

[continuing from previous page...]

One day the Lord Jesus Christ shall come with trumpet sound. He will pull back the shade of the night and pin it with a star. Then He'll open the door of the glorious morning of His millennial reign and flood the world with light.

Tomorrow morning, get up with the sunrise and praise God that His timing is perfect and that He is coming again!

-- **Rev. Dr Adrian Rogers**, Baptist pastor of the 20th century and early 21st century (now with his Lord in Heaven), excerpt taken from online devotional readings of LWF.org (entry for Oct. 15)

THIS GUIDE WAS WRITTEN FOR YOU BY . . .
Ken Street, a baptized follower of the Way.

© Copyright 1989, 2005, 2011, 2019 by Roddy Kenneth Street, Jr.

This is one of many Street Tracts found at

JesusChristIndia.org

JesusChristNepal.org, JesusChristBurma.org
JesusChristThailand.org, JesusChristSriLanka.org,
JesusChristChina.org, JesusChristTaiwan.org,
JesusChristKorea.org, JesusChristJapan.org ...
JesusChristUSA.org, JesusChristAmerica.org,
& JesusChristIsrael.org as well...!

Visit these websites for free e-tracts (a.k.a. tract e-books),
for paper-booklet printing patterns, Bible lessons,
online Bible audio & more good stuff !
e-mail: etracts@yahoo.com or etracts@gmail.com

*Triune YHWH God is continuously
harvesting the Earth . . .*

*as His long-range plan for the Earth's
transformation goes ever forward . . .*

Earth-Trekker's Guide

Godly Light For China series

Find your way by the Godly Light of Jesus Christ. Booklet 1

Divine Selection: God's Developmental Program For Earth
Jesus is the "Sun of Heaven" & the Light of the World!



Divine Selection

GOD'S DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAM FOR EARTH

**A Plan For Our Planet's Future From
YHWH, The Holy One Of Israel, The Creator
Of All The Universe, Who Is Eternally
The Light Of The World**

**Jesus Christ is God The Son, the Creator of All,
the "Sun of Heaven," the "Sun of Righteousness,"
and the Light of the World...!**

© Copyright 1989, 2005, 2011, 2019 by Roddy Kenneth Street, Jr.

Courtesy of JesusChristChina.net.

Visit also JesusChristKorea.org & JesusChristJapan.org,
sites JesusChristIndia.org and JesusChristSriLanka.org,
sites JesusChristNepal.org and JesusChristBurma.org,
sites JesusChristThailand.org and JesusChristTaiwan.org,
for more print-patterns & free Bible-teaching lessons

The Biblical scheme of Earth's history and direction... a long-range plan by which God will transform and will re-populate the planet Earth...

It's a vision of vast scope and mind-boggling predictions...

God's developmental plan for our Universe is an astounding program of transformations...!

1. A theme of **WARFARE** runs through the many books of the Bible, from Genesis to Revelation. We see evidence of angelic warfare, of historic military warfare between God's chosen people and the ungodly nations.

There are predictions of further warfare between the elect of Christ and the anti-Christian forces, and of a final great battle of Armageddon.

SPIRITUAL WARFARE devastates this planet until Christ's Kingdom comes !

2.

A theme also of **APOCALYPTIC DESTRUCTION** and **RE-CREATION** runs through the books of the Bible, from Genesis to Revelation. We see this in the Genesis record of Noah and the Great Flood, and in the predictions of the Old Testament prophets.

Jesus Himself speaks of this in great detail as He is quoted in Mat. 24, Luke 17:24-37, and other places in the gospels. There are many such references in the epistles, and the final book, John's Revelation of Jesus Christ, is devoted almost exclusively to this subject.

rule the entire Earth as its evil king. Therefore you should take warning, and try to prepare for what's undoubtedly coming to your own country soon.

Similarly, when you see a dictatorial tyrant trying to seize power over your own country... hoping to become a "king" over your own nation and all the Earth's lands... it can only mean that Triune YHWH God's judgments are soon to be again coming upon your nation's population & all the Earth... even Nepal, India & Sri Lanka, regions that the Islamic Caliphate (1517-1917 A.D.) condemned as "infidel" & "House to Conquer." We are now in the End-Times of the Church Age, and we are possibly also seeing "the last days" for freedom in India, Japan, Taiwan & the USA. Use it while you've got it, China! For now, you still have some freedom of religion, at least to some small degree, there in China. You have to use it or you'll lose it. Repent today, get on your knees to pray. May Triune YHWH God save China from the anti-Christ powers... from Imperialistic Islam and atheistic socialism... and most especially, from the atheistic Marxist Communism that already dominates the giant land of Russia, and likewise rules nearby North Korea!

When Jesus comes the next time, it will be different— He descends as the Lion of Judah, the Judge of all the Earth, the conquering King of the Universe... and He will remove the evil Antichrist from his throne of power on planet Earth.

The Sun of Righteousness

"But unto you that fear My name shall the Sun of Righteousness arise with healing in His wings. . ."

-- Malachi 4:2

Since Jesus is the S-O-N of God, He is also the S-U-N of righteousness. Let me tell you something about the sunrise. The sunrise never comes ahead of time, and it is never late. Isn't that right? The sunrise operates according to the power of God and the authority of God. You can't hurry it up, and you can't stop it!

It is the same with the Second Coming of Jesus. He is coming at a time known only to God. You can't hurry it up and you can't stop it.

Choose new life in Christ, not the ages-old tyranny of Satan... and you'll at last find the narrow path to Heaven... avoiding the popular Wide Road that leads only to the torments of Hell.

Acknowledge the Wisdom of YHWH God... the Righteousness, Holiness, and Divinity of His Only Begotten Son of Man... and the Heavenly Father will no longer see your own sins and shortcomings. They will all be hidden from His sight by a cleansing in the sacrificial blood of Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.

Choose to love YHWH God's Way of Life and growth—not the Liar's way of self-destruction!

*The Important End Note: **Is a new Dark Age coming to our world?** It's already happening in Britain, Europe, Australia, South Africa, India, even the U.S.— made obvious in those regions by persecution of Christians & declining church attendance, concurrent with an incessant rising of Islamism, Marxism, Humanism, Evolutionism, Secularism, Socialism, Satanism, and Witchcraft. Europe has already become the new "Dark Continent," and now probably deserves that label as much as Africa ever could. Forecasters believe it will soon be a dark "Eurabia" under Islamic control.*

Whenever the ancient nations of Israel and Judah were ruled by a very evil king, it was always a clear sign that Triune YHWH God's Judgment was coming, that invasions and devastation would soon come upon the "Promised Land" of the Jews. Judgments came upon the Jews for their own repetitious sins and the immorality of their entire nation. Whenever the Jews had a really evil ruler in charge of everything, that fact was itself a loud warning from God that invasions, poverty, devastations, and enslavement were to be coming upon them very soon. But YHWH God sent them prophets at the same time, to make it all crystal-clear. Those evil kings of Israel and Judah were also a foreshadowing of the future Antichrist Dictator who would someday seek to

3.

A theme of the **SURVIVAL OF A REMNANT** who are loyal to God runs through the many books of the Bible, from Genesis to Revelation.

4.

Rather than being the Darwinian concept of "natural selection" and "survival of the fittest" (*meaning the strongest*) in a scheme of evolution, God's system of development is quite different!

God's plan is that there will be "DIVINE ELECTION" of all those who have chosen to accept His system of grace and mercy through Jesus Christ, and His plan calls for a "SURVIVAL OF THE LOYAL" instead.

5. In this scheme of universal development and transformation which Triune YHWH God Himself has formulated, it is *not* merely the STRONGEST who will survive, but rather it is those persons who are SUBMISSIVE to His Plan and His will...!

Not turning away toward evil & forgiven of past sins, these persons do not choose to instead follow in the way of the Prince of Darkness, who is the prideful Traitor of Disobedience and the Father of All Liars...!

(In this regard, it is certainly true that God can make the weak person become strong. But a person who is too strong and egotistical God may choose to crush, in order that he — or she — will be humbled and will become submissive to the will of God!)

6. God is continuously harvesting the Earth as His ever-progressing plan of **DIVINE SELECTION** goes forward, through a wise and millennia-long program of evaluation— through interminable *testing* of all the Earth's people in a very lengthy developmental process of **SELECTING** and **REJECTING**... choosing those people who are fit for Heaven and the New Earth that He envisions.

7. Thus, a theme of **DIVINE SELECTION** through a **LONG-RANGE and millennia-spanning DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAM** becomes evident.

8. This calls for a **MAJOR SHIFT IN THE WORLD-VIEW** that is held by any individual.

It truly requires a COPERNICAN REVOLUTION IN THE MIND-SET of a human being.

9. You must comprehend with an entirely new way of looking at the Universe— for to be among the redeemed, to be among the survivors who are granted eternal life with God, you must place **JESUS CHRIST AT THE CENTER OF YOUR UNIVERSE**, in the very place where once **YOUR OWN EGO** had ruled supreme!

Regarding the photo image placed above, please be informed...

The "Temple Of Miraculous Fire" at Muktinath, Nepal, plays a part in one personal-testimony tract written by Ken Street. It was the goal of the Pokhara-Muktinath Trek, which he and some friends undertook to accomplish while visiting Nepal, and the resulting tract has been given the title *Find Your Divine Purpose In... The Temple of Miraculous Fire*.

It's extremely important for all of us to remember this:

- 1) **WE SPEAK TO TRIUNE YHWH GOD** by our prayers.
- 2) **TRIUNE YHWH GOD SPEAKS TO US** by the words of Holy Scripture, in the Word of God written by His Son.

So we must try to read His words and His Book just as often as we possibly can... on a daily basis!!

Almighty YHWH, The Triune God of Israel and all the Earth, wants to bless you through His Only Begotten Son of Man, Jesus Christ— Yeshua, the Messiah of Israel... the soon-coming King of Israel and all the Earth— so let Him reward your search with the grace of His forgiveness and enlightenment!

Triune YHWH God wants to bless you for all your long efforts to understand this very confusing and difficult Universe in which we live. He wants you to be spared from the normal wages of sin and the terrible Day of His Wrath that is yet to come— so let Him reward your lengthy search with the grace of His forgiveness and His enlightenment!

It's better to show good sense now—today—before His Judgment time arrives... so you can't end up regretting your choices for all eternity.

Life and Death have been placed before you. The Word of God says, "All those who hate Me love death." Choose eternal life with Jesus Christ and His Heavenly Father... not an eternal darkness with that evil ruler whom Jesus called "the Prince of Darkness." As God's Only Begotten Son warned us long ago... the Evil One named Satan is forever a murderer and forever the Father of Liars.

A Letter From The Author

"Miraculous fire" becomes a reality for a human being when God puts His Holy Spirit into a believer. This transformation comes only through faith and by a prayer to God through His Son Jesus Christ. Then the human being actually becomes a consecrated temple and a place of residence for God's Holy Spirit. Amazing as it may sound, a mere human being is able to become a "Temple of Miraculous Fire" for Jesus Christ. The fire of God's Holy Spirit will then burn in you eternally! This will be evident to your friends and neighbors. People may even come from many miles away just to see the Spirit of God that is burning within you.

You immediately get a new understanding of the Universe around you. You realize that the Creator of our Universe is a Trinity, the same Triune God Who was honored and worshiped by Abraham, Moses, Jesus, Peter, and Paul. You come to understand that the whole Universe was created through God The Son, Who is the Word of God and the Rock of our salvation... and you know that the fallen Universe is saved only by the sinless virtue of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Only God The Son could die for the sins of the world, as He alone could sacrifice Himself for the Universe that was created through Him. He alone can bring salvation to the people of Earth. He will do this for you too, if you don't shut him out of your life. Open the door to your heart... and let Jesus Christ come inside your earthly domicile. He'll give you the fire of His Holy Spirit.

And what is more, Jesus Christ will also give you an endless supply of "living water," which will become in you a spring of Eternal Life with God.

[For more on this subject, please read our tract *The Temple Of Miraculous Fire*.]



The "Temple Of
Miraculous Fire"
at
Muktinath, Nepal.
Photo by
Ken Street
(Nov. 1979).

You need to put the Sun of Heaven inside your heart! Once He is there, He will illuminate your mind and all areas of the Universe with the bright Light of His Presence. His Light will be radiant in your face, in your life, and in your actions. Just as Moses' face was radiant after he was in the Presence of God, the follower of Jesus reflects the brilliant Light of the Lord Christ! His Holy Spirit will be inside you forevermore, making you aware of His Lordship and His Truth... giving you eternal access to His Divine Wisdom.

10.

You gain an Eternal Life with God when you put the Sun of Heaven in your heart. You can do this by placing Jesus Christ, **Who in the Trinity of God created our Universe**, upon a throne at the center of your heart! *He deserves that position and that kind of respect.* He was first **God The Son**, but when born in human flesh He became the only sinless and righteous person who ever lived. Yet He sacrificed Himself on a cross for your sake, taking all guilt and sins upon Himself— for you and for me, for all people everywhere— **so that whoever wishes for salvation might be rescued from the due punishment of sins.**

11.

If you will do this, you will gain a new contentment and peace as you accept God's organizational plan for the Universe. . . because you'll be letting God be the Ruler of All Things in this world. . . and in your own life.

The Sun of Heaven will then reign in your life as the supreme Power that governs all things. **The Bible calls Jesus Christ both “the Sun of Heaven” and “the Sun of Righteousness.”**

When you place Christ in your heart, He will lead you to a new life of righteousness. **His Holy Spirit will start to rebuild you in the image of God, making you more like Jesus. You’ll become a brother (or sister) to Jesus Christ!**

12. All it really takes is a simple but sincere little prayer — one that you should make up in your own words. The prayer for deliverance and for God's leadership should come from your own heart!

Some important elements that you should include are:

- 1) your desire to turn away from the wrongness or evil of your past life, and your remorse over the sins of your previous life,
- 2) your desire for God's forgiveness and mercy through the act of sacrifice of His Only Begotten Son (Jesus Christ),
- 3) your desire to know God's leadership in your life,
- 4) your desire to learn more of God's truth through Bible study,
- 5) your strong desire to find fellowship with genuine

This Sunday, **don’t sin** by worshiping the sun, like the followers of Baal... like the Greeks and Romans & India’s polytheists... like many pagans in all nations of the Earth.

You are not powerless— not now, not ever— not if you are a follower of the Son who shines in all His brilliance with healing in His rays. His divine power has given you everything you need through Christ.

*-- excerpts from p. 131, conclusion of Chapter 6 in **The God You May Not Know.***

Now go buy the book or e-book and read all 12 of the chapters for your own spiritual growth and edification...!

Jesus said of the people of God that "The kingdom of heaven is like a **net** that God has cast into the sea, and it gathers of every kind: When it is full, it will be pulled up on the shore, where they will sit down to sort the catch, and they will **collect the good fish in baskets, but the bad things will be thrown away. This is the way it will be at the end of the world:** The **angels** shall come forth, and they will **separate** the unrighteous persons from among those justified by God . . ."

Excerpt from the book of Matthew, who was a constant companion of Jesus and his devoted disciple [13:47-50].

Jesus spoke of the people of God as being like a seed that is growing secretly, saying, "As for the kingdom of God, it is as if a person should cast seed into the ground; and then he sleeps, and he rises up night and day to see that the seed is springing forth and always growing up, although he knows not exactly how. The Earth is bringing forth fruit from itself; first the blade, then the ears of corn, and after that the fullness of the ears of corn. And when all the **fruit of the Earth** has come forth, immediately God will use the sickle to reap the fields, because the **harvest-time** has come."

Excerpt from the book of Mark [4:26-29].

God wants to bless you for all your long efforts to understand this very confusing and difficult Universe in which we live — so let Him reward your search with the grace of His forgiveness and enlightenment!

A Couple Of Relevant Quotes... On God's Attributes.

From Rev. Dr. David Jeremiah's New Book (2018),

Entitled ***The God You May Not Know.***

Extracted From The Excellent Chapter Called

"Knowing A Powerful God"

Is the sun shining outside your window today? I hope so, because I want you to consider the incredible power of solar energy. The sun is a blinding star, 330,000 times as massive as Earth. About a million Earths could fit inside it. It takes eight minutes for a beam of light and heat to travel from the sun to the Earth, almost 93 million miles, and it arrives here, right on schedule and in the exact proportions needed to sustain life on our planet.

The temperature at the surface of the sun is about 10,000 degrees Fahrenheit, and scientists believe the temperature at the core of the sun may reach 27 million degrees. It never shuts down, though it may occasionally flare up. The sun is essentially a gaseous ball of continuously occurring nuclear explosions, radiating its energy uniformly in all directions throughout the solar system.

Every second, the sun produces the same energy as about 1 trillion one-megaton bombs. To put it in tangible terms, in one second our sun can produce enough energy to power human civilization for almost 500,000 years, [so] imagine if we could collect and use it all! Furthermore, the sun has enough nuclear fuel to burn for another five billion years.

...Think of all the energy radiating from all those stars and ask yourself—where did all this energy come from? What source of power could so animate the universe?

— excerpts above, from pp. 113-114, found in Chapter 6 of ***The God You May Not Know***, are passages written by Rev. Dr. David Jeremiah.

Continuing With The Relevant Quotes From Rev. Dr. David Jeremiah's Great New Book, Released In 2018 And Titled

The God You May Not Know.

The power of God, as evidenced in the creation and preservation of the universe and in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ and the transformation of believers, is hard for us to grasp, yet wonderful to ponder. That same power is available to carry us through our daily lives like a canoe on a swiftly flowing river, in our worship, our walk, and our work for Him.

...Let me leave you with a verse from Peter about the practicality of God's omnipotence: "His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue" (2 Peter 1:3)

This Sunday, **don't sin** by worshiping the sun, like the followers of Baal... like the Greek and Roman polytheists... like many pagans in all nations of the Earth. Don't worship the Earth or the things of Earth. You shouldn't worship nature, as the pantheists and the animists do. The *supernatural* does exist, because God's Spirit is *above* and *behind* the natural world... and *superior* to it. So don't worship the sun and the stars like all the naturalistic science advocates, the humanists, the evolutionists, and many of our modern-day science-fiction fans!

Don't go out to worship the sun and stars this Sunday, nor Earth, nor Man. Instead, go out to a good Bible-believing church and worship the Holy One Who is the Sun of Heaven— Jesus Christ, Who is both the Son of God and God The Son. Honor Him, and you will please His proud Father in Heaven by your actions. You greatly err if you exalt Man (Humanism) or Science (Scientism), or anything else at all.

Jesus Christ is the Sun of Heaven, and He is the Light of the World!

It's also important for all of us to remember this:

- 1) **WE SPEAK TO GOD** by our prayers.
- 2) **GOD SPEAKS TO US** by the words of Holy Scripture.

So we must try to read His words and His Book just as often as we possibly can!!

"The future is as bright as the promises of God."

-- ADONIRAM JUDSON, 19th Century missionary to Burma.

"The Lord God is to me both a Sun and a Shield; a sun to enlighten and comfort me, a shield to protect and defend me."

-- MATTHEW HENRY, 19th Century Bible scholar & author

"Keep your face to the Sun and you will never see the shadows."

-- HELEN KELLER, blind 20th Century Christian author.

All verses below are quoted from the NKJV (English) Bible...

Matthew 3:1-2 1 In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea,
2 and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"

Matthew 3:13-17 13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him.

14 And John *tried to prevent Him*, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?"

15 But Jesus answered and said to him, "*Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.*"

Then he allowed Him.

16 When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him.

17 And suddenly a voice *came* from heaven, saying, "*This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.*"

Matthew 4:4 4 But He answered and said, "*It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'*"

Matthew 4:17 17 From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "*Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*"

Matthew 7:13-14 13 "*Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it.*

14 *Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.*

Matthew 7:21-23 21 "*Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.*

22 *Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?'*

23 *And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'*

John 14:23-26 23 Jesus answered and said to him, "*If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.*

24 *He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father's who sent Me.*

25 *"These things I have spoken to you while being present with you.*

26 *But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.*

John 15:10 10 *If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.*

Revelation 19:11a, 13 11 Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges

13 *He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.*

Malachi 4:1-2 1 "*For behold, the day is coming, Burning like an oven, And all the proud, yes, all who do wickedly will be stubble. And the day which is coming shall burn them up,*" says the LORD of hosts, "*That will leave them neither root nor branch.*

2 *But to you who fear My name The Sun of Righteousness shall arise With healing in His wings; And you shall go out And grow fat like stall-fed calves.* *

* *Regarding Malachi 4:2, Charles Haddon Spurgeon (a British Bible scholar & Baptist preacher of the 19th Century) writes this:*

"This promise has also had a practical fulfillment in the deathbed experiences of God's people..." and "Though the body has been bound fast with cords, the soul has mounted up as on the wings of eagles, in sacred rapture and holy bliss. The sun of righteousness has risen upon them. Before their earthly sun went down, the heavenly sun lit up their sky with a sacred high, eternal noon."

Matthew 24:36-39 36 "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.
37 But as the days of Noah *were*, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

38 For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark,

39 and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

Matthew 24:44 44 Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

Matthew 28:18-20 18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age." Amen.

Luke 11:27-28 27 And it happened, as He spoke these things, that a certain woman from the crowd raised her voice and said to Him, "Blessed *is* the womb that bore You, and *the* breasts which nursed You!"

28 But He said, "**More than that, blessed *are* those who hear the word of God and keep it!"**

John 3:13 13 No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, *that is*, the Son of Man who is in heaven.

John 14:15 15 "If you love Me, keep My commandments.

John 14:21 21 He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him."

Matthew 7:26-27 26 But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand:

27 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall."

Matthew 10:14-15 14 And whoever will not receive you nor hear your words, when you depart from that house or city, shake off the dust from your feet.

15 Assuredly, I say to you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment than for that city!

Matthew 10:22-23a 22 And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved.

23 When they persecute you in [one] city, flee to another...

Matthew 10:32-33 32 "Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven.

33 But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 10:37-38 37 He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.

38 And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.

TAKING ROOT: DRINK IN THE SON

The righteous shall... grow like a cedar in Lebanon. -- PSALM 92:12

...

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world" (John 8: 12). He is the "Sun of Righteousness" with healing in His rays (Malachi 4: 2).

Whenever we read the Gospels and study the life of Christ, we are soaking up the Son. Whenever we search out biblical truth about Christ-- and we can find it in Leviticus as well as in Luke-- we are turning our leaves toward the light.

"If light be pleasant to our eyes, how pleasant is that light of life springing from the Sun of righteousness!" -- John Flavel, seventeenth century Puritan.

-- Rev. Dr. David Jeremiah, 20th & 21st Century Bible scholar & Baptist preacher, excerpt from his daily-devotions book *Journey* (Jan. 16 entry)

Matthew 11:20-24 20 Then He began to rebuke the cities in which most of His mighty works had been done, because they did not repent:

21 "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.

22 But I say to you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the day of judgment than for you.

23 And you, Capernaum, who are exalted to heaven, will be brought down to Hades; for if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day.

24 But I say to you that it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment than for you."

Matthew 12:39-42 39 But He answered and said to them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah.

40 For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

41 The men of Nineveh will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and indeed a greater than Jonah *is* here.

42 The queen of the South will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and indeed a greater than Solomon *is* here.

Matthew 13:3-9 3 Then He spoke many things to them in parables, saying: "Behold, a sower went out to sow.

4 And as he sowed, some *seed* fell by the wayside; and the birds came and devoured them.

5 Some fell on stony places, where they did not have much earth; and they immediately sprang up because they had no depth of earth.

6 But when the sun was up they were scorched, and because they had no root they withered away.

6 And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all *these things* must come to pass, but the end is not yet.

7 For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places.

8 All these *are* the beginning of sorrows.

9 Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake.

10 And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another.

11 Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many.

12 And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.

13 But he who endures to the end shall be saved.

14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

Matthew 24:21-22 21 For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.

22 And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.

Matthew 24:29-31 29 "Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

30 Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

31 And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

Matthew 24:35 35 Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

18 He said to Him, "Which ones?" Jesus said, "'*You shall not murder,*' '*You shall not commit adultery,*' '*You shall not steal,*' '*You shall not bear false witness,*'

19 '*Honor your father and your mother,*' and, '*You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*' "

Matthew 21:33-41 33 "Hear another parable: There was a certain landowner who planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug a winepress in it and built a tower. And he leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country.

34 Now when vintage-time drew near, he sent his servants to the vinedressers, that they might receive its fruit.

35 And the vinedressers took his servants, beat one, killed one, and stoned another.

36 Again he sent other servants, more than the first, and they did likewise to them.

37 Then last of all he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.'

38 But when the vinedressers saw the son, they said among themselves, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.'

39 So they took him and cast *him* out of the vineyard and killed *him*.

40 Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vinedressers?"

41 They said to Him, "He will destroy those wicked men miserably, and lease *his* vineyard to other vinedressers who will render to him the fruits in their seasons."

Matthew 24:3-14 3 Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be? And what *will be* the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?"

4 And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you.

5 For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many.

7 And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up and choked them.

8 But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

9 He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"

Matthew 13:18-23 18 "Therefore hear the parable of the sower:

19 When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand *it*, then the wicked *one* comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside.

20 But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy;

21 yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles.

22 Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.

23 But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands *it*, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty."

Matthew 13:24-30 24 Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field;

25 but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way.

26 But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared.

27 So the servants of the owner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?'

28 He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' The servants said to him, 'Do you want us then to go and gather them up?'

29 But he said, 'No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them.

30 Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn." ' "

Matthew 13:36-43 36 Then Jesus sent the multitude away and went into the house. And His disciples came to Him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the tares of the field."

37 He answered and said to them: "He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man.

38 The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the tares are the sons of the wicked *one*.

39 The enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels.

40 Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age.

41 The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness,

42 and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

43 Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!

Matthew 13:47-50 47 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet that was cast into the sea and gathered some of every kind,

48 which, when it was full, they drew to shore; and they sat down and gathered the good into vessels, but threw the bad away.

49 So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come forth, separate the wicked from among the just,

50 and cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth."

Matthew 16:2-4 2 He answered and said to them, "When it is evening you say, '*It will be fair weather, for the sky is red*';

3 and in the morning, '*It will be foul weather today, for the sky is red and threatening.*' Hypocrites! You know how to discern the face of the sky, but you cannot *discern* the signs of the times.

4 A wicked and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign shall be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah." And He left them and departed.

Matthew 16:25-27 25 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.

26 For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?

27 For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.

Matthew 17:1-2 1 Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves;

2 and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light.

Matthew 17:5-6 5 While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "*This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!*"

6 And when the disciples heard *it*, they fell on their faces and were greatly afraid.

Matthew 19:16-19 16 Now behold, one came and said to Him, "Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?"

17 So He said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, *that is*, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments."