ISAIAH 14:22-24

OIIII

TAKE GOD'S WORD INSTANTLY

DEVOTION

This verse is about God's word to the Prophet Isaiah that He would deliver and save His people from the Assyrians. Though they might feel it was impossible, God assured them that He would crush the enemy, take away their burden and turn their mourning into dancing. These verses reveal how truly compassionate our God is.

He let the Prophet Isaiah know that He was totally aware of what was happening to His people. It was part of His plan due to the Israelites' disobedience. The purpose was to let them see and experience God's powerful power to deliver and set them free from the Assyrians.

God always has a purpose for every plan that He has for His people. The ultimate purpose is to show His power so that Israel and other nations would recognise His eternal salvation.

His word is final. Let's learn to take Him at His word instantly, not seasonally. Let us trust God completely! God expects His people to take His word with 100% faith and zero doubt.

Key verse:

Isaiah 14:24 For the Lord Almighty has purpose, and who can thwart him? His hand is stretched out, and who can turn it back?

JAN 2021

Prayer

Dear God, I am rest assured that Your word is always trustworthy. I fully trust in Your word. Amen.

ISAIAH 17:1-10

OTT

DON'T TAKE GOD FOR GRANTED

DEVOTION

ave you ever felt forgotten by someone? How did you feel about it?

Damascus was the capital of Syria. God warned that Damascus would be a forsaken and desolated city because the people had forgotten the Lord. These verses are reminders to the Israelites and God's children to not forget about God.

Do not forget God in any situation of your life. He is the source of your life, breath and blessings. Just like how you feel when you are forgotten by your friend, God also feels sad when you do not remember Him.

Let it be a reminder for us not to take God for granted. While we are basking in the sunshine of God's love and blessings, we must never take God for granted. In the abundance of His blessings, we must not forget that He is the source of all of them.

Key verse:

Deuteronomy 8:11a Be careful that you do not forget the LORD your God...

JAN 2021

Prayer

Dear God, forgive me for taking You for granted sometimes. Let me always remember You in any circumstance and may the Holy Spirit fill my heart with peace. Amen.



GOD IS A FAIR REFEREE

There is always a fair referee in a soccer or basketball game. He is expected to monitor the game quietly and attentively and to intervene when needed. He will stop the game if there is a fault. He is also the timekeeper and keeps the record of the match. He will punish the players who break the rules. He is responsible to come with appropriate action at the right time.

Isaiah tells us that God always observes what people do and with His justice and might, He will intervene and act at the right time. And just like the sunshine and rain that come at the appropriate time, God will come to judge the earth at the right time. He is like a Referee in our life.

He is observing and monitoring all your activities quietly from the moment you wake up in the morning till the moment you go to sleep at night. He will provide all of your needs. He will defend you from your enemies. He will keep you safe and sound from any danger.

Key verse:

Isaiah 18:4 The Lord said, "I will be in the place prepared for me. I will quietly watch these things happen: On a beautiful summer day, at noon, people will be resting.

Prayer

Dear God, thank You for the assurance that You will intervene at the right time for all the things that aregoing to happenin my life. Amen.



PUT YOUR TRUST IN GOD

God instructed Isaiah to walk around for three years without his sandals and sackcloth (an outer garment worn to show mourning or repentance). Can you imagine walking here and there without any proper clothes and footwear for three years? Isaiah must have been a laughing stock, feeling embarrassed and painful.

God had a purpose for this. It was to show Judah what would happen if they depended on other nations, namely Egypt and Ethiopia, for help, rather than on God.

According to the Bible, Assyria eventually attacked and won over Egypt and Ethiopia. The Egyptian and Ethiopian were taken away without clothes and sandals. They ended up being in the state like what Isaiah had demonstrated.

Sometimes we rely on our own strength or on other people. God wants you to rely fully on Him. Every day when you wake up, you have to decide that this day you will trust and depend on God no matter what.

Key verse:

Jeremiah 17:5 Cursed is the one who trusts in man, who draws strength from mere flesh and whose heart turns away from the LORD.

Prayer

Dear God, I want to fully rely on You rather than on my own strength or on other people. Your power is greater than anything else. Amen

ISAIAH 22:1-14

OTT

DO NOT REFUSE TO LISTEN TO GOD

DEVOTION

One day, you were in a rush to go to school. You chose to walk through the short but rocky path to reach school. However, because you were running, you stumbled on one of the rocks and fell down. You ended up having a bleeding knee and a torn school bag. After this incident, will you run again on that rocky path? Obviously, you've learnt your lesson and you will walk more carefully in the future.

These verses actually recorded how the Israelites tried to protect themselves from the enemies. They did all they could to defend themselves. They built ditches around the city, fortified it with walls, and some even ran away in fear.

But through it all, they refused to turn to GOD! They had experienced and witnessed God's help countless times yet they still hadn't learnt their lesson. Only when they were badly defeated did they start to turn back to God.

Don't be like the Israelites in this story. Do not ever refuse to listen to God. Learn your lesson well, and once. We don't have to be knocked down by hard lessons for many times first before we remember God, right?

Key verse:

Hebrews 12:25a So be careful and do not refuse to listen when God speaks.

JAN 2021

Prayer

Dear God, soften my heart to always listen to You. I always want to put You first in everything I do. Amen.

ISAIAH 25:1-5

OIIII

THE GREATNESS OF GOD!

DEVOTION

When we know someone well enough, we can see the great things that he has done, and then we give him a sincere praise based on what we know about that person.

In these verses, we can see that Isaiah had a deep relationship with God. Isaiah knew who God was and what great things He had done, so that he could praise God from the bottom of his heart. He lifted God high by acknowledging God's work in his life. He even recognised God's power - whatever God says about the future is true and will definitely happen. Isaiah acknowledged that God is the protection of the helpless, the distressed, and the needy.

Like Isaiah, we must realise that God that we worship and serve is worthy of our praise. We must also thank Him for His constant protection. We must not only praise Him in great times but also trust and praise Him in difficult times.

Key verse:

Isaiah 25:1a Lord, you are my God. I honor You and praise You. You have done amazing things.

JAN 2021

Prayer

Dear God, I come to You in praise for the greatness You have done, You are doing and You are going to do in my life and my future. Amen.

ISAIAH 26:7-10

OIIII

PLEASING GOD WITH OUR HONESTY

DEVOTION

Being honest is when you speak the truth and act truthfully. Honesty is one of the attributes of God as God never lies.

There are times when telling the truth is not easy. We have to understand that sometimes people will be angry with us when we are telling what we are supposed to tell them. However, God's approval matters more. Telling a lie may seem easier but there is a price to pay. It leads to another lie to cover up the first lie. Then it will destroy your relationship with others and ultimately destroy you.

Whenever you are tempted to be dishonest, the Holy Spirit in you will remind you to stay truthful. Honesty should always be accompanied by gentleness. An honest person is motivated by love. God's standard requires that we always choose honesty.

Honesty pleases the heart of God. May honesty become your character since you are young. Let's grow in honesty.

Key verse:

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Isaiah 26:7a Honesty is the path good people follow. They follow the path that is straight and true.

Prayer

Dear God, You are the Father of Truth. Give me strength and courage to always tell the truth. May my words and actions always be truthful. Amen.