

RIGHTEOUSNESS EXALTS A NATION

Father in heaven, Almighty Creator, our Sustainer and Provider and giver of every good and perfect gift, blessed be your name. We pray that you will bless us with your wisdom and understanding and help us to keep this Sabbath day holy as you have ordained. Fill us with with a greater measure of the fruits of your Holy Spirit – love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control and consecrate our lives to your eternal service and glory. We pray that you will also lift up those who are sick and afflicted. We ask these things in the name of your son, Jesus Christ, Yeshua the Messiah.

Today I would like to share with you what one of our faithful brethren in prison writes about the times in which we are living. “I’m writing after what has been an all too familiar weekend. Football is not just mere entertainment, but an obsession as America’s modern day gladiators are worshipped as gods. Sports are a mental drug feeding the insatiable appetites of millions of crazed fans (fanatics) while the country collapses. With illegal immigration and Ferguson in the news, we are a nation completely blind to the fact that we are turning on ourselves. Ferguson is just the beginning of embattled cities across the country. We can only talk about racism for so long. We’ve been trying to keep the beast in its cage, but the animal can’t be tamed. Verbal bullets are about to be replaced by literal bullets from the barrel of a gun once hatred is unleashed.

“Racism doesn’t allow reason. There’s an explosive atmosphere when having whites, hispanics and blacks with opposing views discuss the issues of illegal immigration and Ferguson. The staging ground has been set for those who want to destroy the country. Radicals and extremists now see this as the point in time in which the second American Revolution will be a nightmare for the American people, but a dream come true for the nation’s enemies. Demonic hatred is about to light the fire which is going to ignite the flames in cities across the country. The media is a contributor to how this will take place. Cameras only encourage those who protest and loot. Reports on Ferguson have been biased and the truth has become a fatality along with Michael Brown. President Obama’s endorsement of illegal immigration has been sugar coated by reporters who have gone from mainstream to lame-stream. Black on black crime is given next to no coverage, but we are constantly reminded that a white officer shot and killed an unarmed black man.”

The writer continues, “We are at the point of no return as a country. Our military is being prepared for all out civil unrest. All branches of law enforcement will become America’s Gestapo. We are a nation of complacent and guilt ridden whites, angry blacks who feel short-changed, and hispanics and latinos who demand legal status without the rule of law. We will collapse only to open the gates for an invasion by our enemies from abroad. With evil growing and eating away at the heart and soul of the country, it’s easy to be discouraged. We must always remember that God promise to protect those who obey him. **Psalm 91:7**—‘A thousand shall fall

at thy side and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come near thee.’ I pray God continues to bless you, Cappy and everyone involved in the work you are doing.”

Psalms 97:1-12—“The LORD reigns. Let the earth rejoice. Let the multitude of isles be glad! Clouds and darkness surround Him; Righteousness and justice are the foundation of His throne. A fire goes before Him, and burns up His enemies round about. His lightnings light the world. The earth sees and trembles. The mountains melt like wax at the presence of the LORD, at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth. The heavens declare His righteousness, and all the peoples see His glory. Let all be put to shame who serve carved images, who boast of idols. Worship Him, all you gods. Zion hears and is glad, and the daughters of Judah rejoice because of your judgments, O LORD. for you, LORD, are most high above all the earth; you are exalted far above all gods. You who love the LORD, hate evil! He preserves the souls of His saints; He delivers them out of the hand of the wicked. Light is sown for the righteous, and gladness for the upright in heart. Rejoice in the LORD, you righteous, and give thanks at the remembrance of His holy name.”

People are becoming overwhelmed by circumstances of the world around and need encouragement— a place of refuge. In **Psalm 11**, David writes about having faith in God’s righteousness. This is something that we all need to seriously think about and follow his example. “**In the LORD I put my trust**. How can you say to my soul, ‘Flee as a bird to your mountain?’ For look! The wicked bend their bow. They make ready their arrow on the string that they may shoot secretly at the upright in heart. If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do? The LORD is in His holy temple, the LORD’s throne is in heaven; his eyes behold, the sons of men, his eyelids test. The LORD tests the righteous, but the wicked and the one who loves violence His soul hates. Upon the wicked he will rain coals, fire and brimstone and a burning wind shall be the portion of their cup. For the LORD is righteous, he loves righteousness; his countenance beholds the upright.”

David says in **Psalm 91:1-11, 14** —“He who 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 my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust.’

Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the perilous pestilence.

He shall cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you shall abide.

His truth shall be your shield and buckler.

You shall not be afraid of the terror by night,

Nor of the arrow that flies by day,

Nor of the pestilence that walks in darkness,

Nor of the destruction that lays waste at noonday.

A thousand may fall at your side and ten thousand at your right hand; but it shall not come near you. Only with your eyes shall you look, and see the reward of the wicked.

Because you have made the LORD, who is my refuge, even the Most High, your dwelling place,

No evil shall befall you,

Nor shall any plague come near your dwelling;

For He shall give His angels charge over you to keep you in all your

ways. In their hands they shall bear you up. Because he has set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honor him. With long life I will satisfy him, and show him my salvation.” What a wonderful promise this is! Memorize God’s word—hide his words in your heart. Like David says in **Psalm 119:11**—“Your word have I hidden in my heart that I might not sin against you.”

A prudent man is a wise man and does not take foolish chances. **Proverbs 14:15**—“The simple believeth every word: but the prudent man looks well to his going.” **Proverbs 22:3** (NIV) — “The prudent see danger and take refuge, but the simple keep going and pay the penalty” **Proverbs 27:12**—“A prudent man foresees the evil, and hides himself; but the simple pass on and are punished.”

After Jesus was baptized and the Spirit of God descended upon him he was led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. **Matthew 4: 2**—“After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said, ‘If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.’ Jesus answered, ‘It is written: *“Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.”*’” Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. ‘If you are the Son of God,’ he said, ‘throw yourself down.’ For it is written: “He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift ‘you up in their hands so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.”’ Jesus answered him, ‘*It is also written: “Do not put the Lord your God to the test.”*’” Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. ⁹ ‘All this I will give you,’ he said, ‘If you will bow down and worship me.’ Jesus said to him, ‘*Get you hence from me, Satan! For it is written: “Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.”*’

Christ took the place of a lowly servant acting only in obedience to the Father (Philippians 2:5-8; John 5:19, John 8:28, 54; Isaiah 42:1). There is a two-fold account of Christ as the coming servant of the Lord. He is represented in his first coming (1) as weak, despised, rejected, crucified—which is fulfilled. (2) the second coming, as a mighty conqueror, taking vengeance on the nations and restoring Israel. Satan’s one object was to induce Christ to act from himself, independent of his Father. Christ did not fall to temptation, but defeated Satan by intelligent use of the Word of God which is a means open to all who serve and follow Christ.

Psalm 91:14-15—“Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name. He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honor him. I will show him my salvation.” When we talk about protection, brethren, in the days that are coming, if we cannot flee, we can call on God and he can send his angels to save and deliver us. God saved Lot and his daughters before destroying Sodom. If we love God his law and truth, keep his commandments and are doing his will, then God will give his angels charge over his people to keep them through the days ahead and protect those who have set their love upon Him. These all

go together. Loving God is equal to doing his will and loving to do his will and keeping his commands (law)—one equals the other. We need to be thankful and rejoice knowing that we have God as our protector and defender. We are to live by faith, no matter what happens around us.

Colossians 3:1—“If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. ² Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. ³ For *you died* (carnal man of the flesh), *and your life* (inner man) *is hidden with Christ in God.* ⁴ When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.” When Christ returns, we will be changed from mortal to immortal—spiritual beings like Christ who has been glorified. Set your mind on God and his kingdom. **Matthew 6:33**—“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” **Colossians 3:5-16**—“Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. ⁶ Because of these, the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, ⁷ in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them. ⁸ But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. ⁹ Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. ¹¹ Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.”

¹² “Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe your selves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³ Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word (message) of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”

We as human beings have dealings and interactions with other people all the time and can get discouraged if things don’t seem to work out, so we must learn to forgive one another as Paul says here. How can the word of Christ dwell in you if you are not reading the scriptures and studying them? At times we may be tempted not to pick up our Bible and study and may have to forcefully discipline ourselves to pick up the Bible and begin reading. It is profitable to daily read and meditate on the word of God. I think that a lot of people lose sight of their purpose in life and God’s kingdom because they stop reading the Bible and praying. Perhaps they get too occupied with worldly things and forget that our lives are dependent upon the word of God. Man cannot live just by physical bread. **Matthew 4:4**—Christ said, “It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.” How can you live by the word of God, unless you are reading, praying and studying the scriptures? It is necessary to develop your inner spirit that God gives. Give thanks to God the Father through Jesus Christ for all things and his mercy and goodness.

Colossians 2:4—“And this I say, lest any man should beguile you with enticing words. For though I be absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in the spirit, joying and beholding your order, and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ.⁶ As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him:⁷ Rooted and built up in him, and established in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.⁸ Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.⁹ For in him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.¹⁰ And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power: ¹¹In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ:¹² Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead. ¹³ And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; ¹⁴ Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;¹⁵ And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it. ”

Colossians 4:6—“Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.”

Other news this week. “On December 3, 2014, a New York City grand jury decided not to indict officer Pantaleo accused of killing Eric Garner. The event stirred public protests and rallies http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Death_of_Eric_Garner_-_cite_note-WashingtonPost-22 with charges of police brutality and was broadcast nationally over various media networks.” *Wikipedia*—“On July 17, 2014, **Eric Garner** died in the Tompkinsville neighborhood of Staten Island, New York, after a police officer put him in an apparent **chokehold** for about 19 seconds a tactic banned by the New York City Police Department (NYPD) back in 1993. Garner was initially approached by officer Justin Damico on reported suspicion of selling ‘loosies’, single cigarettes from packs without tax stamps. After Garner expressed to the police that he was tired of being harassed and that he was not selling cigarettes, officers made the move to arrest Garner who resisted arrest. Officer Daniel Pantaleo, also on scene, put his arms around the much taller Garner's neck, applying an apparent chokehold shown in a video recording of the event, which has since gone viral. While lying face-down on the sidewalk surrounded by four officers, Garner is heard repeating ‘I can't breathe’ eleven times. Garner was pronounced dead approximately one hour later at the hospital. After the incident, city medical examiners concluded that Garner was killed by neck compression from the apparent chokehold, along with ‘the compression of his chest and prone positioning during physical restraint by police.’ Contributing factors included bronchial asthma, heart disease, obesity, and hypertensive cardiovascular disease.”

On Attorney General **Eric Holder** announced that the Justice Department would launch an ‘independent, thorough, fair, and expeditious’ civil rights investigation into Garner’s death. “Ramsey Orta, who was present and actually filmed Garner being choked, was indicted a few weeks later after the incident by a New York City grand jury on criminal weapons charges: one felony count of third-degree criminal weapon possession and

criminal firearm possession, reported *The Huffington Post*. According to the Huffington Post, Orta ‘testified that the charges were falsely mounted by police in retaliation for his role in documenting Garner’s death.’ Ann Coulter appeared on *Hannity* last night to inject some much-needed sense into the death of Eric Garner. ‘Nine out of the 31 arrests of Eric Garner were for selling untaxed cigarettes. This is nonsense that this had anything to do with race. Garner’s death is about taxes. It was Bloomberg that insists on, “We’re going to deploy the police to collect taxes because they need to pay the pensions of their public sector union buddies.” Bloomberg starts arresting all these people.’ ”

Meanwhile, news reports continue from other areas of our country. Shoebat.com (12.1.14) —“*Major American Institution takes millions of dollars from Islamic Terrorists to Tell People that Islam is a Religion of Peace.*” Americans do not realize that Muslims will use every means possible – including the womb – to infiltrate any Christian society in order to destroy it from within. Jihad comes in many forms, including bribery. Millions of dollars are coming from the nation of Qatar to America to publish propaganda. Two ‘experts’ with the prominent left-wing think tank Brookings Institute – Dr. Daniel Byman and Tamara Cofman Wittes – published a memorandum to Barack Obama entitled, Muslim Brotherhood Radicalizes. In it, they argue that the Brotherhood should be appeased, not exposed. The piece was published in response to Egypt declaring the Brotherhood a terrorist organization and comes across as a defense of Egypt’s Brotherhood. By declaring the Muslim Brotherhood a terrorist organization, Egypt risks radicalizing the group’s members and destabilizing the region further. Daniel Byman and Tamara Wittes argue that the Obama administration should engage with peaceful Islamists, push Egypt to allow Brotherhood supporters to participate in legitimate political and social activity, cooperate with Egypt on legitimate terrorism threats and expand counter-radicalization efforts there. It should be noted that Byman and Cofman Wittes work for the same Brookings Institute which the New York Times revealed in September had agreed to accept \$14 million from the extremely Muslim Brotherhood-friendly nation of Qatar over four years. As Shoebat.com reported, Qatar is buying influence; it is not simply being generous. Obama fights against ISIS while also fighting against Syria, which wants to partner with Obama, who partners with Turkey, which helps ISIS.” What kind of craziness is that?

Proverbs 13:44—“Righteousness exalts a nation: but sin is a reproach (disgrace) to any people.” These things are happening to America today because of our sins – turning aside to the temptations of sin (lusts, idolatry, greed, and drunkenness) from God’s laws –lawlessness and the path of pain and death. If we want to regain our national health, strength, fortitude and prestige we need to repent of our sins and lawlessness and become righteous. Righteousness is what exalts a nation. What is righteousness? **Psalms 119:172-176**—“My tongue shall speak of thy word: for all thy commandments are righteousness. I have longed for thy salvation, O LORD; and thy law is my delight.¹⁷⁵ Let my soul live, and it shall praise thee; and let thy judgments help me. I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek thy servant; for I do not forget thy commandments. ” Keeping God’s commandments is righteousness. **Verse 165**—“Great peace have they who love thy law: and nothing shall offend them.”

God called Joshua to do a job. Joshua was to lead Israel in the conquest of the Holy Land. God performed a miracle for Joshua and caused the sun to stand still for a whole day while Israel fought their enemies. God even sent hailstones and meteorites from heaven to smash the Amorites. **Joshua 1:1**—“After the death of Moses, the servant of the Lord, the Lord spoke to Joshua the son of Nun who was Moses assistant. Moses is dead. Go over the Jordan River, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving them (Israel). Verse 5—No man will be able to stand before you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, I will be with you. I will not leave you, nor forsake you. Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shall thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I swore unto their fathers to give them.⁷ Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou may observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou may prosper where ever thou go.⁸ This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shall meditate therein day and night, that thou may observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shall make thy way prosperous, and then thou shall have good success.”

These promises are conditional. Do what God says and he will do the rest. What does He command us to do? We are to be strong, be of good courage, have faith, to meditate on his word day and night. The key here is obedience. This includes meditation, study, prayer and observing God’s commandments without deflection. **Deuteronomy 4:23-31**—“Take heed to yourselves, lest you forget the covenant of the LORD your God which He made with you, and make for yourselves a carved image in the form of anything which the LORD your God has forbidden you. ²⁴ For the LORD your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God. When you beget children and grandchildren and have grown old in the land, and act corruptly and make a carved image in the form of anything, and do evil in the sight of the LORD your God to provoke Him to anger, ²⁶ I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that you will soon utterly perish from the land which you cross over the Jordan to possess; you will not prolong your days in it, but will be utterly destroyed. ²⁷ And the LORD will scatter you among the peoples, and you will be left few in number among the nations where the LORD will drive you. ²⁸ And there you will serve gods, the work of men’s hands, wood and stone, which neither see nor hear nor eat nor smell. ²⁹ But from there you will seek the LORD your God, and you will find Him **if you seek Him with all your heart and with all your soul.** ³⁰ When you are in distress, and all these things come upon you in the latter days, when you turn to the LORD your God and obey His voice ³¹ (for the LORD your God is a merciful God), He will not forsake you nor destroy you, nor forget the covenant of your fathers which He swore to them.”

What can the righteous do? Cling to God with all our heart, soul mind and strength. ³⁵- “To you it was shown, that you might know that the LORD Himself is God; **there is none other besides Him.** ³⁶ Out of heaven He let you hear His voice that He might instruct you; on earth. He showed you His great fire, and you heard His words out of the midst of the fire. ³⁷ And because He loved your fathers, therefore He chose their descendants after them; and He brought you out of Egypt with His Presence, with His mighty power, ³⁸ driving out from before you nations greater and mightier than you, to bring you in, to give you their land as an inheritance, as it is this day. ³⁹ Therefore know this day, and consider it in your heart, that the LORD Himself is God in heaven above and on the

earth beneath; there is no other.⁴⁰ You shall therefore keep His statutes and His commandments which I command you today, that it may go well with you and with your children after you, and that you may prolong your days in the land which the LORD your God is giving you for all time.”

Deuteronomy 30:2—“and you return to the LORD your God and obey His voice, according to all that I command you today, you and your children, with all your heart and with all your soul,³ that the LORD your God will bring you back from captivity, and have compassion on you, and gather you again from all the nations where the LORD your God has scattered you.⁴ If any of you are driven out to the farthest parts under heaven, from there the LORD your God will gather you, and from there He will bring you.⁵ Then the LORD your God will bring you to the land which your fathers possessed, and you shall possess it. He will prosper you and multiply you more than your fathers.⁶ And the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul that you may live. Also the LORD your God will put all these curses on your enemies and on those who hate you, who persecuted you.⁸ And you will again obey the voice of the LORD and do all His commandments which I command you today.⁹ The LORD your God will make you abound in all the work of your hand, in the fruit of your body, in the increase of your livestock, and in the produce of your land for good.” “For the LORD will again rejoice over you for good as He rejoiced over your fathers,¹⁰ if you obey the voice of the LORD your God, to keep His commandments and His statutes which are written in this Book of the Law, and if you turn to the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.”

“See, I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil;¹⁶ *In that I command thee this day to love the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commandments and his statutes and his judgments, that thou may live and multiply: and the LORD thy God shall bless thee in the land whither thou go to possess it.*¹⁷ But if thine heart turn away, so that thou wilt not hear, but shalt be drawn away, and worship other gods, and serve them;⁸ I denounce unto you this day, that ye shall surely perish, and that ye shall not prolong your days upon the land, whither thou pass over Jordan to go to possess it.¹⁹ I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:²⁰ That thou may love the LORD thy God, and that thou may obey his voice, and that thou may cleave unto him: for he is thy life, and the length of thy days: that thou may dwell in the land which the LORD sware unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.”

Psalm 27:1-14—“The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?² When the wicked, even mine enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell.³ Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident.⁴ One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in his temple.⁵ For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock.⁶ And now shall mine head be lifted up above mine enemies

round about me: therefore will I offer in his tabernacle sacrifices of joy; I will sing, yea, I will sing praises unto the LORD.

⁷“Hear, O LORD, when I cry with my voice: have mercy also upon me, and answer me.⁸ When thou said, Seek ye my face; my heart said unto thee, Thy face, LORD, will I seek.⁹ Hide not thy face far from me; put not thy servant away in anger: thou hast been my help; leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation.¹⁰ When my father and my mother forsake me, then the LORD will take me up.¹¹ Teach me thy way, O LORD, and lead me in a plain path, because of mine enemies.¹² Deliver me not over unto the will of mine enemies: for false witnesses are risen up against me, and such as breathe out cruelty.¹³ I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.¹⁴ Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.”

Psalm 61:1—“Hear my cry, O God; attend unto my prayer. Hear my cry, O God;² From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I.³ For thou hast been a shelter for me, and a strong tower from the enemy.⁴ I will abide in thy tabernacle for ever: I will trust in the covert of thy wings.”

Psalm 62:1-8—“Truly my soul waits upon God: from him cometh my salvation.² He only is my rock and my salvation; he is my defense; I shall not be greatly moved.³ How long will ye imagine mischief against a man? You shall be slain all of you: as a bowing wall shall ye be, and as a tottering fence.⁴ They only consult to cast him down from his excellency: they delight in lies: they bless with their mouth, but they curse inwardly. Selah.⁵ My soul, wait thou only upon God; for my expectation is from him.⁶ He only is my rock and my salvation: he is my defense; I shall not be moved.⁷ In God is my salvation and my glory: the rock of my strength, and my refuge, is in God.⁸ Trust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him: God is a refuge for us. Selah. “God hath spoken once; twice have I heard this; that power belongs unto God.”

Psalm 63:1—“O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsts for thee, my flesh longs for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is;² To see thy power and thy glory, so as I have seen thee in the sanctuary.³ Because thy loving kindness is better than life, my lips shall praise thee.⁴ Thus will I bless thee while I live: I will lift up my hands in thy name.”

Psalm 64:2-3, 10 —“Hide me from the secret counsel of the wicked; from the insurrection of the workers of iniquity:³ Who whet their tongue like a sword, and bend their bows to shoot their arrows, even bitter words:⁴ That they may shoot in secret at the perfect: suddenly do they shoot at him, and fear not. ¹⁰The righteous shall be glad in the LORD, and shall trust in him; and all the upright in heart shall glory.”

Blessed is the man God has chosen. Brethren, He has chosen you, and he chosen me so that we should be His servants in this end-time generation. We are mightily blessed. Let us remember God and his word and Blessing. Give Him thanks and praise, because he is our God, our guide even unto death and to eternal life and glory. Above all we have the word of God and the testimony of Christ and salvation through his sacrifice, and the Holy Spirit. Praise God for his loving kindness toward us. Blessed be the name of the Lord! Amen.

