

DEVOTION for PENTECOST 18

PSALM 147:1-12

Praise the Lord. How good it is to sing praises to our God, how pleasant and fitting to praise Him!

The Lord builds up Jerusalem; He gathers the exiles of Israel.

He heals the broken-hearted and binds up their wounds.

**He determines the number of stars and calls them each by name. Great is our Lord and mighty in power;
His understanding has no limit.**

The Lord sustains the humble but casts the wicked to the ground.

Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving; make music to our God on the harp.

He covers the sky with clouds; He supplies the earth with rain and makes grass grow on the hills.

He provides food for the cattle and for the young ravens when they call.

His pleasure is not in the strength of the horse, nor His delight in the legs of a man.

The Lord delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in His unfailing love.

Extol the Lord, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

As it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen

Deuteronomy 29:1-29

Covenant Reaffirmed before entering Promised Land

1) What must the Lord give us so we appreciate His works?

2) What sin would the Lord not be willing to forgive and why?

3) What did the Lord reveal to Israel in His word?

Romans 13:1-14

Submission to authorities and fulfilment of the law in love

Where do the authorities receive their authority?

When we honour the authorities who do we truly honour?

How do we fulfil the spirit of the law in relation to each other?

“BEARING the CROSS: ISAAC, JESUS and US”

Genesis 22:3-10

“Faithful Isaac had to bear a great load of wood on his tender back and delicate shoulders, for wood is continually required for a boy of thirteen years to be burned to ashes. O faithful Lord Jesus, You also had to bear Your own cross to Your death: a great, heavy cross that pressed you to the ground... It is Your glory and splendour that You were able to bear this heavy cross. No one could endure this burden apart from You, for on that wood You simultaneously carried away all my sins and the sins of the whole world. Indeed, You carried away God’s wrath and eternal condemnation, so that ‘there is now nothing condemnable in those who believe in You’ (Rom.8:1).

Thank You, O Lord Jesus, for bearing the heavy cross! I would have perished under the burden of my sins; its weight would have pressed and pulled me all the way down to the pit of hell. You have broader shoulders and stronger thighs than I; You are stronger than I. You carried away my sins and all that I deserved because of them and gained me eternal joy and rest. Now as You wish me also to bear some measure of cross and misery in this world to the glory of Your holy name, give me patience for the task. Gladly and willingly will I glorify Your holy name by bearing my cross. “

**Valerius Herberger “The Great Works of God” Translated by Matthew Carver CPH
Pages 100-101**

“NEARER MY GOD TO THEE” (Public Domain)

Nearer, my God, to thee, Nearer to thee!

E’en though it be a cross That raiseth me;

Still all my song shall be: Nearer my God to thee,

Nearer my God to thee, Nearer to thee!

**Nearer, my Lord, to thee, Nearer to thee,
Who to thy cross didst come, Dying for me!
Strengthen my willing feet, Hold me in service sweet
Nearer, O Christ, to thee, Nearer to thee!**

**Nearer, O Comforter, Nearer to thee,
Who with my loving Lord Dwellest with me!
Grant me thy fellowship! Help me each day to keep
Nearer, my Guide, to thee, Nearer to thee!**

**But to be nearer still, Bring me, O God,
Not by the visioned steeps Angels have trod.
Here where thy cross I see, Jesus I wait for thee,
Then evermore to be Nearer to thee!**

PRAYER

Dearest Lord Jesus, we thank you that for our sake and for the sake of every human soul, you carried your cross to Calvary, suffered and died for the sin of the world. Your cross bearing and sacrifice were prefigured by Isaac, who carried the wood for his sacrifice. His death was prevented by the intervention of a Holy Angel as your Father substituted a ram to be sacrificed in his place. You however, were sacrificed in our place to make atonement for the sin of the world. Long after Isaac and long before your death, Isaiah prophesied of your sacrifice, singing, *“He was wounded for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities; upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with His stripes we are healed.”* As you bore your cross for our peace, help us to bear our crosses and in this bring honour to your name and proclaim to others the forgiveness you offer for all to receive. In your name. Amen

THE LORD’S PRAYER

**Our Father who art in heaven. Hallowed be Thy name.
Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory,
Forever and ever. Amen**

THE CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

BENEDICTION Isaiah 52:10;12

“The Lord has bared His holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God...For you shall not go out in haste, and you shall not go in flight, for the Lord will go before you, and the God of Israel will be your rear guard.”

Bible Knowledge Quiz (Answers next week)

On what day did God create light?

What kind of wood did Noah use to build the ark? (Tricky question)

Why is there no temple in the New Jerusalem that comes down from heaven at the return of Christ? (Answer is in Revelation)