for it is a hope that reaches farther and enters into the very Presence of God within the veil; where my Beloved entered in for us in advance, a Forerunner having become a High Priest forever after the order of Melchizedek (Heb. 6:19-20); a High Priest Who **longs to** redeem those who have strayed from Him; sadly, destruction will come, because people rebel against the One I love; they do not cry out to my Beloved from their hearts, but wail upon their beds (Hosea 7:13a); consequently, in **mighty strength** and power the Lord will judge and vindicate, and save by the power of His name (Ps. 5:1).

32. From Judah came the Cornerstone, my Beloved, from Him the tent peg, from Him the battle bow (Zech. 4:10); and in that day, He will deliver His people from their enemies, and also from the rebel powers of evil and darkness; His sharp and unrelenting, great and strong sword will visit and punish Leviathan that swiftly fleeing serpent, Leviathan that twisting and winding serpent (Isa. 27:1); my Beloved the Ruler over all the earth (Zech. 4:10d), His stability and faithfulness are great; we are not consumed because His mercy and loving-kindness are so great; the tender compassions of the One I love fail not; they are new every single morning (Lam. 3:22); surely, the hand of the Lord my God is strong, His arm **outstretched** with mercy and with loving-kindness (Ps. 136:12).
33. The One I love is faithful, reliable and trustworthy; ever true to His word and promises; on Him we can depend and lean; and God has called us into companionship and participation with Him, Jesus Christ, His Son (1 Cor. 1:9); yes, the God of all grace, Who imparts all blessing and favor, has called us to share in His eternal glory by means of my Beloved (1 Peter 5:10a); and we shall serve the Lord our God and David's descendant our King, Whom God **raised up** for us (Jer. 30:9); and He will restore, support and strengthen us, and place us on a firm foundation (1 Peter 5:10b) so we will not be afraid, nor will we be dismayed (Jer. 30:10); instead, we shall be as mighty men treading down our enemies in the mire under our feet; we shall fight knowing the Lord is with us (Zech. 10:5a), knowing the battle is the Lord's (1 Sam. 14:47a); for God has **raised up** for Himself a faithful Priest, Who shall do according to what is in His heart and mind (1 Sam. 2:35a); my Beloved holds His priesthood unchangeably, because He lives on forever; therefore, He is able to save completely, perfectly, finally, once and forever those who come to God through Him, since He is always living to intercede with God and intervene in our behalf (Heb. 7:24-25).

34. The One I love shall establish for us a sure house, a lasting dynasty, and we shall walk before God's Anointed One forever (1 Sam. 2:35b); for God has shown us the greatness of **His love** by sending Christ Jesus to die for us while we were yet sinners (Rom. 5:8); with this knowledge we can fight and see the strength and power of the oppressor overthrown (Zech. 10:5b) in the land of the living, where the Lord's goodness can be seen (Ps. 27:13); for the Lord saves not with sword and spear, giving in our hands (1 Sam. 14:47b) the victory; for every child of God defeats this evil world through faith and trust in the Son of God (1 John 5:4); so I wait and hope for and expect the Lord; yes, I will be brave and of good courage, my heart stout and enduring as I wait for and hope for and expect the Lord (Ps. 27:13-14), Who has **removed** and separated us from our sins as far as sunrise is from sunset (Ps. 103:12).
35. My heart overflows with gratitude for God, Who made the One I love to be the offering for my sin; my Beloved knew no sin (2 Cor. 5:20-21), and for a little time was made lower than the angels so God could crown Him with glory and honor, and set Him over the works of His hands (Heb. 2:7); yes, the Word, Christ Jesus, became flesh to dwell upon the earth, so that I could behold His glory; the glory of the only begotten Son of the Father, full of grace and truth (John 1:14); Who gave Himself up to atone for my sins, to rescue and deliver me from this present wicked age, according to the **desire** and the will, the purpose and the plan of my heavenly Father (Gal. 1:4); making me a child of God, inviting me to come home with **Him**, and giving me a reward (1 Kings 13:7) eternal life (Rom. 2:7); the One I love let Himself become a home to me (1 John 3:24a); the High and Lofty One who lives in eternity (Isa. 57:15a) also abides in me (1 John 3:24b), because my spirit is humble and contrite (Isa. 57:15b); **Jesus really lives and makes His home in me** (1 John 3:24c); my spirit is refreshed and **restored**, and my heart revived with new courage (Isa. 57:15c), for God's Word comforts my soul, and has become my only hope.

36. The **promises** of God give me strength in all my troubles so I can stand unmoved, sturdy as a **pillar** (Ps. 119:49-52); for they exude His merciful kindness and steadfast love, which are a comfort to me, His servant (Ps. 119:76); they show me the path of life, granting me the joy of His presence and the pleasures of living with the One I love forever (Ps. 16:11); and so I give all glory to God, for He is able through His mighty power, which is at work within me, to do far more than I would ever dare to ask or even dream of accomplishing (Eph. 3:20-21); and what's more amazing, God does and will do this for everyone; He makes no distinctions, for My Beloved is Lord over all; and He generously bestows His riches upon all who call on Him in faith; for everyone who calls upon the name of my Beloved, believing He is Lord, will be saved (Rom. 10:12-13).
37. My Beloved, the Lord Almighty, is the true God; He is the living God, the eternal King (Jer. 10:10); He alone is to be feared, for who can stand before Him when He is **angry** (Ps. 76:7); but praise God, for He has not appointed me to incur His wrath; instead, I will obtain His salvation through my Lord, Jesus Christ, Who died for me so that whether I am still alive, or if I am dead at His appearing, I can live together with the One I love and share His life (1 Thess. 5:9); therefore, I offer myself body, soul and spirit as a living and holy sacrifice to Him, for this is truly the way for me to **worship** Him (Rom. 12:1); however, many **provoke** the Lord to jealousy and anger and indignation; do they defy Him thinking they are stronger than He is (1 Cor. 10:22); will their courage endure or their hands be strong in the day the Lord deals with them (Ezek. 22:14).

38. My spirit groans, and you may ask why; my spirit groans because of the fearsome news that God has spoken; and when it comes true, even the boldest heart will melt with fear; every hand will go limp for all strength will disappear; every spirit will become faint; strong knees will tremble and become as weak as water; yes, their doom is on the way; for God's judgments will surely be fulfilled (Ezek. 21:7); neither will God, the Glory and Strength of Israel, lie or change His mind; for He is not a man, that He should change His mind (1 Sam. 15:29); therefore, I will be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near (James 5:8); and even now to my old age my faith will rest in Jesus Who carries me even though my hair is **white** with age (Isa. 46:4a); the Lord my God made me, and promises to bear me (Isa. 46:4a); for He is God from ancient days, no one can deliver out of His hand; when He acts no one can reverse it (Isa. 43:13); He will carry me, and will save me (Isa. 46:4b).

39. The One I love is the same Lord **over all**, He makes no distinctions (Rom. 10:12a), for there is no difference, all have sinned; all fall short of the glory of God; all are made right with God by placing their faith in Christ Jesus; this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who they are by God's free gift of grace; through Jesus, God freed us from the penalty of our sins; God presented my Beloved, as a sacrifice of atonement for sin; and through this faith in the shed blood of Jesus people are made right with God; Who did this to demonstrate His justice by holding back and not punishing those who sinned in times past; for God was looking ahead and including them in what He would do through Jesus to demonstrate His righteousness; for God Himself is fair and just, and will declare sinners to be right in His sight when they believe in His Son (Rom. 3:22-26); yes, for this very reason, my Beloved died and returned to life so that He might be Lord of both the dead and the living (Rom. 14:9); and on His robe and on His thigh He has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS (Rev. 19:16); tell me, will the faultfinder **contend** with the Almighty (Job 40:2a): is it by their understanding that the hawk soars, stretching his wings toward the south; is it at their command that the eagle mounts up, and makes his nest on high (Job 39:26-27); let those who reprove God answer it (Job 49:2b).

40. However, though one wished to **dispute** with God, they could not answer Him one time out of a thousand; His wisdom is profound, His power is vast; who has resisted Him and come out unscathed (Job 9:3-4); so let Him guide you in the way of wisdom, and lead you along straight paths; and when you walk, your steps will not be hampered; when you run, you will not stumble; hold on to His instruction, do not let it go; guard it well, for it is your life; do not set foot on the path of the wicked, or walk in the way of evil people; avoid it, do not **travel** on it; turn from it and go on your way (Prov. 4:11-15); instead, **look** to God for to Him belong wisdom and power; counsel and understanding are His (Job 12:13); He reveals to us the unsearchable riches of my Beloved, to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery (Eph. 3:8-9); Jesus of Nazareth, a Man shown forth and publicly endorsed by God, by the mighty works and wonders and signs which God worked through Him right in the midst of all the people (Acts 2:22); Who asked, Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me; then believe on the evidence of the great miracles (John 14:11) I have shown you, for which of these do you stone Me (John 10:32).

41. Yet wicked and deceitful men opened their mouths against the One I love; they spoke against Him with lying tongues; with words of hatred they surrounded Him, and attacked Him without cause (Ps. 109:2-3); for they were motivated to succeed by the driving force of envy and jealousy (Eccl. 4:4); they betrayed and delivered up my Beloved according to the definite and fixed purpose and settled plan and foreknowledge of God; Jesus was nailed to a cross and killed by the hands of lawless and wicked men; but God, raised Him up liberating Him from the horrors of death, for death could not keep Jesus in its grip; the Lord saw God always with Him; Jesus was not shaken or overthrown or cast down, for God was at His right hand; the Lord's heart rejoiced and was glad; His tongue exulted God with shouts of praise; moreover, His flesh dwelt in hope, for my Beloved knew God would not abandon His soul, leaving it helpless among the dead; nor would He allow His Holy One to know decay or see bodily destruction in the grave; God made the Lord to know the ways of life (Acts 2:23-28a); all this, so the One I love could **extend** to me and to all who believe a more excellent way; one that is better by far and the highest of them all – love (1 Cor. 12:31), so my life could lovingly express the truth; so I could be enfolded in love, and grow in every way more and more like Christ, Who is the head of His body, the church; my Beloved makes the whole body of believers fit together perfectly; each part doing its own special work, while helping the other parts to grow, so the whole body can mature and build itself up (Eph. 4:15-16) in the love of God; as born-again children of God, who love the Father, and obey His commands; for the true love of God is doing His commands, which are not burdensome; for every child of God is victorious over this evil world; a victory achieved through faith in God's Son, Jesus Christ (1 John 5:1-5).

42. Though my Beloved extended **friendship** to them, they tried to destroy Him with accusations even as he prayed for them! They repay evil for good, and hatred for His love (Ps. 109:4-5); His companion, His close friend, with whom He once enjoyed sweet fellowship as they walked with the throng at the house of God (Ps. 55:13-14) betrayed the One I love with a kiss (Mark 14:44); this companion betrayed his friends; he broke his promises; his words were as smooth as butter, but in his heart was war; his words were as soothing as lotion, but underneath they were daggers; how could he not believe the One I love wouldn't take care of him, if only he had given his burdens to Him; for my Beloved will not permit the godly to slip and fall; however, God will send the wicked down to the pit of destruction; I am trusting the One of love to save me (Ps. 55:20-23).
43. So heed God's counsel, and seek the Lord while He can be found; call on Him now while He is near; let the wicked forsake their way and the unrighteous banish the very thought of doing wrong; let them turn to the Lord and He will have mercy on them; let them turn to God for He forgives generously and will reveal to them the way of Love (Isa 55:6-7); for God is Love (1 John 4:8), His thoughts are not like our thoughts; neither are His ways, for they are far beyond anything we could imagine; for as the heavens are higher than the earth, so God's ways are higher than our ways, and His thoughts are higher than our thoughts (Isa. 55:6-9); for the thoughts of God's heart are for all generations, His intentions can never be shaken (Ps. 33:11); and though your spirit maybe as dry and parched as the desert your soul can be glad; though you wander aimlessly in the wilderness still you can **rejoice** and blossom, when you see the glory of the Lord, the splendor of our God (Isa. 35:1).

44. You too will not be afraid; instead, you will be glad and rejoice; for surely the Lord has done **great** things (Joel 2:21); God has made known the mystery of His will according to His good pleasure, which He previously purposed in Christ Jesus (Eph. 1:9); and ask from one end of the heavens to the other, has anything so **great** as this ever happened, or has anything like it ever been heard of (Deut. 4:32); for God planned at the right time to **bring** all things in heaven and on earth together under one Head, Jesus Christ; we are united with Christ, and have received an inheritance from God, Who chose us in advance; and God makes everything work out according to His plan and purpose, which was for all to hear the Truth, the Good News that He saves; so when I chose to believe in Christ Jesus, God identified me as His own by giving me His Holy Spirit, Whom He promised long ago; Holy Spirit is God's guarantee that He will give me the inheritance He promised, for He has purchased me to be a member of His family; God did this so I would praise and glorify Him (Eph. 1:9-14), the only true God, and Jesus Christ; the One He sent to earth, and has given authority over everyone; my Beloved gives eternal life to each one God has given Him; and when the hour came God brought Jesus into the glory they shared before the world began; the Son of God was glorified so He could give glory back to His Father (John 17:1-5).

45. The One I loved did not trust in a bow or a sword to bring Him victory (Ps. 44:6); because Jesus knew it was not by **might**, nor by power, but by the Spirit of God (Zech. 4:6) that He would give us victory over our enemies, and put our adversaries to shame (Ps. 44:7); the thoughts of my Beloved were always to glorify His Father; even when He was heard saying, 'If you are willing, Father, remove this cup from Me; yet not My will, but always Yours be done;' and there appeared to Him an angel from heaven, to **strengthen** Him in spirit (Luke 22:42-43); for it was morning when all the chief priests and the elders of the people consulted against the One I love to put Him to death (Matt. 27:1-2); so God sent an angel to encourage and **strengthen** the Lord, for He was going to lead multitudes across (*the barrier of*) sin, and cause them to see their inheritance (Deut. 3:28).
46. Yes, they bound Jesus and led Him away handing Him over to Pilate the governor; and when Judas, the one who betrayed my Beloved, saw that Jesus was condemned, He was afflicted in mind, and troubled for His former folly; and with remorse he returned the thirty pieces of silver saying to the chief priests and the elders, I have sinned in betraying innocent blood; and this was their reply, What is that to us? That's your responsibility; Judas departed, he went off and hung himself (Matt. 27:1-5); as Jesus was being whipped, and delivered up to be crucified; a **whole** battalion of soldiers gathered about my Beloved; they stripped off His clothes, and put a scarlet robe upon Him; they wove a crown of thorns for His head, and put a reed in His right hand; they knelt before the One I love, and made sport of Him, saying, 'Hail, King of the Jews;' they spit on Him, and took the reed striking Him on the head with it; after they finished making sport of Him, they stripped Him of the scarlet robe, and put His own garments on Him, then led my Beloved away to be crucified (Matt. 27:26-31).

47. Yes, my Beloved knew one of His disciples would betray Him and deliver Him up (John 13:21); He knew Satan had entered into and **took possession** of Judas; and Jesus said to him, 'What you are going to do, do more swiftly than you seem to intend and make quick work of it,' (John 13:27); for the One I love knew there were those who sought to **kill** Him, even though He told them the truth which He had heard from God (John 8:40); but, this was the will of God to crush Him and cause Jesus to suffer (Isa. 54:10a); God made the life of my Beloved a guilt offering for sin so He would have many descendants; however, after the suffering of His soul, Jesus saw the light of life, and is satisfied with all that is accomplished by His anguish; and because of His experience, God's righteous Servant will justify many, for He bore all their iniquities (Isa. 53:10b-11); God exalted my Beloved, to the highest place of honor, and at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth; every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father (Phil. 2:9-11); for the One my soul loves poured out His life unto death, and was counted among the rebels; Jesus bore the sin of many, and interceded for the transgressors (Isa. 53:12) so that through faith in His accomplishments, many could have peace with God (Rom.5:1).

48. Through my Beloved I too can rejoice and exultingly glory in God, in His love and perfection; for I have been justified, and brought into right relationship with God by the blood of Jesus; yes, while I was an enemy of God, Jesus reconciled me to my heavenly Father through His death; how much more certain can I be that I shall be saved through His resurrection life, for I have received and now enjoy my reconciliation with God; knowing the One I love will save me from God's wrath (Rom. 5:9-11); for my Beloved was slain, and with His blood He ransomed people unto God from every tribe and language and nation; the One I love has made us to become a Kingdom of priests for our God, and we shall reign as kings over the earth (Rev. 5:9-10); but, how is it possible for someone to **learn** to believe, when they are content to seek and receive praise and honor from one another, and do not seek the praise and honor and glory which comes from Him Who alone is God (John 5:44); when everything they do is done for people to see (Matt. 23:5); not realizing my Beloved can and will keep them, and all who guard and keep His word of patient endurance, safe from the hour of trial which is coming on the whole world to try those who dwell upon the earth (Rev. 3:10).
49. My Beloved is the righteous Judge, and He has laid up for me the victor's crown of righteousness to give me on the day of His return; and not to me only, but also to all those who have loved and yearned for and welcomed the return (2 Tim. 4:8) of the One born into King David's family line; Who was shown to be the Son of God when He was raised from the dead by the power of Holy Spirit; this One is Christ Jesus my Lord (Rom. 1:3-4); God set a crown of pure gold on the head of this righteous Descendant, and placed Him upon King David's throne, to be a King Who rules with wisdom and justice, and causes righteousness to **prevail** throughout the earth; and this will be His name: The Lord Our Righteousness (Jer. 23:5-6).

50. Just like **everyone** else, I too had gone astray, I too was a lost sheep; but, I have come back to the Shepherd of my soul (1 Peter 2:25); Who was guilty of no sin, nor told a lie, nor when insulted, did He answer back; Jesus was authorized and had the power to lay His life down (John 10: 17) on that cross, as on an altar; my Beloved offered **Himself** (1 Pet. 2:24b), so the world could know His love for the Father (John 14:31) and see the love of God made manifest for them, through the **death** and resurrection of the Son (1 John 4:9): Who bore the sins of every person in His own **body** on that tree (1 Pet. 2:24a); no one took the life of my Beloved from Him; on the contrary, the One I love laid down His life voluntarily (John 10:18); for no greater love could Jesus show, than to lay down His own life for His friends (John 15:13); for God sent Jesus, His only begotten Son, into the world so that we might live **through** Him; and know Love; and know love is not that we loved God, but that God first loved us, and sent His Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins (1 John 4:8-11).

51. Yes, God has sent redemption to His people; He has paid a full ransom for us; He has guaranteed His covenant with us forever; holy is His name, inspiring **awe**, reverence and godly fear; the works of His hands are just and good; all His decrees, and commandments are sure, established and trustworthy; they stand fast and are established forever and ever and are done in truth and rightness; they are forever true, to be obeyed faithfully and with integrity; that we may have good understanding, wisdom and meaning to do the will of God; and acquire the reverent fear and worship of the Lord, which is the beginning of Wisdom (Ps. 111:6-9); making it possible for me and all who believe to truly know God loves the One (John 10:17) Who calls me friend for choosing to follow His commands (John 15:14), and be finished with sin so I can live to righteousness (1 Pet. 2:24c).

52. God has made it possible for me to be among those who are prepared to celebrate and ascribe to Jesus' glory and honor at the marriage feast of the Lamb, as His bride (Rev. 19:7) with pure and undivided devotion, saving my love, as a chaste virgin saves her love, for one man only, the One (2 Cor. 11:2-3) I call 'Ishi,' my Husband (Hosea 2:16), for the day has come, when my Beloved is binding up the hurts of His people, and healing the wounds their sins have inflicted upon them (Isa. 30:26b); the One I love earnestly waits for people to come to Him so He can be gracious to us and show us His love, which has the power to conquer our pride and bless us; my Beloved lifts Himself up, that He may have mercy on us and reveal His kindness; for my Beloved is a God of justice, faithful to His promises (Isa. 30:18a); giving strength and substance to our faith so we won't faint in the day of **adversity** (Pr. 24:10).
53. How fortunate I am, for the One I love has blessed me as I earnestly wait for Him: He has given me His victory, His favor, His love, His peace, His joy, and His matchless, unbroken companionship (Isa. 30:18b); my Lord and Savior has made it possible for me to draw water from the wells of salvation with joy (Isa. 12:3); for my Beloved has blessed me with the joy of His salvation and with a willing spirit, to sustain me; so I can teach His ways to those who are reckless and rebellious, so they-who are guilty like me- will repent and return to the Lord (Ps. 51:12-13); to give thanks to the One I love, and call upon His name; making known His deeds to the peoples of the earth, and to exalt His name (Isa. 12:4-5); because Christ Jesus has ascended, and I will sing out my praises to my King; Who **reigns** above the nations, sitting on His holy throne; and I will sing my highest praises to my Savior, the King of all the earth (Ps. 47:5-8), for I know a day is drawing near when the light of the moon will be like the light of the sun, and the light of the sun will be sevenfold, like the light of seven days all in one; in the day when the Lord binds up the hurt of His people, and heals their wound (Isa. 30:26a); how could I be grieved or depressed (Neh. 8:10a); for my Beloved has invited me to enter into and share the joy of His blessedness (Matt. 25:21).

54. It is well with me; I am blessed and happy (Ps. 128:2), for my Beloved choose me and set His love upon me (Deut. 7:7); the One I love freed me so I could live in quietness and **rest** (Jer. 50:34) yes, all is well (2 Kings 5:22) for the vibrant beauty of the One I love has gotten inside me (Ps. 89:17); the Lord Jesus is my glorious strength, and it pleases Him to **make** me strong (Ps. 89:17); His steadfast love is so precious to me; (Ps. 36:7); for my Beloved did not hide His face (Ps. 51:9); instead, He **led** me out when my eyes were blind, and my ears were deaf (Isa. 43:8); the One I love swept away my offenses like a cloud, my sins like the morning mist; my Beloved invited me to return, for He had redeemed me (Isa. 44:22); I was saved by the Lord my God, the Shield of my help, the Sword that exalts me (Deut. 33:29b).
55. The Lord is my refuge, and my dwelling place is within His everlasting arms (Deut. 33:27); how happy I am, blessing is mine (Deut. 33:29a), for the One I love stripped away the veil that covered my hard and calloused mind, for I had become dull and had lost the power of understanding (2 Cor. 3:14-15); I did not know the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to Him (2 Chron. 16:8); nor did I know there are heavenly spirits who stand before the Lord of all the earth, who go out to do His work; these are the four winds or spirits of the heavens, who go out in **chariots** with powerful horses eager to patrol to and fro through the earth as the Lord commands (Zech. 6:5) until the end of the age, when angels will come and separate the wicked people from the righteous, throwing the wicked into the fiery furnace where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth; make no mistake, our God wants us to have a **firm** and sure understanding of all these things (Matt. 13:49-51).

56. Surely God desires us to have understanding, especially for the present time; for the hour has come for the people of God to wake up from their slumber, because our salvation is nearer than we first believed; the night is nearly over; the day of my Beloved's return will soon be here; so let us put aside the deeds of darkness, and put on the armor of light, the armor of right living (Rom. 13:11-12); so the Lord of Peace Himself can give us peace at all times and in every way (2 Thess. 3:16); the One I love has given us His peace, but it is peace not as the world gives (John 14:25-27a), for we will hear of wars and rumors of wars; however, the One I love instructs us not to be alarmed; such things must happen, but the end is still to come; nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places and famines; these are the beginning of birth pains (Mark 13:7-8); so don't let your **hearts** be troubled and do not be afraid (John 14:27b); for God has called us to peace (1 Cor. 7:15), and the Lord Jesus Christ has given us grace and spiritual peace, which means peace with God (Eph. 1:2); and now by the power of Holy Spirit we can abound and be overflowing with hope because we have placed our trust in Jesus (Rom. 15:13).

57. We can rejoice and exult in the hope Holy Spirit has given us, because the One I love **made** us right in God's sight by faith; and now we possess this hope; hope of experiencing and enjoying the presence and the glory of God because Jesus brought us into a place of undeserved privilege in which we now **stand**; it was at just the right time, my Beloved came and **paid the price** by dying for us sinners, when we were utterly helpless (Rom. 5:1,2&8); and now I boldly proclaim, my Beloved has clothed me with a new nature, so I can be renewed so I can learn about and know my Creator, and become more and more like Him (Col. 3:10-11); so I can glorify and fear the Lord my God, Who is a stronghold for the poor, a tower of refuge for the needy in their distress, a shelter from the storm, and a shade from the heat; when the spirit of the terrible is as a storm beating against a wall, my God silences and humbles the roar (Isa. 25:4-5); my Beloved came down to rescue me from this anguish and oppression (Ex. 3:8), to defend me from my enemies; to bring me out of the darkness of deception, doubt and denial into the light of Truth so I could see the goodness and righteousness of the One Who pled my cause (Micah 7:9).

58. The One I love, Christ Jesus, has caused me to hope in God's Word and Promise; and this hope, which He has given to me, His servant, is my **comfort** and consolation in my affliction; for the Word and Promise of God has revived my spirit and given me life (Ps. 119:49-50); this hope I have received from my Beloved fills me with joy, and makes it possible for me to exult and triumph in my troubles, and rejoice in my sufferings with the greatest of assurance because I trust in God's Word, and believe that pressure and affliction and hardship will produce in me patient and unswerving endurance; an endurance that will help me to develop maturity of character by causing me to demonstrate my faith in God as my integrity is being tried; certainly this process is difficult and can be very challenging, but the outcome brings about the development of the sort of character that will produce in me the habit of joyful and confident hope of eternal salvation; and such hope will never disappoint or delude or shame me, for God's love has been poured out and into my heart through Holy Spirit (Rom. 5:1-6); because I acknowledge Jesus is the Son of God, now God lives in me and I live in God (1 John 4:15).
59. The Almighty is my **gold**, and choice silver to me; I delight in the Almighty, and lift up my face to God; I pray to Him, and He hears me; when I decree a thing, it will be established for me, and light will shine on my ways (Job 22:25-28); because I am now in possession of this hope of experiencing what is laid up, reserved and waiting for me in heaven, my faith in Christ Jesus enables me to lean my entire personality on Him in absolute trust and confidence in His power, wisdom and goodness (Col. 1:4-5); because I know and rely on the love God has for me; for God's love ensures I will have boldness and confidence on the day of judgment, for my love is made perfect and complete knowing as He is, so am I in this world (1 John 4:15-17).

60. So I praise the Lord, and bless Him Who bears my burdens and **carries** me day by day; I praise God Who is my salvation; I bless Him Who is to me a God of deliverances and salvation (Ps. 68:19–20a); my Beloved is my Shepherd (Ps. 23:1), Who feeds me with Living Bread so I can eat, and live forever (John 6:51); the One I love continually guides me (Isa. 58:11a) in His truth and faithfulness (Ps. 25:5); the Lord Jesus, Who calls me friend, has given me the shield of saving faith to stop the fiery arrows my enemies aim at me (Eph. 6:16); that I can learn to be strong in Him, and in the power of His might (Eph. 6:10); so my life is not ruined by my own foolishness (Prov. 19:3); so I can recognize and understand the plans and schemes of the foolish, and that their thoughts of foolishness are sin (Prov. 24:9); yes, so I can recognize the sin of an uplifted heart against God; a heart that lacks sense, because it is reckless and very, very thoughtless (Mark 7:22); and that I can acknowledge at one time this was my heart – unfaithful to God; choosing to make friends with God’s enemies – the evil pleasures of this world; my heart – an enemy of God (James 4:4); destined for eternal death because of my lack of self-control; desperately lost because of my great foolishness (Prov. 5:23); I was even foolish enough to blame God (Prov. 19:3); the **Sovereign** of the ages (Rev 15:3), Who had and continues to have compassion on me; His love and kindness have never departed from me (Isa. 54:10).

61. My Beloved saw my little faith, and forgave my sins; the One I love put far away from me and remitted the penalty of my foolishness; how greatly I love this One who removed the heaviness of guilt from my soul, and made me upright and in right standing with God (Mark 2:5); and though my foolish plans were many, I will be eternally grateful because the purpose my Beloved has for me will stand and will prevail (Prov. 19:21); because Jesus makes me to increase and excel and overflow in love for Him and for God and for other people; making me to rejoice in the process and in the results, for my heart is being made strong and established pure and holy by God, my heavenly Father, so I can stand before Him guiltless on the day the One I love returns (1 Thess. 3:12-13); yes, I will come and proclaim the mighty acts of my **Sovereign** Lord; for I walk in the strength of the Lord my God; and until that time arrives, I will proclaim His righteousness to everyone, for He alone is just and good (Ps. 71:16).
62. Praise God, for now there is time to wash ourselves, and be made clean; to put away the evil of our doings from before the eyes of the Lord; there is time for us to cease doing evil and learn to do right; time to seek justice, to relieve the oppressed and correct the oppressor; to defend the fatherless, and plead for the widow for these are God's desires; now is the time for us to come, and reason together with the Lord; for though our sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; and though they are red like crimson, they shall be like wool; if we are willing and obedient, the good of the land shall be ours to eat; but those who refuse and rebel, they will be devoured (Isa. 1:16-20) by the sword of God's vengeance because of their guilt; because of their refusal to turn out of darkness (Job 15:22), to seek out the book of the Lord my God, and read; for not one detail of prophecy shall fail, not one shall lack in fulfillment (Isa. 34:16); therefore, come out from among unbelievers, and **sever** yourselves from them; separate yourself from them, and don't touch their filthy things, and God will welcome you; He will be your Father, and you will be His child (2 Cor. 6:17-18).

63. Bless, give thanks, and gratefully praise God (Ps 68:26); for you too will discover how great the **love** the Father lavishes upon us (1 John 3:1); so come and plead your case with God; especially if you are overwhelmed and desperate, as I once was; seek His mercy, and tell Him of your troubles; He alone knows which way you should turn to miss the traps set for you by your enemies; so if you feel there is no one who gives you a passing thought; no one to help you or who cares a bit about what happens to you; cry out to the One I love, for He is your only place of refuge; my Beloved can keep you safe (Ps. 142:1-5).
64. So don't be one who doesn't recognize the Lord speaks again and again; for there are many who don't realize my Beloved's voice can be heard in a dream, in visions of the night, when deep sleep falls upon a person, while they are slumbering upon their bed; for it is at times like these, when the One I love whispers in an ear to give wisdom and instruction; warning people with the terrifying and terrible penalties of sin; to make them change their minds, and turn from wrong doing; my Beloved desires to keep us from pride by disgusting us with our own destructive self-reliance; Jesus wants to hold us back from the pit of destruction, and keep our lives from perishing by the sword of God's righteous judgments (Job 33:15-18); for there is sorrow awaiting many when the day of the Lord arrives (Amos 5:18a); therefore, don't be among those people who are mere creatures of instinct, born to be captured and destroyed, railing at things of which they are ignorant, they shall **utterly** perish in their own corruption; they shall surely be destroyed, because their own destroying actions have destined them to receive punishment as the reward for their unrighteousness (2 Peter 2:12-23).

65. Yes, my Beloved will appear a second time, not to deal with sin again, for He took upon Himself to bear as a burden the sins of many once and once for all (Heb. 9:28); the One I love gave Himself for our sins to redeem us, to rescue us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father (Gal. 1:4); so be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near (James 5:8); if it seems slow in coming, wait patiently, for it will **surely** take place; it will not be overdue a single day (Hab. 2:3); because we know God the Father **made peace** with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ's blood on the cross; and this includes me and you who were once far away from Him, as His enemies, because our evil thoughts and actions separated us from Him; yet God has reconciled us to Himself through the death of my Beloved, and has brought us into His own presence; where we stand before Him holy and blameless without a single fault; so you see it is essential for us to remain or become well-grounded and settled and steadfast with faith in Christ (Col. 1:20-23).
66. Therefore, take heed and be on guard; we don't want our hearts to be dulled, overburdened and depressed by the effects of self-indulgence, drunkenness and the worries and cares pertaining to the problems of this life, so the day of the Lord's return should catch anyone of us unaware, and be as a trap or a noose; for that day will come upon all who dwell on the face of all the earth; we must pray for the strength to be self-disciplined so we can **escape** the coming horrors that are about to take place, and **stand before** the Son of Man (Luke 21:34).

67. In that day it will be as though a **person** runs from a lion – only to meet a bear; after escaping from the bear, they rest their hand against a wall to be bitten by a snake; that day will be darkness not light; in fact, that day will be very dark, with no brightness in it (Amos 5:18-20); for they themselves are broods of snakes (Luke 3:7a), because their very nature is from the devil (1 John 3:10), they are held captive by their own so-called philosophy and intellectualism and vain deceit; (*their prideful hearts have been damaged by the poisonous venom of their own bitterness, hatred and rebellion*), they follow human tradition, and disregard the teachings of Christ, and what He says (Col. 2:8); why, because Satan, who is the god of this evil world, has made them blind; they are unable to see the glorious light of the Gospel that is shining upon them; they don't understand this message about the glory and **splendor** of my Beloved, Who is the exact likeness of God (2 Cor. 4:4); they don't understand in Christ there is all of God in a human body, the whole fullness of the Deity in bodily form, giving the complete expression of the divine nature (Col. 2:9).

68. How amazing to realize, I am in Christ; that I have everything because I have Christ; that I too am filled with the Godhead – Father, Son and Holy Spirit; filled with the fullness of the Deity through my union with the One I love; and in Him (Col 2:9-10a), Christ Jesus, the One with wisdom and miraculous power that marvels (Matt. 13:54), I have been made complete; and by Him a spiritual operation, a circumcision done without hands (Col. 2:9-11a); my Beloved removed my heart of stone to give me a new heart – a heart of flesh – and a new spirit (Ezek. 36:26); this spiritual circumcision means I am no longer stuck in my old sin-dead life, incapable of responding to God, because of what Jesus has already gone through for me and for you, destroying the power of sin; God brought us alive right along with Christ! Think of it! All sins forgiven, the slate wiped clean, that old arrest warrant canceled and nailed to Christ's cross; my Beloved defeated and disarmed the rulers and tyrants of the spiritual world; with the cross He won the victory over them and led them away, as defeated and powerless prisoners, for the whole world to see; in this way God took away Satan's power to accuse us of sin (Col. 2:11-15); helping us to know and understand His will, so we can start to discerningly **approve** the better things and have a sense of what is vital (Rom. 2:18); realizing and acknowledging the One I love is the highest **Ruler**; Jesus is the Head over all rule and authority, over every principality and power (Col. 2:10b); and with this knowledge we can begin to prize what is excellent and of real value (Philp. 1:10).

69. The best decision I ever made was to quit quarreling with God (Job 22:21a); for I had gone way too long taking counsel from my soul, and having sorrow in my heart every day; giving my enemy ample opportunity to be exalted over me through my own thoughts and behavior; but God looked upon me with pleasure, and answered me; He opened my eyes so I could see His glorious light (Ps. 13:2-3a), so my Beloved, Christ Jesus, could shine in me (Eph. 5:14), God kept me from sleeping the sleep of death; and prevented my enemy from saying, I have overcome this one; and my adversaries from rejoicing (Ps. 13:3b-4) had I been removed far from God (Isa. 57:8); instead, I began to agree with God; I began to enjoy true **peace** at last (Job 22:21b).
70. I allowed myself to trust in God's lovingkindness (Ps. 13:5a), and admit that I was doing wrong (Job 22:21c), which made my heart rejoice in God's salvation, for He dealt bountifully with me (Ps. 13:5b-6); His favor **encircled** me, His grace surrounded me; I began to listen to His instructions and store them in my heart; the One I love restored me **because** I returned to my heavenly **Father**, and began to put right all the wrong in my life, in my home (Job 22:21-23); my Beloved saved me (Jer. 4:14a), and **crowned** me with knowledge so I could become wise (Prov. 14:18), and wash the evil from my heart, so iniquitous and offensive thoughts would no longer be lodged within me (Jer. 4:14); imagine how horrified I was to discover, my own way of thinking, my own way of doing things had actually prevented me from truly loving God with faithfulness so His grace could be eternally upon me (Eph. 6:23).

71. So I pray for a trumpet to be blown in Zion; an alarm to be sounded on God's holy Mount for all the inhabitants of the land to hear, for the **day** of the judgment of the Lord is coming; it is very close at hand (Joel 2:1); when God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is evil or whether it is good (Eccl. 12:14); and for all to know the One I love interceded for me as a Friend, to show me what is right; and that God had compassion on me, and set me free; not to face death eternally, for He found a substitute, a ransom for my life; my Beloved restored me to good standing so God could receive me with joy (Job 33:23-24,26); and invite me to the **marriage** supper of the Lamb (Rev. 19:9); of Christ Jesus, Who gave Himself to redeem a people to be peculiarly His own (Titus 2:14a).
72. The Lamb of God, Who takes away the sin of world (John 1:28); has given me a blessed hope, to wait and look for the **day** of the glorious appearing of my great God and Savior (Titus 2:13); the One I love has given me this testimony - God rescued me from the grave, and now my life is filled with Light (Job 33:28); this could be your testimony too, for God does these things again and again for people, turning their soul from the pit, so the Light of Life may shine on them (Job 33:29-30); for God has no **pleasure** in the death of anyone who dies; therefore, repent and live (Ezek. 18:32); so God can redeem you from the empty way of life that was handed down to you from your forefathers (1 Peter 1:18-19); you know it requires a heart that is **willing** to allow the grace of God to train you to reject and renounce ungodliness and worldly desires, so you can live a self-controlled and devout life in this present world (Titus 2:11-12); no worries, my God is anxious to justify (Job 33:32); so bring your strongest arguments; come now and speak, for my Beloved is ready to hear your case (Isa. 41:1).

