

was in danger, and that his hopes of gain were gone. And in those days, the Word of the Lord, both read and preached, was precious. To many, the Bible appeared to be a new book.

Although much time was spent in religious exercises, such as reading, attending lectures, and other religious meetings, yet in such a manner did those who were serious economize, and redeem time, that it was believed by unbiased and candid observers, that worldly business did not suffer by means of the religious attention.

A good number of families who had always lived without calling upon God either morning or evening, are now devout worshipers. To see, or hear of such revivals of religion, and times of reformation, must refresh and gladden the hearts of all the godly, and excite the children of Zion, while they rejoice in their king, and in the prosperity of his kingdom, to pray without ceasing, that he would hasten the time, even the set time for the accomplishment of all those glorious things spoken of in prophecy, concerning the enlargement, peace, prosperity and glory of Christianity. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him; but for this he will be inquired of by the house of Israel. And with what freedom and importunity, may God's spiritual Israel address the throne of grace for so rich a blessing. Did he ever say to the seed of Jacob, Seek ye me in vain?

“He frees the souls condemned to death,
And when his saints complain,
It shan't be said that praying breath
Was ever spent in vain.”

He that shall come, saith, behold I come quickly. Amen. Even so come, Lord Jesus.

Daily Devotional

July 8–14, 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 summary of the chapter and questions to help you think about it
- 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

We will learn **eight** attributes of **God's greatness**—He is **self-existent, infinite, omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent, eternal, immutable, and incomprehensible.**

What does it mean that God is *self-existent*?

- God is not dependent or influenced by anything in creation
- John 5:26 “Just the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself?”

Monday, July 8

1 Samuel 7—*The Ark is brought to Kiriath-jearim; Samuel leads Israel to seek the Lord and He protects them against the Philistines.*

- ☞ Note the actions Samuel directs Israel to take in verse 3. Meditate on these and apply them to your life.
- ☞ In verse 12, “Ebenezer” means “the stone of help.”
- ☞ How did Samuel lead Israel in their response to the Philistines? Compare this with Proverbs 3:5–6.

1 Samuel 8—*Israel demands a king like the nations; Samuel warns what such will be like.*

- ☞ What kind of leader did Israel want? Compare also verse 20; 12:12.
- ☞ What was God’s evaluation of the people’s request?

Items for Prayer

- Daniel, Rosamma, Dany, Merlin, and David Kumar: India—Pray for Ajin (a young man from Grace Home), as he studies at the seminary
- Larry and Joyce Noble
- Persecuted Brothers and Sisters in Christ (Heb 13:3)

were such as I never had before. But at this moment, my heart breathed out the prayer of the publican, who thought himself unworthy to lift up so much as his eyes to heaven, ‘God be merciful to me a sinner.’ Immediately upon this, I appeared to myself to be lost, for a short space. I believe it was not more than a minute or two, but I do not know how long it was, nor what passed during the time, for whether I was in the body, or out, I cannot tell. But as soon as I came to myself, I did from my heart give up myself, both soul and body, to Him who gave me my being. After I had thus given myself up to God, being much fatigued, and having had but very little sleep since Monday night, I fell asleep; and when I awoke, found my mind more at ease than it was before. But I seemed to myself to be a new creature. I could not tell how I was altered, but I thought, surely I am not the same person I used to be. In the forenoon of Thursday, while I was about my common domestic concerns, many tears fell from my eyes, not because I was concerned about the salvation of my own soul; but O, the goodness of God! In the afternoon, I attended the sacramental lecture, and heard a sermon from these words—‘Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost.’ The words of the text affected my heart, and the sermon seemed to do my soul good. He died for sinners. Happy are those that trust in him. In the evening, I attended a religious meeting, and what I heard was to me as cold water to a thirsty soul. During most of the day, I had by turns, doubts and fears respecting my future state. But at night, I felt as if I could trust myself in the hands of God, and having committed myself to his keeping, I gave myself to sleep, saying, I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep, for thou Lord makest me to dwell in safety. I spent most of the forenoon of Friday in reading and writing, and in the afternoon I began to entertain a hope that I had seen, and been with Jesus, who hath said, they that seek me early, shall find me. Today, namely, Saturday, my hope is strong; and I believe if God ever did pour his Spirit into my heart, he did it last Wednesday evening. But at that time, I thought of no such thing. My prayer now is, that God, for Jesus’ sake, would pour out his spirit upon all flesh.”

During the time that the awakening continued, sports and pastimes, and ceremonious visits were generally discontinued; and the ball-room was so far unoccupied, that the musician found that his craft

improve our advantages, and cultivate our minds in early life. Doing this will render us dutiful children and faithful friends; render the path through life pleasing, and a death-bed easy. When I hear people complaining of their misfortunes, and hardships, I often say in my heart, alas, there is no cause of complaint, but the highest reason for gratitude and praise. Nature is eloquent in praising the Creator,

But man alone intent to stray,
Ever turns from wisdom's way.

Until you see me, do think of me, or think of something better.
Adieu.”

Another writes thus:

“Dear Friend—I now sit down to tell you what has taken place with me this present week. On Wednesday evening, I was thoughtful and very serious, and after attentively listening to some religious conversation between two friends, I retired to rest, with my mind deeply impressed, and lay sometime in bed, wetting my pillow with tears. This was not the first time my mind has been fixed on, and my thoughts swallowed up with things of another world; and I have sometimes entertained a hope that I experienced the power of godliness in my childhood. But now on a sudden, my sins were set in order before me, and seemed to stare me in the face; and my heart was so pricked that I could not lie still. I used to think I had a desire to embrace Christ, and partake of gospel blessings. But I now experienced views and feelings, such as I never did before, and was afraid to close my eyes in sleep; for I thought nothing kept me from the pit of endless perdition, but the slender and brittle thread of life. What shall I do? was now the language of my heart. If the righteous are scarcely saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear? If I attempted to pray, these words were in my mind, the prayer of the wicked is abomination to the Lord. I then said to myself, what can I, or what shall I do? I am wretched, and wretched I must be. I deserve nothing but the frowns and wrath of the Almighty. Better would it have been for me, if I had not been born. At this time, my views, exercises and feelings were such as I cannot express. They

Tuesday, July 9

1 Samuel 9—*Saul searches for his lost donkeys, comes to Samuel, and eats with him.*

- ☞ Why were prophets called “seers” (v. 9)?
- ☞ Note verse 16—what was the people’s prayer? Trace through this chapter how the Lord answered this prayer.

1 Samuel 10—*The Lord changes Saul’s heart; Samuel anoints Saul king.*

- ☞ How did the Lord equip Saul to lead Israel? Did Saul seek this?
- ☞ How did Samuel prepare Israel for a king (v. 25)? What does this say about the importance of God’s Word for every aspect of your life? What should you do then?

Items for Prayer

- Izaak, Kim, Ashlyn, Brenna, and Carson VanderSchel: Camp—Pray that the Lord would provide all the staff needed this summer
- Jack and Carolyn O’Connell
- Peniel Bible Camp- Junior 1 Camp
- Those who have trusted Christ would be baptized and join the church

Wednesday, July 10

1 Samuel 11—*The Amorites attack, and Saul leads Israel to victory.*

- ☞ What was Saul's appeal in verse 7? How did the Lord use it, and what was the effect?
- ☞ Verse 14 was a public reaffirmation that Saul was the king God had chosen. It also served to emphasize who Saul was ultimately responsible to. What Samuel said at this meeting is set forth in the next chapter.

Items for Prayer

- Joseph, Louann, Peter, and Joanna Abraham: England—Pray for ability to minister effectively and present the Gospel clearly
- Jim, Irene, Audrianna, Brianna, and James Olp
- Wednesday Night Bible Study/Prayer Meeting

CHAPTER VI

An account of a Revival of Religion in Plymouth, Conn.,
in the year 1799. By Rev. Samuel Waterman

(Continued from last week and concluding this account)

I shall now subjoin a few extracts from some letters sent to particular friends. They were not written with a view of being seen by any but the persons to whom they were addressed. One writes thus :

“Dear Friend—The spring is now opening, the snow dissolving, the streams murmuring over the pebbles, the lambs skipping in the meadows, and the birds on the branches straining their little throats in melodious songs. All speak, in different ways, their Maker's praise. Should not we, who are endowed with reason, join in praising the Creator, even the mute creation would find a voice, and upbraid our silence. Let us in our youth attend to the one thing needful. Now is the best time to lay in store a good foundation against the time to come. It is written, ‘Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth.’ And now is the accepted time. If you ask what this world is, and what its pleasures are? I answer, vanity of vanities, all is vanity. There is no real and substantial happiness in the enjoyment of anything which this world affords. If your ideas of this world are the same with mine, then

‘Whilst the busy crowd,
The vain, the wealthy, and the proud,
In folly's maze advance,
Though singularity and pride
Be called our lot,
We'll step aside,
Nor join the giddy dance.’”

The same writes again:

“I retire from company to converse alone with one whom I love; for so I call writing to a friend. What privileges have we, of which thousands are deprived. We have kind parents to instruct us—we are taught to write, and thus to converse with absent friends. Let us

Sunday, July 14

1 Samuel 17—*The Philistine warrior Goliath defies the Lord and Israel; David kills him.*

- ☞ By defying Israel (v. 10) who was Goliath really fighting against (cp. v. 36)?
- ☞ Who did Goliath depend on? Who did David depend on?
- ☞ Carefully read and meditate on what David says in verses 46–47. David spoke and acted with faith and confidence. Did he have a biblical basis for this?

Items for Prayer

- Daniel, Rosamma, Dany, Merlin, and David Kumar: India—Pray for Dany's friends, Robertson (from JW family) and Antony, who attend services regularly
- Russ Reum
- Sunday Services- Believers will hear and act on God's Word
- We would minister to one another for the unity, maturity, protection, and growth of our church (Eph 4:12-16)

Thursday, July 11

1 Samuel 12—*Samuel reviews the Lord's deliverance and protection of Israel despite their sin and unbelief. He urges them to love and serve the Lord for their good and God's glory.*

- ☞ In verses 9–10, how did Israel “forget” the Lord?
- ☞ What role did all Israel have in the establishment of the kingdom and the king (v. 14)?
- ☞ What was it that motivated, or moved, God to make Israel His people (v. 22)? How is this true in believers' lives today? How should that affect and control you?

Items for Prayer

- Nathaniel, Katie, Emmaline, and Gracyn Pringle: Cincinnati OH—Praise the Lord for an increase in attendance
- Chris, Laura, Lauren, Emma, Bethy, and Garland Pierce
- Financial Stability
- Prayer and financial support of missionaries

1 Samuel 13—*After defeating a Philistine garrison, the Philistines surround Saul and his army. Saul sins by offering the sacrifice; Samuel condemns Saul.*

- ☞ After the great victory over the Amorites and the public reaffirmation of the previous chapter come the events of this chapter. What application can you make from this?
- ☞ What is the mark/evidence of one whose heart belongs to the Lord (vv. 13–14)?

Friday, July 12

1 Samuel 14—*The Philistines are defeated by Jonathan and followed by Saul. Saul gives a foolish order and Jonathan is almost killed by him. Saul's military efforts are summarized.*

- ☞ Think and meditate on verse 6, especially the last part (cp. Lev 26:8; Josh 23:10; Judg 7).
- ☞ Who was credited with the victory (v. 23)?
- ☞ Saul's request to "roll a great stone" in verse 33 sounds puzzling, but read it with verses 34–35. What was Saul doing? How often had he done this? What does that say about where he was spiritually?

Items for Prayer

- Dan, Amy, Joshua, Emma, and Genevieve Baker: Australia—Pray for the Minnicks, their co-laborers, in Australia
- Fran and Randy Pope
- Spiritual Growth
- Obtain land for a permanent meeting house

1 Samuel 15—*Saul destroys the Amalekites but not utterly. The Lord rejects Saul as king.*

- ☞ What did God command Saul to do? How did he "obey"?
- ☞ Note verse 12—what did Saul do? Note verse 13—what did Saul do? Who did Saul blame in verse 14?
- ☞ How did Samuel respond to Saul's assertion in verse 21 that the end justifies the means?
- ☞ What can you learn about God in this chapter?

Saturday, July 13

1 Samuel 16—*Saul anoints David to be King; he receives the theocratic anointing to enable him to lead Israel and it is removed from Saul.*

- ☞ What is the difference between the Lord's and man's appraisal (v. 7)? How should this affect and control you (cp. 2 Cor 5:16)?
- ☞ Note verses 13–14. The Spirit-given enablement that helped Saul lead Israel was removed and given to David. This is called the "theocratic anointing." It does *not* refer to the new birth. How does this help you understand David's request in Psalm 51:11?

Items for Prayer

- Central Asia—Pray for them as they continue to learn the language and culture
- Pam Potter
- Numerical Growth
- OBC men would grow in godliness and be leaders in homes and the church