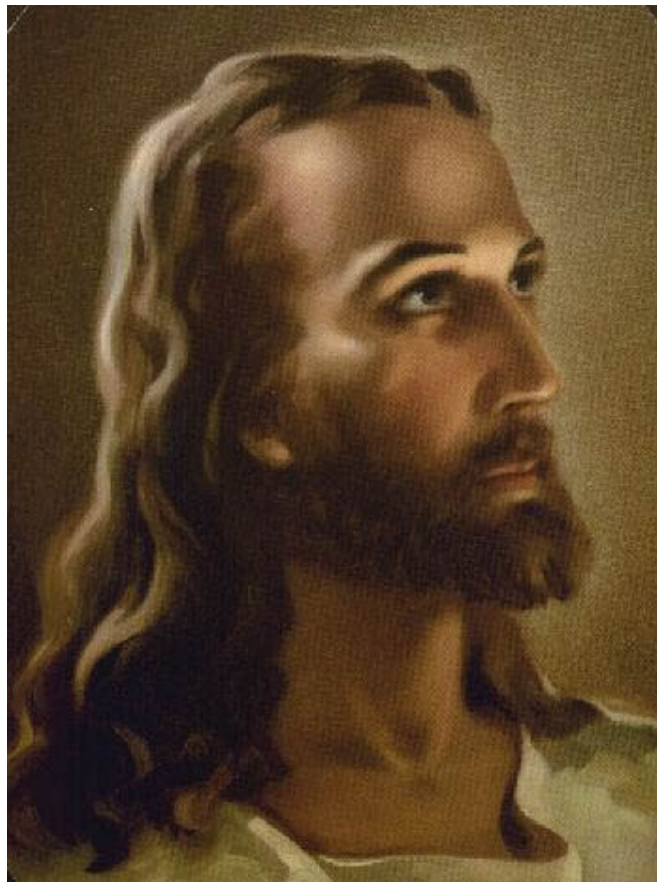


Meditations

On The

Name of the Lord



*“The name of the Lord is a strong tower,
the righteous run into it and are safe.”*

Proverbs 18:10

Index of Names

Psalms 104:34 My meditation of him shall be sweet: I will be glad in the LORD.

Malachi 3:16 Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard *it*, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, **and that thought upon his name**.

The following meditations highlight 40 names of the Lord to meditate on and apply to your heart.

1. **Advocate** - 3875 παρακλητος parakletos (par-ak'-lay-tos)
2. **All in All** - 3956 πας pas (*pas*), 1722 εν en (*en*), 3956 πας pas (*pas*)
3. **Alpha & Omega** - 1 α a *al'-fah*, 5598 ω omega (*o'-meg-ah*)
4. **Altar** - 04196 מזבח mizbeach θυσιαστηριον thusiasterion (*thoo-see-as-tay'-ree-on*)
5. **Amen** - 281 αμην amen *am-ane*
6. **Ancient of Days** - 06268 עתיק attiyq (Aramaic) (*at-teek*), יום yowm (*yome*)
7. **Anointed One** - 04899 משיח mashiyach (*maw-shee'-akh*)
8. **Author** - 747 αρχηγος archegos (*ar-khay-gos*)
9. **Cup** - 03563 כוס kowc (*koce*) - Psalms 16:5
10. **Daystar** - 5459 φωσφορος phosphoros (*foce-for'-os*)
11. **Deliverer** - 06403 פלט palat – (*paw-lat*)
12. **Everlasting Father** - 05703 עד `ad (*ad*) | 01 אב 'ab (*awb*)
13. **Fortress** - 04686 מצוד matsuwd – (*maw-tsood*) fort, hold
14. **Glory** - 03519 כבוד kabowd – (*kaw-bode*)
15. **Goodness** - 02617 חסד checed – (*kheh'-sed*)
16. **Hen** - 3733 ορνις ornis (*or'-nis*)
17. **Hiding Place** - 05643 סתר cether (*say'-ther*)
18. **High Tower** - 04869 משגב misgab – (*mis-gawb*)
19. **Horn of Salvation** – 07161 קרן qeren (*keh'-ren*)
20. **Jesus / Yeshua** - 2424 Ιησους Iesous / 03091 יהושוע Yashowshuwa
21. **Keeper** - 08104 שמר shamar (*shaw-mar*)
22. **Lifter of my head** - 07311 רום ruwm – (*room*)
23. **Inheritance** - 02506 חלק cheleq *khay'lek* –share, inheritance (Lam 3:24)
24. **Portion** – 04490 מנה manah (*maw-naw*) – count, measure as portion (Ps 16:5)
25. **Prince of Peace** - 08269 שר sar (*sar*) / שלום shalom (*shaw-lome'*)
26. **Refuge** (shelter) - 04268 מחסה machseh (*makh-seh'*) (*from rain*)
27. **Refuge** (escape) - 04498 מנוח manowc (*maw-noce'*) (*flee to*)
28. **Rear Guard** - 0622 אסף 'acaph (*aw-saf*)
29. **Rock** - 05553 סלע cela` - (*seh'-lah*)
30. **Sabaoth** – 06635 צבא tsaba' (*tsaw-baw*)
31. **Shade** - 06738 צל tsel (*tsale*)
32. **Shepherd** - 07462 רעה ra`ah (*raw-aw'*)
33. **Shield** - 06793 צנח tsinnah (*tsin-naw*) (*a shield, barrier*)
34. **Shield** - 04043 מגן magen *maw-gane* (*buckler, my shield, personal*)
35. **Strength** - 06697 צור tsuwr – (*tsoor*) = same are rock
36. **Shelter** - 04268 חסד machseh (*makh-seh'*)
37. **Omniscient** - 02451 חכמה chokmah (*khok-maw*)
38. **Omnipotent** - 07706 שדי Shadday (El Shaddai)
39. **Omnipresent** - 04672 מצא matsa' (*maw-tsaw*)

The Name(s) of the Lord

*"The name of the Lord is a strong tower:
the righteous run into it and are safe." - Proverbs 18:10*

The name of the Lord is given to us that we might know our Heavenly Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ in all of His splendor and glory. His name covers us, shelters us, seals us, and protects us. Jesus taught us to pray. It is not insignificant that He began with God's Name: "Hallowed be Thy Name." The name of the Lord is His "persona," the essence of who He is. God has given us more than 600 names for Himself. We should meditate on them and address him in His "persona." His name is an endless, exhaustless, expanse of an infinite God. Solomon's expression, "Heaven of heavens cannot contain thee," is an expression of His immensity.

As you pray the names, you are claiming His promises and covering for yourself. This is what the psalmist means when, in Psalm 9, he says, *"He that dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord He is my refuge and fortress, therefore"*

Confess it. Say His name out loud. As you pray the names of the Lord use a phrase like this. Don't just say His name – claim His name as your inheritance. "Lord, you are my *Portion*, therefore I will not complain about my lot in life. I have YOU!" Make it possessive! Draw a personal conclusion based on His name.

Read it. Read the passage of Scripture that contains His name. Read it out loud. Read it slowly and articulately three times. Pray it back to God. Declare Him among the nations. Satan is listening so make sure he hears who the Lord is to you. Declare it!

Sing it. Sing to the Lord. Sing of His excellent name. Many of the names of God and Christ have been put to song or at least have songs that refer to that name. Sing it to God. Rejoice in His holy name. Pick up hymnbooks and look through the hymns for His names.

Shout it. Shouting to the Lord in triumph is a biblical command. Let the redeemed of the Lord say so! It is a good thing to shout the name of the Lord with your lips.
Isaiah 12:6 Cry out and shout, thou inhabitant of Zion: for great is the Holy One of Israel in the midst of thee.

Write it. Graffiti the Lord's name throughout your notebook or even in your Bible. Remember in grade school how you used to write your girlfriend's or boyfriend's name all over your books. That's the idea. Revel in His name. Love His name. Think on His name. Savor His name. Let it roll off your tongue. Let it bathe your mind and heart. Soak it up. Wrap yourself up in it. God is a very present help in the time of trouble. Let His name be very present to you.

Call on it. We often call on the name of the Lord but do we really think about what we are doing? To call on His name is like making a 9-1-1 call for help. It is to point our cry in the right direction to the One who alone can help. *Call upon me in the day of trouble and I will deliver you and you will glorify me.* (Psalm 50:15)

Think on it. Thinking isn't something we do very much anymore. We are too much in a hurry and we like instant things. Most things are thought out for us. But to THINK on HIS NAME is to meditate on the Lord. David said, "My meditation of Him will be sweet." (Psalms 104:34) God promises to be listening and recording your meditation on His name. Think about Him!

Malachi 3:16 Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name.

Reverence It. To reverence something means to consider it holy and precious, to esteem it highly, to treat it with awe, or stand in awe of it. Begin each of your prayers as Jesus did, "Oh, Lord, Hallowed by thy name."

*Malachi 4:2 But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.
3 And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the LORD of hosts.*

1. Advocate

παρακλητος parakletos

*If any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father,
Jesus Christ the righteous: - 1 John 2:1*

A few years ago our church faced a major lawsuit by a neighbor who resented that a church would be built in his community. So heated was the exchange that when I arrived at the township meeting, at which our zoning application would be discussed, there was standing room only. As each of the evening's agenda items were clicked off it was narrowing down to us. One of the councilmen leaned over to me and said, "It looks like all these people are here to protest you!" And he was right. The next day the Philadelphia Inquirer plastered my picture on the front page of the Neighborhood Section with an article to match.

Needless to say we were in a pickle. We were within our rights to buy the property and build in the farmland area that was zoned for churches. Yet we felt like public enemy number one.

One of our church members suggested that we needed to retain an attorney to represent us. She also recommended that it be one that was well known by the judges and other prosecutors in the county. So we did. We went straight to the top man with the most influence and retained his services. That was the last township meeting I ever had to attend. The attorney (advocate) did the rest. He so intimidated the irate neighbor that eventually the opposition was dropped and the other neighbors sent us letters of apology!

The Advocate you choose will make or break your case. "We have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous." 1 John 2:1 Let Him represent you. Leave it in His capable hands and the results will be miraculous.

2. All, and In All

πας pas (pas), εν en (en), πας pas (pas)

*There is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision,
Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all. - Colossians 3:11*

I remember Popeye cartoons. It seems we were too often in front of the old black and white dimly lit TV watching stupid cartoons and the Three Stooges. There is not much redemptive value in those comedic routines, but once in a while a glimmer of truth seeped through.

Popeye was my favorite. I remember several quotes from that spinach satrap. One was this, "I am what I am, and that's all that I am."

The idea was you are whatever you are. You have to get up in the morning, every morning, and look in the mirror, so you'd better get used to it. You are what you are, and there is no changing that. Deal with it.

Paul reiterates for God's people that we are what we are and there is no changing that. One recurring theme in Colossians is that in Christ dwelt all the fullness of the godhead bodily. (Col. 1:15-17, 2:3, 2:9-10, 2:19, and 3:10)

Paul exhorts and encourages us, who might be feeling that we were given a raw deal, or dealt a bad hand. He reiterates Christ is in everything, including your lot in life. We were created by Him and for Him. He knows our name and our frame (Ps 139). Therefore, whatever our lot, like it or not, whether Greek, Jew, circumcised, uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, bond or free, male or female (we can go on, smart or not so smart, pretty or ugly, tall or short, fat or skinny, lucky or unlucky at love) God is in it. Christ is ALL and IN ALL. He planned it that way for His glory and your good. So accept it.

You Are My All In All

You are my strength when I am weak,
You are the treasure that I seek,
You are my all in all.
Seeking you as a precious jewel,
Lord, to give up, I'd be a fool,
You are my all in all.

Taking my sin, my cross, my shame,
Rising again — I bless your Name.
You are my all in all.
When I fall down, you pick me up,
When I am dry, you fill my cup.
You are my all in all.

Jesus, Lamb of God,
Worthy is your Name.
Jesus, Lamb of God,
Worthy is your Name.

Dennis Jernigan, © 1991 Shepherd's Heart Music .

3. Alpha and Omega

α a alpha / ω omega

Revelation 1:11 Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last:

Revelation 22:13 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.

Isaiah 41:4 Who hath wrought and done it, calling the generations from the beginning? I the LORD, the first, and with the last; I am he.

Isaiah 44:6 Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God.

Directly related to God's Authorship (Hebrews 12:2) is the description that He is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the ending, the first and the last. It is no accident that Jesus appears in the last book of the bible, Revelation, as the Alpha and Omega. Genesis starts with "In the beginning God" and Revelation ends with "the Omega, the last, the ending."

Alpha is the first letter of the Greek alphabet. Omega is the last letter. We even derive our word for letters from the Greek "alpha" when we say "alphabet." The English equivalent of this name is God saying I am "A" and "Z." The clarifier is always the accompanying statement that I am the first and the last, the beginning and the ending.

Hebrews 1:1 describes God as the Creator, as imperishable and never-ending. The earth, however, and all things and people in it grow old, and, like a garment, wear out. God, however, does not wear out. He does not grow old. He really has no beginning or ending in Himself. He always was and always will be. Yet for us He is our Alpha and Omega. That is, He is our beginning and ending. He is the starter and finisher of all things.

Paul declares, "He is before all things and by him all things hold together. He is the head, the first born, so that in everything his has the supremacy." (Colossians 1:15-18) God wants us to know that his is the first cause and the last cause. Therefore, we can know and be assured that if anything good is going to happen in us, to us, or by us, it will be because the Alpha and Omega, the starter and ender of all things, determines it to be so. All good comes from Him. He is the Author and Finisher, the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and Ending, the First and the Last. This world is not about you. It is about the Lord. He wants to have preeminence in everything. (Colossians 1:18)

4. Altar

מִזְבֵּחַ mizbeach (*miz-bay'-akh*)

θυσιαστηριον thusiasterion (*thoo-see-as-tay'-ree-on*)

We have an altar, whereof they have no right to eat which serve the tabernacle."
Hebrews 13:10

Altars aren't used much anymore. When I was growing up we had what Mom called the Family Altar. By that she meant we all gathered in our living room for a sacred time of reading Scripture and prayer every day.

In the church where I was raised the altar was often used at the end of the service as a place of surrender, whether to get saved, or to get right with God, or surrender totally to the Lord.

Literally, the altar in both Old and New Testaments meant a place of cleansing. Remember Isaiah said that when he saw the Lord high and lifted up with his train filling the temple in Isaiah 6. Feeling his sinful unworthiness before God, an angel took a coal from off the altar in heaven and placed it on his tongue and declared him clean. The altar is where we go to get purified, cleansed, and forgiven. Jesus is our altar.

1 John 1:9-10

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. He is the one to whom we go to find cleansing.

Ray Boltz has a wonderful song about the Altar. Read it, better yet, listen to it being sung and bring your burden to the Lord.

THE ALTAR

song by Ray Boltz

The service is nearing an end, the choir is singing "Just As I Am".
And now as the old song is played,
people at the altar are kneeling down to pray ----.
Some are finding mercy, forgiveness of their sins.
Some are fighting battles and struggling to the end----
The time has come to give them to the Lord
That's what this altar is for.

A father is praying with his son,
a mother kneels beside them thanking God they've come.
An old man is standing there in tears,
giving up a part of him that he's held back for years ----.
Hearts are being broken, lives are being changed,
Those who call upon Him will never be the same----.
The time has come to give in to the Lord,
That's what this altar is for.

CHORUS:

That's what this altar is for,
you don't have to carry those burdens anymore.
There's a light in the darkness, there's a love --- that's true.
Jesus is waiting, He's waiting here for you ----.
Go quickly now before they close the door,
That's what this altar is for.

FINAL CHORUS

That's what this altar is for,
you don't have to carry those burdens anymore.
There's a light in the darkness, there's a love --- that's true.
Jesus is waiting, He's waiting here for you ----.
Go quickly now before they close the door,
You can give your burdens to the Lord,
That's what this altar is for.

5. Amen

αμην amen (*am-ane*)

"These things saith **the Amen**, the faithful and true witness,
the beginning of the creation of God;" -- Revelation 3:14

Not the last word, but the only reliable word.

This Hebrew word means "firm", and hence also faithful (Rev 3:14). In Isa. 65:16 the Authorized Version has "the God of truth", which in Hebrew is "the God of Amen." It is frequently used by our Savior to give emphasis to His words, where it is translated "verily." Sometimes, as in John's Gospel, it is repeated, "Verily, verily."

It is used as an epithet of the Lord Jesus Christ in Rev. 3:14. It is found singly and sometimes doubly at the end of prayers (Ps 41:13 72:19 89:52) to confirm the words and invoke the fulfillment of them. It is used in token of being bound by an oath (Num 5:22 Det. 27:15-26 Neh. 5:13 8:6 1Ch 16:36). In the primitive churches it was common for the general audience to say "Amen" at the close of the prayer.

++++

Strong's Concordance explains it this way:

The word "amen" is a most remarkable word. It was transliterated directly from the Hebrew into the Greek of the New Testament, then into Latin and into English and many other languages, so that it is practically a universal word. It has been called the best known word in human speech. The word is directly related--in fact, almost identical --to the Hebrew word for "believe" (amam), or faithful. Thus, it came to mean "sure" or "truly", an expression of absolute trust and confidence. (HMM)

It was used at the end--so it is, so be it, may it be fulfilled. It was a custom, which passed from the synagogues to the Christian assemblies, that when he who had read or discoursed, or had offered up solemn prayer to God, the others responded Amen, and thus made the substance of what was uttered their own.

Psalms 41:13 Blessed be the LORD God of Israel from everlasting, and to everlasting.
Amen, and Amen.

1 Cor 14:16 The promises of God are Amen; (i.e., they are all true and sure 2 Cor 1:20)

6. Ancient of Days

עתיק `attiyq (Aramaic) *at-teek'*

יומ yowm (Aramaic) *yome*

*Thrones were set in place, and the Ancient of Days took His seat...
I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came
with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of Days,
and they brought him near before him. - Daniel 7:9, 13, 22*

A Historical Perspective

He was 95 years old when he went home to be with the Lord. He was a spry, seasoned, and quick-witted retired pastor who sat under my ministry for four years. I savored his wisdom. He had the rich experience of many years of fruitful ministry. He had seen it all. He knew people. He had seen about every possible church conflict and with a twinkle in his eye would share his pearls from his vast storehouse of experience. He helped me put my present circumstances into proper perspective.

Another man was 967 years old when he went home to be with the Lord. His name was Methuselah. That is way beyond my ability to comprehend. His life spanned nearly 1,000 years of human history. Talk about seeing it all. He would have seen life in the dark ages, a myriad of kings and kingdoms coming and going. He would have witnessed the barbaric armies with bow and arrows and spears change to supersonic stealth fighters with laser guided precision bombs and global positioning satellites. He would have seen the invention of gun powder, electricity, gasoline engines, man's first flight, and the microwave oven and microcomputers. He would have survived the bubonic plague, Black Death, and the influenza epidemic. He would have seen Columbus discover America and man's landing on the moon. What a balanced perspective on life he would have had!

The Ancient of Days goes back even farther. He knows the beginning and ending of all things. Even creation itself is a newbie to Him. Daniel, the wisest man in Babylon, reveled at his years. God sits in the heavens un-assailed upon His throne while kingdoms wane and wander. He is unflustered, unruffled, unperturbed by earth's fleeting crises and catastrophes. He has seen it all and been through it all. There is nothing new under the sun with Him. He is unflappable and wholly apart from history. "His goings forth are from old, from everlasting." - Micah 5:2

So what's your problem, pain, conflict or crisis, or spilled milk that is so hard to get over? He has seen it all and then some. Nothing perplexes Him. So He calls us to remember that He is "The Ancient of Days." His years fail not, and as vesture He will fold up this old world and move on. God's name, Ancient of Days, reminds us of the temporary nature of earth. God will last - hard times will not. Cling to the Ancient of Days when it looks like all of life will be blown away. He is an anchor. Cling to Him.

7. Anointed One

משיח mashiyach (*maw-shee'-akh*)

And I will raise me up a faithful priest, that shall do according to that which is in mine heart and in my mind: and I will build him a sure house; and he shall walk before mine anointed for ever. - 1 Samuel 2:35

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release of the captives, recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free. - Isaiah 61:1-3

THE MESSIAH

In a small London house on Brook Street, a servant sighs with resignation as he arranges a tray full of food he assumes will not be eaten. For more than a week, he has faithfully continued to wait on his employer, an eccentric composer, who spends hour after hour isolated in his own room. Morning, noon, and evening the servant delivers appealing meals to the composer and returns later to find the bowls and platters largely untouched.

Once again, he steels himself to go through the same routine, muttering under his breath about how oddly temperamental musicians can be. As he swings open the door to the composer's room, the servant stops in his tracks.

The startled composer, tears streaming down his face, turns to his servant and cries out, "I did think I did see all Heaven before me, and the great God Himself." George Frederic Handel had just finished writing a movement that would take its place in history as the Hallelujah Chorus.

Although Handel wrote his greatest music in England, he suffered personal setbacks there as well. Falling in and out of favor with changing monarchs, competing with established English composers, and dealing with fickle, hard-to-please audiences, left him confronting bankruptcy more than once.

Yet Handel retained his sense of humor through virtually any hardship. Once, just as an oratorio of his was about to begin, several of his friends gathered to console him about the extremely sparse audience attracted to the performance. "Never mind," Handel joked to his friends. "The music will sound the better due to the acoustics of the nearly empty hall!"

Like his fellow composer Bach, Handel was also renowned as a virtuoso organist. One Sunday, after attending a worship service at a country church, Handel asked the organist if he could play a postlude. As the congregation was leaving the church, Handel played with such expertise that the people reclaimed their seats and refused to leave. The regular organist stopped him, and said that he had better not play the postlude after all if the people were ever to go home.

Audiences for Handel's compositions were unpredictable, and even the Church of England attacked him for what they considered his notorious practice of writing biblical dramas such as *Esther* and *Israel in Egypt* to be performed in secular theaters. His occasional commercial success soon met with financial disaster as rival opera companies competed for the ticket holders of London. He drove himself relentlessly to recover from one failure after another, and finally his health began to fail. By 1741 he was swimming in debt. It seemed certain he would land in debtor's prison.

On April 8 of that year, he gave what he considered his farewell concert. Miserably discouraged, he felt forced to retire from public activities at the age of fifty-six. Then two unforeseen events converged to change his life. A wealthy friend, Charles Jensen, gave Handel a libretto based on the life of Christ, taken entirely from the Bible. He also received a commission from a Dublin charity to compose work for a benefit performance.

Handel set to work composing on August 22 in his little house on Brook Street in London. He grew so absorbed in the work that he rarely left his room, hardly stopping to eat. Within six days part one was complete. In nine days more he had finished part two, and in another six, part three. The orchestration was completed in another two days. In all, 260 pages of manuscript were filled in the remarkably short time of 24 days.

Sir Newman Flower, one of Handel's many biographers, summed up the consensus of history: Considering the immensity of the world, and the short time involved, it will remain, perhaps forever, the greatest feat in the whole history of music composition." Handel's title for the commissioned work was simply *Messiah*.

Handel never left his house for those three weeks. A friend who visited him as he composed found him sobbing with intense emotions. Later, as Handel groped for words to describe what he had experienced, he quoted St. Paul, saying "whether I was in the body or out of my body when I wrote it I know not"

Messiah premiered on April 13, 1742 as a charitable benefit, raising 400 pounds and freeing 142 men from debtor's prison. A year later, Handel staged it in London. Controversy emanating from the Church of England continued to plague Handel, yet the King of England attended the performance. As the first notes of the triumphant Hallelujah Chorus rang out, the king rose. Following the royal protocol, the entire audience stood too, initiating a tradition that has lasted more than two centuries.

from *Spiritual Lives of the Great Composers* - Patrick Kavanaugh

8. Author

ρχηγος archegos (*ar-khay-gos*)

Hebrews 5:9 And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;

Hebrews 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

You are sitting in an English class for a final exam. The professor places before you a blank sheet of paper and says you have two hours to write a short story. What do you write? The sheet of paper is blank. The possibilities are as limitless as Webster's Dictionary. All you have to do is arrange those 162,000 American words into intelligible sentences and paragraphs to make a non-existent story come to life. In theology we call that "Creatio ex nihilo" ('creation out of nothing'). That is how God created the world.

He is the author of all things. He is the first cause, the starter, and the finisher of everything that exists. All that exists in creation existed first in the mind of God, then He commanded it into existence. The story of life and creation goes as He dictates. The story does not unravel itself with a life of its own. There is no such thing as evolution or destiny apart from His design. He is the author. Without Him there is no story. It is His story. He is the sole author.

The characters in the story don't create the story or do whatever they want. They do what the author dictates. They do not create their own adventures. They depend on the author. He writes the story. They are the actors. It is the author who chooses the characters, their looks, the scenes, the storyline, their adventures, their costumes, and their personalities; He guides even their dialogue. He is the author of all things. When He says the story is over, it is over.

When God calls Himself the author and finisher of our faith He means He is sovereign over all. He creates, He decides, He ordains, He chooses, He leads, He directs, and He orchestrates. Nothing is left to chance! Psalm 100:3 states emphatically, "Know that the LORD is God. It is He who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture." Paul says that He is sovereign over all and no man can say to him, "What are you doing?" Thus he can affirm to us that He who created all things according to his own will, who guides all history according to His predetermined plan, can also assure our hearts that, "All things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose." (Romans 8:28) and again, "Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ." (Philippians 1:6)

There is great value in knowing that the Lord is Author and Finisher. It is not up to our own efforts or devices. "It is God who works in you to will and do his good pleasure." (Philippians 2:13) We have a humorous adage, "It is not over until the fat lady sings", referring to the closing of an opera. Yet, the truth is, "It is not over until the Author says it is over."

9. My Cup

כוס kowc (koce)

Psalms 16:5 The LORD *is* the portion of mine inheritance and of my cup: thou maintainest my lot.

Psalms 23:5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

My portion and my cup go together. My “portion” refers to my inheritance, while my “cup” refers more to my lot in life. David says, “*The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places; yea, I have a goodly heritage.*” - Psalms 16:6. The word “lines” here is the word for a cord, rope, territory, perhaps reflecting the idea of a surveyor’s measuring line. The “lines,” or the measurement, God ordained for me is pleasant. In that statement he again is combining the two – the heritage and good fortune.

Psalms 23 uses the cup metaphor quite effectively to help us see this distinction. “*My cup runneth over,*” meaning my cup is full to overflowing. That is, my cup is not half empty, nor is it half filled. It is full to the limit and then some. There is never the hint of “I’ve been cheated. Life is unfair or God is not treating me justly.” Someone would say that is because God did treat him as the apple of his eye and graced him with multiplied blessings. Wait now. Don’t be too hasty to jump to that conclusion. Review the life of David. Yes, he had wonderful anointings, and God used him and blessed him in wonderful ways, but not without hardship. David had many, many hard times. Read his story. Read the first 40 Psalms. You will see a man that is deeply hurt, chastised, troubled, even at times despairing of life. Read Paul’s life. You will find the same there. Read his litany of woes in 2 Corinthians. He was pressed beyond measure even to despair of life. A.W. Tozer stated the truth when he wrote, “It’s doubtful that God can bless a man greatly until He has hurt him deeply.” That may sound sadistic. But God cannot fill our cup until He has first emptied it of all that is foul. He cleans and purges the cup, then fills it. All of self must be destroyed so the excellency of the power might be of God and not of us. Let God cleanse your cup and then fill it. Is your cup half full or half empty? May the Lord give us the grace to say my cup is full because the Lord fills it.

10. Day Star

φωσφορος phosphoros (*foce-for'-os*)

We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: - 2 Peter 1:19

Day Dawn and Day Star - (The Lord of New Beginnings)

Mulligans –

The term "mulligan" in golf is a second shot allowed by an opponent and not counted on the score, when the first shot was hideously muffed (or missed altogether). Mulligans may be used to "do over" any shot, i.e., drives, fairway shots and/or putts. Usually it happens on the drive, although not always. Needless to say, ignoring the first stroke happens only in "friendly" golf, not in professional or "serious" golf. Tiger Woods is not given mulligans when he plays tournaments.

"Do-Overs" –

The do-over was one of childhood's most powerful rites, for it exerted our dominion over the laws of space and time. The clock was rolled back; the game was restored to its exact status as before, before the contested event and play was resumed. If the original play was particularly important and the second attempt was dramatically different (e.g. the player striking out instead of hitting a multi-base shot as in the original play), the do-over might be invoked again. This second invocation would give the team another chance thereby insuring that the universal forces of fair play were being righteously maintained.

Jesus is the Do-Over King. He makes everything new.

- Revelation 21:5 - "And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful."
- 2 Corinthians 5:17 – "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

Need a new start? Try Jesus.

His mercies are new every morning! And great is His faithfulness. - Lamentations 3:23

11. Deliverer

פלט *palat* – (*paw-lat*)

*But I am poor and needy: make haste unto me, O God:
thou art my help and my deliverer; O LORD, make no tarrying. - Psalms 70:5*

Deliverer - (The Rescuer)

When you are in trouble it is a good idea to "call out" for help. The Lord hears the cry of His people. He is the Deliverer.

- Jeremiah 33:3 Call on me and I will answer you and show you great and mighty things which you do not know.
- Psalm 50:15 Call upon me in the day of trouble and I will deliver you and you will glorify me.
- Psalm 145:18 The LORD is near to all that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth.

There are many instances of the people of God "crying out" or "crying unto" the Lord. It is first alluded to in Genesis 4:26 "*when men first began to call on the name of the Lord.*" There are three distinct Hebrew words that help define what the "calling" or "crying" was.

QARA' kaw-raw' <07121> Cry for Daily Help

The first is what we find in Genesis 4:26. It is the word QARA' kaw-raw', meaning to call on or upon a person specifically by name. Thus "to call on the name of the Lord" had the idea of a personal appeal to God Almighty by name to help in times of need. In other words, men learned that they could not go it alone on this earthly pilgrimage. They needed the Lord. It was a summons.

ZA'AQ - zaw-ak' <02199> Cry for Mercy

Za'aq had another meaning beyond just calling on the name of Jehovah. It always carried the idea of "to cry out, call, call for help, literally with tears and together as a group." There was always an urgency and grief born in this heart-cry.

TSA'AQ - tsaw-ak' <06817> Cry for Deliverance

Tsa'aq was a third word for crying out. It extended the meaning even further. It was the most urgent, even desperate cry. It always carried the idea of calling out together, and making an outcry, a loud distress call to the Lord.

What We Can Learn From These Hebrew Words

- that God longs for His people to need Him. God is against self-sufficiency.
- that God often waits for His people to get desperate before they kick their seeking into high gear.
- that God loves to put us in situations where there is no way out but for an answer from heaven.

The problem with most of us today is that we are not concerned enough to cry out to the Lord. We have other options if He is not immediately on the scene: call 911, get a doctor, a hospital, some medicine, call AAA, get on the cell phone and call a friend and on and on the list goes. Desperate praying is little known in our day. Obviously, we don't need the Lord that badly or perhaps we'd be at every prayer meeting "calling on the name of the Lord in tears and together."

12. Everlasting Father

אב עד - Ad Ab

Isaiah 9:6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

Who's your Daddy?

Daddies come in a variety of shapes, sizes, colors, and values. Not all Daddies are good Daddies. Some are very bad, thus many today have a very poor image of God when they think of Him as their Father. If you have had a difficult father who left a bad example of fatherhood then perhaps you should think of some other endearing word that expresses the same idea, such as grandpop. Not that God is your grandfather, but perhaps it will help you feel the endearing nature of this title as it ought to be.

Jesus taught us to use the intimate word for Father which in Greek is Abba, meaning Daddy, or Papa. I love it when my grandchildren call me Popop. It is an endearing expression of honor and love. One of my grandsons invented his own endearing title and calls me Poppy. That is really special to me. No one else in the world is Poppy, but me. There is nothing I would not do for my little guy. So it is with our Heavenly Father. There is nothing He would not do for us.

Nothing speaks so strongly of the Fatherhood of Jesus Christ than the Isaiah passage where God says He will take you by the hand.

Psalms 16:8 I have set the LORD always before me: because *he is* at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

Psalms 18:35 Thou hast also given me the shield of thy salvation: and thy right hand hath holden me up, and thy gentleness hath made me great.

Isaiah 41:10 Fear thou not; for I *am* with thee: be not dismayed; for I *am* thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

Isaiah 41:13 For I the LORD thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee.

Jesus used another endearing term when He used the metaphor of a mother hen.

“How often would I have gathered you as a hen gathers her chicks under her wing, but you would not.”

13. Fortress

מצוד matsuwd – (*maw-tsood*)

Probably the most famous episode in the history of Tyre was its resistance to the army of the Macedonian conqueror, Alexander the Great, who took it after a seven-month siege in 332, using floating batteries and building a causeway to gain access to the island. After its capture, 10,000 of the inhabitants were put to death, and 30,000 were sold into slavery. Alexander's causeway, which was never removed, converted the island into a peninsula.

Alexander the Great's Siege of Tyre (333)

Alexander's capture of Tyre was not as important as the battles at Issus or Gaugamela, but the city was vital to Alexander's larger plans and the siege shows how adept the Greeks were at this type of warfare.

Tyre was an island off the coast of modern Lebanon, far enough from the mainland that the water was 18' deep. With mammoth walls, a fortified harbor, and virtually no land outside the walls, the city was long thought impregnable.

Alexander needed the city to control the Eastern Mediterranean and provide him a secure port through which to funnel reinforcements and supplies. For, the Greeks ruled the sea.

His initial attempts to take the city failed. Quickly enough, he cut the city off from supply, but Tyre knew he was coming, had stocked up on supplies, and had its own fresh water. He tried bombarding the walls with catapults mounted on the decks of ships. He tried placing siege towers on ships, bringing them right up to the walls, but the citizens sank the ships with great boulders.

Finally, Alexander resolved on an ambitious approach. He could only take the city by getting his soldiers close enough to let his huge siege engines do their damage. To this end, Alexander ordered his engineers to build a mole -- a land bridge from the mainland to the island. It was 200' wide and took months to complete.

When this bridge was ready, he brought his siege engines along it to the walls. The citizens now fought desperately, and the Greeks were repeatedly driven back. But the city was running out of food and, after a seven month siege, Tyre fell. Alexander was so furious that this one city had halted his progress for so long, that he gave the city over to plunder and his soldiers sacked it without mercy.

The siege of Tyre had a lasting effect, for the mole stayed, silted up, and today Tyre is connected to the mainland. Alexander, in his drive to conquer, permanently changed the face of the land. Deeds like these drive the many legends of Alexander and made him famous from his day to ours.

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Martin Luther

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;

14. My Glory

כבוד kabowd (*chabod*)

Psalms 3:3 But thou, O LORD, *art* a shield for me; my glory, and the lifter up of mine head.

Psalms 62:7 In God *is* my salvation and my glory: the rock of my strength, *and* my refuge, *is* in God.

What is glory?

Glory is a difficult word to wrap our arms around. It is not really tangible or definable. Yet when we encounter it we say, "That was glorious." A young man sees the girl of his dreams. She is splendid, she is wonderful. She stands out from the rest. She shines brighter than the rest. He says, "She is glorious." Glory is what makes something shine out above the rest. In the Old Testament Hebrew the word is "chabod." Thus, when the glory of God is departed it is "ichabod." In the New Testament Greek the same word is "doxa" meaning praise, but translated glory.

Everything and everyone has a certain "glory."

We learn that from I Corinthians 15. *There are* also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial *is* one, and the glory of the terrestrial *is* another. *There is* one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for *one* star differeth from *another* star in glory. So also *is* the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: (1 Corinthians 15:40-42)

Jesus has glory. John said, "We have seen his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:14)

A man's strength brings him glory, and a woman's beautiful hair brings her glory. (I Cor. 11:7, 11) Glory then is something like beauty. That is why David says in Psalm 90:17, "Let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us."

Glory is also something we can do.

Glory is like bragging. It is spreading our feathers out to be appreciated, much like a peacock or a turkey does. It is like showing off, strutting your stuff, or bragging about your abilities. That is really artificial glory. It is man made glory.

1 Corinthians 1:29 That no flesh should glory in his presence. 30 But of him are you in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: 31 That, according as it is written, He that glories, let him glory in the Lord.

It is with these definitions in mind that David says, "Lord, you are my glory." That means the only glory or praise I get or am worthy of is because others see God's "glory" in me. Let the Lord be your only bragging rights. If you see anything good in me, anything that is beautiful, lovely, or of good report, let it be because of Jesus shining through me.

Psalms 90:17 And let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us: and may you establish the work of our hands upon us; yes, let any work of our hands be your work.

15. My Goodness

כֶּחֶד checed (*kheh'-sed*)

Psalms 16:2 *O my soul*, thou hast said unto the LORD, Thou *art* my Lord: **my goodness extendeth not to thee;**

Psalms 144:2 My goodness, and my fortress; my high tower, and my deliverer; my shield, and *he* in whom I trust; who subdueth my people under me.

David begins Psalm 144 with an expression that God is his goodness. The word used is often translated goodness, kindness, or lovingkindness. The New International Version paraphrased it to say “he is my loving God.” I think that misses David’s point. He is using a noun deliberately to define the name and nature of who God is. He is using multiple metaphors, one after the other to define who God is. He contrasted “my goodness with my fortress, my high tower, my deliverer, and my shield. To say, “He is my loving God” is not the same as saying, “He is my goodness.”

The word we are dealing with here is the Hebrew word, “checed.” That word is often translated as mercy or kindness. It is a word God himself used to define his person and character to Moses and to the people of Israel after the Exodus. Observing how it is used in other passages helps us to understand it a little better.

Exodus 20:6 And showing mercy ^{<02617>} unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

Exodus 33:19 And he said, I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy.

Exodus 34:6 And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness ^{<02617>} and truth,

Exodus 34:7 Keeping mercy ^{<02617>} for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear *the guilty*; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children’s children, unto the third and to the fourth *generation*.

1 Chronicles 16:34 O give thanks unto the LORD; for *he is good*; for his mercy ^{<02617>} *endureth* for ever.

The word is often used as a synonym for mercy. In fact it is this word “goodness” that David used over and over again when he said, “His mercy ^{<02617>} *endureth* forever.” (See Psalm 107, 118:1,2,3,4, and 29, Psalm 136:1-26)

David’s point, and God’s point to Moses was this: God is kind, merciful, and good.” So, when David says, “God is my goodness,” he is saying “God is good”, and particularly, “He is good to me.” It should remind us of the truth of the chorus, “God is so Good” and the praise song “God is good, and all the time God is good.” Why not join David in this song of praise and sing to the Lord today that little chorus, “God is so good, He’s so good to me”?

16. Hen

ορνις ornīs (or'-nis)

*But let all who take refuge in you be glad; let them ever sing for joy.
Spread your protection over them, that those who love your name may rejoice in you.
For surely, O LORD, you bless the righteous; you surround them with your favor as with a shield.
-- Psalm 5:11-12*

A Mother Hen

We don't often think of God in the female gender, but then we must remember that God is Spirit, and neither male nor female. All illustrations of God are metaphors or anthropomorphisms.

In several passages God depicts Himself as a "hen." In this passage, as in Matthew 23:37 and Luke 13:34 Jesus likens Himself to a mother hen or a nesting, brooding, mother bird. We westerners always think of a chicken, but the word is generic enough to refer to a mother eagle, a mother pheasant, or a mother bluebird.

The picture is of the mother hen with wide, safe wings outstretched for her young to run to her for protection and shelter in the time of storm or trouble.

There is a wonderful painting of a tempest on a rocky cliffed shore. The artist expresses the violence of the wind, the waves crashing, the dark storm clouds, driving rain, and the lightning. Everything in the picture is foreboding except for one small detail. In a small cleft in the rock face is a mother bird, face to the wind, with its wings extended over its chicks in the nest. They are safe and secure under her wings.

Jesus called to Jerusalem (his people) with tears in his eyes, "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem... how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing." (Matthew 23:37 and Luke 13:34)

The message should be clear, He is waiting with outstretched wings in the times of our storms, but we must be willing to run there and take our refuge under his (her) wings.

Under His Wings

Under His wings I am safely abiding,
Though the night deepens and tempests are wild,
Still I can trust Him; I know He will keep me,
He has redeemed me, and I am His child.

Refrain

Under His wings, under His wings,
Who from His love can sever?
Under His wings my soul shall abide,
Safely abide forever.

17. Hiding Place

Hiding Place סֵתֶר cether (say'-ther)

*You are my hiding place. You will preserve me from trouble.
You will surround me with songs of deliverance. Selah. WEB Psalm 32:7*

A Hiding Place

Most of us over 50 years old remember Corrie Ten Boom's book, *The Hiding Place*. Corrie's family was plunged into the holocaust. An underground worker named Mr. Smit suggested they needed a hiding place. "What you need is a secret room in your home, in case the Gestapo raid your house looking for Jews. I will come and visit you to arrange it." The Ten Boom house was a very old house, with all kinds of unexpected corners and spaces in it. The room was to be as high up as possible to give people time to hide if the Gestapo came. They chose Corrie's own little room at the top of the house. They marked off a space about 75 centimeters from the end wall and built a very tiny room. It became their safe room.

My cat has a hiding place and it is not about fun and games. There is a mean black cat that lives in the neighborhood. A few months ago our cat, Peaches, came home with a chunk out of her back side. We took her to the vet and she said it was obvious that Peaches had been in a fight, but being smaller and slower than most cats she was running away from the fight when the other cat bit into her back side. Ouch! It took some time to heal and we kept her indoors. She is back outside now, but we discovered that she now has a favorite retreat, a hiding place. It is under the deck close to the back door. There we have found her many a fearful night crouched in the darkest corner hidden from view of her predator, Mr. Black cat.

We all need a hiding place from the enemy. It needs to be as close to the Lord as possible. It is a place where you and the Lord have agreed to meet in secret whenever the enemy comes in like a flood. Jesus called it a "prayer closet." What better retreat can we ask than a quiet, undisturbed place far from the noise and pace, where God can soothe our troubled hearts.

Hiding In Thee

O safe to the Rock that is higher than I,
My soul in its conflicts and sorrows would fly;
So sinful, so weary, Thine, Thine, would I be;
Thou blest "Rock of Ages," I'm hiding in Thee.

Refrain

Hiding in Thee, hiding in Thee,
Thou blest "Rock of Ages,"
I'm hiding in Thee.

A Quiet Place

There is a quiet place
far from the rapid pace
where God can soothe my troubled mind.
Sheltered by tree and flower
there in my quiet hour with him
my cares are left behind.

Whether a garden small,
or on a mountain tall
new strength and courage there I find,
and then from that quiet place
I go prepared to face a new day
with love for all mankind.

18. High Tower

מישגב misgab (*mis-gawb*)

Psalms 18:2 The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower.

Psalms 144:2 My goodness, and my fortress; my high tower, and my deliverer; my shield, and he in whom I trust; who subdues my people under me.

High towers today bring to our minds visions of long tethered electrical towers standing in a row, or perhaps a radio tower, or cell phone relay tower. In David's time towers were the highest point on a city wall. It provided a good lookout point for catching a glimpse of dangerous enemies approaching. Literally, the root of the word "sagab" means "too high for capture."

Cities were built with fortifications. Natural fortifications were cliffs, steep mountains or hilltops that were difficult for enemy armies to approach. They were the best places to locate an important city. A marching or attacking army would have to exhaust itself in climbing the heights, thus weakened in its attempt to storm the city. The city was also walled. The bigger and wider the wall the better the fortification.

The wall of Jericho is a good example.

"Jericho was built on a mound, or 'tell' surrounded by a great earthen rampart, or embankment, with a stone retaining wall at its base. The retaining wall was some four to five meters (12–15 feet) high. On top of that was a mudbrick wall two meters (six feet) thick and about six to eight meters (20–26 feet) high. At the crest of the embankment was a similar mudbrick wall whose base was roughly 14 meters (46 feet) above the ground level outside the retaining wall (see diagram). This is what loomed high above the Israelites as they marched around the city each day for seven days. Humanly speaking, it was impossible for the Israelites to penetrate the impregnable bastion of Jericho." (<http://www.answersingenesis.org/creation/v21/i2/jericho.asp>)

So Jericho had two walls, an inner and outer with a huge embankment between the two walls. On top of the walls at strategic locations were high towers. The walls were themselves high and impenetrable. The whole countryside for miles around could be observed from the towers. No one could launch a sneak attack on Jericho. So too, the Lord is our strong and high tower. His defenses are impenetrable. His view is even higher than the protective walls around us. He is our High Tower.

In the middle ages some of the castles were built with towers to provide a double fortification in case the walls were breached. The tower was a high, protected place where one could safely go to weather the storm of the battle below with little or no chance that the enemy could scale its walls to capture and plunder the king's family.

19. Horn of my Salvation

קֶרֶן qeren (keh'-ren)

The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the [horn](#) of my salvation, and my high tower. - Psalms 18:2

I was a child in the 1950s and grew up when TV was black and white and carried good old stories and adventures like *Rin Tin Tin*. *Rin Tin Tin* was an ABC television series that ran from 1954 to 1959. The premise of Rin-Tin-Tin was that he and his young boy, Rusty, were the only survivors of a Indian raid on a wagon train and were taken in by the 101st Cavalry, B Company, based at Fort Apache, who commissioned Rusty a corporal and Rinty (Rin Tin Tin) a private. They stuck together for 164 prime-time episodes before the series, sponsored by the National Biscuit Company, ended in 1959. The highlight of each show was at the moment of crisis and despair when you would hear the bugle call of the cavalry and *Rinty* running full tilt to the rescue.

Commentators disagree as to the meaning of “horn” in some of David’s oft used expressions. Some think he is referring to the strength of male virility. Others think he was just referring to the mighty strength of an ox or unicorn with its horn representing its strength. Still others think that it may be referring to the horn, the [shofar](#) that was used to summon to battle and to call people to sacred services. In that sense, it was the bugle call. That loud, long blast on the *shofar* was to the enemy a death knoll of defeat.

The Lord will send help from His holy hill. He is the horn of your salvation. In the story *The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis, Lucy is given a little horn by Father Christmas and told, “*When you put this horn to your lips; and blow it, then, wherever you are, I think help of some kind will come to you.*”

Psalms 20:2 Send thee [help from](#) the sanctuary, and strengthen thee out of Zion;

Psalms 3:4 I cried unto the LORD with my voice, and he heard me out of his [holy hill](#).
Selah.

20. Jesus, Yeshua

Yeshua - (Savior, Rescuer or Hero)

*She shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS:
for he shall save his people from their sins. - Matthew 1:21*

Heroes. There aren't very many of them left. When they do show up it is almost always in the middle of insurmountable odds and incredible difficulties.

On January 13, 1982 at 3:59 p.m., an Air Florida 737 took off from Washington National Airport. Due to wing icing and pilot error, the aircraft lost altitude and crashed into the 14th Street Bridge and the Potomac River less than a mile from the airport. There were 79 people on board.

The plane quickly sank beneath the ice. Only its tail remained above the surface. There were six people holding onto it. " Help!" they cried. It was obvious that they could not live long in such cold water. Those six had to be saved quickly.

A police helicopter arrived at once and threw a rope to them. A woman caught it, but she was so weak that she lost her grip and fell into the water. She was about to drown. At that moment a young man, who was watching from the shore, jumped into the river. He brought her to land. Her body was so cold that she was only a few minutes from death.

But a middle-aged man was even more heroic. Identified as Arland Williams, he was among the six people on the plane's tail. The pilot of the helicopter threw a rope to him. But the man saw a young woman near him. Her face was pale and her eyes were filled with fear. He gave her the rope and helped her hold it. He wanted to save her first. When the helicopter came back, the man was still there. Again the rope was thrown to him, and again he passed it to a fellow passenger. When the helicopter finally returned to pick him up, he was nowhere in sight. Only five people survived the tragic crash.

The Champion of Love!

Ladies And Gentlemen,
May I Have Your Attention?
I Want To Introduce To You
In This Corner Of The Good And The Right
Stands A Champion Robed In White
His Height Exceeds The Heavens
His Weight Out Weighs The World
His Reach Reaches Everywhere
His Age Is Ever More!

He Is Higher Than The Highest
Greater Than The Great
No One Can Ever Take His Crown Away
He's More Mighty Than The Mightiest
He Reins From Above!
He's The All Time Undisputed Undefeated
Champion Of Love...

Recorded by The Cathedral Quartet ©1999 Homeland Studios T.H.G.

21. Keeper

שמר shamar (*shaw-mar*)

Psalms 121:5 The LORD *is thy keeper*: the LORD *is thy shade upon* thy right hand.

Everything about a keeper makes me laugh. A keeper is a goalie in soccer. A keeper is a fish that is large enough to be legal. A keeper is a pretty girl who not only is pretty but who would make an exceptional wife. A keeper is a jailor such as Fells, who kept prisoners such as Captain Kidd at Newgate Prison in London.

But none of these fit the expression, “The Lord is my Keeper.” The word means a watchman or guard. I would liken it to a personal body guard. Nothing happens to you except the Keeper allows it. He is the Sovereign Lord. He is the gatekeeper. He is our protector, our keeper. He is our preserver.

Psalms 121:7 The LORD shall *preserve* <shamar> thee from all evil: *he shall preserve* thy soul.

Psalms 121:8 The LORD shall preserve <shamar> thy going out and thy *coming in* from this time forth, and even for evermore.

He is our rearguard, our keeper, our body guard, a very present help in trouble.

Psalms 121 is a wonderful tribute to this characteristic of our God. The translated words “watches over” is the word “shamar,” to keep, to preserve by protection.

Hymn: Day by Day:

“The protection of his child and treasure is a charge that on himself he laid.”

Psalms 121

1. I lift up my eyes to the hills-- where does my help come from?
2. **My help** comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.
3. He will not let your foot slip-- he who **watches over** you will not slumber;
4. indeed, he who **watches over Israel** will neither slumber nor sleep.
5. The LORD **watches over you**-- the LORD is your **shade at your right hand**;
6. the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night.
7. The LORD will **keep you** from all harm-- he will **watch over your life**;
8. the LORD will **watch over** your coming and going both now and forevermore.

Hebrews 13:6 So that we may boldly say, *The Lord is my helper*, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

Psalms 121:2 My *help cometh* from the LORD, which made heaven and earth.

22. Lifter of My Head

רוּמַם ruwm (*room*)

Psalms 3:3 But thou, O LORD, *art* a shield for me; my glory, and the lifter up of mine head.

Whenever I read this passage I cannot help but think of *Alice in Wonderland*. Though I saw that Disney movie of *Alice* many years ago, I immediately recall the queen chasing everyone saying, “Off with his head!” So, when I hear the Lord is the “*lifter of my head*,” and being of French ancestry, I think of the guillotine. I assure you that the meaning of this passage is not “the Lord will cut my head off.”

The Hebrew word “ruwm” means to exalt, to lift up, or to raise. I think of the New Testament passage that says, “The Lord will exalt you in due time.” “Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time.” (1 Peter 5:6) The idea of this passage is that David had to hang his head often in his lifetime. Though he was a hero of the nation, he had to run for his life. Though he became the king, yet he was dethroned and had to flee for his life. Though he was a great success, there were times when he felt like a terrible failure and that success was far from him. It is in times like these that he had to remember that “The Lord is the lifter of my head.” The Lord will exalt me in due time.

You may be in that same or a similar situation. You may have had some semblance of success only to have it slip away from you. Perhaps you have lost that prestigious job, that good income, or that exalted position in the company, only to lose your job and be laid off or fired. Or maybe you were happily married only to find yourself a year later divorced, rejected and living on a pittance. God knows. Every great man or woman of God has to go through hard times. It is not that God is against us, but He delights to test us to show to the world and to Satan’s host what we are made of.

Robert Schuller has often said, “When the going gets tough, the tough get going.” By that he does not mean that tough times don’t bother us or get us down. No, it means that tough times come to make us tougher and to test our metal to see what we are made of. What you do with your tough times proves what stuff you are made of. If you despair and quit, you lose. But if you keep your eyes on your loving, Heavenly Father, believing that He sees, understands, and guides you with His powerful hand, you will get through this thing, and discover that “when you are tried you will come forth as gold.” The Lord will indeed lift you up.

1 Peter 1:7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perishes, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

Malachi 3:3 And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness.

James 1:12 Blessed *is* the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

23. My Inheritance

חֶלֶק *cheleq khay'lek* – track of land, inheritance (Lam 3:24)

The LORD *is* the portion of mine inheritance [<02506>](#) and of my cup: thou maintainest my lot. - Psalms 16:5

Psalms 119:57 *Thou art* my portion [<02506>](#), O LORD: I have said that I would keep thy words.

Lamentations 3:24 The LORD *is* my portion [<02506>](#), saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him.

There are two Hebrew words for portion or inheritance. In English it seems to be the same thing. But as we have said before, God uses different words for a purpose. This use of the word portion “*cheleq*,” specifically means a final settlement of an estate or tract of land given by inheritance. That is different than saying the Lord is my piece of pie.

Feeling cheated is not something new. When God dished out portions to the 12 tribes of Israel when they finally settled in the Promised Land the Levites, the priestly clan, were left out of any land inheritance. Everyone got their slice of the pie, except for the Levites, the sons of Aaron. God had something different in store for them. Numbers 18:20 and Deuteronomy 18:2 both record that the sons of Aaron “*Shall have no inheritance in the land,*” and then the Lord states, “*I am your portion and your inheritance.*”

David, though rich as king, recognized the fleeting nature of his possessions when his son Absalom rebelled and tried to take the inheritance, the kingdom. Psalms 73:26, 119:57, 142:5 all repeat the same affirmation: “*The Lord is my portion.*”

In Psalm 142:5 David is hiding in a cave from his enemies. There he cries to the Lord his complaint but, as so often, he comes to his senses and affirms the Lord's steadfast love -- “*You are my refuge and my portion in the land of the living.*”

Pastors and missionaries, almost all Christian workers, sometimes feel cheated when they look at the prosperity and benefit packages others in secular employment receive. What a comfort to know that we are not being cheated; we are being blessed with the best. Ours is a portion bigger and more enduring than the rest. THE LORD IS MY PORTION. Someone cleverly stated it this way, “*Serve the Lord, the benefit package is out of this world!*”

24. My Portion

מנה manah (*maw-naw'*) – count or measure as portion (Psalms 16:5)

The LORD is the portion <04490> of mine inheritance<02506> and of my cup:
you maintain my lot. - Psalms 16:5

My Piece of the Pie

We are possessive people. As a child growing up in a home of six children "portions" were very important. We were jealous of who got the biggest piece of meat, pie, ice cream, or anything. If we didn't get the biggest piece, or at least a fair share, we felt cheated.

The Hebrew word here is "*manah*", which to us sounds like manna. That is a good way to remember and understand the meaning of this portion. It means to have enough by measure or a portion counted out.

Manna was the food that nourished the Israelites for forty years in the wilderness. That Hebrew word is not the same as this one for portion. It is the Hebrew word "*man*." It literally meant "What is it?" This was a strange looking food that was found on the grass in the morning like dew, only it was round and white like *coriander seed*. God had sent it to His people as bread in the wilderness. It was the answer to their prayer. *Manna* has been described as being good things which have been provided as sustenance: God's provision.

When David said the Lord is my portion (*manah*) he was not saying the Lord is my manna (*man*), nor was it a play on the word manna, but one has to wonder if that is not a good way to understand this word portion. David pulls both Hebrew words for portion into the same verse in Psalm 16:5 thereby solidifying the difference yet similarities of the same word. God is both my portion, that is, my allotted daily supplement – He is all I need. Then God is my portion, that is my inheritance, given to me by casting lots. He is my final settlement – my inheritance. One is the present supply, the other is the future promise.

Psalms 16:5 The LORD is the portion <04490> of my inheritance <02506> and of my cup: you maintain my lot.

Close to Thee

Thou my everlasting portion,
more than friend or life to me,
all along my pilgrim journey,
Savior, let me walk with thee.

Refrain:

Close to thee, close to thee,
close to thee, close to thee,
all along my pilgrim journey,
Savior, let me walk with thee.

25. Prince of Peace

שלום שר - Sar Shalom

Isaiah 9:6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, [The Prince of Peace](#).

Psalms 119:165 [Great peace](#) have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them.

Once again His name is not so familiar to us. We do not have kings, thus the concept of a prince is vague to us too.

A prince is not just one waiting to be crowned king. He has a realm of authority all his own. He is the prince over something. Satan is called the “prince of the powers of the air.” Jesus is called the prince of peace. He is the Lord over all peace. He commands it. He sends it. He withholds it. It goes and comes at his command. Peace comes only from him and nowhere else. He is the Prince of Peace. He alone is the giver of peace. When he gives it, it is perfect peace.

Jesus exemplified this title when a storm hit the Sea of Galilee while the disciples were in a boat on the sea. Jesus was asleep in the bow of the boat with his head on a pillow. Isn't it amazing the small details the disciples remembered? How do you sleep through a storm at sea? The disciples were frantic. They were fishermen and were familiar with storms at sea but this one was a bad one. This was the worst they had ever seen and they really thought they were going to sink and drown. So they woke up Jesus with that all too familiar accusatory tone, “Master, carest thou not that we perish?” The Master of the Universe awoke and spoke to the wind and the sea in a commanding voice. “Peace be still.” And immediately there was a great calm. Their response was correct, “Who is this that even the wind and sea obey him?”

Friend, the wind and sea still obey Him. They are at His command. He is the prince of peace. It comes at His command.

26. My Refuge (Shelter)

A Refuge (Shelter) in the Time of Trouble

מַחֲצֵחַ machaceh = machaceh *makh-as-eh'* (shelter from rain)

*The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms:
and he shall thrust out the enemy from before thee; - Deuteronomy 33:27*

A refuge is made for the time of trouble. Job lamented, "Man is born for trouble as the sparks fly upward." A refuge is not made for the sunny spring morning when all is well. A refuge is not made for the lazy summer afternoon when you float aimlessly with your rod and reel. A refuge is not made for times of weddings and birth of children. A refuge is made for the time of trouble.

Trouble will come as surely as the thunderstorms of spring or the hurricanes of fall. It is part of nature. Life is a mixture of good things and bad things. No one is ordained to have all good and no evil. One must take the bad with the good.

There is a vulgar truism in the secular world. I hesitate to use it, but it summarizes it well, "Stuff happens." It does, and what is one to do?

There is a wonderful old Gospel song that describes the day of trouble and the refuge we have in our Savior and God. It is titled Till the Storm Passes By.

*In the dark of the midnight have I oft hid my face,
While the storm howls above me, and there's no hiding place.
'Mid the crash of the thunder, Precious Lord, hear my cry,
Keep me safe till the storm passes by.*

Chorus

*Till the storm passes over, till the thunder sounds no more,
Till the clouds roll forever from the sky;
Hold me fast, let me stand in the hollow of Thy hand,
Keep me safe till the storm passes by.*

*Many times Satan whispered, "There is no need to try,
For there's no end of sorrow, there's no hope by and by"
But I know Thou art with me, and tomorrow I'll rise
Where the storms never darken the skies.*

*When the long night has ended and the storms come no more,
Let me stand in Thy presence on the bright peaceful shore;
In that land where the tempest, never comes, Lord, may I
Dwell with Thee when the storm passes by.*

27. My Refuge (Escape)

A Refuge (Shelter) in the Time of Trouble

מָנוּחַ manowc (*maw-noce'*) (*flee to*)

Psalms 59:16 But I will sing of thy power; yea, I will sing aloud of thy mercy in the morning: for thou hast been my defense and refuge <04498> in the day of my trouble.

An old negro spiritual says, "There's no hiding place down here. "

There's no hiding place down here
There's no hiding place down here
I ran to the rocks to hide my face
The rocks cried out there's no hiding place
There's no hiding place down here

It is good to have a hiding place that is an escape route. Many ancient castles were built wisely with an exit strategy of secret passages. They served as emergency escape routes when all other resources had been exhausted. In the 2004 movie "Troy" just such a passageway was the salvation of the king's family when the Greek allied army of 50,000 soldiers attacked the city after gaining access through the impenetrable walls by way of the "Trojan Horse."

In the Civil War era places of refuge or escape were called the "Underground Railroad." The Underground Railroad was a network of secret routes and safe houses used by black slaves to escape to Free States or to Canada. These safe houses were places of refuge and shelters from the search parties seeking to recapture runaway slaves. The Underground Railroad was established for one purpose, to provide a way of escape for slaves.

God has His Underground Railroad for us in the time of trouble. He will hide us in His pavilion or His shelter. He will keep us safe. He knows the way of escape when the enemy comes in like a flood. (Isaiah 59:19) "*God is our refuge and strength a very present help in the time of trouble.*" Run to Him! He will keep you safe.

Isaiah 59:19 So shall they fear the name of the LORD from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him.

1 Corinthians 10:13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

28. Rear Guard

אָפּאַך אַפּאַך 'acaph

*NIV Isaiah 58:8 Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the LORD will be your **rear guard**. 9. Then you will call, and the LORD will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I.*

“Rear Guard” meaning to gather, or bring up the rear.

Rear guard was a military term. It referred to the necessary flanking of the main military force by those who guarded the rear as well as the flanks to the left and right. A “pincer movement” by the enemy in which he cuts off an army from its supply lines is a well known military tactic. The supply lines are as important as the front line, and sometimes more so. The rear guard is ultimately committed to the safe keeping of the advancing army. They watch its back side.

Roman battalions had specific ways they marched the army. Not all of the army was the front line. There were skirmish lines, scouts, vanguard, as well as the main force of the army. Behind that came the baggage, a part of warfare that most of us never think about. The army had to have supplies in the rear that were brought to the front as needed, such as food supplies and ammunition. Those supply lines were 8-10 miles long. So the army placed anywhere from 600 to 1000 soldiers and cavalry at the rear of the baggage to protect it from the enemy’s attacks on these vital supplies. Some recent researchers of Roman battle formations have described the rearguard as light and heavy infantry plus a considerable number of auxiliary cavalry. Some simply put 1,000 cavalry there.

So the Lord is to us our “rear guard.” Be assured, “when the enemy comes in like a flood the spirit of the Lord will lift up a standard against him.” (Isaiah 59:19) He watches out for you on your flanks and back side where you cannot see the enemy moving against you. He is your invisible protector. When you are attacked by the enemy, just cry out to the Lord and He will say, HERE AM I. He was there all the time.

29. My Rock

סלע *cela* – rock outcrop
צור *tsuwr (tsoor)* – boulder

Psalms 62:7 In God is my salvation and my glory: the rock <06697> of my strength, and my refuge, is in God.

Psalms 18:46 The LORD liveth; and blessed be my rock <06697>

Psalms 18:2 The LORD is my rock <05553>.

Pet Rocks

Perhaps the most ridiculous fad of all, the Pet Rock, symbolized the silly hearted nature of people which allows most fads to grow. Created by Gary Dahl (pictured), the rocks were seen as a perfect pet, needing very little maintenance and always behaving, quietly and peacefully.

For a six month period in 1975, the rocks (which were first introduced in the San Francisco area) were given as gifts to friends and family members, packaged in boxes with an owner's manual and often with birth certificates or papers so as to affirm pure breed lineage. Though initially just plain rocks, they quickly were sold in a variety of looks, often with small faces painted on, often sold as a group of pebbles, symbolizing a small family.

It is not difficult to imagine that the popularity of the rocks was short-lived but before they went out of style, more than 5 million had been sold, proving that no matter how ridiculous a concept, millions of people would have no problem making someone else wealthy for daring to present someone with it.

In reality those pet rocks were not really rocks at all. They were pet stones. In our English language we tend to miss the import of words that have better expressions in other languages. Jesus used this play on words when speaking about Peter.

My Rock – When David said “the Lord is my Rock”, we can be reasonably sure he did not have in mind the smooth stone he took from a brook to kill Goliath. One word David used was “*cela*” which meant a lofty rock outcrop, which served as a stronghold. The other word “*tsuwr*” meant a large boulder. These were not stones that were kicked around or easily moved. To the ancient Israelites these were immovable objects.

God is no rolling stone. He is a rock that will not be moved. He is steadfast and unmovable; therefore we can be “steadfast and unmovable always abounding in the work of the Lord.” (1 Corinthians 15:58)

I'm On The Rock

I'm on the rock, Hallelujah!

I'm on the rock, to stay, Hallelujah!

For He lifted me from the miry clay,

I'm on the rock, to stay!

30. Sabaoth

צבא tsaba' (*tsaw-baw'*)

Romans 9:29 And as Esaias said before, Except the Lord of [Sabaoth](#) had left us a seed, we had been as Sodoma, and been made like unto Gomorrha.

Isaiah 1:9 Except the LORD of hosts had left unto us a very small remnant,

Isaiah 6:3 And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, *is* the LORD of hosts: the whole earth *is* full of his glory.

“Sabaoth”. Now there is a strange word. Because it sounds to us in English like Sabbath, most of us assume that this is what it means. “Sabaoth” has nothing to do with the Sabbath day. Lord “Sabaoth” means the Lord of Hosts. Probably the only time we have heard it in our day is in a hymn by Martin Luther, “Lord Sabaoth His name, from age to age the same.” The term Sabaoth is the word for hosts or armies. It means that God has an innumerable host of angels that do his bidding.

A few days ago, while vacationing with our daughter, our grandson, Robbie, came down with a sudden battle with the croup. He was a premature baby, extremely sensitive and susceptible to childhood diseases. He had recently been exposed to another child that had severe croup who nearly died before being rushed to the hospital by ambulance. Angelica awoke us in the middle of the night standing at the foot of our bed holding Robbie limply in her arms and crying, “Mom and Dad, he can’t breathe, I am afraid we might have to rush him to the hospital.” She had already lost one baby to death, and we had lost a twelve year old daughter. Our hearts were fearful and overwhelmed. We went to prayer immediately. After getting up from my knees I laid in bed groaning in prayer for little Robbie. I remember crying out to God, “Oh Lord, have mercy. Oh Lord, help! Oh Lord, send help from heaven. Send your angels to guard and protect this little one.” God answered and Robbie improved and the next day, though in a strange town far from help, God provided a wonderful pediatrician and staff to help Robbie through the crisis. He sent help from His holy hill. He sent angels to guard and protect.

In Psalm 34:7 we are reminded that “the angel of the Lord encamps round about those that fear the Lord and delivers them.” He is the Lord of hosts, meaning the Lord of armies, the Lord of a myriad of helping angels sent forth to minister to them that are heirs of salvation. So call upon him while he is near. He is the Lord of armies.

Revelation 5:11 And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was [ten thousand](#) times [ten thousand](#), and thousands of thousands;

31. Shade

צל tsel – (*tsale*)

Psalms 121:5 The LORD *is* thy keeper: **the LORD *is* thy shade upon thy right hand.**

Psalms 36:7 How excellent *is* thy lovingkindness, O God! therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of thy wings.

Psalms 63:7 Because thou hast been my help, therefore in the shadow of thy wings will I rejoice.

Psalms 91:1 He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

Isaiah 32:2 And a man shall be as an **hiding place from the wind**, and a **covert from the tempest**; as **rivers of water in a dry place**, as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land

Shade

The word is only translated once as shade, otherwise it is a synonym for shadow. We would immediately think of a beach umbrella. That does not make a lot of sense to us today who have air conditioning. But in a desert land parched by the heat of the sun and where water is rare a shade was a protection that was life-saving.

Yet, He is not my beach umbrella. The term is much stronger than that. Isaiah 32:2 puts it clearly in repeated metaphors ending with “*the shadow of a great rock in a weary land.*”

There are many biblical sayings and metaphors that escape us. They are odd phrases that don't make immediate sense. Such is the case with “the Lord is thy shade upon thy right hand”... and “the sun shall not smite thee by day nor the moon by night.” We get the “sun thing”, but what is “the moon by night” all about?

Even ancient writers had the idea that the moon affected our lives on earth. Of course, I don't believe they understood the moon's effect upon tides. Perhaps they did. Ancient Egyptians seemed to have more scientific knowledge than we do today. The word “lunatic” in the Bible comes from the latin word *lunaticus*, which is derived from the Latin word for moon, *luna*.

Matthew 4:24 states that Jesus “went out into all Syria; and they brought to Him all who were ill, taken with various diseases and pains, demoniacs, epileptics, paralytics; and He healed them.” (Mt 4:24) The King James Version translates the word epileptic as lunatic. The Greek word, *seleniazomai*, used here by Matthew, does in fact mean “moonstruck” and comes from the Greek word for moon, *selene*. People believed, whether true or not, that the moon affected people adversely, even to the point of mental diseases such as epilepsy or lunacy.

We then should understand God's word to assure us that the Lord is our shade and He will not allow us to suffer from effects of the moon. God is not saying the moon causes lunacy but that God promises His people that the moon will not do that to them, even if the world believes that happens. It is like God saying, “Even black cats crossing your path will not affect you. I am your shade.”

32. Shepherd

רעה - ra`ah (*raw-aw'*)

Psalms 23:1 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

It is important to remember that I am not his cow, and he is not my cattle herder or rancher. He is my Shepherd.

We are not a pastoral society anymore so it is difficult to comprehend the full measure of the title Shepherd. Our culture perhaps would relate better to the owner of a pet. You take care of your pet like you would your own child. In fact, we often treat our animals like part of the family. It might be shocking for most of us to hear the great lengths people go to to care for their pets, including health insurance, MRIs, CT scans, cancer treatment, etc. just like you would treat one of your own family.

In pastoral Israel sheep were valuable possessions. Each one of them was known by a name (not by number). The shepherd accompanied them everyday. He knew them by sight, sound, and smell, and visa verse, the sheep knew his master by sight, sound, and smell. A shepherd loved to snuggle his little lambs. That is the way God would have us think of Him. He snuggles us. He carries us in His arms. He guides us, feeds us, comforts us, protects us, and even lays down His life for us.

God has a reputation to uphold. “*He restoreth my soul.*” – It is what He does and what He delights to do. Why does He do it? “*For his name’s sake.*” He is the Good Shepherd and lays down His life for His sheep. “He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?” (Romans 8:32)

33. Shield

צִנְנָה tsinnah (*tsin-naw'*)

Psalms 3:3 But thou, O LORD, *art a shield* for me; my glory, and the lifter up of mine head.

Psalms 5:12 For thou, LORD, wilt bless the righteous; with favour wilt thou compass him as *with a shield*.

Psalms 91:4 He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth *shall be thy shield and* buckler.

Proverbs 30:5 Every word of God *is pure*: he *is a shield* unto them that put their trust in him.

On March 23, 1983 President Ronald Reagan shocked the world in what became known as his “Star Wars” speech in which he announced that the US would use ground-based and space-based systems to protect the United States from attack by strategic nuclear ballistic missiles. It was known as the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI).

Shields are important. They protect our vulnerable parts from deadly attacks. Today most police forces use Kevlar bullet proof vests as a shield from enemy attacks. In the military helmets are worn in battle torn areas as a defense against shots to the head.

Shield (tsinnah) and Buckler (magen)

Israelites used two kinds of shields: The body shield which is called, “tsinnah” and the hand held shield called “megan.” Let’s explore the body shield today.

BODY SHIELD: A large 'door size' body shield known as "tsinnah" that was adapted to cover the whole body. The Greek word "thyreos" derived from the word door "tyra." This was carried by the heavily armed infantry soldiers and would protect them from the initial onslaught of arrows bombarded at the front lines. Goliath carried a shield of this type, so heavy it required a shield bearer. 1 Samuel 17:7

Romans soldiers had a unique application for shields.

The Roman army that the Apostle Paul referred to in Ephesians 6:10-18 used shields. The shield covered the body. But when the army advanced on the enemy the soldiers used those shields as an impenetrable barrier from the fiery darts of the enemy’s arrows. They placed three in the front, one on each side, and three in the back who lifted the shield overhead, thus forming this wall of defense. By this means they overcame the enemy. God has given us shields of faith. A shield is always God’s eternal, unchanging truth. It defeats the enemy. There are four major sides to the attack on the believer’s mind, heart, emotions and faith. Whenever we give in and begin to doubt these truths Satan has penetrated our armor and won the skirmish. These truths are always true, for everyone, everywhere, all the time. Use them to defeat the fiery darts of the wicked one.

34. Shield (Buckler)

מגן *magen maw-gane*
(*buckler, my shield, personal*)

In our last meditation we looked at the general word for shield which is “tsinnah,” meaning a body shield. Such a shield was used by the Romans to build a wall against the enemy’s attack by arrows. There is another shield which is just as important but much smaller. Let’s consider the hand held shield today.

BUCKLER: A small shield (*magen=buckler*) was carried by the archers. This shield was fitted on the arm so that the soldier could move about and still have the shield ready. These small shields were constructed of wicker or light wood and covered with either leather, or bronze. Unfortunately the KJV often confused the translation of these two weapons and often translated the words interchangeably. However, I believe that God uses words to mean things He wants to clearly point out. When God inspired the Biblical authors to say words, He meant them to use words that mean things. When they said “megan” they meant “megan” or hand-held shield. When He led them to say “tsinnah,” or body shield, they meant “tsinnah.” So let’s not confuse the two or use them interchangeably. Let us look for the hidden or not-so-obvious intent that God had in mind.

The body shield has a purpose and the hand held shield has a clear purpose. Holding a body shield is primarily a defensive use of a shield. Holding a hand held shield enables the warrior to use his sword and at the same time defend himself against the enemy’s attacks. The buckler allows the warrior to move forward, gaining ground, as he protects his vital parts and slashes and sticks his sword to the enemy. He also can use this shield as a weapon on its own. Shields were made of various composites, leather, bronze, and wood. Used rightly, they could smash the enemy in the face, over the head, or be used to push him back.

35. My Strength

צוֹר tsuwr (*tsoor*)

Psalms 18:1 I will love thee, O LORD, my strength.

Our bodies have 630 muscles. Some are voluntary and some involuntary. Most of our voluntary muscles go undeveloped and untrained. A body builder may work on his pectorals, biceps, deltoids, abs, etc. You have strength. We all do. We all have differing degrees of strength by comparison.

Years ago a local church in our community hosted a group of muscle men called “The Power Team.” They were young Christian men who were strong body builders, weight lifters, and experienced in doing amazing feats of strength. I remember one guy who was handcuffed by a policeman with real handcuffs. Then by his shear strength he was able to break the chains of those cuffs and get free. Now, that is a strong guy.

This word is often translated “rock,” but it is different than another word for rock that is *cela*. It is not the word used when speaking of “my strength” or my ability. That is a completely different word, חַיִל *chayil*. There are many other words used for strength that the Hebrew speaker or writer could use. But when this word for strength is used here it is referring to God is my strength, not he is my ability, but He is my strength. He is my rock. He is bigger than I am. Literally, here it means He is my bigness. He is my immovable rock. He is my strength beyond all strength.

Your strength, though it may be a lot, is limited at some point. It is not ultimate strength. It is not always enough strength. God is my “enough strength.”

David perhaps was remembering his battle with Goliath whenever he used this word to say, “God is my strength.” I am sure David, like most boys, probably thought he was pretty strong. It’s a guy thing. Yet, when he faced this 9’ 6” champion of the Philistines, whatever his strength, it was not enough. This was not a nine foot basketball player, tall with skinny arms and legs. This was a massive muscular giant of a man. He was huge. His muscles were huge.

“A giant nearly ten feet tall stepped out from the Philistine line into the open, Goliath from Gath. He had a bronze helmet on his head and was dressed in armor—126 pounds of it! He wore bronze shin guards and carried a bronze sword. His spear was like a fence rail—the spear tip alone weighed over fifteen pounds.” (1 Samuel 17:5-7 The Message)

David’s response to the taunts of the enemy were significant. He said,

“David said to the Philistine, “You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the LORD will hand you over to me, and I’ll strike you down and cut off your head.” (1 Samuel 17:45-46)

In effect he was saying, “Taunt me all you want. I know you are big and I am small. The Lord is my strength.” When you are overwhelmed by obstacles that are bigger than you are, call upon the Lord your Strength, and lean hard on Him.

36. Shelter

מַחֲסֵה machceh (*makh-seh'*)

Psalms 46:1 God *is* our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Psalms 46:7 The LORD of hosts *is* with us; the God of Jacob *is* our refuge. Selah.

Psalms 61:3 For thou hast been a shelter for me, *and* a strong tower from the enemy.

Psalms 91:2 I will say of the LORD, *He is* my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.

Psalms 91:9 Because thou hast made the LORD, *which is* my refuge, *even* the most High, thy habitation;

A shelter in the time of storm.

A few years ago a couple of friends and I had a late summer golf outing. Though it was late in the day and very hot and humid with warnings of thunder storms, we decided to go out and play nine holes anyway. On the eighth green, as we stood there taking our putts, it suddenly got dark overhead. A storm caught us exposed, out in the open. We ran as fast as we could to the nearest shelter with a covering from the rain. We were soaked through and through, but at least safe under the covering. Then lightning started to hit all around us. The claps were fierce and strikes were getting closer with each bolt. In a final fury the storm launched a mighty lightning strike within yards of us splitting a tree down the middle. Our ears were ringing, the hair stood up on our arms and for a moment we were stunned. It is a lesson we will not soon forget. Next time there are storm warnings we will not venture out to expose ourselves to such immanent dangers. Our little shelter was as vulnerable as the trees around us and not much protection from the storm. A real refuge would be to hide inside a sturdy building safe from the fury of the storm.

God is our refuge in the times of trouble. We are safe when we run to Him for safety.

The Haven of Rest (hymn)

My soul in sad exile was out on life's sea,
So burdened with sin and distressed,
Till I heard a sweet voice, saying, "Make Me your choice";
And I entered the "Haven of Rest"!

I've anchored my soul in the "Haven of Rest,"
I'll sail the wide seas no more;
The tempest may sweep o'er the wild, stormy, deep,
In Jesus I'm safe evermore.

Psalms 107:30 Then are they glad because they be quiet; so he brings them unto their desired haven.

37. Omniscient One

All Knowing God

02451 חכמה chokmah *khok-maw'* (Wisdom)

*“Who has understood the mind of the LORD, or instructed him as his counselor?
Whom did the LORD consult to enlighten him, and who taught him the right way?”
Isaiah 40:13*

The Mind of Minolta

The “Only from the Mind of Minolta” tag line was introduced in 1983 by the William Esty Company of New York in a television commercial featuring Tony Randall. The tag line was first used to market a 35mm single-lens reflex camera. The idea was to convey that the Minolta camera was the smartest camera on earth that could figure out the automatic lense aperture, exposure and lighting all in nano seconds.

Omniscient One

God wants us to see the extraordinary nature of His mind. The Bible has no title for God called “Omniscient One.” There is certainly no doubt in Scripture that He is just that, omniscient. The dictionary defines omniscience as “the capacity to know everything infinitely, or at least everything that can be known about a character including thoughts, feelings, life and the universe, etc.” Another theological way of defining this is by expressing that our knowledge is limited or finite, but God’s knowledge is unlimited, therefore infinite.

God himself brings up the subject of His all-knowing character many times in the Scriptures. It is one of the main themes of Job’s discussion of good and evil and God’s ways and “whys.” God poses the question to Job at the end of His discourse, “*Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?*” (Job 38:2), then launches into His own Almighty diatribe concerning His infinite knowledge that continues for two entire chapters.

“Brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer me. “Where were you when I laid the earth’s foundation? Tell me, if you understand. Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it?” – Job 38:4-5

God does the same in Isaiah 41 as He sets up the people Israel for the grand finale of wisdom as He hears the whisper of their hearts. “*Why do you say, O Jacob, and complain, O Israel, ‘My way is hidden from the LORD; my cause is disregarded by my God’?*” (Isaiah 40:27)

Isaiah 40:12-17 – He Knows It All

12. Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, or with the breadth of his hand marked off the heavens? Who has held the dust of the earth in a basket, or weighed the mountains on the scales and the hills in a balance? 13. Who has understood the mind of the LORD, or instructed him as his counselor?

It is good to meditate on the Lord and stretch our minds to fathom His great understanding so that we might put life and events into the proper perspective. God challenges Job, Israel, and us to stretch our minds when thinking about the “Mind of God.” He is smarter than you and I and knows the end from the beginning and everything in between. The bottom line of the truth of God’s omniscience is that nothing surprises Him. He is never caught off guard. He is never sleeping or taking a nap. He never checks out or looks away not knowing what is happening. You can trust Him.

38. Omnipotent One

All Powerful God

07706 שַׁדַּי Shadday shad-dah'-ee (El Shaddai, Almighty)

"To whom will you compare me? Or who is my equal?" says the Holy One. Lift your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one, and calls them each by name. Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing. – Isaiah 40:25-26

He Has No Equal - He is Omnipotent

John W. Peterson, song writer, musician, and former air force pilot tells of the glories of flying at high altitudes and seeing the smallness of the earth beneath and the expanse of the heavens above. He found himself in awe of his omniscient Creator. He said, "I was quite overwhelmed as I began to think of these two aspects of God's power and love; and suddenly, the words of a new song began to form in my heart. Within a very short time, I was sketching the words and melody of a new song." He then wrote the words of that immortal hymn, It Took a Miracle.

Not only does God show His omnipotence to Isaiah and the people of Israel, but He reminds each of us of His eternal power and godhead in the New Testament. In Jesus dwells all the fullness of the godhead bodily. He is the exact image of God the Father and, as such, He demonstrates the Father's attributes and character. Paul and the apostle John say, *"He created all things by his word.... He upholds all things by the word of His power.... And by him all things hold together..."* (John 1:1, Colossians 1:17, Hebrews 1:3) Jesus Himself claims omnipotence when He is about to ascend to the Father, as He declared to the disciples, *"All power is given to me in heaven and in earth..."* (Matthew 28:18)

The people of Israel were staggering under the burden of God's chastisements for their national sin. It seemed quite impossible that God, who punished them by disbursing them among the pagan nations, would also bring them back to the land again. It is in this context that God encourages His people to wait on Him, that "He is able to do immeasurably more than they could ask or even imagine." (Ephesians 3:20)

It Took A Miracle

My Father is omnipotent,
And that you can't deny;
A God of might and miracles-
'Tis written in the sky.

Chorus:

It took a miracle to put the stars in place,
It took a miracle to hang the world in space;
But when He saved my soul,
Cleansed and made me whole,
It took a miracle of love and grace!

Our God is Omnipotent, Omniscient, and Omnipresent. Wait for Him. He will come.

39. Omnipresent One

All Present God

מְאֹד ma`od *meh-od'* (extremely) מַצֵּא matsa *maw-tsaw* (*present*)

"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." Isaiah 41:10

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. - Psalms 46:1

In the t.v. series, Star Trek, "cloaking devices" were first introduced and used by the Romulans. The device was only referred to as "a practical invisibility screen." In later episodes the Klingons used this stealth technology to invisibly approach their enemies in their "bird of prey" from which to launch surprise attacks.

God seems to use a cloaking device of His own for His own reasons. Sometimes He conceals Himself from our hearts, eyes and ears. In those times we are often tempted to think He is not there.

Though not stated in this passage of Isaiah the thought certainly is implied that God, who is all knowing and all powerful, is also ever present. That seems to be evident in the extended passage of Isaiah 40 to 41: *"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."* (Isaiah 41:10) It does not do us much good, nor bring us much comfort in the time of trouble, to simply believe God is present, though cloaked for the moment. What comforts is the promise of why He is there all the time, and that is to help us.

Tied to this truth of God's character is the encouragement of our Heavenly Father to wait on Him. He is not far from us. He is not absent without leave. He is not slumbering or sleeping. He is not inattentive. He has not forgotten. He has not abandoned us or left us orphans. Though He is ever-present, He is not always felt, perceived, heard, or seen by us. David expressed this truth in the context of waiting on the Lord (to show up or reveal himself) as did Isaiah. Through David the Holy Spirit said, "Be still and know that I am God..." (Psalm 46:10) Through Isaiah God says, "Do not fear for I am with you." (Isaiah 41;10)

God is ever-present to help us. Hebrews 11:6 reflects that same truth. *"He that comes to God must believe that he is (there) and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him."* God decloaks himself when we wait for him and wait on him.

He Was There All The Time by Gary Paxton

Time after time I went searching for peace in some void
I was trying to blame all my ills on this world I was in
Surfaced relationships used me til I was done in
And all the while someone was begging to free me from sin
Never again will I look for a fake rainbow's end
Now that I have the answers, my life is just starting to live
Sharing each new day with Him is a cup of fresh life
Oh, what I've missed, He's been waiting right there all the time

Chorus:

He was there all the time
He was there all the time
Waiting patiently in line
He was there all the time