

small distance; but the powerful impressions on his mind, induced him to stop a moment. In this moment, a number of texts of Scripture came to him as distinctly, as if they had been spoken by some other man; such as these—“Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden”—“Ho every one that thirsteth,” &c., and some others, which he did not recollect to have read or heard for a long time. He now concluded that it was the Lord of Glory addressing his Word to him. But the inference was not such as proud and self-conceited fanatics would draw—namely, that he should be saved, for God was now his friend. On the contrary, he concluded that Jesus addressed him in this manner, to show him the aggravation of his condemnation. And his reflections were most bitter. “O what a Savior I have rejected—how able and ready has he been to save me—but I have rejected him, and held all his truths in unrighteousness. Eternal death is my portion, in spite of all the love and merits of Jesus. He has in perfect justice turned against me, and I cannot open my mouth to complain.” With reflections like these, he walked backwards and forwards a few minutes, wringing his hands in fearful agony, as being now certain of his miserable doom for eternity. At this time, these words came into his mind as distinctly as the others—“Have I not done enough for you? Have you not stood against me long enough? “An overcoming power attended these words, so that he was constrained to cry, “Yes, O yes. Lord, I bow to thee; make me what thou wilt.”

This was succeeded by a serenity and peace which he never felt before, and of which he had no idea. It was divine refreshment to a soul dissolved in penitence and love. The day before this, he told a friend that it seemed to him, that if he should ever be so happy as to obtain an interest in Christ, he could never pray in his family, because he was such an ignorant and helpless creature. But this morning he soon returned to his house, called his family together, and poured forth such strains of adoration and acknowledgment, and such fervent prayers, as melted the family into tears. I will only add, that his apparent perseverance gives reason to believe that his hope was not a mere delusion.

Daily Devotional

August 12–18, 2013

Orwell Bible Church

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This Daily Devotional Consists of—

- 1) A truth from the Bible to learn and memorize
- 2) A passage to read from the Bible with a chapter summary and questions to think about.
- 3) Items for prayer
- 4) A selection from a book about the Second Great Awakening (a widespread, sovereign, and gracious work of God from the late 1700s into the early 1800s that resulted in many conversions and renewing of Christians and churches)

Learning God’s Truths from the Bible

What does it mean that God is *omnipotent*?

- God can do all things consistent with His nature and purposes.

Job 42:2 I know that You can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted.

Psalms 135:6 Whatever the Lord pleases, He does, in heaven and in earth, in the seas and in all deeps.

Monday, August 12

1 Kings 7—*Solomon's house is finished and Hiram's craftsmanship in the temple is described.*

- ☞ In verse 21 “Jachin” means “he shall establish” and “Boaz” means “in it is strength.”
- ☞ What did *David* do in preparation for the temple?

1 Kings 8—*The ark is brought into the temple, sacrifices are offered, and God's glory cloud comes. Solomon prays to the Lord.*

- ☞ What can you learn from verses 27 & 39 about God? How can and should that affect your life and prayers?
- ☞ During OT times, if a non-Israelite was interested in the true God what did he have to do? Where did he have to go?
- ☞ Note verse 48—what does Solomon recognize about the human heart?

Items for Prayer

- Joseph, Louann, Peter, and Joanna Abraham: England—Pray for several women in the Church who have not been attending regularly, and wisdom in talking with them
- Lisa Stanek
- Persecuted Brothers and Sisters in Christ (Heb 13:3)

he knew he ought to have. But in this he was disappointed. Instead of having his heart melted and mended, he found it more unfeeling and inattentive, for he looked to the means, and not to the God of salvation. This increased his sense of danger. He debated whether it would be best to attend the evening's meeting, lest he should be made still more unfeeling; but finally concluded he would attend. Here, also, he found himself more stupid than before, and began to conclude that nothing could affect him—that God would most certainly refuse his grace; and he thought he justly might. Then a sense of the all-powerful and all-seeing God made him tremble in every part. He slept none this night. In the morning, after some ineffectual attempts to attend upon his secular concerns, he thought of visiting me. He came, but found no relief. In the afternoon, he heard a sermon at a funeral, but this seemed rather to harden him—a merciful God in all these attempts, showing him the desperate wickedness of his heart, the insufficiency of human aid, and cutting him off from every dependence, but his own infinite grace. He became more and more sensible of his wretchedness, and the sources of that wretchedness. He found that his deceitful heart would look to anything but to God through Christ, for help. Hence he concluded that it was perfect enmity against God; and that if God did not appear in a way of sovereign mercy, he must perish eternally.

This evening, being exhausted, he had an hour or two of broken sleep, but awaked to keener feelings. He felt himself, all night, in a most forlorn situation. About the dawn of day, he had some new views of the propriety of submitting to God unconditionally; and that it was a thing most suitable and excellent that Jehovah should do his pleasure concerning all things. His obstinacy now gave way. He thought he could acquiesce in the divine Sovereignty, and immediately found relief. The thought that all God's administrations were perfectly holy, just and good—that he would do nothing but what the best interests of the universe required, gave him a calmness of mind to which he had been a perfect stranger. But all this time it did not enter into his mind that he should be saved. On the contrary, it was his prevailing opinion that he must be rejected; for the wrath of God was revealed from heaven against him. As soon as it was light enough to see, he read a few verses in the Bible, and set out to walk a

himself a hell-deserving creature, before the face of all; and after a season of powerful conviction and heavy distress, he found comfort in submitting to God.

Another man, thirty-five years of age, respectable for his good sense and judgment, is also an instance which I would mention. He was at first disaffected to the work that was among us. He had opposed the distinguishing doctrines of the gospel, not because he did not see them in the Bible, but through a disrelish of them. He contrived to think, that possibly there was some wrong translation, or that some words had been foisted in by designing men; and with this imposition on himself, rested easy concerning them. Being about to preach at his house, the latter part of March, I asked him if in this serious time, he felt any peculiar impressions on his own mind? He answered that he had not. I then asked him if he had not lately thought more on serious subjects? He said that he had, and that he did not believe there was a man in town who had not. But he appeared no more concerned for his soul, than the generality of people at other times. In reading over my text, the latter part of which was, “Who hold the truth in unrighteousness,” Almighty God impressed him with a conviction that he was the very man—that he had held the truth in unrighteousness. In the course of the sermon, he came to the fixed resolution to reform, and lead a better life. He felt it important to delay no longer, and that the salvation of his soul was of immediate and infinite importance. He attended meeting in the evening, when his resolution was strengthened. But as he was walking home alone, so earnestly engaged and resolute, the Spirit of the Lord gave him an extraordinary sense of his perfect weakness and insufficiency, and indeed of the total moral depravity of his heart; and the conviction was so clear, that all his hopes were dashed to pieces; and he became fully sensible, that nothing but the grace of an almighty Sovereign could help him. But whether such a vile, ungodly, obstinate sinner as he was, could ever partake of that grace, was matter of great doubt and anxiety. He almost despaired of it, and spent the whole night in horror, without a moment’s sleep. The next day he attempted to labor, but his mind was too much absorbed in the view of his certain guilt and exposedness to everlasting ruin, to allow it. He attended a lecture, hoping to receive that help, and those good affections which

Tuesday, August 13

1 Kings 9—*God speaks to Solomon in a dream, promising blessing for obedience and judgment for disobedience. Hiram is paid for his work. Details of Solomon’s administration are given.*

- ☞ In verses 6-9, what would be the reason for Israel’s downfall? Economic, political, or military instability? Or something else? Why would that be?
- ☞ In verse 13 “Cabal” means “as good as nothing.” So what did Hiram think about the cities Solomon gave him?
- ☞ Solomon’s triennial sacrifices (v. 25) corresponded to the three feasts Israelites were commanded to observe in Deuteronomy 16—the Feasts of Passover/Unleavened Bread, Weeks, and Booths.

1 Kings 10—*The Queen of Sheba sees Solomon’s great wisdom and splendor and honor him and the Lord. Solomon’s and Israel’s great prosperity are described.*

- ☞ How did Solomon rise to the throne? By conniving or his powerful influence? Cf. verse 9.
- ☞ Note verse 14; a “talent” weighed about 75 pounds, and gold currently is \$20,800 for a pound. In our money, how much did Solomon annually receive in gold?
- ☞ Read verse 24—think ahead to when Christ is ruling on the earth, and the whole world will come to Jerusalem to see Jesus the Son of David!

Items for Prayer

- Dan, Amy, Joshua, Emma, and Genevieve Baker: Australia—Praise the Lord for His protection
- Trace, Jackie, and Ryan Turnbull
- Peniel Bible Camp
- Those who have trusted Christ would be baptized and join the church

Wednesday, August 14

1 Kings 11—*Solomon's love for foreign women turns his heart from God to idols. God tells Solomon of the division of the kingdom after his death. God raises up adversaries, especially Jeroboam, promising him a kingdom like David's if he follows God.*

- ☞ Note the frequency of the word “turned” in verses 2, 3, 4, and 9. What can you learn from this?
- ☞ God commanded Solomon not to go after foreign women, yet he did so. Why did he? What motivated him? How did he treat the Lord's command? What really controlled him then?
- ☞ What was the cause of Israel's division (v. 33)?

Items for Prayer

- Friends in Italy—Praise the Lord for the strength He has given
- Robin Barker
- Wednesday Night Bible Study/Prayer Meeting

CHAPTER VIII

An account of a Revival of Religion in Harwinton, Conn., in the year 1799. By the Rev. Joshua Williams.

Continued from last week ...

The cases which have now been mentioned, are only specimens of the work in general, the greatest part being affected in the same way, and with the same truths, attended with a difference only as to time, means and degree.

But there are some others, which though they were grounded on the same truths, and issued in the same peace and joy, were nevertheless in some respects singular.

A man more than thirty years of age, who had been very intent upon gaining this world, was rather displeased with what took place among us, and showed himself an opposer. He thought there was no need of so much attention.

One day as he was at work, it came distinctly into his mind, “You must pray.” “I can't pray.” “But you must pray.” “I can't, for the prayer of the wicked is sin.” “But you must pray.” Thus a sort of dialogue continued for a long time between his conscience and his Wicked heart. It was renewed again the next day, and the day following, and so on for nearly a week, when the impression became so great that he finally gave in that he must retire and make a business of prayer. The next day, or next but one after this point was settled, he was attacked in the same manner by his conscience as distinctly as if someone spoke to him. “You must pray in your family.” “No, that I can't do.” “But you must do it.” “No, it is not necessary; it is not commanded.” “But it is your duty, and you must do it.” Thus the dialogue continued for almost another week, and finally he was obliged to yield. But not being, in heart, disposed to comply, and not being accustomed to pray, he became very uneasy, and one kind of guilt and another, from time to time, starting up in his mind, he began to be greatly distressed; yet he determined no one should know it. He used all his art to suppress his feelings, especially before the people. But nothing would answer. He was obliged to own

Sunday, August 18

1 Kings 17—*The prophet Elijah announces a drought; the Lord provides for him by a brook, ravens, and a widow. The Lord raises the widow's son from the dead.*

- ☞ Compare verse one with Deuteronomy 28:17, 23.
- ☞ Elijah's words to the widow in verses 13-14 is a call to faith
- ☞ How did the widow respond to the miracle? Contrast that with 13:6!

Items for Prayer

- Izaak, Kim, Ashlyn, Brenna, and Carson VanderSchel: Camp—Pray that financial needs at camp will be met
- Robin D'Abate
- Sunday Services- Heartfelt worship
- We would minister to one another for the unity, maturity, protection, and growth of our church (Eph 4:12-16)

Thursday, August 15

1 Kings 12—*Rehoboam succeeds Solomon as king and foolishly ignores good counsel. Israel divides into two kingdoms. Jeroboam, king of the Northern Kingdom (called Israel or Samaria) establishes idolatry as the state religion.*

- ☞ What was the good counsel of the older men? (Cf. Matt 20:26–28; 23:11; John 13:4-5; Eph 4:2; 1 Pet 5:5)
- ☞ As you read verse 15, remember why God did this (11:9–13)
- ☞ When man follows his heart, what kind of religion does he establish and follow (vv. 26, 33)?

Items for Prayer

- Daniel, Rosamma, Dany, Merlin, and David Kumar: India—Pray that their family would grow more like Christ together
- Rich and Kim Blair
- Financial Stability
- Prayer and financial support of missionaries

1 Kings 13—*A prophet speaks against idolatrous Jeroboam, but the prophet disobeys God and is slain.*

- ☞ What does the nameless prophet prophesy in verse two? The prophecy about Josiah was nearly 300 years from this point!
- ☞ What was the nameless prophet's sin?
- ☞ Note verse 26—even though the old prophet misled the nameless prophet, he knew that it was sin.

Friday, August 16

1 Kings 14—*Jeroboam's son becomes ill and dies. Rehoboam leads the nation in idolatry. Egypt invades the Southern Kingdom (Judah).*

- ☞ How did Rehoboam learn his sin (v. 21)?
- ☞ Note in verses 23-24 how religious and moral degeneracy go hand-in-hand.

Items for Prayer

- Nathaniel, Katie, Emmaline, and Gracyn Pringle: Cincinnati OH—Pray for open doors and boldness to take advantage of them
- Rodger, Irene, and BJ Branson
- Spiritual Growth
- Obtain land for a permanent meeting house

1 Kings 15—*The Southern Kingdom (Judah) reigns of Abijah, Asa, and Jehoshaphat and the Northern Kingdom (Israel/Samaria) reigns of Nadab and Baasha. Each king's life is judged according to God's law and David's righteousness.*

- ☞ In verse three, what is meant by the expression, "he walked in"?
- ☞ What were the sins of Jeroboam of verse 26?

Saturday, August 17

1 Kings 16—*The wickedness of the kings of the Northern Kingdom is described by the reigns of Baasha, Zimri, Omri, and Ahab.*

- ☞ What effect does sin have on the Lord (vv. 7, 13, 26, 34)?
- ☞ When these kings did evil, was it secret (vv. 7, 19, 25)?
- ☞ What application can you make from these two things?
- ☞ Compare verse 31 with Deuteronomy 7:1-5.

Items for Prayer

- Friends in Central Asia—Pray for the ability to share the Gospel clearly and effectively
- Donna and Don Burlinski
- Numerical Growth
- OBC men would grow in godliness and be leaders in homes and the church